



MILLERTON
Ground Breaking
At Millerton
Community Park
Draws 100-Plus
To Celebrate **A2**



DOVER
High School
Holds Vaccination
Clinic Just In
Time For School
To Open **A3**

COMPASS Ruth Finley And
NYC Fashion Week; The
Workshop Experience
Weekend; And More **B1-2**

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Visiting Millerton from Long Island, Alban June bent down to admire the autoflowers growing in Harney & Sons Hemp Division's fields.

PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Harney & Sons Hemp Division

Harney hints at future hand in commercial cannabis business

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — With New York municipalities needing to decide if they will permit marijuana to be sold commercially and/or marijuana lounges within their borders by Dec. 31, Harney & Sons Hemp Division in Millerton offered a timely tour on Wednesday, Aug. 25. The tour allowed area residents and visitors a chance to observe the labors that go into growing and harvesting hemp first-hand; it was led by the New York Cannabis Growers & Processors As-

sociation (NYCGPA).

At noon, more than a dozen people gathered at the hemp fields along Route 22. The earthy aroma of the Purple Emperor hemp crops could be detected under the afternoon heat, and cold bottles of Harney & Sons CBD tea were made available.

NYCGPA Managing Director Dan Livingston explained the association formed out of necessity to “get a seat at the table” for small processors and growers looking to grow their business.

Primarily a lobbying organization for growers, Livingston said NYC-

GPA's baseline is education. Its goal is to network and meet people to help promote the industry.

Harney's Hemp Division Head Grower Esteban Gonzales and Harney & Sons Vice President Michael Harney said this was the company's third year growing hemp, having started in the summer in 2018. He clarified that they have a CBD facility, not a THC facility, and that the

See **CANNABIS, A6**

Police fear Washington teens victimized

FedEx driver charged with rape, sexual assault

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
editor@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — A FedEx driver has been arrested and charged with sexually abusing several teenagers in the town of Washington, under the age of 17, according to the New York State Police (NYSP) Bureau of Criminal Investigation from the Salt Point barracks.

Thirty-year-old Joshua J. Ginyard of Poughkeepsie was arrested on Wednesday, Aug. 25, and charged with two counts of Rape 3rd Degree, two counts of Criminal Sexual Act 3rd Degree, two counts of Disseminating Indecent Material to a Minor, all felonies. He was also charged with the Class A Misdemeanor charge of Forc-

See **DRIVER CHARGED, A6**

Van De Water pulls out of race for Congress

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — In a surprise move, Millbrook Republican Kyle Van De Water has called an end to his second bid for Congress.

The military veteran and former JAG attorney sent out a press release on Friday, Aug. 27, stating that he has “been truly humbled by and will be forever grateful for all of the support I have received these past few years.”

This was the second time Van De Water had made a bid for a seat in the House of Representatives; in 2020 he ran unsuccessfully against U.S.

Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-D-19) of Rhinebeck, then a newcomer to national politics.

Although Van De Water lost, he had said he felt his first attempt made a good showing, as the final vote tally had Delgado garner 192,200 votes to Van De Water's 151,475 votes. Considering Delgado outspent him 25 to 1, Van De Water said he believed his chances of a victory a second time around were strong.

So it was not that much of a surprise to some when the former Millbrook village trustee announced back

See **VAN DE WATER, A6**

New redistricting law challenged in court

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — The aggrieved members of the original Independent Reapportionment Commission (IRC) that was dissolved in June by the Republican majority of the Dutchess County Legislature on advice from the county's attorney office are challenging the new law in court.

The IRC's purpose is to draw new boundaries for the County Legislature following the decennial Census.

The plaintiffs in the case are former IRC members John Pelosi, Hance Huston, Christina Van Horn, Bryan Faubus and Whitney Lundy. Lundy has even taken to GoFundMe to set up a fundraising campaign to gener-

ate revenue to pay for legal fees connected to the lawsuit. Phone calls for comment from those suing were not returned by press time.

The parties are scheduled to appear virtually before Supreme Court Justice Hal Greenwald on Tuesday, Aug. 31.

“I can't speak to the litigation... But, some seem more interested in preserving their own appointment than ensuring a truly independent redistricting process,” Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro told this newspaper on Friday, Aug. 27. “I campaigned on and advocated for independent redistricting, and, we will have truly independent redistricting in this County.”

See **IRC, A6**

A mother's concerns for her child's first day in school, in-person, ever

WEBUTUCK — Long before COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, I was amazed by how closely parenthood encouraged parents to examine the world in relation to their child's health and safety.

For not quite two years now, I've observed school districts and families adapt to life during the pandemic, reassessing their plans and contending with issues like whether to wear masks — all while keeping their child's well-being in mind.

Most children had experienced attending school in-person before COVID-19 hit — but a few children have only known school through remote learning.

I recently sat down with Wassaic resident Rebekah Purdy and her daughter, Lilliana, who started kindergarten at Webutuck Elementary School last fall. Like many children

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Kaitlin Lyle

across the globe, Lilliana, 6, attended her classes remotely last year while her parents — Purdy and her fiancée Bryant Nelson — closely followed the North East (Webutuck) Central School District's guidelines.

A workspace was cleared in their home for Lilliana's schooling, and every morning, Purdy watched Lilliana's love of learning take flight. Purdy said she was happy to see her daughter share the same excitement she felt about school when she was younger.

See **REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK, A6**



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Lilliana Nelson loves to read and is both excited and anxious to enter first grade on Tuesday, Sept. 7.



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OPINION

Another School Year Under
COVID Restrictions;
Columns; Letters **B4**



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MILLERTON



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN DOSTER

Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek addressed the crowd at the groundbreaking for the Millerton Community Park. Najdek shared her lifelong connection to the local park, from swimming and lifeguarding at the pool to running the camp.



The local leaders and volunteers who spent the past five years planning for the \$7 million update to Eddie Collins Park, temporarily renamed Millerton Community Park, got some assistance at Saturday's groundbreaking from local children for Phase One of the massive project.

Community helps break ground for long-awaited Phase One of Millerton Community Park

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Together with the leaders, volunteers and supporters who have rallied behind the park's revitalization for the last five years, the Millerton community launched Phase One of the temporarily renamed

Millerton Community Park at Eddie Collins Memorial Park with a groundbreaking celebration on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., the park, located at 5991-5999 North Elm Ave. (Route 22) in Millerton, was brimming with a sense of camaraderie and community between the spectacu-

lar turnout of more than 100 celebrants and the festivities. Popcorn was popped and ice cream was scooped as a thank you to those who attended.

Bee Bee the Clown was up to her usual tricks as she sculpted balloon animals for the children, while the band The Joint Chiefs provided the soundtrack for a lively afternoon before rain fell later that day.

An enlarged masterplan of the roughly \$7 million Millerton Community Park project and its four phases was propped up on display for observation, and Millerton Community Park Committee Vice Chair Jeanne Vanecko and Treasurer Edie Greenwood were more than happy to enlighten guests about the vision behind the revitalization and to hand out navy blue ball caps bearing the park's name and entryway arch as souvenirs from the day.

Welcoming everyone to the milestone celebration, Millerton Mayor Jennifer Najdek declared, "This is a day some of us have been dreaming of and planning for a very long time."

Telling the story of the park and its amenities through the lens of her own days there, Najdek shared memories of lifeguarding and swimming at the now-gone Denney Pool and enjoying the different ameni-

ties at the park and how it has changed over the years.

"To say this park has been a part of my life would be an understatement," said the lifelong resident as she thanked everyone for supporting the project.

Naming the many upgrades that will be made at the park by next year, Najdek highlighted the two full-size basketball courts and the upgraded handicapped accessible playground, parking lot and pool, all of which eliciting a hearty whoop from the crowd — especially at the mention of the word "pool."

Thanking the leaders, residents, businesses and organizations past and present that have supported the project, Millerton Community Park Project Committee Chair Stephen Waite remarked, "It's taken five hardworking years to get to this point, this milestone, this new beginning... It's time to renovate this special place

and make it exceptional. We're off to a great start — let the transformation begin."

Sharing the park's storied history, Columbia School of the Arts professor and Millerton resident Alice Quinn shared the words of poet Walt Whitman as a tribute and read aloud a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar, while North East Historical Society President Ed Downey spoke of the park's evolution in the last century.

"The town could not be more enthusiastic and supportive of this resource for our community," said North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan. "This is a community project for this community and the town is going to stand by the village in getting this done."

The celebration welcomed words of encouragement from other lawmakers, including Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. The county

exec announced that, with support from Chair of the County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), also present, and the entire Legislature, the Dutchess County Municipal Innovation Grant program awarded an additional \$328,000 to the park as well as an additional \$250,000 for the construction of the joint village/town highway garage.

As the speeches started wrapping up, the skies opened up for a light August rain shower, though no amount of rain could dampen the joy in having reached this milestone for the treasured community park. With help from a flock of children bearing shovels, leaders and volunteers gathered in the park to officially break ground for Phase One.

For more information, go to www.millertonpark.org, and make sure to catch up on past articles at www.tricornernews.com.



PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCLUNE

Fiona Whalen, 1, and her mother, April, stopped by the NorthEast-Millerton Library on Friday, Aug. 27, to drop off their stuffed lobster, pig and penguin for a special Stuffed Animal Slumber Party.

Stuffed party animals lull the library to sleep

MILLERTON — When the lights went out at the NorthEast-Millerton Library on Friday night, Aug. 27, the animals came out to play at the library's annual Stuffed Animal Slumber Party.

From 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday evening, young patrons dropped off their stuffed animals and dolls for a special sleep over. Once their owners had gone home and the library was empty, the toys took part in some sleep over fun, from racing library carts and hanging upside down from the book shelves to reading ghost stories. Soon, they were worn out.

On Saturday morning, Aug. 28, the children returned to pick up their party animals. Curious about how their night went, they watched a slideshow of all the

fun things their stuffed animals had done before dropping off to dreamland.

Then they all enjoyed a picnic and some story time with their furry friends at the library.

— Kaitlin Lyle

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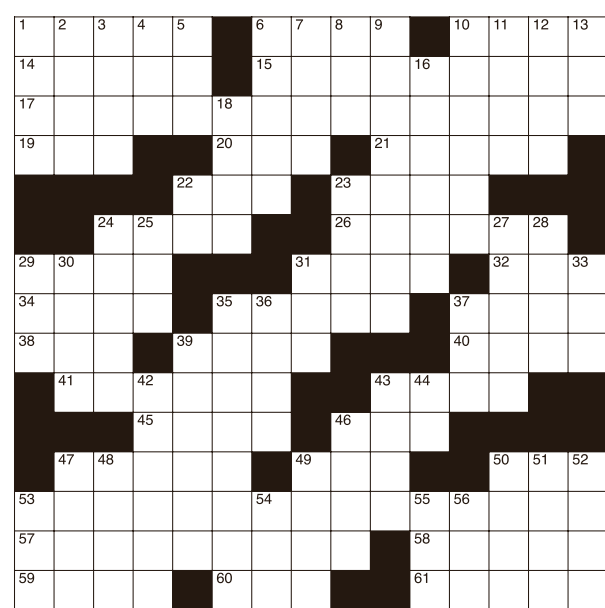
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Secret clique
6. Earliest in and out
10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
14. Olfactory property
15. Kidnapping
17. Golf prize
19. Helps little firms
20. Cast a spell on
21. Panama is one
22. Dishonorable man
23. Sea eagle
24. Part of the healing process
29. Wings
31. Made older
32. Political device
34. Looks like a rabbit
35. Gurus
37. Philippine Island
38. Not or
39. Hindu model of ideal man
40. Exam
41. Making less difficult
43. Without
45. Dravidian ethnic group
46. A baglike structure
47. Buenos Aires capital La ___
49. Dab
50. Singers who perform together
53. Pirates' saying
57. OK to allude to
58. Somaliland diplomat
59. Has to pay back
60. Felix is one
61. Intestinal pouches

CLUES DOWN

1. Harsh cries of a crow
2. Type of horse
3. ___ fide: authentic
4. Doctors' group
5. Fugitives are on it
6. Forged
7. Wild goat
8. Influential American president
9. Calls for help
10. Repents
11. Palm tree with creeping roots
12. Black powder used in makeup
13. Happy New Year
16. Stretched out one's neck
18. Whale ship captain
22. Atomic #20
23. Border
24. River that borders India and Nepal

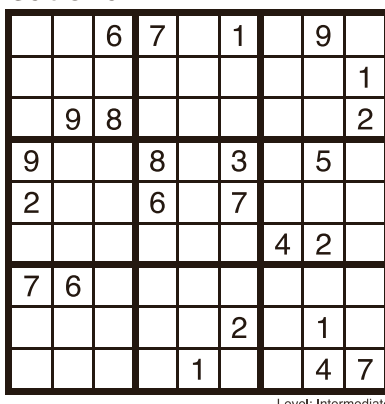


25. After B
27. Fencing swords
28. Where researchers work
29. Expression of satisfaction
30. Broadway actor Nathan
31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove
33. A way to eliminate
35. Type of tree resin
36. Russian river
37. Children's TV network
39. Troublemaker
42. Averts or delays
43. Self-immolation by fire ritual
44. It cools your home
46. Satisfy to the fullest
47. Stinks!
48. Popular board game
49. Attack by hurling
50. A vale
51. Type of acid
52. Tasmania's highest mountain
53. No seats available
54. Licensed for Wall Street
55. Family of genes
56. Constrictor snake

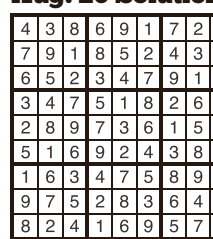
Aug. 26 Solution



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Aug. 26 Solution



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AMENIA/DOVER

Dover High School holds vaccine clinic before new semester

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

DOVER PLAINS — Checking a critical task off their lists of things to do before school starts, individuals ages 12 and up made an appointment to receive their COVID-19 vaccination at the vaccine clinic held at Dover High School on Wednesday, Aug. 25.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 shot for people 12 and older in the United States in May. The Dover Union Free School District held the clinic with Dr. Neal Smoller, pharmacist and owner of Village Apothecary in Woodstock.

"Dover has always been supportive of the community's choice and providing them that opportunity during and throughout the pandemic," said Dover Superintendent of Schools David Fine.

With Dover scheduled to start classes on Tuesday, Sept. 7, Fine said, "We're really excited to have the students live and to get everyone back in classes and continue to progress forward with our school year."



Dad Randy Whalen accompanied his daughter, Adrian Totino, a rising senior at Dover High School, at the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic held at Dover High School on Wednesday, Aug. 25, where she received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Dover High School library conference room, the clinic offered the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Booster shots were also given. Though appointments were preferred, walk-ins were accepted.

Similar to previous COVID-19 vaccines clinics held at Dover High School, individuals were required to wear face

masks when entering the building.

Glancing around the high school lobby, a mixture of students and adults waited to receive the shots. While they were waiting, members of the school staff made sure people were comfortable, offering water and making conversation.

Orientation for ninth grade students was held on the same night as the clinic as a reminder

of the importance of protecting the region's youth against the pandemic.

Walking out of the conference room and into the lobby, Dr. Smoller greeted each individual warmly as he called their names and checked to see which vaccine they preferred. After the shot was administered, patients sat in the lobby to see if there were any side effects.

Those who were vaccinated said it was a necessity, whether for their own health or to keep participating in society during the pandemic.

"Aside from the fact that I was forced to, no," replied Dover resident Larissa Antigua when asked if she had any reservations about getting vaccinated that evening. "I guess everybody's got to... Not that I'm against it, not that I'm for it, it's just the way it is."

"I just felt like it, felt like being safe," said Dover High School senior Adrian Totino, 16, after receiving her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

When asked about the coming school year and whether she felt confident the regulations her school district has enacted

will keep students and staff safe this year, Totino said she was nervous but believes everything will be OK. She added she was excited to finally get vaccinated.

"Since this pandemic started, I've made it my mission to make sure the people in my charge are protected," Dr. Smoller said the following day. "I'm glad people are finally making the plunge to get the vaccine."

Smoller said he vaccinated

23 people age 12 and older at Wednesday's clinic, adding that many of the adults who came to the clinic wanted the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

While attendance at the Aug. 25 clinic paled to other vaccine clinics held in the Dover school district — especially when vaccines first began to roll out — Smoller remarked, "Every little bit helps."



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Hailey and Jason Antigua congratulated their mother, Dover resident Larissa, as she received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the vaccine clinic held at Dover High School on Wednesday evening, Aug. 25.

AREA IN BRIEF

Town Board to discuss cannabis law Sept. 2

AMENIA — Residents curious to find out whether the Town Board will opt in or out of New York State's new marijuana law are encouraged to attend the board's monthly meeting

Vendor & Craft Fair, plus Penny Social

WASSAIC — Area residents are invited to drop by the Vendor & Craft Fair plus Penny Social sponsored by the Wassaic Fire Company Auxiliary on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Held at the Wassaic firehouse, located at 27 Firehouse Road, the social will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a 50/50 raffle. There will be a winter coat drive

on Thursday, Sept. 2.

The meeting will be held at Amenia Town Hall, located at 4988 Route 22, at 7 p.m.

For more information, including the agenda, go to www.ameniany.gov.

at the social as well.

Vendors are wanted for the event. The cost is \$25 per 6-foot table/space, and setup is at 9 a.m. on the day of the event.

To reserve a spot, contact Michelle Winters at 845-235-9326 or email winmail1@optonline.net, or contact Carol Corrow at 845-891-6863 or email carolcorrow@gmail.com.

Connection to Nature Retreat Sept. 11

WASSAIC — The World Peace Sanctuary at 26 Benton Road will host a Connection to Nature Retreat with Michael "Pondhawk" Gulbrandsen to help the community connect with nature in the sanctuary's forests on Saturday, Sept. 11.

The retreat will begin with a morning tranquility wellness walk at 10 a.m., where attendees will learn different healing techniques to help connect to the magic of nature.

At 1 p.m., the sanctuary will lead attendees in a World Peace Prayer Ceremony, followed by Dancing with Nature with GiGi Oppenheimer of White Lotus Grace at 2 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., the retreat will host a Nature's Sound Circle where attendees will join in a circle to reconnect with the land and the spirits of the grounds.

Attendees are advised to bring comfortable shoes and plenty of water, and to dress in layers with a sweatshirt or jacket for the evening.

The cost is \$30 for the day. As this is an outdoor event, the retreat will be canceled if rain is in the forecast.

Space is limited, so attendees are advised to email annmarie@worldpeace.org to reserve their spot.



EARLY DEADLINE

Deadline for the September 9th issue is Thursday, September 2nd, at noon for ALL display advertising.

Classified Line Ad deadline is Friday, September 3rd at noon. Letters to the Editor will be accepted until 10 a.m. Friday, September 3rd.

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Robert R. Butts Jr.

MILLBROOK — Robert R. Butts Jr., 86, a lifelong area resident, passed away on Aug. 23, 2021, at Sharon Hospital.

Mr. Butts was a Heavy Equipment Operator for the Town of Washington for 17 years, retiring in 2000.

Born on Feb. 16, 1935, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Robert R. Butts Sr. and Eva (Hubert) Butts.

Mr. Butts proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

On July 8, 1961, in Wassaic he married Hatty Wheeler, who predeceased him on July 8, 2019.

Mr. Butts was a former member of the Wassaic Fire Company.

He loved attending and participating in tractor pulls and was a longtime member of Columbia County Pulling. He also volunteered with the Future Farmers of America, Webutuck Chapter.

Mr. Butts is survived by three sons, Robert R. Butts III and his wife, Michelle, of Amenia,

Ricky A. Butts Sr. and his wife, Teresa Whalen of Pleasant Valley, N.Y., and Brian M. Butts Sr. and his wife, Betsy, of Amenia; five daughters, Nancy Cookingham and her husband, Robert, of Millerton, Barbara Grady and her husband, Frank, of Millbrook, Cindy Race of Millbrook, Susan Whalen and her husband, Brian, of Wassaic and her husband, Kevin, of Wassaic; a brother, Frank Dunn Jr. of Florida; a sister, Margaret Murphy of Florida; 17 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, Mr. Butts was predeceased by two brothers, Thomas and Joseph Butts; a sister, Elizabeth Cole; and a granddaughter, Brianna Race.

Calling hours were held Aug. 28 at the Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. Funeral services were at the funeral home, with burial at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains. Send the family an online condolence at www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.



Mary Rose (Santin) Chevalier

NORTH CANAAN — Mary Rose (Santin) Chevalier, wife of the late Robert J. Chevalier, peacefully passed away at the age of 98 on Aug. 11, 2021, at her home on Orchard Street in North Canaan.

Mary was born in Rockland, Wis., the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Santin of North Canaan.

Mary and Robert first lived in Lakeville. In the 1950s they moved to a farm in South Kent, where they raised four children.

Mary was fortunate to spend the last years of her life at her home in the loving care of her daughter, Mary Ann and her partner, Robbie. She left her home and checked into a much

grander and glorious house that awaited her (John 14: 1-3).

Mary leaves behind her three children, Andrea Chevalier, Mary Ann Chevalier and Christopher Chevalier and daughter-in-law, Carol.

She was predeceased by her son, Robert D. Chevalier.

She also leaves behind three grandchildren, Jamie, Megan and Siena.

She was also predeceased by her grandson, Adam.

Mary was a strong, beautiful woman who will be missed by all who knew her.

There will be no formal services. Instead there will be a private graveside gathering of the family.



Kevin Leo Orce

NORTH CANAAN — On Aug. 21, 2021, Kevin Orce entered into eternal peace. He was greeted by his brother David, father Henry and mother Margaret.

Kevin was born on Christmas Day in 1957 in Yonkers, N.Y.

As a devoted husband, father, friend and employee, he was a gift to so many more people

than just his family.

He is survived by his brother Mark, sister Susan, wife Kerri, and sons Kyle, and Tim.

In lieu of flowers or donations, we ask that you please remind your loved ones how special they are to you.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Kevin Earl Tuthill

SHARON — Kevin Earl Tuthill passed away unexpectedly on July 21, 2021, at Durham-Hensley Health & Rehabilitation, in Afton, Tenn., at the age of 67.

Kevin, a former resident of Sharon, was a recently retired employee of Kimberly-Clark in New Milford, Conn.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church, as well as a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Kevin is survived by two sons and one daughter, Peter Tuthill and wife Kelly Tuthill, Benjamin Tuthill and Sarah Visconti and husband Darren Visconti.

He was also a proud grandfather to his four grandchildren, Eli Tuthill, William Tuthill, Scarlett Visconti and Sienna

Visconti.

Kevin was also survived by his loving brothers and sisters, Robert and Janet Tuthill of Sutton, Vt., Gary and June Tuthill of Sharon, Eugene and Elinor Tuthill of Greeneville, Tenn., Karen Geissler of Millerton and Audrey and Lee Garay of Sharon; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In remembrance of Kevin's love of stargazing we can choose to believe that, "Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through, and shines down to let us know they are happy."

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kiserroshell-funeralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

Susan Costello

WEST CORNWALL — Susan Costello, 69, died peacefully at home on Aug. 19, 2021. She was the loving wife of the late Roland Costello.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., she graduated with a degree in nursing from the Medical College of Pennsylvania. Soon afterward, she moved to Pittsfield, Mass., and opened a popular coffee shop.

Later, she became the caretaker for a mansion that was also the location of a popular summer camp, where she hosted and fed a large corps of happy campers.

She met her beloved husband, Roland, when she moved

to West Cornwall, where she opened a video rental store and met most everyone in her new adopted hometown.

She also became an adept house painter with her husband.

She always kept her nursing license and returned to that field while working in a nearby nursing home in later years.

However, she always claimed her proudest accomplishment was raising her children, Damien and Paris, who survive her along with her granddaughter, Willa; brothers Roy and Jeffrey; and sister Deborah.

A funeral service was held Aug. 24 at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Maureen Jeanette (Guilmart) O'Neill

TORRINGTON — Maureen Jeanette (Guilmart) O'Neill, 88, passed away Aug. 22, 2021, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. She was the beloved wife of 41 years of the late James F. O'Neill Jr.

Mrs. O'Neill was born in Torrington on June 13, 1933, daughter of the late Anna E. (Gleeson) and Allen C. Guilmart.

Maureen was a graduate of St. Francis of Assisi School in Torrington, Torrington High School (Class of 1951) and St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing (Class of 1954).

Maureen was a Registered Nurse who worked in obstetrics and hospital nurseries for 25 years.

In 1974, along with her husband, she started Serenity Hill Farm in North Canaan, the first substance abuse treatment center in the state to be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. They went on to operate two additional residential treatment centers with on-site detox units in New Hampshire along with 13 outpatient clinics throughout New England and supported thousands on their journey into sobriety.

Maureen was an avid reader and enjoyed bowling, golf and traveling, taking trips to Ireland, Monaco, Aruba, Hawaii, and several cruises to the Carib-

bean, Alaska and Europe.

She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She was funny, kind, gentle and loved by all.

Survivors include a daughter, Maureen A. O'Neill-Davis and her husband, John, of Torrington; a son, Michael F. O'Neill and his wife, Amy, of DeLand, Fla.; five grandchildren, Ashley L. Davis, Meah N. Davis, Logan M. Davis, Patrick F. O'Neill, and Christopher D. O'Neill; a brother, James G. Guilmart and his wife, Lauren, of Scottsdale, Ariz.; a sister, Patricia "Peta" G. Hoffmann and her husband, Heinz, of Amesbury, Mass.; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Mrs. O'Neill was predeceased by two brothers, William J. Guilmart and Allen J. Guilmart, both of Torrington.

Funeral services were held Aug. 27 from Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home in Torrington. A Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Torrington, with burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in North Canaan. Calling hours were Aug. 26 at Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Maureen's name to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Details can be found, and online condolences may be sent to the family, at www.gleesonryanfh.com.



Catherine Mary Murphy

AMENIA — Catherine Mary Murphy, 89, a lifelong resident of Amenia, passed away on Aug. 21, 2021, at Sharon Hospital.

Born on Aug. 4, 1932, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Mary (Maroney) and William P. Murphy. Catherine was a bank officer and a former vice president of First National Bank of Amenia with 40 years of dedicated service, retiring in 1997.

Catherine was a graduate of Amenia High School and the Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie.

She was a member of the Amenia Historical Society, Amenia Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary and the Amenia Women's Business Club. Catherine was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Mended Hearts-Sharon Chapter and volunteered at the Vine and Branches Food Closet in Amenia. She was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception

Church in Amenia.

Catherine is survived by a sister, Veronica Rosen of Lagrange, N.Y.; three sisters-in-law, Charlotte Murphy of Amenia, Barbara Murphy of North Canaan and Sandy Murphy of South Carolina; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Mary Adamitis; and three brothers, James Murphy, William EP Murphy and J. Chester Murphy.

Calling hours were Aug. 26 at the Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 27 at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501.

Send the family an online condolence at www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.



Worship Services

Week of September 5, 2021

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-375-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m. "Power of community, the peril of individualism" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Wednesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday worship service during July and August, 10 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>

Sports online

Be sure to read this week's Bleacher Views by sports columnist Theodore Kneeland, in which he explains why August is the cruellest month for baseball fans, despite what famed poet T.S. Eliot might have us believing.

Readers can also catch up on the softball clinics taking place in Pine Plains, and Lucky Orphan's Yoga with Horses classes in Dover Plains.

For this week's sports and more, go to www.tricornernews.com.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

A look at the world of little wooden country churches in Copake Falls

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

COPAKE FALLS — As most know, art comes in many forms. And many are also aware that religion is the mainstay of communities around the world.

History has a way of telling the stories of both, and how the two are often intertwined. The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society is currently offering local residents and those who may be visiting the region a chance to learn the tale of both vital elements in an exhibit at their museum in Copake Falls.

"Revived in Wood" is a look at Greek and Gothic Revival churches throughout the Harlem Valley. The multi-media presentation is beautifully done, and fittingly enough, the museum was formerly a country church, much beloved by those who worshipped there.

In a booklet for the exhibit, it states that there are 17 19th-century churches in the Roe Jan area devoted to the Greek or Gothic styles, all constructed of wood and of various denominations.

The exhibit will run through October. The show features the two styles that are representative of divergent world views.

Greek Revival boasts symmetrical solidity, a manifestation of a new, growing Republic.

Gothic is reminiscent of more earthly, organic and natural form.

No matter the style, each represents a means of refuge, of gathering together and partaking in worship, the building of soul and strength.

The exhibit focuses on creations of beauty, constructed of wood, as well as the tools that created those articles.

The wooden handles of the tools are mostly shiny and smooth, made so by endless



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Board member Nick Fritsch stood with his wife, Lesley Doyel, president of the society, before the altar railing at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Museum, which was a former church built in 1952 that has since been named to the National Register of Historic Places. It's part of the current exhibit, Revived in Wood. The exhibit runs through October.

years of toil and labor. The tools are often works of art themselves.

Photos of the churches are on display, five are from area towns.

Recently added to the collection is St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Copake Falls. No longer standing, but preserved through photos, St. Bridget's was a wooden Gothic Revival church. It was built in 1926, the latest built in this collection of churches.

The earliest church built in the group is the Reform Protes-

tant Dutch Church in Gallatin, built in 1824; it remains standing at 325 Doodletown Road.

The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society meets in Copake Falls, at the old church built in 1952 that was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

Some of the details worth checking out in this exhibit include the altar, with accompanying relics and artifacts.

One can also rest on two long wooden benches, laid back to back down the center of the former church.

Some of the woodworking tools on display may be familiar, others not so much, all are from another time and place.

There are a great many photos of the different churches on its walls and in its display cases.

One large painting hangs over the altar; also on the altar is a television showing a documentary of woodworking methods.

There's also an old tripod camera, the type that required the photographer to drape a black cloth over his head and shoulders.

The Historical Society has done a fine job of amassing memorabilia from the many local churches and sharing an incredible amount of information about their edifices.

Some of the architects who built the houses of worship were quite famous, for instance Richard Upjohn, who designed the Church of St. John the Divine in the Wilderness in Copake Falls in 1852 in the Gothic Revival style. Still standing, that church was restored in 1949 after suffering from long periods of closure.

Regular services have been conducted there since it was reopened and often the church holds concerts these days.

The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society's Museum is located at 8 Miles Road, Copake Falls, and is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

There are books and other items for sale, and there is much to examine and enjoy. One can learn about the religion, art, woodworking and mores of a society long gone in the current exhibition.

Donations are welcome, but admission is free and there is always someone present who can discuss the exhibit and answer questions. For more information, call 518-329-0652.

AREA IN BRIEF

9/11 Memorial Tribute in Stanford

STANFORDVILLE — On Saturday, Sept. 11, the Stanford Fire Company will present a 20-year memorial tribute for the victims of the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

At 8:46 a.m. on Saturday morning, a prerecorded, continuous-loop tape will begin, featuring the names of all 2,977 lost souls and voiced by local students and community members.

A brief ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. at Stanford Town Hall at 26 Town Hall Road in Stanfordville, culminating with the illumination of a candle below each of the 2,977 flags.

There will be an Honor Guard posted on site throughout the day.

If any local organization would like to participate in this show of respect, contact Ed Zick at 845-240-4044.

Sept. 18 is Stanford Community Day

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Community Day is on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82 and surrounding Stanford Recreation Fields from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All events will take place outside (Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 19.)

There will be booths by many town organizations with food, kids' activities, live music and a Grandstand Program at noon with the 2021 Community Citizen Award. The day will end with a Fireworks Show on the Rec Fields at 8 p.m. A Free Ice Cream Social will take place at 7 p.m.

For details, call 845-663-7778 or 845-868-7869.

Meet & Greet Pine Plains Democrats

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Democratic Committee is hosting an outdoor "Rock the Vote" fundraiser with live music, food and drink and the opportunity to meet and mingle with local and county-wide Democratic Party candidates.

It all happens on Sunday, Sept. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Back Bar Beer Garden located at 2947 Route 199, just west of the traffic light in the heart of Pine Plains.

Featured speakers include incumbent town Supervisor Darrah Cloud; Town Board candidate Diana Woolis; Robin Lois, running for another term as Dutchess County comptroller; Rachel Saunders, candidate for Dutchess County Family Court judge; and Claire Owens, candidate for Dutchess County Legislature, 19th District.

Live music will be provided by the TJs, a Hudson Valley favorite, who will be playing a mix of rock, folk, blues, country and soul.

Donations of \$25 per person, or \$10 for students, are encouraged.

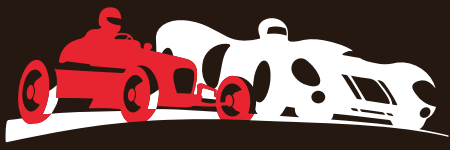
The event is rain or shine and includes food and a cash bar.

Contact the Pine Plains Democratic Committee with any questions at ppdemocrats@gmail.com.

Those who can't attend the event but would like to contribute may mail checks to the Pine Plains Democratic Committee at P.O. Box 849, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

Send news items
and photos to editor@
millertonnews.com

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CANNABIS *Continued from Page A1*

division is separate from the popular Harney tea factory.

CBD vs. THC
CBD stands for “cannabidiol” while THC stands for “delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol” — both of which are cannabinoids, or chemicals in marijuana that cause drug-like effects throughout the body, according to the National Cancer Institute website, www.cancer.gov.

According to the website, www.verywellmind.com, while both cannabinoids have the same molecular structure, THC is a psychoactive drug that produces a “high,” and is sourced from marijuana while CBD is a non-psychoactive drug that doesn’t produce a high and is typically sourced from hemp.

A little hemp history, some hemp science

Harney outlined how his company got The Hemp Division started, and spoke of the people hired to take care of the growing and legal operations and the various regulations it must consider down the road.

An agricultural field that had previously been unused for 20 years now grows 4 acres of different hemp varieties — including Purple Emperor and Painted Ladies — with another 4 acres located just up the road from the Harney Hemp Division.

Gonzales detailed the science of growing hemp and the factors involved in tending to the crops, while Vice President Paul Harney explained how temperature, climate and humidity factor into the growing process.

Walking down the rows of hemp, Gonzales, the Harney brothers and Director of Operations Rion Lobrutto gestured to the different varieties of hemp plants and spoke of the growing and harvesting processes.

In an interview with The



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Along with notifying visitors that the hemp fields contain industrial hemp, signs posted along the Harney & Sons Hemp Division fields in Millerton are designed to ward off trespassers.

Millerton News conducted the following day, Michael Harney explained dried hemp is only produced once a year — it’s harvested toward the end of September — whatever is produced is what’s sold.

Estimating a pound per flower per plant, he said they usually produce 11,000 pounds. He chose not to disclose how much money the company makes selling hemp.

Considering hemp “a small part of a lot of things,” Harney explained The Hemp Division doesn’t just sell the hemp bud. Instead, it gets blended into tea or sent off to be blended into a powder or mixture that Harney & Sons can blend into its drinks.

Before it can be sent off to a secret location in Hudson, the hemp has to be decarboxylated (a process in which the psychoactive compounds in hemp and cannabis are activated) and then emulsified. Harney said they decarboxylate the hemp them-

selves in the wintertime and try to keep the work in the state by sending it up to Hudson.

With 20 workers planting the hemp — all of whom are local — Harney said employees spend maybe one or two days a week tending to the hemp plants and the rest of the week in the tea factory, also on Route 22.

At the far end of the field, the tour group was introduced to the division’s variety of autoflowers, which Livingston explained is a variety of cannabis genetically selected to flower at a certain time. This means the

division can turn over certain sections of its field more regularly, which means more predictability and reliability when planting.

Halfway back to the spot where the tour began, the group met with Elyse Harney, mother of Michael and Paul, who briefly spoke about her experience growing hemp in Connecticut.

Will Harney pursue dispensaries & lounges?

When asked, Michael Harney acknowledged Harney & Sons is on the precipice of a big money-making opportunity, as the state just passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) in March. The MRTA legalized adult-use recreational marijuana; New York approved medical marijuana in 2014.

While he noted that there are many steps involved to turn such the potential opportunity into a reality, including municipalities opting in to allowing marijuana dispensaries and lounges, the potential exists.

Asked if Harney & Sons has any plans to get into the commercial sales of cannabis or operation of marijuana lounges in the village of Millerton or town of North East if the village or town opt in to allowing either in the future, or anywhere else in the Hudson Valley region, Harney said, “When it all comes out, we are ready to seriously consider what we will do.”

REPORTER’S NOTEBOOK *Continued from Page A1*

As a stay-at-home mom, Purdy saw the benefits of remote instruction. She didn’t have to worry about her daughter catching the coronavirus or not keeping her face mask on or any other millions of details.

Since COVID-19 hit our shores, Purdy said she and Nelson have been very open and candid with Lilliana about the virus and why it’s important to wear a mask. Calling it “The Sickness,” Lilliana learned first hand why it’s important to stay safe and wear a mask after seeing her 10-year-old cousin, Kiean, become severely ill from COVID-19 in March.

Of course, there were some challenges the couple had to navigate. Along with not being able to ride the school bus last year, Purdy said Lilliana was sad she couldn’t play with her new friends. Though she had the benefit of having 13 cousins of different age groups, she was often lonely.

While her teachers were helpful in giving the children time after class to play together online, it didn’t replace one-on-one physical interactions.

There was also the matter of making sure Lilliana was mindful of the rules of appropriate classroom behavior. This led to an ample amount of emotional navigation between mother and daughter as Lilliana learned what was and was not acceptable behavior.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, Lilliana will start first grade at Webutuck Elementary School, marking her first time ever stepping foot into a school building. To prepare her daughter, Purdy said they’ve been practicing

the new morning routine so that Lilliana knows what needs to be done before boarding the bus.

Asked what her main concerns are about sending Lilliana to school in-person after a year of remote learning, Purdy considered the new challenges her daughter will face as she adjusts to a new routine.

Instead of a half-day focused mainly on play, she’ll be in class the whole day while wearing a mask. Affirming her support for wearing masks in school, Purdy has already ordered a supply of disposable masks and is now perfecting hairstyles to keep the mask off Lilliana’s ears and make wearing it more comfortable.

Another challenge, Purdy said, will be having Lilliana eat her lunch at a reasonable time and to not “lollygag.”

Though worried about her daughter not listening to her teachers and getting upset for being reprimanded, Purdy considered this part of the social-emotional development Lilliana missed out on last year.

All the same, Purdy recognizes that these are lessons Lilliana will have to navigate herself and that there’s only so much she can do as a parent.

Knowing her daughter is anxious about going to school in-person, Purdy said she has told Lilliana that it’s OK to be nervous about new things and encouraged her not to let her nerves dampen her excitement.

While she’ll always be there to guide and advise her daughter, Purdy said, “She is her own person — she has to make her own discoveries for better or worse.”

DRIVER CHARGED *Continued from Page A1*

ible Touching.

According to the Troop K Newsroom, Troopers received information pertaining to a local FedEx driver who had allegedly sexually abused several teens on Sunday, Aug. 15.

An investigation conducted by the NYSP revealed that Ginyard would pick up the teens in his FedEx truck while he was on his route during work hours. According to investigators, he would then “transport them to a remote location in the town of Washington,” where he would give them marijuana. While inside of the delivery truck, according to the police, “Ginyard had sexual intercourse and oral sex with one of the juveniles on two separate occasions. Additionally, he forcibly touched another teen while inside of the truck.”

With assistance from the Troop K Computer Crimes Unit and the Dutchess County Child Advocacy Center, Ginyard was arrested on Aug. 17. In addition the charges listed above, he was also charged with two counts of Disseminating Indecent Materials to a Minor for sending sexually explicit text messages to two

of the juveniles.

Ginyard was then arraigned in the Town of Washington Court and released on his own recognizance.

After digging deeper into the case, days later, on Aug. 23, authorities again arrested Ginyard and charged him with two counts of Rape, two counts of a Criminal Sexual Act and Forcible Touching.

The defendant was then arraigned on those charges before the Town of Washington Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail or \$50,000 bond. Ginyard is due to reappear in the Town of Washington Court at a later date and time.

According to the NYSP, additional charges are pending.

The Millbrook Police Department, the Dutchess County Child Advocacy Center and the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office assisted the NYSP in its investigation.

Anyone who believes they may be the victim of a crime perpetuated by Ginyard is asked to contact Investigator Melissa McMorris at 845-677-7372.

VAN DE WATER *Continued from Page A1*

in July that he would be taking another shot at unseating Delgado from his Congressional seat come 2022.

The surprise came last week when Van De Water announced he was withdrawing from the race. He explained further why he decided to do so in a prepared statement.

“It has been an honor getting to meet so many of you as I traveled across the district,” he stated. “Unfortunately, circumstances in my life have changed and I am no longer able to give 110% towards this endeavor. For the good of the party, and the district, I have decided to withdraw my candidacy. I look forward to vigorously and enthusiastically supporting the GOP candidate in 2022.”

When Van De Water announced he planned to challenge Delgado in July, he acknowledged it was without knowing what the congressional districts would look like, as New York lost a district, going from 27 to 26, as a result of the 2020 Census.

“I do know that I care far too

much about this district to sit on the sidelines, no matter the odds,” said Van De Water at the time. “It would be politically expedient to wait and see how the redistricting process shapes the district, but I am not a politician. I am not doing this for myself, I am doing this for the people of NY-18 or NY-20 as well.”

The 19th Congressional District, as it currently stands, includes most of Dutchess County and parts of Rensselaer, Montgomery and Broome Counties, as well as all of Ulster, Greene, Columbia, Sullivan, Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties.

Van De Water lives with his wife and children in Millbrook. He served eight years in active duty with the U.S. Army JAG Corps, attaining the rank of major while deployed in Afghanistan. He served another three years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In addition to serving on the Millbrook Village Board, he volunteered on the Town of Washington Recreation Commission and on the Millbrook Business Association.

IRC *Continued from Page A1*

On July 29, Molinaro signed a new IRC into law. The original IRC was dissolved June 24 when it came to light that its leader, Commissioner Richard Keller-Coffey, a Democrat, was found to be simultaneously serving on the North East (Webutuck) Central School District Board of Education (BOE) in Amenia and the commission.

According to New York State bylaws, people who serve on independent commissions cannot serve as elected officials. New York considers BOE members, who have the power to levy taxes, elected officials. Most school board members, if asked, do not consider themselves such.

The “discovery” of Keller-Coffey’s role on the BOE while also on the commission led to the upheaval at the IRC, which had members appointed by both the Legislature’s Minority Leader Rebecca Edwards (D-6) (who appointed Keller Coffey, who in turn selected two other Democratic members) and Majority Leader Donna Boulner (R-13) (who also appointed a member, who in turn picked two other Republicans for the IRC).

Keller-Coffey previously noted he was not hiding his volunteer service on the Webutuck school board from the IRC and expressed surprise it didn’t come up in the commission’s vetting process.

The former commission had seven members in total; there’s no word if the new commission, set to form after the Nov. 2 General Election, will have the same.

It was the Dutchess County attorney who advised the Legislature to disband the IRC and form a new commission, according to Chair of the Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), who said the attorney’s office was worried about the “fruit of the poisoned tree” opening the Legislature up to future lawsuits if nothing was done and the former IRC was allowed to stand.

Former Republican IRC member Dale Culver, who is not a part of the lawsuit, said he understands why the Legislature and its advisors advocated for disbanding the non-political commission.

“I can see the wisdom of the county attorney’s decision” said

the Millerton businessman and resident, who added he was not happy the commission disbanded. “The other commission members, no names are needed, seem to immediately believe it was partisan... They gave me an outcome and I don’t believe in the end the legal system would support the position my former commission members believe.”

Culver did say that one thing he strongly disagreed with in the whole matter, is hearing that the county executive was playing politics.

“I don’t like hearing that this is about Marc’s agenda,” he said. “I’ve always known Marc to be a fair, honest and decent person, and I’ll never change my opinion. I’ve known him for many, many years. Whether I agree with him or not, I just always found him to work for the people of our county.”

As far as Keller-Coffey himself is concerned, when contacted to weigh in on this latest turn of events, he said he had “no public comment, because I’m not involved with the lawsuit whatsoever.”

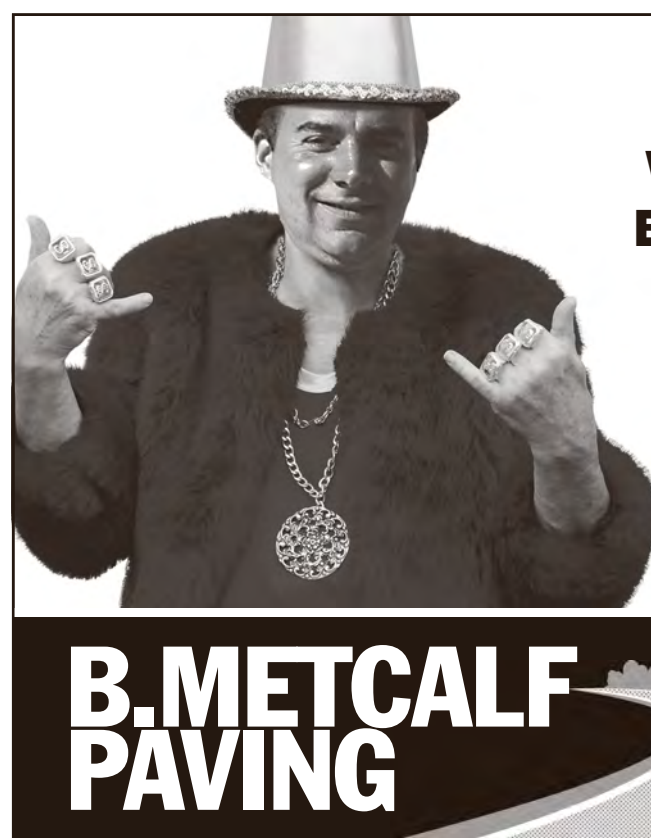
He did reiterate that when he resigned from the IRC after his role on the Webutuck BOE was realized by the county attorney, it was not because he felt he had done anything wrong or had any mal intent.

“I resigned from the commission for personal reasons; I was on several boards and had to resign from those as well, which had nothing to do with what is going on,” said Keller-Coffey.

The only other point the former IRC commissioner wanted to make was that once the whole process gets worked out, however long that takes and whatever that ends up looking like, he just hopes if the county is able to draw a new map, “hopefully nobody will challenge it.”

Anyone interested in serving on the new IRC, excluding the seven original members who served on the former commission, will be able to apply this fall. Applications will be submitted to the Legislature by Jan. 3, 2022.

Molinaro has said previously he will give the new IRC time to complete its work ahead of the 2023 election cycle.

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LEARNING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Back to School, But Just For Fun

A group of merchants in the Columbia County village of Hillsdale, N.Y., has put together a weekend of workshops on everything from growing dahlias to studying the history of stone markers.

The Workshop Experience Weekend is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12; the full schedule and class prices can be found at www.TheWorkshopExperience.org.

Chef Serge Madikians of Serevan Restaurant in Amenia, N.Y., will show how to make Golden Apple and Cauliflower Soup and a pear, apple and fennel salad. The charismatic and talented Madikians teaches many classes throughout the year at the Hillsdale General Store's HGS Home Chef. This class is \$80.

Jenny Elliott of Tiny Hearts Farm is a self-proclaimed dahlia fanatic. At this time of year, who isn't? But Elliott actually knows how best to grow them (this is not the most straightforward flower in



PHOTO COURTESY JENNY ELLIOTT

Jenny Elliott of Tiny Hearts Farm in Hillsdale, N.Y., will teach classes on growing dahlias, and arranging them, as part of a full weekend of classes billed as The Workshop Experience Weekend on Sept. 11 and 12 in Hillsdale, N.Y.

your garden) and arrange them, and she'll share her experience in two classes on Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. (growing them, \$25) and 1:30 p.m. (arranging them, \$165, because you get to take home your arrangement).

Libba Bray is a New York Times bestselling author; Susanna Schrobsdorff writes for Time, Inc. Together they'll

teach a writing workshop on Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. at Taconic Ridge Farm. The class will begin with short writing prompts and will end with a question and answer session with these two writing pros. The class is \$40.

There's more to do with the wildflowers and nuts you find along roadsides and in fields than just putting them in a vase. You

can also make fabric dyes with many of them. Jamie Goldenberg shows how it's done in a workshop on Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. at Taconic Ridge Farm (\$85).

The world around us is trying to speak to you and tell you stories. Learn how to listen in three workshops, on the engravings on grave stones with Allison C. Meier (Sept. 11, 1 p.m. at Taconic Ridge Farm, \$35); on stone walls, with Kevin Gardner (Sept. 12, 1 p.m. at Taconic Ridge Farm, \$45); and "death bouquets," the flowers engraved on grave stones, also with Allison Meier (Sept. 11 at 10 a.m., \$35).

There are also cooking classes and movement classes and history classes. The full list of courses is at the website.

HGS Home Chef and Tiny Hearts Farm will host an informal "Jazz Lunch" between workshops (Sept 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) with musician Luke Franco of Tiny Hearts Farm.

There are three restaurants in the Hillsdale; box lunches could be pre-ordered until Aug. 20, but food will also be for sale on the day of the workshops.

BELOVED CHORAL MUSIC OUTDOORS SEPT. 3

Crescendo brings a choral concert of much-loved selections from the classical repertoire to the outdoor Veterans' Field Pavilion in Sharon, Conn., on Friday, Sept. 3.

The program is designed to comfort and uplift audiences after the long absence of live concerts. It is a program for lovers of choral music. Among the composers represented are Mozart, Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Tallis, Franck, and Stainer.

Featured music will include J.S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and the "Sanctus" from his majestic B-Minor Mass, John Stainer's dramatic English anthem, "I Saw the Lord," Cesar Franck's mystical "Panis Angelicus," the moving Spirituals "Deep River" and "Swing Low," G.F. Handel's soaring "Hallelujah" and the "Amen" from his "Messiah," Mendelssohn's "How Lovely are the Messengers," and W. A.

Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus."

The Crescendo Chorus, Vocal Ensemble and soloists will be accompanied by Christopher Belluscio and Brian Kanner, trumpets, and Juan Mesa, organ. Crescendo's founder and artistic director Christine Gevert will conduct.

The start time for the concert is 5 p.m. For those unfamiliar with the pavilion, which is behind the ballfield and next to the walking trail in Sharon, the address is 29 Sharon Station Road.

Tickets for general lawn seating are \$25 (youth tickets are \$10). They can be purchased online at www.worldclassmusic.org or at the door.

All performers, staff members and volunteers are fully vaccinated, and Crescendo will follow state and federal guidelines for COVID-19 prevention. Unvaccinated audience members must wear a mask at all times.

OPEN STUDIO TOUR SEPT. 4

If you were intrigued by the artist Robert Andrew Parker, who was profiled in our August special issue of Compass (dedicated to artists and their studios), you can take advantage of a rare opportunity to

actually visit Parker in that same studio.

Cornwall, Conn., will hold its annual open studio day on Saturday, Sept. 4, between 1 and 5 p.m.

There are sculptors, painters, makers of high-end dishware and other ceramic goods and more.

The full list of a dozen artists is at www.cornwallct.org/2021/08/20/cornwall-artists-open-studio. The visits are free unless, of course, you decide to buy a piece of art.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Friday, Sep. 3, 5 pm
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FASHION: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Ruth Finley and 'Calendar Girl': Without Her, There Couldn't Have Been NYC Fashion Week

Sadly, concerns about the regrowth of COVID-19 infections has begun to have an impact on cultural and community plans for this autumn.

The much-loved Fall Festival in Salisbury, Conn., has been postponed until 2022.

The Berkshire International Film Festival, also known as BIFF, is neither canceled nor postponed — but its organizers announced last week that this year's festival will be presented "virtually," not in person.

The BIFF film roster is heavily weighted toward documentary films, although there are a few "narratives" (which all feel a little like documentaries anyway).

There are also short films, and everyone loves shorts, right?

There's a very diverse selection, something for every interest.

There is a thoughtful exploration of transgender identity in a film ("No Ordinary Man") about the jazz musician Billy Tipton, a woman masquerading as a man to find her/his place in the jazz world.

There is a film about parents trying to allow their children more freedom to play and learn ("Chasing Childhood").

"The Art of Don Gummer" is a look into the world of the sculptor who lives and works in Salisbury, Conn.

There are films about social justice, about cooking, about athletics, about dating. There are two films about the world of fashion. One is a fictional or narrative film about a young Greek man who opens a fashion atelier in Athens.

THIS IS THE ONE I'LL BE WATCHING FIRST

The other fashion film is "Calendar Girl," about Ruth Finley and the fascinating story of her brilliant inven-

tion, the Fashion Calendar.

Anyone who's ever tried to organize a fundraising event or large party knows how frustrating it can be to find a date when there isn't another such party or event, one that is likely to steal away your guests and/or donors.

This problem is multiplied exponentially twice a year in New York City when fashion houses large, small and tiny try to schedule their fashion shows during the annual fashion week. It was Finley who not only created the calendar (THE calendar) that everyone uses — but she also convinced everyone in a business that prizes individuality to sign on to and respect the calendar.

Think of the power dynamics among the advertisers, the fashion editors and OMG the models.

Everyone wants that year's It Girl models to be in their shows. Not only do the fashion designers need a system for their runway event; the models' bookers also need to know who is doing which show when — and where.

While many of the shows nowadays are held at Bryant Park in midtown, there were many years when shows were held uptown, for the big companies; and way downtown for the newer, edgier designers.

If everyone wanted Linda Evangelista and Cindy Crawford in their

shows, they had to figure out travel time for those star models from uptown to downtown and back again (and anyone who has ever tried to travel around Manhattan at any time of day knows how slow and unpredictable the trip can be — even if you're in a stretch limousine and have 12-foot long legs).

It was Ruth Finley's Fashion Calendar that made it all possible. It took some of the melo-

drama out of a business that is already powered as much by drama as by glamour.

Only Virtual Passes are offered this year for Berkshire International Film Festival. They are currently on sale and will be until they sell out.

They can be found at www.biffma.eventive.org/passes/buy. The \$150 Virtual Pass offers screening of all the BIFF films, with the exception of the animated shorts.

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*Town of Washington focuses on hospitality***Public hearing on Comprehensive Plan review held: A town divided**By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The first of two planned public hearings concerning the review and possible revision of the Town of Washington (TOW) Comprehensive Plan (CP) was held on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, with many attending in person and even more attending via Zoom. The town is contemplating how to handle the definition of hospitality, and how it should apply to future zoning.

Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) Paul Schwartz welcomed all and reminded everyone the hearing was not a referendum on any particular property. Specifically, Schwartz was referring to the Second Mountain project.

Second Mountain

Second Mountain aims to convert the former 350-plus acre Migdale estate in Mabbetsville that was sold to famed Manhattan restaurateur Will Guidara. Guidara submitted an application in the spring to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to create a luxury hotel and spa with condos, rental units, two restaurants and an array of other amenities.

Guidara made a special presentation to the Town Board on Feb. 25 outlining his plans; many attended and later expressed concern, especially when he asked for a zoning overlay district to be approved. Two groups of neighbors hired attorneys to stop the project. He has since withdrawn both his application and request for the overlay district, which would require a change of local zoning laws.

There's been an incredible amount of interest in the Second Mountain project, and great participation at Town Board, Planning Board and ZBA meetings regarding the project. Many residents have complained about how the project, if approved, could change the character of the town.

Re-evaluating the CP

That's when the Town Board realized a review of its Comprehensive Plan was in order. It had voted to do so in 2015, and decided to jump into action recently in light of Second Mountain, focusing on the definition of "hospitality" and how that use could affect the town of Washington and the village of Millbrook.

Town Board members said they were keeping taxpayers in mind, prompting some to ask if the town is going through rough economic times. Certainly a project the size of what Guidara has proposed could be a big help in terms of bringing in more sales tax revenue and attracting other businesses.

One objective of the CP is to maintain existing land use patterns. It advocates for keeping the town rural and to avoid infrastructure expansion into the town.

Public comments

CPRC member Claudia Heunis moderated last week's public hearing; those wishing to speak had to be town residents or taxpayers and were allotted three minutes to share their concerns.

"Increased development does not always lead to an increased tax base," said resident Pam Scott, who then referred to the luxury Silo Ridge Field Club housing development in neighboring Amenia, adding that what happened there with a 2019 town-wide property assessment that resulted in Silo Ridge, one of its principles, plus at least 42 of its residents suing the town of Amenia, its assessor and a number of other individuals connected to the town over reported unfair property values, could happen in Washington.

Former village Trustee and President of the Millbrook Business Association Kevin McGrane, who owns a B&B, reminded those present, "Businesses struggled to survive even before COVID. How often do you shop or eat out locally? We depend on visitors."

McGrane was among those at the hearing who were in favor of adding some provision for hospitality into the Comprehensive Plan to attract more tourists — and their cash — to the town and village.

He went on to add the town needs more places for people to stay overnight.

"Visitors explore, they shop and they eat," said McGrane. "It would create jobs, and the town and village could collect an occupancy tax for much-needed revenue."

Resident Randy Reiff said he hoped everyone would

keep an open mind. He said he saw the hearing as an opportunity to create a balance in the CP. He was open to there being hospitality in the CP and added he was looking forward to hearing more about both options, including the risks and benefits of expanded hospitality uses.

So, too, was resident John Penn.

"I'm encouraged by what I'm hearing," said Penn. "I'm encouraged by exploring the possibilities."

While Penn said he doesn't support the Second Mountain project, he would like to see businesses that would support more foot traffic in the village. Penn added the CP review is not all about Guidara's application.

He also said he thought it was disingenuous of Schwartz, who at one time acknowledged he has a financial interest in Second Mountain, to remain as chairman of the CPRC.

Other opinions voiced during the hearing included a mother who has an engaged daughter who would love to have the wedding locally.

"But where do people stay?" she asked, noting there are few accommodations available to stay overnight in the area.

Resident Jesse Derris said that because of the COVID pandemic, a swarm of people moved and continue to move to the area from the city.

Meanwhile he said he and

his family have only been in town for two years, and they feel they should support increased hospitality, which would lead to increased economic development and an increased tax base.

"Those starting their lives here are in favor of making changes," he said. "We want to live in a place that looks forward and this is a two-sided issue."

Resident Barbara Orbach said the Comprehensive Plan was created in good faith, and every resident should be allowed to comment on proposed changes.

Resident Eliza Dyson said she would like to see more available rental space for visitors, but thinks rooms should be added "... as we go." She said a major development, should it fail, could cause a huge problem for residents.

"We shouldn't cause a problem for ourselves going down the road," she worried.

There were many other comments during the roughly two-and-a-half-hour hearing. At 8:15 p.m. Heunis asked if anyone else wanted to comment, but none came forward.

Schwartz said there will be more meetings, plus a formal survey (in which he hopes all 4,500 town residents will participate).

The second public hearing on the CP focusing on hospitality is set for Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. Go to www.washingtonny.org for more information.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dutchess County BOCES Superintendent Richard Hooley retired after six years and said he is ready to travel and take time for some much needed R&R.

Richard Hooley retires as BOCES superintendentBy JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

SALT POINT — When the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Board of Trustees accepted a resignation letter from District Superintendent Richard Hooley on Dec. 9, 2020, his retirement date of Aug. 31, 2001 seemed a long way off. Yet it finally arrived this past week, and as of Sept. 1, Hooley will start what hopefully will be a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Hooley began his tenure at BOCES in September of 2015 as its district superintendent. Prior to that he was superintendent of the Valley Central School District in Montgomery, Orange County.

According to BOCES Board President Edward L. McCormick, "Richard hit the ground running and he... hasn't had a moment's rest since coming here and he's never complained. He's all about BOCES and BOCES children."

McCormick added that accepting Hooley's resignation was a bittersweet moment, especially as Deputy Superintendent Cora Stemple also announced her retirement at that same December 2020 meeting.

Hooley praised Stemple. He said that they had worked closely together for those six years. He recalled one highlight of their tenure getting the public to vote and approve a \$36.8 million capital improvement project that allowed the Alternative High School and Career and Technical Institute to be located at a single campus at Salt Point.

Prior to that approval, it was more than 50 years since a capital project had been approved at BOCES. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some delays, but the project has moved forward and is currently underway at Salt Point.

Of his six years at BOCES, Hooley said, "This has been a wonderful experience with a terrific team."

Noting how much has been accomplished during his time there, Hooley said he will not only miss the work, but he will also miss the people he worked with.

Among the accomplishments he is most proud of include making great strides in placing a focus on academics for BOCES students, especially in writing, literature and technology. He noted he had "great school superintendents to work with in the 13 districts he oversaw, 10 of them new, and coming in the midst of a pandemic. This was difficult because things kept changing and one had to figure out what the needs were and the guidelines, almost on a weekly basis."

Hooley said he feels he and

Stemple are leaving BOCES in good order and in capable hands. Those are the hands of Jodi DeLucia, named deputy superintendent after being in the Dutchess BOCES Educational Resources Division for 16 years. She took over for Stemple on July 19.

Taking over the post of district superintendent is Jason B. Schetelick, unanimously appointed to the post effective Sept. 1, by the Dutchess County BOCES Board of Education at its June 9 meeting.

Schetelick was the executive director of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Jersey City Public Schools since 2013; he most recently served as deputy superintendent.

He served also as superintendent in the New Jersey school districts of Bloomfield, Barnegat and Great Meadows, using his strong background in technical education and workforce development. Schetelick begins his new position on Sept. 2.

As to his future plans, Hooley, although not originally from New York, said he has come to love it. He said he has a farmhouse in Poughkeepsie, just waiting for some do-it-yourself projects to be tackled. He also loves to garden and travel.

Those who know him may have a difficult time believing he won't miss his work in education after so many years in that world. But certainly it's easy to believe they will all wish him well in the coming years, and praise him for a job well done for the years he spent at BOCES.

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 MEMBER FDIC

EDITORIAL

Another school year begins under COVID restrictions

Schools throughout the Harlem Valley and the rest of New York State are preparing to open their doors next week for yet another year of teaching during the coronavirus pandemic. It can't be easy for anyone — students; their parents; the teachers, various school staff and administrators; their health care providers; or anyone else with a vested stake in how the 2021-22 academic year will turn out.

It seems like we have all become fairly well accustomed to dealing with life's routines and priorities — with education ranking high on the list — while learning to battle COVID-19 as best we can. No question there have been many challenges along the way.

Our school districts and their Boards of Education (BOEs) have debated for countless hours how to ensure all who enter their campuses will be kept safe and healthy. They've also sweated the details over whether to bring students back in person or return to remote learning.

All three of the districts this paper covers regularly have come to the same decision. The North East (Webutuck) Central School District, the Pine Plains Central School District and the Millbrook Central School District announced this summer their priority is to bring students back for in-person learning when classes begin after the Labor Day holiday.

We understand their ardor for doing so, especially after such a tumultuous teaching cycle last year. It bears repeating, though, what a valiant job teachers did with remote instruction throughout 2020-21, considering all of the challenges they were thrown due to the pandemic.

However, there are sure to be new challenges come the 2021-22 school year as COVID cases are still rising in many parts of the country, including here in the Hudson Valley. The difficulties will be compounded as the highly contagious delta variant continues to rear its ugly head.

On Thursday, Aug. 26, just north of Dutchess County, Columbia County Department of Health (DOH) Director Jack Mabb reported that 23 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded among its residents, which Mabb said was "the most we've had in a long time."

As of midday on Aug. 27, Mabb reported another eight new coronavirus infections.

Also on the 26th, the Dutchess County COVID-19 Community Impact Dashboard had recorded 782 new cases being monitored by the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) since the pandemic began, with a 4.49% infection rate county wide on a seven-day rolling average (based on 864,647 completed tests). As of that day, 41 individuals were hospitalized with confirmed COVID cases in the three county hospitals and 464 deaths had been reported due to or related to COVID-19 in Dutchess County, as reported by the New York State DOH.

These numbers can't be reassuring for parents sending their most precious cargo off to school trusting they will return in the same condition.

It must be especially unnerving for parents of students venturing off on those bright yellow buses for the very first time. Consider parents of nervous little kindergartners about to start school for the very first time.

Other parents are just as likely to be anxious and distraught, like those of young Lilliana, who is featured in Kaitlin Lyle's Reporter Notebook on this week's front page. Lilliana spent kindergarten in her living room last year as she was taught remotely along with her classmates. She will be starting first grade as a complete stranger to Webutuck Elementary School and being taught in a classroom.

It's natural for school parents to be edgy. While their children are supposed to be focused on learning math, science and history, not to mention art, health and athletics, they will instead be worried — along with their parents and the entire school community — about staying virus free.

What that will entail throughout the year as virus numbers rise and fall, as DOH recommendations come and go and as school guidelines adapt to what is needed to protect their student bodies, we will have to wait and see. There is little doubt, though, that parents — and their children — will feel the stress as all of those entities contemplate how to best make those lifesaving decisions.

To that, all we can say is hang in there. Everyone involved is clearly doing their best — from the school district personnel and their BOEs to the health officials to parents themselves to the general members of our communities.

Remember, eventually, we will come out of this. If the health guidance is followed, the pandemic will wane. In the meantime, we hope your families stay safe and your children have a healthy, productive and successful school year.

EarthTalk tips for saving energy laundering clothes

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard Americans waste huge amounts of water and energy getting their clothes clean and dry. Do you have any tips for greening the laundry process?
— B. Jones, Troy, N.Y.

It's true Americans use huge amounts of water and energy to keep their clothes clean, dry and soft. The average U.S. home expends about 12,000 gallons of water on some 300 loads of laundry per year. The nonprofit Natural Resources Defense

Council (NRDC) estimates as much as 20% of the water used in homes goes down a washing machine's drain. And roughly 10% of a home's total electricity use goes toward laundry.

Perhaps the quickest way to energy- and water-savings is to upgrade from an older laundry machine. Conventional washing machines (built before 2011) use some 40 gallons of water per load, while newer "HE" (high efficiency) machines can do just as good or better on 14 gallons or less. And since these HE machines have so



In response to Larry Conklin's Veteran's Corner column

Larry Conklin's August opinion column had almost nothing about veterans or to do with the military. It bewilders me that the editors would publish a column in which people, parties and groups that are not germane to veterans' topics are discussed.

Larry blames a lot of things for "causing [the] disrespect and abuse of our history and our military."

I will cite several examples in our military history that Mr. Conklin, the veteran writer, might want to address in his next column and decide who is

disrespected.

Isaac Woodard Jr. was a Black veteran of World War II and in uniform. He was removed from a bus in North Carolina and unmercifully beaten by an on-duty sheriff for being uppity. His beating left him blind.

Army Sergeant Vanessa Guillen was sexually harassed by fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. Her superiors did nothing. Soon after she was murdered by another soldier. When this became national news and led to an investigation, it uncovered a base culture of sexual abuse.

This led to 14 Army leaders, including commanders, being fired or suspended.

The G.I. Bill of Rights, enacted after World War II, was structured in a way that shut the door to housing and education for the 1.2 million Black veterans who bravely served our country.

This is American history, unpleasant, but true. In future columns I hope you address only veteran issues, both good and bad.

Roger Price
Millerton

Why racism? It solves nothing

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Four hundred or more years ago, the first missionaries into Africa wrote of the "ebony skin" of the native population. Some speculated that if a black skinned person interbred with a white skinned person the result could be like a zebra's stripes. I am not kidding.

In America the name calling, categorizing, mental segregation, differentiation and just plain overt racism in America seems not only acceptable but desired across all political factions. Here are some of the divisive words used as description heard just this morning on NPR and ABC (and I quote in each case): Jew, Black, Afro-American, Italian-American, Hispanic, of color, of racial background, Jewish (people in New York), Mexican-Americans, Gay, lesbian, Arab-Americans, Baptists, Arabic citizens (of America), Native Americans, Indian and tribal.

As a child, I was taught that to singularly choose or differentiate between people based on color, creed, choice or religion was bigotry, racism and un-American. Yet here we are bombarded every day with the media and politicians telling us that it is not only normal to do so, it is acceptable. I refuse to think of the color of someone's skin as a defining character that should be used as a means to know who he or she is.

I do not think the term "Black director" when talking about Spike Lee tells me anything, unless the purpose is to tell me that the user is a racist who thinks that the color of Mr. Lee's skin somehow colors the work he is able to produce. Now, before anyone tells me I've missed the point, that his very ethnicity does affect the timbre and impact of his creativity, let me say that I do feel his background,

his sensitivity to oppression and slavery, injustice and struggle, and the plight of a significant portion of American society with those issues all do color his creativity.

My argument is, what the hell does his skin color have to do with it? If you simply express these factors as one of color, you allow racism to be reduced to sound-bite acceptability. He's "Black," his work is "Black," and, therefore, you can only see it in that context. Art, surely, does not need to be segregated in your mind. Do you really need to know the color of his skin to see the movie?

America was not created as a people within a people, a nation holding nations. We were created as "One Nation under God." Why, then, do we allow the media to talk of politicians pandering to the "Christian vote" or the "Afro-American vote" or the "Jewish vote?" Are they referring to people of a specific race or religion who, somehow, are apart from the rest of American society? Are they, perhaps, referring to people who have issues of a particular religious significance (e.g. Israel and Palestine) with which they would like to see politicians fall into accord? Is it important that their religion is Jewish? No. Is it that their sympathies are pro-Israel? Probably. However, to label them, stick that star on them and call them Jewish, is to segregate them in the reader's mind, to reduce their collective and individual opinion on serious issues to one only of different religion. That is un-American.

As someone who has traveled fairly extensively, I have briefly been discriminated against because of skin color or ethnic origin. I had the option to return to our country where that is supposed to be forbidden and thereby avoid the hurt and frustration that differentiation brings. People who have, historically or recently, been discriminated against because of their origin, choice, beliefs or skin color, need a safe haven here in America, they need a place where the laws protect them and where they are no longer treated as separate, or identifiable as separate. We need to remove the stars from their breasts, yellow, pink, Black, rainbow, or otherwise and accept them for what they are: individual Americans.

Any time you use the words "he's a Black guy..." or "they're Hispanic..." or "she's pro-Jewish..." you are condoning a type of segregation that allows those who are racists and bigots to ply their trade. Let's beat them at their game and see people, talk about people, and understand people for the complex individuals they really are not simply the ancestors of those discriminated against.

Writer Peter Riva, a former resident of *Amenia Union*, now resides in New Mexico.

dren's rodeo events such as goat tying, calf riding and sheep riding ("mutton busting"), which do not promote humane care and respect for animals.

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), cattle and horses may be zapped with electric "hot shots" so that they'll charge out of the chute. Calves' necks are twisted as they're violently slammed into the ground, and horses are viciously spurred into bucking. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rules allow shocking horses who are slow to come out of the chute.

Hot Shots are 5,000-volt electric prods (www.sharkonline.org).

Animals used in rodeos have suffered fatal injuries, broken backs and necks, heart attacks and aneurysms. Those who make it through unscathed are given little time to rest or recuperate. They are loaded into trucks, hauled to the next event and forced to do it again.

The stock provider for Oct. 2 is LKC, based in Montana.

Veterinarian Peggy Larson, (www.hsvma.org/rodeos_inherent_cruelty_to_animals) believes roping events are the most cruel.

"In calf roping, baby calves weighing less than 300 pounds are forced to run at speeds in excess of 25 mph when they are roped," said Larson. "The reason they run at such high speeds is that they are being tortured in the holding chute. Their tails are twisted, their tails are rubbed back and forth over the steel bars of the chute and they are shocked with electric prods until the gate opens. They burst out of the chute at top speed only to be stopped short — clotheslined — with a choking rope around the neck. They are often injured and some are killed. These calves would still be with their mothers on pasture if they were not in the rodeo... Baby calves sold to the practice pens are roped over and over until they are injured or killed."

Many jurisdictions have banned rodeos outright or in part. Due to space constraints, it's impossible to list them all, but it can be easily searched on the internet.

Their website states this "first annual" Hudson Valley Rodeo is a charitable event sponsored in part by the Silo Ridge Community Foundation.

In my opinion, this charitable event is far from charitable to the gentle, sentient creatures who are forced to be there.

I ask that the *Amenia Town Board* take a hard look at this event and ban it outright or the parts it finds unduly cruel. Absent that, please call for an immediate moratorium.

Stacy Mantel
Town Board candidate
Amenia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amenia Town Board should ban rodeo

I am vehemently opposed to a rodeo planned for Oct. 2 in *Amenia* due to the inherently cruel nature of all rodeos.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is opposed to all rodeo events that involve cruel, painful, stressful and potentially harmful treatment of animals, not only in performance but also in handling, transport and prodding to perform. The ASPCA recognizes the cruel treatment inflicted on many additional animals in the process of practicing to compete in rodeo events. Further, the ASPCA is opposed to chil-

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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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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Hynes Home Inspections, LLC filed Articles of Organization on 05/06/21. Its office is located in Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the company upon whom process against it may be served and a copy of any process shall be mailed to 3 Westview Drive, Poughkeepsie NY 12603. The purpose of the company is to provide home purchasers the opportunity to have a licensed home inspection.

08-19-21
08-26-21
09-02-21
09-09-21
09-16-21
09-23-21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town of Pine Plains Town Board shall hold a public hearing on a local law opting out of cannabis retail dispensaries as authorized under New York State Cannabis Law Article 4 on September 16, 2021 at 7:20 p.m. and a public hearing on the adoption of a local law opting out of allowing on-site cannabis consumption sites as authorized under New York State Cannabis Law Article 4 on September 16, 2021 at 7:25 p.m. Both public hearings shall be held at the Pine Plains Town

Hall located at 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. A copy of both local laws are available for inspection on the Town's website and at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Any person desiring to speak at said public hearings on either, or both, local laws shall be permitted to do so. By order of the Town Board dated August 19, 2021.

Madelin Dafoe
Town Clerk for the Town of Pine Plains
09-09-21

LEGAL NOTICE SCHOOL TAX NOTICE WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN, that the undersigned Collector of School Taxes in and for the Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District, in Dutchess County the towns of Amenia, Dover, Northeast, Stanford and Washington and in Columbia County the town of Ancram has received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of school taxes for the school year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The collection period is September 1, 2021 through November 3, 2021. For the purpose of paying taxes, checks and money orders shall be made payable to School Tax Collector and mailed to P.O. Box 377, Wassaic, New York 12592; online payments please

visit www.webutuckschools.org and scroll down.

In person payments may be made at the Webutuck CSD, District Office on 9/8 6p-8p; 9/22 6p-8p; 9/24 12p-2p; 10/1 12p-2p and 6p-8p; 10/22 12-2pm and 11/3 12p-2p and 6p-8p or contact the Tax Collector to make other arrangements. Taxes may be paid on or before October 1, 2021 without penalty (payments must be postmarked on or before October 1, 2021 to be penalty free). On all such remaining unpaid taxes after October 2, 2021, a two percentum (2%) will be added through November 3, 2021 at which time the remaining unpaid taxes will be turned over

to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, Poughkeepsie, New York to be then receivable on the land tax bills for 2022 with a seven (7) percentum penalty.

For Dutchess County residents paying partial payments there will be assessed a 5% surcharge. Dates due for partial payments are September 15, 2021 and March 15, 2022 to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance as indicated on the installment payment schedule portion of the tax bill.

Dawn Marie Klingner
School Tax Collector
08-26-21
09-02-21

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NEW POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER: One FT Development Associate to provide core support to NECC's fundraising initiatives, donor development, events, and public relations. Strong marketing, PR and social media background preferred. One FT Youth Program Director will be an experienced leader for our youth programs, ranging from toddlers to teens. Must have expertise in evaluating and implementing curriculum at each level of youth engagement. Other open positions include: One FT Family Resource Coordinator to assist with Case Management, Financial Management, Parenting, and Family Support programs. One PT Classroom Assistant for our afterschool programs at Webutuck Schools. One PT Teen Team Assistant to work with Teen Programs. One to two FT Drivers to serve our Transportation Program. Position descriptions available at www.neccmillerton.org/employment. The NECC is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which

REAL ESTATE

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SALISBURY, CT

GARAGE SALE: Saturday, September 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday September 5, 9 a.m. to noon. Good stuff including textiles, glass, vinyl, art, kitchen, vintage, interesting, priced to sell. 71 Cobble Rd. Salisbury. No Early Birds Please.

NOT THE USUAL TAG SALE

235 Under Mountain Rd, Salisbury. Saturday September 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain Date Sunday September 5. Antiques, semi-Antiques, Art, Collectibles, Hooked Rugs, Grenfell Mats, Door Stops and more Nothing over \$1000.

NORTH CANAAN, CT

TAG SALE: 119 Granite Avenue Ext., Canaan, CT, corner Granite Ave, and Orchard St., off Rt. 7, Sat, Sun, Mon, August 4 thru 6, 10-6.

NEW PRESTON, CT

HUGE COUNTRY ANTIQUES TAG SALE: 9AM-1PM, Saturday September 4. 12 East Shore Road in downtown New Preston, CT. Rain date September 5. Many many quality items, smalls to furniture.

STORMVILLE, NY

STORMVILLE AIRPORT ANTIQUE SHOW AND FLEA MARKET. SEPTEMBER 4, 5: 8 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. 428 Route 216, Stormville, NY. Free Admission and Parking. No pets. Vendor space available. 845-221-6561. www.stormvilleairportflea-market.com. As seen on HGTV's Flea Market Flip.

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