

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Main Street, Millerton, looked like a ghost town Monday afternoon, March 23. As per the governor's orders, all non-essential businesses have closed down due to the coronavirus pandemic.



All of Dutchess County has coronavirus

Pine Plains nurse deals with COVID-19

By KAITLIN LYLE
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — “I was on the phone with County Executive Marc Molinaro earlier this afternoon, and he confirmed what had been rumored, which is that cases of COVID-19 coronavirus have been identified in every municipality in Dutchess County, including ours,” emailed North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan Tuesday morning, March 24. “And that New York state is the epicenter of the virus in the U.S. This just reinforces that we can and must help ‘flatten the curve’ of COVID-19 infection by staying home and following county and state guidance.”

In fact, a case of COVID-19 just surfaced in Pine Plains, when an emergency department nurse in a level 2 trauma center at an area hospital was “unknowingly exposed”

this month. Scott Peters posted about his experience on the Town of Pine Plains Facebook page March 22 and spoke to The Millerton News this Tuesday.

“I understand people are afraid and they didn’t know how to respond, which is why I took it upon myself to post that it was indeed me and to educate people that it was me and I was taking the proper quarantine precautions and not to be afraid,” Peters said. “I’m a lucky one, I guess. I guess I’m the first one.”

Peters said though ill, he was basically OK.

“I would take this over the flu anytime because it was nothing, it was absolutely nothing,” he said, while warning others to take precautions. “If you can, wear a mask. I feel, it’s nothing to be afraid of. I think the flu is worse, but the problem is peo-

See CASE IN PINE PLAINS, A7

Molinaro reassures businesses during telephone Town Hall

Cuomo mandates non-essential businesses close during crisis

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — The future of the region’s economy is shaky at best these days, in light of the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down much of the state. Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Friday, March 20, that he was signing the “New York State on PAUSE” executive order, described on www.governor.ny.gov as “a 10-point policy to assure uniform safety for everyone. It includes a new directive that all non-essential businesses statewide

must close in-office personnel functions effective at 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, and temporarily bans all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason.”

The Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) commented on the measure in an email on Friday evening.

“It is a chilling thought, but it is of utmost importance that we all stay home and stay safe. There is no cure for this virus and it spreads easily. Connecticut has adopted the same restriction on businesses. As they say, good luck to us all.”

Telephone Town Hall call

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro held a telephone Town Hall Friday at 1 p.m., open to Dutchess businesspeople with questions about the latest restrictions. The hour-long meeting patched through roughly 6,000 callers, according to Molinaro at meeting’s start. Also participating in the call, President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Frank Castella Jr., Executive Director of the Dutchess County

See REASSURING BUSINESSES, A7

Advice and memories of coping with a plague from Millerton doctor

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — As COVID-19 rages on, front-line health care workers face an increased risk of exposure to patients who may be carriers of the disease. Small-town physicians — such as Kristie Schmidt, whose internal medicine practice in Millerton has been inundated with patients over the past two weeks suffering from upper respiratory infections, the flu and possibly COVID-19 — are no exception.

Now the doctor is sick. Out of an abundance of caution and sidelined with a fever, Schmidt reported on

Sunday, March 22, that she is in self-quarantine until COVID-19 test results allow her to go back to work — and her patients.

Meanwhile, the doctor — who has been practicing medicine for three decades — will continue to see patients via telemedicine from her kitchen.

“Right now in Millerton I am actually quarantined at home with a fever after seeing many patients with URI [upper respiratory infection], cough and fever, some testing positive for influenza A,” said Schmidt by email on Sunday, March 22.

“I am waiting for COVID test results before returning to work.”

To date, said Schmidt, there has

been no COVID-19 testing made available in Dutchess County to outpatients. The doctor said she managed to get one from her own physician in Albany, N.Y.

COVID-19 death

Schmidt said on Sunday that she had heard reports of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Dutchess County, “but I don’t know how they managed to get tested because as of three days ago, I spoke to the Dutchess County Department of Health, who told me there were no tests available.”

Later on Sunday, the county’s first death relating to COVID-19 was

See MILLERTON DOCTOR, A7

Schools feed students during COVID-19 pandemic despite closures

By KAITLIN LYLE
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HARLEM VALLEY — Even though schools across the state have closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, school districts remain responsible for getting educational materials to students — any way they can. But what about feeding students who rely on school breakfasts and lunches for sustenance? The North East (Webutuck), Pine Plains and Millbrook Central School Districts have worked

out solutions, so healthy food can be delivered to students at their homes throughout the closure’s duration.

Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani issued a letter on Friday, March 13, regarding the district’s plans to provide breakfast and lunch to students during this time. Any families in need of assistance are encouraged to email Castellani at Raymond.castellani@webutuck.org and to include their children’s names and address in the email. For those who don’t speak English as their primary

language, families may also contact Monica Baker, an English as a Second Language Teacher at Webutuck Elementary School, at 845-332-0087.

Castellani said the plans are to personally deliver breakfast and lunch to the families and their children. He said Webutuck administrators and staff members have volunteered their time to help prepare and deliver meal packets. For breakfast, students can enjoy cereal, milk, fruit and juice, and then

See FEEDING STUDENTS, A7

For more COVID-19 coverage, find “Lawmakers take to the phones to answer COVID-19 questions” and “Local governments deal with COVID-19 pandemic” at www.tricornernews.com.

The Millerton News is back online

The Lakeville Journal Co. is extremely pleased to announce that our website, which has content from The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News, Compass arts and entertainment, TriCorner Real Estate and all annual special sections, is back up and running.

A software crisis had brought our site down in mid-December of 2019; Lakeville Journal Production Coordinator and Hero James Clark

has worked diligently since then, along with John Sokolich at Surf New Media, to completely rebuild the website, which is now back up at www.tricornernews.com.

The website will start gathering archives once again, as the previous version’s content was lost. Keep track of all the news of the Tri-state area at our regional website.

Thank you for your patience and continued support!



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OPINION

How The Coronavirus Is Impacting Our Local Economy; Column; Letters **A6**



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OBITUARIES

Lynn Marie Digiaco

EAST CANAAN — Lynn Marie Digiaco, 63, formally of East Canaan, Conn., passed away suddenly on March 10, 2020 at Venice Regional Hospital in Florida with the love of her life, Timothy Boults, at her bedside. Lynn and Tim were living in Nokomis and had been together for 27 years. Lynn was born December 5, 1956 in Sharon, Conn.

Lynn was the daughter of the late Valentine M. and Shirley Minacci Digiaco. Lynn was predeceased by her daughter, Gianna Marie Boults, father in law, Robert Boults, mother in law, Sina Morgan, brother in law, Christopher Boults and her cousin, Tommy Minacci. Lynn is survived by her love, friend and protector, Timothy Boults, her grandson, Joey, a special little girl named Gianna who was very dear to her, Lynn's brother, Michael J. Digiaco and his wife, Joanne, her sister in law, Sue Boults and mother in law, Carol Boults. Lynn's cousins, Annie Minacci and her husband, Christopher Morey, and their children, Lisa Minacci, Linda Reid and her husband Donnie and family, and Billy

and Emily Minacci are also left to grieve their loss of Lynn.

Lynn attended North Canaan Elementary School, graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1974, and went on to receive her hairdressing license from Torrington Hairdressing School. Lynn worked at Wassaic State Hospital and Sharon Hospital in the lab. Lynn ran and operated the Donut Shop in Canaan with Tim, a popular gathering place in the early mornings. Lynn sold the business after the birth of her daughter, Gianna, to stay at home with her family.

After the death of her mother, Lynn, Tim and Gianna moved to Florida. Lynn was very proud to be a mother and grandmother. Lynn was also very proud of her Italian family heritage and enjoyed researching her family genealogy.

There will not be any services. Donations in Lynn's memory may be sent to The Little Guild of St. Francis, West Cornwall, Conn., or St. Jude's Children's Hospital as Lynn had a special place in her heart for children, and her dogs, cats.

SHARON — Elisabeth Averill (Byles) Rainville, 90, of Canterbury, Conn., and Maitland, Fla., the widow of Morris A. Rainville, passed away peacefully at home, in the arms of her beloved daughter, on March 20, 2020.



She was born on June 30, 1929, in Wakefield, R.I., the daughter of the late Gladys (Ebert) and Elwood Byles, and grew up in both Point Judith, R.I., and Central Village, Conn.

Bettie, as the family called her, started working at age 9 in her father's hardware store, The Central Supply Company, where she learned all aspects of the hardware and construction business and where she was known for her ability to cut glass for the customers.

She graduated a year early from Plainfield High School as salutatorian in 1946 and then continued on to graduate from Briarcliff Junior College and the University of Connecticut, where she received her BA degree in 1950. She completed her higher education with a teaching certificate and her fifth year in education.

Liz taught third and fourth grade for 40 years, the last 29 of which were at Cornwall Consolidated School. It was there she had her most rewarding years, teaching in an environment which promoted the highest standards in education and making lifelong friends on the staff.

She loved her students and was rewarded in later years with notes from these same students, expressing their thanks for all she taught them and giving her "fa-

vorite teacher" status.

Liz was a gifted, multi-talented woman, known for her great sense of humor, her love of reading, her ability to do about any craft possible and her knowledge of building and design. Those skills came in particularly handy when Liz, alongside her husband, Morris, designed and built their dream home in Sharon, a labor of love that took seven years to complete.

In 1970, while still working on the house and teaching full time, she and Morris also established a picture framing business, The Mire Box, another profession which brought her great joy. They operated the business until 2001, when the couple sold their home and moved to Canterbury to be closer to their children and grandchildren. They spent their retirement years wintering at their home in Maitland and enjoying the company of family, good friends and their beloved cats over the years.

In 2012, Liz received a devastating diagnosis, Stage IV lung cancer with liver metastasis. As she had done her whole life, she tackled that life challenge with grace, courage and with her positive attitude and great sense of humor intact, rarely complaining about the over-three years of chemotherapy treatments and other major medical issues.

She was eternally grateful for and wanted to publicly thank, her extraordinary team of doctors, Dr. Mark Deponce, Dr. Ammar Anbari, Dr. Harjinder Chowdhary, Dr. Juan Escalon and especially Dr. Dennis Slater and all the nurses and auxiliary staff at

Eastern Connecticut Hematology and Oncology in Norwich, Conn., whose expertise, knowledge and compassion extended her life far beyond what she ever thought possible.

Her family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the teams from Hartford HealthCare Palliative and Hospice Care. The professional and loving manner in which they treated Liz and supported her family will be remembered always.

Liz will be deeply missed by her son, James Oliver III of Danielson, Conn.; her daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Kyle McCarthy of Canterbury; her three grandchildren, James Oliver IV and his wife, Dora, of Canterbury, Elizabeth Kinzer and her husband, James, of Colum-

bus, Ohio, and Jamie Bruno and husband, Matt, of Las Vegas, Nev.; her five great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Robert, Sophie and Maya Oliver and Luca Bruno; her adopted McCarthy family; and many wonderful, dear friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was sadly predeceased by her two younger sisters, Barbara Byles Frost and Brenda Byers.

Funeral services and burial at Evergreen Cemetery in Central Village, Conn., will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Please honor Liz's memory by supporting your local public library and by passing on her love of reading and education to your children and grandchildren. Arrangements are under the care of the Dougherty Brothers Funeral Home.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases across the border on the rise

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER
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CONNECTICUT — Three people in the Northwest Corner had tested positive for COVID-19 as of Tuesday morning, March 24. The three cases are in Kent, Sharon and Salisbury.

The first reported case in The Lakeville Journal coverage area was a 57-year-old woman who is a long-term care resident of Sharon Health Care Center, a nursing home that is owned by Athena Health Care Systems. The center is across the street from Sharon Hospital but not affiliated with it.

That positive diagnosis was reported on Sunday, March 22.

The six towns covered by The Lakeville Journal are Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

The woman is healthy enough that she could remain at the health care center. She and her roommate are now in private rooms; she is not on a ventilator.

State health officials are now investigating how the woman became infected.

For more information on this case, go to www.tricornernews.com.

On Monday, March 23, Erica Joncyk, director at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, announced on social media that "a member of our library community has tested positive with COVID-19."

The library staff will self-quarantine for the recommended 14 days, Joncyk said.

The library had been offering curbside pickup on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but that will stop for two weeks as well. No details were available on that patient; however, the state list of positive cases shows no cases in Falls Village but one case in Salisbury, so it is believed but not confirmed that the person she means is a Salisbury resident.

No other information is available on who that Salisbury patient is but sources say it is a "younger" person and not a resident of either Noble Horizons or The Hotchkiss School.

On Tuesday morning, March 24, Kent First Selectman Jean Speck announced in an email update that there is now a confirmed case in Kent.

No information is available on the Kent case either. Speck re-

ferred questions to the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD), which is the public health authority for all the Northwest Corner towns except Sharon, which has its own health authority.

Rob Rubbo is the TAHD director of health. He said in a phone interview Tuesday morning that no specific information is available on the two new cases.

Lora Rae Anderson, who is acting as a media spokesperson for the state government on COVID-19 questions, said Tuesday morning that as a general rule, if a COVID-19 patient is in an institution or facility of some type, such as a school or a nursing home or retirement center, then that institution will make a report to the state.

Neither Rubbo nor Anderson could confirm that the Kent and Salisbury cases are in private residences but there are no reports of these two people living in a facility or institution.

Rubbo also said that both people are not hospitalized; neither is on a ventilator.

He stressed that there are many more cases of COVID-19 than the numbers so far indicate.

"Please consider this to be widespread," he said. "The numbers are coming up now because there is testing." As more people get tested, he said, the numbers are likely to rise quickly.

"Take this seriously," he said, adding that as testing increases, more cases will be reported. "Social distancing is the greatest tool we have to curb the spread of the virus. We are urging the public to take this seriously."

For daily updates on COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, go to www.portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus and click on "Latest COVID-19 Testing Data in Connecticut" and scroll down to the list and then the map.

In Appreciation:

Sally Berg

MILLERTON — When Sally Berg passed away last month our community lost a remarkable woman. She was wickedly funny, kind, generous and indefatigable. She devoted endless hours serving on boards of local charities and causes related to improving health. She was famous for being able to coax donations out of even the most reluctant giver. Who could say no to Sally?

Her friends were legion. Everyone wanted to be Sally's friend and she had a gift for making everyone feel like they were her best friend. Her martinis were legendary. There's probably not a bartender in the Tri-State area who doesn't know how to make a "Sally Martini."

She had an enduring marriage

and was cherished by her children and grandchildren. She had bridge groups, reading groups and golf groups. She trekked and sailed and traveled. Sally lived a full life.

But most remarkable of all, she accomplished all those things while fighting not one but three kinds of cancer for more than 50 years. Amazing. She established one of the country's first women's cancer survivor groups. She never gave up. And in the end, it was not cancer — but a stroke — that ended her life. Well played, Sally! You won.

Donations in Sally Berg's memory may be sent to the North East Community Center, 51 South Center St., Millerton, NY 12546.

Bob Murphy and Jack Lindsey Ancram

32 Year Memory of Lynn and Gregg Samay

March 26, 1988

So much time, it seems unreal,
Since you left us, numb to feel.
What was the reason, why you left,
So soon, and leaving a hole in our chest.
Time went on, we still don't know,
Why you left us, why'd you go.
We have faith it's for the best,
And you are happy, laid to rest.
We still wonder, hope and dream,
To see you again, and to think how you'd be.
The joy you brought is forever instilled,
In our minds, and our hearts are filled,
With the memories of your love,
And knowing you're watching from above.

We Love you Lynn,
We Love you Gregg,
Your sister and aunt Ruth,
Your niece and cousin Bobbie-Jo



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The coronavirus has turned the world upside down, for real estate, the effects are as follows; per the Governor of CT, as of Monday evening, all non essential activities are stopping, which includes real estate showings. This will affect people looking to both rent and/or purchase. Recently there has been a large demand for short term rentals and the thought is that a second wave of buyers will follow in order to have a home in the country. With this current uncertainty, many of the weekend homes are at full occupancy, which is unusual for this time of year. The real estate business will have to adjust to this new reality. We are now working from home and are moving toward being virtual and paperless. The key right now is to remain safe with our families and by doing so, hopefully flatten the curve of infections. If you have questions on this rapidly changing environment, happy to discuss.



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Elisabeth Averill (Byles) Rainville

Worship Services

Week of March 29, 2020

Services are canceled or being held online. Call ahead or visit websites for updates.

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Serving the Lord with Gladness We bid you warm welcome to come worship with us Sundays at 10 am. All are welcome! Moving music, and Christian fellowship in a historic 19th C. Meeting House. Sunday School & Nursery Care The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson (860) 435-2442 www.salisburycongregational.org</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 513 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Sat. Vespers at 5:00 p.m. Sun. Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Fr. John J. Kreta 860-824-1340 www.allstainsofamerica.us</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Marilyn Anderson Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Said 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE At Noon - with Eucharist www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing, Wednesdays 9-11 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>North East Baptist Church Historic Meeting House, Main & Maple Millerton, NY God's word is always relevant! A Warm Welcome Awaits You SUNDAY SERVICES Family Bible School - 9:30 AM Morning Worship - 11:00 Evening Service - 6:00 PM WEEKDAY MEETINGS Weds. Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM at Parsonage 33 S. Maple Ave. Sat. Bible Studies for Men & Women 3:00 PM FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON First Sunday of each month after AM services Pastor Henry A. Prause 518-789-4840</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodchurch.com</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road, Amenia Union, NY VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 Please go to www.stthomasamenia.com to log on. followed by a virtual coffee hour Rev. AJ Stack www.stthomasamenia.com 845-373-9161</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Sun. 8 & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Nursery Care/Sunday School 10:20 a.m. "Offering companionship along the way" Rev. Heidi Truax (860) 435-2627 trinity@trinitylimerock.org www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. All are Welcome For information call 860-435-2319</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall An intimate Episcopal service every Sunday 9:00am Holy Eucharist and sermon Chapel at Trinity Conference Center West Cornwall, CT WELCOMING ALL</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE 9 AM - Sacred Heart Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Bible Study (incl. a light supper) every Thurs. 6-7:30 p.m. 860-364-5002 info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

• CVS

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Cherie Schiffer joins library as new board secretary

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — When there's work to be done, it's always a good idea to find a tried and true recruit, which is just how Cherie Schiffer ended up as the new secretary of the NorthEast-Millerton Library's Board of Trustees.

With a laugh and her typical good humor, Schiffer said, "I became secretary because the president, Debbie Ruppel, knew I was the class secretary in high school — so I couldn't say no to her."

A graduate of Webutuck High School and SUNY Cortland, Schiffer spent most of her life in the area. The last 28 years she spent in Millerton, and said she believes in supporting local businesses and organizations.

Finding the time to take on the volunteer office, Schiffer notes, "I am retired from Taconic DDSO, where I worked as an adult educator, the director of the Millbrook Neighborhood Center and a service coordinator in the social work department."

As a library patron since she arrived in town, she is partial to the facility's books and videos and has made use of the "computers, printers, copiers and fax machine" when necessary. These days, with the library closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of the library's best resources can be found online, at www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

"[When open], the library has something for everyone, whether it's a children's group, knitting or crafts group or mahjong games, and it's a place for local musicians to play," she added. "I was glad to join the board when asked because of all the wonderful programs the library offers."

Schiffer is filling one of the holes left on the board by the departure of long-time Trustee Dianne Price and Secretary KC Perkins, according to Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson. "She is a long-time library volunteer and we are excited to have her in this new role," said Leo-Jameson.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

New NorthEast-Millerton Library Board Secretary Cherie Schiffer, left, posed for a photo with Board President Debbie Ruppel at the library's Holiday Craft Fair on Nov. 23, 2019.

Of the retiring board members, Leo-Jameson said, "KC's long-time devotion to the library in the role of secretary leaves huge shoes to fill. We appreciate all her hard work over the years. She will be missed, but we are looking forward to Cherie picking up the mantel."

She added that Price, a retired teacher, was a particularly active volunteer and could often be seen working at the library at craft sales and on summer days, even sitting on the library lawn giving individual reading instruction to children.

"As long-time board president, Diane was involved with numerous projects including fundraising and stabilization, the Annex acquisition and programs for children," she said. "Though not

on the board, she will continue her volunteer efforts to the benefit of all."

Leo-Jameson explained that the board members "are library stewards." They secure funding, set policies and manage the big picture, including supporting projects such as the Memorial Garden, the renovation and stabilization of the building and other outdoor improvements.

"We are so fortunate to have members of the board from the community. It is a wonderful way to give back — a tradition continuing since 1867," said Leo-Jameson.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a library Board of Trustees member should contact Leo-Jameson at 518-789-3340.

North East Community Center update

NECC uses revamped website to deal with COVID-19 crisis

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — After a decade of keeping the community informed of the North East Community Center's (NECC) services, programs and events, the NECC website, www.neccmillerton.org, got a much-needed update recently that has made it easier to navigate. With the coronavirus pandemic, NECC has been utilizing its website to keep the community informed about which resources and services are currently available and which have been adjusted to accommodate social distancing regulations set by the governor.

"We really appreciate the website we had before; it provided so much information," NECC Executive Director Christine Sergent said when the site was relaunched, "but what we want to do is create a portal through which people could see visual representations for what we do for the community and have it be a little easier to navigate."

Having talked about updating the website for quite some time with NECC Board of Directors member Julie Fajgenbaum, Sergent said Fajgenbaum connected with NECC Administrative Assistant Mollee Alquesta to work on the update. With Fajgenbaum in charge of laying the groundwork, Alquesta worked with NECC staff and teams on content being accurate and properly formatted.

During the course of four to five months, Alquesta and Fajgenbaum put all of the information online and made sure the domain and host were properly set up. Making sure its online donations page was working, the pair had the new website up and running in early January.

"We want it to be a really great

knowledge source for people," Alquesta said, "and we also wanted it to be a lot easier for us to update things. We were working with a web designer previously who was doing all of the work for us, so it's great to be able to do it ourselves."

On top of the content that's already on the site, Sergent said NECC has goals for content it would like to feature, such as a volunteer section that would provide residents a chance to sign up for different community activities. She added that NECC hopes to promote opportunities for people to get involved with and donate to NECC.

Additionally, anyone browsing the website can now access an archive of NECC's newsletters, which Sergent described as "a wonderful way to get updates on the NECC's work and stay in touch with the organization."

While organizations throughout the state and across the Harlem Valley have temporarily closed their doors to prevent the spread of COVID-19, NECC is striving to remain operational.

According to Sergent last week, "Our total staff number is 29 at this time. All staff are now able to work from home via our emergency preparedness plan, including our entire administrative unit. We are prepared to do so should an order require it."

"On a daily basis effective this week, only six staff in total are permitted to work in our two office buildings. Staff working remotely may stop in briefly to pick up or drop off items, one at a time. All staff are using the recommended guidelines to stop/reduce the spread of COVID-19."

Check the website for program details.

NECC has canceled most public events at this time, but plans to hold its farmers market on Satur-

day, March 28, which will be held outside the Millerton Methodist Church at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street.

Sergent said the Farmers Market Federation of New York said it's safe to continue the market as long as it's outside and there's ample space among vendors. She said, for now, people can purchase fresh food at the market every other week.

Since the Webutuck Central School District has closed due to the pandemic, NECC staff members involved with the After-School Connections program have been reaching out to families with ideas for activities to do with their children at home. Though NECC's Teen Team isn't currently meeting in person, the program has been offering weekly Zoom and other video chat meetings.

Though very few people have been signing up as of late, NECC's Dial-A-Ride is still in operation and will be shifting to delivering food and other supplies to those in need at this time. Online, NECC was clear about the program's current status:

"Our transportation program continues to operate for seniors and families and individuals who need transportation services for access to pharmacy, food and other emergency supply outlets. We are currently transporting only one person per vehicle. However, we must remind clients for this program that, as usual, we are unable to let anyone with a contagious illness or signs of the virus access our service. Anyone who is ill should contact their physician directly to seek guidance."

"I'm really proud of our organization and how our staff and our board is handling the situation," Sergent said. "It really is chaotic and it's changing every minute."

Village Hall moves to North Elm Avenue

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Village officials were feeling lucky this St. Patrick's Day as Village Hall personnel and the Village Police Department moved out of 50 Main St. and into 5933 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), on Tuesday, March 17. Since Village Hall personnel and the Police Department first moved out of the Village Hall building at 21 Dutchess Ave. due to a broken boiler and asbestos issues — along with plans to renovate — this past October, the latest move marks the third move in six months.

Village Hall was temporarily relocated to One John Street in October. However, it was a small space, with steep stairs and it was not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said the space wasn't conducive for "the functionality of the village," resulting in the move to 50 Main St.

By mid-January, Village Hall personnel resettled on Main Street, along with the Police Department.

Yet there were issues. Local merchants were concerned about the police presence affecting business. And a narrow alleyway (located between The Moviehouse and Irving Farm) made it tough to access and navigate the parking lot.

The Village Board worked with the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) on solutions while deciding whether the original Village Hall building should be restored or perhaps sold.

left unchanged. The mayor has also reached out to residents to see what they would like to become of Village Hall. As it stands, plans have been delayed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

After visiting potential sites, the board decided to move Village Hall to Route 22, where the rent is \$3,000 per month, including utilities.

With the help of volunteers, the move was done in just one day. Though there's still some unpacking to do, Middlebrook said everyone is set up in the new location and residents can still contact Village Hall at 518-789-4489.

Along with its ADA compliance and ability to house both village offices and the police in one location, the new space has an ample designated parking lot.

"We'll be there for two years while we make a decision with what will happen to the existing building on Dutchess Avenue," Middlebrook said.

Though Village Hall is closed as a result of the pandemic, business will still be conducted via phone and email. To submit ideas on Village Hall's future, email dmiddlebrook.villagemillerton@gmail.com or clerk@villageofmillerton.com.



SMALL BUSINESS

Spotlight

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>WES AUTOBODY 845-605-1099</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Hour Towing • Aluminum & Steel Welding • Insurance Claims • Complete Auto Body Repair • 4x4 Truck Accessories  <p style="font-size: small;">Environmentally Friendly 3718 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545 www.WesAutobodyWorks.com</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Berkshire Hills Design KITCHENS • BATHS • TILES • CABINETS</p> <p>14 CHURCH STREET, CANAAN, CT 06018 860-824-0209 DANIELLE@BERKSHIREHILLSDESIGN.COM</p> <p>SHOWROOM HOURS MON-FRI 9AM-4PM SAT 9AM-3PM</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td>Best of houzz 2018 SERVICE</td> <td>Best of houzz 2019 SERVICE</td> <td>Best of houzz 2020 SERVICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>houzz 1K SAVES</td> <td>Best of houzz 2018 DESIGN</td> <td>Best of houzz 2019 DESIGN</td> </tr> </table> </div>	Best of houzz 2018 SERVICE	Best of houzz 2019 SERVICE	Best of houzz 2020 SERVICE	houzz 1K SAVES	Best of houzz 2018 DESIGN	Best of houzz 2019 DESIGN
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houzz 1K SAVES	Best of houzz 2018 DESIGN	Best of houzz 2019 DESIGN					



THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

SPEAKERS POSTPONED To A Later Date TBD

Jerry Saltz

Senior Art Critic for New York Magazine
Originally scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2020

Kurt Andersen

Host of NPR's Studio 360
Originally scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2020

PAST EVENTS
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AMENIA

A dog named Brooklyn helps a hearing-impaired man live life

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Actually, there are two Eric's in this story, as well as a canine hero, Brooklyn, a handsome black dog who is gentle, friendly and close to 2 years old. He came to Animal Farm Foundation (AFF) from a southern shelter, and began training soon afterward.

Brooklyn now belongs to a man named Eric Guss, who is deaf, and Brooklyn has become his friend, his protector and his ears. He has been taught to react to different sounds, and he lets Guss know when a sound needs to be brought to his attention, such as a microwave, a telephone, a doorbell, and if needed, a fire or smoke alarm. This is all done with nudges to the knee, or other body parts; if it is an emergency, Brooklyn knows how to react to that as well, with more excitement and force.

"He is a wonderful dog," said Guss, "the best dog I could ever have."

Guss notes that they are individuals, but he credits Brooklyn with saving his life as a deaf man. He hopes that in the future more dogs will be trained to help those who cannot hear. Thanks to Brooklyn, there are things that Guss can do now that he couldn't before he acquired Brooklyn. They lead a relatively active life on the other side of the county, in Hyde Park.

Brooklyn was trained by Erich Steffensen, AFF special projects manager; Guss is Brooklyn's handler. They built a special relationship, to the extent that Guss can often sense something is going on by watching Brooklyn's ears. Once at Home Depot, Guss noticed a twitching of Brooklyn's ears, and discovered that a forklift was backing up in the next aisle.

Brooklyn gives Eric a kiss every time they get in the car, and before they get out, possibly as reaffirmation of love and dedication. What makes the union even



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANIMAL FARM FOUNDATION

Brooklyn the dog helps his owner, Eric Guss, who is deaf, navigate the world. Guss adopted Brooklyn for free from the Animal Farm Foundation in Amenia.

more perfect is that Brooklyn's bark is pitched perfectly so that Guss can hear it. Guss is much more comfortable in his daily comings and goings since acquiring Brooklyn.

Other dogs are being trained for the same type of duty at AFF, to help the disabled or veterans and others suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In fact, the nonprofit helps in so many ways; the dogs are generally saved from high-kill shelters. Once trained, they are given, free of charge, to those who need them most.

Some of the dogs are trained to work with the physically handicapped, and can work with those who are wheelchair bound as well

as those who need emotional support.

There are six trainers at AFF; they work with the animals as well as the person who will be getting the dog and be the handler. The training is also free.

Another dog, Gadget, is going with his handler, Milton; another, Mallard, is awaiting a person he can help and guide, as either a PTSD or a hearing alert dog.

Helping both people and dogs, AFF also has a program with prisoners who train dogs in New York City and one in which dogs are trained at a center in Texas to be K-9 police dogs.

Go to AFF's website, www.animalfarmfoundation.org, or call 845-868-7559 for details.

Amenia Town Board meets

COVID-19, Trail to Train discussed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Amenia Town Board focused on town business and the current public health crisis, including the advisory issued for preventing the spread of COVID-19, at its meeting on Thursday, March 19. The closed meeting was broadcast on YouTube and Channel 22.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, town Supervisor Victoria Perotti announced Town Hall is closed to the public, but that individual departments can be reached by email, phone and appointment. Public comment for town meetings can be sent via email to the town clerk at dmklingner@ameniany.gov to be read at the next meeting. The town website has information provided by Dutchess County and New York State on the pandemic. Channel 22 has also been updated with current information. All recreation and other events originally scheduled to

take place at Town Hall have been canceled until further notice.

"The town of Amenia is complying with all executive orders from the governor's office and Dutchess County," Perotti said.

"The supervisor has been doing a great job keeping communications with the boards and our emergency response teams," Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner said later that evening, "so please don't hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions or concerns. Stay safe, stay healthy and do as you're being advised and wash your hands."

Trail to Train

Delivering an update on the Trail to the Train project, Perotti said a progress meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, via conference call with A. Colarusso & Son, Inc., the company the town selected to construct a bicycle trail path extending from the hamlet of Wassaic to the Wassaic Metro-North Train Station; Project Manager John

Kosma; and representatives from the engineering company, WSP USA. Included in the scope of work completed so far, Perotti highlighted the installation of the pedestrian boardwalks, the placing of decking planks and the installation of railing posts and rails along the east and west sides of the boardwalk. She said the town is working on identifying potential grants for lighting on the Trail to the Train project.

Klingner reported that the town is now accepting bids for lawn mowing in the Amenia-Wassaic area. All bids must be received by noon on Thursday, April 2, as the season for lawn mowing will run from Thursday, April 2, to Sunday, Nov. 1. She also reported that the town is now accepting applications for a summer camp director, emergency medical technician, lifeguard and camp counselors for the Amenia Day Camp. Interested applicants should call 845-373-8860 or go to www.ameniany.gov.

Honor Society fundraises for LLS

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — The Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) commended the district's National Honor Society's service project on raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) at its meeting on Monday, March 2, before the school was closed due to the coronavirus.

Lily O'Carroll, a member of the Honor Society, explained that LLS is a philanthropic leadership development program for high schools students. Set on curing leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, she said LLS improves the quality of life for patients and their families.

Lily said LLS also strives to "make a positive impact on those

affected by blood cancers as well as support them so that they know they are not in this fight alone."

A person is diagnosed with a blood cancer every three minutes; more than 33% of blood cancer patients don't survive five years after their diagnosis; and more than 1.2 million people are currently living with or in remission from leukemia, Hodgkin's disease or myeloma. In total, an average of 3,679 children and young adults are diagnosed with leukemia each year.

LLS promotes a seven-week challenge to raise money in honor of young local blood cancer survivors and honored heroes. Lily explained that the Honor Society set a goal of raising \$10,000 with the help of teammates spread

throughout New York state.

Lily said they will hold fundraisers and reach out to different community businesses to be sponsors or to make donations. She added students involved with the Honor Society will be acquiring marketing, networking and entrepreneurship skills in addition to project management and financial literacy. Of course, students won't be able to pursue any activities in person while schools are closed.

"It just goes to show how our students' commitment to making this world a better place goes beyond the classroom doors, and again, as a community, we should know that our future is in good hands with students like that," Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani of the students' efforts.

Events canceled — stay home, and safe

Governor Andrew Cuomo's New York State on PAUSE regulations mandate that 100% of the workforce must stay home, excluding essential services (for more read this week's front page). All non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason are temporarily banned. Thus, all planned community events throughout the Harlem Valley have been canceled.

But fear not, many area libraries are now offering wide ranging online resources. Check your library's website for more information. And

other organizations are offering events online; again, check the websites for more information. There are also websites, like www.teacherlists.com, which offer at-home enrichment activities and more for children and families while schools are closed.

We wish everyone good health and safety and we encourage everyone to remain at home according to Gov. Cuomo's mandates.

— The staff of The Millerton News

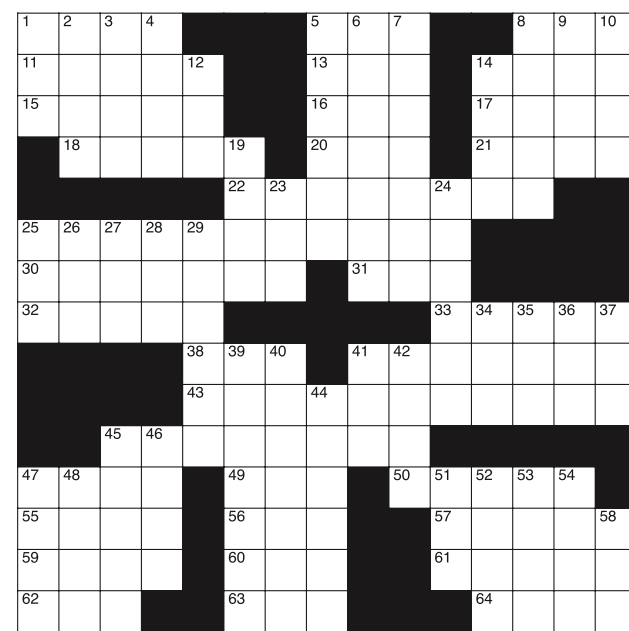
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- As soon as possible
- Gateway (Arabic)
- Doctors' group
- Madder genus of plants
- A team's best pitcher
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Go up
- Neither
- Bolivian river
- Manila hemp
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- British School
- Human reproductive organs
- Surrenders
- Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
- Sun up in New York
- Lead alloy
- Eastern Asian plant
- Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
- Japanese warrior
- Festivity
- Interruptions
- Nonsense (slang)
- Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- Calvary sword
- French river
- Global business conference (abbr.)
- Afflicted
- Con man's game
- No (Scottish)
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Fish
- Camera term (abbr.)
- Impudence

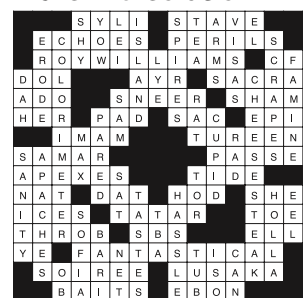
CLUES DOWN

- A continuous portion of a circle
- Genus of seabirds
- Infant's dining accessory
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Popular fruit
- Poisonous plant
- Scolded
- Assists
- Hand (Spanish)
- Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
- Basics
- Cain and —
- Malaria
- Indicates particular shape
- Respiratory disease
- Central Standard Time
- Imitate
- Golf score
- A place to lay your head

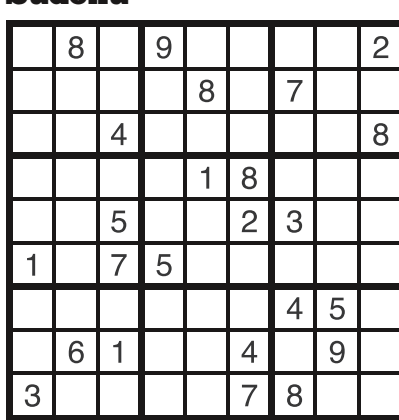


- Three cards of the same suit
- Not in
- Human gene
- Ancient Chinese philosophic concept
- French river
- Thinks up
- Type of geological deposit
- Helps little firms
- Area units
- A device to remove
- Secret political clique
- Polite interruption sound
- Foundation
- Clare Boothe __, American writer
- Swiss river

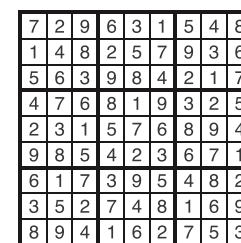
March 19 Solution



Sudoku



March 19 Solution



Level: Intermediate

The Lakeville Journal

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PINE PLAINS/MILLBROOK

Village of Millbrook continues to cope with COVID-19 fallout

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — As with so many cities, towns and villages across America, when times get tough, people get together and do what they can to make things better. Today, however, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing people to keep their physical distance, getting together isn't recommended, so communities have had to figure out other alternatives.

The Millbrook Central School District has been making sure students who rely on meals at school are getting breakfast and lunch each day, prepared by a faithful cafeteria crew and delivered by the First One school bus company. Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Brian Fried thanked District Clerks Cheryl Sprague and Holly Heady for their hard work in arranging the meal deliveries.

St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church has advised that while no group Masses will be delivered, the church will be open everyday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for individual prayer; Mass will also be broadcast on cable Channel 22, Facebook and Youtube. Drive-through confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 3 to 5 p.m., with Fr. Bancroft on the church steps with a screen.

Grace Church will not hold meetings or services for the time being, but it will hold webcasts and offer other means of support. The Soup and Scriptures Class will resume via ZOOM conference. To be included, e-mail Pastor Matt Calkins at calkins@gracemillbrook.org or text him at 203-216-2287.

Lyall Memorial Federated Church invites all to join its Sunday services, being live streamed at 10:15 a.m. on the church's website, www.lyallmemorial.org. The website will also post other updates.

The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies is closed and all programs are canceled for the time being, but it is opening up its trails and walking paths to the public as of March 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy the trails, and is asked to make sure no garbage is left behind; bathrooms will not be made available.

The Washington Town Hall closed on Friday, March 20, for a period of at least two weeks. Town workers will continue checking phone messages, e-mails and the regular mail. The town will continue to function with essential employees and the Town Park plans to open April 6. The Recreation Department urges residents to get out and enjoy the fresh air, but to maintain social distancing

protocols. The transfer station will remain open, though that decision is described as "fluid" as of now.

The Millbrook Library remains closed, but it hopes patrons are using its e-resources. Go to www.millbrooklibrary.org for details. All fines will be waived when the library reopens.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) Senior Agricultural Resource Educator Jennifer Fimble reminds everyone that farms are small businesses too, and many remain open. A list

can be found at www.ccedutchess.org/agriculture.

The Millbrook Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office will be closed until further notice, as will all county DMV offices.

The Millbrook School's Trevor Zoo is also temporarily closed; staff members are on hand to feed the animals, they are considered essential workers. There are no students at the private school, which has had its spring break extended to April 13 for the time being.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Partnering with BarlisWedlick Architects and Ancram landowners, volunteers with Columbia County Habitat for Humanity got together before social distancing regulations were in place due to COVID-19 to help construct homes for Columbia County's rural workforce as part of the project, Ancram Rural Build.

Ancram Rural Build forges future homes for rural families

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

ANCRAM — Driven by a mission to build homes for families in need, Columbia County Habitat for Humanity has called upon volunteers from all walks of life to help do just that through the project, Ancram Rural Build, once the health crisis ends.

Speaking as the CEO and Executive Director of Columbia County Habitat for Humanity, Brenda Adams said Habitat for Humanity builds where it finds partners and available land, adding it builds an average of three houses a year. Though she said the organization would like to continue building at that level, it would also like to increase the capacity for which it can build houses.

Given the number of farm workers and tradespersons who reside in Columbia County, and that "agrarian-related occupations no longer provide entry-level compensation sufficient to purchase and maintain a home," Dennis Wedlick from the firm BarlisWedlick Architects explained in a description of Ancram Rural Build why his firm partnered with Columbia County Habitat for Humanity and Ancram landowners. The goal, he

said, is to develop "affordable, state-of-the-art, low-energy homes" for the local rural workforce.

"Columbia County needs its farm workers, and all supporting rural tradespersons, to have affordable home ownership opportunities," Wedlick wrote. "Without future generations of farm workers, our agricultural economy, rural character and farmland conservation is unsustainable."

Designed by BarlisWedlick Architects, the 1,300-square foot houses will be two-story, three-bedroom homes that will use 90% less energy for heating and cooling, which will result in reduced operating and maintenance costs for future homeowners. Two families will qualify to live in the homes and will work alongside project volunteers to build them. In order to qualify, applicants must meet the income guidelines set forth by Columbia County Habitat for Humanity as well as be able to make monthly mortgage payments.

The total applicant household income must include income from all household members, which must be documented by copies of paystubs, W-2s, benefit letters and the like. Monthly mortgage payments must include

a principle payment and an escrow payment for taxes and property insurance. The total household income must be enough for the family to make affordable monthly payments, though it can't dip below 30% or exceed 80% of the median income for Columbia County based on family size. For a family of two, the total household income can't exceed \$50,500 or be below \$18,950, while for a family of four, the total household income can't exceed \$63,100 or be below \$25,750.

All families selected for housing under Columbia County Habitat for Humanity are required to complete 300 hours of sweat equity to help build their home.

Adams said, "I think community participation is a marker of our success. We've been blessed and grateful for the strong community support that we've had in recent years."

The application deadline is March 31; applications can be downloaded at www.columbiacountyhabitat.org. Due to COVID-19, Habitat for Humanity is closed until further notice and will be ready to resume business when the government says it's OK. Construction of the houses has been postponed. At this time, applications are being reviewed.

For details, call 518-828-0892.

The town of Pine Plains initiates program to honor Hometown Heroes

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Seeking a meaningful way to honor its local heroes, the town of Pine Plains is asking families and organizations to sponsor banners in honor of those who have served or are currently serving their country as part of its Hometown Heroes program.

Working in conjunction with the American Legion Post 426 and the Pine Plains Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 5519, Alice Hanback-Nuccio, secretary to town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, said the program was insti-

tuted to honor those who served their country through the military. Anyone who resided in town during their military service is eligible for the program.

Along with completing an application, sponsors must provide a photo of the hero in his or her military uniform as well as a copy of his or her discharge papers, also known as a DD-214 form.

The cost is \$200 per banner; they will be hung from town utility poles from May to November.

"I think everyone in town is incredibly proud of those who have dedicated their lives to service," Han-

back-Nuccio said. "At this time more than ever, we should be grateful."

"I think it's wonderful," American Legion Post 426 Cmdr. Marie Stewart agreed. "I think we will have a very good response — we have a ton of veterans and veteran families in the area, so I think it will be very well-received once the word is out there."

The Town Hall is closed due to the coronavirus. Hometown Heroes applications are available at www.pineplains-ny.gov and can be mailed to the Town Hall, P.O. Box 955, Pine Plains, NY, 12567. For details, call 518-398-8600, ext. 1.

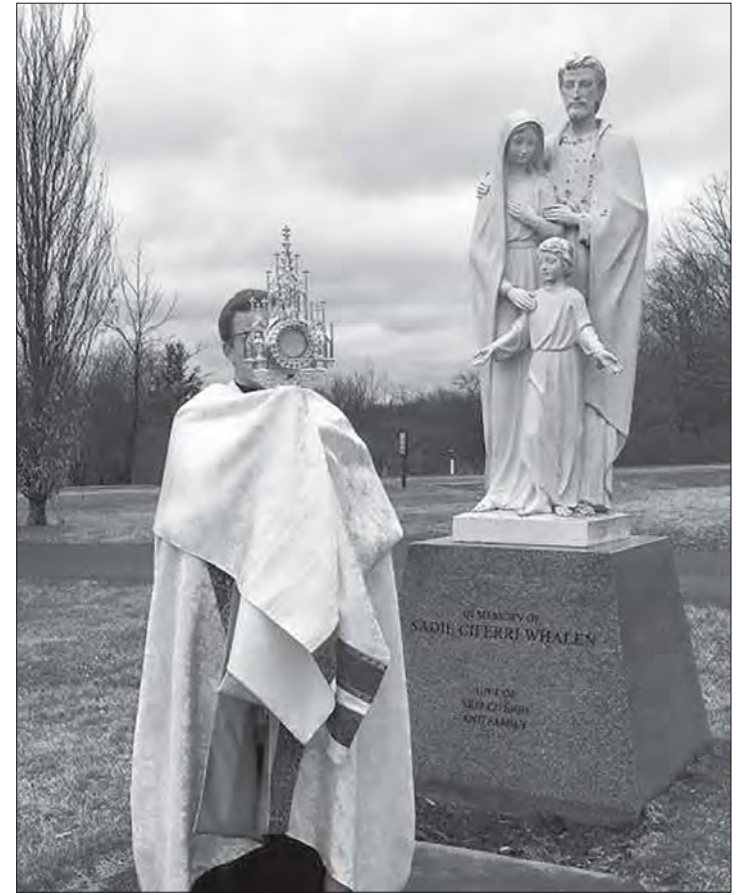


PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church's Fr. Hartley Bancroft performed an unannounced Eucharistic Benediction.

Extra blessings at a time of need

MILLBROOK — An unannounced Eucharistic Benediction was performed at all upper counties Catholic churches on Thursday, March 19, including St. Joseph's.

Confessions are being heard at St. Joseph's Church, out of doors, from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Fr. Bancroft is also posting Sunday

Mass on Youtube, Facebook and on local cable Channel 22. The church is open everyday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for private prayers.

Fr. Bancroft also said there are volunteers who will help those most at risk with errands. Call 845-677-3422 for details.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

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EDITORIAL

How the coronavirus is impacting our local economy

likening the coronavirus pandemic to being in a state of war, President Trump has been delivering daily updates to U.S. citizens, informing them not only of the number of confirmed cases and deaths, but also of just how the country is dealing with this critical emergency health crisis. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has been doing the same, while Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro has been holding weekly telephone Town Hall meetings to keep residents in the know.

The information is fast-flowing and continually changing — keeping those in the media on its toes trying to report on the most current and accurate data. We hope readers can appreciate the fluidity of the situation, and we encourage you to share news updates affecting your communities during this difficult time, at editor@millertonnews.com.

The staff of The Lakeville Journal Co. is working remotely in order to ensure both The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal can continue their long-standing commitment to reporting local news, as noted on last week's opinion page. We are fortunate — not all workers have that luxury. And with Gov. Cuomo's Friday, March 20, edict that 100% of New York's non-essential businesses close and non-essential workers stay at home, the local workforce is facing extreme economic hardship. He also banned non-essential travel. The new rules went into effect Sunday night, at 8 p.m.

"We're all in quarantine now," said Cuomo pragmatically at his Friday press conference.

He's right. And as NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio said during an evening press conference that same day, "We're in a brand new reality, there are so many things we're trying to sort out." In a rare show of agreement, he praised Cuomo's latest restrictions. NYC is now the "epicenter" of the pandemic in the U.S., said de Blasio.

So, many are wondering what, exactly, is considered an essential business? The answer can be found by clicking on www.esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026, where one can view a full list of businesses deemed essential by New York state. Currently, grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, pharmacies, gas stations, restaurants/bars (for take-out/delivery only) and hardware and building material stores are among the retail businesses considered essential.

Services considered essential by the state include trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal; mail and shipping services; laundromats; building cleaning and maintenance; child care services; auto repair; warehouse/distribution and fulfillment; funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries; storage for essential businesses; and animal shelters.

The news media, financial institutions, hospitals and other medical services/facilities as well as hotels are also considered essential, along with mass transit.

But that leaves a whole bevy of businesses now closed, shutting their doors to their employees, their customers and their suppliers. Because of the closures, those businesses aren't producing any revenue, they're not contributing to the tax base, they're not providing paychecks, they're not ordering from suppliers and, by in large, they're not buying advertising. The ripple effect is huge. Let's face it, the COVID-19 health crisis is knocking a hard blow to our economy — and local businesses are feeling the brunt of the impact.

But while some have complained the government is unnecessarily shutting down the economy, President Trump explained his orders, and those of states like New York, in his Friday press conference.

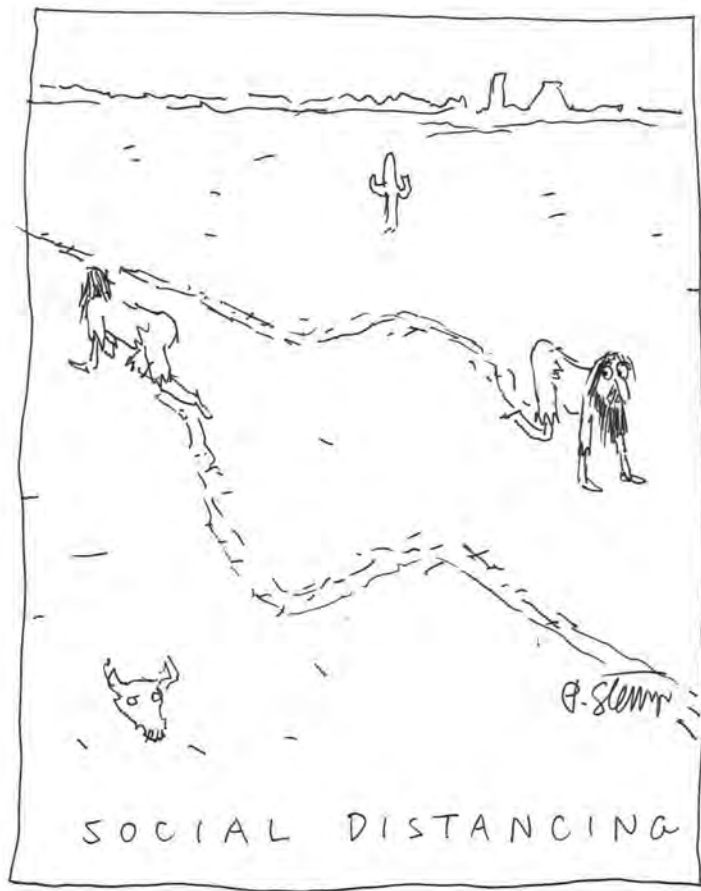
"If we can save thousands of lives, even millions of lives, potentially... I think we're doing a very effective job. We will know better in 14 to 15 days. We can bring our finances back very quickly; we can't bring the people back."

He's right. Yes, it's going to be rough on our business owners and workers, and in turn, on our communities. But the human toll of disobeying the new regulations would be far worse.

The goal here is to stop the spread of the coronavirus. That means social distancing — if possible, staying home — to keep from interacting with those who may be ill or from infecting those who may be well. We all have to be responsible and prepare for things to get worse before they get better.

In the meantime, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses suffering substantial loss due to the pandemic. For more, read "Cuomo mandates 100% of non-essential businesses close during crisis" on the front page.

Stay well.



Dine Out For History canceled, record your thoughts for historical society

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the North East Historical Society (NEHS) has canceled our last Dine Out For History event at 52 Main on Thursday, March 26. I have been in touch with its owner, Eleanor Nurzia, who has graciously agreed to reschedule when this difficult time is behind us. We look forward to that, as last year's event at 52 Main was very well received.

On behalf of the NEHS board, I want to thank all of you who supported our second year of Dine Out For History and the restaurants who agreed to participate: The Millerton Inn; Oakhurst Diner; Golden Wok; Manna Dew Café; Taro's Pizzeria; Round III; and 52 Main. We were delighted to see growth in both the number and variety of restaurants involved and in attendance as well.

We are living through a unique period. We encourage everyone to support your neighbors, our health care providers and, when it is able to re-open, our business

community as best you can.

We also encourage you to write down or orally record your thoughts and experiences as our community makes its way through this challenge. Take photos to document this period. And if you do, please send the historical society a copy at P.O. Box 727, Millerton, NY 12546 or email me at eddowney@millertonlawyer.com or eddowney12@gmail.com.

Ancram limits chances of public interaction

Effective immediately, the Ancram Town Hall, Town Court and Town Garage will be closed to the public until further notice.

Town employees will continue to be working normal hours at the Town Hall or from home, so can you reach them by email, phone or mail.

Our Highway Department is working a regular schedule.

If you have something to drop off with a town official, please just put it in the mail box on the far edge of the Town Hall parking lot. Email addresses and phone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We're from the government and we're here to help

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted society in ways unseen even during the worst of Y2K, 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. Regular commerce is suffering as confidence in public, in-person transactions collapses. Add to this mix the government's schizophrenic reaction to this crisis, and you get a set of circumstances that will leave the public more vulnerable to infection.

On one hand, government commendably seeks to "flatten the curve" of contagion. To this end, government has ordered staggered reductions in the percentage of workers on-site, and the closure of whole industries — such as concert venues and movie theaters — to promote "social distancing." On the other hand, to

account for all the lost commerce that government's measures are causing, government is proposing stimulus packages to prop up individuals and businesses.

Here in New York we have seen particularly disjointed measures adopted concerning the electoral cycle. Governor Cuomo on March 14 issued Executive Order 202.2, significantly lowering the threshold for petition signatures needed to access the ballot, yet in the same breath (if you'll pardon the ill-timed pun) he shortened the time frame for petitioning by nearly two weeks. That had some petitioners scrambling to knock on people's doors, which hardly helps the effort to limit human contact.

On March 16 the New York Legislature was scheduled to introduce Bill A10151/S8058 to advance the period for filing ballot petitions from March 29 to March 17. The Legislature could not actually meet on the 16th, so the bill was introduced and passed on the 18th, meaning that retroactively we lost a day of the filing window, which they were already shortening! This forced many staffers from "multi-county" campaigns to rush to the Board of Elections in Albany. The board prudently admitted no more than two people at a time... which left up to 30 fatigued staffers huddled in the lobby, ripe for COVID-19!

We are experiencing an international health crisis, which demands emergency measures, but "emergency" does not necessarily require haste. To our societal toolkit for tackling this pandemic, let's add measures that extend deadlines and generally invite reflection about whether we are rushing in the correct directions.

Daniel Donnelly
Vice-Chair of the Dutchess County Libertarian Party
Amenia

Glad to see Legion sign being utilized

I was very pleased to see the sign at Millerton Legion Post 178 being utilized during this coronavirus pandemic.

We can't have too many reminders of what we need to be doing. Even though I am "sheltering in place" for the most part there are still places we need to get to and I'm impressed with the businesses that are open and their employees who have obviously taken precautions to protect their customers.

As we go forward I hope some of these "good habits," i.e. extra cleanliness and social distancing, will continue. Perhaps that will cut down on the flu and other contagious illnesses in the future.

Diane Walters
Millerton

It is a historic moment. Reflecting on its impact on our community is important to both help us better understand it ourselves and to enable future generations to do so as well.

Our best to you all. Be safe. Be well.

Edward Downey
President, North East Historical Society
Millerton

numbers for town departments are online, at www.ancramny.org, or call the town number at 518-329-6512 and leave a message if no one is available to talk when you call.

Thankfully, so far, everyone around here seems to be well but understandably under a lot of stress. Please make sure to observe the county, state and federal regulations of social distancing and proper hygiene, and do your best to stay well.

Art Bassin
Town supervisor
Ancram

The virus that ate 2020

It may feel like a welcome break. But steel yourself. A week ago, my wife's boss said the organization would close through the end of March. More recently, Governor Andrew Cuomo said the pandemic won't peak here until about May 1. He didn't mention that it will need to subside, at roughly the same rate. COVID-19 won't return to mid-March levels until mid-June, if we're lucky. But people infected can be contagious after they are symptom-free, Chinese studies have shown, for up to a week or even two. Ignore that and we risk a new surge of infections. Which means the economy doesn't de-hibernate until the Fourth of July from its four-month, remote-work, totally unrelaxing semi-hiatus.

Ultimately, a third to half the country could get infected. How many deaths will depend on the number of ventilators. Washington is just now saying it will order manufacturers to stop whatever they are making and switch to ventilators. Pardon us if that doesn't inspire a big "Whew! That problem's solved." These are complex medical-grade machines that help critically ill patients breathe, or breathe for them. They force a mix of oxygen and air through a tube down the nose or throat and draw out carbon dioxide. Some patients need a sedative to relax and stop fighting the rhythm, to relent to the intrusion of the tube.

No, Ford can't convert the F-150 line to ventilator machines overnight. Nor can Whirlpool. Nor Tesla's Elon Musk, though he generously offered to do so.

Simply put: Don't get sick. Anyway, hospitals will probably be full. Problem is, COVID-19 is highly contagious. How contagious is still unknown. There have been indications. It's a brand-new virus, so no one has immunity. On a cruise ship, 712

GUEST COLUMN

Tom Parrett

people were infected by one passenger. Even some who recovered have been re-infected.

The virus must come from an infected person, who sheds it in particles called virions. Champion sneezers and coughers can propel virions many feet, far more than the 6-foot minimum recommended for social distancing. Small droplets can stay aloft for a while. Obviously, they land anywhere. Depending on surface, air temperature and humidity, COVID-19 virions nestled in a nice warm mucus droplet can stay contagious for many hours.

In public, wear a mask. Actually, don't go out. If you must, hand washing is critical. First, soap and water. Simple bar soap is fine. A virus has a shell of lipid or fat. Soap dissolves the fatty shell. Without this protection the virus's core, its genetic material, falls apart.

These four steps are from a British scrub nurse. (1) Wet your hands and soap up. Rub them together as you usually do. (2) Clean between your fingers by lacing them together, one hand behind the other, and rub. (3) Wash your thumbs by rubbing with soapy water. (4) Wash your fingertips by rubbing them against your other palm. Be sure to involve your fingernails. A brush is recommended.

A hand sanitizer will do. Follow the same four steps. Find one with an alcohol content of at least 70%. Rubbing or isopropyl alcohol is even better. Carry a small bottle and a clean rag or paper towels. If you need to de-virus surfaces in your travels, this is much cheaper than disposable sanitary wipes. Dis-

tilled spirits are generally not strong enough unless overproof rum such as Bacardi 151 or grain alcohol of 140 proof or more. Stick with rubbing alcohol: it's a money saver.

We might as well get used to all this extra effort, and to being self-reliant in our semi-isolation. Zero contacts should be our goal for the time being. If we stretch this thing out, given pandemic math, we have a decent chance that the death rate will not soar and our most vulnerable citizens can be diagnosed early and cared for.

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

The letters deadline is 10 a.m. each Monday

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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CASE IN PINE PLAINS *Continued from Page A1*

ple are afraid and I think they need to be educated on it... It's mostly harmful to the elderly population and people who have breathing problems, but I'm sure it produces different symptoms in different people. I can tell mine was very mild. I did not leave my house for two weeks, but I didn't want to put the community in trouble."

The Pine Plains Town Hall Facebook posted the following: "Pine Plains is a community of people who most often work in service to others. We find ourselves on the front lines of storms and epidemics. Fear drives hysterical assumptions

and accusations. Take a few deep breaths..."

As of Monday, March 23, the state Department of Health identified 100 cases of COVID-19 in Dutchess County and 20,875 in New York.

Now those who suspect they have the virus can get tested in Dutchess County, where a COVID-19 drive-through collection site opened on Monday, March 23, at the Intermodal Center at Dutchess Stadium, located on Route 9D in Fishkill.

Nuvance Health announced the opening of the Dutchess drive-through collection site, and another in Kingston, in co-

operation with Dutchess and Ulster Counties this week.

Nuvance stressed the collection sites are only for people who have called their doctor's office and had a consultation; who have met the criteria for COVID-19 and been pre-screened; and who have a scheduled appointment. The collections sites will be open Mondays through Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but hours are subject to change.

Nuvance Health said it may take up to six days to get results from one's doctor. For details, go to www.Nuvancehealth.org/NYCollectionSites.

MILLERTON DOCTOR *Continued from Page A1*

confirmed. In a March 22 news release, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health reported that "while specific information cannot be provided for privacy reasons, it was confirmed the individual was a 69-year old male who developed respiratory distress and was sent directly to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital where he was treated, but died on Friday, March 20."

There are currently more than 60 positive cases of COVID-19 and the numbers are expected to increase as more testing becomes available this week, according to the release.

Telemedicine now 'essential'

As for Schmidt, until her test results are back and despite feeling under the weather, she plans to stay connected to her patients through virtual visits.

Until COVID-19 slows and health care professionals are outfitted with adequate protective gear, Schmidt said virtual doctor visits may become the norm as a way of safely treating patients and steering those most at risk to proper treatment.

"The push toward telemedicine has been abhorrent to me," said Schmidt, "as I believe seeing a patient physically and emotionally is essential in making a diagnosis. However, this pandemic is going to create a sea change in accelerating our use of remote

communication as a society."

Telemed, said the Millerton internist, "is going to be essential. As a true technophobe I must admit that it has been working and so far all of my patients seem to have been satisfied with the experience and grateful to have access to their doctor while sheltering in place."

However, Schmidt said, patients who are less tech savvy and those without access to digital devices will need family or community assistance, "and I would welcome ideas on how to get that help into people's homes."

No stranger to plagues
Schmidt is no stranger to novel infectious diseases. A New York Medical College med student and resident in the late 1980s and early 1990s during the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic, Schmidt had witnessed first-hand the death and destruction a novel plague can unleash on society.

She recalled her experience at St. Vincent's Hospital in the West Village, which at the time was at the clinical forefront of the epidemic. It was, she said, "brutal, and in retrospect, bizarre. We treated crazy opportunistic infections and cancers that I've never seen since and hope to never see again."

Even so, she said, work-related risk from COVID-19 is far greater — particularly with the shortage of appropriate personal protec-

tive equipment. "However, the consequences of infection are much different, as AIDS was a death sentence in the 1980s and up to the mid 1990s, when protease inhibitors became available.

"As med students and residents, we were all afraid of getting HIV through work-related exposure like needle sticks — of which I had my share. But we were equally afraid of getting it through sex. It was a scary time for all, especially my male friends who were gay."

Advice to patients

As for advice to her patients, Schmidt had this to offer: "Social distancing, 6 feet apart, is essential. If you must go out to the store or to work, wear gloves if at all possible and avoid touching your face. And if you are sick with a cough or fever, you need to stay home and distance yourself from your friends and family members. This situation is not ending anytime soon."

Schmidt added that the area offers a wealth of outdoor opportunities that people can enjoy with friends or alone.

"It's a great time to get to know yourself better, read the books that you've wanted to read or play your instrument or make art, or just be in nature and breathe in and out."

One last word of advice: "Just be sure to do a thorough tick check when you come in."

FEEDING STUDENTS *Continued from Page A1*

sandwiches, chips and salad for lunch.

Kicking off the new meal program on Monday, March 16, Castellani was reported that the district successfully delivered a total of 150 food packets to students in just one day.

"We are very proud that within literally one day, we were able to accomplish this mass delivery door-to-door to our families," Castellani said, "and it could not be done without the tireless efforts of a number of our staff members, including our business administrator, food service director, transportation director, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, teachers and support staff."

Castellani said the district plans to apply for state grants to help pay for the program. For the time being, the district is delivering breakfast and lunch to students on Mondays through Fridays.

In a recent letter posted on the district website, Pine Plains Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler provided families with an outline of the district's goals to provide bagged lunches and breakfasts to students in need.

To request meals, Handler advised that families email mealorder@ppcsd.org to have meals provided throughout the duration of the closure. All requests must include the name of the person picking up the meals and the name of the students and/or children who will receive the meals. Families should also indicate if their children have any nut allergies. Requests received by 6 p.m. each evening will be filled the next business day. Should families decide that they no longer need the meals, Handler recommended that they contact mealorder@ppcsd.org to keep the district updated.


Throughout the duration of the closure, families can pick up the bagged meals for their children on a daily basis at the voter entrance of the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High

School building (located on the far left side of the school building) between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Mondays through Fridays. For those who are unable to pick up the meals, Handler assured families that the district has volunteers who will be delivering meals on Mondays through Fridays. Families have been advised to provide an address for the deliveries as well as indicators for their address (such as the color of their house) and whether they have any animals that volunteers should be aware of when delivering the meals.

At this time, Handler announced that the bagged meal deliveries are being made by district employees who have volunteered to do so, and that they may be delivering meals either in a school vehicle or in their own personal vehicle. Meals will be left at the front door of the families' homes to avoid putting people at risk of any illness.

At the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Wednesday, March 18, BOE President Chip Couse reported that, "the mix of requests is approximately 50/50 for those picking up the meals and volunteers delivering these meals to those who cannot pick them up on their own. Those volunteering to make deliveries are mostly teachers, but all with spirit."


Meanwhile, Millbrook Interim Superintendent of Schools Laura Mitchell reported that breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided to students who are currently eligible for the Free and Reduced Priced School Meals program during the closure. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, families that didn't previously take advantage of that program can still elect to do so by contacting Director of Food Services Holly Heady via email at holly.HEADY@millbrookcsd.org or by calling 845-677-4200, ext. 1137. Families may also contact Administrative Assistant/District Clerk Cheryl Sprague cheryl.sprague@millbrookcsd.org or at 845-677-4200, ext. 1100 for more information.



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REASSURING BUSINESSES *Continued from Page A1*

Workforce Investment Board Louise McLoughlin, President and CEO of Dutchess County Tourism Mary Kay Vrba and Assistant County Executive for Strategic Planning and Economic Development Ron Hicks.

Castella said the Chamber "early on in this crisis recognized the need for information, to keep operations moving." It formed the Business Notification Network group, which emails critical business updates and posts them on its website, www.dutchessbnn.com. Castella said his office "has turned very much into a newsroom. We're trying only to use information from elected officials that is accurate, as folks are getting a lot of misinformation on social media. We're doing our best to distill the information."

Molinaro responded to one business owner's question about the governor's edict, saying while it will be tough on businesses, the restrictions are merited.

"If we can slow the transmission, this disease won't hurt as many people and won't overload health care system," said the county exec, adding businesses that are still operating, like restaurants doing take-out and delivery, should rethink their staffing. "If you ordinarily staff 12 people, can you function with two? It could be two different people every shift. The governor is trying to reduce the number of people on the road in the community."

"I know the burden this places on you," he added. "It's more important to identify how many people actually need to work in order to operate."

Another caller asked how many Dutchess residents have tested positive for the virus. On Friday, that answer was "just over 30," with a warning that "as testing ramps up" those numbers will skyrocket. Tuesday morning, the number was 100, according to the state Department of Health (DOH).

"We didn't have the ability to ramp up testing as quickly as we should have," Molinaro said. "Accessing testing was slow. The federal government acknowledged that."

The DOH must approve all testing sites. Just Monday, both Dutchess and Ulster Counties announced two new testing locations, in conjunction with Nuvance Health. (See story, A1).

"But understand," Molinaro said to callers, "we will never have enough tests to test everyone. We should all function as if we have contracted or will contract COVID-19."

A caller in hotel management asked about his business, and whether it's considered essential. Hotels are considered essential, according to the state's criteria. Still, Molinaro suggested reducing staff, if possible, and, if a hotel chain has multiple locations, perhaps closing some locations and consolidating guests into fewer buildings.

Molinaro added that while still able to operate, hotels should remember that "we are not running tourism spots at this point."

The general manager of The Links golf course in Union Vale asked about whether it could re-

main open.

"The short answer: You should prepare to close," replied Molinaro. "The assumption is that you will not be deemed necessary to remain open."

A list of essential businesses can be found on www.esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026.

Vrba spoke of which county attractions, including parks and historic sites, remain open. A list of closures of can be found at www.dutchesstourism.com.

Helpful suggestions

Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud praised county efforts in her Dear Pine Plains newsletter sent out via email on Friday.

"I feel enormously fortunate to be living in Dutchess County where the truly forward-thinking leadership has been able to stay sane, competent and helpful to us all," she wrote. "We are one of the few counties in the state eligible for Small Business Association (SBA) loans, and money is being raised for an emergency fund to help businesses in the coming months as the true cost of the pandemic is realized."

With the president's approval, the United States SBA is offering low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses suffering substantial loss due to the pandemic, through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. Applicants may apply online and download applications at www.disasterloan.sba.gov/ela and call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for assistance. U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY 19) recommended Dutchess County small business owners also contact the local SBA District Office at 315-471-9393, the Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center at 845-802-9150 or his office, at 518-267-4123.

"[The loans] offer up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing," stated Delgado. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact."

Hicks added more information during the county phone call.

"Even though there will be a tremendous amount of applications, they could turn around in about a week, then it will take another two to three weeks to process the loans," he said.

Sales tax

A restaurateur asked about sales taxes, which were due on the 20th. "Most businesses do not

have the funds to pay the entire bill," said the caller. "Did anything come down from governor regarding sales tax?"

"I don't want to sound like it's somebody else's problem, but Dutchess County doesn't collect sales tax," replied Molinaro, explaining it's a state function. "If you collected it, they want you to pay it. But if you don't have the money, it's going to be impossible to pay."

Hicks added that he, the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and others "over the weekend pushed out to state reps that we'd like to see a grace period or delay" in the sales tax due date, or "at least eliminate the penalty fee that exists for 45 days. We're still working with regional representatives, government offices and state representatives."

Also helping businesses navigate the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC).

"We are working closely with all of our partners in the government, health, educational, non-profit and business communities to ensure that we minimize the spread of the disease and adverse economic impacts," stated the CEDC via email last week.

The CEDC can be reached at www.columbiaedc.com or 518-828 4718.

Looking ahead

Any and all help can make a difference, as dealing with closures is difficult for any business.

"Closing an entire operation is extremely hard and our hearts go out to all our local business friends and colleagues who are going through this. We appreciate your continued support through this difficult and uncertain period," wrote Oblong Books & Music co-owners Dick and Suzanna Hermans in an email notifying customers they must change their business model and are "brainstorming" on how to do that.

One caller asked Molinaro how long he expects this new normal to continue.

"I expect it to be a four- to eight-week window... of limited activity. Certainly all the month of April," Molinaro said. "If you look at how this disease has moved across other countries, it's likely we're in the middle of a 10- to 12-week window."

When a caller offered his fleet of buses to help the county deal with the crisis, Molinaro recommended people "visit www.dutchesstourism.com if you have a service you want to offer, or volunteer, or to make a contribution. There are countless people who ordinarily deal with hardship; that number is going to grow exponentially."



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BOOKS: ROB BUCCINO

Exploring Demons and Daemons in New Pullman Novel

Sir Philip Pullman, a master of the fantasy genre, has come into his own this year with the trifecta of a new novel, the debut of an HBO series based on his earlier trilogy, and a knighthood in Britain's New Years Honours.

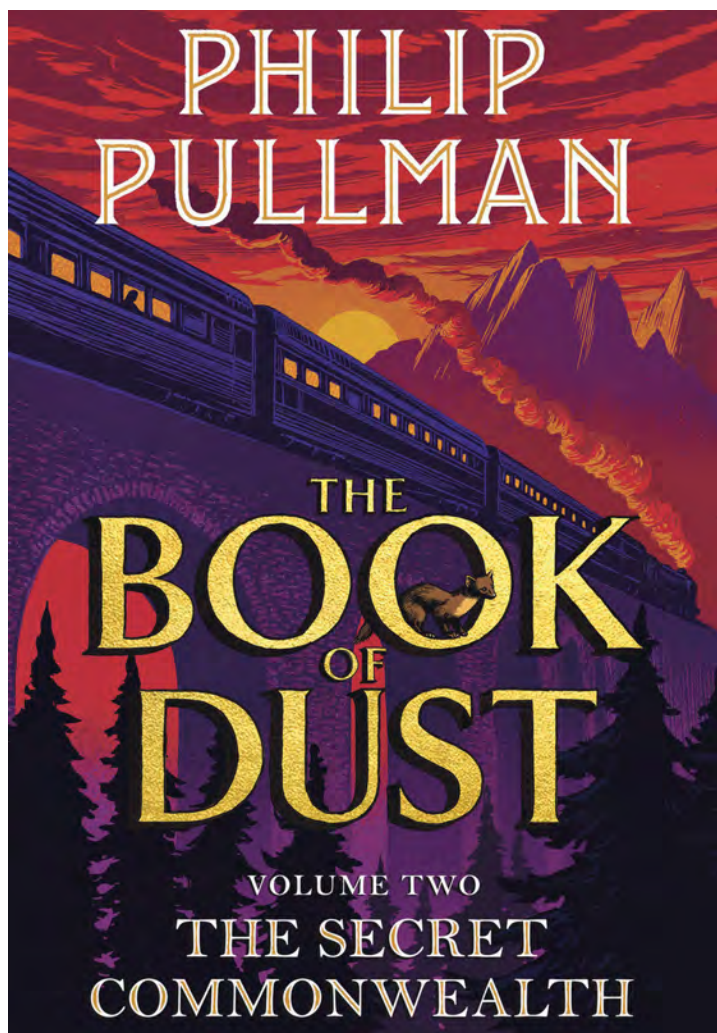
The new book, "The Secret Commonwealth," is the second installment of a trilogy, "The Book of Dust," that expands on the characters first established in "His Dark Materials" (which the HBO series adapts).

In the imagined world Pullman creates, every human has a physically embodied spirit animal, called a daemon, as a constant companion akin to a soul.

Daemons express other sides of complex personalities, and often play a good-angel/bad-angel role in dialogue with their humans.

While the novels are adventure stories of epic scope, they also explore concepts of multiple parallel worlds (some with and some without apparent daemons), metaphysics of life and death, and the powerful energy that couples conscience and consciousness.

"The Secret Commonwealth" focuses on a single world in which a few



daemons have rebelled against and abandoned their humans. Lyra Silvertongue, an independent-minded, courageous and resourceful character introduced as an adolescent in the earlier trilogy, has become a 20-something student in Oxbridge. Her daemon has gone walkabout, and duplicitous

Lyra spends much of the book tracking down her daemon. Much as people stigmatized by disfigurement or prejudice in our own world must do, she copes with the profound stigma of being seen by others as daemon-less, all the while eluding capture and confinement.

Pullman's prose is terse, action-filled and often witty. The settings he evokes are both familiar and otherworldly. Part of the fun for readers is puzzling out unfamiliar words ("anbaric" means electrical) and imagining travel by zeppelin.

Those who have read earlier works by Pullman will have an easier time following the story than first-timers, but it's hard to put down the book once started, even when you begin in the middle.

"The Secret Commonwealth" is published by Penguin Random House and available at local bookstores.

Rob Buccino is a semi-retired marketing consultant, author, and fiction fan who writes occasionally for The Lakeville Journal.

ARTIST HARPER BLANCHET

is looking to move his studio and living space from its present location at 107 Main Street in Falls Village to a new location in the Sharon, Salisbury, Millerton, Ancram area.

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– Special Notice Regarding Spring 2020 Arts Events at The Hotchkiss School –

In response to COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut as well as the CDC:

The Hotchkiss School's schedule of arts events for spring 2020 has been canceled until further notice.

This includes all concerts, recitals, plays, and exhibits in the Tremaine Art Gallery.

If the policy should change, an update will be posted on our website.

We appreciate your patronage and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Concerns about COVID-19 have canceled or postponed most cultural events in the region. Some organizations are finding ways to hold events online; to find out what has been planned, go online or call the host organization.

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Hand-washing technique with soap and water



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I Will Survive
Gloria Gaynor

PHOTO FROM WASHYOURLYRICS.COM

Choose a song you like and plug it into a website that will then add 20 seconds of lyrics under drawings of good hand-washing technique.

HYGIENE:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Wash Your Hands with Washyourlyrics

If you're already sick of singing "Happy Birthday" twice while you wash your hands, there's a new and better way.

At a website called www.washyourlyrics.com, you choose a song that matches your mood. Type in the name of the song and the singer or composer/songwriter.

You don't have to use a song that refers specifically to washing, of course. I chose the song "Sway," sung by either Dean Martin or Rosemary Clooney, because it has a nice dance-y rhythm.

You can choose

different songs for your everchanging moods; it's a free site and I think websites like it when you visit them often.

Once you find a song you like, you can download the poster in PDF form. The poster we used for this article, above, is for the disco classic "I Will Survive," originally performed by Gloria Gaynor and then covered by the band Cake.

The poster is different if you type in Cake as the artist; their version is slower. The same is true for "Sway," as sung by either Dean Martin or Rosemary Clooney.

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Salute to the Italians in New Show

James Barron said the response to his "Evite" invitation to a show at his Kent, Conn., gallery featuring work by Italian artists has been unprecedented.

"I cannot remember getting such a big response

to an Evite as this," he said, adding that, "Italy touches so many. It's really a moving experience."

Barron and his family lived for many years in Rome, and have continued to travel there (although they are home for now in Kent, of course). Everyone across the world feels a similar sense of love for the Italians, who have been hit so hard by COVID-19 and who have responded in part with many wonderful online videos of singing, making music and generally doing their best to struggle through with style and a smile.

Barron says of the new show at his Kent gallery, "As an homage to Italy and the gallery's longstanding commitment to Italian art and life, we are presenting an exhibition of Italian artists. We are proud to show our support for a country that is very dear to the gallery. We send our love to our friends and artists in Italy."

The works in the show include sculpture, photography, painting; the show is up until April 29. To see photos and learn more, email Barron at info@jamesbarronarts.com.

Bombers basketball loses to Red Raiders in Regional Semi-Finals

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Even with the rise of coronavirus cases occurring throughout the state, the Pine Plains varsity boys basketball team was ready to challenge Alexander Hamilton High School on the court during the Class C Regional Semi-Final game on Tuesday, March 11.

The game was originally scheduled to take place at Mount Saint Mary's College in Newburgh, on Friday, March 6, only to be postponed until Tuesday,

March 11, and moved to Alexander High School in Elmsford as a result of the coronavirus. Taking precautionary measures, no spectators were allowed at the game apart from Pine Plains Athletic Director Robert Scott, Pine Plains Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb, Pine Plains Athletic Trainer Charles VanDeBogart and the varsity boys basketball team staff.

However, the game was streamed online via LocalLive so that families could watch from

the comfort of their homes.

The Hamilton Red Raiders gained an early lead at 4-0 over the Pine Plains Bombers within the first few minutes of the first quarter. With 2 minutes left in the first quarter, the Red Raiders dominated the game, 20-2 over the Bombers. Pine Plains attempted to keep ahead of Hamilton and managed to score 4 points before the end of the quarter.

The Red Raiders maintained the lead, scoring 28-7 in the first half. Competing for Pine Plains, Zach Funk scored two consecu-

tive 3-pointers. Logan Lydon scored 6 points and four rebounds for Pine Plains; his teammate, Adam Funk, scored a 3-pointer before the buzzer. Though the Bombers fought to catch up, they were still behind the Red Raiders 20-42 by halftime.

Hamilton held the lead at 63-29 with less than 2 minutes left of the third quarter, though Zach Funk brought the Bombers' score up to 31 before the end of the quarter.

By the final buzzer, the Red Raiders were declared the victors, winning 83-36 over the Bombers.

There may not be an I in team, but...

So Tom Brady is no longer a Patriot. That's like saying the Statue of Liberty isn't American. OK, it's French; we know; but like the rest of us immigrants, it hasn't been home for a long time, and that's close enough.

Eli Manning is no longer a Giant, and the Texans traded DeAndre Hopkins for next to nothing. The only constant in Team seems to be change, and that is no accident.

To the Pros, a team is a one year concept. What is "best for the team" this year has little or nothing to do with what might be considered best next year. Stars can be traded or forced into retirement; marginal players have the life expectancy of a tin shed in a hurricane; and coaches, managers, et al., seem to come and go as fast as line changes in a hockey game.

For the Fans, it's a different story. Our loyalty is to a city, or a franchise, or a player. It's more like family. You might like to trade your little brother for a sibling to be named later, but it's likely he is in for the duration. For us, that team logo is sacred: not to be bent, folded, spindled or mutilated — and if you get that reference, you've just dated yourself up there with me.

Anyway, every change to the sacred team is unwelcome to a Fan — we want our family to stay just as it is. Even if they are steady losers, they are our

BLEACHER VIEWS Theodore Kneeland

losers, and we love them. Until they get traded, that is; or worse yet, seek better paychecks through free agency. If you read the comment section of the stories about Tom Terrific leaving, half are full of thanks, and the other half sound like a symphony orchestra warming up — not a harmonious note to be heard.

So are our affections just as fickle as those of team management? Maybe during a player's active years, but once retired, those rose colored glasses of memory get placed firmly on our inner eyes.

When we think about players of yore, especially those of our youth, not a harsh note can be heard and not a negative cast of thought is to be found.

Nor should it be. Sports are not played in real time but in a special time out of youth and remembrance. In a short while, Tom Brady will always be that guy who led his team to unbelievable last-second victories and impossible comebacks, and those memories will live far beyond whatever financial machinations mark their coda.

Webutuck senior athletes honored

WEBUTUCK — Weeks before the coronavirus forced schools to close, students at Webutuck High School celebrated their senior athletes. The Millerton News thought now would be a good time to recognize those young scholar-athletes as all school sporting events have been canceled for the time being.

Honoring a long-lived tradition among the Webutuck sports teams, the Webutuck varsity girls and boys basketball teams paid tribute to those athletes at their respective Senior Recognition Nights in February.

The Webutuck varsity girls basketball team held its Senior Recognition Night on Tuesday, Feb. 11, before competing against Ellenville, while the varsity boys team honored its senior players on Wednesday, Feb. 12, before competing against Ontario.

Both games were held in the Webutuck High School gymnasium. All of the seniors on the Webutuck basketball teams and the cheerleading squad received medals and flower bouquets in honor of their dedication and seniority.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Webutuck High School senior Kenzie Cortsen and her mother, Jenna, celebrated the Webutuck varsity girls basketball team's Senior Recognition Night tradition with Beth Caddell and fellow senior Emily Simmons.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Library's indoor golf fundraiser canceled

MILLBROOK — The Friends of the Millbrook Library has canceled its Mini Golf Event on Friday, March 27, due to COVID-19.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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