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Red Hook HS to host State of County address



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino

Red Hook High School will host Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's first State of the County address at its state-of-the-art performing arts center. Red Hook Central School District Superintendent Janet Warden will provide opening remarks for the March 14 event and high school Principal Kyle Roddey will emcee.

"It's a great opportunity for us to showcase our school district," Warden said. "We're honored to host such a wonderful event for the county."

Each year, the county executive uses the State of the County address to update residents on ongoing projects and set initiatives for the coming months and years. Previous hosts of the event have included the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park and the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie. The construction of Red Hook's auditorium, a 700-seat facility that opened in Spring 2021, was made possible through a 2017 capital referendum approved by voters.

"We're so lucky the voters supported such a beautiful facility that the county would be interested in using it as a space for this prestigious event," Warden said. "I encourage our students to attend and watch government in action."

Serino, a northern Dutchess resident and longtime state senator, was elected county executive in November. She succeeded William F.X. O'Neil and now-Congressman Marc Molinaro.

Serino said she plans to highlight different parts of the county for special events. The choice of Red Hook as the site for her speech was, in part, thematic. She plans to spotlight the growth and success of county initiatives in support of youth.

"Our school district partners play a huge part in that support and development," Serino said. "Red Hook High School, for example, encourages interest in STEM through not just academics, but also extra-curriculars like its RoboRaiders team, which participated in the recent FIRST Tech Challenge."

The RoboRaiders received the "Inspire" award at the Dec. 2 event, given to the team that best embodies the "challenge" of the program and shares their knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with others.

The State of the County address is set for 5:30 p.m. March 14 and is free to the public. RSVP by March 12 to the County Executive's Office at DutchessNY.gov/RSVP or by calling 845-486-2000. Red Hook High School is located at 103 W. Market St. in Red Hook.

Irish heritage, community service say it all for Grand Marshal O'Grady

St. Patrick's parade set for Saturday in WF

By Kristine Coulter

The 29th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off in the Village of Wappingers Falls on March 2 at 1 p.m. Line up is at noon. The parade will happen rain or shine. Andrew O'Grady, who is the CEO of Mental Health America of Dutchess County, has been announced as the 2024 Grand Marshal.

"I have to say that I have been lucky enough to have been recognized in the past for other honors but there is something about being the Grand Marshal of such a huge event that has me very honored and excited. I was actually shocked that I was chosen, it is certainly exciting," O'Grady recently told Beacon Free Press.

According to the members of the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Committee, "Andrew was selected because of his outstanding service throughout our community." It was noted that O'Grady is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College.

"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 his leadership is in working with the Veterans Department. Andrew is very proud of his Irish heritage, and we applaud his dedication to family, service and our community," stated the Committee.

Jack Fedigan, a previous parade grand marshal and committee member, remarked, "He has quite the resume. When we read his resume, Andrew's



The Grand Marshal of the 2024 Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade is Andrew O'Grady. The parade will take place on March 2 in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo

[qualifications] jumped off the page." Fedigan explained there are 30 com-

mittee members. The bands are booked for events in New York City and Westchester, Putnam counties throughout March, so the Dutchess County parade is held the first week in March to accommodate the bands, explained Fedigan.

Gene Noone, who is on the committee, said, "Our committee has been working hard to provide this impressive event for the Irish community. If you are Irish by blood, relationship, or just want to be for the day, come enjoy with your family and friends. There are many places in the village to watch and enjoy the festivities." Noone added, "There will be entertainment and refreshments at several places throughout the day, like the Knights of Columbus, VFW, and several other places throughout the village. Come on down and help us celebrate our 29th Annual St. Patrick's Parade."

Regarding his Irish heritage, O'Grady stated, "With a name like O'Grady I have heard people make reference to the Irish heritage and history since I was a kid. Knowing our history, where our family comes from, what their journey was, and the struggles or successes we have had helps give context to where my family is today and hopefully, we always do things that build on that legacy. This honor will certainly be added to the O'Grady history books."

The parade is not only a celebration of Irish heritage. The parade "is about the people and businesses in this great County we all live in. It is one of those few events that bring us all together with a fun filled positive day. A great event that families of all ages will enjoy," said O'Grady.

Continued on page 2

Applications for scholarship honoring late firefighter now being accepted

By Kristine Coulter

Applications for the Steven D. Ziskind Memorial Scholarship are now being taken. Steven was a volunteer firefighter with the Wicoppee Fire Company. The Wicoppee Fire Company members and the Ziskind family started the memorial scholarship in honor of Steven.

"The legacy of Steven lives on through the achievements and endeavors of the scholarship recipients. Their successes and contributions are a testament to the enduring impact of Steven's life and the far-reaching influence of his legacy," said Polly Ziskind, Steven's mother.

Steven died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on May 27, 2020. Steven was 22 years old.

A commissioner with the Wicoppee Fire Company, Chris Jodlowski said Steven was "just a terrific individual. He was bright. He was always looking for more knowledge."

Members of the fire company called Steven "Dora" after "Dora the Explorer" cartoon character, because of his dark hair and he carried a backpack.

Continued on page 3



Applications are being accepted for the Steven D. Ziskind Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was started to honor Wicoppee Fire Company firefighter Steven Ziskind.

-Courtesy photo

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# Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade March 2 in Wappingers Falls

Continued from cover

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino stated, “The annual Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls is a time-honored tradition that thousands across Dutchess County and beyond look forward to. I love the wonderful sense of community you feel at the parade – whether you are marching or enjoying it as a spectator—together, we are all celebrating Irish heritage as neighbors and friends.”

Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber stated, “As the 29th Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade approaches, Village residents are getting ready to carry shamrocks and don green clothing. The Village is looking forward to welcoming families from far and wide to join the nearly 300,000 regular attendees that have become a part of the Wappingers Community! Each year the young and old gather along the Village streets and cheer on parade participants. My family and I are looking

forward to being a part of the day!”

Serino remarked, “I am grateful to all of the Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee volunteers for their work coordinating and hosting this event all these years, bringing smiles to the faces of all who attend and giving us the chance to be ‘Irish for the day.’”

Noone said, “The best part of the day for me is to witness the parade from beginning to the end, seeing all the hard work of the committee coming together.”

O’Grady said he hopes his involvement, and that of the marchers and bands, “will make this a parade to remember.”

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

The annual Mass will be held before the parade, at 9 a.m. at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Falls Roman Catholic Church, 11 Clinton St., in Wappingers Falls

The inaugural Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade was held in 1996.



Grand Marshal of the 2024 Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade Andrew O’Grady with attendees during the Emerald Ball that was recently held. The parade will take place on March 2 in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo

## James Harris joins FKCS LLP as award-winning law firm expands team

Fishkill-based law firm Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP (FKC&S) recently expanded its legal team with the addition of personal injury and medical malpractice attorney, James P. Harris.

For more than 37 years FKC&S has been successfully trying cases at all levels of state and federal courts throughout the Hudson Valley and Capital District and is the only litigation firm between Albany and Westchester recognized by Best Law Firms since its First Edition in 2010.

“We’re delighted to have a longtime friend joining our team at FKC&S” said FKC&S Founding Partner Jeffrey M. Feldman. “Jim’s decades of experience will greatly benefit the clients we serve and it’s a privilege to work alongside him.”

With more than 34 years of experience in the litigation field, Harris has tried hundreds of cases to verdict. He has successfully represented clients in cases involving general liability, medical malpractice, product liability and construction accidents. In 2022, he obtained a

\$1.5 million damage verdict for a plaintiff in Orange County, which was in the top twenty premises liability verdicts in the country.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Harris attended Vermont Law School. He graduated with his Juris Doctor in 1987 and was admitted to the New York State Bar the following year. Harris is also admitted to the United States Northern and Southern District Courts and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

From 1989 to 1991, Harris worked for an Orange County law firm and became partner. He founded McCarl & Harris in Goshen, NY in 1996 before establishing his own firm which he operated from 2004 to 2010. He joined the team at FKC&S in 2024 after many years of serving as a trial attorney at various firms.

Harris resides in Goshen with his wife Janet, a retired banker. Their two grown children serve as a medical doctor and a veterinarian.

## Club Green Teen visits the Beacon Fire Department



Club Green Teen visits with on-duty firefighters in front of Engine 11. Back row: Bryan Barry, Eric Jensen, Chief Thomas Lucchesi, Crew Leader Messiah Gardner, Chris Donovan, and Ahmed Ismail. Center row: Sadie Vasquez, Thalia Rodriguez, Saoirse Fehilly, Kaylee Ortiz, Chanel Dickey, and Crew Leader Desirae Smith. Front: Charlie Brittain, Jude Williams, and Antonio See.

-Courtesy photo

## 2024 Southern Dutchess College Fair set at BHS March 6

The 2024 Southern Dutchess College Fair is set for Wednesday, March 6, from 6 – 8 p.m., at Beacon High School gymnasium, 101 Matteawan Rd., in Beacon. Attendees should enter the building

through the Athletics entrance.

More than 50 colleges and universities have registered to be in attendance.

For more information, call 845-838-6900 ext. 3025.

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Club Green Teen, the after-school offshoot of Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Green Teen Beacon Program, was invited for a tour of the Mase Hook & Ladder Company Firehouse on Feb. 9th. Participants included seven youth, ages 12-13, led by Crew Leaders Desirae Smith and Messiah Gardner, age 16. The Club was instructed by Chief Thomas Lucchesi in proper use of a fire extinguisher. Firefighters Eric Jensen, Chris Donovan, Bryan Barry, and Ahmed Ismail guided the Club on a tour of the firehouse

and Engine 11. The visit was ended with the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher on a real fire.

This visit is fourth in a series of eight field trips for Club Green Teen’s winter session, which is focused on civic engagement and building community. Next, the Club will visit Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

For more information and pictures of the visit, and updates about future activities, follow Green Teen Beacon on Facebook and Instagram.

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# IMPACT

PR & Communications

## Tompkins Community Bank Promotes Todd Ferrara to New Leadership Role





# IMPACT

PR & Communications



See story,  
page 8

## Applications for scholarship that honors late firefighter are now being taken

Continued from cover

“He was a volunteer. When he was around, we loved having him,” said Jodlowski about Steven.

The volunteer firefighter was a 2016 graduate from John Jay High School in the Wappingers Central School District. He was matriculating at SUNY New Paltz and was going to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. His father Martin in an engineer.

The scholarship winner will be awarded \$1,500.

The following are the scholarship Eligibility & Requirements:

1. The applicant must be a member in good standing with one of the following organizations:

- Hopewell Hose Fire Company No. 1.
- Stormville Fire Company No. 2.
- Hillside Lake Fire Company No. 3.
- Wicopee Fire Company No. 4.
- Protection Engine Company #1
- Rombout Fire Company

2. The applicant must have a 3.0 or 80% grade point average (GPA).

3. The applicant must be a full time or part time student accepted or enrolled or continuing their education at a college, university, community college, or technical institute the year of scholarship issuance.

4. The applicant must submit the following prior to May 15:

- Completed application
- Official transcript

- Minimum 500-word essay demonstrating the individual’s commitment to emergency services, their contribution to the community, and their educational aspirations

- Letter of recommendation from the Chief or President of the respective fire company

Polly explained, “The Scholarship Committee will review all applications. Strong emphasis will be placed on the applicant’s service and contribution to their local fire company, their community, volunteerism, and future goals.”

The essay requirements this year, said Polly, a “[m]inimum 500-word essay demonstrating the individual’s commitment to emergency services, their contribution to the community, and their educational aspirations.”

Completed materials should be mailed or emailed to: Steven D. Ziskind Memorial Scholarship c/o Wicopee Fire Company No. 4, 6 West Hook Rd., Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 or email [wicopeefireco@optonline.net](mailto:wicopeefireco@optonline.net).

The completed application is due by May 15. The scholarship will be awarded on July 23.

“This is about anyone seeking higher learning,” said Jodlowski.

Polly said, “We are thankful to the leadership and members of the Wicopee Firehouse, who continue to support and sponsor this annual scholarship.”



Late Wicopee firefighter Steven D. Ziskind’s locker and equipment at the Wicopee firehouse.

-Archive photo

## DC Soil and Water Conservation District gains grant for mapping in 3 local towns

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced more than \$166 million is being awarded to 187 projects to improve water quality across the state. The grants support projects that will help protect drinking water, update aging water infrastructure, combat contributors to harmful algal blooms, and improve aquatic habitat in communities

statewide. More than \$101 million of the funding will support water quality improvements for environmental justice communities, which have been disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.

Among those is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping

project by the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District - \$180,000 for three towns.

The Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District will work with the towns of LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, and Hyde Park to complete basic MS4 mapping elements.

The district will complete field work to locate and inventory the storm sewer conveyance systems and structures which will include pipes, ditches, catch basins, and outfalls. The project will assist the towns in further tracking, inspection, and maintenance of their storm water conveyance systems.



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## Elks honor Students of the Month



**Pictured (from left to right) are front row: Tanya Syan (8th Grade, Dec.) Kirra McCoy (8th Grade, Jan.), Gavin Lyons-King (7th Grade, Jan.), Ellie Shields (7th Grade, Dec.), Mia Cruz DiGilio (6th Grade, Jan.), Vincenzo Pidala (6th Grade, Dec.); and back row: Sharon Haviland, Beacon Elks Lodge Chaplain; Cathy Oken, Beacon Elks Lodge Youth Activities Chair and Jeanine McAuley, Beacon Elks Lodge Esteemed Loyal Knight.**  
-Courtesy photo

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognized sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Students of the Month for the months of December 2023 and January 2024 at Haldane Middle School in the Haldane Central School District on February 6. The students were chosen for their

compassion, leadership, and enthusiasm in school. Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments. Thanks is given to Cold Spring Pizza for co-sponsoring this event with the Elks.

## BPD: Update on missing person

On the evening of February 20, the New York State Police along with the Town of Fishkill Police responded to a wooded area behind the Fishkill Glen condominiums for a deceased male. Detectives from the City of Beacon Police Department responded after being notified that the clothing description matched that of missing person, Mark Camillo, a statement from the department stated.  
The State Police processed the scene and subsequent to an investigation, it was determined to be Camillo, according to

law enforcement,. An autopsy was performed by the Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office on this date and this agency is awaiting the Final Autopsy Report.  
The statement from police stated that "There does not appear to be any foul play involved. Due to the nature of the incident, no further details are being released at this time. The City of Beacon Police Department would like to thank the public for their assistance and express our condolences to the family of Mr. Camillo."

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## Local FFA member meets with State legislators



**The New York State chapters of Future Farmers of America (FFA) conducted the State Leader's Experience in early February. FFA members from across the state met in Albany for workshops on how state government works, the legislative process and for meetings with their local representatives. The group was addressed by Governor Hochul and Senator Michelle Hinchey, Chair of the Agriculture committee, among others. Matthew Mulligan, Vice President of John Jay High School's FFA Chapter, attended the event and was able to meet with local Assemblyman Anil Beephan and Senator Robert Rolison to discuss matters relating to Agriculture Education in New York State. Mulligan said, "It was such a great experience to meet with my local legislators and speak to them about the issues that agriculture faces today."**  
-Courtesy photo

## Hochul announces significant growth of NY's agricultural education and FFA programs

During National FFA Week (Feb. 17-24), Governor Kathy Hochul announced significant growth in New York State's agriculture education and FFA Programs. Since 2016, the number of agricultural teachers has grown to 412 in 2023, a more than 75 percent increase from 2016. In addition, New York's FFA chapters and membership continue to grow, with 36new FFA chapters created since 2022 and 89 since 2016, making for a total of 200 FFA chapters established across New York today. The Governor's 2024 State of the State and FY 2025 Budget both prioritize agricultural education, with the creation of a youth agriculture leadership conference and the dedication of \$1.25 million to support the FFA, an increase of \$250,000 from last year.  
"As a former 4-H kid, I know firsthand how important agricultural education is to developing a generation of leaders that understand where our food comes from, value the work of our farmers, and are committed to supporting our agricultural communities," Governor Hochul said. "There are endless opportunities for our students to build a career in agriculture, from farming to food science, bio-technology, engineering, veterinary medicine, and so much more. New York will continue supporting our passionate educators and grow these critical programs across the state."

The increase in agricultural teachers, through programs such as Cornell University's Agriculture Education and Outreach Program, New York Agriculture in the Classroom, and the New York State FFA Association, is allowing more schools and students to participate in a formal agricultural curriculum, providing a direct boost to the pipeline of students who will go on to enter into the agricultural industry as a future career.  
Alongside this growth in teachers, the number of FFA charters and members has also increased. With 200 chapters established in 53of New York's 62 counties, there are now nearly 12,000 FFA members in New York State, an increase from 9,300 in 2022. In 2016, State Agriculture Commissioner challenged the FFA to increase its number of charters across the State by 100; the FFA is nearing that goal with 89 created since then.  
The New York FFA Association is a youth organization that helps middle and high school students become leaders in a variety of career fields, including agriculture. In the FY 2024 Budget, \$2 million was invested to support the New York FFA, Association of Agricultural Educators, and New York Agriculture in the Classroom, and \$50,000 was allocated to support the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) program.

### 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.
- 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.



# Expanding into Ulster County with new name -- Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley



**Rebuilding Together is expanding into Ulster County with a new name – Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley. Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley logo with group of volunteers lifting concrete together.**  
**Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley logo with some volunteers at a National Rebuilding Day Project.**

-Courtesy images

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeowners in need by providing critical home repairs at no cost, has announced its transformation into Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley. This strategic rebranding coincides with the organization’s expansion into Ulster County, furthering its mission to serve homeowners and communities across the region in both Dutchess and Ulster Counties.

Previously limited to Dutchess County, Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley now extends its reach to include households throughout Ulster County. The organization remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring safe and healthy homes for all,

as it continues to address the ever-growing need for support and services in our communities.

“We would like to emphasize, that we are not leaving Dutchess County, and our efforts within Dutchess County will continue, and are still as important as ever, to us, our partners, and those we serve,” stated Wyeth Drummond, the Program Manager for RTHV.

Reflecting on over 32 years of service, Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley recognizes the role it plays in enhancing the well-being of residents across the region. Through the continued support of the community, with knowledge of its programs and services, they know their work

will be embraced and broadcasted to all those qualifying households, families with school-aged children, veterans and members of the armed services, disabled persons, and seniors throughout our communities in both Dutchess and Ulster Counties.

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley remains committed to its mission of improving lives and communities through critical home repairs and accessibility modifications for those in need.

“We extend our greatest appreciation to our community members, municipal and business leadership, families and friends, for joining our efforts in ensuring a positive impact this upcoming year.

Together, we will build a safer, healthier, and more resilient community for all,” exclaimed Darcy McCourt, Executive Director of RTHV.

For more information about Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley, volunteering opportunities, or ways to support their work, visit [RTDutchess.org](http://RTDutchess.org).

To reach out or ask questions, call the RTHV office at 845-454-7310.

Since RTHV’s founding in 1992, approximately 15,000 volunteers have been engaged assisting over 1,100 Dutchess County homeowners with critical home repairs and accessibility modifications valued at over \$8.15 million in market value.

## Drug Task Force: 2 charged with criminal sale of controlled substance

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force reports executing search warrants last week resulting in multiple arrests and the seizure of narcotics in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The Drug Task Force continues to conduct ongoing investigations into the sale of dangerous narcotics including fentanyl being sold in Dutchess County. The following search warrants and arrests were made by the Drug Task Force:

On Feb. 20, Agents of the District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force executed a search warrant with the Dutchess County Emergency Services Unit at 559 Main Street in the City of Poughkeepsie after receiving complaints of narcotics sales being conducting in that area. Jeremeal Robinson, 32, was taken into custody at the time of the search warrant being executed and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class B Felony. Robinson was later arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of Dutchess County Probation.

On Feb. 21, Agents of the District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force executed a search warrant with the Dutchess County Emergency Services Unit and the

City of Poughkeepsie Police Department NRU at 48 Harrison Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. Joseph Anderson, 20, was taken into custody at the time of the search warrant and charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree with the Intent to Sell and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl) in the Third Degree, both Class B Felonies, according to law enforcement officials. Anderson was previously arrested by Drug Task Force Agents in January on similar charges and those charges are currently pending, according to the Drug Task Force. Anderson was being held at the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department pending his arraignment, which was scheduled for Feb. 21.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by sending an email to the following web address: [DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com](mailto:DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com). As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Governor adopts Jacobson’s FAFSA Bill in budget

A bill (A8953) sponsored by Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) requiring high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now part of Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget. If this section of the budget passes, Jacobson’s bill will become law.

In a section of the budget proposing new laws, the Governor submitted language that mirrors Jacobson’s legislation to ensure that each high school senior in the state completes the FAFSA or signs a waiver.

All colleges and universities require students to complete the FAFSA to be considered eligible for financial aid, but not all students are taking advantage. A recent analysis from the National College Attainment Network found that the high school class of 2022 lost out on nearly \$3.6 billion in Pell Grants because they didn’t complete the FAFSA. Pell grants

pay up to \$7,395 per student per year.

“The biggest obstacle for people going to college is the cost. And the way to get the cost down is to get scholarships and grants,” Jacobson said. “Unfortunately, you have to complete the FAFSA to get this financial aid, and that’s very difficult to do.”

Jacobson spoke at a press conference recently hosted by the nationwide youth advocacy group Young Invincibles, along with Senator Andrew Gounardes, who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate (S8148).

“Education can be the great equalizer, but only if it’s accessible and affordable,” said Jacobson during the event, noting that students in New York left \$200 million of aid on the table in 2022. “By requiring and assisting high school students to complete the FAFSA, we are fulfilling our obligation to expand opportunity to all by making college more affordable, and therefore available to all.”

## Beacon fire chief: Cause of fire on Falconer St. still being investigated

The City of Beacon Fire Department responded to a fire at 39 Falconer Street just before noon on Feb. 25, According to Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi, “Upon the arrival of the first arriving fire department units at 11:52 a.m., a large amount of smoke was observed emitting from the single-family house. A second alarm was immediately transmitted for additional assistance. The Village of Fishkill Fire Department and Castle Point Fire Department responded to the scene. A fire was subsequently located

and extinguished in the basement of the residence.”

As of press time, the cause of the fire is being investigated by the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division, according to Lucchesi. The City of Beacon Police Department, Dutchess County Car 13 and Car 17, City of Beacon Medic 1, Beacon Volunteer Ambulance aided at the scene. Both the Glenham and Rombout Fire Departments provided stand-by cover for the city.

Units were cleared just after 3 p.m.

## Early Bird registration now open for ARF’s 5K Run & Walk with Dogs

Registration is open for Animal Rescue Foundation’s (ARF) Annual 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs. This is Beacon’s only non-profit sporting event dedicated to saving animals’ lives. On this day, animal lovers and athletes of all ages lace up and hit the pavement in support of ARF where 100% of the profits go to support the animals. The Run & Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 19 at Memorial Park, Route 52, in Beacon. Early Bird registration is until March 31

This year’s event will feature:

- Chip Running Bibs
- Unisex T-shirts
- 1K FUN RUN - Kids Only event with finisher prizes
- Dog costume contest with a prize to the Top Dog
- Post-race refreshments, entertainment, sponsor raffles and prizes
- Opening remarks from COB officials.



love to cook

by vicki frank day

Seafood crepes

A savory dish that is suited for Lent.



While taking a quick inventory of the topics of this year’s articles so far, I realized I’ve been focused on the savory side, neglecting all the good, sweet stuff. This week was meant to address that with a sweet recipe but, alas, after several attempts, it just didn’t work out. It’s been a while since a new recipe didn’t work out after the second try, but that’s what happened, and I admit it with no reservations – it’s all part of cooking and, though it can be frustrating, it’s also part of the fun. I’ll work it out and hopefully have it for you next time. Either way, the next article will be something sweet.

My default, then, will be yet another savory dish and one suited for Lent for those of you observing it. For those who don’t, think of it as something different to add to your menu, a break from meat and good for brunch, lunch or dinner. It can be a challenge to not get in a rut when it comes to meal planning, and that’s where this came from. I needed a break from beef, chicken, pork and pasta. Salmon was a good option for a while but that was getting a little old, too, so I broke out an old favorite I’ve not made in years.

I love fresh seafood. If I lived by the ocean I would have it at least once a week. There are certainly places here in the Hudson Valley to get quality seafood but somehow it just isn’t the same. I’m more inclined to order it in a restaurant than to make it at home and was lamenting that until I remembered the seafood crepes I used to make. For the filling I have used fresh shrimp, crab and/or scallops but for this version I went with imitation crab which is bit more affordable and convenient.

So, let’s talk about that. Is imitation crab really a good choice? And what exactly is it, anyway? It’s sometimes marketed as surimi or crab sticks, but it’s all the same thing: a processed seafood product with both the texture and sweet flavor of the real thing. It’s made of fish (no crab), usually pollock, rinsed to remove oils, then shredded and minced, with binding agents (egg white or starch) and coloring added. It’s pressed into shapes to resemble crab legs or pieces, pasteurized and vacuum sealed. It’s ready to eat right out of the package, can be cooked and is often found in California rolls.

Because it’s processed, it isn’t as high in nutritive value. Some omega-3s and minerals are removed in the rinsing process and it is higher in carbs than in protein. It is NOT a gluten-free product due to the added starch, may have added salt and sugar and is a bit higher in cholesterol than the real deal. In short, Nature does it better but, in moderation, it’s a treat and still a lean meat alternative and great in this recipe.

**SEAFOOD CREPES with MORNAY SAUCE** - As stated, this calls for imitation crab. If you substitute shrimp, scallops or real crab (3 cups or so) you may need to add more cooking time to insure it’s done. The rich cheese sauce is the perfect complement to the sweet seafood and adds elegance to the dish. It comes together quickly so have all your ingredients cut and measured before you start. Total time depends on a few factors but here’s a general breakdown to give you an idea for your timing: Crepes about 60 minutes total (includes 30 minute rest time), filling about 20 minutes, mornay sauce 10-15 minutes.

**A NOTE ON CREPES:** Start with warm milk and room temperature eggs for better incorporation and smoother batter. I rec-

ommend letting the batter rest about 30 minutes at room temp and whisking again before starting. This allows the flour to fully absorb the liquid for more delicate results. Thinness is key. It may take a few tries to get them right but don’t worry. This batter makes quite a few, depending on size. Don’t put too much batter in (3 tablespoons – ¼ cup should do it) and work quickly, lifting and swirling the pan for a thin, even coat. A non-stick skillet works best. I brush the pan lightly with butter and start with medium heat, reducing it to medium-low as I progress to prevent setting up before the batter fully spreads.

- INGREDIENTS for CREPES**
- 2 eggs, room temperature
  - 1 cup milk, warmed
  - 3 tablespoons butter, melted
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - ¼ cup warm water
  - Butter or oil for pan

**METHOD**

Have a plate ready for the finished crepes.

In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and melted butter. Sift flour into the bowl to avoid lumps. Add salt and water and whisk until smooth. Let rest at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Set a skillet over medium heat. Brush surface with butter or oil. When hot, pour or ladle some batter into the skillet (see note above), lift skillet off heat and quickly swirl to get a thin, even coat of batter. Set back on heat and cook until top looks dry and edges start to pull away from the skillet, about 2 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until just golden. Transfer to plate (cover with a towel to keep warm) and repeat with remaining batter, adjusting heat if necessary.

Makes 6-10 crepes depending on size of skillet.

- INGREDIENTS FOR FILLING**
- 4 tablespoons butter
  - 1 large shallot, finely chopped
  - 8oz mushrooms (cremini or white)
  - ¾ cup dry white wine, cooking sherry or dry vermouth
  - Salt and pepper to taste (start with ¼ teaspoon each)
  - 16oz imitation crab meat, diced

**METHOD FOR FILLING**

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and mushrooms and cook until tender, 3-5 minutes. Add wine or vermouth, stir, then add salt, pepper and crab. Mix through, reduce heat and cook 3-5 minutes before turning off heat.

- INGREDIENTS FOR MORNAY SAUCE**
- 2 tablespoons butter
  - 2 tablespoons flour
  - 1 ¼ cups milk
  - Salt and pepper, to taste
  - ½ cup grated Swiss cheese
- METHOD FOR SAUCE**

Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. And flour and whisk to combine and form a paste. Cook, whisking constantly, for about 1 minute (this will eliminate any floury taste).

Add milk slowly, whisking constantly, to smoothly combine, breaking up any lumps. Continue cooking and stirring until mixture starts to thicken. Reduce heat to low, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring, 2-3 minutes more. (You just made bechamel!) **NOTE:** if mixture separates or breaks, whisk in a little more milk.

Add half of the cheese and whisk until



A plate of crepes.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

almost melted. Remove from heat, add remaining cheese and whisk until melted and velvety smooth.

**ASSEMBLY**

Lay crepes on a flat surface. Spoon 2-3 heaping tablespoons of the crab filling down the center of each crepe. Drizzle with a little mornay sauce if you like. Fold sides over to cover filling and transfer to serving plate. Pour some mornay sauce over the top and serve immediately.

It seems like a lot of steps but don’t let that stop you. It looks harder in writing than it is and worth the effort! If everything is prepped and ready when you start it will go

quickly. If you can’t get the hang of the crepes this could be served over rice or angel hair pasta or even on English muffins topped with melted cheese. Serve it with a light salad or steamed asparagus for a nice, kind of decadent break in the meal routine and one you can keep for special occasions and different courses. Until next time when we get back to the sweeter side of life – enjoy!

*Vicki Frank Day’s background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. 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](mailto:vickiloves2cook@gmail.com).*



# County Players to present CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 set for March 8 - 10

County Players will present the popular CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 on March 8 through 10 at County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., in Wappingers Falls.

**Reading #1- Friday, Mar 8 at 8pm, Saturday, Mar 9 matinee at 2pm.**

“Photograph 51,” by Anna Ziegler, directed by Kit Colbourn

Rosalind Franklin was a gifted research scientist who was part of the race to uncover the secrets of DNA in the 1950s. Her more famous contemporaries Watson and Crick took all the kudos for the discovery of the molecule’s double helix structure, yet it was Franklin’s skill with X-ray diffraction that first uncovered what’s called “the secret of life. The reading features: Casey Cuddy, Morgan Hallett, Andrew Langton, Kevin McCarthy, Keller Mickle, and Dylan Parkin.

**Reading #2- Saturday, Mar 9 at 8 p.m, Sunday, Mar 10 matinee at 2 p.m.**

“Silent Sky,” by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Christine Crawfis

A decade before women gained the right to vote, Henrietta Leavitt and her fellow women “computers” transformed the science of astronomy. While at the Harvard Observatory, Leavitt found 2,400 new variable stars and made important discoveries about their fluctuating brightness, enabling fellow scientists to map the

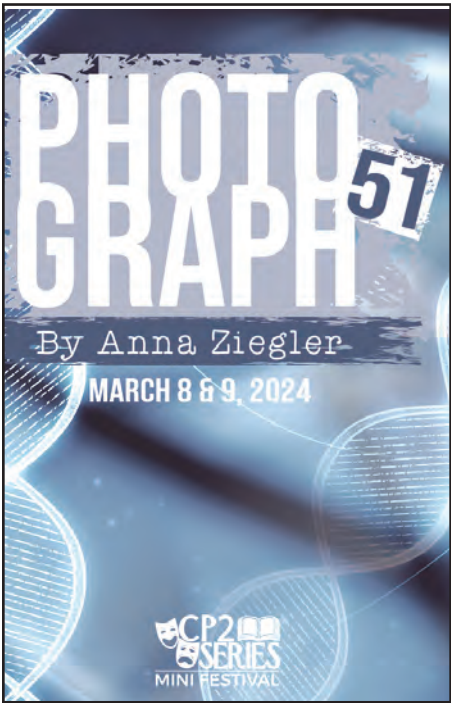
Milky Way and beyond. Local talents include: MaryBeth Boylan, Victoria (Vicki) Clark, Rick Meyer, Jenn Propfe, Catherine Rush, and Cynthia (Cindy) Topps.

CP2 Readers Theatre: is a series at County Players which offers an opportunity for actors, directors, and audience members to experience theater in a fresh way: selected plays presented as full dramatic readings, no costumes, no sets, no props, and the actors perform with scripts in hand. These shows are an incredible opportunity to experience great theater stripped to its essence: the playwright’s words.

Reserved seating is \$15/reading, \$20 to attend both readings on the same weekend, and are available online or in advance at the door. Visit countyplayers.org and at the top of the main page select BUY TICKETS. Ticket options are limited to mobile/digital or print-at-home only, as no printed tickets will be available for “will call” until further notice.

The remaining Main Stage Productions for 2023-2024 visit countyplayers.org/season-66/ and Season 67 productions may be found at https://countyplayers.org/season-67/.

CP2 Readers Theatre Series is supported by Stewart’s Shops, and Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College. “Freud’s Last Session” and “The Half-Life of Marie Curie” are presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play



County Players CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival performances will include “Photograph 51” and “Silent Sky” March 8 - 10 in Wappingers Falls.  
-Courtesy images

Service collection. dramatists.com. Credit Union.  
The County Players 66th Season If one requires wheelchair accessibility, is sponsored by Hudson Valley contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.

## Dutchess Tourism to host free lunch & learn seminars in March and April

Topic discussions on TikTok, social media video, filming in the Hudson Valley

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) will host three Lunch & Learn Seminars on March 6, March 20 and April 3, from 1 - 2 p.m. These free seminars are geared toward tourism-related businesses but are open to all. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch and questions for the presenters.

**Wednesday, March 6 at 1 p.m.: Exploring TikTok’s Business Potential: Building Big Buzz on a Tiny Screen**

Presented by Andrew Mendez-Spera, founder and CEO of Topsy Social

Location: Hyatt House Fishkill, 100 Westage Business Center Drive, Fishkill

Business owners looking to build community around their offerings are dominating on TikTok. Whether you’re a skeptic, newbie, or seasoned pro, discover how small businesses are leveraging TikTok to grow brand awareness and drive engagement from their target audience. From paid promotion to creator collabs, we’ll discuss winning strategies and trending examples to see if TikTok is the platform worth your energy.

**Wednesday, March 20 at 1 p.m.: Utilizing Video on Social Media: Best Practices for Growing and Retaining Your Audience**

Presented by Raphael Beretta, digital media manager at Dutchess Tourism

Location: Homewood Suites Poughkeepsie, 900 Thomas Watson Drive, Poughkeepsie

Don’t have experience producing vertical video for Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts? Learn the basics of

shooting video with your phone (from settings to shot composition), editing for a social media audience and developing a content strategy—with no prior experience necessary.

**Wednesday, April 3 at 1 p.m.: The Film Industry in the Hudson Valley Panel Discussion**

Moderated by Edward Roy, president/CEO of The CineHub and J6 MediaWorks

Location: The CineHub, 20 W Main St., Ste. 4, Beacon

Laurent Rejto, founder of the Hudson Valley Film Commission, will share how he helps productions secure local crew, cast, locations, vendors, and postproduction facilities, and how your business can get involved. Additional panel members to be announced! Please note: due to the last-minute nature of the film industry, panelists may change as we approach the event.

“We are delighted to offer our Lunch & Learn series and provide a platform for tourism professionals to come together, learn, and grow,” said Melaine Rottkamp, president & CEO of Dutchess Tourism. “As our industry continues to evolve, it’s important for us to explore emerging trends and best practices. Thank you to our presenters and panelists for sharing their expertise and insights with our community.”

To register and learn more about DTI’s Lunch & Learn series, visit DutchessTourism.com/lunch-learn-series Those interested do not have to attend all three presentations in order to participate.

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Poughkeepsie CSD celebrates Black History Month with distinguished guest



Poughkeepsie City School District’s Black History Month celebration took place on Friday, Feb. 23, at Poughkeepsie Middle School. One of the most anticipated aspects of the event was the appearance by Kevin Douglass Greene, the great-great grandson of the legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Anna Murry Douglass. Event organizers are pictured (from left): Gibert Colon, Lorraine Boughton, Lesley Rodriguez, Jessica Ortiz, Jessica Hettinger, PCSD Executive Director Natasha Brown, Kevin Douglass Greene, PCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric Rossar, Jules Lindquist, Helen Purnell, Justinne Rodriguez and Charm Blaze.

-Courtesy photo by Mr. Evans/topshott.edits

U.S. premiere performance of ‘Red Silk’ set March 9

The premiere of “Red Silk: A Play in Two Acts” will take place on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon.

“Red Silk: A Play in Two Acts” is described as a riveting exploration of brilliant and deeply troubled poet Anne Sexton and her complex relationship with two of her psychiatrists.

For tickets, go to: <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/howland-cultural-center>.

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In a spirited celebration of Black History Month, the Poughkeepsie School District (PCSD) Community Schools, in collaboration with Echelon Auto Black Car Service, DoubleTree by Hilton Poughkeepsie, and an array of esteemed community-based organizations, proudly presented a Black History Month event that enlightened, engaged, and honored the rich heritage of the African Diaspora.

On Friday, Feb. 23, the event unfolded at the historic Poughkeepsie Middle School located at 55 College Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The event hosts, Jamar Cummings, Natasha Brown and organizers witnessed a vibrant turnout from dignitaries, local community members and beyond, as attendees partook in an array of culturally enriching activities and presentations.

One of the most anticipated aspects of the event was the appearance by Kevin Douglass Greene, the great-great grandson of the legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Anna Murry Douglass. Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass rose to become a prominent figure in American history, championing the cause of emancipation and civil rights. Now, Kevin Douglass Greene, himself a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, continues his

ancestor's legacy as a Senior Advisor with the Frederick Douglass Family Initiative, advocating for global literacy through the Million Abolitionists Project.

An inspiring keynote address by Dr. Edward Antonio, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Marist College, was a highlight of the event.

The program featured a diverse array of offerings, including captivating musical performances and special guest appearances. Attendees had the opportunity to explore booths set up by local vendors.

Organizers: Executive Director Natasha Brown; Lorraine Boughton, Jessica Ortiz, Gilbert Colon; Jessica Hettinger, Helen Purnell, Jules Lindquist, Justine Rodrigues, Charm Blaze, Da’Ron Wilson, and Diandria Williams.

Participation and organization were key to making this historic event happen, along with the esteemed community partners Essie’s Restaurant, Kedaer Parks, Charlia Frank, Prestigious Inspirational Entertainment Inc, Dulce Café, Ari Sweets, Pat’s Kitchen, Gennie’s House of Blues, Edible Arrangements Poughkeepsie, Pretty to Think So-Rhinebeck. All made this event a huge success for all attendees in the county for celebration of Black History Month.

Tompkins Community Bank promotes Todd Ferrara to new leadership role

An expansion of its small business lending (SBL) team, Tompkins Community Bank has appointed Todd Ferrara to a newly created role, SBL business line manager. Ferrara will oversee Tompkins’ SBL underwriters, lending assistants and market-based managers across New York and Pennsylvania, working to drive growth among target segments while delivering a top-notch customer experience.

“Small Business Lending is an area that is critical to the success of Tompkins and our local communities. We are focused on delivering high quality products and experiences to the small business customers we serve,” said Thomas Evans, enterprise credit administration officer at Tompkins. “As part of fulfilling that mission, establishing a dedicated leadership position and filling it with a high caliber individual is a critical step. Todd is a demonstrated leader with proven capabilities in this regard. It is with high conviction that we put Todd in this position and look forward to him delivering for Tompkins and our customers.”

Previously, Ferrara served as the business development officer for Tompkins’ Philadelphia footprint. A 25-year veteran of the banking industry, Ferrara has ample experience leading teams in small business and cash management.

“Todd joined Tompkins just over a year ago and has since established himself as a dynamic, capable leader,” said Ginger Kunkel, president of Tompkins’



Todd Ferrara

-Courtesy photo

Pennsylvania market. “His dedication to a supportive and collaborative work environment embodies the values that Tompkins holds paramount and we all look forward to watching Todd grow in this new role.”

A graduate of Juniata College, Ferrara currently serves as board secretary for the Boys and Girls Club of Chester, Pennsylvania, a position he has held for the past three years. He and his family are also longtime supporters of Speranza Animal Rescue and have fostered and rescued several from the organization. He lives in Royersford, Pennsylvania with his wife, Jill, and is father to one daughter and two stepchildren.

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by mark adams



# The Sphere

Mark and Sue head to Las Vegas for a totally unique experience

“Once in a lifetime.” That’s what I’m always telling Sue when I’m trying to convince her to do something outrageous that costs a ton of money. Like going to see Bruce Springsteen on Broadway. Or feasting on Oishii strawberries. This time it was a quick trip to the Sphere in Las Vegas, to see the band U2.

“But I don’t even like U2,” said Sue.

“Once in a Lifetime,” I replied.

The Sphere is the world’s largest spherical building, 516 feet across. The outer shell is plastered with 50 million light emitting diodes (LEDs) that create flamboyant displays, advertisements and holiday themes. Inside, the 18,000 seats face a stage set in front of the world’s largest – 16,000 sq. feet – LED screen. Of course, the audio system is revolutionary, featuring 167,000 speakers.

“We” found a gap in our schedule, bought plane tickets and googled “U2 sphere tickets.” Since the venue has been sold out since opening day (September 23, 2023), I had to pay extra on Stubhub – \$650 each, but, hey, it’s once in a lifetime. I did manage to find a reasonably priced room at the Flamingo, with, wouldn’t you know it, a view of the sphere. From our 19th floor window, the sphere actually looked small, nestled amongst all those towering casinos. Dinner at Bugsy’s Steakhouse cost more than the room.

U2 performed the 32nd show of their residency on February 17, a few hours after our plane landed. On our walk from the hotel, Sue pointed out the rosemary hedges growing alongside the Venetian resort. Approaching the giant globe, I was

awestruck by the swirling colors, changing hues and psychedelic designs on the outside of the shell. I was also terrified that the mobile e-ticket on my phone wouldn’t get me in. Sue was less worried. It was a festive scene as 18,000 concert goers were seeing the sphere up close for the first time.

I tapped my phone on a little gizmo by the gate, and it opened! A 16 ounce Bud Light cost \$19, definitely not once in a lifetime, and up we went on miles of escalators. The sphere holds the same number of people as Madison Square Garden, but instead of being spread out, the seats are stacked almost vertically – not for the faint of heart. Of course, Sue and I were almost in the last row.

The show started at 8:30, 11:30 New York time. Right off the bat, the giant screen behind the band started pulsating with an array of yellow dots, weird phrases and miscellaneous ephemera. It seemed like whoever was running the computers behind the scene was proclaiming “look what I can do.” It didn’t have much relevance to what was happening on stage.

And on stage, U2 was putting on a killer show. Of course, they looked like ants down there, and only rarely did images of the band appear on the screen. At Madison Square Garden, Sue and I would spend the entire show watching the band on the Jumbotron.

But what a sound! We didn’t really need to stare at the band to enjoy the music. Bono, the Edge, and Adam Clayton were joined by guest drummer Bram van den Berg, playing mostly songs from their

seminal album “Achtung Baby.” Bono was in good voice, except when he covered the Crowded House classic “Hey Now,” which he nevertheless pulled off with great feeling. As usual, my favorite part of any concert is when the acoustic instruments come out, in this case the Edge’s Gibson J-200 guitar, to play “All I want is You.” At one point Bono gave a shout out to Priscilla Presley, who was enjoying the show while on a break from her own touring schedule.

The constant barrage of sights and sounds left us exhilarated and frazzled by the time the concert ended at 2 a.m New York time. After all, we are about 15 years older than the typical U2 fan.

The next day we had a couple of hours to kill before our red-eye flight back home. So we went back to the sphere to see “The Sphere Experience,” a film by Darren Aronofsky called “Postcard from Earth.” As we watched worlds crumble and revive, seas churning and spiders jumping out of the screen, the seats quivered and wind blew from off stage. Somehow the show seemed to be in 3D, like the IMAX films back in the day. Even Sue was impressed.

Once in a lifetime.

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

Bottom left: Approaching the Sphere, a music and entertainment arena east of the Las Vegas strip.

Above: Sue inside the sphere.

-Photo by Mark Adams



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# Obituaries

## Barbara Ann Garo



BEACON - Barbara Ann Garo, a life-long Beacon resident, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on February 21, 2024 at the Vassar Brother Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, NY; at the age of 90. She was born in Beacon, NY on September 20, 1933, daughter of the late Arthur & Rachel (Kimbark) Greene. Barbara attended and graduated from Beacon City Schools. On September 15, 1961 in Beacon, NY, she married Harry Garo, who predeceased her after 46-years of marriage. Barbara was a member of the American Legion Post 203, Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a former member of the Red Hat Society. She was an avid bowler and bingo fan, and she enjoyed many other games. Barbara is survived by her five children: Robert Pine and his wife Sharon, Corinne Sgorbissa, Lynn Cheever, Toni Cucci and her husband Alex, and Christine Tresaloni and her husband Paul. She is also survived

by her 7 grandchildren: Melissa & Michael Pine, Lori Dixon, Jennifer Taveras, Mark Cucci, Dennis ‘DJ’ Cheever, and Nicholas Garo; her 8 great-grandchildren & 10 great-great-grandchildren. Barbara was also survived by several nieces & nephews. Along with her beloved husband, she was predeceased by her two sisters. Her Family received Friends on Monday, February 26 at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon. A Celebration of Life was held at LIBBY FUNERAL HOME on Tuesday, February 27, followed by interment to the Fairview Cemetery, 375 Washington Avenue, Beacon, NY. In lieu of flowers her family wishes for memorial donation to be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://www.LibbyFuneralHome.com).

## Erna Kaufman



EAST FISHKILL – Erna Kaufman, 95, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2024. Erna met the love of her life, Simon Kaufman, in 1954 when he was stationed in Germany during the Korean Conflict. They were married on June 23, 1956 and had almost 70 wonderful years together! Erna loved to play bingo, travel to the casinos, bake cookies around the holidays and work outside in the garden. She will be dearly missed by all. There will be no calling hours as she wanted. Burial will be at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery where her husband’s brother is buried. Memorial donations may be made to the East Fishkill Recreation, Hopewell Hose Company #1, or the East Fishkill Police Department.

## Earl M. Brown

WAPPINGERS FALLS - Earl M. Brown (1955-2024), 68 years old from Wappingers Falls, New York, passed away on February 22, 2024 surrounded by his family. He was born in Beacon, New York on June 27, 1955 to the parents of Lewis McKeel Brown and Frieda Blanch Brown (both preceded in death). He graduated from Roy C. Ketcham H.S. by Operation Recognition in June of 2018 by his mentor and friend, Hon. Raymond C. Chase. He worked at a local cemetery as a caretaker for years before starting his fulltime career at New York State Department of Transportation, Bridge Crew Maintenance from 1986 to 2011. He can tell you about every snowplow event and bridge he worked on. He joined the Navy then served in the United States Coast Guard Axillary, honorably retired as of 2023. Earl was known to be a person who was willing to help anyone he could and loved his family with his whole heart. He was overjoyed by becoming a Grandfather to Arianna C. Poet (eldest), Michael D. Poet and Hunter J. DeGeorge. They were his “kids” to anyone who asked about them. Earl is survived by his wife of 38 years, Maria A. DePaolis Brown of Wappingers Falls, New York with two children, eldest Daughter Frieda J. Brown Poet (Michael) with two Grandchildren, Arianna C. Poet and Michael D. Poet. Daughter, Christina M. Brown with one Grandchild, Hunter J. DeGeorge. Earl is survived by his sister, Joannie Brown Conklin (Dennis) with 4 Nephews. Brother, Lewie Brown with one Niece and two Nephews. Brother, Henry Brown (Markella) with three Nephews and one Niece along with four great Nephews. Wake was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at the Delehanty Funeral Home, located at 64 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Burial service to be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 11am at the Wappingers Rural Cemetery located at 174-208 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls, New York 12590. Donations to the American Legion, Wappingers Falls, Post 427 (7 Spring St.) would be greatly appreciated. He spoke highly of all the members he met and befriended through the years. Thank you to all the emergency services who assisted in his care. Sincerely, Maria, Frieda and Christina

## Virginia (Ginny) Menton



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Virginia (Ginny) Menton, 70 of Wappingers Falls passed away February 17th, 2024, surrounded by love in her home, after a short battle with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. She was born to the late Alfred and Joan Shepard, November 3rd, 1953, in Cornwall, New York. Ginny graduated from Roy C. Ketcham High School in 1973. Ginny is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband Michael Menton, of 47 years. They were married on September 18th, 1976. Together they enjoyed their annual trip to the Adirondack Balloon Festival in Queenbury, New York, weekends spent with their friends, visiting casinos, and working hard to create a beautiful life together. Ginny worked for many years in the jewelry industry. She began her love for jewelry

at Cornell Jewelers in the early 80’s, where she made lifelong friends and mentors. From there she moved to Zimmer Brother’s and finished her time in the field with Jaymark Jewelers. She enjoyed working with customers selecting cherished pieces of jewelry for all occasions of life. Ginny then began working with disabled adults in a day program, but then focused her love and attention on her mother Joan after the loss of her father Alfred. Ginny and Mike have two beautiful daughters together: Christina (Felix) Menton, and Kathleen (James) Ehlers, and two-year-old granddaughter Peyton Grace Ehlers. Her role as Nana was her greatest joy and blessing. Ginny was beyond proud of both of her girls for their individual accomplishments; Christina who successfully turned her life around in December of 2018, and recently celebrated her fifth year sober with the support of her NA community, and Kathleen who teaches in the Arlington Central School District. In addition, Ginny is survived by her younger brother Blair Shepard of Stone Ridge, New York. Ginny frequently attended New Hackensack Reformed Church, enjoying the Sunday sermon given by Rev. Tamlyn. She often participated in the creation of gifts and wrapping presents for the church’s annual Piggy Bank Bazaar event. Throughout her life, Ginny was a dedicated daughter, wife, mother, and friend. She did not relish attention, but was the person present and there to comfort, help, or listen. She will be sorely missed by all those who knew her and remembered by her bright blue eyes, feisty spirit, and love for all things sweet. A celebration of life was held at the Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls, New York on Saturday, February 24th with a prayer service given by Rev. Keith Tamlyn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue Sanctuary or the American Cancer.

## David Baldauf



David Baldauf completed his earthly journey on February 20, 2024, at the age of 95. He lived a full life, had a strong Christian faith, and passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. Preceding him in death were his parents, Alfred and Helen, and his brother and his wife, Milton and Margaret. Dave was a devoted husband to Marion for 68 years and a loving father and father-in-law to Susan (Mark Wright), Jane (Brian Lucia), Daniel (Alicia), and James (Lori). He developed special relationships with his grandchildren: Aaron and Sarah Lucia, Jonathan and Taira Baldauf, Aubrey and Tristan Baldauf and Christopher Goudy. His life was enriched by friends. Though his loss is immeasurable, so is the love and legacy he left behind. David served in the US Navy and earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. He began working at IBM when it was a pioneer in computers and worked there for 35 years. The highlight for him was managing the space navigations systems for Gemini space missions. He served his church, various town boards, and volunteered for numerous community programs. David shared many recreational activities with his children as a father and continued to enjoy these into his 90’s. Activities include tennis, hiking, sailing and cultural activities. In retirement, he and Marion traveled widely, enjoying life-long educational adventures. He chose to return his body to the earth at the Natural Burial Ground in Rhinebeck Cemetery, which will take place on Friday, February 23 at 1 pm, 55 Mill Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. We ask for everyone to arrive a few minutes early so we can walk to the gravesite together. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Rhinebeck Reformed Church on Saturday, February 24th at 11 am. Guests are invited to join the family for food and fellowship afterwards. Memorial gifts may be made in David’s name to High Peaks Hospice, 454 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY 12801, or to the Winnakee Land Trust, Inc., 7 Livingston St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or online at [www.winnakee.org](http://www.winnakee.org), please indicate it is for David Baldauf. Arrangements under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, Rhinebeck, NY To send an online condolence, please visit [www.dapsonchestney.com](http://www.dapsonchestney.com).

## Earnest Carlisle Jr.



BEACON - Earnest Carlisle Jr., a former resident of the Hedgewood Home in Beacon, NY, passed away on Sunday February 18, 2024 at The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing in Pawling NY; he was 89 years old. He was born Durham, North Carolina on August 23, 1934, son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Earnest Carlisle, Sr. Earnest served in the United States Army during The Cold War from 1953 to 1956 ; he received an honorable discharge for his service. Unfortunately, Earnest leaves behind no family, only those friends he made from living at the Hedgewood Home in Beacon.

Earnest will be laid to rest with Military Honors rendered by the United States Army Honor Guard on Wednesday February 28 at 10:00AM in the LaGrange Rural Cemetery, Overlook Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. To offer a message of thanks to the veteran or leave a fond memory, please visit [www.LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://www.LibbyFuneralHome.com).

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227 Bridal Services

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\* Secretary for the Conservation Advisory Commission. Attendance required to take the minutes at monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday of every month. \$17.80 per hour.

Please send letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 436, Stanfordville, NY 12581 or to [rbell@townofstanford.org](mailto:rbell@townofstanford.org).

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SPORTS REPORT

Volpe, Jones have impressive starts for Yanks in spring opener

**By Rich Thomaselli**  
Here comes baseball! Well, sort of. Although the minor league baseball season doesn't begin until the first week of April, potential players for the Hudson Valley Renegades have gathered in Tampa for spring training. The Renegades are the Class A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

Many of the Renegades have gone on to enjoy Major League success. The most recent example was Anthony Volpe, who has already been named the starting shortstop for the 2024 season for the Yankees.

Volpe progressed through the system and ended up playing in only 55 games in Hudson Valley and was promoted to

the big leagues last year. Volpe had a hit and scored a run in the Yankees' spring training opener on Saturday – a 22-10 win over the Detroit Tigers.

Outfielder Spencer Jones, who was one of the Renegades star performers last season, also had an impressive spring debut with the Yankees on Saturday when he crushed a 470-foot

homer in his first at-bat as a pinch hitter. Jones went 3-3 on the day with two runs and four RBIs.

A full roster for the Renegades will not be set until the conclusion of spring training at the end of March. The team made it to the finals of the South Atlantic League last year.

The season begins on April 6.

OLL girls after league win

**By Rich Thomaselli**  
The Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team won its first Mid-Hudson Athletic League championship last week and did so in

impressive fashion.

OLL beat Highland, 65-29.

The Warriors are now 19-1 as they head into the Section 9 playoffs.

Kayla Johannesen had 16 points, six

assists and six rebounds to lead OLL. Teammate Bianka Velovic added 11 points, five rebounds and three assists, and Simone Pelish had nine points.

Lourdes held leads of 20-0 and 41-12.

The Warriors won the league semifinals and finals by the combined score of 135-66.

OLL we'll be playing in the AAA Tournament the Huskies will participate in Section 9, Class B.















# Spring Celebration of Light marked in Beacon



The annual Beacon Spring Celebration of Light was held on Main St. in Beacon on Feb. 24. The event organizers said the annual festivities celebrated the coming spring, new year, light, hope, renewal, and children.

-Courtesy photos by Simon Keough



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Stanza Books of Beacon will present its first publication, the fantasy novel “HEKATE’S RETURN” at the store, 508 Main St., in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 2.

An event for fans of magical practice, fantasy, and history, as well as for writers and members of the literary scene interested in small Hudson Valley presses.

During this event, they will dissect the magical systems in the book, then discuss how those same systems manifest in one’s own life.

Also to be discussed is the working relationship between writer Mark Harris and writer and editor Andrea Talarico, as well as Stanza’s upcoming publishing efforts.



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