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WFBPA to host 10th annual Festival at the Falls on June 13

By Kristine Coulter

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the annual Village of Wappingers Falls Festival at the Falls event, from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 13 (rain date is Sunday, June 14). The Festival is sponsored by the Wappingers Falls Business & Professional Association.

"It's a magical day. It brings everyone in the village together. It brings [people] to businesses that don't have a brick-and-mortar shops," explained Carolyn Jandrew, a Thryv Marketing Consultant and vice president of the WFBPA.

The Festival at the Falls has a great family atmosphere that attracts people from all areas of the Hudson Valley, according to organizers. The event showcases "all of the local businesses that the Village of Wappingers Falls has to offer."

"All of the board members are there. Many of our members are vendors," remarked WFBPA President Jackie Muller, with Dynamic Intervention Wellness Solutions. Muller said there is more engagement with membership this year.

There are more than 150 members in the WFBPA now.

"It's nice to see [membership] growing," said Jandrew.

Here are some of the attractions one can experience at the festival:

- Entertainment & Vendors in Mesier Park
- Tours of the Mesier Homestead
- Children's Activities & Games
- Sidewalk Sales
- Restaurant Specials on Main, Market, and Mill Streets
- Local Artists & Musicians performing at various spots
- Variety of food trucks from around the Hudson Valley

"People can bring their families," encouraged Muller. Jandrew seconded by stating that there are kid-friendly activities, "so people don't have to decide between networking and family."

Brittany Gregorio, with Quetzal Home Construction LLC, said "It's important for us to meet the community, since we're working from home." Asked why she joined the WFBPA, she replied, "Just really to get more involved with the community."

April VanTassel, with Infinite Web Co., said about joining WFBPA, "I think as a marketing agency, we're kind of left out of some places. Some places weren't really there to help you." She found the opposite with WFBPA. "They wanted to help me. They're there to help you," said Muller.

Muller noted the WFBPA's "starting to have a really good online presence." There are also the in-person networking opportunities, such as on June 17th at noon at the Knights of Columbus in Wappinger Falls for a luncheon sponsored by VanTassel's business. Then there is a Networking Mingle scheduled from 4-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on June 25.

Gregorio admitted she is not a networker – but she does like meeting new people. She found other networking groups to be awful. Being a member of WFBPA, Gregorio found "everyone's referring everyone. We have such a beautiful sense of community together. They're really kind, genuine people that are there for you."

"We don't see each other as competition," said VanTassel.

As far as attending the Festival, VanTassel said, one will "meet a lot of business owners that are your neighbors."

For more information, visit <https://www.wfbpa.org>.

Exceeding expectations!

Agriculture education hits new levels with Adopt A Calf program

By Curtis Schmidt

Ready or not – here comes success! And regardless of the time and work involved, surprise success is always a good problem to have.

Such is the case with the overwhelming response to the Adopt A Calf program – the newest component of the educational efforts of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS).

The program had its birth soon after the birth of its' first "star performer" – a calf named "Sweet Treat" – at the Stormfield Swiss Dairy Farm in the Town of Wappinger.

The calf was born last December and the following January, DCAS Agricultural Educator Cassie Messina launched the Adopt A Calf endeavor. What began as an emailing and social media communication with about 20 classrooms has exploded to over 90 classrooms and 1,500-plus students in school districts all over Dutchess County. Messina and the DeForest/Lawrence family at Stormfield Swiss are working together on the growing program. The DeForest/Lawrence family was named the DCAS' first "Farm Family of the Year" in July of 2025.



Jim Lawrence holds "Sweet Treat" while children from South Avenue Elementary School in Beacon visit the Stormfield Swiss Farm on June 5 as part of the Adopt A Calf program of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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Strawberries to highlight annual Beacon Sloop Club festival

By Kristine Coulter

Celebrate summer with the Beacon Sloop Club on Sunday, June 14 at the Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park, from noon to 5 p.m. in Beacon. The annual Strawberry Festival, with free admission, will be taking place, rain or shine.

Beacon Sloop Club President Rob May said via email, "I think my favorite part of putting the Strawberry Festival together is watching all of our talented volunteer coordinators intensely working together for hours and hours, sharing ideas, solving problems and joining together to make the festival a success. And I enjoy watching the expressions of joy on all the festival-goers' faces as they taste the delicious strawberry shortcakes and other food, listen to all the wonderful music, and sample the vendor offerings. It is also very satisfying to see the smiles on all the children's faces as they participate in the many and varied children's activities."

About how many strawberries are needed for the Festival?

May said, "We use about 1,000 lbs. of fresh-picked, locally grown strawberries. Our founders, Pete and Toshi Seeger wanted to help local farmers as much as possible, so we try to make sure our strawberries are locally sourced whenever we can."



The Beacon Sloop Club members will hold the group's annual Strawberry Festival, at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park, on Sunday, June 14 in Beacon. Pictured is volunteer Vince Farina from a previous year's event.

-Courtesy photo

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Exceeding expectations!

Continued from cover

"We launched the Adopt a Calf program as part of our ongoing effort to advance the mission of the Agricultural Society. Cassie and the DeForest/Lawrence family have done an exceptional job leading this pilot initiative, bringing energy, organization and dedication from the moment it began," said Andy Imperati, President/CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society/Dutchess County Fairgrounds. "Due to the program's strong popularity, we plan to regroup after the school year to discuss ways to expand the Adopt a Calf program to additional schools. We are very pleased with how the program has unfolded this year. It has far exceeded our expectations."

According to its' mission, the Adopt a Calf program invites classrooms throughout Dutchess County to "adopt" a dairy calf and follow its growth through the school year. Students receive an introductory video taken soon after the calf is born and can write back to the farmers with questions that will be answered in future video or photo updates. Each update provides age-appropriate educational materials that focus on animal care, nutrition and the role that agriculture plays in everyday life.

Messina noted that she had been working with the ongoing DCAS Agricultural Education effort since 2018, visiting school classrooms and with instructions in a variety of areas. However, the mushrooming growth of the Adopt A Calf program was quite unexpected.

She said, "When the phone started ringing and social media responses started coming in, my husband, Bobby, asked me 'Are you ready for this?'"

And the answer – although unsure at that moment – has become a resounding "Yes!"

The DeForest/Lawrence children immediately began to help Messina by producing the real-time videos to share with classrooms via YouTube.

"The videos track Sweet Treat's growth through monthly weighing and measurements of her height. We also discuss milk production, how the feed is made, what the

cows eat and the regular care of cows and calves," said Messina. "Then we get feedback from the students and provide answers to questions. It's a lot of work, given the many classrooms that we are working with."

Jenna Lawrence commented, "Making the videos was one of the best experiences ever, and it really made me feel like I was doing my part in educating the youth."

Classroom/farm visits

Next came the logistical process of setting up visits to each classroom and/or visits to the farm and then making those visits happen. Coordinating the visits has been somewhat overwhelming, however, Messina noted, "Jen and Jim and their kids are the best people on the planet. They stepped right up and made this work, even with all of their regular farm chores."

Jen DeForest noted that the family had been helping Messina with the "Ag in the Classroom" project for a few years by bringing calves to the schools. "So, at first we were thinking this would be pretty much the same thing - until Cassie told me about all the emails she received once the press release went out," she said. "Then it became a whole different story of how are we going to manage all of this, it basically became a second job!"

She added, "With that being said, the school students have been great. The questions they ask and interest they show is so rewarding, knowing they have learned a lot by watching the videos. Seeing them ask their teachers to take pictures of them doing different things during the visits to show their parents, and telling us it's the best day of their lives. I have a feeling this project has been the topic of many dinner-table conversations. We have gone beyond just educating the students, we have families being able to watch videos on school platforms, answered questions from school administration, custodians and anyone else that might come by and see the calves when we are at the schools. This makes the long days totally worth it."

Regarding work on the farm, DeForest commented, "We get up very early on the days we have visits. It usually takes five



DCAS Agricultural Educator Cassie Messina explains the different types of feed for dairy cows to students from South Avenue Elementary School during a visit to the Stormfield Swiss Farm in the Town of Wappinger on June 5.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

hours of chores to get everything done before we have to leave or the schools arrive here. Thankfully, we get back for the most part in time for Jim to do field work, like chopping haylage. He mows the night before, so it's ready to chop when we get home. The kids are very helpful when they get home from school to get the afternoon chores done with me."

Additional classroom visits have been to Zoe's Ice Cream Barn in Lagrangeville where students have the opportunity to learn how to make milk into ice cream, following Katie Ferris' slogan of "from cow to cone in three days." Students also make their own whipped cream and sundaes.

Hudson Valley Fresh is also part of the program and provides chocolate milk for all students during visits to the farms and classrooms.

Jenna Lawrence commented, "This program has really been an empowering experience where I was happy that I had the opportunity to educate the

younger generation on agriculture."

Justin Lawrence added, "I enjoy coming home from school and asking my parents how the school visits went and what kinds of questions the kids had about meeting Sweet Treat"

Looking forward, Messina said the Adopt A Calf effort has now "opened the door for us (DCAS) to add more programs, not just dairy. We're considering integrating different species into the Adopt a calf program –so that it becomes a new program each year."

The goal for now and the future is to plant the seeds of agriculture into the minds of young people and their parents and to grow the programming.

Messina said she even foresees herself working with a special outfitted "mobile agri-classroom with different rotating displays." But for now, she is quite happy with the huge response to Adopt A Calf and plans to let that success set the tone for the future.

Strawberries to highlight annual Beacon Sloop Club festival

Continued from cover

Local resident Trish Murphy has been volunteering for the Festival over the years.

Asked what she enjoys about volunteering for the festival, Murphy, who is the vice president of the Beacon Sloop Club, responded, "Seeing the community together" and that those in attendance can enjoy the Hudson River.

She remarked how Pete Seeger, the late folk singer, activist and local resident, wanted to clean up the river and that the now park was once a dump.

"Pete wanted people to come down to the river," she said.

May noted there will be many new vendors and craftspeople who display a wide array of offerings. There will also be favorite vendors returning for the day.

"Our music coordinator Susan Berliner has made a special effort to

find new and exciting performers to play on our main stage and our children's stage. They will share the stages with the many talented and beloved musicians that have been entertaining and thrilling us for years. The children's area has expanded and now there are many new and exciting activities for children of all ages," said May.

He continued, "There will be a wide variety of merchandise at our merch tent, including a newly designed Strawberry Festival tee shirt. We are hoping to get new volunteers with new ideas to work in our popular Environmental Tent. As an environmental organization we are making a special renewed effort to reduce, reuse and recycle any waste generated by the festival."

Murphy said she is shocked by how the festival has grown over the years and at how many people attend the event.

Asked how has the event grown over the years, May replied, "It is hard to believe, but the first few Strawberry



A group of volunteers work on cutting up strawberries for a previous year's festival. This year's Strawberry Festival will be held on Sunday, June 14 at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

Festivals were so small that they were held in what is now the parking lot next to the Beacon Sloop Club. The festival has grown exponentially since those early years."

May added, "There used to be only one music stage. Now there is a main stage and a children's stage. The number of children's activities has expanded.

The participation of vendors has grown over the years, and the food offerings have also multiplied. There is more merchandise than we had in earlier festivals. But I think the biggest difference is how many more people know about the festival and come and enjoy the entertainment, crafts and food."

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GENERAC

Flag retirement ceremony set for June 14



Fishkill Rotarians Melinda Potter, Eddie Colon and Doug McHoul empty the Flag Retirement Site box outside of McHoul Funeral Home on Main St. in the village of Fishkill. There will be a flag retirement ceremony at Fishkill Rural Cemetery on Sunday, June 14, Flag Day.



Fishkill Rotarians, from left, Eddie Colon, Melinda Potter and Doug McHoul have organized a Flag Retirement ceremony for torn and worn flags. The inaugural ceremony is set for Flag Day, Sunday, June 14 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, Route 9, in Fishkill.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

The inaugural Flag Retirement Ceremony will take place at noon on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Worn American flags will be honored in accordance with proper protocol.

On Veterans Day in 2025, a receptacle for worn flags was dedicated outside of McHoul Funeral Home, 1089 Main St., in the village of Fishkill.

"So far, we've collected close to 1,600 flags," said Eddie Colon, a Fishkill Rotarian who worked on getting the receptacle.

Colon said Fishkill Rural Cemetery has given the Fishkill Rotary a spot to dispose of the flags properly. Elected officials have been invited to the ceremony, he said.

Regarding the number of flags that have been placed in the box, Colon, said it is "fantastic." He remarked before the box was placed in Fishkill, that the municipality needed a location for worn flags to be dropped off.

Sterling Gaston, president of the cemetery

board, said the board is very fortunate to have "very efficient" people who work in the office and take care of the property grounds.

Gaston noted Corporal Elijah A. Briggs, a Medal of Honor recipient, is buried in the cemetery. Briggs was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism on 3 April 1865, while serving with Company B, 2d Connecticut Heavy Artillery, in action at Petersburg, Virginia, for capture of battle flag during the Civil War. He died in March of 1922 in Beacon.

When asked about the Flag Day ceremony, Gaston, who is a veteran of the US Navy stated, "I think it's wonderful."

According to whitehouse.gov, "In the summer of 1777, more than 2 years into the Revolution and nearly 1 year after the American Colonies declared their Independence from Great Britain, the need for unity, strength, and national identity was essential. On June 14, the Congress convened to adopt a momentous resolution that galvanized the Colonies under a

majestic and commanding insignia and proclaimed "the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." In the midst of revolution, the emblem of our freedom was born — and the mightiest symbol for sovereignty and justice ever conceived by human hands was sewn into existence."

"The box has been a hit. It's been the talk of the town. People from all over have been coming to drop off flags and take pictures of box," shared Colon. He added, "I feel great. I am 'the box keeper.'"

Doug McHoul, who is co-owner of McHoul Funeral Home with his relatives, said, "It is incredible. We originally thought we'd get about 100 flags between Veterans Day and Flag Day."

Melinda Potter, president of the Fishkill Rotary, said the receptacle "is available for anybody to use at any time."

McHoul said there have been numerous people who have attended a funeral at the funeral home who have noticed the box and brought back worn flags so the flags would be disposed of with honor. Colon remarked the receptacle has to be emptied three times a week.

Potter and Colon noted there is a piece of paper located inside the drawer of the receptacle where one can dedicate flags to loved ones. Colon also noted he is "amazed" at how many people have filled out a card to honor someone when dropping a flag off.

Potter said this year being the 250th anniversary of America, the ceremony "could not be more appropriate."

McHoul said this year's ceremony will "establish a new tradition and the importance of Flag Day, which seems to have been forgotten lately."

The Fishkill Rural Cemetery is at 801 Route 9 in Fishkill.

'Spirit of Mesier' tickets now available

The Wappingers Historical Society members will host their premier event of the year, the Spirit of Mesier Cocktail Gala on Friday, June 19th from 6-9 p.m. at the historic Wappinger Boathouse, 105 Market St., in the village of Wappingers Falls.

This year's theme, "Celebrate Magic," shines through honorees Rosemary and Robert "Denny" Evaul and Dani Masterson, extraordinary individuals who have made lasting contributions to our community. The public is invited to join in celebrating these honorees, while helping to raise funds for the Society's ongoing preservation and educational efforts. Every ticket purchased helps ensure that local history remains accessible, meaningful, and for future generations. This year in particular, the event supports the Society's Rev250 program Wappinger Revolutionary Roots: History, Heroes,

and Hidden Places and the continued restoration of the 1741 Mesier Homestead, ensuring its historic interior is accurate and open to the public.

Rosemary and Denny Evaul have devoted decades to enriching the cultural and educational life of the Hudson Valley through theater, arts advocacy, historic preservation, and community service. Their extraordinary impact is undoubtedly most closely associated with the Masque and Mime Society at Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, but their legacy can also be felt at numerous theaters throughout the area; the Grinnell Library; the Hudson Valley Railroad Society and other non-profit organizations.

Dani Masterson has spent her life fostering creativity, civic spirit, and meaningful connections. Her remarkable dedication to commemorating and honoring veterans and

their sacrifices; her artistic involvement in the performing arts; her skills in moulage special effects for military and first responder training; and her love of history are testaments to her dedication to our community.

The Spirit of Mesier Cocktail Gala will feature abundant food and drink by Simply Gourmet, live music perfect for dancing and socializing by Bryan Lammers and The Blend, and small-group magical illusions performed by Illusionist Ryan Dutcher. There is also a Silent Auction featuring local prizes such as private tours of places not nor-

mally accessible to the public such as a hydroelectric plant; private collection of historic carriages & sleighs; and a WWII aircraft; historic site memberships and tours; theater season tickets; professional family photo session; dining, brewery, and winery experiences; one-of-a-kind artwork; Heritage dahlia bouquets and more.

For more information about the Spirit of Mesier Cocktail Gala, the silent auction prizes, and to purchase tickets, please go to www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org or call 845-632-1281.

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Viewpoints

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

Policy on letters:

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

Democrats have 'opportunity' to vote for Kaul in Democratic primary for NYS Senate District 39

To the Editor:

Starting June 13th, Democrats in NY Senate District 39 will have the opportunity to choose our candidate for November's general election. I'm eager for my opportunity to vote for Lisa Kaul.

Even if you don't know Lisa, you have been touched by something she's accomplished. In 2017, Lisa organized a Women's March in Poughkeepsie for those without the means or ability to travel further. Lisa served on the school board and launched the Poughkeepsie Repair Café. After flipping a Republican seat to join the then-Democratic minority in the Dutchess County legislature, Lisa also stepped up to serve on the board of the Planned Parenthood of Greater New York Action Fund.

A stalwart environmental champion, Lisa secured funding from Republican leadership to reduce waste going to the County incinerator. More recently, in a boon to the environment and struggling small businesses, Lisa won bipartisan support for her local law making plastic utensils and other single-use items available to customers only by request.

Because she's marched alongside members to fight for workers' rights and to pass the NY Health Act, Lisa is endorsed by major unions, including CWA, 1199SEIU, and the NYS Nurses Association. She's a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense candidate, and Rep. Pat Ryan and his Patriot PAC endorsed Lisa because he knows she's the voice we need in Albany.

Democratic primaries are scarce in our purple counties, so don't miss your opportunity to help elect a dedicated public servant, a true progressive voice, and a woman who does the work.

Julie Shiroishi

2022 Democratic Candidate, SD-39

Former Executive Director, Eleanor's Legacy
Former Dutchess County Democratic Chair

Beacon Elks Flag Day set June 14

Celebrate Flag Day at the Beacon Elks 14, from 1-3 p.m.
Lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave., on Sunday, June

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Fishkill GOP thanks all for 'memorable' Fishkill 250th celebration

To the Editor:

The Fishkill Republican Committee would like to thank the residents, organizations and businesses that have helped to make Fishkill's 250th celebration such a special and memorable occasion. Thank you to all our Town Officials, our Town Historian, The Parks & Ground Department, Fishkill Historical Society, The Verplanck Garden Club, RVW Sculpture Arrangement, Heritage Financial Park, Century Aggregate, Maya Café, Thalle Industries and Heritage Financial Park. Occasions like this one provide all of us an opportunity to come together as residents and neighbors to celebrate what we have in common as citizens...a shared history. This is such an excellent reminder that there is so much that unites us as Town residents and as Americans. Thank you again and God Bless America.

Brian T. McGuinness

Chairman of the Fishkill Republican Committee

FeedHV reaches milestone, seeks volunteers for summer

In April of 2026, FeedHV celebrated its greatest milestone in the program's history, surpassing one million pounds of food rescued. FeedHV is the Hudson Valley's community food rescue and harvesting network dedicated to meeting the needs of neighbors while mitigating the impacts of food waste. The program is administered by Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation (HVADC) and operates across Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster counties in New York State.

This summer, FeedHV is anticipating an increasing amount of donations and needs additional volunteer help. FeedHV volunteers are essential to reducing food waste and insecurity in the region. The volunteer crew transports food donations to recipient agencies on their own schedule, enabled through the ChowMatch app. Volunteers select their own geographic coverage, types of donations they transport (size and weight), and time spent. All individuals aged 18 and over with reliable transportation and auto insurance can volunteer with FeedHV. To learn more about FeedHV, visit www.feedhv.org. To sign up as a volunteer, visit tinyurl.com/feedhvvolunteer

Since 2017, FeedHV has been using the

ChowMatch app to match food donors with food assistance programs and direct food to those who need it most. Thanks to FeedHV's network of donors, feeding agencies and volunteers, the program has grown exponentially and has moved more food each year since its inception. The program is looking to build upon its one-million-pound success this summer by recruiting twenty-five new volunteers.

From January through April of this year, FeedHV has saved over 90,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise gone to waste. The FeedHV network currently includes 490 volunteers, 260 donor organizations and more than 185 receiving agencies with food assistance programs. Donors range from restaurants, farms, markets and food makers to caterers, event venues and educational institutions.

"Reaching one million pounds of rescued food is an incredible milestone for our region—it represents meals delivered to neighbors, resources kept out of landfills, and a community that shows up for one another," said HVADC Deputy Director Mary Ann Johnson. "With demand growing, we're inviting more volunteers to join us this summer and help ensure good food reaches the people who need it most."

American Legion Post 1758 presents \$1,500 in gift cards to Castle Point food pantry



American Legion Post 1758 in Hopewell Junction presented \$1,500 worth of Shop Rite gift cards to the VA Medical Center at Castle Point in direct support of the veterans' food pantry operation on Thursday, May 14.

-Courtesy photo

Dance Jam at Towne Crier on June 11

"Get On the Good Foot" Dining and Dancing at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main St., on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Beacon. Lose oneself to an exciting mix of R&B, Latin, Soul, Funk, Disco, Rock, Reggae, Hip-Hop and more, played by DJs Rhoda and Al. Fine dining and full bar are available all evening. These dances are informal and even if one comes alone, one can

always find a friendly partner on the dance floor.

Admission is \$20, which can be paid at the door, or for reservations (not required), please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500.

Please send Song Requests at least two days in advance. For more information, call Rhoda at 845-765-0667 or rhodaja@optonline.net.

Students awarded certificates for having Beacon PRIDE

The following Beacon High School students were recognized for demonstrating Beacon PRIDE (Positivity - Respect - Integrity - Determination - Engagement) during the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year. Certificates were awarded on Thursday, May 27.

Mark Aakjar III, Lorelei Aakjar, Madison Abrahamson, Jay Adams, Aaron Aduamah, Kaylyn Adusei, Nadeen Ahmed, Femmie Akinwunmi, Macy Alencastro, Natalie Allen, Elaina Alvarez, Farhana Antora, Jeralizz Araujo, Ashland Assael, Luna Ayers-Uekawa, Sarp Bagriyanik, James Bailey, Caden Balfour, Jahcier Ballard, Desmond Barchetto, Dakota Barden, Amari Battle, Ziarra Beamon, Kurtis Belgrave, Madison Beltran, Lily Berry, Logan Blum, Charles Boulding, Charlotte Bowen, Breannah Brace, Miguel Brito, Aniyah Brown, Piper Bruno, Janyia Burch, Myasia Burch, Wyatt Burgos, Zyarah Bush, Isabella Cable, Erica Cabrera, Michael Cahill, Jefferson Canales-Herrera, Andrew Caporale, Julian Carpio, Madison Carr, Skylar Carr, Jennifer Chacon, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Lily Cheyne, Skylar Clair, Dylan Claro, Christian Clay, Ivy Cohen, Peter Cohen, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Theodore Concepcion, Zamaya Cone, Naomi Conklin, Jahari Cooper, Tori-Ann Crawford, Misleiry Cruz Cruz, Mateo Cruz, Alistair Cunningham, Jason David, Joseph Day, Grace De La Hoz, Mylee Decoteau, Bentley DeGuisto, Fischer Delaney, Ramon Dewey-Brink, Victoria Diaz, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Travis Dickston, Ryan DiNobile, Kiera D'Ippolito, Sofia Dunay, Kylie Ebeling, Jaden Edwards, Ka'Dera Elliott, Donovan Ellis, Elijah Epps, Daniel Espejo, Khordae Facey, Fionn Fehilly, Richard Ferdinand, Hailey Fish, Lilliana Fish, Lilah Fisher, Grace Fleming, William Flynn, Hudson Fontaine, Amare Franklin, Khloe Franklin, Brandon Fremer, Alice Gabel, Isabella Galbo, Jack Garrett, Marisah George, Kayla Gerardes, Jhanea Gibson-Bocus, Eli Gilleo, Lily Gines, Edith Giunta, Gabriel Godbee, Chloe Goessl, Emanuel Gomez, Maliah Graham, Evan Greenspan, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Valentin Haase, Julian Hannah, Jeremiah Hardwell Jr, Troi Harvey Semple, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Nathan Hayden, Abigail Haydt, August Hayes, Silas Hayes, Cole Heath, Gauge Heeter, Kaliyah Henderson, Jose Hernandez Canelo, Isabella Hernandez Fandino, Christina Hernandez, London Hernandez, Miguel Herrera, Grace Hockler, Ayden Hooten, Ruby Hotchkiss, Brianna Hunt, Ryan Huynh, Essence Ifill, Milo Isabell, Samih Jabar, Shaun Jabar, Niara Johnson, Samantha Johnson,

Alanna Jones, Everly Jordan, Alina Joseph, Leon Kaliqani, Liron Kaliqani, Nahlia Keane, Davia Kelleher, Oren Kelleher, Pixie Kimberg, Ruby King, Griffin Kitzrow, Wenang Edward Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Maximilian Kong, Syeira Kozlik, Isabella Lee, Vivienne Lipari, Melody Longino, Braden Lopez, Mary Lopez, Markus Louis, Lily Mack, Justin Mann, Brayden Manning, Ash Marcus, Celest Marshall, Josue Martell, Ethan Maxaner, Jaylen Mays, Katalina McBride, Desmond McGrath, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Victoria McKay, Isaac McKible, Shyanne McNair, Sebastian Mendoza, Oliver Meyer, Zachary Mihalchik, Braelyn Milligan, Jaylen Mitchell, Uswah Mohammed Murtada, Elena Moleano, Aiden Montleon, Elise Moran, Jessica Morocho Llivipuma, John Morocho Llivipuma, Henry Mulligan, Ivanna Munoz, Lily Murr, Aaliyah Nelson, Ray Noble IV, Christian O'Brien, Adrien Okoye, Maxine O'Malley, Richie Omir, Carmelo Osuba, Quincy Owens, Adryanna Pantojas, Brianne Papo, Levi Partlow, Thylar Patino Albarracin, Gabriel Peluso, Lilly Pendley, Ronal Perez Novas, Caleb Pfetzing, Sarah Pillcurima Panama, Miah Plimley, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Amari Powell, Gabriel Quinones, Keily Quiridumbay, David Ramirez, Sarah Ramkalawon, Justin Ramsey, Lillian Ray, Stella Reinke, Olivia Reynolds, Kelly Rios Palacios, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Natalya Rivera, Julian Rivers, Rufin Rodriguez Vilomar, Angelo Rodriguez, Jordan Rojas, Paris Roman, Trevi Romanelli, Sophia Romero, John Rose, Cadence Ross, Charlotte Rossi, Liliana Rybak, Julian Sala, Nathaniel Salvati, Mikaela Sanchez, Evangeline Santise, Isaiah Sashe, Abdul-Rahman Sayibu, Violet Schilling, Benjamin Seaman, Antonio See, Kayla Selander, Katherine Sendelbach, Vardan Singh, Caeleb Smith, Elias Smith, Savannah Smith, Tabitha Smith-White, Jaliyah Soto, Jamir Spence, Noah Spiak, Aiden Spiecker, Lyra Staab, George Stadler, Januario Stageman, Gannon Statini-Perez, Clive Stewart, Shea Tanaka, Madison Thompson, Michai Thompson, Elliott Thorne, Joshua Tonyes, Jonathan Trentacosta, Caellum Tripaldi, Gavin Troiano, Daniel Tschang, Isaac Tschang, Farrah VanCott, Eliza Verdichizzi, Rudolph Vergolina, Jesse Vermeulen, Anita Vigeant, Olivia Viola, Derek Waltke, Eliot Waterman, Aslynn Way, Lila Welsh, Zyaire West, Parker White, Ri'Kya White, Julie Whittemore, Ja'mir Williamson, Hayden Wilson, Josiah Wilson, Zachari Wood, Ny'el Woods, Journey Wright, Luna Yawman, Alexander Young, Ysabella Zappala, and Josefine Zezza.

Central Hudson honors Library System with Community Engagement award



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (center), Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System receives the Excellence in Community Engagement Award from Central Hudson staff.

-Courtesy photo

Central Hudson recently presented the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) with its "Excellence in Community Engagement" recognition award at the Energy Efficiency & Electrification Summit, an annual event connecting Central Hudson experts and community partners.

In 2025, MHLS played a vital role in extending the reach of Central Hudson's weatherization efforts - collaborating with Central Hudson to launch the first in the nation DIY Home Energy Assessment Program via their non-traditional lending library - also known as the "Library of Things." The organizations partnered to provide libraries with "HomeBoost Kits," thermal imaging cameras that help patrons conduct their own energy assessment at home and obtain a free home energy assessment report.

"Their steadfast support and deep-root-

ed commitment to promoting sustainability and providing the community with resources to live a more sustainable life ensured that the program was launched and has grown sevenfold since then," said Cory Scofield, Manager of Demand Side Management for Central Hudson, "The Mid-Hudson Library System exemplifies what it means to empower and uplift the Hudson Valley through meaningful, community-centered engagement."

"We are grateful to the staff of Central Hudson for their hard work and true devotion to helping the residents of the Hudson Valley find ways to lower their costs," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System, "When they pitched the idea of libraries helping them create access to this free resource for residents we jumped at the chance to partner with them, it is a win-win-win."

Elks honor WJHS students



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 presented Student of the Month certificates for April at Wappingers Junior High School recently. The students were chosen for their positive behavior, effort, excellent participation and helping their fellow students. Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments.

The Beacon Elks thanks Giacomo's Pizza Cafe for sponsoring this event with them. Pictured are Assistant Principal Alandra Price, Cathy Oken, Lodge member, Catherine Perri, teacher, Lucy Borsch (7th Grade), Sean Guthrie (8th Grade), Aida Mhiri, teacher, Jeanine McAuley, Past Exalted Ruler and Terrence Thompson, principal.

-Courtesy photo

First Walkway Market debuts June 13

Connecting local products with sweeping Hudson River views, the inaugural Walkway Market: A Taste NY Experience is set for Saturday, June 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Walkway Over the Hudson's Ulster Welcome Center Plaza in Highland.

Presented in partnership with Taste NY, Walkway Market brings a vibrant open-air farmers market to one of the region's most iconic destinations celebrating the best of New York State's farmers, producers, and artisans.

The event will feature a curated lineup of 30 vendors from across the Empire State, offering a wide array of goods including maple syrup, honey, jerky, pickles, spices, fresh flowers, soaps, pet treats, jewelry, and handcrafted items. In addition to shopping and sampling, attendees can enjoy community activations and family-friendly experiences throughout the day.

Admission to Walkway Market is free and open to the public. Made possible by Friends of the Walkway, free parking for all attendees will be available along Haviland Road to ensure easy access for visitors from across the region.

Set adjacent to the sweeping Hudson

River views that define the Walkway experience, the market offers a unique opportunity to support small businesses while enjoying a day outdoors with friends and family.

"Walkway Market is an exciting new way for people to experience our park while directly supporting New York's incredible community of farmers, makers, and small businesses," said Lori Robertson, Executive Director, Friends of the Walkway. "Through our partnership with Taste NY, we're able to showcase the very best of what our state has to offer in a setting that brings people together."

Walkway Market is part of Friends of the Walkway's ongoing efforts to activate the park with engaging, community-centered programming that enhances the visitor experience while supporting regional economic vitality. Taste NY is an initiative of New York State dedicated to promoting locally grown and produced food, beverages, and agricultural products while showcasing the quality and diversity of products made across the state.

For a full list of vendors and event details, visit walkway.org/walkwaymarket.

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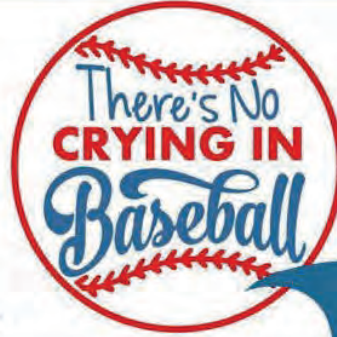
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RENEGADES FEATURE

Kent proves prowess at bat and in the field for Renegades

By Morgan E. Maier

The New York Yankees are reminded every series why they drafted Kaeden Kent. From stunning defense to consistent offensive production, he has been the uncontested core of the Hudson Valley Renegades, from the leadoff spot to the five-point-five hole.

Kent is nearly a lock to reach base. In the June 6 loss to the Frederick Keys, Kent got four of Hudson Valley's hits while three teammates (Eric Genter; Roderick Arias; Kyle West) combined for the other five. With seven total bases on the night, Kent bested his previous season high (5), which he has achieved four times this season.

The reliable righty arm in the infield and a lefty bat in the box, Kent has shown significant improvement from last year's half-season in High-A. So far in 2026, he's split time at shortstop, second, and a spell at third base, spending most of his time at short.

Following the Frederick series, Kent is batting .302. The next clos-

est belongs to Core Jackson, trailing with .266. The power-hitting prowess that Kent showcased as a Texas A&M Aggie hasn't yet shown its face, but his crack against the Keys produced all of Hudson Valley's runs on June 6.

More than being the leadoff hitter, Kent is the team leader in various categories. Runs (39), hits (68), stolen bases (15), total bases, and extra bases. His initials aren't the only thing about Kent that has New York seeing double – his team-leading 15 doubles do, too. He added three more on the multihit masterpiece in Maryland, and the number is likely to skyrocket as Kent's bat heats up with summer.

His numbers don't just lead his team, but the South Atlantic League. Those 68 hits are the top figure in both the north and south divisions. The doubles are a four-way tie for first.

As Kaeden continues the legacy of his Hall of Fame father, infielder Jeff Kent, the Renegades look to see the 22-year-old develop his own style at the head of the lineup.



In addition for being a terrific fielder, Kaeden Kent is the Renegades team leader in various categories. Runs (39), hits (68), stolen bases (15), total bases, and extra bases.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Frederick BAL	35	19	.648	-	6-4	W2
Greensboro PIT	35	22	.614	1.5	5-5	W2
Wilmington WSH	27	29	.482	9.0	2-8	L2
Hudson Valley NYY	25	31	.446	11.0	4-6	L2
Brooklyn NYM	22	34	.393	14.0	8-2	W4
Jersey Shore PHI	22	34	.393	14.0	3-7	L4
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	41	15	.732	-	7-3	W2
Winston-Salem CWS	33	24	.579	8.5	5-5	L3
Rome ATL	30	26	.536	11.0	5-5	L1
Hub City TEX	28	28	.500	13.0	4-6	W3
Greenville BOS	22	32	.407	18.0	5-5	W1
Asheville HOU	15	41	.268	26.0	6-4	L2



June			
06/10/26	vs. Jersey Shore	06:35 PM	Pride Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/11/26	vs. Jersey Shore	06:35 PM	Soccer Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/12/26	vs. Jersey Shore	07:05 PM	Superhero & Villains Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/13/26	vs. Jersey Shore	05:05 PM	Seinfeld Night: A Game About Nothing WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/14/26	vs. Jersey Shore	02:05 PM	Copa de la Diversión™ presented by Cafe Con Leche: Puerto Rican Day Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/30/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	Celebration of Internet Culture WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
July			
07/01/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	Celebration of Baseball WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/02/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	America 250 Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/03/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	America 250 Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/04/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	Independence Day: Happy 250th Birthday, USA! presented by Central Hudson Gas & Electric WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/05/26	vs. Wilmington	02:05 PM	Unicorn Day WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/07/26	vs. Rome	06:35 PM	90s Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!



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Tompkins Community Bank Announces Planned Name Change to Tompkins Bank & Trust



See story, page 8

TOMPKINS



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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

High-scoring affairs dominate as Renegades tangle with Keys

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades went all week without a win during their previous visit to the Frederick Keys. The Renegades, now 25-31 on the season, solved enough of the Keys to salvage back-to-back wins, including a thrilling comeback to lock in the second victory of the South Atlantic League North leaders.

Three's company - The Renegades scored three runs in a trio of losses, including the series-ending 16-3 stomping. While scoring most runs allowed by the pitching staff all season, Frederick also launched six home runs. The Renegades were shut down the final four innings, as Frederick finished the rout by sitting down 12 straight Hudson Valley batters. Though a few outings were spoiled by the fiery Frederick offense, Hudson Valley pitchers fanned 12 Keys.

Enmanuel Tejada got the Renegades a lead with a solo home run, but Frederick erased it the following frame on an Ike Irish two-run blast. The Renegades mustered just five hits on June 2; Core Jackson hit three of them, including an RBI single to give the Renegades their only lead of the game, which they held for half an inning before falling 7-3. On June 3, the Renegades scored all 3 runs in one inning – a three-run cannon shot by Kaeden Kent – before the Keys came back to score 10 straight runs, capped by a 4-spot in the 8th inning.

Facundo dominates in Frederick - Right-hander Allen Facundo found the stuff Hudson Valley needed desperately when he took the mound on June 4. With no runs, no hits, and 12 strikeouts, Facundo forfeited four walks; none came around to score across his 6.0 innings as the Renegades ran away with the 10-1 victory. It helped that his



Josue Gonzalez, sliding into home above, had three hits and three RBI in a 10-1 Renegades victory over the Frederick Keys last week.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

offense struck first – and hard. Moylan had a 3-RBI night, while Josue Gonzalez had three hits and three RBI. Eric Genter got it started with a sacrifice fly in the first, while a rolling Kyle West grounder put the Renegades up two. In the second, the offense broke it open.

7's Wild - The back-and-forth battle on June 5 featured seven-run innings on both sides, but early on, Frederick seemed fixing for a slaughter. The Keys tagged Rory Fox

for 10 runs; three were earned. Riding a one-game win streak and down as many as seven, the 'Gades gained back. Josh Moylan went 3-5, knocking in 5 runs with 2 home runs. Josh Moylan cut the deficit in the sixth with a 3-run blast. And it became a game in the eighth, turning naptime at Nymeo Field back to a ballgame with six outs to spare. A Core Jackson triple cleared the bases, a passed ball and a pair of walks filled them of the way back for Roderick Arias. Arias'

monster 3-run shot to put the Renegades up 13-12. Jackson and Kent launched back-to-back doubles for the ninth inning insurance, as Hudson Valley hung on to win 14-13.

The Renegades come home to host the Jersey Shore BlueClaws, who are riding a four-game losing streak after dropping 5 of 6 to the Brooklyn Cyclones. Soccer Night, Superhero Night and Sunday's Copa de Diversión highlight the present slate of promos.

RENEGADES EXTRA



Renegades pitcher Rory Fox has recorded 49 strikeouts in 46 innings so far this season.



Enmanuel Tejada knocked a solo homer in a Renegades loss to the Frederick Keys last week.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

Early voting for primary races begins June 13 and Primary Day is June 23

The following is a list of candidates for the Democratic primary in Dutchess County from the Dutchess County Board of Elections. The Democratic Party is the only party in the county holding a primary this year on June 23 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Only those registered in the Democratic Party can vote in the primary. For poll site locations, go to <https://elections.dutchessny.gov>.

In the NYS Comptroller race, Thomas P. DiNapoli is the incumbent. For Senate District 39, the Democratic primary winner will go against incumbent Rob Rolison, Republican. For Member of Congress District 17, the Democratic primary winner will face incumbent Mike Lawler, Republican, in November. Didi Barrett, Democrat, is the incumbent for Assembly District 106.

The following list is for the municipalities in Southern Dutchess County.

City of Beacon

NYS Comptroller Democratic
Thomas P. DiNapoli
Drew Warshaw
Raj Goyle

State Senator District 39 Democratic
Gay Lee
Lisa Kaul
Evan R. Menist

East Fishkill

NYS Comptroller Democratic
Thomas P. DiNapoli
Drew Warshaw
Raj Goyle

Member of Congress District 17 Democratic
Effie Guadalupe Phillips-Staley
Cait Conley
Beth Davidson
John Cappello
Michael Sacks

State Senator District 39 Democratic
Gay Lee
Lisa Kaul
Evan R. Menist

Fishkill

NYS Comptroller Democratic
Thomas P. DiNapoli

Drew Warshaw
Raj Goyle

State Senator District 39 Democratic
Gay Lee
Lisa Kaul
Evan R. Menist

Town of Poughkeepsie

NYS Comptroller Democratic
Thomas P. DiNapoli
Drew Warshaw
Raj Goyle

State Senator District 39 Democratic
Gay Lee
Lisa Kaul
Evan R. Menist

Member of Assembly 106 Democratic
Didi Barrett
Samuel Hodge

Wappinger

NYS Comptroller Democratic
Thomas P. DiNapoli
Drew Warshaw
Raj Goyle

State Senator District 39 Democratic

Gay Lee
Lisa Kaul
Evan R. Menist

Early Voting: Early voting enables voters to cast their ballot in person prior to election day. Dutchess County voters may visit any early voting site in the county. Please be aware that your typical poll site is likely closed for early voting.

Locations

- Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Dr., Rhinebeck
- Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill
- Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook
- Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
- Board of Elections Training Center, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park

Primary Election Early Voting schedule

- Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, June 14, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Monday, June 15, Noon - 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 16, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, Noon - 8 p.m.
- Thursday, June 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Friday, June 19, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, June 21, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information, go to <https://elections.dutchessny.gov>.

Tioronda Garden Club opens city-wide contest in celebration of America's 250th

The Tioronda Garden Club announced a city-wide contest in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of The Declaration of Independence. The club members invite residents to participate in a Patriotic Garden Contest, showcasing creativity, civic pride and love of gardening.

Participants are encouraged to design and display gardens that reflect the spirit

of America – past, present and future.

Judging will be based on creativity, use of patriotic theme and overall visual impact.

The deadline is June 15. To enter one's garden, please call Kathleen, Vice President of the Tioronda Garden Club, 914-456-6278.

Tompkins Community Bank announces planned name change to Tompkins Bank & Trust

Tompkins Financial Corporation has announced that it has requested regulatory approval to rebrand Tompkins Community Bank as Tompkins Bank & Trust, a name that reflects the organization's longstanding reputation as a trusted financial partner, its capabilities, and its continued commitment to relationship-based banking and personalized service.

With more than 50 banking offices serving customers across Western, Central and Hudson Valley New York, as well as Southeastern Pennsylvania, Tompkins' new name builds on the organization's nearly 190-year legacy while positioning it for the future.

"The new name better reflects who we are today and the strength of the relationships we have built over generations," said Stephen Romaine, president and CEO of Tompkins Financial Corporation. "While our name is evolving, our purpose remains the same: to serve as a trusted financial partner and to help our customers, businesses and communities thrive. We are proud of our history, excited about this next chapter, and deeply committed to continuing to meet the needs of the communities we serve."

The transition to Tompkins Bank & Trust will not change the products, services or



The new logo for Tompkins Bank & Trust, the rebrand of Tompkins Community Bank.

-Courtesy image

local teams customers know and trust. Customers will continue to receive the same personalized service and local decision-making that have long defined the Tompkins experience.

Subject to regulatory approval, customers will begin to see the Tompkins Bank & Trust name and brand introduced across the organization's footprint over the coming year. This transition represents an exciting step forward—one that reinforces the bank's capabilities today while honoring the values that have guided it for nearly two centuries.

As Tompkins Bank & Trust, the organization will continue investing in local communities, supporting regional economies, and providing trusted financial solutions tailored to the needs of individuals, families, and businesses throughout its markets. For more information, visit tompkinsbank.com.

'We the People' set for June 19

"We the People: A Marathon Reading of the U.S. Constitution" will be held on Friday, June 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Building, 413 Main St, Beacon.

Local citizens will read the entire con-

tents of the U.S. Constitution, Interpretive commentary provided by Professor Beau Breslin, Skidmore College.

For more information, visit <http://www.ruthdanon.com>.

Rainbow in the sky over Beacon



A rainbow could be seen in the sky over Beacon on the evening of Saturday, June 6.

-Courtesy photo by Richard Cohen

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by FRANCINE WIZNER



The hairy vine of Poison Ivy

I know it when I see it: My circuitous route to weed identification

Once upon a time, in an Ivory Tower, I read and wrote articles for academic journals no one reads for fun. There, I was expected to use certain highfalutin words. I had forgotten those terms, since I am no longer required to describe obvious events as though they are profound. But in writing this column, I recalled my once-lofty vocabulary.

Rules of Thumb and Exceptions

The strategy our brain uses to simplify a task is a heuristic—a rule of thumb. We all employ them. Some phrases I mentally review during monotonous chores are “Righty, Tightly, Lefty, Loosy” while tightening a screw; “‘I’ before ‘E’, except after ‘C’” when spelling; and “Eat the rainbow” during dinner prep. It is usually true that most screws fully seat clockwise, that words like receive follow the rule, and that a colorful meal is a nutritious one.

BUT—all have exceptions. The left pedal on a bicycle is reverse-threaded, or it would unscrew while pedaling. Eight ancient species seize protein, breaking the spelling rule. And a palette for your palate may lead you to prioritize imported produce over sustainable, local options. These heuristics are like a hand-drawn map. They get you to the right city, but you need more information to find a specific house. That’s where sagacity—wisdom and discernment—comes in.

When the elephant is hidden in plain sight

“If it looks, walks, and quacks like a duck, it’s a duck.” This maxim, credited to 19th-century poet James Whitcomb Riley, is a common-sense threshold. It is similar to Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart’s 1964 declaration that he “knew it when he saw it” when defining obscene material. Both refer to conclusions that are irrefutable to a reasonable community member.

Yet, some domains are ambiguous. Many waterfowl are easily mistaken for ducks, requiring DNA sequencing to regroup them. Local towns can flag explicit content, but free speech protections ensure public sensitivities can’t outlaw biology textbooks or Michelangelo’s “David.” Sagacity is vital



Poison Ivy likes to hide among other plants, such as this hosta.



Look closer and you’ll see Poison Ivy’s hairy vines attached to the tree.



If only Poison Ivy were so well labeled!

-Photos by Francine Wizner

for evaluating nuance. Critical variables, fine shifts, and interdependence create a complex field, nullifying a simplified heuristic in favor of a practitioner who can discern subtlety.

Becoming sagacious

Growing up in Greene County, I had no experience with poison ivy; before winters became milder, I never saw it at that elevation. After moving to Ulster

County, however, I suffered the ill-effects of urushiol exposure multiple times. Despite knowing the heuristic “leaves of three, let it be,” I repeatedly fell victim, often unaware I had touched the dreaded irritant.

Since leaves surround me in this enchanted woodland, survival dictates that I learn about them. It is difficult not to notice that numerous leaves are trifoliate. This three-leaflet structure is an

example of convergent evolution—highly efficient for capturing sunlight, managing water loss, and defending against herbivores. To complicate matters, poison ivy is a shape-shifter. It morphs from a ground crawler into a shrub or a climbing vine. In spring, new leaves have a shiny, reddish-bronze tint before turning deep emerald green. Its edges can be smooth, jagged, or deeply lobed. Hairy aerial roots and clusters of dull white berries can help identify it, but they are not always visible.

Botanical Doppelgängers

To further muddle the field, there are look-alikes. One deceptive doppelgänger is the immature Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*). It emerges with three shiny, reddish-bronze leaves. Early homesteaders used this native forest plant to brew spicy-sweet beverages akin to root beer. While not related to true sarsaparilla, this ginseng-family plant possesses anti-inflammatory properties. With improving sagacity, you will notice that Wild Sarsaparilla grows as a single stalk that splits into three distinct branches, featuring leaflets with fine “teeth” along their entire margin.

Brambles present another challenge. Wild blackberry and raspberry share the three-leaf structure, often sporting a reddish tint before maturing to green. They thrive as low-lying ground cover or messy thickets along forest edges and trail corners. To a novice observer, these similarities are confusing. But the sagacious will look closer and notice that what seem like hairs along the stem are actually fine prickles. Bramble leaf-edges are sharply serrated, and the surfaces are heavily textured rather than flat.

Many other doppelgängers exist. One develops sagacity not by taking shortcuts, but by following a meandering, careful path. Join me next time. Class dismissed for today.

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

Celebrate the restoration of the Bannerman Island Grotto on June 25

The Bannerman Castle Trust (BCT), with offices and gallery located at 150 Main Street in Beacon, invites the public to attend a special fundraising benefit celebrating the completion of the newest restoration milestone on historic Bannerman Island in the Hudson River Highlands - The Bannerman Island Grotto. The event will take place on Thursday, June 25 at 6 p.m.

The grotto was in disrepair, overgrown with indigenous wild vegetation, and hidden for years until the BCT employed Master Mason Aric Morgan and his team to take the challenge and reconstruct the area using original photos from over a 100 years ago for guidance. Funded in part by grants from Parks & Trails NY and the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the BCT will unveil this

architectural feature that now connects to one of our major trails on the island. This exclusive evening offers a rare look at the island’s hidden corners, complete with a historic ribbon-cutting and a toast to the island’s future.

Attendees will board the BCT’s Estuary Tour Boat from the Beacon dock located at 2 Red Flynn Drive, directly across from the Beacon Metro-North Train Station, and enjoy a 20-minute Hudson River Cruise to Bannerman Island for the festivities. An island tour of the grotto and other areas will follow upon arrival, and light refreshments will be served. The tour boat will return to the Beacon, NY Dock by 9 p.m.

All ticket proceeds will fund the BCT’s 2026/2027 stabilization and restoration ini-

tiatives. Tickets are only \$55 and limited, so please book your passage to Bannerman Island for this very special event today at:

bannermancastle.org. For more information, call 845-831-1001.

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Obituaries

John E. Johnson, Sr.



John E. Johnson, Sr., passed away on Friday, June 5, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center surrounded by family after a battle with esophageal cancer. He was 76.

John was born in Glen Cove, NY to James C. Johnson, Sr. and Marguerite Hericourt Johnson. He graduated from Beacon High School in 1967 and continued his education at Dutchess Community College. John started working for the City of Beacon Police Department at age 20 on October 13, 1969, rose through the ranks, and retired as Chief of Police on April 2, 1994. He married Rhonda Basso on September 4, 1971.

John was a life member of New York

State Association of Chiefs of Police and honorary life member of Beacon Knights of Columbus, Trinity Council #445. John was the owner and operator of John + Sons Fence Company from the early 1970s until the early 1990s. In 1990, John built the house he and his wife shared.

John is survived by his wife, Rhonda Basso Johnson; his son, John Jr. (Kevin); his son, Jason (Jessica); his granddaughter, Samantha; his brothers, James Jr. (Bonnie), Jerry (Linda), Jeffrey and Joseph; and several aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and his godson, Patrick O'Dell. He was predeceased by his parents and his nephew, Shawn Johnson and niece, Alicia Johnson.

Family and friends will gather on Wednesday, June 10 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon. Burial will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence, please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

American Revolution lecture set for June 24

Town of Wappinger Historian and Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini will offer a lecture for America's 250th in the Village of Fishkill on Wednesday, June 24 at 6

p.m. The lecture will be held at the Village of Fishkill Van Wyck Hall, 1095 Main St.

For more information, visit www.vofishkill.org.

Carlos Manso, Jr.



Carlos Manso, Jr. was born in the Bronx, NY on August 22, 1961 to the late Carlos Manso, Sr. and the late Alvina Louise (Sherrer) Manso. After a long battle, Carlos was called Home by the Lord to rest on May 31, 2026.

Carlos, affectionately called "Carlito" by his longtime "Prospect Avenue" friends, was well loved and liked by those who knew him. Carlos was a graduate of Harry S. Truman High School and attended LaGuardia Community College. In the late 70's to the mid 80's Carlos was an intricate part of East Tremont Neighborhood Association (ETNA) Community children's/teen center. Carlos mentored, helped put together a basketball team, after school programs, and other activities and various programs for

the youth in West Farms and Lambert neighborhoods. He was very proud of that and remembered by those who attended and/or participated at ETNA.

Carlos remained an avid sports fan his entire life. His favorite teams were: the Knicks; the Dallas Cowboys and the Yankees.

Carlos worked many years as a Benefits Coordinator and Director of Benefits at both Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center, Merrill Lynch and Safe Horizon.

Carlos is predeceased his parents, Carlos Manso, Sr. and Alvina Louise (Sherrer) Manso, and his baby sister, Jennifer Manso. He is also predeceased by his Great Aunt, Louise E. Bazzel and Great Grandmother, Edna Sherrer both of whom played an intricate roll in raising Carlos.

Carlos leaves to cherish him in memory: his sister, Debra Jones, and brother-in-law, Steward Jones; his brother, Darryl Manso and sister-in-law, Leslie Manso; nephew, Darnell Jones and niece, Crystal Jones; nephew, Sharod Manso and niece, Lauren Manso; nephew, Quincy Jones and niece Nathalie D'Acunto; hjs grandniece, Violet Jones; grandnephew, Ace Jones; his sister/cousin, Sandra "Mandy" Allen; his aunt, JoAnne Sherrer; Goddaughter, Ayana Blackwell, and his (ex-wife/close family friend), Dawn Powell-Manso.

Also, remembering Carlos always, cousins: Dwayne "Skipper" Lindsay; Lawrence "Larry" Cooper; Constance "Connie" Cooper and so many family friends.

Carlos, your laughter, great joy in being with the family, and leading of family prayer during our many gatherings, reunions, and Thanksgiving get-togethers will be greatly missed.

Remember ... It's not the quantity of time spent with the ones you love, but the quality and memories made during those times.

Remembering you always Carlos...Rest Easy Brother, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend.

Love, Your Family

Family and friends will gather on Monday, June 8 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Springfield Baptist Church, 8 Mattie Cooper Square, Beacon, with a funeral service beginning at 11 a.m. Burial will take place at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 100 Mill Street, Putnam Valley, following services.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

Community Action Partnership honors AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Barry Kaufman for 35 years of volunteer service

As the 2025 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide preparation season comes to a close, an exceptional volunteer whose dedication has made a lasting impact throughout the Hudson Valley was recognized. Barry Kaufman recently celebrated his 35th year of service with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program.

Kaufman began volunteering with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in 1990 after responding to a newspaper advertisement seeking volunteers. At the time, he was employed full-time and became the first volunteer in the area to provide evening tax preparation services at Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls. Over the years, his commitment to the program expanded as he helped establish tax preparation sites at Adriance Library, the Poughkeepsie Galleria, Poughkeepsie Plaza, and Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedication, Kaufman received the prestigious Tax-Aide Fellow Award in 2014. The award is presented annually to fewer than one percent of volunteers in each state who have demonstrated more than 10 years of service and significant leadership contributions within the program.

Throughout his 35 years with Tax-Aide, Kaufman served as a tax site coordinator in Wappingers Falls and Poughkeepsie for 17 years and as a Tax-Aide instructor for

18 years.

Reflecting on his decades of volunteer service, Kaufman emphasized the meaningful relationships he has built with clients over the years.

"I have been assisting many generations of filers — their children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren," said Kaufman. "You help a lot of people; I get paid with respect and consideration. You meet a lot of very nice people, and the volunteer activity is very enjoyable."

"The Tax-Aide program and the community at large have benefited from Barry's dedication and his philosophy of service to others," said Charlie Milligan, New York State Coordinator for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. "We are grateful for his years of leadership and commitment to fellow volunteers and community members."

Kaufman's dedication to community service extends well beyond the Tax-Aide program. Alongside his wife, Doreen, he has volunteered with Meals on Wheels for 11 years and Friends of Seniors for 16 years.

This filing season, the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition and the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program provided free tax preparation assistance to more than 7,000 filers across Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties, resulting in more than \$7.5 million in refunds and credits returned to low- and moderate-income households.



Charlie Milligan, New York State Coordinator, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide presents a certificate to Barry Kaufman, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer, for his 35th year of volunteer service.

-Courtesy photo

"We are so pleased with the results of this campaign this filing season," said Linda Eddy, Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County and CASH Coalition member. "We welcome anyone interested in getting involved to

reach out and learn more about the program by calling 845-475-7500."

For more information about volunteering with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, contact the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition at 845-475-7500.

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Stony Kill Farm to hold Get Outdoors and Get Together Day on June 13

There will be a celebration of community, connection, and the outdoors at Stony Kill Farm on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event encourages people of all ages and abilities to explore nature, try new outdoor activities, and enjoy time together in local parks and open spaces.

Schedule of activities at Stony Kill Farm include:

- 10:15 a.m. - Bird Walk for Everyone with Waterman's Bird Club
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Barn Tours

1:15 p.m. - Naturalist Walk for Everyone at Woodland Trail

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Touch a Truck with DEC Rangers and Smokey Bear, Fishing, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Orienteering, Birding, Plant A Seed and Arts and Crafts with Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, Touch Table and Lawn Games.

Presented with NYS Department of Environment Conservation and New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Dutchess County Pride Center announces the return of Poughkeepsie Pride 2026

Dutchess County Pride Center (DCPC) announces the 2026 return of the Poughkeepsie Pride March & Festival, the Mid-Hudson Valley's Largest Pride Celebration on Saturday, June 13.

The 8th Annual March & Festival kicks off on historic Market Street where the March of unity and community will head down Main Street to Victor C. Waryas Park. The Pride Festival will be in full swing in Waryas Park from noon to 4 p.m. The Festival will feature dozens of queer-owned businesses, local artists, creators, and food vendors, LGBTQ+ organizations, community resources, and family-friendly programming celebrating the diversity and resilience of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ community.

The following events will be held: June 26th - Free Film Screening of the 1995 cult classic film The Incredibly True Story of Two Girls in Love, hosted by the Bardavon Theatre.

June 28th - Pride Fun Run 5K with Fleet Feet Poughkeepsie, an untimed fun run fundraiser for DCPC. All proceeds to benefit the Center and further Fleet Feet Poughkeepsie's mission of running for all.

A full event schedule including Rainbow Crosswalk Painting, a film series with the Beacon Theater, as well as information, details, and ticket links is available online at www.poughkeepsiepride.org or www.dutchesspride.org/poughkeepsie-pride.

Get signed copy of 'A Path to Resilience' on June 13

An afternoon with author, certified life coach, mindfulness teacher, and speaker Lourdes Laifer. Join her on Saturday, June 13, from 2-4 p.m. to get a signed copy of "A Path to Resilience: Small Steps to an Unshakable You." The book breaks resilience down into small, doable steps that busy people can integrate into everyday life.

Hosted at the Barnes & Noble in Post Road Plaza, 2518 South Rd, Poughkeepsie. Please contact jules@lourdeslaifercoaching.com with any questions.

this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

L	O	R	O	O	T	A	N	T	S	O	G	E
S	A	I	D	S	R	L	A	I	R	S	H	I
E	T	H	E	T	H	E	O	G	L	E	T	R
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5	1	5	3	2	1
3	4	2	4	5	4
5	1	3	1	3	1
4	2	4	5	4	2
3	5	3	2	3	1
1	2	1	4	5	2

Sudoku solution

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-72-26

Bus Line Inspection Services for Dutchess County Public Transit
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., July 6, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-60-26

Portable Toilets - Rental, Service, and Maintenance

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

City of Beacon

Legal Notices

One Municipal Plaza - Suite One
Beacon, New York 12508
Phone (845) 838-5002
June 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Variance Application

Applicant: Sadhna Gupta
Address: 84 Anderson Street
Tax Grid No.: 30-6054-31-371850-00
Zoning Classification: R1-10

Dear Neighboring Property Owner:

1. Sadhna Gupta, 84 Anderson Street, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17 D., Attachment 1, where the applicant is proposing to subdivide the parcel into two (2) lots, to allow the average width of Lot A to be 81.4 feet, which requires relief from the following:

a) Per § 223-17 D., Attachment 1, the minimum lot width is 85 feet. The proposed subdivision would create a lot with an average (or mean) lot width that is 81.4 feet, requiring a 3.6-foot variance for minimum lot size area width.

The full application is available online at: <https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/agendas-minutes/>
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at

Legal Notices

7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on June 16, 2026, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov

City of Beacon One Municipal Plaza - Suite One

Beacon, New York 12508
Phone (845) 838-5002
June 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Variance Application

Applicant: Seth Rosenthal
Address: 51 Falconer Street
Tax Grid No.: 30-6054-39-335660-00
Zoning Classification: R1-5

Dear Neighboring Property Owner:

Seth Rosenthal, 51 Falconer Street, have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17 D., Attachment 1, to allow for the construction of an addition to the existing house, which requires relief from the following:

1. Per § 223-17 D., Attachment 1, the minimum side yard setback is 10 ft. The pro-

Legal Notices

posed addition to the home would be located 1ft.6in. from the property line, requiring an 8 ft. 6 in. side-yard variance.

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on June 16, 2026, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov

City of Beacon One Municipal Plaza - Suite One

Beacon, New York 12508
Phone (845) 838-5002
June 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Variance Application

Applicant: Deborah Joyce
Address: 42 Wesley Avenue
Tax Grid No.: 30-6054-24-499921-00
Zoning Classification: R1-10

Legal Notices

Dear Neighboring Property Owner: Deborah Joyce, 42 Wesley Avenue, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17D, Attachment 1, to allow a deck built on the rear of the structure, which requires relief from the following:

1. Per § 223-17, Attachment 1, the minimum rear yard setback is 35 feet. The deck is shown 15.7 feet from the rear property line, and the stairs project another 2.5 feet from the deck's edge, bringing it to 13.2 feet from the rear property line. The stairedge is the measurement point for determining the setback, which requires a 21.8-foot variance.

2. Per § 223-17, Attachment 1, the minimum side yard setback is 15 feet. The deck is 12.9 feet from the side-yard property line, which requires a 2.1-foot variance.

3. Per § 223-17, Attachment 1, the maximum percent of building coverage is 25%. The lot is 5,000 square feet, allowing 1,250 square feet of coverage. On April 18, 2006, the property received an area variance for the lot coverage of 31.48% (1,574 square feet). Your proposal would bring the lot coverage to 34.29% (1,714.6 square feet) and requires a variance of 2.81% (140.6) square feet

Legal Notices

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on June 16, 2026, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov

LEGAL NOTICE DUTCHESS COUNTY EARLY VOTING FOR THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE

POLLS ARE OPEN FOR EARLY VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

- Saturday, June 13: 9AM - 5PM
 - Sunday, June 14: 9AM - 5PM
 - Monday, June 15: Noon - 8PM
 - Tuesday, June 16: 9AM - 5PM
 - Wednesday, June 17: Noon - 8PM
 - Thursday, June 18: 9AM - 5PM
 - Friday, June 19: 9AM - 5PM
 - Saturday, June 20: 9AM - 5PM
 - Sunday, June 21: 9AM - 5PM
- At any of the following locations:
Pavilion at Brook-

Legal Notices

meade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, 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 Street, Poughkeepsie Board of Election's Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger

LISA JESSUP 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

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-66-26

Paper and Plastic Products and Miscellaneous Supplies

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of June 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.

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



Mom, Giovanni, and the patio lunch

A tenacious guest (briefly) gets his way on a windy day.

It was lunchtime – bright sun, blue sky, birds chirping – the kind of day that looks warm but feels like sticking your head in the freezer at Costco. The patio umbrellas were rattling like they were trying to file a complaint.

Mom was at the hostess stand, cardigan wrapped tight, muttering in Italian every time the door opened and a blast of cold air slapped her.

Mom: “Che freddo ... this weather is-a lying to everybody.”

My brother John was out front with her, leaning on the podium like he was supervising the neighborhood, the weather, and anyone who dared breathe wrong.

John: “Ma, it’s fine. It’s not that cold.”

Mom shot him a look.

Mom: “Giovanni, I can see-a your breath. You look like a pot of pasta water starting to steam.”

Just then, the door swung open and in walked this guy – sunglasses on his head, big smile, chest puffed out like he was on a yacht in Positano. Behind him was his wife, wrapped in her coat like she was preparing for a polar expedition. He stepped up to the stand.

Customer: “Hi! We’d like to sit outside!”

Mom froze. John smirked. A gust of wind blew a patio napkin across the parking lot like it was trying to escape.

Mom: “Outside? Fuori? You wanna sit outside for lunch? You know it’s-a colder out there than my walk-in freezer?”

The guy laughed like she was joking.

Customer: “We love fresh air!”

Mom threw her hands up.

Mom: “Fresh? That air out there is violent. It’s-a gonna smack you in the face and steal your bread.”

John was leaning on the podium, watching the whole thing like it was a matinee performance.

John: “Ma, if they wanna sit outside, just sit ‘em outside.”

Momma turned to him slowly.

Mom: “Giovanni ... don’t make-a me put YOU out there.”

But the customer was determined. He pointed at the patio like it was the Amalfi Coast.

Customer: “It looks beautiful out there!”

Momma squinted.

Mom: “Beautiful? The umbrella is-a sideways. The tablecloth is-a doing the tarantella. Even the ketchup bottle is-a shivering.”

The wife whispered:

Wife: “Maybe we should sit inside...”

But the guy waved her off.

Customer: “No, no – we’re sitting outside. We’re adventurous!”

Mom muttered.

Momma: “Yeah, adventurous ... like the people who go swimming with sharks.”

But she grabbed the menus and led them toward the patio. The moment she opened the door – WHOOSH – a gust of wind hit so hard it blew one of the menus out of her hand and sent it flying across the parking lot like it was trying to quit its job.

Mom watched it go.

Mom: “Eh ... there goes the specials.”

They sat. The wife was already shaking like she was in a meat locker. The napkins blew off the table. The guy’s hair was now pointing in three different directions.

John was barely back at the front desk when the couple burst inside like they were escaping Antarctica. The wife’s teeth were chattering like she was playing percussion in a salsa band.

Wife: “M-m-maybe ... maybe we should sit inside instead...”

Mom nodded like she was been waiting for this moment since the dawn of time.

Mom: “I TOLD YOU! Si, si. Come inside before I gotta call-a the ambulance.”

The husband tried to save face.

Customer: “Yeah, uh ... maybe it is a little chilly.”

Mom raised an eyebrow.

Mom: “A little chilly? Your wife is-a turning into a snowman.”

She marched them back inside, seated them at a warm table, and as she walked back to the stand she muttered – loud enough for Giovanni to hear:

Mom: “Next time you tell me ‘just sit ‘em outside,’ I’m-a sitting YOU outside. With no soup!”

John shrugged.

John: Ma, I told you they wouldn’t last.”

Mom: “Giovanni, bring me a cup of Stracciatella, eh? Before I put YOU outside with the ketchup bottle.”

And the staff pretended they didn’t hear her – because everyone knew Mom ran the front, the patio, and the weather. Oh, and the Stracciatella.

Stracciatella Soup

Ingredients

- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
- 1 cup fresh spinach
- salt and pepper to taste

Preparation Steps

Prepare the Broth: In a medium pot, bring the chicken broth to a gentle boil. If you’re using homemade broth, ensure it’s well-seasoned for the best flavor.

Whisk the eggs and cheese: In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, grated Parmigiano cheese, and a pinch of salt. If desired, add a pinch of nutmeg for extra flavor.

Combine Ingredients: Once the broth is boiling, reduce the heat to low. Slowly pour the egg and cheese mixture into the broth while continuously stirring with a whisk. This will create delicate strands of egg in the soup.

Allow the soup to cook for about 2 minutes until the eggs are fully cooked and have formed soft ribbons. If you’re adding spinach, stir it in at this point and let it wilt for a minute.

Taste the soup and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper as needed. Serve with warm crusty Italian bread.

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 taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Tioronda Garden Club members plant flowers around Beacon



The Tioronda Garden Club beautified the community by planting and hanging flowers throughout the City of Beacon. -Courtesy photos



The flower baskets on Main Street in Beacon, presented by the Tioronda Garden Club, were hung in time for Memorial Day and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Thanks to City of Beacon Highway Superintendent Michael Manzi and his staff for their dedication and support of the Tioronda Garden Club and the beautification of the City of Beacon.

The flowers planted by First Responders clock tower were also

planted by the Tioronda Garden Club. The Tower is a gift of Dennis Meyer in honor of all Beacon emergency responders in loving memory of his mother, Lucy. It was dedicated in May 2015 and has become a Beacon landmark in the East End.

The “Welcome to Beacon” sign at the MetroNorth Train Station welcomes visitors this year with the planting of floral designs in a patriotic-color theme, also presented by the Tioronda Garden Club.

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

Roof • Windows • Siding • Bathrooms • Heating & More

Is your home telling you it's time?

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

2026
OldSongs
Festival

June 26, 27 & 28
 Altamont Fairgrounds,
 near Albany, NY

Music
with Roots

festival.oldsongs.org