# LERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs



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Thursday, March 16, 2023 Volume 92 Number 8

12 Pages in 2 Sections

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**PINE PLAINS** Solar Project Review



**MILLBROOK** Girls Varsity Champs



**COMPASS** Art And Poetry; And More **B1-2** 

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Therapist Aviva Chansky Guttmann guides community mental health provider Yair Oelbaum in tapping on meridian points while demonstrating an energy psychology practice known as EFT.

## Mental health collaborative aims to help students cope

By DEBORAH MAIER Special to The Millerton News

RED HOOK — Politicians tend to stress "learning loss" when they speak of the educational system's recent upheavals related to the pandemic and lockdowns, but it's more nuanced than that, claimed Jack Costello, director of pupil personnel services (PPS) for the Red Hook Central School District

"Academic expectations have not changed," Costello pointed out, "and yet the social-emotional needs of our kids have exploded. And the reality is that the other academic

piece is for nought if they're not emotionally stable to receive it."

This situation and the remedies for it formed the core of a busy day for the Northern Dutchess Community and School Collaborative.

A highly engaged group of about 50 professionals in various mental health fields from the communities and school districts of Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Pine Plains gathered for a sixth meeting of the Collaborative in RHCSD's performing arts center on Superintendent's Conference Day on Friday, March 10.

See MENTAL HEALTH, A8

## Water expert talks Troutbeck expansion at Planning Board

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA - Responding to residents' comments heard at a series of public hearings regarding adaptive reuse plans for Troutbeck, the town planning board heard a

report from a hydrogeologist,

who presented findings at the

regular planning board meeting

on Wednesday, March 8. Following this meeting, the planning board will continue to receive input from various local agencies and organizations, including the Conservation Advisory

Council and the historical society. Those comments are due before the Wednesday, April 12, meeting of the planning board.

During a series of public hearings that ended on Feb. 8, the previous meeting of the planning board, residents had voiced concerns about the water table in the area, the effect that Troutbeck's expansion plans might have on private wells, and the area's aquifer. A study was conducted and reported by hydrogeologist Thom Cusack, vice president of WSP-USA of Shelton, Connecticut.

Since the hearings began, the

scope of the plan has been reduced to 32 bedrooms, Troutbeck representative Rich Rennia reported, adding that the plan is in agreement with the town's comprehensive plan of development.

"We are here to discuss next steps now that the hearing is closed," Rennia said.

Planning board engineer John Andrews said that he had focused on hydrogeology out of responsiveness to issues raised, particularly about impact on neighboring wells. He said that he had read

See TROUTBECK, A8

## Stissing House surges forward

By ELIAS SORICH elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Stissing House has remained a centralizing force to the town of Pine Plains in one form or another since its construction in 1782. That's 241 years of milestones. It reached a new one on Friday, March 10: a full year under the ownership of Clare de Boer.

A James Beard Foundation nominee for Rising Star Chef of the Year in 2018, de Boer's move to take on ownership of Stissing House in 2022 was reported on by the New York Times, Eater, and

See STISSING HOUSE, A8 Beverly.



beyond. Her work there has since The Stissing House team, from left: Katie Pearce, Clare de Boer, Jose Rameirez, Roel Alcudia, Nathan Rawlinson and Amanda



The 2022-23 Millbrook Blazers cheerleading team.

## Cheerleading returns to Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The varsity cheerleading team is back at Millbrook High School for the 2022-23 season, following a hiatus due to the pandemic.

Under the leadership of firstyear head Coach Aaliyah Cottman, a co-ed team of 18 young athletes worked to perfect their routines. They were also guided by seniors and captains Isabella Darnell, Holly Davidson, Kaitlyn Mueller and Harleigh Pickles.

Speaking of her coaching philosophy, Cottman said: "The overall vision of creating a successful cheerleading team is not to win. The overall vision is to build up the confidence and develop strong athletes while preparing them for their fu-

"I strongly believe implementing high standards, team collaboration, and holding these young athletes accountable for their actions will set them up for success."

Participating in three Section 9

cheerleading meets, the team got plenty of practice at home varsity games. They worked hard to prepare for the Section 9 Cheerleading Championship, which was held on Feb. 18 at Monroe Woodbury High School. They didn't make the cut, but they built a firm foundation for next year.

Remarked Cottman, "All of my athletes have made me so proud with the hard work they put in, and I couldn't have asked for a better

**See CHEERLEADING A8** 



## CONTACT The Millerton News

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## **OPINION**

A Health Assessment; Columns; Letter **B4** 



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## Board scrutinizes Pine Plains solar project

**By JOHN COSTON** johnc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — More than 30 residents attended a Planning Board public workshop on Saturday, March 11, to learn about the status of a proposed community solar project proposed near Pulvers Corners that is under review.

As the meeting began in the Community Room of the Pine Plains Free Library, 7775 S. Main St., residents were presented with a summation of issues that have been identified by the Board.

Planning Board Chairman Michael Stabile began with a nuts-and-bolts explanation of

the role of the board in evaluating the application by Carson Power of New York City, and introduced Frank Fish of BFJ Planning of New York, a planning consulting firm.

Fish reviewed the town's solar law as well as the Planning Board's role and responsibilities in considering the application to install a Tier-3 solar plant, which, under town law adopted in 2022, is considered a large-scale solar installation. The project would require a special permit and site-plan approval if it advances.

The three big study areas of the Planning Board, Fish said, are impact on habitat, visual impact of the project and evaluating the project's consistency with community character.

"Now we're approaching the end of the beginning of the process," said Stabile, noting that the Board has held public hearings and workshops on Carson Power's application and considered some environmental questions.

Stabile talked through a list of issues that have surfaced from public comments and from the Board, at times providing the Board's perspective on the relevance of concerns raised.

At the outset, Stabile announced that — time permitting at the end of the workshop — anyone who wished to speak would be given the opportunity.

The list of issues included concerns about whether there were wetlands on the proposed site, the impact of cutting trees, threats to wildlife, runoff concerns and issues related to the use of herbicides. There also were issues raised about the impact on property values of nearby residents, including the visual impact of a 171-acre solar farm with 24,000 panels on agricultural and forested land, plus questions about traffic and safety.

"There are still some outstanding questions," Stabile said, reiterating that the Board is evaluating all the things that have been said by Carson Power as well as all comments from the public. "This meeting is a review of the Planning Board's work and the hearings that have been held to date."

Ten residents who live near the project, to be located off Bean River Road, have orga-



Allison Galliher of Pine Plains commented on Saturday, March 11, that Carson Power doesn't have a long-term interest in the town.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT** 

is one of the biggest impacts nized their opposition to the project by hiring Grant and Lyons LLP of Rhinebeck, an

ing and real estate law firm. John Lyons of Grant and Lyons submitted new comments to the Board prior to Saturday's workshop that were based on expert reviews. The expert group includes: Erik Kaviat, co-founder of Hudsonia Ltd; George Janes, a planner; and Nan Stolzenburg, a community and environmental planner.

environmental land use, zon-

"We don't agree with the sort of semi-conclusions that have been reached so far on some things," Lyons told the Board Saturday. "We have some real questions about visual assessment. Visual impact posed by this project."

Lyons also said that it may seem obvious that the project is consistent with the town's Comprehensive Plan, but it's a much more complicated question.

All three experts, who did not attend Saturday's workshop, concluded in their reports that the project deserved further study.

Stolzenburg wrote: "It is my opinion that the Carson Solar proposed project is not consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, nor with community character and that there are many areas where there are potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to community

Kaviat was critical of the level of detail in the application. "The proposal lacks important detail as to site preparation, construction, and operation, especially with regard to soil management and large trees, and including agricultural co-location and pollinator plantings, to ensure that the project's harm to biodiversity is minimized and mitigated."

Kaviat recommends taking a hard look at the potential impacts on the bog turtles, bats, large trees, forests, downslope and offsite waters and wetlands, among others.

Jaynes concluded that "this project may cause a significant adverse impact on visual resources. The materials that the applicant produced simply do not demonstrate the potential for visual impacts."

Lyons is advocating for a "positive declaration" by the Planning Board, which would require Carson Power to prepare an environmental impact statement that studies the significant adverse environmental impact and proposes mitigation.

A few other residents spoke to the board Saturday after the workshop ended, including Allison Galliher, a resident of Skunks Misery Road, who said her family is involved in the community in the schools, by volunteering, getting involved in the Little League. "We're trying to make a positive impact to our community, where we're living," she said.

"They (Carson Power) don't have a long-term interest here," she said to applause from those present.

## State of the County is 'exceptional', according to O'Neil

By EMILY EDELMAN emilye@millertonnews.com

HYDE PARK Dutchess County Executive Bill O'Neil delivered the 2023 State of the County address on Wednesday, March 8, at the Culinary Institute of America.

"Dutchess County is exceptional," O'Neil said more than once in what will be his only State of the County address, as he is retiring at the end of the

O'Neil discussed the county's strong financial situation, which was echoed last week by another AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's, and referenced property tax cuts as well as the elimination of sales tax on clothing and footwear below \$110. He explained how debt was paid and provided updates on a number of county

The Justice and Transition Center (JTC), which replaces the Dutchess County jail, is expected to be completed this summer and ready for occupants. The new space will accommodate the expansion of programs including medication-assisted treatment, the RESTART cognitive behavioral therapy program, and the RECHARGE post-incarceration housing program.

The Housing Trust Fund, which came out of the countywide Housing Needs Assessment, was created to assist with projects pertaining to affordable rental housing. Several factors have caused the reconsideration of the purchase of the building at 26 Oakley St. in Poughkeepsie for use as an emergency housing facility and the county is looking into other options for using the space.

The county has taken new approaches in supporting behavioral health and substance recovery, including the Empowerment Center, now at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie, which offers drop-in service for opioid misuse treatment; and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) partnership program with the City of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County's parks system will see improvements this year, including a pickleball court at Quiet Cove, a new urban trail connecting the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, enhancements at Dutchess Stadium, and construction on the Lake Walton Preserve.

The Youth Opportunity Union project is moving forward and will be built on the site of the former YMCA with the help of architect MASS Design. The county is working with the Dyson Foundation to come up with a fundraising plan to raise money to complete the project.

At the end of his speech, O'Neil stated concerns about the "massive change" stemming from New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), and urged residents to participate in public comment periods to be held by the state Department of Environmental Conservation over the coming year.

A video and full text of the speech are online at www.dutchessny.gov/ Departments/County-Executive/2023-State-ofthe-County.htm

**Dutchess County Sheriff's** Office Harlem Valley area ac-

tivity report 02/23 to 03/08: Unlicensed operation

Feb. 25 — Deputies responded to 1249 Route 343 in Washington for a twocar minor personal injury automobile accident. Rulvi Espinosa, 37, was found to be operating a motor vehicle with his privilege to operate a motor vehicle in New York to be suspended. Espinosa was issued a traffic ticket for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 3rd degree. Espinosa to appear in the Town of Washington Court at a later date.

### **DWI** in Pine Plains

March 5 — Deputies arrested Michel Jeane, 75, for Driving While Intoxicated in the Town of Pine Plains. Subject released with traffic tickets to appear in Pine Plains Court at a later date.

### Arrested on warrants

March 6 — Deputies arrested of Robert T. St. John, 42, on two separate bench warrants issued for his arrest by the Town of North East Court for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd, Menacing 2nd, Criminal Contempt 2nd, and Endangering Welfare of a Child. Second warrant was for Criminal Contempt 2nd in the second degree. St. John also was wanted on an warrant issued by the Town of Amenia Court for Grand larceny 3rd. Subject Arraigned in Town of North East Court on all warrants and remanded to Dutchess County Jail in lieu of

50K/100K/200K bail/bond. Subject to appear in both courts at a later date.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.



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standards that protect the quality of our air, drinking water, and food. She will discuss why, decades later, they are still crucial to our health and safety.

Ms. Browner will be interviewed by Vivian Garfein, former Director of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Central District, now a resident of the Northwest Corner, and a member of the Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023 · 7 P.M.

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## **OBITUARIES**

## Hope Ann (MacDaniel) Tindall

Ann (MacDaniel) Tindall, 51,

of 525 County Route 8, passed away suddenly at her home on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. She was the wife of the late William D. Tindall who passed March 14, 2022. Hope was born July 5, 1971, in Bridgeport, Con-

necticut, daughter of the late Harold G. MacDaniel, Sr. and Betty (McCarthy) MacDaniel. She was raised in Stratford, Connecticut, and spent most of her life in Connecticut.

Hope was a proud wife, mother, and sister. She loved her family with all her heart. Nothing mattered more to her. Hope was very intelligent and strong and she raised her daughters to be the same. She was able to complete a number of courses at Northeast University. This was a source of great pride to Hope. She was the most caring woman vou could ever meet. Hope had a heart of gold. She will be forever missed.

She is survived by her two daughters; Patience and Mercy Tindall both of Ancramdale. Hope is also survived by her sister Johanna Tweed and her

ANCRAMDALE — Hope husband Gary of Falls Village, Connecticut; brothers Harold

> G. MacDaniel Jr. and his wife Lisa of Florida; Thomas MacDaniel and his fiance Dee Eastwood of Stratford, Connecticut; Richard MacDaniel and his wife Tracy of Stratford, Connecticut; and Wil-

liam MacDaniel of Millerton. Hope is also survived by her sister-in-law Kathleen Saja of West Haven, Connecticut and her best friend Beverly Dean of Torrington, Connecticut. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday March 16, at 2 p.m. in the Mountain View Cemetery, Sand Road, North Canaan, CT 06018. Memorial donations may be sent to a GoFundMe account for the benefit of Patience and Mercy or can be forwarded to the funeral home.

The link for the GoFund-Me account is www.gofund. me/7a5d39cd

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 815, 118 Main St., Canaan,

#### Nancy (Chase) Morey

NORTH CANAAN -Nancy (Chase) Morey, 81, formerly of 30 Devine Ave., passed peacefully with her beloved daughter Sherrie by her side on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Noble Horizons. She was the wife of the late Arthur Morey, Jr. Nancy was born Oct. 16, 1941, in Kent, daughter of the late Jason and Hazel (Courtney)

Nancy loved to help her family and friends. She took this passion and made a career out of it. She was employed for many years as a CNA at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. Nancy loved classic country music and whistling along to the songs. She was an accomplished baker and enjoyed hosting holiday feasts for her family. She enjoyed her soap operas, and would even record them so she wouldn't miss an episode. She loved butterflies and collecting bells. Nancy rooted for the Dallas Cowboys, and enjoyed Christmas shopping, but

In Memoriam:

The premise of the book

"The Five People You Meet In

Heaven" (by Mitch Albom) is

that when you enter heaven you

encounter five people who you

might not realize have had a

significant impact on your life.

When I (hopefully) get into

heaven I'm sure that Ed O'Dell

will be waiting there to greet

me. I first met Ed when him

mom, Donna, worked at the

hospital and Ed was a tough, rambunctious teenager, always

getting into trouble. When he

married Cindy and they raised

their daughter, Ariel, he became

a dedicated husband and dad,

and worked hard to build his

landscaping and handyman

have been more different, I

knew my family and I could

always depend on Ed. He

watched over our home and our

business with great care, play-

ing a significant role in keep-

ing everything in good working

order. His gruff sense of humor

was only surpassed by his kind-

ness. Having hired him to plow

our office parking lot, Ed would

also take the time to scrape off

the snow and ice from our of-

fice staffs' cars, and would often

be on hand to make sure their

cars would start before heading

Although our lives couldn't

Ed O'Dell

even more than that, she loved giving those gifts to her many family and friends. Nancy was known to have the qualities of a saint. A gift she shared with evervone.

Nancy is survived by her daughter Sherrie Heath of Canaan, and her son Jason Morey of Cornwall. She is also survived by her step-sons: Arlen Morey of Falls Village; Wiley Morey and Travis Morey both of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Troy Morey of Canaan. Her brother Wayne Chase of Torrington and her four grandchildren Marcus, Sarah, Tristan, and Karina and her three greatgrandchildren.

A Celebration of Nancy's life will be held on Sunday March 19, at 2 p.m. in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main St., Canaan, CT 06018. A reception honoring Nancy's life will be held at the VFW Couch Pipa Post 6851, 104 South Canaan Road, Canaan, CT 06018 immediately following the services at the funeral home.

home for the evening. He wasn't

asked to do this — it's just the

sort of guy he was — to often

that "Fairness doesn't govern

life and death... if it did, no

good person would ever die

young." Ed died too young and

he will continue to be sorely

missed by me and my family,

who always considered him a

Dr. Jerry Roth

Albom's book also notes

show a little extra kindness.

## Ronald B. Durning

SALISBURY — Ronald B. Durning died peacefully at

Noble Horizons on March 5, 2023, at the age of 96.

Ronald Durning was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Dec. 22, 1926, the older of two children of Cecelia Bresler and Alvin C. Durning. As a

child, he attended the Isadore Newman School in New Orleans and as a young man, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy. He later received a degree from Tulane University.

Ron began his professional career at the New Orleans Public Service Corp. Two years later he joined Mutual of New York in their New Orleans office. He was selected to enroll in their management training program which required a move to New York and was quickly promoted to manage his own agency in New York City. His agency was consistently one of the leaders in the company and a member of the "Topper Club." Ron later successfully launched and grew Compensation Programs, Inc., a national employee benefits consulting firm. He sold the company in 1975 to Corroon & Black, a major insurance company in the United States. He then was President and CEO of NYSE-listed Alpine Geophysical, Inc., a petroleum services company with offices in New York City, Alpine, New Jersey and Rome, Italy. Throughout his career, he formed a number of other companies with ties to the insurance and financial world. He also undertook other ventures including a New England resort hotel and two Scarsdale, New York restaurants, The Frog Prince Proper and Chase Landing. In 1993, he turned his attention to commercial and residential real estate development and sales with Country Properties Real Estate in South Egremont and Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Ron was an organized, hardworking, competitive, productive, disciplined takecharge leader with many interests. He dressed impeccably and was always the gentleman. Ron loved sports and was a passionate tennis and paddle tennis player. He played football and ran track in high school. Ron was an avid Yankees and New York Giants fan. He was a lifelong reader with a tremendous memory, and a New York Times crossword puzzle solver. He had a great sense of humor and it seemed he could

> remember every joke ever told to him (but was known to burst into laughter before delivering the punch line). Ron loved learning about other places, flew on the Concorde, and traveled to all fifty states and far off

places around the world

In 1950, he married Doris Charbonnet, also of New Orleans. Three years later they moved to Hartsdale and soon thereafter to Scarsdale, New York to pursue Ron's career and to raise their family. He and Doris had ten children whom he adored. His children were proud that he was their father, rightly figuring that he was a cut above the rest. He was a sentimental father and husband, always warmly greeting his family and easily brought to tears reciting a poem or reading one of his own. Ron was an exceptionally successful football and softball coach for his children's teams and provided a college education for ten children. Ron and his wife, Doris, purchased a vacation home on Cedar Crest Road in the Twin Lakes area in the mid-Sixties, thus beginning his long relationship and affection for the Berkshires and Salisbury in particular. He served for a time as president of the Twin Lakes Beach Club. About this time, he earned his private pilot's license, purchasing a small plane (call sign "Bonanza 1043 Alpha"). He flew it frequently around the country for both business and pleasure.

Together, Ron and Doris, provided a fun and varied upbringing for their children. In 1974, Doris, his wife of nearly twenty-five years died. He married Judy Edge, also of Scarsdale. They were married for fourteen years. In 1998, he married Sylvia Stewart. They had known each other since 1956, when she came to work at Mutual of New York. Since marrying 25 years ago, Ron and Sylvia spent almost every day together enjoying each other's company in and around Sheffield, Massachusetts, the Twin Lakes area of Salisbury and the last ten years at Noble Horizons. During these years they received frequent visits from family and friends and travelled to many places including Toronto, Seattle, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, the United Kingdom and Kyoto,

More obituaries appear on Page A5



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Japan for special events with family. They were married until the time of his death.

Ron's greatest legacy, source of happiness and fulfillment came from his children and grandchildren, perhaps because of or in spite of having so many of them. Doris and Ron had ten and eventually 18 grandchildren. Ron and Sylvia had one child and a grandchild for a total of 19. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and children Ronald B. Durning, Jr. (Skip) and his wife, Margie, of Williamstown, Massachusetts, Michael C. Durning and his wife, Debbie, of Charlotte, North Carolina, Steven C. Durning-Hammond and his wife, Dawn Durning-Hammond, of Holliston, Massachusetts, Diane C. Wolinsky and her husband, Nate, of Newburgh, New York, Quentin C. Durning and his wife, Heidi, of Iwakura, Japan, Christopher E. Durning and his wife, Renee, of Concord, Massachusetts. David M. Durning and his wife, Cathy, of Winnetka, Illinois, John P. Durning and his wife, Susan, of Libertyville, Illinois, Heidi Harris and her husband, Rob, of Toronto, Canada, and Jennifer E. Durning and her husband, Geoff Tennican, of Wilson, Wyoming; and nineteen grandchildren (Matthew and Peter Durning, Jonathan and Alexander Durning, Jonah and Laurel Durning-Hammond, Ben Durning, Chandra and Ryan Durning, Juliana and Benjamin Durning, Jessica, Malcolm and Clayton Durning, Allie, Sarah and Jack Durning, Amanda Harris-Saenz) and eight great-grandchildren.

Ron Durning was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin B. Durning of Seattle in 2013, his daughter, Cynthia A. Durning in 1977 and his granddaughter, Emily M. Durning

A gathering will take place at a future date when Ron's family can come together in the beautiful northwest corner of Connecticut to share treasured memories and their love for him.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Noble Horizons for their warm and loving care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Noble Horizons Education Fund.



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

#### The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m www.salisburyucc.org Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

## St. John's Episcopal Church

12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)

In-Person and on You-Tube

#### **North Canaan** Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am ww.Facebook.com northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

#### The Lakeville United Methodist Church

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

> The Sharon United **Methodist Church** 112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green

Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

#### **Promised Land Baptist Church**

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! w.promisedlandbaptist.org

#### **Falls Village Congregational Church** 16 Beebe Hill Road. Falls Village

10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with 860-824-0194

#### The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church**

656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology

**Canaan United Methodist Church** 

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

### All Saints of America

Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

### **Millerton United**

**Methodist Church** Millerton, NY 12546

Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138

#### in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT anday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.

**Christ Church Episcopal** 

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## Town Board approves contract for new Town Hall

By EMILY EDELMAN emilye@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The North East Town Board meeting of Thursday, March 9, was dominated by the approval of the contract for the purchase of the former Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Route 22 for use as a new Town Hall and also by discussion of agricultural assessments for the Town of North East.

In introducing the contract, Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said the current Town Hall is "no longer appropriate, efficient, effective building as a Town Hall," though "despite all those negatives, it has been a cozy, friendly place . . . and we'll miss it."

Kennan said that creating a municipal building to be shared between the village of Millerton and the town of North East is "a very expensive idea" and currently "beyond the reach of the town."

The agreed-upon price for the building is \$430,000 (down from the original asking price of \$499,000). Modifications including moveable partitions to create office spaces in the building's large meeting room will be necessary, and the town has the help of local architect Jeanne Vanecko in turning the building into a Town Hall.

Town attorney Warren Replansky prepared a resolution authorizing the town to enter into a contract with the Rhinebeck Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, which currently owns the building. The town will need to conduct a Monroe "balances of interest" test to override the current zoning of the area in order to place the Town Hall in the new location. Replanksy prepared a short-form environmental assessment form to move the contract forward.

Said Replansky, "I'm anticipating that the town will make a favorable determination on the Monroe balancing test, but we are going to have a public hearing so the public could be heard on the matter before you make that decision."

The contract is contingent upon the congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses obtaining approval of the state Supreme Court and attorney general to sell the property.

A motion to approve the resolution to purchase the property was made and carried unanimously by the town supervisor and all councilmembers present.

The town heard from Jennifer Fimbel of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, who discussed the differences between, as well as the roles of, of agricultural districts and agricultural assessments in the town and county.

There are currently four agricultural districts in Dutchess County, which is roughly 70% farmland. According to agricultural district law, farms of 7 acres or more must gross \$10,000 per year and farms of fewer than 7 acres must gross \$50,000 per year.

Fimbel mentioned the diversity of agriculture in Dutchess County, and said that soil type dictates the actual value of agricultural land, which is determined by the state and then given to town assessors.

Agricultural assessment is "limited to land used in agricultural production and defined to include cropland, pasture, orchards, vineyards, sugarbush, support land and crop acreage either set aside or retired under the federal supply management or soil conservation programs."

In describing why agricultural districts are important to towns, Fimbel said that agricultural and commercial lands use far less in community services than residents, and taxes would be much higher without them. A landowner who leases land to a farmer receives "the ag value assessment based on that farmer's gross sales," said Fimbel.

Replansky later stressed the importance of moving forward with the formation of a wastewater district and of making a decision regarding which method to use (petition or town's own volition) for the formation. He would like to schedule a public information meeting with the property owners within the proposed district as well as a representative from engineering consulting firm Tighe and Bond to explain what can be expected in terms of cost.

## in displays

School is located at 2829 Church St, Route 199. Admission is \$3, and free for children under age 5. All proceeds from the event benefit the Pine Plains FFA.

## **OBITUARY**

## Austin Perry Solis

MILLERTON — Austin his life, Heather Seney. Perry Solis, 33, a resident of

Millerton, since 2022, formerly of California, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Austin was an accomplished, self-employed audio engineer in California prior

to moving to the East Coast, where he worked as a craftsman for The Hudson Company, a custom wood mill specializing in reclaimed wood flooring, paneling and beams, located in Pine Plains.

Born June 7, 1989, in Bakersfield, California, he was the son of Mario Solis of Fresno, California and Kimberly Commerford of Santa Rosa, California. He earned an Associate's degree in Music from California State University Los Angeles, where he also trained for his career as an audio and sound engineer.

Austin was an avid guitar player and also enjoyed writing songs, playing synthesizers, skateboarding, cooking, playing hacky sack, going on walks in nature, and visiting the Sonoma Coast.

On July 1, 2021, in Santa Rosa, he married the love of Heather survives in Mil-

lerton.

In addition to his wife and parents, Austin is survived by his loving grandfather, Stanley Commerford of Santa Rosa, California; beloved sister, Ariana Solis of Olympia, Wash-

ington; two adoring nieces, Niya and Emmy Ryan, also of Olympia; and two loving uncles Kenny Commerford and Kevin Commerford, both of Santa Rosa.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Music Will, P.O. Box 43369, Montclair, NJ 07043, (musicwill.org) or Guitars in the Classroom, 1286 University Ave. #389, San Diego, CA 92103 (guitarsintheclassroom.org).

To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in Austin's memory, or to send a floral tribute to the family, please visit www. conklinfuneralhome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton, NY 12546.

More obituaries appear on Page A4

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

## Farm life, in miniature, on display,

**By ELIAS SORICH** elias@millertonnews.com PINE PLAINS — If you're a fan of intricate miniature scenery, contests of strength, or collectibles, look no further than the 29th annual Farm Toy Show and Auction, hosted by the Pine Plains FFA (Future

Farmers of America). Taking place on Saturday, March 18, and opening its doors at 9 a.m. at the Stissing Mountain High School's gymnasium, the event will be an opportunity for the agricultural community to come out and forge bonds across generations. To Stephanie Rhoades, FFA advisor and agriculture teacher at Stissing Mountain, that's what

makes it such a fun space. "It's cool to see people engage with a hobby that fosters a sense of community. . .. It spans generations. But it's also for anyone interested in agriculture, or interested in browsing things for the sake of browsing, or buying your kids a toy tractor, or seeing an incredibly detailed farm diorama!"

Part of an ongoing na-

tional yearly circuit of farm toy shows, vendors from far and wide within New York state, and perhaps beyond, will peddle their wares at the event. Come noon, young folks will compete in the pedal tractor pull in competition with their classmates. At 2 p.m., the auction will begin, in which collectibles, toys and more will be sold to benefit the Pine Plains

The chapter has approximately 30 students from sixth to 12th grade in its member-

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ship, and the Toy Show and Auction is a part of the yearly cycle of fundraising to support Pine Plains FFA programming. The event has been on hold since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The day will also feature food booths, and a host of miniature farm scenes on display, built with care by local farmers and farm enthusiasts. The dioramas will be given awards through the day based on their quality and intricacy.

Stissing Mountain High

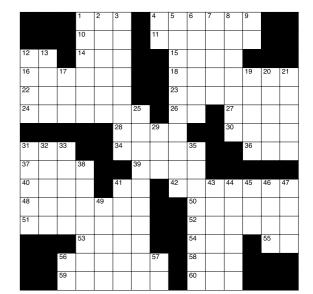
## **Brain Teasers**

#### **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Belonging to a thing

- 4. Pass or go by
- 10. Partner to cheese
- 11. Subjects 12. U.S. State (abbr.)
- 14. Bits per inch 15. Forest-dwelling
- deer
- 16. Illinois city 18. A salt or ester of
- acetic acid
- 22. Wholly unharmed
- 23. Cuddled
- **24.** Bane
- 26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 27. Oh my gosh!
- 28. Arrive
- 30. Famed Spanish
- artist
- 31. Home of "Frontline"
- 34. Group of quill
- feathers
- 36. Keyboard key
- 37. Army training
- group
- 39. Detail
- 40. Pole with flat blade
- 41. Football play 42. Makes unhappy
- 48. Island in Hawaii
- 50. Back in business
- 51. Of an individual 52. Painful chest
- condition
- 53. Tropical American monkey
- 54. Matchstick game 55. For instance
- 56. Even again
- 58. Popular beverage 59. Evaluate
- 60. Time units (abbr.)

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Stain one's hands
- 2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 3. Back condition
- 4. Popular movie alien



- 5. City of Angels
- 6. Peaks 7. Infantry weapons
- 8. Left
- 9. Atomic #99 12. Told a good yarn
- 13. Vale
- 17. Resistance unit
- 19. Aquatic plant
- 20. Bluish greens
- 21. About some Norse
- poems
- 25. Reinforces 29. Egyptian
- mythological goddess
- 31. Supportive material 32. Subatomic particle
- 33. Expired bread
- 35. Cereal grain
- 38. Goes against
- 57. Set of data **March 9 Solution**

41. Walkie

accept

44. Beliefs

43. One who does not

46. Brazilian NBA star

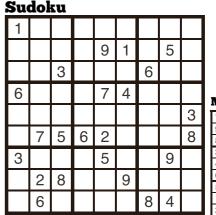
45. Indicates near

47. Grab quickly

49. Romantic poet

56. College dorm

worker



**March 9 Solution** 

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#### MENTAL HEALTH Continued from Page A1

Titled "Day of Learning and Connection to Support Mental Health," the sevenhour event featured speakers who laid out the scope of the problems, after which the 50 or so attendees participated in roundtables and breakout hands-on workshops punctuated with breaks and a lunch provided by the districts.

Topics included counseling LGBTQIA+ students and families, systems of care, art as a therapeutic medium, stress reduction, and biofeedback.

The welcome by Costello and Rhinebeck PPS director Emily Davison was followed by keynote speaker Dr. Theresa Yonker, a holistic psychiatry provider in Red Hook. The heart of the presentation was that dysregulation is rampant among students, and that practices that could remedy its various aspects were not being put into play. Her message was, like many during the day, one of optimism in the face of the challenges.

For the non-specialist, dysregulation is defined as "abnormality or impairment in the regulation of a metabolic, physiological, or psychological process." The example given in this Oxford Languages definition is "family dysfunction may contribute to emotional dysregulation."

Family dysfunction was one of the aspects discussed, whether it be caused by difficulties of employment, lack of affordable housing or domestic violence, to name a few. "We don't know what losses children have at home," Yonker said, but noted that, all too frequently, "there are many."

Yonker reiterated Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, stressing that until the more basic requirements for physiological and safety needs are met, the higher goals of connection, esteem and selfactualization are unlikely to be achieved.

Classroom teachers were not represented at the Collaborative, but the school psychologists and social workers whose duty it is to calm students and sometimes defuse problem behaviors gave examples of the status quo, with strengths and resources as well as challenges presented by each attendee.

"Some kids are on four medications," one noted, echoing Yonker's tale of how psychiatry — quite suddenly several decades ago, the psychiatry she had trained in became much more involved in pharmaceuticals. She pointed to other more holistic approaches, including a healthy diet, physical activity in nature and meditation, to name a few.

The challenges are many

Pine Plains PPS director Janine Babcock started the high school roundtable with a statement readily agreed on by all — "Our jobs are hard, and have gotten harder in the last few years" — but she recognized and commended everyone's will to look for solutions to the challenges.

High school personnel spoke of the lack of time built into the day to communicate with multiple teachers involved with a particular student, of being overwhelmed with meetings that are not necessarily relevant to them, and of administrators who don't necessarily know what it is that PPS staff do. For students, barriers include lack of time for the "hidden curriculum" of friendships.

Social media and its many impacts came up time and again; one participant pointed out that students are inundated with far too many things external to them when what they really need is to go inward, to learn about themselves, as well as to go out in

Ashley Walko of Infinity Mental Health in New Paltz spoke of the many referrals she gets from east of the Hudson, of the struggle helping teens to unplug and of helping parents to enforce limits so that teens are not online all night, leading to the kind of metabolic dysregulation broached in Yonker's keynote.

"Kids don't know how to be alone," Walko claimed. "Not that we were perfect at this, but we had the opportunity to learn," referring to those who came of age in the pre-internet-all-the-time age.

"We didn't ask for this we were born into it," was a comment quoted from a teen featured in an NPR program. Others in the roundtable spoke of those who think everyone is doing it" so they need to, as well - though research has shown otherwise.

The role of dopamine hits in the plugged-in life got a lot of talk time.

#### We are all complicit

Several spoke of students' social isolation as well as isolation from their own bodies and senses. One telling illustration: school buses filled with silent students, all bent over their phones — a boon for bus drivers, perhaps, but indicative of a whole different picture of how kids relate to each other in the post-pandemic period. And of course, adults are part of the problem.

Another PPS provider spoke of watching her 18-month-old reaching for a cellphone with alarming regularity. "I realized, of course, that she sees me doing that dozens of times a day; is that what I want to be modeling for her?"

#### From 'what's wrong with you' to 'what's strong with you'

On the positive side, several attendees noted that teens have more coping skills than they did before in terms of online learning and in questioning the wisdom of constant Wi-Fi connectivity.

The acknowledgment by the state Education Department that "schools are the hub" for community mental health is an important step. Gov. Kathy Hochul's budget for mental health will hopefully result in more family/ community/school collaborations.

A therapy dog, the gentle giant Lulu, could be seen trotting the hallways between workshops. In one well-attended hands-on session on stress reduction, therapist Aviva Guttmann led participants in "tapping," a hallmark of the Emotional Freedom Technique, or EFT, which involves gentle tapping of one's own meridian points while stating an affirmation of self-acceptance in the face of a particular problem, issue or pain. The technique is simple enough to be shared with anyone, and brings a reduction in anxiety as well as some important self-communication.

#### Next steps

Adults must model solutions to the plugged-in life by enforcing their own phone breaks; by insisting that phones not be in bedrooms at night; and by using apps that reduce the dopamine hits of eye-candy visual arrays.

Yonker exhorted all present to be active in promoting fair pay and conditions for mental health workers, a shortage of whom is a major issue. She urged all to send emails to authorities regarding the current Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) proposal, noting that staff with a bachelor's degree earn \$16 per hour.

The next meeting of the Collaborative is on Monday, April 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Red Hook Community Cen-

## TROUTBECK Continued from Page A1

Cusack's report and invited Cusack to share results with the planning board.

As to potential increase in water usage, Cusack expected an increase in demand from the present level of 7 gallons per minute to 14 gallons per minute. Troutbeck is served by two wells, Cusack reported, with a total yield of 35 gallons per minute.

Two aquifers are present in the area, Cusack said. One is a sand and gravel aquifer and the other a bedrock aquifer. He reported his findings that the proposed project would not adversely affect either aquifer.

The rate of return of consumptive water to the ground stands at 85%, amounting to a maximum of 3,000 gallons per day, Cusack said.

Management of storm water runoff was also of concern. Cusack reported that all of the storm water (hydrologic flow) would remain on site. He said that unsaturated soil will treat any pollutant, so that pollutants will be removed naturally.

Planning board Chairman Robert Boyles raised a question as to why neighboring homes had reported depletion of well water supply.

Andrews replied that he had researched well-completion reports for the area's residential wells. He said that 12 of 13 were bedrock wells, ranging between 150 and 700 feet in depth, with varying amounts of water generation. One well was found to provide marginal supply. Any flow of 5 gallons per minute or better is thought to be adequate.

Troutbeck's wells are sur-

face wells, Andrews said, less deep than the surrounding wells. Planning board member

Nina Peek summarized the finding: "There is no hydrologic connection between the shallow wells at Troutbeck and neighboring properties.

"The single underperforming well is not related to Troutbeck," she added.

Peek reviewed a list of residents' concerns she had noted during the public hear-

Concerns had been raised about the number of majordraw events to be held at Troutbeck, possibly impacting traffic flow. Troutbeck has indicated that large weddings would be limited to 12 per year. Andrews suggested that perhaps Troutbeck could limit the numbers of other types of events also.

Planning board attorney Paul Van Cott of Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna of Albany reviewed concerns about endangered species and wildlife in the area being impacted. He said that Troutbeck has indicated intention to follow the impact avoidance plan filed with the application. One of the key elements of that plan, he said, is to schedule construction during the winter months.

About resident's concerns over any plans for development of adjacent parcels of land, the planning board heard that no plans exist, neither in the short term nor the long term.

Planning board member James Walsh recalled concerns about privacy and noise voiced by neighboring property owners, asking whether landscaping and buffer plantings could be added between the open areas and the neighbors. Rennia responded that the idea could be looked at.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

#### STISSING HOUSE Continued from Page A1

born fruit: Stissing House was named a semifinalist for Best New Restaurant 2023 by the James Beard Foundation on Jan. 25. Next to a Michelin star, recognition by the James Beard Foundation is one of the food world's most prestigious honors. On March 29, the nominees will be announced, and a winner will be decided at a James Beard award ceremony on June 5.

Having earned her chef stripes working at King in Soho, de Boer now splits her time between the city — where she co-owns both an Italian restaurant and a French restaurant — and Dover Plains, where her family spends much of its time. As for what drew her to opening a restaurant in Pine Plains, the answer was unambiguous: "Stissing House. Period. Stissing House is magnetic. It's a forcefield."

From 1995 to 2021, the Stissing House operated under a series of owners as a French restaurant, and the journey for de Boer to providing a fresh take on an established and historic mainstay involved taking it back to those historic roots.

"[It was] really about restoring the building to its full potential. It has such brilliant bones, so we didn't want to change anything that was pre-existing... So our focus is really on creating a sense of place.

"That's kind of our approach to food as well . . . We work with all of these incredible farms in the area, and we try and keep it simple by using the wood oven and wood-fired grill. We're kind of locked on all sides by farms, and we want to celebrate that ... Just do simple, country,

American-style cooking." That first full year of operation, however, was not without difficulties for Stissing House. Though jobs filled in restaurants have now surpassed pre-pandemic employment levels, in April 2022, restaurants were staffed at 6.4% below the 2019

norm. This staffing shortage was met by both a surge in demand — during many of the months of 2022, levels of dining out exceeded prepandemic levels — and record inflation. Though this kind of industry-wide difficulty was impossible to avoid, de Boer credited her team for much of the success in navigating it.

"The headline is truly the team. I've been so lucky to find these people that are really doing all of the hard work day to day to make Stissing House what it is. My chef de cuisine, Roel Alcudia.... and my general manager Nathan Rawlinson.... they're wonderful. It takes good people to attract and retain good people. Unless you've got awesome leaders, you have nothing, and I really think that we've

got the best of the best." As for what keeps de Boer tethered to her work both as a chef and business owner amid the busyness and chaos of life, the answer is simple: "People and produce. I'm in constant contact with my team, and love working with them. And I love being in the restaurant,

chatting to all of our customers and our regulars. There's a real sense of community around it.

Whether or not Stissing House takes home an award in June, for de Boer, the future of the restaurant is one full of potential and challenges.

"There's just so much room to grow with that building. There're rooms to feast in upstairs, there's a room for us to open a bakery, there's a huge garden that we haven't even begun to landscape! I think we're just at the very beginning of our journey."

### **CHEERLEADING**

Continued from Page A1

group of kids this season."

Athletic Director Al Hammell was proud of the team and very happy about resurrecting it, as Millbrook continues to do well in the area of high school competitive sports, and having a group of energized teens leading them on will be a supportive and exciting thing.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN** 

## Women's Work at Kent Art Association

he Kent Art
Association on
South Main Street
in Kent is currently
exhibiting its March
Women's Invitational
Show featuring large
portfolios of work from
six female area artists —
Theresa Bates, Deborah
Chabrian, Erin Cordle,
Charlotte Holden, Anda
Styler, and Mary Terrizzi.

**Kent Art Association** is one Connecticut's oldest art associations, founded in 1923 by a group of Kent painters, including George Laurence Nelson, an early 20th-century portrait painter who lived in Seven Hearths, a Pre-Revolutionary manor in Kent that now acts as a museum for the Kent Historical Society. The equally historic non-profit association's goal has been providing emerging artists in the area a venue so that they might gain audience recognition.

Highlights of the Women's Invitational included the realist watercolor botanicals by the recent Rhode Island School of Design graduate Charlotte



Red by Erin Cordle

Holden. With her use of open white space and free-floating composition, the young painter's work, which takes up the majority of the second floor of the exhibition, bears similarity to that of Rory

McEwen, the 20th-century Scottish master of floral illustration, whose almost three-dimensional glowing tulips are held in museums across the U.K. Holden is certainly prolific at a young age, working directly with con-

sumers through Etsy, an open-market e-commerce platform, where she sells her botanicals as cards, prints, and stickers.

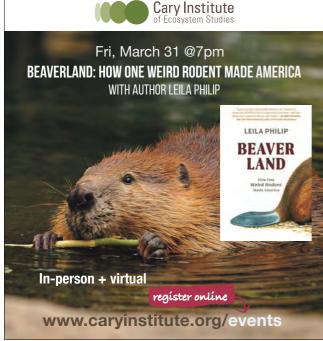
The Women's Invitational Show is on view through April 2.



Fireworks by Charlotte Holden



Peony by Charlotte Holden





## ART: LEILA HAWKEN

## The Mature Students of Northlight's Art Class

ow an anticipated tradition, the Northlight
Art Center's 12th annual adult student exhibition opened at the Sharon
Historical Society's

Sunday March 26

4:00 pm

gallery space in Sharon, Conn., on Saturday, March 11, drawing a significant turnout to see and purchase the works.

The sense of "being creative" has sustained

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At The Mahaiwe Theatre, Great Barrington, MA

interest in the sessions at Northlight Art Center since she started as a beginner in 2018, working in black and white first with a type of charcoal pencil. She is now pleased to be one of this year's ten exhibitors. A total of 28 works are in the students' show, including media such as oil sticks, pastels, watercolors, and colored pencils.

Wallie MacMillan's

"It's fun," MacMillan

said, adding "a nice group of people." She said that her progress is due to "Pieter's patience," referring to Pieter Lefferts, the art teacher and founder of Northlight.

Among the early transactions of the evening was Kathleen Kulig's pastel "Winter Stream," enthusiastically purchased by Sharon resident Jodi Smith.

"You're immediately there," Smith said. "It's so Sharon, so this area."



Continued on next page



48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY



#### **ART: RILEY KLEIN**

## **Arctic Exploration and Processing Through Poetry**

s the world continues its emergence from the mental and physical confines of the pandemic, the arts have proven to be a powerful tool for processing collective loss.

A new exhibit at the Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., by visual poet Kylie Gellatly has aimed to "map the internal landscape of ambient grief" that so many people have experienced over the past three years.

The show, entitled "Time & Fever & Nothing More," displayed a collection of visual poetry that was created by collaging text and images from "The Arctic Diary of Russell William Porter."

"I put it into art form so that it wouldn't blow away," said Gellatly as she elaborated on her inspiration for bringing visuals to the poetry.

"I was struck by how much it reminded me of butchery," she said in regard to cutting-out words and images from Porter's diary for her art. "I just use the body and repurpose all the parts for as much as I can."

Gellatly's first in-person exhibit, which opened to the public on Saturday, March 11, represented the artwork for her 2021 publication "The Fever Poems."

"Visual poetry is a really old practice but it's having kind of a resurgence right now," said Gellatly. "Everyone is really individually approaching it in their own way."

Gellatly completed this project in June of 2020 and found parallels between that time and the experience described in Porter's Arctic diary.

"The fragile yet harsh and unlivable conditions resonated with the time that I was creating this body of work and thinking about the precarity of both our corporeal and planetary bodies."

Gellatly will have her work on view at The Cornwall Library through April 30.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

An Hour Without Catastrophe by Kylie Gellatly

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

#### Artist's Reception for Work by Joseph Clarke

Northwestern Community College in Winsted, Conn., will present an exhibition by alumnus Joseph Clarke in The Gallery at Founder's Hall on March 20 with an opening reception on March 23, at 4 p.m. Clarke is currently the associate director at Furnace Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn. The Best of Baroque Concerts

Sherman Chamber Ensemble will begin their 2023 season with two Best of Baroque concerts featuring piano, flute and strings selections by Arcangelo Corelli, George Frideric Handel, Antonio Vivaldi, and J.S. Bach's Triple Concerto. Performances will be Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Salem Covenant Church in Washington, Conn., and Sunday, March 19 at 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, Conn.

#### Rock & Mineral Show

The historic Whiting Mills in Winsted, Conn., will host the Rock and Mineral Show on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, 19, featuring 30 tables of selling gemstones, fossils and crystals.

#### **Mean Girls the Musical**

The Housatonic Musical Theatre Society will present a musical production of "Mean Girls" with a script by Tina Fey. Directed and produced by Christiane Olson, the musical will be on stage at the Henry Burgess Auditorium at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., from Thursday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

## ...Northlight class

"I look forward to this event each year, delighted with the range and quality," Sharon Historical Society's Executive Director Christine Beer commented. She applauded that "certain kind of attitude among the student artists as they support one another."

Beer drew a parallel between the Northlight student show and the historical society's mission of strengthening the community.

"I bought the chicken," said Paddy Rossbach, referring to artist Cathleen Halloran's colorful interpretation of an alert rooster, "Mr. Marketplace." She said that the painting is to be a gift to a friend, most likely. Cathleen Halloran is in

her class at Northlight, she explained, indicating that next year, Halloran may be going to tackle a donkey as a subject.

"I absolutely love the exhibit," said Pieter Lefferts, who leads Northlight. For the past seven years, Lefferts has offered art sessions within the Northlight space in the Fudgy's Plaza, in Amenia, N.Y. A few of the artists admitted to frequenting Fudgy's Ice Cream before or after their art sessions.

Drawing a distinction between an art teacher and a teaching artist, Lefferts said that he is the latter. "I teach to the individual," he said. "I get an impression of how each student would benefit from my teaching. It can be technical or

Continued from previous page

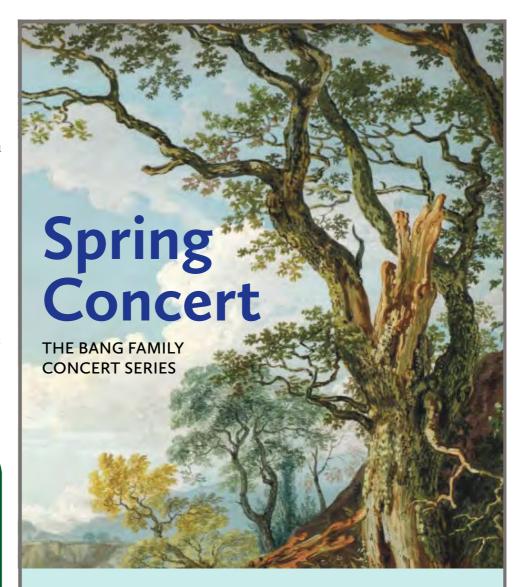
philosophical."
Before his move to the Amenia space, Lefferts said that Northlight had been located in Sharon, at the site of the present Sharon Country Inn.

"I love it," Lefferts said. "I love the opportunity to bring out what is in a person through art."

"Learning to draw will set you free as an artist," Lefferts said. "You develop a skill set that brings confidence to explore other modes of expression."

"And I get to watch them do it," Lefferts added, "and I serve tea."

The Northlight exhibit will be on view at Sharon Histroical Society through May 5.



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## **WBSL FM 91.7**

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

## Blazers take Class C regional championship

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - They did it again! The Millbrook girls basketball team took the Class C regional championship in a game that they owned from the onset: halftime found the score at 31-15, with Blazers over rival team Port Jefferson. At the end of the third quarter, the score was 47-26 in favor of the Blazers, and they took the final quarter, with a 61-

30 finish.

time, on a Sunday afternoon, much of Millbrook had gathered at the Millbrook school grounds to welcome home a bus carrying the 2022 state champion Blazers.

Senior Emily Grasseler made her 1000th-point shot during the game, allowing her entrance into the 1000 Point Club, a special moment in her career, and a video was made on her by NFHS Network. Earlier this year, junior Megan Fox also made 1000 points and joined the 1000 Point Club.

The end of last year saw Last year at about this several excellent players graduate, but the girls left behind, with a few new recruits, showed what they are made of at Saturday's game, playing for the NYSPHAA Southeast Regional Class C Finals at Farmingdale State College.

"The Final Four," the state championship games, will find the Blazers playing this weekend. If they win their game on Saturday, March 18, they will compete in the finals for the championship on Sunday, March 19, at Hudson Valley Community College.

While Grasseler and some of the other seniors



Class C regional champions the Millbrook Blazers girls basketball team.

will soon be leaving Millbrook High School behind, there is hope that they will also leave behind the New York State title, as other seniors did last year.



Millbrook High School senior Emily Grasseler made her entry into the 1000 Point Club with a shot made during the Saturday, March 11, game against Port Jefferson in the NYSPHSAA Southeast Regional Class C finals at Farmingdale College.

## Webutuck Little League plans April 15 event

**By JOHN COSTON** johnc@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Webutuck Little League is making plans for its opening day events on Saturday, April 15, that include a parade in Amenia and an afternoon of family food and entertainment activities at Beekman Park.

The first day of play for teams is scheduled for Sunday, April 23, at Beekman

The league has signed up 80 players and is lining up teams for T-ball, coach-pitch and player-pitch minors and

At a meeting on Thursday, March 9, at the Amenia Town Hall, the local group of volunteers who organized

## Ukrainian Easter egg workshop

MILLBROOK - On Saturday, April 1, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., Grace Church, 3328 Franklin Ave., will host artist and local resident Anita Kiewra, who will teach participants to make Ukrainian pysanky (multicolored dyed eggs).

The event is primarily intended for adults due to the use of hot wax. Children under 12 must be accompanied

by an adult. Participation is limited and registration is required. The cost is \$20. Register online at graceukranianeggworkshop. eventbrite.com or by calling 845-341-7348 and dropping off payment at the church office.

the league announced that it has been successful lining up sponsors for teams and for other needs of the league.

The Silo Ridge Community Foundation and Amenia Wassaic Community Organization also provided a \$19,800 grant for a new batting cage and two new bullpens at Beekman Park, President D.J. Reilly said.

The league plans to play games later in the season at the renovated Eddie Collins Park in Millerton.

"We're putting all new clay on the infield and we're rebuilding the dugout," Reilly said. "We're definitely going to play baseball there this year. It may be later in the spring.

Webutuck Little League this year is starting its first season as an official affiliate of Little League Baseball, the organization based in Williamsport, Pennsylania.

## Area artists show work at Hunt Library

From left, artists Joel Foster of Wassaic, David Crum of Millerton and Richard Griggs of West Cornwall, Conn., posed for photos at the opening of their "Shape+Color+Movement" art show at the David M.

Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., on Saturday, March 11.

Coach Adam Peek and ath-

letic director Al Hammell are rightly proud of the team, but are also grateful for the parents, students and community in the massive support shown to the Blazers girls basketball team, as well as the other school teams that performed admirably this year.

## Pomona Grange to hold annual penny social

STANFORDVILLE -**Dutchess County Pomona** Grange No. 32 will host its annual penny social on Saturday, March 18, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. There will be a penny table, a \$1 table, a baked goods table,

special theme baskets donated by Dutchess County Granges, and door prizes. Dutchess County Youth Grangers will have the snack bar open for refreshments. For more information, contact Marilyn Brands at 845-223-5717 or Melissa Traver at 845-891-

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

Email news and photos to editor@

millertonnews.com



## Realtor® at Large

2022 State of the Bears report and it is filled with useful information. Bears are starting to come out of the winter dens and will be hungry...hence looking for bird feeders, garbage etc as easy targets for food. So it is wise to be aware of this and act accordingly. By limiting the amount of food accessible to a bear around your house, you reduce dramatically the chance of an unexpected encounter. For more info, please go to: portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/ wildlife/pdf\_files/The-State-ofthe-Bears.pdf

The CTDEEP has just issued its



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#### **Legal Notice 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,

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 Lynda Wisdo Assessor(s) 03-09-23 03-16-23

#### TOWN OF AMENIA **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 Amenia which will be filed on May 1, 2023.

The information may be reviewed, by appointment, at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501. Contact 845-373-8860 x 104 for an appointment.

Donna DiPippo Assessor Town of Amenia 03-16-23 03-23-23

#### 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, 2023.

The information may be reviewed with the Assessor. For an appointment, please call 518-789-3300 ext.605.

Katherine Johnson Assessor 03-16-23 03-23-23

#### **TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK** NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 28th day of March 2023 at 8:00 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Carson-Power, LLC for property located at 454 Bean River Road, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-7071-00-084941 and #134200-7071-00-250960.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting the height of a fence to be 7 feet, in lieu of the required maximum of 6 feet. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business hours.

By order of: Scott Chase, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals 03-16-23

#### TOWN OF PINE PLAINS **DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF**

**PUBLIC HEARING** 

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 28th day of March 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Peter Hansen for property located at 2245 Route 83, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #6871-00-

727598. All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting the height of a proposed garage/workshop to be 26 feet and 4 inches, in lieu of the required maximum of 21 feet. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business

By order of: Scott Chase, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals 03-16-23

#### **TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK** NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 28th day of March 2023 at 7:40 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Stewart's Shops Corp. for property located at 7710 South Main Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #6871-0-443943.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting the front yard setback of a proposed structure to be 163.5 feet, in lieu of the maximum of 25 feet. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business hours.

> By order of: Scott Chase, Chairman of the Zoning **Board of Appeals** 03-16-23



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## THE MILLERTON NEWS

**EDITORIAL PAGE B4** 

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

## **EDITORIAL**

## A health assessment

he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as a systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis that provides benefits such as improved organizational and community coordination and collaboration, better knowledge about public health and the ways it connects with other activities.

Of course, as it identifies strengths and weaknesses, it puts a spotlight on where to put the focus.

There are many benefits, but one of the biggest outputs of a Community Health Needs Assessment is that it can provide a community with a portrait of its overall health and readiness to remain healthy and/or address problems.

The recently completed CHNA in Sharon Hospital's service area in Litchfield County and Dutchess County under the auspices of Nuvance Health identified chronic disease, mental health and substance-use disorders as the top health issues affecting residents.

The work was overseen by a committee that included representatives of communities in both Connecticut and New York state, and included hospital Board leadership, administrative leadership from the Nuvance Health network, local health department directors, community stakeholders, and other key hospital stakeholders.

Our coverage of this important survey by Debra Aleksinas in a front-page story last week illustrated both commonalities and differences among populations in Connecticut's Northwest Corner and those who live in eastern Dutchess County.

The population on both sides of the border is expected to grow marginally, but that growth also is expected to show a much sharper rise in the population of people

We are graying. If you look around, you can see that. And the conclusion of the assessment is that we will need services that support healthy aging, and aging-inplace — another way of staying in your own homes as we get older.

Chronic diseases — such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, stroke, arthritis and chronic lung disease are identified as a prime focus for attention, along with promotion of well-being and prevention of mentalhealth and substance-use disorders.

Focus groups are planned to ensure that the community is heard. They will include food pantries, representatives of the medical community, churches and nonprofit agencies, as well as health districts and community members. In other words, as the CDC sees it, to provide benefits such as improved organizational and community collaboration.

We all should be grateful that our community is looking out for its own well-being.



## A vibrant awakening

nring showers, emerging flowers — the awakening and rebirth of a new year. Mother Nature kindly stretching days into evenings. Multi-colored birds offer cheerful choirs of song to announce a new nesting season. Buds slowly unfurling to blossoms. National past-time sports kicking off new seasons. Outdoor activities in towns bustling. Time to shrug off those winter doldrums and get to work. Plan spring and summer activities and home projects.

Ready the garden for soon to be planting. Clean up the lawn and flower beds. Check local farm stands for fresh home-grown asparagus.

Got to thank the Millerton American Legion and **Dutchess County Long Rifles** youth shooting team for offering the community great breakfast fare throughout the fall and winter months. Great food and friendly gatherings to relieve winter's monotony.

Got to stay busy, take down my old, well-used fly rod for a thorough cleaning and inspection to provide a few cold-water fresh fish meals this spring. Same with my trusty turkey gun. I'll try again this year

## **VETERAN'S CORNER** Larry Conklin

to outsmart old Tom during nature's busy May mornings, though Tom usually wins.

Time to pay my respects to those vets who have predeceased me at our local cemetery and ensure missing or tattered American flags are replaced. Our American Legion does this on a timely basis; I like to fill in after adverse weather and sadly some vandalism. If only the vandals knew the heroic exploits of many vets resting here. Respect our vets and first responders while they are living and thereafter.

God bless you readers and your families. A Happy Easter to you all. Remain safe and healthy and look after those needing a helping hand. Til next time.

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

## **LETTER TO** THE EDITOR

## Questioning Amenia's **Comprehensive Plan**

The Amenia Town Board Meeting is scheduled on March 16 to vote on new Zoning Laws and a new Comprehensive Plan. Both encourage growth, pushing greater density in the Hamlet of Amenia and the building of Work Force Housing. This sounds great but ...

The Hamlet of Amenia is on a high water table. It can only handle a limited number of septic tanks. Fortunately, with the present low density in the Hamlet of Amenia, the existing septic tanks aren't polluting the aquifer. The low density of the Hamlet has protected the water quality. This is great news. We don't need to build and maintain a \$20 million sewage system. We can help low income home owners by not imposing a Sewer District fee on them. We'll have no construction nuisance. And there will be no concern that concentrated treated sewage. with forever chemicals, will be dumped into the Wassaic Creek. This is really great news-if we keep the Hamlet low density.

But the new Comprehensive Plan is pushing high density for the Hamlet and prioritizing building a \$20 million sewage system. As has happened in many other American communities, building and maintaining infrastructure will necessitate further development, increasing taxes and compromises to qualify for funding.

Building Work Force Housing also sounds great. But a small town like Amenia, with only 3,769 residents, doesn't have the infrastructure, tax base or expertise to build well-designed Work Force Housing. Nor does Amenia have the alarming need for affordable housing that our bigger cities have. The new proposed zoning incentivizes the private building of Work Force Housing through deregulation, with no planning—the building left to individual whim. No one could even tell me how many units were planned. Your neighbors' accessory apartments or dwellings are to be fast-tracked with wording in the Ordinance that says "nothing" can "preclude" its construction.

Amenia is also facing a state mandate to inspect the water pipes in the Hamlet's Water District that will cost about \$200,000 and new wells must soon be dug at a cost of over a million dollars. Without enough money in the treasury, the Town has voted to spend about \$75,000 to hire grant writers. Wouldn't it be prudent to wait on building Work Force Housing and a sewage system until the Water District needs have been taken care of. But the Amenia Town Board has voted to proceed with buying land and hiring more grant writers.

If you want Amenia to be built up, bustling and "business friendly," to grow and "attract tourist shoppers, athletes, lovers of good food and wine, historians and other money-spenders," then the proposed Comprehensive Plan is for you. But if you want to keep Amenia a small rural town, with great natural beauty, we need another Comprehensive Plan and strong Zoning that truly prioritize protecting our woods, fields and farms.

**George Bistransin** Amenia

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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

## New telemarketing law in New York

#### ne New York state law that took effect March 6 requires telemarketers operating in the state to offer the option of being added to that seller's do-not-call list at the outset of certain calls, rather than at the end.

What effect this will have on scam callers is unclear at best. Phone scammers, by definition, are breaking the law, and have a history of adapting their pitches to the news of the day. When one tactic no longer works, they find another. It would be no trouble at all for them to impersonate legitimate telemarketers, trying to trick you into giving up personal information under the guise of putting you on a do-not-call list.

#### Wasn't this all supposed to go away?

That was what federal regulators hoped when they required telephone carriers to authenticate calls using their networks, starting in 2021. The new rules are working but can only disable one method in scammers' seemingly bottomless bag of tricks.

Our advice remains the same: when you see an unfamiliar number appear on your Caller ID screen, ignore the call, or screen the call until you're certain who's calling. If you've picked up by force of habit and you suspect a scammer, just hang up. No need to talk

## **GOLDEN LIVING** Todd N. Tancredi

to them, no need to push the buttons they want you to push, no need to call the number they want you to call. Just hang up.

If you only have a non-internet landline phone with no Caller ID or voice mail, so that you must pick up to find out who's calling, many common spam-blocking techniques are unavailable. Scammers know this and send even more calls to landline numbers.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommends checking your phone provider's website or calling their customer service

number to find out what your options are, or if there's a service they recommend. Some phone providers offer these services for free, but some charge a fee.

There are hardware call blocking devices available at a cost of \$70 and up. We're unsure how much help they can be. The blockers come pre-programmed with thousands of known scammers' phone numbers; but, to a scammer, changing phone numbers comes as naturally as breathing.

### What can I tell Mom?

Whether scammers target us with phone calls, the mail, your home computer or mobile device, and whether they're targeting somebody who's 91 or 19, scammers have one overarching goal: to manipulate our emotions with stories that sound plausible only on the surface, and to keep us nervous about imaginary consequences. Don't play their game; you'll only lose.

If you're still worried about the pretext a scammer used to try fooling you, there is a printable Scam Prevention Resources sheet available at www.dutchessny.gov/aging that includes local contact information on how to report a wide variety of scams.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. telephone 845-486-2555; email: ofa@dutchessny.gov; www. dutchessny.gov/aging

### THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Thursday, March 16, 2023 Volume 92, Number 8

#### **Mission Statement** The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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## Gryphons, Persephone make for lively entertainment at Millbrook Library

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - With spring just around the corner, this might be a fine time to ex-

plain to the children of Millbrook the story of Persephone and why we have seasons, according to Greek mythology.

The Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) sponsored a presentation of the Grumbling Gry-

## Elliott to manage Salisbury Bank branch

MILLERTON — Jessica Elliott has been appointed to the position of assistant vice president, branch manager of Salisbury Bank's Millerton

Elliott began her career with Salisbury Bank as a customer associate and has held several roles in the Bank's retail department, most recently as assistant branch manager at the Bank's Poughkeepsie location. She assumed her new role in Millerton at the end of last month.

**HELP WANTED TOWN OF** SHARON, GREEN KEEPER/

**HIGHWAY LABORER:** The

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63 Main Street, Sharon, CT

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the Town of Sharon website

sharonct.org. This is a 40

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jessica Elliott is the new manager of Salisbury Bank's Millerton branch.

phons Traveling Children's Theater.

With a workshop before the show, "The Myth of Persephone: The Greek Myth of How the Seasons Came to Be" utilized American Sign Language (ASL), costumes, props, music and movement to tell the tale, with children taking active roles in the performance.

The story centered on Persephone, daughter of Demeter, who was kidnapped by Pluto and brought to Hades, the underworld. Because she had eaten while there, she could never return to Earth. But Zeus took mercy on Demeter because, in her sadness at losing her daughter, she had let her duties as goddess fail; Earth began to suffer with dying crops, barren animals, and cold and lifeless land. Zeus decreed that Persephone would spend six months in Hades and six

months on Earth.

Thus, we have the beginning of how the seasons change and why, according to the tale, we have spring and summer, and then winter and fall. Further complications with Persephone later break the seasons down even more.

Performers included director and actress Leslie Elias and Vanessa Roe, who co-founded the troupe in 1980 and also coauthored the play. Actor and singer Daniel Saeed was also featured, as was Brian Bender, who played keyboard and trombone for live musical accompaniment. Costumes and masks were created by Ellen Moon and Robert Flanagan; Moon also created the scenery.

Eighty-two people attended the performance. Some of the children took on roles, and maybe one or two will find they love the theater, the music and the dramatic renderings of stories.



Eighty-two people turned out to see the Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater perform the Greek myth of Persephone on Saturday, March 11, at the Millbrook Library.

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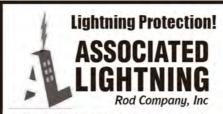
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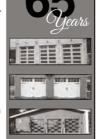
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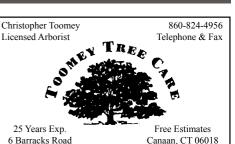
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