

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs



MILLERTON
The Millerton Mercantile Offers Fresh Groceries When Pickings Are Slim **A3**



MILLBROOK
Restaurants And Shops Do Their Best To Survive The COVID-19 Pandemic **A5**

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
Volume 89 Number 10 • 10 Pages in 1 Section

SPECIAL BANNER
We're Here For You **A3**

COMPASS
We Are In 'The Twilight Zone' **A8**

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2020 Census Day is upon us

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — Wednesday, April 1, is Census Day in the United States — no fooling. That's why the U.S. Census Bureau has been hard at work, sending Census forms out since early March. With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing social distancing, Census workers stopped going door to door early in the process. Residents are urged to respond to the Census.

"Your response helps to direct bil-

ions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads and other public services," according to the U.S. Census Bureau. "Results from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and your political representation at all levels of government."

According to the Census Bureau, in addition to an invitation to respond, some households received a paper questionnaire (also called a Census form) to complete. However, the bureau stressed, "You do not need to wait

for your paper questionnaire to respond to the Census." The Census form may be completed online, by phone or by mail once it arrives.

Residents who don't get rural delivery and therefore rely on P.O. Boxes from the U.S. Postal Service for their mail may have to rely on technology to complete the Census. That's because, according to North East resident Meg Winkler, many never received their paper form Census.

See CENSUS DAY, A7

Metro-North train service slows to a crawl during health crisis

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — COVID-19 has changed the lives of all New Yorkers — including those who live in the Harlem Valley. That means not only are most people staying home these days, as Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ordered only essential businesses may operate during the pandemic — even closing schools throughout the state for another two weeks — few are traveling.

The majority of area residents who

usually commute to New York City for work or play have stopped doing so. Locally, the Wassaic and Ten Mile Metro-North Train Stations are nearly empty, as are the stations in Dover Plains and Wingdale. It's no surprise, then, that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has called for serious cuts to service.

"The decision to reduce service is not one we take lightly, but feel at this time is in the best interest of our workers, customers and the system as a whole," said MTA Chief Operating Officer Mario Peloquin. "Our goal

has been and continues to be to move New Yorkers where they need to go. That's never been as important as right now."

On March 24 the MTA announced it "continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and move the health-care workers, first responders and essential personnel on the front lines of this public health crisis [by implementing] the 'NY Essential Service Plan.' The reduced schedule will ensure service to and from work for the

See METRO-NORTH, A7

For Millerton doctor: a second plague in one career and one lifetime

This is the second of two articles on Dr. Kristie Schmidt; the first ran on March 26.

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — It will get better, but not before it gets worse. That message from global health experts describing COVID-19 is eerily familiar to Kristie Schmidt, a Millerton internist who several decades ago found herself on the frontlines of a pandemic the likes of which the world had never seen: HIV/AIDS.

The then-unknown disease — which brought with it pneumonia, cancer and other killing illnesses — confounded doctors and devastated the gay community.

Back in the mid-1980s, as a young woman, Schmidt traveled east from her home in California to attend New York Medical College, a private biomedical health sciences college in Valhalla, N.Y., from which she graduated in 1989.

She next landed at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City's West Village,

which had one of the first and largest AIDS wards on the East Coast at the time; and later at a clinic in the East Village focusing on primary care and HIV medicine.

Dangers for doctors

As a med student and then medical resident, she found herself at ground zero of the AIDS epidemic, treating

patients who were dying in alarming numbers from an unknown infection. It took about a year before they uncovered its cause: the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV.

Despite the fear of exposure to HIV she and her peers faced — from needle

See MILLERTON DOCTOR, A7

COVID-19 test was negative

In Part One of this article, which ran in the March 26 edition, Millerton physician Kristie Schmidt said she had been ill with a fever and was working from home while awaiting her COVID-19 test results.

Those results have since come back negative, she said via email on Sunday, March 29. She will, however, continue to see patients primarily via telemedicine.

Schmidt said despite the confir-

mation that she had not contracted COVID-19, she does not find the news totally reassuring. "The sensitivity of the test is 50 to 80 %, so it's kind of a coin toss. I feel fine, but my practice will be mostly remote at this point. My office is actually being closed temporarily due to staff shortages elsewhere and if I need to see a real live human in the office it will probably be in Sharon, not sure where. The situation is changing by the day."

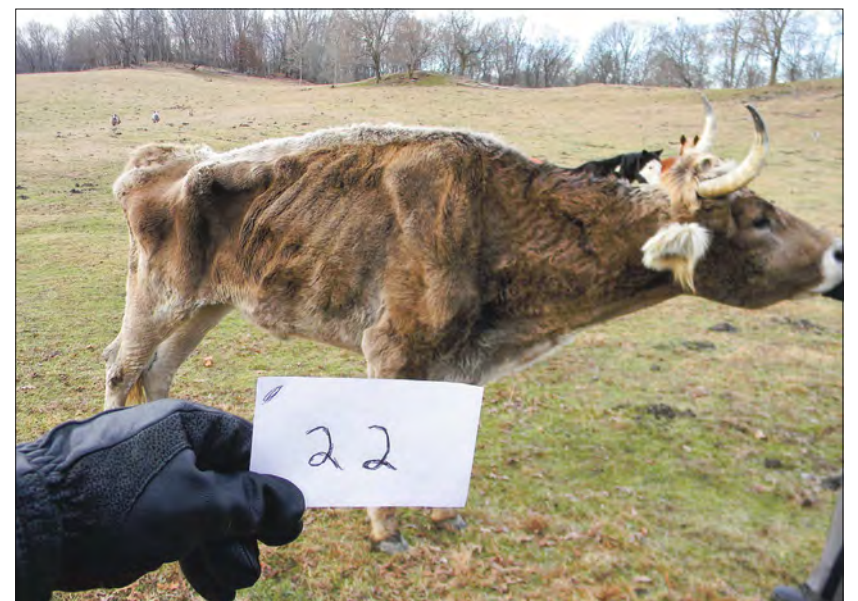


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE

New York State Police arrested 57 year old Andrea Nussinow of Blue Star Farm in Clermont on Tuesday, March 17, for animal neglect. Nussinow was charged with 35 counts of neglect, including the overdriving, torturing and injuring animals, or failure to provide proper sustenance.

Animals recover at Amenia farms

Police make arrest in animal neglect case

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

CLERMONT — This holiday season, the New York State Police (NYSP) Troop K started an investigation into a Columbia County farmer accused of severely neglecting and abusing nearly 40 animals. At the time, authorities withheld the name of the farm, and even the name of the town in which it was located, as they pursued their investigation. On Tuesday, March 17, the NYSP in conjunction with the Columbia County District Attorney's Office arrested Andrea Nussinow, age 57, of Blue Star Farm of Clermont.

According to the state police, "Nussinow was charged with 35 counts of Agriculture and Markets Law [section 353], including the overdriving, torturing and injuring of animals, or failure to provide proper sustenance, an unclassified misdemeanor."

Mia Genovesi, founder and director of Godspeed Horse Hostel in Amenia, offered her assistance when the animals were seized in January. She helped rescue the 38 animals, including 21 horses ranging in age from 6 months to their teens. There were also six sheep, two goats, two cows, one donkey and seven cats brought to Godspeed. They were in very poor condition.

At the time, Genovesi explained how badly abused the 38 animals were. She said there is something called the Henneke Scale that veterinarians use to determine if animals are at their appropriate weight. According to the scale, a one is considered emaciated and a nine is considered obese. She said two-thirds of the animals rescued in this case were on the "low end" of the scale.

She heralded the recent arrest and praised the investigators.

See ANIMAL NEGLECT, A7

Changes to our delivery mode

Next week, for the issue of April 9, we will cut back our print run to accommodate only subscriptions and a few key single copy sale outlets in each of our towns, so there are fewer places for our drivers to go to drop off and pick up papers as time goes on. It may even come to where we need to go all online to sustain our ability to continue to publish and

maintain the ability to inform our readers long term. We also want to keep our staff, and people they come into contact with, safe and well during this crisis.

To learn more about this difficult decision, see this week's editorial on Page A6.

— Janet Manko,
publisher and editor-in-chief

For more COVID-19 news coverage, find "Molinaro to host second live Telephone Town Hall on COVID-19" at www.tricornernews.com.



Obituaries.....	A2	Amenia/Pine Plains.....	A4
Sports.....	A2	Millbrook.....	A5
Millerton.....	A3	Opinion.....	A6

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OPINION
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Increase; Columns; Letters **A6**

letters from you!

The Millerton News asked for your feedback, and you responded.

More Millerton News.
What about combining the News and Journal? Millerton is more connected to Lakeville and Salisbury than Millbrook.
- Millerton

More political balance in editorials and candidate endorsements. In general, The Miller Ton News is overly biased; too liberal. Just reading an editorial's TITLE allows me to know what you write before reading it. Too predictable
- Millerton



... We should like to see much more investigative reporting, including in-depth discussions of important issues in our town and in the region, such as education, poverty, jobs, infrastructure, the opioid addiction epidemic, the presence and the contributions of immigrants and the hostility between long-term and short-term residents... Would increasing the price of the paper to \$1.50 be sufficient to enable you to do anything significant that you are not now doing? We should consider that an acceptable increase, if it were accompanied by improvements that we care about.
- Millerton

I buy The Millerton News regularly at local stores. I live in Union Vale, which gets virtually no newspaper coverage. You do such a good job for the towns you cover, I wish that included Union Vale. Expanding your coverage area to Union Vale could increase your readership.
- Union Vale

Just sent in \$98 for The Millerton News to renew our subscription for the next 2 years! It's essential to have a local newspaper. It is the best way to keep up on everything in our communities (deaths, sports, local gov't etc.). Keep up the important work you do and best of luck!
- Millerton



More local columns - more local voices - perhaps a guest columnist each week - sometimes with opposing views, sometimes supporting local causes from differing perspectives, perhaps showing that civil discourse benefits all. Perhaps a student Columnist once a month?
- Millerton

Well done already. Enjoy Kaitlin Lyle's work. Transparency is cool. Honest facts. Our communities are home. I cut out Webutuck sports coverage for my daughter's scrapbooks. It was printed on the back of this survey. We have paper articles since the 2000's, treasured. Happen to like our little Millerton News just as it is and also respect all coverage and moving forward. There is a saying, change is growth.
- Millerton



I don't have improvements to share, love the paper. Love the local news. It's the only place to find news in Millbrook. Love the posted events.

plantinseeds.org

SPORTS

Bleacher bummin'

What's a bleacher bum to do when there are no bleachers to bum around in? We're bummin' man!

Everyone knows the current season of virtually every sport is either shut down, suspended or played in an empty house. Owners are pulling out their hair and zipping shut their wallets. Players are wondering about their next paychecks. Fans are thinking about how to fill the empty hours usually spent at the game on in front of the TV. ESPN is lining up a schedule of soap operas and quiz shows — just kidding — I hope.

All of us are in completely uncharted territory; so what do we do?

Well, you could actually start that novel you have been threatening the public with for years. There's just about every book ever written online. If you are a baseball fan, you could read Bill James's baseball abstract; that should last you until at least September.

If you are a golfer, the weather is warm enough to hit buckets full of pitch shots on the back lawn. Or, go for a walk and tell yourself that you are prepping for a local

BLEACHER VIEWS

Theodore Kneeland

triathlon.

You could go on a diet of no ballpark hot dogs and no beer. Your waistline will actually thank you for it. Heck, you could treat your significant other to a home cooked feast. Shrimp on the bar-be, mate!

Of course, you could use the time to do constructive things like start spring cleaning, fix the leaky gutters, spread fertilizer on the lawn. OK, that line of thought is a non-starter; sorry I mentioned it.

But I'm sure, if you put your mind to it, you could find thousands of ways to pleasantly fill the hours; so put away the black mourning bands and put on the thinking caps. Who knows, this could be the best season yet.

Millerton resident Theodore Kneeland is a former teacher and coach — and athlete.

Danceworks aspired to get Millerton moving, but must wait for now

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Longtime dancer Gina White had long dreamed of opening a dance studio, and had been repeatedly approached about teaching in the village of Millerton. In February, White opened Danceworks with grand plans, hoping to "give the community something they don't have right now," she said at the time, referring to the fact that there are yoga and pilates studios and even The Music Cellar in town, but no dance studio.

"There's yoga and there's music and it seems like a trifecta to have dance as a part of it," she said.

Sadly, the spread of the coronavirus happened just as Danceworks was taking off, leading White to temporarily close its doors on Thursday, March 12.

"Of course, it was devastating because we had just opened our doors a month ago and everyone was so excited about it," White said. "For now, we're just taking it day by day."

White's resume includes both national and international performances, from her work on the international tour of "Rugrats" to her brief appearance on "So You Think You Can Dance" — and her feature work on the NBC's reality TV show, "Fame," with stage and screen legend Debbie Allen. White worked with the dance company Catapult Entertainment on and off for five years following the birth of her daughter, Evangeline.

When asked if she believes her daughter will follow in her dancing footsteps, White said, "She's familiar with what it's like — I'm positive she'll follow in step."

As far as opening a dance studio in Millerton, White said, "I feel like there is a desire for it here in town and I'm excited to offer what I can."

White's mission is to bring the community together through dance and focus on mind and body wellness, once the current health crisis ends and non-essential businesses can reopen.

Though she originally envisioned the former Saperstein's building at 41 Main St. as the perfect space for her studio, White scouted a few more choice locations before deciding on space at



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

5916 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), which she renovated earlier this year. It was previously Cozzy's pizzeria.

Danceworks will offer a range of traditional dance styles — including tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop, acrobatics, lyrical and contemporary — for children, teens and adults alike. White said she's considered adding an all-boys hip hop class in the future.

Danceworks plans to charge a registration fee of \$15 per student. Fees are planned at \$55 for one class per month, \$110 for two classes per month and \$165 for three classes per month. Students will be able to pay for all of the classes on a monthly basis. Danceworks also plans to offer a special discount: if participants take three classes, they can attend one class free of charge.

Though she's well aware that not everyone is bound to become a professional dancer, White said once she reopens, she plans to teach her students that anything is possible and that they can pursue their creative ambitions just as they can attend a four-year college and raise a family. As they pursue dance, she said she hopes they will learn lifelong skills such as leadership, discipline and taking care of their bodies.

White said, "I want people, regardless of their gender or background, to come to the space and safely create something, whether it's rehearsing for a play or doing a tai chi class. It can be anything just so long as we're coming together through dance."

For more information on Danceworks and its future programs, email danceworksmillerton@gmail.com or call 860-992-2799.

Having fulfilled her dream of opening her own dance studio, Gina White struck a pose within the comfort of Danceworks, located at 5916 North Elm Ave. (Route 22) in Millerton. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, White has had to close the studio's doors for the time being, but hopes to reopen soon.

OBITUARIES

Memorial service:

Susan Gordon Calhoun Heminway

The memorial service to celebrate the life of Susan Gordon Calhoun Heminway is being rescheduled. Originally planned for April 18, 2020, it will occur later in the summer. The family wishes to gather



when all participants can attend without fear either for themselves or others and to make it possible to truly celebrate Sue's life. The revised date, location and time will be published and available online at www.carmon-funeralhome.com.

Shea Cohn

FALLS VILLAGE — With the deepest sorrow, we announce that Shea Cohn, age 16, our most beloved son, brother, grandson, family member and friend passed away on March 29, 2020.

Shea was born Oct. 16, 2003. Those who knew him, even just a little, lost a shining light in their lives. Shea will be missed every day by his parents, Doug and Denise Cohn; his sisters, Emma and Grace Cohn; his grandparents, Robert and Marie Hewins; as well as his loving Aunts, Uncles and many cousins, and his dog Sophie, along with his hundreds of close friends and the young woman he adored, Neve.

Shea was an avid sports fan and participant, an excellent student, aspiring musician whose nickname was the "Piano Man." He loved the outdoors, hiking, fishing and traveling the country and abroad with his friends and family.

Shea was a student at Forman School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He had plans to attend University of Tampa in the fall of 2021.

His kindness can be seen through the overwhelming love we have received from all the lives he has touched. Someday, we'll all be listening to his beautiful music

again. "Son, can you play me a memory,

I'm not really sure how it goes. But it's sad and it's sweet and I knew it complete

When I wore a younger man's clothes... Sing us a song, you're the Piano Man.

Sing us a song tonight.

Well, we're all in the mood for a melody And you've got us feelin' alright."

— "The Piano Man" By Billy Joel

In Shea's honor, the Shea Cohn Memorial Fund is being established. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the Shea Cohn Memorial Fund and mail them to the Cohn Family, 25 Deer Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

A Celebration of Shea's Life will be held as soon as possible. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral in North Canaan.



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info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

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

Check them out inside.
• CVS
• Herrington's

Millerton Mercantile offers groceries during pandemic

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — When the Millerton Mercantile first opened for business last summer, customers were intrigued to have a new store in town, especially one that drew them in with such imaginative window displays and local products available for purchase. However, since the coronavirus pandemic hit New York, they've been eying the Millerton Mercantile as a source for fresh groceries. With the store's curbside service up and running, customers can now stock their homes with fresh produce from the comfort of their cars.

Located at 3 Main St. in Millerton underneath Buddhi Tribe, Millerton Mercantile is trying to stay viable during the state-wide shut down. And Stephen Murphy, the nephew of store owner Lynn Caponera and the store manager, said there is definitely a need.

"Everyone really loves having a small little grocer in town again," said Murphy.

A Millerton resident, Caponera decided she wanted to bring an old-time general store into the area.

"She remembered being a kid getting penny candy at the local stores and she wanted to do something like that," he said.

Establishing the Millerton Mercantile in the business community took about two-plus months, Murphy added.

When asked whether the Millerton Mercantile is considered an essential business or as a non-essential business at this time of pandemic, Murphy said he was unsure.

"I would imagine more on the essential side since I am one of the providers of fresh food in the area, but that's just my personal opinion," he said.

Specializing in selling local products, the store offers a selection of wares crafted by local producers, from lotions and soaps to



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Stephen Murphy, manager of the Millerton Mercantile, posed for a photo near a shelf of local artwork for sale at the store.

artwork and scarves. As a nod to Caponera's childhood memories, jars of penny candy are available for purchase in the front room. There's also a selection of handmade cards, bags of coffee, cheese and charcuterie, vegan meals and even skateboards. There are also local meats in the freezer.

Working from his previous experience as a chef in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Murphy scouts local farms and producers open during the COVID-19 shut down to offer a selection of food and fresh produce. The store has fresh produce from Rock Steady Farm in Millerton and Full Circus Farm in Pine Plains; it has 10 different flavors of honey from Saratoga Tea & Honey, including mango-infused, cranberry blossom and Italian lemon tree.

Murphy said the store plans to open up a small cafe and prepared foods kitchen on site, featuring soups, salads, BBQ and smoked meats once things calm down. He added that there are also plans to add more seating in the rear of the

store and to install a small patio and herb garden in the backyard.

For the time being, Murphy said, "We're just trying to bring in local products and local foods."

And once everything normalizes, he said, he enjoys "always trying to do cool window displays — we try to keep the building looking as nice and pretty as possible."

Since there is no proper supermarket in Millerton and residents are scurrying to stock up during the coronavirus pandemic, Murphy said that there has been a slight uptick in the demand for fresh groceries, especially bread, eggs and milk — all of which the Millerton Mercantile is happy to provide. At this time, he is working on a website for online shopping as well as a plan for delivering groceries in the near future.

For now, the Millerton Mercantile's hours of operation run from noon to 6 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

To reach the store, call 518-796-3694.

Updated website keeps community connected

Library leans on technology during COVID-19 health crisis

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Even with its doors closed to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the NorthEast-Millerton Library remains determined to keep the local community connected to its services and to ensure that its patrons have access to information through its newly updated website.

NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said library employees have been working on updating the library website in their free time during the last couple months. Though the former website was indeed functional, she noted that it wasn't very attractive, user-friendly or, most importantly, mobile-friendly.

"Our new site was designed with our patrons in mind," Leo-Jameson said.

Thought still being updated, patrons might find it easier to access information and links posted on the site. Without having to

leave their homes, they can now sign up for a library card online. After signing up, Leo-Jameson said patrons will receive a temporary library card number that will grant them access to some of the library's digital resources; once their account is verified, they will have full access to all the library's resources.

As another added feature, Leo-Jameson shared plans to include information about the North East Historical Society on the newly updated site.

"Since they do not have a site themselves and are housed on the second floor of the library, we often act as an intermediary between them and the public," Leo-Jameson explained, "so it is a natural progression."

Following the library's closure on Tuesday, March 17, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Leo-Jameson and her employees have been keeping the local community informed and making sure patrons have access to a wide array of information and digital resources. After finding out

that James Dean, the creator of the much-loved children's book series, "Pete the Cat," created a live story time on Instagram Live, Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune posted the information on the library's social media pages, so young readers could enjoy a special story time from the comfort of their homes.

"It's a great way to connect with families with something familiar to them in these ever-changing times," McClune said.

Realizing that not all patrons have access to the internet or use social media, Leo-Jameson said the library plans to update its phone message when there are major changes to the library's schedule. A sign set in front of the library will also notify patrons of any updates or changes.

For the time being, the library recommends that the public use social media and www.nemillertonlibrary.org to receive the latest library news. The library can be found on Facebook under NorthEast-Millerton Library and on Instagram at [nemillertonlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/nemillertonlibrary).

Garage phase one complete, town must pay for speed study

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — In February, before the Town Hall closed to the public and the coronavirus forced bans of gatherings larger than 10, the North East Town Board gathered at NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex and took steps to ensure the joint highway garage shared between the town of North East and the village of Millerton continues to progress smoothly. The garage is being built along Route 22, north of the traffic light.

North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan reported that the storage building that was completed last year is now in use. He said the town is looking to complete a fuel storage and dispensing component for the storage building and asked for a mo-

torists driving on the road. He informed the public that the county told the town to complete a speed study to measure the amount of traffic on the road and the speed of motorists traveling it. The supervisor had hoped the county would pay for the study. Previously, the Department of Transportation (DOT) conducted such studies, but stopped doing so because of the high engineering costs. Undeterred, Kennan said the town will do the study.

Going back to a previous discussion from the Jan. 9 board meeting about reducing the speed limit on Winchell Mountain Road, Kennan said the town has been contacted by residents who live on Winchell Mountain Road concerned about the speed of

motorists driving on the road.

Our goal is to see the speed limit reduced," he said on a later date.

Kennan asked for a motion to authorize Ray Jurkowski, the town's engineer, to conduct the speed study; the board gave its approval. That study is estimated to cost the town roughly \$3,000, according to the supervisor.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Stay at Home Storytime for children

The library may be closed due to COVID-19, but it's still educating and entertaining children. On Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., beginning March 31, the NorthEast-

Millerton Library will host Stay at Home Storytimes. Join Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune on Facebook Live to hear stories at home. Email requests to kmccune@nemillertonlibrary.org.

Take, and give, food

The NorthEast-Millerton Library has repurposed its tiny library on Main Street to hold shelf-stable food items for those in need. Please leave only unopened and undamaged items.

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The Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry remains open through the pandemic crisis 3 - 5pm every Friday.

AMENIA/PINE PLAINS

Millbrook Horse Trials donates to Pine Plains Food Locker

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — As one of the largest equestrian events in the country, the Millbrook Horse Trials (MHT) made a donation of \$2,500 to the Pine Plains Community Food Locker (PPCFL) this January as part of its community outreach initiative. The check was presented by Louise Merryman, MHT organizer and board member.

"We are pleased to be able to give back to the community in which we live and which has been consistently unwavering in its support of the Millbrook Horse Trials," Merryman said.

The MHT take place over four days in August each year and has been donating to the Pine Plains food pantry since 2014. Its goal is to donate \$2,500 to the Food Locker each year.

The PPCFL has been operating since 1951. Once a month it distributes food to roughly 35 families that live in the Pine Plains Central School District, along with other basic necessities.

PPCFL Treasurer Ted Mallozzi said community involvement helps provide local residents with more than just the basic necessities. Community support also helps supply heating, clothing



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Pine Plains Community Food Locker Director Pat Nannetti, with the Millbrook Horse Trials' Louise Merryman and Food Locker Treasurer Ted Mallozzi celebrated the donation of a \$2,500 check to the pantry from the Millbrook Horse Trials.

and medical assistance to those in need. The food pantry also relies on donations from the North East Community Center in Millerton and private individuals to help augment its budget. Additionally, donations of fresh produce are contributed from the Pine Plains Community Garden, Fat Apple Farm and Black Sheep Farm. Mallozzi said every bit helps.

"We rely heavily on the donations of local Pine Plains and Stanford residents to fund our

annual budget," he said. "But it is the donations from organizations such as the Millbrook Horse Trials that allow us to extend assistance beyond the bare minimum to the neediest in our community."

The Food Locker is located in the basement of the Pine Plains United Methodist Church, located at 3023 Church St. (Route 199), which allows the program to use the building rent free. To reach the PPCFL, call 518-398-7273.

Webutuck BOE deals with crisis

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Along with giving a recap on how the North East (Webutuck) Central School District is dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) and the Webutuck administration discussed measures taken to keep moving forward at a special meeting held on Tuesday, March 24.

The meeting was organized via teleconference. Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani thanked all of the staff for keeping communications open with families and students. He also extended his appreciation to The Palombo Group, Silo Ridge Field Club LLC, the Webutuck PTA and Richard and Nancy Keller-Coffey for their donations to the Feed Our Families program.

Moving forward with instruction on a state level, Castellani said assessments for students in grades third through eighth have been canceled. At this time, no decision has been made about Regents or AP exams. Responding to Dutchess County's request for medical supplies to assist hospitals and healthcare employees in need, Castellani reported that the district delivered two boxes of latex gloves to the county that day.

He said the BOE must approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the district and the Webutuck Teachers' Association along with the MOA between the district and the Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA).

"We have to move forward in order to have documentation that we're in agreement as to what this unprecedented time looks like for us in order to continue working," Castellani said.

The BOE approved both MOAs later that afternoon.

Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jen Eraca announced that she has been working in tandem with her secretary, Lorinda Coulthard, to keep families informed about plans for instruction, and that she has been sending daily reports to the staff to check in. Eraca reported that she has been working to make sure preschool-aged children also receive instructional services, whether it's through videos, telecommunications or other similar means. She has also been responsible for posting daily updates and messages from the district's principals and staff on the district website and Facebook page.

In spite of the current circumstances, Eraca said the district has continued working on its proposal for an in-school based

health center. She has submitted a letter of intent to The Foundation for Community Health in Sharon, Conn., with hopes of acquiring a grant to support the clinic.

Webutuck Business Administrator Robert Farrier reported that he has been focusing on operations, such as making sure the Feed Our Families program runs

smoothly and offers a variety of food to families that need it.

After receiving a donation for the Feed Our Families program from area donors, Eraca said the district has been sending out letters to community businesses and organizations to garner more support for the essential project during the health crisis.

Webutuck 2020-21 budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Even as the school district was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) sat down to crunch numbers for the 2020-21 district budget on Monday, March 16.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the BOE met via teleconference. The BOE started its discussion with a review of the 2019-20 budget, which included a total budget amount of \$23,443,029 and a total tax levy of \$14,718,850.

Looking at a rollover budget for 2020-21, the BOE anticipated next year's budget will come to \$24,184,769 with an expected increase of \$741,740 or 3.2%. In addition to salaries and benefits, the rollover budget will encompass the district's debt service, changes made to Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) program and changes made to the special education out-of-district placement program.

At this time, the BOE is looking at an allowable tax cap of 6.32% (or \$929,732) and a total tax levy of \$15,648,582. The BOE will look at lowering the tax cap while keeping services constant.

Examining the anticipated 2020-21 tax levy, the BOE re-

viewed several revenue cuts, including a \$6,392,079 decrease in state aid; a \$32,000 decrease in interest and penalty on taxes; a \$30,000 decrease in interest and earnings; a \$50,000 decrease in the district's tuition-aided disabled students; and a \$40,000 decrease in the Medicaid Assistance program, as well as a \$50,000 BOCES refund for unused services and an anticipated \$1.9 million reduction in the appropriated fund balance. The BOE reported the district will need a total of \$15,690,690 to fund the rollover.

The BOE said the potential increase in medical costs remains unknown. The district will also need to negotiate contracts for the Webutuck Teachers' Association and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) to identify any efficiencies or reductions. The district needs to consider if there will be an increase in the town of Amenia's overall assessment due to an increase in development, like Silo Ridge.

The district could keep the tax levy at 6.32% and its current programs with some small additions. However, the board is also considering a 5.99% tax levy, in which programs would be kept the same by finding some efficiencies and reductions in the budget. All in all, the BOE said a levy that's any less than 5.99% would have serious implications on services and staff.

Board of Education broadcasts meeting

Pine Plains BOE on 2020-21 budget, COVID-19 and more

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — All while keeping the county's recommendations for social distancing during the coronavirus outbreak in mind, the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education (BOE) reviewed the district's latest news at its meeting on Wednesday, March 18.

Closed to the public, the meeting was videotaped and will be broadcast on the district website, www.ppcsd.org, at a later date.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck gave a summary of the 2020-21 budget development process. To date, he said the current expectation is that the budget will total \$33,822,718, adding that the year-to-year increase has been projected at \$893,840 (or 2.71%) and that the revenue side of the tax cap will total 2.43%. To balance the budget, Goldbeck reported that the district will need to draw from its reserves.

Goldbeck said state aid will cover approximately 23% of the budget's revenue. At this time, the district will need to look into two unsettled contracts, special education placements and fuel costs for the coming year.

Voters were supposed to vote on Tuesday, May 19 for not just the 2020-21 school district budget, but also for the election of two seats on the BOE and a \$248,000 proposition for the purchase of four 35-passenger buses. That date has changed due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Moving forward, the BOE heard a short report by Director

of Facilities Richard McGibbon and Assistant Director of Facilities Michael Remsburg on the district's annual fire inspection. McGibbon and Remsburg reported that there were only four minor corrections needed in the junior/senior high school building and that there were no issues detected in the Cold Spring Early Learning Center and Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center buildings.

"The district always receives a good report on the annual inspection," BOE President Chip Couse said on a later date, "and this was among the best."

Delivering an overview of how the district is faring during the COVID-19 pandemic, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler talked about the decision to close schools for two weeks and how parents were allowed in the school buildings on Monday, March 16, through Wednesday, March 18, to pick up their children's books and belongings. Since then, Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced schools will remain closed for at least another two weeks.

Following the state's requirement that school districts submit a "continuity of instruction" plan, Handler announced that Pine Plains has submitted a plan, regardless of its current inability to offer distance learning. BOE member Joseph Kiernan asked Handler what the district could create in terms of structured learning during the closure. The discussion ended without a conclusion, but by the next day, Handler expanded on the issue on the district website.

"Our teachers have posted

many educational resources for our students to use," wrote the superintendent. "There is a link to the general resources on our webpage. In addition, some teachers have specific course material on their pages which can also be found on our website. Other teachers are communicating directly with their students through programs like the Remind app or Google Classroom. While these resources cannot substitute for the full instruction that students will miss, they do provide an opportunity to remain academically engaged."

Also at the meeting on the 18th, the BOE expressed concerns about students receiving social and mental health services during the closure. Handler said Astor Services for Children & Families is continuing to offer services during this time.

According to Couse, most of Astor's services are done in the home so they will continue working with Pine Plains students in the normal flow of events. As of Wednesday evening, March 18, the superintendent hadn't determined how those services would function.

Handler advised that all district buses were disinfected and reported that the custodial and maintenance staff are currently working on disinfecting all three school buildings. Once that's done, all of the buildings will be shut down and the staff sent home, apart from the cafeteria staff who will be working on preparing meals that will be delivered to students. Unless otherwise needed, only the central office staff will continue going into work.

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MILLBROOK

Millbrook businesses continue to cope with COVID-19

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — In times like these, when there's a global health crisis, many people are uneasy — so much is unknown. Their daily and weekly routines have changed drastically. But as a community, Millbrook is trying to cope.

The senior group, Millbrook at Home, has suspended its First Friday Lunches for the time being. Seniors can access the online platform Zoom, through which the group hopes to continue to offer news, resources and programs.

For more, go to www.millbrookathome.org.

Talking with Village Trustee Kevin McGrane, president of the Millbrook Business Association (MBA), many merchants are doing their retail business online, among them the Antiques Mall, the Antiques Center and Alicia Adams Alpaca.

Businesses considered essential, and therefore able to remain open during the pandemic, include Joseph Velletri and Sons; Reardon Briggs Hardware, which will do curbside service for customers who call

ahead; Millbrook Pharmacy; the Bank of Millbrook; Stewart's Shops; and Marona's Market.

Restaurants are also allowed to operate in a limited capacity. Some are selling cocktails, which at this time are allowed to be delivered and taken out. Many restaurants are offering curbside service, so just call ahead, order and pay. Among those offering curbside service are Nooch's Pub & Grill, the Millbrook Diner, Maura's, Julien's, Babette's and The Millbrook Café. Canoe Hill is accepting phone orders, which can be picked up at the Mabbettsville Market.

The Millbrook Library is closed but invites patrons to use its online services; go to www.millbrooklibrary.org for more. Merritt Books is offering deals on e-books as well.

The churches: Lyall Memorial Federated, Grace Episcopal and St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception are all offering online services, check their websites for more

information. Grace will use Zoom for meetings and offer a tutorial on Zoom online. St. Joseph's is offering Masses on Channel 22 on Sundays, check the cable station for a schedule, and Lyall is also offering services online.

Jennifer Fimbel, senior research educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), has posted a list of local farm stands that are still open, and while all CCEDC classes, programs and events are canceled for now, its newsletter is still available. Call CCEDC at 845-677-8223 for more information or e-mail Fimbel at jif20@cornell.edu.

Last, but not least, Forza Fitness is offering online classes, both live and archival, for a low weekly fee.

Phone numbers, e-mail addresses and website addresses for individual businesses may be found on the MBA's website, www.millbrooknewyork.com.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The Millbrook Café on Franklin Avenue is open for takeout service only during this trying time amid fears of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tips to stay healthy

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Senior citizens don't always know what to eat or how much exercise to get. With today's global health emergency, that information is more important than ever. Nimesh Bhargava, the nutrition services coordinator at the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) and a registered dietitian, spoke at the Millbrook at Home senior group meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, before the coronavirus changed social distancing norms and canceled group meetings. The Millerton News thought the information important enough to share at this time. Bhargava gave tips on vitamins, minerals, what's good, what's bad and also debunked nutrition myths.

Bhargava talked about how to make positive changes that can improve one's health.

"It takes 21 days for an action to become a habit," he said. "My wife signed me up for swimming at 6 a.m. I wear my bathing suit to bed, and when I get up, I'm ready to go."

He also said he understands that not everyone wants to go to the gym — today prohibited by the state because of COVID-19. Walking or running appeals to some seniors more anyway, he said. He suggested placing one's clothes with the appropriate shoes beside the bed, to be ready in the a.m.

Bhargava stressed that small steps at first work best, and that goals should be realistic, tangible and doable. And just because people are being told to stay home right now doesn't mean they can't get some fresh air outdoors and do some exercise.

He gave a number of other tips, which follow below.

He said never deep-fry foods in olive oil. And never store oil

near heat, or in direct sunlight, because it oxidizes, can turn rancid and develops carcinogens.

Don't eat while watching television, while reading or when driving, he added.

Bhargava talked about heart health, eating more plant-based foods and avoiding processed foods.

He spoke of some of the things that are in processed foods that are harmful; many artificial sweeteners can actually keep people from losing weight. Find alternatives, such as stevia, which is plant-based.

Cholesterol was also discussed, and the fact that people need a certain amount of it for their bodies to function. But it can be dangerous, too. Cholesterol is found in anything with a liver, which means all animal products contain cholesterol.

In processed foods, the fiber is removed; fiber reduces cholesterol, so there are many connections to make between food and diet. Soluble fiber produces good and bad bacteria, which everyone needs.

Sulfites, used to keep food fresh and found in wine, can cause cancer. Monosodium glutamate (MSG) can cause migraines. Sodium makes the body retain water, which can cause swelling and is bad for blood pressure and the heart.

Bhargava recommends daily exercise, adding more plant-based foods and eating less processed foods. He also suggests incorporating fresh fruits and vegetables and controlling portion sizes.

Contact the OFA at www.dutchesscountyofficefortheaging.org or at 845-486-2555.

Millbrook at Home is not meeting due to COVID-19, but is seeking volunteers. For details, email connect@millbrookathome.org or find the group on Facebook.

Can AI be the answer to predicting viruses?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — On Route 44 heading west, just before reaching Route 82, there are some buildings nestled far back from the road, fitting in perfectly with the rustic scenery. The buildings are part of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, and much of what goes on there is very modern and very cutting edge.

That Millbrook boasts such a renowned research center may be surprising to outsiders, but it has been a part of Millbrook's landscape for more than 30 years. The Cary offers trails and pathways for visitors to ramble and roam, and presents many programs throughout the year, free to the public, on a variety of topics, all scientific, and often having to do with ecology.

The Cary Institute has been a leader in the study of ticks and Lyme disease, and recently Barbara Han, Cary disease ecologist, was interviewed by Jacob Ward on NBC's News Now television program, discussing how to track a virus and how to predict outbreaks earlier than the scientific community does now.

The topic is extremely relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 9, in San Francisco, Calif., Han went into detail, explaining to Ward about contact tracking and other aspects of following a contagious disease such as the coronavirus.

It's been pointed out that an AI (artificial intelligence) epidemiologist sounded the first warnings of the Wuhan virus that is known as COVID-19. The World Health

Organization (WHO) alerted the public on Jan. 9, yet a Canadian health monitoring group reportedly sounded the alert on Dec. 31, 2019. According to Han, some AI driven algorithms can predict outbreaks more speedily than humans, who often have to go through red tape.

Han, using machine learning methods, builds models to predict where pathogens will likely come from during the next outbreak. She expects that the next major outbreak of disease will transmit from animals to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that 75% of emerging infectious diseases, including pathogens such as COVID-19, have not been seen before, or are so mutated that they might as well never have been seen.

Han searches for where viruses come from, and tries to pinpoint which animal species pose the

greatest threat to humans in the form of a virus, and how to protect people.

In an article written on March 4 for Freethink, Han said science needs to get ahead of viral outbreaks, especially if an outbreak could end up causing great human casualties or destabilizing the global economy.

Making testable and specific predictions about which species have a high risk of potentially transmitting pathogens to human is vitally important. It is also very difficult. Han used bats as an example, and said they are noted for carrying many viruses, but the sheer volume of variety can be a problem. After a certain species has been identified, a large collection of samples must be gathered, often in strange and unpleasant places, and there is always a chance that the scientists involved can become ill.

The data collected, including dietary habits, habitats, breeding cycles, litter size and life span, can be combined with cellular and molecular data to give an overall portrait of the animal without which it would be extremely hard to predict the next zoonotic disease reservoir.

Han said the models are what they are, and as her models are tested more frequently in the field, the success of the algorithms will probably improve. She feels that given the data on hand, with possibly more data made available, the models could become even more useful.

Whatever it takes, scientists, especially epidemiologists, are working non-stop to predict and prevent outbreaks before they reach a scale like the coronavirus pandemic has. They believe AI and algorithms may be the answer to the problem in the future.

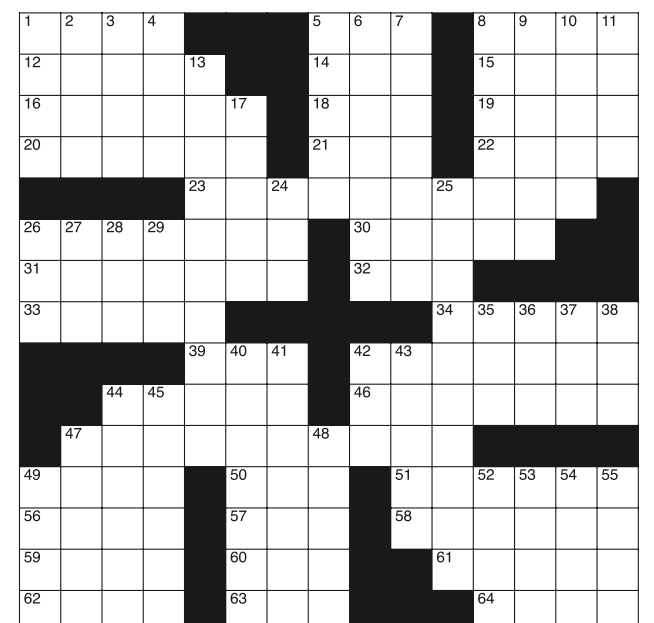
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bond villain Mikkelsen
5. A team's best pitcher
8. French river
12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
14. City of Angels airport
15. Military force
16. Scrawny
18. Value
19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
20. Highly seasoned sausage
21. Trouble
22. Prong
23. Showing varying colors
26. Cloaked
30. Renters sign one
31. Acquires
32. Type of language (abbr.)
33. Partner to pains
34. Third portion of the small intestine
39. Excessively theatrical actor
42. Infraction
44. Classical music for the stage
46. Slogged
47. One who terminates
49. Breakfast is an important one
50. Moved earth
51. Medical procedures
56. Genus of clams
57. Not well
58. Comparative figure of speech
59. Covered thinly with gold
60. Principle underlying the universe
61. A parent's sisters
62. Professional engineering group
63. Coniferous tree
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

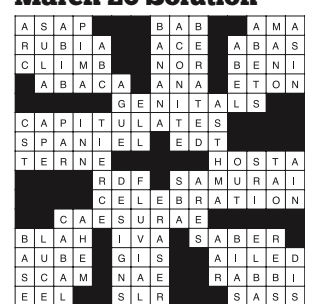
1. Female parents
2. Region
3. Transaction
4. Heroic tale
5. Of algae
6. Luminous intensity unit
7. Uncovers
8. French commune name
9. Poisonous gas
10. Pearl Jam's bassist
11. Horse groom in India
13. Destroyed
17. A way to alter
24. Promotional materials
25. American state
26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
27. "Modern Family" network
28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
29. Exercise system ___-bo
35. Type of bulb
36. Opposite of beginning
37. Utilize
38. Type of student
40. Deficiency of moisture
41. Areas of the eye
42. Select
43. Sheets of floating ice
44. Priests who act as mediums
45. Roof of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Illuminated
49. There are three famous ones
52. Large, fast Australian birds
53. "Dracula" heroine Harker
54. Substitutes (abbr.)
55. Tax



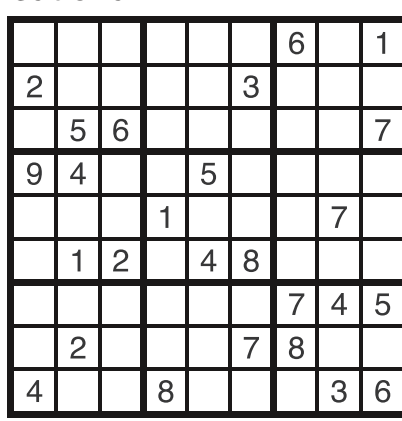
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Look for the solution in next week's issue.

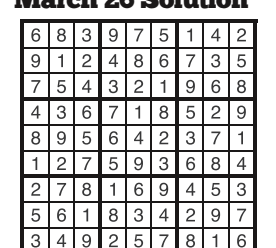
March 26 Solution



Sudoku



March 26 Solution



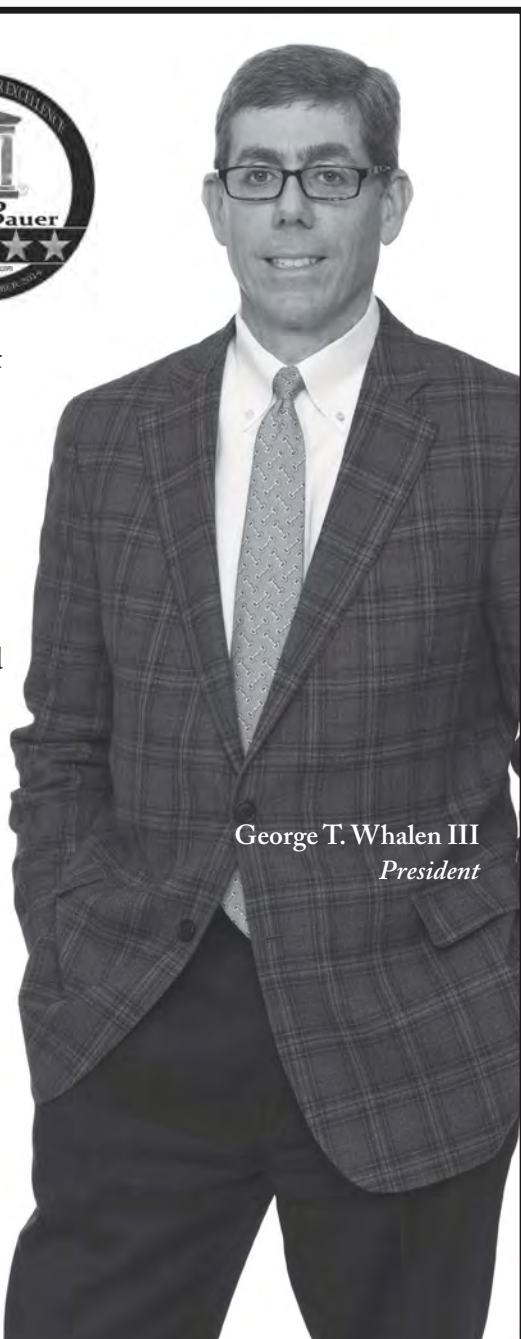
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EDITORIAL

The challenges only increase

There are so many struggling with the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, with few well-defined paths to good outcomes right now. The time is unique, but it gives us some feeling of control and comfort, it seems, to compare it to other times and look for historic ways of coping that have worked before and might work now. One comparison, that with the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, brings a poignant parallel: that some of our best people are the ones responding to the crisis on the front lines and are the ones who are in great danger of paying a high price for their dedication.

There are widely reported stories of medical professionals without access to enough personal protective equipment, and who are working long shifts to fill in for responders who are already ill at some of the hot spots of the virus in New York, New Jersey and parts of Connecticut. So far, the Northwest Corner has not been as severely affected as more urban areas to our south and east, but that can change around us as we watch and wait, handwashing, sheltering in place and pulling on latex gloves and some of us, masks, when we need to go out for provisions. In the meantime, our thoughts and thanks are with those medical, supermarket, convenience store, trucking, law enforcement, home delivery and take out restaurant workers and all the others who put themselves on the line to help others.

The specific challenges for local community journalism

The Lakeville Journal Company has been working remotely since March 13 in our editorial and production departments, but our finance and delivery workers have been doing their jobs using our Falls Village building and delivery space as home base. As our printer has delivered newspapers to us, our drivers have been waiting to load them up and take them to the post offices (for subscriptions) and dealers (for single copy sales) throughout the Tri-state region. And our finance department has been going to the post offices to pay for the delivery of the papers, and to pick up and drop off mail, then do deposits to take to the bank. Their willingness to keep at it is greatly appreciated, even as they continue to do their best to physically distance from others while they do their jobs.

In the process of changing over to remote working, some of our staff has been left without much, if anything, to do. The Lakeville Journal Co. continues to pay them as we all try to figure out if the stimulus legislation coming out of Washington, D.C., will offer any support for small businesses like ours.

Given a deep and sudden dip in advertising, a key revenue source for our publications, The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News will need to make even more changes during this time of crisis to make it through, like so many other small businesses. We don't want to fill in with our membership contributions to the detriment of being viable the rest of the year (depending on how long this pandemic affects our region). Our free lance reporters have accepted a different reduced pay scale, and some have even offered to forego payment for this difficult time. None of our columnists nor our cartoonists take payment. For all that we are so grateful.

Next week, for the issues of April 9, we will cut back our print run to accommodate only subscriptions and a few key single copy sale outlets in each of our towns, so there are fewer places for our drivers to go to drop off and pick up papers as time goes on. It may even come to where we need to go all online to sustain our ability to continue to publish and maintain the ability to inform our readers long term. We also want to keep our staff, and people they come into contact with, safe and well during this crisis.

Please understand the need for us to do that, and if you haven't yet, start to keep track of the local news we will continue to provide on our website, www.tricornernews.com, and Facebook and Instagram. We will get through this, if we can figure out how to be flexible and strategic at every step of the changing challenges presented by COVID-19.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ancram neighborhood group offers a helping hand

Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association (ANHN) serves the Ancram Township, including Ancram, Ancramdale and Boston Corners.

During this uncertain time of ever-changing facts and policies facing our community and families as a result of the COVID-19 virus, many of our neighbors will face the reality of furloughed jobs, financial hardships and social isolation.

Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors stands ready to help in any way we can. We have made necessary changes to our weekly (Monday) food pantry program following CDC guidelines to provide more protection to our volunteers and recipients. We are working closely with the Regional Food Bank to ensure that our supplies remain adequate. If additional families need to come onto the program during the weeks and months ahead, we extend our hand. We can also provide counsel and direction in getting families newly in need of social services to the right local agencies.

All emergency medical issues should be referred to 911 or your personal doctor. The New York State Department of Health Hotline is 1-888-364-3065. If you are elderly and in need of transportation or shopping assistance or simply need to discuss your situation and how we can help, please let us know.

We are fortunate to live in a community of kind, caring neighbors who look out for each other. But like many communities, our volunteer population is aging. In

fact, almost all of our volunteers who make the weekly food program happen are in the 60-plus category — the age group most vulnerable to COVID-19.

If you are able-bodied, under 60 and can spare an hour or two each week, please let us know. We would welcome your help during this tough time.

For assistance or more information, please call Jack Lindsey at 518-329-7306 or Hila Richardson at 917-414-8270.

Jack Lindsey
Ancram
Hila Richardson
Ancramdale
Co-Chairs of Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors

A fool's paradise

In my copy of Churchill's "The Second World War," there's a quote that I feel applies to our situation, in fact to all countries' situation in this pandemic: "There is no worse mistake in public leadership than to hold out false hopes soon to be swept away... people can face peril or misfortune with fortitude and buoyancy, but they bitterly resent being deceived or finding that those responsible for their affairs are themselves dwelling in a fool's paradise."

Unfortunately, that's the situation we are living in; those responsible are themselves deluded as to reality. And, yes, that includes the administration, but it goes much further than that.

All across the planet 20 years ago a movement started — urged on by Wall Street, Frankfurt and all those other money counters... to reduce corporate costs by avoiding the need for warehousing. "Just In Time" manufacturing became the new currency, the new mantra. Why stockpile car bumpers when you could contract with a sub-manufacturer to make them just when needed and deliver them within minutes — yes minutes — of assembly on the cars?

In publishing, all across the world, just-in-time printing became "Why print a first edition in the thousands when you can print enough, day by day, situate the plant next to Amazon distribution centers, and connect them with a conveyor belt, and let a computer program handle need and delivery?"

And so where are the stocks of anything? In stores near you. For example, more books are in local stores than in any Amazon warehouse. And those books in that store? Owned by the publisher until the bookstore pays for them within 60 days or returns them. If they return them where do they go? You guessed it, into the just-in-time computer calculations.

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Now you may be thinking that the system worked, so where's the problem? Ask any hospital near you that is running out of supplies. Ask any manufacturer of ventilators who wants to ramp up production but can't get parts from China, Mexico or Korea because, normally, they were only making those parts just-in-time and, anyway, how can they get them through the "no flights" rules now?

In an emergency, just-in-time supply and demand is a death knell for people across the world.

And, sorry, but there's more bad news coming: Inflation. Two things: One, the price of the mismanagement of this emergency is already past \$2,000,000,000,000 in "stimulus" hand-outs (funny, all those "detest socialism" people are the first with hands out). And that "stimulus" has to come from somewhere — taxes. Two, companies across the world have begun to realize that just-in-time is not such a great idea and they will want to stockpile equipment and components, to restart warehouses across every part of the globe. That means they will make parts they don't get paid for right away and that costs money. You can expect everything from cars to hospital care, from milk to gasoline, from airplanes to cruises ships, and from toilet paper to books to become more expensive.

Sadly, we're finding, by counting the dead, that those responsible for our affairs have been themselves dwelling in a fool's paradise.

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

Old Amenia concrete plant revived

From the roadside of 307 Leedsville Road in Amenia, little can be seen of the industrial empire that once was in John Segalla's heyday. A meager yellow sign, now tattered and rusty, still hangs by the road and proclaims the prosperity of an age gone by: "Amenia Sand & Gravel."

The facility is impressive to say the least with a sand processing plant (no longer functioning), an asphalt production plant (still in use), a concrete plant (recently revived) and countless garages and storage buildings. No phrase more accurately describes the scene than "ghost-town."

Recently, however, the concrete plant has become inhabited once again, breathing new life to a property gasping for air. Century Concrete, of Canaan, Conn., is now renting the plant, has made necessary repairs and will be servicing the area as far south as Brewster.

When you see the unmistakable blue and orange concrete mixer know that the town of Amenia is alive and well!

Joseph Brennan
Canaan, Conn.

Going seriously viral

Far from the front lines of a grimly desperate big-city hospital, it's starting to feel real. I now know one victim and am 3 degrees of separation from another. As our president didn't mean to say about the 40,000 ventilators Governor Cuomo wants, "I have a feeling the numbers are not what they are going to be."

To be clear, the disease is COVID-19. The virus is SARS CoV-2, the second version of the coronavirus behind the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS — severe acute respiratory syndrome — in Taiwan. Saying "the coronavirus" could also mean a common cold. Where we are by the numbers so far:

U.S. infection rate or R_0 (technically, reproductive ratio): Between 2 and 4. That is, each infected person is estimated to infect 2 to 4 others. An R_0 less than 1 means the disease is contained and will eventually die out; above 1 and it will expand; 4 indicates a major contagion. The 1918 swine flu pandemic that killed 50 million people worldwide had an R_0 of 1.4 to 2.8; mumps is 10, measles 18.

U.S. fatality rate: About 1%, or one of every 100 infected patients. The rate in Wuhan, China, was 3, but that did not include many who would have tested positive, had there been a test, and suffered only a mild bout. The elderly, very young and health-compromised have a rate higher than 1%.

Vaccine development: One year (or a lot longer). This requires lab, animal and human testing, during which vaccines and antibodies need time to grow and react. It cannot be safely accelerated. Simulations produce false results. Fortunately, a promising vaccine is now being tested in human beings and other formulations with competing strategies are being advanced as fast as science allows. Wrote H. Holden Thorp, editor-in-chief of Science journals, "A vaccine has to have a fundamental scientific basis. It has to be manufacturable. It has to be safe... Pharmaceutical executives have every incentive to get there quickly... they also know that you can't break the laws of

GUEST COMMENTARY

Tom Parrett

nature." Age: Even those in their 20s, 30s and 40s are starting to be admitted to ERs. Many who are otherwise medically sound nevertheless need ventilators. An outside number are male or obese or both.

What's freaking out emergency-room staff is how fast mildly symptomatic patients become precipitate ECU cases who need quick intubation (tube inserted down windpipe). A typical "vent" lasts a couple of days; the duration of a COVID-19 vent, ECU's are also learning, is two weeks — which further strains the ventilator supply.

Said New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, facing the city's biggest medical crisis since cholera killed 5,017 in 1849, "April will be worse than March, and May worse than April." To make matters almost intolerable, there won't be new ventilators any time soon. Doctors will have to triage — decide who's most likely to be saved by forced breathing.

We are stuck in place for now; get used to it. Take up a two-month project. Learn (or relearn) a musical instrument or a language; paint the place; drive yourself nuts with a 5,000-piece puzzle of rippled water. Better, be an upright citizen. Do something good you'll be remembered for, if only by one person other than yourself.

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

Send letters to the editor to editor@millertonnews.com

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Mission Statement

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

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PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

In bloom

CENSUS DAY *Continued from Page A1*

"I realized it might be since it was sent to a physical street address and not to my P.O. Box," she said. "The paper Census form was mailed 'to resident at' your physical street address. If you have a P.O. Box, most likely your Census has been returned by the post office as undeliverable."

Winkler, taking on the role of sleuth, looked into the issue.

"The Millerton Post Office

confirmed they return all the paper Census forms as not deliverable to those who have P.O. Boxes," she said.

A call to the Millerton Post Office for confirmation was unsatisfactory, as no one would go on the record. But The Millerton News did learn that there are roughly 900 residents who use P.O. Boxes in the 12546 zip code.

Winkler said not to worry.

"You can still fill out the Census, without your Census ID number, online or respond by phone," she said.

The Census may be completed online, at www.my2020census.gov. Or, one may call to complete the Census, from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m., in English, at 844-330-2020 or in Spanish, at 844-468-2020. The Census Bureau assures residents it's safe, secure and confidential.

"Please participate — we all need to be counted," encouraged Winkler.

Throughout April, the Census Bureau will send reminder postcards, and a paper questionnaire. In late May, Census takers plan to visit households that have not completed the Census to offer personal assistance, if local, state and federal health officials give the all-clear.

ANIMAL NEGLECT *Continued from Page A1*

"This is a victory for animal rights as well as animal rescuers, activists and supporters," said Genovesi last week, who is also the animal control officer for the town of Amenia. "We are very pleased."

Currently, she added, she is using three farms in Amenia to house half the animals; five of which remain at Godspeed.

"They are doing amazing now and we wanted them to have larger enclosures and plenty of pasture," said Genovesi.

"I am of the opinion that animals, as sentient beings, have the same vulnerabilities and need for guardianship as a human baby, and should be afforded exactly the same laws that protect people. I do not know where the disconnect lies with the lawmakers, in not recognizing that."

She added that she "changed the mission of Godspeed of just horse rescue to outreach for all animals: companion animals, dogs, cats, domestic animals, horses, farm animals and wildlife." She's also lobbying Albany about changing animal cruelty offenses from misdemeanors to felonies.

METRO-NORTH *Continued from Page A1*

workers on the front lines of this crisis, while adapting to never-before-seen ridership lows — dropping by as much as 90% across New York City Transit, the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad."

Changes to service started to be phased in on Wednesday, March 25.

shuttle service between Wascaic and Southeast on the Upper Harlem line."

The service changes will be reflected on the MTA website, www.new.mta.info, the MYmta app and on countdown clocks in stations and on platforms.

budget at approximately \$8 billion, has dropped significantly as more and more riders stay home. That's on top of more than \$6 billion in state and local taxes dedicated to the MTA that is likely to evaporate in the inevitable economic downturn. Additionally, the MTA's enhanced and intensive disinfecting efforts are expected to total over \$300 million on an annualized basis."

ues to serve New Yorkers.

"Our crews and front line employees at Metro-North will continue to provide the service our customers deserve during these trying times," stated Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi. "Our ridership has seen a steep decline over the past several weeks, but health care workers and other first responders continue to ride our trains every day. While some reduction in service makes sense right now, we will continue to run a safe and reliable service to get these critical employees to their places of employment every day."

It was on Dec. 2, 2019, that the NYSP in Livingston received a complaint of possible animal neglect on Nevis Road in the town of Clermont. An investigation led to three search warrants for the property, which were all executed in January 2020.

A "continued investigation with the help of local and state veterinary professionals along with the Columbia County District Attorney's Office" led to the Nussinow's arrest last month.

"That's why I'm vigorously working with lobbying organizations to help change the laws up in Albany," Genovesi said in January. "I would like to see any kind of animal cruelty be a felony, with jail time, because statistically, people who abuse animals go on to abuse people."

Nussinow was arraigned before the Columbia County Court, and released on her own recognizance. She is next scheduled to appear before the town of Clermont Court on May 20, at 5 p.m.

According to the MTA announcement, "Metro-North Railroad has seen a 94% decline in ridership as a result of the pandemic. Beginning on March 27, Metro-North will provide hourly service on the Harlem, Hudson and New Haven lines, with extra trains added during peak times. Normal weekday capacity will be reduced by approximately 50% when compared to a normal weekday. The reduced schedule will run 424 trains, down from 713 during a normal schedule. Beginning the weekend of April 4 and 5, Metro-North will provide hourly service while also suspending

The changes follow the governor's New York State on PAUSE directive, which orders riders use public transportation only for essential travel and obey social distancing protocols. The MTA assured riders it is following "aggressive disinfecting procedures at each of its stations twice daily, and continue daily sanitization of its fleet of rolling stock with the full fleet of train cars and buses disinfected every 72 hours or less."

The health crisis is taking an economic toll on the MTA. According to the Authority, it is now facing "financial calamity."

"Farebox and toll revenue, which normally constitutes nearly half of the MTA's annual

That's why the MTA asked Congress to include at least \$25 billion in dedicated funding for mass transit, with \$4 billion just for the MTA. On Wednesday, March 25, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced the MTA will get \$3.8 billion through the nearly \$2 trillion emergency relief package that the Senate approved Wednesday, with a vote of 96 to 0. The House also passed the bill, on Friday, and the president signed the relief package that night.

Meanwhile, the MTA contin-

pricks and fluids — today's health care workers, said Schmidt, face a "much higher" risk of infection with COVID-19, "especially with the shortage of appropriate personal protective equipment."

However, the consequences of infection, said Schmidt, are much different. "AIDS was a death sentence in the 1980s and up to the mid-1990s. It is now treatable, although essentially not curable, and there is still no vaccine."

COVID-19, on the other hand, said Schmidt, "is what we call 'self-limited,' meaning if it doesn't kill you, your immune system will eradicate it." An estimated 20% of COVID patients will become sick enough to be hospitalized, said the internist, who now has her practice in Millerton. And, she said, an estimated 1 to 3% will die.

"This mortality rate is about 10 times higher than influenza."

HIV/AIDS and COVID-19

The two plagues do share similarities, she said.

"Our governments and health care systems at the time both failed to respond to the crisis proactively in a way that could have averted significant suffering and death," said Schmidt. "Both Reagan and Trump could have advocated for better public health measures like education about prevention" on issues like safe sex and use of condoms during

When asked if the justice system is strict enough when ruling on animal abuse cases, Genovesi was blunt.

"Short answer, no," she said.

Force, his presence at televised briefings brings echoes of the past for Schmidt.

Fauci played a critical role in identifying, and ending, the global AIDS crisis.

"I think he's doing a good job," she said of his work on COVID-19. "But at some point I think he is going to have to more aggressively defend his belief system based in epidemiology and evidence-based medicine."

As deadly as the AIDS epidemic was, the internist said she believes COVID-19 will have a greater impact on the psyche of the general public because it doesn't discriminate.

"It is an equal opportunity infector, and it's much easier to catch. If the exponential curve of COVID infections continues to double every three days in the U.S. as it has, there would be 100 million cases by July, according to the Washington Post," said Schmidt.

"Strict social distancing will reduce the numbers of infected people and will save lives if it will keep our health care system from being overwhelmed until perhaps a vaccine is available.

"But I feel that as Americans we are not very good at accepting limitations on our freedom, and therefore we may be hit hard."

Mental health hot line to help New Yorkers deal with health crisis

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

NEW YORK STATE — Providing New Yorkers in need of mental health support a lifeline during the coronavirus pandemic, the governor announced a new statewide hot line last week. Days later, New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) sent out a mass email about the state's efforts to help recruit qualified health professionals — both current and retired — from various health fields for the hot line.

Cuomo gave a COVID-19 update on Friday, March 27, from the city; he repeated the call for mental health professionals to provide services electronically. He also thanked those who have already done so.

"The number of people coming forward, so far 62,000 volunteers for medical personnel," said Cuomo, "how beautiful is that? These are people who are retired."

Serino added on Friday, "As of today, over 10,000 mental health professionals have answered the call, helping to making that toll-

free hot line a reality."

"This is a taxing situation on everyone in isolation at home," said Cuomo. "You are home, alone, day after day after day, that is a stressful situation. [People think], 'I don't know what's going on,' and are afraid to go out. You're isolated with your family, that's a stressful situation — not that we don't love to be with family, we all do, but that can create stress. There's no place to go, no one to talk with, so offering mental health services over the phone is a very important service."

Important numbers and website addresses for updated coronavirus information

- DUTCHESS COUNTY — Below is a brief list of local, state and federal resources to help area residents stay on top of the COVID-19 pandemic and the latest news related to the coronavirus. Be aware, information is rapidly changing these days and it's important to keep note of new government regulations and health protocols in order to keep everyone in the community safe.
- Dutchess County coronavirus updates: www.dutchesscountygov/coronavirus
 - Dutchess County coronavirus hotline: 845-486-3555
 - Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health phone: 845-486-3400
 - New York State Department of Health: www.health.ny.gov
 - New York state's coronavirus updates: www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov
 - World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
 - WHO coronavirus updates: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

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MILLERTON DOCTOR *Continued from Page A1*

the AIDS crisis; and social distancing, hand-washing and use of gloves and masks for COVID-19 prevention.

Both administrations also used the epidemics to stigmatize, rather than focus on solutions, said Schmidt, by referring to them as "the gay plague" and "the Chinese virus."

Furthermore, she added, "President Trump is only now, at least two months too late, offering medical advice that he is not competent to give. He is providing such a wealth of misinformation that he is going to increase the damage and suffering that we will have to endure."

The death toll from AIDS, said Schmidt, remains significant. In 2018, about 1 million people died of AIDS-related illness worldwide and 32 million have died since the onset of the epidemic, according to UNAIDS statistics. And while the infections can be prevented, an estimated 38,000 new HIV infections still occur in the U.S. annually, according to www.HIV.gov.

Dr. Fauci

Although Schmidt never worked directly with noted immunologist Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a respected member of the White House Coronavirus Task

Force, his presence at televised briefings brings echoes of the past for Schmidt.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

April 2-8, 2020

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.

TELEVISION: NF AMBERY

Here We Are, in 'The Twilight Zone' ...

If your television preferences lean toward the uncanny but you have already exhausted director Jordan Peele's rebooted "Twilight Zone" episodes, you may want to check out that show's source material.

Some background: Producer/writer/narrator Rod Serling's science fiction anthology series of half-hour episodes made its debut on CBS in 1959.

"Science fiction," though, fails to adequately sum up the show. It also served as a suspenseful platform for such socially relevant topics as racism, social injustice, mental illness and the inhumanity of man, in what came to be considered iconic story lines.

Classic episodes of "The Twilight Zone" are currently streaming on Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime Video.

Although I urge you to watch them all, the ones below are my Top 10 Favorites.

10) SEASON 2, EPISODE 17 "TWENTY-TWO"

A stripper recovering in a hospital from a nervous breakdown experiences a recurring dream wherein she wanders down corridors and pauses in front of Room 22: the morgue.

The doors burst open and she is greeted by a sinister nurse who announces: "Room for one more, honey!"

The recovering "professional dancer" is convinced the nightly dream is a premonition of her own death. Despite the show being one of six episodes of the second season to be recorded on video (a primitive medium at the time), the story and its fulfilling presentation deliver a lasting blow.

9) SEASON 1, EPISODE 21 "MIRROR IMAGE"

Millicent Barnes (played by Alfred Hitchcock favorite Vera Miles) has a problem.



Donna Douglas, center, was featured in 1960 "The Twilight Zone" episode "Eye of the Beholder." Classic episodes of "The Twilight Zone," which began on Oct. 2, 1959, and ended on June 19, 1964, are currently streaming on Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime Video.

People in the station where she is awaiting a bus keep telling her she has been doing things she clearly hasn't. The surly ticket agent insists she just asked him when the next bus will arrive two times already. The suitcase she has kept beside her on the bench the whole time suddenly appears checked, behind the counter.

As Millicent doubts her own sanity in the ladies' room, a female custodian looks in on her. The bathroom door swings open and Millicent catches a look in the mirror at her own elusive doppelgänger sitting on the bench in the bus station.

In a Rolling Stone magazine interview, director Jordan Peele cited this episode as an inspiration for his 2019 movie "Us."

8) SEASON 2, EPISODE 6 "EYE OF THE BEHOLDER"

While lying in the hospital, Janet Tyler's face is swathed in bandages. She is recovering from the last of multiple operations to correct a facial disfigurement. She expresses hope to doctors and nurses, whose own faces are carefully shadowed, on how this successful operation will be her ticket back into normal society. This episode delivers a visually dramatic statement on perspective

and conformity.

7) SEASON 1, EPISODE 22 "THE MONSTERS ARE DUE ON MAPLE STREET"

A flash of light in the sky accompanied by a blackout and subsequent mechanical abnormalities lead the residents of Maple Street to turn against each other, to the point of mayhem and murder.

This installment says more about humans' capacity for evil than it does about a suspected alien invasion.

Claude Akins, a familiar character actor who appeared in myriad films and television series, gives a grounded performance as the sole voice of reason drowned out by his neighbors' caterwauls of fear.

6) SEASON 1, EPISODE 16 "THE HITCH-HIKER"

After the blown-out tire on Nan Adams' car is repaired during a cross-country trip, the mechanic quips, "You shouldn't have called for a mechanic; somebody should've called for a hearse." Then Nan begins seeing a disheveled man with a strange glint in his eye, hitch-hiking on the side of the road. Although she passes him repeatedly, she keeps seeing, with increasing terror, that he is always ahead of her, always soliciting a ride.

5) SEASON 5, EPISODE 13 "RING-A-DING GIRL"

Movie star Bunny Blake's hometown fan club has given her a ring as a gift. Problem is, every time she looks into the ring's stone, she sees visions of people from her past

begging her to come home.

Forgoing a trip to a movie set in Rome, she returns to family and friends in Howardsville, Va. Fainting spells, hijacking the town's annual celebration, and assorted strange behavior escalate the narrative tension.

And then you find out what it was all for.

This episode embodies ingredients of the best of the series: eeriness, lightheartedness and a strong dollop of poignancy.

4) SEASON 5, EPISODE 3 "NIGHTMARE AT 20,000 FEET"

One of the most memorable and over-the-top episodes. A man recently released from a mental institution (played by William Shatner) is flying home. Complication: He is terrified of flying.

He keeps up a brave face for a fellow passenger, his supportive yet concerned wife. While in mid-air, he looks out the window and spots a gremlin tampering with the plane's engine. Trouble is, every time he summons the airline steward or his wife, the creature disappears, making everyone, including himself, doubt his sanity.

This story was remade and incorporated into director George Miller's outrageous segment (starring John Lithgow) in the 1983 anthology "Twilight Zone" movie. Director Peele's 2019 "Twilight Zone" series reimagined this episode as a more psychological tale in "Nightmare at 30,000 Feet" (a higher altitude) featuring a PTSD-afflicted journalist

driven by a strange podcast to hijack a plane.

3) SEASON 1, EPISODE 34 "THE AFTER HOURS"

Years ago, while listening to a friend's mix tape, I was curious about the odd, affected dialogue he had planted between songs. I found out later it was recordings of Twilight Zone episode "The After Hours."

I finally watched the episode, which has an unsettling appeal. Marsha White visits a department store to buy a gold thimble for her mother. She is directed to the ninth floor, where she encounters an empty, dimly lit floor with a preternaturally polished saleswoman selling the one thing she wants: a gold thimble.

Marsha quips, "Well, you may be more sophisticated than I am, but this is what I call odd!"

This, however, is only the beginning of the weirdness.

2) SEASON 2, EPISODE 28 "WILL THE REAL MARTIAN PLEASE STAND UP?"

In this otherworldly twist on the classic whodunit, two state troopers follow footprints in the snow trailing from a crashed UFO to a diner filled with seven snowed-in bus passengers. Trouble is, the bus driver insists to the police that he only has six passengers. Neither the bus driver nor the other passengers can figure out who is the odd man or woman out. Twist upon twist makes this episode "Alien" meets the Agatha Christie tale "And Then There Were None."

1) SEASON 1, EPISODE 11 "AND WHEN THE SKY WAS OPENED"

This adaptation of a Richard Matheson short story explores all kinds of themes: the butterfly effect, the role of memory, fate versus free will, and the meaning of existence.

After their spacecraft disappears for four hours and then crash lands, an astronaut, Lt. Colonel Clegg Forbes, visits a colleague still recovering from the accident in the hospital.

Clegg insists there were three astronauts, not the two that were listed in the newspaper account and which seems to be in everyone's, including the recovering colleague's, collective memory.

The third astronaut, also Clegg's friend, is presented in flashbacks with a different newspaper headline. "This is a gag, isn't it?" Clegg stammers, behaving like he is losing his mind.

But more importantly, Clegg confesses he nurtures a gnawing feeling that he no longer belongs in this world. Arguably the best installment in the series, with powerful acting and the story's tentacles bringing in elements of sci-fi, horror and existentialism.

The above may be good places to start. You are, however, urged to watch them all and decide for yourselves.

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The homeless, the opioid epidemic and jobs at forefront in county address

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
 editor@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Just what kind of condition is the county in these days? That's exactly the type of question Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro answered during his State of the County address on Friday, Feb. 20, given at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, before public distancing became the new norm.

"I love this place, and I know we are not perfect," he said. "We are not free of challenges

or devoid of problems... But in Dutchess, we don't run from our problems..."

Today, one of the biggest problems is dealing with COVID-19. But in February, before the pandemic hit the U.S., Molinaro said a major problem the county is facing is homelessness. According to him, from 2018 to 2019, it saw an 18% increase in its homeless population. As of Dec. 31, 2019, the Department of Community and Family Services provided placements for 80 homeless families, 101 homeless singles and one homeless couple. Molinaro said

the issue runs deep. "The face of homelessness has changed," he said. "The problem is different today than it was 20 or 30 years ago — before the last real estate bubble, before the acceptance of addiction as an illness, before the closure of mental health institutions across New York and before this strong economy."

One solution? Affordable housing, said Molinaro, adding more transitional housing is needed. He pointed to projects in Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls that are providing affordable

housing — much of which will provide for the homeless.

That led to talk about the opioid epidemic, which Dutchess County is battling along with the rest of the country. He said that the nation "witnessed its first decline in drug deaths in 28 years," adding to the good news that "in 2019, Dutchess County experienced its first year-to-year decline in opioid-related deaths since 2014."

Still, in 2018 there were 93 overdose deaths in the county; in 2019, there were 77. Fewer, but still too many.

Sobered by that reality, Molinaro added that "there is so much more work to be done to put an end to this destructive epidemic."

To that end, the county executive praised the Opioid Task Force, healthcare and treatment providers and the Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) staff for more diverse and more readily available medication-assisted treatment options.

He spoke of the Stabilization Center, which provides such treatments through a partnership with MidHudson Regional and HRHcare. And he spoke of the center's future.

"We are taking the lock off the door, opening our arms to all in need, to all searching for an

answer in a time of crisis," said Molinaro.

The county's strategy, he said, "at the center and in the community, supports multiple pathways to recovery and is sensitive to complex co-occurring mental health and health disorders." All of which, he hopes, will help lead to a long-term recovery.

The State of the County address also highlighted the economy, which Molinaro described as "strong" at the time. Unemployment was less than 3.5%; there had been 27 months of private sector job growth; workers had seen a 1% increase in average weekly wages since 2015; there were roughly 3,000 net new jobs; and nearly \$5 billion in development was underway. Those figures have changed since the health crisis hit.

Calling the county's economy "competitive" and "dynamic," Molinaro offered hope then that many are clinging to now.

He spoke of "an aggressive tourism promotion effort to bring concerts to our parks, celebrations to our communities and millions of people to Dutchess," along with their spending dollars.

Molinaro spoke about parks and trails, of which the county has 1,000 acres and nearly 40 miles.

"We have a pretty awesome backyard," he said.

He added the county will offer

training and create a Greenway Compact guide to municipal leaders on how to protect water resources. In addition, stormwater and runoff management will be added to the Community Development Block Grant priority list to "avoid overburdening sewer systems." That means communities throughout the county — and right here in the Harlem Valley — may qualify for funding to pursue their own wastewater treatment facilities.

United Way offers help during health crisis

HUDSON VALLEY — United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is actively responding to the needs of the COVID-19 crisis. The response includes:

- A fund to help families in crisis: www.uwdor.org/covid-help

- A community resource webpage and Facebook Group for Dutchess and Orange County: www.uwdor.org/covid19-communityresources and www.facebook.com/groups/docommunitystrongresources

- United Way's 2-1-1 confidential helpline is answering calls 24/7 from the community, not only about COVID-19, but also about shelter, food access,

and employment: HUDSON211.org

- Disseminating items that are essential for the community. All staff members can be reached at their extensions and

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