

# The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

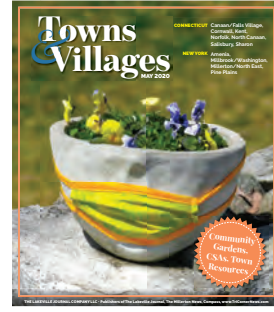
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PHOTO COURTESY OF DUTCHESS DAY SCHOOL

Liam Moriarity, a student at Dutchess Day School, set to work on a writing workshop with his teacher from the comfort of his home.

## New York schools strive to mitigate pandemic's impact

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
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**HARLEM VALLEY** — When school districts across New York state closed in response to the coronavirus outbreak this past March, it was understood by everyone — from administrators and teachers to the families with children enrolled in those districts — that the closure was the only solution to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. However, this was back when school districts were maintaining a sense of cautious optimism about the possibility of schools reopening and classes resuming. On Friday, May 1, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that

schools would be closed statewide for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. However disappointed students and schools were by the decision, Cuomo's announcement offered closure to families and school personnel waiting for an answer from the state along with incentives to start looking ahead to the next school year.

With just a few weeks left of the 2019-20 school year, area school districts have continued remote learning. Commending educators for maintaining their virtual connections with students throughout the pandemic, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) President Andy Pallotta offered insight for how education could potentially be re-imagined throughout

the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. "NYSUT believes in the education of the whole child," Pallotta stated in a recent press release. "Remote learning, in any form, will never replace the important personal connection between teachers and their students that is built in the classroom and is a critical part of the teaching and learning process."

Pallotta suggested the state start "addressing the need for social workers, mental health counselors, school nurses, enriching arts courses, advanced courses and smaller class sizes in school districts across the state."

In the Harlem Valley, school dis-

See **SCHOOLS, A7**

## Internet safety tips as students learn online

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

**HARLEM VALLEY** — Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Harlem Valley students have been turning to the world wide web more frequently, whether it's to connect with teachers about school assignments, retrieve the latest reports on COVID-19 or simply to stay in touch with friends and loved ones during this new normal. With parents assuming the role of teachers and guiding their children through the final weeks of school, they're likely to find themselves overwhelmed as they navigate both

the anticipated challenges and the unexpected ones. Among some of those challenges is making sure their children are safe when using the internet.

Since the closure of state schools on Friday, March 13, the North East (Webutuck), Pine Plains and Millbrook Central School Districts have been checking in to see how effectively students have been learning from home. Recognizing the difference that having clear internet access makes, they have reached out to provide students with either laptops or wireless WiFi routers to ensure that they can access the internet and complete their work.

There are a number of factors for families and their children to consider

when it comes to using the internet safely and responsibly. According to the website for Enough Is Enough, a nonprofit committed to making the internet safer for families and children, cyberbullying stands as the most important online issue for children, followed by privacy and security, inappropriate content, information sharing, healthy digital habits and understanding what's real versus what's fake.

Statistics from the Center of Cyber Safety and Education website at [www.iamcybersafe.org](http://www.iamcybersafe.org) have

See **INTERNET SAFETY, A7**

## Millerton American Legion Post 178

# Sign still unlawful, but being put to good use

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
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**NORTH EAST** — The town of North East still may not have given approval for the Millerton American Legion Post 178's electronic animated display sign that was illegally installed last year without a permit, as LED signs are not allowed in the Boulevard Zoning District where Post 178 is located, but that hasn't stopped the town from reaping the benefits of the sign itself in recent months. That's because, as an act of community goodwill, the Legion has been electrifying the sign and displaying messages during the coronavirus pandemic — informing passersby of essential information regarding the New York State on PAUSE Executive Order from Governor Andrew Cuomo, from the Department of Health, from Dutchess County Execu-

tive Marc Molinaro, from the Millerton Food Pantry, etc. According to Legion Historian Sean Klay, the service organization decided to help the town immediately after COVID-19 hit New York in any way it could.

"Basically, since mid-March, we made the offer to the town," he said. "We said, 'Listen, we have some rather exceptional circumstances and if the town would like to put out appropriate messaging up there, we'd be happy to facilitate it,' and the town took us up on our offer. That was kind of one of our motivations behind the sign anyway. It goes back to our whole discussion with the town anyway, one of the purposes of the sign, one of its intended purposes."

Back on Oct. 10, 2019, Klay argued on behalf of the Legion that the sign

See **AMERICAN LEGION SIGN, A7**

## Millerton Business Alliance conducts survey

# Millerton businesses share plans for reopening

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
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**MILLERTON** — With the state gradually reopening its economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic that forced a state-wide shutdown in March, businesses in the Millerton-North East region were asked to share their plans for reopening via a Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) survey.

In an email sent out to local businesses on Monday, May 4, MBA Executive Committee members Thorunn Kristjansdottir, Bob Murphy, Dana Rohn, Dick Hermans and Jeanne Vanecko explained that Millerton Mayor Debbie Middlebrook had asked for a survey to determine what plans businesses have for reopening "as New York moves in that direction after May 15," an early date Governor Andrew Cuomo set for the expiration of the New York on PAUSE Executive Order, which closed non-essential businesses and schools in the state.

For local retail businesses, the main question focused on whether they are ready to reopen and what their plans are to ensure social distancing and customer safety. The survey also asked local restaurants to consider whether they will continue take-out service and whether they envision outdoor seating if it becomes permissible.

Hermans said, "I think what we're looking for is to see where we're at. It's



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Located at 44 Main St. in Millerton, village coffee house Irving Farm officially reopened its doors to the public on Friday, May 15, with reduced hours of operation and new safety regulations.

more or less 'we're doing this and that' and 'whenever we can reopen, we will reopen.'"

Just a few days later, the MBA Executive Committee received more than a dozen responses. Though their thoughts on reopening varied, the large majority of responses shared the measures they intend to take to keep customers safe.

See **REOPENING BUSINESSES, A7**



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### OPINION

A Different Kind Of Memorial Day In A Different World; Columns A6



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# Millerton police offer protection — in more ways than one

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
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MILLERTON — The role of the Millerton Police Department is to serve and protect — and in the days of the coronavirus pandemic, it's been offering protection in more than the traditional ways. Aside from keeping residents and visitors to the village of Millerton and the town of North East safe on roadways, from crime or during any other emergencies that may arise, for the past few weeks police officers have been providing face masks to protect people from COVID-19. Officers also took to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail to distribute bike helmets, along with the face masks, to help keep cyclists safe. And come Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting, they're preparing to do it all over again.

The Rail Trail has been something of a hot-spot for casual social gatherings during the pandemic, and some residents have complained to the police that trail users aren't keeping the required 6 feet of social distancing. That prompted the department to hand out the face masks, according to Millerton Police Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder, who said the masks came from the county, which got them from the state. He said the department has "given

thousands of masks" to local businesses.

"We've also been riding our bicycles on the Rail Trail, handing out masks to people walking, on bikes and what not, who don't have them. We've done the same thing with helmets... We're just trying to get them out to the people and make sure everyone's staying safe."

The Police Department still has about a dozen and a half bike helmets to share, leftover from a county program last year.

"What better way to get those out and keep everyone safe?" asked Veeder.

Officers are hoping to distribute the face masks and helmets again on Saturday, May 23, and then on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, from around noon to 2 p.m., weather permitting. The time is sketchy, warned Veeder, explaining that if it rains early, officers will be out later, and vice versa.

At last check, the Millerton Police Department handed out roughly 500 masks.

"A lot of the business owners have been very supportive and thanked us," said Veeder. "We told them, they're for you and your patrons; instead of turning business away you should have the supplies to keep you safe, and your customers safe, so they can stay here



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Millerton Police Sgt. David Rudin stopped by the Oakhurst Diner earlier this month to distribute face masks to workers and diners without them. It was all part of the Police Department's outreach efforts to supply residents of and visitors to Millerton with the proper protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also distributed bike helmets on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, to keep cyclists safe. The efforts will continue.**

shopping. It keeps [everyone] safe, and they don't have to lose any business turning people [without masks] away."

Veeder added that the police have been well received by the community — and no one has appeared offended by the gentle

reminders to wear proper protection during the pandemic.

"Everyone has been very supportive and happy and thankful, so it's been good so far," he said. "Most people say, 'I forgot it,' or 'I don't have one,' whatever the case may be," said Veeder. "We haven't had anyone mad or upset when we hand them a mask. Most people are understanding and put them on."

As testament to that, the Oakhurst Diner, where Millerton Police Sgt. David Rudin handed out masks earlier this month, posted on Facebook that it appreciated the gesture.

"Officer Rudin came rolling in with masks for us," stated the post. "We want to give a special thanks to the village officials and police who have kept in close contact with us over the last few weeks. They are out here making sure we are well. As nicer weather approaches, and more people [go] outside, let's remember to wear masks so their job is easier. Many many thanks for making us feel safe."

Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order in March that all New Yorkers must wear face coverings when out in public and unable to maintain social distancing. The governor also closed all non-essential businesses and schools and banned

social gatherings. The New York State on PAUSE Executive Order shutting down the state was extended for another two weeks until Thursday, May 28; five regions met the criteria and began reopening Friday, May 15, with a sixth reopening Tuesday, May 19.

"It's tough for everyone all the way around to not be able to go out and about and do normal business," Veeder said, "and it's definitely affecting business, I assume. If people can't get out and support local businesses, it's going to hurt them. For the most part, everyone is cooperating and doing their part to keep everyone safe. But we do see people, at the store or gas station, going out without masks. They're not taking it seriously — they don't care — I don't know why, but there are a few people who are careless. We're just trying to keep everyone safe."

Veeder said thus far, the department has not had to issue any violations, which could cost up to \$1,000 per infraction.

"We don't want to go out and cite people; we want to make them aware of what's going on," he said "Educating people is the big thing and making them understand the dangers. Most people are fine with that... We're just out doing our job... We want to be there for the public."

# Webutuck graduation, part one

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

MILLERTON — Graduation, part one, for the Webutuck High School Class of 2020 kicked off under beautiful blue skies as Webutuck High School Principal Katy McEnroe drove throughout the entire district to deliver congratulations and paraphernalia to the 47 seniors who will be deprived of a traditional ceremony as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

At each home, she delivered a cap and gown, a lawn sign indicating "Webutuck Graduate 2020," and a green fleece blanket with "Webutuck Warrior 2020" written in white.

The drive was a sentimental journey for McEnroe, who said that as she moved through various buildings and positions in her 12 years with the district, she has spent a good deal of time with these class members as they worked their way up to their final all-important year.

That connection was further solidified as she would often see them before Governor Andrew Cuomo closed all New York schools in March due to the pandemic. McEnroe would often drop in to the senior lounge, which is adjacent to her office.

Webutuck Superintendent Ray Castellani said everyone associated with the class felt a great deal of sympathy for the students who had worked so hard throughout the years to reach this ultimate goal. When it became clear that a traditional graduation ceremony would not be possible, he, McEnroe and the class advisors brainstormed ways to provide the seniors with whatever memorable experience they could devise.

That will include a photographer, who will take pictures of each senior, which will be blown up to poster-size signs; and a videographer, who will take footage of each graduate marching across their lawn to receive their diploma, which will then be edited into a "ceremony," which will also feature traditional speeches. That, as well as "a few surprises," will be shared by a means not yet determined.

Following years of traditions, The Millerton News plans to publish individual photos of each graduating senior.



PHOTO BY SUE MARLING

**Sharon Road neighbors were alerted to keep their social distance as they came out to cheer Webutuck High School senior Jillian Thorne, who was one of 47 who received a special delivery from Principal Katy McEnroe last week. Thorne, the daughter of Jennifer Beland, said she was "proud and happy" but was also "sad to not be getting the same graduation as others had" in past years.**

## Former North East town clerk honored for work

The New York State Town Clerks Association recently honored Millerton resident and former North East Town Clerk Lisa Cope with certification as Registered Municipal Clerk for achieving the association's high educational, experience and participatory requirements. Cope earned her certification "through a combination of numerous hours of education and leadership in various professional and civic organizations," according to the group. Cope said she was honored by the mention, and added, "Although I am no longer the town clerk of North East, I will always remain dedicated and committed to the residents of North East."

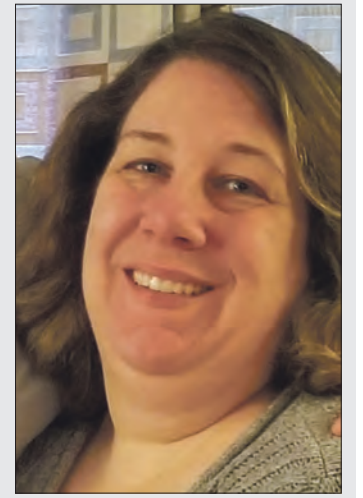


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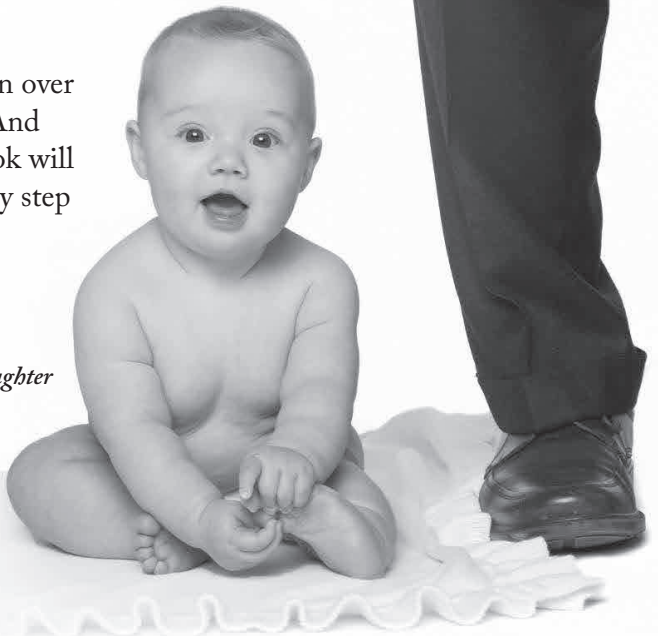



## Some lessons last a lifetime

Isabella lives in the moment. To her, planning for her future means waiting to see if that face peeks out of those hands again. But that won't always be the case. Some day soon, with a little help, Isabella will be learning to stand on her own two feet.

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## AMENIA/MILLBROOK

*Lights, camera, action!*

# Four Brothers Drive-In Theater reopens with COVID-19 guidelines

By KAITLIN LYLE  
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AMENIA — “Let’s get normal!” proclaimed the marquee sign placed at the entrance to the Four Brothers Drive-In Theater. After submitting a waiver to be declared an essential business and open their drive-in theater for the 2020 season following the state’s closure of non-essential businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, the Stefanopoulos family was thrilled to reopen on Friday, May 15.

Located at 4957 Route 22 in Amenia, the drive-in theater adjacent to Four Brothers Pizza Inn was initially deemed a non-essential business under the New York state guidelines during the pandemic. In response, John Stefanopoulos, one of its owners, submitted a waiver to Empire State Development on Monday, March 23, to request the drive-in be deemed essential.

Envisioning a contact-less theater capable of offering entertainment to the community while taking the necessary precautions for preventing the spread of COVID-19, Stefanopoulos explained that the entire theater system could be fully automated and precautions could be implemented to make sure everyone keeps their distance while enjoying the theater.

By Monday, May 10, the Stefanopoulos family received a reply from the state; they were overjoyed to learn their waiver had been approved. Drive-ins throughout the state are now operating, and gaining in popularity.

Stefanopoulos said, “I think we’re just very lucky to be in a position where we can help to bring people together safely and responsibly. I think this is a great place to bring sanity back and I think it’s great we can do that.”

“We’ve been running around



Members of the Stefanopoulos family provided NBC News with an interview about the reopening of their drive-in theater on Friday, May 15, prior to the screening of the first film at 8:10 p.m.

the clock getting everything together and we’re very excited to have the public back.”

To ensure everyone stays healthy during their visit to the theater, Stefanopoulos said the drive-in has enacted a few simple rules and regulations. Whether they’re exiting their vehicles or waiting to purchase food or use the restroom, patrons must keep a distance of 6 feet and wear a mask at all times. During the movie, patrons must remain inside their vehicle at all times. No social gatherings are permitted, and no lawn chairs are allowed at this time, though that may change at a later date. Tailgating with the vehicle hatch open is only permitted when patrons are wearing masks, and sitting outside of the vehicle is only permitted when patrons are sitting on the bed of their pick-up trucks and wearing masks, though this rule is also subject to change depending on conditions.

Along with strictly enforcing these rules and limiting vehicle capacity to 50%, the drive-in will

be offering car hop service during movies and will also notify patrons to come and pick up their orders when they’re ready. Restrooms will be sanitized routinely and all staff will be required to wear masks and gloves.

All tickets must be purchased online at [www.playeatdrink.com](http://www.playeatdrink.com). Patrons should then present their tickets to box office personnel. According to its website, the theater can’t guarantee entrance to patrons without pre-purchased tickets or a spot for non-reserved guests given the limited capacity. Patrons can purchase their food either online via [www.playeatdrink.com](http://www.playeatdrink.com), using the theater’s new outdoor kiosk at the phone booth, ordering at the Snack Shack or by calling their order in to 845-373-8178.

Stefanopoulos said they’ve been training staff on the new rules and “getting prepared internally.” When asked whether these new regulations have impacted the number of people employed at the drive-in theater, he explained that even though the theater will

be contact-less, it will still have employees working to keep everything sanitized and to help direct parking.

The gates to the drive-in theater officially opened at 5:15 p.m. on Friday evening and the first movie began at 8:10 p.m. Though there were reports of incoming thunderstorms for that evening, the drive-in pressed on with its plans, with movie-goers savoring the taste of early summer weather as a promising sign of good things to come. With “Trolls World Tour” and “Birds of Prey” selected as the theater’s first two films of the season, the drive-in attracted plenty of families for its grand reopening.

All while adhering to its new rules for keeping staff and customers safe, drive-in employees whipped up hot popcorn, cold milkshakes and many other drive-in delights that evening within the Snack Shack and offered service with a smile.

In addition to the families that flocked to the drive-in for a long-anticipated night out on the town, Four Brothers’ reopening caught the attention of NBC News and News Channel 12. Along with visiting the drive-in on Wednesday, May 13, Harry Smith, a long-time journalist from NBC News, and his producer, Caroline Gottlieb, visited the drive-in on Friday evening to interview members of the Stefanopoulos family before the first movie.

“Harry Smith and I were happy to highlight this positive story of a business carefully and creatively opening up and giving folks a fun night out,” Gottlieb said on a later date. “The guests and families there seemed to really enjoy the taste of normalcy — even if they had to don masks while enjoying the movie.”

For more information on the drive-in, go to [www.playeatdrink.com](http://www.playeatdrink.com).

## Millbrook makes its superintendent official

By JUDITH O’HARA BALFE  
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MILLBROOK — Laura Mitchell has been appointed superintendent of schools by the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) Board of Education (BOE) and BOE President Perry Hartwick effective July 1, 2020.

Announcing the appointment, the board released a statement that it was “delighted” to do so, as Mitchell has been interim superintendent for the past five months, serving at a difficult time while a search was ongoing for a permanent superintendent.

“During that time she has led our district through some of the greatest challenges the district has faced in recorded history, including the impacts from COVID-19,” stated the board. “Her leadership, positive attitude and experience have made it clear that our permanent superintendent has been here all along.”

Mitchell, who during the interim period executed a tour of the district, which she called a “Listening and Learning” tour, got to know the district and the people in it. She has practiced an open-door policy for staff and students alike, and has attended many events in the district to get better acquainted with the area and its residents.

When asked to comment on her appointment, she said, “I am thrilled and honored to continue to be part of such a wonderfully caring community that truly does great

things for its students. Here’s to a bright and productive future — together. Onward!”

Mitchell’s experience in education includes helping to found an all-girls public school in Queens in 2006, which served a very diverse population and had a graduation rate of 98%.

From there, Mitchell took a position as superintendent of a school in Garrison, N.Y., where she spent the past five and a half years and where she was instrumental in establishing a literacy program for grades kindergarten through eight. Other accomplishments while in Garrison include creating a 1:1 Chromebook initiative for grades three through eight and bringing computer literacy and expertise to younger students. She also oversaw a \$9.9 million capital project in the district.

Mitchell lived in Beacon for many years, but her mother worked at Cardinal Hayes School in Millbrook, so she is familiar with the village and has fond memories of visiting it as a child.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Ithaca College, her M.S. from St. Rose’s College and her M.L.S. from SUNY Albany. She earned her Doctorate at Manhattanville College in education leadership. She has served as a library media specialist and as an assistant principal as well as a principal and superintendent, so her experience is vast.

Both Mitchell and the BOE have said they are looking forward to a productive and fruitful partnership in the future.

Email news and photos to [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com)

## Millbrook board discusses Village Hall renovations, cancellations

By JUDITH O’HARA BALFE  
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MILLBROOK — The Tuesday, April 28, remote meeting of the Village Board opened quickly.

Mayor Rodney Brown spoke about the low response rate from Millbrook residents in the 2020 Census, of about 50%. The Census can be done online, through the mail or by telephone; it is important that each citizen be counted so that programs are correctly funded and there is fairness and equity in federal aid and resources, said Brown.

The board, after many discussions and a meeting devoted to the 2020 budget, adopted the budget. This was a combined effort, with trustees devoting themselves to different aspects of the budget, either alone or in pairs to respect social distancing in the age of COVID-19, and Village Clerk Sarah Witt taking part. (For more on the 2020-21 Millbrook budget, go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com).)

Trustee Tim Collopy announced that the proposed Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Marathon, which was scheduled for June, has been canceled due to the pandemic; possibly it will be rescheduled for 2021.

The health crisis is also affecting the Millbrook Farmers Market,

which will open next week. This year there will be no craft stalls or entertainment due to COVID-19. The amount of people who will be allowed to shop at one time may also be limited.

The mayor said that a wall division system that is being put in place in Village Hall’s meeting room will be assembled over the next two weekends. There is still discussion about enlarging the office of Policeman Jared Witt; the town of Washington has rented space at Guertin Gym and elsewhere over the years, but due to current social distancing requirements and other concerns, it is unclear if shifting office space is a possibility right now.

The ongoing benefit LOSAP program was approved. A Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) is similar to a pension program, but is intended to assist emergency service organizations and its members, like those of the fire department.

The village tennis courts have been an issue for more than a year; they are in disrepair, but repaving is very expensive. However, residents are keen to use them. Mindy Hill and other concerned citizens have offered to pay for the labor and repairs with the village paying for the materials. The board agreed to the arrangement, but not

at this time.

Trustee Joe Rochford is working with the village clerk on cleaning out a records room in the basement of Village Hall, a project badly needed, he said. They have started on the clean-up, which entails reviewing which documents to keep and which to dispose of, so it’s a tedious job and must be carefully done. The records and documents will be moved to a space on the second floor of the building. Trustee Mike Herzog mentioned that the Boy Scouts might be able to build shelves for the records room as an Eagle Scout project.

Trustee Kevin McGrane spoke about several projects that are being done in Millbrook, including Serving Millbrook, which distributes roughly 130 meals each day from the Millbrook Diner, through donations, volunteers, the diner staff and its owners, along with help from Marona’s Market, Locust Hill Farms and a GoFundMe page. Donations are tax exempt if they are made through Grace Church.

McGrane, also president of the Millbrook Business Association (MBA), gave a rundown of village businesses during the pandemic. Brown added village meetings can be seen on Channel 22, as can “Kevin at 11,” with Brown and McGrane giving village updates and news.

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# PINE PLAINS

## Planning Board hosts preliminary discussion for Durst project's pre-sketch review

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
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PINE PLAINS — After receiving correspondence from The Durst Organization signifying its interest in beginning the pre-sketch review of its resort development application earlier this month, the Pine Plains Planning Board assembled on Wednesday, May 13, to engage in a preliminary discussion of the developer's pre-sketch submission.

When The Durst Organization re-approached the town in February 2018 to redevelop the former Carvel Country Club (as it had proposed years earlier, though the project had stalled), the plan was to redevelop the property as a golf and recreation-oriented second home community in the towns of Pine Plains and Milan. Using feedback solicited from local residents, the project was later redesigned as a recreation-oriented resort.

Included in the project's revision, the Durst team announced its decision to withdraw its New Neighborhood Development (NND) application at the Planning Board's Feb. 18 meeting. Given the changes, representatives from the Durst team said the revised project will now be developed under the same rules that apply to other developments in the residential district. They also shared their proposal for developing the land as a conservation subdivision.

On Friday, May 1, the town of Pine Plains announced via a press release that The Durst Organization delivered letters to its Town Board and Planning Board to formally withdraw the NND application and initiate the pre-sketch review process, "a prerequisite to filing a Conservation Subdivision application." It stated that the pre-sketch review will "identify the 50% of land to be reserved for open space in the proposed subdivision layout of the project."

Before The Durst Organization can complete its proposed project design and layout, the Planning Board needs to complete a preliminary identification, a process that could take months to finish. Once the preliminary identification is finished, the Durst team will complete its proposed development plan for the project and submit it to the Planning Board as a subdivision sketch plan, which will be accompanied by an Environmental Assessment Form to start the required State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the May 13 meeting was conducted

via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions and live streamed on the "Pine Plains Planning Board" YouTube channel. In addition to the members of the Pine Plains Planning Board, the meeting welcomed Durst attorney Jennifer Van Tuyl from Cuddy & Feder; Pine Plains Town Engineer Ray Jurkowski; and Frank Fish and Sarah Yackel from BFJ Planning, the consulting firm the town hired to do the analysis of the Durst project work.

Over the course of their discussion, the board considered the amount of property that will not be developed for this project — such as wetlands and steep slopes — since the town's zoning law prohibits building on such lands. Additionally, while 2,652 acres have been considered for the project in Pine Plains, the board acknowledged that the applicant will be removing 176 acres of grandfathered land where the Carvel property previously sold lots. At this point in time, all of the numbers pertaining to the land are up to the Planning Board to decide. Seeing as some of the lots included in the project are in neighboring Milan, Pine Plains Planning Board member Dick Hermans said the board might want to engage Milan in the conversation early on rather than wait until the board decides on the number of lots. Fish told the board that it could invite Milan into any of its meetings at any time.

Pine Plain Planning Board Chairman Michael Stabile said the board has 30 days to make a comment on the application to the Town Board, and if a comment isn't made, it will be assumed that the Planning Board approves of what the applicant is requesting. The Town Board would then make a decision on the project's density.

Van Tuyl said Pine Plains has 100% jurisdiction over the prop-

erty that's located in Pine Plains and Milan is only dealing with the property located in Milan. She emphasized that Pine Plains "is unique both in having the pre-sketch process and also in having this... credit for replatting lands that are in pre-existing standard subdivision."

"Milan doesn't have a process like that," Van Tuyl said, "so whatever we develop in Milan, we're going to be developing based upon the final subdivision plan."

All in all, Van Tuyl said the Pine Plains and Milan Planning Boards will have plenty of time to coordinate with the Pine Plains Town Board.

Fish explained that the project's lot count and open space designations will all be subject to SEQRA, adding that the applicant expects to compete a Full Environmental Impact Statement that will include alternatives. Van Tuyl later pointed out that the alternatives would be addressed as part of the SEQRA process.

Fish informed the Planning Board that it would serve as the

lead agency in the process. Pine Plains Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky affirmed that the SEQRA process is the first step in the long approval process outlined in the town's zoning law and Milan could theoretically become lead agency since the Planning Board has to solicit for lead agency status. Regardless of whether the Planning Board is named lead agency, he said Milan would be involved in the SEQRA process.

Moving forward, Replansky said the Planning Board may have another internal meeting with its consultants before its next board meeting.

Fish explained that the Durst team has questions of a legal nature that it wants to discuss with Replansky to make sure they are on the same page.

Toward the end of the meeting, Replansky asked if the board could put the Durst discussion on its agenda for its meeting on Wednesday, June 10, adding that it could always be pulled if the board didn't feel it was ready to move forward.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Photographed with her Australian Shepherd, Lily, Paige Arent, 14, of Stanfordville decided to help families in need by setting up a GoFundMe page so she could purchase gift cards to send to families struggling to support themselves during the coronavirus pandemic.

### COVID-19 health crisis

## Stissing Mountain freshman raises money for families in need

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

STANFORDVILLE — After watching her mother field endless calls from people struggling to support their families during the coronavirus pandemic, Paige Arent, a freshman at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, stepped forward to create her own fundraiser for local communities, to purchase gift cards for families in need during the COVID-19 health crisis.

A resident of Stanfordville, Paige, 14, said she was motivated to set up a GoFundMe page after hearing her mother Anne take unemployment calls for her work as the director of community affairs for Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106). Throughout the day, Paige said she heard stories of people struggling financially who were unable to support their families as a result. Wanting to help, she created the GoFundMe page "Donation Funds for the Unemployed in New York" last month.

As written on her GoFundMe page, Paige said her intent is to raise funds to go to the unemployed people of New York in and around the towns of Stanfordville and Pine Plains. Though Paige initially launched her fundraiser with the goal of raising \$1,000, the responses she received put her up to \$1,710 by Tuesday, May 12, and the fundraiser has continued to grow with each donation. Excited by the community's immediate response to her project, Paige has responded to their generosity by personally sending out emails to the donors to thank them.

All of the funds raised will be distributed in \$100 gift cards to families in need. As of this time, Paige has been utilizing the funds to purchase \$100 gift cards from Hannaford Supermarket in Red Hook.

When asked what inspired her to channel the funds into gift cards, Paige said, "I figured it was the best way to distribute the money that was donated, especially because a lot of people near here go grocery shopping and could use the funds to support their family."

Having done the math, she explained that \$100 can hopefully get a family enough food for at least a week. She added that in addition to food, families can purchase hygiene products from the supermarket and other items they might need to support themselves.

Paige said she also received a donation of gift cards for Stewart's Shops in Pine Plains, which she said can be used for purchasing gas. With the money she's raised so far, Paige said she's been able to purchase around 10 cards and hopes to get many more. Each family will receive one \$100 gift card to Hannaford Supermarket and one \$10 gift card to Stewart's Shops. After negotiating with the managers at Hannaford Su-

permarket, Paige acquired two additional \$25 gift cards from the supermarket for her project.

As far as finding recipients, Paige said she's reached out to the town supervisors in both Pine Plains and Stanfordville. Respecting the privacy of those in need, she explained that once the supervisors contact her with the names of the individuals, she sends the supervisors the gift cards to distribute to those families. As her fundraiser continues to receive donations, Paige said she can start expanding her project to other surrounding towns.

Impressed by her daughter's initiative, Anne, who is vice-president of the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education, marveled at the diversity of people who have contributed to Paige's fundraiser.

"It's been a lot of local people and people who live far away that have been giving, which is really impressive," she said, adding it means a lot to see people giving back to their communities at this time.

Anne also praised her daughter's outreach in spreading the word about her fundraiser through social media, from her Instagram account to Anne's own Facebook page.

"It's all been her — she has been doing all of the contacting," Anne said.

To make a donation, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/donation-funds-for-the-unemployed-in-new-york](http://www.gofundme.com/f/donation-funds-for-the-unemployed-in-new-york).

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

**Village of Millerton DUTCHESS COUNTY Landscape Architecture/Engineering Services**

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) FY 2019 Grant Award Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) FY 2019 Grant Award

The Village of Millerton is soliciting proposals from landscape architectural/engineering

consultants to provide professional services required for the redevelopment of Eddie Collins Memorial Park. These services are to include, but not limited to: design development, construction documents, SWPPP, bidding and negotiations, and construction administration.

The full text of the RFP is available from Kelly Kilmer, Clerk, Village of Millerton, located at 5933 N. Elm Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Kelly Kilmer can be reached at (518) 789-4489 or by email at [clerk@villageofmillerton.com](mailto:clerk@villageofmillerton.com).

The deadline for submission of a response to the RFP is 3:00 PM, Friday, June 12, 2020.

A response to the RFP should be sent to:

Kelly Kilmer  
Clerk  
Village of Millerton  
5933 N. Elm Ave.  
Millerton, NY 12546  
[clerk@villageofmillerton.com](mailto:clerk@villageofmillerton.com)

Professional service firms, individuals, or teams that are or include NYS Certified MBE or WBE firms or individuals are strongly encouraged to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Consultants and firms are also encouraged to submit utilizing DBE sub-consultants where appropriate.

05-21-20

### Legal Notice This will be to hear the Extended Public Hearing on the Amenia Library Association

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Board for the Town of Amenia will hold its May meeting on WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th at 7:00 p.m. via teleconferencing. Any member of the public wishing to see this meeting needs to contact the Judy Westfall at 845-373-8860 x122 by May 22nd.

Robert Boyles  
Chairman  
Town of Planning Board  
05-21-20

### PINE PLAINS IN BRIEF

#### Assistance with food

Help is available for those struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both food pantries in town — Willow Roots at 23 North Main St. and the Pine Plains Community Food Locker at 3023 Church St. (Route 199) — are helping people who can't afford food. The Locker will open by request, by calling 518-398-7273, and Willow Roots distributes on Saturday mornings and in emergencies; it may be contacted at 518-751-0164.

The Pine Plains Central School District has gone to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday food distribution schedule.

#### Help make masks

According to Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, Joann Fabrics has offered to give people the fabric and instructions to make masks.

Volunteers can make the masks and drop them off at Town Hall, along with any extra supplies they might have — N95 masks for instance, used in construction, or gloves, etc. The town will take them and distribute them first to local departments and people and then to the county.

For more information, or to call the Pine Plains Helpline, dial 518-965-1875.

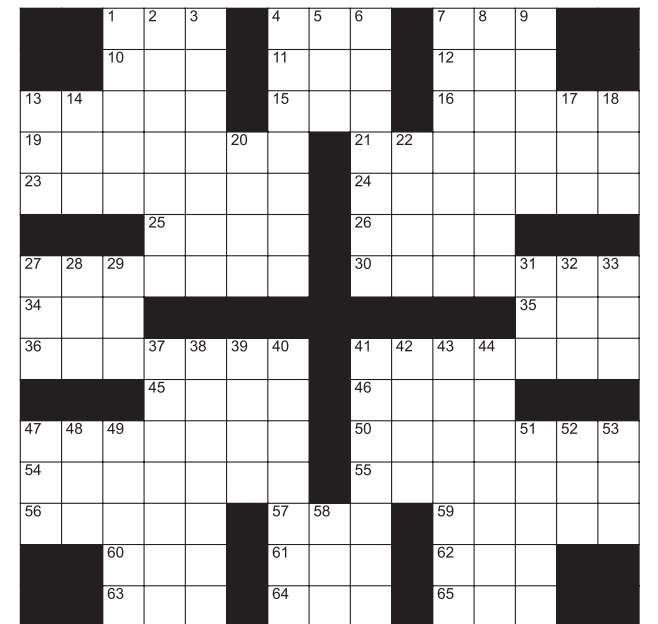
# Brain Teasers

#### CLUES ACROSS

- It's now called Experian
- You can draw it
- Very fast aircraft
- Go quickly
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Biochemical abbreviation
- Make somebody laugh
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- City in NE Morocco
- Colorless gas
- NE football player
- A snake is one
- Small spot
- Inform
- Republic of Ireland
- Large statues
- Documents about an individual
- Helps little firms
- Namibia's former name
- Large insects
- Thirsty
- A well-defined track or path
- One who utilizes
- Plant-eating mammals
- Not in tip-top shape
- Alternate names
- A part of a broadcast serial
- City in central Italy
- LOTR actor McKellen
- Trees provide it
- Men's fashion accessory
- Type of screen
- Snakelike fish
- Possesses
- When you aim to get there
- Tooth caregiver

#### CLUES DOWN

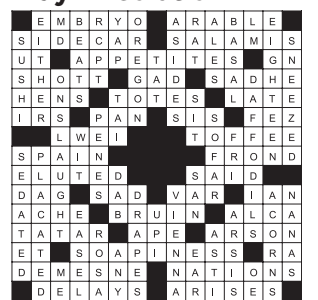
- Hit heavily
- Italian rice dish
- Some are cocktail
- A citizen of Israel
- Read-only memory
- Passed by
- Northern diving ducks
- References
- Iranian language
- Swiss river
- Woman (French)
- Gov't department (abbr.)
- Consumed
- Ailments
- Balkan Jewish appetizer
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Skywalker mentor — Wan
- Resinous secretion of insects
- Similar
- Female sheep
- Cool!



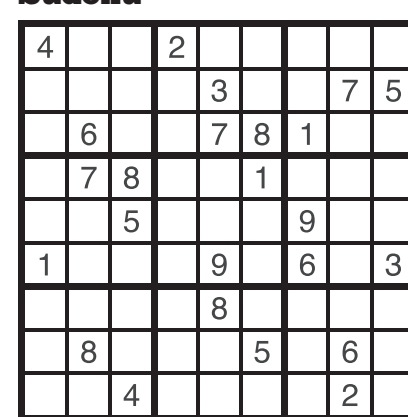
- Borders the Adriatic Sea
- Flowers
- It's sometimes upped
- Immobile
- Female body parts
- Common request
- Made a second thrust
- Fell into deep sleep
- Subway resident
- Brew
- The event of being born
- Aspirations
- Doctor of Education
- Punk musician — Dee Ramone
- A subdivision of a play

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

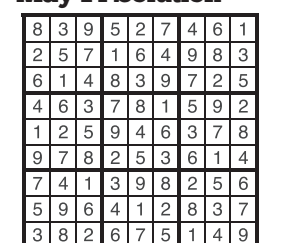
#### May 14 Solution



#### Sudoku



#### May 14 Solution



Level: Intermediate



Senior living • Rehabilitation • Nursing • Memory Care

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EDITORIAL

# A different kind of Memorial Day in a different world

The outbreak of the coronavirus has forced many changes across the globe since last December — from the shutting down of whole economies to the closures of schools and universities to the cancellations of sporting events and concerts. In the United States, it has also impacted some time-honored traditions, like the commemoration of Memorial Day, which this year falls on Monday, May 25.

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a federal holiday to honor the lives of the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. And while many Americans see the holiday as the unofficial start of the summer season, throughout the country — and certainly in the Harlem Valley — there remains the tradition of hometown parades and ceremonies and local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) grave-side commemorations and memorials to mourn the dead of our Armed Forces.

This year, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of those ceremonies have been canceled, or altered dramatically. Some groups, like the Millerton American Legion Post 178, decided to hold virtual ceremonies to keep Legionnaires and community members protected. It was tough to make the decision to change long-standing traditions, said Post Historian Sean Klay, but safety concerns were paramount.

As noted by Post 178, “This year we are NOT inviting the public to participate in person during our observances, however the Post does invite the public to participate virtually via both Facebook and YouTube. We will be posting the information to join us later this week on our website at [www.legionpost178.org](http://www.legionpost178.org) as well on our Twitter and Facebook pages.”

Only members of the Post, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion organizations will be able to participate in the Millerton Legion’s Memorial Day exercises this year. Anyone with question should email [postcommander@legionpost178.org](mailto:postcommander@legionpost178.org).

“I think everybody is disappointed, but circumstances kind of dictated what can and can’t be done,” Klay acknowledged. “Prudence and caution are kind of the order of the day.”

Meanwhile, in Pine Plains, both its American Legion Post 426 along with its VFW Post 5519 have posted on Facebook they will not be holding Memorial Day services this year due to the health crisis.

“The health and safety of all our members must continue to be our top priority,” they stated, adding, “We ask the community to never forget the sacrifices made by our veterans. Please keep them in your thoughts during these difficult times.”

And that’s what’s important here: That we always remember the bravery, the resoluteness, the integrity and the righteousness of heroes no longer with us. It’s at times like these — when the world is struggling with a common enemy — that we realize just how much those valiant soldiers, many of whom died on the battlefield, sacrificed, so that we may remain safe and free.

Today our military continues to protect us — in ways we see and in ways we don’t. We must always pay due respect to those who have served and to those who continue to serve, for their willingness to put their lives on the line, like those who came before them. So, this year, even if there won’t be a Memorial Day ceremony at Fountain Square in Amenia or a commemoration at the Village Green in Millbrook, take time to remember and grieve those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could all live in what is inarguably the greatest nation in the world. Please, don’t let Memorial Day slip by unnoticed.

## ‘Lest we forget,’ Memorial Day is upon us

What would have been, under normal times, an extended weekend involving parties, barbecues and social functions, has unfortunately been put on hold this year. Memorial Day is a somber, serious time for us veterans and the military.

I will quote excerpts from a local Presbyterian Church service pamphlet dated May 30, 1943. It contains the names of 134 young men from Millerton serving overseas at that time. The cover included a pre-invasion quote from General Douglas MacArthur dated 1942: “At the altar, where I first joined the sanctuary of God, I ask you to seek divine guidance for me in the great struggle that looms ahead.”

Another excerpt in the pamphlet stated, “We are thinking tonight not only of the few score of men whose graves we have decorated, but the thousands upon thousands who sleep in other graves across the world, who have made it possible for this to remain the citadel of freedom and justice. We are thinking of the maimed and the broken, whose bodies were laid on the altar of sacrifice for us. We are thinking of those youths who are laying down their lives tonight, that we might live.”

We vets, the military and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, wish you patriotic readers and your families well this Memorial Day. Please take a brief

### VETERAN’S CORNER

Larry Conklin

moment for silent prayer for those thousands who gave up their lives to accord you the freedom to enjoy this weekend.

We can never close our account with those who died on the field of honor. Perhaps the humblest tribute we can pay to their memory is to follow the wisdom of a young hero who died in WWI, who wrote to his mother just before he fell.

“The measure of a life is not its span but the use made of it,” he wrote.

I’ll end this column with my own remark: “Lest we forget those so many dreams buried forever — thank you.”

Have a good weekend, count your blessings, cherish your family and close friends and say a brief prayer for yesterday’s fallen heroes as well as today’s heroes — our front line health providers — who are making supreme sacrifices saving the lives of those with COVID-19.

Be safe, stay healthy and do a good deed whenever possible...

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

# Space more promising than air flight

As you might imagine, the flying aviation world is hurting. Planes are stored — not only those 737 Max planes but a whole host of half-built and grounded airliners — and engines are being stored. Currently, almost 38,000 jet engines are idle and being stored... engines that need weekly servicing even if they are not flying. Lubrication and wear and tear

### A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

on internal parts because of jet fuel and corrosion are serious issues. These engines are made to run, not sit idle. The cost are mounting.

So, where’s the good news in aviation? It’s all up in space.

First, the SpaceX Dragon resupply ship is, once again, safely docked to the International Space Station. SpaceX has proved the Dragon many, many times now and, within this year, NASA will launch humans into space for the first time in years — nine years to be exact. Who is likely to be the first to go? NASA

astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley are all suited up and raring to go — set for May 27! Tune in and wish them God-speed.

Secondly, the race for real money — a space gold rush for the 21st Century — is about to get seriously underway with another landing on an asteroid on Aug. 26. The asteroid is the Benu and the unmanned spacecraft is the Osiris-Rex. That craft will tell scientists exactly how much valuable metal ore is there. Osiris-Rex been flying near and over the asteroid for some time, mapping (photography) and using sensor probes, but the actual landing will be the real test.

Of course, scientists, thankfully, are collaborative beings. While Osiris-Rex has been maneuvering around Benu looking for a good place to set down (and finding it surprisingly rocky), the Japanese asteroid probe Hayabusa2 completed its touch and go on the larger asteroid Ryugu, collecting — yes, collecting — samples now on their way back to earth. In December we’ll know what they found. And both teams are exchanging findings.

All this reminds me of the early prospectors way out West in the 1800s. Yes, once they staked a claim, they fought to protect their asset. But they told everyone what they were finding for a very simple — and good — reason: The more people show up, the more likely you’ll have partners, banks willing to loan funds, grocers to provide food, stagecoach operators willing to take your bounty to banks. The asteroid space race is exactly the same. From earth and using the space telescopes, we know there are easily mined iron, titanium and rare earth metal compositions to many of the asteroids. No digging down a mile or more into the earth’s crust. Spot the gigantic nugget (30 miles in diameter), attach a rocket pack, send it spiraling down into a safe earth orbit where it can be cut up and dropped to the planet. Trillions of dollars to be made for a cost of billions. Exactly like the Gold Rush of ‘49.

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



# It’s not over till it’s over

We keep learning new things about the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Some general characteristics apply in most situations, but this bug’s personality is capable of some crazy, dangerous stuff. It’s not the most devastating virus nature has produced — that crown belongs to the bubonic plague, with smallpox second and cholera third — but it is one of the most easily transmitted, and thus will hobble an economy as authorities try to limit its spread.

By the numbers, the vast majority of those infected survive with no long-term effects. Many beat the bug at home, in quarantine, and fully recover in a week or two. The symptoms can be mild — a headache, a persistent dry cough, a slight temperature. But some get really ill and need a hospital’s care to manage an onslaught of debilitating effects. The difference might well be the intensity of person’s exposure, their “viral load,” rather than some personal genetic disposition and regardless of age — which explains why hardy, youngish ER doctors and nurses are among the clobbered. And why masks make sense: even if it doesn’t stop everything, the cloth blocks enough that you won’t get really ill.

A few have suffered a cytokine storm, cytokines being what spur immune cells into action, but like a hose company drowning a whole building to wet a wastebasket. This frequently fatal condition tends to happen when a new virus enters a defenseless population, until a more measured immune response emerges. There have been credible, isolated reports of the virus thriving in other organs, including the kidneys and even the brain. Some virus-free victims show lasting neurological burdens but it’s too early to know if such damage is permanent.

Viruses that take hold in lungs are among the most communicable, because the infected exhale, cough and sneeze virus particles into air others breathe and onto surfaces others touch with fingers that stray to the eyes, nose or mouth. Suddenly specialists in fluid dynamics and wind-tunnel

### GUEST COLUMN

Tom Parrett

engineers are in demand by medical policymakers, who want to know if the 6-foot standard for social distancing is adequate. Yes, indoors, if everyone is wearing a mask and the trapped air is regularly replenished. Of course outdoors, unless you are downwind of someone coughing or sneezing, droplets from a sneeze can carry suspended virus particles 25 feet or more — much more if there’s wind. Recall how far away you can smell someone’s tobacco smoke.

This virus spreads easily because of asymptomatic carriers. A “super-spreader” can infect 50 people in an evening, as a club-crawler recently did in newly reopened Seoul, traveling from dance floor to dance floor. (Seoul promptly re-shut its clubs.) This lesson has been applied in most cities, where the rate of infections has diminished. Now is the decisive moment. Will people continue to social distance, quarantine in place, practice mask protocol (wear one, wash it once a day, avoid people who don’t) and put the good of their communities ahead of their own? Or will they join those who still don’t wear a mask, make no effort to social distance and imagine they are impervious? As moral philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah noted, such people are prompted by “ignorance, foolishness or wickedness.”

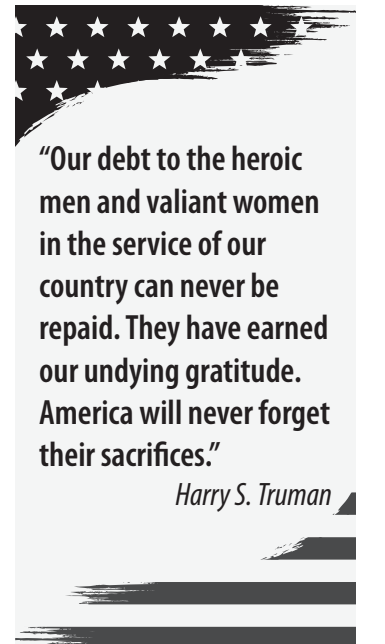
To embrace social good these days requires more than the usual oomph. You must ignore the example of our president, who doesn’t wear a mask. Avoid local peer pressure among the manly men, who find masks, well, unmanly. (What about the bravest of them all, the Knights of the Round Table? Firefighters? ER doctors and nurses? Spidey? Captain America? Deadpool?) Re-press the joyous human impulse to defy authority — though in this case the authority is not arbitrary, overweening government but neighborhoods and commu-

nities trying to survive. Overlook the innumerable examples on TV of cheerful, happy actors directed by drug companies to show how Vraylar and Dupixent and Rexutta and Biktavry let you live a normal life, betraying not the slightest sense that there’s a pandemic loose in the land.

There is one health upside, with possibly the longest-term consequences imaginable. You can see buildings in New Delhi and Mexico City, gape at the bottom of a Venetian canal. The imploding economy has put the fossil-fuel regime in full retreat. Even before COVID-19, oil prices had sunk. As the inimitable Bill McKibben put it recently, “Flatten the carbon curve, too.” Let the economy return on a bicycle. The U.S. now generates more power from renewable sources than from coal. From a dreadful dawn can come a new day.

Tom Parrett writes about science and nature. He lives in Millerton.

The letters to the editor deadline is Monday, 10 a.m.



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Volume 89, Number 17 Thursday, May 21, 2020

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The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

May 21-27, 2020

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## While We Were Home

In the May 14 Compass, we wrote about historical societies and artists who are trying to collect images and texts that will someday remind us of how completely weird this year has been.

Photographer Lazlo Gyorsok, who lives in Cornwall, Conn., has already been working on something he calls the Pandemic Project, taking photos of people at their ease this spring at their Cornwall homes and farms. The photos are wonderfully normal, showing everyday folks doing their yard chores, playing with their dogs, delivering mail, framing artwork.

Gyorsok said he started taking the photos as part of the Front Porch Project, “where individuals/families are photographed outside their homes during the Pandemic.



PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

**Cornwall residents Jerry and Pat Blakey were photographed on April 29 by Lazlo Gyorsok for his study of what life looks like during the quarantine.**

“The photographers keep social distance while making an important human connection and documenting our new stay-at-home

lives.”

Gyorsok has taken about five dozen photos, with famous folk such as artist/architect Tim Prentice, and

everyday folk such as “Joe Zagata, our UPS driver.” There are children and families and farmers and artists and even a fly-fisherman.

The images will become part of the Cornwall Historical Society’s Pandemic Collection. They can be seen online now at [www.lazlo.us/home](http://www.lazlo.us/home) and in the windows of the Housatonic Art and Frame Shop in Cornwall Bridge. You can link to them from the town of Cornwall’s website at [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org); click on Cornwall Arts and Remote Entertainment Page, then scroll down to Cornwall Online Offerings and click on “While We Were Home.”

Gyorsok is offering to take additional portraits at no charge, depending on where the subjects live and on everyone’s schedules. Call him at 860-672-6729 or email [lazlo1@optonline.net](mailto:lazlo1@optonline.net).

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## The Notorious Madame Bovary

Perhaps you think the headline, above, adds too much sizzle to what might seem a dusty 19th-century novel. But I will contend that “Madame Bovary” was a notorious kind of a character whose downfall is still relevant to the modern world.

I had a teacher describe her once as “a woman who was ruined by her deco-

ror.” Madame B. is more commonly described as a bored provincial who tries to escape the boundaries of her small world by spending too much money on HGTV products, with tragic consequences for all involved.

Oh, sorry, wait, there was no HGTV in 19th-century France. Perhaps a modern remake will be made someday, and Emma Bovary will

be abetted in her ruin by television shopping channels and the internet.

I confess I never quite finished this book in French class. I found Emma so unlikeable that I didn’t want to read about her.

Roxana Robinson, a novelist and Cornwall, Conn., resident, understands that the novel’s protagonist can easily be loathed. In a New Yorker magazine article that she wrote in 2017, she reveals that she teaches “Madame Bovary” to her graduate writing students at Hunter College in New York City — and the question that frames their book discussions is “Does Flaubert want us to feel contempt or compassion for his characters?”

Perhaps you already have an opinion on this topic; perhaps you’ve never thought about it before but have now had your interest piqued ... Perhaps you’ll finally want to take on this

classic novel under the tutelage of a skilled expert.

Robinson is offering area readers a sort of online master class in “Madame Bovary” through the Cornwall Library. She’s been reading aloud from great works online for the library for several weeks now. Her tour of great works of literature will end with a three-session dissection of Flaubert’s greatest novel. It will begin on Wednesday, May 27, at 4 p.m. and continue on June 3 and 10.

She will read sections out loud and then there will be discussion. The translation from the French that she will use is the one by Lydia Davis, considered one of the finest translators of all time of French literature into English. It’s surprisingly difficult to find a copy. Try [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) or [alibris.com](http://alibris.com).

Robinson gives page assignments on the library website, so you’ll want to get the edition she’s using: the 2010 hardcover from Viking. The cover shows a sepia-toned photo of a woman with a Swiss dot veil tucked tightly over her face.

To sign up for Robinson’s Zoom classes on “Madame Bovary,” email [director@cornwalllibrary.org](mailto:director@cornwalllibrary.org) and ask for the link.

MUSIC: FRED BAUMGARTEN

## When Sports And Art Collide

By now you’ve probably heard Scottish sports broadcaster Andrew Cotter doing hilarious play-by-play commentary as his two dogs, Olive and Mabel, do what dogs do (eat, play, swim).

Cotter is one of a handful of sportscasters who has been dedicating their expertise to activities that do not involve balls, cleats or sweat.

What this tells us is that humans love competition, in sports and many other areas of life. Why not try it with the arts as well?

Fred Baumgarten has created a brackets-style competition involving music, to help Compass readers while away their time productively in quarantine. He explains the rules below.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Let’s play. Antonin Dvorák, the Czech composer best known for his “New World” symphony, wrote many beautiful songs — none more beloved than the “Song to the Moon” from his opera “Rusalka,” in which the title character, a water nymph, pleads for the return of a human lover. It is unforgettable, from its harp introduction to its ravishing English horn bridge to the dramatic octave-leap conclusion. “Song to the Moon” has been recorded many times both in the opera and as a stand-alone showpiece.

You’ll need a computer or other device to try this game. The best artists are represented in YouTube clips, but you can also try Spotify. And of course, play this with your own favorite classical tunes, or search for covers of popular tunes as well.

Who sang “Song to the Moon” best? Here are my favorites. These were all found on YouTube; to listen, go to the website and type in the singer, year and “Song to the Moon.”

### 1. RENEE FLEMING (2010)

The American soprano long owned this role. Her voice has a liquid quality, and she milks every note. This version is a bit slow and overdone, the vowels a tad

mushy, but it’s also romantic and vulnerable.

### 2. LUCIA POPP (1980)

Popp was a Slovak opera star who died (sadly) at age 54 of a brain tumor. If you can get past the fair recording quality, this is superb: phrasing, pronunciation and bell-like tone meld perfectly with the song in a stirring but straightforward interpretation.

### 3. KRISTIAN OPOLAIS (2011)

With her star turn as Rusalka at the Met a few years ago, the Latvian soprano snatched the crown from Fleming. Her version here displays her solid, powerful voice and flawless diction (a built-in advantage for Eastern Europeans), but also her weakness: lack of a strong distinguishing tone. The bad audio quality doesn’t help.

### 4. LEONTYNE PRICE (YEAR UNKNOWN)

I could listen to Price sing anything to anyone — to a rock if need be. However, this recording of unknown vintage does not do her nor Dvorák justice. The voice is there, but odd interpretive choices and the American difficulty with the pronunciation hamper it.

### 5. GABRIELA BENACKOVÁ (1993)

This recording from the opera’s Met premiere is intoxicating. The Czech soprano Benacková sings with passion and a smoky voice. I should have been there! Also good: the 1981 recording.

### 6. FEDERICA VON STADE (2012)

One of the great voices of all time, the American soprano here gives a ravishing performance (of course), but too slow and cautious for my liking.

Now, this isn’t actually like a brackets competition. I’m just going to announce my winner: Benacková.

However, if you’d like to liven up your outdoor social distancing get-togethers with friends, bring out a laptop, smart phone or tablet computer and see what happens when friends face off over opera (or whatever music you prefer).

But remember: No high fives and no chest bumps.

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**2020 youth baseball suffers during global pandemic**

**Ball players strike out as COVID-19 cancels baseball season**

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

**HARLEM VALLEY** — For many young athletes growing up in the area, the arrival of spring means the beginning of baseball season, a time for them to rush out onto the field with a bat in hand and their eye on the ball. Yet as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, baseball season in the Harlem Valley has been canceled to prevent the risk of spreading any illnesses, leaving young athletes disappointed. Though they were also saddened by the decision to cancel the season, local coaches and recreation personnel knew it needed to be done and are now anticipating starting the program fresh next spring.

Amiee Duncan, treasurer of the Millerton Youth Baseball League, admitted, "I'm sad — I anticipated that this would be over soon, but this is our reality."

Keeping in contact with Amenia Recreation Director Kelly Milano and Lisa McAuliffe, the recreation director for Salisbury, Conn., Duncan said she's keeping an open ear to catch any news related to the Mid-County Baseball League's plans for the 2020 season. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, she said she expected the Millerton Youth Baseball League to get bigger and better this year, especially since Rob Cooper from Associated Lightning Rod joined the league as its new president.

When school districts in New York state were officially shut down for the remainder of the academic year on Friday, May 1, Duncan said that was their first indication that baseball season wasn't going to happen this year. Milano later alerted her to the news of schools closing across Connecticut as well as news of the Dover Little League team's decision to cancel its season.

As the Millerton Youth Baseball League packs up its equip-

ment and stores it away until next spring, Duncan said registration fees will be refunded to families.

As far as the future of baseball in Millerton goes, she said, "I think we just have to call it for this year and start fresh in 2021."

"It sucks just because the kids aren't going to be able to play ball," Milano added when asked about the turn of events.

Since recreational programs in New York state have been categorized under Phase Four of the reopening the state's economy, Milano explained that by the time recreational programs are allowed to reopen, it'll be time for soccer season, leaving baseball players to compete against soccer players for time on the field.

"Even if we were to begin opening up at this moment, we wouldn't be able to start until the end of June, beginning of July," she said. "We made the decision just to cancel the season, so we're going to work on refunds."

Though baseball season is a no-go this year, Milano remains hopeful about the future. Depending on how fast the state reopens, she said she hopes to have a day or two where kids will be able to get together and play baseball for fun — sans leagues.

Meanwhile, Pine Plains Recreation Director Michael Cooper reported that all Pine Plains programs and facilities will remain closed "until our region of the state can reopen safely." When the time comes, he said the Pine Plains Recreation Department will reopen following the guidelines set forth by New York state and Dutchess County.

"If we are able to reopen facilities and run programs safely, we will look at running a summer baseball program," Cooper said. "However, there are many variables that play into that decision and our current priority is the safety of our recreation patrons and community."



From left, Millerton T-Ball teammates Christopher Galvin and Hayden Herron watched their team play a game against Amenia during Millerton's 2019 Opening Day of baseball season.

In the meantime, he said members of the town's Recreation Department and Recreation Committee are planning and hoping for the best.

Having anticipated another season on the ball fields in the town of Washington, the Taconic Little League team was disappointed to hear about the season's cancellation, though this hasn't stopped Taconic Little League President Mike Denatale from staying positive.

"We haven't given up on this season just yet," he said. "We've obviously put an end to our spring season but we still haven't

actually given up complete hope."

That being said, Denatale said the league is hoping to either do something over the summer or start the fall baseball season a little earlier than usual. Dubbed "fall ball" by Denatale, the league's fall baseball season typically begins some time in the middle of August and runs to mid-October. Games are officially run from the first weekend after Labor Day until October. Though this is usually a weekend-only league, Denatale said there may be a way to squeeze in some extra games during the week "so we can give the kids something that resembles a



From left, Millerton baseball teammates Jaishaun O'Halloran and Brayden Selfridge posed for a 2019 Opening Day photo with Tucker the puppy.

normal season."

For the time being, Denatale said the league has been keeping everyone up-to-date and is working to make sure it has the funds available to give refunds to families. He explained that all of the cancellations came before the league had to outlay any funds for items such as baseball equipment.

If the league is unable to start

by the end of May, Denatale said he'll have to start thinking about canceling the season and issuing either refunds or credits to families. Yet he noted that many of the families involved with the league have remained hopeful.

"Most of our families have been trying to hold out hope that something will happen," Denatale said.

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