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Special, Inside

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## Amenia residents provide feedback on park plans

By **LEILA HAWKEN**  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Residents attended a meeting of the Recreation Commission held on Tuesday, March 21, to continue discussion of conceptual plans for two distinct park areas for the town, one at Wassaic Park and the other adjacent to the Town Hall.

Plans drawn by landscape architect Jane Didona of Didona Associates in Danbury, Connecticut, visualize development of the 12 acres of Wassaic Park along Wassaic Creek as well as the land surrounding the Town Hall. Both sites involve wetland limitations, although both are seen as having potential for recreation.

The public is being urged to

provide their comments on the architect's drawings that conform to goals outlined within a five-year plan developed by the Recreation Commission. At a previous meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, commission Chairman Paul Winters sought to create community momentum working together to imagine the best recreational use of the properties.

At its recent meeting, the commission discussed whether enough feedback had been received from residents about the plans in general, detecting waning support for plans for a pump track, a hilly terrain constructed for use by cyclists and skateboarders, envisioned for the Wassaic site

See **PARK PLANS, A8**



PHOTO BY BRETT BERNARDINI

A scale model of the proposed renovations to the Stissing Center, subject to change.

## Stissing Center renovation overhaul in the works

By **ELIAS SORICH**  
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — For the Stissing Center (TSC) to move forward as a premier music, arts and cultural center, it's going to have to get ugly for a few months. Describing a host of renovations currently scheduled to kick off in September, Executive Director Brett Bernardini estimated that the work will take between nine and 12 months, and will include largely fundamental, structural fixes.

"I'm excited to finish because frankly, for us, the finishing of the building really represents the beginning. So I'm excited to get there."

Brett Bernardini, executive director

TSC's operational capacity will indeed change significantly during these renovations, but Bernardini described plans already in the works to continue its programming, from hosting offsite events to keeping the laundromat running, and even a faint hope that the building itself will

remain usable during portions of the renovations, pending necessary approvals.

While most of those details have been fully outlined, Bernardini emphasized that the exact contours of the renovations, par-

See **TSC, A8**

## New Pine Plains Herald hires Daisy Sindelar as managing editor

By **ELIAS SORICH**  
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Getting its start in 2022 with the goal of providing the town with "a reliable local source of news and events listings," the New Pine Plains Herald has recently taken a big step forward in hiring Daisy Sindelar as its managing editor.

Sindelar is a seasoned journalist with over 30 years of experience, having spent over 20 of those years at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), first as a reporter and editor, and then rising in the ranks to vice president and editor-in-chief, in addition to serving as acting president a number of times.

Stepping into the primary leadership role at the Herald, Sindelar has a number of objectives, hopes and approaches in mind to help the newspaper grow out of its nascency. One, however, remains intensely personal: Sindelar's



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Daisy Sindelar, managing editor of the New Pine Plains Herald**

grandmother, Christine Crouch, lived on South Main Street, and Sindelar grew up coming to Pine Plains nearly every year of her life.

That connection to the community and the desire to play a role in contributing to its vitality are part of what drew her in. But an equal driver is her belief in the

See **SINDELAR, A8**



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

### Pass the pancakes, please!

Cookie Selfridge, support member of the Millerton Fire Company, serves pancakes at the fire company's Breakfast for Dinner event on Saturday, March 25, where 108 people enjoyed pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, homefries and more at the firehouse. For more photos, turn to page A8.



**CONTACT**

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860-435-9873, ext. 608

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OUR TOWNS

# Pine Plains Historical Society marks town's 200th 'birthday' with County Historian talk

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum III spoke at the Nine Partners Historical Society meeting at the Pine Plains Free Library on Friday, March 24, just two days before the town celebrated its 200th anniversary on Sunday, March 26. The topic was, naturally, the birth of Pine Plains, or how it came to be its own entity, having split from the town of North East.

Tatum stated: "March 26, 1823, was a seminal as well as pivotal date for the municipal map of northern and eastern Dutchess County. The date of act creating Pine Plains as an independent town completed the process begun in 1818 when Milan first separated from the town of North East, the origins of which stretched back to the early Colonial period."

The final act in this municipal drama created the town of Pine Plains as we know it today and redrew the boundaries of North East and Amenia, shifting the old town line south. That change in town lines helps to explain why the

histories of North East and Amenia remain so closely interwoven today, while speaking to the prominence of Pine Plains from the 1770s onward."

His discussion included a description of the original eight partners and a kind of exposé of the ninth partner, who, as it turns out, was not always evident on paper. Tatum explained that there were several names for the group — the Little Nine Partners, the Great Nine Partners, and the Lower Nine Partners — which acquired a patent, or land grant in Dutchess County on May 27, 1697, from New York Gov. Benjamin Fletcher.

Pine Plains was settled as a farming community, and was thriving by 1770. Roads were already in place, and there was commercial traffic as well as a government. In 1683 (is this the correct year?) there were 12 original New York counties, and Dutchess was one of them. The land was divided into land "patents," as it was taken from the Indigenous tribes and at one point, a patent was formed: the North East Precinct, which included North East, Pine Plains and Milan.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left: Little Nine Partners Historical Society President Dyan Wapnick, Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum III and Edward Downey following Tatum's talk.

The North East Precinct lived into the 1800s, but evidently there was some growing dissatisfaction. Tatum remarked that a fire in 1911 in the state Capitol in Albany had wiped out most records, so while there is no written proof, it seems that both Pine Plains and Milan wanted to be

independent.

Some maps drawn at the time show changes in the geography; Milan became a town in 1818, and by 1823, Pine Plains did the same. However, Tatum pointed out that the 1823 law that led to the creation of the town of Pine Plains hardly mentions

Pine Plains, but says it is an act to "...divide the Towns of Northeast and Amenia, in the county of Dutchess."

Talking about this today, it would seem as though this was easily accomplished, but it wasn't. Some of the land belonged to the Schaghticoke-Mahican people, and a Moravian mission had been set up at Shekomeko around 1742. But by 1823, the mission had long since failed, and the land

was acquired from the Indigenous people who remained.

Another point that Tatum made clear was that, for a very long time, Amenia was much larger than it is now. Some of Amenia was given to North East in order to make that entity large enough to become its own town, because when Milan and Pine Plains pulled away from North East, there just wasn't enough left to declare it a town without "borrowing" from the much larger Amenia.

Pine Plains is dedicating much of the remainder of 2023 to events commemorating the bicentennial. Tatum's was followed by refreshments and lots of conversation, copies of the New Pine Plains Herald were available, and there was lots of excitement for the festivities that would be taking place on Sunday, March 26, with many more to follow as outlined by Town Supervisor Brian Walsh, planning board member Kate Osofsky and others. One highlight will be a reading of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" with Dutchess County Legislature Chair Greg Pulver playing the pivotal role of the Stage Manager.

More information about upcoming festivities can be found on the town website: [www.pineplains-ny.gov](http://www.pineplains-ny.gov)

## Hearing on former restaurant postponed

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — A March 20 Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on William Colgan's application to turn the derelict Chinese restaurant building into a dessert restaurant and apartment building never got going because of a last-moment filing from the commission's consulting engineer.

Colgan's plan includes using the restaurant space for a high-turnover dessert restaurant. The existing two apartments are to be converted to four units, and the old barns in the rear removed and a new multi-use building erected.

The problem was a letter from consulting engineer Thomas Grimaldi that was received a little before the 4 p.m. deadline on March 20. The five-page letter contained multiple questions and concerns in five areas: erosion and sedimentation control, the demolition plan, storm-water management and grading, the drainage plan, and a



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Plans for redevelopment of the former Chinese restaurant on Main Street in Lakeville, Conn., are on hold for the moment.

utilities plan.

Colgan expressed frustration, saying he believed he had addressed issues after a previous appearance before the commission in September 2022.

P&Z chair Michael Klemens apologized for the last-minute submission. "I'm not happy either," he said.

"This is not fair to the applicant," he continued. He asked Colgan to "stay the

course."

Klemens also said the first order of business is to get Grimaldi and Colgan's engineer together to work out the problems with the application.

And Klemens asked the commissioners if they agreed with continuing the public hearing to Monday, April 3 (online), adding it to the agenda of what was supposed to be a planning-only meeting.

The commissioners agreed.

In an email Friday, March 24, Klemens said efforts are underway to get the two engineers together.

## Millbrook to hold public hearing on budget, traffic

MILLBROOK — On Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m., the Village of Millbrook will hold a public hearing during the board of trustees meeting regarding the 2023-2024 budget and suggested traffic code changes.

The trustees will meet Wednesday, April 4, to conclude their work on the budget, with a vote possible on April 12. The discussion of the traffic code changes will then lead to a vote at the meeting on Wednesday, May 10.

Mayor Tim Collopy will get the monthly newsletter out by Wednesday, April 5, so that readers will be able to gain insight into the work being done and what will be voted on in the coming meetings. The newsletter will be available online at [villageofmillbrookny.com](http://villageofmillbrookny.com)

## 'Back to Nature' series to highlight native plants

COPAKE — The Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 Route 22, will continue its "Back to Nature" series Saturday, April 1, at 1 p.m. with a program presented by Tim Kennelty, a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteer through the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties

as well as a board member for the Columbia Land Conservancy. The program will focus on the benefits of planting, caring for and sourcing native trees and shrubs.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 518-325-4101 or go online to [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org)

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The rods that don't fit in the Fish Closet make it difficult to access the fishing books.

# Is it spring yet? Tangled Lines has jangled nerves

The transition between winter and spring is a tough time for this pescador.

Every time it looks like the planets will align, there's some weather, like the recent foot or so of snow.

I did take a whack at Housatonic in the no man's land between the power station in Falls Village and the falls the day after the snow-storm.

In previous years, under similar circumstances, I was able to coax some decent smallies into action on big Woolly Buggers, fished deep and slow. One year I was testing out a new 4 weight switch rod and lo! I caught a pike.

A somewhat languorous and unenthusiastic pike, to be sure. I could see its point of view.

There it was, minding its own business and thinking about maybe eating something to shake off the winter blahs.

Next thing it knows, it's being hauled out, placed in an entirely inadequate net and goggled at by some idiot.

The only time it showed any spunk was when I gingerly approached it with my fingers, to remove the fly.

It snarled, revealing its extremely impressive teeth. Also the slowly working jaw muscles.

I decided to sacrifice the fly, which, being debarbed, would be easy for the pike to work out of its mouth at some point.

I also took a recent flyer on one of the little blue lines to see if the brookies were awake.

This was an exercise in futility.

Waders and boots are always cumbersome.

But wearing waders and boots, in the woods, with a foot or more of snow concealing the terrain and generally making life difficult, isn't fishing.

It's floundering.

And no, the brookies were not awake.

This is also a bad time of year for the wallet.

It's tax time, of course. It's also fishing gear clearance time.

At last count I own 80-something fly rods and 30 or so reels.

I have also acquired numerous packs and vests, in the quest for the perfect system.

Every year I resolve to do something about this. Every year I wind up adding to the collection.

It makes a trip to the Fish Closet just that much more complicated.

Not that's it confined to the closet. There are rod tubes behind the so-called dining table, and obscuring the book shelf, which is largely devoted

## TANGLED LINES

Patrick L. Sullivan

to fishing books.

I could try to sell surplus rods on eBay, but experience tells me I will be inundated with low-ball offers and impossible questions, such as:

"Hi! I'm 5'10" and speak five languages if you include gibberish. When was this rod made, and how does it compare to the Acme Rod Company's similar offering from the Oct. 1928 catalog? Also may I have it for one dollar and will you pick up the shipping?"

I am only exaggerating a little.

So as I wait for fishing to start in earnest, making do with fishing books, fishing videos, fishing conversations and lucid fishing dreams, I must resist the urge to pick up last season's Greatest Rod Ever at a bargain price.

Although there's one rod...

No. Get a grip. Look at the Fish Closet. You really think you can cram something else in there?

OBITUARIES

## Donna L. Spickler

SALISBURY — Donna L. Spickler, age 77, of Dagsboro, Delaware died Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, Maryland. She was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and was the daughter of the late George Evans and Ada (Bonar) Evans.



She had a strong devotion to her family, friends and social causes. Some of these social causes included equality for all, women's rights, climate change and helping anyone who needed it. Her extraordinary love and faith created relationships that made this world a better place.

Donna had been a director at the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in Wheeling, West Virginia and Belmont County, Ohio. She also worked as the Office Manager of Oglebay Park and the Good Zoo. She was a member of South Coastal DE AARP, AARP Choir, AARP Artisan Fair, Shore Dems and the 41st RD Democratic Club.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Theodore R. Spickler; her children, Tracy Cooper, Dena Timper, Rebecca Fiest, Adrian Spickler and wife Christina Spickler; eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

There will be three celebrations of Donna's life at later dates in Delaware, West Virginia and Connecticut.

Donations in Donna's memory may be made to the South Coastal DE AARP Chapter #5226, c/o Dottie Rieck, P.O. Box 286, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. Another option that was dear to her heart is the Oglebay Good Zoo. Donations can be made to the Oglebay Foundation with a designation to the Good Zoo.

Condolences may be sent by visiting [www.bishophastingsfh.com](http://www.bishophastingsfh.com)

## Lewis R. Norton

KENT — Lewis R. Norton of Kent passed away peacefully on March 21, 2023, at the Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation facility in New Milford. He was 81.

Lewis was born Feb. 7, 1942, in Nashville, Tennessee, and was the son of the late Charles and Elizabeth Norton. He spent his childhood in Plymouth, Connecticut, before moving to Meridian where he spent most of his adult life, before retiring in Kent.

Lewis was an active mem-

ber of the Kent Congregational Church where he sang in the choir.

Lewis was predeceased by his son Matthew, three nieces, and several grand nephews and nieces, two great-grand-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Kent Congregational Church on Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Congregational Church, PO Box 306, Kent, CT 06757.

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## The MILLERTON NEWS

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## Worship Services

Week of April 2, 2023

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

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**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
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**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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Rev. Paul Christopherson  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
In-Person and on YouTube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30  
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**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons  
The next meeting will be Sunday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialoi@gmail.com](mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
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**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
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SUNDAY MASSES  
8 AM - St. Bernard  
10 AM - Sacred Heart  
WEEKDAY MASSES  
Monday & Friday  
9 AM - Sacred Heart  
Tuesday  
9 AM - St. Bernard

**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**  
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT  
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.  
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Lenten Services on Website  
Rev. John Kreta  
860-824-1340 | [allsaintsofamerica.us](mailto:allsaintsofamerica.us)

**The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall**  
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for an invitation to the Zoom service  
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# Springtime activities in Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The village of Millbrook will host a variety of activities this spring.

The Millbrook Fire Department reminds one and all that there is a burn ban in effect through Sunday, May 14.

The Millbrook tennis courts will reopen on Saturday, April 1, and will remain open through Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The third annual Millbrook Marathon will take place Sunday, April 16, presented by the Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club, on 26.2 miles of roads in Millbrook and the surrounding area. For more information or to sign up, go to millbrook-marathon.com

Grace Church's Great Whale of a Rummage Sale will take place Friday April 21, and Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church, 3328 Franklin Ave. Clothes, household items, homemade baked



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Millbrook tennis courts are ready for action after last year's renovations and will open Saturday, April 1. They are located near the Gazebo on Elm Drive.

goods, jams and jellies, toys, games, antiques, sports equipment, and other items will be available.

The Great Millbrook Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 19, and Sunday, May 20. To take part or request a space in a yard to share, send an email with your name, address, phone number and email address to TJNY2025@gmail.com and put "vendor participation" in the subject

line. The deadline to confirm and be listed on the flyer is Monday, April 10.

The Master Gardeners Plant Sale at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), 2715 Rte 44, will take place on Friday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On sale will be vegetables, flowers, plants, perennials and annuals grown by the Master Gardeners of

CCEDC.

The Millbrook Farmers Market is now the Millbrook Farmers and Makers Market and will be open on Saturdays May 27 through Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrating its 33rd year in 2023, it is the oldest-running farmers market in Dutchess County and features local fresh produce and homemade items. It is located at the junction of Front Street and Franklin Avenue.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for March 16 to March 22.

March 17 — Deputies responded to 444 Indian Lake Road in the Town of North East for a reported past burglary. Upon arrival Deputies confirmed burglary with forced entry had been committed. Complainant reported jewelry and a television were stolen. Investigation currently underway.

March 19 — Deputies responded to Route 22 in the Town of Pawling for past burglary and larceny of copper hardware and piping from an unoccupied dwelling. Investigation underway.

Match 20 — Deputies responded to 519 Mill Street in

the Village of Millerton for a boyfriend vs. girlfriend physical domestic dispute. Investigation at the scene resulted in the arrest of David J. Morel, 35, for Criminal Mischief 3rd, and Harassment 2nd. Morel was arraigned in Town of North East Court and was released to appear at a later date.

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

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

# Recent property sales report for listings in Pine Plains

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County towns. Below is a listing sales in the Town of Pine Plains during January and February. Most of these transactions had a signed contract between buyer and seller in late 2022; however, the sale was not completed until 2023.

Note that Pine Plains offers a range of housing options with an average sales price during January and February of \$278,143.

### January 2023

20 Fabrello Lane for \$435,000 on .65 acres, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms

159 Hoffman Road for \$132,000 on .27 acres, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath

3048 Church St. for \$225,000 on .26 acres 5 bedrooms, 2 bath

3004-3008 Church St. for \$165,000 on .68 acres, 5 bedrooms 4 bath

### February 2023

12 Bethel Place for \$374,500 on .52 acres, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath

16 Academy St. for \$265,000 on .13 acres, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath

3469 Route 199 sold for \$350,500 on 5.57 acres, 3 bedrooms 2.5 bath

Note: Pine Plains residential sales closed between Jan. 1, 2023, and Feb. 28, 2023, sourced from Mid-Hudson MLS and Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency.

Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This small cottage at 16 Academy St. was built in 1870 and sold in February for \$265,000.

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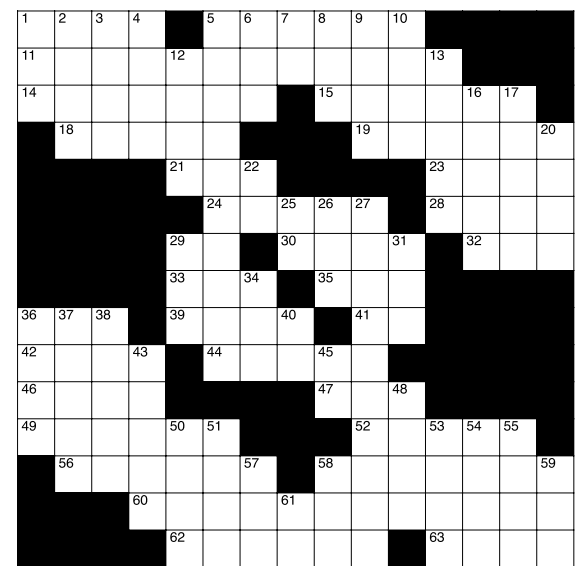
PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

A Millerton Village lady

## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

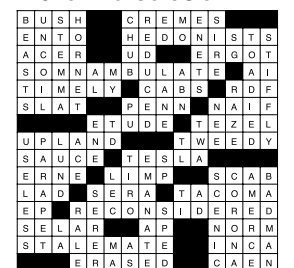
1. Millisecond
5. Narcotic drug
11. Accident
14. Formal submissions
15. Popular 70s rock band
18. Discourage from doing
19. More socially elite
21. Arid
23. A way to look
24. Heroes
28. A surfer rides it
29. Potato state
30. Insect repellent
32. Cool!
33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity
36. To the \_\_\_ degree
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood type
42. Looked over
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
46. Species of armadillo
47. Touch softly
49. Part of your upper body
52. Large, stocky lizards
56. Lack of social or ethical standards
58. Congressman
60. Unofficial force
62. As a result of this utterance
63. A main branch of Islam



16. English composer
17. Wooded tract
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
25. Take too much (abbr.)
26. Allow
27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell
31. Bar bill
34. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
36. Not messy
37. Species that includes reedmae
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state
43. Wilt
45. Commercial
48. Bolivian river
50. Nursemaid

51. A car needs four
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state
55. Clusters of fern fronds
57. Body part
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
61. Of I

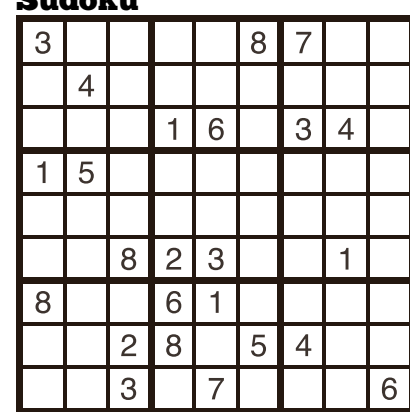
### March 23 Solution



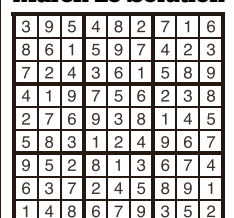
### CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)
2. Province of Pakistan
3. This (Spanish)
4. Transportation device
5. Greater in importance or priority
6. The human foot
7. Within
8. Consumed
9. Respectful Malaysian term
10. Therefore
12. Ceased to exist
13. Type of macaroni

### Sudoku



### March 23 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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## OUR TOWNS

# Abstract artist brings studio, gallery back to Millerton

By EMILY EDELMAN  
emilye@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Formerly an Oddfellows Hall and Masonic Lodge among other incarnations, the building at 5 Main St. in which artist Harper Blanchet has just opened his Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery represents a literal homecoming for Blanchet, as he lived and worked in the very same spot from 2002 to 2008.

Blanchet's first artistic medium was photography, and he was heavily influenced by his amateur photographer father, whose job as a chemical engineer and subsequent interest in the chemistry aspect of and science behind photographic film development caused Blanchet to pick up his first camera at the age of 7.

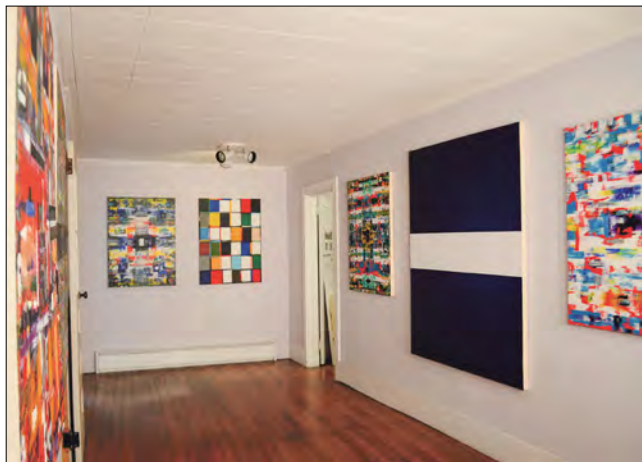
He started painting in 1970, though, at the time, he was painting houses. He began to paint on canvas in 1980.

Blanchet's art and love of nature have taken him to varied locations in the Northeast, with former studios in the Catskills and Northern Vermont as well as the more local environs of Copake and Ancram, and West Cornwall and Falls Village in Connecticut.

"Whatever my space is, [there are] two things I want to do," said Blanchet. "I want to make it very functional, and I want to make it very visual." This is evident right away upon walking into his workroom at the entrance to the space: Everything is tidy and neat, with all tools and ephemera laid out in a way that is both eye-catching and organized.

"All my negatives and slides, they're all catalogued. Everything is ID'd and organized; otherwise, it gets to be chaos."

He specializes in active abstracts and color field paint-



A selection of paintings by artist Harper Blanchet in his Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery at 5 Main St. in Millerton.

ings. He has a background in carpentry and makes his own canvas stretchers.

Blanchet described what he does as "building" rather than painting a piece.

"What's going on in the corners, what's included on the inside of the edge, what's negated on the outside of the edge, what's going on in the interior ... it's very engaging. So I'm building up, and I'm erasing, and the idea is that you're always trying to make the painting stronger."

When asked how he decides what to paint, Blanchet answered, "Sometimes I have an idea of what I'm going to do with the paint, other times I just get a lot of paint on the canvas and then I start my adding and subtracting."

"So it just starts. You put the canvas up, it's a white canvas, and then you start. It's very creative — I can do anything. Let's put a yellow ground on it, or maybe I'll break it up into 10 areas and do 10 different colors, or the middle on both sides will be the same color."

Blanchet said there is no hidden meaning in any of his paintings. "My paintings don't represent anything ... [they're] just form, color, edge — things

like that. There's no message ... there's no verbal at all, it's just totally visual."

How long does a painting take? "I don't time it. I'm working on maybe 12 paintings at the same time ... It could add up to a week, two weeks. I work on one for a while, put it down, pick up another one."

"I never consider my paintings finished," said Blanchet. "I could always work on them."

Blanchet gives his paintings numbers in lieu of titles, and he's now up to No. 618. When he moved back to 5 Main St. in September 2022, he was at No. 600.

The gallery features only paintings at the moment, though Blanchet remains steadfast in his search for a "dream patron" to offset the monetary expense of film development. "I used to have a darkroom and I was a master printer, but I would just rather take the photographs," he said.

Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment. More information is available at [www.harperblanchet.com](http://www.harperblanchet.com).



PHOTOS BY EMILY EDELMAN

Artist Harper Blanchet with his painting No. 407 in his newly opened Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery.



An assortment of Harper Blanchet's painting supplies sit under a wall of photographs at the Twilight Studios and the Blue Star Gallery.



Painting No. 402 by Harper Blanchet.

## Chamber of Commerce announces scholarships

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Chamber Foundation of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications from undergraduates for the Cosimo DiBrizzi Culinary Arts Scholarship, the Eileen

Hickey Nursing Scholarship, the Juan Lafuente Leadership Scholarship, the Norman and Rita Nussbickel Memorial Scholarship, and the Richard W. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship.

Students may apply for multiple scholarships. For more information, contact Laura at [laura@chamberfdn.org](mailto:laura@chamberfdn.org) or 845-454-1700 ext. 1025. Applications are due Saturday, April 15, and can be made via an online form at [dcrcc.org/scholarships](http://dcrcc.org/scholarships)

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# Cary Institute celebrates 40 years of science research with tours, film and cupcakes

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Pastel icing on cupcakes, kids at microscopes, and wild animals on screen were all a part of the celebration that took place at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on Friday, March 24. From 5 to 6:30 p.m., more than 140 people registered to join the institute in paying homage to the 40 years that Cary has been a part of the scientific world, as well as a part of Millbrook.

There were 10 tours scheduled, with people being taken all through Cary, learning about the institute, how it works and what it does for the public. Most people know about the grounds at Cary, the Fern Glen, hiking trails and wildlife, but on the tours, they were able to learn about the many scientists and technicians who work at Cary, and the equipment that is used for ongoing research.

Cary is well-known for the work it has done in many areas, but most notably ticks and Lyme disease; the study of invasive species on native trees and plants; and the effects of forest fires on the future of woodlands, what causes these fires and what the expected outcomes are.

Many of the research projects have had to do with the spread of pandemics; the dangers of medicines being dumped and contaminating public waters; greening urban neighborhoods; and identifying the animals and blights that can damage forest life and cause disease.

Cary is also famous for the study of Wappinger Creek, the Hudson River and the tributaries in the area, studying both the animal populations and the plants and vegetation in the waters and around them. Its ongoing monitoring system is famous throughout the world.

Many budding scientists get training from the institute through summer intern programs, and starting even younger with Data Jam, a program that takes place every year for middle- and high-

school students to take on a project, individually or as a group, and to enter into a science project fair with cash prizes and the chance to learn science through the program.

The tours began in the newly renovated Cary headquarters. Also set up there was an ongoing loop of film taken on Cary property of wildlife including bears, foxes, coyotes, beavers and others, all recorded as the animals played, ate and hunted, totally unaware that they were being filmed. Data specialist Adrian Castellanos was on hand to talk about the filming process.

Asked about what the 40th-year celebration meant to him, Castellanos, who has worked at Cary for three

years, said: "I think of all the scientists who have been here through those years and the work that they've done. Just the sheer knowledge and the gamut of purpose from the people who have been here is amazing."

That Cary Institute is about the future and not the past was evident in the celebration; there were no speeches from President Joshua Ginsberg, no reflections on past glories, just many ways to learn about what Cary does and how it does it, and a chance to meet with the many scientists and others who make Cary what it is. Those working the event were very pleased with the turnout of people taking advantage of this learning ex-

perience.

A room was set aside for children, and there were a great many of them. There were coloring materials for drawing and scientific materials that were age-appropriate, but the most compelling project was the microscopes set up to view the fungi that can be found on the roots of trees. Many of the youngsters were thrilled to be able to observe findings though the microscopes, a way of introducing the very young to the world of science.

Also on hand was Mike Fargione, who was originally introduced to Cary Institute as an undergraduate who worked there in the summer of 1981. He returned to Cary in 2014, and is the manager of field and outdoor programs. Fargione had a multitude of pamphlets containing information on the trails of Cary, as well as the other programs and projects that are a part of Cary's everyday, ongoing projects of research and discovery.



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Adrian Castellanos, data specialist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, discussed animal life and habitat at Cary during its 40th anniversary celebration on Friday, March 24.



A room was set up for children with drawing and construction materials as well as microscopes for viewing the fungi that can be found on the roots of trees.



Mike Fargione, manager of field and outdoor programs, had a table filled with information about Cary and its scientific projects, as well as information on its hiking trails.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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**PARK PLANS** *Continued from Page A1*

Winters reported that residents' comments are generally favorable on the plan for the Town Hall site, with the exception of wanting to preserve the basketball courts, rather than converting that area to vehicle parking as shown in the plan.

Resident Josh Frankel spoke at the meeting to suggest adding covered picnic tables to the Town Hall site plan.

Commission secretary Peter McCaffrey responded that some ideas can be added to the plan at any point in the process.

The Wassaic Park site drew more discussion, including considerable debate about introducing a dog park feature and how that suggestion might impact the flood plain in the area. Dog exercise parks in both the town center and in Wassaic were seen by residents as both a social draw and revenue generator for the town center.

McCaffrey noted that the maintenance of such areas is

often provided by a nonprofit that is formed for the purpose.

Bowie Barnett-Zunino and Jeff Barnett-Winsby, executive directors of the Wassaic Project, a year-round artist residency program, attended the meeting to comment on the plans, supportive of the concept of creating a safer playground in Wassaic. They also described the need to provide more parking in Wassaic village and the provide additional parking for users of the rail trail.

Both described a longer-range view of the village of Wassaic that should be accounted for in the current plans, asking for an opportunity to meet with the architect and describe their larger vision.

"We're thinking about the hamlet as a whole," Frankel said.

McCaffrey indicated that residents' comments on the architect's plans are still being collected for public discussion at future meetings.

**TSC** *Continued from Page A1*

ticularly its timeline, are subject to change, owed in part to supply chain difficulties, COVID-19-related industry challenges, and the sorts of delays that can come with any renovation or building project.

As for next steps, Bernardini will go before the Pine Plains Planning Board in May with a comprehensive update. At that point, the board will have a few months to review the plans and make recommendations before the Stissing Center moves forward in September, the kind of collaboration Bernardini portrayed as critical to the organization's approach to its role within the town.

Bernardini was simultaneously excited by the possibilities opened up by the renovations, and accepting of the degree to which pulling off the Band-Aid is a challenging and somewhat unglamorous necessity.

"The building is going to look terrible, because it will

be entirely wrapped ground to roof with scaffolding. But the entire roof has to come off. It cannot be repaired. It's in such bad shape that we can't even put gutters up because nails will not stick in what might normally be called wood."

Once the work is done, Bernardini believes the Stissing Center will have set itself up for years to come. Though the building has three floors and ample space, the organization is currently only able to make use of the main floor in its programming, which, from the perspective of an executive director's responsibilities, "is like trying to run a business at a third of your capacity."

In addition to making office space available on-site for a staff that currently works elsewhere, paving a small area for handicap parking, completing the Cellar at the Center (a community space on the ground level with kitchen capacity), and building an add-on that will host an elevator and additional stairs,

the fully renovated Stissing Center will include a gallery space, room for more varied event hosting, and a projectionist's booth to screen films and documentaries.

An intervening step, however, involves funding the overhaul, which comes with a price tag of \$3 million, \$1 million of which will be allocated to replacing the mansard roof. Previous to Bernardini's tenure, the Stissing Center had already developed plans and fundraised for many of the renovations that will take place. From that effort three years back, the organization has \$1.8 million saved away.

However, in the ensuing years, COVID-19 stymied the organization's ability to begin work, and the costs associated subsequently ballooned. So, Bernardini has two plans to fill in the gap and raise the necessary funds, the first of which involves a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) capital grant for \$1.2 million that TSC has already

applied for and will hear back on in May.

Bernardini's failsafe is that he plans to raise \$1 million this year regardless of the NYSCA grant, and that money that will go to renovations if necessary, and be allocated to other operational and programming needs if not.

"We're gonna get to the other side, and we will have what we will have the capacity to deliver on what everybody has invested in through their generosity. Then we will be able to bring that to life, and we won't be fundraising sort of ad nauseam for the next four years. People have been generous, they want results, and we need to deliver those results.... It's like running a road race. It feels great at the beginning, and as you get closer to the end, you're like 'Are we done? Are we done?' I'm excited to finish because frankly, for us, the finishing of the building really represents the beginning. So I'm excited to get there."

**SINDELAR** *Continued from Page A1*

importance and legitimacy of the work of community journalism, and the way in which her international experience could provide useful perspectives on it.

"I've had an extraordinarily lucky life as a journalist, working in some of the most interesting places in the world where journalism and the right to free speech are perpetually under threat. That has been a life-changing experience . . . I wanted to take what I had learned and apply it to my own country, which I think also has those needs. That work has always been personal."

Describing a landscape of local journalism that has changed rapidly over the last 10 years, Sindelar spoke to the degree to which she believes the role of information partner within a community is one that, in large part, must be defined by that community rather than from the top down.

"If, in the past, an editorial board or a journalist sat back and thought, 'What am I going to do for this week's issue?', it very often was their decision alone. I think what's changed is that there's an understanding that journalism really has to be a two-way communication between the journalist and between the community. I can't decide in isolation what is important for the people of Pine Plains. I really need to hear from them what's important to them, what's relevant to them."

Accordingly, the beginning weeks and months of Sindelar's time as managing editor will focus primarily on listening to the community and trying to get a deeper sense for how best to position the Herald in that contributing role. However, some topics have already emerged as clear focal points for the community, including wastewater infrastructure, changes to the school district, and the proposed solar project installation near Pulvers Corners.

To Sindelar, coverage of such issues represents a fundamental objective for a newspaper: helping to chart and assist in understanding the course of change in the region.

"Like all small towns, Pine Plains is changing, and there are different opinions about whether that change is neces-

sary, how quickly it should come, what the impact of the change is going to be. Creating a platform for conversation about those issues is what's really exciting for me.

"I think there are fascinating, remarkable people who make up this community who perhaps haven't quite found the best way for coming together and discussing some of those issues. I think a newspaper, or news product, really has to be an essential part of that conversation."

As for where the Herald is headed next in physical terms, it recently produced a special print edition for the Pine Plains bicentennial, its first foray into print. But reflecting a mindset that strives to also look beyond the logistics of how best to deliver news, Sindelar expressed a primary goal to build the Herald into an organization where its role within the community is known and defined both by the people of the town and the newspaper itself.

"When someone in Pine Plains comes up to me and says, 'I really enjoyed that article, it really answered questions for me,' that will be the moment when I think the Herald is really a success. I don't know how long that will take; it does take a while for new news ventures to find their footing and to really connect with the audience, but that's what I'm looking for."

**Sindelar expressed a primary goal to build the Herald into an organization where its role within the community is known and defined both by the people of the town and the newspaper itself.**

**Marking the return of Breakfast for Dinner**

**From left: Hillsdale Fire Company life member Bob White and wife Betty, and Jackie and Bob Dextraze of the Copake Fire Company attending the Millerton Fire Company's Breakfast for Dinner event on Saturday, March 25.**



**Firefighter Shane Watson helps staff the busy kitchen.**



PHOTOS BY EMILY EDELMAN

**From left: Webutuck High School seniors Addie Selfridge, Anna O'Haloran and Clayton Roger with sophomore and firefighter Connor Watson fulfilled National Honor Society community service hours.**



**From left: Former chief and current Millerton Fire Company board member Keith Roger makes pancakes with help from Lt. Zack Decker and Vice President Kelly Roger.**

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## We Are Now in Susan Rand's Blue Period

Susan Rand has taken to the water. In a new show, "Sink or Swim," at Standard Space in Sharon, Conn., that will open to the public on April 1, Rand explores a radical departure from her previous country scenics. The quintessential local Litchfield County artist has been showing work in the area for nearly four years, with exhibitions at the library in Salisbury School in Salisbury, Conn., The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, and the former White Gallery in Lakeville, Conn. A Connecticut native, her husband is Salisbury's longtime First Selectman Curtis Rand, whose family tree includes his grandmother, the late Ellen Emmett Rand, a Salisbury painter herself whose portraiture subjects included Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Susan Rand, the niece of Ethel Kennedy, has her own New England Democrat ties.)

Up until now, Rand has been known for her stark scenes of uninhabited rural architecture — open barn doors with interiors obscured in shadow, the aging wood painted in greens that ranged from acidic lime to olive brine, with heavy snow blanketing her landscapes in an unsettling quiet chill. Rand captured the historic quality of the Connecticut landscape,

but also its eerie, private residents who claim multiple acres so as to live out of sight. That quality of unease, or at least, the subtext of voyeurism, is intentional on Rand's part. "To me, it always looks like somebody's watching. There's someone behind the door and you just can't see them," she said of her work during a phone interview.

Her new series takes inspiration from her time away from Connecticut — her yearly trips to a friend's house in the Bahamas and more recently during the pandemic, a studio she rented on the cheap from a vacant artist's residency on Fishers Island, N.Y. Leaving behind painting from life *en plein air*, Rand has let her imagination, and the water, take hold.

"I started working from memory, which was something I've never done before," Rand said. "I'm so used to trying so hard to get the perspective right on buildings, and suddenly I was painting figures from my imagination. I decided to suspend the inner critic and just let myself paint."

Unlike David Hockney, who has continuously returned to a signature blue palette for his California swimming pool

aquamarines, Rand's coastline series deploys a unique shade of blue for each piece. Her exploration of the color never settles, hinting at an artist testing the waters, as it were. With broad, kinetic strokes, Rand's beach scenes largely feature impressions of lonely, moody swimmers, lounging, bathing, even sinking under the surf, but turned away, unaware of Rand's prying gaze.

"I think I had a voice in my architectural paintings — emptiness, isolation — and I think that voice has carried into these new paintings. They're completely different, but that same voice is front and center."

An artist's reception will be held for Rand's "Sink or Swim" at Standard Space on Saturday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. For more go to [www.standardsspace.net](http://www.standardsspace.net)



COURTESY OF STANDARD SPACE

Night Swim by Susan Rand



Swimmers Number 3 by Susan Rand

### Contribute to your local arts section

Seeking writers with knowledge of classical music or theater. Send a short cover letter and a sample of your writing to [alexw@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:alexw@lakevillejournal.com)

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

### Falstaff

The Met: Live will present Giuseppe Verdi's "Falstaff" on Saturday, April 1 at 12:30 p.m. Bari-

tone Michael Volle stars as Shakespeare's buffoon. Screenings will be held at both the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., and at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.

### Bad Grass Series at The White Hart

Toshi Yano, managing director of equity at The Perfect Earth Project, a nonprofit dedicated to improving land care practices, will host the third installment of The Bad Grass Speaker Series on Friday, March 31, at 5:30 p.m. at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn. Yano has also served as the director of horticulture at Wethersfield Estate and Garden, a 1930s manor open to visitors in Amenia, N.Y. Tickets for this talk can be purchased at [www.silvaetpratun.net](http://www.silvaetpratun.net). Proceeds will benefit The Perfect Earth Project.

Calendar continued on next page

## At The Movies

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**National Theatre Live**  
 SUNDAY APR. 9 @ 1 PM  
 STRAIGHT LINE  
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 LAST SHOWING

**MET LIVE IN HD**  
 FALSTAFF  
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**KYRA SEDGWICK**  
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**WBSL FM 91.7**  
 Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

**DANCE: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

# Nutmeg Ballet Brings 'Beauty' To The Warner Stage

The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory held its annual spring performances last weekend, just next door to their studio at the neighboring Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn. Though the city's downtown has seen a recent revitalization of the arts, particularly with the creation of Five Points Gallery and its outposts, Nutmeg Ballet has trained students for over five decades since its founding by Sharon Dante in 1969. Considering its origin as a one-room studio, the ballet conservatory, now under the artistic director of Victoria Mazzarelli, currently takes up an impressive stretch of Main Street.

Nutmeg Ballet's December production of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" has become a regular holiday draw, but the spring performance offered a varied showcase for the conservatory's students to flash their skills in both classic and contemporary choreography. The first act included musical selections that ranged from Joseph Haydn's "Divertimento" composition, Dean Martin's 1960s pop, and a modern score by film and television composer Max Richter. The real treat, however, came in the second act, with beautifully costumed excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty."

Composed at the end of the 19th century, the

Russian ballet follows the calamitous christening of the cursed princess who falls into a 100-year slumber until awakened by a traveling prince. Nutmeg's production opened with the delightful "Grande Valse Villageoise" known commonly as "The Garland Waltz" with the kingdom's townsfolk performing a jubilant dance of flowers in honor of the princess's 16th birthday. This is the ballet's most famous tune, reworked by Walt Disney as "Once Upon A Dream" for the 1959 animated film.

The celebration then jumped to the ballet's conclusion — the nuptials of Princess Aurora and Prince Désiré, attended by a host of fairy tale characters who perform in succession, granting ensemble members each a turn under the spotlight. Molly Grealis and Andrew Roberts found good comedy as Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf, while Cameron Sedlack and Nathaniel Penland shone as they maneuvered the challenging wedding pas de deux. The pair that proved to be the particular standout, clad in cerulean feathers, was Julianne Arduino as Princess Florine with the role of The Blue Bird performed by Eli Petraccia, who is, in any age group, a magnificent leaper on the stage.

For more on Nutmeg Ballet and future performances go to [www.nutmegconservatory.org](http://www.nutmegconservatory.org)



PHOTOS BY LUKE HAUGHWOUT



COURTESY OF CAROL COREY FINE ART

*Iris and Poppies IX by Elise Ansel*

Now on View At Kent Barnes

Carol Corey Fine Art in Kent, Conn., presents a mix-media group show titled "At Bloom." At Craven Contemporary, "In Conversation with Bruno Leydet" features David Hockney, Nan Goldin and Elizabeth Peyton. An artist's reception for "The Presence of Absence" featuring work by Brett Eberhardt and Gregory Hennen will be held at Kenise Barnes Fine Art on Saturday, April 1 at 4 p.m.

Call For Juried Printmaking Show

Five Points Arts in Torrington, Conn., is now accepting submissions for a juried print exhibition. Artists 18 and older may submit any style of printmaking through Sunday, April 9 at midnight. To apply go to [www.fivepointsarts.org](http://www.fivepointsarts.org)

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

**Charles Busch at The Sharon Playhouse**

Tony-nominated actor/director Charles Busch ("Die Mommie Die," "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife") will perform his latest cabaret show, "My Foolish Heart," at The Bok Theater at The Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., on Saturday, April 15 at 7 p.m. His eclectic songbook includes the best of Michel Legrand, Stephen Sondheim, Henry Mancini and Joni Mitchell. For tickets go to [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)

**Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon at The Moviehouse**

Director Kyra Sedgwick and actor Kevin Bacon will present their new film "Space Oddity" with a post-show Q&A at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., on Saturday, April 1 at 6: 30 p.m. Sedgwick and Bacon will be joined in conversation on the making of the film by noted producer, director and actor Griffin Dunne. For tickets go to [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)

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# OUR TOWNS

## Back-up vocals in the starring role

Vocalist Janice Pendarvis, second from left, and the Wholesome Hucksters — from left, Jon Paul, Bob Asini, Mike Kelley and Boot Calkins — prior to their performance Saturday, March 25, at the Millbrook Library. Pendarvis has been a back-up vocalist for famous artists including Sting, David Bowie, Phillip Glass, and the Rolling Stones, and she and the Wholesome Hucksters were the final act for the Millbrook Arts Group's 2023 Winter Concert Series. Titled "20 Feet From Stardom," the program was a career retrospective and concert demonstration that ran from 5 to 7 p.m. A reception was held with finger foods and beverages. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.



PHOTO BY BOB BUTTON

## Sheriff's Office to offer boating safety courses

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office will offer the New York Safe Boating Course in April and May to educate boaters and assure compliance with Brianna's Law.

As of 2023, anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1983, will need a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a vessel, and those born on or after Jan. 1, 1978, will need one beginning in 2024. All operators regardless of age will need a certificate in 2025.

Classes will be conducted in two four-hour sessions on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings in the community room of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Center, 108 Parker Ave. The dates of the classes are April 21 and 22; April 28 and 29; May 5 and 6; and May 19 and 20.

The classes are free but registration is required due to limited session size. For more information or to register, call the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3840.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2023-2024 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2023-2024 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective May 2, 2023, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education: two seats are for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2026 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent board members Judy Moran and Rick Keller Coffey, one (1) seat to fill the vacant seat occupied

by Chris Mayville (from the resignation of Chris Lounsbury) commencing on May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026, and one (1) seat to fill the vacant seat occupied by Aimee Wesley (from the resignation of Jessica Deister) commencing on May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

B. To adopt the annual budget of the North East (Webutuck) Central School District for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.

C. 2023 - 2024 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2) school buses at a maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$293,164; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District and/or enter into installment purchase agreements at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$293,164, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. Construction Capital Reserve Fund

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to (1) create a Construction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the construction of, and general improvements, reconstruction, renovations or additions to, the District's buildings and grounds, including site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings and grounds are to be used; (2) fund said reserve to the ultimate amount of \$10,000,000; and (3) annually deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund,

unallocated fund balance and/or transfer from other funds, as determined by the Board of Education.

The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with Clerk of the District no later than Monday, April 17, 2023, by 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, in the form and manner prescribed by Section 2018 of the Education Law. Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at-large for the vacant seats. Such petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the School District, shall state the residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. The petition shall also describe the length of the term of the office and contain the name of the last incumbent. Petition forms may be picked up on any school day at the Office of the District Clerk, at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. or on the district's website at [www.webutuckschools.org](http://www.webutuckschools.org) beginning March 1, 2023.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election

to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district's website at [www.webutuckschools.org](http://www.webutuckschools.org) beginning March 1, 2023. The application must be returned to the District Clerk by May 9, 2023 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 15, 2023, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 16, 2023.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure

for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote, May 2, 2023. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 17, 2023; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter  
Clerk of the Board  
Northeast (Webutuck)  
Central School District  
194 Haight Road,  
P.O. Box 405  
Amenia, NY 12501  
03-30-23

### PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Plains Town Board will hold a public hearing on the adoption of a Local Law entitled: A Local Law Amending Chapter 235, Taxation, of the Town of Pine Plains Code to add a new Article VI titled: "Tax Exemption for Qualified Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers" on April 20, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. at the Pine Plains Town Hall, located at 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. A copy of the proposed Local Law is available for inspection on the Town's official website and at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Any person desiring to be heard on the adoption of said Local Law shall be given an opportunity to do so. Dated: March 20, 2022

BY ORDER OF THE PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD

MADELIN DAFOE  
Town Clerk  
03-30-23

### Village of Millerton 2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing

Please take notice that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Millerton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 10th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Village Hall, 5933 N. Elm Avenue, to invite the public for their input on the Village of Millerton Budget for 2023-2024 fiscal year. Please refer to the Village website, [www.villageofmillerton.com](http://www.villageofmillerton.com) for a copy of the Preliminary 2023-2024 Budget. The Mayor's salary will be \$9,000.00, Deputy Mayor's salary will be \$5,000.00 and Trustees salary will be \$3,500.00 each.

By order of the Village Board of Trustees  
Nicole Richard  
-Village Clerk  
03-30-23

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to [legals@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:legals@lakevillejournal.com) or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Go to [www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices](http://www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices) to view current and past legal notices.

EDITORIAL

Intern season

Last summer The Millerton News lost an outstanding reporter, Kaitlin Lyle, who had covered the news for the paper for five years. Many readers still talk about Kaitlin, recalling her byline on so many stories. Kaitlin was moving on to bigger pastures at The News-Times in Danbury. Upon her departure, she commented about what it meant to get close to the communities covered by The Millerton News.

Here's what she said: "I didn't know much about them (the communities), which businesses are time honored, how government worked, the school communities, what sets people apart from everyone else. I like doing a deeper dive into the communities I thought I knew to learn there was so much more to uncover."

Kaitlin was a junior in college when she decided to inquire about a summer internship at The Lakeville Journal, our sister paper, which has a reputation for intensive, hands-on internships. Again this year, The Journal and The News will sponsor paid internships for a few promising journalists.

Our editors are in touch with journalism schools in the tri-state region as part of a recruiting effort, including some in Dutchess County.

On Saturday, the papers participated in an intern job fair at UConn in Storrs, where more than 50 journalism students who are either rising seniors or are about to graduate got a chance to meet newsroom editors representing newspapers, online publications, and radio and television stations.

The event was sponsored by UConn's Department of Journalism and its Society of Professional Journalists.

At Storrs, it was encouraging to see so much journalism crammed into one room at Oak Hall. Journalism seemed alive and well — although it is on the move. The experience and interests among tomorrow's journalists includes print media, but obviously has reached past the print model to social media, video, television and radio news programming, blogging, and whatever is coming.

Since Kaitlin's departure last summer, The Millerton News also has been on the move. With generous support from The Lakeville Journal Foundation, which publishes The News as a 501 (c)(3) organization, we have been building our staff across eastern Dutchess County. That includes town coverage of the Village of Millerton, the Town of North East, and Pine Plains, Millbrook and Amenia.

We have added several new part-time staff people, and full-time Managing Editor Emily Edelman, and bolstered reporting with some new writers. Our goal is to provide primary coverage to eastern Dutchess County readers, and give our readers stories that span the regional landscape.

This summer, we look forward to sponsoring our own group of interns, and we will introduce them to you when they arrive in town.

If you or someone you know would like to be considered for our intern program, please send an email to Susan Hassler, Publisher, The Lakeville Journal Company, susanh@lakevillejournal.com.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Springing forth

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanking our doctors

In recognition of National Doctors' Day, I want to acknowledge the tireless work of our Sharon Hospital doctors, as well as the community physicians who care for patients across our service area.

Here at Sharon Hospital, our physicians are integral to the five-star quality care we provide our patients. Our doctors lead our teams of caregivers as we serve patients in their times of need and guide them to good health. Our medical staff's commitment to the health and wellness of our community is unmatched, and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this team.

Over the past three years, we've seen this commitment in action as our healthcare providers have navigated a seemingly endless stream of challenges, stepping up to meet the moment and serve our community at every stage. There is nothing more powerful or inspiring than seeing the impact of our physicians on our tight-knit community.

I have been a physician practicing internal medicine, hospital medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine at Sharon Hospital for nearly 24 years. This National Doctors' Day and every other day, I'm proud to call Sharon Hospital my home and to work alongside some of the most dedicated and caring professionals I know.

So on March 30, I ask that you join Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health's leadership team, Board of Directors, and staff in wishing our physicians a happy National Doctors' Day and saying, "thank you for all that you do."

Mark J. Marshall, DO, MA, FACP, FHM, FAAHPM

Sharon Hospital Vice President of Medical Affairs Sharon, Conn.

We have climate goals...Now what?

AN ASSEMBLY VIEW

Didi Barrett

As the new chair of the New York State Assembly's Energy Committee, I am concerned, as are many of my constituents and colleagues, about how New York state will reach the ambitious renewable energy goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) without burdening already cash-strapped New Yorkers.

With this in mind, the New York State Assembly's One-House Budget removed many of the governor's energy policy proposals, intending to discuss them outside the budget process. The All-Electric Buildings proposal — which has been the focus of much media attention — was modified to only apply to new commercial and residential construction, not existing buildings or homes. Further, there are specific exemptions from the required electrification of new construction for emergency backup power, commercial food establishments, laboratories, laundromats, hospitals and other medical facilities, agricultural buildings, manufactured homes, crematoriums, and critical infrastructure such as backup power for wastewater treatment facilities.

If the legislature has its way, there will be no "ban" on gas stoves in existing buildings, either. We all know that propane generators and natural gas fireplaces have kept people safe and warm through extended power outages during past harsh winters. Instead, offering incentives for consumers to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes and finding ways to meet households where they are as we strive to accomplish our goals is the path the state should be taking.

Let's be clear: Climate inaction is simply not an option. We have set these goals to address a real climate emergency. It is therefore imperative that we consider all the reasonable and available — even outside-the-box — clean energy alternatives that are reliable and compatible with our existing infrastructure and energy consumption as we strive to meet those goals.

While there are a number of solar and wind projects set to come online, the power

from these renewables is still years away. In the short term, there are other fuel sources that could be used to significantly reduce emissions — today! It is also clear that there are industries that will be difficult, if not impossible, to completely electrify. But the goal of the CLCPA is not electrification, it is decarbonization. There are steps we can take now to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions while these renewables come online. Establishing a Clean Fuel Standard in New York state will make alternative fuels cost-competitive and more affordable for the transportation sector, enabling more widespread use right away. This will allow school and public buses to use biofuels to dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the state's refusal to recognize and count the emissions reductions seen with energy produced by farmers via anaerobic digestion (capturing gas emitted by cow manure and burning it for electricity) creates a barrier to reaching our climate goals.

There are legislative fixes, as well, and we have already introduced bills to make this energy transition more accessible and affordable, including offering rebates for purchasing a previously owned hybrid or electric vehicle; expanding access to the personal income tax credit for residential solar energy system installation; and allowing the state to utilize newly developed renewable energy sources.

I voted for and continue to support the CLCPA. As its very name suggests, this critical legislation calls for balancing our ambitious climate goals with protecting our communities. In the weeks since I became Energy chair, my team and I have met with a wide range of advocates — from utilities to environmental organizations. Through these conversations, it has become clear that meeting our climate goals does not necessarily have a one size fits all solution; rather, we need to utilize all of the tools available so New York state can rapidly

decarbonize our economy while ensuring that our utility costs don't continue to soar.

Meeting the state's climate goals will impact every one of our nearly 20 million New Yorkers, and to ensure a just transition — one that protects and supports workers, disadvantaged communities, and our rural, urban, and suburban towns across the state — we must recognize the diversity of New York, balance economic burdens fairly, and ensure good green jobs. We must hear our neighbors, businesses and family members' concerns and work to bring them along with us, providing energy affordability and reliability to all New Yorkers.

Assemblymember Didi Barrett Chair, Assembly's Energy Committee

Amenia Fire thank-you

On Sunday, March 26, the Amenia Fire Company sponsored our monthly Pancake Breakfast. We were pleased to have a nice crowd of 222 people in attendance for our annual meal. We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the support of the community.

We thank everyone who attended our event and we hope to see you again for the next one (and final one of the season) on April 16.

Andy Murphy, on behalf of the Breakfast Committee, Amenia Fire Co. and Auxiliary

Amenia

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)

An Independent New York Newspaper

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Mission Statement

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

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