

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Yankees select Bossi as new manager of Renegades, name 2026 field, support staff



Aaron Bossi
-Courtesy photo HV Renegades

The New York Yankees have announced their 2026 player development staffs and Aaron Bossi will take over as the manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Yankees' High-A affiliate.

Bossi becomes the 21st manager in team history, and the sixth in six years during the Yankees era. He replaces James Cooper, who guided the Renegades to a franchise-record 79 wins in 2025 and was named the new manager of the Double-A Somerset Patriots. Under his tutelage the Renegades had their 13th consecutive winning season, and 16th in the last 17 seasons. Since the beginning of the 2012 season, the Renegades have the best winning percentage (.577) in Minor League Baseball.

Bossi is joined on the all-new field staff by Pitching Coach Ryan Mossman (1st season), Hitting Coach Scott Nestor (1st season), and Defensive Coach Chase Gerbick (1st season). The support staff features one returner in Clubhouse Manager Ryan Shute (6th season), and newcomers Athletic Trainer Maegan Manrow (1st season), Strength Coach Esteban Morales (1st season), Video & Tech. Assistant Robert Sieling (1st season), and Advanced Scouting Analyst Stephen Schuster (1st season).

"I'm very excited to be back in Hudson Valley where my coaching career began, working with such a strong staff and an exciting group of players," said Bossi. "We're looking forward to what I hope will be a memorable season for both our players and our fans."

Bossi, 32, returns for his second coaching stint with the Renegades, and his first as the team's manager. Bossi was the defensive coach for Hudson Valley in 2021 on Dan Fiorito's staff. He enters his ninth season in the Yankees organization, and his second as a manager after leading the Single-A Tampa Tarpons in 2021. He joined the Yankees in 2017, and spent three seasons assisting rehabbing players at the Yankees' minor league complex, was slated to serve as the defensive coach for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in 2020 before the season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for Double-A Somerset from 2022-24.

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♥ VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE STORIES ♥

'Look forward,' and have 'commitment,' advice from couples married for more than 5 decades



Above: Maureen and Raymond Norcross, residents of Wappinger, on their wedding day in Westchester County. The couple has been married for 51 years.



Right: Agnes and Raymond Juback on their wedding day in October 1959.

-Courtesy photos

Editor's note: Each year for Valentine's Day, we at the Beacon Free Press interview couples who have been married for more than 50 years.

By Kristine Coulter

Two local couples sat down with Beacon Free Press to reminisce about the beginnings of their relationships. Each shared about their wedding day and the more than five decades of marriage they

have lived.

Agnes and Raymond Juback

Agnes and Raymond Juback have been married for 66 years. They were married in Yonkers, Westchester County, on October 10, 1959.

They met when they were teenagers.

"They were three or four girls, and she was, at that time, in a purple coat," recalled Ray. "I told my buddy, 'I think I

like that girl.'"

Agnes said, "He used to take me for ice cream." She remarked, "I thought he was okay. He was more for me at the time. That's how we started. We'd go for an ice cream."

They dated for six years before marrying each other.

Continued on page 2

Local judge Chase recalls officiating at numerous weddings through the decades

By Kristine Coulter

Local judge Raymond C. Chase Jr. recently shared some of his experiences officiating thousands of weddings for decades.

Does he remember the first wedding he presided over?

"I was a rookie. They called me," he said. The judge, who will be celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife on Feb. 19, said the wedding was in the town of Wappinger.

"There were about four or five people there," he recalled. "A guy comes running out. He says, 'I hope you know what's going on here.' I said, 'All I know is I'm here to make two young people happy.'"

Chase was trying to figure out something "good to say" during the ceremony. He told the couple, "I hope you have health and happiness in your life."

"I said, 'You can now kiss.' They looked at each other and she said, 'In front of everyone?'" Later, Chase said, that bride would become his boss at Dutchess ARC.

Two other locations Chase has married couples are at the Chelsea Yacht Club and the New Hamburg Yacht Club.

Once he was called to perform a wedding at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Brooklyn. The was an obstacle – he prefers not to drive.

"They sent me a limousine. I felt like a rock star," he said. "It was gorgeous," he said of the site.

The longest distance he went to perform a wedding ceremony was to San Luis Obispo in California for a relative of his wife's ceremony.

"It was gorgeous. They wanted it outside... it never rains in California," said Chase, who noted weddings on the East Coast seem to be a bit more conservative than on the West Coast.



Judge Raymond C. Chase Jr.

-Courtesy photo

Continued on page 2

♥ VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE STORIES ♥

'Look forward,' and have 'commitment,' advice from married couples



*Above: Maureen and Ray Norcross in their Wappinger residence last month.
Right: Agnes and Ray Juback at the East Fishkill Community Center in East Fishkill.
Each couple has celebrated more than 50 years of marriage.*

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

"He went into the service. He didn't want me to have to travel," explained Agnes.

"I kept getting further away," recalled Ray, who wanted to get back east. So, he said he joined the 101st Airborne Division. He went back east and was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After he came home, the couple became engaged.

They were married in a ceremony in St. Peter's Church in Yonkers. Their reception was at the Polish Community Center in Yonkers. They had 12 people in their wedding party. Approximately 150 people attended their wedding.

"It was a beautiful day," said Agnes.

Ray was a carpenter with the local union in Yonkers. The couple had three children, two sons and a daughter. They now also have two grandsons.

After living in New York for more than two decades, they moved to Nevada, where the way of life was more economical, and settled in Las Vegas, where one of Agnes' sisters lived.

They moved back to Dutchess County and settled in East Fishkill about three years ago.

"We're very fortunate; we've had our ups and downs. We get along. We try not to get mad at each other," noted Agnes.

"Smile, be happy and have a positive attitude," said Ray.

Ray said his advice to couples getting married this year is to "look forward, be happy with your life and love."

Maureen and Raymond Norcross

Maureen and Ray Norcross met while in college. They both grew up in the Bronx.

They met while at a bar in Westchester County. "Somehow we got to know each other," said Ray.

Their first date was to a Chinese restaurant on Fordham Road in the Bronx, shared Maureen.

They dated for more than two years.

They were married on September 28, 1974, in St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers.

"The only time it didn't rain was when we came out of the church," recalled Ray, who was 22 when he got married. Maureen, who was 21 on her wedding day, noted rain on one's wedding day is supposed to bring luck.

Their cocktail hour was supposed to be outside, but because it was raining, the whole reception had to be held inside.

The couple has three sons and two grandsons.

Ray and Maureen are retired now. He worked for a company in Tarrytown when they were first married. He then was employed by IBM and then went into business for himself. Maureen worked for IBM. She retired from Vassar College (now Vassar University).

Ray's advice for couples is to "compromise" and to have "commitment." He also suggested being on the same page regarding finances.

Maureen said they are the "yin and yang" for each other. She said for couples to be "honest with each other."

Local judge recalls officiating numerous weddings through the decades

Continued from cover

"I normally interview [the couple]," said Chase, adding that he "only thinks it's right they know who's marrying them." He said he does his due diligence to give them the best he can.

There was once a wedding on Halloween that Chase presided over.

"They all dressed up," he said. The bride

and groom were the queen and king. "He came in with a crown," said the judge.

Around the New Paltz area, a ceremony was near a waterfall. The judge was asked to move back more for a better shot for a picture. He recalled stating to the photographer, "No, you stand here."

There was another time, during a Jewish wedding ceremony, the glass shot out of the bag it was in when the groom stepped on it

to break it, as is tradition.

Chase also appears in one of the weddings, he said, in the movie "Four Weddings and a Funeral," that took place in Orange County.

Once he needed a witness for a wedding ceremony at the gazebo in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls. At the time, bass player and musician John Regan, who was the parks commissioner, was in the park. He

asked Regan for a favor and to witness the ceremony.

Asked what advice he has for couples, Chase replied, "Advice? I don't give advice. What's good for me might not be good for you."

After experiencing more than six decades of marriage, he said he thanks his wife for picking up the slack.

Tioronda Garden Club to celebrate America's 250th with garden contest

The Tioronda Garden Club has announced a contest in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. To honor this historic milestone, members invite residents to participate in the Patriotic Garden Contest, which will showcase creativity, civic pride and the love of gardening.

Participants are encouraged to design and display gardens that reflect the spirit of America – past, present and future. Gardens using patriotic colors (red, white, blue, or purple flowers and incorporating flags, or symbolic elements inspired by the ideals of liberty and independence) are suggested.

The contest is open to all residents within the community. Garden types can be front yards, backyards or container gardens.

Judging criteria will include creativity, use of patriotic themes and overall visual impact. Judging will be done by the garden club executive team at the end of June.

The submission deadline is June 15. To enter one's garden, please call 914-456-6278. Leave your name, address and telephone contact information.

There will be a first, second and third place will. Certificates will be awarded to winning entries.

Dance at the Elks Lounge on Feb. 14

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Admission is \$15 and includes

complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar. For more information, call Rhoda at 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net.

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County offers tips, resources for cold-weather safety

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

Winter 2026 has been one for the books so far, with cold snaps and snow-fall accumulations not seen in a long time. While temperatures are forecast to rise above freezing during the day this week, we're still not out of the proverbial woods. Awareness of the various cold-weather risks will help us get through the next several weeks, and Dutchess County has been proactive in providing tips and resources to do exactly that on its website (www.dutchessny.gov/WinterPreparedness) and Facebook page (@DutchessCountyGovernment).

Below is a summary of information the county provides.

Winter-related health risks

- Frostbite: People work or play outdoors during the winter can develop frostbite and not even know it. Watch for these danger signs:

- Skin may feel numb and become flushed (red). Then it turns white or grayish-yellow.

- Get to a warm area. Cover affected area with something warm and dry.

- Never rub frostbitten skin

- Get the person to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible.

- Hypothermia: Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures can cause hypothermia. Be aware of these symptoms: inability to concentrate; confusion; poor coordination; slurred speech; drowsiness; exhaustion; uncontrollable shivering, followed by a sudden lack of shivering.

Seek emergency medical assistance if your body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Remove wet clothing, wrap yourself in warm blankets and drink warm liquids until help arrives.

Avoid long periods of exposure to severe cold to decrease the risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Dress in layers of clothing and wear a hat and mittens.

- Physical exertion: Risk of a heart attack increases with activity like shoveling, clearing debris or pushing a car. You should:

- Stay warm, dress warm and slow down when working outdoors.

- Take frequent rests to avoid over exertion.

- If you feel chest pain -- STOP and seek help immediately.

If you need emergency shelter

The county's CODE BLUE protocol is in effect for anyone who needs shelter when temperatures are 32 degrees or below. Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services collaborates with community partners to ensure every resident is safe. Anyone who needs emergency shelter can call 2-1-1 after business hours/weekends and staff will help you to shelter placement.

Winter fire risks

- Kerosene Heaters: Follow these safety tips when using kerosene heaters:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Use only the correct fuel for your unit.

- Refuel outdoors ONLY and only when the unit is cool.

- Keep the heater at least three feet away from furniture and other flammable objects.

- When using the heater, use fire safeguards and ventilate properly.

- Wood stoves and fireplaces: Make sure you are using your wood-burning stove, fireplace and heater safely.

- Always keep a screen around an open flame.

- Never use gasoline to start your fireplace.

- Never burn charcoal indoors.

- Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.

- Make sure you have proper ventilation.

- Keep curtains, towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.

- Carbon monoxide poisoning: Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas created by car exhaust, home heating systems and obstructed chimneys that claims about 1,000 lives in the United States each year. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness.

If you experience the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning get into fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical help.

- Never run generators indoors. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater.

- Never use charcoal to cook indoors.

- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.

Protect pets

- Ingesting anti-freeze can be fatal for your pets. If you spill some, soak it up immediately.

- Pets that live outdoors should be fed a bit more in the winter (they need the extra calories to stay warm). Always have fresh water (consider a bowl that prevents the water from freezing).

- Pets can get frostbite easily on the ears, tail and paws – be aware of the temperature.

- Check your pets' paws to make sure ice or road salt is not building up between the toes.

- Keep your pet on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.

- When starting your car, honk your horn to make sure an animal has not found a warm spot to sleep under your hood.

Winter safety on the road

If you must drive during a winter storm – preparation is key.

- Stock your car with blankets, a shovel, flashlight and batteries, extra warm clothing, tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods and brightly-colored cloth to use as a distress flag.

- Keep your gas tank full to prevent gasoline freeze-up.

- Keep batteries charged if you have a mobile phone or two-way radio

- Make sure tires are properly inflated and have adequate treads.

- Make sure someone knows your travel plans.

- Listen to local news reports or call law enforcement agencies for the latest road conditions.

- Keep your vehicles clear of ice and snow (this includes your hood and roof).

If you become trapped in your vehicle, here are some tips to follow:



Winter Safety Tip from Dutchess County is to keep home vents clear of snow.

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't

- Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.

- If you have access to a mobile phone or two-way radio, contact emergency services.

- Stay in your car and wait for help to find you.

- Run your engine for short periods of time to stay warm.

- Keep your window open slightly to allow circulation.

- Turn on the dome light at night when you are running the engine to signal rescuers.

- Hang a brightly colored piece of cloth or piece of clothing from your car.

- Move arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep

warm.

Plan ahead for winter safety

It might be tempting to block winter out of our minds once spring arrives, but that is the perfect time to prepare for next year.

- Develop a Family Emergency Plan - Be informed about plans at your workplace, and anywhere you and your family spend time. Ready.gov can help you develop a family plan should disaster strike.

- Stock Up on Emergency Supplies - During an emergency, electric, heat or phone service may not work. Make sure you're covered - download a checklist from Ready.gov.

- Be Aware - Local radio and television stations provide official up-to-date information during an emergency.

- Have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle, before winter arrives: battery, wipers and windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, ignition system, thermostat, lights, exhaust system, flashing hazard lights, heater, brakes, defroster, oil level.

- Help your neighbor - If your neighbor is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, you can assist them now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter and power outages:

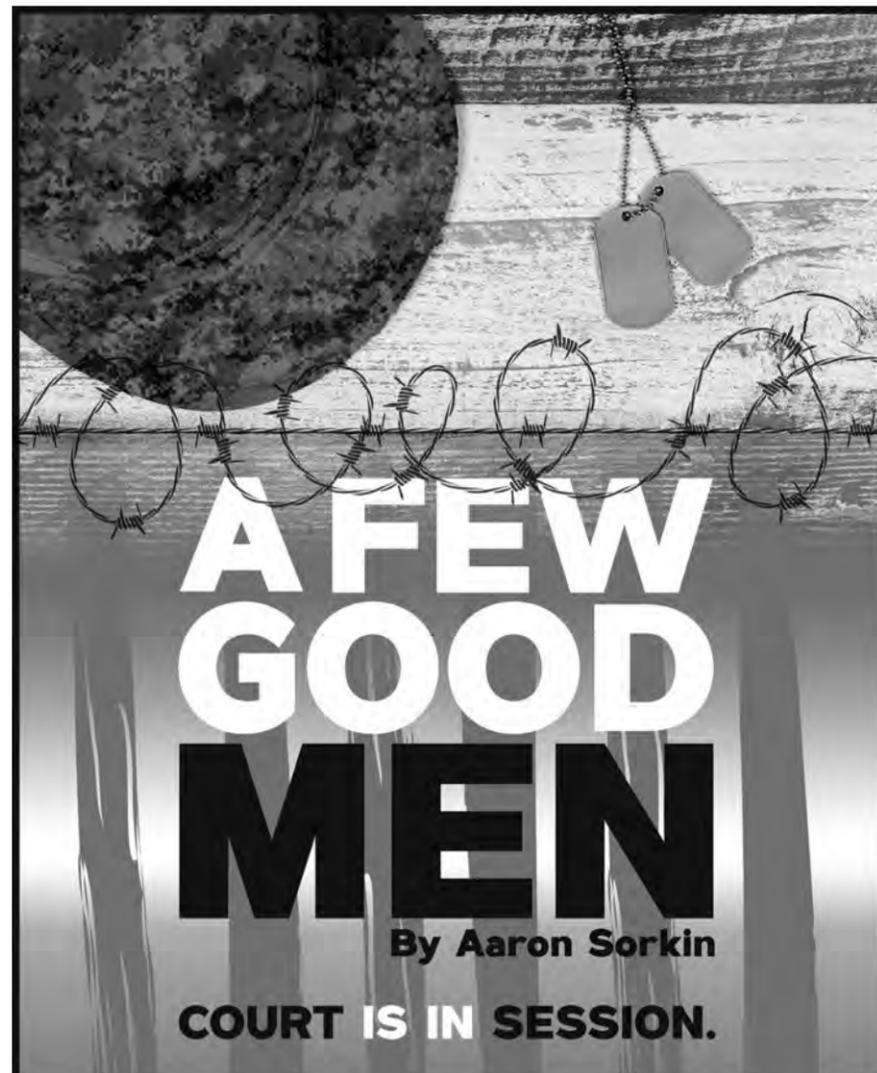
- Help them stock a home disaster kit.

- Check on them after a storm or power outage.

- Make sure they register as a special needs customer with their utility.

- Notify local emergency responders such as the fire department.

- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available for them.



FEBRUARY 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21

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'Chisolm '72' screening at Howland Library February 12

A screening of "Chisolm '72," a documentary that explores Shirley Chisholm's groundbreaking 1972 presidential campaign and her lasting impact on American politics, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St. This program is presented in collaboration with Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club. Registration is required.

Following the film, stay for a panel discussion led by Kenya Gadsden, focusing on women running for office today and the challenges and possibilities they face. The panel includes Yvette Valdés Smith, Laster Gorton and Paloma Wake.

For more information, go to beaconlibrary.org.

Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. **Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.** Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

The Wappingers VFW Post 5913: Celebrating 80 Years of Service

To the Editor:

On February 18, 1946, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913 was officially chartered at 8 School Street in Wappingers Falls, NY. This milestone year marks the 80th anniversary of Wappingers VFW Post 5913, a testament to our long-standing commitment to serving veterans and the broader Wappingers community.

According to previous Post Commanders, VFW Post 5913 was established in the aftermath of World War II to assist returning servicemembers and wartime veterans. As the organization grew in membership, its mission expanded beyond supporting veterans to also serving the greater Wappingers community. The Post's war veterans dedicated themselves to sharing their military and life experiences with younger generations, fostering American pride and patriotism. VFW Post 5913 remains steadfast in upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Government of the United States. The sense of duty and dedication to preserving freedoms did not end with our military service—our service to America continues without pause.

To commemorate this remarkable milestone, VFW Post 5913 members have organized several activities open to the community:

*Spaghetti Dinner: Join us on Saturday, February 21, from 5-7 p.m. for a community spaghetti dinner. Families are welcome to attend this gathering of friends and neighbors.

*Speaker Event: On Sunday, February 22, from 2:30 - 4 p.m., we will host a joint event with the Wappingers Historical Society. This interactive and informative discussion and presentation aims to engage and educate attendees about our shared history.

*St. Patrick's Day Parade Festivities: As part of the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls, we will offer breakfast sandwiches from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. Following the parade, a Post Lunch will be available after 2 p.m..

Throughout 2026, VFW Post 5913 will host a additional events to honor our 80 years of service and community presence. We invite all to join us as we celebrate our history, examine our legacy, and spotlight a Post that has been central to Wappingers for generations. We welcome all

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913

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Tax Credits available to eligible New Yorkers

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance urged taxpayers to review their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit. Both credits provide financial boosts to hardworking families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable credit for working taxpayers who earn less than \$68,675. This means taxpayers get a refund even if the credit amount is more than what they owe in taxes.

When combined, Federal, New York State, and New York City Earned Income Tax Credits can be worth \$12,873 for a family with three or more qualifying children.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit for the first time because of changes to their financial situation, filing status, or personal life. For eligibility requirements, see the Tax Department's Earned Income Credit (New York State) webpage, https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/earned_income_credit.htm. For federal qualifications, see the IRS Earned Income Tax Credit webpage, <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>.

Expanded Empire State Child Credit

For tax year 2025, the Empire State Child Credit has been substantially enhanced. The maximum amount for the Empire State child credit for children under age four increased from \$330 to \$1,000 per child. This refundable credit provides support to eligible families who file New York State income tax returns.

You are eligible for this refundable credit if you are a full-year New York State resident and have at least one qualifying child less than 17 years old on December 31 of the year you are claiming the credit for. For more information on this credit, visit Empire State child credit.

File a tax return to claim these credits

Taxpayers must file a personal income

tax return to receive both credits, even if they don't owe any taxes. Most taxpayers who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit, are likely also eligible to take advantage of the free e-filing options available through the Tax Department. Options include:

Free File

Depending on your income and other criteria, you may be eligible to use Free File software to e-file your federal and state income tax returns at no cost through the Tax Department website.

Take advantage of this truly free service each year, saving hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in tax-preparation costs.

Free File information is available in multiple languages on the Tax Department's website, www.tax.ny.gov.

Other e-filing options

If you don't qualify for Free File, we have other options—including some other free ones—that may work for you. See other e-file options at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/> for personal income tax to learn more.

Need assistance?

For taxpayers who qualify, the Tax Department's Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) can help electronically prepare and file their federal and state income tax returns at no cost.

During a scheduled session, Tax Department representatives will guide taxpayers through free tax preparation software, step-by-step, as they complete and file their own tax return. The Tax Department's online tax software is a safe and secure way to file. It's quick and easy!

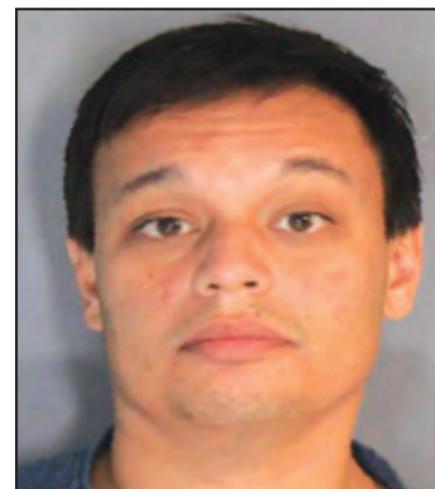
Visit the Taxpayer Assistance Program at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/tap/> to register for a session.

D.A.: Pleasant Valley man pleads guilty to threat communicated against U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced on Feb. 5 that Christopher Moynihan, 35, plead guilty in the Town of Clinton Court to Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, in violation of Penal Law Section 240.30, subdivision (1), reduced from Making a Terrorist Threat, in violation of Penal Law Section 490.20, subdivision (1), a Class D Felony. This plea is related to a threat communicated to another person regarding United States House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi said, "Threats against elected officials are not political speech, they are criminal acts that strike at the heart of public safety and our democratic system. My office treats these cases with the utmost seriousness because words intended to intimidate or terrorize can have real-world consequences. After a careful and thorough review of the law and the evidence, and in close coordination with the United States Attorney's Office, the New York State Police, the FBI, the United States Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and the New York City Police Department, we were able to reach a disposition that ensures accountability and public safety. I want to thank Congressman Jeffries for his cooperation throughout this matter, as well as our law enforcement partners collective and tireless efforts in bringing this matter to a responsible conclusion."

The incident occurred on Oct. 17, 2025, in



Christopher Moynihan

-Photo from Dutchess County D.A.'s Office

the Town of Clinton. Moynihan admitted that he communicated by telephone a threat to cause harm to another, according to the D.A.'s Office.

The case was investigated by the New York State Police and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Pamela Bloomfield. Judge James Brands presided over the case. Moynihan's sentencing date is set for April 2. The agreed upon sentence is three years of probation supervision, according to the D.A.'s Office.

Dutchess County officials host annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, left, and trafficking survivor Alicia McDonald, who shared her experience with forum attendees recently.

Courtesy photos Dutchess County Gov't

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) recently hosted the County's third annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum at Dutchess Community College's James and Betty Hall Theatre, bringing together more than 120 community partners, service providers, educators, healthcare professionals and law enforcement to strengthen local efforts to prevent human trafficking and support victims.

Serino said, "Human trafficking is a crime that often goes unseen, and awareness is one of our strongest tools. By continuing to bring people together for education and training, we are strengthening our community's ability to recognize exploitation and connect victims with help. Dutchess County is eager to keep working alongside our committed partners, and we thank all who took part."

Human trafficking, defined as the unlawful trade of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for exploitative purposes, includes crimes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. The International Labour Organization estimates more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of

human trafficking; it remains a serious public safety and human rights issue nationwide, affecting communities of all sizes. In 2025, the Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking received 38 local referrals of suspected trafficking cases - including referrals received from probation officers, youth service providers and staff at shelters for runaway and homeless youth.

The Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking brings together professionals from many different fields to stop human trafficking by raising awareness, recognizing possible victims and providing coordinated, trauma-informed support. The task force also offers prevention education for young people and practical resources for the community, including guides, hotline numbers, service listings and fact sheets that address common myths about trafficking.

The forum focused on increasing public awareness, improving identification of trafficking indicators and reinforcing coordination among agencies that serve vulnerable populations across Dutchess County. The program featured presentations, panel discussions and training ses-

37 incarcerated individuals charged with order of protection violations in 2025

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports that in order to combat domestic violence, the Special Operations Bureau conducted comprehensive investigations into violations of Orders of Protection by individuals incarcerated at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center in 2025.

As a result of the aforementioned investigations 37 incarcerated individuals were charged with allegedly contacting protected parties in direct violation of active Orders of Protection. A total of 59 criminal charges, including 22 felony counts and 37 misdemeanor counts, were ulti-

mately filed against the defendants.

All cases will be prosecuted by the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office. The investigations remain ongoing, and additional charges may be filed as appropriate. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office emphasizes that Orders of Protection are legally enforceable at all times, including during periods of incarceration, and violations of these orders will be prosecuted.

As with all criminal cases, the charges described above are merely accusations and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



The annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum was recently held at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. From left: Michael J. Hall, DCC's Behavioral Science Department; Tracy Connelly-Hart, Deputy Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services; County Executive Sue Serino; David Garcia, Human Trafficking Coordinator-Safe Harbor, Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking; DCC Professor and retired Connecticut detective Matthew Greenstein.

sions led by subject-matter experts. Speakers addressed emerging trends in human trafficking, best practices for victim-centered responses and the importance of cross-agency collaboration.

This year's forum offered clear, practical information on the many forms of human trafficking, how to recognize the warning signs and steps that can be taken to prevent it, including:

- Human trafficking victim advocate and survivor speaker Alicia McDonald discussed her background of being a survivor of sex trafficking at the hands of her first husband;

- A presentation by the New York State Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding gender-based violence and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI);

- A review of Family Services, Inc.'s Center for Victim Safety and Support program, which offers services to victims/survivors in the community, including a 24-hour hotline for trafficking victims to call to seek assistance, available at 845-452-7272; and

- A panel presentation from Hudson Valley Safe Streets on a multi-agency collaboration on a case involving a runaway youth from the Children's Home

of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County participates in New York State's Safe Harbour program, which helps counties better recognize young people who have been trafficked, sexually exploited or are at risk and connect them with the services they need. Forum attendees learned about Dutchess County's Safe Harbour Program and the Center for Victim Safety and Support.

DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said, "Human trafficking is a serious abuse of human rights, and it is a crime that must be stopped. We appreciate the dedicated individuals in Dutchess County who work bravely to protect people of all ages who are at risk. The collaborations strengthened at this year's forum will help build a safer community, and we thank everyone who participated and shared their expertise."

Suspected cases of human trafficking can be reported anytime by calling the County's Human Trafficking Hotline at 845-452-7272. To learn more about Dutchess County's prevention efforts and access a resource guide for service providers, law enforcement and attorneys on creating a coordinated, trauma-informed response, visit DCFS' Human Trafficking Task Force webpage.

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DAVID B. PLUMER, GEN'L MANAGER
BRIARCLIFF INFORMATION New York Store, Windsor Arcade

July 23rd, 1907.

Frank Eno, Esq., - Attorney,
Pine Plains, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th inst., with regard to the small graveyard on the Johnson Farm, for which many thanks. I note that the Moravian Historical Society, of Bethlehem, Penna., is the party interested in the graveyard, and that they have no lien on the property.

The scale and power of the Briarcliff agricultural business in 1907 is reflected in the company's letterhead, and in the request from Walter Law to "arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay" as their sacred resting place was they were seen as an economic impediment.

By Aidan Chisamore

As you travel on Route 82 in Pine Plains, it is easy to miss that just beyond the eastern tree line sits one of the county's most important historical markers. A quick detour down Strever Farm Road leads to a tall white marble pillar. This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s. It serves as a physical reminder of an important story that sits firmly at the center of local knowledge and the town's history.

For many residents, this memorial may be a familiar sight. However, many may not realize that this structure has not always stood in its current location. A group of letters held in the Dutchess County Historical Society's Archives and Special Collections, as part of the Eno Law Office Collection, reveal how the monument, and the meaning attached to it, became the subject of debate during a period of dramatic change in Pine Plains at the turn of the 20th century.

To understand the significance of these letters, it is important to first contextualize the creation of the memorial. Founded in 1740, the Moravian mission in Pine Plains was an early Christian organization established among the Indigenous community of Shekomeko. The site was one of the first Protestant missions in New York State, and, even during its operation, the mission was understood to be an important religious and historic site. Despite its significance, the mission only operated for a short period, formally closing in 1746 due to local threats and political action taken against missionaries and the indigenous community.

By the 19th century, the land was occu-

pled as a farm by the prominent Hunting family. According to Moravian accounts, Edward Hunting (1797-1884), who bought the land in 1829, found a mysterious stone with a German inscription. The relic was eventually brought to the Poughkeepsie Lyceum, a local educational and cultural institution.

While there, the Episcopalian Reverend and Pleasant Valley resident Sheldon Davis contended the stone was the grave marker of the Moravian missionary Gottlieb Büttner, who died in Shekomeko.

Setting out to discover more about the mission, its location, and the extent of surviving lore, Davis conducted an extensive research project. He detailed his findings in the 1858 pamphlet "Shekomeko; or the Moravians in Dutchess County." In this text, he claimed that Hunting identified for him the location of many of the mission buildings, its orchard, and the gravesite where the stone was discovered. (It is worth noting that there is no way to definitively corroborate Davis' narrative.)

In the year following the pamphlet's publication, the Moravian Historical Society raised funds to erect a monument above the proposed site of the original grave. In October of 1859, the Historical Society met in Pine Plains to honor the dedication of the monument. They credited Davis as "the first to call the attention of the public, and that of the members of the Moravian Church, to the present condition of the old Mission stations." For the next half a century, the monument stood as a reminder of an attempt to preserve this narrative of local history.

The turn of the 20th century represented a significant change for the site of the former mission. Looking for cheaper agricultural



This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s.

-Photo courtesy of Bill Jeffway

land, Walter W. Law (1837-1924), the proprietor of a successful Westchester-based dairy operation, set his sights on Pine Plains. In 1907, Law started buying land around the hamlet of Bethel (over 3,200 acres) to create a large farm that would be called Briarcliff. One such parcel was the same lot formerly operated as the Hunting farm, where the monument was erected in 1859. Law worked with a local lawyer named Frank Eno (1845-1933), who helped him secure his many land purchases during the company's move from Briarcliff Manor.

Law's company did not share the same reverence for the monument, viewing it as an obstacle to their agricultural venture. In July of 1907, Law's son and ranking member of the company Walter William Law, Jr. (1871-1958) wrote a letter to Frank Eno saying, "I would ask that you kindly address a line to [the Moravian Historical Society], stating that the property has changed hands, and that the graveyard will interfere with the plans for development which the new owner had in mind in purchasing the property, and he will be obliged if they will kindly arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay." Law proceeded to offer the Moravian Historical Society land along the highway, removed from any agricultural operations, where the society could reinter any bodies.

Uncover local history and support seniors at Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event

Have you ever wondered if that dusty attic find is a hidden gem or if your family heirloom has more than just sentimental value? Residents of the Hudson Valley are invited to find out at the Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event, hosted by the historic Vassar-Warner Home in partnership with Astor Galleries.

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Vassar-Warner Home, located at 52 South Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie. (Alt. snow date: Feb. 28).

Appraisals for a Cause - Professional appraisers from Astor Galleries will be available to evaluate a wide range of items, including furniture, fine art, collectibles, and unique curiosities.

- Cost: \$10 per item, or a special rate of three items for \$25.
- Limit: Six items per person.

On-the-Spot Buying Event - In response to high demand, the event also features a Buying Event for those interested in liquidating their items. Astor Galleries will provide competitive, no-obligation offers and immediate payment for items such as:

- Precious Metals: Fine jewelry, gold/silver coins, and scrap gold/silver.
- Timepieces: Vintage and antique watches.
- Sterling Silver: Tea sets, bowls, and flatware.

Entry to the buying event is \$10, with no limit on the number of items presented. (Please note: Astor Galleries does not purchase items they have appraised during the event.)

"We are thrilled to bring this event to Poughkeepsie and support the vital mission of the Vassar-Warner Home," said Stephen Cardile, Director of Acquisitions and founder of Astor Galleries. "Whether you're curious about a family heirloom or thinking of selling, our team is here to help."

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Vassar-Warner Home, helping to support their mission of providing quality care and housing for seniors in the community. For more information, visit www.astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days or call 800-784-7876.



Aidan Chisamore is a member of the staff at DCHS. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org.

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Jeremy Denk will perform at Howland Chamber Music Circle's event Feb. 15



The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) continues its 2025-2026 Piano Festival with the much-loved and returning (for his 9th time!) pianist, Jeremy Denk. He will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Denk was trained at Oberlin College & Conservatory, Indiana University and The Juilliard School of Music. He is also a New York Times bestselling author, as well as the recipient of both the

MacArthur 'Genius' Fellowship and the Avery Fisher Prize. He has played in all the world's great halls, as a soloist, with magnificent orchestras, and with fine chamber ensembles.

In the first half of his recital at HCMC, Denk will play 10 works by women composers, ranging from Clara Schumann (1819-1896) to Missy Mazzoli (b.1980). After the intermission, Denk will play works by Brahms and Robert Schumann.

HCMC now offers tickets at prices to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.

Pianist Jeremy Denk will perform at the Howland Chamber Music Circle's event on Feb. 15 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo submitted by Howland Chamber Music Circle

Navigating menopause event set Feb. 26 at Starr Library

Amy Novatt, MD and Marybeth Cale, Certified Life and Health Coach have announced details of "Change is Inevitable: Courage and Confidence through Midlife Transitions." The event will be held on Thursday, February 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck (downstairs / back entry to the building).

According to Novatt and Cale, the objective is to empower and educate women navigating perimenopause/menopause. Dr. Novatt will lead an informative discussion that covers hormonal changes, menopause therapy, and body image, and Cale intends to facilitate activities designed to help guests consider what makes them thrive, and what action steps can optimize feelings of well-being.

Novatt, MD is a board-certified OB-GYN with more than 30 years of clinical experience. Her work centers on integrating women's health with lifestyle practices that support wellness across the lifespan. She guides women through perimenopause, menopause, sexual health concerns, and the chal-

lenges of chronic medical conditions—both in clinical settings and through retreat-based programs. She is also the creator and host of GynoCurious, a global podcast exploring women's health and the many ways we heal and are healed.

Cale is a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach and Certified Life Coach. Founder of Estuary Coaching, she offers individual and group coaching on a number of topics, including well-being, confident communication, empathic listening, stress management, business development, and more. Cale is also a writer, publicist, and co-president of Cale Communications. In her free time, she serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Anderson Foundation for Autism, Chair of Anderson Foundation's PR Committee, and Chair of Rhinebeck Rotary's Community Health Committee (which works to address food insecurity and mental health and wellness locally).

Advance reservation and payment is required to attend the February 26th event, as space is limited. Visit estuarycoaching.com/packages to register.

Wappinger United girls compete in national soccer tournament

By Morgan E. Maier

It's not every day that a small town soccer team gets to compete against the nation's best teams. Yet the Spartans, representing Wappingers United Soccer Club, battled against the nation's top teams and returned home with an especially strong fire to succeed.

Hailing from Spackenkill to Poughkeepsie, Wappinger and between, this all-girls team thrives on competitive will. Led by coach Eli Lopez, the Spartans have worked as a unit for six years. That drive earned a ticket to the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) tournament in Arizona, the squad representing 1 of 16 teams in the invite-only bracket.

The program is built by volunteers, parents and players dedicated to one goal of

bringing this team - and its players - to the highest possible level of competition.

Fall practices mean floodlights in the back of Lopez's truck. This season of work fueled the cross-country dream of competing at the highest level. The Spartans won the bracket in their inaugural season of the USYS National League, and earned an invite-only spot in the national tournament. America's top soccer talent would lay before them in the desert.

With a win and two losses in the USYS competition, Spartans proved their grit, years of experience between the players culminating in a maturation in the desert.

"They got the taste of what that stage looks like, and their dream is really being at the top of their game," said Lopez.

'Bright Smiles, Bright Futures' dental clinic to be held Feb. 21

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program, will host a free Children's Dental Health Event on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie, providing children ages 1-12 the opportunity to receive professional dental screenings and access educational resources promoting lifelong oral health. The event is open to all families; advance registration is not required.

DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "Maintaining good oral health is a vital part of children's overall health and development. We are proud to work with Colgate to host this family-friendly event that will bring essential dental services directly to our community, to help ensure every child has the opportunity for a healthy smile."

Dental screenings will be conducted in Colgate's Mobile Dental Van and will take approximately five minutes. Each child will receive a personalized dental report card and

a Colgate oral care kit, including a toothbrush and toothpaste.

As they await their screening, families can enjoy fun activities and learn about available dental health resources in the FPC auditorium including:

- Watch informational cartoon series
- Enjoy light, healthy refreshments
- Receive educational oral health materials
- Meet the Tooth Fairy and Mr. Tooth.

Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program is a global oral health education program that aims to support children in developing healthy oral care habits. Since its launch, the program has reached millions of children and families worldwide, providing educational materials, preventive screenings, and resources to help improve oral health and reduce cavities, with a focus on supporting underserved communities.

To learn more about "Bright Smiles, Bright Future," visit: <http://www.colgate.com/en-us/mission/oral-health-commitment/bsbf>. To find out more about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its offerings visit: dutchessny.gov/health.

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



Simply sweet

Chocolate pudding is perfect for Valentine's Day – or any day.

Whether it's Valentine's Day or any old day, chocolate is a pretty perfect way to say I love you. Over the years, I've shared dozens of chocolate recipes with you, because I'm not sure there's such a thing as too much chocolate and there are so many things you can do with it. It's easy to take it for granted because it's everywhere now, especially this time of year. But once upon a time only a small corner of the world knew about it at all.

We owe a debt of thanks to the people of ancient Mesoamerica for bringing chocolate's magical, mystical, exotic, even healthful, delicious decadence to the world. They used the beans of a small evergreen tree native to South America – Theobroma cacao (literally food of the gods) – to make a sacred beverage used in rituals and as medicine, and cacao was so prized its beans were even used there as currency. It's worth noting that the earliest uses of chocolate were not what we think of today and were, in fact, not sweet but often mixed with chilies. The Spanish brought drinking chocolate to Europe in the 1500s where it was commonly mixed with sugar or honey to offset its natural bitterness and it became immensely popular with royalty and the very rich, no surprise given that the beans could only be processed in small batches laboriously

by hand.

Things changed during the Industrial Revolution with the invention of the chocolate press, which squeezed cocoa butter from the roasted cacao beans, leaving a rich, bitter powder that could easily be mixed with milk and sugar for either drinking or pouring into molds to make bars. After that, the love affair with chocolate was world-wide and you could find it everywhere in many forms and used in the thousands of ways it is today.

And what ways? Cakes, truffles, ice cream, muffins, mousse, hot chocolate, brownies, fondues, sauces, custards, fudge, cookies, pies, tortes, tarts, ganache, cupcakes, all of which I've shared recipes for in the past. Then there's the savory side: mole, barbecue sauce and chili to name a few. Given the many forms chocolate takes, like unsweetened, dark, milk and bittersweet, it isn't surprising that there are so many ways to enjoy it. But looking over my recipes, I noticed one I hadn't shared, and it's one of my very favorites that anyone can – and should – make: chocolate pudding.

How could I have overlooked such a simple thing, especially when it's one of my favorites? I'm not sure, but I'll make up for it now and give you a new way to say I love you with chocolate.

Simply Lovely Chocolate Pudding

Because chocolate is so special, my favorite ways to use it are often the simplest, with few ingredients so it shines through like the velvet-clad star it is. This is a perfect example. I use both unsweetened cocoa powder and bittersweet chocolate (you could also use semisweet chips) for this, because there's no such thing as too much chocolate.

Ingredients

¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
¼ cup cornstarch
½ cup sugar
½ tsp salt
3 cups milk
4oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift or whisk cocoa powder and corn starch together in a medium saucepan. Whisk in sugar and salt. Pour in milk, whisking to blend, and set over medium heat. Cook just until starting to thicken and bubbles start to form around the edges, stirring occasionally with the whisk, about 8 minutes. You do NOT want it to boil. Remove from heat and add bittersweet chocolate pieces. Stir until melted and smooth. Stir in vanilla. Allow to cool slightly.

Transfer to a bowl or divide evenly between 4 ramekins, cups or small

bowls. If you don't want a skin to form on top, place plastic wrap so that it touches the surface. Chill at least 2 hours. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream if you like.

It's hard to imagine a world without chocolate, but knowing its history has played a big part in my revering it as the sacred, exotic wonder it is. If I think about it too much, I might be inclined to use it only in sophisticated ways to honor it, but then I remember that to love and savor anything is to truly honor it, so I can do just that every time I enjoy this luscious pudding. Love, and those we attach to it, are worth celebrating every day, especially when we can see and appreciate them for how amazing they really are. Happy Valentine's Day.

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

Yankees select Bossi as new manager of Renegades, name 2026 field, support staff

Continued from cover

Bossi managed the Tarpons to their best overall record (63-63) since 2021. Tampa narrowly missed out on the playoffs after posting an impressive 36-29 record in the first half of the season. The Tarpons had one of the top offenses in the FSL, leading the league in batting average (.248) and stolen bases (307), and finished second in the league in OBP (.353) and OPS (.732).

The Renegades managerial job has become a launching pad in the six years under the New York Yankees affiliation, with Bossi following Cooper (2025), Nick Ortiz (2024), Sergio Santos (2023), Tyson Blaser (2022) and Dan Fiorito (2021) in the post. Ortiz and Blaser both moved up in player development into coordinator roles in other organizations, while Fiorito is now on the Yankees Major League staff.

Ryan Mossman begins his first year as the Renegades pitching coach and third in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the pitching coach for Single-A Tampa (2025) and the FCL Yankees (2024), working with Bossi in Tampa. Under his guidance, the Tarpons finished tied for fourth in the Florida State League in ERA (4.24) and had the best Groundout-to-Air Out ratio (1.05) in the league. He helped develop

prospects Griffin Herring, Xavier Rivas, Andrew Landry and Brandon Decker, who all went on to make big contributions on the Renegades staff in 2025.

Scott Nestor begins his first year as the Renegades hitting coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the hitting coach with the FCL Yankees in 2024 and 2025. The FCL Yankees ranked near the top of the Florida Complex League in most major

offensive categories in Nestor's two years mentoring hitters, and led the 15-team FCL with 47 home runs in 2024.

Chase Gerbick begins his first year as the Renegades defensive coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He spent the 2025 season as the manager of the DSL Yankees, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for the FCL Yankees in 2024. Gerbick, 22, began his collegiate playing career at Lipscomb University before arm injuries forced him to retire. At just 19 years old, he became the youngest coach in collegiate baseball history when he served as the Director of Player Development for Indiana Wesleyan University in 2023 before joining the Yankees.

Ryan Shute begins his sixth year as the Renegades Home Clubhouse

Manager and eighth in the Yankees organization, previously working for the Short-Season A Staten Island Yankees in 2019 and Rookie-level Pulaski in 2018. Before joining the Yankees, Shute was the Visiting Clubhouse Manager for the Carolina Mudcats during the 2017 season. A native of the Hudson Valley and 2011 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Shute spent four summers as a Stadium Operations and Groundskeeping Assistant for the Renegades from 2012-15.

Maegan Manrow begins her first season as the Athletic Trainer of the Renegades, and her third season with the Yankees. She served as the Athletic Trainer for Single-A Tampa in 2025, and was the Assistant Athletic Trainer with Double-A Somerset in 2024. Prior to joining the Yankees, she spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons as an Athletic Trainer in the Baltimore Orioles system. Manrow graduated from the University of South Florida in 2019 with a bachelor's degree, and earned her master's degree in Athletic Training from USF in 2022.

Esteban Morales begins his first season as the Renegades Strength & Conditioning Coach, and his third year in the Yankees organization. He spent the past two seasons in the same role

with Single-A Tampa, working on staffs with 2025 Renegades manager James Cooper and Bossi, respectively.

Robert Sieling begins his first season as the Renegades' Video & Tech Assistant, and his first season with the Yankees. He spent the previous four seasons with the Washington Nationals, first serving as the On-Field Coordinator of Baseball & Softball Programs from 2022-24, and then spending 2025 as the Video Intern for the Triple-A Rochester Red Wings.

Steve Schuster begins his first season as the Renegades' Advanced Scouting Analyst, and his first season in the Yankees organization. He previously held similar roles with the Miami Marlins (2025), Detroit Tigers (2024), and New York Mets (2023) systems. Before beginning a career as an analyst, Schuster spent nine years as the play-by-play broadcaster for the Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball club of the independent American Association, where he also handled public relations duties and for three years served as an Advance Scout/Analyst for the team as well.

Season Ticket Memberships, Group Tickets, and Ballpark Passes for the 2026 Renegades season are on sale now. For more information call the Renegades Ticket Office at (845) 838-0094 or slide to hvrenegades.com/tickets.

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by FRANCINE WIZNER



The heart of the matter

Never mind what it looks like; how does it work?



Medieval love: A fair lady accepts Alexander the Great's heart. From "The Romance of Alexander," scribe-compiled legends and historical accounts by unknown authors.

-Illustration by Jehan de Grise

"The Romance of Alexander" is a fantastical account of Alexander the Great's adventures and encounters with mythical creatures. One illustration, found in a decorative border of the manuscript, depicts a man with his hand on his chest. Facing him, a woman accepts the gift of his heart.

This drawing is the first example of the (now familiar) form that is used to represent romantic love. The scalloped shape and orientation of the symbol helped popularize the icon that became widely used from the 1400s onward. (Previous medieval depictions of the heart resembled a pine-cone or a pear. They were held with the point facing upward, based on physicians' ancient anatomical descriptions).

Human hearts are lopsided

Unlike the icon's two symmetrically curved lines forming a pointed kiss, the left side of our hearts are thicker and stronger because that side pumps blood to the entire body. The right side of the heart only pumps blood to the nearby lungs. This unequal workload causes the heart to tilt left, with its apex pointing toward the left side of the chest, making it appear off-center. The lopsided, asymmetrical shape allows the powerful left side to handle systemic circulation and the weaker right side to manage pulmonary circulation.

Blood flow through the heart

As blood leaves each of the heart's four chambers, it passes through a valve. Heart valves prevent blood from flowing in the wrong direction. The tricuspid and mitral valves lie between the atria and ventricles. The aortic and pulmonary (semilunar) valves lie between the ventricles and the major blood vessels leaving the heart. Coronary arteries on the surface of the heart supply oxygen-rich blood to the organ, itself, since the blood that is within its chambers does not provide it with nourishment.

Blood Flows in a Continuous Pattern: Oxygen-poor blood from the body enters the right atrium. It travels to the right ventricle and then goes to the lungs (the pulmonary circuit) to become oxygenated. Oxygen-rich blood then enters the left atrium of the heart. The blood then travels into the left ventricle. The blood then leaves the heart for the rest of the body to complete the systemic circuit. Blood travels to the all of the body's cells and exchanges oxygen and nutrients for wastes, which it returns to the right atrium.

The heart beat

The atria and ventricles work together, alternately contracting and relaxing to pump the blood through the circuit. Heart contractions are triggered by electrical impulses from specialized bundles of cells within the organ. The heart's natural electrical pacemaker coordinates the beat to deliv-

er blood to the body, depending its state of activity, health, emotion, or rest.

Celebrate Valentine's Day by building a model heart

I can't remember if it was the month of February when I built my first heart model, since it was nearly 50 years ago. But, a classmate and I built it using a kit in sixth-grade science. We pumped water through a bunch of interconnected plastic cylinders as we explained what was happening in each of the "chambers."

Creating your own DIY model using some commonly found materials is cheaper than buying a kit. Plus, it's a fun way to celebrate the holiday. I've experimented with different "chamber" options and I have found that silicone travel bottles work best because they are more flexible than hard plastic bottles.

To construct the model, participants will need eight small bottles with caps. Four bottles will represent heart chambers; two bottles will represent the lungs; two bottles will represent the body. Clear plastic tubing is also necessary: four pieces (6-18" long) will represent valves leading to and from the pulmonary and systemic circuits; two pieces (4" long) will represent valves between the atria and ventricles. Red and blue food coloring added to water will represent oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. Clear packing tape is needed to bind heart chambers, lungs, and body to each other. Also necessary are objects for poking holes, such as a large needle or skewer, a pen, or a drill.

Once the parts of the model are labeled, participants should demonstrate the pumping action as they describe what is happening aloud. An organized write-up of the activity it available here: <https://www.teachers-payteachers.com/Product/HOW-THE-HEART-WORKS-ACTIVITY-HUMAN-BODY-SYSTEMS-9103596>. A video of the model construction can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAkykZXLJTU&t=322s>

Those interested in checking out more images from the historical manuscript can visit the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library digital collections (<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>).

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.



The heart model in action.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

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Obituaries

Elizabeth 'Liz' Murnane



Elizabeth "Liz" Dorothy Murnane, of Glenham, formerly of Chester, NY and New Jersey, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026 following a sudden and unexpected illness. She was 63.

The daughter of the late Horace and Virginia (Greene) Schuppe, Elizabeth was born in Hackensack, NJ on April 12, 1962.

Liz loved to vacation with her family. From Seaside Heights, to Jamaica, to Disney World, to cruises in the Caribbean, if it involved the sun, and the beach, she was happy to be there. She also enjoyed watching movies, spending time with her dogs and driving in the snow. More than anything else, she loved her family; her husband, her children,

their friends, and spouses, and most of all, her granddaughters, who affectionately called her "Oma."

On December 17, 1983, she married William J. Murnane at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, NY. Bill survives at home in Beacon.

Additional survivors include her five children: her son, Billy Murnane & his wife Annie of Beacon, NY; her son, Brian Murnane & his wife Ashley of Los Angeles, CA; her daughter, Lauren Thompson & her husband Christopher of LaGrange, NY; her son, Stephen Murnane of Beacon, NY; her daughter, Kathleen Dearman & her husband Ryan of Hopewell Junction, NY; her granddaughters: Everly & Sofa Thompson and Parker & Quinn Dearman; her siblings: Denise Shepherd & her husband Mark; Stephen Schuppe & his wife Jeannie; and Susan Babcock; as well as many nieces, nephews, and countless other loving family members, and community who couldn't help but be charmed, and touched by knowing her.

In addition to her parents, Elizabeth was also predeceased by her sister, Janet Schuppe.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, February 8 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A funeral service was offered on Monday, February 9 at the funeral home, followed by interment at Fairview Cemetery, 375 Washington Avenue, Beacon, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by visiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Honorah 'Honey' Hinkle



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Honorah Hinkle, lovingly known as "Honey" to family and friends and "Noie" to her grandchildren. She left this world surrounded by love and care, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, creativity, and devotion to family and community.

Born in July 1941 to William Fleming and Honorah McCormack Fleming, Honey was the first of eight children.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Charlie Hinkle; brothers Joe and baby Stephen Xavier; sister Beth (Jim) McGill; sister-in-law Susie Fleming; stepdaughter Betsy (George) Brandt; great granddaughters Skylar

Rose Fitzpatrick and Maddie Farr. She is survived by siblings Bill (Lynn) Fleming, Marie (Chuck) Tattersall, Trudy Fleming, and Xav Fleming; stepdaughters Terri Farr, Dawn (Bobby) Fitzpatrick, Anne Hinkle and Jeannie Jackson; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and dozens of multi-generational nieces, nephews, and cousins who adored her.

A celebration of Honorah's life will be held on Friday, February 20 from 2-4 and 6-8pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, February 21 at 11am at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville.

Mary Louise McClellan (Koeth)



Mary Louise McClellan (Mary Lou) passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 1, 2026, surrounded by family and friends at her home in Fishkill, New York.

Mary Lou was born to Alfred Koeth and Mary Sheehan Koeth of Parma, Ohio, and lived a full life marked by service, adventure, and devotion to her family and community.

She is survived by her children: Christine McClellan Uljua, Sally McClellan Sellers (June), George McClellan (Darcy), William McClellan, and Pamela McClellan Wright (Nanette); as well as 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou spent over 20 years as a dedicated Army wife, embracing the challenges and rewards of regular relocations. Her journey took the family to Germany and Thailand, as well as numerous states across America, before finally settling in New York. She brought grace and resilience to each new chapter, creating a home and making friends wherever the family was stationed.

After her years of military family life, Mary Lou built a distinguished career as a long-time Manager at Marine Midland Bank's East Fishkill branch. She also dedicated her time to serving the community at the East Fishkill Library, where she touched many lives through her work.

Mary Lou loved to travel, particularly on trips to Europe, and cherished beach vacations spent with family and friends. She was deeply woven into the fabric of the East Fishkill community, volunteering at the Wicoppee Fire Department, and as an active member of the Senior Center where she enjoyed exercising and playing cards with dear friends and neighbors.

The family is forever grateful to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation for their compassionate care, and to Mary Lou's loving neighbors and caregivers who supported her in her final years. Our special thanks and gratitude go to Pam and Nanette, who served as Mary Lou's primary caretakers with extraordinary dedication and love.

The family will host a Celebration of Life for Mary Lou in East Fishkill at a date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation in Mary Lou's memory. Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Presentation on 'FDR's Disability' set February 18 at Wallace Center

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site will present "FDR's Disability: A True Story" with Dr. Shelby Landmark on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park and streamed live to the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. This is a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person. Visit fdrlibrary.org to register.

While Franklin D. Roosevelt is one of the most recognizably disabled historical figures, his disability is most commonly represented in ways that imply he hid the truth of his paralysis from the public after contracting polio in the summer of 1921. Dr. Shelby Landmark's ongoing research has revealed that the public frequently observed FDR using leg braces, crutches, canes, customized speaker stands, ramps, elevators, and even automobiles to navigate his surroundings. Rather than trying

to deceive or convince the public that he was able-bodied, he wanted the public to see him as an able leader, not a "helpless invalid." Dr. Landmark will share this research including never-before-published images of FDR and his use of mobility aids, newspaper archival examples, and archival materials found at the FDR Presidential Library.

Landmark is the Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow for Disability Representation at Historic Sites located at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Sites. Her research has informed new interpretations of FDR's disability as well as revised existing interpretive programs. In 2025, she opened an exhibit at the site focusing on FDR's use of mobility devices. Her work has challenged predominant narratives about FDR's paralysis and led to a more nuanced and accurate understanding of his legacy as an important disabled historical figure.

Contact Cliff Laube at 845-486-7745 with questions about the event.

Senate Republican leader Ortt adds Rolison to Antisemitism Working Group

New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt has announced the addition of Senator Rob Rolison to the Senate Republican Conference's Antisemitism Working Group. The group, established in February 2023, meets with stakeholders across the state to make recommendations on ways to best address the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents in New York State.

The group is chaired by Senator Jack M. Martins, and includes Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Peter Oberacker, and Senator Bill Weber as members.

"Antisemitism continues to be on the rise and efforts to protect our Jewish neighbors continue to be a priority for our Senate Republican Conference. Our Antisemitism working group consists of Senators from all different areas of this state who have put forward common sense legislative proposals to battle antisemitism at all levels. I'm proud to add Senator Rob Rolison to the working group, who is a true defender of public safety and has demonstrated throughout his career he will always protect New Yorkers from hateful acts of violence," said Ortt.

"Antisemitism has no place in New York — or anywhere in the world. This hatred remains far too prevalent in our society, and we must stand united against antisemitism and all forms of hate wherever they exist. As the ranking member of the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction committee, we know that hate has consequences, and I'm proud to join the Senate Republican Conference's Antisemitism Working Group as we explore solutions to make our state a safer, better place for all," said Rolison.

The threat of antisemitism that led to the creation of the group in 2023 is still

very real for members of the Jewish community. Just recently, slides and playground equipment at Gravesend Park in Brooklyn were vandalized with swastikas, the second time this park had fallen victim to antisemitic attacks in as many days.

In March 2024, following a series of roundtable discussions, the working group released its report consisting of legislative recommendations to address antisemitism in New York State. The Senate Republican Conference will continue to be a strong voice and advocate of the Jewish community and ensure that the freedom of religion remains intact.

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- Beacon Free Press
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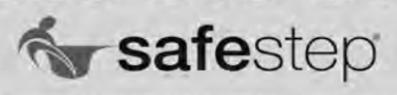
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Serino, library association partner to launch 'Sue's Book Picks'

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is partnering with the Dutchess County Library Association to launch Sue's Book Picks, a special new reading initiative featuring age-appropriate selections for children, teens, and adults. The program celebrates the joy of reading, encourages families to read together, and strengthens community connections through our local libraries.

Serino said, "There's something so special about reading – whether it's a bedtime story with your kids, a thought-provoking novel, or a book that simply makes you smile. Books have always brought me comfort, courage, and connection, and our

libraries are the perfect place to pass that feeling along. With Sue's Book Picks, I hope families and neighbors across Dutchess County will discover something new and enjoy the simple joy that comes from reading a good story."

From February through May, four books will be highlighted each month - two for children, one for teens, and one for adults - as official Sue's Book Picks. Selections will be featured in the 22 libraries across Dutchess County with a themed bookmark and flyer to help readers explore the picks and share in the experience.

February Book Selections:
Children's Picture Book; "The Wild Robot on the Island" by Peter Brown
Children's Chapter Book (4th – 8th grade); "The Bletchley Riddle" by Ruta Sepetys
Young Adult; "All My Rage" by Sabaa Tahir
Adult; "James" by Percival Everett
Each month's selection can be found at www.dutchessny.gov/SuesBookPicks. If the title is unavailable at your local library, see staff for assistance and you can have the book delivered from one of the other libraries in the system.

Carol Bancroft, Director of Clinton Community Library and President of the Dutchess County Library Association said, "Sue's Book Picks is a wonderful way to showcase the incredible resources our libraries offer. We're excited to guide readers of all ages to new stories, help them explore a variety of genres, and provide a welcoming space where books can spark curiosity, inspire imagination, and bring our community together."
To learn more about this program, please contact the County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000 or email CountyExec@dutchessny.gov.

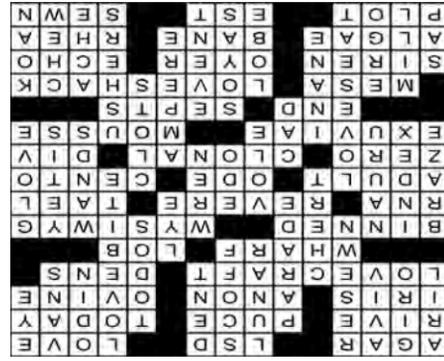
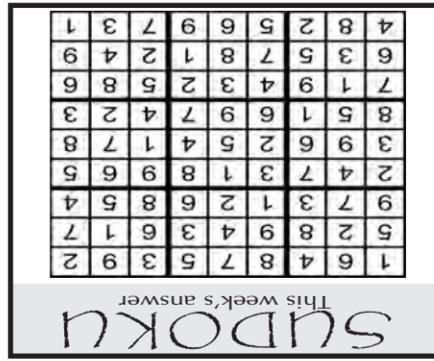
Beacon Sloop Club
lecture set for Feb. 19

Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project: Laura Chenven will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, Red Flynn Dr., Beacon.

The people of the Hudson Valley counties played unique and important roles in the history of American slavery and abolitionism. The region was a major center of enslavement in the North. It also played significant roles in the abolitionist movement and Underground Railroad.

For more information, go to www.beaconsloopclub.org.

this week's puzzle solutions



Legal Notices

NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that

The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County.

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more.

Table listing names and addresses of persons with unclaimed property, including Ahmed Shabazz, Tarell Heard, Robert Isaacs, etc.

Wells Fargo Bank N.A. vs DC Finance as Limited Administrator of the Estate of Frank Joseph Torchia; Steffanee Murphy; Allison Hogan, Frank Torchia, Jr.; Christoffer Torchia; Jess Torchia; Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company; State of NY

Table listing names and addresses of persons with unclaimed property, including Ramsey Canyon Rd., Stoneborough Ct, etc.

C. Maenza CORP d/b/a ASAP Electric vs DAK Homes LLC/ DAK Homes C/O Zuki Karagjozi

Table listing names and addresses of persons with unclaimed property, including Catherine Oliva, JPMC Specialty Mortgage LLC, etc.

Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union vs Hector Ayala, Individually as Heir at Law to the Estate of William Ayala

Table listing names and addresses of persons with unclaimed property, including Christina Griffin, County of Dutchess vs Gloria B. Chambers

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT

(A) A list of names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Commissioner of Finance;

(B) Any such unclaimed moneys or other property will be paid or delivered by her on or before the thirty first day of March to persons established to her satisfaction their right to receive the same; and

(C) In the succeeding month of April, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed moneys or other property still remaining will be paid or delivered to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and the undersigned shall thereupon cease to be liable therefore.

Dated: February 1, 2026
Poughkeepsie, New York
/s/heidi seelbach
Heidi Seelbach
Commissioner of Finance
Dutchess County, New York

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-29-26

Qualified Elevator Inspection (QEI) Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be

obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-22-26
Rebid Cummins Engine Repair and Replacement Services
Bids will be received un-

til 2:00 p.m. on the 20th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
Suite One

Beacon, New York
12508
Phone
(845) 838-5002
February 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Variance Application

Applicant: JMARKMNG, LLC
Address: 1064 Wolcott Avenue
Tax Grid No.: 30-5954-34-641767-00
Zoning Classification: R1-40 and HDLO
Dear Neighboring Property Owner:

Legal Notices

JMARKMNG, LLC, 1064 Wolcott Avenue, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for the adaptive reuse of two (2) existing buildings and construct an addition to the existing two-story building on the southern portion of the premises, and to redevelop the premises for use as a hotel, with associated guest amenity spaces and restaurant, which requires relief from the following:

1. Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for a rear yard setback of 23.8 feet (50 ft. required)

The full application is available online at: https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/agendas-minutes/

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on February 18, 2026, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-01-26

NAME OF PROJECT: Oakley Street Housing Support Center. Project Description: The conversion of existing building to a housing support center, work including selective demolition, reconstruction, alterations to electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, and ADA/code compliance of existing building. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york-county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official

Legal Notices

copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york-county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM Friday, February 27, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 96020243# Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by

Legal Notices

the close of business Friday February 20, 2026 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is June 15, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion date is August 17, 2027. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026000467. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable, and NYSDOL Contractor Registry requirements. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid RFQu-DCP-12-26

Pre-Qualified List for Medicolegal Death Investigative Services

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 19, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-07-26

After-Hours Telephone Answering and Messaging Services

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 25th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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1		4						
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				2	6	8		
			3				6	5
8	5				7			
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

			3	5	
				4	
5	4				
2					3

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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

ACROSS

1. Biology lab supply
5. Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
8. *Certain Courtney
12. Tear violently
13. Color of a bruise
14. Al Roker's show
15. Pupil control
16. Any minute, to Shakespeare
17. Sheep-like
18. *H. P. of science fiction fame
20. Hibernation stations
21. Boat station
22. Tennis shot
23. Packed in container
26. User-friendly interface, acr.
30. Genetic info carrier, acr.
31. *Love unquestioningly
34. Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
35. Not a minor
37. Poem addressed to certain subject
38. Hundred, in Italian
39. Nothing
40. Relating to clone
42. Division, abbr.
43. Sloughed off skin
45. Fluffy dessert
47. All good things come to this?
48. Between Octs and Novs
50. ___ Verde National Park
52. *B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
56. Singing femme fatale
57. Deed hearing
58. Reverberated sound
59. Blue-Green scum, pl.
60. Misery cause
61. Actress Perlman
62. Scheme
63. Right coast time
64. Made by tailor

DOWN

1. Seed cover
2. Biking helmet manufacturer
3. Tel ____, Israel
4. #64 Across, redone
5. Like 1969 landing
6. Laugh with contempt
7. Fender-bender damage
8. *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
9. Norse deity
10. "Off The Wall" shoe
11. Needle hole
13. Macy's Thanksgiving offering
14. Commotions
19. Silica variety
22. NaOH
23. Solder together
24. Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative ___
25. Pleasant Island
26. Small songbird
27. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
28. Bigfoot's cousins
29. *Hand cover, with love
32. *Lemming relative, or anagram of love
33. Tokyo, formerly
36. *Couch for two
38. Lumps in liquid
40. Knave
41. Unit of electric current flow
44. Absurd
46. Theater guides
48. Nutritious beans
49. Black tie one
50. Grain grinder
51. "Cogito, ___ sum"
52. Stud site
53. Occasional heart condition
54. Prepare to swallow
55. Riddle without solution
56. Tree juice

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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get growing!

by mark adams



In the room where it happens

Mark and Sue go to Albany to advocate for New York's farmers.

I was in the room where it happened. During Sue's and my visit to Albany last Tuesday, I was talking with N.Y. State Senator Jacob Ashby's legislative director, as the senator was introducing a bill to limit federal ICE enforcement in N.Y. state. What makes Ashby's new bill intriguing is the fact that he is a Republican and a combat veteran.

Sue and I were at the N.Y. capitol lobbying, I mean advocating, for New York farmers as representatives of the Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO). The CAO is an umbrella group for dozens of farm-related industries, from the New York State Horse Council to American Farmland Trust, N.Y. State Brewers Association and New York State Flower Industries, of which Sue is president.

After receiving our marching orders at an all-hands 8 a.m. meeting, the CAO members (we're volunteers) fanned out in groups of three to visit legislators. Our priorities concerned the state budget, pending legislation and out-of-control regulations:

- **Tariff relief** – Governor Hochul has earmarked \$30 million in the state budget for farmers impacted by tariffs. We're not sure how this money, if the legislature approves it, will be distributed. Will it go to farmers who dumped product when markets evaporated or to those who had to pay extra for imported supplies? We want the N.Y. Department of Agriculture to be involved.

- **Research** – The Farm Viability Institute, funded by the N.Y. Legislature, awards grants to innovative research projects chosen by a diverse panel of growers from around the state. Over the years, this research has led to increased yields in apple orchards, reduced pesticide applications and soil regeneration. Every year, farmers have to fight for adequate

funding.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility Act** – Since municipalities lose money trying to recycle paper and plastic, the EPR act shifts the cost to manufacturers and packagers. Agriculture, especially wineries, plant nurseries and dairies, use a lot of packaging, so we are naturally reluctant to shoulder these costs, considering we already have our backs to the wall. My group met with Assembly member Deborah Glick, who chairs the environmental conservation committee, to express our concerns. She wasn't swayed, since she introduced the EPR act. After 35 years in office, Glick is retiring at the end of her current term.

- **Labor** – This is a hot topic, considering that immigrants harvest a huge part of our food. It's a federal, not a state issue. But our state legislators, especially Agriculture Chair Michelle Hinchey, are trying to protect workers from overzealous ICE enforcement. Up until last week, it was Democrats who were promulgating legislation to rein in the federal agents, by requiring warrants, prohibiting intrusion in schools, churches, and courtrooms. Hinchey even signed a letter demanding that ICE and Border Patrol leave Minnesota immediately.

When my group stopped at State Senator Jack Ashby's office last Wednesday, we met with his legislative assistant Meaghan Rossbach, who announced that the senator was on the Senate floor introducing his new bill, the first from a state Republican limiting ICE. Rossbach calls this a "compromise," because it does not call for total ICE withdrawal. It fits into border czar Tom Homan's idea that enforcement should be targeted to specific individuals and that local police should cooperate when warrants are issued for undocumented criminal suspects.



Assembly member Andrea Bailey with her legislative assistant Amelia Rugiero of Wappingers Falls.

-Photo by Mark Adams

So now we have bipartisan support for some type of cool-down.

The Council of Ag Organizations recommends:

- Work authorization for current agricultural employees.
- Support for protecting our state's immigrant workforce from arrest, detention or deportation without due process.
- Opposition to permitting federal authorities to intrude on non-public areas

without a judicial warrant.

Failure to enact legislation to address the farm labor issue will force farms out of business, resulting in an increase in food imports from foreign sources.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

Polar Plunge at 3 Dutchess County locations for 2026

Hudson Valley's biggest winter tradition is back and bigger than ever. Beginning Friday, Feb. 27, hundreds of brave participants will take the plunge during the 28th Annual Polar Plunge, a signature fundraising event benefiting local athletes of Special Olympics New York.

New in 2026, Special Olympics New York will debut a brand-new mobile plunge unit - one of the first in the state, allowing the Polar Plunge to expand into a three-day, multi-location experience across Dutchess County. The enhanced format increases visibility, excitement,

and fundraising impact throughout the Hudson Valley.

All funds raised directly support year-round sports training, competition, leadership, and inclusion opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities at no cost to athletes or their families or caregivers.

2026 Dutchess County Polar Plunge
Pre-Registration check in and Day of Registration: 10-11:30 a.m.

Plunge Time: Noon
Day 1 – Friday, Feb. 27
Marist University
3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie
The mobile plunge tank will be located in the McCann Center parking lot, with additional festivities taking place inside the McCann Center.

Day 2 – Saturday, Feb. 28
Heritage Financial Park
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
Features include - music, heated event tents, portable restrooms, changing areas, vendor stations, food trucks, s'mores and campfire stations, and ample parking for team tailgating before or after the plunge.

Day 3 – Sunday, March 1
Eastdale Village Town Center
10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie
Includes music, a heated event tent, portable restrooms, and changing areas. Ample parking throughout the vicinity. Select Eastdale Village storefronts will be offering discounts to participating

plungers in support of the event.

All are welcome to participate in the Polar Plunge with a donation. Participants may register as individuals or form teams with friends, classmates, coworkers, or community groups. Advance registration is encouraged, though same-day registration will be available. All participants must complete required waivers prior to plunging and youth under eighteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants should bring a towel and a change of clothes. Designated heated changing areas will be available on site. The event will take place rain, light snow, or shine.

Fundraising Incentives & Challenges
Participants are encouraged to collect donations in advance to support Special Olympics New York.

\$25 minimum to participate in the plunge
\$125 to participate and receive a 2026 Polar Plunge hoodie

\$500 and participation all three days to complete the Trifecta Challenge
All Trifecta participants receive a Polar Plunge finisher medal

There is still time to register and get involved. Individuals and teams can sign up at PolarPlungeNY.org/DutchessCounty

For more information, contact Susanne O'Neil at soneil@nyso.org or 914-489-3301.

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:
2026 HOME IMPROVEMENT FUNDING
NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

Roof • Windows • Siding • Bathrooms • Heating & More

Is your home telling you it's time?

- ✓ Roof showing age, leaks, or storm damage
- ✓ Old, drafty windows driving up energy bills
- ✓ Outdated bathrooms or exterior issues
- ✓ Projects you "planned" to do-but put off because of cost

You may qualify for special home improvement funding programs not available to the general public.

- ✓ Lower out-of-pocket costs
- ✓ Spread payments over time
- ✓ Move forward without delaying needed work

Even homeowners who could pay cash are encouraged to check eligibility.

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED
Programs, appointments, and installations are available on a first-come, first-served basis in your area. Programs change frequently and may close without notice.

CALL NOW TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY
888-849-9991
or visit NyProgramFunding.com

APPROVED APPLICATIONS WILL HAVE THE WORK COMPLETED BY A QUALITY REPAIR CREW PROVIDED BY HOMEOWNER FUNDING. NOT AFFILIATED WITH STATE OR GOV PROGRAMS. LICENSE NY-RC-H-21274