

BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 75, Number 16

April 22, 2026

HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUBS TO PRESENT MUSICALS



The cast of "Shrek: The Musical" rehearses at John Jay High School in East Fishkill. Performances are April 24-26.

-Photo courtesy of Finnley Sullivan

Beacon Players to perform 'Jekyll & Hyde' April 24-26



Beacon Players will perform "Jekyll & Hyde The Musical" at Beacon High School from April 24-26.

-Courtesy photo

John Jay's Proscenium to present 'Shrek' this weekend

By Kristine Coulter

"Shrek: The Musical" opens on Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Wappingers Central School District's John Jay High School, 2012 Route 52, in East Fishkill. Performances will also be held on Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

John Jay High School Proscenium Production Advisor Emilio Giordano said via email, "Rehearsals have been going great. It's always special when all the moving parts come together. We have a group of 8 elementary school kids in the show. We are so incredibly amazed by them."

Finnley Sullivan is the fundraising treas-

urer for the club. Finnley and the other members sent their comments via email.

"'Shrek' is a super fun, high-energy show, about an ogre overcoming his biases against the world, making friends, and finding his true love," said Finnley.

"My favorite part of working on this show is that I get to be onstage in the cast, but I also have the amazing opportunities to help assistant music direct, and take pictures of the show, both on and off stage," remarked Finnley.

Gabriel Toplanaj is one of two actors playing Shrek - Robert Nicoletti is also playing him - for this year's spring musical.

Continued on page 2

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Players will be performing "Jekyll & Hyde The Musical" on April 24-26. Shows are set for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Pete & Toshi Seeger Theater at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd. in Beacon.

Parental guidance is suggested for this show.

Costume Crew Chief and Treasurer of the Beacon Players is Johnathan Trentacosta. Costume Crew Chief and Treasurer of the Beacon Players is Johnathan Trentacosta. Johnathan and the other Beacon Players in the show sent their responses via email.

"'Jekyll & Hyde' is about the duality of man-how there is black and white in all of us, and it's what you do with each that shapes who you are and how you affect others. It shows the entanglement of outside affairs as well as internal in a beauti-

fully artistic way," explained Johnathan.

Januario Stageman is on the publicity team (with Molly Lyons) and a member of the cast.

Januario explains the show like this, "'Jekyll and Hyde' follows the story of Henry Jekyll, who is a brilliant scientist that becomes obsessed with separating good from evil, he uses himself as a test subject for his experiment and then must face the consequences that come along with the separation."

What is Johnathan's favorite part of working on the show? "My favorite part of working on "Jekyll & Hyde" has been getting to work with the director and advisors closely to ensure my crew and I are getting all our work done efficiently. I want to make sure I contribute everything I've got to the show, so it runs as smoothly as possible."

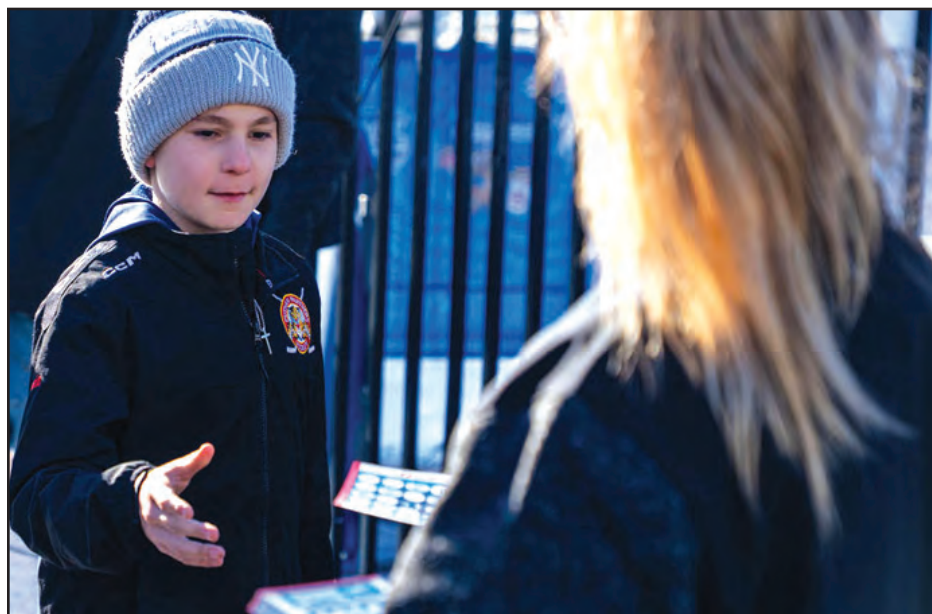
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Renegades rally past Keys to even record at 7-7

By Morgan E. Maier

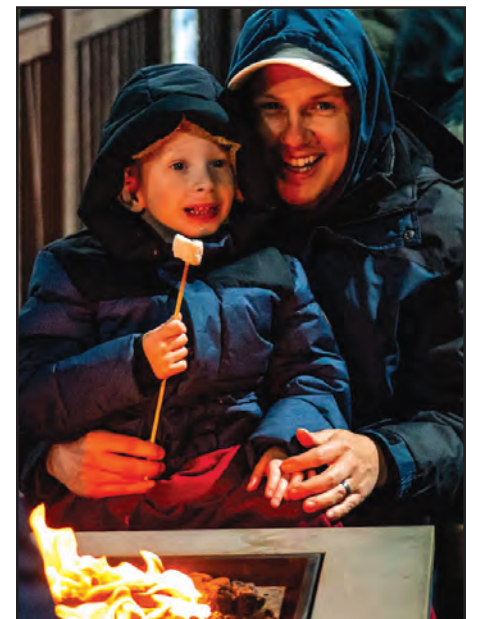
The Hudson Valley Renegades looked to free themselves from an early-season losing streak with a first-ever trip to the Frederick Keys. The Renegades, now owning a 7-7 record, spoiled the Keys' first homestand as a Baltimore Orioles affiliate since 2019, winning four games with first-inning scoring, extra-inning heroics and a few home runs that might have left Maryland.

A couple of Renegades starters excelled in their second starts, beginning with Brandon Decker in the game one resumption on April 15. Decker went 3.2 innings in his season debut on April 8, allowing 2 earned runs, 2 hits, and 2 walks while striking out four against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Against the Keys, Decker found his rhythm from the start, inheriting a 4-2 Renegades lead in relief of Franyer Herrera. Decker went 4.2 strong, conceding four hits and fanning 6 on the way to his first win of the season.



The Hudson Valley Renegades are back at Heritage Financial Park this week. A young fan enters the park at the home-opening game.

Continued on page 7



Fans stay warm on a cool night enjoying roasted marshmallows and other snacks.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

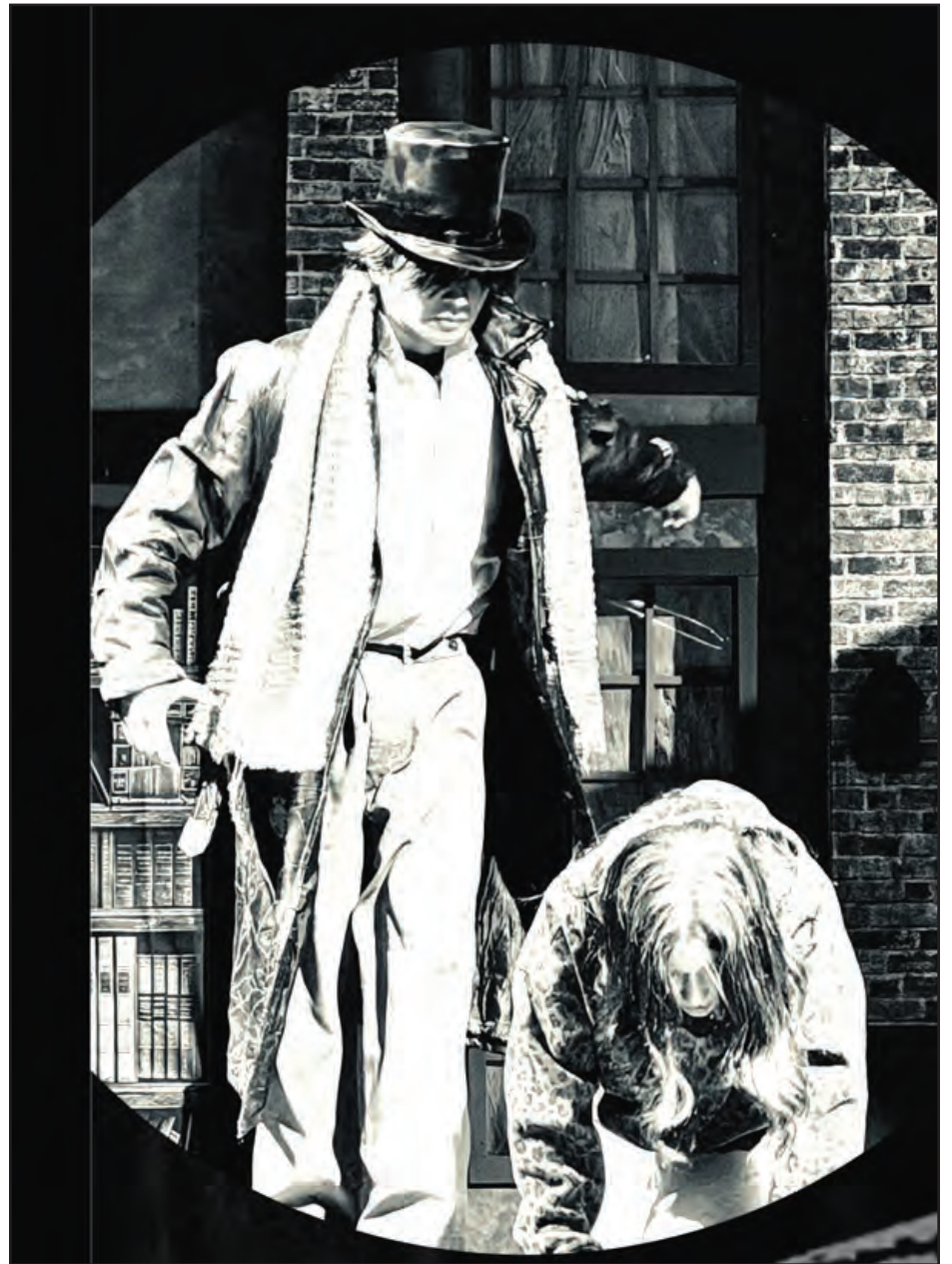
HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUBS TO PRESENT MUSICALS



Members of John Jay High School's drama club, Proscenium, in rehearsals for "Shrek: The Musical," which is set for April 24-26.

-Photo courtesy Finnley Sullivan

Beacon Players to perform 'Jekyll & Hyde' April 24-26



Beacon Players will perform "Jekyll & Hyde" April 24-26 in the Pete & Toshi Seeger Theater in Beacon High School.

-Courtesy photo

John Jay's Proscenium to present 'Shrek' this weekend

Continued from cover

"I would explain it as a realistic fairy tale that shows the struggles of the life of an Ogre!" said Gabriel.

Gabriel noted, "My favorite part about the production so far is the hair and makeup in this show! It is so intricate and interesting, which just highlights how capable and amazing our hair and makeup crew really is!"

Giordano was asked about having a favorite scene? "That's not a fair question. You're asking me to say who's my favorite child," replied Giordano.

"Our show has a great message, that

needs to be heard by the world today, and it's a great show to share with families and friends of any age," said Finnley.

Gabriel said people should come to the show because "[a]ll of the hard work and time the crew and cast has spent on this show to make this experience amazing! It's a great way to connect to the community, and support a club that only wants to provide good shows and a memorable experience!"

Tickets are available now online. Student and senior tickets are \$12 and adult tickets are \$15.

Email proscenium@wcsdny.org with any questions.

Held in Grace: Reflection on Life, Death & Grief set for May and June

Held in Grace: Reflection on Life, Death & Grief will be held May 5 - June 2. The supportive gathering will meet for five weeks at 6:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 60 Union St.

in Beacon.

All are welcome. Organizers said one did not need to be experiencing a recent loss to attend.

Continued from cover

"My favorite part about this show is its depth, doing a show that explores emotional and developed topics like "Jekyll & Hyde" is something that's really important to me. It allows me to really develop my skills as an actor and I think it's really important to the cast as a whole, it helps prepare us for future shows and allows us to go into them with more familiarity and experience with deep subjects," said Januario.

Lighting crew member Lilly Pendley said people should see the show because "it has what a person would definitely consider seeing with all the music, love, drama, and brings in so much work from the students with all of the incredible sets, art, and costumes, and lights."

Beacon Players Director Anthony Scarrone noted the dedication of those on the stage and behind the scenes. "These kids are demonstrating an incredible level of focus and determination, pouring their hearts and souls into perfecting what promises to be their most spectacular performance yet. Honestly, words cannot

fully capture how proud I feel of these young performers," he remarked.

"Among all the incredible moments in this production, one scene stands out to me above the rest. It features Jonah Espinosa, who has been with us ever since he played "Chip" in "Beauty and the Beast," years ago. Jonah takes center stage, performing a deeply moving piece titled "The Way Back." This particular song has the kind of emotional depth that lingers with you long after it's over - its haunting melody and heartfelt lyrics pull at your emotions and refuse to let go," said Scarrone. He added, "The performance resonates with a raw beauty, leaving an unforgettable impact that defines the essence of this incredible show."

Riley Peterson, who is performing as The Bishop of Basingstoke, said, "You should come see our production of "Jekyll & Hyde" because it will be different than any other show this high school has put on, it's scary, suspenseful, funny, and even emotional at times! You will not want to miss this show."

For tickets, please visit <https://beaconplayers.com>.

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**Millbrook Vineyards Names Ian Bearup GM,
and Continuing in Role as Head Wine Maker**




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See story
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Municipalities promote officers



Members of the Fishkill Town Board and Town of Fishkill Police Department with newly promoted officers.

-Courtesy photo

Members of the City of Beacon Police Department and the Town of Fishkill Police Department recently were promoted in their departments by approval of the Beacon City Council and the Fishkill Town Board.

The Town of Fishkill Town Board, during its recent meeting, approved the promotion appointments of three new sergeants. Police Chief Christopher Strattnner and Police Commissioner Scott Bierce were on hand for the ceremony. Police Officers Thomas Nacke, Jesse Taylor and Russell Tompkins were promoted to the positions of Sergeant. Additionally, three new patrol officers were hired for the

Town's patrol staff, according to officials.

According to a social media post on the Town's Facebook page, "These new hires bring over eighty-one years of police experience and a wealth of knowledge to our Police Department. Thank you to all the men and women of the Town of Fishkill Police Department for all you do for our community."

The Beacon City Council approved the promotions of Thomas Durkin to Police Lieutenant; Alyssa Rudden to Police Lieutenant; Ryan Sambells to Police Sergeant and Jonathan Underwood to Detective.

33-year-old officer dies from injuries sustained in motorcycle accident in Beacon

Services are scheduled for NYS Corrections Officer Justin Brown. A viewing will be held on Friday, April 24 from 1-6 p.m. at Copeland-Hammerl Funeral Home in New Paltz. The service will be held at 4:30 p.m.

Officer Brown died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on April 13 near Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon. He was 33 years old, according to officials.

According to the City of Beacon Police Department around 2:42 p.m. the Department responded to Matteawan Road in the area of Deer Run for a call for a single vehicle auto accident involving a motorcycle. Upon

arrival the driver, from Gardiner, was deceased. Our thoughts are with him and his loved ones., stated the social media post. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office was thanked for their assistance with accident reconstruction and the staff of Fishkill Correctional Facility for their assistance with securing the scene.

The officer leaves behind his wife, 7-year-old son, friends and other family members.

A GoFundMe has been set up at: <https://gofund.me/20917c189>.

The Copeland-Hammerl Funeral Home is 162 S. Putt Corners Road in New Paltz.

April is Sexual Abuse Awareness Month

Silent No More Foundation connects survivors of sexual assault with services

By Cynthia Baer

Deb Bedrosian is on a mission to raise awareness and advocate for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

She founded the Silence No More Foundation in November 2024 with daughter, Alexandra Hazelton, after a life-changing event.

Deb explains, "My daughter disclosed to me that she was being sexually abused. As a survivor of childhood sexual abuse myself who never told anyone, I understood the courage it takes to come forward. As our lives spun out of control with police, courts, lawyers, interrogation after interrogation, we realized the justice system does not always protect the survivor or prosecute the offender. We decided we didn't want anyone else to endure what we were experiencing, so we started the Silent No More Foundation."

April is Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. The Silent No More Foundation encourages the community to wear teal as a visible symbol of support for survivors of sexual assault, promoting healing, solidarity, and raising awareness through conversation about sexual violence.

Proactive education is a big part of creating change in how society responds to abuse. Says Deb, "We want to educate society. Sexual assault is a problem that faces everyone either directly or indirectly. Everyone hears about breast cancer - according to the American Cancer Society it affects 1 in 8 people. But how many people know that 1 in 3 women are sexually harassed or assaulted in their lifetime? Or that 1 in 5 women have experienced completed or attempted rape? Or that 1 in 5 men are sexually harassed or assaulted in their lifetime? Or that 1 in 2 transgender, nonbinary and gender non-conforming people are sexually harassed or assaulted in their lifetime? (NSVR, RAINN). These numbers are unacceptable. With awareness comes prevention. We need to talk about these issues as a society and we need to partner with our representatives to close the loopholes that allow offenders to escape accountability."

Currently, the Silent No More

Foundation does not have an official location. However, The Foundation maintains an active presence on social media and through its official website, silentnomorechildabuse.com, where it provides resource lists and contact numbers to local agencies specializing in mental health and advocacy information to help guide people through the legal system. Although not affiliated with any other organizations, The Foundation works with and is aware of a variety of other organizations that can help survivors in need. Local resources include Family Services of Dutchess County, The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (CPCA), The Child Advocacy Center (CAC), The Grace Smith House, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Fearless!, The Hudson Valley Justice Center, Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center and Pace Women's Justice Center.

Says Deb, "We have networking to effectively help anyone within Dutchess or Putnam County navigate their way through a very complex system. Our goal is to be able to help anyone in the Hudson Valley, and hopefully someday anyone in New York State. We are here to help all survivors so no matter where you live, you are welcome to reach out to us."

Deb also makes in-person appearances to spread the word about sexual assault and its effects on children. Her next event will be at "Swap the Shame, Shift the Blame," an event hosted by Family Services of Dutchess County and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to promote sexual assault awareness and "destroy rape culture." The event is part of a series of community conversations designed to educate the public on sexual violence and support services. It will be held Wednesday, April 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Community Center in Brexel - Schlathaus Park, located 127 All Angels Hill Road in Wappingers Falls.

Silent No More Foundation can be contacted via social media pages: Facebook - Silent No More Foundation and Instagram - @silentnomorechildabuse, or e-mail silentnomorechildabuse@gmail.com.

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Legislature passes resolution to cap County sales tax on gasoline, diesel

Legislature reports

The Dutchess County Legislature voted unanimously on Monday, April 12, to cap the County's sales tax on gasoline and highway diesel at \$3 per gallon starting June 1st. The resolution is expected to take effect June 1, 2026, pending approval from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill) said, "The hardworking people of Dutchess County are hurting. The leadership of the Republican federal administration has been a disaster for everyone who's not a millionaire or a billionaire. Whether it's tariffs driving up the cost of goods, disastrous energy and environmental policies skyrocketing our energy and utility bills, or irresponsible and downright dangerous foreign policy like the War in Iran, which has caused our gas prices to go up more than a dollar in barely a month. This Legislature cannot allow the County to profit off of the people's pain."

"As the economy heads toward possible recession and inflation rises, this reduction is both necessary and prudent to help the working people of Dutchess County. It provides relief now while preserving the county's ability to deliver the services we will need in these

troubling times," said Assistant Majority Leader Kristofer Munn (D-Red Hook).

Minority Leader Michael Polasek (R-LaGrange) gave the response from the Republican caucus stating "We're glad to see this resolution move forward with unanimous support. It reflects an approach our caucus advanced years ago when gas prices were at their peak in 2022, and we know even modest relief matters to families. With families still feeling the pressure of high costs, we need to stay focused on delivering more meaningful solutions to address the affordability crisis facing Dutchess County residents."

Majority Leader Barrington Atkins (D-Poughkeepsie) added, "This resolution passing in committee is more than a step forward; it is a statement. We are not going to sit back while working families continue to get squeezed. People are doing everything right and still falling behind, and that demands action. Government should not be in the business of benefiting from rising gas prices while our residents struggle to keep up. This is about fairness, accountability, and standing firmly with the people we serve. Today, we made it clear that we are choosing relief over inaction."

Mid-Hudson Trout Unlimited sets Veterans, family fishing days

Mid-Hudson Trout Unlimited has scheduled a weekend of fishing at Overlook Park (36 Knights Place) in Poughkeepsie, thanks to the Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Veterans Fishing Day is set Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veterans, this one's for you! Enjoy a relaxing day of fishing with complimentary food and drinks provided by the Federation of

Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs.

Registration is required - sign up by calling Anthony Pittore: 914-755-9667 or Kevin Haight: 914-474-7740

Family Fishing Day is set Sunday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's a fun-filled fishing day for families of all ages! NYS-DEC will provide poles and bait, and the Federation will offer complimentary food and drinks.

No registration needed—just show up and fish!

Speaker to tout benefits of humor at OFA event

Humor reduces stress by relaxing muscles, lowering blood pressure, and increasing blood oxygen levels. It's been proven in repeated studies to benefit heart health, improve learning ability and short term memory. Even a simple pun requires the brain to change perspective.

That's why the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) is bringing humorous motivational speaker Charles

Marshall to Dutchess County for "Spring Into Happiness - Laughter Edition," on Wednesday, April 29, at 1 p.m., at the Wallace Center in Hyde Park (entrance at 4079 US 9). It's a free event for Dutchess County adults over 60.

Seating is limited, so registration is required. Sign up by calling OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555. OFA cannot accept registration requests made by voice mail, email or text.

Viewpoints

It's time to give Direct Support Professionals the recognition they deserve



By Jeffery Fox, Ph.D.

Every day in New York State, tens of thousands of direct support professionals (DSPs) perform indispensable work that makes community life possible for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). They promote independence, dignity and full inclusion — supporting people at jobs, coaching communication, implementing complex clinical plans, assisting with daily living and providing steady, compassionate partnership. Their work is skilled, essential and life-changing.

Yet DSPs remain invisible in one of the nation's most fundamental workforce systems: the federal Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Because "direct support professional" is not recognized as its own occupational category, DSP data is buried within broad classifications such as home health aides or personal care aides — roles with very different responsibilities and training requirements. This lack of recognition has prevented states and the nation from gathering accurate workforce data, obscuring shortages, wage stagnation and dangerously high turnover rates.

Congress must act — and New Yorkers should rally behind H.R. 6137/S. 3211, the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act.

Introduced with bipartisan and bicameral support in November 2025, this legislation directs the Office of Management and Budget to consider creating a distinct SOC code for DSPs. The bill's sponsors point to alarming national instability: turnover rates around 39%-40%, repeatedly documented by National Core Indicators and highlighted in both chambers of Congress.

This crisis is deeply felt in New York. Nonprofit providers across the state struggle to fill vacancies, maintain services and retain experienced staff. Without clear federal data, policymakers cannot accurately assess shortages, wages or employment trends — making it nearly impossible to design effective, long-term solutions. As Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania noted when introducing the bill: "We cannot solve a workforce crisis we cannot accurately measure."

A distinct SOC code would allow New York and other states to:

Accurately Track Workforce Data: Clear federal labor statistics would finally separate DSPs from unrelated roles, giving policymakers reliable information on wages, turnover, job availability and long-term trends.

Strengthen Recruitment and Retention: With better data, states could develop smarter training pipelines, improve Medicaid rate setting, and create career pathways that reflect the true skill and responsibility of DSP work.

Ensure Stability for Individuals with Disabilities: Consistent staffing is essential for people with I/DD to live safely and participate fully in their communities. A national DSP shortage is not simply a workforce issue — it is a civil rights issue.

The bill has earned strong bipartisan support, including from New York's congressional delegation, and companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate. Supporting DSPs is not a partisan matter — it is a moral one.

As a nonprofit leader in New York's disability services sector, I see every day how DSPs transform lives — and how the lack of structural recognition harms the entire system. Our workforce crisis will not resolve itself. It requires action.

The bill is now before the House of Representatives. I urge all New Yorkers to contact their representatives and support this critical legislation.

Jeffery Fox, Ph.D. is President & CEO of Abilities First, Inc., which serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the Hudson Valley. Visit AbilitiesFirstNY.org.

BEACON FREE PRESS

Published Weekly, Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc.
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Albert Osten, President

serving the communities of:
Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wicopee,
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(USPS 665900)

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THE BEACON FREE PRESS (ISSN 0192-9631) is published weekly by the Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc., 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Second-Class postage paid at Wappingers Falls, 12590 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEACON FREE PRESS, 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

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Policy on letters:

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

DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

DCHS Dutchess County Historical Society

www.DCHSNY.org/ddp

What Jane Bolin Day can teach us

By Bill Jeffway

The City of Poughkeepsie has formally established Jane Bolin Day, to be observed each year on her birthday, April 11. Bolin was born in 1908 on North Clinton Street in a modest house that has just been marked with a Pomeroy historical marker. Bolin rose to national prominence in 1939 when she became the first Black woman judge in the United States. She was also the first Black woman to graduate from Yale Law School and the first Black woman to join the New York City Bar Association.

Jane Bolin Day invites us to absorb both inspiration and practical lessons relevant to anyone wanting to achieve their own firsts. Her professional accomplishments, values, and character are well studied and deserve a broader audience, which the “day” helps to accomplish. What is lesser known is the degree to which the four generations of Bolins in Dutchess County helped shape her—and how, in return, she and her family shaped Dutchess County. That is the focus of this article.

The earliest documented evidence of the family, so far, is the 1820 Federal Census of Pawling (which included Dover at the time) showing Thomas Bolin as head of household. Later documents show that he was born in New Jersey perhaps ca. 1790–1800.

The timing coincides with the 1799 passage of New York State’s Gradual Emancipation Act—eventually culminating in the formal abolition of slavery in 1827. New Jersey’s slower path toward emancipation likely made relocation to a Quaker-influenced area of New York a strategic and hopeful move. Slavery was not abolished in New Jersey until after the Civil War and the adoption of the 13th U.S. Constitutional Amendment in 1865.

Pawling (which then included Dover), with its “Quaker Hill” and important Oblong meeting house which still stands, was the first settlement, and later launching pad, of what became the largest Quaker population outside of Philadelphia after the 1728 arrival of Nathan Birdsall. Quaker beliefs encouraged education for women and fostered early antislavery efforts. In 1766, the Oblong meeting in Pawling took a lead-

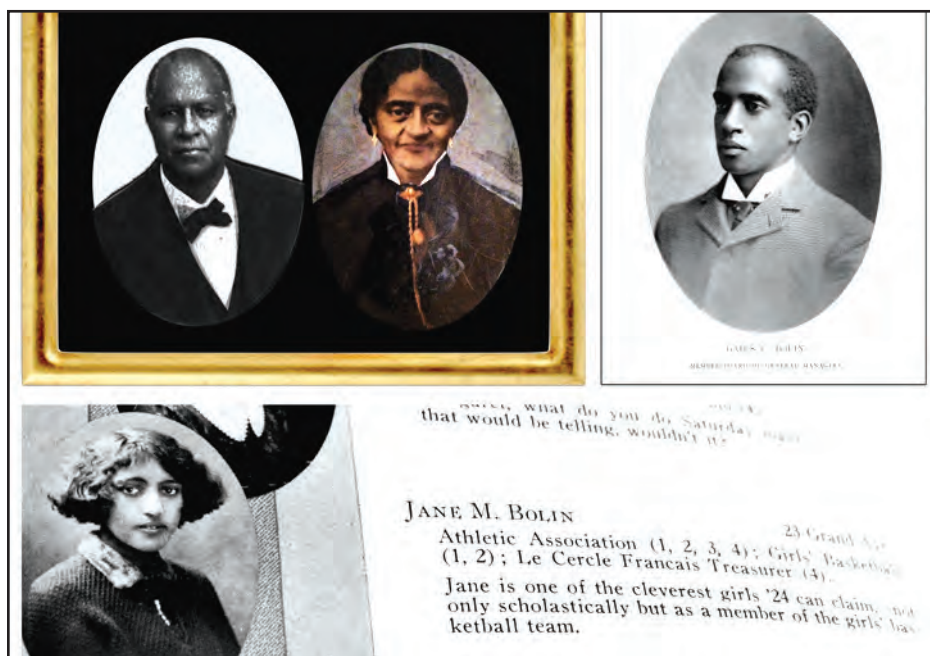
ing role in opposing slaveholding among its members. That abolitionist leadership took on a more aggressive and outward-directed action in the 1820s, when many national voices for abolition were local, such as father and daughter James and Lizzie DeGarmo.

The late Black academic A.J. Williams-Myers argued that many of the racially tolerant free Black communities in Dutchess County, and mixed race communities in the 19th century, created an environment of tolerance for mixed race couples. Jane Bolin was proud to mention the Indigenous heritage of her paternal grandmother. The area that is today Dutchess County was a crossroads and intersection of major civilizations: Mohican to the north, Munsee to the west, Wappinger or Delaware Lenape to the south, and Schaghticoke to the east. Among these civilizations was a practice of matrilineal inheritance of influence and leadership. Jane’s mother, Matilda (Jane Bolin’s middle name), was a White Irish Protestant. She died when Jane was eight years old.

Quakers were also progressive in their attitude toward the roles of women. The co-educational Nine Partners Boarding School in the town of Washington (present-day Millbrook) stands as a powerful example of these values. Among its students and teachers was Lucretia Coffin Mott, a central figure in the early women’s rights movement. Four of the five women organizers of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, considered to be the launch of the women’s rights movement, were raised in Quaker communities. These influences created an environment where progressive ideas about education, gender, and reform could take root.

Abram Bolin ‘s influence

If the role of Thomas Bolin’s generation was to create the most profound change, to live in a more secure, safe environment free of enslavement, his son, Abram Bolin (born just as slavery was about to be abolished locally, ca. 1826), dramatically shifted gears to take advantage of that freedom. Abram Bolin moved to Poughkeepsie in the 1850s and married Ann Alice Lawrence in 1854. They had thirteen children, seven of whom lived into adulthood, at a house that still stands



From top left clockwise: Portraits of Jane Bolin’s grandparents, Abram and Alice Ann Lawrence Bolin. Their son, Jane Bolin’s father, Gaius Bolin, showed as he appeared in the publication of the 1901 Pan American Exposition at Buffalo, New York. Gaius Bolin agreed to a request by then New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt to serve on the New York Commission. It was at that event that President McKinley was shot and Roosevelt became President. Jane Bolin, as she appeared in the 1924 Poughkeepsie High School Yearbook.

-Courtesy of DCHS Collections

on North Clinton Street and was in the family for a century.

Here Abram and Ann Bolin engaged on every front they could consider in ways not available in rural Pawling or Dover. For work, Abram Bolin was variously a grocery store owner, a gardener, a “missionary agent,” and for several of the later decades of his life the superintendent of College Hill Park, and more specifically, the City Reservoir that had been built with leading technology at the time, the outdoor reservoir that remains today. He was very active in Republican politics, then the ‘party of Lincoln.’ In 1872 he became the first Black man to be on a jury locally. His most visible achievement was his leadership in getting the New York State Legislature to formally create a Black college of higher education, what we today call ‘HBCU.’ It was called the Toussaint L’Ouverture College in honor of the Haitian revolutionary and would be based in Poughkeepsie, increasingly known as the “City of Schools.” The 1865 opening of Vassar

College (originally Vassar Female College) was controversial and highly progressive for the time. In part over disagreements even within the Black community on whether an insistence on the integration of white colleges was preferable, Toussaint L’Ouverture never attracted any funding.

During Abram and Ann Bolin’s generation, the region was also shaped by the presence of nationally significant Black leaders. Frederick Douglass spoke to thousands at College Hill in 1858. J. W. Pennington convened a statewide convention of Black leaders in Poughkeepsie in 1863, gathering thousands of Black men’s signatures to petition President Lincoln for the right to serve in combat roles in the Union Army.

The family focus on education had an

effect. Their son Gaius, father of Jane Bolin, attended private school in Poughkeepsie after high school, and was successfully admitted to, and graduated from Williams College, the first Black man to do so. He became Dutchess County’s first Black lawyer (later joined in practice with his son, Gaius Jr.) and the first Black head of the county bar association.

Jane Bolin graduated from Poughkeepsie High School in 1924. She did not apply to Vassar College, which at the time would not accept Black women. She attended Wellesley College.

Well into her career, she returned to Poughkeepsie in 1944 to give a talk to a meeting of the American Brotherhood during United Americans Week, which had been launched in 1934 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews to promote tolerance, unity, and mutual understanding among Americans of different religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.

When asked if she felt Poughkeepsie was free from racism, instead of sharing her personal view, she suggested the audience decide for themselves. She suggested that the audience consider how many racial minorities serve “on the bench ... on the staff of the District Attorney, the Fire and Police Departments, the city council, and every city department.” She went on to add hospital staff, nurses, and teachers, among other roles, suggesting that the question is best answered not by her, but through each person’s personal judgment.



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

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Late Fishkill combat medic Stephen Shumway recognized during 'Honor-A-Veteran' ceremony

By Kristine Coulter

The "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremony for April paid tribute to former U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class Stephen Shumway, who was a Fishkill resident. The ceremony, the first one in 2026, took place at the Knights of Columbus building on Route 82 in Fishkill. These ceremonies, held monthly from April - November, recognize the life and service of veterans who have died.

Sarah Husted, one of Shumway's four children (he was the father of two daughters and two sons), said before the event began, "We're very excited and grateful. He didn't talk much about being in the service."

Shumway's other daughter, Jennifer Marion, remarked, "We get to hear about new things [regarding his service]."

Shumway was born on Sept. 24, 1947, in Tioga County and attended a one-room schoolhouse. Shumway was drafted into the Army at the age of 19.

According to the biography of Shumway shared at the ceremony: "Becoming a medic wasn't a particular goal of Mr. Shumway's. Being a draftee he thought he was going to be handed a weapon and sent overseas to be an infantryman, but to his surprise he had the opportunity to choose from the various military occupations available. Medic was the first option he saw, and he said simply, 'I'd like to be a medic.'"

"His life is a testament to service and integrity," said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino to those gathered for the ceremony.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche joined the family of deceased Army Specialist 4th Class Stephen Shumway at the "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremony, held on April 16 at the Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council #4065 in Fishkill.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

Shumway served as a Combat Medic during one of the most critical military campaigns during the Vietnam War – the Tet Offensive.

Serino said Shumway is owed "our gratitude."

Shumway went on to serve four years

with the Army Reserves.

Before moving to and settling in Fishkill, Shumway lived in Binghamton and then Westchester County.

Damon Corbin, Shumway's nephew, said about his uncle, "He had a dry sense of humor. It's hard to describe."

Husted said her father "loved giving back to the veterans."

Shumway was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1286. It was noted that after his recovery from a stroke, Shumway would walk two miles to The Bagel Shoppe in Fishkill to meet fellow veterans.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra, who is also a veteran, said Shumway delivered the 2011 Memorial Day speech in the town.

In the speech, Shumway recalled two of his friends, Donnie Rummel and Tony Revak.

"Needless to say, we lost contact with one another, it was not until I got back to the States that I found out that in August of 1968 that my two classmates were both killed in Vietnam within two days of each other. The letters from home, had not included that information ... why was I here? Why did the good [L]ord spare me and why did he take my friends before they had a chance to experience life? I do not have the answers to those questions. The only thing I can do now is to honor the memory of them," reads the speech by Shumway.

Albra said Shumway was a "beloved Fishkill resident" and was honored as one of the Town's Hometown Heroes.

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi remarked Shumway was "a man who heard his nation's call." Parisi added, "To his family, we recognize his sacrifice was also your sacrifice."

Dutchess County Legislator Doug McHoul said he goes "way back" with the Shumway family and was "happy to be there" to recognize Shumway's

"impact on the community." Shumway spent years volunteering for the concession stand for East Fishkill Soccer, it was stated.

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati said during his remarks that he "loves to hire veterans."

Numerous proclamations were read in honor of Shumway by federal, state and local representatives of government officials.

Among the medals awarded to Shumway for his service were:

- National Defense Medal;
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device;
- Vietnam Service Medal;
- Good Conduct Medal.

A quilt was presented to the Shumway family by Quilts2Honor of Mental Health America of Dutchess County.

Nate Grant, Commander of the American Legion Post 37, presented the family with a Veterans Challenge Coin.

A memory box was presented to Shumway's family by Victor Zamaloff, of Mental Health America Vet2Vet. The Invocation and closing prayer were offered by Mike Goebel of American Legion Post 1302.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Color Guard did the presentation of colors and retiring of colors.

Ray Relyea, Commander of American Legion Post 1302, said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Local resident Dani Masterson, Buglers Across America, played "Taps."

Shumway died on Nov. 6, 2024, in Fishkill. He left behind his four children, six grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.



"His heart was filled with compassion," said Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche. He added, "Stephen, I know you're with us here today. Know this: your sacrifices cannot be forgotten."

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Latin Dance Night set for April 23

A Night of Latin Dancing will be presented by Beacon Dance Beat on Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m. for dining and music), at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main Street, in Beacon. Lose yourself to the wonderful sounds of Salsa, Merengue, Bachata,

Reggaeton and much more, played by DJ Rhoda. Song requests welcome.

Fine dining and full bar are available before and during the dance. Admission is \$20, which can be paid at the door. For reservations (not required), please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500.

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades rally past Keys to even record at 7-7

Continued from cover

Brady Kirtner and Chris Veach closed out a successful bullpen showing for the 10-2 win. Jack Cebert got the Renegades a third straight victory on April 16, with a second consecutive start of 7+ innings. Cebert was again a strikeout machine, getting his season total to 14 (2nd on the Renegades staff as of April 18) as he evened the season record at 1-1. The Renegades returned above .500 that night, a 5-2 victory cemented with Cebert's success.

Rain spoiled the Keys' home debut, forcing a Wednesday double-header on the formerly soggy infield. The Renegades relied heavily on the long ball that day, teeing off on Keys pitchers 5 times between two games on April 15.

Josue Gonzalez broke open the first game in the eighth inning, extending the lead with a late three-run blast. Cam Troyer launched one a few innings earlier, but the center fielder further garnered looks in the bottom of the 9th inning with dugout-whooping defense. Showcasing his strong outfield arm, Troyer picked off Frederick's only hope of a baserunner, as he caught the runner stretching a single. There was revelry in the visiting dugout, as the 'Gades would go on to win 10-2.

With its 7-3 victory in the nightcap, Hudson Valley scored every run on the long ball. Kyle West hit a three-run shot in the first inning; Josh Moylan added a solo shot the next. Wilyer Rodriguez later smashed a three-run



Core Jackson has been one of the hitting leaders for the Renegades in the early part of the season.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

home run, representing the unanswered insurance runs. Especially deflating for the Keys, the blast came with two outs. Moylan would ream another rocket in the series finale, jumping on the first pitch he saw in the ninth inning. The Renegades mounted a 3-run rally to tie

the game that inning. Hudson Valley won the series with a 7-6 win in 10 innings, as Renegades pitchers combined for 14 strikeouts.

The visitors struck first in three consecutive games, exploding for 10 first-inning runs across the longest win

streak of this budding baseball season. Kaeden Kent and Core Jackson were the crux of the streak. In the four games the pair headed the lineup, one or both reached base in the first inning. Kent was 3-4 with a walk in the first inning this series, and Jackson had a pair of walks and was hit by a pitch. West's moonshot to start the second game was set up with a Kent single, and Jackson getting plunked by a pitch.

But the first inning barrage contrasted with the second half of the series, as Hudson Valley scored just one run in consecutive games, April 17-18. Under the lights on Friday night, the 'Gades were gearing toward a shutout with two outs to spare. Troyer broke it with an RBI ground-rule double before his team went down 6-1. The Renegades could not make up a four-run deficit that Frederick built early on in the following matchup and mustered four hits against Keys starter Juaron Watts-Brown.

The Renegades return home for a full-length series against the Brooklyn Cyclones April 21-26. The Cyclones were winless in the first two games against the Renegades. Fans can expect tails wagging at the season's first Bark in the Park on Wednesday, April 22, plus free parking for first responders. The main event, the April 24 Ballpark Carnival, will feature fun fixings and postgame fireworks for all. Saturday, April 25 will see the return of the Newburgh Gorhams, featuring a free Gorhams cooler for the first 1,000 fans.

Dutchess County Rev250 ramps up with celebration of Dutchess history

As preparations for the observance of the United States' 250th birthday ramp up, Chair Yvette Valdés Smith and the Dutchess County Legislature welcomed County Historian William P. Tatum to share details about upcoming happenings across Dutchess County.

At the Legislature's April 13th board meeting, Tatum briefed Legislators on events including historical reenactments of colonial-era crafts and trades, to theater performances celebrating Dutchess County's Revolutionary War history, all supported through the County's "Dutchess Rev 250" initiative, which was developed in 2025.

"Dutchess County played a key role in the founding of our nation, and we are so blessed and proud to have the opportunity to spotlight our important, shared history," said Legislature Chair Yvette Valdés Smith, who represents and lives in Fishkill, one of the nine original towns in Dutchess. "These amazing events will allow residents of all ages to get a glimpse of what our region was like in 1776. I hope to see neighbors and visitors alike exploring Dutchess County and observing the 250th anniversary of the great American experiment."

Set to take place throughout the year, these special events are intended to supplement—not replace—the County's many annual Independence Day obser-

vances and celebrations help re-focus on the special 250-year milestone America reaches on July 4, 2026.

Program highlights include Dutchess County's RevCon, scheduled for June 13 at the FDR Library in Hyde Park and featuring a livestock demonstration from the Dover Historical Society, and the Revolutionary Cider Experience, to be held at Fishkill Farms on June 27, featuring historical cooking demonstrations, presentations on cider history, and storytelling by historical interpreter Jonathan Kruk.

"As County Historian, I'm proud to help the County support these wide-ranging and thought-provoking initiatives that bring history to life and enhance the celebration of America's 250th anniversary here in Dutchess," said County Historian William P. Tatum. "I appreciate the support of the County Legislature in helping spread the word about these events, and I thank Chair Valdes Smith for inviting me to share the details at the meeting this month."

Tatum also unveiled the Chirp Dispatch App, an immersive smartphone application designed to bring 1776 alive for children with an animated cricket which will explain the history behind the events in an engaging way for a young audience.

Rachael Sage to play Towne Crier on April 25



Rachael Sage & Vanna Pacella will perform at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Friday, April 25, starting at 6 p.m. The show will take place on the Salon Stage and is complimentary for Towne Crier dinner guests.

The Towne Crier is at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Reservations suggested; call 845-855-1300 to book one's table.

-Courtesy photos

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Turtle Toffee Bars

A classic confection gets a baker's touch, with delicious results.

Today, my friends, we are making turtle bars though, to be honest, they're more toffee than turtle, which, as it turns out, is a very good thing. This recipe is the result of trial and error (as so many recipes are) and took two tries to get it right. The first time I took inspiration from a recipe saved years ago from a magazine but never tried. I don't even know the source. I followed parts of it and found out too late that I had used ALL the butter for the crust and the results were equally laughable and fascinating. So. Much. Butter! The problem was twofold: I was tired and didn't read through the recipe first; and whoever penned it neglected to specify dividing the amount of butter. At a glance, then, I added it all to the first step, which was the crust, and the resulting oil slick (even after blotting multiple times to soak up the extra), while buttery decadent, was never going to be something I could serve, so I had to start over. Worth it!

Starting over, though, left me shorter on time than I had budgeted for, so a few shortcuts were employed (using chocolate chips on top rather than making ganache) and I left said shortcuts in, because sometimes the unexpected hands you things you didn't know you need, and you and I need these bars just as they are. Not everything will come out perfectly the first time, whether you have a recipe to follow or not, and I want you to know that's just fine. A fair few of my best recipes took several tries before I was happy to serve them and are now among my favorites. This just might be one!

Let it be said that I hate wasting food, which makes the trial-and-error part a bit stressful. But in this case, I did crumble up some of the overly buttery crust to use as a topping for ice cream, coffee cake and to

sprinkle on a chocolate cake I made. When life hands you WAY too much butter, make creative choices!

Turtle Toffee Bars

Following the recipe that inspired this had me questioning if baking the bars a second time after the caramel was added was really necessary. While it baked, I thought about it and decided to take it out of the oven before the original recipe's recommended time. I will tell you that was the way to go because, while baking the caramel was key to making the toffee-esque layer as well as making the chocolate chips melt on top, cutting the time in the oven down made for bars that weren't too hard (literally) to eat. Dark brown sugar is definitely required for the best caramel/toffee layer ever, so don't be tempted to use light brown. I've also made the all-important notes to divide ingredients where necessary, so you avoid my ridiculous mistake!

Ingredients

2 cups flour, sifted
 1¾ cups dark brown sugar, packed, divided (1 cup is for the crust)
 1½ cups butter (3 sticks), room temperature, divided (¾ cup each for the crust and the caramel)
 3 tablespoons heavy cream
 ¾ cup chopped pecans (toasted if you prefer)
 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Method

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x13x2 (preferably metal) baking pan with parchment cut to fit the width with several inches of overhang on the ends (for easy removal later). Set aside.



Turtle Toffee Bars are a special treat in spring.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

For the crust

In a medium bowl, mix flour, 1 cup of the dark brown sugar and ¾ cup (6 oz) of the butter with a fork until blended and crumbly. (once crumbs start to form I use my hands to break them into smaller crumbs). Press evenly into prepared baking pan. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. (Keep the oven on).

For the toffee/caramel layer

In a small saucepan, bring remaining ¾ cup brown sugar, remaining ¾ cup (6oz) butter and heavy cream just to a boil over medium heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar.

Boil for 1 minute more, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.

Finish 'er up

Sprinkle pecans evenly over the baked crust. Pour the caramel over the pecans, not quite to the edges. Bake until just bubbling and darkened slightly in color, 10-15 minutes. Remove from the oven.

Sprinkle chocolate chips evenly on top of the hot caramel. Let stand until the chocolate starts to melt, 5 minutes or so, then carefully spread the chocolate evenly. An offset spatula is perfect for this. Chill to set, about 30 minutes. Lift out of the pan using the parchment overhang, cut into 1-2 inch squares and serve.

These keep beautifully for several days, making them great for packing in lunches or bringing on a picnic.

It's amazing the difference good instructions in a recipe can make, and hopefully I've done my job well enough for you to get the best results. These were a big hit – my father really liked them – and I'll definitely be making them again and again. I hope you will, too. Enjoy!

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

Millbrook Vineyards names Ian Bearup GM, and continuing in role as Head Wine Maker

The next chapter at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery is taking shape, as the Hudson Valley's flagship winery announces that Head Winemaker, Ian Bearup has been appointed general manager. In his dual role, Bearup will oversee all day-to-day operations of the winery, including strategy, team leadership, hospitality, sales and the guest experience, while continuing to direct the winery's acclaimed wine production. From vineyard coordination and harvest decisions to fermentation, blending and bottling, he will ensure the quality and character that define Millbrook's award-winning portfolio.

"Millbrook has always been a special place," said Bearup. "My goal is to honor what's been built here while continuing to elevate both the wines and the experience. I'm excited to showcase not only what we do, but what Hudson Valley wine is truly capable of."

This transition follows the retirement of David Bova, whose leadership helped grow Millbrook Winery over its 40-year history into one of the most respected wineries in the Hudson Valley. His contributions have been instrumental in establishing the winery's reputation for quality, consistency and community connection. On the transition, Bova commented, "It has been an honor to help build Millbrook into what it is today. I could not be more confident in the team and the direction, and I look forward to watching the next chapter unfold."

Prior to his role at Millbrook Winery, Bearup led the production at vineyards across the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast in California, the Willamette Valley in Oregon, and in New Zealand. His background also includes managing large-scale production, leading cellar teams, coordinating with clients and overseeing all aspects of lab analysis, fermentation and quality control – experience that positions him well to lead both the business and winemaking operations in his newly expanded position.

Supporting this next phase is Millbrook Winery's owner, John Dyson, a Millbrook native, whose influence spans the



In his dual role as General Manager and Head Winemaker, Ian Bearup will oversee all day-to-day operations at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, including strategy, team leadership, hospitality, sales and the guest experience, while continuing to direct the winery's acclaimed wine production.

-Courtesy photo

American wine industry coast to coast. With deep pride in the region's grapes, Dyson is returning to help guide a renewed vision, one that honors the winery's heritage while embracing a more refined, Old World-inspired approach to both winemaking and the guest experience.

"As someone who has spent a lifetime in the winemaking industry, I've always known the Hudson Valley is capable of great things," said Dyson. "Ian brings an extraordinary depth of winemaking experience to Millbrook and a fresh, young perspective to help us showcase that in an even more meaningful way."

Looking ahead, Bearup's appointment signals a thoughtful evolution. Rooted in tradition, yet forward-thinking, the winery is set to elevate its offerings through immersive tastings and heightened focus on craftsmanship. Under his leadership, Millbrook Winery will enter its next chapter, defined by expertise and a renewed commitment to excellence. For more information about Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, visit millbrookwine.com.

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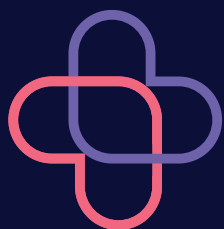
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Obituaries

Dennis Zack



Dennis R. Zack, a resident of Fishkill since 1981 and formerly of Yonkers, passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2026 at Montefiore St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh. He was 76.

Son of the late Robert and Fay Zack, he was born in Bayonne, NJ on October 10, 1949. Dennis served in the Westchester County Police Department for 20 years. He retired as Detective in 1998.

He was an active member of the community, having served as a Town of Fishkill Board Member and later as Police Commissioner. Dennis had a great passion for politics and was the chairman of the Dutchess County Independence Party for many years.

He was a parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill, member of the Knights of Columbus Council #4065, and Past President of the Westchester County Police Retired Officers Association.

As a lifelong bowler, he participated in leagues throughout the region and competed in countless tournaments throughout his lifetime. Dennis was an avid Hudson Valley Renegades fan and season ticket holder since the team's 1994 inaugural season. He also loved to attend Army Football games at West Point.

More than anything else, he cherished his family and was especially proud of his grandchildren. Dennis loved his daily FaceTime calls with his "NC Jecks." He especially loved his calls with his "little honey" Bella and their game of "being done" first.

Survivors include his daughter, Christine Thorbjornsen & her husband Anthony of Poughkeepsie; his son, Robert Porco of NJ; his daughter, Marilyn Knapp of Fishkill; his daughter, Denise Marcio & her husband Frank of NC; his grandchildren: Marisa Thorbjornsen & her partner Kayleigh, Michael Thorbjornsen, Angelina Porco, Abraham Knapp, Chase Marcio, Logan Marcio, and Bella Marcio; his sister, Linda Barnaby; as well as his niece Kelli Little and many other family members.

Calling hours were held on Friday, April 17 at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, April 18 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Town of Fishkill Police Cadets, 801 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524 or Gary Stymiloski Scholarship Fund c/o Westchester County PB, 1 Saw Kill River Parkway, Hawthorne, NY 10532.

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Timothy N. Laffin



Timothy Neil Laffin, a life-long Village of Wappingers Falls resident, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026 at the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla; at the age of 60. He was born in Poughkeepsie, NY on June 14, 1965, son of the late Thomas J. Laffin, Sr. & Jean Marie (Kelly) Laffin. Tim attended Wappinger Central Schools and graduated from Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School.

At the young age of 14, Tim joined the W.T. Garner Engine Company #1 of Wappingers Falls, through the local Boy Scouts. From there his love for the firehouses flourished, he would climb the ranks of officer positions. He was a Life-Member and served Chief.

After he served as Chief of W.T. Garner, he went onto the Hughsonville Fire Department, where he also served as Chief; from there he

became a member of the Chelsea Fire Company, when he lived in Chelsea then later came back with his membership at W.T. Garner, where it all started.

Tim worked as a truck driver for many years, and for various construction companies, particularly Trap Rock Quarry (Tilcon Inc) of Wappingers Falls, NY; for over 30 years until he retired.

Along with the firehouse, Tim's hobbies included his love for NASCAR, New York Yankees and the New York Giants; all of which he was an avid fan.

Timothy is survived by his sisters and brother: Mary Jo Laffin, Thomas J. Laffin Jr., Sue (Mark) Simmons and Michelle Laffin. He is also survived by a nephew Jesse Laffin-Aviles, and several other nieces, nephews & dear friends.

Along with his beloved parents, Tim was predeceased by his loving dog 'Semi' who awaits being reunited.

His Family will receive Friends on Wednesday, April 22nd from 4 – 8 p.m. at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a firematic prayer service will be offered. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered 10AM, Thursday, April 23rd at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, followed by interment in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes for memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Center, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or a local charity of one's choice. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Joseph H. Rodosky



Joseph H. Rodosky, a longtime resident of the local area, passed away on April 2, 2026, at the age of 79.

Born in Westchester on March 18, 1947, Joseph was the son of the late Harold and Corinne Rodosky. He is survived by his siblings, Nora, Whitey, Michael and Thomas. Also several Cousins, Nieces and Nephews.

On March 21, 1970, Joseph married Roxanne Hoffman, and together they had a family that was the center of his life. He is survived by his two children, His daughter Roxane Rodosky Orapello and his son Joseph Rodosky.

He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren, Gary Mankes Jr. and Heather Rodosky, as well as his great grandchildren, Jace, Steven and Troy, and his extended family, Johnna, RayneBow and EverLy.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no calling hours.

A portion of his ashes will be spread along I-95 South by his daughter-- a final journey. Safe travels, Dad.

Charlotte Fay Johnson



Charlotte Fay Johnson passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026 at the age of 91. Charlotte was born on January 17, 1935 in Poughkeepsie, NY to the late William and Mildred (Denney) Mathews. On September 18, 1955, she married her beloved husband Mark Johnson. They spent many happy years together until his death in 2012.

Charlotte attended Krissler Business Institute, and earned an Associates in Applied Science Degree from Dutchess Community College. She spent over 30 years working in the Registrar's Office at Dutchess Community College.

Charlotte had a sharp sense of humor and was very witty. She was a master seamstress, and an excellent crafter and

quilter. Her creations won multiple awards at the Dutchess County Fair. Charlotte loved to learn new crafting skills and would take all sorts of art classes including pottery, painting, calligraphy, basket making, flower arranging and photography. She made all sorts of gifts for her loved ones, which they truly cherish. Charlotte also loved to garden, cook, and bake.

She is survived by her children: Wendy Stimpson and her husband Bruce, Mark Johnson and his wife Maryanne, and Sheri DeGroot; her grandchildren: Curtis Stimpson, Eric Stimpson and his wife Katy, Mark Johnson and his wife Róisín, Sarah Jung and her husband Bo, Karissa Johnson, and Danielle Johnson; and her great-grandchildren: Zoraya, Syllas, Caleb and Mia.

In addition to her husband Mark Johnson, Charlotte was also predeceased by her daughter Lori Johnson.

A Memorial Service was held on Friday April 17, 2026 at Hopewell Reformed Church, 143 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, followed by interment in Hopewell Cemetery.

Please consider a donation in Charlotte's memory to the Dutchess County SPCA. www.dcsPCA.org.

Laurie Lee Scott



Laurie Lee Scott, gentle warrior, advocate, mother, anchor, and sister passed away peacefully as the New Moon slipped beneath the clouds and her family held her on April 18, 2026, at the age of 72. Laurie was born in Yonkers, NY on March 24, 1954, daughter of the late Robert & Eleanor (Slater) Scott.

Laurie was a lover of all things nature related. She felt deeply connected to rivers and the way they cut a path through landscapes, changing course in order to thrive.

Laurie's father imbued in her a love of baseball that led her to become a "baseball fanatic." A sentiment now felt by her children and grandchildren.

Laurie held a BS in Criminal Justice from Pace University. She was a CASAC with time spent in outpatient and residential

drug treatment wherein she taught strength and resolve. Laurie innately understood the struggle people can incur around drugs and alcohol, she herself chose unwavering sobriety in October, 1987. She knew and paid forward the idea that one must accept themselves before they can accept others.

She was a tireless aid and essential counselor to those who knew her. Laurie began her career guiding incarcerated people as a correctional counselor at DFY Harlem Valley, Green Haven, Fishkill and Sullivan prisons. She was a prison program coordinator for Dutchess Community College. In the 2000's she began work outside the facility in order to bring support and direction to those released as a volunteer with the Alternatives to Violence Project.

Laurie spent her time before retirement as the executive director for a non-profit organization built to meet the needs of people leaving incarceration, Re-Entry Columbia in Hudson, NY. As such she shaped the direction, developed programs and outreach, worked with and represented the agency in all matters. Laurie had a keen sense of what was critical and necessary in order to propel the agenda for justice forward. Her passion for those left behind rang loud and clear in packed standing room only meetings.

For Laurie, meaning lay in modeling what love and friendship could look like. She soared above and beyond expectations to tirelessly champion and lift, not only the people she loved, but also anyone whom she felt needed it. She had a magical ability to see past the surface of a person. This sight gifted her the talent to bring solace and peace to those lacking it.

Laurie is survived by her three children: Dara D'Ascoli and her partner Joseph Padron; Benson Morosco and his wife Nicole; Eliza Lenore Sukanick and her husband Peter. Her longtime life and travel partner Michael Losee. She is also survived by her six grandchildren: Matthew, Anthony, Elias, Levi, Dylan, and Leona Mae. Outside her family she leaves an enormous circle of friends and admirers.

Along with her beloved parents, Laurie was predeceased by her three sisters; Sandra, Valerie, and Marcia, with whom she danced, sang, and played in the Saw Mill River during their youth.

A gathering to Remember & Celebrate her Life will come later along the Hudson River. Interment will be private at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery Mausoleum, Fishkill, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations as per Laurie's wish, to keep on keeping on, can be made to RAPP-<https://rappcampaign.com/donate/>

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Robert Warren

Robert Warren died peacefully in Rhinebeck on 13 April. Bob was born in Poughkeepsie to Robert and Joan Casey Warren on 24 March, 1957. He lived the majority of his life in Fishkill with some years in Colorado.

Bob enjoyed life through his friends at magical Delhi cabin retreats, Adirondack and Catskill adventures camping and canoeing, and with a love for music and reading.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and younger brother, Kevin. He is survived by his sisters Kathryn Poitras and Laura Weiss.

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- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
- 900 Autos for Sale
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Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for new Herring Sanitation facility in Fishkill



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Herring Sanitation's new facility, at 146 Old Route 9 in Fishkill, took place on Friday, April 3. The event was sponsored by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and saw attendance from members of our community.

At the ceremony, the Herring family was honored to accept certificates acknowledging their protracted service to the Hudson Valley. The Herrings wish to express their profound gratitude to

County Executive Sue Serino, Assemblyman Anil Beephan, and Senator Rob Rolison for presenting these distinguished commendations.

Established by Jimmy and Sharon Herring in 1973, the business is currently managed by Jason Herring and Amy Herring. The Herrings are honored to have both second and third-generation family members collaborating to serve their clientele, with Jimmy and Sharon maintaining their foundational guidance.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new Herring Sanitation facility in Fishkill on April 3.

-Courtesy photos

Spaghetti with meatballs dinner at the Elks Lodge on April 24

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 Ladies Auxiliary will host a spaghetti with meatballs dinner on Friday, April 24, from 6-8 p.m. Dinner comes with salad, garlic bread, and fresh apple cake. Cost is \$15.

The Elks Lodge is at 900 Wolcott Ave. in Beacon.

this week's puzzle solutions

4	2	8	1	5	9	7	6	3
3	6	9	4	2	7	5	1	8
7	5	1	3	8	6	2	4	9
8	9	3	2	6	5	1	7	4
1	7	2	8	3	4	6	9	5
5	4	6	7	9	1	8	3	2
6	3	7	5	4	2	9	8	1
2	1	4	9	7	8	3	5	6
9	8	5	6	1	3	4	2	7

This week's answer
SUDOKU

R	Y	E	S	W	E	W	Y	E	S				
C	A	L	L	O	R	E	X	A	L	B			
A	L	G	A	E	J	A	R	W	I	L	D		
P	O	L	L	E	N	B	E	T	L	E			
F	E	E	D	L	L	E	L	E	L	E			
T	O	S	S	E	S	I	T	L	L	Y	E	S	
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U	N	I	X	I	N	G	O	T	A	D	I	T	
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F	D	A	D	A	P	R	O	T	E	M			
E	E	K	L	A	M	E							
M	A	G	G	O	T	C	I	C	A	D	A		
P	A	N	D	A	C	O	D	C	I	C	E	A	X
N	O	N	E	T	A	L	E	G	O	C	C	I	
G	L	A	S	S	T	O	M						

1	2	1	4	3
3	5	3	2	1
1	2	4	1	4
4	5	3	2	3
1	2	1	4	5
4	5	3	2	1

Sudoku solution

<p>Legal Notices</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE</p> <p>The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 9, 2026, 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.</p> <p>Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, March 9, 2026.</p> <p><i>/s/Julie Shiroishi</i> Clerk, County Legislature</p> <p>RESOLUTION NO. 2026025 BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 9, 2026. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,086,360 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY PART OF THE COST OF THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A 911 EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE SYSTEM, FOR SAID COUNTY, AND ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR SAID CALL RESPONSE SYSTEM.</p> <p>Specific object or purpose: Purchase/installation of a 911 Emergency Call Response System</p> <p>Period of probable usefulness: 10 years</p> <p>Maximum estimated cost: \$2,725,756</p> <p>Amount of bonds to be issued: \$1,086,360 bonds</p> <p>Other monies: \$1,639,396 State aid</p> <p>SEQRA status: Type II Action</p> <p>NOTICE TO BIDDERS- RFB-DCH-2026-11 Re-bid Reconstruction of PA-01 Culvert, Town of Pawling. Project Description: Replacement existing culvert with pre-cast concrete box culvert and wing walls in the Town of Pawling. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Re-</p>	<p>Legal Notices</p> <p>address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00am Friday, May 15, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 662 418 540#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one elec-</p>	<p>Legal Notices</p> <p>tronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business May 11, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov and cc'dmckenna@dutchessny.gov and the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is July 6, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion date is October 2, 2026. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Pre-</p>	<p>Legal Notices</p> <p>vailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026010363. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.</p> <p>REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE</p> <p>The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-52-26</p> <p>Vehicle Wash Services</p> <p>Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 4th day of May 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.</p>
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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

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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: INSECTS

ACROSS

1. Ira ____ of NPR
6. Mr. Turkey
9. Gives the boot
13. Between octet and decet
14. Ginger one
15. Spherical bacteria
16. Popular ursine meme star
17. Public health org.
18. Mountaineer's tool (2 words)
19. *Fly larva
21. *World's noisiest insect
23. Comic book shriek
24. Like some excuses
25. Food safety org.
28. Man Ray's genre
30. Temporarily, legally speaking (2 words)
35. Like unpleasant awakening
37. 4th down kick
39. Quarter-round molding
40. Computer operating system
41. Metal bar
43. Mine passage
44. Antonym of exhume
46. Expert
47. Strip of wood
48. Throws
50. It will
52. Concurrence word
53. Silo contents
55. Romanian money
57. *Bee's bounty
60. *Boll weevil, e.g.
63. Aquarium scum
64. *Lightning bug trap?
66. Brandish
68. Part of a flower
69. Bonanza find
70. Courtroom excuse
71. Whiskey grain, pl.
72. Coniferous tree
73. #52 Across, pl.

DOWN

1. Econ. measure
2. Good earth
3. Wintour of "Vogue" fame
4. Marsh plant
5. Not impromptu
6. Diplomat's asset
7. Antediluvian
8. Hajj destination
9. Cocaine plant
10. Got an A
11. March Madness org.
12. *Number of legs on an insect
15. Famous Roman orator
20. Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
22. Mischief-maker
24. Opposite of energetic
25. * ____ fly, first living creature sent to space
26. "I don't know," casually
27. #43 Across, pl.
29. * ____ beetle, world's strongest insect
31. *Shape of a ladybug or carpet beetle
32. Not tomorrow, not yesterday
33. Like basketball's final eight
34. *Lepidoptera members, not butterflies
36. Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, e.g.
38. Reason for suit
42. Tutu fabric
45. Duran Duran's 1984 hit, with The
49. "Monkey ____, monkey do"
51. Wiggle room
54. "Have a great time!"
56. Useful
57. Performance with acts
58. Lecherous look
59. "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" brand
60. Tea or beer
61. Hawaiian flower garlands
62. Major European river
63. Acronym, abbr.
65. "Roses ____ red"
67. Bad-mouth, slangily

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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16						17				18				
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63						64	65			66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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County Players to present 'Something Rotten!'

Musical comedy opens May 1

County Players will present "Something Rotten!," which opens Friday, May 1, and runs through Sunday, May 17. With Book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell, Music & Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick, this exciting production is directed by Jeff Wilson, with musical direction by Karen Dalmer-Sheehy and choreography by Denise Wornell with Carlos Gomez. Performances are at at County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls, and scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays, May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, & 16 at 8 p.m., with matinees at 2 p.m. on Sundays, May 10 & 17 and Saturday May 16.

In this musical twist on the Bard, the Bottom brothers, two struggling playwrights in Renaissance London, need a hit. Easier said than done when your chief competition is local rock star, William Shakespeare. The Bottom brothers' plan: write the world's first musical! This rollicking song-and-dance extravaganza, (nominated for ten Tony Awards during its smash Broadway run,) sends up the Bard and Broadway and everything in between. Best of all, it can be enjoyed without CliffsNotes!

This production features a large community cast of talented performers from across the region featuring Stephanie Bieder, Eric Michael Bond, Hunter D. Booth, Aiden Breneman-Pennas, Chelsea Camp, Danielle Cintron, Kerry D'Angelo, Josie Dell'Olio, Carlos Gomez, J. Alan Hanna, Karen Hoben, Jonah Jaramillo, Jim Kirk, Brian Kuchcicki, Aileen Lanni, Megan Longwell, Declan McCarthy, Asia McGough, Mary Mechalakos, Glen Morrice, Izzy Ricks, Elan Riggs, Venessa Taylor-Mishra, Sophia Vessecchia, Brianna Vivace, Kelsey Wertheim, Scott Woolley, & Irving Zuniga. Of this production director Wilson says "'Something Rotten!' is part musical theatre, part Shakespeare, part Ren Faire, and all fun!"

Tickets available online at countyplayers.org/tickets: \$30 for Adults; \$28 for Seniors 60+, Military, Students (with ID), and Children under 12.

For complete info visit: <https://countyplayers.org/show/something-rotten-a-very-new-musical/>

Hudson Valley Credit Union sponsors County Players 68th Season, and "Something Rotten!" is made possible by Bronze Sponsor MLC Masonry, and



"Something Rotten!" opens May 1 at County Players in Wappingers Falls.

-Photo courtesy of Louisa Vilardi Photography

sented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. MTIShows.com.

Parker Quartet to perform with mezzo-soprano in Beacon



The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will present the Parker Quartet (left) and mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron (right) on April 26 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

-Courtesy photos

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will continue its 2025-2026 Chamber Series with the Parker Quartet

and mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron. The quartet and vocalist will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday,

April 26, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

The Parker Quartet, now in its third decade as an ensemble, will be joined by 2025 Grammy Award-winning vocalist Fleur Barron. Heralded as "fearless, yet probingly beautiful" (The Strad), the Parker has also won a Grammy. The quartet is renowned for their fresh and unique approach to the great classics while being passionate ambassadors for contemporary music. Both the quartet and the vocalist — together and on their own — have performed in many of the world's great halls of music. The Parker Quartet currently serves as Professors of Music at Harvard University, where Fleur Barron has also taught.

As innovators, the Parker Quartet have commissioned new works, and have included cross-disciplines. At HCMC,

they will perform one piece they commissioned for themselves and Fleur Barron that includes poetry, centering on nature and heritage. As part of their intensive study of Franz Schubert, the Parker Quartet has arranged a song (originally composed for voice and piano) for string quartet and vocalist. They will also include a string quartet composed in 2017 by Philip Glass, and another, Schubert's last string quartet.

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

Since 1993, the Howland Chamber Music Circle has been bringing extraordinary musicians to perform for Hudson Valley audiences in Beacon, New York. Come hear chamber music as it is meant to be heard! For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.howlandmusic.org.

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