



AMENIA
Local Family Keeps Blood Drive Close To Heart **A3**



SPORTS
Bombers Coach Cooper Makes SUNYAC All-Decade Team **B6**

For the Love of Your Health

Fitness • Nutrition
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Special Banner, Pages B1-2

COMPASS
New Home Decor Shop Opens; Peeps Diorama Contest; And More **B3-5**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLICANT

This photo shows Migdale Castle, a palatial home Roswell Miller Jr. built in 1927 for his wife, Margaret Carnegie Miller, daughter of magnate Andrew Carnegie, which was modeled after the Carnegie's Skibo Castle in Scotland. If plans submitted by celebrity New York City restaurateur Will Guidara's Second Mountain project come to fruition, this 34,500 square foot edifice will become the center of a luxury resort and spa with condos, two restaurants and a number of other amenities.

From Manhattan to Millbrook

Famed NYC restaurateur has big plans for Mabbettsville

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — With a long, cold winter, during the pandemic there hasn't been much to talk about in the town of Washington — until now. On Thursday, Feb. 2, the Town of Washington Planning Board held a meeting about a proposed project presented by famed restaurateur Will Guidara, who outlined plans for Second Mountain, a project for the site of Migdale Castle, at 3872 Route 44.

Once word got out in the community about the project, conversation blew up — everywhere — on social media, via e-mail, on the telephone, and, of course, in person. Someone posted a mention about the Migdale project online and within two hours there were nearly 200 comments, a mix of pros and cons.

Whispers started in mid-January, followed by a concrete presentation to the Town Board on Feb. 25 at a special meeting, when Guidara outlined what he would like to do with Migdale and

the adjoining land, roughly 350 acres.

The history of Migdale Castle in Mabbettsville

Built in 1927, Migdale Castle in the town of Washington was built by Roswell Miller Jr. for his wife, Margaret Carnegie Miller, daughter of Andrew Carnegie. The house was modeled after the Carnegie's Skibo Castle in Scotland, and the name was a play on her nickname, Midge. It's four stories high, with all the amenities great

See MIGDALE, A8

Iconic village theater is sold

Millerton Moviehouse has new owners, plans

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER
cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

MILLERTON — Carol Sadlon is happy, relieved and of course sad that she has found new owners for The Moviehouse, the cinema that she opened in 1978 with her late husband, Robert.

The theater has served the culture needs of residents in the Tri-state region with movies and streamed performances of opera, theater and dance.

Sadlon continued to run The Moviehouse on her own after her husband and partner died of brain cancer in 2019.

But the weight of running any business is heavy; and to run a theater during the COVID-19 quarantine was crushing. The doors were closed last March. Sadlon has continued to work hard to offer films and other online events to a loyal community but ... it's hard.

And so she decided last autumn that it was time to pass the torch to new owners, whom she hoped would bring new energy to a beloved cultural resource.

See MOVIEHOUSE, A8



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

David Maltby and Chelsea Altman are the new owners of The Moviehouse in Millerton. The theater, located on Main Street, was opened by Carol Sadlon and her late husband, Robert, in 1978 and has been an institution in the Tri-state region ever since.

Ever consider running for the school board? Here's how, and why

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — School districts throughout the region are appealing to potential eligible candidates to consider running for their local Boards of Education (BOE). The elections will be held on Tuesday, May 18, the same day as 2021-22 school district budget votes throughout the state.

According to the New York State School Boards Association, BOE members in the Empire State help "determine the policies that govern the operation of their local public school systems. They are elected local officials and, with few exceptions, volunteers. Collectively they guide a statewide school system that expends over \$58 billion, employs nearly 520,000 people and serves nearly 2.7 million children."

In 2020 and 2021, since the coronavirus pandemic struck the U.S., school boards have been especially challenged with how to educate children around the country, in New York state, and locally, here in the Hudson Valley.

Rural areas, like the Harlem Valley, face special hardships including the lack of reliable broadband service, which makes remote learning difficult for students who can't log in to lessons from their living rooms while many have been forbidden to return to their classrooms.

Other difficulties for rural districts have included feeding students, many who live at or below the poverty level who rely on free or reduced-price school breakfasts and lunches. Some districts, including the Pine Plains Central School District, the North

See RUNNING FOR BOE, B6

Virtual Community Workshop

Copake Waterfront & Community Revitalization Plan revealed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

Part I

COPAKE — Excited to present the progress that's been made on the Copake Waterfront & Community Revitalization Plan for the Bash Bish Brook, Roeliff Jansen Kill and Taghkanic Creek, the town of Copake held an online community workshop Saturday morning, Feb. 13.

In her opening remarks, Copake town Supervisor Jeanne Mettler thanked Project Advisory Commit-

tee (PAC) Chair Roberta Roll for her extraordinary leadership. She also thanked PAC members past and present, the New York State (NYS) Department of State for sponsoring the project and River Street Planning for its guidance.

Including the town's Comprehensive Plan and the Hamlet Design and Development Plan, Roll said Copake has done three plans with River Street Planning. After completing the last two, she said Copake realized it was ready to take the next step, and fortunately there was money to draft wa-

terfront revitalization plans. As the plans required the town to have its inland waterways designated by NYS, Copake got legislation passed to add the Roe Jan Kill, the Bash Bish Brook and the Taghkanic Creek to the NYS Inland Waterway List, thereby enabling the town to apply for funding.

During the last couple of years, Roll said the PAC has met repeatedly with River Street Planning and volunteers, organizing its first town-wide community workshop last Feb-

See REVITALIZATION, A8



CONTACT
The Millerton News
editor@millertonnews.com
860-435-9873, ext. 608

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OPINION
BOE Seats Are Open, Could Be The Perfect Fit; Columns; Letters **A6**



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MILLERTON



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A kindergartner at Webutuck Elementary School, Lois Musgrave demonstrated how different flours change mold growth on bread with her Moldy Muffins STEAM project.

Students move full STEAM ahead

WEBUTUCK — Even with shifting to a virtual platform, Webutuck students' creativity and innovation shone through their projects at the school district's seventh annual STEAM Fair in February.

From projects entitled with creative and curious names like Elephant Toothpaste and Swift Corrosion to How COVID-19 Has Affected Society and Short Term Memory and Its Effects on Eyewitness Testimonies, this year's first (and hopefully only) Virtual STEAM Fair welcomed a total of 20 projects and 23 participants.

Among the 20 projects, 12 projects were submitted by students in grades sixth through 12th and were judged by eight Webutuck staff and retired staff volunteers; the remaining eight projects were submitted by students in grades kindergarten

through fourth, but were not judged.

"Although our participation was down during this unusual year, the enthusiasm of the participants seemed almost heightened," said Webutuck teacher Christine Gillette. "We have had such a shift to online technology that this seemed to fall into place. Of course, this couldn't have happened without Ms. [Danielle] Fridstrom's dedication to the Google site!"

The projects went live for public viewing and judging on the 2021 Webutuck STEAM Fair Google site, starting Monday, Feb. 22, through Sunday, Feb. 28. Winners of this year's STEAM Fair will be announced on Friday, March 5. Look for the STEAM Fair results in an upcoming edition of The Millerton News.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Village Board gets update on Millerton Community Park project

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Welcoming Kevin Hasselwander, a landscape architect from The Chazen Companies, to its 6 p.m. meeting on Monday, Feb. 16, the Village Board was eager to hear the latest news concerning the revitalization of the Millerton Community Park (a.k.a. Eddie Collins Memorial Park).

As the most recent development, Hasselwander announced that boundary maps have been completed for the park. He explained that a topographic map was done as part of the initial study in order to advance the design. Meanwhile, the boundary maps were a requirement as part of the grant authorization from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) that must be finalized. Hasselwander said Chazen will now be able to submit the required review set to the OPRHP for its approval for the bid set the company also wants to submit.

Hasselwander reported The Chazen Companies has been very busy behind the scenes putting together the bid set for the revitalization project. Its current goal is to issue the bid set on Friday, March 19, and to open bids on Friday, April 23, thereby creating a five-week period for bids to be submitted.

If bids are opened on Friday, April 23, Hasselwander said they could get construction started in early May.

To date, he said it currently has an 80-day construction period, though he mentioned to the board that "the longer you give the contractor, the better price you're going to get." This period could bring the project to completion by early- to mid-August if all goes well.

Village Trustee Jenn Najdek asked Hasselwander if he knew whether it would be possible for the village to still hold its summer camp program at the park if the state permits summer camps to be held this summer. She noted that the camp is generally a four- to six-week program starting in July. Hasselwander responded he could include some language in the bid set that would allow the contractor a "construction pause" period for that possibility and shared his plans to look into it more closely.

Regarding the opening of the bids, Hasselwander asked the board to let him know if there's any language it wants to include about whether it will open the bids virtually. Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said the board could see what the guidelines are and whether the village would be allowed to open the bids in a socially distant way with people wearing masks. If it's possible, she said the board

would like to do it in-person, but if not, it could open the bids over Zoom.

Trustee Matthew Hartzog mentioned that a village constituent had contacted him to ask if efforts were made to ask adjoining communities (like the towns of Amenia and Pine Plains) to also be part of the process of building the park "in that Webutuck schools do have students that go not only to Amenia and North East but also to Pine Plains."

Najdek said board members didn't really reach out to anybody as this was the village's park. She shared that there have been thoughts and plans that, once the park is built, the village can potentially hold events or share opportunities for Webutuck students from Amenia to make use of the park, such as if they want to host a soccer league and hold other events at the park. That being said, Najdek said she believes most towns have their own parks where they can organize events and recreation opportunities.

Hartzog mentioned the constituent said they hoped the park's pool could be enclosed so it could be "a 12-month structure and a 12-month facility." Their hope, he said, is that by bringing in a couple of other communities, the village could get some additional money to make that happen. Middlebrook said she believed

a number of ideas, like an indoor pool, were taken under consideration during the design and development phases and it was determined many were not possible.

"When we originally started this, we kind of came up with a park for the ages, like we tried to put in a bubble so you could have year-round events and an indoor swimming pool," Najdek said. "We wanted everything."

However, she said the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee and Hasselwander looked at the project as not just the costs to install that kind of facility, but also the costs to maintain a structure of that size. After much consideration, it was determined that the village couldn't afford it.

Additionally, Hasselwander said The Chazen Companies had some challenges with the stormwater design. Since the park is in an aquifer, he said there's high groundwater, which is a challenge in treating stormwater under New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) guidelines. Yet he said this worked to their advantage as they plan to raise part of the parking lot. This, in turn, will help with the pool, which Hasselwander said will need to be raised as well.

Community members can learn the latest updates on the revitalization project at the board's next meeting, which will be live streamed to the "Village of Millerton VOM" Facebook page at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 15.

Donations still needed

Meanwhile, of the \$1.25 million budget for Phase 1, \$130,000 remains to be raised.

Donations may be made online at www.community-foundationshv.org/Single-Donation-Page/MillertonCommunityPark. Checks may be made out to The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley with Millerton Community Park in the memo line; send it to: Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, 80 Washington St., Suite 201, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Town Board contemplates broadband, fueling, cemetery grounds and internet security

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — The North East Town Board's virtual meeting held on Thursday, Feb. 11, dealt with department and committee reports along with numerous other house-keeping items.

Fueling depot opened to fire district

The Town Board's agreement with the North East Fire District was approved to allow the district to fuel its vehicles at the town's fueling facility at its new joint highway garage shared with the village of Millerton, located on Route 22.

"They serve the public and are a governmental entity that gets tax dollars, so we are happy to be able to help them out with fueling up there," said town Supervisor Chris Kennan, adding at first the district will begin with fueling its gasoline powered vehicles, then down the road, it will fuel its fire engines there. "It's a great facility and very up-to-date and state-of-the-art, really in terms of a fueling facility, and we're glad to share it with them."

Broadband committee

The board members formed the Broadband Access Advisory Committee, which Kennan described days later as a "long process" that was "very complicated" and "not easy to understand" but important for the town to pursue.

Kennan said Rich Stalzer, who has "extensive background in internet technology," will chair the committee, along with members Claire Goodman, John Merwin, Kristen Panzer and Andrew Stayman. According to Kennan's newsletter email sent on Monday, Feb. 15, to community members, he said the group's first order of business will be to "conduct a survey of town residents to assess where and to what degree gaps in broadband exist." He added the committee would "welcome the participation of any other residents with experience or interest to contribute." Merely email Stalzer at richstalzer@gmail.com.

Kennan said in an interview with this paper that the neighboring town of Pine Plains recently formed a similar broadband committee as has the nearby town of Ancram,

in Columbia County. Both towns, he said, "are doing a lot on this," which is why the supervisor is "hoping we can all work together to find these spots that don't have broadband and see what we can do to get it."

Lack of high-speed internet has proven especially challenging during the coronavirus pandemic as residents who are working from home and students who are being educated remotely depend on reliable, fast internet service.

Spencer's Corner Burying Ground

Deputy town Supervisor Ralph Fedele also spoke about the state of Spencer's Corner Burying Ground, located on Merwin Clark Road. Fedele, who is deeply interested in local history, is hoping the town, which is in charge of maintaining and mowing the cemetery, can restore the monuments, many of which have been toppled over, and generally spruce up the property.

"I don't think it's vandalism," said Kennan of the toppled monuments, "just wear and tear. We are working on that and going to see if we can

get some grant money to help with that."

Look for more on plans to improve Spencer's Corner in future issues of The Millerton News.

Internet security

In a move to make Town Hall communications more secure, Kennan announced via email that, "In the past few months, we have invested in upgrading much of the town's information technology infrastructure."

According to him, recently there's been a spate of "internet crimes, especially ransom attacks [that] can shut down an entire town, and the cost of having to pay a 'ransom' in order to recover the town's data can ruin a town financially."

Which is why, he said, the town's email addresses recently changed. The town has bid farewell to the email domain

of Taconic, which had become Fairpoint, and which had in turn become Consolidated Communications.

"We will now be part of the much more secure 'dot.gov' world," said Kennan. "Our new emails will be posted on the town's website, and are now operational. Mine is supervisor@townofnortheastny.gov and do please feel free to reach out. Note: emails to old town government addresses will still get through, for a while."

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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Blood drive raises awareness for heart health

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — With just an hour of their time and a pint of their blood, local residents found a meaningful way to give back to those in need by making a donation at the eighth annual Amenia Blood Drive on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

For many, the month of February is a time to celebrate the heart, whether they're exchanging valentines with their loved ones or observing American Heart Month. In Amenia, the annual blood drive is an occasion held especially near to the heart of the Klingner family.

Following her husband Christopher's heart attack in 2013 (he's also the town constable), Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner began organizing the annual blood drive as her way of giving back or, in Chris's words, "paying it forward." Recalling how incredibly scary the experience was for him, Chris said he underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery at Vassar Hospital in Valhalla, where he said he received phenomenal care. However, following his surgery, he was still experiencing difficulties and was told by his doctor that he needed two pints of blood. Instantly, he said, he felt better after the blood transfusion.

Eight years later, Dawn Marie said Chris has stayed active and on guard, taking his prescriptions and trying to do everything the doctors have prescribed. Yet the experience stayed with her and Chris and motivated them to "pay it forward" by organizing a blood drive every year to help others.

Partnering with the New York Blood Center (NYBC), Dawn Marie said the town has developed a great relationship



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Zachary, Dawn Marie, Karlie and Christopher Klingner gave heartfelt thanks to the community for attending the eighth annual Amenia Blood Drive.

with the blood center as they make the community aware of heart safety. Chris added that the NYBC was an organization he had donated to in the past. Their collaboration draws residents from Amenia and neighboring towns to donate blood; Dawn Marie shared her appreciation for how the annual event gets bigger and better every year.

"It means so much to us because Chris needed blood in his incident, and you don't realize the simplicity of an hour and giving your blood," she said. "It could happen to any one of our families. No one's alone — we're there to help each other."

"With a newfound outlook on life and being on the young side without a great understanding of family history, I had the biggest scare of my life and of my family's life," Chris said. "It was such a huge scare for all of us and to this day sits on my family's mind. I speak to people so hopefully they have a better understanding about their

health, their family history, seeing a doctor on a normal basis and simply just being aware of heart health."

Guided by a trail of brightly-colored balloons with the New York Blood Center logo stamped on them, donors found their way to the Amenia Town Hall gymnasium, where cots were set up. From the ample amount of space among the donor stations to the requirement that everyone wear masks, COVID-19 restrictions were followed and social distancing was maintained.

In terms of how the pandemic has impacted donations, Dawn Marie remarked, "I actually think it helped because I think people were cooped up in their homes so much that they were happy to come help."

Running from 2 to 8 p.m., the drive welcomed many a returning donor as well as a number of newcomers. Resting up after donating a pint of blood, Amenia resident Edward DeLaPena shared that he's been



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Amenia resident Edward DeLaPena took a moment to relax after donating a pint of blood at the Amenia Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 23. DeLaPena said he donates every year.

donating ever since the Klingner family started organizing the for the town eight years ago. When asked what brings him back every year, DeLaPena said that, along with the dire need to replenish blood supplies in the state, "I feel good when I do something like this — it makes me feel good."

As she sat back and made her donation inside the gymnasium, Millbrook resident Kathleen Meyer explained, "I am becoming an EMT [Emergency Medical Technician], so I felt like I should start giving blood regularly because a lot of first responders do."

When the blood drive officially started at 2 p.m., Dawn Marie was delighted to find all six seats filled by donors. By the

end of the day, 43 people had made donations.

"We're super excited; we're usually in the mid-20s," Dawn Marie said in terms of how many people typically donate blood in a single day, "... so this was a great turnout for little Amenia."

To get more facts about heart health, go to the American Heart Association's (AHA) website, www.heart.org. According to the site, the AHA is "a nonprofit organization in the United States that funds cardiovascular medical research, educates consumers on healthy living and fosters appropriate cardiac care in an effort to reduce disability and deaths caused by cardiovascular disease and stroke."

Town Board OKs Housing Board survey post card design, discusses community events

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Starting at 7 p.m. over Zoom due to the COVID pandemic, the Town Board reviewed local projects and upcoming community events at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Pump house, cable franchise, wastewater grant; dinners & egg hunt

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti updated the board on the Lavelle Road pump house and generator upgrade by announcing Town Engineer John Andrews's plans to meet with Water Operator Marco D'Antonio in order to move forward with the repair cost estimate.

Regarding the town's franchise renewal agreement with Altice USA, Perotti said negotiations are still in progress.

As an update on the New York State Department of Environmental Services/Environmental Facilities Corporation wastewater planning grant, she said Tighe & Bond Senior Project Manager Erin Moore submitted the grant with additional letters of support from local businesses.

With community updates, Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner announced that the Wassauc Fire Company will host a drive-thru corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 27, with dinner pick up from 4 to 6 p.m. Residents can anticipate the Easter Egg Hunt at Beekman Park on Saturday, April 3, at 10 a.m. and the Amenia Fire Company's next drive-thru chicken BBQ dinner on Saturday, April 10, with dinner pick up from 3 to 6 p.m.

Affordable housing survey postcards

Perotti then turned the board's attention to the affordable housing survey postcard developed by the Amenia Housing Board with help from Hudson River Housing. She noted

that the postcards will be sent out to town residents and businesses to obtain information from "those who find it difficult to secure affordable housing in Amenia." Perotti said the survey results will help the town prioritize its goals for encouraging more affordable housing opportunities in Amenia.

Written quotes for the postcard costs were obtained from Central Press and Fountain Press/The Mailing Works in Millbrook and from Maar Printing Service in Poughkeepsie. The Town Board ultimately decided that the quote from Fountain Press/The Mailing Works offered the best value and determined the town has sufficient funds in its 2021 budget to pay for the postcards.

Before the board put the resolution to a vote, Councilwoman Vicki Doyle talked about the Housing Board's efforts in putting the postcard together and preparing for their distribution.

Having emailed a sample of the layout of the postcard for Town Board members to view, she said she wanted everyone to be comfortable with its design; Councilman Damian Gutierrez

pulled up a sample of the postcard on Zoom so they could all see it together.

Published in both English and Spanish, Doyle shared that the small, two-sided postcard was designed by Housing Board member and photographer Jeff Barnett-Winsby pro bono to catch people's attention and invite them to respond either online or on paper.

With a unanimous vote of approval, the Town Board authorized the Housing Board to mail out the postcards. Now that the postcard is on its way to being printed, Gutierrez said he'll work to get the survey form document online through the town website, www.ameniany.gov.

Pitching and Catching Clinics

The Town Board also voted unanimously to approve the Amenia Parks and Recreation's pitching and catching clinic dates at the Town Hall gymnasium.

Information regarding the clinic sign-ups can be accessed online at the Amenia Parks and Recreation website, www.ameniany.myrec.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF NORTHEAST ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel for the tentative assessment roll of the Town of North East which will be filed on May 1, 2021. The information may be reviewed with the Assessor. For an appointment, please call 518-789-3300 ext.605.

Katherine Johnson
Assessor
03-04-21
03-11-21

Legal Notice Public Hearing Village of Millerton Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative

Please take notice that the Village of Millerton Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM, via ZOOM (due to current COVID restrictions and Executive Order from the Governor), to invite the public for their input on the Village of Millerton Police Department Police Reform and Modernization Plan Draft. All members of the public having interest in this matter are invited to attend via ZOOM, please reach out to the Village Hall at 518-789-4489 for the link. The Public Hearing will also be Live on Facebook.

By order of the
Village Board of Trustees
Kelly Kilmer, Village Clerk
03-04-21

Legal Notice

RFP for Landscape Work for Town Park, Pine Plains, New York

Project Representative:
Town Beautification
Committee Contact: Suzanne C. Ouellette, Suzanne.Ouellette293@gmail.com
P.O. Box 409, Pine Plains, New York

Design Program: The town of Pine Plains is seeking bids for landscape work to improve the appearance, usefulness, and social benefit of our small town park at the corner of Routes 199 and 82, in the

center of Pine Plains.

Key parts of the program are:

(1) The selection and installation of a large and slow growing evergreen tree that will serve as the centerpiece for our annual Holiday Parade of Lights event. It replaces a tree that needed to be taken down because it had gotten too big for the site. The tree needs to be approximately 12 to 14 feet in height.

(2) The addition of a cherry tree to the northeast section of the park (near the barber shop). This will join the two existing cherry trees now in the park. The new tree should be compatible with those, probably with a caliper of 4 to 4.5 inches.

(3) The installation of four perennial beds as shown on site map.

(4) Installation of three shrub groupings - between new cherry tree and barber shop building, to left and right of park entrance at south west corner of park

(5) For all of the above, proper preparation of soil with screened topsoil, compost, and mulch (all delivered)

(6) Laying down of sod for open areas in the park plan

Project Schedule
March 1 Solicitation
March 8 Bidder site meeting
March 8-Mar 15 Bidder correspondence period (via email or phone by March 13, with shared response to all questions to all bidders by March 15)

March 18 Bid due date
March 18 Bid opening date
March 22 Bid award date
March 29 Work start date
June 1 Work completion date

Bidder Needs to Provide
List of tree, shrub, and perennial plant names with numbers of each, sizes of each, and price per unit; cost of sod; and installation labor fees.

Contact information
License
Insurance and workman's comp

List of references
What the Bidder's Scope of Work Will Not Include

The Town of Pine Plains will be responsible for any demolition required in the park, including the removal of existing sidewalks and

AMENIA IN BRIEF

STEM Saturdays

Starting Saturday, March 6, the Amenia Free Library will be offering a STEM Saturdays program for students in grades sixth through eighth (ages 11 to 14).

This program will be offered by the Bard Center for Civic Engagement and the Amenia Free Library, the NorthEast-Millerton Library, the Pine Plains Free Library and the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Conn.

The program will feature a hands-on STEM project with Kiwi Co. boxes. Each week, each participant will be given a different box of materials with a different theme and will be guided through the maker process by a Bard STEM Engagement Fellow over Zoom.

Starting at 1 p.m., the theme for Saturday, March 6, will be Dynamic Slime Circuit.

For more information, stop by the library (at 3309 Route 343, Amenia), go to its website at www.amenialibrary.org or send an email to director@amenialibrary.org.

Send news and photos to
editor@millertonnews.com

the gazebo. Town citizens are donating the pergola and they will arrange for its construction. Other contractors will address the installation of new walkways and the design and placement of the park fountain.

03-04-21

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& Review.

This Data is the information
that will be used to establish
the assessment of each parcel
which will appear on the
Tentative Assessment Roll of
TOWN OF AMENIA
which will be filed on or before
MAY 1, 2021

ON MONDAY BETWEEN
THE HOURS OF 9 AND 3

ON TUESDAY BETWEEN
THE HOURS OF 9 AND 3

To Set Up and Appointment
to Review the Assessment
Information Please call the
ASSESSOR AT 845-373-
8860 extension 104. Dated:
February 23, 2021.

Chris Boryk, Assessor IAO
TOWN OF AMENIA
03-04-21
03-11-21

Public Notice

Pursuant to Section 501 of
the Real Property Tax Law,
Assessment Inventory and
Valuation Data for the Town
of Pine Plains is now available
for examination and review.
This data is the information
that will be used to establish
the assessment of each parcel
which will appear in the
tentative assessment roll on
May 1, 2021.

To set up an appointment to
review this information, please
call 518-398-7193 ext 7. Please
be sure to wear a mask.

Richard Diaz
James Mara
Lynda Wisdo
Assessor(s)
03-04-21
03-11-21

PINE PLAINS/AREA

Capturing emotions in color at library workshop

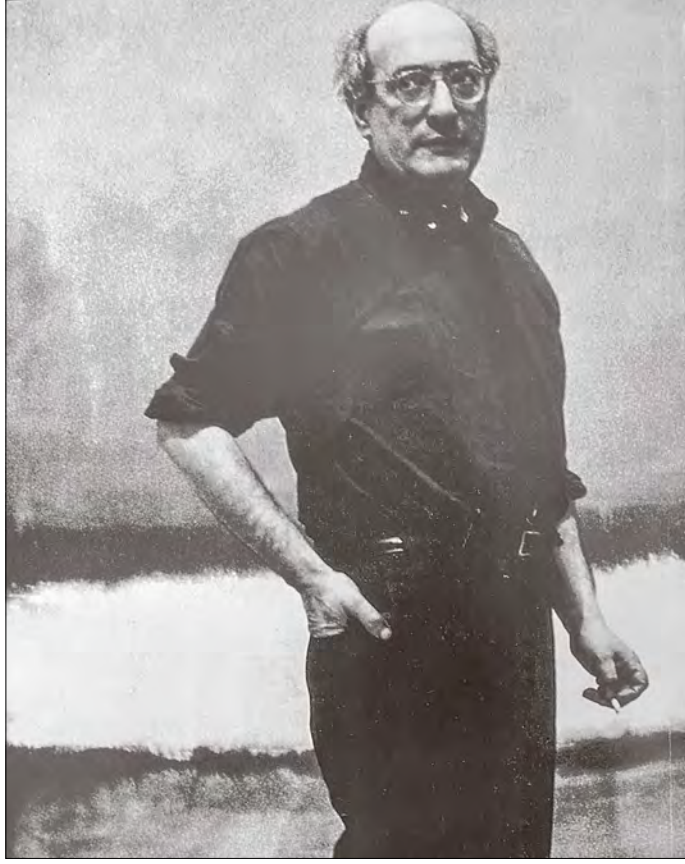
By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Echoing the visual style of the late famed abstract artist Mark Rothko (1903-1970), area residents were invited to explore the link between color and emotion through art at the online workshop entitled, Mark Rothko & the Color of Emotion, held by the Roeliff Jansen Community Library on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 18.

Hosted by Children's Librarian Tia Maggio, herself an artist, the workshop was held via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. Since they would be experimenting with color, participants were asked to have white paper and pastels or crayons to use and were assured that they didn't need to be artists to engage in the workshop's creative exercises.

Creating an open online environment where participants could feel free to share their ideas and artwork, Maggio encouraged participants to write down the following emotions — hope, joy, sadness, excitement, anger, fear, shyness, calmness, hopelessness and love or being "hopelessly in love" — and put them aside for later when they'd begin illustrating those emotions.

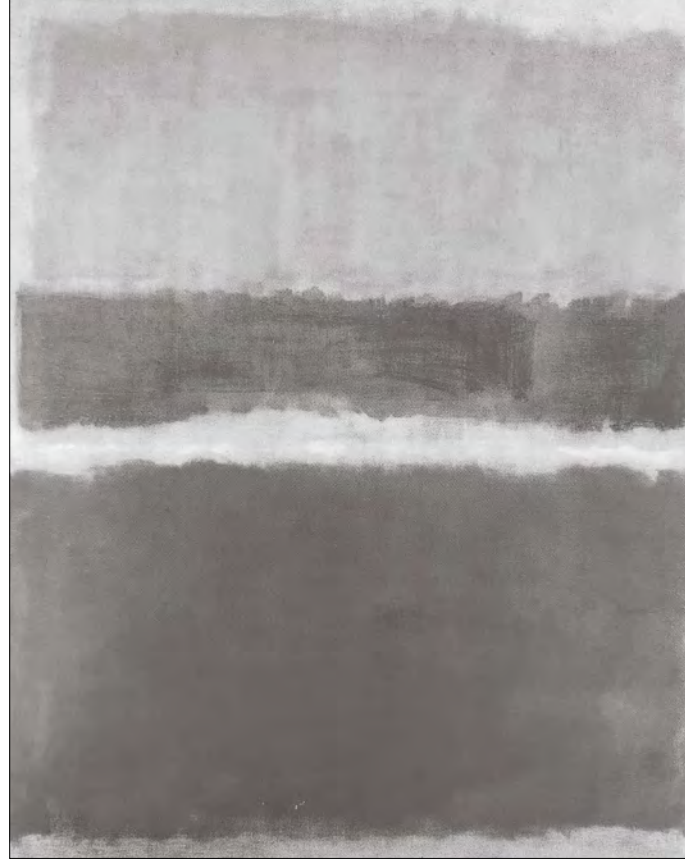
Opening a slideshow featuring some of Rothko's work, Maggio initiated the workshop with a quote from Rothko



The life and work of famed abstract artist Mark Rothko were evaluated and echoed at the Mark Rothko & the Color of Emotion online community workshop hosted by the Roeliff Jansen Community Library on Thursday evening, Feb. 18.

taken during a retrospective exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC in 1961. She explained that Rothko was asked how long it took him to paint a particular piece that seemed to consist of merely a few large blotches of colored canvas. In reply, Maggio said Rothko responded drily, "I'm 57 years old and it took all my life to do it."

"So we're going to start from the beginning and we're going to see what he might have been talking about," Maggio said. "I think if you've dabbled in art, we've all heard that: 'My child could do that' or 'How long did it take you to do that?' but sometimes it does take a lifetime to maybe loosen up enough or be free to find yourself and what your mas-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

terpieces are, if you're so lucky."

Sharing Rothko's story, Maggio said he was born Markus Rothkowitz in Daugavpils, Russia (now Latvia) on Sept. 25, 1903. His father was a pharmacist who immigrated to Portland, Ore., when the artist was a child, and he eventually the family went to Portland when Rothko was 10. When Rothko came to the

U.S., Maggio said he didn't speak any English, though he would soon excel in school and secure a scholarship to Yale. He later dropped out to fulfill his desire to experience New York City. It was there that Rothko stumbled upon an art class with The Art Students League. Aside from the four-months he spent at The Art Students League, Maggio said Rothko was a self-

taught artist and became a part of the New York art scene as he pursued his passion for the visual arts.

Taking her audience through some of Rothko's earlier figurative paintings, Maggio pointed out the characteristics of his work at various times in his life and throughout his career. Workshop participants contemplated the concepts and colors captured in his work, feeling free to share which emotions and ideas they saw portrayed in his paintings.

Moving into some creative exercises, participants were invited to pick an emotion from the list they created earlier and then pick only three colors from their crayon or pastel boxes to create their own "Rothkos." Some participants associated the color red with joy rather than with anger or hopelessness. Pink, orange and yellow were seen by some as colors to express excitement. Regardless of their choices of colors, participants admired each other's interpretations and some strived to guess which emotions were portrayed in each other's art, many of whom were surprised when the emotions were revealed.

For more on upcoming programs and workshops at the Roe Jan Library, go to www.roejanlibrary.org or call 518-325-4101.

BOE assesses Seymour Smith progress report, holds budget workshop

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Between scheduled reports and a budget workshop, the Pine Plains Central School District's Board of Education (BOE) was engrossed by both current and future business at its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17, held via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic.

District budget workshop

Following an introduction by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck, the evening began with a budget workshop on district transportation by Transportation Supervisor Lauren Ross, followed by a budget workshop on facilities and operations by Director of School Facilities Richard McKibben and Assistant Director of School Facilities Mike Remsburg.

As with everything that has gone in the last year, Ross said there are a lot of question marks going into any kind of planning for the next academic year since the district doesn't know what 2021-22 will look like. Because of anticipated financial constraints, she said the Transportation Department will refrain from asking

for any propositions to purchase new vehicles as the existing fleet hasn't been driven that much this year.

She mentioned an increase in purchasing vehicle parts as buses have remained still in the parking lot — not doing regular daily rounds during the pandemic for six months, including the summer.

McKibben then reviewed changes in the facilities and operations budget, including a reduction in the water line; an increase in rubbish removal due to increased recycling fees; a slight increase in the budget line for boiler work; and an expenditure in two-way radios for interior building use.

Discussing materials and supplies, Remsburg talked about the COVID-19 budget line and the significant amount of money spent on buying personal protective equipment (PPE). He said the district was extremely fortunate to get a hold of the PPE in time, which Goldbeck attributed to its being proactive.

Having siphoned off funds from Remsburg's budget to deal with the COVID-19 expenditure, BOE President Chip Couse asked if the district needs to re-

plenish his budget. Particularly in the materials and supplies area, Goldbeck said he established a code a few years ago concerning district-wide materials that's more or less to take care of such expenditures.

"I don't know if we've done a terrible disservice to Mike's budget and I think we've been working well together... over the course of this year in making sure we have enough money for these expenditures but not taking money away from things that are normal routine expenditures," he said.

School progress report

Delivering her State of the Union Address, Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts informed the BOE of her school's progress as observed halfway through the school year.

Focusing on academics, Roberts reviewed the averages for the different grade levels compared to last year's averages. She noted the content is more or less the same in terms of what classes have been able to cover, adding they've been moving forward as best they can.

In the second and third grades, she said the second quarter reports are higher, which she attributed to grading in a way that's compact and quick and assessing the challenges students and their families are facing. Compared to last year, she said the fourth and fifth grades have some catching up to do, and she outlined her plans for next year to address this, such as splitting the fourth-grade class sections into three sections instead of two to better prepare them for middle school. Reporting on the students'

independent reading levels, Roberts said she compared the same students from last year to track their progress. While the third-graders came in on two levels of growth, she noted the fourth-graders regressed from where they were last year.

Roberts recognized the students for their growth during a difficult year, adding that they're "also having the conversation of moving the needle back to center when we're ready while recognizing that center is not going to be where it previously was."

Though they would never say so, Roberts also acknowledged the challenges her teachers have faced in having to react to the various changes and shifts during the pandemic, and she commended them for their hard work.

AREA IN BRIEF

Tech Lab: Computer Ergonomics March 11

COPAKE — Learn how to mitigate pain and stress when working from home with this special Tech Lab on Thursday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m.

Join guest host and seasoned physical therapist Gloria Kadish for tips on how to create a comfortable and efficient home work environment.

This program is presented by Roeliff Jansen Community Library in partnership with Claverack Free Library, Hudson Area Library and Philmont Public Library. **Grange dinner**

STANFORDVILLE — The Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 13, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville.

All dinners are take-out only at 5 p.m. A donation is \$15 per dinner is requested at the door.

Call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton for reservations at 845-868-7869.

participation is free.

The Lab will be held virtually on Zoom, and participants are encouraged to log in 15 minutes early in case of technical difficulties.

Email Tamara Gaskell at director@roejanlibrary.org to register.

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A possible issue that owners and buyers face during a deal is not knowing if there is anything buried on the property that could threaten the transaction. This could range from buried oil tanks, drums, utility conduits and runoff pipes. Rather than digging, using underground penetrating radar is a great nonintrusive solution. An excellent company to consider is New England Subsurface Imaging, their website is nesubsurface.com or call them at 203-873-7397.



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This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,

Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unwavering dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at www.tricornernews.com/contribute or by clipping the form below and mailing a check

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In Support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$_____ made payable to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC.

In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.

EDITORIAL

BOE seats are open, could be the perfect fit

Do you ever wonder how to get involved with issues that are important to you, your family, your neighbors and your community — with how to take that first step? If the state of education is among your priorities, this may be the perfect time to place one foot in front of the other, as our local Boards of Education (BOE) are holding elections come Tuesday, May 18. Qualified school district voters who are concerned with how local children are being educated; with how their tax dollars are being spent on educating those children; and/or with how much they're being taxed to educate those children might just want to consider this: You can have a seat at the table — and a say in such matters — if you run for a seat on the BOE.

Just this week, district offices in schools across the state have started distributing information packets with nominating petitions and other details for anyone who is considering becoming a candidate for his or her local BOE.

The volunteer position does require a lot of time, energy and dedication — but with the coronavirus pandemic, a lot of people are finding they now have some extra time on their hands. Keep in mind: Candidates should have a true interest in seeing children develop academically, emotionally and socially. They should also want to do everything possible to help students thrive while advancing through the ranks from elementary school to high school, until they ultimately take to the stage for that sheepskin diploma.

Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) BOE President Chip Couse, who has served for 21 years and counting — making him tied as the third longest serving school board member in his district — spoke bluntly of what that moment means to him.

"Every June that I've been president of the board, I get to sit on the stage and hand out diplomas to graduating seniors," he said. "There is no more rewarding moment than when that young adult smiles as he or she receives that diploma. For me, all the hours, all the frustration, all the reading becomes worthwhile in that instant! More generally, I am always impressed with the professionalism and caring of our staff at PPCSD. It's contagious. I want to be part of that!"

That's pretty impressive coming from a man who admits to spending 10 to 15 hours a week, if not more, volunteering his time to a position simply because he feels "a desire to contribute" to his community.

Schools boards fill important roles in our hometowns. Aside from developing the annual budget and presenting it to the community, which is voted on each year at the same time as the BOE elections; the board adopts and maintains district policies; hires and evaluates the superintendent; ratifies collective bargaining agreements; maintains strong ethical standards; sets the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance; provides rigorous accountability for student achievement results; and creates strategic partnerships with community stakeholders; among other tasks, according to the New York State School Boards Association.

During the past year, as the world has struggled to deal with the new normal of the COVID-19 health crisis and New York students have been challenged to learn amid the pandemic, our Harlem Valley BOEs have been on their own learning curve. Yet they're more essential now than ever as they make decisions about how to keep our children educated while also keeping them healthy and safe.

If those are they types of conversations you would like to be a part of, along with weighing in on how to manage your district's buildings and maintenance funds; its academics and extra-curricular programs; whether to consider offering students options like an on-campus health clinic (as the Webutuck Central School District did this past year); when to approve staff salary increases; and so much more that impacts both our students' education and our taxpayers' pocketbooks, why not consider running for your Board of Education? It's certainly gratifying. Just ask Mr. Couse, who, while taking a couple of periodic breaks during his 21-year tenure, keeps coming back for more, calling it a "rewarding and fulfilling" experience.

For details on what one can expect when serving on the school board, what is needed to run for the BOE and when nominating petitions are due back to district offices, read this week's front page article by Editor Whitney Joseph.



Do your part and get vaccinated

After a slow start, vaccination against COVID-19 is becoming increasingly available, and eligibility for vaccination is gradually spreading. Unfortunately, many people are choosing not to be vaccinated. Not only does this deprive those persons of very valuable protection, it also does a real disservice to everyone in the community and the nation.

Some people refuse vaccination because they think it may not be effective. Yet studies on thousands of people have shown that the vaccines, which have been made available are extremely successful in preventing infection, and virtually 100% effective in preventing serious illness and death.

Other people worry that the vaccines may not be safe, because

they were developed and made available remarkably quickly. But the speed was the result of an enormous effort. Safety was not compromised. Extensive trials established the vaccines' safety before they were released, and, by now, millions of people have been vaccinated safely. Side effects, when they occur, are mild, and it is impossible to get infected from being vaccinated, since none of the vaccines contain any live virus.

Still other people refuse to be vaccinated because they fear a government plot to harm us. Not a shred of evidence of such a plot has been discovered, while COVID-19 harms all of us in a great many ways, both direct and indirect.

So far, COVID-19 has killed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defeating COVID-19, one shot at a time

The New York State roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine is gaining local traction. My wife and I had our first Moderna injection on Saturday, Feb. 27. The organization at the vaccination site in Amenia, at Sun River Healthcare at 3360 Route 343, was well done and commendable.

The side-after effects of the vaccine were minimal: I had a mildly sore injection site the

following day, but otherwise experienced no adverse effects. My wife felt fine. A second dose is scheduled for us in four weeks.

I encourage all of you able-bodied readers to receive your injections ASAP. Together we can defeat this foreign invader and protect one another.

For those of you who are eligible for the vaccine, the Amenia clinic can be reached at 845-838-7038. There are other vaccination sites throughout Dutchess County; to learn where, go to www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information. To see if you're eligible for the shots, go to www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov.

Take care, stay safe and God bless you.

Larry Conklin

Millerton

Editor's note: Larry Conklin writes the monthly Veteran's Corner column for The Millerton News.

Send letters to editor@millertonnews.com
The letters deadline is 10 a.m. each Monday.

over half a million people in the United States, sickened millions more and caused incredible economic and social damage. Unfortunately, the pandemic is far from over. The longer it lasts, not only will the number of people who are getting sick and dying from the existing forms of the virus keep increasing, but the more variants of the virus, possibly even deadlier, will appear.

It is critical that we bring this pandemic to an end as quickly as possible. Everyone who gets vaccinated not only is benefitting his or her own health, but also is helping to protect the health and lives of many others. Let's all do our part!

Cavin P. Leeman, M.D.
Amenia

An explanation regarding WQQQ 103.3 FM's changes

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with WSHU Public Radio listeners saddened by our decision to cease broadcasting on WQQQ 103.3FM (Sharon, Conn.). We have heard from passionate listeners dismayed by the news.

For nine years, we programmed WQQQ 103.3FM via a contract with the station owner, under which we paid to provide programs to Litchfield and Dutchess Counties. It was no longer sustainable for us to continue.

I am sorry if this caught you by surprise. WSHU communicated broadly and proactively to our WQQQ friends. Beginning in September 2020, we sent many emails, newsletters and letters announcing the change; during our last week we ran on-air announcements. The information has also been online, at

www.wshu.org/wqqq.

Like many nonprofits, we operate with razor-thin margins and a very lean staff. I was brought on as station manager as part of a planned executive transition to follow the founding general manager. I was tasked with rebuilding staff capacity, increasing fundraising and creating a sustainable business model. As I took over WSHU's budgeting daily operations, we were hit by a global pandemic, a volatile economy and a very uncertain future.

Many of you asked: Why not fundraise more? We already fundraise on the air four times a year — for about 10 days each time — and solicit donations via direct mail throughout the year. We receive over 60% of our funding from donations. We receive 34% of our funding from corporate underwriting and special events. The re-

maining 6% comes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The impact of the pandemic left us with a large deficit at the end of fiscal year 2020 in July. It was imperative that we started FY21 with a balanced budget, while there was no end in sight for the pandemic or the erratic economy.

The goal of any nonprofit is to identify a sustainable business model that matches the philanthropic support available in the current economic climate. That is why we created the FY21 budget assuming a 20% drop in revenue across the board. In order to create a balanced budget, we had to reduce our expenses by \$800,000. We did this by cutting WQQQ, cutting staff members' salaries up to 15% and not replacing staff who had left the station prior to the pandemic. We went from

a budget of \$5.4M to \$4.8M, and from a lean staff to an even leaner one.

These measures ensured the survival of the station. I can report seven months into our fiscal year we are breaking even. If we had not made drastic cuts, we would now be swimming in an exceptionally large deficit on top of the deficit incurred at the end of last year.

I recognize that this does not bring back your favorite programs on WQQQ.

However, you can continue to hear WSHU's programming on our website, our app or via a smart speaker. Information is at www.wshu.org/wqqq.

Reach me at rdael@ex.wshu.org with additional questions. Thank you, and warm regards.

Rima Dael
WSHU General Manager
Fairfield, Conn.

Biden administration and the Washington two-step

The geopolitical questions arising in President Joe Biden's new government administration are complicated because successive administrations have replaced section heads of the so-called Civil Service with political appointees.

For example, when former President George Bush Jr. took over, his vice president, Dick Cheney, appointed 25,000 new managers and heads of departments. Many of those are there still. If they proved too political, former President Barack Obama's folks — especially for those they could not fire — moved them to outposts where they could do less harm.

When former President Donald Trump took over, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate minority leader and former majority leader, swept away 15,000 or so Obama appointees and Trump further got rid of whole departments (for example the pandemic teams already in place). The wholesale carnage in the Justice Department under William Barr at Trump's urging was like a Valentine's Day Massacre. Similarly, Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gutted career diplomats in favor of his ruling by edict — leaving behind second and third tier people who are, mostly, apolitical but always kept out of the know.

Biden's first 100 days has

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
Peter Riva

been marked with evaluations of who should stay and who must go — and you can be sure top of that list are unqualified appointees put in place solely for cash received and/or to spike the election results. Even Mitch McConnell can't argue much about those removals.

But you can be sure he'll fight for many he sees as his personal informants and obstructionists as he continues his policy of "my way or not at all."

You can imagine, for example, a discussion between Biden and the new Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Here's how I imagine such a conversation:

Blinken: "I am not sure what is the situation is with Crimea..."

Biden: "Why not?"

Blinken: "I can't be sure because the State Department always keeps everything from everybody and under Pompeo; there are no mid-level career diplomats who were even kept informed of what he was doing."

Biden: "So, what were they keeping from us?"

Blinken: "I don't know."

Biden: "So, is there anyone over there who does know?"

Blinken: "Let me clarify the

question. You are asking who in the State Department would know what it is that you don't know and I don't know, but Pompeo's people do or did know, but, whoever they are, they want to keep that from you so that they know and you don't know... so, in essence all we know is that there is likely something you

want to know and someone may know but we don't know who or what to ask in the first place."

It's a dance that civil servants and public servants at all levels recognize and abhor.

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

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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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PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Dreaming of Spring ...

MILLBROOK

Scholastic art competition goes virtual for 2021

Millbrook Blazer nominated for American Vision Award

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — It seems like everything that happens lately is done virtually, and the Scholastic Art Awards are no different. The awards program, first implemented in 1919, is a visual arts competition open to students in grades seven through 12; it is a national competition. There is also a portion of the program devoted to literature.

This program looks to identify students with exceptional artistic talent. The Millbrook Central School District is part of the Hudson Valley Art region. The awards allow students the opportunity for recognition, scholarships and the chance to publicly exhibit their work. Silver and gold medalists also get to show their work at the Rotunda at SUNY New Paltz, but this year there was a virtual showing instead due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gold Key winners will have their work judged nationally. That can lead to a national medal and their art being shown in a national exhibition. That com-

petition originated in 1929, and some very prestigious scholars have competed over the years, including Andy Warhol, Ken Burns and Robert Redford.

Millbrook art teachers Jillian Barnes and Michelle Cring were proud to announce that 11th-grader Callie McGuire's digital artwork, "Close Up in Nature," was nominated for the American Vision Award. Thousands of pieces were submitted in the region, and McGuire's was one of only five to be selected as an American Vision Award nominee. It will be on exhibit until Wednesday, March 17, when the winner will be announced.

Other Gold Key winners from the Millbrook district were Alexis Anderson, grade 12; Madeline Marchant, grade 11; and Brennan McGuire, grade 10. Silver Key winners were Callie McGuire, grade 11; Anna Bonelli, grade 10; and Madison Krueger, grade eight. There was a virtual ceremony on Friday, Feb. 5 for the winners. All of their artwork can be viewed at www.barnesart.weebly.com/scholastic. The artwork is listed in many different cat-

egories: painting; drawing and illustration; digital art; sculpture; fashion; glass and ceramics; cartoons; and several others.

Callie has studied at the Art Effect in Poughkeepsie, and will be looking at colleges, maybe applying for an art scholarship. She enjoys working in more than one medium, and especially likes working with colored pencils. Her subjects vary, but she really likes doing portraits and drawing animals.

Her brother, Brennan, who is in eighth grade, also won a Silver Key award with his photography, for a piece entitled, "Balance."

Asked if artistic ability runs in her family, Callie mentioned that her grandparents were into crafts, and they were very close to each other. They moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., two years ago, and she recently lost her grandmother to COVID-19.

Callie said she knows that art is definitely in her future and she will be choosing some type of art as her major in college; she'll look into studio art, art therapy or possibly illustration.

Callie is also accomplished in sports, and plays on the Varsity



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Callie McGuire showed her digital artwork, "Close Up in Nature," which is up for the American Vision Award. Callie is an 11th-grade student at Millbrook High School and her art is among the many works on display virtually as part of this year's competition.

Volleyball team at Millbrook High School; she started playing in seventh grade. She likes English, but math, not so much.

Over the summer Callie brightened the days of many of her neighbors during the pandemic by doing paintings

on sea shells and leaving them in people's mailboxes while out riding on her bicycle.

The Millbrook Central School District said it is proud of all those who entered the art competition and congratulated those who won Gold or

Silver Keys. It noted those who earned honorable mentions: Isabelle Rubbo, Sadie Krueger and Devin Jarvis.

Teachers Barnes and Cring said they were very pleased with the efforts of their students, and are very proud of them all.

Sports programs reopening, technology update discussed by BOE

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The regular Board of Education (BOE) meeting of the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) held on Tuesday, Jan. 26, addressed athletics, technology, next year's budget and myriad other issues. After voting to approve the consent agenda items, the board discussed and voted on a number of items on its agenda, all discussed below.

The BOE president and the district clerk executed a contract between the MCSD and the Wappingers Central School District for health services for approximately 11 resident students of the MCSD attending

non-public schools in the Wappingers district, in the aggregate amount of \$8,950.92 from September 2020 through June 2021.

A resignation was accepted from Kirsten Calkins as instructional technician specialist, effective Feb. 8 of this year.

The following people were approved for data analysis coordinators for a stipend of \$1,000 each and for compliance support for a stipend of \$525 each, for the 2020-21 school year: Dana Bo at Millbrook Middle School, Samantha Bopp at Elm Drive Elementary School, Brittney Hillman at Millbrook High School, Brittney Hillman in the District Office, Tonya Pulver at Alden Place Elementary School; Paige Emerson was approved at

\$4,000 for the 2020-21 school year.

Approved for co-curricular appointments as Elm Drive Elementary School yearbook co-advisors were Kelly Eaton and Joann Hobson, at \$537.60 each.

The BOE awarded an upgraded contract to J&J Sass Electric, Inc. with an increase in work and an added \$26,512.

A technology update was given by Director of Technology and Data Services Elliot Garcia. He reported that there were 850 students and 250 staff currently in hybrid and remote instruction at the time. Among semester services, the wireless services were expanded.

Athletic Director Al Hammell reported on the current

state of sports in schools. He discussed winter and spring athletic programs and the timetable by which the state has approved low and high risk sports.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of reopening in-person athletic programs, and where Governor Andrew Cuomo weighed in on the issue. Although a vote wasn't taken by the BOE, the pros seemed to outweigh the cons, said the board, including physical activity, mental wellness and human interaction along with the benefits of competition and the possibility that sports might increase an interest in academics.

At a special meeting held on Sunday, Jan. 31, the BOE approved allowing in-person sports programs to begin. The vote was six to one in favor of student participation in "high risk" winter sports, subject to strict adherence to the state's safety guidelines and protocols during the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the rules of Section 9.

At the same meeting, a vote was taken to appoint coaches.

Darin Daly was appointed the varsity boys basketball coach; Mike Sinon was named the JV boys basketball coach; Adam Peek was appointed the

varsity girls basketball coach; Adam Peak was named the varsity girls basketball coach and Dawn Harkenrider was appointed the JV girls basketball coach.

Board of Education meetings are available to the public via YouTube; go to the district website at www.millbrookcsd.org. Archived minutes are also available via YouTube and can be found on the website, with links to some of the school board's presentations. Questions for the school board may be submitted prior to its meetings, go to its website for further instructions.

Town clerk January '21 update

WASHINGTON — The Washington Town Board met on Thursday, Feb. 11, via Zoom at 6 p.m. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For full coverage of that meeting, which was reported on in the Feb. 25 issue of The Millerton News, go to www.tricornnews.com.

In addition to the appointment of Joe Rochfort to fill the rest of this year's term for the late town Councilman Al De Bonis and the announcement of the Feb. 25 special meeting for the Migdale/Janet's Farm, LLC application to develop a luxury resort, development and spa (for more on that story, see this week's front page), department reports were also given, including from Town Clerk Mary Alex, on Feb. 11.

Alex reported on tax collections for January, which were paid to the supervisor. She also reported on the preparation of a number of reports to New York State and other departments.

Alex said she is working with the staff to update municipal websites and make a number of necessary revisions as well as working with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on some revised applications. A ZBA meeting was requested for Thursday, March 4, at 10 a.m. to discuss certain zoning concerns.

Bid documents for the town's generator project were planned to be posted by Wednesday, Feb. 24. The project includes acquiring and installing generators for the Town Hall and the Highway Garage.

The next regular Town Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, at 6 p.m. Check the town's website, www.washingtonny.org, for details and a link to the meeting.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

NEW YORK STATE POLICE REPORT

The following information was provided by the New York State Police (NYSP) Troop K Headquarters in Salt Point. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Drug arrest

On Jan. 25 the NYSP from the Livingston barracks arrested Michael S. Owens, age 36, of The Bronx, for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, a class B felony, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th degree, a class C felony, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th degree with intent to sell, a class D felony.

At approximately 4:50 p.m., Troopers conducted a traffic stop of a 2008 Mercury Mariner for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law on the Taconic State Parkway in the town of Gallatin. An investigation determined Owens was in possession of approximately

100 grams of cocaine, and 5.5 grams of 3,4-Methylenedioxy methamphetamine, commonly known as ecstasy.

Owens was arraigned before the town of Claverack Court and remanded to the Columbia County Jail without bail. He appeared before the town of Gallatin Court on Jan. 28, at 10 a.m.

Falsely reporting a handgun

On Jan. 8, the NYSP from the Poughkeepsie barracks arrested Kyle Ropeter, age 21, of Wilton, N.Y., for Falsely Reporting an Incident, a class A misdemeanor.

On Dec. 13, 2020, Troopers responded to Bulls Head Road in the town of Stanford for a report of a subject with a handgun displayed. An investigation determined Ropeter falsely reported the incident to Dutchess County 911.

Ropeter was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the town of Stanford Court on Feb. 24, at 4 p.m.

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

2021 virtual Hudson River Data Jam

The Hudson River Data Jam is back, and as in 2020, it will again be 100% virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Erin Frick, of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, announced on Tuesday, Feb. 16, that the science competition is open to students in grades six through 12, who can register and learn more about the about the Data Jam competition, its rules, available help and cash prizes with their families through a series of webinars.

Working alone or with family members, the goal is

to creatively share Hudson River science stories through song, poetry, video, painting, mural, a book or through any other creative presentation your imagination can dream up. Students in lower grades can compete in the family category.

Registration is due by Friday, April 16; projects are due by Friday, April 30; and the Data Jam Expo and Awards Ceremony will be held via Zoom on Friday, May 21, from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information, go to www.caryinstitute.org.

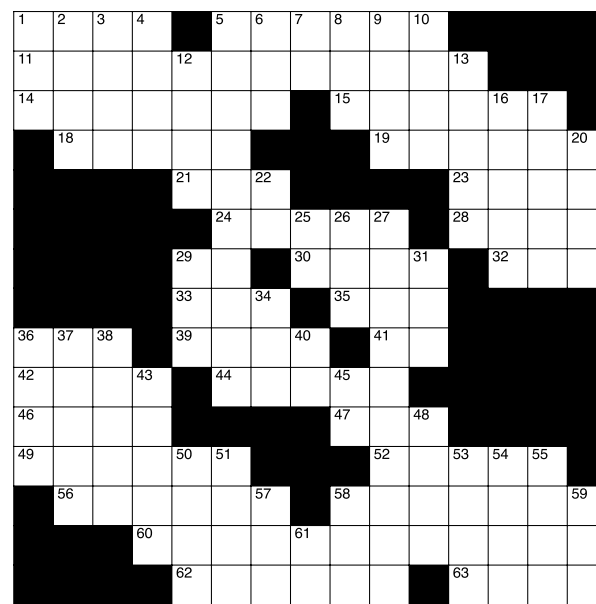
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- One of Noah's sons
- Openings
- Rising from the dead
- Expressions for humorous effect
- North American country
- Flowed over
- Tags
- Long-lasting light bulb
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Beloved movie pig
- South Dakota
- Tai language
- Get free of
- Afflict
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Commercials
- Digits
- Expression of sympathy
- Bleats
- Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Vegetable
- Turf
- Disorganized in character
- Takes
- Rules over
- More fervid
- Sweet drink
- Cry loudly
- A friendly nation

CLUES DOWN

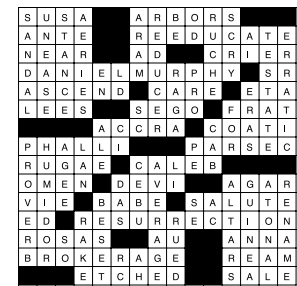
- A title of respect in India
- His and ___
- Employee stock ownership plan
- A type of bond (abbr.)
- Acting as if you are
- Affirmative
- Not caps
- Type of medication
- Monetary unit
- Private school in New York
- Small stream
- A person of wealth
- Exclude
- Someone who vouches for you
- Vegetable part
- Gov't lawyer
- Term to address a woman
- Swiss river



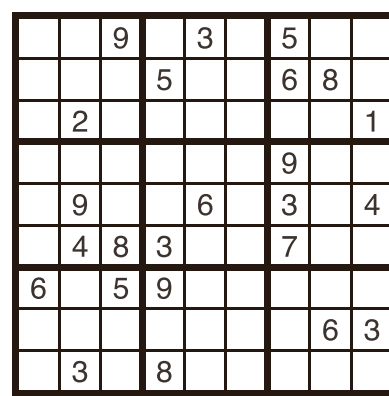
- About senator
- ___ Paulo, city
- Native American tribe
- "Titanic" actor
- Campaign for students' rights (abbr.)
- Capital of Senegal
- Slang for military leader
- Football's big game
- Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- Equally
- Forest animal
- Heavy stoves
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Song
- Type of pickle

- Offer in return for money
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Burns wood (abbr.)
- Beloved singer Charles
- Three-toed sloth

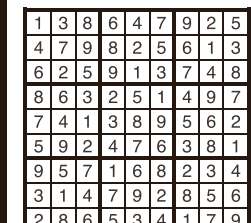
Feb. 25 Solution



Sudoku



Feb. 25 Solution



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MIGDALE *Continued from Page A1*

wealth can provide; when the couple divorced in 1953, Miller remained there until his death in 1983.

In 2000, the Wildenstein family, who made their billions in the arts, discovered the Migdale estate in terrible disrepair, and bought it under their business' name of Everest Polo Stables for \$5.2 million, spending \$50 million in renovations and then \$14 million to acquire another 175 acres. In 2020, they offered it for sale at \$14 million with 200 acres, or \$20 million with an extra 150 acres.

In early 2020, Guidara, a well-known restaurateur based in New York City (who has won the James Beard Award for Best Service in America and the 50 Best Award for Best Hospitality in the World), dissolved his partnership with chef Daniel Humm. The two men had co-founded Make it Nice Hospitality, a premier restaurant group including the three Michelin starred and number-one rated restaurant in the world, Eleven Madison Park, NoMad (NYC, LA, LV) and Made Nice. Guidara and his wife went to their home in Kingston, and while there, decided they didn't want to return to the city. Instead, he envisioned a different future for them and their unborn baby. While looking for

places carry out their next phase of life, he said he fell in love with Millbrook, and dreamed up plans for Second Mountain.

In a presentation to the Town of Washington Planning Board on Tuesday, Feb. 2, Guidara shared his vision for Second Mountain. It will be modeled after the world's great resort destinations as a world-class getaway in the Hudson Valley. He sees it being a top resort, just a short drive from New York City; he described it as "casual but luxurious."

The central castle building and other buildings can accommodate 27 rooms and suites; new cabins and cottages will add 39 rooms and there will be 11 luxury seasonal tents. The plan includes condos. Then 23 rental pool units, a greenhouse, a spa, tennis courts and an indoor pool will also be added, along with hiking trails. Of course, there will be restaurants, two, to be exact (one formal and one casual). The project will be done incrementally.

Challenges

One problem is that the area where Migdale is located is currently zoned RR-10, or Rural Residential, so Guidara and his attorneys are petitioning for a zoning amendment and for a Zoning Overlay District designa-

tion to be approved for the property.

At a Feb. 11 Town Board meeting where the Migdale project was discussed briefly, one agenda item was a request from Guidara's attorney, Neil Wilson of Mackey, Butts & Wise, LLP, for a special meeting to be held to introduce the development's overall concept plan and to commence the mandated State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, to name the Town Board as the lead agency in the project review. That was done.

Remaining transparent

The Town Board announced a special Feb. 25 daytime meeting in multiple places, including this newspaper; Town Clerk Mary Alex also published the announcement and the link on the town website. The meeting was held on via Zoom.

At that meeting, Guidara gave an impassioned account of who he is and why he wants permission to carry out his plans. More than 200 people Zoomed in, mid-day, mid-week, showing just how important this project is to the town and the village.

Project details

Guidara addressed some of the questions utmost in people's minds; and yes, he has plans to install more wells to provide

water and he also has a plan for sewage treatment. Both entrances to the property will be off of Route 44, addressing the question of how much the project will impact traffic and if other roads will be impacted.

The applicant also mentioned that he plans to use local workers, local services, local materials; he even mentioned several businesses by name. He said that he will also use locally grown and sourced food, farm products and beverages at his restaurants, so yes, local businesses will reap some benefits.

When the resort is up and running, he said it will provide about 150 jobs for local workers. He said he will also try to create relationships with other destinations and send his guests to local wineries and other sites in the region like Innisfree Garden, Orvis Sandanona and Dia:Beacon, just to name a few.

Community reaction

A number of people who commented on the proposal expressed fears that such a big undertaking could change the face of Millbrook forever, some said they are worried about the impact it could have on the local infrastructure while others said they think it could damage local businesses. Yet there were a few who supported the plan and said

the project just might turn out to help prop up the local economy and boost area businesses, as well as create more housing and increase the tax base.

Town Supervisor Gary Cifferri remarked that the application is relatively new, and that contrary to some thinking, nothing is being pushed through or done in secret.

"The Town Board and I back this project 100%," he said. "Millbrook needs it, the town needs it. It will bring jobs, it will bring tax revenue, sales tax, hotel tax and it will bring people into the village, helping businesses and the community. We will do everything we can to support him. When it gets to the Planning Board, everyone will have a chance to comment."

Resident Al Yoon questioned if the project fits into the town's master plan, which recommends Millbrook remain rural. He said maintaining that perception is key.

"Will [Guidara's] idea of bucolic charm may be very different than the community's," said Yoon. "Environmental and traffic impact will be extremely important. The idea of preserving an historic property for public use isn't a bad thing, it's the scope of the project that's disturbing."

"I was very surprised the Town Board called a special noontime meeting in between its regular monthly board meetings and declared itself lead agency for the Janet's Farm [Migdale] developer's request to change the town zoning code to allow him to build a commercial resort on 352 acres in a part of the town that is zoned for 10 acre lots and above to be used for low density residential or agricultural related purposes," said resident Howard Schuman. "During the formation of our present comprehensive plan, the community was mailed a list of 66 survey questions to answer, based on what they thought was important for the town now and in the future. One of the questions asked about expanding land for commercial uses in the town. Only 7% of the responders thought that was a good idea.

"Changing our zoning code to create a new, large commercial area in the town is a very big deal, and could have far-reaching unforeseen, perhaps undesired, consequences," he added. "It seems like it should only be done at such time as the community at large expresses an overwhelming demand to allow a substantive change of this nature to be made. And that has not happened yet."

MOVIEHOUSE *Continued from Page A1*

The theater was listed last November with Select Sotheby's Realty with an asking price of \$1,195,000. Eleven potential purchasers surfaced quickly, most of them with roots in the arts, all of them clearly looking to continue and enhance the Moviehouse model.

Sadlon said she would have been pleased to sell to any of them. But she is most pleased, of course, with the successful bidders, David Maltby and Chelsea Altman, who became the official owners of The Moviehouse two weeks ago on Friday, Feb. 19.

In the announcement of the sale (released on Thursday, Feb. 25), Sadlon said, "When I made the decision to find new leadership for The Moviehouse, I looked for people who shared our passion and enthusiasm for the cinema, art and community. "It was a heartwarming journey as 11 suitors stepped up wanting to take The Moviehouse forward," she added. "I feel confident that David and Chelsea are the right choices, they are brilliant, creative people, skilled and successful in their current endeavors, with deep-seated ties to the community and enthusiasm for the future of cinema arts."

A lifelong link to The Moviehouse

Maltby and Altman were upbeat and lowkey when they turned up at the theater for an interview on Feb. 25. The theater was dark; there were still boxes of candy in the concession stand, relics from last spring. Who knew

then that because of COVID-19 the theater would still be closed a year later.

We sat upstairs in the gallery area of the theater on the wire Bertoia-style chairs and talked about their past and The Moviehouse's future.

David Maltby has been a part-time resident of Lakeville, Conn., since he was a child (he is now 52). He is the son of Barbara Maltby, a well-known presence in the area, in particular thanks to her work as medical ethicist for Sharon Hospital.

A less known side of her resume is the 20 years she spent working with Robert Redford, producing films including "A River Runs Through It" and "The American President."

His father, Richard Maltby Jr., has been involved in various ways with some of the most famous musicals of the last century, including "Miss Saigon," for which he was a co-lyricist.

Describing his own life and work, David Maltby (who now lives in Lakeville full time and has children in school here) said he has said several careers but is most recently the owner of a "boutique" real estate firm, the Empire Square Group.

With his family background in entertainment and his experience in real estate, he is perhaps the perfect owner for The Moviehouse, able to carry on the legacy of the Sadlons on an artistic point of view but also able to understand the complexities of renovating and upgrading (and

yes, adding an elevator to) a very old building on a very small lot in the center of a crowded village on the side of a road that is often rattled by the large trucks that pass by.

His partner in life and in this new venture is Chelsea Altman, 48. The couple has been together for seven years and they own a restaurant in Bushwick, N.Y., called Birdy's.

Altman has opened about a half dozen restaurants and bars in Brooklyn on her own as well, following a career as an actress with parts on stage and in films.

Adding a lounge vibe

While of course the dining and drinking part of owning restaurants is important to her, what Altman cares about most is the experience of taking an evening out and building community ties.

She and Maltby want most of all to honor the history and traditions of The Moviehouse, with a mix of fine independent films, mainstream top titles and cultural events such as National Theater Productions and live broadcasts of opera.

Maltby has a built-in understanding of what The Moviehouse is; he's been going to films there literally since it opened in May 1978. (His parents purchased their home here in 1972.)

But also, he says, and he's kind of kidding but he really isn't, "My mother, Barbara, is kind of the archetypal audience member, the ultimate Moviehouse customer," a culturally sophisticated consumer of contemporary media

with wide-ranging interests.

The Tri-state region is famous of course for having a preponderance of retirees. With the COVID-19 quarantine, however, there has been an influx of younger folks, some with families, some still searching for the right person to settle down with.

Altman and Maltby want to serve the existing customer base by continuing The Moviehouse traditions. Carol Sadlon will definitely work with them in the coming weeks, and the new owners anticipate that they will turn to her for guidance.

"We are hoping that some of her magic will rub off on us," Maltby said.

But they also want to expand out, make the theater more attractive to a younger audience and create more of an evening "experience."

"We want to be able to offer people more of a Night Out," Altman said.

They also plan to continue offering cinema "events," calling on some of the many people in the area who work in all parts of the entertainment industry.

The partners plan to expand the second floor of the theater and the cozy screening room, and perhaps open a bar and offer space for events and private parties. Perhaps there will be screenings of film classics and cult favorites.

Opening dates and elevators

At this point, the new owners hope that The Moviehouse will open to the public again in spring. The cinema originally opened on Memorial Day weekend in 1978, and Maltby feels there would be a nice synergy if all the renovations this year could be completed by the end of May.

Both Altman and Maltby are experienced at renovating and working with existing properties and understand there are often hidden surprises when you open the walls of historic structures.

They know that it can be a challenge to safely add an elevator.

"It's an old building," Altman said. "There's a lot you need to do to make it a safely operating elevator."

They are committed to figuring out how to make it work, and will be aided in the process by Maltby's lifelong friend, the architect John Allee, whose office is nearby, in the village of Millerton.

"I would hate for someone not to be able to watch a movie because it's on the second floor," Maltby said.

Carol Sadlon stressed her "gratitude to the people who contributed to the elevator fund... I want people to know that the only reason we stopped raising money was that Robert got sick. We put it on pause. I had that money in a separate account and 100% of what was raised we turned over to David."

The \$45,000 that was raised was not enough money in the fund to get the elevator built, she said, but Maltby has vowed to get the project done.

Sadlon expressed confidence in the new generation of Moviehouse owners. She chose Maltby and Altman from among the several interested parties who had approached her.

"I'm grateful to have had the experience of meeting those people who wanted to acquire The Moviehouse and who understood

the value of it to the community."

She would not say what the sale price was for the theater, but indicated that she did not have to reduce the listing price.

Enthusiasm for the next generation

Of the choice of the new owners, she said, "I really like David and Chelsea. They have deep roots in this community. The Maltby family is well-known here. David grew up around people in the film business.

"And he and Chelsea had that enthusiasm and drive; I knew they were going to make it happen, I could tell they were going to improve it without doing something too radically different."

She confirmed that she will work with the new owners for at least a month, and "guide them through the Virtual Cinema so that doesn't have to go dark. But ultimately it's going to be up to them to decide where they want to take it in terms of programming."

While artistic decisions will evolve over time, one thing that Altman and Maltby promise will not change is their commitment to the theater and the community.

"We are not looking to 'flip' The Moviehouse," Maltby said. "I'm not going anywhere for the rest of my days. We're rooted here and I fully expect to own and operate this theater for at least the next 20 years."

REVITALIZATION *Continued from Page A1*

ruary. Along with developing a community profile for the project and visions and goals, she said they picked six projects to benefit Copake the most in the coming years with the best odds of getting funding.

Through each project, she said the PAC will be working on strengthening partnerships with state and municipal agencies, public and private foundations and organizations, residents and property owners. At this time, they aim to finish the plan by Wednesday, March 31.

River Street Planning Principal Margaret Irwin explained the goal is to create a unified Waterfront Revitalization Plan that not only considers recent town strategies, but also draws from dozens of recommended projects and programs and reflects current community input. She said they've tried to highlight six projects with the best odds of benefiting people, leveraging partnerships and securings [sic.], particularly when considering how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted "grant making." These six projects, she

said, will serve as catalysts for accelerating community health and quality of life; they will also build equity and forge collaboration, and are vision-driven.

From the town's rare aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity to the premium COVID-19 has placed on outdoor recreation to the town's need to build a track record of securing and managing grants and forming partnerships with property owners, Irwin outlined some of the respective opportunities and challenges that have been uncovered so far in the plan. She then guided those at the workshop through the community profiles among Copake's waterways, hamlets and environments and how they fit in the revitalization plan.

Given how much of the town's story is heavily influenced by its water bodies, Irwin said the Copake Waterfront Revitalization goals will focus on increasing passive and active waterway access for the community; conserving Copake's biodiversity, scenic beauty, environment and heritage; adapting

to change and fostering resilient waterways and landscapes; and creating virtual and physical linkages between the hamlets. For each goal, Irwin said there are 60 total projects; they plan to focus on six of those projects.

Outlining the plan's catalyst projects, Irwin said the first project would focus on developing the Roeliff Jansen Community Library Waterfront Park, a multi-use gathering area along the Roe Jan Creek off Route 22.

As the Taconic State Park Master Plan includes projects to expand fishing, the next catalyst project would focus on accessible community fishing.

Other catalyst projects include environmental education and climate stewardship for Copake, wayfinding and interpretative signage, a family-friendly bicycling brand and the development of the Town of Copake Trails, Paths & Parks Plan.

Look for Part II of the *Copake Waterfront & Community Revitalization Plan, focused on the community's response to the proposed plan, in next week's Millerton News.*

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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

March 4-10, 2021

DESIGN: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Tent Brings Park Avenue Style To An Upstate New York Corner

Playing a game of word association, what visual connections spring to the imagination when you hear the word “tent”? A small sanctuary for an outdoor adventurer? Maybe the lure of the traveling circus, the promise of spectacle, a horse-drawn calliope whistling out a repetitive tune? Or does your mind head to the modern day? A white tent on a manor lawn and the hum of guests arriving for a wedding.

For Manhattan designer Darren Henault, Tent — the name of his high-end home decor store now open in Amenia, N.Y. — represents a bit of historical adoration.

For three decades Henault’s had a picture on his desk of a *tôle peinte* (painted sheet metal) Tartar tent. Striped in electric blue and cream, the tent was commissioned by Charles de Beistegui for his Parisian party palace, the Château de Groussay.

De Beistegui, the French-born heir to a Mexican silver-mining fortune, had roofs designed by Dalí and was photographed by Cecil Beaton. He was also so enamored with fantasy decoration and foreign luxury that he built his own blue-striped garden folly similar to the Byzantine-inspired pagoda found on the grounds of the Drottningholm Palace, the home of Sweden’s royal family.

Are you supposed to know any of this arcane history when you step into Amenia’s Tent? Of course not. But the origin of the store’s name showcases the ever-active, reference-perfect mind of Darren Henault, who shares de Beistegui’s forte for decorative pastiche.

“It’s easy to fill a house full of furniture,” Henault



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Interior designer Darren Henault, who splits his time between Millbrook, N.Y., and New York City, has opened Tent, a new luxury home decor store offering custom furniture, on the corner of Routes 22 and 343 in Amenia, N.Y.

said as he stepped through the Hague Blue (that’s Farrow & Ball paint talk) interiors of Tent, on the corner of Routes 22 and 343.

The unrecognizable former auto-repair shop, now in white shingles with an inviting porte-cochère structured much like, yes, the Tartar tent entrance (with stripes coming in the summer) represents Henault’s philosophy of luxury down to the detail. “It’s when you see beautiful objects in someone’s home, that’s what makes it human and personal. It’s how I’ve always worked as a designer.”

Tent offers a chance to consider the story of your home down to the finer points, with objects that marry everyday functionality with artistic individuality.

A sense of international

co-mingling is also at the forefront of Henault’s style. There’s a Japanese dustpan made of a single sleek sheet of wood veneer with a hand-bound, grass brush. Bento boxes sit by desk sets made of Florentine marbled paper.

Henault’s attention gravitated toward his custom line of handmade flower and kitchen utility vases from New York Stoneware, a ceramic studio in the Bronx, N.Y. The vases from Stoneware take their inspiration from the design of antique French confit pots, pre-refrigeration food storage traditionally glazed on top with a clay bottom, and perhaps most elegantly seen in Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers” series of still life oils.

“It’s perfect, but there are imperfections,” Henault said of the pottery. “You

can see a human being made that and I get great satisfaction from that.”

As an interior designer to the kind of top-notch clients who have Fifth Avenue addresses, Henault recalled having a reputation, even a pesky one, for the constant inclusion of custom-made pieces.

Per his vision of the decorative arts, he saw the price, and the possible complaint from the client, as worth the result. He strives for the human touch. There’s a personal connection an object or a piece of furniture can carry from the craftsman to your finished room. “I want people to see something was made just for their home,” Henault said.

Following this philosophy, the second half of Tent, draped in dramatic folds of deep gray, showcases what makes the store unique for the area: different styles of sofas with a hundred samples of gorgeous fabrics to choose from — and the promise of the rapid turnaround of delivery in seven weeks.

“My sofa words are ‘yummy’ and ‘comfy.’ I’m someone who doesn’t sit properly on a sofa,” Henault said, quickly demonstrating as he fell into the feather-filled cushions, sinking comfortably. “I’m always curled up onto it, so I make the living room sofas deep.”

An array of samples was scattered: muted stripes from Rogers & Goffigon, a textile design company in Greenwich, Conn., rich herringbone from Holland & Sherry who have historically provided suit fabrics for Savile Row tailors, and delightful patterns from Bennisson, who draw inspiration from 19th-century

Continued on next page



STREAMING: ED FERMAN

Off the Beaten Path

I don’t know the average age of a Lakeville Journal reader, but my guess is that most of us were in the second group to get the COVID vaccine.

So why would any of us want to watch “Pen15,” in which two 30-year-old actresses play two 13-year-old kids, starting seventh grade, surely the depth of darkest adolescence. Perhaps because we’ve already watched “The Crown,” “The Queen’s Gambit” and the other usual suspects, and we have a lot of streaming time on our pandemic schedule.

But the main reason to catch this show is to see amazing performances by the show’s creators and stars, Maya Erskine and Anna Konkle. Erskine plays Maya Ishii Peters, a Japanese-American girl with a bowl cut, and Konkle is Anna Kone, blonde with braces, her best friend.

Their classmates are real-life seventh graders and are perfect. The show’s tone is mostly charming and hilarious comedy as Anna and Maya discover beer, masturbation, boys and fashion.

But there are serious moments when Maya confronts racism and Anna deals with her parents’ divorce. Their show won a Critics’ Choice TV award for best comedy series, and I’d be surprised if you did not fall in love with these two gals. Two seasons on Hulu.

A more obvious fit for readers of this paper is Steven Soderbergh’s new movie, “Let Them All Talk,” starring Salisbury’s Meryl Streep and featuring Cornwall’s Dan Algrant.

Soderbergh shot the film aboard an actual voyage of the Queen Mary 2, and much of the dialogue was improvised. Streep plays Alice Hughes, a renowned literary novelist on her way to the UK to receive an award.

She’s accompanied by two college friends, Roberta (Candice Bergen) and Susan (Dianne Wiest), and Alice’s nephew, Tyler (Lucas Hedges).

Be warned that the film takes some time to gather steam, as Soderbergh aims his camera at the three ladies and, well, lets them all talk. You may find yourself wishing you were aboard the Lusitania instead, with a U-Boat lurking off the starboard bow. (Is starboard right or left?)

Patience will be rewarded as the plot heats up quickly enough. Tyler falls for Alice’s lovely literary agent, Karen (Gemma Chan).

Then the ladies form an attachment to another writer on board, Kelvin Krantz (Dan Algrant). Krantz writes trashy thrillers that soar to the top of the bestseller lists. Alice initially sniffs at Krantz, who says his books take three months to write. “That long?” Alice asks.

But Krantz turns out to be quite a gentleman and a big fan.

Finally, who is that man seen leaving Alice’s room early in the morning? After the ship arrives, the film moves to a surprising and even shocking conclusion.

Soderbergh is hard to pin down because of the variety of his work, but he is probably best known for crime thrillers such as “Traffic” and “Out of Sight.” Don’t expect anything like that, but this film is surely worth streaming to see three of our finest actresses at work in an unusual setting. On HBO Max.

Ed Ferman is the former editor and publisher of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and has been an editor at the *Cornwall Chronicle* for many years. He has lived in Cornwall since 1969.

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DESIGN: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Why We Love Chintz in Interior Design

If you've spent much of the quarantine in a comfy overstuffed chair, reading books by Nancy Mitford and Angela Thirkell, or if you've become addicted to lush television productions of early and mid 20th century English mystery cozies, then you probably are already a fan of the posh design firm Colefax and Fowler — perhaps without even realizing it.

Colefax and Fowler started out in the early 1930s under the hand of Lady Sibyl Colefax, then grew when she invited the new Decorator of the Moment, John Fowler, to join her in 1938.

Their client list exploded after World War II, when the English upper crust needed to update their war-weary homes — but on a budget.

In the 1940s, a well-connected and well-funded American named Nancy Lancaster stepped in and bought the firm from Lady Colefax. She continued to work with John Fowler for two more decades; he convinced her to paint her bedroom what one history of the company calls “a startling, glossy yellow,” which you can see in the photo above (apologies:



PHOTO COURTESY VENTFORT HALL
The famous Yellow Room of Nancy Lancaster, described as one of the most influential rooms in the history of English decoration, will be featured in a Zoom talk about the design firm Colefax and Fowler.

this week's Compass is all Black and White!).

The same history, found online at www.thehousedirectory.com/the-history-of-colefax-fowler, says of the room: “Original and innovative at the time, the

Yellow Room proved to be a source of inspiration for many over the following years, becoming perhaps the best-known and most influential interior in the history of English interior decoration.”

Colefax and Fowler homes don't set out to impress; they are cozy, lovely, snuggly. This is the firm largely credited with making chintz fabric an essential part of the well-dressed (but cozy and snuggly) living room, drawing room or bedroom. A Colefax and Fowler home should always have a small decorative dog in it (alive or ceramic).

The company continues to thrive to this day; you don't need to know a lot about interior design to have heard of Colefax and Fowler, which is not only a famous design firm but also a pre-eminent producer of fabrics.

During the quarantine, when it isn't possible to take house tours, it's possible to view some dream-inducing interiors on Zoom. Ventfort Hall Mansion & Gilded Age Museum, which is in Lenox, Mass., is hosting an online talk about Colefax and Fowler on Friday, March 12, at 11 a.m.

Lisa Singleton Boudiette is a specialist in historic decoration, based in San Francisco, Calif. Her

talk on “Colefax & Fowler, Legendary Designers of the English Country House Style” will dig into the history of the design style that has influenced not only homes across the United Kingdom but also so many American homes.

She'll delve into the signature details, including “chintz in beautiful faded colors, fringed and tasseled curtains, painted Regency furniture, sofas designed for years of fireside comfort, and expertly applied finishes, subtly lit to show off beautiful antiques and paintings,” according to

the announcement of her talk. Fowler described this look, according to the announcement, as “humble elegance.”

Tickets to this talk are by donation, with a suggested donation of \$20. To sign up, go to www.ventfort03122021.eventbrite.com or call Ventfort Hall at 413-637-3206.

To learn more about Ventfort Hall (built in 1893 for George and Sarah Morgan, the sister of financier J. Pierpont Morgan), sign up for a tour (and learn about other online events) at www.gildedage.org.

SHARON PLAYHOUSE FEST CALLS FOR 10-MINUTE PLAYS

Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., has launched a festival of new 10-minute plays and musicals, called the “Sharon Playhouse Writers Playground.”

The Writers Playground is committed to giving talented writers, performers, directors and technicians in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and the neighboring communities in New York and Massachusetts a platform to showcase their talents in their own backyard and see their visions realized.

The Playhouse also hopes to empower all people of any age and background to use their voice to tell diverse stories of self-expression and creativity.

Submissions will be accepted from writers in four different categories:

- Youth Submissions** (written by individuals 18 years of age or younger):
 - Plays
 - Musicals
- Adult Submissions** (written by individuals 19 years of age and older):
 - Plays
 - Musicals

The submission deadline is May 1, 2021. Entrants should live within 50 miles of the Playhouse.

“We are so happy to share the talents of our local artists with our audience,” said Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager. “There is a true need for this type of outlet and we are thrilled we can

host this new festival to achieve this goal.”

Works chosen will have performances this summer as part of the Playhouse Live Drive-In entertainment, which returns after a successful season in 2020.

In addition to the Writers Playground, the 2021 Playhouse Summer season will include an even wider selection of entertainment including Broadway, Pop, Motown, Classical concerts, film, comedy, variety and the return of the very popular Dinner Cabaret Series.

Managing Director Robert Levinstein added, “After the wonderful response we had last year, we're going bigger and bolder this year: a bigger stage, more variety, and expanded educational programming for children and teens — of course following all the health guidelines set by the federal and state governments.”

More information, including submission requirements for the Writers Playground, can be found at the playhouse website, www.Sharon-Playhouse.org.

Sharon Playhouse is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 theater that uses a unique blend of professional designers, directors, musicians, Equity actors, non-Equity actors, and dedicated community performers and volunteers.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

It's time for the third annual Kent Memorial Library Peeps diorama competition. Entries must include a marshmallow Peep and have a connection to some of the materials found at the library. This entry was from the 2019 competition.

PEEPS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Art and Literature Mash Up With marshmallow Peeps

It isn't often that the worlds of art, literature and cuisine come together in one exciting event but the moment is here. Yes, it's March and it's time for the Kent Memorial Library's annual marshmallow Peeps diorama competition.

Artisans of the seasonal marshmallow treat are now hard at work on their entries, which will be accepted by the Kent, Conn., library on Thursday, April 8, up until 5:30 p.m.

Contestants can also email one or two photos of their Peeps project, along

with a completed entry form, to kmljuniorroom@biblio.org.

The ideal canvas for a Peeps diorama is a shoebox (entries should not be larger than 2 feet by 2 feet). There must be at least one Peep in the design. All entries must be based on something that can be found at Kent Memorial Library: books, magazines, movies, games.

There are two age categories: 14 years and under and 15 years and up. Each artist can submit only one

entry.

Winners will be announced Thursday, April 22. Anyone who would like to see the entries and cast a vote can do so at the library between Friday, April 9, and Tuesday, April 20.

Entry forms and more information can be found online at www.kentmemoriallibrary.org or at the library, which is once again open to the public, by appointment.

For inspiration, do an online search for Peeps Dioramas.

...Tent

Continued from previous page

European prints.

The pandemic might seem like a funny time to open a store like Tent. But with the increase of Manhattanites (and Brooklynites) leaving New York City in favor of second residences, or newly purchased primary residences, in Litchfield and Dutchess counties, many are investing in beautifying their homes.

The fast production time and luxury quality of these made-to-order pieces can be attributed to Henault's 35-year career as a designer. Tent is the personal product of his career's worth of connections with top-quality craftsmen.

It is also, apparently, a reflection of the livable, decorative decadence he inhabits in his own homes, splitting his time between New York City and Millbrook, N.Y. When his twin daughters, students at Spence on the Upper East Side, entered Tent for the first time, Henault recalled them saying, “It's just like our home but everything's for sale.”

Tent is located at 4950 Route 22 in Amenia, N.Y. Customers are asked to observe COVID-19 safety protocols. For more information go to the website, www.tentnewyork.com, which will be online soon.

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Look for a calendar of events at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar. We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

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GARDENING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

How To Tell a Good Bug From a Bad Bug

It's hard to know which bugs in the garden are helpful and healthy and which ones will grow into unfriendly, garden-destroying predators.

The University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center offers weekly columns elucidating important topics, including this week's column on how to treat friendly pollinators such as butterflies.

A first step in protecting young pollinators is to be able to recognize them. The photos, right, for example show a swallowtail larva with spots on its stripes; and a monarch butterfly larva with just stripes. Novice gardeners (and even relatively experienced ones) might not know that larva is another word for caterpillar — and might not know that these large striped caterpillars/larvae will someday grow into beautiful butterflies, especially if you can protect and nurture them.

Once you know how to recognize beneficial bugs, it's helpful to know how to nurture and protect them.

UConn's gardening columnist Dawn Pettinelli goes so far as to recommend planting a pollinator garden, with plants that have healthy and delicious pollen.

The first thing you need to do, of course, is create a safe space in your early spring garden for eggs and nests.

"Leaving an undisturbed, bare patch of soil or pile of brush in your garden will provide habitat for ground-nesting and cavity-nesting bees," Pettinelli says in her column.

The next thing to worry about after nests and eggs? Food.

"To encourage the presence of butterflies, it is essential to supply food for their larvae, also known as caterpillars," Pettinelli says.

"Monarch butterflies are considered specialists, meaning they only complete their development when feeding on one particular plant: milkweed.

"A few native species of milkweed are butterfly milkweed (*Asclepius tuberosa*), common milkweed (*A. syriacica*) and swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*).

"Others, like the black swallowtail, feed on members of the parsley family."

Knowing what these butterflies eat can also help you identify which caterpillars are living in your garden. If you have a lot of parsley and you see a fat, striped caterpillar, look closely to see if there are spots as well; chances are



PHOTOS COURTESY UCONN

that you've got swallowtail larvae growing big and strong on your herbs.

Find UConn's list of Northeast pollinator plants at <https://pollinator-resource-center/northeast>.

When you go to the garden center this spring, you can even purchase plants that will entice pollinators to come live with you. Pettinelli particularly recommends perennial plants because they definitely have pollen (which

can sometimes be lacking in annuals that are bred for a particular look).

Pesticides should be strenuously avoided; don't use them at home and check to be sure none have been used on your plants before you buy them (this is a factor in favor of shopping local; the staff at your favorite nearby garden center probably know more about the plants they're selling than the average big box store employee).

These two photos from the University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center show two types of proto butterflies (the monarch has just stripes, the swallowtail also has spots) that should be nurtured if you spot them in your yard.



Native plants should be prioritized. In her column, Pettinelli says that, "The color and shape of a flower will influence the types of pollinators that will visit it. For example, bees are attracted to white, yellow and blue flowers while

butterflies prefer blooms that are red, orange, pink and purple.

"Native plants to incorporate into pollinator gardens include: Anise hyssop, Beebalm, Goldenrod, Moss phlox, New England aster, and Purple Coneflower."

BAD MOVIES: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

How To Survive a Pandemic, Part Two: Loving Weird

Back in the summer, I suggested some streaming and reading choices to combat the boredom of life during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The other day I was chatting (by phone) with someone who suggested I use my extensive knowledge of the world's worst and weirdest films for a similar piece.

So while you wait for Phase 37z to commence so you can get your vaccine, why not pass the time with these astonishingly bad and/or bizarre movies, all available on the usual streaming suspects:

- "The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies" (1964):

Starring the immortal Cash Flagg, this unsettling look behind the scenes of a circus is almost completely uncontaminated by a plot. It's also a musical. (On Fandor.)

- "Dead Snow" (2009): Director Tommy Wirkola reanimated the Nazi zombie subgenre with this effort, which adds "frozen" to the description. A traditionalist at heart, Wirkola also relies on the timeless "stupid people in the woods" plot device, which provides the viewer with a comfortable perch from which to suspend disbelief. And you'll



Our critic recommends "The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies" for film fans.

need all the suspension you can get. Of course, it's no "Zombie Lake," (1981), which had nekkid volleyball, or "Shock Waves" (1977), which had Peter Cushing, but it will suffice. (On Amazon.)

- "For Y'ur Height Only" (1981): I will argue that this is the greatest film ever made.

You can have your "Citizen Kane" and "Battle-ship Potemkin." Spare me your "Rear Window" and

With an umbrella.

Agent 3 1/2, played by the immortal Weng Weng, is a big fan of the groin kick, that being the nearest area on the personal bodies of his assailants for a man of his stature to attack. (Weng Weng was 2 feet, 9 inches tall.)

But he's also proficient with the mini machine gun and the mini samurai sword.

The flick also features atrocious dubbing in a rich and diverse variety of accents — Long Island Lockjaw, British Dowager, Brooklyn Hood.

And the main villain clearly studied at the Moammar Qaddafi Institute of Fashion. (On Plex.)

- "The Wrestling Women vs. The Aztec Mummy" (1965): This film answers two questions that have always bothered humanity:

- 1) Can bad guys really run around on ancient Aztec pyramids in those pointy little shoes without tripping?

- 2) Can women in tight sweaters and Capri pants really save the world from an Ancient Evil?

The Wrestling Women get on the trail of some

thugs in the pay of the evil Black Dragon who have swiped the sacred Aztec breastplate.

The chase goes hither and yon, with many fine wrestling sequences, some of them between the actors' lips and the dubbed dialogue.

The Aztec Mummy is worth the price of admission alone. He makes a heartbreaking "waaargh" sound that really makes you wonder what it's like to be locked for centuries in an airless room guarding a princess' remains when all of a sudden bad guys in ill-fitting suits and pointy shoes, and female wrestlers in tight sweaters

and missile-silo brassieres come barging in, stirring up the dust and generally making nuisances of themselves. (On Tubi.)

- "FDR: American Badass!" (2013): Relive the glory days of World War II with this unique take on the defeat of the Axis powers. With Were-wolf Hitler, FDR's armed wheelchair, and a guest appearance by Abraham Lincoln.

A classic from the fevered brain of Ross Patterson, the man who in 2015 reinvented the Western novel with "At Night She Cries While He Rides His Steed." (On Amazon Prime.)



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SPORTS

RUNNING FOR BOE *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO SUBMITTED

For all four years of his collegiate career, Justin Cooper of Pine Plains competed as a high-scoring player on the SUNY Cortland basketball team, and his hard work was recognized in February when he was chosen for the State University of New York Athletic Conference Men's Basketball All-Decade Team. Cooper is now a basketball coach at his alma mater, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School.

Former Bomber Justin Cooper named to SUNYAC Men's Basketball All-Decade Team

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Almost a decade since he competed as a student athlete for the Pine Plains Central School District, Justin Cooper, 25, has returned to his alma mater, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, this time as a coach for the varsity boys basketball team and as an honoree of the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Men's Basketball All-Decade Team.

Identifying himself as "a pretty competitive person," Cooper remarked that basketball has been a good sport for his competitive nature. A lifelong resident of Pine Plains, Cooper's basketball career began when he was just a tot with the Pine Plains Pee Wee Basketball League and followed him into high school, where he played at the varsity level for all four years before heading off to college.

Considering his evolution as an athlete, Cooper said, "I just had a drive to get better — I was always playing the game... so being able to work on the game came easy to me and as you start to get older and play at higher levels, you start to get better."

Following his graduation from Stissing Mountain in 2013, Cooper completed a post-graduate year at Trinity-Pawling School in Pawling, before continuing his education at SUNY

Cortland. Along with pursuing a major in sports management, he competed on the college's basketball team for all four years.

Among the highlights of his career at Cortland as noted in a press release from the state college, Cooper competed in the guard position for four seasons from 2015 to 2019 and ranked first at Cortland in career free throws made and in free throw percentages. He also recorded 28 career double-doubles, according to www.jr.nba.com, and helped his team win the SUNYAC title and advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association second round during his freshman year. Looking at an array of impressive career statistics, Cooper scored a total of 1,378 points (averaging 14.8 points per game), 751 rebounds, 272 assists, 104 steals and 85 three-pointers.

The colleges nominated players for the All-Decade Teams, which consist of 15 players each and mirror the size of annual all-conference teams, though they're not broken down by position. To be eligible, players needed to have played at least one season between 2009-10 and 2018-19 and must have either been named All-SUNYAC at least twice or a SUNYAC Player of the Year once.

"It means a lot — it shows that the hard work I put in is recognized and it also shows that I had some really good teammates that supported me and worked hard

with me," Cooper said. "It's an honor to have post-graduation recognition."

Following his graduation from Cortland in the spring of 2019, Cooper began operating his own basketball skills company, LMC Athletics, with one of his former Bomber teammates and Pine Plains buddies, Tyler Lydon, who eventually made it all the way to the NBA. Continuing to stay involved with the game, Cooper said he's more of a coach now than a player, adding that "as you get a little bit older, there's less playing and more teaching."

Between coaching the Stissing Mountain varsity boys basketball team and running clinics, camps, individual and small group training offered through LMC Athletics, Cooper said he tries to share some of the things he went through as a player with the players he's now molding. He remarked that his past experiences help him relate to those players, and while COVID-19 has created a unique time for sports, the game has remained the same and he's determined to give his players the best experience given the circumstances.

Regarding his return to his hometown to now be a coach, Cooper said, "It's great. It's a really nice experience to be back here and coach and help these kids get better and help them reach their goals, and it's always unique to coach on the court I once played on."

East (Webutuck) Central School District and the Millbrook Central School District, have taken to delivering meals to those students and their families who haven't been able to pick up meals at the school buildings during the pandemic.

It's such matters that BOE members weigh in on when they meet at least twice monthly to discuss district business; they've been meeting virtually during the health crisis to limit social interaction. School boards cover budgetary issues; facilities and maintenance; technology; student services, curriculum and instruction; extra-curricular activities; athletics and other programs; transportation; food services; and so much more.

During the pandemic, Harlem Valley school boards have been contending with making decisions about when to implement remote learning and when to permit in-person learning — decisions that could be life or death — which BOE members don't take lightly.

"This is simply not good for students," stated Pine Plains BOE President Chip Couse. "Our board is working hard to get the State Education Department [SED] to review its guidelines and come into alignment with the newly released CDC guidelines. And while students suffered under the current setup, we also have a responsibility to staff, who all studies show are more vulnerable to severe COVID than students."

Reasons why to serve
Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani shared during an email exchange why he thinks serving on the school board is a worthy endeavor.

"[It's] a way to be involved in local government," he said. "Also, education is the cornerstone of our society. What better way to be part of this important process than to be on a BOE that sets policy and assists in making important decisions in the best interest of our children and community?"

Serving on a school board, which usually has between five and seven members depending on the district, is a big commitment. The three-year, staggered terms demand a lot of time, according to Castellani.

"We have regular public meetings a minimum of two days per month, which last between two to three hours each," he said, describing the Webutuck BOE's routine. "BOE members participate on committees, which depending on the time of year and the committee could be another three to five hours a month. Those are all formal meetings.

BOE members are always BOE members when in public. Many times they have informal discussions with their constituents."

Couse, though, said "if done correctly," serving on the BOE "on average [takes] 10 to 15 hours a week — more if you really immerse."

Couse, who is in his 21st year on the board, from which he's taken a few breaks in between "to recharge my batteries," said serving is "a true form of volunteerism in that it's not paid and is a necessary role in a vibrant community."

While Castellani said dedicating that much time and energy is rewarding for members who "set educational policy and [have] direct impact on the education of our children," he acknowledged it can be aggravating at times.

"Like any job in public service, it has its ups and downs," he said. "Most of the time it is rewarding, especially when there is student or program success. At times though, it is very frustrating due to state and federal mandates that tie the hands of BOE members and administrators. Often, decisions which seem simple and easily implemented are held up by red tape of these mandates. Patience is important."

However, "end of the year activities like graduation and other programs that celebrate student success," said the superintendent, make it all worthwhile.

The most important qualifications for someone considering running for a spot on their local school board? Castellani suggested candidates be "a parent, a taxpayer and someone who has thick skin and patience. Someone who is supportive of education, yet understanding the needs of taxpayers and affordability."

Couse added that "any financial background is helpful, as is a broader managerial view."

In 2021, that's been especially useful, he noted.

"Frankly, New York State's 'Tax Cap' is a train coming down the track for all school districts in Dutchess County," said Couse. "Every single district runs at a structural deficit; that is, the growth in their fixed expenses outpaces their ability to secure financing. As such, districts are balancing their budget with reserves."

The result being that once depleted, school boards will be faced with program cuts and other hardships.

Those who decide to throw their hat into the ring can help solve such issues, as their job would be to "provide sound leadership to run the district; provide the appropriate resources [budget] to support the district; and to represent the educational desires

of the community they serve," said Couse.

Requirements to run
Castellani suggested interested candidates start collecting the required signatures for their petitions immediately; school districts made petitions available starting Monday, March 1. Each district has different requirements, as the state has a new law that now requires the number of signatures voters collect is 2% of last year's total number of voters.

Webutuck is requiring candidates collect 25 signatures of "qualified voters," though it recommends collecting more than 25 in case some of the signatures are disqualified. Contact the district office or go online for a definition of "qualified." The Pine Plains Central School District is requiring 43 signatures (again recommending candidates collect more than 43). The Millbrook Central School District is requiring 29 signatures (recommending more be collected). Candidates should contact their district office to request an information packet with nominating petitions. Details can be found on the following district websites: www.webutuckschools.org; www.ppscd.org; and www.millbrookcsd.org.

Available school board seats
The Webutuck BOE has three seats up for election this year, currently held by Jessica Deister, Nikki Johnson and Rick Keller Coffey.

The Pine Plains BOE also has three seats up for election, currently held by Anne Arent, Joseph Kiernan and Jean Stapf.

The Millbrook BOE has two open seats, currently held by Claudia Heunis and John Rudy.

All candidates must submit their nominating petitions to their local district offices no later than Monday, April 19, by 5 p.m.

BOE member qualifications

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a qualified voter of the district; that is, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age or older and not adjudged to be incompetent.
- Must be and have been a resident of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately preceding the election.
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year.
- May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family.
- May not be a current employee of the school district.
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office.

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