LERTON NEWS

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Thursday, March 11, 2021 Volume 90 Number 7

Daylight Saving Time Begins

12 Pages in 2 Sections

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AMENIA Winners Of Webutuck's STEAM Fair Announced A5



PINE PLAINS/AREA Workshop Teaches How To Track Local Wildlife A3



COMPASS

Streaming Series You'll Want To See; And More **B2**

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Standing alongside his store's iconic wooden Indian, Phil Terni, the third generation owner of Terni's in Millerton, celebrated the 100th anniversary of his family's business in July of 2019. Terni passed away at the age of 77 at his Millerton home on Friday, March 5.

Millerton mourns the loss of beloved merchant, Phil Terni

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Given the legacy he built on community, hard work, his respect for his family's century-old Main Street business and his fellow merchants, the passing of Phil Terni marked not just the passing of much loved community member, but also a crucial part of Millerton's history. Terni passed away at his home in Mil-

Virtual Community Workshop

lerton on Friday, March 5, at the age

Born in Sharon, Conn., to the late Arthur and Henrietta Terni (the second-generation owners of the iconic Terni's store in Millerton), the bulk of Terni's life was tied to the local region. A 1963 graduate of Webutuck High School, he pursued a degree in public relations at Boston University in Boston, Mass., graduating in 1967. In 1971, Terni took over his family's

business, becoming the third generation to own and operate the store that sold everything from guns and hunting gear to newspapers and candy to high-end wool suits and slippers until his retirement in 2020.

Those who stopped by Terni's often came for more than something to purchase, they came to talk. Chatting with Phil behind the old marble soda

See PHIL TERNI, A6

COVID outbreak in Millbrook schools

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — An email went out to families and staff in the Millbrook Central School District from Superintendent of Schools Laura Mitchell on Friday, March 5, acknowledging that as of that day "we have 20 active CO-VID-19 positive cases within the Millbrook Central School District community and are waiting for test results from several others. We additionally have four presumptive positives."

A difficult week, Zoom meeting Mitchell stated frankly at the start of

her letter that "we had a very difficult week here in-District, and unfortunately, our positive numbers continue to rise" in the middle and high school.

The email followed a Zoom meeting held on Wednesday, March 3, after word spread throughout the community of a reported varsity basketball postseason party held at a student's home, where both players and non-players were said to have mixed and mingled and supposedly spread the coronavirus. The private party rumored to be attended by the winter sports team was not only not confirmed by the district, but flatly denied by administrators.

The Zoom meeting discussed the outbreak and allowed for a question and answer period among the participants; at the time of the meeting, there were 16 confirmed COVID cases reported in the high school and only two presumed cases, all among students; no staff members were affected at the time.

Administrators deny athletes hosted party

The Zoom meeting was not hosted

See COVID OUTBREAK, A6



A player for Dutchess County's hometown baseball team, Diaz Pedro of the Hudson Valley Renegades readied himself at home plate with a bat in hand. The Renegades will now be a Yankees affiliate.

Stadium upgrades bring Yankees affiliate to bat

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WAPPINGERS FALLS — The Dutchess County Legislature approved a \$1.4 million bond resolution to fund critical improvements to Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D in Wappingers Falls on Feb. 4, in hopes of boosting the economy and improving county facilities. Not only will the upgrades ensure that the county owned and operated stadium will receive the fixes it needs to meet Major League Baseball's (MLB) health and wellness standards, but they'll also create a modernized facility to support the new affiliation between the Hudson Valley Renegades (Dutchess County's hometown team) and the

New York Yankees. **Dutchess Stadium upgrades**

While Dutchess Stadium has hosted countless sporting events, outdoor concerts and other community events during the last two decades, the arena was considered "quite a controversial program" in the county when it first opened in 1994, according to Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), of Pine Plains.

"People didn't know if we could

See DUTCHESS STADIUM, A6

Residents comment on plan to update Copake waterfront

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

Part II

COPAKE — After listening carefully to the vision, goals and priority projects connected to the Copake Waterfront & Community Revitalization Plan for the Bash Bish Brook, Roeliff Jansen Kill and Taghkanic Creek, area residents provided their input at the online community workshop held on Saturday, Feb. 13. The bulk of what the workshop addressed was reported on in last week's Millerton News and can be found online, at www.tricornernews.com.

Project recap

Beginning at 10 a.m., the virtual workshop drew roughly 80 participants, according to the website www. copakewaterfronts.com. Summing up the work that's been done on the plan so far, Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair Roberta Roll said Copake has previously worked with River Street Planning on three town plans, including the town's Comprehensive Plan and its Hamlet Design and Development Plans. Once the

last two plans were completed, she said the town realized it had money to take the next step and develop waterfront revitalization plans.

The plans require Copake to have inland waterways designated by New York State, so Copake got legislation passed to add the Roe Jan Kill, the Bash Bish Brook and the Taghkanic Creek to the NYS Inland Waterway List, which allowed the town to apply for funding.

Once that was done, the PAC be-

See WATERFRONT, A6



CONTACT

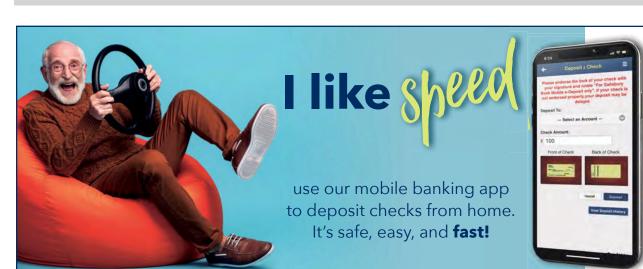
The Millerton News editor@millertonnews.com 860-435-9873, ext. 608

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OPINION

Looking Forward To Ag Literacy Week; Columns; Letter **B4**





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MILLERTON

Joint Village and Town Police Committee develops reform plan

By KAITLIN LYLE

kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Joint Village of Millerton and Town of North East Police Committee came closer to finalizing its Police Reform Plan for the Millerton Police Department (MPD) by fine tuning the draft and inviting both the committee and the public to submit comments at the meetings held on Feb. 24 and March 3, both Wednesdays.

Both meetings were held at 6 p.m. via Zoom and live streamed to the "Village of Millerton VOM" Facebook page due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Feb. 24 committee meeting

To start the meeting on Feb. 24, Village Trustee and committee member Matthew Hartzog thanked everyone who worked on the draft and invited committee members to share their thoughts on the draft's status and other items to be included.

"I think what we have going on right now... is some really

solid work," said fellow Trustee remarked it would be a great adand committee member Joshua Schultz, "and I think it's a great rough draft to begin releasing while we work on it towards our upcoming public hearing, but I think what's gone on throughout this last week has been fantastic, so I'm very happy with where we're at as far as progression of this plan is concerned."

Hartzog asked the committee about adding a section for filing a complaint and what that procedure might entail. Deputy North East town Supervisor Ralph Fedele asked if there's a current policy in place, to which Millerton Police Officer in Charge Mike Veeder replied there is an official form and procedure in place to handle complaints. He mentioned the form should be posted on the village website, www.villageofmillerton.net, so it's more visible to the public.

Hartzog later asked if the committee wants to include a section about county-wide community resources. Schultz dition to both the plan and to the village website.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee agreed it would be wise to publish the draft plan online to give the community an opportunity to examine it and reach out with any comments or suggestions.

After discussing the committee's comments, suggestions from the public were reviewed. Comments including making sure each complaint is responded to by the Police Department within a certain time frame and that privacy is maintained when a complaint is submitted.

March 3 committee meeting

Initiating what he hoped would be the committee's last meeting, Hartzog announced on March 3 that the draft of the Police Reform Plan was completed the previous weekend and posted to both the village and the town website (www.townofnortheastny.gov). The complaint form was also posted on the village website under the Village Board tab.

Once the March 3 meeting was opened for public comment, the committee reviewed and discussed suggestions submitted by North East resident Bill Kish. Along with recommending that a new mission statement be created with the needs and desires of the community "front and center," Kish suggested the MPD's policies be reviewed to make sure they align with the new mission statement; that two non-elected members be added to the joint police committee; and that the joint police committee be the agency that receives complaints.

Public Hearing set

The required public hearing on the Police Reform Plan will be held on Thursday, March 11, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

For more details or the hearing's Zoom link, call 518-789-4489 or email Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer at clerk@villageofmil-



Local artist Barbara Graham has her artwork on display in an exhibit entitled Dragons and Other Beasts, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library, through Saturday March 27.

Dragons and Other Beasts

MILLERTON

Throughout the month of March, the NorthEast-Millerton Library will house not only a fine collection of books, CDs, DVDs and other materials, but also Dragons and Other Beasts, thanks to a new art exhibition by local artist Barbara Graham.

In her exhibit, Graham has depicted the various ways in which dragons and other similar beasts have been perceived by different cultures. For example, in Western cultures, Graham said via her artist statement that dragons are often seen as "malevolent monsters" that can be trained to be protectors, whereas in Eastern cultures, dragons are regarded as "benevolent

beasts, symbols of good luck and prosperity."

Dragons and Other Beasts went on display at the library March 1, and will be available for viewing through Saturday, March 27.

For more information, visit the library in person at 75 Main St. in Millerton or check it out online at www. nemillertonlibrary.org.

For more information, call 518-789-3340.

– Kaitlin Lyle

Village merchants group looks toward springtime plans and projects

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Even as the cold winds of winter continue to blow outside, the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) has set

held on Thursday, March 4. Starting at 10 a.m., the meeting was held via Zoom due to the health crisis, welcoming MBA members, familiar merchants

its sights on spring and plans for

the village at the MBA meeting

Welcome, new

and a handful of new faces.

Moviehouse owners Excited by the news of The Moviehouse's new owners (for full story, go to www.tricornernews.com), the MBA welcomed David Maltby, one of its two new stewards. Along with sharing his enthusiasm about getting to know his fellow business owners, Maltby reported there's a fair amount of work to do to get the theater in order. He and his partner have plans loosely aimed toward opening

up on Memorial Day. **Earth Day celebrations**

Giving an update on the village's Earth Day plans, Jennifer Dowley reported this year's festivities will be a combination of virtual and in-person activities. Though the village will be kick-

ing off festivities on Thursday, April 22 (the official date for Earth Day), with several virtual events, she said the big focus is Saturday, April 24, when the majority of village events will happen, including a variety of local farm tours. Additionally, Dowley reported there will be one last virtual activity scheduled for Wednesday, April 28.

Dowley said she hopes to have the posters for Earth Day ready by Thursday, April 1. She also shared plans to distribute information packets with a schedule of Earth Day activities to village merchants the weekend before the holiday, so they can keep customers informed of

the upcoming festivities. Merchants spoke up on the Zoom call to share their interest in participating in the Earth Day festivities, and Dowley encouraged them to contact her via email, at jenniferadowley@ gmail.com. She also reminded merchants that Earth Day would be the perfect time to brighten

store windows with flowers. Village projects

Keeping the MBA informed of village news, Mayor Debbie Middlebrook announced that the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has given the village approval to proceed with replacing the sidewalks on the south side of Main Street as well to install new solar crosswalk signs in Millerton.

In addition to installing a sign at the crosswalk in front of The Moviehouse, she said a solar crosswalk sign would be installed at the crosswalk in front of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail entrance on Main Street as well as at the new crosswalk intended for the front of the NorthEast-Millerton Library, also on Main

Regarding the sidewalk replacement project, Jeanne Vanecko reported that Townscape is planning a fundraiser to replace the diseased trees along Main Street, adding that the ideal time to replace the trees would be when the sidewalks are being worked on. Townscape will also remove the village's remaining holiday lights on Tues-

day, March 23, she reported. **Farmers Market location**

Raising the North East Community Center's (NECC) Millerton Farmers Market up for discussion, Cathy Fenn commented on the community's love for the farmers market as well as her own love for it, especially when the market was previously located on the Rail Trail and was twice the size it is now. She

any thought given to holding the market on the trail now that the Rail Trail is finished. Fenn commenting that it would be great for the local businesses located near the trail. In response, NECC Execu-

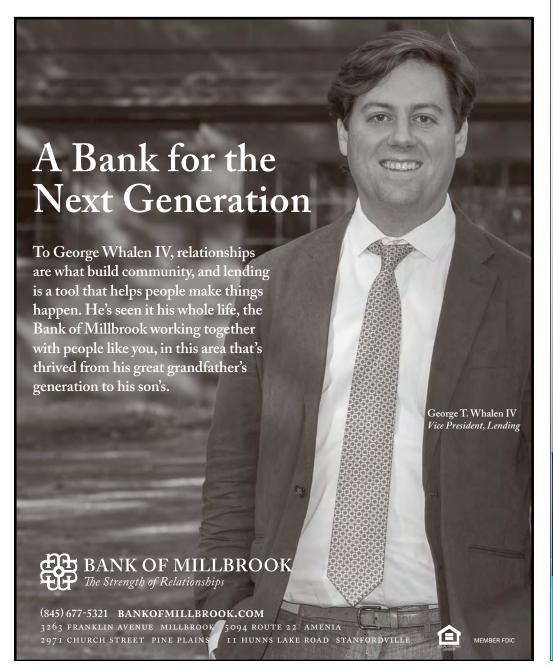
asked whether there has been

tive Director Christine Sergent said the community center has been talking about the market's location, size and other factors, adding that it has received a lot of feedback from the vendors who participate in the farmers market and considered the drawbacks. As this is something NECC has been talking about internally, she said it's willing to think outside the box. She invited the merchants from the MBA and the Millerton community to share their thoughts and comments with her regarding the market's location.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

Wildlife tracking workshop uncovers activity

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Opening their eyes a little wider to detect spoor (or animal tracks and signs) in the snow, community members of all ages learned the basics of wildlife tracking and animal behaviors at the Wildlife Tracking workshop hosted by the Roeliff Jansen Community Library on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Meeting under clear blue skies at the library, the workshop drew a socially-distant group of area residents at 10 a.m., some of whom brought their children with them for an educational hike in the snow. More attendees would join as the workshop forged ahead, and masks and social distancing were required by everyone.

The workshop was held in the landscape surrounding the library and led by Elia Del Molino, the conservation director at Greenagers in nearby Egremont, Mass., which according to its website, "through its paid employment programs, internships and apprenticeships, engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming and natural resource management."



Joined by a group of children at the Wildlife Tracking workshop, Elia Del Molino, left, the conservation director at Greenagers, stood atop a former beaver dam to point out tracks left behind by both beaver and mink.

He spoke about how the landscape is ideal for wildlife with its open fields that support a large number of rodents which, in turn, support larger animals. Accompanied by his assistant, Donovan Lally, Del Molino encouraged those participating not to crowd one another when they found tracks, but to instead take turns so everyone could have a chance to see the tracks. The group

trekked down the hill through the snow in search of spoor.

Stopping at a section behind the library, Del Molino gestured to the tracks and tail prints that portrayed the perilous journey of a mouse that had hopped across the snow. At another section not too far from the mouse's path, he eagerly pointed out the path of a red-tailed hawk as it apparently swooped down to seize the

mouse, leaving a few feathers behind. Moving forward, Del Molino followed the tracks of a cottontail rabbit, interpreting the animal's movements to an area he described as premier rabbit habitat or "rabbitat."

Inspired by Del Molino's zeal for tracking, the group continued their trek through the snow and into the forest. All while keeping alert for tracks and other signs of wildlife, Del Molino advised the group to be aware of its surroundings.

Fueling the children's growing interest in tracking, he invited them to circle the tracks in the snow once found. Treading carefully down hills covered in snow and stepping over barbed wire, he showed everyone how to distinguish between spoor left by deer and beaver.

Walking along the creek, the group paused to observe bobcat tracks with Del Molino pointing out the shape of the

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

paw pads and the asymmetrical digits.

Standing atop an old beaver dam, Del Molino was delighted to find mink tracks, which he considered the sign of a healthy waterway. Drawing from his vast knowledge of wildlife behaviors, the guide gave moving interpretations of how the animals might have made the tracks, demonstrating each hop, leap, swoop and scurry. Along with discussing the tracks they leave behind and their distinct movements, he talked about the animals' wintertime routines and how they need to conserve energy around this time of year.

Bringing the group over to a wooded area, Del Molino gestured to tracks left by a bobcat and, as a rite of passage for trackers, invited the novice trackers to smell where the bobcat left its spray. Leading the group down a narrow trail of bare trees, he pointed to the rectangular tracks of a squirrel, the familiar sight of deer hooves and a trail of bobcat tracks along the tree line.

Together, everyone walked across the open field behind the former Roeliff Jansen School building, where they soon found house cat tracks, which Del Molino said had the same characteristics of a bobcat's tracks. Similar to how a dog sheds its coat, Del Molino showed how deer shed their coats by plucking pieces of fur found on the ground in the woods.

As the group made its way back to the library building, the excited calls of children could be heard as they spotted tracks, calling both their guide's and their parents' attention to their finds as they demonstrated what they had absorbed from the workshop.

AREA IN BRIEF

Corned Beef Dinner March 13

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

All dinners are takeout only at 5 p.m. The menu will consist of corned beef & cabbage, roasted potatoes, carrots, homemade Irish soda bread and homemade chocolate stout cake for dessert.

A donation of \$15 per dinner is requested at the door. Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner, get your food through your car window and take it home to enjoy.

All CDC health guidelines will be followed including face masks, gloves and social distancing.

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

Storytime with Tia at library

COPAKE - Enjoy Storytime with Youth Services associate Tia on Zoom Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from the Roeliff Jansen Community Library.

Storytime is paired with an easy art project. Children can pick up the activity kit at the library during the week.

Go to www.roejanlibrary.org/kids-events/ to learn how to access Zoom; the passcode is 989288.

For more information, call 518-325-4101.

Town Board adopts Police Reform Plan, broadband needs still not being met

By KAITLIN LYLE

kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — In addition to assessing the town's efforts regarding broadband internet access, the Town Board unanimously adopted the Pine Plain's Police Reform Plan at its meeting held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Broadband needs not met

Among the items listed in her report, town Supervisor Darrah Cloud remarked that her broadband report was "a little discouraging." To date, she said the town has a tremendous committee working on the issue and has entertained numerous officials from both the Dutchess County Legislature and the broadband companies themselves.

Pine Plains has also signed a non-disclosure agreement so that Consolidated Communications would give the town its maps and make an estimate as to what a build-out would cost to cover all corners of the town, though the company hasn't yet sent this material. Additionally, Cloud said Altice USA was supposed to attend one of the Town Board meetings, but canceled and hasn't been heard from

Cloud observed that attaining "adequate high-speed internet for everyone is dependent on the federal and state governments taking the lead and completing the work, perhaps naming internet access as a utility and finding the money.

"The internet companies are not going to complete service on their own," she said. "They will not invest the money."

However, Cloud said the companies will build out on a road if all the homeowners on that road join the contract to pay a \$150 start-up fee and \$130 a month after that for three years. These fees, she said, pay the cost of extending the lines so they're distributed along the road. She reported that the residents on Tripp Road have just completed this and are looking forward to high speed internet.

For the time being, Cloud said the town will continue to monitor changes in the law and funding opportunities; she also shared plans to pull together a consortium of three or four towns to meet with Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19), a Pine Plains resident, on this issue in the coming weeks.

Police Reform Plan passed

Later that evening, Cloud announced that the board needs to pass the Police Reform and Modernization Plan for Pine Plains; Governor Andrew Cuomo had set an April 1 deadline for all communities with their own police agencies to do so or face losing state aid. She mentioned that the town's plan was issued to the board a month ago with the comments and additions from the town's police stakeholders committee.

Providing both the board and the public with a history of the plan, Cloud said that when Cuomo mandated that every town, city and village evaluate and modernize their police policies, Dutchess County pulled all the agencies and towns with active police departments together to create a document that could be used uniformly.

"The idea was we don't each have to reinvent the wheel in every town, we could all use the same document," Cloud said.

She added the county's document was designed mainly for more urban places, so when Pine Plains sat down with the document and examined it as a stakeholders committee, a lot of work that was done focused on the town might want someto the town's size and com-

In assembling this Police Reform Plan, Councilwoman Sarah Jones remarked that it was an excellent process and that the town's police department func-

"I'm very happy with the process and I completely support passing the work that's been done," Jones said, and after further discussion, the board adopted the plan.

"I think our police will be very grateful because there's a lot of care in it," Cloud said of the reform plan.

determining what pertained to the town and eliminating what didn't; retaining items that day and molding some ideas munity needs. Cloud said she went through the document after the committee met for a few months. Taking everyone's recommendations into account. she went into the county's plan and did all the recommended edits, taking into account all of the commentary made on the plan. As the plan is due April 1, she reminded the board that if it didn't pass it, the town will lose funding for its police force.

tions extremely well.



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Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle 7. Representation of a plan

13. In a fervid way

14. The Book of Psalms

16. Morning

17. Exactly the same 19. About

20. Brown and basmati are two 22. Swiss river 23. Philippine island

25. Expressions of surprise

26. An ant 28. Common Japanese surname

29. Deoxyribonucleic acid 30. Car mechanics group

31. A person's brother or sister

33. Ancient pharaoh

34. Quantitative fact

36. Vividly colored bird

38. Your home has one

40. Organic compound

41. Section at the end of a book 43. Flat tableland with steep

edges 44. Criticize

45. Split pulses

47. Brief trend

48. Cool! 51. Purposes

53. Brews 55. Skin condition

56. Pops 58. American air travel company

59. Minute bug 60. Anno Domini (in the year of

Our Lord) 61. One who rides in your car

64. One of the Gospels 65. City in southern Spain

67. Inquisitive

69. Jean Paul ___, author

70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN 1. An ape or monkey

2. Chemical element 3. Zodiac sign

4. Removes

5. Brew 6. Nickname

7. Architectural structures

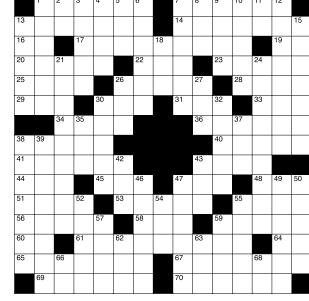
8. Trigonometric function 9. Postmodern architectural

building in Vienna 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald

are two 11. Mountain (abbr.)

12. Landscaping practice 13. Capacitance unit

15. Redirect 18. Hat for women



21. In a way, dressed down

24. Granny 26. Feed

27. Endpoint

30. Indian instrument 32. Bleated

35. Cablegram (abbr.) 37. Root mean square (abbr.)

38. Jellyfishes 39. Individual TV installments

42. Talk

43. More (Spanish) 46. Leaseholder

47. Monetary units 49. Hostility 50. Work stations

52. Linguistics giant

54. Female sheep 55. Calendar month

57. Seasoning 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey 62. Single Lens Reflex 63. A way to remove 66. Virginia 68. Old English

March 4 Solution



Sudoku

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

March 4 Solution

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OBITUARIES

Philip James Terni

Terni, 77, a lifelong area resident,

passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, March 5, 2021.

Phil will be forever a part of Millerton. Seven days a week, he greeted countless Millerton natives and visitors from behind the counter of Terni's Store. Always ready with a quick smile and

a joke for a new face, Phil loved knowledge and took pleasure in speaking snippets of a customer's mother tongue or in knowing something about their place of birth or heritage.

He quietly served the community in ways large and small: whether winding the clock in the Millerton Moviehouse tower, sitting on the boards of the North East-Millerton Library and the First National Bank of America, or patiently waiting on the smallest of customers to make their penny candy selections.

His many friends and acquaintances enlivened each of his days, and his memory is a blessing and a light to all.

Born March 20, 1943, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Henrietta (Watros) and Arthur D. Terni. Phil's beloved grandmother, Assunta M. (Filiberti) Terni, played a loving and pivotal role in his upbringing.

Phil attended and graduated from Webutuck High School in 1963 and received a bachelor's degree in Public Relations from Boston University in 1967.

On Oct. 14, 1972, at St. Patrick's Church in Millerton he

Janet (Emmons) Kelley Gatti, 93,

died in Stuart, Fla., on

March 5, 2021, follow-

Carol was the

ninth of 10 children

born to Donald and

Cora Roger Emmons

of Canaan Valley, on

She was prede-

ald, Dorothy, Gertrude, Eleanor,

Roger, Beatrice, Marian, Edwin

and Lester; her grandson, Ed-

ward Orlandi; and her husbands,

She is survived by her

daughters, Gale Scott and

her husband, James, of Buf-

falo, N.Y., JoAnn Orlandi and

her partner, Joe King, of Palm

City, Fla., and Dorothy Kelley

of North Canaan; her grand-

children, GiGi Atkins and James

Scott of Buffalo, Kristine Or-

John L. Kelley and Lou Gatti.

ceased by her broth-

ers and sisters, Don-

Sept. 13, 1927.

ing a short illness.

Carol (Emmons) Gatti

NORTH CANAAN — Carol landi of Portland, Ore., and

MILLERTON — Philip James married Ellen Wessel. Mrs. Terni survives at home.

> Phil became the proprietor of Terni's Store in 1971 and operated the family business until his retirement in 2020. He was also a life member of the Millerton Gun Club.

> > In addition to his

wife of nearly 50 years, Phil is survived by his son, Lyman Terni and his wife, Kirin, of Lakeville and his daughter, Clare Terni of Charlottesville, Va.; two grandchildren, Juniper and Sora Terni of Lakeville; and several nieces and nephews and many close

He was predeceased by a brother, Paul Terni; a sister, Stephanie Erickson; and a dear friend, Harry H. Lawrence.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, March 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Terni's Store, 42 Main St., Millerton. Funeral services will take place on Wednesday, March 10, at 1 p.m. at the Millerton Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Ave., Millerton. Burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Church Street, Millerton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North East-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, NY 12546; or the North East Historical Society, P.O. Box 727, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Jessica Orlandi and her fiancé,

Kenny Westerman,

also of Portland, and

Noel Lidstone and

his wife, Amanda, of

Lakeville; her great-

grandchildren, Jaylin

and Hendrix Scott of

Buffalo and Makenzie

and Cole Lidstone of

Lakeville; and numer-

ous nieces and neph-

ews and great-nieces

Carol was an avid golfer and

Her name was also on the

"Top Score" board at the Cove

Lanes in Great Barrington,

where she bowled for many

vices at this time. However, the

family plans to have a Celebra-

tion of Life in the future.

There will not be any ser-

bowler. She even had a "Hole

in One" while vacationing in

and -nephews.

Pine Plains Pharmacy hosts second coronavirus vaccine clinic

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS - Continuing its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic, the Pine Plains Pharmacy helped roughly 130 residents get inoculated against COVID-19 by hosting its second vaccination clinic on Thursday, March 4.

The pharmacy's first CO-VID-19 vaccination clinic was held on Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Pine Plains firehouse, located at 7 Lake Road. Running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the most recent clinic was also held at the firehouse, drawing area residents eager to receive their immuni-

Regarding the total number of COVID-19 vaccines the pharmacy has received so far, pharmacy owner and operator Nasir Mahmood reported that it got 100 doses the week before the second clinic — all of which were utilized — and 300 doses the week of the clinic. In between, he said he is also planning to distribute vaccinations at the pharmacy on Route 199 "if we still have doses."

Though he was pleased by the number of people coming in to receive their vaccinations, Mahmood said in a video posted to the Pine Plains Views web-



A resident of Pine Plains, Jim Petrie, was one of many local residents to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the vaccination clinic held at the Pine Plains firehouse on Thursday, March 4.

a false sense of security and they just lower all their guards, mixing [it] up and having fun and vacationing, and that is my worry," he said. "So these are the concerns and hopefully as time goes on, people realize that these [vaccines] are good protections rather than having no protections."

Mahmood advised residents continue taking the necessary health and safety precautions against COVID-19 as suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the county health department.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com



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site, www.pineplainsviews.com, "My concern is that we might get a spike because people have Fishing season sneaks

up on us once again

I cleaned out the Fish Closet the other day.

This is no simple matter. The Fish Closet sits beneath a staircase, so the ceiling is sloped. The shelving is at the rear, which means it's best to put things back there that won't be needed any time soon.

Standing tall in front of the shelves are fly rods in tubes. Lots of them. About 70, at last count, and I have a couple new

ones coming today. As I cleaned and rearranged I was reacquainted with rods I had forgotten about, or rods

that just don't get used much. And the rods that fit into the category "Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time."

I'm looking at you, L.L. Bean Streamlight five and a half foot, three weight. I thought this would be a decent stick for crawling around the little blue lines. It turned out to be

a glorified tomato stake. But it was on sale!

Come on down, Temple Fork Outfitters eight foot, two weight, three piece. This rod was enormously popular when it came out back around 2003, and I succumbed to the mania. It's graphite with a slow action, a combo you don't see often. In theory, it is a great dry fly rod.

In practice, it is a great dry fly rod as long as there's no wind. The light line weight just doesn't cut through anything more substantial than a light breeze. Because the action is forgiving, I have had moderate success overlining it a bit, with a weight forward three line. But when I tried a double taper four weight the rod protested.

How's it going, gigantic old Shakespeare bamboo rod? Here's a tip: Just because a fly rod is made of bamboo, that doesn't make it a) good and b) valuable.

This nine-footer, in three hefty sections, is a blunt instrument. I have fished it with a variety of lines, finally settling on a weight forward eight as the least lousy option.

TANGLED LINES

Patrick L. Sullivan

But at least I didn't pay anything for it. Someone gave it

Opening Day is a mystery

Looking ahead, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order on March 4 opening trout season on ... March 4. (Normally opening day is the second Saturday in April.)

Of course he announced it late in the afternoon, so we couldn't all charge out to the stream or pond and start casting away, but still.

That means that streams like the Blackberry River, Furnace Brook and Macedonia Brook are fair game, conditions permitting.

For the early going I'm thinking rigs with a combination of eggs, sucker spawn, smallish Wooly Buggers (tied with a jig hook and/or tungsten bead), Bread and Butter jig nymphs, smallish black stonefly nymphs, and so on.

I'm also thinking specks (tiny weighted nymphs) on 18 inches to three feet of light tippet, attached directly to the bend of the hook of a bass popper. You might even get something to hit the popper in the Housatonic.

I'm also thinking cold feet. Do yourself a favor and get an extra set of boots one size larger for cold weather purposes. (The extra space allows the warm air - generated by the excellent socks you also bought — to circulate.) Normally the pre-season

Tangled Lines column is a lazy rehashing of the last 10 such pieces, with an emphasis on what I call "tackle fondling." But in these plague times I

have fondled my tackle so often I'm growing hair on my palms. And if that doesn't get me censored I don't know what

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The Fish Closet in the Sullivan home, in all its glory, above.

BOE reviews pandemic plan, aims to fill academic gap

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — While the school district has demonstrated its ability to continue operations as best it can with the COVID-19 pandemic hanging overhead, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) considered a concrete pandemic plan for future situations as outline by Business Administrator Robert Farrier at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 22.

Starting at 7 p.m., BOE members and Webutuck administrators alike met via Zoom due to the pandemic. To start his discussion, Farrier explained that New York required each district in the state to create a pandemic plan, and Webutuck used a template provided by safety consultant Needham Risk Management. As the overall plan has to be approved by Thursday, April 1, Farrier said it's a good idea for the BOE to review it and then, at a future meeting, move toward adopting it.

In general, Farrier said it will allow the district to have a written plan so it can adapt to any type of future pandemic, pointing out it could be the flu or any other disease or virus - not just CO-VID-19. He added the plan could easily be translated to disaster recovery planning to direct the district how to operate in such scenarios. The focus of the plan, Farrier said, is to determine what's essential, what could operate outside the school and how the district could still carry on business "in a world where you may not be able to be at the school for a period of time.

"I think we've already demonstrated this," Farrier mused. "It's kind of backwards from the state, but we've already done that so we can demonstrate that it can be done, but now it's about putting it into place and going forward."

Farrier noted part of the pandemic plan involves minimum levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) the district needs to have on hand. Because the district hasn't held school in-person on a regular basis, he said it's been a challenge to know overall how much PPE it's using on a regular basis. Estimating that it will have to adjust the levels, Farrier said Director of Facilities Walt Kilmer has been taking inventory each week and the district will continue to order PPE when it reaches minimum levels.

Summer programs, filling the gap

Looking ahead, Farrier confirmed that the North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton reached out to him about continuing its joint programs this summer. Along with his initial conversation with NECC, he acknowledged that he, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani and Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Eraca have had other conversations looking toward the summer.

As they get more information to determine what it might take to enhance the summer program to help get students up to speed, Farrier said they'll come back to the issue and talk more about it. For the time being, he said it is a little early to assess the summer program until the district knows what its needs are and how it can develop a program that's beneficial to everyone. Eraca mentioned that Webutuck administrators and building principals have been brainstorming as part of an ongoing conversation.

"I would imagine we're going to be in a world of hurt when it comes to seeing whether these kids are up to speed for next year, but that's a long conversation for another time," said BOE President Judy Moran.

BOE member Rick Keller-Coffey asked Farrier and Castellani if there's been a conversation about running a program over the summer that would run as a kind of extended school year. Castellani replied that they're in the discussion phase of how to fill the gap, though he stressed the conversation is in the begin-

"We know that eventually... we have to start to look at filling the gap that Judy just mentioned and developing a program," Castellani said. "Obviously there's costs with that, there's logistics to it, but we have to do it because we know down the road there are going to be students that have lost so much and where we fill those gaps is what we're looking



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEBUTUCK STEAM FAIR GOOGLE SITE

Though their projects weren't judged at the fair, STEAM Fair participants from Webutuck Elementary School were rewarded with fun prizes for their hard work and creativity.

Webutuck students get inventive at virtual STEAM Fair

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Students were just as resourceful this year in demonstrating their creativity and investigation of the world around them as they've been in previous years as they submitted their projects, inventions and demonstrations to this year's virtual STEAM Fair.

Sponsored by the Webutuck Teachers' Association with support from the Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA) and the Webutuck PTA, this year marks the seventh annual STEAM Fair, and thus far its first (and hopefully only) virtual one due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of turning the fair into "an entirely online event," Danielle Fridstrom, a science teacher at Webutuck High School (WHS) and co-chair of this year's fair, set up a "2021 Webutuck STEAM Fair" Google site where students could submit their projects.

A total of 20 projects and 23 participants in kindergarten through 12th grade participated. Out of those, 12 projects were completed by students in grades sixth through 12th and were judged by eight Webutuck staff and retired staff volunteers. The remaining eight projects were submitted by students in kindergarten through fourth grade and were not judged, though the fair featured five staff volunteer 'commentators" charged with giving encouraging feedback.

Christine Gillette, a science teacher at EBIS and co-chair of the fair, acknowledged parents struggled with the technology as they helped their children upload their videos and projects on their iPads to the Google site. Fortunately, Gillette said, "Danielle was great about providing tech support and how-to videos, so we actually set up a Google Classroom for STEAM Fair participants where they could drop their projects off."

More people could view the projects online this year, as the fair took place over a week instead of a single day.

"The event wouldn't be possible without our sponsors, the science department, our volunteer judges and commentators, support from the parents, and, most of all, the kids that stepped up to do STEAM projects during this unusual time in education," Gillette said.

The projects went "live" on Monday, Feb. 22, and were judged through Sunday, Feb. 28. The winners were officially announced on Friday, March 5. In addition to the standard first-, second- and third-place winners, this year's fair included a line-up of unique awards, all of which featured fun prizes. Meanwhile, all 10 participants from Webutuck Elementary School (kindergarten through fourth grade) received \$20 gift certificates from Oblong Books & Music in Millerton.

For her Short Term Memory and Its Effect on Eyewitness Testimonies project, Samantha Meehan, a junior at WHS, won first place, followed by EBIS seventh-grader Carlos Franco Sub in second place with Swift Corrosion and EBIS seventhgrader Abigail McEnroe in third place with Do Different Types of Salt Affect the Homemade Ice Cream Process? An eighth-grader at EBIS, Landen Elliott, won the People's Choice Award for his project, The Potato Launcher.

A fourth-grader at EBIS, Nolan Howard won the MacGyver Award with Electromagnetic Railroad while Garrett Yeno, a sophomore at WHS, won the Innovation Award for Why You Should Learn Programming. Hailey Brennan, a sixth-grader at EBIS, was awarded the Visual Communication Award for Melanin & Rabbit Fur Color while McKenna Tanner, a sophomore at WHS, won the Fauci Award for How COVID-19 Has Affected Society.

Board renews agreement to shelter stray dogs, resident garners grant

By KAITLIN LYLE

kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Town Board meeting on Thursday, March 4, was held over Zoom and live streamed to the "AmeniaTV" YouTube channel due to the COVID health crisis.

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti gave updates on projects including the Lavelle Road pump house and generator upgrade and Town Engineer John Andrews' plans to submit the cost estimate for repairs. She also reported negotiations are still in progress for the Altice USA cable franchise renewal agreement. She said a response is expected in April for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation/ Environmental Facilities Corporation planning grant.

Veterinary care agreement

The board discussed the renewal of the dog control housing agreement with Pine Plains Veterinary Associates. The vet's office will be charged with sheltering, watering, feeding and providing necessary veterinary services for dogs seized by the town's animal control officer

Perotti said Pine Plains Veterinary Associates maintains a kennel for boarding dogs at its office at 2826 Church St. in Pine Plains. In 2019, the Town Board authorized a contract with the practice to provide shelter for any dogs seized by the ACO through Dec. 31. The board unanimously voted to renew the agreement.

Emergency plan OK'd

adopted the 2021 Town of Amenia Emergency Operations Plan, per state law. The goal is to "provide for effective local responses when disasters occur and facilitate local recovery," said Perotti.

Resident garners grant Next up was a resolution to accept the Bridging Divides grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF). Perotti said an Amenia resident applied for and obtained a grant from the BTCF totaling \$2,500; its website, www.berkshiretaconic.org, describes the Bridging Divides, Healing Communities

of building and strengthening relationships." It added applicants can submit proposals for "virtual forums that allow people to explore issues through different points of view... service projects that allow a group of people to come together to address an immediate community need...[or] activities that bring a community together

around arts and culture."

grant as being "for the purpose

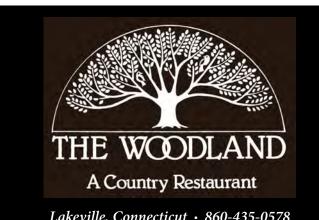
The BTCF grant can be applied for on behalf of municipalities, among other entities.

Perotti noted the resident obtained the grant for the Wassaic Boarding School project. Going online to the "wassaicboardingschool" Instagram page, the Wassaic Boarding School seeks to bring "the joy and empowerment of skateboarding to Dutchess, N.Y., and Litchfield, Conn., Counties."

The project corresponds to a proposal the Town Board heard last December from Christopher May for the future installation of a skatepark in the hamlet of Wassaic. However, Perotti explained the resident may not have realized the need to gain Town Board authorization first before seeking a grant under the town's name. In order to accept the grant, Perotti said the applicant must prepare and submit a project report to BTCF and the Town Board on or before Wednesday, March 31.

The board accepted the resolution unanimously.







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PHIL TERNI Continued from Page A1

fountain that once served icecream floats could be an hourslong commitment — but one that always left those involved in the conversation both more informed and more entertained than when they started.

In the fall of 1972, Terni married Ellen Wessel at the former St. Patrick's Church in Millerton. The couple had a son, Lyman, and a daughter, Clare. Over the years, Ellen could often be found at the store helping Phil, sometimes with a cat lazily roaming about, happy to be indoors on cold winter days.

Combing through their memories, longtime residents recalled the days when Terni's was the spot to be. Drawing from childhood memories, Millerton resident Jim Campbell recounted how Terni's was "the place to congregate" after church on Sunday mornings, recalling how he and his friends would get their penny candies and comic books while his father picked up the

"To me, that was the heart and soul of the village of Millerton,"

Remembering Terni, Campbell remarked how he was a good friend to many people — Campbell included — and how they connected over their interest in American history. Terni had many tales to share about how the railroad ran through Millerton years ago, and how the village changed from being a main stop to a village no longer on the line.

Also drawing from childhood memories, Donald Najdek fondly recalled buying penny candy and how Terni always emphasized good manners among his younger customers. Growing up in Millerton, Najdek shared how every kid in town would go to Terni's for worms, fish hooks and sometimes cigars. While Terni always made sure they were "age appropriate," he would also ask them, "Are you sure you want to buy this?" prompting them to consider their choices.

"He always said 'hello,' he always waved, he was always polite and worked every day of his life in the store," Najdek said,

recalling countless winters when he spotted Terni shoveling the sidewalks in front of his business with a timeworn metal shovel.

Reflecting on what Terni meant to the village, Najdek said he symbolized "community, respect, hard work and providing a fair product to the community that they needed and a very large amount of history that he knew of Millerton and the surround-

Najdek's sister, Millerton Deputy Mayor Jennifer Najdek, also had memories to share of

"The one thing I always appreciated about Phil is the pride he had in his store and his storefront," she said. "I'd run to Irving Farm in the early morning and he'd be sweeping off the sidewalk. He'd make sure all of the space and the storefront were immaculate. It's super sad to me because it's one more piece of what the village used to be that I remember that's shifting."

Though much of the memories shared about Terni were interlaced with his family's business, his involvement with the community stretched beyond Main Street, as he once served on the boards of the NorthEast-Millerton Library and the First National Bank of America. He was also a lifetime member of the Millerton Gun Club.

"For any of us who have lived and worked in this community, we have never known Millerton without Phil until he had to retire from his business last year," Oblong Books & Music owner Dick Hermans said, whose store is just doors away from Terni's. "Phil was a pure Main Street merchant, serving the community by showing up every day and supplying people with goods that mattered to them. He was friendly to all and never put himself above anyone who came

"Millerton may never be quite the same now that Phil has passed," Hermans continued, "but I hope the business community always remembers to emulate the honest and humble way Mr. Terni went about his business."

COVID OUTBREAK Continued from Page A1

by the Board of Education (BOE), but instead was led by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Personnel Services Caroline Hernandez Pidala, and included School Nurse Maureen Seipp, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance and Operations Brian Fried and Mitchell.

Talk of the COVID outbreak starting at a party held by the winter sports team, which was reportedly celebrating its abbreviated season and attended by athletes and their friends, was quickly disavowed by Pidala.

"This simply is not true," she

Throughout the year-long pandemic, the village of Millbrook and town of Washington have kept their infection numbers low, according to Dutchess County's COVID Data Dashboard website. Now district families are asking what's changed, and if there's any truth to reports of parties and get-togethers among students.

"While we can't confirm specific parties/gatherings within our communities, what we do know is that our contact tracing has led to small and large gatherings within our community," said Mitchell in an email exchange with this newspaper, not confirming any particular event but acknowledging there have been gatherings held within the community. "There is no way of determining exactly where/when the transmissions occurred."

She added, "What is important to keep in mind is that we are still in a pandemic and we, as a community, need to keep each other safe and healthy while adhering to the safety protocols set by the local and state health departments."

The four presumptive cases, explained Mitchell in her email, are "individuals [who] were deemed close contacts of a case and are symptomatic, but refusing to test. Our current level of contact tracing indicates that the Middle School and High School are the school buildings that are affected."

Due to federal health privacy laws, the students' identities or conditions could not be revealed.

Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy was surprised to hear about the outbreak, calling it "unfortunate." However, he noted that Millbrook has done a good job keeping the virus contained and continues to do so.

"It doesn't change any of the precautions we are currently taking," he said. "Just be careful and carry on."

Questions from the community

Parents at the March 3 meeting asked the district if the positive results came about due to mandatory testing of athletes or from random testing. They were told that the testing of student athletes, while set to begin, had not yet taken place at that time.

Another parent asked if their child is quarantined and becomes symptomatic, what that means for the rest of their household? The response was that if someone has had contact with a person who has tested positive, they will need to isolate themselves. If they also become symptomatic, they must then quarantine themselves and contact tracing must be done. If someone has been in close contact with that person, they should completely isolate themselves for a period of 10 days. That said, whole households are usually affected, as other children cannot attend school and parents often miss work, all while quarantining.

Answers from the district

According to the superintendent, "due to the rapid spread within our school community, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health [DBCH] continues to recommend that both [the] Middle School and High School remain fully remote until March 11, although we anticipate that remote learning will be extended due to the increase of positive cases and the ending of quarantines."

Mitchell added that during remote learning, "the Middle School and High School students will follow their regular class schedules [between 8 a.m. and 2:01 p.m.]. The start of the Fall II sports season will have to be delayed until further notice. We will start the season as soon as it is safe to do so."

Additionally, remote meal delivery will continue for those who have already signed up for the program. To register, email Food Service Manager Holly Peters-Heady at holly.heady@ millbrookcsd.org or call 845-677-4200, ext. 1137.

"We have evidence that there may be some pandemic fatigue regarding the novel corona virus," stated Mitchell. "For the safety of our entire community, we ask that you remain diligent in following COVID-19 protocols, which include avoiding large gatherings, maintaining face coverings and washing your hands often."

One parent with a child in high school who spoke on the condition on anonymity, said she understood why students might be tired of living under pandemic conditions.

"There are rumors, but who knows which one is true?" she said about how the outbreak began. "Anyway, we wouldn't 'out' the kids involved, they're kids, and just like us they are tired of the isolation."

One parent told this newspaper he heard a varsity basketball post-season party was responsible for the outbreak. Another parent said she heard the event was actually a birthday party.

Perspective and support

While understanding that students want to re-engage in their social lives, administrators stressed they must remember the pandemic is not over, and that there are consequences to their actions. The fall sports season, which was slated to follow the winter season, has been put on hold. As of press time on Tuesday, March 9, school officials could not confirm if the fall sports season would begin after Thursday, March 11, as planned.

Mitchell assured the community the district is working to get a handle on the outbreak and prevent such a dramatic spike in virus numbers in the future.

"We are working hard at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and problem-solving together in an effort to get some semblance of normalcy for you and your families," she said. "If you have any questions or require support, please reach out to us."

To contact the district, go to www.millbrookcsd.org or call 845-677-4200.

WATERFRONT Continued from Page A1

gan to meet with River Street versation [about] what would Planning and volunteers during the past few years to develop a community profile, vision and goals for the project and to pick six projects that would benefit Copake the most. The group hopes to finish the current plan by Wednesday, March 31.

After the Feb. 13 presentation was made, the workshop opened for public comments. Roll, River Street Planning Principal Margaret Irwin and other planners addressed community comments and answered questions.

Q & A

One community member asked how Copake is thinking in terms of planning for projects while keeping COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing in mind. Irwin responded that the pandemic has been "a game changer in terms of how amenities are designed."

Another person posed questions regarding public fishing

Calling to mind the vandalism that took place at the Bash Bish area last summer, one woman asked who takes responsibility for issues like liability, cleanup and policing at Bash Bish, and emphasized that she needed to know such information before supporting "this otherwise wonderful project."

Acknowledging that the woman made an important point, Irwin said there are a variety of different partnerships that communities and property owners can broker to deal with such matters, but noted it's correct to be cautious.

"Sometimes more access on a fragile location or waterway ecosystem isn't advisable at certain points," Irwin said, "so I think what typically happens is as projects go forward, property owners and the municipalities or a nonprofit who might be an intermediary sit down and talk like exactly this kind of conbe an acceptable level of oversight management supervision. The falls is a very active location with a lot of things that draw people... but I think that's part of the trail planning process."

As the workshop continued, community members posed a range of questions that explored issues related to handicapped accessibility and flooding on the trails and the town's thoughts on approaching new projects while keeping in mind a possible increase in the number of visitors and potentially crime.

To review project, submit comments

Those unable to attend the presentation can find a rebroadcast of the workshop and review project materials online at www. copakewaterfronts.com.

Area residents have been encouraged to provide their input by completing the surveys posted on the website. They may also submit questions and additional comments to Roll via phone at 518-329-0384 or email at Roberta.Roll@gmail.com or by sending an email to copakewaterfronts@gmail.com.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com team in Dutchess County," Pul-Minor League play in Dutchess ver explained. "It was the first Stadium. ever built in our county; we didn't know how it was going

sustain a minor league baseball

DUTCHESS STADIUM Continued from Page A1

to work out. I think people were concerned that it was just going to be a money pit, that the county was going to be able to subsidize baseball in order to keep the stadium operational."

However, the county's initial concerns eventually lessened as the stadium made a significant economic impact over time. In fact, based on the economic impact study that was completed in 2013, Pulver said the stadium pumped almost \$5 million into the regional economy.

Looking at the planned improvements, the county is seeking to replace the original stadium lighting with 100-foot LED lighting as well as to complete design work for future compliance projects and upgrades, according to a Feb. 8 press release issued by the Legislature. The \$1.4 million proposal marks the first of several the Legislature is considering in order to modernize and upgrade the stadium.

Pulver reported the county plans to hire an architecture and engineering firm to do the design work, adding all of this work will be a "revenue neutral kind of bond.

"Anytime you're doing a facility, you have to spend money at some time to make it better," he explained, "so we're very excited. The vote in the Legislature was overwhelming."

Indeed, the Legislature's final vote tallied 23 votes in favor of the funding and two votes against it.

Welcome, Yankees!

With funding for the upgrades now approved and baseball season on the horizon, local sports fans will soon be offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to

Pulver confirmed that the Staten Island Yankees Club

watch the New York Yankees

will be moving into Dutchess Stadium, and that this team is the Long Season Class A affiliate team of the New York Yankees. As a result, the Hudson Valley Renegades will become a Yankees Minor League Team (it has six in the U.S.). According to the Legislature,

the Yankees invited the Hudson Valley Renegades to become an affiliate last December. The Renegades have been partners with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays since 1996, before Major League Baseball constricted the number of its minor-league affiliates. Through this new full-season affiliation with the Yankees, Jeff Goldklang, president of The Goldklang Group of Professional Baseball, said the Renegades will transition from 38 home games to 60 home games this season and will likely grow to 66 games in 2022.

"Renegades fans have supported the franchise phenomenally since our inception in 1994, so in terms of attendance [post COVID-19] I would anticipate only a small uptick since we've sold to close to capacity most years," Goldklang said. "However, the energy from our fan base is through the roof... We're receiving requests from a broader geographic footprint than in years past, and during the season anticipate a strong push from out-of-towners looking to get a glimpse of Yankee prospects."

Goldklang further explained that in order to meet the new facility standards imposed by MLB, Dutchess Stadium needed multiple upgrades since much of its player development spaces "were original to 1994 and were inadequate for the modern needs of health and wellness for Minor League players.

"We're obviously thrilled that those improvements have been green-lighted, as our future litwhich the county and its residents will benefit from the Renegades now donning pinstripes, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said, "This partnership will not only bring decades of more fun, family entertainment to our community, it will continue to make Dutchess Stadium an economic engine that will enhance all resi-

erally depended upon it," he said.

Reflecting on the ways in

dents' lives." The Hudson Valley Renegades will kick off the 2021 baseball season on the road on Tuesday, May 4, followed by a home opener on Tuesday, May

For more information, check out the Renegades' 2021 schedule at www.milb.com/hudsonvalley/tickets/2021-schedule.



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To Our Parents and Children

working through the challenges of distance and in-person learning during a pandemic

whether you fit into a category above or are doing your part to keep our communities safe and healthy by wearing masks and abiding by current CDC or state recommendations



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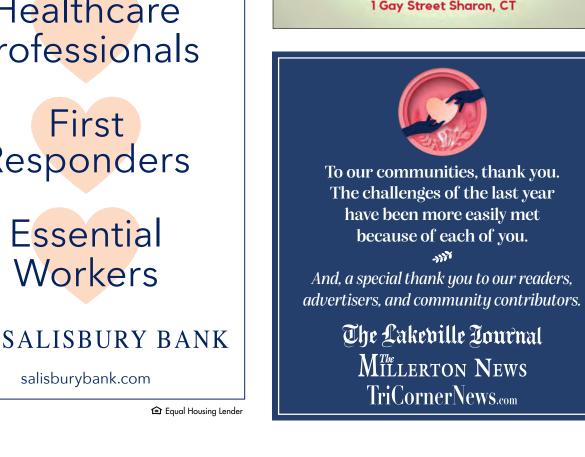


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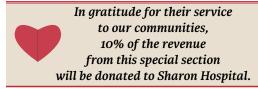






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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

March 11-17, 2021

SHARON PLAYHOUSE FEST **CALLS FOR 10-MINUTE PLAYS**

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

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

The Playhouse also hopes to empower all

people of any age and background to use their voice to tell diverse stories of self-expression and creativity.

Submissions will be accepted from writers in four different categories:

Youth Submissions (written by individuals 18 years of age or younger):

- Plays
- Musicals

Adult Submissions (written by individuals 19 years of age and older):

- · Plays
- Musicals

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

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

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

More information can be found at the playhouse website, www.Sharon-Playhouse.org.

STREAMING: BRUCE T. PADDOCK

Sci-Fi and Brit Wit

f you're a science fiction fan, you probably know about Amazon Prime's "The Expanse" — the best SF show on television ever. But you may not have heard of "Dark," a German show

running on Netflix. Complete in three seasons, "Dark" is a time-travel story so full of plot twists you'll need a map, or at least a family tree. Fortunately, each episode rewards multiple viewings. The acting is good, the directing great, and the casting and makeup work are astonishing.

Don't want to commit to a series right now? Check out "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," the film Taika Waititi made in between "What We Do in the Shadows" and "Thor: Ragnarok." It's more like the former than the latter: a small, sweet, New

Zealandish movie. Personally, I have little patience for films that wear their hearts on their sleeves, and 10 minutes in I was thinking, "OK, so the young boy is going to forge a bond with the crusty old man yadda yadda yadda." But dang if I wasn't misting up at the end all the same. And don't worry, the laughs outweigh the touchyfeely stuff.

Switching gears now, those of us who enjoy British humor but don't subscribe to Acorn or BritBox can find plenty to enjoy on, believe it or not, YouTube. My personal favorite is a genre that's very popular in Britain and nonexistent in this country: the panel

A panel show looks like a quiz show: Groups of celebrities, mostly comedians, are asked questions by a host. But the point isn't getting the answer; the point is being funny. And they can be insanely hilarious ... although I probably should mention that

none of the comics are

censored. The two best panel shows available on YouTube are "The Big Fat Quiz of the Year" (or "Decade)" and "QI" which, if you need help remembering it, stands for "quite interesting."

"QI" is more about little-known facts of history and science and such, while "Big Fat Quiz" features questions about pop culture. And yes, there are a lot of questions — and a few jokes — that you won't get because you don't live in the UK. But there will be enough laughs to keep you sailing through ... especially if you look for episodes featuring Noel Fielding, Richard Ayoade (teamed together, if possible), Aishling Bee, David Mitchell, Holly Walsh or Sarah Millican.

If you want a straightup quiz show with civilian contestants, try the amusingly pompous "Mastermind," which has roughly "Jeopardy!"-level questions, or the insanely difficult but awesomely clever "Only Connect." Many episodes of both can be found on YouTube, too.



Movies



MILLBROOK

New faces at the Millbrook Library

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - Many changes have taken place over the past year, the way people work, the way the children learn, how society conducts itself. Going to the library has also changed; there were times when, because of COVID-19, patrons borrowed library materials over the internet, ordered books and then picked them up at the curbside. Slowly, libraries have begun to reopen and return to their regular schedules. Yet some changes have remained, like the obligatory face masks and social distancing.

At the Millbrook Library, there are a number of new changes the library is actually happy to announce — new faces — as its staff has had an overhaul that Library Director Courtney Tsahalis said she is pleased announce. Tsahalis said spring is the ideal time to introduced patrons to Terri Konrath, Abigail Gallagher and Kristin Perkins.

Konrath is the new youth and teen services coordinator who actually started in that position shortly before the pandemic. Born in Queens, she loves to read, so working in a library and helping to instill a love of reading in teens seemed the perfect fit for her. She's also an animal lover, and has worked for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. She has also worked for Safe Horizons, working with children; it was there she developed a real connection with

Prior to accepting the position with Millbrook Library, Konrath fell in love with country living. She worked as a library clerk in Millbrook and at the Pawling Library, and was also a database operator for the Winnakee Land Trust in Rhinebeck. An expert on the computer, she is able to help teens with homework, research



From left, Library Director Courtney Tsahalis, Children's Literacy Coordinator Abby Gallagher, Adult Program Coordinator Kristin Perkins and Teen Services Coordinator Terri Konrath are all looking forward to things returning to normal at the Millbrook Library.

and choosing books.

Konrath devised a survey for her teen clientele when she first arrived at the library, and developed some great programs that had to be shelved or done remotely when COVID hit. She's now looking forward to implementing those programs, and to seeing her teenage patrons again, in person, sans masks, as soon as it is safe.

Gallagher is the new children's literacy coordinator, and she loves to develop and deliver virtual children's programs to her young patrons. Starting a new job during a pandemic has been challenging, she said.

"Though delivering virtual programs is no replacement for in-person programming, it has been a pleasure to engage the children of Millbrook in enrichment programs they enjoy," she said.

Abby, as she prefers to be called, said working during a pandemic is obviously different, but there are many programs available: in arts and crafts, science and even music. Working as a tutor, she developed patience and

imagination, all of which helps.

"Some of our most successful programs are Virtual Story Time, which is uploaded on the Millbrook Library's YouTube channel weekly, as well as the Arts and Crafters and the WRITE Stuff," she said. "When I think of the future here in the children's room at the library, I intend to continue ensuring safe, enjoyable programs that promote literacy and creativity for all of our youth patrons."

Perkins is the new adult program coordinator. She has a fascinating profile, and was teaching in Malaysia when the pandemic hit, so was therefore evacuated. She has also been a bookseller and a book reviewer. She has a B.A. in theater, and an M.S. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Returning to the States, Perkins wanted a change. She visited a younger brother who lives in Brooklyn for awhile. She saw a posting for the position at the library, and having a great passion for books, applied. She got the job and started on Jan. 26. She

said the snow is beautiful, and is anxious to see what else the area offers, particularly in the way of regional theater.

"As a Californian transplant, I'm still figuring out how to keep my toes warm," she quipped, "but my sappy little heart has been warmed by the generosity and kindness of the Millbrook and Dutchess County community. For me, the joy of programming comes from engaging with a community and encouraging life-long learning. When I was a little girl with round glasses and a haircut that made me look like a mushroom, filling my arms with books from the shelves and puzzling over the Dewey Decimal System, it seems fitting to find myself working at a library these many years later."

She added she'd love to hear any ideas one might have for adult programming.

The Millbrook Library is currently open with restricted services, but with newly expanded WIFI. For more information, go to www.millbrooklibrary.org.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE REPORT

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

Hate crime investigation New York State Police investigators in Livingston are seeking the public's assistance investigating a hate crime in the town of Copake that occurred at the Copake Falls State Campground located at 253 Route 344 between the dates of Nov. 13 and Nov. 15,

Investigators are hoping to speak to any park visitors at the park during that time who have not yet been interviewed by the NYSP. The investigation revolves around racially offensive language found carved into a wooded post.

If you think you can help, please contact the State Police in Livingston at 518-853-2893. Please reference case number 9939088.

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

Millbrook budget meetings this spring

The Village Board will hold budget meetings, all at 6 p.m., via Zoom this month. On Monday, March 15, the

topic will be the Highway and Fire Department; on Wednesday, March 17, the topic will be the Police Department and Front Office; on Wednesday, April 7, the Final Budget will

be discussed and a public hearing held.

Go to www.villageofmillbrookny/zoom or e-mail clerk@villageofmillbrookny. com for the Zoom link. The meetings will not air live on Channel 22, but will air at each week's end. For more, call 845-677-3939.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Town of Amenia is now accepting bids for Lawn Mowing in the Amenia/ Wassaic Area. Season is April 1, 2021 to November 6, 2021. All bids must be received by noon on Wednesday March 31, 2021.

Specifications may be requested by emailing the Town Clerk at dmklingner@ ameniany.gov or calling 845-373-8860 x125.

Dawn Marie Klingner Town Clerk 03-11-21

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF AMENIA **REQUEST FOR** PROPOSALS (RFP)

Notice is given that the

Town of Amenia hereby requests proposals from interested persons for the following:

Operation of a Food Concession Stand at Beekman Park in the Town of Amenia from April 1, 2021 through November 6,2021"

Background Information: Beekman Park is located on State Route 44 in the Town of Amenia, New York. Weather permitting, the Licensee shall be permitted to operate the concession stand every day, from April 1, 2021 through November 6, 2021 on which a baseball or softball game or other recreational activity is scheduled by the Town of Amenia Recreation Commission, from one (1) hour before the scheduled starting time of every such game to one (1) hour after every such game ends. The successful applicant will be required to enter into a License Agreement with the Town of Amenia, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following terms and

1. The successful applicant may sell only food and nonalcoholic beverages at the concession stand, and only at

conditions:

reasonable competitive prices. 2. Beekman Park is a totally smoke-free area.

shall secure and keep general liability insurance, as well as workers' compensation and disability benefit insurance in amounts required by New York State law. A certificate of insurance shall be required prior to execution of the License Agreement.

4. Necessary equipment other than that provided by the Town of Amenia shall be provided by the successful applicant and insured by the successful applicant, if coverage is desired. The licensee shall use reasonable and diligent care in using and maintaining the Concession Stand and equipment in a condition as good as at present, ordinary wear and usage expected. At the time that the license agreement is executed, the successful applicant shall also be required to post a security deposit with the Clerk of the Town of Amenia in an amount acceptable to the Town Board. If the Concession Stand and equipment is returned in a condition as good as at present, ordinary wear and usage accepted, said deposit shall be returned to the successful

5. The Town of Amenia reserves the right to terminate orrevokethelicenseagreement at any time and for any reason, subject to the successful applicant's right to recover a pro-rated portion of the License Fee in the event of a termination or revocation without cause.

Submission Requirements: Sealed proposals must be marked "Operation of a Food Concession Stand at Beekman Park ball field in the Town of Amenia from April 1, 2021 through November 6, 2021" and must be delivered in duplicate in writing to the Town Clerk, Town of Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501,

no later than 12:00 p.m. on March 31, 2021. All proposals must include a copy of a "Non-3. The successful applicant Collusion Certificate," signed THE HOURS OF 9 AND 3 by the person or the head of the organization submitting the proposal.

Selection: Proposals will be publicly opened and read in the Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York, at 7:00 p.m. on April 1, 2021, and thereafter be considered by the Town Board.

THE TOWN BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ALL PROPOSALS, OR ANY PART THEREOF, TO CONSIDER THE REPUTATION OF THE APPLICANT IN MAKING ITS SELECTION, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES OR MINOR DEVIATIONS HEREFROM, AND TO **SELECT OTHER THAN THE** HIGHEST APPLICANT IF THE SELECTED PROPOSAL IS DEEMED TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OF AMENIA.

Contact: Dawn Marie Klingner, Town Clerk

Address: Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501. Telephone: (845) 373-8860 x125. E-mail: dmklingner@ameniany.gov

Dated: March 4, 2021. 03-11-21

NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT **INVENTORY** AND VALUATION DATA

(Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data

& Review. This Data is the information that will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear on the

is Available for Examination

Tentative Assessment Roll of TOWN OF AMENIA which will be filed on or before MAY 1, 2021

ON MONDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 AND 3 **ONTUESDAY BETWEEN**

To Set Up and Appointment to Review the Assessment Information Please call the

ASSESSOR AT 845-373-8860 extension 104. Dated: February 23, 2021.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Annex of the North East Millerton Library, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton, New York, on the application of 182 Route 44 East LLC for a reduction in the required rear yard from 50 feet to 43 feet 10 inches from the rear property line in order to construct a 2,432 square foot addition to an existing building located at 182 Route 44 East, tax parcel #7271-00-739225, in the BD-5 Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing. Julie Schroeder

> Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals 03-11-21

Public Notice

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data for the Town of Pine Plains is now available for examination and review.

This data is the information that will be used to establish which will appear in the provided. tentative assessment roll on May 1, 2021.

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

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

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 105 of the Code of the Town of Amenia

 $and\,NYS\,Town\,Law\,Section$ 276, a public hearing will be convened by the Town of Amenia Planning Board at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2021 to consider the application of Byakko Shinko Kai (aka, "World Peace Society") for a minor subdivision of its property located at 26 Benton Road, Wassaic, New York (Parcel Grid Identification Number: 132000-7164-00-775760) into two lots of 26.33 and 128.02 acres in size. No new development is proposed. The subject property is located in the Rural Agricultural Zoning District and Primary Valley Bottom Overlay District. Portions of the property lie in the Upland Aquifer District and the Scenic Visual Protection Zone and the Stream Corridor Overlay District runs through the western portion of the property.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the public hearing on the application will be conducted remotely via Zoom in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 and subsequent Executive Orders of Governor Andrew Cuomo. To participate in this

public hearing, please send an email to jwestfall@ameniany. the assessment of each parcel gov and instructions will be

> NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Planning / Zoning Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. Please call 845-373-8860 X 122 for an appointment. The Applications can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at www.ameniany.gov.

> **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER** NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent, and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board by Friday, March 19th. Or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall at jwestfall@amenia.ny.gov.

Town of Amenia Planning Board 03-11-21

Dated: March 4, 2021.

Robert Boyles, Jr., Chairman

TOWN OF NORTHEAST ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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

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

THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE B4

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

EDITORIAL

Looking forward to **Ag Literacy Week**

ne of the many wonderful things about living in New York's Harlem Valley is that it's remained a rural area, rich with the fertile soil that gives birth to bountiful harvests of incredible fruits and vegetables that eventually bless our dining tables, not to mention the many types of grass, hay and other sorts of feed various herds graze on that provide meat and dairy, or that nourish the fowl that then lay eggs for our families.

This cycle of growth, rebirth and provision has been going on for generations. Thanks to programs like our state's Agricultural Literacy Week, which runs from Monday, March 15, through Friday, March 19, thousands of New York students in first through third grade have been able to learn about that important history during the past 17 years during which Ag Literacy Week has been celebrated — which we think is simply phenomenal.

In 2019, 2,300 students in Dutchess County classrooms, libraries and community groups alone were exposed to vital lessons about agriculture — and just how deeply the people of the Empire State and its economy depend on farming. Thanks to 4-H volunteers, like those at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in Millbrook and those at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia and Greene Counties in Hudson, Harlem Valley students continue to get a first-hand look at the farming industry — long an important sector of the national, state and local economies.

As of 2018, New York had nearly 7.2 million acres of farmland and was home to more than 35,000 farms, according to the state comptroller's office. Its three best-selling agriculture items in 2017 were dairy products, greenhouse/nursery products and apples, according to www.netstate.com.

The Harlem Valley itself was once dotted with dairy farms, though now far fewer remain. Today, however, the region can boast that it is home to one of the largest organic farms in the Northeast: McEnroe Organic Farm in Millerton. According to its website, www.mcenroeorganicfarm.com, it "is one of New York's oldest and most diverse certified organic farms and stands at over 1,200 acres of fields, pastures and

Students fortunate enough to grow up in the Harlem Valley are able to experience what it's like to live among working farms. They get to see real, live cows grazing in the fields, to hear them "moo," some even get to see them be milked (maybe even do the milking themselves) and to taste that fresh milk with the cream rising to the top moments later.

Not every youngster is that fortunate. Think of the child who lives in the concrete jungle, among city skyscrapers choking back smog instead breathing in the scent of freshlymowed fields and newly-rolled hay in the early morning hours. Those are two vastly different experiences — and learning what happens between planting a seed and plating a meal is an extremely valuable education for a child — especially when so many people are struggling with food insecurity. We can't stress how critical continuing programs like Ag Literacy Week is for New York students in today's world.

This year, although the program was forced to go virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic, organizers have done their utmost to make it engaging and fun. They are featuring the book, "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish [Tales of the Dairy Godmother]," by author Viola Butler.

"The book will help students understand the importance of dairy in communities across New York and learn about the journey their food takes from farm to fridge. With over 4,000 dairy farms and ranking fourth nationally as the largest producer of milk, dairy is vital to New York State," explained Columbia and Greene Counties 4-H Youth Development Issue Leader Linda Tripp, who has done wonders leading 4-H members for the past number of years. "Students [will] learn about where food comes from and the people who are involved in producing essential products in their lives."

Tripp noted that through the Ag Week activity, teachers will incorporate lessons dealing with ELA (English Language Arts), science, career development, the arts, social studies, geography and economics.

Plus, as Jane Rodd from the Millbrook 4-H added, "All participating [groups] will receive a copy of the book, recordings of it being read in English and Spanish and an ice cream making kit. NYS Ag in the Classroom is funding the purchase of 3 quarts of half-and-half as part of the ice cream kit."

Now that's a pretty sweet sounding project: informational and tasty — perfect for young students hungry to learn.

Look for more on the upcoming Agriculture Literacy Week in next week's issue of The Millerton News.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Take issue with Veteran's Corner column

This is a response to a curious opinion published in the Feb. 18th issue written by Mr. Larry Conklin's Veteran's Corner column.

I am not sure that the intent of the column was to sustain the unfortunate memory of the previous president or to actually whitewash the record of what really happened, or both. Mr. Conklin does no service to his idol by relating the former president to the virus that is still killing thousands of citizens everyday after his constant denial

and downplaying of its potential and selfish consideration of himself over the lives of the people he swore to protect.

Hero? I don't think so! Operation Warp Speed was an amazing success up until it came to the delivery of the

Apparently they got a little distracted at that point. From what I read, Alex Azar, head of Health and Human Services, developed and executed the plan initially — not revealed to the president or vice president until it was underway. White House staff had involved the president as little as possible, and not for the right reasons.

The former president was little more than a mouthpiece for Steve Bannon and Steve Miller. After Bannon left, he continued to be used by Miller and Fox News. The White House became so opaque any news out of it for a period of time came from Sputnik out of Russia.

To give the former president any credit for fighting this virus would be like thanking the captain of the Titanic for the use of a lifeboat.

The opinion is curious also because the writer emphasizes his military status as a veteran. I don't know how he, as a veteran, can support a person who paid a doctor to falsify a medical record to attain a deferment from the draft and stood at the graves of fallen soldiers and called those who sacrificed their lives "suckers."

The House of Representatives is not responsible for delaying COVID relief. There is ample evidence that the Democratic members of the House have been proactive and responsive to the needs of the American people.

The Republican members of the House and Senate have delayed, obfuscated and attempted to thwart any progress toward getting relief to the citizens of this country. Their reasons: They say they don't want taxpayer funds to go to states that vote Democratic. This is coming from congressmen and women who represent states that receive federal funds, taxpayer money, from those states that they are trying to restrict the accessibility for relief funding.

The Republican Party has every right to end its credibility and viability as a political party in the U.S. It has no right to disable the U.S. while on a suicide mission.

Scott Culbreth

Which COVID-19 vaccine should I get?

nould I try and get an mRNA vaccine? They are better than the others, aren't they? If I show up at the clinic can I choose?

These are some of the questions that we didn't even know we would be so lucky to ask just three months ago.

The speed at which multiple vaccines to choose from has come about is unprecedented.

The first genome sequence of a previously unknown virus was published in early January 2020 and the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, tested over the summer and fall of 2020, were approved for emergency use in early December.

These are the quickest vaccines ever developed. Their very speed has raised a lot of questions around their safety. It is true that all previous vaccines have taken years to develop and the cumulative experience of their use over time is reassuring.

Moderate reactions

Nevertheless the COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in very big trials. As a comparison, the widely used and "uncontroversial" Shingrix vaccine for prevention of shingles was tested in 32,000 participants prior to submission for approval in 2017. The total number of patients in COVID-19 vaccine trials that have reported results so far is 170,000 and growing

The safety results have been reassuring — both in the trial participants and now in millions of people worldwide who have been vaccinated and reported to national monitoring systems.

Rates of severe side effects, mainly anaphylaxis, have been very rare — a handful in every million vaccinated — and the more common reactions such as arm pain, fever, fatigue and muscle aches have been over very quickly.

The brief discomfort of COVID-19 vaccines seems to be greater than for the annual flu shot. This probably reflects a combination of both the "prime-boost" two-shot strategy to provoke maximum stimulation of the immune system;

GUEST INSIGHT

Dr. James Shepherd

and the large group of vaccinees who were recently infected naturally with SARS-CoV-2 and already have a naturally primed immune system ready to react. Maybe the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine will have fewer reactions?

Don't compare the numbers

There are now three vaccines available in the USA (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) and several more globally, with more to come.

Inevitable comparisons between the different vaccines, using their "headline" efficacy numbers, is a favorite media story at the moment. This has stimulated "vaccine shopping," which has reached damaging levels in places like Germany, where the UK Astra-Zeneca vaccine sits un-used in warehouses whilst people wait, unprotected, for the Pfizer vaccine.

The efficacy numbers attached to the two shots is responsible for this: 95% for Pfizer versus 62% for Astra-Zeneca.

These numbers are a snapshot in time and can't be compared with each other.

Different vaccine trials

The Pfizer number was generated from a trial mainly in the USA, where most of the patients were recruited in the summer and fall of 2020.

The Astra-Zeneca number was reported from a trial that included a substantial mixture of patients from the UK, South Africa and Brazil.

The Pfizer and Moderna trials closely adhered to the three- or four-week interval between doses, whereas the Astra-Zeneca trial had a less strict timing.

The different trials measured infection and symptoms in different ways at different time points.

In more recent trials — for example the Johnson & Johnson and Novavax trials — there

These are some of the questions that we didn't even know we would be so lucky to ask just three months ago.

were large numbers of infections with new virus variants included as well.

The efficacy result of each trial is reflective of the performance of the vaccine WITH-IN that trial compared with a placebo — but not comparable OUTSIDE of the trial with the other vaccines.

Real-world results

To emphasize this, we have recent large-scale program results from the Scottish National Health Service.

The Astra-Zeneca vaccine has been 94% effective in reducing hospitalizations so far compared with the Pfizer vaccine, which has been 85% effective.

This reversal of efficacy rankings in a real-world observation simply emphasizes that both vaccines are great.

The most important number of all to remember is that in the thousands and thousands of trial participants who received any of the vaccines there were no COVID deaths and almost no hospitalizations for COVID.

So when you have finally managed to find your vaccine appointment after refreshing the sign-up page a hundred times and been booked four weeks hence, don't worry about which vaccine you will get. Just pick the one with the smallest

James Shepherd, MD PhD, lives in Sharon, Conn., and is an Infectious Disease physician and epidemiologist who is on the faculty of the Yale University School of Medicine.

Millerton

Send letters to editor@millertonnews.com

The letters deadline

Is hydrogen the answer for jet fuel?

omething has happened in China — leading the USA in research for the past three years — with electrolyzer design and efficiency. What's an electrolyzer? It's the machine that splits water into oxygen and hydrogen and, in China, they have produced a commercial electrolyzer — already on sale — that is 80% more efficient than the models that we make and sell in the USA. Oh, and theirs are now being exported throughout the world.

Why? Because, pound for pound, hydrogen is 3.3 times more powerful — produces more kWh/kg — than jet fuel. And jet fuel is 1.5 times for powerful than the gasoline you pump into your car. That means if your car was using hydrogen — yes, in the same engine you already have (albeit with a different carburetor and computer

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE Peter Riva

control) — you would get a fuel efficiency almost five times as great. You get 20 mpg now? You would get almost 100 mpg. But hydrogen is currently really expensive... well, not anymore. With the electrolyzers from China, the cost per gallon (remember that's five times the energy) is about three times the cost of premium gas — you make a saving either way.

Oh, and when you burn hydrogen there is no tailpipe, just a drain dropping clean distilled water on the road. In arid areas, you can collect it and water your

Now, in cars, that install and

use is easily possible and, in fact, Honda and Toyota already have sold vehicles in California and Washington, D.C., in tests much like they did for the Prius in 1995. But the real secret here is air travel. Hydrogen works perfectly with existing jet engines.

The electrolyzer uses a lot of electricity to break apart the water into oxygen (pumped into the air) and then to collect hydrogen under pressure. The larger the plant, the more juice it needs yet bigger the efficiency. Putting commercial electrolyzers next to nuclear power plants that waste unwanted electricity at night makes sense for everyone — especially the environment.

Yes, liquefaction problems exist. Safety concerns exist. Weight of tanks to safely hold the hydrogen in airplanes exist. But these are technical and engineering issues we can solve.

Imagine taking off from New York, flying to Hawaii, using a fifth of the fuel and making a clean water contrail along the way. Cheaper, cleaner, environmentally friendly.

OK, there is an issue, which China is advancing ahead of every other nation: Electrolyzers depend on rare earth metals, especially platinum and iridium. The world-wide search is on, with China cornering the market (no surprise since we gave up on joint world trade for four years). One last tidbit though... Japan recently returned soil samples from an asteroid to earth. Guess what elements seemed plentiful in their sampling? The space race is about the get really interesting.

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

is 10 a.m. each Monday.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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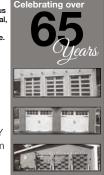
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