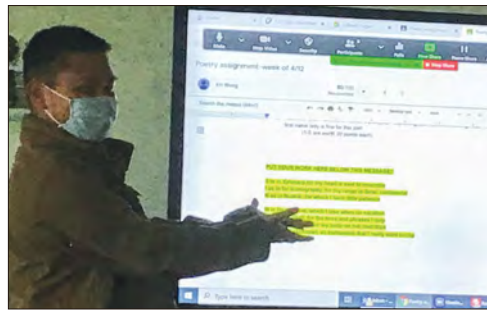




PINE PLAINS
Community Celebrates Historic Marker At Pine Plains' Opera House **B3**



AMENIA
Webutuck Teacher Inspired Students To Get Poetic During Poetry Month **A3**

COMPASS
A Talk With Jerry Saltz; Remembering The Flood Of '55; And More **B1-2**

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Pine Plains superintendent to retire, new leadership lined up

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



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pine Plains Central School District Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler plans to retire after eight years by next July.

PINE PLAINS — Having dedicated the better part of eight years to strengthening the Pine Plains Central School District's (PPCSD) academic and financial standing, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler will surely be leaving on a triumphant note when he retires next July.

Handler was hired as superintendent in July 2013. Reflecting on what he was doing when he was hired, Handler said he had been in Pennsylvania at the time, but he wanted to be in a school district in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley. As he had children and grandchildren living in parts of Connecticut and New York State, Pine Plains was an area central to his family, and when the superintendent position became open, he thought it was a great opportunity.

The next eight years gave Handler a chance to broaden his already extensive experience in education management, and the PPCSD flourished under his commitment and leadership style. In a letter to the editor published by this newspaper last week written by Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) President Chip Couse, Couse spoke

highly of how, under Handler's leadership, the district's academic standing has risen "to be in the upper tier of Dutchess County schools," between the improvement in test and Regents scores and in its graduation rate. He also praised Handler's addition of innovative programs that have benefited students and their educational success.

Handler has worked hard to bolster the academic standing of the PPCSD, instituting a full-day pre-kindergarten program a few years ago. Through the universal pre-k program, Handler said there's no waiting list, no lotteries and

any child who is 4 years old and lives within the district can qualify.

"I believe in getting kids off to a good start," he said in reference to universal pre-k. "That's made a positive impact on our student learning."

Asked about the toughest changes during his tenure, Handler said the most dramatic has probably been the declining enrollment, which has made it increasingly difficult to support a wide array of programs. The COVID-19 pandemic, which forced school districts across the country to shift to remote learning during quarantine, also was a new challenge.

Thanks to the one-to-one computer initiative the district implemented three years ago for students in pre-k through 12th grade, Handler said Pine Plains was probably the best prepared

See **HANDLER TO RETIRE**, A7



PHOTO FROM MILLERTON NEWS ARCHIVES

The orange awning with the large white block letters spelling Saperstein's had become synonymous with the village of Millerton during the past seven decades, and it took locals a long time to get used to it being gone once the sign was removed.

The evolution of Millerton's Main Street

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

With so many changes taking place in the world today, including in our local business communities, *The Millerton News* is taking a closer look at how the village of Millerton has changed in the years leading up to the present day. The paper will be running a multi-part series on the many changes that have taken place in the Millerton business district since it was first established in the late 1800s. This is the second part in that series. To read the series from the beginning, go to www.tricornernews.com.

Part II

MILLERTON — The loss of Saperstein's in 2017, after 70 years of providing the community so many of its retail needs, was a huge blow to the village. With its large, rectangular metal orange awning and white block letters on its facade and the charming mural of a farm scene painted on the side of the building at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street, for seven decades Saperstein's was synonymous with Millerton. But now it's gone and one day it will be but a mere memory.

Another big loss to the village's business district was the closure of Terni's on April 30, 2020. It sold everything from cigars and knives to hunting and fishing gear to high-end wool shirts, suits and blankets to

"Things do change; you can't hold back time."

Dick Hermans, co-owner of Oblong Books & Music

newspapers and penny candy.

At some point in the store's 100-year history, its marble soda fountain served ice cream and floats, always with great conversation from the recently passed away and much loved Phil Terni, or perhaps with his father and mother before him or maybe his grandparents, who after immigrating from Parma, Italy, opened the store in 1919.

"I was really sad when Saperstein's left, and then when Phil got sick and couldn't run his shop any more it was hard," said Dick Hermans, who co-owns Oblong Books & Music at 26 Main St. (along with another location in nearby Rhinebeck) with his daughter, Suzanna Hermans; the Millerton bookstore just celebrated its 45th anniversary last October. "Next to us was a jewelry store that was there for 80 years, but things do change; you can't hold back time."

"I'm kind of accepting of this stuff... I think [the village] has drifted away a little from the necessities of life," added Hermans. "Saperstein's represented that; Terni's a little less so. It's a change."

See **MAIN STREET**, A7

Park agrees to move Tentrr tents at Millerton's Iron Mine Pond

One man, four tents, 24 hours, one petition, 558 signatures

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

MILLERTON — For many years, Andres Vialpando and his wife, Nicky, have been making the 3-minute drive from their Main Street home in Millerton to nearby Taconic State Park, where they safely leave their car parked on Belgo Road and then head out for their favorite walk around Iron Mine Pond. Depending on the time of day they may either both take the trek, or sometimes only one of them may make the short journey. Whoever prepares for the daily or perhaps even more frequent hike, rest assured their two Welsh Corgi dogs, 3-year-old Jefe (Spanish for "Boss") and 2-year-old Momo (Tibetan for "Dumping"), are by their side.

Discovery of tents

Last Wednesday, April 28, it was Andres who headed to the ore pond, and it was Andres who said he was horrified by what he saw when he

got there.

"I was immediately upset," he said. "It's a great place for the local community. I grew up in Millerton... I find that a very comforting place to go."

But last week while walking Jefe and Momo, Andres saw four semi-permanent tents standing on concrete blocks, set up by the national tent-renting company, Tentrr, which has its headquarters in NYC. Tentrr has "over 1,000... campsites available across the U.S.," according to its website, www.tentrr.com, and \$318.7 million in total funding, according to www.crunchbase.com, with investors who include actor Benedict Cumberbatch.

"When I saw the tent units there, first I said, this is a private company, so what business does it have being on public land?" asked Andres. "Only afterwards I realized the park made a deal with the units to generate income, which isn't really a big concern of mine. If the tents were placed properly [I wouldn't have minded], but I didn't feel these were."

Private tents, public land

Millerton resident Arthur Moshlak, however, was not so forgiving. "Does the town, the village, the county, the state, the feds — do they have the right to subcontract to private enterprises with no public notice?" he asked, underlining the fact that no public notice was published and no public meetings were held by either the North East Town Board or the Millerton Village Board informing residents the tents were being erected in the park.

Moshlak said Tentrr is known for putting about 90% of its tents on private land, but that the remaining 10% of its structures are installed on public lands.

"To do something like that overnight, to put them on the trail, who

See **TENTRR**, A7



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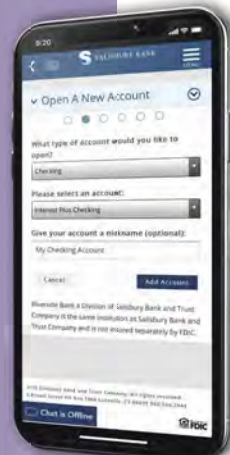
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Legals.....	A3	Pine Plains.....	B3
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OPINION
One Young Man And 558 Signatures Save Iron Mine Pond; Columns; Letters; **B4**



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MILLERTON

American Legion pop-up COVID clinic now set for Friday, May 7

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

MILLERTON — After the pause the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) placed on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine last month caused the original Community Pop-Up Clinic planned by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro's office in conjunction with the Millerton American Legion Post 178 for Friday, April 16, to be canceled, there was no telling when the next vaccination clinic would be rescheduled. So it was good news when Post Historian Sean Klay announced the vaccination clinic has been rescheduled for this Friday, May 7, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Legion Hall at 155 Route 44.

"One of the pillars of the Legion is 'Service,' and in a time

of need this is one of the functions we are able to support our community with," said Klay after learning of the new clinic date. "As I understand from the county they are planning on 50 [vaccines], but will have more on hand in case there is more of a demand than anticipated."

According to North East Town Clerk Gail Wheeler, the clinic will accept walk-ins from 10 a.m. to noon, although those wanting vaccinations are encouraged to pre-register to save time. Those who attend the county pop-up clinic will receive the J&J vaccine.

When asked if he was concerned about the clinic dispensing the J&J vaccine after it being put on pause last month due to reports of production issues and six women who got severe blood clots, Klay said no.

"No concerns with the vaccine considering over 7 million doses have been administered throughout the country," he

said of the one-dose vaccinations. "To those who may be hesitant, there are other vaccine options available through both the county and the state if they don't want the J&J shot. As for those who choose not to, that is of course their choice and hopefully this has been made in conjunction with the best advice they received from their primary care physician."

Klay added that if the Legion Post 178 were did not believe the vaccination clinic were safe, it wouldn't be holding it.

"If our members were not supportive of this, the Post would not have reached out to the county and offered the location in order to support this effort," he said. "If we had any doubts of the safety of the vaccine we would not have been willing to have it rescheduled at the Post. We would love to see all of the 50 appointments filled in addition to as many walk-ins as possible."

The county executive's office encourages anyone wanting to attend the Millerton clinic to use the following link: <https://apps2.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdmspr/2/counties?DateID=C133E04235BA035EE0530A6C7C15E48F>.

For a complete list of upcoming vaccine clinics at the county's various fixed and pop-up locations, residents are encouraged to go to www.dutchessny.gov. Those in need of assistance may also call the COVID information line at 845-486-3555 and press # to speak with a representative who can assist in scheduling an appointment over the phone.

As vaccinations continue, the county's health department reminds residents to follow all CDC guidance regarding coronavirus safety measures — including wearing a face mask, frequent hand washing and physical distancing — to stop the spread of COVID-19.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, booksellers Kaylie Johnson and Lisa Wright invited customers to celebrate Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 24, by popping into the village of Millerton's favorite long-time bookstore, Oblong Books & Music, located at 26 Main St. Oblong celebrated 45 years in business last October.

Oblong Books & Music celebrates its role as an independent bookseller

MILLERTON — Along with taking part in Millerton's village-wide celebration of Earth Day, Oblong Books & Music, at 26 Main St., invited customers to support their local bookstore as part of this year's celebration of Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 24.

According to the website, www.indiebound.org, Independent Bookstore Day (IBD) stands as a "one-day national party at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April," celebrating each store's unique role in their

communities. Starting at 11 a.m. on the morning of the 24th, Oblong Books & Music got into the independent bookstore spirit by offering surprise giveaways and exclusive IBD merchandise in its stores in Millerton and the northeastern Dutchess County village of Rhinebeck, as well as online.

Customers were also invited to visit the stores in-person or place orders online for a chance to win one of three \$50 gift certificates.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Beloved Lions Club Community Calendar taken over by library

By **CAROL KNEELAND**
 Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — As the community is hopefully getting back to a post-COVID world, many worry that some time-honored traditions will be lost. But fear not — that won't happen to a much-loved feature of the area that promises to continue as the NorthEast-Millerton Library assumes the task of producing and selling the Lions Club Community Calendar.

"We're delighted to hear of the library's interest in continuing this long community tradition," Lions Club Treasurer Ed Downey said. "The unique feature of the calendar is its personalization as it publishes the birthdays, anni-

versaries and other special dates of interest to the community such as the monthly meeting dates of many local municipal and not-for-profit organizations. A small payment is made on a per-listing basis to cover the cost of publication and to enable the library to raise funds to support its important mission."

The calendar, now in its 63rd year and traditionally produced by the Lions Club, was initiated in 1953 for the following year's calendar. Cliff Andrews, the Lions' first president and father of Millerton resident Helen Valentine, wrote at that time in his Millerton News column, that the calendar served "to make our community a real friendly one by bringing each individual a little closer to

his neighbor." NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson agreed that the calendar did exactly that.

"When I first came to Millerton and heard about the calendar, I was surprised that this charming tradition had survived for as long as it had," she said. "When a community is in a time of stress or trouble, these traditions are the first to fall to the wayside, but this one has persevered. Now it will continue to do so under the umbrella of the various activities and services the library provides."

Recognizing that this is a particularly difficult time for many, Leo-Jameson said, "It would be truly a shame to lose it now when all we want is to gain some sense

of normal and hold on to the good parts of what our life was before. Now, with the blessing of the Lions Club and Treasurer Ed Downey, we at the library can help in that process."

While details can be found online, she said the group is looking toward an Aug. 1 deadline with advertisements, calendar orders and date submissions all due at that time.

Leo-Jameson noted that payment through the library's online system will hopefully make things easier for those who wish to participate.

For more information, visit the library at 75 Main St., call the library at 518-789-3340 or log onto its website at www.NEMillertonLibrary.org.

North East Historical Society President and Lions Club Treasurer Ed Downey contributed to this article.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

'Re-Read' exhibit by Lothar Osterburg

The Re Institute will have artist Lothar Osterburg's work on display from May through June 26.

A soft opening will be held on Saturday, May 8, and Sunday, May 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The gallery will also be open by appointment Wednesdays and Fridays at dusk and hold regular Saturday hours from 1 to 4 p.m.

NECC Farmers Market continues outside for spring

The North East Community Center's (NECC) Farmers Market is back outside for spring.

Stop by to pick up fresh quality vegetables, fruits, herbs, pasture-raised meats, chicken, dry-cured sausage, bacon, cheeses, honey, fresh-baked breads and a host of fresh-baked pies, cakes and more.

Market hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

For a safe shopping experience, the Market Safety Plan requires masks, a 6-foot social distance and provides handwashing stations and hand sanitizer.

Pre-orders for quick pick up are encouraged. For more information, call 518-789-4259 or go to www.neccmillerton.org.

The market is held at the Millerton Methodist Church at 6 Dutchess Ave., at the corner of Main Street.

OFA needs volunteers to deliver meals

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging's (OFA) Home Delivered Meals program is in immediate need of volunteer drivers to bring meals to homebound seniors in Millerton and throughout northeastern Dutchess County.

Volunteers with their own vehicles and licenses are encouraged to join the team; volunteers may

choose which days to deliver the meals.

Hours are between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., weekdays. Mileage can be reimbursed. COVID-19 safety protocols are observed.

To find out more, call the OFA at 845-486-2555 or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.

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DUMAISMADE

Capital project prioritized at BOE meeting

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Though there's still plenty of work to be done and discussions to be had in the coming months, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District (WCSD) Board of Education (BOE) spoke about how to best approach its capital project at a meeting on Monday, April 12, held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on previous presentations, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said the BOE had suggested reviewing the five-year building conditions survey completed for the last capital project and look at completed items, which items are next in line and any additional items featured in the previous project. As the project's goal is to address the WCSD's needs, he said it was the board's intent "to have a capital

improvement project that will take us out quite a while."

Business Administrator Robert Farrier projected the list that he and Castellani created on a screen for the board to view while Castellani pointed out each item and which building it was located in, along with the priority the items were given in the 2016 building capital survey and the status of those items in the 2021 building capital survey.

They were then prioritized on a scale of one to four with one being the highest priority and four being the lowest. The septic system, computer network switches, wireless local area network and phone system upgrade were deemed completed in the 2021 survey.

Reviewing the items that had not yet been assigned a priority number for 2021 — such as the proposed playground for Eugene Brooks Intermediate

School, the parking/roadway paving and the upgrades to the heating ventilation and air conditioning system and controls — Castellani encouraged the BOE to consider how to prioritize each.

As the board members discussed the best way to do so, BOE member Nikki Johnson suggested having the district's Facilities Committee go through the items and then present its recommendations to

the BOE on a later date.

BOE member Jessica Deister said she'd like to hear more about the history of each item to better understand how to prioritize them.

Following further discussion, the Facilities Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, April 14. Given the amount of work involved in this project, Farrier said the committee will present its recommendations to the BOE in the coming months.

Poetry assignments nurture students and their word craft

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Just like the flowers in their gardens and the leaves on the trees, budding writers in northeastern Dutchess County might have found their creativity blossoming during April's celebration of National Poetry Month.

In the North East (Webutuck) Central School District, Jenna Garofalo, an English Language Arts (ELA) teacher at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, and her students are reflecting on an assignments they completed for April's Poetry Month meant to help them both appreciate poetry and realize their potential for writing poetry.

Garofalo said she wanted to expose her students to more poetry, and her goal was to help them appreciate poetry by exploring and studying some terms. Along with teachers in the ELA Department they shared different ideas for teaching students about the craft.

Garofalo said she had one version of an assignment for

the students in her eighth-grade ELA class and a similar assignment with some challenges for Webutuck High School seniors enrolled in her Dutchess Community College (DCC) English class.

Since she wanted the assignment to be very open-ended, Garofalo did a scenic poem with her eighth-graders where they were given several images; they could choose one image to write about. They were also given the option to go out and take their own picture or pull an image from the internet. The students then had to use either a four- or five-line poem structure. The poems could be written in free verse or with a rhyme scheme, and the five senses had to be incorporated into the writing.

"It was so open-ended it really couldn't go wrong," Garofalo said. "It really allowed them to get as creative as they could get and that's what I loved about it. There were a handful of poems that were extremely well done, above and beyond in the creativity department."

As she watched their writ-

ing take shape, Garofalo said she noticed the students were pretty harsh on themselves, but in actual reality, she said "they did a really stand-out job."

She said they talked a bit about the vocabulary linked to poetry, such as stanzas, rhymes and rhyme scheme.

For the senior assignments, students were asked to share their work out loud. Garofalo said they did an extended poetry unit and explored and analyzed different types of poems. In addition to the books from DCC, she said they used the Poetry Foundation website, www.poetryfoundation.org, for information. Among the first poets her students became acquainted with, Garofalo said, was William Carlos Williams.

When asked which poem she considered her favorite, Garofalo said Williams' "The Red Wheelbarrow" always stands out.

"While it's so short, it really goes to show the power of words," she said. "I think poetry can be interpreted in so many different ways — that's why I don't have a favorite."

Us with Nature

Heard from a distance
Loud enough to hide a scream
The water's extreme persistence
Allows us to dream

Always in motion
Being flooded by euphoria
Causing consistent erosion
Curing all dysphoria

Fresh air running through our veins
A beautiful escape from reality
All within the rocky terrains
Forming a captivating concavity

Tiny droplets hitting our cheeks
The soft breeze flowing through our hair
Watching the water flow through the creeks
Having a moment without a care

Wishing to be here forever
No worries about failure
No interruptions whatsoever
Just us alone with nature

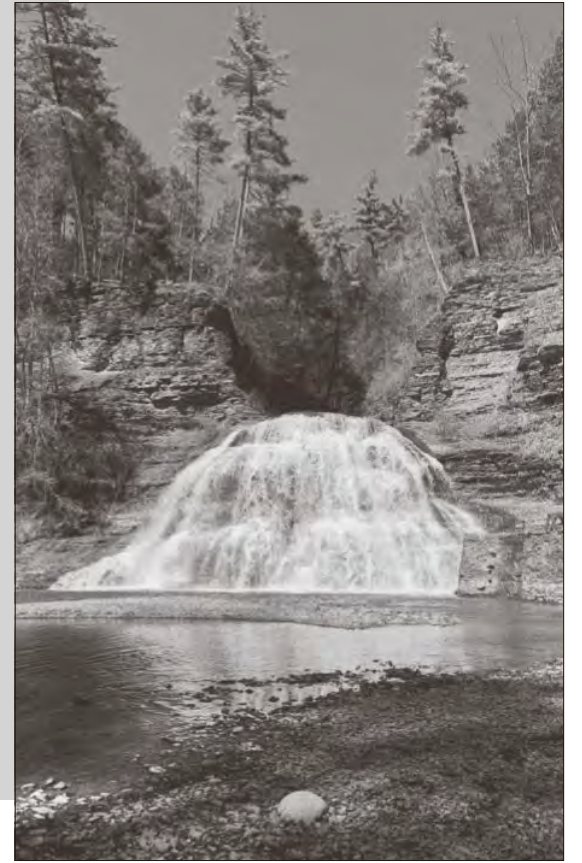


PHOTO SUBMITTED

A senior at Webutuck High School, Daisy Matus shared her poetry as part of Webutuck English Language Arts teacher Jenna Garofalo's Dutchess Community College English Class.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, or on Zoom (please check www.webutuckschools.org click the red circle on the homepage for an update status on this meeting) on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2021-2022 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2021-2022 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective April 27, 2021, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER

GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education at large, two (2) for three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent board members, Nikki Johnson, and Rick Keller Coffey, one (1) to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Jay Newman whose term shall expire on June 30, 2023, and one (1) to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Steve Abad whose term shall expire on June 30, 2022.

B. Shall the 2021-2022 Budget as adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$24,798,803, with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$8,582,074 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$16,216,729, be approved?

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility

bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours. The application must be returned to the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot will be picked up personally by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 18, 2021.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military

ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than 25 days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law § 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 19, 2021; must be typed or printed in the English language. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
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With the price of lumber increasing exponentially over the past year, the question is why? The answer is very complex and there is an excellent article in The Atlantic detailing the reasons for it. COVID has certainly had its effect, along with the current boom in renovations and building. The National Association of Homebuilders has estimated that the lumber shortage has added 24,000 in cost to building a new home. Other reasons for the shortage are wildfires, beetle infestations and climate change. The article can be found at: www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/04/climate-origins-massive-lumber-shortage/618727, or happy to email a copy to you.



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Carl Irving Weir

NORTH CANAAN — Carl Irving Weir passed away peacefully on April 20, 2021, from longstanding medical issues, at the age of 71.

He was a longtime resident at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation in North Canaan. He was very happy with his situation at the facility and always praised the people who interacted with him on a daily basis. Carl is survived by his brother, Douglas Weir; and his aunt, Edith Blodgett.

Carl was born on April 9, 1950, at Sharon Hospital and grew up on Perry Street in Lakeville. He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1969 and worked for Barbour Threads in Winsted.

Carl's main interests were movies and country-western music. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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

David Herring

MILLERTON — David Herring, 68, of Millerton passed away on April 24, 2021, at Putnam County Hospital in Pawling, N.Y., after a long illness.

Born in Tucka-hoe, N.Y., he was the youngest son of Vinnie (Walker) and Wendell Herring.

David was a member of the Army National Guard and studied music and voice at SUNY New Paltz. He was a born musician.

He leaves behind a wife, Judith Lawrence; three daughters, Davina, Allegra and Marah

Herring of South Carolina and Florida; as well as a close friend and caregiver, Joanie Moore.

David was predeceased by his parents; and three brothers, Wendell, Brad and Kim Herring.

He was an attendee of North East Baptist Church. The funeral services for David Herring will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, at North East Baptist in Millerton.

Arrangements are under the care of the Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.



SPORTS



Millbrook mid-fielder Sadie Krueger can be seen in action during one of the games from the team's winning season.

Millbrook Blazers Division 9 Champs

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — It takes a lot of training, a lot of team work and a lot of good coaching — put that all together and in this challenging pandemic year the Millbrook High School Blazers Girls Soccer Team was able to make the goal that really mattered — becoming Section Champions for 2020-21.

The team celebrated its victory on Monday, April 18, following a season that started after having just one week to prepare due to a COVID-19 pause that was placed on high school athletics. It could easily have turned out to have been a dismal season, but instead became one for the record books.

With a tremendous amount of will, hard work and leadership from senior players Sam Erdt, Haley Kozero and Rebecca Quick, the Blazers started their season playing the Pine Plains Bombers, winning 8-0.

They next beat number four Rhinebeck High School, 2-0, with goals by Millbrook's Hudson Heitmann, with assistance provided during the game from Sam, Rebecca and Sadie Krueger. The only two shots on goal made by Rhinebeck's Sophia Schofield had no saves.

The Blazers went on to celebrate a phenomenal, if short, season with 9 wins, 0 losses and only 1 tie.

"That's the best soccer season in Millbrook history," said the girls' soccer coach, Jerome Cazoneri. "They were really looking forward to the season. In spite of the COVID pause, they worked hard and they were ready, in

great physical shape. Everyone contributed."

The coach added that 10 out of the 11 starters were juniors or seniors; the juniors will hopefully return to play next year.

"They've been a very good team and made it last year to the finals and lost the final game to S.S. Seward," said Cazoneri. "Seward would have been their final game this year, but dropped out when they found they had been exposed to COVID in a previous match."

He noted that it was a major team effort that afforded them the victory, and then named his exceptional players this year: Hailey Kozero was honored for playing exemplary All-Section; Emily Grasseler for being a superlative Mid-Fielder; Hudson Heitmann for Scoring; while Rebecca Quick was named All Star Player.

"They earned the number one seed in the playoffs, and shut out Rhinebeck 2-0 in the semi-final," Cazoneri added. "While the players were disappointed to not play the final game, we celebrate a truly remarkable season."

They worked hard and they were ready, in

Bleacher Views
Read Theodore Kneeland's Bleacher Views column online this week, at www.tri-cornernews.com.

Harriet Leila Wood

SALISBURY — Harriet Leila Wood, 75, of Salisbury, passed away suddenly on April 9, 2021.

Leila was born Aug. 15, 1945, and was the child of Harriet Nash and Wilfred Nash of Quincy, Mass.

She was a certified counselor and teacher at the North Canaan Elementary School for over 35 years, from 1986-2021, and was still working at the time of her passing.

Leila worked to bring grant programs to the school, some of which were adopted by the entire region of school districts. Her programs included mental health therapy dogs to help students read, a technology program to aid students in career choices, and providing a mental health plan for every child. Leila worked tirelessly with generations of families at the school to connect with students for the betterment of their lives.

Leila enjoyed her work, but also never missed her daily exercise, often consisting of swimming laps, which she loved. Leila was secretary for the East Meadow Private Association

for over 20 years. She was an avid gardener and beach lover. She spent time every summer in Bethany Beach, Del., where she even taught her grandson, Alexander, how to bodyboard.

Leila is survived by her daughter, Caroline E. Wood of Washington, D.C.; her grandson, Alexander R. Denton; her son, Whitfield P. Wood; her granddaughter, Kayla Speranza; her three great-grandchildren; and her partner, Leo Nadeau of Salisbury; as well as many friends.

There will be a small service for immediate family members only.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to The Harriet Leila Wood Children's Fund established at North Canaan Elementary School; donations can be made payable to North Canaan Elementary School and sent to the school at 90 Pease St., North Canaan, CT 06018. Attention: The Harriet Leila Wood Children's Fund.

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



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MILLBROOK

Millbrook BOE adopts \$31.7 million budget; vote May 18

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — After several budget workshops, the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) Board of Education (BOE) has adopted the 2021-22 school district budget that will be unveiled at a public hearing on Tuesday, May 4 (after press time), which will be put before voters on Tuesday, May 18.

The ballot will ask for voters to pass Proposition A, for the proposed \$31,714,951 school district budget, with a suggested tax levy of \$25,418,814, an increase of .97% over this year's budget.

Voters will also get to weigh in on Proposition 2, which seeks to increase the maximum amount for a district-wide renovation, reconstruction and construction reserve fund by \$4 million, which would allow for a total savings of \$10 million from now through 2029. Those savings would go toward future capital projects to help upkeep district buildings and would not be able to be spent without voter approval.

The MCSD plans to assign \$788,000 of its fund balance to offset taxes, according to Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance and Operations Brian Fried, who said it will maintain an unrestricted, unreserved fund balance of 4%, the maximum permitted by law.

Review of budget workshops

Among the items discussed during the many BOE budget workshops were the many differences between the current budget and next year's budget due to COVID-19, and its many impacts on education.

Fried announced prior to the first budget workshop on March 9 that the district's bond refinancing is complete and will save roughly \$30,000 per year

for the next six years. MCSD's bond rating is very good, he said, rated at AA2. He said due to the pandemic, spending changed and that while some things are costing the district more, many cost less. There are also different expenditures and different means of revenue due to the health crisis.

"We can't rely on current expenditures, because they are not 'normal' expenditures," said Fried.

Also, he warned added revenue from the federal reimbursement program for meal delivery to students may decrease as students return to in-person learning and no longer need to have their food delivered to their homes. In fact, the reimbursement program may not remain viable, he said.

Other changes include enrollment figures. At the start of this year there were 882 students enrolled and currently there are 824 students. Staff needs also changed, as have programs. There was a proposal to add a senior typist, two health aides, a special education teacher and a special education aide; two pre-k teachers and two pre-k aides were suggested, as was a part- or full-time monitor at Alden Place Elementary School.

Several costs are expected to drop in the coming year, including \$10,000 in legal fees, maintenance equipment and gym equipment; \$13,000 less will be needed for utility costs and one custodial salary; \$30,000 less will be needed for one administrative salary; and finally, the Capital BOCES project is expected to cost less, which should save the MCSD roughly \$90,650.

Further savings of \$185,000 are expected in instructional salaries; \$30,000 saved from a payment not needed to be made to Dutchess Community College; and money saved from buying

\$6,500 worth of textbooks that won't be needed; \$26,600 worth of International Baccalaureate fees that won't be needed; and \$7,150 was saved in Workers' Compensation costs.

Some expenditures that have accrued during the coronavirus pandemic this past year include fees for Zoom meetings for administrators and staff and for distance learning and electronic equipment upgrades needed for remote learning. There were also additional purchases of cleaning supplies bought for the district.

Other changes that affected the bottom line included adapting plans, activities and schedules; making special accommodations for graduation; and making special arrangements with the cafeteria staff to continue to provide breakfasts and lunches, much of which had to be delivered or made available to go to all students who rely on free or reduced meals from the district on a daily basis while schools were shut down.

However, funds used to provide transportation to students to athletic events or class trips were used much less frequently during the past year, saving the district money.

A third proposition will be on the ballot for the BOE elections. There are two open seats this year, but only one candidate (see story this page). It's now too late to register to get on the ballot, so the only way to run for the remaining open seat is to get elected as a write-in candidate.

The BOE school district budget vote, the vote on the propositions and the BOE election is set for Tuesday, May 18, from noon to 9 p.m. in the Millbrook Middle School auditorium, located at 43 Alden Place, Millbrook. A regularly scheduled BOE meeting will take place that evening at 7 p.m. in the middle school library.

School board election has two open seats but just one candidate

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Two seats will be vacant on the Millbrook Board of Education (BOE) for the upcoming election on Tuesday, May 18, but there's only one candidate who is running in this year's race. He is David LaVarnway, father of two youngsters, and new to public office. LaVarnway wasn't aware that he was the only candidate running in the district-wide election and said he was surprised when he learned of the news — especially because he feels that education is so important and that children deserve the very best.

The candidate admits to thinking that the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) is really a very good one. His wife, Heather, is a trustee on the Millbrook Educational Foundation (MEF), which often donates funds and other items to the MCSD, so he knows the advantages that come from having a community that is active in supporting the educating of its young.

"I am interested in joining the MCSD Board of Education," said LaVarnway. "With everything going on this past year due to COVID, I have become more interested in the work of the BOE and the district and have appreciated being able to keep up to speed by viewing the meetings from home."

LaVarnway is from the Hudson Valley, originally from nearby Hyde Park. As a student, his favorite subject was math, which may account for the fact that he is now an engineer. He works at Global-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

David LaVarnway is the sole candidate for this year's Millbrook Board of Education election.

Foundries, where he has been since 2010. Previously he worked for Pfizer Pharmaceutical. While he believes math and science are very important, along with all subjects, he said thinks communication is especially vital in today's educational curriculum.

LaVarnway explained why he believes his expertise as an engineer would be helpful to the board.

"I am a senior engineer with GlobalFoundries in Fishkill and through my work I spend a lot of time evaluating information and problem solving," he said. "I believe I can bring some of those same skills to bear as a member of the BOE and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to a positive educational experience for every child in our district."

The LaVarnways have lived in Millbrook for 13 years and it has turned out to be the perfect community for their family. They love hiking and often walk the

trails at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. They have visited Innisfree Garden and their daughter's last birthday before the pandemic was held at Trevor Zoo. Aside from enjoying the local area, LaVarnway said he is into woodworking, something he has always loved. He is now teaching his son the intricacies of his hobby.

A problem for voters

Concerning the vacant seats on the board and the lack of candidates, BOE President Perry Hartswick acknowledged that the position takes time, energy and a lot of hard work.

He also noted that the past year and a half has been a constant source of stress for the BOE, mainly because of the health crisis, keeping up with state and federal mandates and worrying about the safety of both students and staff while trying to provide the best possible education.

The challenges have been enormous. Claudia Heunis, who just finished her first term on the school board, chose not to run again. BOE member John Rudy, who just finished his tenure of serving on the school board for more than 20 years, has also decided to step down.

The deadline to petition for a spot on the ballot has expired, but write-in candidates can be voted in and will be counted. So if anyone is still interested in taking a seat at the board table, being elected as a write-in candidate is now the only way to join the Millbrook BOE.

The BOE elections and district budget vote will take place at Millbrook Middle School on Tuesday, May 18, from noon to 9 p.m. in the auditorium.

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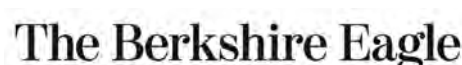


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TENTRR *Continued from Page A1*

gave them permission?" Moshlak asked. "The fact that the tents were planned stupidly is a separate thing."

According to State Sen. Sue Serino's (R-41) office, which responded to inquiries from this newspaper on Monday, May 3, one Millerton resident contacted her office to complain about the Tentrr site at Iron Mine Pond last week upset about the tents.

However, the arrangement is about to become big news in New York, according to the state senator's office, as Governor Andrew Cuomo planned to announce news on Tuesday of a brand-new agreement between New York and Tentrr of a public-private partnership with the goal of encouraging camping in state parks, specifically reaching out to residents who are not avid campers but might be spending more time outdoors ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit last March.

So far, Serino's office has heard of two Dutchess County parks that will be working with Tentrr: Rudd Pond at Taconic State Park in Millerton and Norrie Point in Hyde Park. Serino's spokesperson said the state really wants this to be a positive experience, and that's why it worked to remedy the issue at Iron Mine Pond so swiftly.

Revenue for park

"The New York State parks department has been looking for ways to bring in revenue to support the parks, and they seem to have reached an agreement with a company called Tentrr," said North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan, who confirmed the state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) granted approval for Tentrr to install tents at Taconic State Park. "I've never stayed in one but I'm sure they're quite nice, in beautiful spots, but the choice of the Iron Mine site in the park at Rudd Pond was a bad location, a bad choice, because it's very special. It's a beautiful, quiet, undisturbed place and for the enjoyment of the pond it just would change the whole nature of that spot."

Andres said the four tents were "literally on the trail and directly overlooking Bash Bish Falls," blocking much of the path that loops around the ore pond, which can be walked in a leisurely 20 to 30 minutes. It's about a 10-minute walk to Rudd Pond one mile away, which is more popular and well-known, said the native Millertonite.

24-hour petition

He and others were so incensed by what they considered the inappropriate placement of the tents, that Andres went home on the 28th and started a petition against Tentrr. He blasted it all over social media, and by the time he closed the petition on Friday night, roughly 24 hours later, 558 people had signed it. Not only did he get an enormous response, he got the powers that be to notice it as well.

"I'm not sure what I expected. I was hoping to get 200 or 300 signatures," he said. "Maybe it speaks to how many people use the pond. Most everybody around here knew of the place and were more than willing to sign the petition, so I'm glad the tents are going to be removed and we won't have to worry about it. It seems the least I could do. I was just happy to start the petition. I did my best. I posted the petition everywhere online. That played a part, definitely; it was a huge verification of the amount of people [who were upset]."

Kennan said he was impressed by Andres' initiative and the feedback he received.

"It's a place that has been enjoyed by the people of Millerton for many years, which is obvious from the social media response. I was awestruck by the power of social media [and what] happens when it's something that people feel strongly about," said Kennan. "It's very dear to many people, and the idea of putting these tents up there really was not well thought through."

Andres agreed word spread quickly, especially with the



PHOTO BY ARTHUR MOSHLAK

Four tents were installed by the private company, Tentrr, on concrete blocks smack in the trail path around Iron Mine Pond at Taconic State Park in Millerton, upsetting those who use the trail and inspiring Millerton resident Andres Vialpando to post a petition on social media to get the tents removed. The park agreed to do so within 24 hours.

boost he got from modern technology.

"Social media is way to communicate right now, that's all there is to it. It's fast, quick, I mean, what can I say about that? That's the way we live now. If you don't have cell phone or you don't have a computer, you're not really up to snuff on things like the rest of us."

Park response

Andres contacted Taconic Park Manager Christopher Rickard about the tents, who told him he went out last winter with the parks commission to survey potential sites. Andres said his impression was the park manager may have felt pressured to find the tent sites.

While Rickard did not respond to repeated calls for comment by press time, Kennan said he wanted to support the park manager and all he has done for the local resource and would be surprised to learn if the choice of the Iron Mine location was Rickard's.

"Chris Rickard is a very good guy, and a great park manager for Rudd Pond," said Kennan. "He does so much with such limited resources. Chris should be supported and recognized for all he has done for the Rudd Pond Park area."

A request for more information was also sent to Regional Park Director Linda Cooper, including details on when the parks department signed the original agreement with Tentrr; what the terms of that agreement are; how much revenue the parks department earns from allowing Tentrr to rent tents at Taconic State Park; how many tents are allowed to go up and over how long of a period of time; and if more tents will be going up in the near future.

Cooper did not answer any of those questions directly, but did respond the following day with the comment below:

"Public Affairs will work with you," she emailed. "Thanks for fleshing out the questions you are interested in. Referring you to Dan Keefe, our PIO [Public Information Officer]."

Keefe swiftly replied with the below statement within the hour:

"Yes, the Iron Mine Pond sites are being relocated," he emailed. "The sites have not yet been occupied and we [are] working to find the best locations within the park. We are finalizing the details of this pilot project with Tentrr and will have more information next week."

According to both Andres

and Kennan, Rickard said the four tents would likely be moved to Rudd Pond by the end of this week.

Andres said he holds no animus toward the parks department, which he said is at a deficit because it lacks manpower — even Rickard typically works in Copake, not in Millerton.

"I think Rickard and everybody at the park was surprised [by the petition]. They made their decision in good faith," said Andres. "They quickly had their meeting to remove the tents. I don't think they expected pushback. They didn't understand the way the area was used by local people."

Cooperation has its benefits

Kennan agreed and said, "It's state park land, and basically the state parks don't require input from the town on things that they do within their [land]. It would have been a good idea to have gotten some input from the town, but we were never asked or informed about the tents."

He added it would be helpful for the OPRHP to coordinate with both the town and village, like the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association does with Dutchess and Columbia Counties; the Rail Trail is owned by the state, managed by the county and run through the town.

"We're all involved in different ways in that and the recent dedication of the Rail Trail showed that," said Kennan, referencing the ribbon cutting held on Thursday, April 22. "I think [when you don't have regional cooperation] you miss getting local input; sometimes people at the local level are just more familiar with a particular site or particular issue."

Tentrr response

Mike Donny Amidon stated in a group post on the Millerton Amenia Community Forum Facebook Page, which had posted Andres' petition, that "Tentrr is committed to preserving outdoor resources for everyone, especially those who already call the area home. Once Tentrr outfits a site in a new location or state park, we are dedicated to being a part of the local community, culture and environment. The sites have not yet been occupied and we are working with New York State Parks to find the best locations within the park. Tentrr respects the significance of the Iron Pond history, and work is underway to immediately get these sites relocated within the park."

Amidon promised "more details on this partnership" this

week.

Second petition

A second petition against the Tentrr campsite was also started by Millerton native Kara Panzer on her Instagram account, which garnered roughly 133 signatures as of Saturday afternoon when it was still posted on her account. Andres said it likely didn't overlap with those who signed his petition, as Panzer mainly appeals to those who follow her on social media for postings about yoga and other similar topics.

"It's not the audience who would have used the park except for some of her local friends, because she also grew up in the village," he said, just appreciative that she made the effort to get the tents removed or relocated. "But I think probably there weren't a lot of duplicates between the two petitions."

First-time effort**huge success**

This was Andres' first time ever starting his own petition, although he's signed dozens before, mostly for national issues.

"When something affects you personally, in your local area, only you can stand up personally for your own issue — it spurs you on to take action. That's just how it goes," he said. "I noticed my mom signed the petition. I'm proud of her."

And for what it's worth, his mom, former North East Town Clerk Nancy Vialpando, said she's proud of him, too.

"I'm so glad he was a part of this," she said.

Andres' final thoughts? Simply that the whole process "exceeded my expectations... and personally I'm very relieved they decided to remove the tents and they're not intending to place them at the Iron Mine Pond ever again."

HANDLER TO RETIRE *Continued from Page A1*

school district in the county when the pandemic hit. He also praised his staff for assembling an online program so quickly for students during the health crisis, which improved over time.

Handler said he believes the district will be in excellent shape when he retires next summer. In addition to the facilities improvements that have been made since he took over eight years ago, he commented on the excellent instructional programs that are in place, crediting administrators and faculty members for making them possible.

Though he will be stepping down from his work in the PPCSD, Handler said he plans to stay busy and would like to stay involved with the local community, perhaps on a part-time basis with the school district or with other local community organizations. After all, to Handler, Pine Plains is home.

In the wake of his retire-

ment, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm has been promoted to take over as superintendent of schools, starting July 1, 2022.

"Brian in the last several years has been my right-hand for instruction," Handler said, "and I credit Brian with a lot of the principles for all of the improvements in the instructional program, so I am pretty confident that he is going to be able to pick up and move the place even farther."

As Handler and Timm prepare for the next chapters in their personal and professional lives, Handler said they are working together on a 14-month transitional period in which he will train Timm for his new role.

Come next July when his retirement becomes official, Handler said, "I will very much miss working on a full-time basis with all of these people — they have been absolutely great."

MAIN STREET *Continued from Page A1*

ing of the guard. You'll never find another shop like that ever here. They were really a very special family to do that for as long as they did."

Local resident Jim Campbell agreed with Hermans, that without Lew Saperstein and Phil Terni, Millerton has lost a part of its past that it will never get back.

"After Terni's had gone out of Main Street [even though the storefront is still there], honestly, there isn't a whole lot down there as a local that is appealing or that I have need for," he said. "The stores are trendy and they're in and out of there. I can't even tell you who's there and who's not there. They seem to come and go."

Campbell was born at Sharon Hospital in Connecticut as so many in the area are and grew up in the town of North East, which encompasses the village of Millerton. The town's population was 3,031 according to the 2010 Census while the village's population was 958 according to that count.

Campbell served as a town councilman from 2021 to 2017, and worked for the electrical business Campbell and Campbell, founded by his brother and father in 1930; he later started the appliance business, Campbell and Keeler, with business partner Gordon Keeler in 1985; he retired in 2011.

Campbell vividly remembers what Millerton was like as he grew up in the community, before it became "trendy," ac-

cording to him.

"Everybody knew everybody. We all grew up together," he said, "if that was for good or bad. I don't know, but that was how it was in a small town. It's totally different now — things evolve, like it or not. Naturally, I liked it the way it was."

He said everything was at your fingertips back then — there was no need to travel outside the village to get anything.

"The village, it was certainly a true business district. You'd find everything, you name it, it was there," said Campbell. "A jewelry store, a couple of car dealers, a couple of grocery stores, always at least one grocery store, there wasn't much you couldn't buy in the village of Millerton."

"There was furniture, clothing, Delson's was the hub, because of everything it had to offer," he added about the anchor store that stood for nearly 40 years and even survived a major fire in 1955. "Delson's was a department store; as a little kid there were toys in there, which I loved, it had everything, school supplies, clothing, you name it, it was there. Then the village had a shoe repair, barber shops, you get the point. There wasn't much of anything you couldn't find in the village. I always felt people from other towns came here."

In the next part of the series we will continue to examine how Millerton's Main Street has evolved, and how the community feels about that evolution.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Falls Village's Former Town Hall Is Born Again as a Gallery

After repeated winter walks down the quiet Main Street of her countryside town, Kathleen Kucka had an idea.

A former downtown New York City artist and curator, Kucka has made a home in Falls Village, Conn. — fittingly, on the property of another artist, the late American muralist Ezra Winter.

In the long stretch of the winding, displaced time of the pandemic, it's easy to forget that it was fairly recently, in that let's-throw-a-party summer of 2019, that celebrated interior designer Bunny Williams unveiled her home decorating store in Falls Village, at (and called) 100 Main Street.

It was the village's single retail offering — not just on Main Street, but in the entirety of what's known as "Connecticut's second smallest town" (for the record, the smallest town is Union, with a population of 854; Falls Village has a population of 1,050).

Yet just across the street from 100 Main Street, were two small, adjoining commercial properties, like unanswered questions, recently vacant and full of potential.

A town committee had been formed, to search for business ideas that could build off Williams' success. At the start of the year, Kucka went to work, and on May 1 she successfully celebrated the opening of her new gallery.

Furnace: Art on Paper Archive is a contemporary setting exhibiting a single-artist collection on paper — bold, graphic and thoroughly high-end.

To conceive of the gallery, and open it in only a matter of months, is an ambitious timeline in any year. But for some, there's



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Artist Stephen Maine attended the opening of his solo exhibit, which was the debut show for Furnace: Art on Paper Archive on Saturday, May 1. Gallery-owner Kathleen Kucka, right, has turned the former town hall in Falls Village, Conn., into a stylish space to view contemporary works on paper.

been a particular energy harvested from the emptiness of the pandemic — it has been a space for renewal, for taking the unexpected turn, and seizing an opportunity that might have otherwise gone by.

For Kucka, despite productivity in her own artist studio, the time away from the downtown clamor, buzz and chatter of the art scene only clarified the importance of public viewing and conversation around the unveiling of new work.

"Not seeing artwork in person, I was really craving it, and craving that art community. I realized just being in the void of my own studio for one hundred percent of my time isn't enough. I really need that yin and yang, that dialogue with artists and their work."

MAINE TO FALLS VILLAGE

With newly mounted large-scale gallery walls that mostly obscure the building's original old-fashioned wainscoting, Furnace has been reimagined as a sleek, crisp white canvas — all the better to draw focus to the hyper-pigmented abstracts of artist Stephen Maine.

Browsing the debut show at Furnace the week before its unveiling, Kucka admired the work of Maine, a printmaker based in Cornwall, Conn., who has shown his optical color explosions internationally.

"There's something almost geological about the paintings. He uses these self-created plates that he carves from Styrofoam," Kucka explained. "It's a very physical process, and in a way a very sculptural process as he carves out these shapes, and then applies paint to them and makes these impressions that get layered and layered over time. When I say over time, I mean years. When he works it's always a surprise. The work is always revealing itself."

PAPER AS A POINT OF ENTRY

Kucka is the only gallery owner in the town (although the local library puts on popular art shows). "I really like that it becomes a cloistered

experience instead of art hopping," she said.

As if that weren't differentiated enough, Furnace has a niche specialty: paper. It's an often-utilized medium that provides an intimate connection with an artist's methods as well as an inviting scale of price variation.

"Artists make so much work on paper as a process, when developing paintings. It's a way of working quickly, and it's not that expensive as an outlay. But these works often aren't shown. There's so much available work, why not show it?"

Kucka acknowledged another advantage. With the ease of shipping paper, Furnace is looking beyond Litchfield County — "even artists from Berlin," she said — for contemporary talent to showcase.

Through the back door of Furnace, Kucka wove her way through a little labyrinth of construction (the second part of the shared building will soon open as a café) and stepped into an actual walk-in safe from the days when this was the Town Hall. It's a turn-of-the-century vault, massive and heavy, not like the shiny Swiss-style ones you might see in a heist film. The unexpectedly large safe, with sectioned-off interior spaces, offered a surprising shift in tone from the airy front of the gallery — industrial, brutal and underground.

Unconventional art spaces are nothing new in New York City, where a pop-up guerrilla fashion show can make a splash at the grimmest of warehouses. In this second space, away from the central gallery, you can examine works on paper by Marilla Palmer, Georgia McGovern, Amanda Konishi. It's clear there's depth to the collection Kucka is developing in Falls Village. Despite a small space in a small town, there is the sense that she's ready to offer a big statement.

Furnace: Art on Paper Archive is at 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. The show of work by Stephen Maine called, "Cupcake Uptake and the Cloud of Unknowing," can be seen Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information go to www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com or follow @furnace_artonpaper on Instagram.

ART: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Saltz Sifts Through the Good, Bad & Ugly

Jerry Saltz, the art critic for New York magazine, told an online audience for the Salisbury Forum that the "art world is an all-volunteer army" and that there will be "a lot of new uniforms" available as pandemic restrictions are eased.

Saltz spoke online from his home in Manhattan at the Salisbury, Conn., Forum on Friday, April 23.

He covered a lot of ground in his breezy, informal remarks, briefly interrupted by a technical problem.

He said that from his youth in Chicago to his current status as art critic, he has always been around art in one way or another.

But it hasn't been an easy journey. Saltz said that he tried to be an artist because he noticed that "the people who were having sex were in theater, music or art."

But "then the demons started to speak to me."

Plagued by self-doubt, "I self-exiled from the art world."

Now living in New York, lacking skills or education, and nursing the notion that "the world owed me a living," he became a long-haul truck driver, driving rigs from New York to Texas or Florida and back.

Even then he couldn't quite cut his ties with the art world. His cargo? Works of art.

He described this 10-year period as an unhappy, rage-filled time.

But he stayed connected to the art world, going to shows and galleries and spending time with other art people.

Saltz said to break into the art world, the first rule is to show up.

Then he corrected himself, saying the first rule is "work, work, work."

He dismissed the idea of creative blocks. "There is only one solution for not working: Working."

He also championed the habit of staying up late and sharing ideas about art "with your fellow vampires."

Asked about online art sales, Saltz said "all the walls are down."

"Anyone can rent a crappy little storefront now."

As for the online world, Saltz said there are an increasing number of platforms for artists to get their work to the public.

However, he added, "I want to stand up for art in the flesh."

Saltz said he likes to post pictures of art that catch his eye.

It doesn't have to be good. He doesn't even have to like it.

His criteria: that the work is "credible, that it captures the urgency of the moment."

Asked if he would identify any up and coming artists, he demurred.

He said the art world has become much larger and more international in the digital age, and thus harder to keep up with.

He advised people to visit the small galleries of the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"There's a lot of good work," he said.

But "85% of it is crap."

This is nothing new, he added. "Eighty-five percent of the art in the Renaissance was crap too. You just have to sort it out for yourself."

The next speaker for the Salisbury Forum will be Steven Johnson on Wednesday, May 26, at 7:30 pm. Johnson is the author of New York Times bestsellers including "How We Got To Now," "Unexpected Life" and "Where Good Ideas Come From."

ART THAT HONORS THE WORKERS, AT AMP

In a Zoom event presented by the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., on Wednesday, May 12, at 7 p.m., Amy Wynn, executive director of the American Mural Project (AMP), will share the story of AMP, with slides, video and a question and answer.

The American Mural Project (AMP), founded by Artistic Director Ellen Griesedieck in 2001, began as an art project to pay tribute to the American worker. AMP is also the name of the museum in which the mural and other

exhibits will be housed in two historic mill buildings in the former factory town of Winsted, Conn.

AMP is completing the renovation of the first of its two mill buildings. The museum's full complex ultimately will house the mural gallery, exhibit spaces, and program, workshop and event spaces.

To register for this event, go to www.HuntLibrary.org or the David M. Hunt Facebook page, or call the library at 860-824-7424. For more information on AMP, go to www.AmericanMuralProject.org.

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HISTORY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Remembering the Flood of 1955

In August 1955 a massive flood swept through Litchfield County, Conn., caused by what an article in The Lakeville Journal at that time described as “great rattling curtains of rain.” The fast-moving torrents of water impacted nearly every town in this largely rural county. It was the more developed towns that were hardest hit. The impact of the rushing waters was bad enough in the country towns, which still had, largely, unpaved roads and smaller-scale residential and commercial buildings. But in the more developed towns such as Torrington and the once-thriving Winsted (which has a river running through its downtown area), the destruction was deeper and more complete.

and storefronts were completely crushed. Rebuilding would require a Herculean effort and a great deal of money. Town residents pulled together. Torrington eventually came back to life. But in Winsted, it was harder. There are people who say that this factory town never quite recovered, spiritually or economically, from the flood of '55. The Torrington Historical Society will host an online program about the flood on Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. The talk is free to the public and is sponsored by Connecticut Humanities. Torrington Historical Society Executive Director Mark McEachern will focus on the impact the flood had on Torrington in his talk, “Black Friday: The Flood of 1955.” According to the pre-

view information on the show, in the flood of 1955, “Torrington sustained its worst disaster on record. Seven lives were lost, 20 homes and 28 firms were destroyed and there was extensive damage to homes, businesses and industries. “But, in a spirit not seen before or since, people came together, helped their neighbors and with the aid of state and federal services, rebuilt their city.” To illustrate his talk, McEachern will share photos from the historical society’s extensive collection of images of the flood and its aftermath, including many taken by professional photographer James Miller, a Torrington resident. The photos on this page are not from Torrington; they are from Winsted. They were in the files for The Lakeville Journal issue

of Aug. 25, 1955. That issue can be seen in our online archive <http://scoville.advantage-preservation.com>. Although you won't see all these Winsted photos, you can read about and learn how our small area towns weathered the storm. To register, go to the Torrington Historical Society home page at www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org.



LAKEVILLE JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found in our full calendar at www.TriCornerNews.com.

ART

Berkshire Botanical Garden. 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.berkshirebotanical.org Flights of Fancy: The Botanical and Bejeweled Universe of Mindy Lam, May 1 to June 6.

D. M. Hunt Library. 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. www.huntlibrary.org Small Town, Big Talk, through May 28.

Eckert Fine Art. 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. www.eckertfineart.com Eric Forstmann – 21, May 29 through June 30.

Scoville Memorial Library. 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. www.scovillelibrary.org David Hockney at the Morgan, May 13, 2 to 3 p.m. (online).

Sharon Historical Society. 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.sharonhist.org Renewal, Rhythm, and Repetition, May 8 through July 9.

BOOKS

The Cornwall Library. 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.cornwalllibrary.org Under the Tent Book Sale, May 29 and 31 and June 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 30 and June 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

D. M. Hunt Library. 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. www.huntlibrary.org Book Talk: The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and

Aging with Author Jane Fleishman, June 5, 4 to 5 p.m.

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org HLS Book Group: On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong, May 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (online).

Merritt Bookstore. 57 Front St., Millbrook, N.Y. www.merrittbookstore.com Merritt Bookstore Presents Barbara Becker and Joanna Rakoff, May 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m. (online).

Millbrook Free Library. 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. www.millbrooklibrary.org MillBook Club - On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, May 28, 6 p.m. (online).

Scoville Memorial Library. 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. www.scovillelibrary.org SML Book Club “A Burning” by Megha Majumdar Led by Claudia Cayne, May 16, 2 to 3 p.m. (online).

DANCE

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org Celtic Heels Irish Dance, May 15, 11 a.m.

KIDS

American Mural Project. 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. www.americanmuralproject.org Draw @AMP (virtual program), May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 5 to 5:45 p.m. (online).

Kent Memorial Library. 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org Mother's Day Storytime and Flower Planting, May 8, 11 a.m.; Family Outdoor Movie Night - "Over the Hedge" (2006), May 14, 7 p.m.

Warner Theatre. 68 Main Street, Torrington, Conn. www.warnertheatre.org Summer Arts Program; see website for details.

TALKS

The Cornwall Library. 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.cornwalllibrary.org Farming in the Northwest Corner: Education, Economics and Ecology, May 8, 5:30 p.m. (online). The Beautiful Birds and Beasts of Cornwall: An Illustrated Talk by Larry Master, May 14, 5 p.m. (online).

Kent Memorial Library. 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org Morris Lecture Series: Robert E. Lee & Me, May 13, 7 p.m. (online).

Millbrook Free Library. 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. www.millbrooklibrary.org North Korea's Changing State and Society, May 10, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).

The Salisbury Forum. Salisbury, Conn. www.salisburyforum.org STEVEN JOHNSON: "Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer," A Zoom Webinar, May 26, 7:30 p.m. (online).



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PINE PLAINS

Pine Plains Opera House celebrated with unveiling of historic marker

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Falling in line with their work in honoring the past and preserving its future, members of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society (LNPHS) invited the Pine Plains community to join them in the unveiling and dedication of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation historic marker on Saturday, May 1, to commemorate the town's Opera House.

Beginning at 11 a.m., the LNPHS couldn't have asked for a more pleasing spring morning to hold the unveiling or a more delightful turnout in front of the Pine Plains Pharmacy, located at 2965 Church St., where the Opera House was once established. Welcoming everyone to the event, Little Nine Partners Historical Society President Dyan Wapnick disclosed to attending officials and residents that they were there to honor the first William G. Pomeroy Foundation historic marker the town of Pine Plains has ever commemorated.

Since 2006, Wapnick announced that the Pomeroy Foundation has funded more than 1,300 signs across the U.S. "When I first applied for the grant, these Pomeroy people really want you to succeed with this," she said as she praised the foundation for its support and encouragement on the town's application.

Wapnick voiced her gratitude to pharmacy owner Nasir Mahmoud for his support as well as Director of Dutchess County Highway Construction and Maintenance Gary Cooper and the Pine Plains Highway Department for finding a location for the marker. She also gave thanks for the encouragement the LNPHS received from local historians.

With a flourish, Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), a multigenerational Pine Plains farmer, and



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Gary Cooper, Thayer Durrel, Little Nine Partners Historical Society President Dyan Wapnick, Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), Dutchess County Historian William Tatum and Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud celebrated the town's first William G. Pomeroy Foundation historic marker commemorating the town's Opera House on Saturday morning, May 1.

Dutchess County Historian William Tatum removed the marker's covering and the community gave a cheer at the sight of it.

Considering the amount of work that went into checking its accuracy, language and other details before installing the marker, Tatum remarked, "This is a tremendous monument to your community."

Applauding the Historical Society for its tremendous work, Tatum asked community members to remember whenever they see the marker that it represents months of hard work by the local and county historical societies and the Pomeroy Foundation to preserve local history.

Dressed as Jacob Bowman from head to toe, local resident Thayer Durrel delivered a repre-

sentation of the visionary behind the Opera House to further enlighten the community of its historic value in their small town. Darrel previously took on the role of Bowman during the 2020 Evergreen Cemetery Tours organized by the LNPHS and the Pine Plains Free Library during Halloween.

As he recited that the Opera House was first built in 1895, Durrel proclaimed, "This has become a community space and I couldn't be more pleased."

Stepping back into the community's view, Wapnick shed a light on what happened to the Opera House in later years: Bowman sold the Opera House in 1905 and passed away six years later. The Opera House continued under a succession of own-

ers before closing in 1916. Wapnick then encouraged the community to go to the Little Nine Partners website, www.lnphs.org, for more details.

Correction

Last week's edition of The Millerton News printed the incorrect start time for the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education's (BOE) annual budget vote. The annual BOE election and budget vote will be held in-person on Tuesday, May 18, starting at 7 a.m.; voting will run until 9 p.m., and will be held at the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, located at 2829 Church St. in Pine Plains. We regret the error.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Elaina Aierstok and her son, Aiden, 17, of Rhinebeck, received the COVID vaccination clinic at Stissing Mountain High School on Sunday, May 2.

SMHS opens clinic doors to those who extend their arms

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) drew a steady stream of area residents to the COVID-19 vaccination clinic held on Sunday, May 2.

Those interested in being vaccinated were asked to make appointments in advance to help with planning. The clinic was held in the Stissing Mountain High School gymnasium, and though it officially ran from 10 a.m. to noon, Pine Plains Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler said the clinic started accepting walk-ins at around 9:45 a.m.

"We've had people of all ages, we've had some of our students, we've had our citizens and we've had a lot of our students and staff volunteer here," Handler said.

After checking in for their appointments, patients received the vaccine

from Neal Smoller, a holistic pharmacist and owner of Village Apothecary in Woodstock, and a few of his nurses. Within the first hour, Smoller said they had inoculated 85 people with their first dose.

"We wanted to have the Pfizer [vaccine] because this is the one vaccine for 16 and 17 year olds," Handler said before adding the district didn't limit the vaccine to just its students but also made it available to other youngsters.

Because the PPCSD sent the link out to all school districts in the county, Handler said it also had students from other areas come to the clinic, which he said it was "happy to host" for everyone.

"It's been very smooth," he said. "People haven't had to wait."

— Kaitlin Lyle

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Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Engine additive
- A hearty laugh
- Restrain
- Dried coconut kernels
- Nefarious
- Elderly
- Central part of a church building
- Throw into confusion
- Intestinal
- Qualities of being religious
- Live up to a standard
- Seize
- Go quickly
- Automated teller machine
- Bowling necessity
- One point east of due south
- Japanese honorific
- A way to induce sleep
- Makes cash register rolls
- A city in S Louisiana
- Make more cheerful
- Manicurist
- Consents
- Network of nerves
- Mocking smile
- It covers the body
- Partner to pans
- Perform in a play

CLUES DOWN

- Beautiful
- Polynesian island country
- Shrub of the olive family
- Self-governing Netherlands territory
- Shared one's view
- Tailless amphibians
- Charge ambassadors must pay
- Sound sheep make
- Known for sure
- Filled with unexpressed anger
- Student (abbr.)
- Criticize
- Gathering place
- Informal alliances
- One's mother (British)
- Landholder
- Peter's last name

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42						43	

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

April 29 Solution

M	A	R	A	E	O	N	S	A	B	B	A		
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				T	O	T	T	E	N	H	A	M	
G	A	T	R	Y	A	E	A	R	A	M	A		
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B	A	B	A	S	A	D	S	B	L	L	I	N	I
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Sudoku

		6		9				
	7				2	4		
		9		5			1	6
			1					4
2	5			8	9			
	3		2					
3								9
	5							1
	1		9		3		8	

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EDITORIAL

One young man and 558 signatures save Iron Mine Pond

Rarely does a single issue so inspire this newspaper to open an editorial about everyday citizens moved to take action for a cause near and dear to their hearts as the one you are about to read here now.

Yet last week a news story broke in a matter of hours that caused us to re-examine how powerfully local residents are sometimes impacted by the events in their own communities — circumstances that can occur just miles from their homes — when the places they cherish, places integral to their lives and daily routines, are disrupted and jeopardized.

Such is the case with the sudden installation of four semi-permanent tents that the national tent-renting company, Tentrr, put up at Iron Mine Pond in Millerton last week, about one mile from Rudd Pond at Taconic State Park.

Millerton resident Andres Vialpando noticed the hefty looking structures set up on concrete blocks on Wednesday, April 28, while out for his daily constitutional with his two Welsh Corgi dogs at the ore pond. He said he was dismayed to see the tents blocking the trail that loops around the ore bed, obstructing views of the park and even of majestic Bash Bish Falls.

Vialpando headed home extremely disturbed, and called the parks department to get some answers.

He spoke to Christopher Rickard, park manager of Taconic State Park, who explained that Tentrr has an agreement with the state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to help bring in some much-needed revenue.

Last winter, Rickard and the parks commission apparently went to see where the tents could be set up — not the best time to scout land as snow might have been on the ground and conditions are usually less than ideal. Yet that's when it was done, and clearly poor choices were made.

Vialpando decided to put together a petition, his very first, and post it, well, everywhere. He took to social media and within 24 hours was able to garner an amazing 558 signatures. He captured the attention of area residents and local leaders, as well as the parks department and of Tentrr, both of which were immediately responsive, offering to relocate the tents elsewhere in Taconic State Park to appease locals and create peace within the community.

This was not only the perfect example of a citizen seeing something he thought was detrimental to the community and taking action, it was also a wonderful instance of the state — piggybacked by private enterprise — responding in turn.

In his petition, Vialpando wrote, "We see this as an intrusion of our shared public space... their presence is an attack upon the serenity and natural beauty of the Iron Mine Pond."

As North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan simply said, "the idea of putting these tents up there really was not well thought through."

In his petition, Vialpando clearly made a well-stated appeal that spoke directly to the hearts of his fellow citizens, because within a day he persuaded 558 people to sign on with their support.

He had "urged" the parks department to investigate and try to reverse the situation, which it did at break-neck speed. For that, the state deserves a lot of credit.

As of Tuesday, May 4, the governor appeared poised to have the state parks department begin a new partnership with Tentrr to entice New Yorkers to go camping this spring and summer in their own backyard. We'll be sure to report about that breaking news once more is learned from the OPRHP.

As far as the second petition that was started by fellow Millerton native Kara Panzer on her Instagram account, in which roughly 133 signatures were collected by Saturday afternoon, May 1, at which time her petition was still posted, that was also encouraging to witness. Another great effort by another Millertonite. It's encouraging to see citizens get involved in their community's welfare in matters large and small.

This was Vialpando's first attempt at a petition drive. We say mission accomplished! On Saturday, May 1, he posted an update for his followers with the simple heading of "Success," followed by a brief explanation thanking those who signed the petition. Below is a brief excerpt.

"Due to the quick and firm pressure from the local citizenry it was decided by the morning of the 30th of April to remove the Tentrr sites from the Iron Mine Pond area, thus restoring the integrity of the place as a sanctuary for all... The existing tents are expected to be dismantled and removed by the end of the first week of May. Thank you all once again. It is incredibly heartening to see the people of the community come together over this shared value."

Now one of Millerton's perhaps lesser known but still critically important natural and recreational resources has been preserved. To read more about the petition, be sure to check out this week's front page.

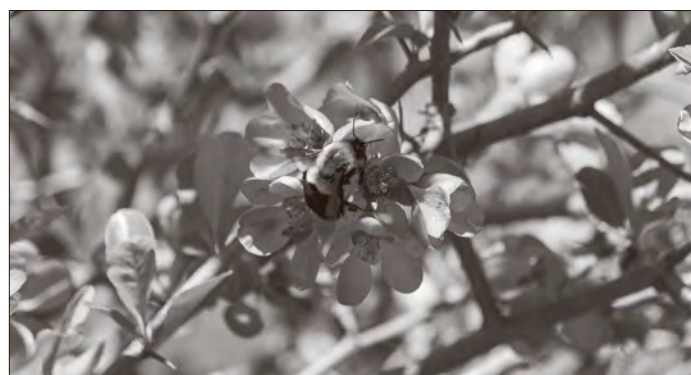


PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

In bloom, buz-z-z-z



Bill would end NY puppy mills

There's important legislation in the works in Albany, which I hope will be supported by my friends and neighbors who care about the way animals are treated.

Here is an illustration of the cruelty of the "puppy mill" system: Somewhere in the Midwest, there's a dog, one of hundreds, who will never know the love of a family. She was born and has lived her life in a small cage — she's never seen a vet, never been able to play with other pups or feel grass under her paws.

She's always lived with near-by disease, and has been bred over and over to the point of illness. Her puppies are taken again and again, put on a truck and shipped east to New York, where families walk into a pet store and buy them without ever knowing the story of their parents.

The reality is that most puppies sold in New York pet stores come from out-of-state puppy mills that do not care about their dogs' wellbeing, and sell sick puppies to unsuspecting consumers. This is the Puppy Mill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader encouraged by Tangled Lines column

I've been meaning to send this note to Mr. [Patrick] Sullivan of *The Lakeville Journal*, whose column, "Tangled Lines," often appears in *The Millerton News*, and am hoping you could forward it appropriately.

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in response to your article, "Fishing season sneaks up on us again," of March 11, and to let you know how much I enjoyed it. I certainly don't have the stable of fly rods you currently have but am truly impressed. My inventory amounts to a total of four: two really fast action Scott four weights and two beautiful R. L. Winston five weights that I use primarily

for nymphing.

I grew up in Wassaic and was introduced to fly fishing when I was 8 and received a 9-foot fiberglass rod as a Christmas gift. At the time, I had no idea what 9 feet of fiberglass was for, but I found a guy by the name of Gil Recchia who lived just down the road by the creek who let me follow him around and practice losing every fly I had.

Gil was a great teacher, super patient, and he always had an extra Royal Wulff or two when mine ended up in a bush on the other side of the creek.

I've been all over the country since then (courtesy of the USMC), and have been fortunate enough to make 16 years in a row fishing the incredible freestone waters in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Each summer, I take two weeks to solo hike, camp out and fish the Madison, Slough, Soda Butte, Henry's Fork (hard lessons here), Snake, Rock, Beaverhead and some amazing Spring Creeks in Paradise Valley. I'm already getting my gear ready for July.

I know this is way over due, but I kept your article handy as we juggle a big move back up to the D.C./North Virginia area. I hope this season is rewarding and look forward to seeing your results and lessons in a future article.

Semper Fi.

Lou Morse

Tampa, Fla.

Pipeline. It's past time that we end New York's participation in this cruel industry by ending the retail sale of puppies in New York pet stores.

Please join me in asking our lawmakers, State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) and State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) to support A.4283/S.1130, the Puppy Mill Pipeline Bill, when it comes to a vote. Let's shut down this pipeline and end the retail sale of cruelly bred puppies in New York pet stores for good.

Diane B. Mattes

Millerton

Long-term consequences of pandemic PTSD

This is directly related to long term lock-down of small businesses and public education that I wrote about a few months ago, when I wrote of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and its effect on the military, health care workers and civilians experiencing constant, unending stress.

PTSD has now become a plague to the millions of small business owners who have been unable to pay their rent, their employees and provide for their families during the coronavirus pandemic. PTSD has affected oil workers, those in the hospitality business and their families facing an uncertain future — as do many countless others.

PTSD has impacted the millions of school students unable to socially interact with their peers. Virtual learning is a temporary fix, but what about the families unable to afford the necessary computer equipment for remote

VETERAN'S CORNER

Larry Conklin

education? School kids also need social interaction and team sports to fully develop, both mentally and physically. They get that in school, in person.

Students in politically dysfunctional cities and states have been out of their classrooms for a year now. That's an entire year of mental and physical development lost due to COVID-19 and some self-serving teacher unions. These students are experiencing modern-day PTSD. They are experiencing constant stress — dealing with the unknown, and with cases seeming to go down and then up again, there is no promise of relief anytime soon. Our children are being left behind due to inept leadership.

If this continues, we can expect devastating consequences, mentally and physically.

The present federal administration has been disappointing, having compounded the problems of unemployment and schooling. "Aww, come on Joe, give us a break man!" You proclaimed to be a patriot and a "uniter." Really, Mr. President? Make decisions benefiting the entire nation, not just one political party or lobbyists. Your administration is disoriented. I'm still rooting for you, President Biden, for the sake and safety of this nation, but you've got to do better. A totalitarian socialist nation will doom us. Government was intended to exist by and for the people, not the people existing for government.

Today, rather than address real problems of this nation, politicians continue to concentrate on political theater. You readers want the truth? Ain't gonna find it on TV,

mainstream or social media. They cater to a politically opinionated agenda disguised as journalism.

Media today pledges allegiance to partisan liberal politics, not the American flag. You've got to search deeper for the truth and that can be difficult. Forget reports from the World Health Organization (WHO). They are compromised by Communist China. Our own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports conflicting information. Despite all of this we are a resilient nation. We'll get through with cool heads.

God bless you, patriotic readers, and your families. Warmer weather and sunshine is arriving. Remain tough and be safe.

Millerton resident and Vietnam War veteran Larry Conklin is a member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 in North Canaan, Conn.

Education? There's a need for new thinking!

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Schools have to become inspirational centers, a marketing platform for learning and training — a civilized, modern place where children can follow and find their dreams. Is there a need for structure? For repetition? For proof of learning? Of course. But what difference does it make, past the basics of The Count on Sesame Streets as he begins counting, if a student has an open book for a test or uses their tablet — or even their phone? Knowing where the answer is, being able to use the pathways to discover the information — these are the methods of the future, not learning by rote.

Take the example of the Hole in the Wall program by India's Sugata Mitra... tens of thousands of the poorest children, given access to free computers and the internet, learned, lifted themselves from poverty and found a way forward. Children want to learn, it's in their DNA. Now, 22 years later, the Hole in the Wall program has grown, spread to more than 300,000 free public access terminals. It's not charity, it's commercial enterprise, free education.

Of course, there's a caveat — internet connectivity. Until we

change all internet providers from commercial enterprises to publicly controlled utilities — just like your water, electricity and gas supply — there will always be a status divide between those who have a fast hook-up and Wi-Fi and those who have to pirate or wait until they get to school. That's an

issue that teachers should be at the forefront demonstrating for. Where's a forward-looking Association of American Educators when you need them to fight for what's right?

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, lives in New Mexico.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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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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Real Estate

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The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

Campus Safety & Security Officer

Per Diem

Join our Campus Safety & Security Department supporting our diverse school community. If you take pride in a job well done, are detail oriented and can work effectively as part of a team, we are interested in your application! Safety & Security officers work year round. Variable hour day, evening and overnight shifts are available, including weekday and/or weekend, with shift differentials paid for evening and overnight duty assignments.

This position maintains a high degree of visibility, serving school community needs with integrity and care. We seek individuals that exhibit strong interpersonal and communication skills. Broad mobility to perform essential job functions, valid driver's license, High School diploma or GED are required. Prior safety or security service experience is preferred. Our school environment supports ongoing professional and skill development opportunities.

Located in Lakeville CT, Hotchkiss is easily reached from Torrington, CT in only 40 minutes, from Great Barrington, MA in only 30 minutes and from northern Dutchess County, NY in only 15-30 minutes. The Hotchkiss School is eager to accept applications from individuals who are excited to support an inclusive and warm working and learning community for students and employees from a wide array of backgrounds and experiences.

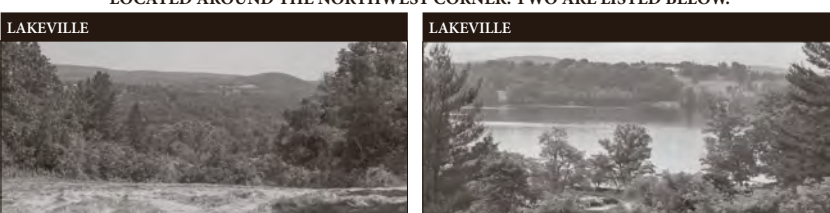
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Need Help with your application? Contact HROffice@Hotchkiss.org

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