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Special, Inside



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

County executive Sue Serino is prioritizing safety, community well-being and collaboration in Dutchess County government.

Sue Serino looks into the county's not-so-distant future

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
kristab@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — Last December, the Dutchess County legislature passed its 2025 budget by a vote of 23-2.

While it wasn't a unanimous decision, the bipartisan support of the \$629 million-plus spending package reflected the collaborative inroads County Executive Sue Serino, R-Dutchess, has been striving toward over the past year.

While Serino didn't win over lawmakers Chris Drago, whose district includes North East, Millerton and Pine Plains, and Brennan Kearney, D-II, she was not discouraged, saying, "I'll just have to try harder next time around."

Serino's budgetary package includes a record \$2 million in funding for EMS service.

The lack of EMS access was a concern Serino weighed in on last November prior to the budget's passing.

"Emergency medical services

are a vital lifeline for our residents," Serino said. "This funding will not only improve EMS response times but [will] also reduce pressure on mutual aid services, ensuring each community has the coverage it needs."

As part of Serino's strategy to address emergency service deficiencies, a temporary supplemental ambulance coverage plan was launched at the beginning of 2025 to fill coverage gaps after the county entered into an agreement with Empress Ambulance Services.

A potential secondary provider, Ambulnz by DocGo, may eventually be added into the mix, contingent on contract negotiations.

DocGo, the proposed secondary supplemental ambulance transport provider, is probably best known as the organization which controversially partnered in 2023 with New York City mayor Eric Adams in a highly lucrative no-bid contract to fill immigrant needs such

See **SERINO, PAGE A6**

Shepherd's Run solar farm project kicked back by state

By JOHN COSTON
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ALBANY — New York's Office of Renewable Energy Siting has kicked back Hecate Energy LLC's application to build a 42-megawatt solar farm in Copake as incomplete.

The state's response followed a 60-day review of the application and criticism from state and local leaders, who filed letters with the renewable energy office and Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Shepherd's Run, the name of the project proposed by the Chicago-based developer of solar, wind and energy storage projects, has

been a flashpoint for the rural hamlet's residents since it initially was discussed in 2017. Then, it was planned as a 60-megawatt solar farm to be located near the intersection of Routes 23 and 7.

But when Hecate lost control of a parcel of land that was part of the proposal, the Town of Copake asked the state to dismiss the application, a motion which was granted in February 2024. Following the dismissal, the company responded with intent to refile a revised plan, reducing the scope of the project.

Hecate's Matt Levine, senior director of development, commented on Monday, Feb. 24, with

the following statement: "Hecate is committed to working with state and local stakeholders to build a project that helps New York meet its clean energy goals while preserving and protecting the natural beauty of Columbia County."

"This is a routine and anticipated step that happens with many, if not most permit applications. We are reviewing the notice from ORES and will work to update the application to address any outstanding issues. We expect to submit our response shortly."

In the days before the latest ORES decision, which was pub-

See **SOLAR, PAGE A6**

Amenia mourns death of Councilman Paul Winters

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The flag at the Town Hall flies at half-staff to honor the memory of Town Board member Paul Winters, who died suddenly on Sunday, Feb. 16, at the age of 52. His active involvement in a variety of town programs made news of his death a town-wide shock.

In early January, Winters had announced his candidacy for the office of Town Supervisor, having been nominated by the Republican Town Committee.

During the official Town Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, town officials offered reflections on the myriad ways that Winters had served the town that he cared deeply about.

"Paul is irreplaceable," said Town Supervisor Leo Blackman, remembering his "large personality." He recalled Winters' volunteerism on behalf of the Recreation Commission. Although Blackman conceded that he and Winters often differed in views about town issues, Blackman said, "We were friends when we left the room."

Councilperson Rosanna Hamm also acknowledged that she and Winters often differed. "He could leave things in the meeting room,"



PHOTO PROVIDED

Paul Winters

she said, remembering Winters' deep pride in his family and his abiding concern for the interests of the community.

"We will miss him," Hamm said of Winters.

"He was so many things," councilperson Brad Rebillard observed. "His spirit remains and what he did for the town will remain."

Recalling that she and Winters had first met when serving on the Recreation Commission, councilmember Nicole Ahearn sensed a hole that Winters' death has left in the community's very heart.

"I hope to help by keeping alive

and completing the work that Paul envisioned on behalf of the town of Amenia," Ahearn said.

Reflecting on Winters' service to the Recreation Commission, recently appointed Recreation Supervisor Paul Bogin provided some comments on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

"To say Paul Winters will be missed is a profound understatement. He was a force of nature, a man with visionary ideas and an even greater personality," Bogin said, adding, "Paul's impact on Amenia is undeniable, particularly in bringing us the cherished summer concert series and the beloved Parade of Lights, where his legendary annual portrayal of the Grinch brought so much joy."

"As the new Amenia Recreation Supervisor, I was immediately struck by Paul's warmth and generosity. His insightful guidance and unwavering commitment to open communication spoke volumes about his character. He was a truly remarkable individual," Bogin said.

Winters won election to the Town Board and began his service in January of 2024.

Between 2021 and 2024 Winters had concurrently served on

See **PAUL WINTERS, PAGE A6**



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OUR TOWNS

North East Board discusses drafted zoning definitions

By COLLEEN FLYNN
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MILLERTON — On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Town of North East held a special meeting with Town Board members and Zoning Board of Appeals chair Edith Greenwood to discuss some definition adjustments on the drafted zoning amendments.

The board members went through a handful of the defined terms to be changed, added or fully eliminated. A few examples of changes that were made varied from swapping out the expression “maid” to “housekeeping” and deleting “sanitarium” and “sanatorium.”

“Senior housing is a general term, so that might be what we want to use,” said board member Chris Mayville. “Elder housing or assisted living, memory care facilities, those are all licensed, as opposed to senior housing.”

The goal of the drafted vocabulary for the new zoning amendments is to ensure the town will have clear and precise definitions to prevent future confusion. “I think this is progress,” town supervisor Chris Kennan said. “We are moving forward through different pieces of this.”

The more than 150 page draft the Zoning Review Committee proposed to the board is available to view on the Town

of North East’s website under the committee’s tab.

The board briefly mentioned various ways future sidewalk issues may be addressed. “The Zoning Review Committee has given us language which requires that a new development on the Boulevard for a substantial renovation or expansion exceeding \$250,000,” Kennan said. “Either of those would require putting in a sidewalk on that parcel.”

According to the board, it is not the most preferable method of sidewalk development as it relies on selling every parcel to avoid gaps. “There are other ways of getting sidewalks going. One of

them is through getting the state involved, which would look like to state funding – or the town doing it’s the town taking on some part of that,” Kennan said. “That would be the quickest way to get it. A uniform sidewalk would look the same all the way out.”

Kennan mentioned the possibility of partnering with a business improvement district to finance and construct sidewalks. Greenwood also raised the recommendation of having sidewalks on both sides of the street to promote safety for pedestrians in town. The town board may revisit this idea as sidewalk development plans continue to take shape.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Amenia weighs water district project

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Well along in the process of planning for upgrades and repairs to the town’s water district infrastructure, the Town Board heard a report from the project engineers at its regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. to hear comments on the Map, Plan and Report engineering phase. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will discuss the comments heard and could vote to approve the plan report that same night, clearing the

way for grant funding applications to be submitted.

The engineering report is available for viewing on the Town of Amenia website.

Representing the project’s engineering firm, Delaware Engineering of Albany, were Tracey Ledder, Senior Environmental Scientist, and Kelsey Butera, Engineer.

Scope of the project was reviewed by Butera who described highlights of the work to be done, noting that the town’s water district has two water plants and 15 miles of water mains serving the district’s water customers. Daily water usage measures about 60,000 gallons.

The total projected cost

for the upgrade is \$3.9 million, to cover infrastructure upgrade and quality improvement, as outlined by Ledder.

Replacing the Lavelle Road pump house is estimated at \$830,000. Storage tank rehabilitation will incur costs of \$230,000 and \$1.73 million, exterior and interior, respectively. Upgrading water mains and fire hydrants is estimated at \$1.07 million.

Some funding sources have been identified as part of Delaware’s services, Ledder explained, and a new water usage rate structure would be devised for district customers, based on benefit, whether one-family residential or commercial usage.

Councilmember Rosanna Hamm asked about assistance with grant funding applications, learning that Delaware provides that help.

“This is a good time to seek funding for water projects, as opposed to wastewater projects,” Town Supervisor Leo Blackman said.

Hamm expressed her concern about the town’s aging infrastructure, including fire hydrants that suffer from low pressure.

Butera noted that most of the town’s fire hydrants are in good working order. Blackman added that valve replacement is included in the project scope, where necessary.

“I feel much better about the water system, now that it is being looked at in such detail,” Blackman said.

Reduce, recycle and create

The latest in the Amenia Free Library’s growing series of free crafting sessions invited participants to create whimsical animals from egg cartons on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Program assistant Megan Marshall created a model to demonstrate what could be done with an empty egg carton, paper, paint and glue.

Dine Out for History wraps up February, adds new March date

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
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MILLERTON — Dine Out for History will be taking place at the following venues on the evening of the dates below. A second date has been added in March for Taro, which saw low attendance due to inclement weather on

its first date back in February. Reservations recommended.

Willa at 52 Main St. on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Round III at 5523 Route 22, on Monday, March 10.

Golden Wok at 2 Main St. Suite 5165, on Wednesday, March 19, takeout only.

Taro’s at 18 Main St. on Thursday, March 27.

Workforce Housing 101 clarifies housing programs and benefits

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The Amenia Housing Board offered Workforce Housing 101 on Saturday, Feb. 22, attracting about 40 to the Town Hall for an educational meeting on affordable housing definitions, programs and funding.

The event was organized by the Amenia Housing Board with an introduction by chairman Charlie Miller.

Offering a definition of workforce housing, Miller said it falls under the umbrella of affordable housing, along with other types such as veterans’ housing or senior housing, but it is not public housing.

No one should pay more than 30% of monthly income for housing, whether homeowner is paying a mortgage, taxes, insurance or a renter paying rent and utilities. The current median purchase price for a home in Amenia is \$450,000, Miller reported.

In 2020, 30% of the families in Dutchess County were housing cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of monthly income for housing.

Dutchess County Development and Planning administers Housing and Urban Development — HUD — projects, providing quality affordable housing for low-income households, as outlined by Paul Hesse, Community Development Coordinator.

Hesse said that while there is not a substantial amount of funding at the county level, it can be helpful to report having received county program assistance when applying for grant funding from other sources. Further, he explained that the county funding can be used to fund housing infrastructure like water and septic. Providing details about

the successful work of Kent (Conn.) Affordable Housing Inc., formed in 1990, President Justin Potter described that town’s two projects: Stuart Farm and South Commons, comprising 37 units, with an additional 13 units in the planning stages. The organization received support from the Community Development Block Grant program, using it for affordable housing infrastructure.

Accessory Dwelling Units — habitable buildings on a property in addition to the main home — are allowable in Kent. If they are contained within a home’s structure, they are allowable by right. If they are detached structures, they require a special permit, Potter explained.

Potter spoke of a spike in Kent housing prices and demand between 2017 and 2025, pandemic years, and current growth in local public support for affordable housing.

Capital expenses receive support from state and federal sources, with valuable assistance provided by the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, Potter said.

Currently, Potter said, there is a growing common ground to be found between organizations promoting housing opportunities and those whose interests lie in conservation. When designating land for conservation, he said, often roadside parcels can be identified as less desirable for natural habitat, but ideal for housing.

Representing Hudson River Housing of Poughkeepsie, a non-profit housing program, was Javier Gomez, Vice President of Operations, who offered information on affordable home ownership programs, eligibility, and

funding.

Of concern to residents was the process through which families are selected for the program’s housing units. Gomez replied that a lottery system is most often used for rental opportunities that draw many applicants. First come-first served is more often used for home ownership opportunities as those applicants navigate a variety of funding strategies.

A question-and-answer period, moderated by Housing Board member Josh Frankel brought questions about the Cascade Road acreage, a Hudson River Housing project being considered by the Planning Board, now in its land-study phase.

Some questions concerned the duration of the affordability requirements, whether in time, the property could be subject to sale at market value.

Miller responded with his opinion that the Housing Board should require that affordable properties remain affordable into perpetuity, thereby limiting potential for market value sale. He acknowledged, however, that there is disagreement about potential sunset provisions.

“I believe that something should be affordable in perpetuity,” Miller said.

Discussion turned to the town-wide effects of a lack of affordable housing. Town Supervisor Leo Blackman noted that local businesses are not able to hire needed help.

About housing inventory, Blackman said that if there are more choices, the people move up and as a result there is more inventory.

“I want us to invest in our community,” Miller told residents, as the meeting broke into conversation and refreshments.

Small Business SPOTLIGHT

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Village trustees focus on fire aftermath

By JOHN COSTON
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MILLERTON — Mayor Jenn Najdek updated Village trustees on Monday, Feb. 24, about the continued work by town staff and outside consultants and engineers in the aftermath of the catastrophic Feb. 3 fire at the Water Department that destroyed the building and all its contents.

The scene at the building on Route 22 remains off-limits as investigators continue work to determine the cause of the blaze that destroyed two police vehicles along with highway trucks, including plow vehicles, mowers and tools and left the building gutted.

Najdek and others at Village Hall have been meeting with insurance representatives and the mayor said the Village already has received one insurance-claim payment.

The mayor also reported that the Village and the Town of North East have been discussing a possible plan to utilize the old Town Garage on South Center Street as a semi-permanent home for the department for the next couple of years.

“We would have to likely rent it from the Town,” she said, noting that it still would be a better option than being housed in trailers. The old North East Town Garage is a 100-year old, 5,700 square foot cinder block building that was

replaced by a new 12,720 square foot building on Route 22 that opened last September.

Village Police Chief Joe Olenik informed the trustees at their board meeting that the Town of Pine Plains has provided Millerton with a loaner car and that he had serviced it with new tires and brakes.

Najdek reported that town officials are pricing new vehicles for the Department of Public Works and the Police Department.

A 30-day State of Emergency that was declared following the fire was extended for another 30 days.

The building is slated for demolition once the scene is cleared.

The Board heard a report from Trustee Dave Sherman on a plan to submit an application for a Community Development Block Grant to replace sidewalks on North Center and Church Streets. The old sidewalks would be replaced to become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Trustees unanimously voted to apply for a \$199,000 grant.

Trustees also discussed the upcoming budget cycle that begins in March and typically culminates in April. They heard health insurance costs for employees are expected to increase by 8% per employee. After budget workshops are held by the Board, a public hearing would be scheduled before adopting a budget.

NEML trustees table bike program discussion

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Library Board of Trustees met to discuss a potential bicycle program, community response to its offerings, and where the library stands in the SAM grant application process.

Along with the NorthEast-Millerton Library, locations in Dover, Pawling and Amenia are all considering a new bicycle program. As with library books, bicycles would be checked out and returned after use by members of the community.

The program, which has to clear insurance hurdles, is still in the early stages of discussion with the trustees



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

Bikes could come to the North-East Millerton Library.

agreeing to revisit the issue in a year after reviewing how libraries in the surrounding area navigate through the stages of their own bicycle programs. If approved, the program would start small with NorthEast-Millerton Library receiving up to two bicycles at most,

The library has resubmitted its paperwork for its State and Municipal Facilities (SAM) Grant, which is now being processed. The library is now waiting on an audit and then approval from the state. “I’m hoping that once it gets through the audit process — which doesn’t appear

to be that bad — if it passes that, it’s the state approving it — finally. That will take a long time,” said library director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson. “There’s about \$7,000 built into the grant.”

The trustees noted library usage, circulation, and community participation in library events is on the rise. Leo-Jameson cited the recent success of the “Taste of Korea” event, which explored the food and culture of the Asian nation.

The event was booked to capacity. “It was really interesting, and everyone had a great time,” said Leo-Jameson. “So, maybe [we’ll] have that program back again in the future ... It was extremely affordable.”

Connecticut A.G. Tong headlines Lime Rock immigration forum March 6

By RUTH EPSTEIN
Special to The Millerton News

SALISBURY, Conn. — Following the November election, a group of local residents became concerned about the new administration’s stand on deporting those lacking legal status.

Jill Drew of Sharon said, “We wondered what we could do and the answer emerged; protect the vulnerable.” And so was born Vecinos Seguros 2, which translated is “Safe Neighbors.”

In addition to a host of initiatives, the group is hosting a community immigration forum featuring Connecticut Attorney General William

Tong on Thursday, March 6, at 6 p.m. at Trinity Lime Rock Church, 484 Lime Rock Road. He will discuss the state’s response to federal immigration enforcement changes and answer questions about how the state’s Trust Act works.

The first iteration of Vecinos Seguros was formed during the pandemic when the Rev. John Carter sought ways to communicate with local immigrants. He held church services in Spanish to bring them together and give support. Eventually the program disbanded during President Biden’s term.

Drew said she was aware that advocacy groups were forming in cities and know-

ing of the immigrant population in the Northwest Corner, as well as in towns across the border in New York state and Massachusetts, she started to explore what could be done. She was introduced to Carter and the group was created to ensure that those who might be affected know their rights.

Drew is director of the group’s steering committee. Others serving are Sophia and Lee DeBoer, Amy Lake and Carter.

Among Vecinos Seguros’ activities is the distribution of wallet-sized red cards printed in English and Spanish which anyone targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can refer to in

order to invoke their Constitutional rights to remain silent and refuse a search. The group also has flyers that detail what should be done in specific situations, including list of legal resources and emergency response cards in Spanish with two phone numbers so someone targeted by ICE can call to report an ICE encounter and request assistance from the group’s rapid response team.

Those wishing to be involved with the group, or would like further information can reach out to vecinosseguros2@gmail.com.

“We’re trying to create a community in which people know their neighbors care about them,” Drew said.

Housing board sets sights on ADUs

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Considering attainable goals for 2025, the Housing Board discussed promotion of accessory dwelling units at its regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, part of the larger goal of increasing local housing options.

Accessory dwelling units are habitable buildings on residential property other than the primary building.

Following discussion, the board agreed that seeing the creation of five ADUs in 2025 would be an attainable goal.

Noting that the town is pursuing the state-sponsored Pro-housing Community Program that opens opportunity for funding for the creation of ADUs, Housing Board chairman Charlie Miller led the discussion.

A second state program, Plus-One ADU, was initiated in 2022 when the state’s capital budget allocated \$85 million to create and up-

grade accessory dwelling units throughout the state. The aim of the program is to assist low to middle income homeowners who want to create an ADU on their property, either an attached unit or one that is detached.

ADUs can be in the form of basement apartments, over-garage apartments, or stand-alone small dwellings. Funding up to \$125,000 can support the creation of an ADU on a single-family property.

Both programs are intended to increase the numbers of housing opportunities in communities where the supply of affordable housing is low.

Housing board member Josh Frankel suggested that a flow chart be developed to explain the process to be followed by a homeowner in planning for an ADU. For example, the ADU would need to conform to septic standards that are based on the current number of bedrooms in a home.

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OBITUARIES

Anna Christina Kardon

NAPLES, Fla. — Anna Christina (“Chris”) Kardon, the cherished wife of Paul Kardon, M.D., for 63 years, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 5, 2025.



Born in the Philippines in 1937, while her father served there with General Douglas MacArthur, she grew up in Northern California. After receiving her B.A. degree from Reed College, she moved east to attend the Columbia University School of Social Work, from which she received an M.S.W. in 1960. During the summer between her two years at Columbia, she worked at a camp in New Jersey for orthopedically handicapped children, where she met her future husband, Paul, then a medical student. Paul’s training career took them to Brooklyn, Chicago, Manhattan, and two years in the Army at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. At each location, Chris worked as a clinical Psychiatric Social Worker. They settled in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1971, where she continued her practice and worked and taught at the Adelphi University School of Social Work.

Chris and Paul retired to Naples in 2000. Once in Naples, she studied to become a Master Naturalist and worked as a volunteer docent with the Friends of Barefoot Beach Learning Center for 30 years. Chris also volunteered at the Shelter for Abused Women and Children for 15 years.

A voracious reader, she was usually in the middle of reading a book — or two. In the summer, at their cot-

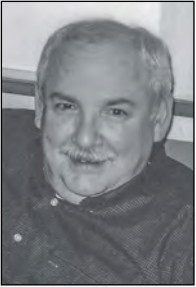
tage in upstate New York, she could always be found in the tiny kitchen, having just returned home from a local farmers market, and preparing to cook or preserve the day’s bounty. A gifted seamstress, her handiwork produced, among other things, recyclable gift bags made out of old fabric. Her numerous friends can attest to her spirit of adventure, as they were cajoled into going on offbeat local trips with her, including swamp walks. With an agile mind and a positive outlook, she seized every opportunity, every day, and she lived life to the fullest. In the face of tragedy, as with the passing of her son, Craig, one year ago, she was stalwart.

In addition to her husband, survivors include her daughter, Gabrielle Kardon; a granddaughter, Krista (Hunter) Kardon-Thompson; one great-grandson, Bryce Thompson; her sister, Melinda (John) Hall; two nieces, and two nephews; and three great-nieces and two great-nephews.

A memorial will be held at a later date. Contributions in her memory may be sent to Reed College, www.reed.edu/givingtoreed/online-giving; Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southwest-central-florida; and the League of Women Voters of Collier County, www.lwvcolliercounty.org/, designated for the LWCC Endowment Fund in memory of Chris Kardon.

William Manasse

SHARON — William Jeffrey Manasse, 74, of Sharon, passed away peacefully at his home on Feb. 18, surrounded by family and friends, after a courageous battle with cancer.



Born to Edward Lincoln Manasse and Audrey Olsen Manasse Prindle, step-son of Stuart E. Prindle, William (aka “Bill”) was a devoted son, brother, husband, uncle and friend.

Bill was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School (Class of 1968) and the University of Connecticut (Class of 1976), and a graduate of the Western New England School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree (Class of 1980). He was admitted to the Federal District Court Bar in 1983. He was a highly respected attorney with the Manasse, Slaiby, and Leard Law Firm in Kent and Torrington and member of the Litchfield County Bar Association. Bill had a keen legal mind, especially regarding property matters.

His commitment to public service was evident in his twenty four years of service on Sharon’s Planning and Zoning Committee. He also served as Vice President of Sharon Housing Authority and President of the Ellsworth Burial Ground Association. In all things, Bill dedicated his life to serving others. William was passionate about American history. He was zealous about and devoted to his closely knit family and he also served as the family historian,

exploring family genealogies in both Norway and the U.S. He and Debbie loved traveling together, especially to the Amish country of Pennsylvania and to the United Kingdom. Treasured journeys were to Norway, the homeland of his Olsen ancestors, and to Outer Mongolia with his brother Edward.

A public servant, and a dedicated family man, William will be remembered for his kindness, integrity, and unwavering commitment to those he loved.

He is survived by his loving wife, Deborah Manasse of Sharon; his brothers, Edward Walter (aka “Butch”) Manasse of Parrish, Florida and Warren Prindle of Sharon; brother and sister-in-law David and Jean Lichtel of Lakeland, Florida, sister-in-law Amy Lichtel of Berkley, Michigan, and brother-in-law Patrick Lichtel of Dalton, Massachusetts, and his cherished nieces and nephews, Christine Manasse, Edward Alvin Manasse, Stuart Prindle, Tahlia Prindle, and Ethan William Prindle.

Calling hours will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, on Friday, Feb. 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. A private burial for the family will take place at the Ellsworth Burial Ground. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Contact Warren at (860)364-0535. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

GREENWICH — On Feb. 17, 2025, the world said goodbye to a man whose laughter was as infectious as his spirit was inspiring. Robert “Bob” E. Battis, born on Sept. 17, 1935, in Amesbury, Massachusetts, to the late, George and Laura “Milly” (Burke) Battis. Bob lived a life filled with humor, dedication, and a love for his family that knew no bounds.

A natural-born storyteller, Bob had a knack for spinning a yarn that could leave you doubled over with laughter one moment and deeply moved the next. His jokes were the highlight of every family gathering, and his passion for UCONN Basketball and local high school sports added an extra layer of excitement to every game season.

Donna Lee Peterson

SHARON — Donna Lee (O’Dell) Peterson, age 63, of Sharon Valley, passed away on Feb. 18, 2025.



Donna was born on Feb. 6, 1962, in Sharon, the daughter of Edward and Donna O’Dell.

Donna was a cherished wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother. Donna’s heart was as boundless as her passions for nature, animals and literature. Her laugh was infectious, and her spirit, gentle yet strong, was a beacon of light to all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Peter, and three sons; Lance, Chad and Jake, mother,

Bob served his country proudly in the United States Army as an expert marksman from 1958 to 1960. He was part of the 1959 rifle team that won the Prix LeClerc competition in Germany. He was a man of many talents, and he applied his dedication to everything he did. He was born on a farm and spent most of his life in agriculture. He was a nutritionist for over 30 years at Blue Seal feeds, becoming a familiar and friendly face to all he encountered. He was a member of the Guernsey Cattle Club and the Holstein Association, and showed dairy cattle in 42 states and in Canada. When



he was young, he was part of the Box Car boys, who cared for show herds on trains as they traveled the country.

Even after retiring, he continued to work part-time for NAPA Auto Store in Greenwich, a testament to his tireless work ethic. But work was not his only passion. A proud member of the Battenkill Country Club, Bob was an avid golfer and recorded two hole-in-ones with his cadre of golf buddies. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and dancing with his beloved wife, Nancy.

However, what mattered most to Bob was his family. He was the loving husband to his wife, Nancy Battis; a dedicated father to his children, Dave Battis, Leslie (David) Battis and Susan (Robert) Battis; a doting grandfather to Daniel Cronin, Lydia Beers, and Sean Battis; and a proud great-grandfather to Izabella Cronin. He is also survived by his sister, Marie Peckham, and her three children. His love for his family was a beacon that guided him through life.

As Mark Twain once said, “The secret of success is mak-

ing your vocation your vacation.” Bob embraced this idea, blending his love for work, hobbies, sports, and most importantly, his family into a life that was rich, fulfilling, and inspiring. His jokes, stories, and infectious laughter will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew him.

Family and friends may pay their respects to Bob and his family from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Flynn Bros, Inc. Funeral Home, 80 Main St., Greenwich, NY, 12834.

His memorial service will be held the following day, Friday, March 21, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment with full military honors will follow his service at 11:30 a.m. at the Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville, NY, 12834.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad, PO Box 84, Greenwich, NY, 12834.

We invite all who knew Bob to share their memories and upload photos to his memorial page at www.flynnbrosinc.com. Let us come together to celebrate a life that was filled with laughter, love, and a dedication that inspired us all.

Barbara Lynn Turner Miller

MILLERTON — Barbara Lynn Turner Miller, 79, formerly of Brant Lake, New York and Amenia, died peacefully on Friday evening, Feb. 21, 2025, to join her husband, Robert, who is waiting with open arms to welcome her to a life beyond.



Lynn was born Jan. 30, 1946, in Sharon, to the late James C. and Mildred P. (Ahearn) Turner. She was a graduate of Roe-Jan High School and attended Albany Business College.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a grandson, Dustin J. Hotaling.

Lynn is survived by her children; Stacy Hurn and her husband Jesse, Tara Morey and her partner Alex and Ryan Hotaling; her stepchildren, Jamie (James) Dunn and Robert J. Miller; her grandchildren, Kenneth, Cory (Gina), Dillon (Alyssa) Hotaling, Tyler (Aliana) Morey and Trent Morey; step granddaughter, Kylee Miller and step grandson, Luke Robert Dunn; great grandchildren, Hailey, Jordan, Blaze, Sophie and Lucas Hotaling; her brother, James S. Turner and his wife Beverly; her brother-

in-law, Glenn Miller and many nieces and nephews.

Lynn’s employers while living in Dutchess County were Saint Francis Hospital, Aon Corporation, The Culinary Institute of America, Alfa Laval and Wassaic Developmental Center. Follow-

ing her relocation to Warren County, New York in 2002, she was employed by Lincoln Logs Ltd., until her retirement in 2007.

Lynn enjoyed baking, her annual camping trips with Bob and other occasional trips throughout their marriage. At Lynn’s request there will be no calling hours. A Memorial Mass will take place at a later date and will be announced on the funeral home website. Memorial contributions may be made to Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park, NY or American Cancer Society, 2678 South Road, Suite 103, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family or plant a tree in Lynn’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Worship Services
Week of March 2, 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| <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. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p> | <p>St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</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 860-824-7252 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>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m. WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE? For information, contact Jo Loi at joikaui@icloud.com All are Welcome</p> |
| <p>Congregation Beth David A Reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:50 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p> | <p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARRISH 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>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>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 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>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 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>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:50 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</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>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>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 canaanct-umc.com 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. During Lent, Presanctified Liturgy Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Akathist to the Virgin Mary Fridays at 6:30 PM Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</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> | |

Realtor® at Large

In addition to the threat of Hydrilla to our lakes, a new concern may be the increasing presence of wake boats. These boats are designed to create large waves to ride on, but the environmental cost is high. The large waves erode the shoreline and disturb wildlife nesting. The increased downward pressure of the props stir up the sediment and destroys aquatic plant life. The now suspended sediment helps to warm the water and unlocks the phosphorus in the lake bottom which will encourage algae blooms. In addition, the water pumped in and out of the boats to create the weight needed for a deeper draw can spread invasive aquatic plants, like the Hydrilla that we are currently fighting. For more info on the subject, please see the reports and recommendations for Lake Waramaug at: www.lakewaramaug.org/wake-boat-information. It may be smart to get ahead of this issue to help preserve the quality of our lakes here in the NW Corner.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Run-up to the Revolution, VII

For the love of freedom

On January 24, 1775, Lord Dartmouth, the British secretary of state, directed all the royal governors in America to prevent the appointment of delegates to the Second Continental Congress, scheduled for early May. Two days later, when American representatives in London, among them Benjamin Franklin, sought to address Parliament to explain the recent American petitions to the King and Parliament, their request was rejected by a vote of 218 to 68.

On the following day, January 27, Dartmouth directed his subordinate, General Thomas Gage, in Boston, then serving both as the governor of Massachusetts and the leader of all the Crown's troops in the colonies, to arrest local former and future delegates to the forthcoming Second Congress, and to seize gunpowder and arms that might be used in any potential rebellion against the Crown. The letter was delayed, first by the need for bureaucratic tweaks and then by being borne across the Atlantic on a particularly slow boat. Earlier, Dartmouth had rejected Gage's request for more men and munitions as unwarranted — all Gage had to do, Dartmouth believed, was arrest a few key leaders like John Adams and John Hancock, and any incipient rebellion would collapse. Yet others in the British government were alarmed enough by the growing prospect of armed rebellion to dispatch a few boatloads of troops and high-ranking officers to the colonies. After all, Gage had only 3,500 troops, nearly all concentrated in Boston.

[MP Edmund] Burke painted the "predominating feature" of the American people as "a love of freedom," and pointed out that when their freedoms were threatened, Americans became understandably "suspicious, restive, and intractable."

By then the American boycott of British goods had begun to bite, with pain being felt by many in the British Isles. And in small and large American communities, alongside governing structures for enforcing the boycott, the stockpiling of weapons, powder, and ammunition, and the training of militias were in process.

It was in this atmosphere that Parliament adopted Lord North's "conciliation plan" (discussed in my previous article), decried as no more than highway robbery by Franklin and such British independent thinkers as MP

THE LONG VIEW

Tom Shachtman

Edmund Burke.

On March 22, in a speech to Parliament that was remarkable not only in its opposition to the growing push to come down hard on the American colonies but also for its insight into the character of the potential rebels, Burke painted the "predominating feature" of the American people as "a love of freedom," and pointed out that when their freedoms were threatened, Americans became understandably "suspicious, restive, and intractable." He warned that Americans possessed unusual strengths that the British did not share: they had popularly-elected local governments to which they responded well; they were nurtured in dissent by the multiplicity of religions functioning on their soil; they particularly understood freedom because of slavery in their midst; and their education stressed the law, making them more acutely attentive to individuals' rights. Attempts to curtail Americans' liberty, he prophesied, would only foment greater rebellion. Burke's proposals, based on lowering tensions and a lessening of the colonists' tax burdens, were rejected by a 270 to 78 vote.

Shortly, the recently widowed Benjamin Franklin, after a decade abroad, set sail for home.

In most American colonies, when royal governors dissolved legislatures and otherwise attempted to enforce the Crown's will, the popularly-selected legislators reconvened in other locations and under other banners. On March 23, one such alternate gathering was being held in St. John's Church in Richmond to select delegates to the Second Congress. Some present wanted to be more accommodating to the governor and the king — but not Patrick Henry.

This avowed rebel, after having been shunted aside at the First Continental Congress as being too radical for the moment, dismissed any talk of seeking peace, because "the war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? ... Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Next time: the battles of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775.

Salisbury resident Tom Shachtman has written many books, including three about the Revolutionary Era.



"I'm Googling 'how to stop using Google.'"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why it's wrong to focus on differences

I recently read Natalia Zuckerman's very moving account about attending the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Some years ago I was part of a week-long, Buddhist-led retreat at these two camps set three miles apart. The retreat was called Bearing Witness, and still takes place annually. About 200 people of different faiths and nationalities spent the days bearing witness to the atrocities committed, reading the names of the dead, saying Kaddish and other prayers, sitting in silence in areas where unbearable suffering took place. A few attendees were children of survivors, a few children of Nazi soldiers. Our nights were spent in discussion and communion.

If you have spent any time at these concentration camps, your life view is forever changed. Therefore, it is unimaginable to me that VP Vance would visit Dachau in the morning, only to meet with the leader of the far-right German party in the afternoon. Vance's belief in some version of white Christian nationalism "trumped" his ability to understand where such ideology, based on the

supremacy of one group of people over everyone else, led in the past and could lead in the future.

Making one group of people into "the other", as Trump has done with the undocumented, with transpeople, and other groups, is therefore right out of the Nazi playbook in which anti-Semitism was used to bind together and blind the German people. The astonishing fact about the Nazis was that after their extermination of the Jews, dissidents, homosexuals, the Romani, the disabled, they planned to double the size of Birkenau, already

10,000 acres!, to kill all the slaves, a vast group of people that numbered hundreds of millions. By this means they would gain world domination.

I am not making any direct analogy to the present, only suggesting that using an Us vs. Them mentality as a political tool, and focusing on the differences in people, be it skin color, origin, status, religion, is a tool that can be used to gain domination and bring suffering. We must recognize it as such in order to stand against it.

Barbara Maltby
Lakeville

Blizzard buries region; Centennial variety show; students go to Washington; a Wassaic station

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

February 22, 1934

'Additional Funds Asked for CWA; Resolution Submitted to Supervisors Would Provide \$10,000 for Roads'; A resolution submitted to the Dutchess County Board of Supervisors last week provides for allocation of about \$10,000 to purchase materials, machinery and supplies for fourteen county road projects now under construction. It was referred to the highway committee of which Supervisor Frank L. Minor of the Town of North East was recently made chairman.

'Heaviest Snowfall Since 1921 Buries This Region Under 14 Inch Blanket; Traffic Paralyzed; Northeastern Section of Country Snowbound; Drifts Mount Nine Feet High';

The heaviest snowfall since 1921 buried this region, including Dutchess and Columbia Counties and western Connecticut, under a 14-inch blanket Monday night and Tuesday. The whole northeastern section of the country was reported to be snowbound, railroad traffic being paralyzed in portions of Connecticut and Massachusetts. Locally, a high wind piled up drifts as high as nine feet, making highways, particularly in the Harlem Valley, almost impassable. Fifteen inches of snow was reported in Beacon and Newburgh, and similar reports were forthcoming from other places throughout the Hudson Valley.

'About Millerton'; Howard

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

Scutt, who has just opened a barber shop at the corner of Main and Center Streets, formerly operated a barber shop on Center Street for ten years and later operated a shop in Amenia for four years.

February 27, 1975

'Citizens Sought For Centennial Variety Show'; The Millerton Centennial Committee invites all local residents to appear in a Variety Show during the Village Centennial next summer.

The committee told citizens this week: "If you like music, play anything from harmonica to Jew's harp, sing, dance, or have a relative named Laurel, Hardy or Hope, the time has come to step forth and become famous.

"The News Wins Prizes In State Press Contest"; The News won three prizes this past weekend at the annual New York Press Association Convention in Albany. The awards were second prize for general excellence, honorable mention for best front page and honorable mention for best news photo of 1974.

'Students Visit Washington; Learn About Government'; Eighty seventh and eighth graders from Webutuck Junior-Senior High School participated in a "Learning Experience" in Washington, D.C., last week. Two tour buses left the school at about 7:30 a.m. on Sunday and returned at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, al-

lowing the students to pack in four tightly scheduled days learning about the operation of our government

February 24, 2000

'Sapersteins Continue Tradition Of Giving'; MILLERTON — The gift of education is a precious one. Just ask Lou Saperstein and his two sisters. Son of the late Millerton merchant, Mr. Saperstein and his siblings Susan Rabin and Judith Keller recently donated \$1,000 to the Webutuck Central School District's general fund.

'Decision Time Nearing For School Board'; WEBU-

TUCK — When the Webutuck School Board meets with its architect Monday night, Feb. 28, it will be decision time on how and whether to proceed on a new capital project.

"We're hoping to move this process forward," said Superintendent Justine Winters.

Winters added, "The board has taken a leadership role on this."

'Metro-North's Wassaic Stop Only Months Away'; AMENIA — There are still sporadic concerns about safety and esthetics[sic], but Metro-North's Wassaic project is well on its way to becoming a reality.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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SERINO *Continued from Page A1*

as housing and meal delivery to recent arrivals in the city despite its lack of expertise in these service areas.

While improved ambulance service rolls out, Serino has continued work on additional EMS-related goals including workforce development initiatives aimed at bumping up recruitment numbers for emergency responders and a social media campaign designed to raise awareness of EMS service in the county. Additionally, her budget is focused on community and public-safety programming.

Serino's Real Time Crime Center, an initiative with a \$200,000 price tag attached to its launch from the Community Benefit Fund, debuted at the end of 2024. It enables law enforcement to monitor events as they occur via video feeds and other technology. It also provides a rapid response

to incidents in progress.

Real Time Crime Centers, which can be found throughout the United States, enable collaboration between law enforcement entities in the sharing of information through audio, video, cameras, license plate readers, and other methods.

The data collected is funneled into a cloud-based view to provide mutual access and awareness by law enforcement. While some may find its surveillance-heavy approach unsettling, Serino maintained Real Time Crime Centers are a valuable and effective tool in preventing and combating crime.

"[It's] additional security and safety," Serino said. "I'm all for it."

Youth-based initiatives are also a target. As part of her youth advocacy, Serino has set up in the budget a new \$250,000 grant for the

establishment of YOU — Youth Opportunity Union — Drop-In Centers, which provide gathering spaces for young people to make connections and positive choices by engaging with peers and mentors.

Additionally, \$75,000 is being provided for YOU mini-grants to establish recreation programs for Dutchess youth. An additional \$400,000 has been allocated to an anti-vaping initiative and another \$250,000 will go toward the preservation of children's mental health, a program in partnership with Family Services, Inc.

Also included in the budget were community-based items supporting seniors, veterans, and individuals with challenges as well as food insecurity initiatives.

Serino remains committed to her current responsibilities, and was quick to shoot

down rumors of a gubernatorial run. She confirmed she's been asked to run on the Federal level, but higher office is not an ambition.

She was even quicker to quell any whispers of retirement and plans to remain active, one way or another. "I always keep busy," she said, maintaining that her priorities outside the county executive's office are her family and her dog.

She was also quick to dispense chatter about discord in local government, pointing out how much she enjoyed coming together recently with her fellow lawmakers at county comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair's swearing-in ceremony in January. She maintains cooperation in politics tends to yield positive results which, in turn, benefits Dutchess residents. Said Serino, "That's what it's all about."

SOLAR *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Residents learn about the Shepherd's Run project at an open house on April 3, 2024, in Hillsdale.

lished on Friday, Feb. 21, State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, who chairs the Agriculture Committee, and State Assemblymember Didi Barrett, D-106, who chairs the Energy Committee, weighed in with concerns. Mayor Kamal Johnson of Hudson also wrote about that city's questions regarding the siting of Shepherd's Run on the watershed of the Taghkanic Creek, which supplies 100% of Hudson's water supply.

Citizen groups have both supported and opposed Shepherd's Run, and Hecate has held one in-person open house for residents and a second virtual open house to answer questions.

The state cited numerous, specific deficiencies in the application across several categories, including:

—Requiring design drawing consistency;

—Providing information related to public health, safety and security;

—Revision of the Visual Impact Assessment;

—Requiring revision of the summary of probable impact on archaeological/cultural resources;

The ORES Notice of Incomplete Application identified specific deficiencies which require a response relating to the following: terrestrial ecology, water resources and aquatic ecology, wetland, agricultural resources, effect on transportation, socioeconomic effects, environmental justice, electric system effects and interconnection, electric and magnetic fields and site restoration and decommissioning.

In all, ORES listed 60 areas of incompleteness and descriptions of specific deficiencies.

PAUL WINTERS *Continued from Page A1*

two town committees, the Recreation Commission and the Wastewater Committee.

Volunteer service positions had included ten years, beginning in 2010, of coaching youngsters on the Amenia Minors Little League baseball team.

In an official notice from the town, Blackman noted the high level of Winters' in-

volvement with town-wide interests. "He put enormous energy into all his efforts for Amenia — recreation, cannabis, term limits, and always supported the big change-making projects — highway garage, water, wastewater & housing. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Michelle, and his children. He'll be missed," Blackman said.

Rondout defeats Millbrook at season-end home game

By **NATHAN MILLER**
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook varsity girls basketball squad hosted Rondout High School Wednesday, Feb. 19, for the final home game of the regular basketball season.

The at-once competitive match ended in a Rondout blowout of 37-23 after the Rondout girls went on an impressive scoring run in the final quarter.

Millbrook held their own against the visiting squad for the first half, putting up 12 points against Roundout's 14. Abby McEnroe, no. 1, and Makenna Freeswick, no. 5, led scoring for the Millbrook Blazers with 6 points each. McEnroe's 6 points came from two three-pointers, one

The Millbrook girls varsity basketball squad put up a solid fight against Rondout in the first three quarters of the Wednesday, Feb. 19, game at Millbrook High School. The score was close until the last quarter when Rondout put up 18 points to win 37-23.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

in the first quarter and the second in the third quarter.

At the end of the third quarter, the Blazers led Rondout 20-19, setting the stage for an epic battle in the final quarter.

Rondout met the challenge readily, nearly doubling their score in just eight minutes and denying much of Millbrook's attempts at the net.

OBITUARY

Donna Aakjar

CANAAN — Donna Aakjar passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2025 at Noble Horizons. Born on Dec. 14, 1941, at Geer Hospital in Canaan to Maybelle Voorhees and Louis Peder Aakjar, Donna's life was a testament to education, service and a deep love of the arts.

She attended North Canaan Elementary School and the Housatonic Valley Regional high before graduating from Southern Connecticut State College. Donna began her career teaching fifth grade at Sharon Center School. While teaching, she earned a mas-

ter's degree in Library Science and became the first librarian in the newly renovated basement library. Later, the library was relocated upstairs and, several years thereafter, was completely redesigned under her guidance.

After retirement, Donna continued to nurture her passion for reading by working in the children's department at Oblong Books. Throughout her career, she touched countless lives, and in her later years, many came forward to express their gratitude and admiration for her contributions. She also

served on the board of NCCC and was president of a chapter of the NEA. An avid lover of the arts, Donna's legacy is further enriched by the joy she shared with others—so much so that for her epitaph she requested the words of a former student: "She read to us with such joy."

Later in life, Donna became a devoted animal lover, cherishing her poodle Honey Bun and her cats Gracie and Rosie. She is survived by her sisters; Nancy Perry, Sheffield Massa-

chusetts and Maryann Aakjar of Boston; her nieces, Donna Perry of San Antonio, Texas and Linda Snyder of Hiram, Georgia, and her grandniece, Madison Snyder of Powder Spring, Georgia.

A beloved sister and aunt, Donna was cherished by all her knew her. Our heartfelt thanks go to the staff at Geer Lodger—especially those on the Hillside Unit for their compassionate care. Memorial services will be held in the spring.

More obituaries on Page A4



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

'Choose Your Own Opera Adventure': A free family concert at new venue, The Indigo Room

Berkshire Opera Festival (BOF) invites families to an exciting afternoon of interactive music and storytelling with "Choose Your Own Opera Adventure" on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. This free family concert will be held at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center's new venue, The Indigo Room, at 20 Castle Street in Great Barrington.

Designed for audiences aged 8 to 14 and their caregivers, this performance puts the audience in charge of the story. Inspired by the classic pasticcio opera—a historical precursor to the modern jukebox musical—this event blends arias from Mozart, Puccini, Bizet, and Donizetti into an original adventure. Through live voting, audience members will



Geoffrey Laron, host of last year's family concert, signs autographs for some of the kids after the performance.

determine how the story unfolds, making each performance unique.

"We want the audi-

ence to be part of the adventure," said BOF's chorus master and assistant conductor, Luca

Antonucci. "This isn't just a concert—it's a musical journey shaped by the audience's choices, complete with costumes, props, and plenty of surprises."

This second annual free family concert marks one of the first public performances at The Indigo Room, an exciting new performance space in the old firehouse adjacent to the Mahaiwe. With flexible seating for 80 to 200 guests, a casual atmosphere, and a fully stocked concessions area, The Indigo Room aims to bring a fresh, dynamic energy to the local arts scene.

Mahaiwe executive director Janis Martinson said, "We are delighted to offer a sneak peek at

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY LEE EVERETT

Singer and board member Wanda Houston is one of the performers in the lineup for the benefit.

NONPROFITS: MIKE COBB

Warm Up the Winter campaign concert at The Guthrie Center

Local organization Construct is holding its 18th annual campaign to raise funds for wintertime emergency assistance for fuel, utilities and short-term accommodations for unhoused residents in extreme cold conditions. This year, the Southern Berkshire nonprofit aims to raise \$150,000.

"The winter months pose serious challenges for many Berkshire households," said Jane Ralph, Construct's executive director. "We've already experienced a colder and snowier winter than in recent years. We know people will have to choose between heat and prescription medicines or food—choices no one should make."

The campaign will culminate with a benefit concert on March 6 at The Guthrie Center in Great Barrington. Musical guests include Wanda Houston and Jeff Gonzales in Big and Bigger, Made in Memphis, a youth Elvis tribute band, Wild and Orson Handel, Luke and George Fran-

co, Abe & Annie Guthrie, Jackson Whalan's improvisational rap, and special guest Doug Mishkin.

Long-time participant and board member Wanda Houston said, "I was invited as a guest to a Construct community fundraiser almost 20 years ago. It was festive, loud, and bright. I was hooked. I have participated almost every year since. In 2020, Construct invited me to join their board. I am so honored to be involved. It is a beautiful organization composed of incredible humans doing incredible things for hard working people."

Houston's parents were community organizers in Chicago, where she grew up. She now lives in the Berkshires, and Construct has made her aware of the needs of the community, despite the seemingly idyllic setting.

Organizer and promoter Beth Carlson explained the choice of this year's venue. "Com-

Continued on next page

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Crescendo brings forgotten Renaissance voices to life

Crescendo, the award-winning music ensemble based in Lakeville, will presents two concerts featuring rarely performed works by minority composers of the Renaissance. The program, led by founding artistic director Christine Gevert, highlights compositions by six pioneering female Italian composers and the Afro-Portuguese Renaissance composer Vicente Lusitano, whose contributions to music have been largely overlooked.

The concerts will take place Saturday, March 1, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Church in Lakeville, and Sunday, March 2, at 4 p.m. at Saint James Place in Great Barrington. The repertoire includes vocal and instrumental works by women who defied societal norms to compose and publish music, including Isabella de' Medici, Maddalena Casulana, Paola Massarenghi, Lucia Quinciani, Raffaella Aleotti, and Claudia Francesca Rusca. These composers, often dismissed or forgotten, were among the first women in Western history to have their music published and performed. Their works showcase a range of musical forms,

from sacred motets to madrigals and instrumental pieces.

The program will also feature compositions by Vicente Lusitano, the first known published composer of African descent in 16th century Europe. Lusitano's intricate vocal works, which have only recently gained wider recognition, demonstrate his mastery of counterpoint and polyphony. His eight-voice motet, influenced by the great Josquin des Prez, is a highlight of the program.

Crescendo's 25-member vocal ensemble will be joined by soloists Jennifer Tyo and Sarah Fay, sopranos; Laura Evans, alto; and Igor Ferreira,

tenor, along with Christa Patton on harp and recorder, and Juan Mesa on organ.

To provide further insight into these composers and their historical significance, Crescendo also hosted a virtual talk with Laurie Stras, professor emerita of music at University of Southampton, UK, and Karen Cook, associate professor of music history at the Hartt School on Sunday, Feb. 23, where attendees had an opportunity to learn more about the music, the composers and the cultural context of this unique program.

Tickets and more information are available at www.crescendomusic.org.

At The Movies

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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

COMPASS

ART: NATHAN MILLER

Bending the bird curve at Firefly's first student art exhibit

A modest group of artists and bird lovers got together at the Millbrook School Friday, Feb. 21, for the first ever Firefly student artist showcase.

The exhibition featured art from student artists from private and public high schools in New York and Connecticut including Millbrook School, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Hotchkiss School, Kent School and South Kent School.

The art covered a wide range of media and subject matter, but all works focused on an appreciation of nature and the environment. Photographs of landscapes and wildlife covered the walls, surrounded by paintings, pottery and sculpture.

The Friday night exhibition opening started out with presentations on bird populations from Marvelwood School students Jonah Maeras-Garcia and Irine Dumitrascu



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Perscis Sackey of South Kent School posed next to his and his classmates' photography.

and their avian ambassador program faculty advisor Laurie Doss.

They talked about Marvelwood's purple martin restoration project.

The purple martin was at one time numerous across the midwest and eastern U.S., but the loss of hollow trees to nest in has reduced the birds' numbers significantly in

the past century.

In 2006 when Marvelwood started the avian ambassador program, student bird researchers counted only a few dozen Martins in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. Today, after nearly ten years of building and improving martin housing, the Northwest Corner is home to over a thousand purple martins.

Following the presentation from Marvelwood School was the keynote

address from Sharon Audubon director Eileen Fielding.

The talk, titled "Bending the Bird Curve," focused on the threat climate change poses to bird habitat in the U.S. and necessary strategies for preserving bird populations.

Fielding said the bird population has decreased by 2.8 billion since 1970 due to pollution and habitat loss.

Continued warming will further shrink bird habitats nationwide, Fielding said. To illustrate this, Fielding showed a model of wood thrush habitat in North America.

The wood thrush, Fielding said, spends winters in South America and migrates to the deciduous forests of the eastern U.S. every summer.

However, deciduous forests are sensitive to rising average temperatures, and much of the habitat for the wood thrush faces serious threats from just a three degree Celsius jump

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY SKYHUNTERS IN FLIGHT

Brian Bradley holds a Gyrfalcon named Dare Devil.

Saturday morning family series returns

The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck has announced the return of its Saturday morning family series, a beloved tradition offering live, family-friendly entertainment every Saturday at 11 a.m. Designed for young audiences, these interactive shows provide the perfect introduction to theater in a fun, relaxed environment.

Originally created by the late education director William Fiscaletti, the series has been a cherished part of the community for over 25 years. Current director of education Victoria Howland said, "We are looking forward to getting through winter and to the spring with our community on some fun

Saturday mornings."

This season's lineup, running from Feb. 22 through April 5, features a mix of classic fairy tales, interactive storytelling, live science experiments, and cultural performances. Highlights include an immersive Wizard of Oz adventure, Kit's Interactive Theatre's Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, the high-energy Celtic Heels Irish Dance, and a live falconry demonstration with birds of prey.

Tickets are just \$10, making this an accessible way for families to experience the magic of live theater.

For show details and tickets, visit centerforperformingarts.org/saturday-morning-family-series.

...opera *Continued from previous page*



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BEUTH

The Indigo Room

both this thrilling opera adventure and our new performance venue. We hope audiences will return again and again for future events."

Gabe Napoleon, marketing and communications manager for The Indigo Room, added, "We are racing towards the finish line of getting this new venue open and ready to go. We're 75-80% there, but we're still wrapping up some final details before we're really ready to hit the ground running." He continued, "We've got the name, The Indigo Room, and we're just quietly rolling things out as things get finalized. The space allows for flexible programming, from seated performances to standing-room-only events, which means more opportunities for diverse and intimate performances."

Napoleon emphasized the importance of the venue's versatility. "The Mahaiwe is a grand space, but The Indigo Room offers a more casual and intimate atmosphere. Depending on the nature of the show,

we can adjust seating arrangements to suit different performances. This flexibility opens doors for emerging artists and regional talent to showcase their work."

Besides the Choose Your Own Opera Adventure, The Indigo Room will also host R&B singer Bobby Rush on March 14. A date for the official opening of the space will be announced soon.

For more information on The Indigo Room and upcoming events, mahaiwe.org/events/category/indigo-room/

...Warm Up the Winter

Continued from previous page

mittee members chose the Guthrie Center for its history in the community (and for community fostering) and the size and convenience for serving food, etc. In addition, we are excited to have Abe and Annie Guthrie performing and Doug Mishkin leading the audience in a rendition of his original song, "We are all Woody's Children" written in honor of Woody Guthrie."

Construct has been the leading nonprofit provider of affordable housing and supportive services to south Berkshire County residents in need for over 50 years. With a small, highly skilled staff and committed volunteers, Construct leverages time, talent, money, and long-standing community relationships to support its mission. Providing over 90 perma-

nent, affordable housing options, Construct also offers ten units for individuals transitioning out of homelessness. The bulk of Construct's annual income comes from individual donors. With this support, Construct helps rebuild security, stability, and hope in the southern Berkshires.

Contributions can be made at construct-berkshires.org, by phone to 413-528-1985, or by check payable to Construct, 316A State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

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| Crescendo Vocal Ensemble | March 1 at 4:00 PM |
| With Jennifer Tyo & Sarah Fay, Sopranos | Trinity Church Lakeville, CT |
| Laura Evans, Alto Igor Ferreira, Tenor | March 2 at 4:00 PM |
| Christa Patton, Harp & Recorder | Saint James Place |
| Juan Mesa, Organ Directed by Christine Gevert | Gt. Barrington, MA |

Tickets & Info: www.crescendomusic.org

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Noble Horizons will be hosting a Paint Cafe art class featuring Claude Monet's "Water Lilies." Studio art supply fee will be waived for Noble Horizon residents. Registration is required, please sign up using the QR code below or by going to the Events page on our website at noblehorizons.org.




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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY 27

Jon Kopita: Read Between the Lines

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

The exhibit dates for Jon Kopita: Read Between the Lines will be from Feb. 14 to March 21. There will be an art talk on Thursday, Feb. 27, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The exhibition features Jon Kopita's framed drawings, exploring language, syntax, meaning, and identity. Includes "Untitled: Pandemic," marking the 5-year anniversary of the COVID lockdown.

Contact: 860-824-7424 / huntlibrary.org

Dine Out for History Adds a Night

Millerton, N.Y.

Millerton's Dine Out for History adds an extra night at Taró's Pizzeria (18 Main St. on Thurs, March 27, 5 to 9 p.m., after bad weather affected its original date. Participating restaurants donate 10% of proceeds to the North East Historical Society.

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 27 – Willa (52 Main St.) Reservations requested

March 10 – Round III (5523 Route 22)

March 19 – Golden Wok (2 Main St.) Takeout only

March 27 – Taró's Pizzeria

Mention "Dine Out for History" when dining!

FEBRUARY 28

Lunch & Learn: Mindfulness & Stress Reduction

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Friday, February 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Learn simple mindfulness and stress reduction techniques with Marion Williams. Includes lunch from JAM. Preference given to Sharon residents. Registration required: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

Info: hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org, (860) 364-5041.

History Talk

Douglas Library, 108 Main St. North Canaan, Conn.

North Canaan Town Historian Kathryn Boughton will speak at the Douglas Library on Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. She will take listeners back to the first settlement in 1740 when one of the earliest dwellings was a hole dug into a hillside and faced with roughhewn boards. Boughton will introduce some of the most important early residents and tell of a religious schism that separated families and sent nearly 100 parishioners off into the wilderness to establish a new church in New York. This event is free. Call the library at (860) 824-7863 for further info.

Five Points Gallery – New Exhibitions

Five Points Gallery, 7 Water St., Torrington, Conn.

Five Points Gallery presents three new exhibitions: *I Am My Mother's Savage Daughter* by Patricia Miranda, *The Tale of Lost Water* by Susan Hoffman Fishman, and *Figuring it Out*, a group show featuring Shona Curtis, Sonja Czekalski, Gail Gelburd, Susan Keiser, and Jean Scott. The exhibitions will be on view from Feb. 28 through April 12.

There will be an opening reception on Friday, Feb. 28, 6 to 8 p.m., and an artist talk on Friday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., or by appointment. Free and open to the public. More info: fivepointsarts.org.

MARCH 1

Kid's Clay - Free play

Bes, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.shop-bes.com

March 1, 1-2:30 p.m. Open play session for children.

All ages, though we ask that if they are under 5 they are accompanied by an adult.

One hour of unstructured but supervised ceramic playtime.

Participants will be able to create one item to be glazed and picked up after 4 weeks' time.

All tools and materials will be provided.

Gilded Age Cocktails & History

Stissing House, 7801 South Main Street Pine Plains, N.Y.

Explore the stories behind classic cocktails like the Martini and Old Fashioned, revealing insights into technology, scandals, and social change. Presented by Zachary Veith of Staatsburgh State Historic Site.

When: 4-5 p.m. talk, followed by snacks and themed punch bowls (cash bar available)

Eventbrite link: gildedageinaglass.eventbrite.co

Tickets: \$30

Chili Cookoff

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.

Cornwall Park and Recreation will host a chili cookoff at Town Hall March 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. Competitors must register in advance by contacting park.recreation@cornwallct.gov. Guests can attend for free and submit feedback on contestant entries. Winners will be awarded a trophy.

Connecticut's Foxes

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

The David M. Hunt Library will host Ginny Apple, speaking on Connecticut's Foxes, on Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m. Connecticut is home to two species of fox: the brilliantly colored Red Fox with its white-tipped tail and black legs, celebrated in literature from Reynard the Fox to Dr. Seuss's Fox in Socks, and the smaller, lesser-known Grey Fox, which, believe it or not, can climb trees. These efficient omnivores play important roles in our ecosystem keeping the balance of nature in sync. Join Ginny Apple, a Master Wildlife Conservationist with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and a Barkhamsted resident, to learn all about foxes. This program is free and open to the public.

Last week's WotW

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ART: LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent Art Association Annual Student Show

The student show, which opened on Feb. 9, was plagued with weather delays and problems.

The awards, originally scheduled for the opening, were postponed and became the closing ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Six schools: Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Forman, Marvelwood, Frederick Gunn, South Kent and Millbrook exhibited work by their students. There was art from several students of each school done in a wide variety of artistic styles and mediums. Painting, sculpture, graphic art, and pottery were among the varieties shown.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Cathy Yang, Frederick Gunn School, Best In Show with her pottery.

At the closing award ceremony, Michael Spross, an exhibit co-chairman, said "The criteria for selecting the exhibit was originality, execution, artistic decision, body of work, and serendipity." One winner from

each school was chosen as well as a "best in show" award. Cathy Yang of the Frederick Gunn School won that award with her delicate and charming pottery. School award winners were:

- Owen Brown, from Marvelwood
- Llewelyn Davis, from Forman
- Alex Wilbur, from HVRHS
- Selah Witt, Millbrook HS
- Thomas Puhalla, South Kent
- Rebecca TU, Frederick Gunn

...Firefly *Continued from previous page*

in global average temperatures.

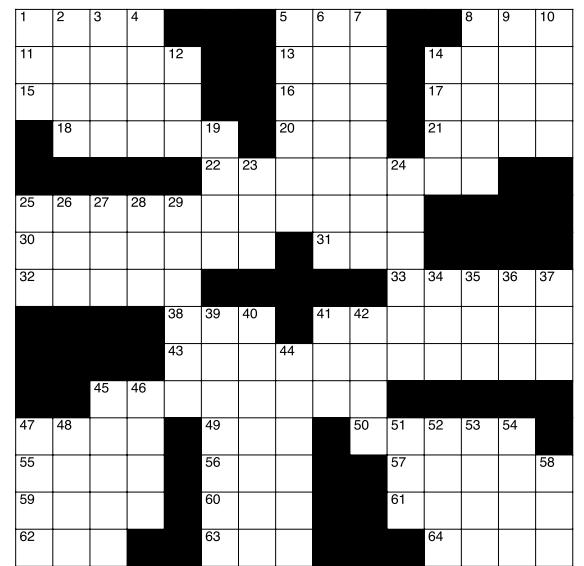
After the talk, the group of students and naturalists walked through the cold, dark night across Millbrook's

campus to the exhibit hall where the art was on display. Student artists ate cheese, strawberries and spoke with the visitors about their art projects.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

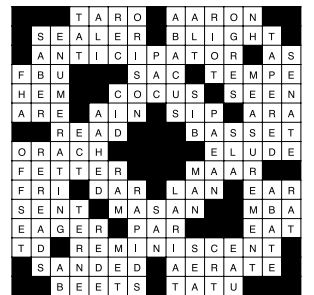
- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Play a role
- River in Georgia and Alabama
- Water in the solid state
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Fleece
- Writer/actress Dunham
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Conceits
- Slowed down
- Nourishment
- Midway between east and southeast
- Fights
- Comedienne Tyler
- Standing operating procedure
- Locks
- Old
- Song sung to one's lover
- Whale ship captain
- Moved quickly on foot
- Volcanic craters
- Large musical instrument
- Liquefied natural gas
- Ethiopian town
- Not closed
- A team's best pitcher
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Disfigure
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Sleep



- Conceptualize
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Peyton's little brother
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- Difference in potential
- Owner
- I (German)
- Chinese conception of poetry
- The world of the dead
- Sign language
- Coincide
- Religious observance
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Polite interruption sound
- Texas ballplayer
- Type of sword
- Abba __, Israeli politician

- Basic unit of a chemical element
- Native American people in California
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- Easily swindled person
- One point south of southwest
- Small island (British)

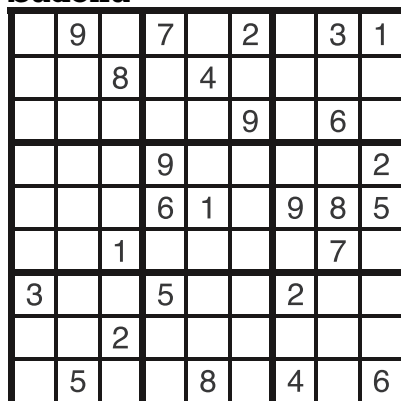
Feb. 20 Solution



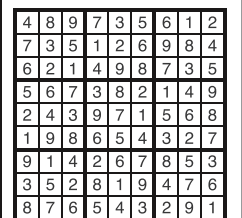
CLUES DOWN

- S. American plant
- Soul and calypso song
- Fruit of the service tree
- Continent
- Albania's capital
- Poisonous plant
- Argues
- Assists
- Town in Galilee
- Russian leader
- Promotional materials
- Wings
- Not odd
- Expression of creativity

Sudoku



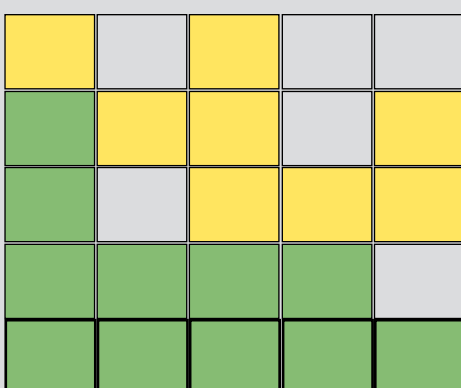
Feb. 20 Solution



Level: Intermediate

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.



- Joint used for bending the arm
- Police authority emblem
- Untoasted toast
- Shiny, round eyes
- Mardi Gras accessory



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OUR TOWNS

Art thrives within The Fountains as a new exhibit opens

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Wintry breezes did not deter residents and friends from gathering at The Fountains on Thursday, Feb. 20, to be inspired and instructed by a retrospective showing of etchings created by Fountains resident Barbara Minton.

About 14 etchings, a woodblock and a painting were on display, created over a lifetime, Minton said, each an exploration of architectural and natural components.

"She treats architecture as organics," said Jeff McCord, Minton's son visiting from

Seattle for the occasion.

Minton grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, daughter of an architect, surrounded by the natural grandeur of the Great Smoky Mountains. Both environments informed her art. As a child, she and her four siblings engaged constantly in drawing, developing a lifetime of passion for the arts.

"All the kids drew," she recalled, noting that they would use the reverse side of discarded blueprint paper provided by their architect father.

Minton studied etching with Latvian printmaker Janis Sternbergs, moving on to post-graduate work at London's Slade School of Art,

before earning an MFA degree in printmaking and art history at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Celebrating the opening with Minton was her artist friend, Merle Perlmutter, with whom she shared studio space in New Rochelle.

"We're very different, Barbara and I, but we took to each other," observed Perlmutter of their different backgrounds. "We had fun."

Open to the public, the exhibit will remain up for three to four weeks, said Ellen O'Shea, art instructor at The Fountains.

To learn more about Minton's art, go to www.barbaraminton.com.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Celebrating the art of The Fountains community and its influence beyond that community, Barbara Minton, center, received a bouquet to mark the opening of a retrospective exhibit of her works. She is joined by The Fountains' art instructor, Ellen O'Shea, at left, and recognized artist and friend Merle Perlmutter of the Society of American Graphic Artists.

Biodiversity can be as close as your own garden space

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Gardeners don't stop being gardeners in winter, as evidenced by the enthusiastic turnout for a winter gardening talk held at the Amenia Free Library on Saturday, Feb. 22.

About 45 aspiring and accomplished gardeners gathered to view a film about the Homegrown National Park movement, a grass-roots conservation effort to regenerate biodiversity by planting native plants and battling invasive intruders across the nation.

Co-founder of the HNP in 2019, gardener Michelle Alfandari of Sharon, Connecticut, shared ideas that could be incorporated into local yards and gardens to advance toward a solution that would quash invasive species and encourage natives. The resulting climate benefit is to wildlife species that thrive in an environment of biodiversity.

Alfandari founded HNP in collaboration with Professor Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware's School of Agriculture. Both manage a Biodiversity Map that invites all gardeners to register on the map their native plantings, whether acreage or even a patio pot, seeking to turn the national map green with biodiversity.

Each property owner is encouraged to pursue four objectives: support the food web to support habitat — invasives detract from that web, but an oak tree helps — sequester carbon from the environment, manage the watershed, and support pollinators. Plant choice matters.

Relationships with nature are collaborative, not adversarial, the film advised.

"How do you get people inspired?" Alfandari asked hypothetically, noting that once people have direct experience, they are well on



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

A program hosted by the Amenia Garden Club on Saturday, Feb. 22, was moderated by Garden Club President Ken Monteiro in conversation with Michelle Alfandari of Sharon, co-founder of the Homegrown National Park biodiversity movement.

their way.

A grassroots organization, HNP now boasts more than 140,000 acres and 250,000 followers on social media, Alfandari said. As a grassroots movement, the organization is not limited by regulations.

"Trying to convert lawn into meadow is complicated," Amenia Garden Club President Ken Monteiro observed, suggesting instead that gardeners look under existing trees on their property and create native beds under those trees. The strategy will lessen lawn mowing and protect beneficial insects that may drop down from the trees. Caterpillars are extremely beneficial and an important food source for birds.

From the audience, local gardening expert Maryanne Snow Pitts suggested leaving a rectangle of lawn unmowed. Another gardener shared his experience with finding goldenrod and Queen Anne's Lace appearing in his rectangle.

All agreed that the fad of leaving the entire lawn unmowed has proven to be unpopular with neighbors.

Once invasives are removed, native plants will be encouraged to move into the space, Alfandari agreed.

Audience questions soon gravitated to methods for removing invasive plants, something of interest to everyone, while noting the problem that birds often nest in invasive overgrowth.

Debate ensued about the use of Roundup or Glyphosate with arguments on both sides.

Concluding the event, Monteiro asked the audience to provide suggestions about the local function of the Amenia Garden Club and its place within the community.

For more information about HNP, go to www.homegrownnationalpark.org. And to learn more about the Amenia Garden Club, go to www.ameniagardens.org.



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

With snow on the ground, chilly temperatures in the air and a partially frozen surface as of Friday, Feb. 21, there were no indications of an early spring at Troutbeck Pond in Amenia.

Winter marches on

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD MINOR SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 189 AMENIA UNION ROAD, AMENIA NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 105-11 of the Town of Amenia Subdivision Code, and Section 276 of the New York State Town Law, a public hearing will be held by the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia, New York, on March 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Applicants Michael Levin and Laurence De Segonzac-Levin (the "Applicants") request the minor subdivision of a 62.896-acre parcel located at 189 Amenia Union Road, Tax Parcel # 132000-7266- in the Rural Agricultural ("RA") Zoning District, previously amended by a lot line adjustment filed as Map # 12830 (the "Property"). Minor subdivision of the Property, if approved, would create an 8.719-acre parcel ("Lot 1") and a 53.177-acre parcel ("Lot 2").

A copy of the application is on file in the Planning/Zoning Office, 2nd Floor for public viewing and inspection, Monday-Thursday, 9-3 P.M by appointment. Please call

845-373-8860 X122 or email jwestfall@ameniany.gov for comments or questions.

Robert Boyles, Jr.
Chairman
Planning Board
Town Of Amenia
02-27-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of EMERY'S MINI MARKET LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 1/23/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail copy to: 9 David Rd, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: Any lawful.

02-06-25
02-23-25
02-20-25
02-27-25
03-06-25
03-13-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of 166 Albany Avenue LLC, Arts. of Org filed with SSNY on 12/12/24. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 21 Steamboat Dock Road, Barrytown, NY 12507. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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02-13-25
02-20-25
02-27-25
03-06-25
03-13-25

Legal Notice

Notice of formation of Faithwell Farms And Wellbeing Center, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/26/24. Office in Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, PO Box 86, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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Legal Notice

Self Destruct Sequence Tattoo LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 1/14/2025. Off. Loc. : Dutchess Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 21 Merry Hill Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603. Primary business location is 21 West Main Street, Pawling NY, 12564. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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Four charged in 122-count narcotics ring indictment

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
kristab@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — A Hudson Valley drug trafficking ring peddling cocaine, powder fentanyl and counterfeit oxycodone containing fentanyl was recently taken down after an investigation by the Office of the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, as announced by New York State attorney general Letitia James on Feb. 19.

A 122-count indictment for participation in the ring — which stretched over Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties — was handed down in Dutchess

County Court to Xavier Grant, 22, of Poughkeepsie; Antawone West, 25, of Poughkeepsie; Michael Jones, 33, of Poughkeepsie; and Kenyi Torres, 45, of Middletown. Some of the charges levied include multiple felonies for offenses relating to criminal possession of firearms and criminal possession and sale of narcotics.

As part of their investigation, the task force netted two and a half kilograms of cocaine with a street value of \$45,000, counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl valued around \$500,000, and three and a half kilograms of powder fentanyl valued at ap-

proximately \$200,000. Additionally, five illegal handguns, including two ghost guns and four high-capacity magazines were also recovered along with drug paraphernalia such as scales, zip-lock bags and glassine envelopes, two "kilo" presses and cash totaling around \$255,000.

Narcotics were housed at various residential locations throughout Poughkeepsie and sales frequently took place in parking lots.

"Drug traffickers who distribute lethal amounts of opioids put communities throughout our state in danger," commented attorney gen-

eral James. "Not only did these individuals sell deadly narcotics, they disguised fentanyl in fake prescription pills, putting the lives of their customers at even greater risk."

According to New York State police superintendent Steven G. James, "The sale of these highly addictive drugs perpetuates a cycle of substance abuse which poses a significant threat to safety and quality of life within our neighborhoods. This sends a strong message to dealers that we will not tolerate illegal drugs and weapons being brought into or sold in our communities."



PHOTO PROVIDED

A recent investigation by law enforcement into a Hudson Valley-based drug trafficking ring resulted in the recovery of an array of drugs, drug paraphernalia and weaponry.

Median home sale price in Town of Washington hits record

MILLBROOK — The median price of a single-family residence in the Town of Washington hit an all-time high of \$895,000 in January on a 12 month rolling average, up from \$712,000 in December after the sale of several million dollar homes during the month. The Town of Washington began the year with eight property transfers including two parcels of land recorded plus one home in the Village of Millbrook. Five of the eight transfers were \$1 million or more.

On Feb. 21 there were 26 homes listed for sale with 14 of them over a million dollars and nine under \$500,000. Rental inventory has many options at all price levels with six one bedroom units available for



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

\$2,000 and under and four single family residences listed from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

78 Nine Partners Lane — 5 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 6.81 acres sold for \$1.7 million.

Set well back from the road and surrounded by trees the 3,896 square foot home at 78 Nine Partners Lane is located in the Village of Millbrook and sold for \$1.7 million.

3531 Route 82 — 4 bedroom/3.5 bath homes on 5.85 acres sold for \$1,125,000.

9 County House Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .21 acres sold for \$340,000.

258 Woodstock Road — 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 17.72 acres sold for \$1,115,000.

829 Tower Hill Road — 5 bedroom/6.5 bath home on 30 acres sold for \$1,195,000.

7 North Shanks Road — 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 11.76 acres sold for \$727,500.

15 Maple Hill Drive — rural vacant land in eight parcels sold for \$1 million.

Killearn Road (#508109) — 13.58 acre lot sold for \$320,000.

*Median residential prices are taken from OneKey MLS and reflect closed residential transactions which may not yet have been recorded as a transfer in Dutchess County monthly transfer results. The median calculation does not include homes sold privately

or those listed on other MLS sites, nor land or commercial sales. Town of Washington real estate transfers recorded between Jan. 1, 2025, and Jan. 31, 2025, sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from First Key MLS which may understate available properties. Only transfers with consideration are included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

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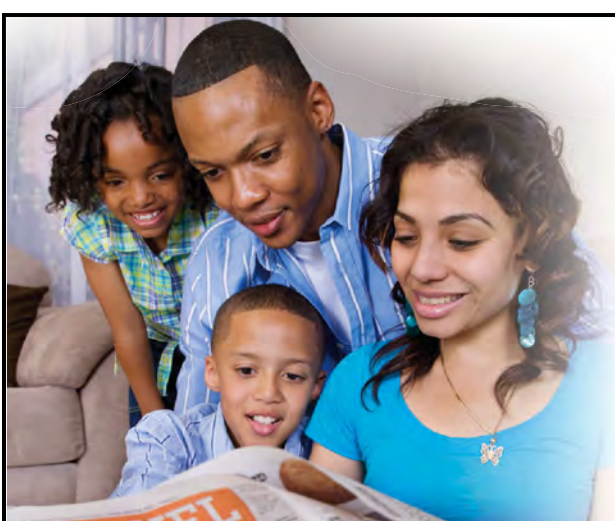
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