By Rich Thomaselli

By Goldee Greene

Dutchess hoping for tourism rebound in face of COVID-19

Historic Reformed Church closes

Community gardening still happening

By Kristine Coulter

The Reformed Church of Beacon has closed. Shown is the church building from the 1900s and Rev. E.A. MacCallum.

Continued on page 2

The Reformed Church of Beacon has closed. Shown is the church building from the 1900s and Rev. E.A. MacCallum.

Continued on page 3

Sargent-Downing Garden coordinator Sarah Elizabeth, (right) with fellow gardener Terri Pacucki.

Continued on page 3
If you find yourself saying, “There goes that bright green school bus again,” Beacon Green Teens are doing their thing. Either heading for gardens within city limits, or en route to set up various pro-duce markets.Green Teen is a program of Cornell University Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, funded in part by the Beacon City Program coordinator Helanna Bratman expressed to the Beacon Free Press, “Despite the pandemic, Green Teen was still able to hire eight teenagers ages 14-17, to take start off and take care of our three gardens. We developed a COVID-19 safety protocol, which involved washing our hands every hour, sanitizing our phones, and of course masking up and social distancing. “Luckily, we work outside, and gardening lends itself to working six feet away and being in the fresh air,” she said. “The only time we were all together was during our weekly online workshops.”

The team is excited at the prospect of being up and running, as a fully opera-tional mini-farm. “Highlights so far include finishing the expansion of our home base garden at the City of Beacon Recreation Center. Doubled the size of our garden and finished fencing in the building gates. Now we are working with a local carpenter, Chris Janks, to build a wash bench to wash our vegetables after we harvest them. We are also in the middle of converting an enclosed trailer into a walk in cooler. Looks like we have a good chance of reaching our goal by the summ-mer. For eleven years, since 2009, the Green Teen Program has partnered with Common Ground Farm to bring Common Greens to the City of Beacon. Common Greens is a Mobile Farmers’ Market that sells affordably priced vegetables to the community at a couple of locations. “This year we are implementing a Free Farm Stand instead of the market, where all of the vegetables will be given out free of charge. The idea is to get vegetables to community members within walking distance of the Beacon Rec Center who are facing financial hardship due to the pandemic or otherwise.” The Free Farm Stand will be held at the Beacon Recreation Center, located at 23 West Center Street, beginning on July 8 and held Wednesday evenings, 10 a.m. till 11.

The youngsters should be further con-gratulated for their help in providing food earlier this spring. “Green Teen also took on the role of coordinating the Free Grocery distribution at Rombout Middle School and South Ave. Elementary School on Wednesdays. “The grocery distribution will continue and another partner, Mutual Aid Beacon, will take over coordinating it so that Green Teen can focus on growing our own food for Wednesdays,” Bratman said.

Hopes for the summer season are hiring “twelve teenagers to maintain our gardens and run the farm stand. Currently we are waiting to hear about funding to see if this is possible. The COVID-19 crisis has held up two of our funding sources at the state level, and our fingers are crossed that these grants are released. Or that we are able to find replacement funds to run this valuable summer employment program,” she said.

A notable Main Street eco-gardening enterprise since 2015, One Nature, under-scores founder Bryan Quinn’s mission for sustainability and art. “The global environ-mental crisis would be significantly improved if humanity embraced a stronger collective land ethic.” This movement would allow human land development to become a positive influence on ecological integrity. The studio is located at 178 Main. One Nature promotes “collaboration, cre-ativity, and teamwork through an inclusive working style; providing “senior leadership on a wide range of projects, scientific stud-ies, and plant propagation initiatives. Recent examples include the design and construc-tion of Safe Harbors Green, the develop-ment of a Long Term Ecological Management Plan for Vassar College’s Ecological Reserve and Farm, and ongoing native plant production for New York City’s West-of-Hudson Reservior network.”

“We’ve designed over sixty-five pri-vate gardens, specializing in local and medicine in Beacon since 2015,” he said. This includes the garden on the corner of Main and Cross, 321 Main. “We focus on plants native to the area, that would have been also medicinal plants like cohosh, camomile, and vegetable starts, fruit trees and berry bushes; fruit trees that would do well in the Hudson Valley.” He is looking forward to having poetry readings when it’s OK to do so.

**Community gardening still happening**

**Sargent PTO awards two scholarships to Beacon students**

Sargent Elementary School PTO has awarded Beacon High School senior graduates Brianna Richardson and Sabrina Tutasi each a scholarship of $750 in recognition of their outstanding aca-demic and extracurricular achievement and personal excellence. The 2019-2020 Sargent PTO Scholarship is awarded annually to two BHS seniors who attended Sargent Elementary School. Applicants were judged on their community service volun-teer experience, high school activities, honors and awards, work and youth group experiences, as well as a personal essay and two letters of recommendation. “I am so appreciative and overwhelmed with joy,” said Brianna upon learning of her scholarship award.

“Brianna Richardson is an exceptional human being,” said BHS English teach-ers, Joanna Driscoll. “She is honest, deter-mined, extremely hard working, open-minded, self-disciplined and very reliable. These qualities set her apart from so many of her peers; she is also one of the most caring students I’ve ever had the pleasure to know.”

“Sabrina Tutasi is a young woman of outstanding character and values,” said BHS social studies teacher Frank Lofaro. “She represents everything that is positive about the youth of today. Her work ethic and dedication to task are truly commend-able.”

The Sargent Elementary School PTO congratulates Brianna and Sabrina on their well-deserved scholarship and com-mends the other applicants on their out-standing achievements.

The Sargent PTO wishes all Beacon High School graduating seniors the best of luck in learning, life and work beyond school.

**Fifth consecutive weekly protest in Beacon**

By Goldee Greene

The fifth consecutive weekly Beacon BlackLives protest took place on a stormy Sunday, with hundreds in attendance. Going hand-in-hand, at 2 p.m., participants from diverse walks of life marched down Main Street, then north on Teller, to Memorial Park, Chants and signs abounded. “We definitely are proud of the turnout, even on a rainy day,” said Brianna among Justice McClay, of Beacon. “We aim to make each protest special, like last week it centered around a dream. It’s important that we continue to keep the momentum. We already have the attention of local officials and we are seeing positive change. This includes making our community, our city, and our state better.”

Brianna expressed that “we will not stop until this goal is achieved.” Other organizing team members including Cyprea Hall, Xavier Mayo, Anne Marie, Cedrick Barakdale, Jesus Velasquez and Stefon Seward.

“The City of Beacon obviously sup-port the cause of people’s free speech,” said Mayor Lee Kyriacou, in a phone interview. “The City Council recently held a listening session to hear what people have to say. We have about thirty police officers at this time. We are all interested in how we can encourage our policing, and addressing use of force issues.”

Attorney Luisa Fuentes spoke at Memorial Park. “As a former Orange County prosecutor, I don’t hate the police. However, I hate police officers who use their power to brutalize.”

“It’s great to see so many young people showing up, even in the rain,” said Meredith Heuer.

The protests are not only educational, but go straight to the heart,” said Tom Wright.

Each protest includes a memorial serv-ice of some kind. Sunday’s commemora-tion honored discusses a black woman or victim’s name on it. Hundreds of those names were spoken in memoriam. Flowers were deposited by FloraGoodTimes, in Beacon. Additional donors included sound by LNJ Tech, snacks and seltzer water from Fairgrounds, AccuPrint supplied flyers. Other donors have been Key Foods, Sal’s Pizza; Hyperbole, and City of Beacon for police escort. Kejie Walser, of Beacon gave the crowd with stimulating original poetry.
Tourism in Dutchess seeks to rebound

The group tours - busloads of tourists who come to see the historic sites and splendor - filled more and more of the quaint shops and restaurants - have been missing. This is especially true In Hyde Park and its environs to the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site Home and Library, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill National Historic Site, the Vanderbilt Mansion and more.

But as the days and weeks fly by, it is becoming more and more likely that baseball will provide a relief from the pain. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said, and the critically acclaimed HBO series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" was shot here and is currently airing on the cable channel.

One of the biggest tourist draws in Dutchess County for the past 26 years has been the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team. A short-season Class A franchise of the New York-Penn League, the Renegades have played in a 4,300-seat facility.

"It's been tough," said Molinaro. "We have historic sites, but at most, only the grounds are open. We have the Farmgrounds just up the road (in Rhinebeck), but the (Dutchess County) Fair is canceled. We are surrounded by four colleges, but they were closed in March and we missed out on graduation.

"We're lucky," said Molinaro. "We've been around forever, so the mortgage is paid off and we just have our operating expenses."

The cinema holds 800 people, employees will wear masks and gloves which will be changed after every customer interaction. Masks will be provided to all customers who do not have one. One customer or family will be allowed to enter at a time, County cinema surfaces will be sanitized after each customer interaction and blackouts will be provided over new releases.

"We have the Culinary Institute (of America) but the restaurants are closed. It's tough.

"For one, it's a major revenue hit non-profits. At the Roosevelt Inn, only one of the two buildings on the grounds will be used and that one is operating at 30 percent capacity. Guests are spaced out in every other room, so nobody is lodging next to another person. After checkout, each room is cleaned, sanitized and not used for 24 hours.

"And as far as that goes, Renegades said "Our family is already known for having the cleaned property in the Valley." At nearby Copola's Restaurant in Hyde Park, owner Luigi Copolla said he was installing plexiglass between booths inside the establishment, in addition to outdoor seating with the proper social distancing.

"Everybody is doing what they have to do," Rottkamp said. "You want people to come back, but we have to do it safely."

To that end, Rottkamp is working on a marketing campaign that will soon debut, emphasizing a pledge that county businesses "will do the things we need to do, and we need you to do the things you can do."

"I'm, by nature, an optimistic person," Rottkamp said. "There is a tremendous pent-up demand for travel. It will come back and come back strong."

Molinaro: Tourism, income suffer without Renegades

By Rich Thomaselli

The Walkway Over the Hudson is one of the main tourist attractions in Dutchess County.

"It was beautiful," said Rottkamp. "We have in the economy.

Yet, there is a sense of optimism around the area. The film industry brings in a great deal of money. We have the Culinary Institute of America and the restaurants are closed. It's tough.

The biggest burden is, by this time, the players' loss of salary - though the Rays have been good about providing payment to their minor league players, which would allow Dutchess Stadium to be used.

"We have thousands of unemployment claims and other remote and continued to handle hundreds of unemployment claims and other.

Non-profits have plans in place if given the opportunity to operate, and we were able to operate. I think that would be something we could do," said Hayes. "All of our clubs have plans in place if given the green light, so we're ready, and prepared, but we're being very cautious."

"If there is no minor league season, there are other things we will be doing here at the facility once the phases allow us to do that," said Renegades president Steve Gilner. "We're going to be announcing some camps here shortly, some other baseball-related things that we'll be able to do when we're able to do that."

Hayes said he's still holding out hope for a season, however truncated it might be. "Oh sure, I think if everybody was cleared to operate, and we were able to operate, I think that would be something we could do," said Hayes. "All of our clubs have plans in place if given the green light, so we're ready, and prepared, but we're being very cautious."

The Walkway Over the Hudson is one of the main tourist attractions in Dutchess County.

-- Additional reporting by Jack Weinberger

Annual Declaration of Independence reading set

The 10th annual reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place at 11 a.m. at Beacon City Hall. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no one is allowed to attend this year. The reading will be aired on Channel 22.

Dennis Paveleck is the Declaration Reading Committee Chair. Anne Thomas is the committee vice chair. Other committee members include: Kenya Gadsden, including summer positions, at the Stadium. Throw in hotel nights for visiting teams and visits to local restaurants, and you add up.

The many farms in the area are also benefiting from Dutchess County's tourism. Rottkamp emphasized a pledge that county businesses "will do the things we need to do, and we need you to do the things you can do.""I'm, by nature, an optimistic person," Rottkamp said.

"If there is no minor league season, there are other things we will be doing here at the facility once the phases allow us to do that," said Renegades president Steve Gilner. "We're going to be announcing some camps here shortly, some other baseball-related things that we'll be able to do when we're able to do that."

Hayes said he's still holding out hope for a season, however truncated it might be. "Oh sure, I think if everybody was cleared to operate, and we were able to operate, I think that would be something we could do," said Hayes. "All of our clubs have plans in place if given the green light, so we're ready, and prepared, but we're being very cautious."
Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Headline for letters must be submitted by e-mail and are 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.

Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or management of the Southern Dutchess News Group.

Thousands sign petition to keep memorial bench

To the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council:

It is my understanding there has been discussion regarding the memorial bench dedicated to Dustin James (son of city employee Elia Groguen and stepson of former mayor Randy Casale). I believe in having all voices heard, especially in matters that question the values of our city. With that, I began a petition on Change.org in support of keeping the bench in place and here is the response (last week):

Signatures: 2,530
Shares: 733 (this metric speaks to further engagement, care, concern)

Comments:
- “The outpouring of love for Dustin across the Hudson Valley shows that he made a positive difference for all who knew him as a boy, as a man, and as a police officer.”

- “Dustin was a fine, upstanding Young man. He comes from a wonderful family. His death was so unfair and tragic.”

The thought of anyone having with how he is honored sickens me. I hurt for his family. I can’t believe that this is even being considered.

So I can’t believe this is even an option. Dustin was an amazing human and an even more amazing police officer. This has gotten way out of hand. I would remove the MEMORIAL of someone who had such an amazing impact on this city. This man who is no longer with us to be under attack is truly disgraceful.

- “So much of the community knew Dustin and were inspired by him, which is the reason the bench was put there in the first place.

Petition Site: https://www.change.org/standfordustin

- “I can’t believe this is even an option. Dustin was an amazing human and an even more amazing police officer. This has gotten way out of hand. I would remove the MEMORIAL of someone who had such an amazing impact on this city. This man who is no longer with us to be under attack is truly disgraceful.”

- “I note that Dustin James was a fine human being and a fine police officer. I attended his memorial service. As with most decisions in a democratic pluralistic society, where people have differing perspectives, this is an administrative matter.”

- “I attended the memorial for Dustin James. It is more fitting and appropriate for this memorial bench to be placed in front of the entrance to the city’s police station. The thought of anyone having with how he is honored sickens me. I hurt for his family. I can’t believe that this is even being considered.”

Thank you for your time.

Brooke Simmons
Beacon, NY

Editor’s note: The following statement was issued by Beacon Mayor Lee Krylaucon regarding the issue of the memorial bench and the petition on June 29: “Upon consulting with and the full agreement of the family involved, I want to announce that a bench in memory of Dustin James will be permanently located in front of the entrance to the Beacon Police Station.

I want to thank the family involved for their gracious accommodation. I note that Dustin James was a fine human being and a fine police officer. I attended his memorial service.

A portion of the memorial bench reflects his career; of which some members of the community may feel is inappropriate in front of the entrance to the police station. As with most decisions in a democratic pluralistic society, this is an administrative matter, this decision is made by the mayor.”

To the Editor:

What a school year this has been! As parents, we anticipate certain rites of passage for our children, one of which is their high school senior year. We envision them dressing up in their finest attire, looking their best, in front of their families and friends. Letters must be submitted by email 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.

Thanks to all who made it an unforgettable rite of passage for BHS Class of 2020

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New Hackensack and Stormville

Building a strong Red Cross

Senior Parent Committee Beacon High School PTSO

To the Editor:

Serving as Regional CEO for the last 14 years has been an incredible honor and joy for me. What could be better than leading an organization that has helped people for more than 100 years?

With your support, we have moved into a new Hackensack and Stormville Red Cross Emergency Operations Center designed to reduce deaths and injuries from fires. We have installed over 27,000 smoke alarms in area homes and have provided fire safety training to thousands of families.

We have significantly grown our disaster preparedness programs that train tens of thousands of people annually. I am proud of our Pillowcase project that teaches 3-5 graders to be prepared for emergencies.

The Red Cross has a long history of providing support for members of the military, their families and veterans. We have since grown our services to military families providing help to thousands of families each day. Every year, we work to match those in need with available resources. We have programs providing support to families and siblings both during and after deployments. We provide needed emotional support to families during difficult moments and work with patients at our local VA hospitals. Those who are more recent than aid to those we have served our communities.

During the current COVID outbreak, we were quickly able to transition our operations and continue our services such as responding to disasters and helping military families while protecting the health of our volunteers and clients. We continue to provide support to frontline health care workers and organizations throughout the region like food banks and food pantries that are meeting new COVID-19 related community needs.

I want to thank all of our community for your strong support. The Red Cross cannot accomplish its mission without your support and your belief in our work. The work above could only be done by all of our working together at a team. I [left] at the end of June knowing that thanks to all of you, the Red Cross will continue to thrive in Essex County and helping the people who need us most.

Gary H. Striar
Regional Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross Eastern New York Region
In April of 1867, 18-year-old Emily Hart started to carefully assemble her "herbarium," a 48-page book of carefully pressed flowers (DCHS Collections, Gift of E. Stuart and Linda Hubbard).

On each page, beneath the pressed flower, she wrote the Latin name, the common name, the date and whether the flower was picked near her home in LaGrange, or near her school, Cottage Hill, in Poughkeepsie. A piece of wax paper protected it from prior and following pages. The entries run from late April to early June.

In June of 1930 at the age of 81, Emily Hart was exhibiting roses at the Poughkeepsie Garden Club, and no doubt so did a few more times before she died in 1934. But the age of innocence had passed by this decade. Garden clubs were not just pleasant social groups, they were increasingly aware of the existential risks faced by wildflowers and native plants, and acted aggressively to protect them.

One look at the change in understanding that occurred across Emily Hart's lifetime, and into ours, through the lens of the wildflower known as trailing arbutus (called trailing because it is so low to the ground). The rarity of the arbutus was due to the fact that it flowered so early in the spring that it often encountered snow. This wildflower became the symbol of spring's beginning, and many hopes and wishes were tied to its first appearance.

In 1915, the local newspapers wrote about Poughkeepsie's Judge Frank Hasbrouck saying, "As far back in the history of Poughkeepsie, as far back as the memory of the oldest inhabitant can go, Hon. Frank Hasbrouck has always had the honor of being the first Poughkeepsian to wear trailing arbutus. In April of 1915 Hasbrouck was knocked aside as standard bearer when two prominent men in the city beat him to it by putting a sprig of arbutus in their jacket lapel buttonhole. By the following year, it was reported that Hasbrouck had restored his number one place. All this to and fro highlights the prominent place of the arbutus flower.

These more carefree days were to change as the 20th century evolved and especially by the 1960s. Three local individuals in particular, stood out as leaders in reality and challenge for arbutus, and other wildflowers in general, a total of nearly 2,000 native plants.

Dr. J. Wilson Poucher was a medical doctor born in Columbia County, but trained in Germany. He was a founder of the Dutchess County Historical Society in 1914. In 1931 he published the book, "The Story of Wildflowers in Dutchess County" and detailed stories of his hikes through the woods and streams of the county since childhood. In his book, he repeatedly called harvesters of local wildflowers as the number one threat, and called for leave alone policies of near all 2,000 native plants.

Poucher had no patience for such people. Of one he wrote, "Her lady was a flower lover, but she liked her flowers dead!"

Vassar College Professor Edith Roberts published "The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County" in 1938, working with the dynamic DCHS researcher Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.

Roberts had found a four-acre outdoor classroom on the Vassar College campus in 1920. Faculty and students tramped through the county getting specimen of nearly all of 2,000 plants native to Dutchess County. She was methodical and measured and spoke and wrote nationally.

Rene DuPont Donaldson, in 1937, moved with her husband to Deep Hollow Farm in Millbrook. Upon arrival, she immediately cultivated a garden of native plants. Among them was the trailing arbutus. Decades later, in 1961, the difficulty of cultivating this wildflower is revealed by no less than The New York Times in the headline, "A Growers Success With Trailing Arbutus" and the related story of the rare achievement.

Donaldson was the motivating force behind the native plant garden at the New York Botanical Gardens and offered her services locally, as a consultant.

A Poughkeepsie Journal editorial in December of 1963 reported, "The trend in this direction [native plant conservation] may be more pronounced in Dutchess County than in the nation generally for there have been militant forces at work on behalf of it." They go on to describe Mrs. Donaldson's work and the work of Garden Clubs. Today's Millbrook Garden Club recognizes Mrs. Donaldson on its website.

By the 1960s it was not just people over-harvesting that was the problem. Municipal roadside management of vegetation was far more likely at the time. To have seen chemical sprays than the mowing and cutting you see today.

In 1974, a New York State law prohibited the picking of 34 wild plants, including trailing arbutus. By comparison, Connecticut passed a law protecting the trailing arbutus in 1900. It was reported at the time to be the first law of its kind in the United States.

Where are we today? Locally, the trailing arbutus is hard to find, although it was a "spotlight species" in the Poughkeepsie Journal in 2012. Barbara Hughey, a DCHS member, supporter and Yearbook author -- and owner and operator of Land Stewardship Design, says that nothing short of careful attention can make a difference, but it can indeed make a difference.

You will find Dr. Poucher's wildflower books, sections of Edith Roberts book, and newspaper clipping relating to Renee DuPont Donaldson's work at www.dchsn.org/scrapbook-growing.

Trail of the trailing Arbutus: History of a wildflower

Cover of the 1937 Poughkeepsie Garden Club Program featuring a photo of forms by DCHS's Margaret DeM. Brown. The 1930s was a decade of increased awareness and activism in defense of native plants and wildflowers.

Photography by Margaret DeM. Brown from "American Fervor" by Ethel A. Babbert and Juliet B. Latimer (Meadville) 1929.

DCHS sets first virtual meeting

On Sunday, July 19, at 2 p.m., DCHS will hold its first virtual annual meeting (only 15 minutes) followed by a presentation by Mark Morrison on "Life's Essential Tools: Garden Implements over the Centuries."

More info and registration (email required) at www.dchsn.org/July19.
Congratulations

to the

Class of

2020!
Congratulations to the AHS Class of 2020. We are so proud of all of you!
Continued from page 2

No further text provided in the image.
The following were candidates for graduation salutatorian and valedictorian: Patrick Timothy Lewis for valedictorian and Eric James Ostrow for salutatorian.

**Valedictorian** Patrick Timothy Lewis

Patrick is a very unique young man and a true scholar. In his senior year, he has completed a host of courses which require a lot of work and commitment in order to succeed. He has not only completed his work with excellence, but he has also earned many AP and IB credits. Patrick received special recognition for his high level of dedication to his work, and he will receive the Cognosco Award for Excellence in Greek.

**Salutatorian** Eric James Ostrow

Eric’s teachers have shared with me (Elisa Correa-Soto) that he is a strong self-advocate as he never hesitates to ask questions if he finds himself in unfamiliar territory. Eric is intelligent, witty, and hardworking. He has many talents and always seems to be ready for a new challenge. He does not like to stand out from a crowd and is very comfortable in his own skin. He is working with real professionals in real world applications and is hoping to join similar clubs and careers in the future.

Patrick has shared with me that as a member of the senior class of 2020, he is more than happy to accept the honor of being named the Valedictorian of Beacon High School. Living all eighteen years of his life in the City of Beacon, Patrick is overjoyed to be able to represent the Beacon community he’s grown to love so much. Throughout his time at BHS, Patrick has worked hard to contribute to a variety of Beacon’s extra-curricular activities. Academically, he participated in Beacon’s tennis, basketball, and track and field programs. For this reason, I would like to introduce Patrick Timothy Lewis as our salutatorian for the class of 2020. He will certainly make the transition from high school senior to college freshman with great ease.
Valedictorian
Juliet E. Pearson

Juliet E. Pearson, Class of 2020 Valedictorian, has a weighted average of 100.5. Upon graduating, she is expected to have earned 25.5 high school credits (New York State requires 22 for graduation). Included in her course load are classes awarding Advanced Placement (AP) college credits, Marist College credit and Dutchess Community College credits. She will graduate from FDR having already earned up to 15 college credits. Perhaps most impressively, she will graduate after only three years of high school.

Juliet is well-known for her involvement in the performing arts at FDR and beyond. She was nominated for a 2017-2018 National Youth Arts Award for lead performance in the junior division. In addition to her performing arts skills and experience, Juliet has been active in figure skating since first grade. She is also involved in therapeutic figure skating, serving as a volunteer coach for the last seven years and working with individuals with disabilities such as autism.

At FDR, Juliet is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), has been involved in student government, and has been part of the yearbook club. Ms. Jenkinson, Matthew's school counselor, has been particularly impressed with Matthew's “presence” in the FDR community noting, “Matthew can often be found at various school events supporting friends.” He has led by action and example.

In the community, Matthew has operated a lemonade stand to benefit the Claudio Cares Foundation during the spring and summer months. He also holds a part-time job at Dairy Queen in Hyde Park.

Matthew plans to attend college to study computer science. He is looking forward to new experiences and meeting new people.

Salutatorian
Matthew J. Sweet

Matthew J. Sweet, Class of 2020 Salutatorian, has a weighted average of 100.37. Upon graduating from FDR, he is expected to earn 28.5 high school credits and up to 42 college credits. His college credits have been earned through taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes, and classes awarding Marist College credit and classes awarding Dutchess Community College credit. His rigorous course-work has included advanced classes in computer science (both Python and Java), engineering, calculus, physics, U.S. History, Government, Economics and English.

While a student at FDR, Matthew was a member of the bowling team for three years (serving two years as captain), was part of the crew team for one year, was inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS), has been involved in student government, and has been part of the yearbook club. Ms. Jenkinson, Matthew's school counselor, has been particularly impressed with Matthew's “presence” in the FDR community noting, “Matthew can often be found at various school events supporting friends.” He has led by action and example.

In the community, Matthew has operated a lemonade stand to benefit the Claudio Cares Foundation during the spring and summer months. He also holds a part-time job at Dairy Queen in Hyde Park.

Matthew plans to attend college to study computer science. He is looking forward to new experiences and meeting new people.
Leah Schmid is the Valedictorian. She will be attending SUNY New Paltz (undecided major).

Ryan Marino is the Salutatorian. He will attend Rochester Institute of Technology, where he will be studying Engineering.

Both students have been a part of the National Honor Society and have been involved in volunteer and community service. Both students have been a strong asset to both the school and local community and have served as strong role models to underclassmen.
The following students were candidates for graduation from Orchard View Alternative High School in the Wappingers Central School District. Their names and their graduation status are as follows:

**Valedictorian**

- Autumn Sharpe

**Salutatorian**

- Rosina Halstead

“...My greatest achievement in school is earning Salutatorian and getting the point of graduation. At the beginning of high school before I switched to Orchard View, I would have never thought my work hard to keep my average high, along with working at Adams Fairacre Farms...” remarked Autumn Sharpe.

“As a student at Orchard View Alternative High School, I am proud to be the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020, said Autumn Sharpe, via email. "In the last 4 years, I have worked hard to keep my average high, along with working at Adams Fairacre Farms," remarked the valedictorian.

“I am forever grateful for having the opportunity to attend Orchard View,” said Autumn, who plans on attending Dutchess County Community College and pursuing a degree in Business. “I would eventually like to own my own business and be a successful entrepreneur one day.” remarked Autumn.

**GRADUATES**

As a student at Orchard View Alternative High School, I am proud to be the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020, said Autumn Sharpe, via email. “In the last 4 years, I have worked hard to keep my average high, along with working at Adams Fairacre Farms,” remarked the valedictorian. “I am forever grateful for having the opportunity to attend Orchard View,” said Autumn, who plans on attending Dutchess County Community College and pursuing a degree in Business. “I would eventually like to own my own business and be a successful entrepreneur one day.” remarked Autumn.

“...My greatest achievement in school is earning Salutatorian and getting the point of graduation. At the beginning of high school before I switched to Orchard View, I would have never thought my work hard to keep my average high, along with working at Adams Fairacre Farms...” remarked Autumn Sharpe.

“As a student at Orchard View Alternative High School, I am proud to be the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020, said Autumn Sharpe, via email. “In the last 4 years, I have worked hard to keep my average high, along with working at Adams Fairacre Farms,” remarked the valedictorian. “I am forever grateful for having the opportunity to attend Orchard View,” said Autumn, who plans on attending Dutchess County Community College and pursuing a degree in Business. “I would eventually like to own my own business and be a successful entrepreneur one day.” remarked Autumn.

Valedictorian

Halie Every


Attending Villanova; plans to major in Civil Engineering

Message to Classmates:
“We made it through the stables, can’t wait for the rest of the ride. Love you all.”

Salutatorian

Tessa Fountain

Activities: National Honor Society, Drama Club, Mock Trial, Jazz Band, Select Chorus

Attending Union College; plans to major in Political Science and Film

Message to Classmates:
“Graduation is not the end, it’s the beginning. Best of luck to all the Class of 2020.”

To the Millbrook High School Graduates of 2020

Congratulations, Seniors!

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July 1-7, 2020 - Graduation 2020 - 9


Valedictorian
Anna Marcotte
Throughout her academic career, Anna has worked extremely hard, and her love of learning has driven her to seek as much knowledge as she can gain. While in high school, she has challenged herself with Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. Anna is one of 15 seniors who have chosen to pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, the most rigorous course load available to Red Hook High School students. A snapshot of Anna’s extracurricular schedule shows her to be a very well rounded individual. She is a percussionist in the school band and plays both the piano and ukulele outside of school. Anna is a strong athlete, who has played both softball and volleyball throughout high school. She is the libero on the current two-time Section IX Championship volleyball team.

Salutatorian
Alexandra Snyder
Alexandra Snyder is a multifaceted student and giving contributor in the Red Hook Community. She was an instrumental team leader for the Red Hook Robotics Team, attending World Championships in 2017 and 2019, earned a third degree black belt in Tang Soo Do; is an accomplished flutist; and founded her own bracelet design business. She additionally created and performed a regular comedic segment on Red Hook Broadcasting Company, and was a writer/reporter for the school newspaper. Alex will be attending Johns Hopkins University in the fall, and plans to study biomedical engineering.

Congratulations
Red Hook High School
Class of 2020
Best Wishes - Judge Jonah Triebwasser


Continued on page 12

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Class of 2020

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Pandemic Graduates of 2020

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the Class of 2020

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Continued from page 10

McCluskey, Kevin McCredden, Ryan McEnroe, Alexandra Mead, Michelle Mialma Romero, Abigail Molinaro, Zachary Monarchi, Matthew Morris, Alec Morrison, Jacob Moyer, Isaac Mann, Alexis Murphy, Anna Murphy, Cole Naccarato, Hunter Nelson, Alexandra Newhoff, Maximus Newkirk, Matthew Oberly, Declan O’Callaghan, Emma O’Connell, Ava O’Farrell, Sydney Ottman, Tyler Petruzso, Oliver Pflaum, Madison Pidgeon, Colby Piotto, Amelia Pitcher, Natasha Podolsky, Jordan Rabadi, David Reyes, Lauren Rhynaders, Shannon Rhynaders, Janie Richmond-Lauffer, Samantha Riley, David Ringleben, Jacob Rivera, Ryan Robertson, Aiden Rogers, Evan Rohrmeier, Renee Ragor, Cian Ryan, Liam Schmitz, Tyler Schnetzler, Jason Sember, Maria Serapiao, Joseph Shaw, Lucas Sheprow, Casidy Shook, Benjamin Shultis, Jenna Simmonds-Clark, Katrina Slater, Veronica Slesinski, Chloe Smith, Shayla Snow, Alexandra Snyder, Christopher Sowinski, Matteo Spagnoli, Christopher Steffen-Boone, Christopher Stephens, Mackenzie Storrs, Sydney Styles, Chance Timperio, Justin Torres, Jonathan Torres, Justina Tran, Tristen Truitt, Nicholas Tsironis, Cole Turgeon, John Vell, Ashley Voeburgh, Mackenzie Wade, Kyle Wahlgquist, David Wert, Kaela Wigley, Madison Wright

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Rhinebeck High School Students
Rhinebeck High School
2020 GRADUATES


Grace Ellis is the President of the Student Council, Co-President of the French Club, and Managing Editor of Rhinebeck Reality Newspaper. She served as a Youth Delegate at the 17th Annual World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Merida, Mexico, worked at the Starr Library for three years as a page, and is the founder of the Rhinebeck Young Writers Workshop. She is the recipient of the Scholastic Writing Awards American Voices Nominee for Excellence in Personal Essay Writing and the Scholastic Writing Awards Gold Key for Excellence in Flash Fiction Writing. She is a 2020 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction and has been named to the Rhinebeck High School High Honor Roll for her entire high school career. She will attend Yale University. She is the daughter of Pamela and Steve Ellis of Rhinebeck.

Jillian Holen is an Ambassador Member of the Girl Scouts, Co-Vice President of the Rhinebeck Interact Club (participating in 3 Interact Service Trips from 2018-2020), Co-President of the French Club, Treasurer of the Student Council and Secretary of the National Honor Society. She is also a Tutor for the Life, Learning, and Language Tutoring Program at Chancellor Livingston School, a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team and a member of the RHS Women’s Choir. Holen is an AP Scholar with Honor, has been named to the Rhinebeck High School High Honor Roll for her entire high school career, and she has been named Student of the Month in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and College and Careers. She will attend Binghamton University. She is the daughter of Cathy and Gregory Holen of Rhinebeck.

The faculty and staff of Rhinebeck High School are proud to announce the Class of 2020 Valedictorian of the Career and Technical Institute (CTI), Rhinebeck High School Senior Thomas Beichert. Beichert, as a student in the Dutchess BOCES CTI, was nominated for the CTI National Honor Society, achieved the CTI High Honor Roll for his entire career at CTI, and placed first in the Skills USA Competition in 2019 in the Carpenter Assistant Division. At Rhinebeck, Beichert was named Rookie of the Year as a freshman on the Rhinebeck Varsity Crew Team, and Oarsman of the Year in his junior year.

Beichert has been a member of the Dutchess County 4-H Shooting Club for five years, and earned gold, silver and bronze medals in competitions at the state level. He is also a Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 228 of the Hudson Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He hiked the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2016, participated in a High Adventure Canoe trip at Northern Tier Scout Camp in Minnesota in 2019, and he earned the Eagle Scout Rank in 2020, completing his Eagle project of replacing the entrance signs to the Town of Rhinebeck.

He has been an altar server at the Good Shepherd Church in Rhinebeck since 2012, and he joined the Rhinebeck Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 2019. Beichert will attend Dutchess County Community College (DCC) in the fall, majoring in Construction Technology Management, where he has been invited to apply as CTI Valedictorian for the Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence. The Conklin Scholarship covers all tuition for attendance at DCC. Beichert is the son of Paul and Jennifer Beichert of Rhinebeck.

Cara Carbone is very thankful to be the valedictorian of the 2020 class of Roy C. Ketcham High School. She has loved taking part in many clubs and activities throughout her four years. Cara had the pleasure of being a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She also served as the President of the Math Honor Society. She played violin and piano in String Ensemble and Jazz Band, and enjoyed performing at various concerts and club events.

Cara also played on the varsity soccer team and participated in spring and winter track. Cara appreciates the thoughtful advice and guidance she received from her teachers, coaches, and advisors, and will never forget the memories made with her teammates. Cara will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall to study engineering. She plans to continue her education to earn both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

Tabshiruddin “Tabshir” Forkan is honored to be named salutatorian of the Class of 2020 at Roy C. Ketcham High School. In the past four years, Tabshir has worked hard with the support of teachers, administration, family, and friends along the way. He is extremely grateful for the opportunities he has been given in the classes and clubs of Ketcham. Outside of school, Tabshir takes part in various activities to pursue his passion for community service. As president of his youth group, Tabshir has organized several projects to support local and global communities in need. For the past three years, he has worked with the American Red Cross to organize and coordinate annual blood drives. He also interns for a national social justice and advocacy organization.

Now, Tabshir is ready to move on to the next chapter of his life in college. He plans to study Government/Political Science at Georgetown University beginning this fall, and hopes to attend law school in the future.

Tabshiruddin Tabshir Forkan

Continued on page 15
Continued from page 14


A Salute to the 2020 graduates

By Stacey van den Thoorn

What a time to be alive!

What a crazy time it’s been
and now you’re moving on in life
another chapter to begin.

Your time has finally come!
The end of your senior year!

To say it’s been a bit surreal,
is pretty loud and clear.

Some lessons learned while not so fun,
have value nonetheless.

There is no doubt -
we know YOU know
the true meaning of success.

This milestone you have achieved,
is unlike any other.

You gained great insight on how to live,
how to rebound and recover.

Although this ceremonious time may not look the way you planned,
we cannot help but be impressed
while before us here you stand.

So, while life can be uncertain,
with times of unexpected events -
remember you can rise above,
and hold strong with diligence.

Remember too that trying times can bring out the very best.

It may not always be what you plan,
but full of beauty nonetheless.

Please accept our best wishes,
and of course we give our love -
We are so very proud of YOU,
and your determination to rise above.

So somewhere down the road stop in to just say “Hi!”

For now we will just say “Farewell,”
As we prefer that to “Goodbye.”

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Ad - 1/4 page (4 7/8”w X 8”h)
Editorial - (4 7/8”w X 8”h)

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Southern Contact: Jaimie Rodriguez 845-784-8556 jr@southernnews.com

Ad - 1/2 page (9 7/8”w X 8”h)
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To help businesses reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic, we at the Northern & Southern Dutchess News, Beacon Free Press are “giving back” with a free matching space program. It’s simple – buy an advertisement and get the same amount of space FREE right next to the advertisement to tell readers about your reopening guidelines and any special offers you may have. Photos are fine, too. (We’ll even help to write the article and build the advertisement – no extra charge.)

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An expert at all aspects of real estate from marketing to negotiating and promotion, it’s no surprise that Patricia has listed and sold thousands of homes.

With more than three decades of experience, she has worked in every nook and cranny of Dutchess County, gathering knowledge at every turn. The combination of this insight and her ability to really listen to her customers’ needs and her contagious spirit is what makes Patricia so unique and successful.

She is the one broker people turn to when they want a true professional. Be sure to view her listings at www.patprealestate.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Hyde Park, pursuant to the Municipal Law of the State of New York, is hereby giving Notice to all persons, that requests have been filed with the Dutchess County Legislature, in the Agricultural Districts:

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Please see the Dutchess County website at https://www.dutchessny.gov for a complete list of the tax parcels to be heard.

The Annual Meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature will be held on June 9, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Please see the Dutchess County website at https://www.dutchessny.gov for a complete list of the tax parcels to be heard.

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June 26, 2020

CAROLYN MORRIS
Dutchess County Legislature
Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills. The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 5

Binox by Krazydad

- The finished puzzle should be filled with Xs and Os.
- Horizontally and vertically, there should never be a continuous run of the same symbol longer than 2.
- There are an equal number of Xs and Os in each row and column.
- All rows are unique.
- All columns are unique, too.
Cuomo determined to continue controlling the spread in New York

By Kate Goldsmith

As several states see their infection rates substantially increasing, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has taken steps to ensure that New York's coronavirus numbers keep trending in the right direction.

"New York was one of the states hit hard at the onset of the pandemic, but over the course of a few months it has been able to "bend the curve" on hospitalizations, infection rates, deaths and other key metrics. The state's percentage of positive tests continues to hover around 1 percent. New Yorkers have controlled the spread of this unprecedented virus by being smart and disciplined, and our progress to date is illustrated by the current low numbers of new cases and hospitalizations," Cuomo said on Sunday. "But as we are seeing in other states who reopened quickly, the pandemic is far from over and we need stay vigilant."

On Sunday, the governor directed the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to investigate a potential COVID-19 exposure at a high-school graduation in Westchester County (part of the Mid-Hudson region) from an individual who recently returned from Florida, which now has one of the highest infection rates in the country.

The person - who attended the Horace Greeley High School drive-in graduation ceremony on June 20 at Chappaqua Train Station - noticed they were showing symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, four more individuals who attended the ceremony and had contact with the infected person have also tested positive. All individuals who tested positive are currently self-isolating.

Cuomo reiterated that bars are responsible for the sidewalk/area in front of their establishment and must comply with health regulations or they can lose their liquor license.

On Sunday, New York had 5 deaths related to COVID-19 and its lowest single-day number since March 15. Hospitalizations are down to 1,948, below 2,000. The Hudson Valley's rate of positive tests continues to stay around 1 percent. The number of new cases, percentage of tests that are positive are currently self-isolating. "These industries are unusually risky from a health standpoint," Cuomo said. "The state is undertaking further study to ensure we make informed decisions before reopening."

New York is reaching out to offer assistance to states with high infection rates. "As states across the nation are seeing spikes in new cases, New York's outlook remains good," the governor said, adding, "In our hour of need we had volunteers from across the country who helped us go from one of the worst states in the country to one of the best, and we will repay that help and that kindness in any way we can."

A new NYS Department of Health order allows Nourish NY households receiving Nourish NY products.

$65 million in federal CARES Act funding is available for child-care providers statewide through the New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive Program. The funding will be closed programs back to operation to serve families returning to the workplace.

Malls, movie theaters and gyms will not reopen under Phase 4 guidelines as originally thought. "These industries are unusually risky from a health standpoint," Cuomo said. "The state is undertaking further study to ensure we make informed decisions before reopening."

New York restaurants and bars can continue selling alcoholic beverages for takeout and delivery for an additional 30 days as of June 26. This extends a measure implemented March 17. Cuomo reiterated that bars are responsible for the sidewalk/area in front of their establishment and must comply with health regulations or they can lose their liquor license.

In another effort to mitigate risk of new infection clusters, Cuomo issued an executive order that makes New York employers who voluntarily travel to high-risk states ineligible for COVID-19 paid sick leave.

"If we are going to maintain the progress we've seen, we need everyone to take personal responsibility," said Cuomo. "We've gone through hell once - we don't want to go through it again," Cuomo stated.

IN BRIEF:

- The Nourish NY Initiative continues to provide free food in need with access to healthy food. Over the past 50-plus days, Nourish NY has purchased 4,8 million pounds, or 557,018 ounces, of raw milk from farmers, which has been distributed to those in need in the form of yogurt, cheese and other dairy products, in addition to milk. Nourish NY has taken place with an estimated 114,833 households receiving Nourish NY products.

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Cuomo determined to continue controlling the spread in New York

The DOH has directed any home with an indicatedCluster that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10 percent test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average. This provision does not apply if the employee travels for work or at the employer's request.

When we need new, roofs, windows, doors, or help paying for them, call Homeowners, called for residents to attend the Dutchess County Goes Renegade debut on Saturday, July 4. A collaboration between Dutchess County Government, the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Dutchess County Fairgrounds and Silo Ridge Field Club, and sponsored by Central Hudson Gas & Electric and iHeartMedia of the Hudson Valley. Residents will be able to increase capacity to 25 percent, from the current 25 percent maximum.

Mid-Hudson Bridge, other New York landmarks lit up in recognition of Pride Month

Governor Andrew Cuomo last week announced landmarks across the state would be lit in honor of Pride Month and the LGBT+ community, including the spire of One World Trade Center, the Pershing Square Viaduct, the Kosciuszko Bridge, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the Mid-Hudson Bridge, the marcher in the front of the Whiteface Lake Placid Olympic Center, the SUNY Central Administration Building, the State Education Building, the Alfred E. Smith Building, Niagara Falls and the State Fair Exposition Center and LED boards featured at the State Fair Main Gate. All the landmarks were illuminated in celebration of Pride in New York and the 50th anniversary of the first Pride march in New York City. Shown is the Mid-Hudson Bridge. June was Pride Month.

- Courtesy photo by Kevin P. Coughlin / Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

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Government
- Dutchess County
- The Mid-Hudson region are currently on track to begin Phase 4 of New York's reopening plan, NY Forward, on July 7. Industries permitted to resume in this phase include higher education, low-risk arts & entertainment and media production. Guidance is available at https://forward.ny.gov/.

In addition, gathering capacity will increase to 50 people, up from the current 25 person maximum. Houses of worship will be able to increase capacity to 33 percent, up from the current 25 percent maximum.

However, several industries that were scheduled to reopen have now been postponed, including malls, gyms and amusement parks. That state has not yet set a reopening date for these businesses.

As Independence Day approaches, County Executive Marc Molinaro encouraged residents to attend the "Dutchess County Goes Renegade!" celebration on Saturday, July 4. A collaboration between Dutchess County Government, the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Dutchess County Fairgrounds and Silo Ridge Field Club in Pleasant Valley.

Dutchess goes Renegade will offer free socially distant fireworks displays on July 4, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck and Silo Ridge Equestrian Center in Amenia.

Gates will open at each venue at 7:30 p.m., and parking is limited at each site. No alcohol will be permitted at this carry-in/carry-out event, and residents are asked to maintain their car for the duration of the event.

Dutchess County Government continues to provide residents the most current information on its COVID-19 Community Impact Dashboard, as well as guidance and updates on its website, http://www.dutchessny.gov/coronavirus , its Coronavirus hotline, (845) 486-3555, and on Facebook and Twitter (@DutchessCoGov).