



MILLERTON
Tiny Pantry
Provides Food
For Villagers In
Need During
Pandemic **A2**



AMENIA
Volunteers
Prepare
To Sew
Thousands
Of Masks **A5**

Thanks to Our Community's
**ESSENTIAL
SERVICE PROVIDERS**
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Garden & Landscaping **A4**

Thursday, May 7, 2020
Volume 89 Number 15
12 Pages in 1 Section

COMPASS
Eric Forstmann Shares
His Painting Process; Rose
Algrant Show; And More **A10**
\$1.25

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Even with the rain drizzling down, Webutuck families emerged from their homes to watch the parade go by and thanked their school workers for caring about them with homemade signs.

Rainy day, cheery thoughts

WEBUTUCK — No amount of April showers or coronavirus reports could dampen the Webutuck Central School District's spirit as it assembled a community car parade on Thursday morning, April 30.

Organized by Webutuck High School Principal Katy McEnroe, the parade featured around 70 vehicles with about 40 Webutuck staff members; the North East, Amenia and Wassaic fire departments; the

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office; and a trooper from the New York State Police.

Kicking off at 9:40 a.m. at the Webutuck campus, parade participants traveled on a route that took them through Amenia, Wassaic and Millerton. Along the way, they greeted and were greeted by a number of Webutuck students and their families before returning to campus at 11:30 a.m.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Regional dairies haven't had to dump milk — yet

By JANNA SILLER
Special to The Millerton News

TRI-STATE REGION — According to Agri-Mark spokesperson Doug Dimento, "A lot of Northeast dairy farms are unfortunately going to go out of business in 2020."

Agri-Mark is the biggest Northeast-based dairy cooperative in the Connecticut and New York state region, selling products under the names Cabot and McCadam. Their trucks pick up fluid milk from holding tanks in dairy barns and bring them to one of four processing plants to be bottled or turned into butter, cheese, sour cream and the like.

The few small dairies in our region

that sell directly to consumers are selling well. Farm stands have been very popular as customers appreciate the opportunity to shop at a distance. However, the majority of local dairies sell to a cooperative that processes and sells their milk.

According to Dimento, "Most dairy farmers are living off their milk check, with the price decided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

"I've been in this business since the early 1980s and I've seen a lot of tough times in the industry, but this is the hardest," said Dimento. "The costs of production have never been higher and the prices are low, suddenly, the worst."

See MILK, A9

Molinaro announces plans for Restarting Dutchess

Gov. Cuomo systematic in how to re-open the state

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK STATE — At his Tuesday, April 28, press conference, Governor Andrew Cuomo spoke about the phased approach the state will be taking to reopening its economy — even while it continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. As of Tuesday, May 5, New York, the epicenter of the health crisis in the U.S., reported 327,374 positive COVID-19 cases and 24,944 COVID-related deaths, according to www.worldometers.info.

There were also 1,216,143 cases reported nationwide, with 70,161 U.S. deaths, and 3,676,476 cases around the world with 253,473 global deaths.

In mid-March, Cuomo closed all non-essential New York businesses and schools to prevent the spread of the fatal respiratory illness. With many out of work and no income being generated, businesses have been itching to re-open and workers to return to their jobs.

The governor's New York on PAUSE Executive Order is set to expire on May 15.

Region by region

Going region by region, the governor said each part of the state will have to follow his strict list of guidelines in order to re-open businesses, schools, manufacturing and the like. The regions are divided as follows: Capital Region, Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mid-Hudson Valley, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Country, Long Island, Southern Tier and Western New York.

Upstate regions like Central New

See RE-OPEN STATE, A9

Gov. Cuomo makes executive decision

New York schools closed for the remainder of the academic year

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK STATE — Shortly after the coronavirus pandemic hit New York hard back in March, Governor Andrew Cuomo prioritized the health and safety of students and staff by temporarily closing schools. Despite having more questions than answers about the future, administrators, faculty and teachers alike remained cautiously optimistic and worked to keep

students and their families in the loop, posting the latest information on their district websites, providing distance-learning instruction and offering free meal deliveries/pick-ups for students who rely on them. After waiting anxiously to learn of their fate, school districts around the state received their answer on Friday, May 1, when Cuomo announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year.

"There will be no opening of any

school for the remainder of the school year," Cuomo said at a press conference.

Addressing the press's questions about whether the state would consider re-opening schools with the same regional approach as businesses, Cuomo said it would be "virtually impossible" to keep classrooms running while adhering to the social distancing guidelines.

See SCHOOLS, A9

COVID-19 impacts different kinds of Harlem Valley farms differently

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — Advancing into the second month of the coronavirus pandemic, life in New York has changed dramatically to fit "the new normal," with businesses closing their doors, school districts closed for the remainder of the academic year and residents donning face masks to carry out their daily routines. Yet farms in the local region have persevered to make fresh food available to consumers during these uncertain times. Though some of their operations have altered as a result of COVID-19, residents can rest assured that local farms are doing



PHOTO SUBMITTED

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rock Steady Farm, located at 41 Kaye Road in Millerton, has been working hard to ensure the community has access to fresh produce.

See FARMS, A9



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OPINION

Cuomo Makes A Good Call
On Keeping Schools Closed;
Columns; Letters **A8**



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MILLERTON



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

This Tiny Library Pantry at 51 Main St., Millerton, used to house free books for the community. In the days of COVID-19, however, it was converted to offer free food for those in need.

Tiny Library Pantry, big heart

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The old adage, Home is Where the Heart Is, was proven once again as two lovingly donated packages of food arrived at the NorthEast-Millerton Library, sent from afar by a former resident and destined for a recently re-purposed Tiny Library Pantry in Veterans Park at 51 Main St. The little pantry is meant to help those struggling with food insecurity during the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down much of the state and forced many to seek unemployment benefits.

The donor, Esther Bloch, currently a Chicago social justice worker, has deep Millerton roots. Her grandfather ran a department store in what is now Oblong Books and her father a Main Street furniture store. She keeps up with her old hometown happenings by way of the NorthEast-Millerton Library website.

She said she read about the pantry project and decided that “in this time of need,” she

just wanted to help be certain that Millerton residents “who need food can get it.”

Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said converting one of the Tiny Libraries to a Tiny Pantry, where people can donate or find food, has been a huge success with the box always emptying within 24 to 48 hours of being refilled. The project can be particularly helpful to those without transportation as there is no local grocery store.

“There clearly is a great need,” Leo-Jameson said, “so we’re glad to make this available. We ask only that current, unopened food be left and that nothing be placed outside the box on the ground.”

She added that in addition to putting donations into the Tiny Pantry, food or checks may be sent to the NorthEast-Millerton Library, P.O. Box 786, Millerton, NY 12546.

To give or receive additional help, check listings of local food pantries at <https://tricornernews.com/millerton-news-regional/food-pantry-resources>.

Village Board adopts budget with 4.52% tax rate for 2020-21 fiscal year

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Equipped to move forward with village business for the 2020-21 fiscal year, the Village Board adopted its 2020-21 budget at a special workshop meeting held on Wednesday evening, April 29.

The meeting was live streamed on the “Village of Millerton — VOM” Facebook page. The entire Village Board was in attendance along with Village Treasurer Stephany Eisermann and Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer.

Seeing that the board didn’t have any further questions pertaining to the budget, Mayor Debbie Middlebrook asked for a motion to accept the budget as it was presented that night. She made note of the changes made to

the budget since it was presented to the public on Wednesday, April 15 — including a \$500 decrease in the Community Beautification Fund, a \$900 decrease in the contingency fund and a \$1,000 increase in the recreation facility repairs line — and acknowledged that there was a net zero change to the budget. The board put forth a unanimous vote to adopt the budget.

Overall, the 2020-21 village budget came to \$668,868.29, with \$261,772 in revenue other than taxes and a tax rate of 4.52%.

Bringing the 2020-21 village taxes to the board’s attention, Middlebrook discussed how other villages in the local region are trying to put together a proposal that would go to the county and, with the county’s support, “be presented to the governor that

would allow residents to pay their taxes in two installments for this fiscal year.” Though the plan was originally to pay these installments in July and October, she said the county is asking that they be paid in July and September. Middlebrook said she talked about it with Eisermann, noting the email Eisermann sent out to keep the board in the loop.

“We all want to do something for the public,” Middlebrook said, referencing the economic strain on local residents due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many people are out of work, with non-essential businesses closed in New York. “We know that everybody is hurting right now, so our thought is that we would be agreeable to having it be in two payments this year — July and September — but the penalty would begin to be as-

essed if the payments were not made by Sept. 1. It’s not as if we’re going to waive the penalties forever — what we’re basically going to be doing is extending the amount of time that we’re going to give residents to pay their taxes.”

Middlebrook added the board wants to be sure the extension is for this year only.

Village Trustee Alicia Sartori asked what would happen if a resident doesn’t pay their first installment in July, to which Middlebrook said nothing would happen and they would wait until September to be assessed. Eisermann said the directive would have to come from the county.

The next regular Village Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, at 7 p.m., and will be live streamed to the “Village of Millerton — VOM” Facebook page.

NorthEast-Millerton Library grant allows Story Time Jam to continue, virtually

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Despite its closure due to COVID-19, children were still involved in all things musical through the NorthEast-Millerton Library’s virtual Story Time Jam, thanks to a \$1,277 grant administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.

According to Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune, the funding is approximately 20% of the library’s children’s budget. It was originally designated for in-person music sessions with the Music Cellar’s Jonathan Grusauskas, known professionally as Jonny G, but those were converted to online programs when the global pandemic forced the library’s closure.

McClune said the program, in its seventh year, is a popular attraction as the youngsters “love to sing and dance and listen to stories,” especially those such as “The Wheels on the Bus” and “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,” which can be put to music.

Patrons should check the library’s calendar, newsletters and Facebook page to see when concerts will be scheduled (they have been taking place on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, from 11 a.m. to noon) and when they will again be held at the 75 Main St. building or if they should continue to

be accessed online through the Library’s Facebook page.

When the sessions are held at the library, children have the opportunity to play instruments such as guitars, drums, tambourines and maracas. While they continue to be virtual, a web search of “instruments for children to make at home,” can give homebound families information on how to get creative and be musically involved at the same time.

According to a recent release from Arts Mid-Hudson, whose “initiatives have engaged and promoted the arts benefiting our artists, arts organizations and communities” since 1964, the grant “was made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.”

For more information on library programs for both children and adults, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org or call 518-789-3340. The library is located at 75 Main St.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Music Cellar’s Jonathan Grusauskas, known professionally as Jonny G, has been holding an online Story Time Jam during the global COVID-19 pandemic for local children while the library is shut down.

OBITUARY

Joan C. Bergdahl

SALISBURY — Joan C. Bergdahl, 94, died on April 23, 2020, at Sharon Hospital after a period of declining health.

Joan was born on July 13, 1925, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, to the late Ann (Deluca) and Tom Carvon.

Her family moved to southern California in the 1930s, then settled in New Rochelle, N.Y., where she graduated from high school. Joan commuted into New York City to work and to attend night classes at Columbia University.

On Oct. 9, 1954, she married her husband of 35 years, Herbert O. Bergdahl.

They made their home in Lime Rock, in a house built by Herb and his father.

At various points in her long and remarkable life, Joan was a wartime newspaper reporter at the New Rochelle Standard-Star, an orthodontist’s assistant, ran an in-home sewing school, and served as an executive secretary.

She ended her career in her 80s as a Realtor, selling properties throughout the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and in the Tri-state area.

She served in leadership positions at many community and religious organizations, including The Lime Rock Protection Committee, the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, the Connecticut Council of Catholic Women and the Canaan chapter of the Daughters of Isabella.

Joan was an outstanding cook and baker, taking the blue ribbon for her apple pie at the Goshen Fair. She enjoyed preparing elaborate holiday meals and extended her hospitality to anyone who wanted a seat at her table.

Joan kept her mind sharp by watching the news and solving

the NYT crossword puzzle in ink, every day, for decades.



She laughed to excess and loved with abandon.

She was predeceased by husband Herb in 1989; her parents; her in-laws, Grace (Mayston) and Herbert O. Bergdahl; and her siblings, Tom Carvon and Adrienne C. Moran.

Joan is survived by her four children, who were her pride and joy, Herbert O. Bergdahl of Lime Rock, Brian C. Bergdahl and his wife, Cathy, of Stafford, Va., Grace B. McNamara and her husband, Marc, of Gilmanton, N.H., and John V. Bergdahl of New York City. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, Erik Bergdahl, Sarah Bergdahl and her husband, Kevin Anderson, and Alexa G. McNamara; many nieces and nephews, including Patricia Bergdahl and her husband, David Tyrrell of West Granby, Conn., and the extended Moran family; and a network of family and friends, especially Dina Segalla of Norfolk. To know Joan was to love her. She will be missed forever and celebrated often.

Joan’s family is grateful for the assistance and support of the Salisbury VNA and Hospice in the last weeks of her life, and to the dedicated staff at Sharon Hospital, working under the most difficult of situations at this time.

Burial will be private, and future services will be announced at a later date.

The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon is assisting with arrangements.

Donations may be made in her name to a charity of your choice.

Please honor her memory by enjoying your family and friends, eating a delicious dessert, and watching the TV way too loud.

More obituaries on Page A11.

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Gardens & Landscaping

Spring is well underway and with the weather clearing and temperatures rising, that means now is the time to start a new or finish an old gardening or landscaping project. Although the businesses on this page have modified their hours and customer service practices, each is ready to help you complete your next project.

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AMENIA

Four Brothers Drive-In Theater seeks to be declared ‘essential’ business by the state and allowed to open

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Since a State of Emergency was declared for the evolving coronavirus health crisis, non-essential businesses in New York state have closed per the governor’s orders and essential businesses have been adjusting their operations and workforce in conjunction with state guidelines. Since restaurants were identified as essential businesses, but only for take-out or delivery service, Four Brothers Pizza Inn, located

at 4957 Route 22 in Amenia, has remained open. The restaurant’s adjoining drive-in movie theater, though, has not as theaters were declared non-essential. John Stefanopoulos, one of the owners of Four Brothers, therefore submitted a waiver to the state to request his Drive-In Theater be deemed essential. In terms of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted his family’s business, Stefanopoulos said they’ve been “heavily impacted, as expected.” Along with adjusting their hours, he said they’ve

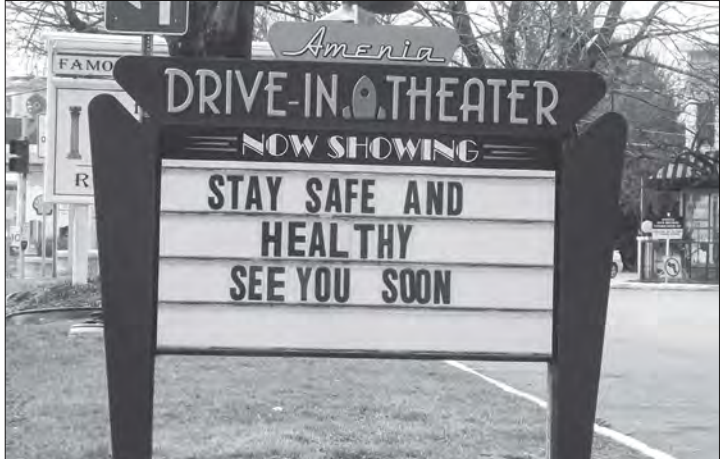


PHOTO BY ROBERT RIEMER

Spelling out a hopeful message on the sign next to the main entrance, the Four Brothers Drive-In Theater, located at 4957 Route 22 in Amenia, encouraged local residents to stay healthy during the coronavirus pandemic.

had to downsize and lay off some employees. Under normal circumstances, Four Brothers hires a number employees this time of year for its busier season. Though the restaurant typically employs between 60 and 70 workers, there are now just 15 employees working at the Amenia restaurant. However, Stefanopoulos said their employees and the local community are a priority and that his

family is “worrying about ourselves lastly. It’s a chain reaction that’s affected everything, so we’re doing what we can to stay afloat and keep our employees busy and our community fed.” As for the drive-in theater established next to the restaurant, Stefanopoulos said it’s unique because it could be fully automated. Apart from using the restrooms, he said spectators wouldn’t need to exit their vehicles to enjoy the theater, adding they could phone in if they needed to use the restrooms and then the theater’s employees would check to make sure the bathrooms are sanitized. Precautions would be in place to make sure there’s enough distance between parked cars and the entire theater system would be automated. “It’s super unique in the way we’re set up,” Stefanopoulos said, “but it’s also super unique in the way that we can offer entertainment during this time. We are also

part of the restaurant that is able to do takeout. In a sense, we’re safer than any other business open right now.” Stefanopoulos submitted the waiver to Empire State Development on the New York State website, www.eds.ny.gov, on Monday, March 23. He had not received a reply as of presstime. If deemed essential, Stefanopoulos said his family plans to adjust the theater’s schedule, advertise its opening to the public, take all necessary precautions and follow all protocols. If the application is rejected, he said they’ll do their best to plan ahead and create an exciting season once they’re able to re-open. “Our concern is providing some mental stimulation for entertainment for our customers and we think we’re doing it in a safe and respectful way, given the current world situation,” Stefanopoulos said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Employed as a teaching assistant at Webutuck Elementary School for the last four years, Ruth Van Wagner and her fellow teaching assistants sought to make a difference in the lives of Webutuck families by launching a community DIY face mask program and sewing face masks for families in need during the coronavirus pandemic.

Webutuck seeks volunteers for DIY face mask program

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Even with the school buildings closed, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District teaching staff has continued to make a difference in the lives of Webutuck families. Having forged close ties with the community during the last 20 years, a trio of Webutuck teaching assistants set to work in sewing face masks for Webutuck families in need of facial protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered all New Yorkers wear face masks when in public and unable to follow social distancing rules. With their community do-it-yourself (DIY) face mask program now in full swing, Webutuck Elementary School Teaching Assistants Ruth Van Wagner, Maria Liveris and Ann Thomas are currently on the lookout for sewers, crafters, volunteers and donors interested in helping their community one face mask at a time. Van Wagner explained that she and her fellow teaching assistants wanted to do something to make a difference in the lives of district students and their families, adding that they felt making DIY face masks was something they could do. After purchasing fabric from Walmart and JOANN Fabrics and Crafts in Hudson, the trio began sewing masks. In launching their project, they welcomed eight community members (five of whom are Webutuck employees) on their team to help sew the masks. They hope to make thousands. As of Thursday, April 30, the group has made 170 face masks with sizes ranging from adult to a child’s small, medium and large. Starting Monday, May 4, the face masks will be delivered by the Webutuck Transportation De-

partment, during which time the department will also be delivering meals to students and their families as part of the school district’s “Feed our Families” program. Already off to a great start, the team plans to keep the project going by making face masks every week. In addition to local community members and fellow teachers, Van Wagner said they’re hoping students from Eugene Brooks Intermediate School and Webutuck High School will help out, adding that by doing so, students can earn community service points and credit for the National Honor Society and other district programs. Instructions for making a DIY face mask can easily be found via YouTube at www.youtube.com. Given the high demand of fabric and other supplies during the pandemic, Van Wagner said on top of welcoming volunteers to their team, they’d appreciate any fabric or financial donations to help them with their efforts. Donations can be made to Ruth Van Wagner and fabric can be sent to her at 1719 County Route 7, Ancram, NY 12502. Volunteers interested in helping to sew face masks can email VanWagner@webutuck.org or Liveris at Maria.Liveris@webutuck.org.

WEBUTUCK — Along with reviewing the latest reports from the North East (Webutuck) Central School District, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) met on Tuesday, April 28, to discuss the district’s future, accept the proposed Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) administrative budget for the 2020-21 school year and approve three BOCES board members. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to social distancing rules in the age of COVID-19. Webutuck Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jen Eraca delivered an update on curriculum and instruction, highlighting her attendance at the faculty meetings for all three schools as well as her checking in with teachers to discuss grading. Additionally, she said she’s had multiple meetings with the faculty at Webutuck Elementary School (WES) regarding scheduling to accommodate student needs; she’s also had multiple meetings with the Eugene Brooks Intermediate School’s faculty to discuss guidance, electives, grading, scheduling and the school district’s hopeful return in the fall. Eraca also mentioned that she’s had an opportunity to visit classrooms virtually to say “hi” to students. Eraca said the district is moving forward with its participation in the Harvard study on rural education strategies. The district is also posting daily updates on its Facebook page, posting virtual flyers and posting the WES Academic Intervention Services team’s weekly challenges. It has also submitted its Foundation for Community Health grant for the proposed in-school based health center it’s pursuing. Now that Webutuck’s “Feed our Families” program is delivering nearly 180 meals to students during the statewide school closure, Business Administrator Robert Farrier shared his plans to speak with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valle last week to obtain food for its Backpack program and coordinate additional food for “Feed our Families.” He added that the district’s been offering a diverse selection of food such as chicken fingers and quesadillas. As far as facilities, Farrier said the district has been conducting its regular maintenance and cleaning, though he added it was waiting to hear whether school will be reopening before switch-

ing to its summer cleaning. On Friday, May 1, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Giving an update on the capital improvement project, Farrier said he, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani, The Palombo Group and district architect Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers plan to speak with the New York State Department of Health this week to present some of the findings from The Palombo Group’s investigation of its sewer system and to come up with a plan for the scope of work to improve the system. Referencing Eraca’s and Farrier’s report, Castellani said, “Every day is busy — there’s no down time really; it’s all day every day, and again, I can’t thank the ad-

ministrators and the teaching staff and the support staff enough... Everyone is doing something to make sure that we are helping students out as much as we can, so I’m proud to say that our district is doing a great job.” There have been no new discussions regarding the Board of Education election and budget vote. As for athletics, Section IX Athletics and the Mid-Hudson Athletic League have canceled the spring sports season. Thanking Webutuck High School Principal Katy McEnroe for researching alternatives for celebrating the Webutuck Class of 2020, Castellani said the district intends to hold some type of graduation “if we are not back in our own district or the building is not open.” Alternative options include holding a virtual gradu-

ation presentation and securing two dates at the Four Brothers Drive-In Theater in Amenia. At this point, Castellani said the district has secured Monday, June 15, with Tuesday, June 16, as a rain date, and assured the BOE that regardless of if schools are closed for the remainder of the year, there will be a graduation for the seniors. “I can’t say I’m holding out much hope that we’re coming back and at this point, it’s probably a good thing... but we’ll see, we’ll see what happens,” said BOE President Judy Moran. Totalling \$4,626,362, the BOE approved the proposed Dutchess BOCES administrative budget for the 2020-21 school year and approved Thomas Hurley, Michael Riehl and Gully Stanford to fill the vacancies on the BOCES Board.

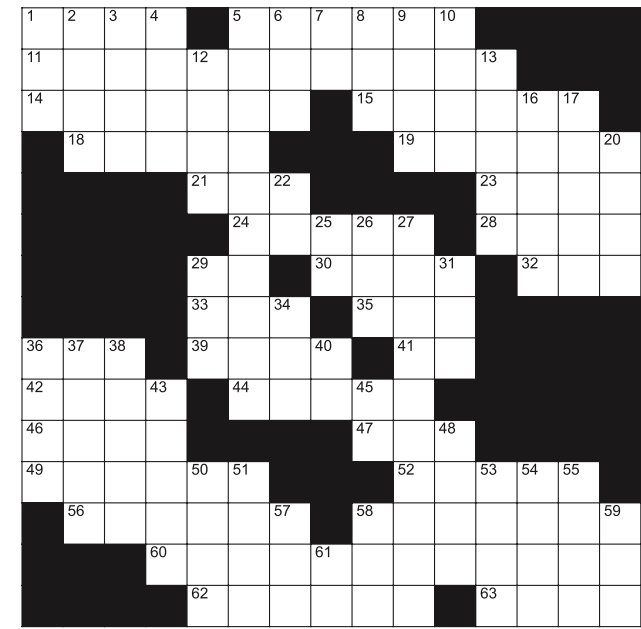
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Not bad
- 11. NYC Mayor
- 14. Essays
- 15. Walk lightly
- 18. Those who utilize
- 19. Actress Judd
- 21. One-time community of nations
- 23. Norwegian river
- 24. Unconscious states
- 28. Make muddy
- 29. Unit of volume
- 30. Consciousnesses
- 32. Envision
- 33. When you aim to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports are some
- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. Military flyers (abbr.)
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Princess’s headgear
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. Famed Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Track event

CLUES DOWN

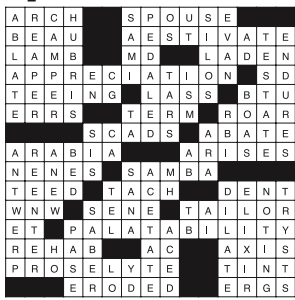
- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 2. Instead
- 3. Gifts for the poor
- 4. A type of gin
- 5. Torments
- 6. One point south of due east
- 7. Actor Pacino
- 8. Feline
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Short cries for help
- 12. Straits can sometimes be this
- 13. Further
- 16. Variety shows
- 17. Supernatural
- 20. A university in Connecticut
- 22. Atomic #27
- 25. Of I
- 26. We all have one
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. This can sting
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Religious leader
- 37. Indigo bush



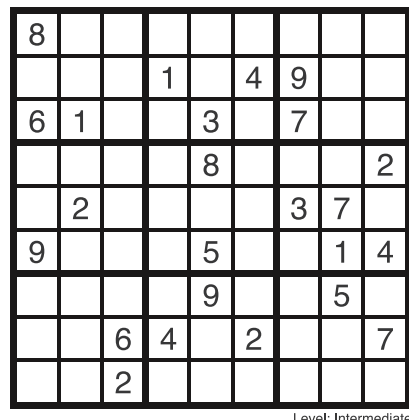
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Jr.’s father
- 43. Ray-finned fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. S-shaped line
- 51. Small bunch of hay
- 53. Ripened
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Of the ears
- 58. To the ___ degree
- 59. Wood
- 61. Cools your home

Look for the solution in next week’s issue.

April 30 Solution

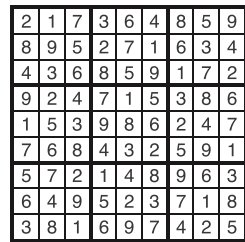


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

April 30 Solution





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MILLBROOK

See it... believe it... do it!

In times of stress, we all need a vision

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

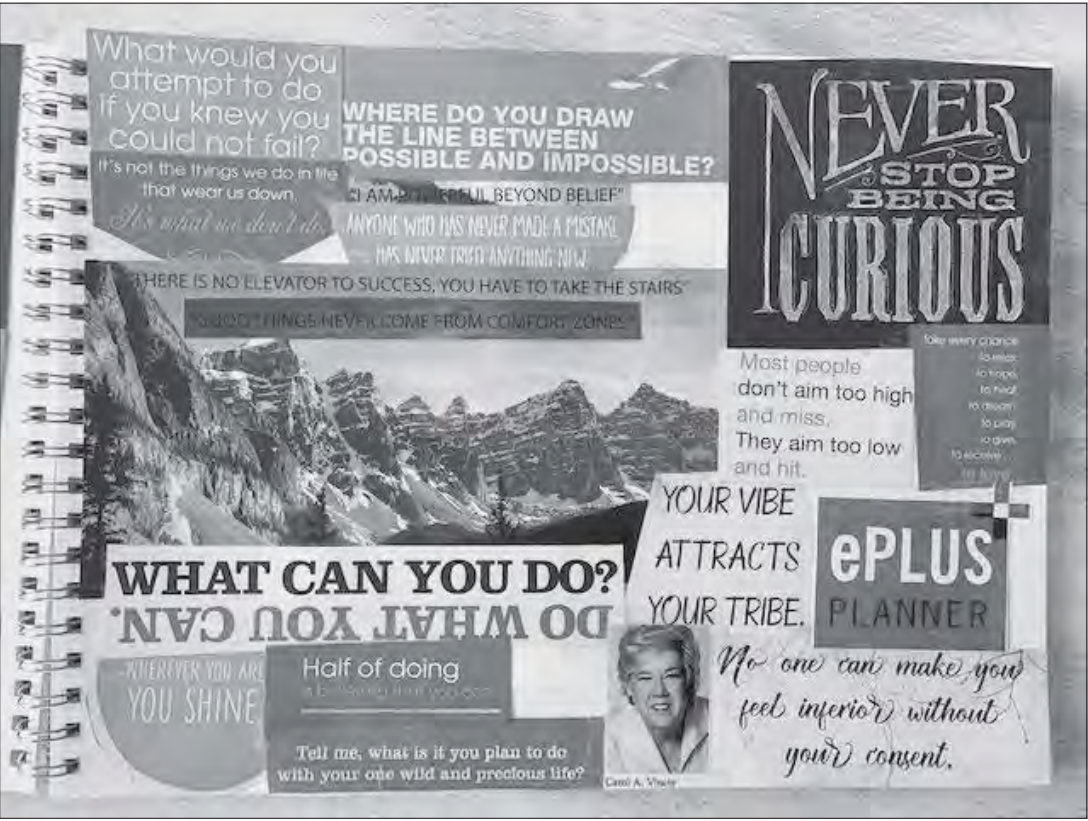
MILLBROOK — People are going through stressful times just now, maybe the most stressful they have known. They deal with stress in many different ways, and should be open to new ideas about how to deal with that stress. The town of Washington recently provided an online seminar that used the concept of vision boards and visualization to not only help residents deal with the stress of living during a pandemic, but to possibly help them face the future with a better idea of who they are and what they want to be.

In a three-part seminar presented on three different days, conducted by Cacillia Wyman, detailed instruction made using vision boards seem easy.

Wyman donated her time and expertise to the free seminar, presented by the Town of Washington Recreation Department, and those who participated were most appreciative. The workshop included how visualization tools can support personal goals. And what better time, when people are ensconced at home, to think about what the future could hold?

The workshop helped motivate participants to set aside time for bringing positives into their lives; some worked on the project alone, some as a family. Assistant Recreation Director Kelly Cassinelli reported that the seminar was a complete success, and that the town hopes to present another one soon.

A vision board is a collage, using poster board, cork board,



Vision boards are created to provide affirmation of goals and dreams and to help visualize the pathway to one's desired future. Boards can be made from many sources and whatever materials one has on hand, including photos, images from magazines and other common items.

a picture frame, of any size or color — it doesn't matter — use photos, images, words, visual affirmations of what is important, enduring symbols of what is appealing and uplifting. A vision board may help one to feel more in control of the future. It is also a vision of hope, of future plans, of ambitions and of dreams one wants to come true.

Wyman guided her students each day to include their hopes, their dreams and their aspirations on their boards. The boards be-

come motivators — designed to inspire. The boards can be geared toward improved health, career, travel, family or any other goals one may have.

"In our current world it is so important to focus on things we are grateful for and also to look ahead into the future. That's what a vision board does," said Wyman, who is a teacher in Pine Plains.

To underline the success of the program, Cassinelli provided insight from participants, notably one woman who learned a lot.

"I had no idea what to expect for this three-day vision boarding seminar," said Rebecca V. "The pacing of the course gave me the opportunity to focus on what's really important to me. The actual making of the vision board ended up being a lot of fun... I am excited to see where this leads and cannot wait to see results for my life."

Once known, the date and time of the next seminar will be posted on the town website, at www.washingtonny.org.

Reaching out to Fondi, from Millbrook, with love

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Sometimes, in our darkest hour, it helps to know that we are not alone. During the COVID-19 pandemic, pain and desolation are being felt worldwide, far beyond our shores. The early news about the horrors that Italy experienced as one of the virus' hot-spots hit close to home, as many in Millbrook have strong family ties, past and present, to Fondi, Italy.

In 2014, when resident Barbara Pierce, former Mayor Laura Hurley and Town Historian David Greenwood worked on the Museum in the Streets project, their interest in the village's Italian origins was piqued. A 2017 film, produced in part by Pierce, highlighted that Italian heritage, which is especially evident in the Italian last names of prominent villagers and the many beautiful stone buildings still standing in the village and throughout the town of Washington. Many locals have even said they've visited Fondi to trace their roots. The Italian village is where many of Millbrook's early Italian residents came from, lured here by homeowners and business owners interested in the well-known masonry skills attributed to the men of Fondi.

As dire as the news was in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reality of Italy's struggle was brought home to many Millbrook residents through the images shown on television. That's why Millbrook Mayor Rodney Brown wrote a letter to Salvatore De Meo, mayor of the village of Fondi, sister city to Millbrook, on April 9.

Brown expressed the desire of the people of Millbrook to reach out to the city so many had ties to. They wanted to tell

the people of Fondi that they recognized their suffering.

"We trust that you, too, are observing every possible precaution, and we keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers," wrote Brown. "Despite our practice of social or physical distancing, to thwart the spread of the virus, it is important to us to strengthen our emotional and psychological closeness with you, always remembering that in addition to our shared past, our diligence in the present and our hopes for the future, will always bind us together."

Fondi, established in 312 B.C., was long used as a major roadway, laying across the Old Appian Way, but it was also sacked and conquered throughout the centuries. By 1818, it was a declining city, surrounded by malaria-infested marshes. In 1959 a road was built that bypassed Fondi. Since the start of the 2000s, however, Fondi has experienced a population boom and in 2017 its population was almost 40,000. The village's economy is mainly agricultural due to a more than adequate supply of water and ideal growing conditions. The traditional crop is citrus, but in recent years other vegetables and fruits have been successfully farmed.

Mayor De Meo has since responded to the community of Millbrook, echoing the sentiments put forth by Mayor Brown. He said the bond between the sister cities, Fondi and Millbrook, will remain strong and it is to be hoped that at some point in time, both will be healthy and economically vibrant once again. Maybe more Millbrook residents will even be able to return to their historical homeland in the near future, visit their Italian family and friends and embrace them without fear.

Feeling lonely during the pandemic?

How about a coronavirus cat adoption?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — In the throes of catastrophe, what can people do? Well, a number of things. In the beginning of the health crisis, many people were panic-driven, fearful of catching COVID-19. But then, some asked themselves, "How can I help make things better?" Different people came up with different solutions.

Millbrook resident Judith Muir was scrolling through social media one day asking herself that very question: "How can I help?" Something she saw on the news feed struck close to home: a request for urgently needed foster homes for kittens and cats that were rescued from a hoarder/abandonment situation.

An animal lover and former cat owner, Muir decided to foster a cat. She said she was a little surprised that she was not given a choice, but was handed a black and white cat named Percival. She took him home, prepared to foster him for as long as needed, but knew within 24 hours that Percival wasn't going anywhere.

Foster homes and permanent homes for animals are especially needed right now because there is a lack of available volunteers to help out in animal shelters due to the health crisis, and, due to the economic toll of the pandemic, donations are also down. This leaves many animal rescuers and animal shelters in dire need of help.

Helping is part of Muir's nature. She's both a musician and an educator, having earned degrees while studying in the SUNY school system, the Manhattan School of Music and The Royal Academy. Aside from teaching private students, she is an instructor at The Fountains in Millbrook, where often she and some of her students volunteer to get seniors at The Fountains active through music and song. She finds great power in music and is herself a world-class clarinetist. The Fountains residents especially like older songs, ones that 100 years ago might have been sung in the parlor and sing-a-longs. That type of music promoted connectivity, Muir said, it soothed and healed, which is why she plays it today.

Trips to The Fountains have been postponed until further notice because of COVID-19, but Muir still teaches virtually and is offering free online sessions to the

children of her students and first responders who may be in need of the healing sound of music.

"How do you explain to a child of 4 about quarantine?" she asked. "About illness and death?"

So Muir continues to reach out to those who love music, as she said it has the power to heal the soul. In times of great stress, she said, the arts can heal, whether it's through painting or drawing, reading or writing, composing or playing music or simply appreciating the arts. Art is said to "soothe the wild beast."

Percival, the rescue cat, agrees. Very often he sits and listens as his musical mother plays; he is now finally living the good life.

To learn more about local animal shelters in need of support, call the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Poughkeepsie at 845-392-4849; the Dutchess County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DCSPCA) in Hyde Park at 845-452-7722; or Collaborative Cats in Ancramdale at 518-305-2910.



Percival the cat was adopted by Judith Muir during the coronavirus pandemic after she asked herself, "What can I do to make a difference at this time?" Muir said she saw a notice for emergency pet foster care, made the call and now Percival is living the good life in his new home.

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PINE PLAINS

Students ‘Read like an Egyptian’ for Family Literacy Week

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Not even the school district’s closure could stop Pine Plains teachers from celebrating a much-loved tradition like Family Literacy Week with the students at Cold Spring Early Learning Center. Though they were unable to physically hold the long-awaited event at Cold Spring this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, teachers collaborated to bring the event online, holding a week-long Virtual Family Literacy Week inclusive of Cold Spring students as well as Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center students and their families.

Tying into the district’s Pick a Reading Partner Program, the Family Literacy Night program typically offers an educational night of family-friendly activities promoting literacy. When it became apparent that Cold Spring wouldn’t be able to host the event in-person this year due to the health crisis, Susan Poole-Di Salvo, a first-grade teacher at Cold Spring and one of two co-ordinating teachers for Virtual Family Literacy Week, said teachers decided they still wanted to hold a literacy event for students.

“Having this event be week-long gives families the time and flexibility to navigate and participate in activities at their convenience during this already busy time in our lives,” Poole-Di Salvo said.

Running from Monday, April 27, through Friday, May 1, students in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth were able to com-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pine Plains student Hannah Wuenst enjoyed an Egyptian-themed treat with her younger brother from the comfort of her home as part of Virtual Family Literacy Week.

plete the Virtual Family Literacy Week activities at home. With “Read Like an Egyptian” selected as this year’s theme, activities were posted throughout the week on the “Cold Spring Early Learning Center,” “Pine Plains Elementary PTA” and “Seymour Smith ILC” Facebook pages. Coordinated by Poole Di-Salvo and Cold Spring Reading and Special Education Teacher Alisa Hinsch, this year’s medley of educational activities featured Pine Plains teachers taking part in read alouds, dances, art tutorials, scavenger hunts, obstacle courses and even a virtual field trip through ancient Egypt.

As a way of introducing district families to Virtual Family Literacy Week, Poole-Di Salvo and Hinsch kicked off the week with a virtual assembly to keep everyone informed of the week

of activities ahead of them; they also thanked families for their participation with a closing assembly at the end of the week. From guessing “Where in Pine Plains is the Egyptian?” with Seymour Smith teacher Jennifer Chase and making an Egyptian themed snack with Hinsch to joining a dance along with Cold Spring teacher Maureen Blackburn and solving a brain power virtual puzzle with Cold Spring teacher Michelle Palmieri, the students had an ample variety of activities available to them for each day of the week.

As a whole, Poole-Di Salvo said the event received a tremendously positive response from the school community with a great many students participating in the activities with their siblings and family members.

“It seems that the shift online has been positive,” she said. “As we all know, being with one another face-to-face is preferred, but the district and families have come together to make this experience positive. Our district has used the resources they have been given to make this a positive experience for children the best they can.”

Given the number of families that posted photos and shared their enjoyment via feedback and posts on the “Pine Plains Moms and Dads” Facebook page, Poole-Di Salvo was pleased to observe families enjoying themselves while participating in some of the activities with their children.

“In a time of such uncertainty, it was nice to see the families so actively involved and sharing student interaction in a positive way,” she said.

BOE adopts district and BOCES budgets, considers its future

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Recognizing that some of their questions about the Pine Plains Central School District’s future will go unanswered until more information becomes available, the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) got to business on Tuesday, April 28, adopting both the school district budget and Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) budget for the 2020-21 school year and keeping informed of the latest news from the state.

The meeting was held remotely through a video-conference due to the COVID-19 crisis with the entire board present as well as Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler; Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm; and Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb.

Goldbeck initiated the budget discussions with an overview of the proposed Pine Plains district budget for 2020-21. BOE President Chip Couse raised the subject of state aid, remarking that Governor Andrew Cuomo has indicated that state aid will be reviewed on a quarterly basis due to uncertainties with the coronavirus pandemic. BOE member Joseph Kiernan asked if, with the anticipated cuts of anywhere from 20 to 50%, the school district will be able to maintain status quo.

“I think what you’re asking is are we going to have to get into program reductions as a result of these pending cuts,” Handler said, “and I think the answer is, for 2020-21, most probably no... if we’re in the same pickle this time next year and we have subsequent years of reductions, then we’re going to have to take a look, but I think we’re in healthy enough shape that we can sustain these cuts.”

Goldbeck added that the district is in a fortunate position where it isn’t heavily dependent on state aid, noting that state aid makes up 20% of the 2020-21 budget. In addition to approving the 2020-21 school district budget, he said voters will have a chance to elect two BOE members and authorize the district to purchase four buses when the vote is held. However the BOE decides to organize the public hearing for the 2020-21 budget, Goldbeck said it would be held 14 days before the district vote.

Couse asked if the BOE had any information about the impact of the school district’s closure on its energy performance contract. Handler said that Siemens had guaranteed the district a certain amount of energy savings, adding the district is currently using “less energy, but not a lot less.” However, because the school district is paying less for its energy performance products, Handler noted the district is saving less. In any case, he said he thinks the district will be able to cover what was paid for the energy perfor-

mance contract.

Moving forward, Handler asked if the BOE wanted to adopt the school district budget that evening as it was presented by Goldbeck. The BOE agreed to adopt the budget and unanimously adopted the 2020-21 budget of \$33,525,450. The budget increase for Pine Plains for the 2020-21 academic year is 1.81% This vote was succeeded by the BOE’s vote to approve the property tax report card for 2020-21, which Goldbeck will submit to the New York State Education Department.

Under his report, Handler took the time to recognize “a group of incredible people” who have volunteered to deliver meals to students as part of the district’s food delivery program. He asked the BOE for a motion to allow him to offer mileage to the volunteers. The BOE agreed.

Next, Handler talked about the continuity of education plan the district had to submit to the state to keep instruction going during the state-wide closure of schools to stop the spread of COVID-19. He informed the BOE that the state has reopened the portal on the continuity of education plan since school districts have been doing a lot more in terms of curriculum and instruction since they first closed in March. The plan has to be submitted to the

state by Monday, May 4, by 5 p.m. Taking the lead on this project, Timm said Dutchess BOCES has distributed a template to help the district outline the educational measures and programs taking place at each school building and at each of the different grade levels.

Handler also touched on questions he’s received pertaining to school elections, summer school and potential budget cuts — all of which have yet to be determined.

Moving onto the BOCES budget and board members, the BOE approved the proposed BOCES budget of \$4,626,362 for the 2020-21 school year and voted on Thomas Hurley, Michael Riehl and Gully Stanford to fill the vacancies on the BOCES Board.

On Friday, May 1, Cuomo decided to keep schools closed. (For more, read this week’s front page.)

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Dr. Jack Finkelstein of Sharon, CT is retiring from his practice on June 30th, 2020.

Jack Finkelstein
05-07-20
05-14-20

Planning Board to hold Zoom meeting about Durst development

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Planning Board will discuss The Durst Organization’s pre-sketch approval application for a conservation subdivision in Pine Plains at its next meeting on Wednesday, May 13.

The Durst Organization announced on Friday, May 1, that the first formal steps have been taken to implement its revised vision for developing its 3,000 acres west of Pine Plains. The pre-sketch review will identify the 50% of land to be reserved

for open space in the project’s proposed subdivision layout, and the Planning Board needs to complete this preliminary identification before the Durst Organization can complete its proposed project design and layout.

The initial discussion of the pre-sketch submission will be featured on the Planning Board’s agenda for the meeting on Wednesday, May 13, which will be held via Zoom Meetings at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.pineplains-ny.gov.



Worship Services
Week of May 10, 2020

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sharonumc634@att.net

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10 AM - Sacred Heart

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Spring is when black bears become active in our communities. This year is different since the majority of our weekend homes are now occupied full time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many people, this may be their first experience encountering black bears on their property. First thing to know is that they are rarely aggressive to humans but it would be good to extend social distancing when meeting them. With black bears, it is all about food, so removing bird feeders and keeping garbage secured are good ideas. The Connecticut DEEP has great information on living in harmony with black bears at the following link : www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Nuisance-Wildlife/Living-with-Black-Bears. P.S. The ear tags indicate the year tagged, not that they are a problem bear.

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EDITORIAL

Closing schools is the right call

Proving yet again both his wisdom and his leadership, Governor Andrew Cuomo made the right call to keep all New York K-12 schools and college facilities closed for the remainder of the academic year to prevent further spread of the coronavirus, on Friday, May 1. The long-awaited announcement came after the governor shut down schools and non-essential businesses statewide, with his New York State on PAUSE Executive Order this April; it expires May 15.

When he closed schools across New York, Cuomo also waived the 180-day state requirement that schools must provide 180 days of teaching. At the time he had schools switch to distance learning programs and offer both meal delivery services and child care options for essential workers. Drastic? Yes. Necessary? Absolutely!

As he explained last week, “Schools, obviously by definition, have higher density. They have transportation issues, kids getting on buses. We did not have the protection measures to put in place. You have 700 public school districts, 4,800 schools in this state, and then you have 1,800 private schools, 89 SUNY and CUNY campuses, and 100 private campuses for a total of 4.2 million students.”

The governor has to take care of each and every one of those 4.2 million students — keeping them safe and healthy — protecting them from catching and potentially spreading this deadly virus.

Calling decisions on the education system “critically important,” Cuomo asked, “How do you operate a school that socially distances with masks, without gatherings, with a public transportation system that has a lower number of students on it? How would you get that plan up and running? We do not think it is possible to do that in a way that would keep our children, students and educators safe.”

That is the crux of why he made the decision he made — to protect students and school staff who could potentially be exposed to ill classmates and colleagues in close physical quarters in which it would be near impossible to social distance. Whether the state can solve how to keep everyone safe, whether in the classroom, in the cafeteria or on the school bus, in time for summer school is another question, one which Cuomo hopes to answer by the end of the month.

Describing the governor’s actions as “responsible,” the New York State School Boards Association offered its opinion following his decision.

“There is nothing normal about the times we live in. With more than 300,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, New York state has become the epicenter of the global coronavirus pandemic. It would not be safe to open schools now. Too many issues remain unresolved, including how we can safely transport students to and from school, create classroom environments that allow for safe distances between students and put in place other public health safeguards that will protect our school communities.”

By dealing with the education system in much the same way he’s been dealing with the business sector, the governor has been pragmatic, responsible, logical and systematic. He’s asked schools to develop plans that take into account COVID-19-era social distancing guidelines for the re-opening of schools in September (pending state approval).

“This has been a very difficult, difficult situation for everyone,” said Cuomo last week, “but when life knocks you on your rear, learn and grow, and we will collectively learn and grow. We are going to learn many difficult lessons from this situation. We are going to learn about public health threats that we never saw before, we never heard of, we never really anticipated, we never actualized.”

One thing we are learning about during this pandemic: Teaching students without a classroom is tough. But despite the difficulties of distance learning, teachers and administrators around the region are doing their best to keep some continuity in their students’ academic lives. They are getting creative, and we hope students are taking their studies seriously. This week in particular, which is Teacher Appreciation Week, we want to take a moment to recognize the challenges of distance learning, and to commend those working so hard to make virtual education a success.

The good, the bad and the ugly

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to bring out the best in people.

The Good: Politicians have mostly ceased their partisan bickering to unite and serve the American people. We have a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that has pulled all the stops by attacking this virus as an invading enemy as well as supporting the welfare and health of those affected. We have organizations, businesses, first responders and citizens stepping up to the plate to ensure those in need and the most vulnerable are fed, cared for, transported and comforted. This is happening with military precision.

The Bad: Sensationalism, tragedy and death sells. This is not the time. Beware of the mostly dishonest media. Don’t get news overload. Young people are community transmitters and should be careful, yet they persist on breaking guidelines as I would have probably done decades ago. Common sense should take priority over self indulgence.

The Ugly: Price gouging and hoarding. Charging astronomical prices during a crisis is both illegal and sinful. Hoarding denies basic supplies to those in desper-

VETERAN’S CORNER

Larry Conklin

ate need and is both selfish and greedy. This virus relies on human contact and the sharing of respiratory droplets to spread. Do your part. Follow the CDC guidelines — if not for yourself then to spare the lives of the vulnerable.

This will pass and perhaps make us a better nation. I spent 10 months in the West Pacific aboard an aircraft carrier staring upon hundreds upon unending hundreds of miles of open sea. My mind acknowledged that it would eventually end with better days ahead. Keep the faith, readers. This, too, will pass. We are a very tough and resilient nation. United we stand, divided we fall. Your choice.

God bless you, readers, and your families. Stay safe and healthy. Till next time, farewell.

Millerton resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam veteran and member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the VFW Couch Pipa Post in North Canaan, Conn.



Handouts: A different perspective

So far, the total relief money allocated by the federal government in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is \$2,000,000,000,000. That’s a 2 with 12 zeroes. And there’s more to come.

There are 328,200,000 people in the USA. Ages 0-14 years = 61,110,000; ages 15-64 years = 214,478,000; over 65 = 52,610,000 — all approximately until the new Census is tabulated.

If everyone under the age of 14 was given \$250 a month for five months, and everyone aged 15 to 64 was given \$1,500 a month for the next five months and everyone over 65 was given \$1,000 a month for the next five months, the total payout by the government would be \$76,387,500,000 + \$1,608,585,000,000 + \$265,050,000,000 for a grand total, spread over five months, of \$1,950,022,500,000 or less than the \$2,000,000,000,000 already allocated.

At least there are no zombies

Nobody chooses to be poor. Nobody.

You are poor because you were born into it or because something bad happened. It could have been a divorce, a natural disaster, an economic downturn, or just plain bad luck. Whatever the reason, getting out of the black hole of poverty is incredibly difficult.

I wrote that the week before the Viral Apocalypse decimated America. I am part of the quarter of the population who are now facing a prolonged period of unemployment with no savings, but plenty of debt. I am lucky in a lot of ways at this point in my life. I can survive the three to six months it will take to get America back on track. I have not been so lucky in the past. I know what facing the abyss feels like.

The Viral Apocalypse makes it glaringly clear how precarious is the financial stability of fully a quarter of Americans. For decades now, people who should have been salaried workers have been forced out of jobs and into contract work. Gig economy 1099 workers, people who get paid by the job, are not eligible for unemployment. With the shutdown, most of those people are flat out of luck. Think about all those things that have been canceled. How many people did they employ? No weddings means no wedding planners, no florists, no live music or DJs, no caterers, no dressmakers, no solvency.

The coronavirus presents a unique view of the poor and barely solvent. This massive unemployment is no one’s fault despite what conspiracy theorists may say. And, because everything is shut down, there is no chance of getting another job. We are blameless and, thus, worthy of aid.

All those people who find themselves suddenly unemployed were one piece of bad luck away from poverty before this happened. If they fell one by one, we would blame them. They must have done something wrong. Of-

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Now, imagine you’re a working family of four. Your bank and everyone you have to deal with (car payments, utilities, etc.) would know that over the five-month period you would have a federal guaranteed income — non-repayable, not a loan — of \$17,500, or \$3,500 a month. Of course, if your kids were over the age of 14, then the monthly total would be \$6,000 and it would be \$30,000 over five months.

A retired couple — still getting Social Security — would also have \$2,000 a month or \$10,000 over that five-month period.

Why is this more fair? Because work in America and taxes in America are all about people, not companies, not Wall Street. If General Motors has to shutter its

BUT THEN AGAIN

Lisa Wright

ten they did everything right, went to college, worked hard, but the economy changed and they were no longer needed.

Here’s the thing about poverty: It is not a “personality defect” as Margaret Thatcher called it. It is not laziness: 78% of those on assistance hold jobs. Many hold two or more jobs to try and make ends meet but without transportation or reliable childcare it all falls apart. Again. It is not a choice. It is not a sign of moral inferiority. It is a tragedy.

It is time we took a long look at what has happened in our country to create this situation. This is Capitalism without compassion. This is insanity.

Is this how we want to live? I look around and see good people who want to help each other. They, we, can see the pain. All those hourly workers not working, all those freelancers not working, all those teachers struggling to find a way to keep teaching our kids. And the emergency and medical folks are working overtime. You can’t self-isolate when you are trying to save lives. We depend on each other. As we should. But it is not enough.

Now, while we are stuck at home, is a good time to look into other possibilities. We have forgotten that the economy is us. The GDP does not measure real life. Our economy has been hijacked by the super-rich and I want it back.

America is falling apart. But, look on the bright side: at least there are no zombies.

Lisa Wright divides her time between her home in Lakeville, Conn., and Oblong Books in Millerton, where she has worked for more than 35 years. Email her at wrighttales@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks and virtual performances from Ancram Opera House

Ancram Opera House would like to thank those who completed our recent survey. The input helped us considerably as we put together plans for an upcoming season — our fifth anniversary, which we will be celebrating virtually.

As always, the act of storytelling is at the center of our work and, in times like these, telling and listening to stories is one way for us all to process these challenging times and heal.

For this spring and summer, it’s a pleasure to offer these virtual events free of charge to the community. If interested in attending, residents are asked to RSVP through our website (www.ancramoperahouse.org) so that we can send a link to the program just prior to its taking place. Here’s what we have in store: Real People Real Stories:

Redux, a special fifth anniversary edition of the perennial audience favorite, will bring back some of the most memorable narratives told by local residents. Livestreams on June 27.

Crystal Radio Sessions Upstate showcases short stories by established and emerging regional authors as read by some of the AOH audience’s favorite actors. Livestreams on July 11.

Local Characters, a new series featuring lively, free-wheeling interviews with friends and neighbors to learn what makes them tick. Teasers throughout May and livestreams on July 25.

Summer Play Lab celebrates two weekends of brand new performances of commissioned solo and small cast plays by noted area playwrights, presented as staged readings. Livestreams Aug. 7 through Aug. 9, and Aug. 14 through Aug. 16.

We look forward to seeing audiences online and welcoming everyone back to Ancram Opera House once it is safe to do so.

Paul Ricciardi
& Jeffrey Mousseau
Directors, Ancram Opera House

Ancram

Cheers for Earth Day celebration

On behalf of the Climate Smart Task Force, we send our village businesses and organizations a rousing cheer for lining Main Street (inside and out) with daffodils in celebration of Millerton’s Earth Day on Saturday, April 25.

They looked celebratory and cheerful — sending a message that Millerton is Strong, Creative and Resilient to all passers-by. THANK YOU one and all and what a wonderful tradition to set in place.

We’ll all be out and about to celebrate Earth Day in April 2021 with next year’s daffodils and enjoying ourselves together.

For those who might have missed the moment, we pivoted from a village-wide festival to a website filled with fun, ideas and inspiration — ways we can all pitch in to take care of our earth. Do check it out: <https://millertonnewyork.com/earth-day/>.

Happy Spring and stay in good health.

Kathy Chow, coordinator,
Jennifer Dowley,
Matt Hartzog, Chris Kennan,
Tom Parrett, Eliot Ramos
and Andrew Stayman
The Millerton/North East
Climate Smart Task Force
Millerton

Send letters to the editor to editor@millertonnews.com

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,
fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

May 7-13, 2020

ART: NF AMBERY

Forstmann Invites the World To Watch Him at Work

In these days of self-distancing — when buyers can't visit art galleries or studios — one Sharon, Conn., artist has found a unique way to bring attention to his work.

Eric Forstmann, 57, has been posting video clips online to show the behind-the-scenes work of creating art at his Torrington studio. He is represented by Jane Eckert in Kent, Conn. (www.janeeckertfineart.com).

The website is updated frequently, as he works, and shows him setting up a subject (in this case, still lifes) and doing prep work, like hashing out initial sketches. **FROM IDEA TO CANVAS**

In the first video, Forstmann arranges on wooden shelves a variety of props: vases, glasses, a small kettle, knickknacks. Another clip (filmed on his iPad) shows the sped-up process of sketching. In a third video, he starts to actually paint.

The growing "Following Forstmann" collection can be seen online at www.vimeo.com/user113839073/videos.

Forstmann said he plans to continue to make more videos. Eckert Fine Art is posting updates on Instagram and other social media, and on the gallery's website (www.janeeckertfineart.com/eric-forstmann).

Forstmann sheepishly admits he is "tech unsavvy," and said that when Eckert



Eric Forstmann, a Sharon artist represented by Eckert Fine Art in Kent, is posting videos of the process of creating a painting, from early sketches to finished canvas.

brought up the idea, "I was hesitant at first.

"I'm not well-versed at being online. But I'm getting there. I got an email address just three years ago. I've never had a Facebook page. I am talking to you on my Samsung Convoy 4 flip phone," he said during the April 30 interview for this article.

"It's not that I am a Neanderthal," he clarified. But he's wary of the temptations that come with using a smartphone.

"I'd rather spend my time painting" than web surfing. Nonetheless, Forstmann has been something of an internet art pioneer, with the video posts about his painting process.

"The way things are now, it's hard to get people to your

studio," he said. "These little films keep your name out there. You can see what I'm painting."

Forstmann said he was also inspired by artists he met at an artist residency at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City: "Artists under 50 say, 'You can't live without Instagram,'" he said.

SLOWED BY COVID Like everyone, the COVID-19 crisis threw Forstmann off track for a while. Following two successful major art fairs in February, he confessed, he hadn't been making much art.

"I thought I had COVID-19 at the beginning of March," he said. "I had all the symptoms."

He added that, "I've never taken off more than a couple of weeks" from painting.

He was able to get tested, but got a "negative" result — which wasn't that comforting, he said, considering how often the tests come up with false negatives.

The emotional impact also factored in. He compared the global pandemic to the aftermath of 9/11, when he doubted whether what he did artistically mattered.

Following a month of isolation, he felt once again inspired. He went out and did several small landscapes

on Route 22 in Millerton, N.Y., near McEnroe Farm.

"It restored my faith in what I do," he said. "There were even cheers and thumbs-ups from passersby."

THE LUXURY OF A STUDIO

After working from his home in Sharon for many years, Forstmann is now in a studio space in Torrington. His first studio was above the Five Points Center for the Visual Arts on Water Street (he is on the Board of Directors of the downtown Torrington gallery). In May 2019, he moved around the corner to 79 Wall St.

"My production level went way up when I got away from my home studio," he said.

MUTED BUT LUSCIOUS SCENES

Forstmann creates moody, haunting still lifes and landscapes, working mostly with oil paints. The works are striking: dried stalks in a ribbed drinking glass; hanging linen shirts that are colorful but muted. His works have distinct emotional dimensions.

Eckert Fine Art has a show of his work planned for June, though it may be postponed until October. Forstmann said it will be interesting to see how the concept of crowds will change when the pandemic is over. In the meantime, he will continue with his video clips.

"I'm still trying to come out of the fog and see what the reaction to this will be," he said. "I'm trying to let it happen without thinking about it. I only can work the way I work, and hopefully find things fulfilling."



"Little House on Town Street" by Ellen Moon is one of many works by Cornwall artists in a special Rose Algrant online art sale to raise money for the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund.

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Rose Algrant Show Of Works on Paper

One of the highlights of the Northwest Corner art season in Connecticut is the Rose Algrant Show, which has been held since 1959 and has been hosted in recent years at the Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, Conn.

The show, normally held in August, is a fundraiser for local charities and includes reasonably priced work by talented amateur artists and by artists of renown such as Philip Taaffe, Robert Andrew Parker, Tim Prentice and Duncan Hannah.

A special fundraising art sale for the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund is now being curated online; works can already be seen at www.rosealgrantartshow.org/shop-online and new works will be added until May 10. The sale will run until the middle of June.

The works are supposed to be on paper so they can be sent easily by mail, but there are also ceramics and kimono silk scarves available. Images of the pieces, prices and how to purchase the work can be found at the website.

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Cautionary Tale About the Mighty Mississippi River

Author Simon Winchester, a Berkshire County resident, writes about the Mississippi and how it came to be America's second largest river system, in a new book of work by photographer David Freese, called "Mississippi River: Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf," due out in June.

Winchester will talk about the book and about the river in a Zoom talk hosted by the Scoville Memorial Library of Salisbury, Conn., on Saturday, May 9, at 4 p.m. He will also talk about another new book due this year, on the dams of Louisiana.

The text in both books is cautionary. He researched the almost entirely artificial Mississippi River System construction, and the increasing likelihood and danger of the system failing itself. If that happens, it will likely bypass New Orleans

and destroy an immense amount of infrastructure along the way.

"The overall theme I take with this book is that the Mississippi — romanticized, noble and epic — is now for most of its length almost entirely artificial," Winchester said.

"It used to sort of ooze out of Lake Itasca in Minnesota. Then the Civilian Conservation Corps built a huge dam that channels the water into a stream that comes out of the lake.

"That kind of sets the tone for the whole river: It's run by the Army Corps of Engineers, which is not necessarily a good thing."

The photos by Freese remind us of the beauty of the great river system; the photos were taken from a drone at about 500 feet.

Freese lives in Philadelphia, Pa., and had an idea 10 years ago to take photos from an airplane of the West Coast of North America, from the Aleutian Islands to Baja, Calif. His next book was about the East Coast.

Winchester probably won't show Freese's photos from this book but might show some from their past projects. Like most of us, he is learning his way around Zoom talks and isn't quite sure what the structure of his talk will be on May 9.

For details on how to log in, go the library website at www.scovillelibrary.org, click on "events" and then click on the talk on May 9 in the calendar. To learn more about Winchester and his work, go to www.simonwinchester.com.

SPECTACULAR ENTERTAINMENT

It's with heavy hearts that we have just learned we have been deemed a "non-essential business." We are applying to have this waived. Stay tuned! We hope to be able to serve you again ASAP!

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No matter what level you choose for your donation, what you will get is continued coverage of town government and other events in the Tri-state region. And of course, our gratitude — but no other tangible benefits. Contributions are not tax deductible, as the company is not a nonprofit 501(c)3 at this time.

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Call or email us with questions at 860-435-9873 and by email at publisher@lakevillejournal.com and cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

OBITUARIES

Thomas C. Barlow

COPAKE — Thomas “Tommy” C. Barlow, 51, of Copake passed away on April 22, 2020, at Sharon Hospital after a sudden illness.

Tom was born July 25, 1968, in Sharon, the son of Wava (Begoro) and Thomas Barlow and spent his early life growing up on his family’s farm in South Amenia. He graduated from Webutuck High School in 1986.

After graduating, Tom moved to Peru, N.Y., where he continued to work the farm and attend college at SUNY Plattsburgh and graduated with his business degree.

After graduating college Tom did mechanical work for numerous businesses before starting his own business, TB Roadcall in 1997.

On March 8, 2003, Tom married the love of his life, Lea Ann Hay, and in addition to gaining two great stepsons they went on to have two wonderful children.

Tom was very proud of his family and especially his kids and loved attending the fair every year when they were showing their cows for 4-H.

He will always be remembered for his unique personality and willingness to help anyone

in need. He was known to work from sun up to sun down, never stopping until the job was done.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is survived by his children, Lee Hay Shepard, David Shepard Jr. and his girlfriend, Alex Braidt, Hannah and her boyfriend, Killian Waldorf, and William; his grandson, Brantley Shepard; his mother-in-law, Rita Loucks; his brother, Patrick; his sisters, Lisa Humbert, Heather and Amanda; his beloved Uncle Jesse; and many other brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his maternal and paternal grandparents; and Aunt Sandy Barlow and Aunt Marylou Farnhom.

A celebration of life for family and friends will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Thomas C. Barlow GoFundMe, set up to help the family with expenses.

The family would like to thank all their family and friends for their support during this difficult time.

To sign the online register, go to www.peakandpeak.net.

Barbara Lee Laney

SALISBURY — Barbara Lee Laney, 79, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2020, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury.

Born on Aug. 14, 1940, in Helena, Mont., she was the daughter of the late Alice (Doney) and Alfred Fleury.

Barbara is survived by her son, Lenny Kinzinger of Millerton; three daughters, Julie Kinzinger of Beach Lake, Pa., Donna (Laney) McKeague and her husband, Todd, of Westfield, Mass., and Renée Laney-Wilcox and her husband, Willam, of Salisbury. She is also survived by her

pride and joy: her grandchildren, Zackery, Rachel and Leah Wilcox, Lucy and Ella McKeague, Hunter and Ethan Kinzinger and AJ Petroski.

She is also survived by her loving sister, Mary Noss and her husband, Robert, of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald Laney; her son, Robert Kinzinger; her brother, Gary Fleury; and her sisters, Delores Fleury, Olive Carmen and Avis Decker.

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home.

Joyce Marie (Tuncy) Beebe

FALLS VILLAGE — Joyce Marie (Tuncy) Beebe, 77, of 10 Prospect St., died May 1, 2020, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. She was the wife of William C. Beebe.

Joyce was born Aug. 17, 1942, in Sharon, the daughter of the late Hazel (Pulver) and David H. Tuncy.

Joyce was employed as an assembler at the former Bicon Electronics Plant in North Canaan for 15 years. Prior to that, she had worked at the Sharon Hospital in the Laundry Department. A gifted crafter, Joyce was known for her ability to crochet. She loved to sit on her front porch and, while crocheting, she loved to watch the hummingbirds that would gather at her feeders. She also loved unicorns. She was an exhibitor at the Goshen Fair in the Arts and Crafts Pavilion.

Joyce was a 41-year member of the Falls Village Ladies Auxiliary and served as president of that association for 10 years.

In addition to her husband, Joyce is survived by her son, Douglas W. Chapman and his

companion, Mary Bryant, of Lime Rock; her daughter, Lisa M. Chapman of Torrington; her sister, Linda Stickles and her husband, Conrad, of Amenia; her brother-in-law, Kenneth Wilcox of Dover Plains; her grandsons and granddaughters, Cody Reid and Kiera Reid, both of Lakeville, Gary R. Grandell and his companion, Hannah Domingue, of Torrington and Serena M. Grandell of Torrington; and several nieces and nephews.

Joyce was predeceased by her sister, Beverly I. Wilcox.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 11 a.m. in Grassy Hill Cemetery in Falls Village. Due to the prevailing conditions, there will be no calling hours, but at a later and more appropriate time, there will be a celebration of Joyce’s life.

Memorial donations made be sent to the Alzheimer’s Association, 2911 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, CT 06518; or the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Dept., 188 Route 7 S., Falls Village, CT 06031. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Linda G. Sartori

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three daughters,

Alicia Sartori of Millerton, Ann Marie Sartori of Millerton and Angella Weber and her husband, Lea, of Geneseo, N.Y. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Taylor and Maddalena Sartori, Marley, Sartori and Lili-ana Weber and Austin and Desiree Carnaci; her sisters, Kathleen Sprague and her husband, Mike, and Danilee Poppensiek; her sister-in-law, Madeline Callahan, and her husband, Roger; and several nieces and

Robin Thew

NORTH CANAAN — Robin Nada Thew, 94, who died on April 30, 2020, was born on Nov. 30, 1925, in Westport, Conn., to a creative family. Her father, Robert Garrett Thew, a sculpture and painter working primarily in the advertising industry, and her mother, Elsie Green Thew, a journalist, welcomed her into a world full of inspiration and ingenuity that would follow her all of her life. At a young age, Robin showed outstanding artistic abilities and at 12 years old was selected by Good Housekeeping to design several patterns for its issues.

Throughout high school, Robin was recognized for her exemplary artistic abilities, which seemingly knew no bounds — from sewing, to sculpting and painting — her imagination inspired ingenious caricatures and magical scenes. She attended the Art Students League in New York City, and went on to work with several clothes designers, eventually designing windows for such businesses as Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s. She was married in the late 40s and had two boys, Michael and Gary Lincoln.

During the 1960s, Robin was introduced to Gene Moore, the famous window dresser at Tiffany & Co., who commissioned her to design five separate windows for their stores to showcase their jewels. Robin crafted a mischievous gang of mice robbers from papier-mâché to decorate the windows. The work was voted best windows on Fifth Avenue that year, much to the chagrin of its competitor, Cartier, whose letter in response to the windows as “irresponsible subject matter” garnered numerous curious on-lookers.

Robin subsequently designed three additional windows for Tiffany’s, which inspired a children’s book, in collaboration with her daughter, Katie Rocco, about a little girl’s love of horses. She continued to create remarkable artwork such as doll designs for a Little Orphan Annie, The Cat in the Hat, and a Charlie Chaplin doll for Milton Bradley in 1971 that was endorsed by Charlie Chaplin himself, winning Doll of the Year.

Her soft sculpture displays in Westport and New Canaan stores like Pic a Pants and The Remarkable Book store were widely known and loved and when she moved to northwest Connecticut, her work’s legacy grew. Her paintings adorned the walls of many local shops like the Salisbury Antique Center, Chaiwalla, April 56 and Four the Birds Gift Shop, and her whimsical animal creations were widely recognized and admired. Robin’s greatest love was making others smile with her artwork.

For the past 11 years, Robin lived at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation in North Canaan, where she continued producing artwork until last year.

She is survived by her brother, John Thew of Norfolk; her daughter and son-in-law, Katie and Doug Rocco of Sandisfield, Mass.; her granddaughter, Cailin Rocco, and grandson, Jason Lincoln, of Middletown, Conn.; and her granddaughter, Joy Ide of Pennsylvania.

nephews.

There will be no calling hours. Graveside services and burial were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, at St. Charles Cemetery in Dover Plains.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 (www.alz.org); and the Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road in Amenia.

To send the family an online condolence, go to www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.



Another obituary on Page A2.

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