

BEACON FREE PRESS

PBA posts about officer leaving for another department

•By Kristine Coulter

The City of Beacon Police Department PBA posted on Facebook about the transfer of Officer Ryan Goldfine from the City of Beacon Police Department to the Town of Carmel Police Department in Putnam County. The post was posted on the PBA's Facebook page on March 8.

Officer Goldfine transferred to the City of Beacon Police Department from the NYPD "in hopes of securing better and safer working conditions coupled with a more favorable salary," according to the PBA.

"Sadly, after just a few short years, Officer Goldfine will be transferring to the Town of Carmel Police Department after coming to terms that the City of Beacon strays far from the benchmark standard of law enforcement, with less than a competitive pay scale, lack of manpower and lack of opportunity for growth and training. This highlights an ongoing struggle for the City of Beacon to maintain a fully staffed police department over more competitive agencies in the area," the PBA stated in the post.

Beacon Police Chief Sands Frost II said in an email to the Beacon Free Press: "Similar to other law enforcement agencies in the Mid-Hudson Valley, the City of Beacon has faced ongoing challenges in fully staffing the Department. The bottom line is that over the past four years, more officers have retired than have been recruited. Beacon has aggressively pushed recruitment of new officers, and we continue to attract well-qualified candidates although not enough to compensate for the wave of retirements."

The Chief noted, "Despite staffing challenges, the Department has been a model of successful policing, and our increasingly diverse department continues to serve our community with dedication and distinction. We meet all training standards required by New York State and are one of only a few agencies in Dutchess County to receive Accreditation through the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services."

Regarding pay, Frost remarked, "The City has recognized that pay levels for police and other employees must be competitive to attract and retain qualified individuals. The City negotiated a 5-year contract with the PBA in 2021 that raised pay rates, and the City added to those scheduled increases in January 2024 by authorizing an across-the-board salary increase of \$1,000 to each officer. It is challenging to compete with police agencies in Westchester and Putnam [counties], but in the past eighteen months, we have only lost two officers to higher paying departments. The City will work with the PBA to ensure that salaries are competitive with nearby departments."

Asked if Beacon police are paid competitively with other departments in the area he replied, "It depends on how you define the area. Not with Westchester County, but with other departments in Dutchess, we are comparable with some and less so with others."

The Chief said, "In the last 18 months, we have had 2 officers transfer to other departments. One went to a department in Westchester County, and the other went to a department in Putnam County." He replied that there are currently 32 officers with four open positions in the City of Beacon Police Department.

"Over the last few years, we have ranged from staffing in the high 20's to a full contingent of 36 sworn officers," Frost said.

"While we are saddened by the departure of Officer Goldfine, we are happy he has found better opportunities for himself. We are pleased that the Town of Carmel Police Department has gained another great officer. Stay safe, Officer Goldfine," concluded the PBA post. The PBA did not respond to an inquiry for comment.

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March 20, 2024

Celebrate the sugar maple at Sharpe Reservation Saturday

By Kristine Coulter

The Sugar Maple Celebration is on tap at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Camp Hidden Valley.

"We are excited to have a live animal show by Animal Embassy, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, and legendary storyteller Jonathan Kruk. In addition, we have our time-tested favorites including learning about maple syrup at our sugar shack," said Timothy Stanley, the director of Sharpe Reservation.

This year there are 175 taps on sugar maples at Sharpe, said Stanley. "We tapped on February 16th. So far so good. We are bottling syrup on a daily basis. We need nights below freezing and days above freezing for the trees to produce. We are worried an early March warm up [may] impact our late season crop," he explained.

So, what can attendees expect during the annual event? "This is a family fun day! We have a dining hall full of vendors, our Annual Maple Syrup Judging Contest, planetarium shows, black smith, portable sawmill demonstrations, maple



The Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation on March 23 in Fishkill. Pictured is Thomas Grant working at the Evaporator.

-Courtesy photo

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Serino delivers first State of County address



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino delivers the State of the County Address on March 14th in Red Hook.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her first State of the County Address this evening, outlining many of her priorities for Dutchess County Government, before hundreds of residents, business and nonprofit leaders, as well as local and state officials gathered at Red Hook High School's Performing Arts Center in Red Hook.

County Executive Serino said, "The state of Dutchess County is strong, thanks to the dedicated women and men of County government who go above and beyond to enhance our quality of life. We are truly fortunate to live and work in this vibrant and thriving community, but we must commit ourselves to always striving to do more – to be responsive to each of our young people, families, seniors, veterans and those who are struggling – to listen to their concerns and encourage them to help us decide how we, as a community, tackle difficult challenges. We must, above all, treat each other with respect, kindness and compassion. These are the principles and goals that guide me each day and will inform the decisions I make on behalf of our taxpayers."

Continued on page 3

Sap Happy Maple Weekend returns to Bowdoin Park March 21-24

Dutchess County Parks’ popular Sap Happy Maple Weekend will take place at Bowdoin Park Thursday, March 21 through Sunday, March 24 with a line-up of fun, educational, and delicious events for all ages.

“Maple Weekend is a truly a unique experience,” said County Executive Sue Serino. “Residents of all ages can come out to sample our house-made maple syrup, learn the history of the syrup-making process, and be our judges for the second annual Best Pancake Competition! I am grateful to our Parks team for creating this fun collaboration with fellow County departments and community businesses.”

Sap Happy Maple Weekend events will be held in collaboration with the County’s Office for the Aging (OFA), Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club, The Culinary Institute of America, Just a Little Pie Shop and the New York State Maple Producers Association. Dutchess County Parks Pure Maple Syrup will also be available for purchase (cash only) throughout the weekend, while supplies last. Event information, including registration and updates, for Sap Happy Maple Weekend are available on the Dutchess County Parks Facebook page and at dutchessny.gov/parks.

Sap Happy Maple Weekend features

Seniors Pancakes in the Park and Maple Bingo will be held in collaboration with OFA on Thursday, March 21 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at Bowdoin Park. Residents ages 65 and older and a caregiver are invited to come enjoy a free pancake breakfast and play a game of maple-themed Bingo. Registration opens Friday, February 23 and is available by calling OFA at 845-486-2555. Reservations are required as seating is limited.

Parks staff will provide hands-on learning opportunities for all ages during its popular Maple Education Demos and Tasting sessions on Friday, March 22 and Sunday, March 24. Participants will learn about the art and history of making maple syrup and watch the different steps of the maple syrup making process, from the tapping of trees to sap collection, and boiling it down to make syrup. Native American methods for creating maple sugar will also be explored. Sessions will be offered at 10am, noon, and 2pm. Classes are \$5 per person and pre-registration is required. Register at DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

The second annual Sap Happy 5K Run/Walk will be held in partnership with Eastern Dutchess Road Runners

Club steps off on Saturday, March 23, starting at 8:30am. The run will be rain or shine, and the course route is along the paved and gravel roadways within Bowdoin Park. Pre-race bib pick-up will be at Fleet Feet Poughkeepsie, located in the Shoppes at South Hills, from March 20th-22nd during store hours. Day-of race bib pick-up will begin at 7:15am at Pavilion 5 at Bowdoin Park. All registered participants will receive a maple-themed bandana and awards will be given to the top five male, female, and non-binary runners. Pre-registration is required and costs \$20 per person or \$15 for Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club members. Register online at Dutchessny.gov/Maple5K.

The second annual Community Breakfast and Best Pancake Competition will be held Saturday, March 23rd from 9:15 a.m. to noon in the Bowdoin Park Auditorium. Dutchess County Parks staff will again team up with Culinary Institute of America students in a competition for who makes the Best Pancake. Who wins? You decide! Tickets are \$5 per person (cash only at the door) and children 6 and under are free. Tickets are on a first

come, first served basis and while supplies last. Walk-up Maple Education workshops will also be held (weather depending) and are included with pancake breakfast entry.

Just a Little Pie Shop will feature Dutchess County Parks’ Pure Maple Syrup in a signature Maple Syrup Pie, which will be available for purchase at the shop from Wednesday, March 20 through Wednesday, March 27, or while supplies last. Just a Little Pie Shop is located in Eastdale Village on Route 44 in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Maple Education Group Opportunities Dutchess County Parks is a member of the New York State Maple Producers Association, which will bring its Maple Experience Mobile Classroom to local School Districts in March and April, including a field-trip experience at Wilcox Memorial Park in Milan on April 3rd for home school groups, and local clubs. Please call 845-298-4600 for more information.

Other group Maple Education experiences are available at Bowdoin and Wilcox Park by appointment. For more information on these or other Parks Naturalist programs, please call 845-298-4600.

Celebrate the sugar maple at Sharpe Reservation Saturday

Continued from cover

syrup demonstrations and more! It is a wonderful way to celebrate the arrival of spring!” Stanley replied. He added, “The day becomes an annual tradition for many. Families return year after year! Everyone loves locally produced syrup.”

Remember: This is one day a year that The Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation is open to the public.

“Year-round school groups, scouts, community-based groups and churches

utilize the camps for day and residential trips. During the summer thousands of New York City children have the opportunity to come to summer camp to develop life skills and have fun in the outdoors,” said Stanley.

More information about The Fresh Air Fund can be found at www.freshair.org. The event is free but there will be items available for purchase (bringing cash is suggested).

Sharpe Reservation is at 436 Van Wyck Lake Road, Fishkill.



The Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation’s Sugar Maple Celebration is set for March 23 in Fishkill. Pictured are Aliyah and Andrew Stanley.

-Courtesy photo

Commercial Fishing on the Hudson presentation at the Beacon Sloop Club on March 21

The Beacon Sloop Club’s 2024 Lecture Series Presents, Commercial Fishing on the Hudson River with John Mylod, discussing the natural history of shad, herring, sturgeon, blue crabs, and the history of the Hudson River fishery on On

Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Admission is free, Will take place Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon.

For more information: www.beacon-sloopclub.org or 845-463-4660, 914- 879-1082.

Free veterans luncheon on March 23

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Ave., in Beacon is hosting a free Veterans Luncheon for veterans and their loved ones on Saturday, March 23 at

noon. There will be a guest speaker on gardening prep, planting and upkeep. All are welcome.

To RSVP, call 914-474-1891.



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Viewpoints

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

The importance of Gideon’s Promise

By Margaret Walker

Etched above the entrance to the United States Supreme Court is the phrase “Equal Justice Under Law.” These words are both an ideal and a promise. An ideal that the quality of justice should never be based on impermissible factors such as race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or the amount of money you have. A promise of our society’s abiding commitment to provide equal justice for all.

The Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution, ratified in 1791, gave citizens certain rights in criminal trials, including the right to counsel. Some may not realize that prior to 1963, that right only applied in the federal courts, not in state criminal trials. Local defendants who could afford to pay a lawyer could retain one, of course, but if someone did not have enough money, they could be tried and convicted without a lawyer in the state courts.

It was not until 1963 that the United States Supreme Court decided in the landmark case of *Gideon v Wainwright* that the Sixth Amendment right to counsel applies in every court in the land. They did this by determining that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which provides all citizens with “equal protection under the laws,” includes the Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel. The story leading to one of the most important legal rulings ever decided by the Nation’s Highest Court is an iconic American tale.

In the summer of 1961, Clarence Earl Gideon faced a criminal trial in a Florida state court on charges that he broke into a poolroom and stole coins from a cigarette machine. He asserted his innocence and requested a lawyer. That request was denied because there was no right to a court-appointed lawyer at the time. Gideon cross-examined the witnesses himself, without knowing criminal procedure law. He was basically a lifelong drifter at the age of 51, with an eighth-grade education. He was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

Writing from his prison cell in Florida, he sent a handwritten petition to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing that the Constitution does not allow poor people to be convicted without legal representation. The time was finally right for this argument.

On March 18, 1963, Justice Hugo Black, writing for a unanimous Court, stated: “...reason and reflection require us to recognize that in our adversary system of criminal justice, any person haled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured a fair trial unless counsel is provided for him. This seems to us an obvious truth.”

At his retrial, with a lawyer, Gideon was acquitted. Ever since, it is accepted that the right to counsel is essential. But the question remained of what level of government would pay for lawyers to represent criminal defendants who could not afford a lawyer.

The states handled the creation of their public defense systems very differently. Some created a statewide Public Defender office. New York, two years after *Gideon*,



Margaret Walker

enacted County Law Article 18-B, which became a dysfunctional guarantee of the right to counsel insofar as that law mandated New York’s 62 counties to fund their own public defense. Compensation rates for county-provided lawyers were variable and for many years, not enough to provide meaningful representation.

New York State now has a hodgepodge of public defense systems, from county public defender offices, to contracts with Legal Aid Societies, to private attorney panels. Today, 61 years after *Gideon*, implementation of the right to counsel remains uneven across the state and nation, and people who cannot afford counsel are regularly denied their basic right to a qualified attorney, resulting in unjust verdicts.

It is a challenging task to bring to life the promise of *Gideon v. Wainwright* – the dream in which every person charged with a crime will be capably defended. Public trust in the legal system is still shaken by tales of wrongful convictions and the exoneration of the innocent after serving years in prison.

In 2010, New York State created the Office of Indigent Legal Services to assist county governments to improve the quality of legal representation. The funds provided by that Office were deeply needed and made all the difference.

We are most fortunate in Dutchess County to have a public defender office with experienced and dedicated full-time criminal and family defense lawyers, as well as investigators, social workers, and a legal support staff which deliver on *Gideon*’s promise every day.

Gideon stands as a milestone in American constitutional law. It affirms the principle of equal justice under the law, the most fundamental aspiration of our legal system. It represents the kind of legal system we would like to have and the kind of society we aspire to be.

As we cherish the ideal, we must continue to deliver on the promise.

Margaret Walker was appointed as Dutchess County’s 6th Public Defender on January 2 by new County Executive Sue Serino, after long-time Public Defender Tom Angell retired. Walker was office’s Director of Training since 2019 and was a prosecutor prior to that.

VA to join One-Stop

In January, I detailed some of the highlights of 2023 and expressed that we at Dutchess County Veterans Services and our partners working at the MHA One-Stop facility are always looking to find new and creative ways to better serve our veterans.

I am excited to share that beginning this month, the VA Administration at Castle Point is setting up a satellite office on our campus to give veterans another way to receive personal guidance regarding VA benefits. This will help streamline the application process of obtaining healthcare for all those who have faithfully served our country.

The new VA office will be open at the One Stop in Pleasant Valley the last Thursday of each month for in-person counseling from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Virtual appointments will be available daily for those who don’t have transportation or may have other commitments that make it difficult to get to Castle Point.

There are two rooms dedicated to Video Virtual Care (VVC) where veterans can connect with their VA medical providers for telehealth appointments or meet in-person with a VA representative about any questions or concerns they have regarding their healthcare benefits.

In addition, VA Telehealth icons will be placed on the desktops so vets can easily click and access VA Telehealth Information and resources such as direct links to MyHealtheVet (VHA’s Patient Portal), the VA App Store, VA Online Scheduling, and VA Health Chat. Several live virtual VA group programs and classes will be offered.

In my experience working with veterans over the years, I know the challenges of wading through paperwork and providing all the documentation required to get an application completed and ready for a decision by the VA Administration.

Getting many of our vets to go through this sometimes-long process has a lot to do with how they are treated in their initial meeting and how they relate to the person conducting the interview. This is why I am excited about the VA coming to the local one-stop building. I have worked with VA Outreach Coordinator, Lenox “Lenny” Okall, who will oversee this new initiative, and his story is inspiring. While just in his 20s, Okall made the journey from Kenya to America alone and with no money. Within a month he made the decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps, simply because he wanted to serve our country.

After active duty, Lenny began his work with the VA as a Health Eligibility Advisor in 2017; and after holding several progressive positions, he eventually became Outreach Coordinator. Those who have worked with him know he is not only an expert at navigating the VA Healthcare system, but he is passionate about helping his fellow veterans secure all the allowances available to them.

As Dutchess County Veterans Services Director, it’s hard to fully express how exciting it is to see the energy around the one-stop campus as it continues to draw more people and organizations who understand its vision and who want to find the most effective ways to help our veterans.

I encourage any organization that works with veterans and wants to help connect vets with the VA, to access the health benefits they’ve earned, to contact Lenny Okall at 845-831-2000 ext. 217666 and make a virtual or in-person appointment.

And, of course, we at the Dutchess County Veterans Services and everyone at the MHA One-Stop facility are available every weekday to help our veterans in any way we can.

Contact us at 845-486-2060; email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov or visit our webpage at dutchessNY.gov/veterans.

Bipartisan bill aimed at illegal, unlicensed smoke shops

Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R,C - East Fishkill) and Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar (D-Queens) partnered on a bipartisan bill aimed at tackling the proliferation of illegal, unlicensed smoke shops across the state. Known as the (A08428A) “Smoke Out Act,” this legislation grants municipalities the authority to shut all illegal smoke shops promptly.

Beephan sparked this bipartisan collaboration with Rajkumar in response to the recent controversy surrounding an illegal weed bus in East Fishkill, vending unlicensed products to residents. Recognizing the urgent need for action, Beephan actively liaised with New York’s Office of Cannabis Management, providing information to the community.

The recent incident involving the DispensaryBus, which was impounded by law enforcement after a rigorous investigation, according to Beephan, underscored the limitations faced by local

municipalities in enforcing New York’s cannabis laws. In light of these challenges, Beephan emphasized the importance of empowering localities with the tools necessary to implement state and local laws effectively.

Beephan remarked in a statement, “By granting localities the authority to enforce cannabis regulations, we are taking a significant step towards safeguarding our communities from unlicensed and unregulated products.”

Rajkumar said in a statement, “My SMOKEOUT Act is common sense legislation with support from both parties and every corner of the State. No matter our political party or where we live, we are all united in our determination to close all 36,000 illegal smoke shops plaguing our neighborhoods. We need to pass the SMOKEOUT Act in this year’s budget to empower all localities to take control of the situation and immediately close illegal cannabis shops for good.”

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- 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.

Student mathematicians enjoy Pi Day



Monet Halliday, whose 4th-grade class was recognized for multiplying 18x18 digits, is looking in awe at a 5-foot 3D print of three intersecting cylinders, that took two months to print, which embodies the utilization of the STEAM concepts.

-Courtesy photo

Since March 14, 2015, The Math & Physics Exploration has sponsored an annual math recognition program on March 14 to honor top math students in Dutchess County and in other counties such as Orange and Putnam. Sponsors such as The Hudson Valley Credit Union, Top's Markets, The Daily Planet Diner, Adams Fairacre Farms and Mellina Weiss through the Dutchess County Community Foundation have sponsored this event.

A special program has been offered in the elementary and junior high schools in the Wappingers Central School District with Drs. Irvin Miller, Chris Parks, and Sara Rothman offering instruction. This math program is so supercharged that the students learn how to do 18x18 digit multiplication, how to multiply infinite power series to prove algebraic identities, and how to program in Python.

With the 18x18 digit, they learn a creative way of doing a problem that cannot be done by an ordinary computer and their parents. This approach is being taught to some of the teachers so that they can seamlessly integrate it with the current instruction. Last year, Kristen Nelson and Maleri Patterson of Fishkill Plains Elementary taught their entire fifth grade class to perform this task, while this year, Monet Halliday, Leone and Emily Tompkins are teaching their fourth-grade class the same thing.

I believe that there are hundreds of children in the Wappingers Central School District who have accomplished a math task that has not been done by any other students in New York State except for the students that Dr. Miller taught. Some of those children have gone on to become Valedictorians of their schools.

The multiplication of infinite power series is something that many high school and college students cannot do. Here we have elementary and junior high school students who are more advanced mathematically than their parents and older brothers and sisters. In fact, Dr. Miller did not learn to do these feats until well after he finished his graduate work in High Energy Physics.

The next step was to show these students how to challenge Mathematicians. Last year, a video was produced on Nova explaining some concepts about zero. The students in the enriched math course where shown possible logical errors that these professors made and the process for refuting them.

They were then shown another way of looking at math to discover negative numbers and to explain, not just accept, the rules of operation.

The students in the program were given this opportunity to learn how to study advanced math topics through the leadership of Drs. Michelle and Dwight Bonk and support of the Board of Education presided over by John Lumia.

The following students were recognized through certificates and speeches at the event by the following community leaders: Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Ryan and Lawler, State Senator Rolison, State Assemblyman Anil Beephan, County Executive Sue Serino, Charmain of the Legislature Will Truitt along with legislators in the school district, and town Supervisors Rebecca Edwards, Nicholas D'Alessandro, Joseph Cavaccini, and Ozzy Albra:

Names of the students
Brinckerhoff Elementary
Madison, Adam, Megan, Xavier, Gary, Nehlah, King, Maddox, Martin
Fishkill Plains Elementary
Gouda, Grady, Aurelia, Colton, Eashan, Sabrina, Janiyah, Luke, Levi, Noelle, Anthony, Michael, Ariana, Devan, Rebecca, Kelly, Ian
Myers Corners Elementary
Marc, Emilia, Iliona, Austen, Bekim, Dylan, Emma, Tristan, Sarah
Oak Grove
Owen, Gianna, Giovanni, Joshua, Jack, Alex, Keegan, Kian, Sean, Roslyn
Sheafe Road Elementary
John, Luca, Yassin, Michael, Leia, Luke, Rita, Erika
Van Wyck Junior High School
Nicolette, Steven, Johan, Jacob, Bennett, Vincenzo and Morgan
Wappingers Junior High School
Roy, Rockwell, Arden, Landon, Anatole
Several students, parents and teachers gave presentations on the impact of this program on the enhanced confidence and the enjoyment of math. After the students where given their certificates and awards generated by a 3D printer, they enjoyed fruit pies and other refreshments.

One may watch the ceremony on the following YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGz0JUHtnaQ>
Dr. Miller is the President and Director of The Math & Physics Exploration (501(c)3).

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The People’s Choice in 1824?

By Bill Jeffway

A small sewing box in DCHS Collections says “The People’s Choice” on the top with an engraving of John Quincy Adams on the inside. It is an early example of a political campaign trinket. Adams was elected President in 1824.

Whether he was the people’s choice, or not, is debated among historians and scholars and shows how the American electoral system has been evolving over time. The election outcome is often referred to as having been a “corrupt bargain” which is language that showed up in local newspapers at the time.

The election was conducted from Tuesday, October 26 to Thursday, December 2, 1824, and involved four major candidates: John Quincy Adams, mentioned earlier, the son of the second U.S. President, John Adams, was from a well-to-do and established Boston family. Andrew Jackson, the rough and rugged self-made military man was from Tennessee. Also running was House Speaker Henry Clay of Kentucky, and Secretary of the Treasury William Crawford of Georgia. Town of Amenia’s Smith Thompson, then Secretary of the Navy, had wanted to run but pulled out from the crowded field.

First, let’s look earlier that year when bills that would have changed the sys-

tem in New York from having electoral college electors chosen by a vote of a joint session of the New York State Senate and Assembly, to direct election by voters going to the polls as they are today. This “direct” system was in place in most States, but not New York State. The change in law failed. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* was furious, editorializing on March 3, 1824, “Voice of the People. The proceedings of the people who are daily assembling in the different towns and counties of the state to express their wishes respecting the electoral law and their indignation at the conduct of Governor Yates, [U.S. President] Martin Van Buren and the other men who have lent their influence and exertions to defeat the public will on this occasion pour in upon us in such floods that it is no longer in our power even to notice all of them...”

So, in late October the two bodies, the NYS Senate and Assembly, got together to vote.

Several rounds of voting were inconclusive because both houses needed to agree on a candidate. Ultimately, John Quincy Adams got a majority of votes in both houses, including the support of Dutchess County State Senator Isaac Sutherland, of Stanford. New York’s 36 electoral college votes were sent to the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC, for John Quincy Adams.

But when all thirteen states’ votes were counted, four candidates split the vote such that none won enough electoral college votes to become President. In States where votes had been counted, Jackson had a majority of the popular vote: Jackson got 151,363 and Adams 113,142. Jackson got 99 electoral votes and Adams got 84; but 131 was required to win.

The rule that was in place then, is the rule that is in place now. When a candidate does not receive enough votes from the electoral college, the Presidential election is determined by one vote from each state in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each state’s vote is determined by a majority of votes of the congressmen for that state. New York had 36 Congressmen.

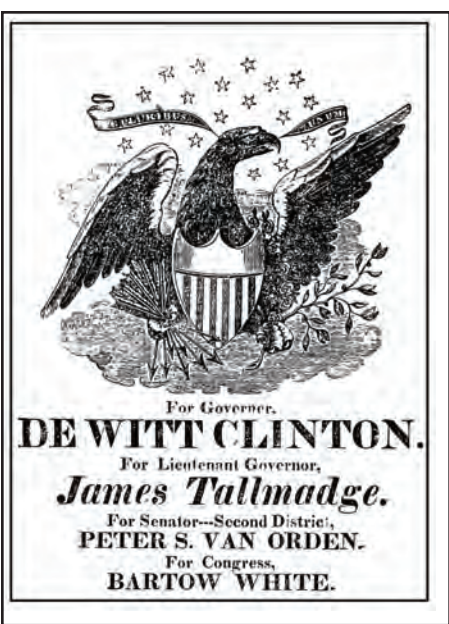
During this unprecedented period, newspaper editorials lobbied for their respective favorite candidates. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* was firmly for Andrew Jackson, writing, “...Jackson could probably poll twice as many votes in old Dutchess as all of them together.” The local names associated with the promotion of Jackson for President were formidable: Hyde Park’s Morgan Lewis, the former Governor, among them.

The *Journal* editorialized repeatedly that the public should lobby the local Congressman at the time, William W. Van Wyck of Fishkill, to vote for Jackson, although his vote would be but one of 36. The majority vote of the New York delegation went for John Quincy Adams.

In what became known as the corrupt bargain, Clay lent his support (and all his electoral college votes) to Adams with the agreement that Clay would become Secretary of State (which he did). This gave Adams enough votes to win in the House of Representatives.

On February 2, 1825, the *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported the following, “The latest rumors from Washington represent that Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay have concluded a bargain by which the latter has agreed to smother his resentment against the former and unite in making him president. Rumor says Mr. Clay is to receive as payment the office of Secretary of the State. Such are the rumors from Washington that efforts are being made to defraud the American people of the candidate of their choice by corrupt combinations among some of the leading friends of Adams and Clay.”

Two weeks later the *Poughkeepsie Journal* editorialized with an olive branch, “Having been decidedly opposed to Mr. Adams election to the presidency from a sincere conviction that he was unworthy to fill that exalted



Above from the newspaper, the Dutchess Observer, during the election of 1824, supported DeWitt Clinton for Governor and James Tallmadge for Lieutenant Governor. Unlike the U.S. Presidential election taking place at the same time, the election of the Governor was by direct popular vote while Presidential electoral college electors were chosen by the New York State Senate and Assembly in a joint session. Clinton ran on a campaign of making Presidential electors a direct choice by the vote of the people which came to pass by 1828.

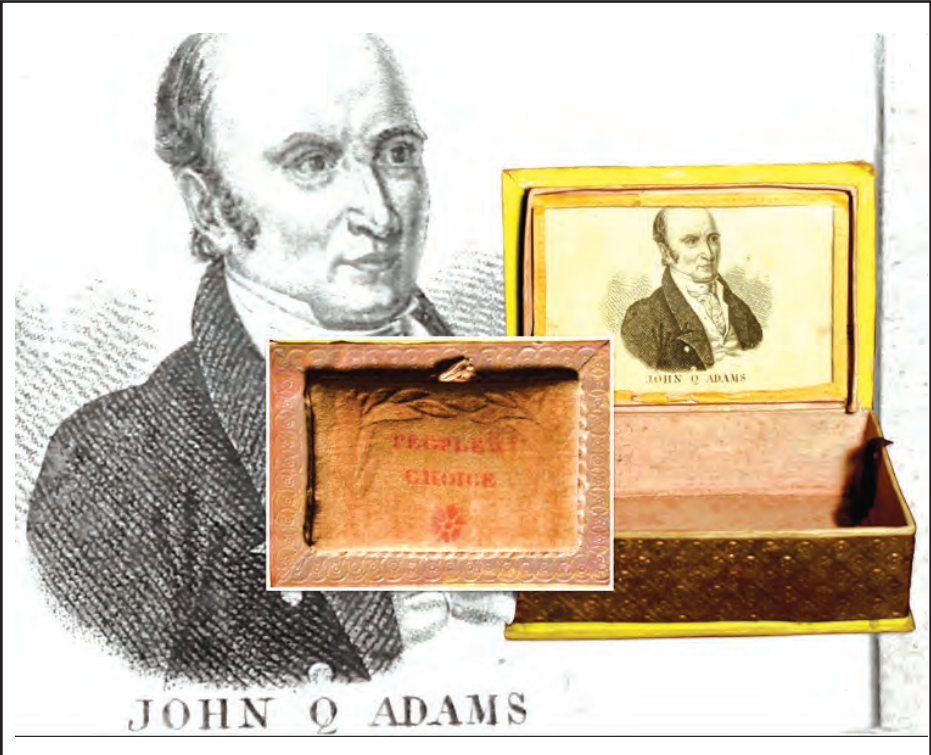
-Courtesy images

station it will not be expected that we should rejoice at his success especially when we add as our firm belief that Mr. Adams is not the choice of the nation and that his election has been affected by bargaining and corruption. Still, Mr. Adams has been chosen agreeably to the forms prescribed by the Constitution and we must submit to his reign with the best grace we can.”

Four years later, in 1828, Adams and Jackson met in a rematch. Jackson took 56% of the popular vote and won almost every state outside of New England. Jackson handily won Dutchess County and all towns went for him except the following for Adams: Beekman, Hyde Park, Pawling, Union Vale. The “people’s choice” of 1828 emerged as Andrew Jackson.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsny.org or 845-293-7711.



Although it is now faded and hard to read, the top of the box, when closed, has the words “The People’s Choice” with an image of John Quincy Adams on the inside, visible when open. The box might be related to the 1828 election which saw an identical match up of the 1824 candidates of Adams and Jackson. Jackson won in 1828.

Wappingers Falls reorganization meeting set for April 1

The Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Wappingers Falls will hold a reorganization meeting on Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m., at the Wappingers Falls Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue.

The purpose is to fill vacancies created by the recent election as well as reappointing or appointing new individuals for positions which have expired terms, establish meeting times and locations and designate an official newspaper.

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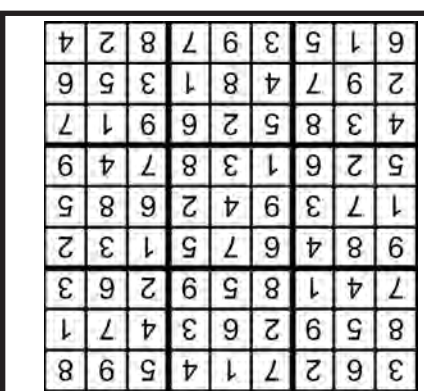
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this week’s puzzle solutions

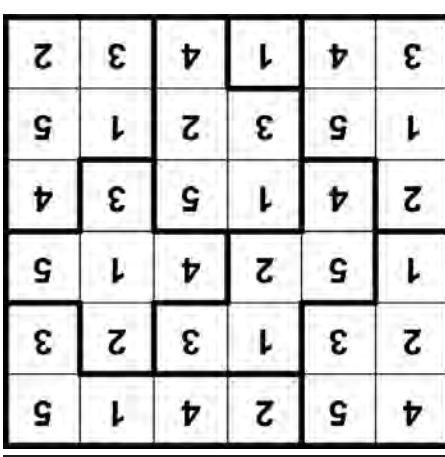


This week's answer

SUDOKU



Crossword



Word Search

hudson valley naturalist

I made a pile of rot and so can you!

by francine wizner

After years of teaching about composting in my biology classes, I finally started my own. It sits a short distance from a door off my kitchen. The key to making it a success (and keeping it smelling good) is maintaining the right balance of carbon and nitrogen decomposing materials. (That’s right ... I have a rotting pile of compost close to my house and it does not smell!)

What is compost?

Compost is a mixture of ingredients used as plant fertilizer. It improves soil’s physical, chemical, and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, recycling organic materials, and manure. Compost improves soil fertility.

How I created my compost pile

I chose a place to put my compost pile that is relatively flat, close enough to my kitchen to be convenient, but far enough away to not be an eye-sore. It is also close to the hose and spigot.

Next, I decided how I would collect and store my browns (carbon-rich items) and greens (nitrogen-rich items). For browns, you can use cut up newspaper, toilet paper and paper towel roles—or the “ready-made browns” that fall from the trees each autumn. As for the greens, I collect and store plant-based wastes in a container in my fridge. Cut pieces small so that they decompose faster.

I started the compost pile with a 4”-6” layer of leaves (browns). They absorb extra liquids, elevate the pile, and encourage air circulation. Next, I layered greens and browns like lasagna. I added water to dampen the pile as I made layers.

Keep the volume of browns to greens at



Above: Turning the compost pile.
Right: Collect and store plant-based waste in the fridge until ready to place in the compost pile.



need to purchase compost, fertilizer, and pesticides. Simply add finished compost to your soil to make it healthier, prevent erosion, conserve water, and aid plant growth. Composting can even be fun!

Instruction about composting is standard fare in most Ecology units and classes. But don’t let that learning stop at school. Try composting at home with your kids. Its Backyard Biology---learning for the fun of it.

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

-Courtesy photos

about 3:1. (I just visually guesstimate this!) When I get a full container of food scraps (every 4-7 days) I dump them on the pile and mix them in with a garden fork. Cover the greens with about 4”-8” of browns.

Hot makes it rot!

As the materials in a compost pile begin to rot, its temperature begins to rise. Temperatures between 90-140 degrees F are usually considered ideal. High temperatures help reduce the presence of pathogens and weeds.

Monitor the pile for temperature, moisture, and odor, and make adjustments as

needed. Decomposition will be slow if the pile is too cool or dry. Remedy it by adding greens and turning the pile. If the compost is too wet, there may be a bad odor or poor air circulation. Address that problem by adding browns and turning the pile.

Get the kids involved

Those who compost reduce trash that would otherwise go to landfills or incinerators. That is a powerful way to limit greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Creating a compost pile takes minimal effort, equipment, expense, or expertise. In fact, it helps eliminate the

More than 200 people attend meeting on Fjord Trail Master Plan

Planners, engineers, and landscape architects working on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail presented, received public input, and answered questions on the alternative routes that were explored for the trail’s Master Plan, as well as an overview of the Shoreline Trail concept design at Dutchess Manor on the evening of March 11th. More than 200 people registered for the event, which was facilitated by the Consensus Building Institute.

Michael T. Doherty, of SLR Consulting, the firm hired by HHFT to analyze potential routes for the 7.5-mile trail connecting the City of Beacon and the Village of Cold Spring, provided a comprehensive review of the route alternatives and the criteria used by SLR to evaluate each one.

HHFT, Inc. will hold its next public session, “Visitor Projection & Visitation Management Strategy,” on Wednesday, April 3, at Dutchess Manor, with presentations by ORCA, HHFT’s visitation management consultants. Registration through the Fjord Trail’s website is required: <https://qrco.de/4-3-24>.

“The route would run along the west side of the Metro-North Railroad (MNR) tracks in the Village of Cold Spring, directly connecting the Cold Spring MNR station to the northeast side of Dockside Park, thereby eliminating the need for any pedestrian traf-

fic through the lower village neighborhood west of the tracks,” said Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. (HHFT) Executive Director Amy Kacala. Kacala noted that, as the result of public input, an additional alternative route that would allow train riders to directly exit the Cold Spring Metro-north train platform onto the trail is now being considered.

Additionally, the Mayor of Cold Spring and the Village’s appointee to the HHFT Visitation Data Committee, James Labate, have expressed interest in Alternative Routes 2 and 3, which would run along the east side of the MNR tracks, and either follow the interior of the Dockside causeway to Little Stony Point, or pass through private property, and adjacent to the sewage treatment plant, then traverse Mayor’s Park to Fair Street. In order for either route to be viable, Metro-North would need to allow for a setback of less than 25 feet.

“We are listening and responding to the community and exploring whether this new route is a viable option. Should the current setback requirement be reduced, we would be happy to discuss routes 2 and 3 again in that new light,” Kacala said.

Gena Wirth, of SCAPE Landscape Architecture, the design lead for the Fjord Trail project, presented the concept design for the Shoreline Trail, the two-mile section

of the trail that would connect Breakneck Ridge with the Village of Cold Spring. Matt Carter, lead engineer at Arup and members of his team were also on hand to answer constructability questions.

“It’s important to note that, should Dockside Park be the southernmost entry point for the Fjord Trail, HHFT would cover the cost of additional infrastructure improvements, including along Fair Street, as well as much-needed amenities like public restrooms,” said Amy Kacala. HHFT would also be fully responsible for trash collection, restroom maintenance, and clean-up of storm-related events at Dockside Park, removing this burden from Village Highway Department staff. Kacala said that planning and implementation of these additional improvements could begin as soon as the project’s environmental review is completed – well before the anticipated completion of the Shoreline Trail, which is projected for 2031.

“HHFT would need the collaboration and approval of the Cold Spring Village Board of Trustees on any projects taking place on Village streets, so cooperation will be key to a successful outcome,” said Kacala.

Following each presentation, participants were given the opportunity to write down a question for the presenters on provided index cards, which were collected and randomly drawn and answered by the panelists.



A meeting was recently held on the Fjord Trail Master Plan. More than 200 people were in attendance.

-Courtesy photo

The panelists also answered attendees’ questions one-on-one after the meeting concluded.

An interactive presentation tool was also used to collect live feedback from the audience, on topics including how they might use the Shoreline Trail, construction material options, and which aspects of the Fjord Trail they felt needed further study. The full results of the live survey will be posted on the hhft.org website.

The session was recorded in its entirety and will be available on HHFT’s website, as will the slide decks presented by SLR and SCAPE.

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Sports Report

OLL girls basketball team wins NY State AAA championship



Members and coaches of the Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team hold the NYS Championship trophy after winning the title on Sunday in Troy. -Courtesy photo

By Rich Thomaselli

Back on top.

The Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team, at one time the most dominant program in the area, won the state championship for the first time in two decades on Sunday with a 69-54 victory over Liverpool of Syracuse in the Class AAA final.

The game was played at Hudson Valley Community College.

“Unreal feeling!” said Warriors star Simone Pelish, who will matriculate at the University of Miami in the fall.

OLL won nine state titles in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s under Coach Brian Giorgis until he left to coach at nearby Marist College, and then one another state crown under Sarah Hoyt in 2004. This is the first state championship under current coach Al Viani, whose daughters Jenna and Julianne starred for the Warriors.

“It’s all about these kids,” he said. “I’m just so proud of them.”

Actually, Lourdes had a class trip to

Disney World scheduled that several players had to miss to play in the finals. Now they can agree that this was just as magical, if not more magical, an experience.

Between the two teams, there are just three losses – so Sunday’s game was a classic matchup between Lourdes and Liverpool.

The Warriors led by 10 points at half-time and had as much as a 24-point lead in the second half.

Pelish scored 33 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Bianca Velovic tallied 18 points for OLL.

In the semifinals, Claire Wagner came in off the bench and hit four three-pointers in the second half of a 60-51 Lourdes win over Long Island champion Walt Whitman.

Three of her triples came in the fourth quarter.

Wagner finished with the 12 points. Pelish had 14. Kayla Johannesen hit six free throws in the final minute and finished with 12 points.

Local youth leagues to benefit from Renegades ‘Show on the Road’

By Rich Thomaselli

Youth baseball and softball players will now get a chance to see what it’s like to play professionally.

The Hudson Valley Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union have announced an all-new initiative for the 2024 season centered on their partner-

ship’s joint commitment to supporting youth baseball and softball programs throughout the Hudson Valley.

It’s called “Show on the Road.”

As the name implies, the Renegades will be taking their game entertainment experience on the road from Heritage Financial Park and delivering it directly to youth leagues across the community.

“The ‘Show on the Road’ program is a great example of the positive impact of our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union,” said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. “The fact that we are able to bring our show and experience directly to local youth leagues and give them a taste of the Renegades experience is a core principle of our mission statement. Supporting youth baseball and softball in our community is truly an exciting way to create life-long memories for families in our community and a means to help grow the game of baseball from a grassroots level.”

Every element that fans have come to enjoy and associate with the fan experience of Renegades baseball will come to these games – they will have the full treatment of a public address announcer doing player introductions, walk-up music for batters, promotions and games performed in between innings, and of course appearances from mascots Rascal and Rosie.

Broadcasting games

Separately, the team and Pamal Broadcasting announced an expanded

partnership, with the home of the Renegades Baseball Network moving to five stations throughout the Hudson Valley.

All 132 Renegades regular-season games and all postseason games will be broadcast on WBPM 96.5 FM and WBNR 1260 AM in Beacon, WGHQ 92.5 FM and 920 AM in Kingston, and WLNA 1420 AM in Peekskill. This network of stations is also the radio home of Army football.

“I couldn’t be happier or prouder with our expanded partnership with the Renegades. Since 1994 the Renegades have epitomized family fun and success. As a family-owned and operated broadcast company, we are drawn to anything that brings families to affordable fun, so our partnership with the Renegades checks all the boxes,” said Chuck Benfer, Chief Operating Officer of Pamal Broadcasting. “...To be able to deliver the play-by-play to those unable to make the game in person on our expanded sports network of stations throughout the Hudson Valley is our honor.”

“We are very excited for the expansion of our partnership with Pamal Broadcasting and their sports network becoming the new radio home of the Renegades,” said Joe Vasile, Director of PR & Broadcasting for the Renegades. “Our 30th anniversary season is shaping up to be our best yet, and our expanded radio network is just one of many exciting developments.”

OLL boys finish strong season with loss in NY State semifinals

By Rich Thomaselli

It’s difficult to find any joy and positives in a loss but the Our Lady of Lourdes High School boys basketball team will look back on this and realize that they made it to the state semifinals.

Despite being shorthanded.

The Warriors played the game without their best player, Patrick Faughnan, who suffered a torn interior cruciate ligament halfway through the season. OLL had many successes in the season, including a Mid-Hudson Athletic League title and championships in Section 9 and the state regional final, but lost to West Genesee, 79-61, in a Class AA game on Saturday.

The game was played at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

“This season was a hell of a ride,” OLL coach Jim Santoro said. “I’m so proud of what these boys were able to accomplish.”

Lourdes had not been here in seven years; the Wildcats were seeking their first title since 2019.

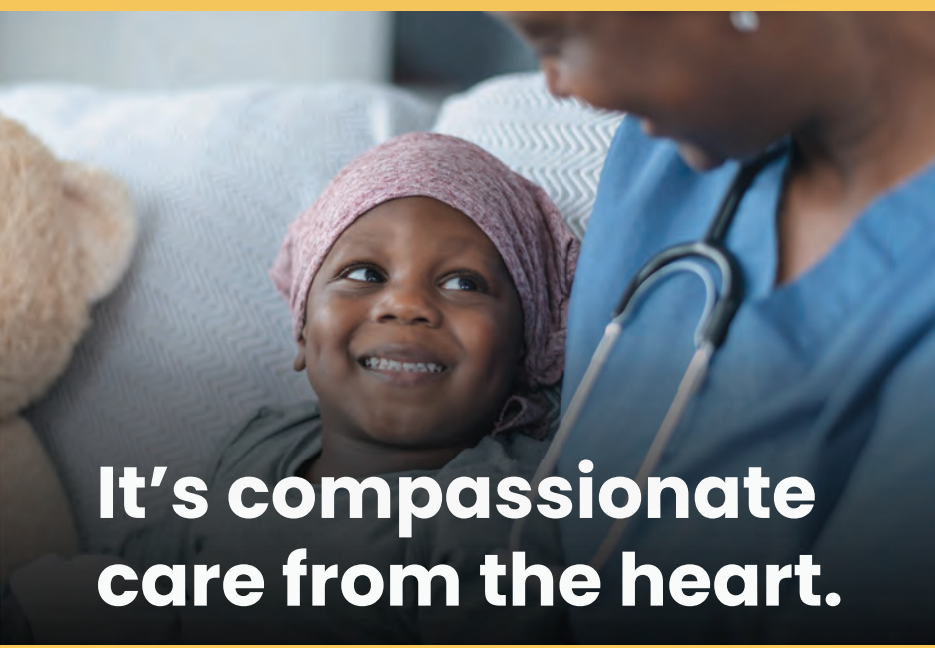
It was still a fantastic season.

Remember, this was a team that started the year with state championship aspirations and an 8-0 record, and then had to remake everything. In 35 years, it might have been Santoro’s best coaching job.

But West Genesee was just too much in this one, rolling to a 14-point lead early in the second quarter and never looking back.

Zach Hart had a double-double for the Warriors with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

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that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



Getting an Easter Suit

Luigi and Vinny were thankful that Easter only came around once a year.

Growing up with two foreign parents has been interesting. When other kids were getting Star Wars action figures, I was getting new socks. Shopping with my mother was also an adventure. Especially clothes shopping.

I can remember getting my Easter suit with my little brother Vinny. I think I was around 7 or 8 years old and he was 3 or 4. We were going to Poughkeepsie to shop at Schwartz, which was located next door to Coppola’s on Main Street on the Main Mall. The Main Mall was a magical place for kids. The stores were huge. There was Lucky Platts, Woolworths, Up to Date, not to mention the House of Cards and, of course, Schwartz. There were fountains in the middle of the Main Mall, which was an open-air plaza the length of Main Street, that you could throw pennies in and make a wish. Vinny and I were very excited because that meant we could also stop by to see our uncle at the restaurant and maybe even have a soda.

However, business was first. We would have to go get our suit. As I said, clothes shopping was an adventure and not in a good way.

Into Schwartz we marched. Mom, Vinny and I. Through the jewelry department and the purse section, around the fake fern plants and up the glass staircase to the children’s department.

Now in the children’s department there were two sections. The kids’ section for normal-sized kids was in the front next to the boy scout section. However, since Vinny and I were not your normal run-of-the-mill sized boys, we had to go to the Husky section.

I’m not going to say Vinny and I were fat. Let’s just say that our legs hadn’t quite

caught up with the rest of our body. The Husky section was for boys who were too big for kid-sized clothes, yet too small for adult clothes. They were meant for taller kids also, so they were proportioned for tall “Husky” kids.

Shopping in the Husky section was embarrassing. The clothes never fit right because the crotch would hang too low, and the selection was small. Mom picked out matching powder blue suits with possibly the ugliest polyester faux silk shirt ever known to man and an orange tie. The blue suit was bad enough; however, the shirt looked like a paint factory threw up on it and, well, the orange tie just set off the menagerie of colors perfectly. It had every single color known to man splashed onto this funky, silky feeling shirt. But young as we were, we did not have a choice in the matter.

So here are these two “husky” boys standing in this section where there are no other kids. Mom is telling us in Italian to stand up straight as she held up the pants to us to see which one might fit us First one, then another. The sizes were going up and up. Vinny and I just stood there with a “Husky”-sized pout on our face. Finally, she decided which ones would fit us. Now she wanted us to try on the pants to make sure they fit around the waist properly. The fitting rooms were clear across the store and Mom was in a hurry.

So, picture two husky boys in the husky section with a mom holding up Husky pants. Not embarrassing enough, right? Naturally, Mom tells us to try on the pants right there. After we put up a fight, off came our pants and on went the other pants. There we stood Vinnie and I, no pride left in our husky bodies. Mom poking and prodding us to make sure the fit was right. She had us bend down

to make sure we wouldn’t split the seam. Telling us to stand up straight. All in Italian all the while, other people and their kids were milling around. It wasn’t bad enough that the Husky kids were trying on Husky clothes in the Husky section, but now we also had to change in the husky aisle.

Once Mom was satisfied that the suit basically fit right, and that we were completely embarrassed, we had to go see the tailor on the main floor. Now, logic would dictate that we could change back into our normal clothes Right? Not us. We trudged down the glass stairs to the men’s department still wearing our suits with our shoes and our normal clothes in our hands wearing matching powder blue suits.

The tailor was an old Italian man who spoke very little English. He materialized out of nowhere, with some white chalk and proceeded to mark us up. He spoke Italian very fast, but I can remember him saying that we were wearing a husky sized suit. Perfect.

Once he was done, he allowed us to go into the dressing room and get changed. Thank God. We didn’t have to get changed in the aisle again.

Mom paid for our powder blue suits and our genuine polyester faux silk shirt, our neon orange tie and we were free.

We then walked next door, with our heads hanging low and had our soda. While Vinny and I consoled each other about the experiences of the day over an Uptown cola, Mom visited with our uncle for a few minutes. Once our time was up, Mom came over to us and said it was time to go.

That night mom made asparagus and pasta. Hmm. No wonder we were always in the husky section. Well, at least the end of the day was good.

Asparagus and Pasta Ingredients

- 1 lb. tagliatelle pasta
- 1 lb. fresh green asparagus, washed and stalk ends removed
- 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and diced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, rough chop
- 2 zucchini, cut and cubed
- 1/4 cup cream cheese
- 2 oz. Parmigiano Reggiano
- 1 pinch salt (for pasta/asparagus)
- 1 pinch black pepper
- 4 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Directions

In a large frying pan place the asparagus, zucchini, onions, garlic and olive oil. Cook on low heat until onions are translucent.

Add, parsley, grated cheese and cream cheese and set aside.

In a pot of boiling, salted water add the tagliatelle past and cook, about 4-5 minutes.

Drain pasta and add to asparagus mixture while the pasta is still dripping wet. In other words, add a little bit of water.

Combine until pasta and sauce are combined. Serve with toasted crusty Italian bread and wine, of course.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.



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Obituaries

Roderick John MacLeod



Roderick John MacLeod, age 67, died peacefully at home on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Rod served his community with a wide range of professional abilities and civic contributions, always serving people and building relationships. Through his high school and college years and beyond, he worked as a meat cutter, serving and getting to know the clientele at Metzger's Meat Market. Eventually convinced that was not his life calling, he enrolled in New York Law School, receiving his Juris Doctor degree in 1993. In his professional role he served as an attorney and later a partner with Gellert, Klein & MacLeod, LLP in Poughkeepsie. Along with the

many individuals who sought out and relied personally and professionally on his counsel, he also ably provided legal counsel and advice to dozens of volunteer fire departments throughout Dutchess County and beyond.

Music was a vital theme throughout his life. In high school he sang in the John Jay chorus and performed a vocal solo piece in the senior recital. Church choir participation was a constant throughout the years. He served for many years as a dedicated and musically creative church organist at New Hackensack Reformed Church.

He was interested in and committed to his community. He grew up at Immanuel Church in Myers Corners. Moving back to this community after college, he served there on the church council and taught Sunday School. In the wider community he volunteered with a wide range of local civic and charity interests including 19 years with Hudson River Housing Inc.

Trains, whether spending time on his model train layout or collecting railroad memorabilia, were a lifelong passion and hobby, fueling his involvement in the transformation of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge into what is now the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park and in the restoration of the Hopewell Junction and Hyde Park Depots.

The New Hackensack Fire Department was his closest community. He would have joined the fire company when he was 14 but had to wait until 16, serving for 51 years and remaining a top responder, answering over 300 calls in 2023. His death, coming as it did, within hours of responding to a call is classified as a "Line of Duty Death". At the time of his death, Rod was serving as the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for New Hackensack Fire District.

He was proud of his Scottish ancestry and was very interested in and well-read on the history of Scotland and of the MacLeod clan. He and Karen spent many vacations exploring Scotland and developing relationships with family and friends from his paternal grandparents' native Isles of Skye and Lewis, Scotland.

He served and protected his community with dedication and kindness. Many benefited from his quietly offered personal and professional generosity. Known for his honest and realistic counsel, wry smile and unconventional sense of humor, Rod is missed by many who relied on him.

Rod was predeceased by his parents, F. John and June MacLeod, and by his younger brother Kevin (Cindy) MacLeod. He is survived by his wife of nearly 47 years, Karen; and his daughter Kate (Manny) Valdivia and dearly loved grandchildren Mance, Roddy, Ruthanne, and Megan. He is also survived by his siblings Douglas (Cathy) MacLeod and Kathryn (Mark) Elliott as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visitation and funeral arrangements: Fire fighters are invited to a visitation and memorial service to be held at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home on Wednesday, April 10, 6-8pm, with the Fireman's Service to be held at 7:30pm.

Friends and family are invited to a visitation Thursday, April 11 at 1-4pm and at 6-8pm at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home.

A private funeral service will take place Friday, April 12 at 1pm. It will be live-streamed with the link to be posted on the funeral home's website.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Rod's name to Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, 253 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 or Hudson River Housing, 313 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

For directions or to send a personal condolence, please visit www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Henry S. Kaps



EAST FISHKILL - Henry Steven Kaps, 85, an area resident since 1973 and previously of Brooklyn and the Bronx, passed away on March 11, 2024.

Born in the Bronx on March 8, 1939, Henry was the son of the late Henry and Marie (Markey) Kaps. He proudly served in the US Navy. Henry was employed as an electrician by Local 3 in New York City until his retirement in 2004.

On October 25, 1958 at St. Martin de Tours Church in the Bronx, he married Theresa B. Doria Kaps who predeceased him in 2015 after 56 years of marriage. He lovingly cared for his wife, especially during the last 8 years of her life, while she battled cancer.

Henry was a parishioner at St. Columba

Church in Hopewell Junction. He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his children, Robert S. Kaps and his wife Joann DeLuigi of Fishkill, Karen A. Kaps of Wanaque, NJ, and Kevin J. Kaps and his wife Nicole of San Antonio, TX; his grandchildren, Christina Kaps, Damien Kaps, Evan Kaps, and Cameron Kaps; his great-grandchildren, Trinity, Adriana, Jayden, Gianna, and Stella; and his niece, Michelle Ruvolo. In addition to his wife and parents, Henry was also predeceased by his infant daughter, Denise Ann Kaps.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. Burial at St. Peter's Cemetery will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Please visit Henry's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Donna DiMarco



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Donna M. DiMarco of Wappingers Falls entered into rest Monday, March 11, 2024 surrounded by her family, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She was 57.

Daughter of Edwin Niemcyk and the late Rose (Risole) Niemcyk, she was born January 27, 1967 in Wappingers Falls. She met Paul T. DiMarco in 1985 and they were married on October 18, 1997, in Wallkill, NY. Paul and Donna were soulmates who enjoyed 40 years together. They had many wonderful adventures including the creation of a successful ice cream vending business. Chilly Willy's Ice Cream commenced 26 years ago with one truck and has now expanded to several. Mr. DiMarco survives at home.

Donna was a 1985 graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School. She was extremely active in Miles for Hope, a foundation to support those with breast cancer. Through her own

battle she remained strong and emboldened this wonderful organization and even added pink sprinkle to her ice cream truck. Donna and Paul founded The Totally 70's Radio Network where Donna was the host of Monday Night Love for ten years and had followers from around the globe. She was an extraordinary woman with a kind and loving soul. Her dynamic personality was reflected in her way of living and doing business. Her presence made people happy, and this gave Donna the strength to keep going through the difficult times. She will be greatly missed.

In addition to her husband, Paul of Wappingers Falls and her father, Edwin of Lincolnton, NC, she is survived by her brothers, Douglas Niemcyk of Wappingers Falls and Edward Niemcyk of Lincolnton, NC; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held June 30, 2024 at Bowdoin Park, Pavilion 4.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Donna's name to Miles of Hope, www.milesofhope.org/donate.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. To send a personal condolence, please visit www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Elaine George Mustakas



WAPPINGERS FALLS (formerly of Rockville, MD)- Elaine George Mustakas, an extraordinary woman whose unwavering love and resilience touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her, passed away peacefully at her home on March 13, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at the age of 94.

Born in Wilmington, DE on April 22, 1929, Elaine was the daughter of George and Stella (Barras) Gatanis. She married the love of her life, Gus D. Mustakas, on November 12, 1950, in Bethlehem, PA, and together they founded their family business, East Fishkill Provisions Smoke Haus and Deli in Hopewell Junction. Elaine's nurturing spirit extended to the patrons of East Fishkill Provisions/Smokehaus Deli, where she was affectionately known as "Mom" to all who knew her.

Elaine was a devoted member of St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church, where her faith was a guiding light in her life.

Elaine's life was centered around her

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her greatest joy was to be surrounded by family. Her kitchen table was more than just a piece of furniture; it was the heart of her home, where generations of family members gathered to share stories, laughter, and delicious meals. She was the originator of "Sunday Dinners" for the Mustakas family, and Sundays at Yiayia's were always eagerly anticipated by all.

Elaine is survived by her children and their spouses, Jim and Caryn Mustakas, George and Leasa Mustakas, Kris and Prinny Mustakas, Rose Mustakas and her partner Tamara Champion, Estelle, and Markella and Hank Brown; her grandchildren, their spouses and great grandchildren: Katrina and Fabio Cruz, Gus and Shaylee Mustakas (Demetrios, Niko, Theo), Eleni and Brian Tarpey (Austin, Madison, Charlotte, Makenna), Joan Mustakas (Mason), Gus Mustakas, Markella Mustakas, Gus and Brittney Mustakas (Kora), Niko Mustakas, Zoey Mustakas, Savannah Champion, Grace Champion, Eleni Neckles, Kristos and Victoria Brown (Eleanor Mae, Colette Lucille, Delilah Ann), Spero Brown, Rose Brown and her partner William Powell (William, Bradley, Bentley, Brody), and Lew Brown; her brother, Nicholas Gatanis and his wife Carol; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to her parents and loving husband, she was also predeceased by her brothers and their wives, Tom and Margaret Gatanis, Jim and Pauline Gatanis, Kris Gatanis, and Gus and Mary Gatanis.

The Mustakas family remains forever grateful for the immeasurable love and selflessness demonstrated by her daughter, Estelle, during Elaine's final years. Estelle's unwavering dedication and compassionate care provided Elaine with comfort, dignity within the familiarity of her own home. Estelle's presence brought warmth and solace to Elaine's days, offering unwavering support to both her mother and the entire family.

"A mother's love knows no bounds; it lives on in the hearts of her children and grandchildren forever."

Forever in our hearts, Mom!

Calling hours were held the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The funeral service was held at St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church, 1500 Route 376 Wappingers Falls followed by interment in Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

How Trains Once Crossed the Hudson from Newburgh to Fishkill Landing presentation set for March 26 in Beacon

Following its completion in 1889, the Poughkeepsie Railway Bridge was a crucial link between New England and the United States' elaborate railroad network. Join author and historian Alex Prizgintas

with the Beacon Historical Society as he explores the early history railroads. The lecture will take place on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at the Beacon Elks Lodge, 900 Wolcott Avenue, in Beacon.

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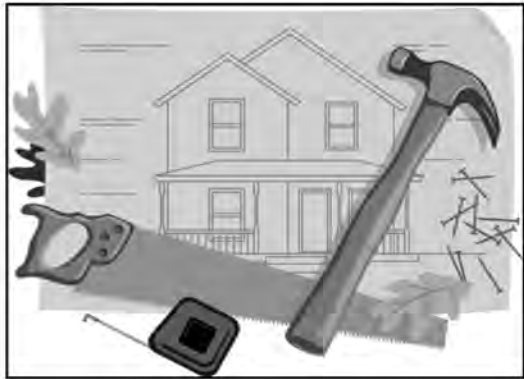
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Guitar Duo to perform in Beacon on March 24

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present the Brasil Guitar Duo on Sunday, March 24 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Following the concert, audience members can meet the artists and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket before they are gone, visit howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street.

New to the 2023–2024 season, we 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.

The duo actively strives to expand the repertoire for two guitars, with Lora contributing works of his own and Luiz arranging both classical and Brazilian music. Appearing frequently in diverse non-traditional spaces, the duo combines classical guitar repertoire with traditional Brazilian dance forms. In its debut performance for the Howland Chamber Music Circle, the Brasil Guitar Duo will present works by Egberto Gismonti, Leo Brouwer, and Frederic Hand.

For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.howlandmusic.org.

The Brasil Guitar Duo will perform on Sunday, March 24 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

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Art & Soul Gala set for March 28

Vassar Haiti Project to host annual event in Poughkeepsie

By Kristine Coulter

The 12th annual Art & Soul Gala will be held by the Vassar Haiti Project on Thursday, March 28 at Vassar College's Alumnae House, 161 College Ave., in Poughkeepsie from 5:30-8 p.m. For tickets visit www.thehaitproject.org.

"This is the 12th annual Gala at Vassar College's Alumnae House. The evening's high energy starts with live entertainment from Vassar's Student Jazz Band. At the event sponsors and community members who loyally attend each year mingle and reconnect with each other, knowing that they are directly impacting the health of thousands of Haitian patients. Speeches from both of our honorees as well as students and visiting guest alumnae set the stage for the evening. There will be beautiful, vibrant Haitian art available to purchase. Paul Pesco, of Millbrook, is bringing his band, La Bonne Vie to entertain us with Haitian music. Additionally, there will be delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages, catered by Twisted Soul," said Lila Meade, who along with her husband, Andrew, founded the VHP.

This year Dr. Daniel "Danny" Aronzon, the former CEO of Vassar Brothers Medical Center, and Edwidge Danticat, a renowned Haitian-American writer and novelist, are the honorees.

Meade explained, "Our honorees are chosen by the Medical Advisory Board, a group

of local physicians who oversee the work of the clinic in Haiti. Dr. Danny Aronzon was chosen because he was the founding member of the Advisory Board. His focus, dedication and connections brought together a group of physicians who helped to build the clinic and make it a reality. His presence back in the community has spurred great excitement." As for Danticat, Meade stated, she "is an acclaimed Haitian-American author who has won over 30 awards from her mostly fictionalized depictions of Haitian life. Her works are reflected in 17 novels that have been heralded and studied by college and high school students internationally. Ms. Danticat has met with the Vassar Haiti Project students over the years and was pleased to be invited as an honoree this year."

Member of Vassar College's Class of 2024, Jessica Porras is president of the VHP. Jessica stated, "Witnessing individuals from Vassar and the community collaborating to foster positive change for those with whom they have no direct acquaintance is truly a profound experience." It was stated that she's looking forward to the event and working with her colleagues in VHP to "making the event an unforgettable one for the supporters."

This year the funds will support the clinic for a whole year. The funds will pay "the salaries of the staff at the clinic, (doctor, nurses, midwife, support staff) and also for the medications for the patients, Meade explained. "The clinic is the only operating

health care facility in the area with patients waiting for up to two hours to see the doctor. This year, the Solar Lab will be finished and a technician and medical director who can oversee the operations of the clinic will be added to the staff," she said.

It was noted that even when turbulence and uncertainty pervade Haiti, Dr. Norvillus, the clinic's new physician said, "We must continue with our mission because in turmoil, there is always hope; when everything appears black, a wisp of light will appear." For him, that wisp of light is the Haiti Project. According to the doctor, "Without fail, thousands of people have received free treatment. With you, there is still hope and the population is counting on you."

"VHP is inextricably linked to my passion for working in the health field - without my experiences in VHP, I would not be in the place, personally or professionally, that I am in today. Having the privilege of learning from and collaborating with our dedicated Haitian partners, the Medical Advisory Board and Vassar students deepens my appreciation of the gift of health. I've just entered medical school and look forward to improving health care accessibility," said Sonia Gollerkeri. Gollerkeri, a member of the Class of 2021, will be speaking during the gala.

Isabella Sagman, a member of the class of 2026, and Vice President for the student's Health Committee, said this event is an integral part of VHP and the clinic's



The Vassar Haiti Group will host its annual Art & Soul Gala in Poughkeepsie on March 28.

-Courtesy image

work. "It is a night of celebration, remembrance, and looking forward. The funds raised fund our clinic in Fiervil, Haiti for another year and give way to new possibilities," said Isabella.

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	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-17-24 Dutchess County Audio and Video Equipment Maintenance and Repair Services at Various Locations Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 9th day of April 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 and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.	ment", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. NOTICE TO OWNERS OF VIABLE FARMLAND IN DUTCHESS COUNTY Pursuant to Section 303-b of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, the Dutchess County Legislature has designated the period April 15 through May 14, 2024, during which Dutchess County landowners who own "predominately viable agricultural land" may request that their land be newly included in the	County's Agricultural District 21. In order to be considered for such inclusion, an application must be on file with the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District on or before May 14, 2024. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land" will be included. To receive an application, contact the District at 845-677-8011 ext. 3. A copy of the application can also be downloaded from the District's website: http://dutchesswcd.org . Landowners whose parcels are already included in an Agricultural District are not required to apply as part of the annual inclusion	process. Inclusion in an Agricultural District provides potential right-to-farm protections for qualifying farm businesses, including protection against laws that unreasonably regulate farm operations in agricultural districts, limited protection from private nuisance claims, and notification of property buyers about farming practices prior to purchase of property in agricultural districts. Applications must be on file with the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District on or before May 14, 2024. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection	Board will review applications and submit a report to the Dutchess County Legislature, which will hold a public hearing and forward any approved applications to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for certification. Only parcels judged to be "predominately vi-	able agricultural land," pursuant to Section 303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law will be included. LEIGH WAGER CLERK, DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE	
Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid#RFP-DCP-19-24 Supplemental Non-Secure Detention Services Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 11th day of April 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Govern-						
LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 11, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice. Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, March 14, 2024. LEIGH WAGER Clerk, County Legislature						
RESOLUTION NO. 2024057 BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 11, 2024. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PRELIMINARY EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNING FOR THE EXTERIOR BUILDING ENVELOPE IMPROVEMENTS AT 45 MARKET STREET IN POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$176,750, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$176,750 BONDS OF SAID COUNTY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF. Specific object or purpose: Preliminary planning expenses in connection exterior building envelope improvements at 45 Market St. in Poughkeepsie, New York Period of probable usefulness: 5 years Maximum estimated cost: \$176,750 Amount of bonds to be issued: \$176,750 bonds SEQRA status: Type II Action						
DUTCHESS COUNTY EARLY VOTING FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE POLLS ARE OPEN FOR EARLY VOTING AS FOLLOWS: Saturday, March 23: 9AM – 6PM Sunday, March 24: 9AM – 6PM Monday, March 25: 11AM – 8PM Tuesday, March 26: 9AM – 6PM Wednesday, March 27: 11AM – 8PM Thursday, March 28: 8AM – 5PM Friday, March 29: 8AM – 5PM Saturday, March 30: 9AM – 6PM At any of the following locations: ArborRidge Pavilion at Brookmeade, 11 Mountain Laurel Lane, Rhinebeck Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie Cornell Cooperative Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market St, Poughkeepsie Board of Elections Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Rd, Hyde Park, NY 12538 HANNAH R. BLACK and ERIK J. HAIGHT, COMMISSIONERS DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 112 DELAFIELD STREET, SUITE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 845-486-2473 www.elections.dutchessny.gov						

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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

4					5
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2	4				
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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

1. Window addition?
6. Huge software company
9. Spill the beans
13. Watcher
14. Acronym, abbr.
15. Words to live by
16. Ocean-dwelling ____ ray
17. Polynesian necklace
18. "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
19. *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
21. *"One ____ Moment"
23. Like jalapeño
24. Give off
25. Bean counter?
28. *Dominate opponent, slangily
30. * ____-elimination tournament
35. Bricklayers' carrier
37. Wood sorrels
39. Jeweler's unit
40. Alight, past tense
41. Swings around
43. Spice Girl
44. Bubonic plague carriers
46. Away from wind
47. D'Artagnan's sword
48. *Elite Eight, or the ____ round of tournament
50. Bono's bandmate, with The
52. Make a mistake
53. Landlord's due
55. Small lump
57. *State Farm Stadium state
61. *Not pro
65. Chocolate substitute
66. Hot temper
68. Derived from oats
69. Cuckoo
70. Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
71. Baby at a recital
72. Have supper
73. Young newt
74. Many affirmatives

DOWN

1. Brush alternative
2. Culture-growing turf
3. Long forearm bone
4. Satyr
5. City in Poland
6. *Delta Center location: ____ Lake City
7. Hole-in-one
8. Type of polyhedron
9. Raisin's breakfast companion
10. Denim innovator
11. Port in Yemen
12. Toker's pipe
15. Professional reviewer
20. Not pathos
22. Not hers
24. Shoulder rank display
25. Winnowing leftovers
26. Chicken in Mexico
27. Farewell in Paris
29. *School with most NCAA basketball titles
31. Back of the neck
32. Search blindly
33. Lightsaber beam
34. Olden days anesthetic
36. * ____ player
38. Garden starter
42. D.S., in sheet music
45. Dance club light
49. Female chicken
51. Speech at a funeral
54. Lacking guile
56. What speakers do
57. LSD, e.g.
58. Indian princess
59. Turkmenistan's neighbor
60. *Type of defense
61. One tenth of a dime
62. Airline postings, acr.
63. Type of pool
64. What means justify
67. Churchill's "so few"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 6.

‘Photographs and Improvisions’ throughout March in Pawling



Photography by Jim Stasiak, from left, “Red Leaf,” “Leaf After Mist.” The opening reception of “Photographs and Improvisions” took place at the LAND Gallery in Pawling. The exhibit will be on display throughout March.

–Courtesy photos by Jim Stasiak

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LAND Gallery in Pawling and the Sherman Artists Association announced a new show by photographer Jim Stasiak called “Photographs and Improvisions.” His photographs of a simple leaf take one into a new dimension of seeing, emotion, and expertise. Stasiak’s belief is that digital applications are specialized tools that can expand the creative range and perception of the artist in an intuitive, beneficial manner. Stasiak is giving an artist talk on Sunday March 24 from 3 – 5 p.m. The show is from March 1 – 31. For more information, visit www.landgalleryonline.com or www.ShermanArtsts.org.

“Photography is a revealing art. I rely on emotion and expertise to recognize an image, and skill, taste and judgment to reveal an energetically attractive interpretation,” says Stasiak. Much like jazz improvisation, his work evolves in stages which focus and intensify his emotional connection with the emerging image. There is always a blend of conscious decision with mindful guidance. He wants the viewer to perceive new context, new color, new structure, new projections and new feelings--and improvise with their own mind’s eye.

Stasiak is an award-winning photographic artist, musician and printing arts professional living in New Milford, CT.

His photography spans documentary, creative, travel and constructed imaging, using film since 1965, digital since 1995, and fully digital since 2002. He has taught photographers and artists how digital tools affect the photographic process, how traditional skills can translate from the physical to the metaphysical, and how to optimize images to best utilize the technical considerations inherent in producing digital art.

The Sherman Artists Association is sponsoring the Featured Artist Shows at LAND Gallery which includes the work of some of the most highly regarded photographers and painters in the local area. There is also a curated artisanal gift shop that sells a selection of locally handmade fine art and gifts. The Gallery is located in the heart of the Village of Pawling and regularly organizes photography workshops, walks and other artistic events. The gallery is at 30 Charles Colman Blvd, Pawling. (Right across the street from the Pawling stop on the Metro North Harlem line).

For more information about the Sherman Artists Association, visit www.ShermanArtsts.org. For more information about LAND Gallery, visit www.landgalleryonline.com or Facebook: LANDGalleryinPawling.



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