

Small Business Spotlight, A2



MILLBROOK
 Thorne Building **A3**



MILLERTON
 Fire Co. history **A6**



COMPASS
 'Vulnerable Earth'; and more **B1-4**

Thai tea shop to open in former Candy-O's space on Main Street

By **NATHAN MILLER**
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MILLERTON — The former home of Candy-O's on Main Street will soon get new life, with a Bangkok-inspired tea shop expected to open in June.

Millerton residents John Schildbach and Kanchisar Jiradhanaiphath hope to open Muanjai Tea on June 6. The couple — who are set to be married in May — are currently securing permits to renovate the former candy store, with plans to transform the space into a Thai-inspired tea shop modeled after urban cafés, featuring an elevated atmosphere and menu.

"This isn't going to be a bubble

tea shop," Schildbach said, describing a menu that seeks to bring authentic Thai tea culture to Millerton.

Highlights will include nom yen — a pink milk tea made with sweetened condensed milk and flavored syrup — as well as coffee cham yen, a blend of coffee and tea. The menu will also feature Thai tea ice cream floats, lattes and matcha drinks.

But the pair don't want to limit the menu to just desserts and sweets. Schildbach said they are aiming for a sophisticated — yet affordable — menu that offers an authentic, approachable take on Thai tea shops.

See **MUANJAI, A10**



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Millbrook resident Jackie Bachor hugs her horse, Dessie, during a tour of her barn and Pilates studio on Tuesday, April 21.

Local Pilates instructor returns home after Miami Dolphins stint

By **GRAHAM CORRIGAN**
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MILLBROOK — Local Pilates instructor Jackie Bachor has led a career that has taken her from rural upstate New York to Miami and back again — where she is forging a new path that blends her passions for fitness and equestrianism.

Now standing in the sun-drenched studio space of True Pilates Millbrook, Bachor has found space for both. The studio doubles as a stable loft, looking down on Bachor's horses Dessie and Sammy. When Bachor points around the space to identify Pilates equipment, it's as if she's naming horses. At the center of the room is the Cadillac, a

raised bed with overhead bars. To the side sits the Barrel, an arced apparatus designed for optimal spinal mobility.

By the far wall sit two Reformers, padded tables with a variety of appendages. It's on the Reformer that she's trained pro athletes for

See **JACKIE BACHOR, A10**



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey buys two books from Oblong Books in Millerton on Thursday, April 23, after inducting the business into the state Historic Business Preservation Registry.

Oblong Books placed on NYS Historic Registry

By **GRAHAM CORRIGAN**
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MILLERTON — Fifty-one years after Dick Hermans and Holly Nelson opened Oblong Books, the Millerton bookstore has been recognized as part of New York State history.

Following a nomination from state Sen. Michelle Hinchey,

Oblong Books was added to the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. Hermans and his daughter and co-owner, Suzanna Hermans, celebrated the designation Thursday alongside Hinchey, North East Town Supervisor Christopher Kennan and Kathy Moser, acting commissioner

See **OBLONG, A10**

Random Harvest fights through disruptions after fatal tanker crash

By **NATALIA ZUKERMAN**
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CRARYVILLE — A fatal two-vehicle crash at the intersection of County Route 7 and State Route 23 on April 16 has shaken this small Columbia County hamlet, drawing attention not only to the dangers of the roadway but also to a nearby business that is a cornerstone of community life.

According to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, a 2022 Subaru Outback entering Route 23 collided with an eastbound gasoline tanker truck carrying about 7,000 gallons of fuel. The driver, John Piwowarski, 78, of Hills-

dale, was pronounced dead at the scene. His wife, Janet Piwowarski, 76, later died at Columbia Memorial Hospital. The truck driver sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The crash remains under investigation.

Just steps from the intersection sits Random Harvest, a worker-owned market, café and community space that has become a hub for locals and visitors alike. In the days following the crash, traffic disruptions and the emotional weight of the incident have been felt by nearby businesses, including Random Harvest. Still, the market remains open — and committed to its mission.

Random Harvest operates with a clear vision: building a "relational food economy" in the Hudson Valley, where food connects people across lines of work, income and background. The market sources directly from local farmers and producers, offering seasonal produce, pantry goods and prepared foods alongside coffee and deli items in its café.

But its role extends beyond retail. The space is designed as a gathering place — somewhere neighbors can meet, share a meal, attend an event or simply spend time together. Its upstairs commu-

See **CRASH, A10**



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REGIONAL



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Webutuck High School students, from left, Emily Fuisz, Future Hicks, Sabn Kain and Skyler Folster, present their research at the Troutbeck Symposium.

Students spotlight local Black, Indigenous history at Troutbeck Symposium

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — History came alive during the fifth annual Troutbeck Symposium on Thursday, April 23, as local middle and high school students showcased original projects, many highlighting Indigenous and Black history rooted in their communities. The event drew a large audience and participants from the Northwest Corner and neighboring New York.

Robin Starr, a Black Revolutionary War veteran with roots in the Northwest Corner, was the focus of several projects. Students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) presented a video about Starr titled “The Cost of Liberty,” while seventh graders from Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS) presented findings from their study, “Who We Choose to Remember.”

Yarosh Semenov, a student from Cornwall Consolidated School, said, “We choose to remember Robin Starr and his family because their contributions were essential to securing the freedom we hold so dear.”

CCS students believe Starr is buried in Cornwall’s Calhoun Cemetery in an unmarked grave alongside his son Abel and grandson Josiah, both of whom have aging gravestones. Starr’s wife and son Jack are also buried there, but without stone markers, students said. Students have been working with several adults to make three additional stones a reality.

Students also approached Cornwall town officials about designating Feb. 8 as Robin Starr Day to commemorate the day of his death and legacy. They will share their story at the Memorial Day celebration, and a board depicting their work will be displayed at the Cornwall Historical Society.

While Starr’s legacy anchored several presentations, students also examined a wider range of topics linking local history to broader themes of race, identity and education.

Among several entries from Hotchkiss School students was one exploring the connection between the private preparatory school and Hampton University, one of the nation’s historically Black colleges and universities in Virginia. Hotchkiss students have donated money to the college to support its work examining Black education.

A Berkshire School student spoke about a controversial issue in her hometown



PHOTO BY MAOI LONG

Salisbury Central School eighth graders Mia Dunlavey and Sarina Lemmy unveil art projects on Thursday, April 23, that accompanied the historical research projects at the heart of the Troutbeck Symposium in Amenia.

of Great Barrington, Mass., where residents held differing views about a street named Squaw Peak Road. In 2022, the town voted to rename it Woodland Hill Road after concerns that the original name was a racist and sexist slur against Indigenous people.

A long-held belief was challenged in a video produced by HVRHS students titled “Searching for Chief Waramaug,” which examines local Native American legends, including that of Princess Lillinonah.

The story recounts the legend of Princess Lillinonah, who in the 1700s fell in love with a white man. He stayed with her in New Milford until winter, then left, promising to return. When he did not, her father arranged for her to marry within the tribe. Before the wedding, Lillinonah set out in a canoe toward the Great Falls to take her own life. At the last moment, her lover returned and leapt into the water so they would perish together.

“It never happened,” declared Darlene Kascak, education director at the American Institute of American Indian Studies. “It was fabricated. It was a Romeo and Juliet story; a way white colonizers depicted Native Americans. They romanticized Indigenous people who endured racism in order to impose Western standards.”

HVRHS students also shared a video about the two summers Martin Luther King Jr. spent in Simsbury working on a tobacco farm. He was there in 1944 and 1947 and later credited that time with planting the seed for a career in divinity. He was invited to sing in a church choir and was amazed that he, as a Black person, was welcomed into a white congregation. But the video also noted that Connecticut today ranks as the third-worst state for edu-

cational equality despite being one of the richest.

“Having a holiday for him is not enough,” says the video’s narrator. “He would have wanted to see equality of opportunity.”

Salisbury School students submitted a video on midwifery and one about Austin Reed, a Black indentured servant who spent most of his life in prison. Reed wrote a memoir in the 1850s that is considered to be the earliest known prison memoir by an African-American writer.

Students from Webutuck High School presented a lighter piece titled “Origins of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” noting the creators, Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman, got their start in Mirage Studios in Sharon, Conn. They said the comic book characters exemplify leadership, courage, scholarship and empathy. Other Webutuck students talked about Wappingers Falls and Amenia in the Civil War, as well as Bannerman Castle.

An expert panel of educators — including Hasan Kwame Jeffries, associate professor of history at The Ohio State University and brother of Hakeem Jeffries; Christina Proenza-Cole, lecturer for American Studies at the University of Virginia; and Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason, assistant director of Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at Brown University — discussed the highlights of each presentation.

The venue for the regional education program was historic in its own right — a 45-acre estate and hotel built in 1765. Originally a private home, it became a retreat for literary figures such as Emerson and Thoreau. Under Col. Joel Spingarn, it evolved into a gathering space for civil rights activists including W. E.B. Du Bois, Sinclair Lewis and Langston Hughes.

Sharon Playhouse issues ticket scam warning ahead of season debut

By ALY MORRISSEY
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SHARON, Conn. — The Sharon Playhouse is warning theatergoers ahead of its 2026 season to avoid third-party ticket sellers after scams surfaced during last year’s record-breaking run.

Officials said tickets for MainStage and YouthStage shows are only available through the Sharon Playhouse website or box office and will not cost more than \$55.

The issue extends beyond Sharon. Regional venues, including the Warner Theater in Torrington and Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, report similar problems with third-party sellers inflating prices or distributing fraudulent tickets.

Scams have typically taken two forms, Playhouse officials said, including legitimate tickets resold at inflated prices — sometimes up to five times the face value — and entirely fake tickets.

“We’re on the radar now,” joked Artistic Director Carl Andress, pointing to the theater’s surge in attendance in recent years. The Playhouse saw the highest overall attendance in its history last year, a factor leaders believe is contributing to scam activity.

Michael Baldwin, the Playhouse’s Education and Community Director, said the consequences fall hard-

est on customers.

“We’re thrilled that we are selling more tickets — and even selling out,” Baldwin said. “But if someone purchased a fraudulent ticket last year, there were times when we didn’t have another ticket to offer them.”

To combat the issue, the Playhouse will begin scanning tickets for the first time in its history. Previously, ushers looked at tickets and directed people to their seats.

The problem is exacerbated by third-party ticket sellers with larger marketing budgets, often dominating online search results through paid ads.

“It’s a constant challenge we’re working on from a marketing standpoint,” said Lynette Shy of Confluence Arts Solutions, the Playhouse’s marketing partner.

She noted that patrons frequently believe they are purchasing directly from a venue when they are not.

Despite efforts to counter misleading listings, the Playhouse said its budget simply can’t keep up.

“These people have a lot more resources than nonprofit performing arts groups,” Shy said.

Some resellers purchase tickets in bulk and relist them at higher prices, she said, adding that efforts to monitor suspicious sales are ongoing but scammers are “getting smarter and

smarter.”

At Bushnell, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Marketing Stephanie Fried said the impact can deter audiences entirely.

When theatergoers see prices inflated far beyond what they should be, Fried said, many simply walk away without realizing affordable tickets are available directly from the venue. In some cases, she said, seasoned scammers use tactics like countdown clocks or misleading inventory lists to create a sense of urgency.

“In every one of these scenarios, the patron trusted a process, acted in good faith, and was harmed,” Fried said. “Every Connecticut consumer deserves honest, transparent access to tickets for the events they want to attend.”

Early signs suggest the problem is continuing into the upcoming Sharon Playhouse season, prompting staff to get ahead of the problem. Warnings are being posted on the Sharon Playhouse website, e-mail communications and social media.

“We want to keep selling out,” Andress said. “But we want our customers to have the best experience and pay the prices that we actually charge.”

Tickets for the 2026 season can be purchased at sharon-playhouse.org or in person at the box office.

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PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Arbor Day celebration

A group of gardeners and community members hear Maryanne Snow-Pitts explain proper care for newly-planted tree saplings near the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Wassaic after Snow-Pitts planted two serviceberry trees in celebration of Arbor Day on Friday, April 24.

Workforce housing subdivision awaits fire company approval

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — The proposed workforce housing subdivision on Route 22 is awaiting feedback from the Amenia Fire Company after developers added more water tanks to plans for the property.

Planning Board members discussed other outstanding questions involving the Cascade Creek workforce housing subdivision at their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 22, continuing a conservation subdivision process that began nearly a year ago.

Board engineer John Andrews said that once the conservation analysis step is approved by the board, the next step will be the preliminary subdivision approval process that will likely need a public hearing. When that preliminary approval is granted by the board, then the developer, Hudson River Housing, will be able to begin the application process for final subdivision approval, which can involve another public hearing.

The next step in the present process, outlined by board attorney Cassandra Britton, is for the developer to submit to fire department officials the completed, agreed-upon package defining fire suppression plans, including water holding tanks, and a traffic study to measure estimated numbers of daily trips to be generated by the development.

The developer is working through the state Department of Transportation to develop more traffic studies. The planning board indicated that such studies must be completed before May 15, while schools are in session. Previous traffic density studies were done in June.

Summarizing the overall project, Peter Sanders of Renna Engineering, representing the developer, said that Cascade Creek would consist of 28 lots on 24 acres, including two conservation parcels, arranged along a single 24-foot-wide road. Current drawings show two road cuts off of Route 22 to service a one-way subdivision road, although discussion continues on whether a single two-way entrance would be better.

Sanders recalled that the planning board had visited the site on Wednesday, March 11, and had developed additional comments based on that visit, resulting in plan adjustments.

After consultation with fire officials, a tentative plan calls for the installation of two 30,000-gallon water storage tanks on site, though final approval from the fire company is still required.

Also, one of the lots that would have abutted Route 22 was moved to the interior of the subdivision, with more vegetation to be planted throughout to provide screening.

Responding to board concerns about wanting to promote diversity in home design, Sanders said that various flexible components will add variety, including garages, porches, decks and a variety of exterior paint colors. He added that the variables will

become clearer during the design approval phase when the site plan drawings are presented.

Important to the planning board and to member Ken Topolsky in particular is an ongoing debate with the developer over whether local residents could benefit from a preferential system for selection to be able to purchase the homes in the development.

“I will continue to push on this,” Topolsky said. “What we need to do is serve residents of Amenia.” His research has shown that preferential systems are in place in some communities, leading him to reason that they are allowed.

Representatives of Hudson River Housing have maintained that such systems are not allowed.

Discussion is expected to continue at the next planning board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 13.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report April 19 to April 25

April 19 — Deputies report the arrest of Benjamin L Wormell, age 50, for driving while intoxicated during a traffic stop in the Town of Dover. Wormell is to appear in the Town of Dover Court at a later date.

April 22 — Deputies report the arrest of Adriana Barreto Angamarca, age 41, for operating a motor vehicle without a license and without proof of inspection after a traffic stop on Route 22 in the Town of Pawling. Subject to appear in the Town of Pawling Court at a later date.

April 22 — Deputies took a report of identity theft occurring in the Town of Amenia. Unknown subject(s) opened a NYSEG account for a property at 216 Depot Hill Road in Amenia under the complainant's name. Matter under investigation.

April 24 — Deputies responded to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in the Town of North East for a report of a

bear that was blocking the trail and hampering access. The bear eventually left the area on its own free will.

April 25 — Deputies responded to the area of 2390 County Rt. 83 in Pine Plains to investigate an automobile accident that resulted in property damage. Investigation led to the arrest of Juan S. Chavarro-Rios, age 25, for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 3rd degree. Subject to appear in the Town of Pine Plains Court at a later date.

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

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

Millbrook

Planning Board concludes public hearing for Thorne Building renovations

By LEILA HAWKEN
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MILLBROOK — Planning Board members voted to close a public hearing for renovations to the historic Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue on Monday, April 20.

Planned renovations to the historic Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue would create a multi-use community arts center.

The public hearing phase for the project's site plan approval began at the March 16 meeting held at the Millbrook firehouse and was continued to allow more time for residents to consider the plans and provide comment. The April 20 meeting was again held at the firehouse to accommodate expected attendance.

Architect Michael Sloan, principal at Sloan Architects of Millbrook, reviewed an adjustment to the site's parking lot plan. The center aisle within the 56-space lot has been widened to 25 feet. The Franklin Avenue entrance will be one-way because the present curb cut is too narrow for two-way traffic. The driveway will exit onto Maple Street.

Sloan added that the intended uses of the building meet all provisions of current zoning law.

Planning Board Chairman Frank Redl asked the architect to provide details on usage and the potential impact of those uses.

One resident spoke to express concern on behalf of neighbors who may be impacted by parking, and also asked that corrections be made to the minutes of the previous meeting to address some inaccuracies. Another

resident spoke in favor of the proposal for its potential to attract people to the village center.

“The building will not accommodate large events,” Sloan said, but the lawn area could be used for additional parking if multiple events are scheduled simultaneously.

The existing bandshell will be demolished, Sloan noted, and the playground will be moved closer to the church building for the convenience and safety of the children who use it.

The board closed the public hearing at the recommendation of consulting engineer Richard Renna, clearing the way for the board to review the comments and the site plan at a future meeting.

Originally built as a K-12 school, the landmark building would be transformed into a space for the community to gather and create. The overall site plan envisions a rear addition to expand the stage, the improved parking lot, new exterior lighting, a front garden and the removal of the portico on the building's east side.

Merritt Avenue duplex

Board members also closed a public hearing for plans to demolish and replace a residential building at 4 Merritt Ave.

The plans represent the second phase of construction at the Reardon Briggs property located at 3265 Franklin Ave.

The board closed the hearing following public comment from long-time residents who live close to the residence to be built. Board members are expected to review the site plan at their next meeting on Monday, May 18.

Representing the developer, engineers from Day Sto-

kosa of Wappingers Falls summarized plans for the phased improvements that would demolish an existing single-family home and replace it with a newly-constructed two-family residence on the 0.66-acre lot.

The existing residence has a footprint of 630 square feet. The new residence, containing two two-bedroom units, would occupy a footprint of 1,347 square feet. The engineers indicated that the plans are consistent in appearance and concept with the business-zoned area.

During the public hearing, owners of the single-family century-old Merritt Avenue home adjacent to the proposed duplex expressed their opposition. The plan for the new residence, they said, would diminish their present quality of life, including access to light, sun, airflow and privacy, the latter due to the placement of windows.

“We love the area,” the owners said, asking that the design be modified.

“They are meeting all of the code requirements,” Redl said of the developers, but he continued by asking the developers whether they might mitigate the effects. One resident suggested that to achieve privacy, the new building might be swiveled to move its windows away from those of the neighbor.

The engineers reported that they have already reduced the plan by 500 square feet and lowered the height of the new building.

Although the public hearing was closed, residents are invited to submit written comments in advance of the May 18 meeting when the board will review the site plan.

Millbrook

Village board approves bingo law, public vote set for June 23

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
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MILLBROOK — Millbrook's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to pass two laws allowing bingo and “games of chance” to operate within the village limits after a public hearing on Wednesday, April 22.

Now comes a public vote. Residents can cast their ballot on the referendum on June 23, and if adopted, the new laws will go into effect in the following days.


The games were removed

in 2021. Millbrook Mayor Peter Doro, who did not hold the office in 2021, said it was most likely part of a larger “clean up” of the Village Code. “These municipal codes can get very unwieldy with various additions over the years so periodic reviews are useful for organization and simplicity purposes,” he said.

The bingo ban was largely ignored until earlier this year, when the village put a stop to ongoing games at the fire station. The firefighters showed up in force at Wednesday's vote, wearing matching jack-

ets and hats emblazoned with “Millbrook Fire Rescue.”

No one offered a rebuttal during the public hearing. The only request for clarification came from Trustee Shannon Mawson, who questioned the law's verbiage of allowing “certain organizations” to run the games. She was reassured, however, that the inclusion of “certain” was not an indication that a class of business would be excluded from running the games. Anyone wishing to host bingo will still need to apply for a license with the state.



The Annual
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
First Thursday of May

Please join us
MAY 7, 2026

MEET AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS

12:00 pm FALLS VILLAGE Town Green

5:00 pm SHARON Town Green

5:30 pm CORNWALL Village Green by flag pole

5:30 pm NORTH CANAAN Pavilion across from McDonald's

6:00 pm SALISBURY Town Hall Memorials
In case of rain: Salisbury Congregational Church

REGIONAL

Parents push back on proposed Sharon school budget cuts

By ALEC LINDEN
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SHARON, Conn. — In a last-ditch effort to avoid a proposed \$70,000 cut to the Sharon Center School's 2026-27 budget, local parents are mobilizing — packing meetings, posting flyers and warning that reductions could undermine the school's future.

Sharon resident Veronica Betts plastered the town with posters earlier this week, urging residents to attend town meetings to voice support for the Board of Education, which determines the SCS budget.

"We shouldn't be talking about defunding the school," said Betts, who has a young daughter enrolled in Sharon Daycare, part of SCS. "These are kids, this is so short-sighted and ridiculous."

The cuts, if adopted, could mean cuts to staff salary budget, supplies and even the cafeteria, which would require pre-made lunches to be delivered from HVRHS.

With a daughter at Sharon Daycare, Betts said her hope is to stay in the public school, but if support isn't given to SCS, she and her family are considering a move to Indian Mountain School, the Lakeville-based pre-kindergarten through ninth grade private school where tuition ranges from \$31,250 to \$88,385.

Meghan Kenny, whose children are fourth-generation students at SCS, said she worries about the future of the school. An avid supporter of SCS, Kenny said she has seen some improvements between the BOE and the parent-teacher organization, but noted, "these proposed cuts represent a step in the wrong direction."

She said the proposed 0% budget increase has driven her to start looking for property in nearby Salisbury to send her children to a different school.

Kenny and Betts also spoke out at a packed Town Hall on Friday night, April 24, where local parents voiced nearly unified support for more funding in the elementary school budget.

The meeting was intended as the hearing for both the school and municipal budgets, but its nearly two-hour runtime was almost entirely dedicated to reviewing the BOE's 2026-27 spending plan, which was subject to a last minute cut of \$70,000 by the BOF to keep the bottom line flat from last year. If approved, it will be the fifth straight year of zero increase to the BOE's budget.

Due to a state law known as the minimum budget requirement or MBR, towns in Connecticut are not allowed to spend less on education than any previous year. The BOF has repeatedly stated the rationale for keeping the bottom line flat is to keep the MBR stable.

BOF member John Hecht defended the cuts during Friday's hearing stating that the per pupil amount, totaling some \$48,000, is the highest in the state and third highest in the country.

Still, residents were not swayed.

"Who cares," said William Betts of the per pupil costs, affirming that his motivation as a taxpayer is to invest in

education.

He advocated to put funding back into arts and school supplies lines which had been cut, saying the arts are often the first to go when budgets are trimmed. "I think we have to rethink that," he said.

BOE Chair Phillip O'Reilly and BOE member Peter Birnbaum said that the reality of the school's student body and environment is not reflected by the per pupil costs, which don't account for tuition students, of which there are projected to be 14 next year, or the 60 daycare students that use the school's facilities.

"We need to understand that Sharon Center School is more than K-8 — we have a daycare," O'Reilly said.

SCS Principal Carol Tomkalski, who pushed back on the cuts, said students' needs are "broad" and "complex," which also accounts for the high per pupil cost, noting that approximately 18-20% of students have disabilities.

Still, both Tomalski and O'Reilly stated that they are confident that students will receive the education and services they need with the proposed budget.

Parents remained wary, though, and many spoke out in favor of reinvesting funds into the budget and bringing it back above the MBR.

Community activist Jill Drew has been openly outspoken in past years about raising the budget beyond the flatline, and reaffirmed that opinion Friday evening. "We have a very special school and the costs are high," she said, saying that with rising operational costs across the region, a flat budget for next year doesn't make sense. She requested the BOF to allow the BOE to return to its budget before the required \$70,000 cut.

The vast majority of the public testimony followed a similar sentiment. "I haven't heard a rationale for why [the budget increase] is zero," said Nancy Birnbaum. "It seems like everyone who's spoken wants an increase," she said.

Several days after the hearing, BOF Chair Thomas Bartram said that while he understands the concerns of parents and residents and appreciated the public engagement, many who spoke on Friday night seemed to lack context on the BOF's decision to flatline the MBR.

"Several years ago, we put capital expenditures for the school building in the Board of Education budget, which was in essence a mistake on our part," he said. Since then, the BOE has been operating on an "inflated" budget due to that capital that was included, and the MBR which doesn't allow the removal of funds from the previous year's education budget.

He said that the tone of Friday's hearing departed from previous years, where residents this year have been more scrutinizing of education spending and SCS's per pupil costs. The BOF's goal was to account for what they thought were taxpayer concerns while supporting an operable budget for the school.

"It is the belief of the majority, at least of the Board of Finance, that the budget they presented is what they can run on," he said.

AMENIA — Barbara Ann Murphy, 93, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of faith, devotion, and unwavering love for her family. Born on Jan. 5, 1933, in Poughkeepsie, New York, Barbara was the daughter of Wallace and Catherine Schaffer. She dedicated her early life to caring for others, graduating from St. Francis School of Nursing in Poughkeepsie and later earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her calling to serve led her to the Army Nurse Corps, where she proudly served as a First Lieutenant during the Korean Conflict, stationed at Walter Reed Hospital. It was through her work as a nurse that Barbara's life took a beautiful turn; she met her future husband, William E.P. Murphy, while caring for him as a patient at St. Francis Hospital. Their love story blossomed into a marriage that began on Sept. 20, 1958, and endured until his passing in 2000.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who built a life centered on faith, family, and service. After raising her children, she returned to nursing at the Wassaic Developmental Center, where she worked until her retirement in 1990. She also served her community as a member of the Amenia Fire Company, volunteering as an EMT and offering care and comfort to those in need. Service was not just

her profession, it was a defining part of who she was. She spent over 50 years in Amenia, New York, a place she proudly called home before moving to Geer Village in Canaan, Connecticut in 2013.

A deeply devout Catholic, Barbara lived her faith daily. She was a dedicated member of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, faithfully attending daily Mass and serving as a lector. Her commitment to her faith extended beyond routine; it was a guiding force in her life, one she instilled in her children and grandchildren. Whether it meant finding a church in an airport during travels or sharing quiet moments of reflection, she ensured that faith remained at the center of family life.

Barbara found joy in life's simple and meaningful pleasures. She was an avid traveler, exploring Europe and enjoying riverboat cruises with her beloved husband Bill. After his passing, she continued her adventures with her sisters-in-law, embracing the world with curiosity and gratitude. At home, she was rarely without a book in hand, a voracious reader who found comfort and joy in stories.

She will be remembered for her wisdom, her steady presence, and her ability to find joy

in laughter, especially a good joke, often shared and passed along from others. Above all, she will be remembered for her deep love of family, her strength, and the values she lived by every day.

Barbara is survived by her children; Christopher Murphy (Tamara) of Clermont, Florida, Maureen Morley (Thomas) of Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania, Eileen Ehlers (Richard) of Olathe, Kansas, Leah Rost (Ernest) of Brick, New Jersey, and William Murphy, Jr. (Mary) of Amenia, New York. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren; Richard Ehlers, Jr., Elyse Colon, Hillary, Lauren and Kurt Bennett, William Rost, Abbey, Krista and Liam Murphy, and Owen and Connor Lynch, along with ten great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law; Veronica Rosen and her husband Ron of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Sandra Mur-

phy of Simpsonville, South Carolina, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, William E.P. Murphy, her grandson, Gregory Rost in 2018, and her sister, Joan Post in 2017.

Barbara's life was a testament to faith, service, and love, a life well-lived and deeply cherished by all who knew her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, NY, with Standard Military Army Honors. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Barbara's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Ann Murphy



Ronald W. Murphy Jr.

MILLERTON — Ronald W. Murphy Jr., passed away peacefully on April 25, 2026, at his home in North Carolina, with his family at his side, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and strength. He was born April 3, 1960, to Ronald W. Sr. and Janet Murphy. Ron lived in Millerton, New York before recently moving to North Carolina to enjoy the warmer southern weather. He lived a life full of passion for his family and the simple joys that brought him happiness.



Ron is survived by his loving wife, Beth Polanis-Murphy, who remains at home; his children, Kelly Kilmer (Walter), John Murphy, Bobby Murphy (Danielle), and Betsy Toth (Steve); stepdaughter, Sara Murali; and his sister, Inez Tierney. He was a proud and cherished grandfather to Victoria, Dylan, Jemini, Eric, Ronan, Morgan, Alex, Gage, Mira, Amelia, Carter and great grandfather to Colton and Gunner.

Ron was predeceased by his first wife, Jane Murphy in 2012; his parents, Ronald Sr. and Janet Murphy and his

granddaughter, Karlene Ann Golden.

Ron had a deep love for classic cars and motorcycles. Whether he was restoring, admiring, buying/selling or simply talking about them, they brought him great joy. He was also a lifetime member of the Millerton Volunteer Fire Department.

Ron was never shy about sharing his advice, had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor, a joke to tell, and a truly big-hearted nature. His presence will be deeply missed but forever cherished by all who knew him.

Honoring his wishes, services will be private, with a quiet graveside service for family at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, New York. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation at 10286 Staples Mill Rd., Box 814 Glen Allen Virginia, 23060. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Ron's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Worship Services

Week of May 3, 2026

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. Discussion on Near Death Experiences For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiuloi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates</p>
<p>The Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	
<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>	
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

Send obituaries to editor@lakevillejournal.com

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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

EDITORIAL

A ballroom, really?

Saturday's shooting targeted an event designed to defend the First Amendment freedoms Donald Trump has spent years undermining — labeling the press as “the enemy of the people”. His takeaway? Washington needs a new ballroom. Sen. Lindsey Graham agreed, “It’s very difficult to have a bunch of important people in the same place unless it’s really, really secure.”

This from a president who, within hours of his inauguration, shut down the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and has since ordered the rollback of background checks, defunded community safety programs, and made it easier to put weapons in dangerous hands.

So far this year, 69 children under 12 and 262 teenagers have been killed by gun violence — a number that grew since this was written. Firearms have been the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 19 every year since 2020.

One man with a gun disrupted a dinner. Hundreds of children are dead.

The president’s solution? Build himself a ballroom. Call it a bunker if it helps.



“I come for the tradition, I stay for the aggressively quaint marketing.”

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medicaid critical for dementia testing

I think that almost everyone knows someone or some family that has been affected by — or is currently affected by — Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia. There is some good news: medical science now knows of diet and other lifestyle changes that can help prevent or delay the onset of dementia.

There is FDA-approved biomarker testing that can inform people of dementia risks with a simple blood test. Biomarker testing is available for cancer risks as well. Early warnings of cancer can, of course, also help patients to fight this disease more effectively. As the old saying goes, “knowledge is power.”

Disappointingly, Governor Hochul has scaled back Medicaid coverage for these blood tests from her 2027 budget. I think that it is cruel and ultimately bad for our society as a whole not to provide Medicaid coverage for biomarker testing for those who are among the most vulnerable in our State.

I am hopeful that our representatives in the State Senate and State Assembly — Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Barrett — will use their influence to get Medicaid coverage for biomarker testing back in the 2027 budget.

Amy Rothstein
Pine Plains

Omissions in ‘surging gas prices’ article

Last week’s front-page article, “Surging gas prices stretch local budgets,” was timely and certainly of interest to everyone. However, I noted two obvious omissions. One, there was no mention of local governments adjusting their budgets by reducing spending as most families must do when confronted by rising prices in the face of fixed incomes. When costs rise for essential commodities such as gasoline, the logical response is to temporarily cut back on spending for non-essential things like entertainment and eating out, or postponing major purchases. The economy is cyclical and the cost of gasoline fluctuates. It will not remain high forever. Budgets can always be readjusted when things return to what passes for normal — for families and local governments, alike.

Speaking of which, the present cost of gasoline has risen from approximately \$3.00 a gallon a year ago to about \$4.00 presently. This

is due to our current conflict with Iran, something which began 47 years ago. The Iranian mullahs declared war on us but we never responded. Every president just kicked the can down the road, expecting a successor to deal with it. “It,” of course, was the threat of a nuclear attack as soon as they completed a weapon to use. They got closer and closer until President Trump moved preemptively to eliminate the threat. Geopolitics are complicated and things do not get resolved overnight. The rest of us need to practice patience.

I noted one more thing in the article. While the cost of a gallon of gasoline rose from \$3.00 to its current \$4.00 in the past year, nowhere in was it mentioned that the average weekly retail gasoline price hit an all-time high of \$5.07 a gallon in 2022 when Joseph Biden was President. Most people seem to have selective amnesia.

Richard Kopec
Sharon



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Magnolias

License plates, Hospital, Christmas in April

The following excerpts from The Millerton News were compiled by Kathleen Spahn and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library.

April 25, 1935
New License Plates Would Cost Millions To Motorists

The Senate, in the closing hours of the session just ended, passed a bill providing for the adoption of new type of automobile license plates which, if Governor Lehman signs the measure, will result in a cost of millions of dollars to the motorists of New York State. After passing the Assembly by a close margin, the bill went through the upper house with every Republican member present and two Democrats voting against it.

Fire Company Sponsors Entertainment; Proceeds To Benefit Pumper Fund

The Millerton Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a vaudeville and moving picture entertainment to be presented at the Millerton Theatre, Tuesday night for the benefit of the pumper fund. Members of the department are hopeful that proceeds of the entertainment will substantially increase this fund which is to be used to purchase a new fire truck, replacing the antiquated apparatus now in use.

Stanford Woman Saved From Fire

STANFORDVILLE - Caught in the path of a raging brush and grass fire that burned over an area of more than 100 acres in the Town of Stanford here Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Clinton Field was saved from almost certain death by Charles Osterhout, a neighbor, who rushed into the flames and carried her to safety. Unconscious from shock, the woman was not revived until late Sunday night. She suffered slight burns.

Starting from a rubbish blaze on Mrs. Field’s property, the fire was finally subdued by the Stanford and Clinton Fire Departments with the assistance of rangers and neighbors after a long battle.

April 22, 1976
Vandals Desecrate Millerton Church

Vandals smeared human excrement over the walls and curtains of the Sunday School room of the Millerton Methodist Church on Main Street on Wednesday night, April 14. They caused \$600 worth of damage.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

Gas Station Burglarized

New York State Police Investigators are looking into the possible connection between an April 13 burglary at Conklin’s Texaco in Millerton and recent burglaries in the Lakeville area.

On April 13, thieves broke into the Route 44 service station in Millerton and stole 1 radio. Connecticut State Police recently apprehended 26-year-old Roy Duntz of Salisbury and Raymond Sprague, 20, of Millerton, on charges that include burglary and attempted burglary in Lakeville.

A spokesman for the N.Y. State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation said his office is investigating the possible connection between the New York and Connecticut crimes. Duntz and Sprague are being held in Litchfield County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail each.

April 26, 2001
Sharon Hospital Resubmits Application a Third Time

SHARON - What seemed like a collective sigh of relief, similar to one heaved upon completion of a major term paper, emanated from Sharon Hospital this week.

On Tuesday, all the information requested by the attorney general’s (AG) office to complete the application needed to proceed with the sale of the hospital to Essent Healthcare, was sent. Two previous submissions were deemed incomplete, but officials feel confident the third time is the charm.

“We’re patient and confident,” hospital CFO Rob Wright said during an interview Wednesday morning.

“We’ve gone through an exhaustive search to get all the information.”

The search involved tracking down documentation about gifts that had been given to the hospital since its opening in 1909. That information, along with material about conflicts of interest and Sharon’s proposed affiliation with St. Francis Hospital and Health Center in Hartford, were lacking in the last application.

If the application is approved, Sharon Hospital would become the first in Connecticut to convert from non-profit to for-profit.

In a cover letter from Reid & Riege, the law firm hired for the application process, attorneys John Horak and John Newman stated, “The Hospital and its advisors have worked long and hard to provide you with detailed information about the proposed transaction and the Hospital. We believe that the Notice satisfies all the established requirements for ‘completeness’ ...and that the 120 day review period should commence.”

In a return piece of correspondence issued from AG Richard Blumenthal’s office Wednesday, he said, “These additional documents are a welcome step toward completing the application. They seem to address many of our concerns that made previous filings incomplete or inadequate. We have done only a preliminary review since the documents were received just hours ago, but our hope is to move forward as promptly as possible to public hearings that will give citizens and others an opportunity to comment.”

Christmas in April: Volunteer Group Will Paint Village Firehouse

WEBUTUCK — Webutuck students, parents and staff will be busily at work Saturday, April 28, as part of “Christmas in April.” This not-for-profit agency raises funds

and organizes volunteers to provide home repairs for individuals who are unable to do so for themselves.

Instead of assisting an individual homeowner this year, the Webutuck volunteers have an unusual project, painting the interior of the Millerton firehouse. Millerton Mayor Mariley Najdek suggested this undertaking to technology teacher John Rocanova. Fire Chief Al Andrews said it was time for the chore to be done and was all for the idea of having the Webutuck group tackle the job.

At present, there are 12 students and seven parent and staff volunteers signed up. They will work in shifts of 7:30 a.m. to noon and noon to 4:30 p.m. Students can use their hours towards earning a school and community service credit.

Ed Herrington Inc. and Westchester Modular Homes have contributed paint and supplies for the day’s activities. Volunteers are also asked to bring roller handles, brushes and drop cloths.

So far, the Millerton Deli, Broadway Pizza and Christina’s Garden Restaurant and Gourmet Greek Deli have offered to provide food for the volunteers.

Additional contributions of supplies and snacks would be greatly appreciated. Call Mr. Rocanova at xxx-xxxx.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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MILLERTON AT 175

Millerton's Fire Company exemplifies long history of community volunteerism

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Millerton's volunteer fire department has been battling blazes in the area for more than 130 years, charting a history of heroism in the village that began with a failed attempt to save a prominent hotel in 1891.

North East Fire District Commissioner Dave Vandebogart, who serves as the fire company's historian, is himself a third-generation member of the Millerton Fire Company. He said Millerton's rapid growth after the arrival of the railroad spurred the need for an organized fire department.

At the time, building codes didn't exist and materials were much more flammable. Densely populated communities like the newly-formed Millerton could face devastation if a fire broke out and spread through the community.

That fear materialized in January 1891, Vandebogart said, when the Millerton Hotel near the intersection of John Street and Center Street caught fire. Village residents banded together with buckets to try to douse the flames, but the effort wasn't enough to save the building. The incident highlighted a need for an organized fire company with proper firefighting equipment.

Calls for a fire department grew over the course of 1891, strengthening support for a common water works system for the village that would be necessary for a proper municipal firefighting force.

The fire company officially formed in January 1892, after village trustees met at the Millerton National Bank and voted to create a local fire company. Trustees later elected to name the company the E.H. Thompson Hose Company in honor of the bank's president, who provided the venue for the trustees' early meetings.

The newly-formed hose company soon purchased a horse-drawn hose cart, complete with a 500-foot hose, wrenches and 28 pails for carrying water. An additional horse driven cart carried nine ladders.



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An historic photograph from the Millerton News shows a blaze consuming the former Brown Cup Diner on Route 22 south of Millerton in the early 1970s. The Brown Cup Diner fire was one of a series of fires in the 1970s that received major coverage in local news outlets. The building was fully engulfed in flames, forcing fire crews to simply watch and wait until an appropriate time came to begin smothering the blaze.

In the 1890s, only Fire Chief Mintline Morgan and his Assistant Chief wore helmets or uniforms. Regular company members wouldn't get their own hats and uniforms until 1901.

The fire company's first official home was a building that still stands at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Century Boulevard in Millerton, neighboring the building that houses EcoBuilders and Moore & Moore Printing. That building was built in 1902 and named the E.H. Thompson Fire House to further honor the Millerton National Bank's president.

Firefighters would continue to battle blazes with the horse-drawn hose cart for another 20 years until the company purchased the Brockway fire engine in 1922. The truck, described as a "chemical apparatus" in a 2017 recounting of the fire company's history written by Vandebogart, was used for 25 years and then sold in 1948 for \$100.

The 1920s were a time of change for the fire company. Company leaders and village officials voted to drop E.H. Thompson's name in favor of the modern "Millerton Fire Company" moniker in 1924,

to reflect the company's presence in Millerton and recent access to modern firefighting technology like motorized trucks and pumps.

Millerton's fire department slowly grew, expanding its equipment collection until a new firehouse was necessary and constructed in 1962. That building on Century Boulevard still serves as the company's main firehouse today and is currently undergoing renovations to its exterior.

Firefighters have had to man the firehouse 24/7 on multiple occasions during the village's history — including in 1969 when a massive snowstorm shut down Route 22 for two days and two nights.

People crowded local churches and the firehouse for a warm place to stay as the snowstorm stranded travelers and forced some locals out of their homes. Everyone was stuck until large snow blowers arrived from Poughkeepsie to clear Route 22.

That snowstorm is just one of the many catastrophes that Millerton firefighters have responded to. Vandebogart described a fire at Suburban Propane in 1965 that set a record for the largest response to a fire in Dutchess County

History.

"That was three days and three nights," Vandebogart said. He said the fire started when a propane tanker truck's brakes failed, causing it to roll into a storage tank at the Millerton propane facility and explode.

Firefighters responded to the explosion quickly, dousing nearby propane tanks with water to keep temperatures down and prevent further explosions while simultaneously dousing active flames.

"I was five years old at the time," Vandebogart said. "I remember looking out the back door at one of the explosions that had just taken place."

That record stood until Jan. 1, 1996, when a fire at Polytech Corporation in Dover, New York, triggered a larger response.

Over the past 34 years, the fire company has expanded to a brand new garage across Century Boulevard from the current firehouse.

But Vandebogart said the fire company faces more profound challenges than just fighting fires. Changing demographics in the area and increased training standards have created challenges for the volunteer organization.

"Everything is modeled for career," Vandebogart said, highlighting a shift over

recent decades toward professional emergency medical services and firefighters nationwide. As that shift has occurred, safety standards and training requirements have risen across the board, placing a larger burden on volunteers.

"When I started in 1986 we had the 'Essentials of Firemanship,'" Vandebogart said. "It was 39 hours and you learned a lot." Today, firefighters are required to complete more than 100 hours of training and education to qualify for service.

Another challenge is attracting new members. In 2017, the Millerton Fire Company ran a program known as "Explorers," which allowed teenagers from 14 and up to participate in volunteer work at the firehouse.

But that program folded due to staffing issues, and the North East Fire District Board of Commissioners has proposed a policy limiting volunteer participation to those no younger than 16 at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

Vandebogart said rising cost of living in the region further exacerbates recruitment challenges. As costs increase, younger generations of Millertonians have become less likely to stay in the community to build a life.

"Membership kind of ebbs and flows," Vandebogart said. "It is hard to keep young people around here."

Looking toward the future, Vandebogart said the fire company hopes to avoid having to transition to professional firefighting for as long as possible.

"We're just trying to keep it volunteer," Vandebogart said.



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A member of the Millerton Fire Company monitors the blaze at the Brown Cup Diner on Route 22 south of Millerton, ensuring the flames don't spread to nearby trees or brush.



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tractor-trailer lies on its side after rounding the "checkerboard corner" on Route 22 entering the village. Rain created slippery conditions, causing the truck to slip and skid into the wall, damaging the well-known Millerton landmark.



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Firefighters soak propane-filled gas storage containers at Suburban Propane in Millerton during the community's largest fire in its history.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of Shared Good's, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Shared Good's, 56 S Center Street, Millerton, New York 12546 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

03-26-26
 04-02-26
 04-09-26
 04-16-26
 04-23-26
 04-30-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Name: Bluestem Fieldworks LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on March 6, 2026 Office Location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

04-16-26
 04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of HAWKSVIEW ADVISORY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/02/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, PO Box 431, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-16-26
 04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of Castillo & Sons Landscaping & Masonry LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 3/29/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail any process to THE LLC, 160 Holsapple Rd Lot 49, Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

04-16-26
 04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of Grand View Property Maintenance LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/14/2026. Office location Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the Balance Sheet Inc 1100 Route 295 East Chatham NY, 12060. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

04-16-26
 04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Application for Authority of CHRISTINA GAST, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/20/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. LLC formed in Florida. SSNY designated

as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: CHRISTINA GAST, LLC, 57 Sheffield Rd, Amenia, NY 12501. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26
 05-28-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of RHINE COMMONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/24/2026. Office location: Dutchess County, NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 316 Rhinecliff Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

04-23-26
 04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26
 05-28-26

Legal Notice
 Notice of Formation of a Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC). J. Kevin Webb, Attorney at Law, PLLC. Articles of Org. were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 4/08/2026. The County in which the Office is to be located: Dutchess. The SSNY is designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 144 Skunks Misery Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: law.

04-30-26
 05-07-26
 05-14-26
 05-21-26
 05-28-26
 06-04-26

Legal Notice of Completion of Tentative Assessment Roll Pursuant to §506 & §526 of the Real Property Tax Law:
 NOTICE is hereby given that the Assessor of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, has completed the tentative assessment roll for the current year, a copy of which is filed with the Town Clerk after May 1, 2026. The Assessor will be available via telephone and by appointment with such tentative roll at: Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Assessor's Office. Telephone contacts and appointments for in-person meetings can be made for the following days and between the hours listed:

5/5/2026 between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
 5/7/2026 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
 5/12/2026 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
 5/16/2026 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Individuals with complaints with respect to their assessments are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office prior to Grievance Day to discuss their concerns and to see if an agreement can be reached. If no agreement is reached, the written complaint shall be transmitted by the Assessor to the Board of Assessment Review on Grievance Day.

A publication containing procedures for contesting an assessment is available online at www.tax.ny.gov/

pdf/publications/orpts/grievancebooklet.pdf
 Sara Foglia, Assessor
 Grievance Day: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (\$508 RPTL) (\$525 RPTL)

NOTICE is hereby given that the BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW for the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess shall hear complaints in relation to assessments at:

Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, (518) 398-7193 x7

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will be in attendance on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 during the following times:

Between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will then file a copy of the determination with the Town Clerk to become a matter of public record.

04-30-26

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the North East Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, 194 Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 5, 2026 at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2026-2027 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2026-2027 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective April 28, 2026, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library. A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value of the final assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Webutuck High School gym, 194 Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education: All three seats are for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent Board Member Judy Moran, and incumbent Board Member Jerry Heiser and incumbent Board member Aimee Wesley,

whose terms expire June 30, 2026.

B. Proposition I: 2026-2027 North East (Webutuck) CSD Budget

SHALL the 2026-2027 Budget as adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$29,941,252, with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$10,276,001 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$19,665,251 be approved?

Proposition II: 2026-2027 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

Shall the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2) 64-passenger school buses and one (1) Bobcat Multipurpose Vehicle, at a cost not to exceed \$429,327, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District and/or enter into installment purchase agreements at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$429,327, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York. The election and budget vote shall be by machine, early voting or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that early mail ballots and absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for early mail and absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2026 but may not be returned to the District clerk any

earlier than April 20, 2026, and must be returned to the District Clerk by May 12, 2026 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 18, 2026, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 19, 2026.

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

A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots and absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. A challenge to an early mail voter may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an absentee ballot.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote, April 24, 2026. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 20, 2026; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific

appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
 Clerk of the Board
 Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District
 194 Haight Road,
 P.O. Box 405
 Amenia, NY 12501
 04-30-26

Notice of Completion of Tentative Assessment Roll

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to §506 & §526 of the Real Property Tax Law that the Assessor of the Town of North East, County of Dutchess, has completed the 2026 tentative assessment roll, a copy of which will be filed with the Town Clerk on May 1, 2026 and made available online at <https://townofnortheastny.gov/>.

The Assessor will be in attendance with such tentative roll and available to discuss assessment issues at 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, NY on the following days: Tuesday, May 12, 9:00AM-1:00PM; Thursday, May 14, 1:00PM-5:00PM; Saturday, May 16, 8:00AM-12:00PM; Tuesday, May 19, 4:00PM-8:00PM; and at other times by appointment which can be made by calling 518-789-3300 x605 or emailing assessor@townofnortheastny.gov.

Written complaints with respect to assessments may be filed with the Assessor prior to or on Grievance Day, May 27, 2026, and shall be transmitted to the Board of Assessment Review.

A publication containing procedures for contesting an assessment is available from the Assessor or online at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/grievancebooklet.pdf>.

Katherine Johnson,
 Assessor
 04-30-26

Notice of Grievance Day

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to §508 & §525 of the Real Property Tax Law that the Board of Assessment Review for the Town of North East, County of Dutchess, shall hear and determine complaints in relation to assessments. For more information contact the Assessor at 518-789-3300 x605 or assessor@townofnortheastny.gov.

The Board of Assessment Review will be in attendance at 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, NY on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 between the hours of 3:00PM-5:00PM and 6:00PM-8:00PM. All complaints and related paperwork must be submitted to the Assessor prior to or on Grievance Day. Please call 518-789-3300 x605 for an in-person appointment in the morning on Grievance Day.

The Board of Assessment Review will then file a copy of the determinations with the Town Clerk to become a matter of public record.

Lisa Cope,
 Board Chairperson
 04-30-26

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

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to

The Lakeville Journal,
 ATTN: Legal Notices,
 PO Box 1688,
 Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to millertonnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Millerton's fixers

Local volunteers provide repair assistance at a Repair Café in the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on Saturday, April 25. The initiative, sponsored by the Millerton/North East Climate Smart Task Force, provided repairs to small electronics and appliances, furniture and textiles for up to two items per person for free.

Webutuck Elementary extends registration for free Pre-K, kindergarten

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Webutuck Elementary School has extended registration for its free Pre-K and kindergarten programs, opening enrollment until all remaining spots are filled as demand for early childhood education continues to rise.

The program is open to children who will be 3 or 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2026.

"We're seeing the need for this in the community," said Webutuck Elementary principal Amanda Coppola.

Affordable childcare is a pressing concern for Dutchess County. The number of county-wide early learning centers has dipped sharply, including the closure of North East Community Center's Early Learning Program in December 2025.

New York Governor Kathy



PHOTO PROVIDED

Webutuck Pre-K students enjoy quiet reading time together at Webutuck Elementary School.

Hochul has made universal childcare a priority, earmarking \$4.5 billion for a statewide program. A pilot program of \$60 million for Dutchess, Monroe and Broome Counties was announced in January.

But that money isn't available until 2027. Webutuck Elementary is one of the local schools trying to bridge the gap — this is the first year the school is including 3-year-olds in their Pre-K programming.

Previously, only 4-year-olds were eligible to participate. "It's a start into socialization," Coppola said. "We encourage a lot of outdoor

activities, and the kids learn how to deal with different personalities."

Pre-K also allows teachers to identify children who may struggle with the transition to school and provide support they might not otherwise receive.

To participate in the Pre-K 3 program, parents can call the school's main office and set up a screening appointment. They'll be asked to provide proof of residency and documents verifying their child's age. To sign up, parents can call the school at 845-373-4100, ext. 1111. An orientation for registered students is scheduled for May 8.

Amenia artist repurposes discarded glassware for sustainable candles

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A local artist is repurposing discarded glassware as vessels for handcrafted candles, blending sustainability with creative expression through her small business, Underdog's Revival Candle.

Underdog's Revival Candle is the home-based workshop of Emma Berley, an artist who has expanded her practice into candle-making using natural ingredients and repurposed vessels.

"I became obsessed with making candles," Berley said during a studio tour on Wednesday, April 22. She began the learning process in 2020, she recalled, before moving with her family to Amenia in 2023.

What sets the candle company apart is devotion to artistic expression that also sees possibilities in items that have been devalued or discarded, returning them to usefulness in the form of candles.

"The first step is to collect the glassware," Berley explained, citing likely sources such as thrift shops, yard sales and auction sites.

"There are tons of vessels out there in the world," Berley said, adding that intriguing containers can also be created using a glass cutter on wine and beer bottles. She also repurposes vintage china, pressed glass and cut glass — items no longer widely used in modern homes.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Emma Berley has recently launched her mostly on-line endeavor called Underdog's Revival Candle in her Amenia home.

Beyond the containers, candle colors and fragrances are natural. Berley said that she avoids synthetic fragrances, often handcrafting her own using lavender, citrus and vanilla beans, having learned early on that commercial vanilla extract cannot be used in wax because of its flammable alcohol content.

Berley grows many of the herbs used for her candles in her home garden.

"I want local people to come and pick up the candles," Berley said, offering a 20% discount for customers who order online and choose pickup.

"I want to get the marketing and business side going," Berley said. "I could sit and make candles, but how do I

market them?" Plans for the future may include teaching the art, especially around holidays, she said.

"Making candles is not that simple," Berley said. "You have to know what wick goes with what container," she added as something learned from experience. Also, she has learned that wax with added fragrance does not reheat well.

"Sometimes, I just need to

discard rather than re-melt," she said.

Berley's workshop studio is located at 4942 Route 22, next to the former location of Tent. Berley resides on site, along with her husband, Joe, and their daughter Raina.

To learn more about Underdog's Revival Candle and see the offerings, visit www.underdogcandles.com or on Instagram @underdogsrevivalcandles.

Millbrook man sentenced to 25 years for manslaughter

POUGHKEEPSIE — Mark Dedaj, 34, was sentenced to 25 years in state prison on Tuesday, April 21, after he pleaded guilty to manslaughter for causing the death of his sister, Maureen Nelson-Lanzi.

Nelson-Lanzi died on Sept. 4, 2021, at 58 Harts Village Road in the Village of Millbrook. Dedaj admitted that he caused the death of his 17-year-old sister by smothering her to death in their residence.

"This was a brutal and

deeply tragic act of violence within a family that resulted

in the loss of a precious young life," District Attorney Anthony Parisi said in a statement. "Our Office made the deliberate decision to move this case forward because the facts demanded accountability. While no sentence can undo this loss, this outcome ensures the defendant is

held responsible and provides a measure of justice for the victim and her loved ones."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mark Dedaj, 34, admitted to killing his sister, 17-year-old Maureen Nelson-Lanzi, as part of a guilty plea he submitted in January.

Realtor® at Large

Just returned from the weekend at the Cape with the kids and I have to recommend booking a trip with Monomoy Island Excursions based in Harwich Port. We took the first run of the season and it was fantastic to see the seals on the protected island and all the sea birds, not to mention the lighthouses. The captain's daughter was the naturalist, who was great in going over the life cycles of the seals and other wildlife, so it proved to be both educational and a grand adventure. For more information, please visit: monomoysealcruise.com/.

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Alden Place students get dirty for Arbor Day

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Nothing says Arbor Day like planting a tree.

The third grade class at Alden Place School gathered on school grounds Friday, April 24, for a ceremony that included a proclamation reading and the planting of a young sweetgum tree.

"I am an arborist and this is my favorite day," Dennis Gendron of Twin Brooks Farm told the students. His farm had donated and prepared the spot where the 8-year-old tree would grow. He pointed out that the young tree was about the same age as the students. Then he pointed out a 25-year-old Sweetgum tree providing ample shade for the school's entrance. The youngsters marveled at the size difference.

To mark the occasion, Village Trustee Julia Bucklin read an official proclamation issued by Mayor Peter Doro. The 45 students then lined up each to take a turn at shoveling one spadeful of soil onto the roots.

"This is a great opportunity



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

In observance of Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, third grade students at Alden Place School took turns shoveling soil around a newly planted sweetgum tree, helping give it a strong start.

for our students to learn about the role that trees play in our community," said Alden Place's Principal Andrew Cedermark, noting that trees provide animal habitat, clean fresh air

and beauty within view of the classroom windows.

A similar Arbor Day observance and tree planting was held a short time later at Elm Drive Elementary School.

HVRHS alum Caleb Shpur signs with Detroit Tigers

By CHRISTIAN MURRAY
christianm@lakevillejournal.com

Caleb Shpur, a former Housatonic Valley Regional High School standout from East Canaan, has signed with the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball.

Shpur, an infielder/outfielder who played at Endicott College before finishing out at the University of Connecticut, said the opportunity came unexpectedly earlier this month.

"Out of nowhere, honestly," Shpur, 24, said. "I was up in New Hampshire ... and my advisor called me and said the Tigers still had interest. The next day, they said they wanted to get me down for a physical."

Within days, Shpur was in Florida at the Tigers' training complex in Lakeland. After completing his physical, he was assigned to the Lakeland Flying Tigers, the organization's Single-A affiliate.

His signing didn't surprise his former coach.

"You could tell right away he had a feel for baseball," said longtime Housatonic coach Darryl Morhardt, who coached Shpur for four years. "He wasn't big as a freshman, but he just understood the game."

Shpur didn't start on varsity as a freshman, instead developing at the junior varsity level. By his sophomore year, he had earned a key role on a strong Housatonic varsity team that made a run in the state tournament.

"Caleb was ready," Morhardt said. "He was hitting cleanup for us as a sophomore on a team that went to the semifinals."

That season proved pivotal.

"My sophomore year, we made the semifinals for states, and that really pushed me to want to play in college," Shpur said. "It lit a fire under me. I wanted to get back to that feeling of high-pressure baseball."

By his senior year, Shpur had developed into a strong player. He hit over .400, stole 34 bases and committed just



PHOTO PROVIDED

HVRHS alum Caleb Shpur signs with the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball.

two errors all season, according to his coach.

"He just got better every year," Morhardt said. "Every part of his game improved — hitting, defense, baserunning."

After graduating, Shpur attended Endicott College in Massachusetts, where he emerged as one of the top players at the Division III level before transferring to the University of Connecticut.

At UConn, he elevated his game against Division I competition, hitting .358 with a .426 on-base percentage in his final year in 2025.

Despite that performance, Shpur went undrafted. As the months passed after college ended, he wasn't sure another opportunity would come.

"I talked to the Tigers a lot during the draft process, but nothing really worked out," he said. "Once it got into April and the season had already started, I didn't think they were going to pull the trigger."

Still, he stayed ready. He was working at a baseball training facility in New Hampshire, which made it easier for him to stay in shape.

Now in Lakeland, Shpur is beginning to adjust to professional baseball.

"I've only played a couple games so far. Got my first hit, which was nice," he said. "There's a long way to go — still adjusting to high-level pitching."

Shpur credits his time at Housatonic for shaping both his development and his love of the game.

"Having Coach Morhardt and that whole experience

was awesome and really continued my love of baseball," he said.

Now, he said his focus is simple.

"Just keep grinding," Shpur said. "Take it day by day and hopefully do enough for them to see the potential and keep moving up."

His family played a key role along the way.

"We put a lot of miles on the car, but it was worth it," said his mother, Alicia Simonetti-Shpur, a teacher at Cornwall Consolidated School, where Caleb attended.

She recalled his early dedication to the sport, often playing on multiple teams at once — including Cornwall Consolidated, North Canaan Little League and a club team in Thomaston — and spending hours practicing at home.

"He would constantly throw the wiffle ball against the house with his brother; he would do it again and again," she said.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The cast took a well-earned bow following their performance at the annual Fountains Radio Play presentation of "The Speakeasy's Secret" on Friday, April 24.

Annual radio play brings vintage vibe to The Fountains

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A capacity audience filled seats at The Fountains assisted living facility on Friday, April 24, for another production by the Radio Workshop.

Now a regular feature of The Fountains' entertainment lineup, the Radio Workshop — a resident-led group that produces live, old-time-style radio plays — returned with an original mystery, continuing a tradition that began in 2024.

"Each year the group grows in numbers," said Marge Wardrop, playwright, project director, play narrator and The Fountains resident who leads the Radio Workshop venture.

This year's production, "The Speakeasy's Secret," moved between 1929 and 2026, with a brief stop in 1949, all kept straight by Wardrop's narration. A third of the stage held the 1929 action, while the remaining two-thirds represented present day life at The Fountains. A piano situated between the two eras and played by Judy Handman and Arline Wood provided musical interlude before and during the performance.

Additional fun spots were provided by familiar old-time

radio commercials presented by the cast and giggled over by the audience.

Live sound effects were in the hands of Shelia Attlesley and Pat Carr, while Wayne Chadwell managed the audio equipment.

The 11-scene story begins in 1929, when speakeasies operated in secret under Prohibition and backroom bookmaking was common. At Harry's Place, business is faltering and a raid appears imminent. Harry, along with two associates and his wife Velma, decides to hide \$100,000 in a location in upstate New York before authorities close in. Think Millbrook.

Harry is eventually imprisoned for 20 years, but the cash is said to have made it to Millbrook undetected and hidden somewhere. Harry's granddaughter, Mabel, in 2026, is determined to find it, so she moves into The Fountains, along with her disagreeable, alienating personality.

Mabel's behavior raises the suspicions of The Fountains residents, many of whom are into detective work.

The single clue that Mabel carries with her from her grandfather, Harry, is: "You'll find the money if you change your ways."

As residents reach out in friendship, Mabel gradually

softens and shares the clue, having been assured that they just want to help her and don't want a share of the cash.

Friendship wins out. Mabel changes her ways and her rough demeanor, and in short order, the cash is found in The Fountains' chapel basement. That building did exist in 1929.

Mabel is so changed that she decides, along with her new friends, that money is no longer important and donates the funds to the chapel renovation fund. Mabel announces that she will move permanently to The Fountains.

The final scene takes care of the loose end of Harry's release from prison in 1949, as his wife and cohorts are there to pick him up. They show interest in driving to Millbrook to reconnect with the money stash, but Harry reports that he has gone straight, no longer interested in the money, having turned over a new leaf thanks to the excellence of a prison program.

This final scene was clearly critical to seeing that the stash remained in place until 2026 for Mabel to find.

Judging from the hearty audience approval, The Fountains Radio Workshop will likely be encouraged to create more radio adventures for residents and visitors.

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JACKIE BACHOR *Continued from Page A1*

years, shocking some of humanity's biggest muscles with deceptively simple exercises.

"Pilates smokes out all the weaknesses in your body," said Bachor. "It removes compensatory movement. When we get out of bed in the morning, we compensate."

Bachor made a career out of Pilates that took her down to Miami to work for the Miami Dolphins NFL franchise, where she was responsible for helping players prevent and work through injuries during the regular season.

One of the other strength coaches, Wayne Diesel, put it to Bachor this way: "He said, 'you're not afraid of big movements and you're really patient. If you can convince a 1,200-pound animal to do things your way, what's a 300-pound guy got on that?'"

But long before Bachor started training NFL players like Antonio Brown, Jaelan Phillips, and Kenny Stills, she trained horses. Bachor was just four years old when her namesake Aunt Jackie introduced her to the equestrian lifestyle. There's a photo on Bachor's desk marking the moment: a tiny child dwarfed by her steed, all grit as she approaches a jump.

Two of her horses, Dessie and Sammy, greet her with head bobs and whuffles when Bachor enters the barn. Dessie has recently recovered from a serious injury, and Bachor spent long stretches in his stable during the recovery, playing opera through the speakers. "That's why he's so opinionated," Bachor laughed as Dessie bobbed and shook his head. "He still thinks I should spend four hours a day with him."

During her early years growing up in Boiceville, New York, however, keeping horses was both a passion and unsustainable. "Unless you're

really talented or you have a lot of money," Bachor said, "you don't get that far in the horse business."

Still, she was able to make it work for a time. Bachor organized hunting trips in Hyde Park, and helped run a stable with her partner at the time. When the relationship ended, however, the bills started piling up. "I had all these horses and I didn't have any way to pay for them...it was a really low point in my life."

That's when Bachor's sister introduced her to Pilates. It was a comfort, both physically and emotionally. Bachor decided to become an instructor, making trips into Manhattan to train under the first lady of Pilates, Romana Kryzhanowska. Kryzhanowska was a protégé of founder Joseph Pilates, and is largely responsible for promulgating the practice after Pilates passed away in 1970.

When another instructor asked for help introducing Pilates to a string of Equinox fitness clubs, Bachor jumped in with both feet. "My work ethic from the farm and the horses really helped me out," she said. "That made me very popular with the managers when they saw the numbers. I was just trying to survive."

After a session training the NBA player Jayson Williams and NFL running back Curtis Martin, Bachor started to earn a reputation among pro athletes. "I remember Curtis saying to me, 'I should have done this when I was playing,'" she said. "This would have helped me so much." Soon Bachor was getting opportunities to teach outside of New York.

One such offer meant moving to Miami—and giving up her horses. "I had to walk away from it," Bachor said. "I remember saying to my Aunt Jackie, who got me involved in

horses in the first place, 'Oh, that yoke is off my neck.' And it broke her heart, but I truly felt that way at the time."

Once again, Bachor fully committed. This time, it was to her new Miami lifestyle. She found an apartment by the beach, bought roller blades and some five-inch heels, and started networking. But initially, the work didn't come. "I had to build this business up from nothing," said Bachor. "I didn't have any friends, and I didn't really care for the woman that I was working for...that was a whole other kind of low."

That started to change after Bachor helped a linebacker named Kelvin Shepherd with his untreated scoliosis. The strength coach took notice, and asked who had helped Shepherd heal. When Shepherd told him, a chorus of other voices from the locker room sang Bachor's praises.

Soon after, Bachor got the call: the Dolphins wanted to hire her as a Pilates instructor for the season. She squeezed a Reformer machine into the back of her truck and set up shop at the practice facility.

At first, the brutality of the sport was jarring. "When the team brought me in, they said, 'These guys go through a car wreck on Sunday,'" she remembered. "We have six days to put them back together for the next car wreck and we have to do that for 16 weeks. Can you help us?"

But even though Bachor had been hired, there was no guarantee the Dolphins themselves would take to Pilates. Back then, it was unfairly typecast as a woman's workout. And the players could be unpredictable, skipping sessions or suffering injury. "The first person that came in to work with me was Kenny Stills," Bachor said. "He knew that I needed support, and he

was that kind of person."

Bachor soon found other ways to drum up business. "Anybody that won the Super Bowl got free Pilates the next offseason," she said. "A couple of the guys took me up on it."

Pilates began to take hold across the league. As her career flourished, Bachor returned to her love of horses and riding. She built a barn back home, but could only enjoy it from afar. "I started to realize how much of that was who I am," she said. "South Florida wasn't the right place for that."

For a while, the Dolphins continued to fly her to Miami on a weekly basis. But the NFL is a notoriously thankless employer. Look no further than some of Bachor's clientele: Antonio Brown, after nearly a decade as the league's top receiver, was repeatedly injured and dogged by controversies. Kenny Stills faced backlash after kneeling alongside Colin Kaepernick in protest of police brutality.

Then in 2025, the Dolphins started the season 2-7 and shuffled their coaching staff. GM Chris Grier was out. With him went the strength coach — and Pilates advocate — Dave Puloka. Jackie Bachor's weekly flights to Miami came to a halt.

"Sometimes you let go of one dream to chase another," she said from the studio loft of True Pilates Millbrook. The room is lined with signed photos of Bachor and the pros in training. Wide windows overlook the horses in their box stalls, and beyond them barn doors open onto horses grazing in rich green paddocks. Laughter echoes up from places unseen. Bachor shares the space with a few other horse owners, and good vibes abound.

"It'll be the first year that I'm not doing anything football-related," Bachor said. "That was great for my resume, but boy, it was tiring. I would fly out on a Monday afternoon and come back Tuesday night."

Now that's time spent at the stable, or out with the local hunt club. Bachor has also started designing Pilates workouts specifically for equestrians. "You have to be able to control your body," she said. "It's very hard to do that when you're on a moving target."

Bachor is also looking for opportunities to teach for free. It's a habit she picked up at Miami's Lotus House, the largest women's shelter in the country.

"They weren't athletes, but they tried really hard and they loved it," Bachor said. "They loved that somebody was coming to do something fun with them, and trying to make them feel better. Because I've been there."

CRASH *Continued from Page A1*

PHOTO BY HILLARY HAWK

Random Harvest in Craryville remains open despite disruptions from cleanup efforts after a gasoline tanker truck crashed and spilled fuel in the area.

nity room hosts workshops, conversations and cultural programming, while its certified kitchen supports small producers and entrepreneurs.

Despite the disruption at the intersection, Random Harvest continues to welcome customers. Staff say supporting local farmers and maintaining a space for community care are central, particularly during difficult times.

"We're reeling from this

tragedy, and this detour is very impactful for all the small businesses in our corridor," said Random Harvest founder and co-owner Hillary Hawk. "Please continue supporting us, Tommy B's, Zinnia's and Parker House during the detour and while we recover from this disaster. A great way to do that is by buying gift certificates," Hawk continued. Details are available at randomharvestmarket.com.

MUANJAI *Continued from Page A1*

That desire for authenticity will be built into the space itself, Schildbach said. Plans for the tea shop include adding a wall to create a service window typical of Bangkok tea shops, accented with tile and wood details.

The goal is to fit in with Millerton's current lineup of Main Street businesses, while providing a unique experience for locals and visitors alike.

"It's going to be like you're in a tea shop in Thailand," Schildbach said.

The pair are currently waiting approval from the Dutchess County Department of Health for the tea shop's septic system — a process that Schildbach said is causing the biggest delays and may require adjustments to planned interior seating.

Businesses in Millerton rely on private septic systems that limit allowable capacity. That friction between local business interests and Health Department regulations spurred village and Town of North East officials to collaborate on a municipal wastewater system that's planned to begin construction in 2027 with a target completion date in 2028.

In the meantime, Schild-

bach and Jiradhanaiphat must seek approval from county officials before officially opening. Schildbach said he hopes

inspectors will consider the incoming wastewater system and grant some leeway for the tea shop.

Once it's open, the pair plans to offer drinks at a comparable price to surrounding businesses. To keep operating costs low, Schild-

bach and Jiradhanaiphat plan to staff the shop themselves at first. They plan to open the shop from Thursdays through Mondays, but have yet to set specific hours.

Schildbach said he plans to expand gradually, adding staff and menu items in step with growing demand.

Eventually, Schildbach and Jiradhanaiphat hope to broaden the menu to include Thai-American fusion and more complete meals, but the shop will initially focus on beverages and small bites.

"I think that would be really cool to bring some more of that," Schildbach said, drawing attention to Thai cuisine's rising popularity in the United States. "People seem to be excited about it."



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Kanchisar Jaradhanaiphat, left, and John Schildbach hope to open Muanjai Tea on Main Street in Millerton by June 6.

OBLONG *Continued from Page A1*

PHOTO PROVIDED

Employees of Oblong Books and local Town of North East and Village of Millerton officials gathered with State Senator Michell Hinchey on Thursday, April 23, to honor the bookstore's placement on the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry.

of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Hermans and Nelson opened Oblong Books in 1975 after graduating from college, finding a home for their bookstore at 32 Main St. Multiple relocations and more than 200 employees later, the business remains a fixture in Millerton.

"We've been through thick and thin," said Dick Hermans. "I think we've been successful because we stay involved in the community."

The designation honors New York businesses that have operated for at least 50 years. Oblong is the first business from Millerton to receive the honor. "Oblong has stood the test of time, even in the age of e-commerce," Hinchey said. "It has remained authentically true to its mission of human connection."

In 2001, Hermans opened a second store in Rhinebeck. Hermans' daughter Suzanna started working at Oblong shortly thereafter, helping

the store navigate the newly-imperiled physical market.

"We thought that was going to be the death knell of books," she said, "but it turns out a physical book is actually a perfect object. You can share it with a friend, or you can keep it for 50 years."

The bookstore is known not only for its literary inventory, but also for author events, music selections and children's toys.

The owners' commitment to community also extends to the nonprofit world: since 2023, Oblong has partnered with the Beacon Prison Books project to provide free books to incarcerated individuals in the region.

E-books are now available on Oblong's website, too. But the space has largely remained the same, with its weathered wooden floorboards and cozy nooks. There's a section for music and records upstairs, and Oblong Jr. downstairs for younger readers and toy connoisseurs.

Next time visitors stop by, they will see something

new: a window decal bearing the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry logo.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Joan Osofsky

Beyond Hammertown: Joan Osofsky designs what comes next

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Joan Osofsky is closing the doors on Hammertown, one of the region's most beloved home furnishings and lifestyle destinations, after 40 years, but she is not calling it an ending.

"I put my baby to bed," she said, describing the decision with clarity and calm. "It felt like the right time."

At 80, Osofsky is stepping away from the business she built into an institution. Yet her attention is not fixed on what she is leaving behind but on what she calls "Beyond Hammertown," a phase shaped not by legacy but by intention and possibility.

"Not defined by what I created, but by what I choose next," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FILM

Hotchkiss Film Festival celebrates 15th year of emerging filmmakers

By Brian Gersten

The 15th annual Hotchkiss Film Festival took place Saturday, April 25, marking a milestone year for a student-driven event that continues to grow in ambition, reach and artistic scope. The festival was founded in 2012 by Hotchkiss alumnus and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Brian Ryu. Ryu served as a festival juror for this year's installment, which showcased a selection of emerging filmmakers from around the region. The audience was treated to 17 films spanning drama, horror, comedy, documentary and experimental forms — each reflecting a distinct voice and perspective.

This year's program was curated by student festival directors Trey Ramirez and Leon Li, working alongside faculty adviser Ann Villano. With more than 52 submissions received, the selection process was both rigorous and rewarding. The final lineup included six films

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

'Vulnerable Earth' opens at the Tremaine Gallery

By Natalia Zukerman

"Vulnerable Earth," on view through June 14 at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, brings together artists who have traveled to one of the most remote regions on Earth and returned with work shaped by first-hand experience of a fragile, rapidly shifting planet, inviting viewers to sit with the tension between awe and loss, beauty and vulnerability.

Curated by Greg Lock, director of the Photography, Film and Related Media program at The Hotchkiss School, the exhibition centers on participants in The Arctic Circle, an expeditionary residency that sends artists and scientists into the High Arctic aboard a research vessel twice a year. The result is a show documenting their lived experience and what it means to stand in a place where climate change is not theoretical but visible, immediate and accelerating.

That shared experience — weeks spent together navigating the waters around the Svalbard Archipelago — forms the connective tissue of the exhibition. Artists work across video, photography, performance and digital media, but what binds them is proximity: to the landscape, to one another and to the evidence of environmental change.

"The residency is fantastic," Lock said. "You fly into the most northerly airport on the planet, get on a ship with a bunch of artists and then sail around the archipelago and find a bay or a glacier, get into little rubber boats and go to



PHOTO GREG LOCK

Tremaine Gallery exhibit 'Vulnerable Earth' explores climate change in the High Arctic.

shore. There are three guides with rifles ... and they form a triangle around us to protect us from polar bears, and then you're just there."

That immediacy — of risk, of beauty, of isolation — is evident in the work on view. "Everyone is concerned with the environmental shifts that are occurring, and you're witnessing it out there," Lock said. "We were cleaning the beach one day and there's so much trash on this beach in the middle of nowhere ... because there's plastic in the sea. We are witnessing these things firsthand."

Lock's own contributions underscore how quickly the

landscape is changing. In one piece, two photographs are mounted on a glacier-shaped metal stand. "I went to photograph the glacier, and we were sailing around and because of the map, we knew we were at the glacier, but we couldn't see it," he said. Dense fog, created by warming air meeting cold ground, obscured what should have been unmistakable. Only later, in post-production, did the glacier emerge. "In Photoshop, I could extract the glacier, but to the naked eye, it was no longer visible."

Other changes are even more stark. Lock recalled the reaction of the ship's captain comparing current conditions

to his charts. "His 'up to date' map showed that the glacier was 8 kilometers between one side and the other, but we parked at one side, sailed and moored on the other side and it was 1.4 kilometers," Lock said. "So, it's just like bam. It's happening so fast."

There is a sense of urgency in these images, but the collection also is a testament to process and to the community that forms in such extreme conditions. "There's quite a nice network of artists who are pretty tight," Lock said. "We were on a ship together in tight quarters for three weeks, so we got

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

A celebratory season of American classics and new works at Barrington Stage Company

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Amid the many cultural attractions in the region, the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, stands out for its award-winning productions and comprehensive educational and community-based programming. The theater's 2026 season is one of its most ambitious; it includes two Pulitzer Prize-winning modern classics, one of the greatest theatrical farces ever written, and new works that speak directly to who we are right now as a society.

"Our 2026 season is a celebration of extraordinary storytelling in all its forms — timeless, uproarious and boldly new," said Artistic Director Alan Paul. "This season features works that have shaped the American theater, as well as world premieres that reflect the company's deep commitment to developing new voices and new stories. Together, these productions embody what BSC does best: entertain, challenge and

connect our audiences through theater that feels both essential and alive."

The company has several theaters within a few blocks of each other. In the Boyd-Quinson Theater, BSC's main stage, the season features "A Chorus Line" (July 15-Aug. 8), a new 50th anniversary production of the Broadway musical that won nine Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama. This will be followed by Michael Frayn's

beloved door-slaming comedy "Noises Off," in a first-time BSC production directed by Gordon Greenberg.

At BSC's Blatt Center for the Performing Arts, the St. Germain Stage season will open with "Driving Miss Daisy" (May 27-June 21), a collaboration with Palm Beach Dramaworks directed by BSC founding artistic director Julianne Boyd and starring Ray Anthony Thomas and Debra Jo Rupp. This is fol-

lowed by the world premiere of "Estate Sale" (June 30-July 25) by Keelay Gipson, an Afro-surrealist artist, professor and award-winning playwright and BSC Sparks grant recipient.

The season includes other provocative and timely new works. "The Zionists: A Family Storm" (June 16-July 3), produced in association with Miami New Drama, focuses on

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...Joan Osofsky

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Founded in a barn in Pine Plains in 1985, Hammertown grew into a singular brand with locations in Rhinebeck and Great Barrington, known for its warm, layered aesthetic that blended European and American antiques with rustic textures and modern simplicity. Often credited with helping to define a “modern country” sensibility, the store drew a devoted following from across the region and beyond. But for Osofsky, its success was never a solo effort.

“Hammertown was never just my story,” she said. “It was built alongside my family and colleagues, whose support and talent made everything possible.”

That sense of collaboration traces back to her earlier life as a teacher in New Jersey and Rhode Island. While raising her children in the late 1960s and ’70s, she launched a patchwork quilting business, selling work in shops in New York City and the Berkshires. She went on to work with friends on The Sweet Life Chocolate Engagement Calendar, published in the early 1980s and sold nationally, and led a PTA quilting project that still hangs in her children’s former elementary school.

Those early experiences of building a home, raising a family and creating by hand became the foundation of Hammertown. Even now, that instinct remains unchanged.

“I still love knitting for babies and making scarves for friends,” she said.

As news of the closing spread, Osofsky said she felt both the weight of the decision and the depth of the community it touched.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joan Osofsky and Sharon Marston

“*Legacy is something you come to understand later. Possibility is something you feel in the present.*”

JOAN OSOFSKY

“I felt its weight and its love when I announced Hammertown was closing,” she said.

Still, her focus returns to what lies ahead. She describes this next phase as open, undefined and deeply personal — a shift away from building a business toward following curiosity wherever it leads. Writing, travel and creative exploration are all part of that vision, along with revisiting ideas once set aside.

Among them is a book she once considered publishing traditionally. Now, she is rethinking that path, reflecting a broader change in how she approaches creativity. No longer tied to a store or a brand but “just for

the joy of it,” she said.

That shift also makes room for other parts of her life, including time with her granddaughter, cooking, learning to garden and spending time in France.

“I’ll be at Trade Secrets helping my dear friend Sharon from Marston House,” she said of the annual garden event in May benefiting Project SAGE. “She lives in France most of the year, and I visit her frequently — we shop the markets, share life and walk the French countryside. This has become an important part of my life.”

Other constants remain. Tennis, she said, has long provided not only recreation but connection. She hopes to spend more time on the court, possibly even competitively, while continuing her work with the Northeast Community Center and the Little Guild. These commitments she describes as deeply meaningful and essential to what comes

next.

“That has meant a great deal to me beyond Hammertown.”

As she prepares for the transition, Osofsky speaks less about loss than about clarity — a desire for space, a readiness for quiet and the ability to move forward on her own terms. She describes this next phase as rooted in authenticity and an “imperfectly perfect life,” acknowledging that it carries both release and uncertainty.

“I’ll let go, but I’m not sure where I’m being led, and that is OK,” she said.

A year from now, she expects people might see a shift in her — someone lighter, less burdened.

“Still deeply connected to creative beauty,” she said, “just less tied to outcomes and more open to surprise.”

Though many have framed Hammertown’s closing in terms of legacy, Osofsky resists that perspective. For her, the present moment feels far more alive.

“Legacy is something you come to understand later,” she said. “Possibility is something you feel in the present.”

What she hopes people carry forward is not just a memory but a feeling of something less tangible.

“I hope people don’t just remember Hammertown,” she said. “I hope they feel it — that sense of warmth and comfort, like walking into a place that felt like home.”

She sees Beyond Hammertown not as retirement but as the beginning of something new and intentional. There is still more to try, more to learn, more to become. It just might be her most personal design yet.

“And that, more than anything,” she said, “feels right.”



PHOTO BY DAVID DASHIELL

WAM Theatre’s artistic director Genée Coreno.

THEATER

WAM Theatre’s artistic director Genée Coreno

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

WAM Theatre will mark its 17th anniversary season with a lineup of mainstage productions and community programming focused on amplifying women’s voices, empowering young people and exploring the intersection of arts and activism.

The award-winning, women-owned company’s season will feature intimate storytelling, sharp comedy and historical works, alongside educational and community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences and support regional partnerships.

Artistic Director Genée Coreno said: “This season, WAM steps into a bold inquiry about influence, power, and the responsibility that comes with both, especially in moments when communities are searching for meaning. Now more than ever, we are reminded that theatre is a space to gather, to question, and to practice the kind of world we wish to inhabit.”

WAM stands for “Where Arts and Activism Meet,” and the theatre was co-founded in 2010 by Kristen van Ginhoven, now the executive director of Project SAGE in Salisbury, and Leigh Strimbeck in response to the book “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,” by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Inspired by the call to “join an incipient movement to emancipate women and fight global poverty by unlocking women’s power as economic catalysts,” WAM’s vision is to create opportunities for women and girls through a mission of theatre as philanthropy.

This season, all WAM activities and events are united in their investigation of timely questions such as: What do we inherit? What do we believe? And what future are we brave enough to build? The season includes a full production of “Rooted,” by award-winning playwright Deborah Zoe Lauffer (May 1-16); two readings in the WAM Fresh Takes series — “Amani,” by critically acclaimed playwright a.k. payne (June 14), and “Gorgeous,” by playwright Keiko Green (Aug. 16); WAM’s Summer Soirée benefit (July 26); and the fall mainstage production of “Camp Siegfried,” by Tony

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

... Hotchkiss Film Festival

CONTINUED FROM B1

from Hotchkiss students.

For Ramirez, the festival represents both a personal and creative evolution. His interest in filmmaking began with producing sports media during his freshman year, creating highlight reels for the Hotchkiss boys varsity basketball team during its 2026 NEPSAC championship season. That early work led him into photography and eventually into narrative and experimental filmmaking. Among the films screened was Ramirez’s own experimental piece, “Paradise Waits,” an abstract, montage-driven work emphasizing editing and visual rhythm.

“What I enjoy most about organizing the festival is the opportunity to curate a program that reflects a wide range of voices and styles,” Ramirez said, “while also creating a space where student filmmakers can share their work with a larger audience.”

For many filmmakers, this was the first time seeing their



PHOTO BY BRIAN GERSTEN

Student festival directors Trey Ramirez (at the mic) and Leon Li introducing the Hotchkiss Film Festival.

work projected on a large screen before a live audience, an experience Ramirez described as especially meaningful given the time and dedication behind each

project.

Now in its 15th year, the Hotchkiss Film Festival continues to build on its legacy as a platform for young filmmakers.

The festival not only celebrates student achievement but also signals a promising future for the next generation of storytellers.

... 'Vulnerable Earth'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

to know each other really well. And I found connections across the work with my own practice.”

Mindful of the environmental stakes embedded in the work itself, Lock made decisions aimed at

reducing impact when curating the exhibition. “A lot of this work I printed with their permission to cut down on my carbon footprint,” he said.

And yet, for all its focus on fragility and loss,

the Arctic exerts a pull. “It was funny, I’ve been twice,” Lock said. “When I left the last time, I was like, oh, I don’t know if I need to go back. And then I got back, and all I wanted to do was go back.”

The Tremaine Gallery is located on the Hotchkiss campus at 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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ART

Artist Maira Kalman curates 'Shaker Outpost' in Chatham

By Natalia Zukerman

With "Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture," opening May 2, the Shaker Museum in Chatham invites artist and writer Maira Kalman to pair her own new paintings with objects from the museum's vast holdings, and, in the process, reintroduce the Shakers not as relic, but as a living argument for clarity, usefulness and grace.

Born in Tel Aviv, Maira Kalman is a New York-based artist and writer known for her illustrated books, wide-ranging collaborations and distinctive work spanning publishing, design and fine art.

"I always approach my work from an aspect of love," she said. "I fall in love with a face or a chair or a shoe. And then it is my pleasure to paint. That is how I approached the pieces I chose for the installation. They spoke to me. They SANG to me."

Her selections for the Shaker Outpost include clothing of daily life — hats, shoes, socks, gloves — alongside objects shaped by hand and necessity. A pair of bear fur mittens, a glove form, a forged iron stake. Items that once moved through ordinary days now sit in conversation with Kalman's paintings, which draw from the museum's photographic archive. "As I looked at the photo archive, I gravitated to images that made me happy," she said. "The Shaker work is so full of delicate elegance and superb utility. I love that."

The idea of utility that is elevated to poetry is at the center of the show. Kalman described the impulse to "edit your life" after encountering Shaker design, and here that instinct becomes both curatorial method



PHOTO BY MAIRA KALMAN. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARY RYAN GALLERY, NEW YORK
'The Laundry Room,' a painting by Maira Kalman from the exhibition "Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture" at the Shaker Museum's pop-up space in Chatham.



PHOTO BY KIMISA H.
Maira Kalman

and invitation. "After seeing their work, you want to run home and throw out everything you have," she said. "You want to edit your life. You only want what is essential. The simplicity and beauty of Shaker design are rarely equaled... They have wit and wisdom. Clarity and kindness. They are practical and they sing. You just cannot go wrong."

The exhibition also marks a return. After more than two years at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill, the museum's programming comes back to Chatham — if only temporarily — before the opening of its future per-

manent home.

The pop-up exhibition at 4 Depot Square in downtown Chatham extends beyond the gallery walls. A small, carefully assembled General Store — also curated by Kalman — offers books, textiles, notecards and handmade goods by local artisans. Like the Shakers' own public-facing shops, it blurs the line between commerce and ethos, asking what it means to buy something made with care. It is, deliberately, a place to linger.

Kalman sees the Shakers as kindred spirits. "Even though my mother was a Russian born Jew, she could have been a Shaker," she said. "But then all of the women in my family could have been. A sense of beauty, care, simplicity and love imbued all that they did. They were frugal and fastidious."

That inheritance feels newly relevant. "Today we have a very fast-moving

day. Never enough time," she said. "And I think that the sense of taking time to make beauty resonates very much these days. It restores the soul."

Kalman worked closely with her son, Alex Kalman, on this exhibit. "Working with my son Alex Kalman on this installation has been a joy," she said. "He curates for his museum MMUSE-UMM, in a defunct elevator shaft on Cortland Alley in Manhattan. He is always looking for the intersection of humor and human expression and endeavor. That is how I approach the installation at the Shaker Outpost. Everything should matter."

Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture runs through July 5 at 4 Depot Square in Chatham, with subsequent installations by Paula Greif and Kiki Smith later in the year. For more information, visit shakermuseum.us.

... BSC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Playwright Keelay Gipson's "Estate Sale" will have its world premier this summer at Barrington Stage Company.

a family gathering on a Caribbean island where old grievances give way to new political fears. "Dead Girl's Quinceañera" (Aug. 5-29), a collective world premiere by BSC, Chicago's Goodman Theatre and Hartford Stage, is a dark comedy about true-crime obsession, teenage bravado and what happens when girls decide to stop waiting for answers. Another world premiere, "The Urmetazoan" (Sept. 30-Oct. 25), by playwright Alex Rugman and directed by Jack Serio, tells the story of two sisters facing an imminent goodbye as one prepares to leave Earth for deep space.

"BSC is deeply committed to our home in the Berkshires, producing as many or more shows this summer than ever before, for a devoted and engaged audience," said Managing Director Greg Reiner. "And we are continuing our deep work within this community, showing up where it matters to bring new audiences theater that matters."

Since moving to Pittsfield in 2006, Barrington Stage has prioritized its connection to residents and families through extensive and inclusive education and community

engagement programs that help make its productions accessible to all. The company strives to make BSC an artistic home for an inclusive community of talented actors, writers, designers, directors and musical directors, as well as a home for its staff, students, interns and educators.

BSC has gained attention beyond the Berkshires, with productions that have moved on to Broadway and to major regional theaters around the country. The company believes that its work to support playwrights, and their visions of the world we live in, is central to its success in creating meaningful theater that resonates with all audiences.

"BSC's season is a thrilling reflection of who we are right now as a society, wrestling with division and longing for connection," Paul said. "It's an exciting season because it's alive and designed to bring us together in the dark to experience something unforgettable."

For tickets and more information on the 2026 season, including additional productions, concerts, cabarets and the company's annual gala, visit barringtonstageco.org.

LIFESTYLE

Ticking Tent spring market returns

By Jennifer Almquist

The Ticking Tent Spring Market returns to New Preston Saturday, May 2, bringing more than 60 antiques dealers, artisans and design brands to Spring Hill Vineyards for a one-day, brocante-style shopping event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Co-founders Christina Juarez and Benjamin Reynaert invite visitors to the outdoor market at 292 Bee Brook Road, where curated vendors will offer home goods, fashion, tabletop and collectible design. Guests can browse while enjoying Spring Hill Vineyards' wines and seasonal fare.

Juarez is president of Christina Juarez & Co., a communications and business development consultancy. Reynaert is market director at ELLE DECOR, an interiors stylist and author of "The Layered Home," which he will sign at the event.

"The Ticking Tent is about reimagining the joy of discovery — bringing together antiques dealers, artisans and design enthusiasts in a setting where community and creativity thrive," Reynaert said.

Among returning vendors is Rhonda Eleish of Eleish Van Breems Home,



The Ticking Tent Spring Market returns to Spring Hill Vineyards in New Preston on May 2. Below, Benjamin Reynaert and Christina Juarez, co-founders of The Ticking Tent. Their one-day Spring Market returns to New Preston on May 2 at Spring Hill Vineyards on Bee Brook Road.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

with shops in New Preston, Roxbury, Westport and Nantucket. "The Ticking Tent is a fun event where you can shop curated goods, meet friends and enjoy the setting," she said.

The market partners with ELLE DECOR as national media sponsor, along

with Home & Garden CT & NY, Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, New England Home CT and Litchfield

Magazine. For information and tickets, visit thetickingtent.com or follow @thetickingtent.

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One-Time Registration Required

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860-435-9851



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Closer to the Sun," a solo exhibition of nature-inspired paintings by Gabe Brown, opens May 2 with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at Kenise Barnes Fine Art at 7 Fulling Lane, Kent.

... WAM Theatre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

Award nominee Bess Wohl (Oct. 15-Nov. 1).

In addition, WAM's 2026 season deepens its investment in the community with projects and programs in partnership with like-minded organizations, including the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and MOSAIC, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, the Lenox Library and Berkshire Community College. These activities spotlight changemakers working throughout the region to provide vital

services and to engage the arts for democratic learning and expression, intergenerational dialogue and collective belonging.

To date, WAM has provided paid work to more than 500 theatre artists, the majority of whom are female-identifying. In fulfillment of its philanthropic mission, WAM donates a portion of proceeds from its mainstage productions to selected recipients. Since its founding in 2010, the theatre has donated more than \$105,000 to 26 local and global organizations supporting gender equity in areas such as girls' education, reproductive justice, human

trafficking awareness and midwife training.

Managing Director Molly Merrihew said: "Artists and educators are the changemakers who nurture communities into vibrant, sustainable ecosystems fueled by collective, creative, and collaborative action. We hope you will join us."

WAM Theatre has been widely recognized for its positive impact on cultural and community development in the region. This season is expected to deepen that impact.

Passes and single tickets are on sale now. For more information, visit wamtheatre.com.

Tri-Corner Calendar

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

APRIL 30

"The Revolutionary Mindset in Litchfield County" Book Discussion with Peter Vermilyea
Kent Town Hall 41 Kent Green Blvd. Kent, Conn. 7 p.m.

Historian Peter Vermilyea discusses the political zeitgeist of 1776 and how it played out locally, drawing on his latest book, "Litchfield County in the Revolution." Vermilyea teaches at Housatonic Regional High School and Western Connecticut State University and is scholarship director of Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute. Free admission; suggested \$15 donation. RSVP: director@kenthistoricalsociety.org.

MAY 1

Banned Book Club: "Pet" by Akwaeke Emezi
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
4 p.m. Discussion of Emezi's novel hosted with the Falls Village Equity Project. Open to ages high school and up; copies available at the library.

Stonewood Farm Plant Preview Party
Stonewood Farm, 110 Bangall Road, Millbrook, N.Y.

Intimate fundraising preview event for the annual starter plant sale, featuring early access to seedlings, farm tours, canapés by Chef Kristen, and wine, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Attendance limited; proceeds support Stonewood Farm programming. Info at stonewoodny.org

MAY 2

Eyes of the Unseen / Carved in Light
Mad Rose Gallery, 5916 N. Elm Ave., Millerton, N.Y. May 2-June 28

Exhibition of paintings by Moshgan Rezaia and glass works by Anjali Singh. Opening reception May 30, 4 to 6 p.m.; RSVP at info@madrosesgallery.com.

Women in Aging Series: Caroline Phipps

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
1 p.m. Transformational coach Caroline Phipps leads a program on building resilience, reducing stress and strengthening emotional well-being, drawing on her Living with Inner Elegance philosophy. Free; registration required.

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hands-on workshop creating a lotus flower lantern using colored paper and a wireframe, with an introduction to Korean culture and a short documentary film. Registration required at millbrooklibrary.org.

Twelve Moons Coffee House: Stephen Bennett

The Center on Main, 103 Main Street, Falls Village, N.Y. Monthly coffee house series featuring open mic performances and a professional artist set. Doors open at 6

p.m., open mic at 6:30 p.m., featured performance at 8 p.m. This month features fingerstyle guitarist Stephen Bennett. Guests may bring dinner and beverages or enjoy light refreshments.

Litchfield County in the American Revolution
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

Author Peter Vermilyea discusses his new book on Litchfield County's role in the American Revolution, from key figures to local militia and divided loyalties. Talk at 5 p.m.; in person only. Registration required: 860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org.

Growing Great Vegetables

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Local vegetable farmer and educator Janna Siller leads a discussion on growing vegetables, from seed to harvest, with hands-on examples and gardening guidance, 2 p.m. Seeds and plants provided. Questions may be submitted in advance to janna.siller@adamah.org.

Senior Dinners at Hotchkiss

The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. May 2: Philharmonic Orchestra. May 9: Romeo & Juliet.

Annual free program at Hotchkiss. Meet at the main circle for dinner with Hotchkiss students before the events. Dinner at 6 p.m. Concert at 7:30. Free; RSVP to lsiris26@hotmail.com

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra Season Finale

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. Season finale concert honoring retiring Head of School Craig W. Bradley, featuring works by Fauré, Mozart and Beethoven, 7:30 p.m. Free admission and open to the public.

Garden Wellness: Forest Bathing with Fru Molnar

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Guided forest bathing session with certified guide Fru Molnar, focusing on mindful, sensory connection with nature, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration recommended; space limited. innisfreegarden.org

Berkshire Opera Festival presents "Flower and Hawk"

Ventfort Hall, 104 Walker St., Lenox, Mass. 2 p.m.

Monodrama for soprano by Carlisle Floyd, exploring the life of Eleanor of Aquitaine. Performed in English; approx. 50 minutes. Tickets: berkshireoperafestival.org

Saddle Up for the Kentucky Derby with Rotary

Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Conn. 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Annual Kentucky Derby-themed social and the Salisbury Rotary Club's largest fundraiser, supporting local scholarship, food banks, and community nonprofits.

Includes auction and sponsorship opportunities.

Tickets and donations: salisburyrotary.org

Reel Genius II Movie Trivia Fundraiser

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. The Moviehouse will host "Reel Genius II," a movie trivia fundraiser Saturday, May 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Troutbeck in Amenia. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, four rounds of movie-themed trivia, and live and silent auctions to benefit the nonprofit theater. Cocktail casual. Space is limited. Tickets at troutbeck.com

MAY 3

Spring Ephemerals Guided Walk

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Route 44), Millbrook, N.Y. 10 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Guided walk through Fern Glen with a Master Naturalist exploring early-blooming woodland wildflowers and native pollinators. Easy hike under 1 mile. \$10; registration required.

Classical Sunday with Francisco Vila

Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. 3 p.m.

Cellist Francisco Vila performs works by Cassadó, Janáček, and Brahms. Tickets at spencertownacademy.org.

Dressing Up in 18th-Century New England

Sharon Historical Society and Museum 16 Gay St., Sharon, Conn. 3 p.m.

A display and discussion of 18th-century clothing, including shoes, stays, petticoats, aprons, and a cloak, led by experts from Cora Ginsburg LLC. Free; RSVP at rsvp@sharonhist.org.

MAY 6

Library Jam & Community Sing-Along

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monthly gathering led by Eric Marshall. Bring an instrument or just your voice. All ages and abilities welcome. Meets first Wednesday of each month, indoors or on the porch depending on weather.

MAY 7

Millbrook Film Club: "Cielo"

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Screening of a documentary exploring the night sky in Chile's Atacama Desert, presented in honor of NASA's Artemis II mission.

MAY 8

Susan Monserud Retrospective

The Good Gallery, 23 South Main St., Kent, Conn. May 8-9

Exhibition celebrating the life and work of the artist and architect, featuring paintings and monoprints from the 1960s to 2026; open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet-and-Greet for New Recreation Director Allycia Soule

Falls Village Inn, 33 Railroad St., Falls Village, Conn. 5 p.m. Community welcome event hosted by the Falls Village Recreation Commission to introduce new Recreation Director Allycia Soule and share ideas for future programs and activities.

"Un Real" Opening Reception

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Exhibition featuring Fern Apfel, Betsy Brandt, Monica Miller Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk and Daniel Walworth. On view May 8 through June 28.

Local Matters

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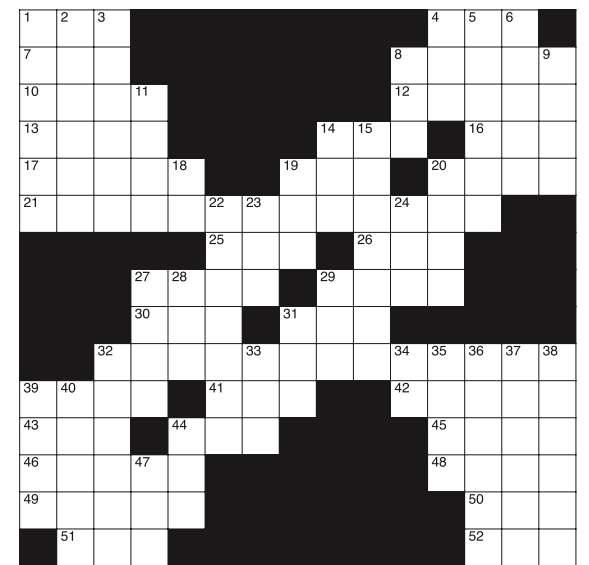
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Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Purchase
- British news organization
- Midway between northeast and east
- Language specialist group
- Fancy automobile
- Small loop or series of loops
- Exploiter
- Don't know when yet
- Group of languages
- One who's finished
- After B
- Angled
- A place to adopt pets
- Swiss river
- Young boy
- Unexciting
- American comedian
- Vidale
- Peyton's little brother
- Corporate higher-up
- "All in the Family" star
- Strike something forcefully
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Clay earth pigments
- Means to record brain activity
- Small constellation
- Embraces
- Brief description
- Exclude
- White (French)
- Insect
- A major division of geological time
- Soviet Socialist Republic



- Where a golfer begins
- Attendant
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Benedictine monk
- Not turbulent
- Car mechanics group
- Buffer used in chemistry
- Fall heavily
- Pie ___ mode
- The Brits love it
- Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- Jacksonville footballer
- Helps little firms
- ___ and behold
- A way to resemble
- Fingers
- Excessive indulgences
- You might be an "empty" one
- "How the West Was Won" writer
- European river
- They begin the alphabet
- The body's messenger

April 23 Solution

B	A	T	A	L	E	U	E	L	F		
C	L	E	G	G	E	R	N	M	A	A	R
E	A	G	A	N	T	M	V	A	G	I	O
S	S	U	S	U	S	T	I	E	G	L	U
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y	
C	H	A	M	B	E	R	S	S	R		
T	O	T	E	R							
B	A	B	A	A	L	B	A	A	H	E	D
E	B	A	N	N	I	L	A	O	T	U	S
M	A	F	A	G	E	E	R	A	C	K	S
A	L	T	E	R	R						

Sudoku

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

April 23 Solution

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

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OUR TOWNS

Home prices ease in Millbrook, Washington after record highs

By **CHRISTINE BATES**
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — The median price of a single-family home in the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook has declined sharply from last year's peak, although values remain high compared to previous levels.

The 12-month trailing median price stood at \$625,000 as of March 31, down 30% from the \$895,000 recorded for the same period ending March 31, 2025. Still, that figure is 22% higher than the comparable period ending March 31, 2024.

The number of single-family home sales on a 12-month rolling basis in the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook varies widely year to year. A total of 35 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending March 31, 2026, compared with 34 sales

in the period ending March 31, 2025, and 25 sales for the 12 months ending March 31, 2024. The busiest year took place during the 12 months ending in October 2021, when 64 homes were sold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inventory of all listed single-family homes has remained stable at 25 for the first three months of the year. As of mid-April, there were 28 single-family homes on the market in three distinct price segments.

Five properties were listed above \$5 million, with 11 between \$1 million and \$5 million, and another 12 between \$500,000 and \$1 million. No residential properties were listed below \$500,000, and only one was asking below the current median price of \$625,000.

There were five parcels of land listed for sale on the MLS, all of which have been

on the market for more than 300 days. Commercial and retail properties are active, with five properties for sale, including the Millbrook Antiques Mall building.

Transfers
465 Shunpike — 4 bedroom/5 bath residence and a 1 bedroom/1.5 guest house on 40.32 acres sold in March 11 for \$5,775,000.

54 Bennett Common — 2 bedroom/2 bath condo sold in March for \$352,500.

Lot 748535 Hollow Crest Lane — 6.2 acres of vacant residential land sold in March for \$130,000.

Valley Farm Road — 5.73 acres of rural residential land

title transferred in February for \$180,000.

Town of Washington recorded February real estate transfers from February 1 to February 28, 2026 sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Office monthly reports supplemented by sales data from First Key MLS for February and March and market data from InfoSparks. Details on each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Current listings from One Key MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Fix-it cheerleaders

Daisy Hamilton, left, and her sister, Alta, center, keep their mother, Ash, company while she provides sewing services at a Repair Café at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, April 25. The Millbrook Library was a hub of activity during the Millbrook Community Yard Sale on Saturday. Originally expected to be held outside on the library's lawn, the Repair Café was moved indoors due to rain sprinkles and chill wind.

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Amenia Fire Co. steak dinner set for May 2

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will be sponsoring a Steak Bake on Saturday, May 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the firehouse.

The meal includes mashed potatoes, corn, salad, dinner roll and a dessert.

Diners may pre-order a

meal by calling Shawn Howard at 845-418-8633.

The meal is eat-in or take-out. Tickets are \$25 each and are available from any fire company member.

The firehouse is located at 36 Mechanic St. in Amenia.

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TOWN OF CORNWALL HIRING: The Town of Cornwall has a fulltime job opening for Highway Department Maintainer. For more details and to apply, contact first Selectmen's office 860-672-4959.

TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED: Land Use Administrator - Full-time, salary range of \$57,020-\$71,275, depending on experience, plus benefits (some starting after one year). Responsible for coordinating, managing, and processing all proposals for land development in the town. Qualifications: High school diploma or GED (Associates Degree Preferred) with 4 years increasingly responsible work experience preferably in administrative work, public contact, field of land use and municipal government, or any equivalent combination and experience. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED: Fire Marshal - Part-time, salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000, depending on experience. Responsible for the fire code enforcement, fire investigation, inspections, permitting and public safety education in the town. Qualifications: Associates Degree or Advanced Technical Courses, and over five years increasingly responsible experience in a fire department or related inspection experience. Required to have or obtain State Fire Marshal Certification. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00 PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

HELP WANTED

WYANTENUCK COUNTRY CLUB IS SEEKING STAFF FOR THE 2026 SEASON: Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time employment available. Positions Available: Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

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REAL ESTATE

causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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