

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Sugar Maple Activity Day at Stony Kill on Saturday



A Sugar Maple Activity Day will be held at Stony Kill Farm on Saturday, Feb. 24.

-Courtesy photo

### By Kristine Coulter

A Sugar Maple Activity Day will take place from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Feb. 24. at Stony Kill Farm, 79 Farmstead Lane, in Wappingers Falls

"All ages are welcome to attend and learn how to identify and tap a maple tree, play some outdoor games and learn the basics of backyard maple sugaring. We'll be cooking sap over a campfire while our team of Milking Devons demonstrate their oxen skills," said Stacey Lynch Adnams, program director at Stony Kill Farm.

Other activities will also be that day. "The livestock barn will also be open for tours with our volunteer barn guides. Attendees can visit our sheep, cows, chickens and turkeys," said Lynch Adnams.

The event will be set up at the south end of the property near our campfire circle which is located across from the big red livestock barn. There is a parking lot across from the barn with additional parking near the farm pond., said Lynch Adnams.

Are there any other organizations that are participating? "This is a small free event for families and all ages. We don't have additional organizations participating," explained Lynch Adnams.

She noted, "We'll post on our social media if we need to cancel due to inclement weather and hazardous driving conditions."

## Beacon Spring Celebration of Light set for Saturday

### By Kristine Coulter

Beacon residents Christine Wang and Jessica Jelliffe said they were inspired by the many cultures that celebrate the end of winter with light. That is how the Beacon Spring Celebration of Light began. The event is set for Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Polhill Park, Route 9D, in Beacon. The event organizers said the annual festivities will celebrate the coming spring, new year, light, hope, renewal and kids. The celebration is in collaboration with many community members, said Wang and Jelliffe.

"Festivities begin weeks before with Free Lantern Decorating Workshops with support from local organizations. 2024 is the Year of the Wood Dragon and we are excited to feature our signature handmade Dragon-themed giant lanterns surrounded by cloud lanterns. Everyone is welcome," said Jelliffe and Wang in an email to Beacon Free Press.

"This year, Beacon Spring collaborated with Howland Public Library and Beacon Farmers Market to offer three free Lantern Making Workshops, which are made possible with funding from Clara Lou Gould Fund for the Arts and support from Compass Arts ([www.compassarts.org](http://www.compassarts.org)) and Common Ground Farm ([www.commongroundfarm.org](http://www.commongroundfarm.org))," the organizers noted.

"The annual event will kick off with a Lantern-filled Parade from Polhill Park down Main Street accompanied by the Street Beat Brass Band ([www.streetbeat-brass.com](http://www.streetbeat-brass.com)), Compass Arts Drum Corps,



*The Beacon Spring Celebration of Light will be held on Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Polhill Park, Route 9D, in Beacon.*

-Photo by Simon Keogh

Beacon Bike Coalition with decked out bicycles, and local businesses with their personalized lanterns. The parade concludes at The YARD (4 Hanna Lane) where the party continues, and community members are welcome to arrive throughout the evening," according to the planners of the celebration.

Jelliffe and Wang said, "The celebration at The YARD will include tunes by DJ John Giunta, a send off of last year's Rabbit/Cat lantern and a welcoming for this year's Dragon lantern." Also that evening, DayDream Collaborative Clinic

*Continued on page 9*

## Mayor names 11 to Fishkill Ave. Concepts AD Hoc Committee

### By Kristine Coulter

Mayor Lee Kyriacou has completed a review of all applications received for the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Ad Hoc Committee. He has named 11 individuals to serve on the Committee. Kyriacou formally created the committee with a memorandum in November 2023. City officials thank all who spent time compiling their materials and for their thoughtful submissions.

The committee members are:

**J.C. Calderon:** An architect who lives in Beacon. J.C. has served on the Planning Board and will serve as committee chair.

**Yvonne Caruthers:** A cycling enthusiast who is retired. Yvonne is a relatively recent arrival to Beacon.

**Stephen Clair:** Runs the Beacon Music Factory on Route 52 at Delavan Ave. in the City. He lives in Beacon and has been in the City for 20 years.

**Garrett Duquesne:** A planner and community development commissioner for the Town of Greenburgh in Westchester County. He lives in Beacon and has worked on the committee to adjust City of Beacon ward boundaries after the 2010 census.

**Nick Guertin:** An architect involved in



*The members of the Fishkill Ave. Concepts Ad Hoc Committee have been named by City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou.*

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

community-based property development, who lives in Beacon and is a relative newcomer to the City.

**Jay Healey:** The Healey family are long-time owners of auto dealerships on Route 52 and contributors to the Beacon community.

**Atticus Lanigan:** An urban planner for

the City of Peekskill, who lives in Beacon and a recent arrival to the City.

**Brent Spodek:** A rabbi with Beacon Hebrew Alliance on Fishkill Ave., who lives in Beacon. Brent has been in Beacon for 15 years and has served on city committees.

*Continued on page 2*

# Howland Chamber Music Circle Founders Concert to feature pianist Ying Li

The Howland Chamber Music Circle concludes its piano festival with a rising star in the piano world, Ying Li, on Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Following the concert, audience members can meet Li and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket before they are gone, visit [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org). The Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

This concert has been designated as the Founders Concert for the 2023–2024 Season, in memory of HCMC founders Gwen and Bill Stevens.

Renowned for her “graceful, lyrical” playing (Cleveland Classical), 24-year-old Chinese pianist, Ying Li was the first prize winner of the 2021 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. Li has received top awards in numerous national and international com-

petitions and performed with many leading orchestras as soloist. Li’s program features piano masterworks by the timeless masters: François Couperin, Frédéric Chopin, Richard Strauss, Maurice Ravel, and Sergei Prokofiev.

New to the 2023–2024 season, they are introducing a pricing structure 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.

Since 1993, the Howland Chamber Music Circle has been bringing world-renowned musicians to perform for Hudson Valley audiences in Beacon. Come hear chamber music as it is meant to be heard.

For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.howlandmusic.org](http://www.howlandmusic.org).

*Ying Li*

-Photo by Shervin Lainez



## Mayor names 11 to Fishkill Ave. Concepts AD Hoc Committee

*Continued from cover*

**Brent Stapleton:** An English teacher who lives in Beacon just off Route 52, a relatively recent arrival to the City.

**Olga Tirado:** Runs a PR firm for local municipalities, who lives off of Route 52 and is a relative newcomer to the City.

**Jan Worthy:** Retired and lives off

Route 52. Has lived in Beacon for more than 30 years.

“I am grateful to Chair the Mayor’s Fishkill Avenue Concepts Ad Hoc Committee in 2024. It is an important opportunity for the City to better understand the Fishkill Ave corridor’s potential to improve public space for all of the City’s residents. The client will be the

City and its public realm, and not any one stakeholder or advocate,” Calderon told Beacon Free Press via email. “I also see it as a unique moment to remind the City’s occupants about past efforts in this area as we embark on a new future to improve the City’s growth and health. There are lessons from past city planning efforts, such as the Federal Government’s Urban Renewal initiatives of the 1970s, that we can learn from. We will seek input from all sectors of the public community. My goal is to seek ideas from all and to review precedent examples of urban street improvements including building use, transportation, bicycle and pedestrian access, that have been studied and built in other urban environments.”

Calderon said the committee will meet on Feb. 28th in the Beacon Recreation Center, 23 West Center St. This meeting is

not open to the public as it is the first meeting, Calderon explained. “But we will have meetings open to the public and will welcome all stakeholders to contribute their concerns,” he added.

Calderon said, “Initially we plan to review materials that have already been completed as part of committee work completed by city committees and advocates. We will also review our study area boundary and visit the site soon.”

In the announcement of committee members, Kyriacou stated: “Since that time (Nov. 2023), my office has received applications from over forty highly-qualified individuals who offered to lend their time and expertise to this important task. While I was not able to appoint everyone who applied, I offer my sincere gratitude for the outpouring of excitement and volunteerism.”

### Community Input Session on Land Bank Programs set for Feb. 26

A community Input Session will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7 p.m. at 92 Catherine St. in Poughkeepsie. Learn about the local land bank and provide input on ways the land bank can help address housing issues in the community.

For more information, visit [www.dcpoklandbank.org](http://www.dcpoklandbank.org) or call 845-293-3547.

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# AG: Takedown of 'gun trafficking network' that distributed counterfeit pills containing fentanyl



*The Office of the Attorney General provided photos of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl and firearms and ammunition recovered by the investigation.*

*-Courtesy photos*

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced on Feb. 14th the takedowns of a gun trafficking network that allegedly sold ghost guns and assault-style rifles and a narcotics trafficking network that distributed counterfeit oxycodone pills containing deadly amounts of fentanyl in Dutchess County. The takedowns recovered 31 firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, approximately 5,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl with a street value of about \$150,000, and approximately \$55,000 in cash, according to the AG's Office. As part of a 154-count indictment, four defendants are charged with trafficking numerous firearms, including ghost guns, assault weapons, and high-capacity magazines. In addition, a 63-count indictment charges seven defendants with trafficking thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl.

"The individuals arrested today (Feb. 14) operated a dangerous network that trafficked untraceable ghost guns and flooded New York communities with fentanyl," said James. "Today's takedowns send a clear message that we will not allow anyone to fuel the epidemics of gun violence and drug addiction with their illegal activities. This operation was made possible through my office's partnerships with state and local law enforcement, and I thank the New York State Police and our other partners for their hard work to bring these individuals to justice. I will continue to use my office to protect the safety of all New Yorkers."

According to law enforcement, the Feb. 14th takedowns were the result of an eighteen-month joint investigation led by the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) and the New York State Police's (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit – Hudson Valley (SIU-HV) and Troop K – Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (K-VGNET).

"I commend the New York Attorney General's Office, the members of our New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, and our VGNET team for their extraordinary work in dismantling these firearm and drug trafficking networks," said New York State Police Acting Superintendent Steven G. James. "Their vigilance has stopped the infiltration of these guns and the flow of deadly narcotics into our communities as well as the crimes that are perpetuated by them. Each arrest, each seizure saves lives."

The investigation began in April 2022 and centered around the activities of Muayad Qader, who allegedly sold firearms and drugs out of a Valero gas station in LaGrangeville where he worked, as well as his home in Poughkeepsie. During the investigation, the defendants and their co-conspirators allegedly utilized coded and cryptic terminology in an attempt to disguise their illicit activities, such as referring to ghost guns as "ghosties," and the counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl as "erks," "urks," and "percs."

The investigation included hundreds of hours of physical and covert surveillance, court-authorized wiretapping of cellular telephones, the analysis of electronic evidence, including cellular telephonic communications, and other traditional investigative operations, according to the OAG.



Substance (class A2 and B felonies), as well as Conspiracy to commit those crimes.

Those charged in the Feb. 14th two indictments include:

- Muayad Qader a/k/a "Junior," 34 years old, Poughkeepsie
- Joseph Silverman a/k/a "Joey," 30 years old, Port St. Lucie, Florida
- Louis Gonzalez, 53 years old, LaGrangeville,
- Jason Knapp, 43 years old, Verbank
- Isaiah Atkins, 27 years old, Poughkeepsie
- Christopher Evans, 34 years old, Poughkeepsie
- Stephen Gary, 39 years old, LaGrangeville
- Curtis Holland, 32 years old, Poughkeepsie
- Aaron Steppe, 29 years old, Poughkeepsie
- Angel Williams, 24 years old, Poughkeepsie

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The multi-agency investigation brought together the resources of state and local law enforcement agencies led by the Attorney General's OCTF, including NYSP K-VGNET, NYSP SIU-HV, and the Poughkeepsie Police Department.

The investigation was led by Investigators from NYSP SIU-HV, under the supervision of NYSP SIU Major Samuel Spezio and Lieutenant Jan Anthony, Investigators from NYSP K-VGNET, under the supervision of NYSP Troop K Major Kathryn Rohde and VGNET Lieutenant Trenee Young, and OCTF Detective Steven Cohan and OCTF Detective David Walsh, under the supervision of OCTF Detective Supervisor Bradford Miller, OCTF Downstate Assistant Chief Ismael Hernandez, and OCTF Deputy Chief Andrew Boss. The Attorney General's Investigations Division is led by Chief Oliver Pu-Folkes.

In addition to the above listed law enforcement partners, Attorney General James would also like to thank Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, and the Dutchess County Drug Task Force for their assistance throughout the investigation.

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## 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](mailto: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.
- 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 Southern Dutchess News 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.

### **Carmel school committee seeks names of students who made the ultimate sacrifice**

**To the Editor:**

The Carmel School Board's Facilities and Transportation Committee is endeavoring to identify the names of all Carmel High School students who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our nation in the armed forces. It is our hope to honor the sacrifice made by these heroes on a plaque to be placed in a prominent location at Carmel High School. The Carmel Central School District includes part of the Town of East Fishkill.

To date, we have identified the following Carmel High School students:

World War II - Sergeant John J. Cook and Second Lieutenant William Mahl. We also believe that Private Francis J. Adams may have been a Carmel High School student.

Korean War - Private First Class Richard F. Turpin

Vietnam War - Corporal James C. Foster Jr., Lieutenant Colonel Harry Roy Lagerwall, and Captain Edward I. Starr.

If you are aware of a former Carmel High School student who died while serving our country, please send an email to the following: [jcurzio1@carmelschools.org](mailto:jcurzio1@carmelschools.org), [vcrocco@carmelschools.org](mailto:vcrocco@carmelschools.org), [jparaskev@carmelschools.org](mailto:jparaskev@carmelschools.org), or [BOE@carmelschools.org](mailto:BOE@carmelschools.org). You can also call at 845-902-8477.

We thank the community for their assistance in helping honor our community's heroes.

John C. Curzio II  
Valerie Crocco  
Jason Paraskeva

Transportation and Facilities Committee, Carmel Board of Education

### **BEACON FREE PRESS**

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### **Ukrainian Americans mark painful Anniversary – February 24th**

**To the Editor:**

February 24th will be a painful reminder of the horrific Russian invasion, assault and ongoing atrocities levied on Ukraine and its people by Putin and his imperialistic lust for power.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, at 5 a.m., when Russia launched missile attacks on many Ukrainian cities. The invasion was the largest attack on a European country since World War II. This invasion was an escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that actually began in 2014. The 2014 annexation of Crimea by Russia was a clear violation of international law and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Prior to the 2022 invasion, there had been eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian government forces and Russia-backed separatists. These military atrocities against innocent civilians have been shockingly evident to the world, especially with the images coming out from Bucha, and have caused worldwide condemnation.

As members of The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, a Ukrainian American national organization established in New York City in 1925, our mandates are to preserve and educate about our culture, our ancestral history, our national identity, and to advocate for Ukraine's right to be a free, self-governing and democratic nation. As active community members of Dutchess and Ulster Counties, we are writing on behalf of our Hudson Valley Ukrainian diaspora.

The Ukrainians in Ukraine and we, as Ukrainian Americans, are so very thankful for the outpouring of support from around the world and especially the many-faceted aid from the United States. However, the longer this war continues, the more difficult it is to maintain Ukraine's defenses. Ukrainian troops are now being forced to ration their ammunition on the winter frontlines as Russia presses on. Understanding that the chances of a quick replenishment of weaponry are diminishing because of other world conflicts, Russia has stepped up its efforts to inflict maximum damage to the infrastructure and citizenry of Ukraine.

Ukrainians, as former prisoners of Soviet control, deeply understand that sacrificing Ukraine to Russia, as some have suggested, will only further whet Putin's power appetite and, with the support of his allies in the Middle East and the East, will eventually lead to a broader power grab.

We are urgently asking for the help of our fellow Americans to pressure our elected officials, through letters, emails or calls, to continue to support bipartisan agreement to approve crucial aid to Ukraine. Helping Ukraine now is not only morally required but also a matter of national security for our home, the United States.

The Vassar Alliance for Ukraine, in collaboration with the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices and the Office of International Services, will be holding a Vigil for Ukraine on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Peace Garden (near the Aula Building) on the campus of Vassar College. All are invited to attend.

On behalf of the members of The Ukrainian National Women's League of America,  
Branch 95

Mary Panchyshyn

Maria Cade Marianna Zajac,  
President, UNWLA Br 95 Vice President,  
Br 95 UNWLA Honorary President

### **Office hours with Central Hudson for Fishkill residents**

Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R,C - East Fishkill) announced a collaboration with the Town of Fishkill, bringing Central Hudson office hours exclusively to its residents. This initiative aims to provide an accessible platform for constituents to engage with Central Hudson representatives and address their service-related inquiries.

Residents of Fishkill now have the unique opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments with Central Hudson experts during these dedicated office hours. The sessions will be conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis, allowing

community members to secure their spots promptly.

Albra encourages Fishkill residents to take advantage of this valuable resource and engage with Central Hudson to seek answers to any questions they may have regarding energy services, billing, and more.

To request an appointment, visit the link: <https://forms.gle/GptLZMXqmE5o5Pqm7>.

Beephan said he looks forward to fostering a stronger connection between Fishkill residents and Central Hudson through this collaborative effort.

### **Beacon police seeks public help in finding vulnerable adult**

The City of Beacon Police Department released information about a missing vulnerable adult. Mark Camillo, a 62-year-old white male, is a missing vulnerable adult with schizophrenia and may be in need of medical attention, according to the police department. He was last seen wearing a red jacket, blue jeans, dark brown or black shoes, a brown winter knit hat with cream stripes, and black gloves. Camillo is 5'10" and weighs 200 pounds, according to information given by the police. He has brown hair and brown eyes.

Camillo may be in the local area or may travel to New York City, according to the police. The investigating agency is Beacon City Police Department, and its case number is 24-49030 AL.



**Mark Camillo**

## DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

**DCHS** Dutchess County Historical Society

[www.DCHSNY.org/ddp](http://www.DCHSNY.org/ddp)

### A Presidents' Day reminder of FDR's philatelic passion

By Melodye Moore

When Presidents' Day rolls around in February our thoughts generally focus on George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Those of us who live in Dutchess County, however, can expand our celebration by including stories of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the only President to serve for more than two terms. First inaugurated on March 4, 1933, he began his fourth and final term on January 20, 1945. Born on January 30, 1882 in Hyde Park, New York, he was passionately proud of his Hudson Valley roots; and "Springwood" remained his home throughout his life.

The collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society include everything from textiles, ceramics and paintings, to photographs, documents and ephemera. Recently two letters were found during a collections inventory that shed an interesting and humorous light on our own homegrown President.

On April 16, 1940, Charles E. Perkins sent the following to Postmaster General James A. Farley: *"I have no doubt that the Great White Father is having a lot of fun with his stamps. I have no doubt that many other philatelists are having a lot of fun with his stamps. Perhaps you are having a lot of fun with his stamps, but I rather doubt it. But if you were going to depict a pony express rider, why in Heaven's name didn't you get someone who knew something about a horse to draw the design? The horse, as now depicted could not get himself into that position unless possibly in the agony of bird staggers, and if he did get himself into that position the mail would still be at Saint Joe. Or is this just another cute quirk of our Great White Father's Mind?"*

Perkins, born in 1881 in Burlington, Vermont, was a classmate of Roosevelt's at Harvard and became a successful businessman. Like his father before him he became the President of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and later was a Director of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He relocated to Santa Barbara, California c. 1933-1934 and ultimately retired to "Alisal," a ranch in

the Santa Ynez Valley where indulged his passion for thoroughbred horses. He was well qualified to comment on the pony express horse depicted on the stamp.

Farley was born in 1881 in Grassy Point, New York in the Town of Stony Point. Known as a political "kingmaker" in New York State politics, he ran FDR's 1928 and 1930 gubernatorial campaigns and the presidential campaigns of 1932 and 1936. He assumed the chairmanship of the New York State Democratic Committee in 1930, a position he held until 1944. In 1933 the President appointed Farley to the position of Postmaster General, considered by many to be the highest political patronage job in the nation. The political alliance between the two men was broken in 1940 when Farley opposed FDR's ambition to run for a third term, with Farley going so far as to run in opposition to Roosevelt at the July Democratic National Convention in Chicago. FDR went on to win in a landslide at the convention and the following month Farley resigned as Postmaster General.

And of course, "the Great White Father" was FDR. A stamp collector from childhood, it was observed by many that during the war years he turned to his stamp collection as a source of relaxation and solace. It is estimated that the President collected nearly one million stamps during his lifetime. Numerous photographs of the President were released by the White House during the war years depicting him enjoying his hobby.

The stamp referenced in the Perkins letter was a three-cent stamp issued on April 3, 1940, the 80th anniversary of the first trip made by Pony Express from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. The stamp was henna brown and pictured a rider leaving a relay station with a parcel of mail.

The second letter relative to this event was written by Oakleigh Thorne to Peter Troy on April 19, 1940, a mere three days after the Perkins to Farley letter. Troy was native to Dutchess County and, as a young man, organized the Red Hook Telephone Co. He was active locally in the Democratic Party, a delegate to two national conventions and



Above left: 1940 US Postage Stamp celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Pony Express, likely influenced in design by then President Franklin Roosevelt. Above right: By 1960 and the Pony Express' 100th anniversary, a galloping horse was depicted in a more likely stance.

-Courtesy image

hosted an event in Hyde Park where Roosevelt was notified of his first nomination for President. Oakleigh Thorne was born in 1866 in New Hamburg, Dutchess County, the fourth generation of his family to settle in the county. One of his first business ventures was the consolidation of the brickyards along the Hudson River and by 1900 he had moved to New York City where he was the Vice President of the Banking and Trust Co. of America. In 1918 he returned to Dutchess County and bought Briarcliff Farm in the Town of Pine Plains where he became a renowned breeder of champion Angus cattle. Proof that Troy and Thorne were colleagues of Roosevelt is found in the July 24, 1931 edition of the Millbrook Roundtable, which reported that Peter H. Troy was serving as chair of the upcoming Governor's Day Program scheduled to take place on August 1 at Thorne's Briarcliff Farm.

At the time the second letter was written Thorne, like Perkins, was a resident of Santa Barbara, California. In it Thorne informs Troy about the recently issued stamp and echoing Perkins' comments says *"the stamp referred to depicts a horse supposedly running with a cowboy on his back. As a matter of fact, the horse is running on his hind legs and trotting with his front legs and if any horse undertook to do this he undoubtedly would fall or get his legs so mixed up that he could not go any distance."* Thorne implores Troy to make sure that Perkins' original letter, enclosed therein, makes it to Farley personally. Thorne closes his letter by commenting *"it strikes me as amusing."* It is hard to imagine what the correspondents hoped to accomplish with their letters other than to have a good laugh at the President's expense.

Locally it is known that FDR played a major micro-managerial role in the architectural design of the 5 Dutchess County post offices built under the WPA during his Presidency. What is less known but certainly predictable is that, given his lifelong interest in stamps, he assumed the same role in the design of United States stamps.

According to the National Postal Museum Roosevelt brainstormed with Farley over stamp designs, colors and themes and actually sketched numerous ideas for stamp designs. The FDR Presidential Library estimates that he contributed to the design of more than 200 postage stamps. "Delivering Hope," a 2009 exhibit at the Postal Museum in Washington that is available online, shows six original sketches by FDR for stamp designs.

As an aside one wonders how enthusiastically Farley participated in these joint design sessions as the Perkins to Farley letter states *"Perhaps you are having a lot of fun with his stamps, but I rather doubt it."*

Whether or not FDR participated in the design of the "Pony Express" stamp is not currently known, but it is certainly possible. What is known though through these two letters is that his equine friends didn't miss the opportunity to poke irreverent fun at both the stamp and the "Great White Father."

Today the "Pony Express" stamp can be purchased online for anywhere from 35 cents to \$7.20, depending on the condition. One wonders if the philatelists of today appreciate the aspects of the design that alarmed and frustrated the horse enthusiasts of 1940. After FDR's death his prized stamp collection was controversially sold through auction; and even today interested stamp collectors can still find pages of his collection online and own part of a Presidential collection.

Enjoy Presidents' Day, and instead of getting caught up paying reverence to our former Presidents, let us imagine the human side of a President whose friends had the freedom to poke fun at the "Great White Father" and his understanding of the anatomy of a horse.

Melodye Moore is a long-standing Board member of DCHS, Chair of its Collections Committee, regular contributor to the DCHS Yearbook, and develops a wide range of programs. More information at [www.DCHSNY.org](http://www.DCHSNY.org).

### 'Lines of Demarcation' film screening set for Feb. 29 in Beacon

Our West End Story Project community partners, the Rise Up Project of St. Andrew's-St. Luke's Church and Foundation for Beacon Schools invite all to a screening of "Lines of Demarcation" at 6 p.m. on Feb. 29. The community-made oral history project explores the lived experiences of senior residents from Beacon's Black communities throughout the 20th century.

Following the screening there will be a Q&A moderated by I Am Beacon with the project creators and participants.

Reserve your free tickets. Select the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., in Beacon as the location when registering.

For more information about adult programs contact Michelle Rivas at [community@beaconlibrary.org](mailto:community@beaconlibrary.org).

### Central Hudson to begin work on utility pole relocation on Route 9D

During the week of February 19, Central Hudson will begin site work on the east side of Route 9D, just north of the Breakneck tunnel in the Town of Fishkill, to relocate utility poles from the west side of Route 9D.

This preparatory work will include regrading and targeted tree removal.

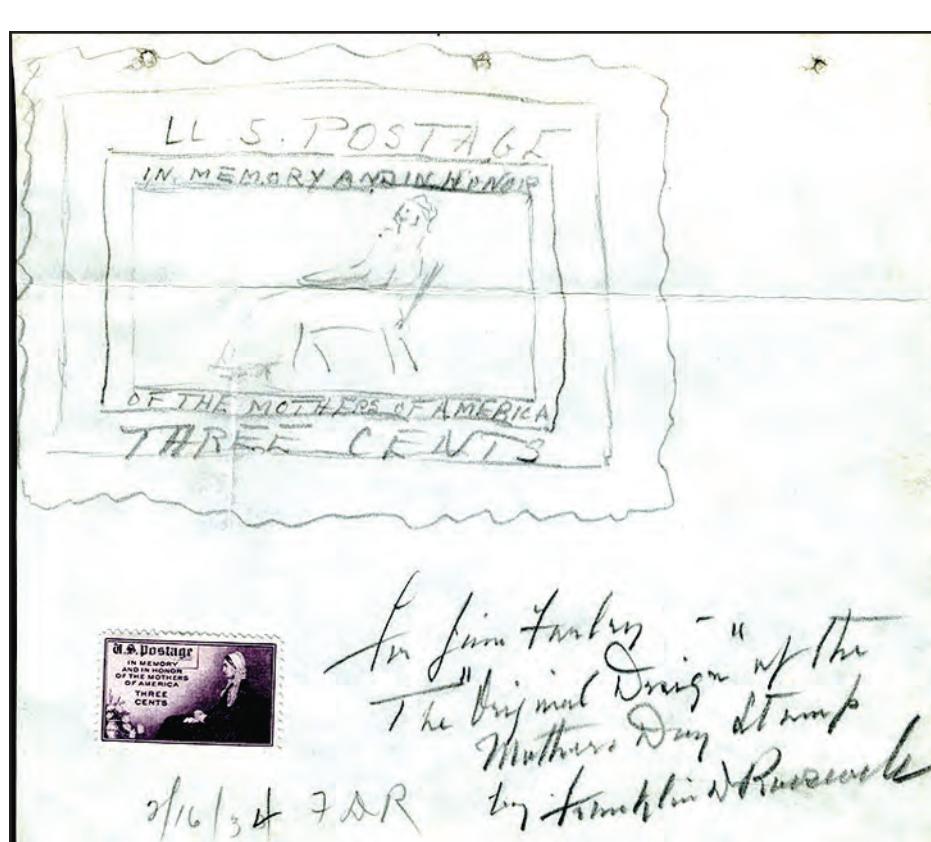
Work is expected to be completed by June. Route 9D will remain open, but the site work could cause some minor periodic traffic delays, as well as short-term closures at the Breakneck and Wilkinson Memorial trailheads and associated trail parking areas.

### County Executive Serino to deliver 2024 State of the County Address on March 14

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino will present her 2024 State of the County Address on March 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Red Hook High School, 103 W. Market St., in

Red Hook.

One may RSVP online at [www.dutchessny.gov/RSVP](http://www.dutchessny.gov/RSVP).



Above: A 1934 sketch and note from FDR to postmaster Jim Farley revealing FDR's heavy influence in the design of the three-cent stamp recognizing Mother's Day.

-Image Courtesy Smithsonian National Postage Museum.

## VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

# The 'Tommy' Zurhellen Fund

Many of you may know the name "Tommy" Zurhellen – he has long been a passionate advocate for veterans and their families. What you may not know is that there is a special grant fund named in his honor offered through our Dutchess County Veterans' Services to help veterans who are trying to reintegrate into the community and achieve a measure of self-sufficiency.

The fund was established in 2020 by former County Executive Marc Molinaro in recognition and honor of Mr. Zurhellen for all of his efforts on behalf of veterans, notably his walk across the country from Portland, Oregon to Poughkeepsie to draw attention to veteran homelessness and rising suicide rates. His walk also raised money for Hudson River Housing's VetZero project which provides vets with rides to important appointments like doctor's appointments and job interviews.

The Tommy Zurhellen fund provides one-time assistance to veterans and their families during times of emergency and /

or financial crisis that may arise unexpectedly. This could include something like a boiler breaking down or other situations that could compromise the vet's ability to maintain or secure stable housing, access job training opportunities, or acquire employment such as transportation to and from a job or job interview.

Dutchess County veterans can apply for funding up \$750 for an individual or \$1,500 for a veteran and their spouse. To be eligible, the veteran can't be seeking financial help from another entity for the same need. Award checks are issued directly to the vendor, service provider or landlord requiring the payment.

Many of the vets I know who have received assistance from the Zurhellen Fund during a critical time of facing challenges of daily life, have told me they almost didn't take the time to apply for the money. They've said the paperwork seemed too cumbersome or they had feeling of inadequacy about how they couldn't make ends

meet on their own. However, once they realized not following through only hurt themselves and their families and they applied for the assistance, a feeling of gratitude inevitable followed.

Since the fund's inception, we at the Division of Veterans' Services have helped scores of veterans obtain financial help from the Zurhellen Fund, and it is our desire to make the process of obtaining the grant as smooth as possible. Call our office and our staff will gladly advise you and walk you through what type of emergency needs would qualify for obtaining the grant and what documentation you would need to bring to complete the application process.

No veteran should ever feel awkward about seeking help as they reintegrate back into civilian life. It is well documented that the transition is challenging to a significant percentage of the nation's returning veterans. In fact, a comprehensive 2019 Pew Research survey indicated that 46 percent of veterans

who had some combat experience indicated this adjustment was difficult, as opposed to just 18 percent who did not see combat. The number is even higher if someone has dealt with some form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

We understand the challenges of returning to civilian life because we have lived it too. All of the counselors you will meet here at the Division of Veterans' Services have served in the armed forces and it is our heartfelt calling to assist our brothers and sisters make this transition as easy as possible. The Tommy Zurhellen Fund is just one of the many ways Dutchess County stands alongside those who served our country.

If you are facing a financial challenge and have questions about our Tommy Zurhellen Fund, please contact us at Veterans' Services. Our offices are located at the Veterans One Stop at 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley; you can call us at 845-486-2060; email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov or visit our webpage at www.DutchessNY.gov/veterans.



## SPORTS REPORT

### *Renegades to honor Newburgh Gorhams*

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, announced that for their game on Friday, August 2 against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws they will take the field as the Newburgh Gorhams, paying tribute to one of the first all-black professional baseball teams in the United States.

"The Gorhams are an integral part of baseball history in the Hudson Valley and are one of the best and most important professional teams of the early days of baseball," said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "We are so excited to be bringing them back to life to make sure their legacy is remembered for their significance to

both our Hudson Valley and professional baseball communities."

"The rich history of America's pastime runs directly through the Hudson Valley," said Dutchess County Legislator Randy Johnson. "In the nascent days of baseball, all-black professional clubs such as the Newburgh Gorhams overcame obstacles that would seem insurmountable to the modern fan and in the process paved the way for generations of future ballplayers. The story of baseball, and the story of America for that matter, cannot be told without telling the story of clubs such as the Gorhams. I am thrilled that the Hudson Valley Renegades will honor their

legacy this season and I greatly look forward to this historic event."

According to research conducted by Bob Mayer, the New York Gorhams were organized in 1886 in New York City by Ambrose Davis, a saloon owner, and his business partner Phillip Snipper. They got their name from Alexander Gorham, another Manhattan saloon owner who operated an establishment on the same block as Davis.

Though the Gorhams are not the first known all-Black professional baseball team, Davis is the first known African-American team owner in professional sports.

After spending 1886 barnstorming and

playing exhibitions against other New York-area professional and amateur teams, the Gorhams joined the League of Colored Baseball Players, the first-ever all-black professional baseball league, which featured teams in Boston, Pittsburgh, New York, Louisville, Baltimore and Philadelphia, in 1887. The Gorhams beat the Pittsburgh Keystones 11-8 in the league's first-ever game on May 6, but by May 23 the league folded due in part to financial and travel issues among the clubs.

Still, even for that brief time, it was still precedent setting and deserves to be honored.

### **Wrestlers qualify for state finals**

Paschal at 124 and 285 pounds respectively, qualified for the state championships Feb. 23 and 24 in Albany.

They will be joined by Our Lady of Lourdes sophomore Bryce Reilly, who won the sectional Division II title at 108 pounds. Four other wrestlers from

Highland, New Paltz and Marlboro also claimed individual titles and advanced to the state tournament.

Arlington's Dillon Arrick and Michael Mauro of John Jay won their respective weight classes in the Section 1 tournament and also advanced to the state cham-

pionships, completing a strong local contingent that will compete in Albany.

OLL sophomore Connor Wilson was second at 152 pounds, and teammate senior Ivan Huenis was second at 160. OLL's Tristan McCormack took third at 145 pounds.

### **Poughkeepsie HS girls basketball team grabs historic playoff win over Yonkers**

For the first time in 12 years, the Poughkeepsie High School girls basketball team has won a postseason game. The Pioneers, seated 14th in Section

1, Class AA, whipped No. 19 Yonkers, 78-31.

Eighth-grade sensation Mahogany Felix had 20 points in the win.

Poughkeepsie was probably unlikely to defeat No. 3 Harrison on the road in the next round, but the first postseason victory in a dozen years was significant

nonetheless. Nyla Anderson added 14 points for the Pioneers. MoNahjae Dickens scored 13.

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# Hard work, determination prove injury 'can't stop' WKZE DJ

**By Rich Thomaselli  
and Curtis Schmidt**

This is a story about hard work and belief - a veritable lesson in resilience and faith.

And it all starts - and ends - with the pinky finger.

On Easter Sunday April 17, 2022 DJ Rick Schneider, Music Director and host of "The Up And Running Morning Show" on 98.1 WKZE Radio, had an accident and tore a tendon in his pinky finger while collecting and storing some wood.

At first, he didn't know what to think.

"It was like a mind melt. The finger wouldn't move. All I kept thinking was, 'What is happening here?' My brain cannot move my finger," he said.

Schneider was obviously in great pain.

"So I went to my doctor and he was in disbelief and exclaimed, 'What the \*\*\*\* did you do to your hand?'

"I knew I was in trouble. My doctor did not sugarcoat the situation," said Schneider.

The physician said he couldn't do much and advised him to see a hand specialist.

So, he left the doctor's office and headed straight to a specialist in Kingston. After X-rays and an MRI exam, it was confirmed to be a torn tendon, actually the top tendon, which is needed to bend the finger.

Schneider was told that he had only two choices – live with the now-deformed finger or have surgery in which there was only a 50-percent chance he would regain the use of the movement and function of the finger.

And there was/is another compounding problem. Schneider didn't just want to regain use of the small finger for his regular job at WKZE and do household chores. He is also a guitarist in a local band called "Mister Roper."

Yes, the inspiration was the American character Mister Roper (played by John Saxon) in the 1973 Bruce Lee Kung Fu Classic "Enter The Dragon" with a touch of the landlord of the apartment building from the TV show "Three's Company."

## Guitar-playing passion

"Playing guitar," said Schneider "is my joy, my passion, my escape, my everything."

So he opted for the surgery, a "Z-Plasty," and the subsequent rehabilitation. But in what Schneider called a blunt, honest assessment by the medical crew, he was told that in order for this process to have a chance at succeeding, he would need to attend rehab sessions at least twice a week. He was told they would not be sure what the results would be due to scar tissue and the physical healing process, and if he wanted to play the guitar again, he had to work and work hard.

There was a lot of uncertainty, but it WAS his desire and goal to play guitar again. Most people, he was told, went to rehab, did the bare minimum and hoped for the best. But doing the bare minimum was unacceptable to Schneider, who quickly realized that if you don't put in the work, you won't reap the results that you want.

He said, "What I learned from myself being in therapy, it was scientific and kind of amazing. I had a tendon injury and pretty much what the rehab people and the doctor told me was 'This is no man's land and we mean this in the



DJ Rick Schneider, of 98.1 WKZE Radio, is back playing his favorite guitar after a rehabilitation process of over a year on his injured pinky finger.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt



The pinky finger is just as important as the index, middle and ring fingers when forming guitar chords.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

worst possible way. If there was a list of injuries that we can list and go from worse to best, yours is right up there with the worst."

Grim news, to be sure. But it only further motivated Schneider.

"I told my therapists that I was committed to do the work it would take for me to be able to play the guitar again," he said. "They informed me I might not get back 100 percent mobility of my finger. I told them I would work as hard as I could so I can bring back as much percentage that I could. I needed to be able to put pressure on the tip of my finger where the injury was to be able to press the string down against the fret of the guitar, and also be able to bend

my finger, so it doesn't mute all the strings, and just play one note at a time."

## Not 100 percent yet

So after 12 difficult weeks of Occupational Therapy at Ivy Rehab in

Kingston, immediately following his surgery, the therapists told Schneider "You are doing so great. At this point we consider you 100 percent."

But he responded, "No, I'm sorry I'm not." The therapists said they consider being able to hold a broom, move a vacuum cleaner, hold the steering wheel, etc... and your finger with that much bending and mobility to be 100 percent.

"I said 'thank you so much for all the work that you've done so far... but unacceptable!' I want to keep going. I need to have the dexterity that I'd like to have to be able to play the guitar and have that joy in my life. It's missing."

So, the therapists decided to extend his therapeutic prescription another 6 to 12 weeks, noting they were so happy with his progress and the work that he was doing.

"They told me that in order to get the results that you want, 'you also have to go home and repetitively do the exercises we ask you to do.' I complied," said Schneider.

One of the therapists surprised him when he came to his next appointment. She said "To understand and help you, we watched guitar players on YouTube and came up with a formula of how often the pinky is used while a guitar player is playing."

Schneider said, "I was so appreciative of the fact that they actually did research and wanted to help me get the results that I wanted. They even helped make prosthetic devices that would try to bend my finger the way I wanted it to bend. I thanked them for all their help, guidance and encouragement."

"The whole experience of rehab was so enlightening to me," Schneider said. "The pinky is every bit as important as the other fingers. I would never want to lose it!"

After six months post surgery, he started playing guitar live again. He was slowly getting most of his dexterity back. Schneider was still frustrated his finger did not bend like it formerly did. The therapists at his final appointment said, "Trust us. In another six-nine months, the swelling will go down further, and you will have even more dexterity and bending."

Six-nine months seemed daunting at the time. "To play a barre chord, you have to have all fingers on the guitar at once," he said.

But time and healing are still progressing to this day and he plans to record and more live "Mister Roper" shows in the near future.

Sounds like he has a firm grasp on the situation.

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## hudson valley naturalist

# The Hudson Valley is the 'Catbird Seat' for Bald Eagle sightings

*Editor's note: This week, the Beacon Free Press is introducing a new columnist - Francine Wizner. Her columns will appear every other week.*

I first learned about nearby nesting Bald Eagles when I visited an informational maple syrup presentation at Bowdoin Park in March 2023. I only had my cell phone with me and did not get any great pictures of the birds. I made a couple of return trips with my digital camera, but vowed to return to make better efforts in the future.

Since Bald Eagles often live within two-and-a-half miles of water bodies, the Hudson River Valley gives them perfect hunting grounds for their main food sources. From Tivoli in the north, to Poughkeepsie, and Beacon in the south - and anywhere in between - if you are in Dutchess County, keep your eyes peeled skyward looking for these massive birds.

If the river is visible, you may see Bald Eagles on ice floes during winter or having a meal on an island. The birds most actively feed from 7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 5 p.m., though this may vary according to temperature and other factors such as how recently they last ate. Be prepared to wait a while. Eagle viewing requires patience.

Since winter is the best time to view Bald Eagles, remember to dress warmly and bring along a hot beverage. If you are able to stay in the warmth of your car, that is desirable. December through February allows an unfettered view of eagles in trees, sans foliage. But the freezing tem-



Two majestic Bald Eagles.

-Photo by Robert Rightmyer

peratures of winter are not for the faint of heart. I would certainly be selective when choosing the best Bald Eagle viewing days!

There are several places within Dutchess County that Bald Eagles have been known to roost and may provide some sightings of these fine-feathered fish-eaters. Kayaking on the Hudson will get you great access, but if you prefer to remain on terra firma, there are several attractions that provide free access with clear views of the Hudson River and, thus, afford opportunities for Bald Eagle viewing. They are: Tivoli Bays Natural Heritage Area and Poet's Walk, both in Red Hook; Wilderstein Historic Site,

Rhinebeck; Vanderbilt Mansion Historic Site and FDR Historic Site, both in Hyde Park; The Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, and Locust Grove all in Poughkeepsie; Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls; and Madam Brett Park in Beacon, at the mouth of Fishkill Creek.

I am merely a science-minded person, not an ornithologist. According to my internet research, Bald Eagles may become distressed during nesting. Be mindful of this and observe them from a distance with binoculars or a long camera lens. Refrain from loud noises: honking horns, door slamming, radios playing, yelling, etc. Keep pets at home and don't do anything to try to make



the birds fly. Harassing or disturbing a Bald Eagle is a federal offense and carries heavy penalties.

My last trip out to Bowdoin Park yielded only the accompanying photo of a massive nest. Hopefully I'll have better luck next time.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over three 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 [gertrudekatzenchronicles.com/](http://gertrudekatzenchronicles.com/) and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>.



A Bald Eagle's nest.

## Local author releases new book

"Walking In Her Own Shoes: A Journey of Faith" is written by a local author Bree

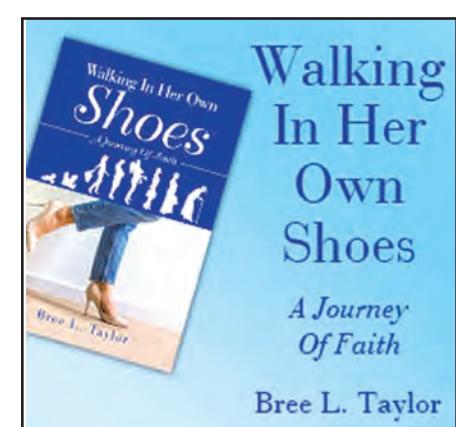
L. Taylor. The story is about Ariana and her childhood, journeying through her

teens, and then through her mid-twenties, in which she faces one trial after another. She was tested time and time again.

As the product of two controlling parents, who loved through discipline, they desired to mold their children into who they wanted them to be, leaving no room for individuality.

As she matures, Ariana fights her way through obstacles, often coming to terms and persevering through what life is handing her, and what her purpose is in the vast canvas of her life, according to information from the author. The journey it cost her is sad, trying, and wonderful in many ways.

Ariana longs to discover her place and purpose and where in life she needs to be. Ariana's journey is extraordinary and her will to persevere and succeed through faith is remarkable. As she matures, she realizes many of the "whys" that brought her through each trial. Her path also crosses others that have had obstacles to overcome and sometimes those trials cost them – turning the course of their lives.



The cover of the new book, "Walking In Her Own Shoes, A Journey Of Faith" by Bree L. Taylor.

-Courtesy image

"Walking In Her Own Shoes" may be ordered from online bookstores, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble. One may also order a copy from Westbow Press.

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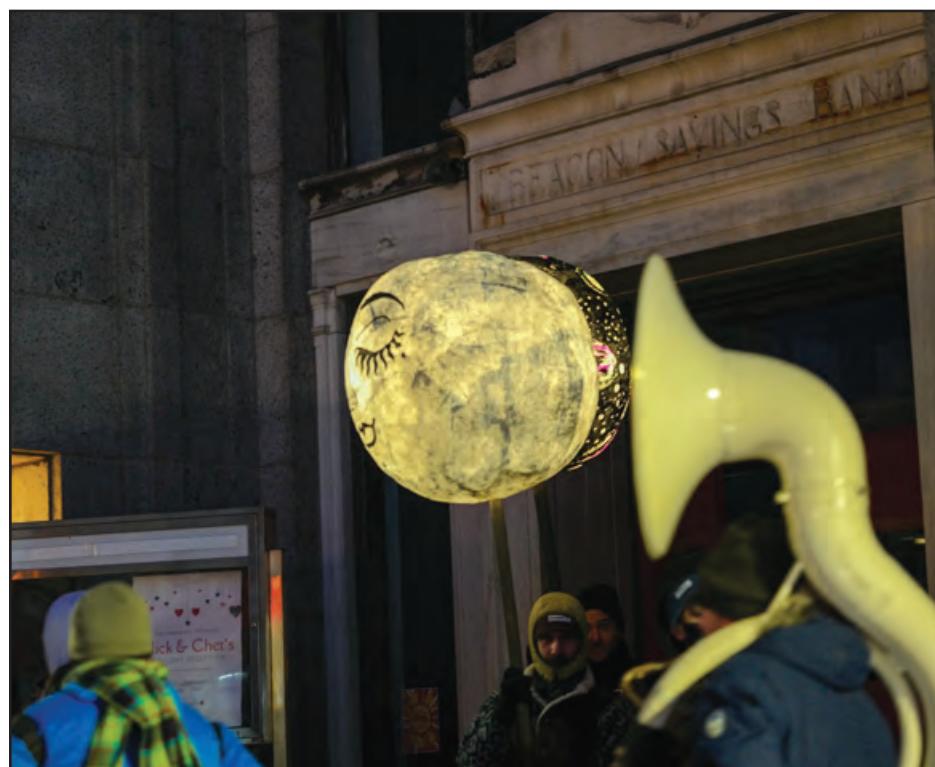
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# Celebration of light set for Saturday



**The Beacon Spring Celebration of Light is set for Feb. 24 at Polhill Park in Beacon.**

-Photo by Simon Keogh

## Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee names Andrew O'Grady Grand Marshal

The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade will step off on Saturday March 2. The parade committee recently announced the 2024 Grand Marshal is Andrew O'Grady. O'Grady was selected because of his outstanding service throughout the community, stated the committee.

O'Grady is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College. He is the CEO of Mental Health America of Dutchess County. He has 32 years of dedicated service to those affected by mental illness and the mental health professionals and systems that treat those individuals. One of the biggest growth areas for MHA under O'Grady's leadership is in working with the Veterans Department. O'Grady is very proud of his Irish heritage, and the committee applauds his dedication to family, service and the community.

The Dutchess County Parade, which is held in the Village of Wappingers Falls, has grown into an event that attracts thousands of participants and spectators from near and far.



**Andrew O'Grady**

For additional parade information kindly visit the website at [www.dcsppc.org](http://www.dcsppc.org) or call 845-297-0800.



*Continued from cover*

([www.daydreamclinic.com](http://www.daydreamclinic.com)) will be hosting an area for healing and reflection. Sandwiches and hot dogs, with vegetarian sides also available, will be served from Barb's Butchery ([https://www.barbsbutchery.com/](http://www.barbsbutchery.com/)).

All food and drinks are available with both paid and free options, said Jelliffe and Wang.

Jelliffe and Wang offered thanks to the City of Beacon and sponsors and collaborators for supporting the event: Banana Bag & Bodice, Barb's Butchery, BeaconArts, Beacon Bike Coalition, Compass Arts Creativity Project,

DayDream Collaborative Clinic, Kinoserge, The Howland Public Library, Michael Eaton, Pam Koeber-Dieboll, Simon Keogh, Street Beat Brass Band, The Landmark, The YARD and Thundercut.

"Much gratitude to all of the volunteers, especially our volunteer coordinators Monika Aymar-Blair and Amy Miklos and fundraising powerhouse Alena Brown Morgan," organizers said.

Organizers. Beacon Spring Celebration of Light is fiscally sponsored by BeaconArts.

For donations and sponsorship opportunities, one may visit: [beaconspring.org](http://beaconspring.org) or email: [beaconspringny@gmail.com](mailto:beaconspringny@gmail.com).



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**Dr. Lynette Louise** - Brain Change Expert, Global Speaker, Author

**Ed Mitzen** - Philanthropist, Entrepreneur, Executive - Business For Good

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# Obituaries

## Daniel C. Cable Sr.



BEACON - Daniel C. Cable Sr., a lifelong Beacon resident, passed away unexpectedly on February 10, 2024 at the Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh; he was 66 years old. He was born in Beacon, NY at the Highland Hospital, son of the late Charles W. Cable and Shirley Ann (Babcock) Urspruch.

On July 2, 1976 in Beacon, NY, he married JoAnn Piga, who survives at home.

Dan worked for 28-years, up until his passing, for the school bus transportation company, First Student, Inc. in Poughkeepsie, NY; where he had been supervisor for many years.

Dan loved the outdoors, whether it was mowing lawns, hunting or spending summer vacations at Great Lake Sacandaga in the Adirondacks; he loved being on his boat on

the lake.

Along with his beloved wife of 47-years of marriage JoAnn Cable, Dan is survived by his two sons: Daniel C. Cable Jr., and his companion Jessica Garcia; Jason M. Cable Sr., and his companion Rosalie Hogan; his grandchildren, Alyssa, Isabella, Jason Jr., and Antonio, and great-grandson Lorenzo. He is also survived by his brothers & sisters: Charles Cable, William Cable, Cherry Rivera, Candy Santiago and Lou Ann Cable.

Along with his parents, Dan was sadly predeceased by a granddaughter Jasmine.

His Family received Friends on Friday, February 16th at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, New York. Interment will be private at the discretion and convenience of his family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial donations to be made in memory of Dan to either the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), P.O. Box 1129, Beacon, NY 12508 or the Mid-Hudson Animal Aide, 54 Simmons Ln., Beacon, NY 12508. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://www.LibbyFuneralHome.com).

## Thomas J. Healey



FISHKILL - Thomas J. Healey, a lifelong resident of Glenham, passed away at home on February 17, 2024. He was 61 years old.

Thomas was born on September 7, 1962 in Beacon, the son of the late Thomas F. and Walterette LoPrimo Healey. Thomas served in the U.S. Airforce until he was honorably discharged in 1982. He was employed as a carpenter and machinist at many different companies locally. He was also an artist.

Thomas is survived by his brother, David Healey; his many nieces and nephews and extended family.

In addition to his parents, Thomas was predeceased by his sister, Mary Elizabeth

Healey; his brothers, Matthew Joseph Healey and James Andrew Healey; his aunt and uncle, Olga and Benny Mihanovich; his grandmother, Matilda LoPrimo.

Family and friends will gather on Tuesday, February 20 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, February 21 at 10 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. Burial with military honors will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

## Vanessa A. Reed



Vanessa A. Reed, a life-long Beacon resident, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2024 with her granddaughter Lacole by her bedside at the The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing at River Valley in Poughkeepsie, NY; she was 70 years old. She was born in Beacon, NY on August 26, 1953, daughter of the late David Bugg and Jean (Johnson) Talley.

On July 25, 1970, she married David Reed, who predeceased her on March 28, 1994.

Early on in her life, she worked as a printer at the Tuck Tape Manufacturing Plant in Beacon. Vanessa was a former member of the Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon, where she was an usher and even was recognized by "The Adult Ushers Ministry" for always going above and beyond the call of duty. She

often enjoyed music, food, shopping, and loved elephants and would collect memorabilia.

Vanessa is survived by her son David Reed, and a host of grandchildren & great-grandchildren, particularly her granddaughter Lacole Reed, who was her caregiver for the last several years. She is also survived by 9 sisters, 1 brother, and several nieces & nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, Vanessa was predeceased by 1 brother, 1 sister, and 1 grandson.

Her Family & Friends will gather on Thursday, February 22 from 5-9pm at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, New York; followed by a private cremation. Interment will be private at the discretion of her family. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://www.LibbyFuneralHome.com)

## James O. Murtaugh



GLENHAM - James O. Murtaugh, a longtime Glenham resident, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on February 8, 2024, at the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare Montrose Facility; he was 76 years old. He was born in Cold Spring, NY on July 8, 1947, son of the late Fred Murtaugh and Mildred (Jaycox) Tomlins.

James attended Haldane Central Schools in Cold Spring, NY. Upon the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp, serving from 1964 to 1968. He served abroad in Vietnam from 1967-68, upon his completion, he received an honorable discharge for his service, where he ended rank as a Sergeant.

On December 23, 1971, in Beacon, NY, he married Susan C. Kitzweger, who survives him at home.

James was an active Life-Member of the

Slater Chemical Fire Department of Glenham, for many years. He served as past-President and was a past-Fire Police Captain. Aside from the firehouse, James enjoyed traveling and going on cruises with his wife Susan; and even visiting Vietnam post-military. He loved simple things, like riding his Vespa around and his beloved dog Rambo who predeceased him.

Along with his beloved wife of 52-years of marriage, James is survived by his daughter Sue (Joe) Antonio; his son Mike (Amanda) Murtaugh; his four grandchildren Joey and Katie Antonio & James and Michael Murtaugh. He is also survived by his sister Pam (Jeff) Singleton.

His Family received Friends on Tuesday, February 13th at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, NY, where a Celebration of Life was on Wednesday, February 14th followed by interment to the Fishkill Rural Cemetery; where military honors were rendered by the United States Marine Corp.

His Family would like to thank the compassionate & caring staff of 6AB at the VA Hudson Valley HCS, Montrose Campus. In lieu of flowers, please send donation to the Slate Chemical Fire Dept., P.O. Box 391, Glenham, NY 12527 or VA Hudson Valley HCS, Attn: Volunteer Service, 2094 Albany Post Rd., Montrose, NY 10548. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://www.LibbyFuneralHome.com)

## Sandra Jackson



EAST FISHKILL - Sandra Jackson, 85, a lifelong resident, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on February 16, 2024.

Born in Poughkeepsie on April 21, 1938, Sandra was the daughter of the late John and Doris (Seaman) Ossenkop. On December 28, 1958 in Hopewell Junction, Sandra married Verne Wright Jackson who predeceased her in 2019 after 61 years of marriage.

Verne and Sandra lived a life of service and generosity to others. Sandra served for several years as a member of Wicopee Fire Company and EMT for the East Fishkill Rescue Squad. She was a devoted member of Bethel Baptist Church, Shenandoah. She loved playing the piano and used this gift in many facets of ministry. She served selflessly as a teacher over 50 years at Bethel Christian Academy, touching the lives of

many students, including her grandchildren.

Sandra will always be remembered as a dedicated and supportive farmer's wife. Sandra, along with Verne, modeled hospitality through countless gatherings and meals. They were known to open their home to people who needed a place to stay. Sandra devoted many hours to Bible reading and prayer for her family and those in need.

She is survived by her children, William (Mary) Jackson, Daniel (Lisa) Jackson, Thomas (Nancy) Jackson, Jenny (Jeffrey) Jackson Howell, and John (Heather) Jackson; her 21 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; her siblings, John (Bobbi) Ossenkop and Holly Collins; her sister-in-law, Loretta Jackson; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Sandra was also predeceased by her daughter-in-law, Joann Bate Jackson; and her infant grandchildren, Jonathan and Kate Jackson.

Calling hours will be held on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Funeral Service will be held on Saturday at 10am at Fishkill Baptist Church, 107 Route 82, Fishkill. Private interment will be in the Shenandoah Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Sandra may be made to the Bethel Baptist Church, 512 Shenandoah Road, Hopewell Junction, NY, 12533. Please visit her Book of Memories at [www.mchoufuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoufuneralhome.com).

## Poughkeepsie National Guard Soldier receives new rank

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Darleny Neris from Poughkeepsie and assigned to the 1569th Transportation Company, received a promotion January 18 to the rank of specialist.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

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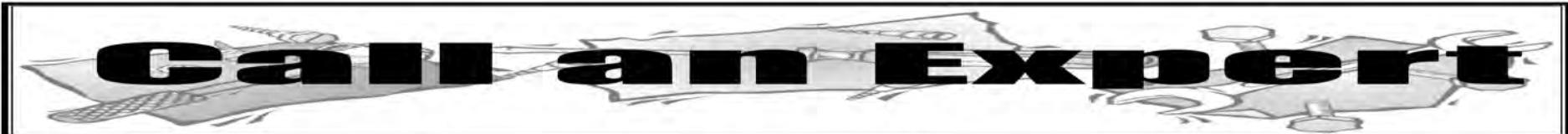
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# Local officials rally for increased funding to CHIPS

Assemblyman Anil Beepan (R,C - East Fishkill) in partnership with Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan took center stage on Feb. 16 at the Fishkill Highway Garage, hosting a spirited rally to champion the cause for increased funding in the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) as part of the forthcoming 2024 budget. The event drew a diverse assembly of participants, including highway and town officials from across the Hudson Valley, who were united in their commitment to advocating for the critical funds required for local road and bridge repair and enhancement.

CHIPS serves as the essential conduit for collecting public funds, channeling them through the Department of Transportation to support the maintenance and improvement of local roads and bridges. Assemblyman Beepan, recognizing CHIPS's vital role in Dutchess County, is determined to secure continued and robust support for the local infrastructure projects.

Beepan declared at the rally, "As we gather here with Highway and town officials from across the Hudson Valley, along with my esteemed colleagues, we are collectively

urging for the restoration of \$60 million to the CHIPS budget, matching last year's allocation. Additionally, we call for an additional \$200 million to address the impacts of inflation on critical infrastructure projects."

The joint efforts of Assembly members Anil Beepan, Matt Slater, John McGowan, Brian Maher and Senator Rolison, and several community bipartisan officials underscore the commitment to securing the resources for the Hudson Valley region. Their call for restoring previous funding levels and an additional allocation to account for inflation reflects a forward-looking approach to maintaining and improving local infrastructure.

### Dutchess Officials Present:

Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan

Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra

Fishkill Council members Brian Wrye and John Forman

East Fishkill Highway Superintendent Kenny Williams

Lagrange Supervisor Alan Bell

Beekman Supervisor Mary Covucci

Dover Highway Superintendent Jason Sartori



Local officials gathered to call for an increase in CHIPS funding during a rally at the Fishkill Highway Garage in the Town of Fishkill on Feb. 16.

-Courtesy photo

- Southern Dutchess News
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# 2 new board members join Arts Mid-Hudson

Arts Mid-Hudson welcomes two new board members beginning their first three-year term in 2024.

Malia K. Du Mont brings a distinguished record of leadership and service to Arts Mid-Hudson. Currently serving as the Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategy and Policy at Bard College, Du Mont's educational background in Chinese from Bard College and her Master of Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School reflect her commitment to academic excellence and global perspectives. As an Army Reserve officer and Afghanistan veteran, Du Mont's dedication to serving her country extends to her roles as the chair of the NY-18 Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board for Congressman Pat Ryan and her service on various advisory boards, including the American University of Afghanistan and the World Affairs Council Mid-Hudson Valley. Additionally, Du Mont's passion for music shines through her involvement as a longtime choral singer and her volunteer work as a pianist at her church, highlighting her multifaceted contributions to the arts and community.

Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels, a Hudson Valley native, brings a wealth of experience in the arts and photography to Arts Mid-Hudson. A SUNY New Paltz alumna, Mahar-Daniels majored in Fine Art Photography with a minor in Art History, paving the way for a successful career in capturing the essence of the Hudson Valley through her lens. As the founder of "Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels," she has established herself as a prominent figure in the local and international photography scene, specializing in weddings and embracing the human form with an artistic touch. Beyond her professional endeavors, Mahar-Daniels is an avid hiker, motorcyclist, and traveler, embodying the adventurous spirit of the Hudson Valley.

The new board members were elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting, in accordance with the Arts Mid-Hudson By-Laws. In addition to the election of new board members, Arts Mid-Hudson presented their 2023 Annual Report which can be viewed at <https://www.artsmid-hudson.org/annual-reports>

Arts Mid-Hudson takes pride in ensur-



*Malia K. Du Mont*



*Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels*

ing that the makeup of its Board of Directors embodies the leadership and vision needed to continue building

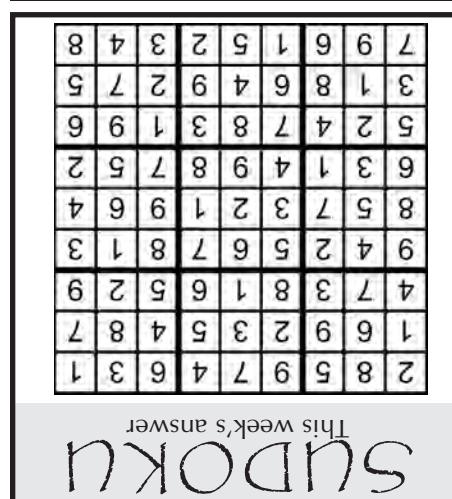
arts and culture throughout Mid-Hudson Valley.

Du Mont and Mahar-Daniels join the

continuing board that includes: Chairperson, Jonathan Cilley, Chief Technology Officer, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union; Treasurer, Roger D'Aquino, Certified QuickBooks Advisor; Corporate Secretary, Lynn M. Enkler, VP of Support Services, Hudson Valley Credit Union; Executive Committee Member at Large, Troy Del Valle, VP of Business Intelligence, Hudson Valley Credit Union; Tempi Hopkins, System Administrator; Anita Jones, Admissions Associate, Oakwood Friends School; Serena Marrero, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley; Andrea Rhodes, Owner, Gig Marketing & Co-Founder /Producing Director, Tangent Theatre Company; Angela Shapiro, Owner, Shapiro's Furniture Barn; Barbara Todd, Program Coordinator / Vice President Sustainable Hudson Valley / Artists' Collective of Hyde Park; Ava Yurchison, Digital Strategist/Account Executive iHeart Media of the Hudson Valley

The continuing Arts Mid-Hudson Advisory Board: Sadhna Bhargava, Frank Castella, Jr., David Cavallaro, Maria Elena Ferrer-Harrington, (Grace) Angela Henry, Eugenia Carlisle, Ev Mann, Tim McQueen, Wilfredo Morel, Sara Pasti, Ruth E. Spencer, William 'Gully' Stanford, Ray Watkins

## this week's puzzle solutions



### Legal Notices

**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-03-24

Bottled Spring Water for Both Dutchess County and Ulster County

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 4th day of March 2024 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"

### Legal Notices

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-10-24

Marine Outboard Engines for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 12th day of March 2024 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"

### Legal Notices

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

### TOWN OF FISHKILL PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF BALLOON TEST HOMELAND TOWERS LLC & VERIZON WIRELESS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Homeland Towers, LLC and Verizon Wireless will perform a balloon test at the property identified as 73 Route 9 Fishkill, NY ("Property") and identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 6154-00-852538-0000, in connection with a proposal to lo-

### Legal Notices

cate a wireless communications facility (the "Facility") at the Property.

The Facility is proposed to include a 150-foot monopole, with panel antennas thereon, together with related equipment located within a secure fenced area at the base thereof.

The balloon test will be conducted on Saturday, March 9, 2024 and a balloon flown at the height of the Facility shall remain up between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. weather permitting. In case of inclement or windy weather, the balloon test will be rescheduled to an alternative date of Sunday, March 10, 2024. In case of further inclement weather on the Sunday alternative date,

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the balloon test will be rescheduled for the following Saturday, March 16, 2024, and will continue to be rescheduled for weekend dates only in case of inclement weather.

The purpose of the balloon test is to establish the approximate location and height of the Facility so that computer-generated visual renderings can be prepared from various viewpoints. The balloon test will consist of an approximately four-foot diameter brightly

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colored balloon being floated on a tether line to a maximum height of 150 feet above ground level (the height of the Facility). A copy of the viewshed map identifying the proposed photo locations (viewpoints) for the test which are identified as orange circle icons on the viewshed map, and for updates regarding inclement weather changes and rescheduled test dates, please visit the Town's website at <https://www.fishkillny.gov/balloon-tests>

### Legal Notices

public-hearings-scoping-documents-site-visits.html on the day before or the day of the scheduled float. Any questions on this matter may be directed to the Town of Fishkill Planning Department at (845) 831-7800 x3328.

By Order of the Planning Board Of the Town of Fishkill, New York Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary

**GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE**

Who needs blood?

Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

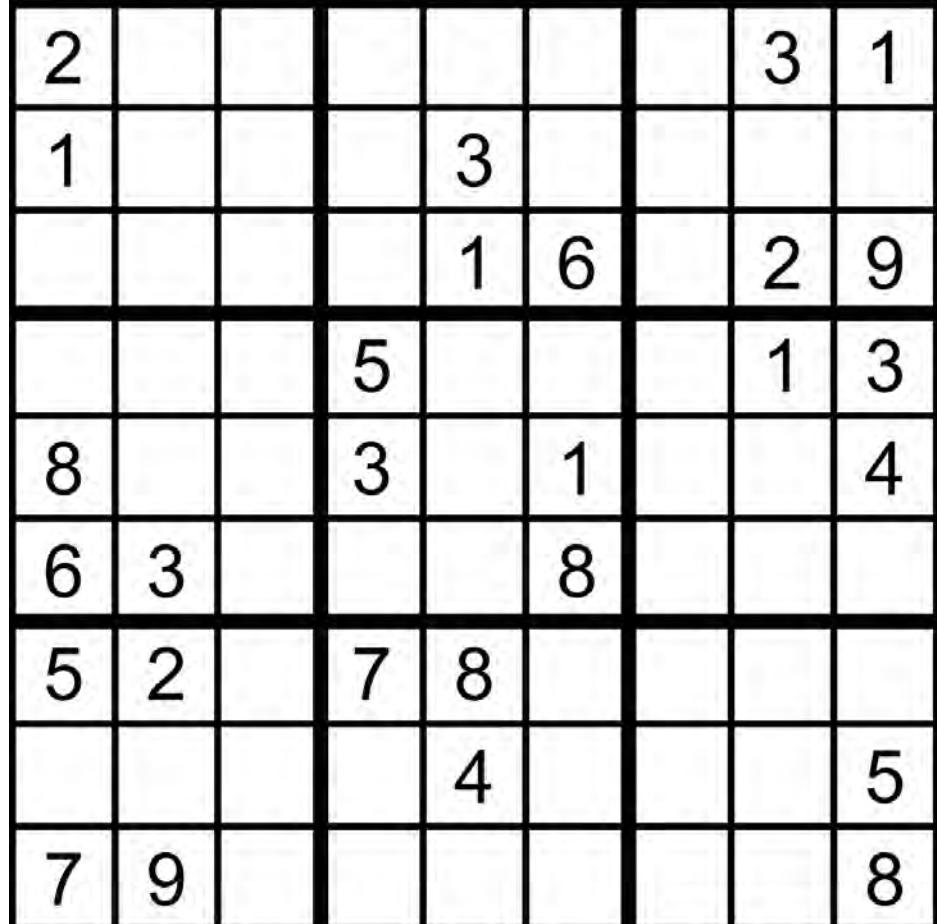
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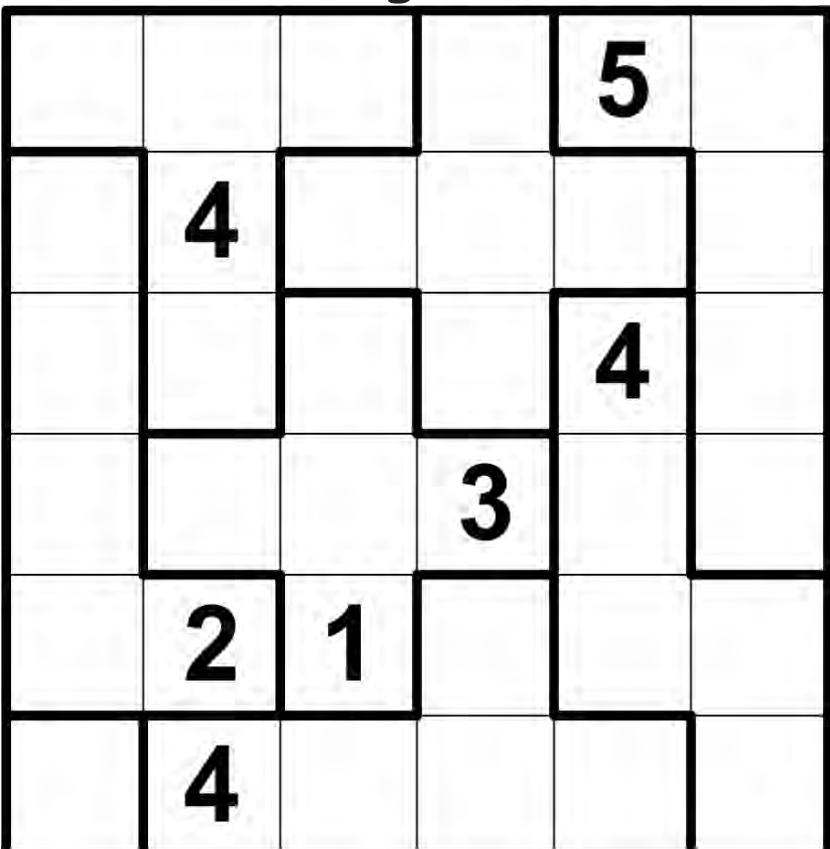
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082185 NSCB 0082999 0083445



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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



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

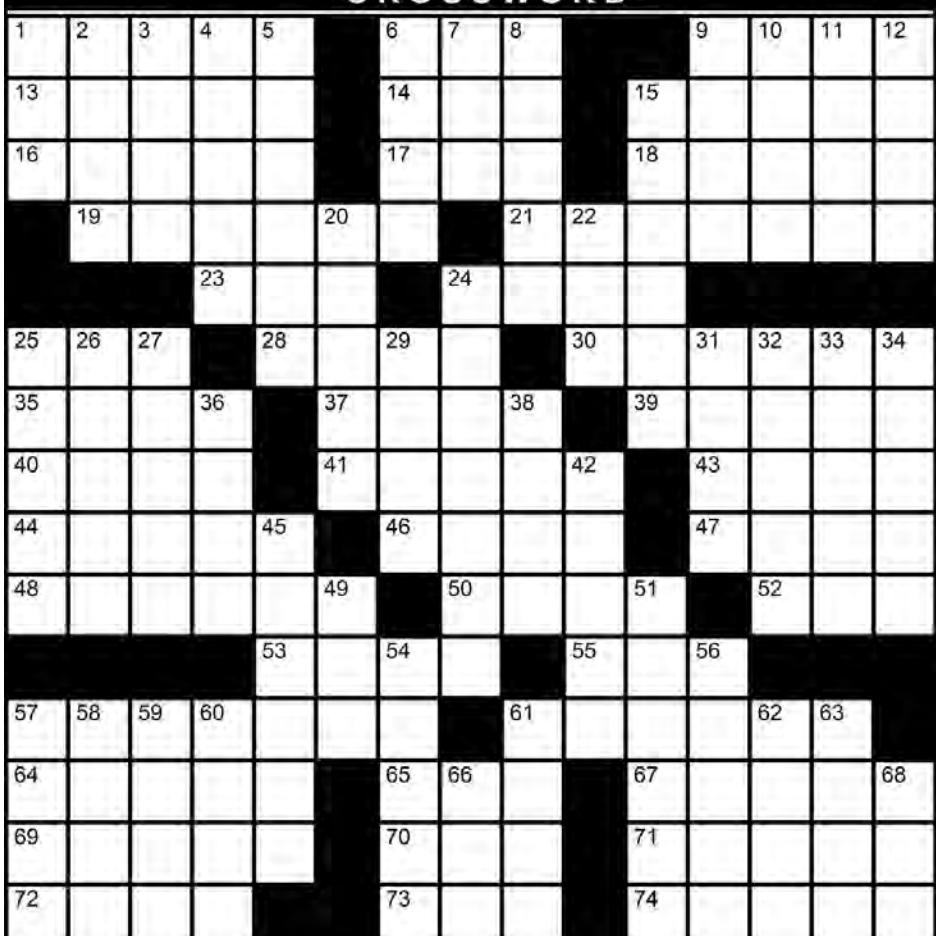
### ACROSS

- Zagreb native
- Not St. or Blvd.
- Tucked in
- Whatchamacallit
- Robert Redford's Sundance \_\_\_\_
- In a cold manner
- Tiny island
- Mad King George's number
- Hearing, e.g.
- \*Love's late Nirvana husband
- \*Star-\_\_\_\_
- \*Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at \_\_\_\_"
- Elementary particle
- Tire meas.
- Land of Israel
- \*Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes: "Love lifts us up where we \_\_\_\_"
- Ladder crosspiece
- Frenzied
- London's Thames, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_-European language
- Call it quits
- Very bright star
- What procedural and epidural have in common
- Crosby's and Still's partner
- Mountain valley
- Final words
- Future J.D.'s hurdle
- Food scrap
- Tax
- Pen point
- \*\*All You Need Is Love" band, with The
- \*Letters to Juliet destination
- Habituat
- NHL surface
- Ancient marketplace
- Like many bathroom floors?
- Blunderbuss, e.g.
- Entrenched (2 words)
- Whirlpool
- Volleyball court center
- English homework assignment

### DOWN

- Computer-related imaging acronym
- CISC alternative
- Capital of Norway
- Single-cell protozoan
- Bottom lines
- Similar
- One of the Tudors
- Authoritative proclamation
- Single pip cards
- The Container Store purchase, pl.
- "What \_\_\_\_ can I say?"
- T-shirt, after tied
- Chemical cousin
- Homer's epic
- Actor Lowe
- Deviation from the norm
- \*U2's "In the Name of Love" song
- First light of day
- Lemur from Madagascar
- Damien's prediction
- Ding-a-\_\_\_\_
- Convex molding
- \*\*Love means \_\_\_\_ having to say you're sorry"
- \*\*Love Actually" star
- Hockey score
- \*True Love's \_\_\_\_
- Feudal lord
- Loafed
- "Holy moly!"
- Rant
- "Peace" with fingers (2 words)
- Phony
- Teeth mark
- Children's writer Blyton
- Old, in Scottish
- Three pointer
- Heater outlet
- Wooden pegs
- Rigoletto's "La donna mobile," e.g.
- Pool tool
- One or some

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

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# Fun with the Harlem Wizards playing at Beacon High School



**FORD BRONCO GIVEAWAY**

**Earn Entries All Month Long!**

**Saturday, February 24 10pm**

\*Actual model and colors may vary.

A white Ford Bronco SUV is shown in the foreground.



The Harlem Wizards recently played a game at Beacon High School. Members of the Beacon City School District administration and faculty went up against the professional basketball team during the fun-filled evening on Feb. 16.

The game was played between The Wizards and Beacon Heartbreakers.

The event was hosted by the Rombout Middle School PTO, the Beacon High School PTSO, and the Beacon High School National Honor Society. The groups hosted The Wizards to raise money for scholarships, events and many other things that benefit the students in the middle school and high school.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

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