

BEACON FREE PRESS

Wappinger supervisor warns of scam

By Kristine Coulter

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini alerted residents and business owners to what he described as a phishing scam.

"This was a very elaborate phishing scam using an independent email account and documentation made to look like it was from the Town of Wappinger government. Fortunately, no members of our community have fell victim to this scam, as soon as we were made aware of this incident, we were provided the false documentation, and immediately notified our community," Cavaccini told Beacon Free Press.

In an email sent to Wappinger residents and business owners, Cavaccini stated: "It has come to our attention that individuals posing as representatives of the Town of Wappinger Planning and Zoning Departments have attempted to defraud members of our community through a phishing scam. These scammers are using false email addresses and impersonating Town officials in an effort to deceive recipients into wire transferring money under the false pretense of being added to a Planning Board agenda."

"I am proud to say that this is not due to a failure in the Town's network or computer systems. We have very robust protections surrounding our servers and this was not a data breach," the supervisor stated on July 2.

Cavaccini stressed the following in his email to the community, "Let me be clear: The Town of Wappinger will never request wire transfers or online payments in exchange for placement on any Planning, Zoning, or Town Board agenda."

"All official Town of Wappinger communications are conducted using secure email addresses ending in .gov," stated Cavaccini. "If you receive a message that appears suspicious or is requesting personal or financial information, do not respond and do not send money." The supervisor said to "please verify the source immediately" by contacting Wappinger Town Hall directly at 845-297-2744.

Town officials are "working closely with the proper authorities to investigate these incidents and to protect our residents and business community," he said. "Your vigilance and cooperation are critical in helping us stop these fraudulent activities."

Cavaccini thanked all for helping to keep the Town of Wappinger "safe and secure."

Volume 74, Number 28

July 9, 2025

BCSD superintendent informs community on cell phone policy, upgrades to school sites

By Kristine Coulter

In a recent update to the community, on the Beacon City School District (BCSD) website, BCSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Landahl stated the District is "working to finalize our cell phone policy by the end of July."

According to the superintendent, the Board of Education policy committee met on Monday, July 7, to discuss the policy. The policy will then be brought to the entire Board of Education for adoption at the Monday, July 21 board meeting, he said. "It is clear that everyone wants clarity around the process, procedures, and consequences for not following the new law. Families also want clarity around communication now that students will not have access to their cell phones at lunch and during the school day," said the superintendent.

Landahl said these details will be shared this month and he "will keep [the community] updated as we work with the Board of Education on the adoption of the policy."

Landahl also noted work that will be done during the summer.

"We have some remaining items from our 2021 Capital Project that we are finishing this summer," stated Landahl.

"Most exciting for our students is that we are adding playground equipment to Sargent Elementary and Glenham Elementary. The plan is for the new equipment to be installed by the start of the school year. We are also working on developing plans for adding some play structures to Rombout Middle School. Last year, we added new playground equipment to Forrestal and South Avenue. I will keep you updated as these plans develop," said the superintendent.

During the summer, new unit ventilators



In a recent update to the community, Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl wrote about the upgrades to the HVAC system at Beacon High School, which are set to begin over the summer.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

will be installed in most of the classrooms at Glenham, said Landahl. "Sections of adjacent bookcases will be replaced to accommodate the size difference of the new unit ventilators. Many classrooms will receive new casework, including cubbies for student use with storage for teaching supplies above," he noted.

This next phase is the beginning of the 2024 Capital Project, he said.

Landahl also mentioned the plan to upgrade the HVAC at Beacon High School (BHS). An underground oil storage tank will be removed on the east side of that school building this summer, he said. "The adjacent cooling towers, as well as chillers located inside the building, will be removed this fall. New air-cooled chillers will be installed and ready for operation for the 2026 cooling season.

In the spring, and after the heating season, two older boilers will be removed and replaced with new high-efficiency units. Older water heaters will also be replaced," Landahl explained.

A "more developed timeline for the other parts of the 2024 Capital Project," will be shared in mid-August, according to the superintendent.

In his comments to the Beacon community, Landahl congratulated the BHS Class of 2025: "I want to take a moment to thank everyone reading this for a great school year. It is such a privilege to end the year celebrating our students, capping it off with the Beacon High School Class of 2025 last night (June 26)! It is also a privilege to work in such an amazing community! Thank you!"

Music series at the Hopewell Depot begins July 13

By Kristine Coulter

The Hopewell Depot Museum will offer "Music at the Depot" beginning July 13.

"Our free concert series provide an enjoyable afternoon with families and friends in a historic setting. Sit in the shade under the pavilion or on the lawn. The music is aimed at a general audience and includes folk, blues, a little rock & roll, jazz and big band. Bring your lawn or beach chair, relax, join us in our 50/50 raffle," stated Dave Pfirman, president of the Hopewell Depot Museum, an all-volunteer organization.

Continued on page 2



"Music at the Depot" will begin with the band Beer Caps & Quarters on July 13 at the Hopewell Depot Museum in East Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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Grinnell Library hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony to show renovations

Grinnell Library in the Village of Wappingers Falls celebrated renovations that have been completed with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The renovations and work on the historic 1887 building were the culmination of six years of planning. There was also a year and a half of construction work that has revitalized the beloved local landmark, according to library officials.

Grinnell Library Director Kristen Campbell said the renovations included “meticulous restoration of the original brickwork, replacement of all windows and cedar shingles, and a full roof replacement featuring new copper gutters; bringing new life to the 19th-century structure while preserving its architectural integrity.”

Campbell said that the “success of this large-scale project was made possible by the leadership and expertise of local architect Nasim Gafur from p2g Architecture and Joe Barone of Barone Construction, both of whom were present to commemorate the occasion.”

Community members and local officials took part in the ribbon-cutting cere-

mony, along with members of the Grinnell Library Board of Trustees. Among the local, county and state officials that attended the ceremony were Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr., County Legislator Lynne Miele-Versaci, County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair, and Isabella Paquette, who represented NYS Senator Rob Rolison’s office

Miele-Versaci told Beacon Free Press, “As an area resident my whole life Grinnell Library will always hold a special place in my heart. I can remember going there as a child using the card catalog to find my books and again taking my children to story time and of course doing many papers there for school. The library feels like home to me. The new renovations are a direct reflection as to why our town and community are amazing; we invest in history and hold the places that matter to us close. I was honored to attend that celebration and ribbon cutting and look forward to sharing and highlighting with our new community members just what a special place Grinnell Library is and will continue to be.”



Grinnell Library representatives, along with local and county officials, celebrated the recent renovations at the library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
-Courtesy photo Grinnell Library

Music series at the Hopewell Depot begins July 13

Continued from cover

Scheduled to appear are Beer Caps & Quarters on Sunday, July 13 at 2 p.m. Then on Sunday, July 20, at 2 p.m., The Hudson Valley Council Band will offer a variety of music. The Back Porch Singers are scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m., said Pfirman.

Althea Richards is with The Hudson Valley Council Band. She said, “Some of our pieces of music that we will be playing are the National Anthem, Armed Forces Service songs, including the new Space Force song.”

Adam Wiley will be conducting the band during the performance.

Besides the music, what else can people see at the Depot?

“We’re making good progress on finishing the interior restoration of 1916

wooden Delaware and Hudson caboose. We expect to be able to give tours of it during the concerts,” said Pfirman. He added, “We installed 4 interpretive panels last year providing a history of the Depot, Signal Tower, Caboose and Hamlet. If you haven’t seen them, they give a very good overview of the various structures and what they meant to the area. Visitors can read up on these subjects any time they are in the area.”

One may donate by visiting, <https://www.hopewelldepotmuseum.org/donate/>, by mail to Hopewell Depot Museum, PO Box 1044, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533, during the concerts or visit on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Hopewell Depot is at 36 Railroad Ave. in East Fishkill.



“Music at the Depot” will take place at the Bernie Rudberg Pavilion at the Hopewell Depot Museum in East Fishkill this summer.
-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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Cary-led paper reveals growing threat to tropical forests and carbon they store

Trees in tropical forests are dying at an increased rate, with consequences for biodiversity, carbon storage, and the global climate. While deforestation is the primary cause of forest loss, intact forests are also experiencing a rise in tree death. Drought, higher temperatures, and fires have been the leading suspects, but a new paper led by Evan Gora, a forest ecologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, identifies an underappreciated threat: thunderstorms, which are becoming more frequent with climate change.

Not to be confused with hurricanes or cyclones, these convective storms tend to be short-lived but powerful, with tree-toppling winds and lightning. In a perspective paper in Ecology Letters, Gora and colleagues lay out the case for why such storms could be a major driving force behind the rising death toll of tropical trees. As they become more common in the warming tropics, thunderstorms are a growing threat to trees and the carbon they store.

“Tropical forests have massive effects on global climate. They’re like the lungs of the Earth, and we’re seeing trees in them dying at higher rates than in the past, and the composition of forests is changing, too,” said Gora. “That could be really problematic for the future of not just tropical forests, but for the planet.”

Understanding what’s causing the trends in tree death is critical to guiding decisions about which tree species to plant or conserve in a forest, so that forest managers can ensure forests continue thriving and storing carbon long into the future. “Being in the forest during a tropical storm is unforgettable,” said coauthor Vanessa Rubio, a forest ecologist in Gora’s lab at Cary Institute. “As the storm quickly builds, the sky darkens, humidity changes drastically, and strong winds shake the trees. Then, thunder and lightning come. Leaves and branches fall to the ground, rain pours down, and your instinct is to get back to the field station as quickly as possible.”

Despite their obvious danger to people, storms had been overlooked and understudied as a potential culprit in tree mortality trends. But when the team reanalyzed data from previous studies on tropical forest carbon stocks, they found that storms were at least as good as drought and temperature in explaining the patterns of tree mortality and forest carbon storage.

“We were surprised to find that storms may be the largest single factor causing tree death in these forests, and they’re largely overlooked by research into carbon storage in the tropics,” said Gora. “Our estimates suggest that storms are responsible for 30 to 60% of tree mortality in the past, and that number must be increasing as storm activity increases by 5 to 25% each decade.”

The team also added storms to the largest plot-based study of forest biomass carbon dynamics to date. That study had previously concluded that when temperatures go above a certain threshold, tropical forests experience a fast decline in carbon stocks. “But when you add storms, that relationship goes away,” said Gora. “It basically shows that you have to include storms, or you might not get the answers right.”

Storms and droughts are not mutually exclusive, the scientists note — the same forests can experience both high storm activity and drought stress. They found high convective storm activity across the southern Amazon, where water stress is also high and patterns of change are among the most extreme.

“During my studies on threats to tropical forests, my professors, our textbooks, and even overall climate policy never mentioned small, convective storms as a potential source of forest mortality,” said coauthor Ian McGregor, a Cary Institute forest ecologist in Gora’s lab. “I don’t remember seeing them in global climate models used to inform climate policy. Given our findings, however, it’s clear we need a more thorough understanding of these storms to have more accurate climate models, and thus more effective policy.”

Serino to host annual Women’s Networking Event highlighting ‘The Faces of Resilience’

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino will host her annual Women’s Networking Event on Thursday, July 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park. This free event is an opportunity for local women to build new connections and grow their personal and professional networks.

This year’s theme, “The Faces of Resilience,” will shine a light on local women who have demonstrated unwavering strength in perseverance in the face of life’s challenges.

Attendees will hear from inspiring speakers, including:

- Karmen Smallwood, Assistant Commissioner for Youth Services, Dutchess County Government
- Britney Ettinger, Bolger House Program Director, Mental Health America of Dutchess County
- Epiphany Musabyemariya, Personal Care Assistant

“Life can test us in ways we never

expect, but the women speaking at this year’s event remind us that true strength is found in how we keep moving forward — for ourselves and for the people who count on us,” said Serino. “My hope is that everyone who attends leaves not only feeling inspired by these stories, but also connected to new friends and neighbors they can lean on. We’re stronger when we lift each other up, and this event is all about making those connections that help us do just that.”

Serino first launched this annual Women’s Networking Event in 2018 while serving as State Senator and has since brought together over one thousand women from every walk of life to share stories, build connections, and uplift one another.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited and an RSVP is required.

To reserve your spot, visit DutchessNY.gov/WomensEvent or call 845-486-2000.

Beacon Elks donate to Grace Smith House



Beacon Elks Lodge members recently delivered donated items to Grace Smith House. The donations included much needed pantry and clothing items. It was stated that the kindness and generosity of Elks members is truly inspiring and very much appreciated.

Pictured, from left, are Nikki Visciglia from Grace Smith House; Stephanie Soltish, Loyal Knight and Jennifer See, Lecturing Knight.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

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BY TERRENCE MCNALLY

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‘Signature’ exhibit at FDR Library features historic letters, objects

By Alexander Tsahalís

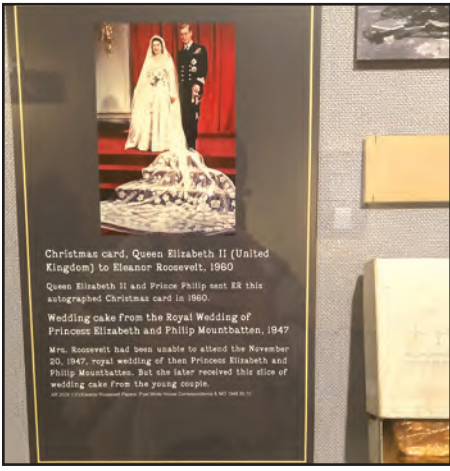
Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the longest-serving president in U.S. history. His wife, Eleanor, was the longest-served first lady. During his four terms in office, they received letters from many celebrities, politicians, heads of state, and military heroes. Now, the FDR Museum and Library has compiled some of these, along with letters from famous historical figures and the general public, into their new exhibition, “Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans.”

This exhibition has something for everyone, from the celebrity-obsessed to someone who can’t get enough of World War II history. Here’s a sample of what’s on display:

Have you ever wanted to see letters written by some of the most famous people in Hollywood? This exhibit has quite a few! In June 1938, Shirley Temple, then one of the biggest box office draws, sent FDR a Shirley Temple Police Force badge, making him an official member of her police force. Gary Cooper’s January 1944 letter to FDR also makes an appearance, along with a gift that he was given and asked to pass along to FDR from a soldier fighting in WWII. What did the soldier send? An ashtray made out of shells and bullets in the shape of a plane!



Items on display in the FDR Museum & Library’s new exhibit, “Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans,” includes an animation cell autographed by Walt Disney, a Christmas card from Queen Elizabeth II and many other items.



-Photos by Alexander Tsahalís

This ashtray wasn’t the only gift that FDR received from Hollywood royalty. In January 1940, Walt Disney sent him an animation cell from “The Pointer,” a 1939 Mickey Mouse cartoon, as a birthday gift. Are you an Anglophile obsessed with anything to do with England? You’re in luck, as both Eleanor and Franklin sent letters back and forth across the Atlantic.

FDR received letters from Edward VII during his time as Governor of the Bahamas, and Eleanor received several letters from Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, including a slice of their wedding cake, which is on display along with a Christmas card from them. Military buffs will have the chance to

see letters by George S. Patton and Douglas MacArthur. The letter from Patton was sent from Sicily during the Sicilian campaign of World War II and includes a map that Patton had been using at the time. The map also includes a note from Patton, apologizing for the dirt, as it had been in his pocket. This is the first time the map has been on display, so make sure you look out for it. The messages from MacArthur “capture the lowest and highest moments in the war with Japan in the Philippines.” They relate the struggles he faced in the Bataan Peninsula and his later return to the Philippines to free it from Japanese control.

If you want to celebrate America’s upcoming 250th anniversary, the historical documents that FDR collected are the way to do it. A letter from John Paul Jones, which he sent to an American diplomat in France, is on display, offering an opportunity to see the struggles he faced as he gave everything to the revolution. Along with that are pieces with signatures from two Americans with even greater name recognition: Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

All of this and more are on display now through July 2026 at the FDR Museum and Library in Hyde Park. Regular museum admission applies. Visit www.fdrlibrary.org for more information.

County to host ‘Putting Your Skills Back to Work’ event on July 10

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced that the County will host a free “Putting Your Skills Back to Work” Older Adults Skills Fair for older adults who are interested in exploring part-time employment or volunteer opportunities, on Thursday, July 10 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park.

Serino said, “Dutchess County’s older adults have a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that make them ideal candidates for part-time jobs or the countless volunteer opportunities within our community. Our skills fair reflects our commitment to supporting older adults in our county who want to remain vital, active and connected. Whether you’re looking to return to the workforce part-time, give back through volunteer work or just explore what’s out there, this fair

is a great place to start, and I hope to see you there!”

Whether retirees are seeking a flexible job, an opportunity to share their expertise through volunteerism or simply exploring ways to stay socially and mentally stimulated, this event will give them the chance to:

- meet local employers offering flexible, part-time positions tailored to experienced workers;
- connect with nonprofit organizations seeking dedicated volunteers; and
- enjoy complimentary light refreshments.

There is no RSVP required for guest attendance; participants can simply show up and take advantage of the many offerings.

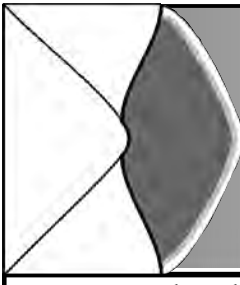
Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) Director Todd Tancredi said, “This event is a valuable resource for our older friends and neighbors. We recognize the varied experiences and knowledge they bring, and this skills fair will open doors

to new opportunities for those who still want to give back, stay active or earn a little extra income.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) provides services and advocacy to support independence, dignity and quality of life for older adults

in the county. From nutrition and wellness programs to caregiver support and employment resources, the OFA is committed to enriching the lives of local older residents.

More information about all the OFA offers at dutchessny.gov/aging.



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BEACON FREE PRESS

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

serving the communities of:
Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wiccopee,
New Hackensack and Stormville
Publisher - Albert Osten
Editor - Kristine Coulter
Reporter - Morgan E. Maier
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(USPS 665900)

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

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- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
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Mid-Hudson Regional Partnership grant helps improve student outcomes

The Mid-Hudson Regional Partnership Center (RPC) has received a grant of \$10.6 million from the New York State Education Department’s Office of Special Education, funding the RPC’s work based at Dutchess BOCES through the 2028-29 school year.

“Our primary purpose is to support schools by helping to improve outcomes for students with disabilities,” shared Ruairi Gribbon, the systems change facilitator at the Mid-Hudson RPC.

It is one of 12 grant-funded RPCs across the state and has been at Dutchess BOCES, in various forms, for over 20 years.

The grant allows the RPC to staff a team of 10 specialists and one program assistant to do this work. The organization supports a large geographic area,

covering Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties. This area includes about 20,000 students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The state identifies which schools the RPC will work with, and they receive the support at no cost.

And it works. With the help of the RPC, Dutchess County English language arts proficiency rates on New York State exams for students with disabilities went from 7% in 2019 to 14% in 2024.

Gribbon explained that there are three ways he and his team provide support. “In some cases, we go into the district, visit classrooms, meet the principals, and become part of the school. One or more specialists might be there during the week,” he shared. “In other instances, we bring schools together that have common issues. For example,

if a group of schools all have low graduation rates for students with disabilities, we will bring them together and do professional development around helping to improve those graduation rates,” he added. “Finally, we do trainings in the Dutchess BOCES Conference Center that are available to everyone.”

Transition specialist Monica Baron’s work focuses on helping schools help their students prepare for post-secondary life through a variety of assessments. “When we progress monitor and see the growth that occurs, I think that’s where the big difference can be seen. My favorite part of my job is making a difference for students,” she shared.

“The RPC has been invaluable in helping us move forward in many ways, and has become a highly trusted partner to us as we strive for continued improvements and growth for our stu-

dents and schools,” said Iris Goliger, executive director for students with exceptionalities at the Poughkeepsie City School District”

Taconic Hills Central School District Superintendent Lynette Brunger shared, “The promotion of quality components that improve student outcomes was enhanced by leadership outside of the district. Their knowledge, patience and balance of ‘pushing and pulling’ educators to build a growth mindset and be willing to shift practices allowed the work of change efforts to be embraced sooner and receive ‘buy-in’ from the various stakeholders. I fully support the Mid-Hudson RPC staff and services with a renewed contract. Without their involvement, the systems change that needed to occur would not have moved at such a strong, consistent pace.”

Greystone Programs receives donation from Mid-Hudson Subaru

Greystone Programs, Inc. is honored to be the recipient of a generous donation from Mid-Hudson Subaru as part of the national Subaru Share the Love® Event. The check presentation celebrated the impactful, community-centered partnership between Mid-Hudson Subaru and Greystone Programs, which supports individuals living with autism and other intellectual/developmental disabilities across the Hudson Valley.

The 2024 Subaru Share the Love Event raised a record-breaking \$31.7 million, the highest in the initiative’s 17-year history. Since its inception, the campaign has generated nearly \$320 million, fueling Subaru’s mission to be More Than a Car Company® and benefiting nonprofits and communities nationwide.

Jeff Walters, President and Chief Operating Officer, Subaru of America, Inc., said “Ensuring that our annual Share the Love Event is a success requires true collaboration and teamwork toward a worthy cause. This past year’s record-breaking initiative achieved far more than just raising funds for deserving organizations, it helped spread love and support in meaningful ways. None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our retailers, customers, and employees, whose shared values made 2024 an impactful and memorable year for communities nationwide.”

As a participating hometown retailer, Mid-Hudson Subaru selected Greystone Programs as its local charity partner, enabling customers to direct a portion of their vehicle purchase or lease or service purchase toward services that enrich lives throughout the Hudson Valley. The dealership’s decision to support Greystone reflects a deep, shared dedication to empowering people through compassion, inclusion, and innovation.

Skip Pryce, CEO of Greystone Programs, Inc, said, “This gift from Mid-Hudson Subaru not only supports the people we serve but highlights the power of partnership in building more inclusive communities. We are proud to be recognized in Subaru’s Share the Love initiative and thankful to everyone who chose to give locally and to the Subaru team for leading with love.”

Mid-Hudson Subaru’s support helps Greystone continue offering life-enriching programs such as Expressive Arts Therapy, Residential and Day Habilitation, community-based services throughout the Hudson Valley, NY area, and much need renovations to various properties to keep the standard of living quality. The presentation took place at Mid-Hudson Subaru’s Wappingers Falls dealership, where Greystone leadership, The Subaru team, local officials, and community supporters gathered to recognize this meaningful collaboration and its ongoing impact.

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley accepting applications for Rebuilding Day

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (RTHV) is accepting applications for their Rebuilding Day home repair and accessibility modification program. These services are provided at no cost to income qualified homeowners and focus on ensuring that individuals can live independently in a safe, warm, dry, and healthy home. The deadline for applications to be considered for the 2026 Rebuilding Day program is September 30.

Income qualified Dutchess and Ulster County homeowners are encouraged to apply. The Rebuilding Day program takes a whole-house approach. Typical repairs can include replacing a roof or windows, addressing electrical or plumbing issues, fixing a porch, installing a ramp, bathroom accessibility modifications, and much more. By performing these types of repairs, RTHV helps ensure that homeowners can live in a safe and healthy home for as long as they wish.

Neighbors, friends, and family of those who have been served by the local nonprofit all suggest and strongly encourage their fellow Dutchess and Ulster County residents to apply. A recent homeowner

exclaimed, “I can’t thank you enough for all you do. Your kindness, empathy, and concern made it an even more incredible experience. I feel blessed to have been accepted into your program when at a time in my life it was desperately needed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!” David, the son of a recent homeowner RTHV served said, “My father was amazed when everyone showed up on Rebuilding Day and was touched by the warmth of the volunteers. My dad hopes to never have to leave his home. The work performed will help with that goal by keeping him safe, secure, and happy.” Another homeowner told RTHV, “Thank you for the joy and hope that you have reignited in me. The compassion, the care and the power of working together to improve the world have had a profound impact on my home and for me. I am truly thankful for the work that you have done, I will never be able to thank you enough!”

To request an application or inquire about our programs please call the RTHV office at 845-454-7310. The application and further details can also be found at RTHudsonvalley.org.

Seven WCSD students recognized as ‘Serino Superstars’



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and members of the Wappingers Central School District, including WCSD Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk, gathered to recognize seven of “Serino Superstars.”

-Courtesy photo WCSD

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino honored seven Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) students as “Serino Superstars.” This initiative recognizes local middle-school students who are going above and beyond inside and outside of the classroom to contribute to a more positive learning environment.

WCSD staff nominated these students for making a difference in the lives of others through their kindness, courage and leadership.

Students were joined by their families

as well as staff and administrators.

The recipients were:

- Wappingers JHS, Grade 8**
Elizabeth Clark
Kyla Rosado
Carmita Llangari-Galindo
Nicholas Lochard
- Van Wyck Junior High School, Grade 8**
Jayden Singh
Brinckerhoff Elementary, Grade 6
Mia Chen
Marco Cerabona.

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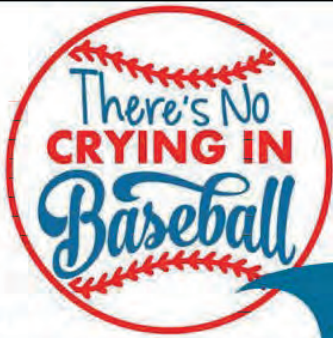


Renegades Extra!



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But You CAN
Wine!

Catchers Frick, Palencia turn up heat with hitting and defensive prowess

By Morgan E. Maier

The New York Yankees haven't had a consistent power-hitting catcher since Jorge Posada retired in 2012. Already halfway through the 2025 season, the Renegades have featured four catchers on the active roster. The recent promotion of hard-hitting Omar Martinez, has left an offensive gap that will need to be filled. Tomas Frick and newest Renegade Manuel Palencia are fit to split the difference.

Talk about a jersey swap, Martinez's number 25 jersey was hardly waiting on a hanger for Manuel Palencia's arrival on June 24. The Venezuela native has been in the Yankees system since 2021, appearing in the Florida Complex League and Single-A Tampa Tarpons before his present stop in the Hudson Valley.

In 115 games with the Florida Complex League (FCL) Yankees, Palencia led the team with a .312 average this season. He was bolstering those stats all season, all the way to a three-hit performance in his final FCL appearance.

Signed as a 17-year-old, Palencia was a prime candidate for the Yankees' farm system in 2019.



Left, In 115 games with the Florida Complex League (FCL) Yankees, Manuel Palencia led the team with a .312 average this season. Right, with five years of college ball and a season in Single-A in his bag, Tomas Frick is a fresh, seasoned figure behind the plate and in the batter's box.



The other righty behind the plate, Frick became the everyday starter after the promotion of Martinez. Frick grew up around baseball. He arrived from Tampa to begin the season in the Hudson Valley, miles from his home in Greenville, SC.

On June 4, Frick launched the first multi-home run game of his High-A career, with five RBI to propel an 8-1 win over Aberdeen. His breakout junior campaign at the University of North Carolina and subsequent NCAA Tournament appearance caught the attention of the New York Yankees. Frick's 75 hits set a career high and a program high of the season, where he also led in doubles (22), batting average (.322) and multi-RBI games. He also hit 12 home runs, second on the Tar Heels team. With five years of college ball and a season in Single-A in his bag, Frick is a fresh, seasoned figure behind the plate and in the batter's box.

This year he leads the Renegades in an unusual stat: getting plunked. Eight times Frick has sacrificed his body for a base, tying him for sixth most in the SAL. In 32 games played, he is top 10 among the league's active catchers in home runs and RBI, and 11th in hits.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

Through development leagues and the rookie leagues, Palencia has found his way to Minor League Baseball, now 22 years old. He hit .333 last season, after separate stints on the injured list kept him inactive for half the Tarpons' year. He arrived to the Renegades during the

recent roadtrip, debuting on June 25. That first High-A hit didn't take long. Palencia extended a game-tying rally with a single in his second at bat. Palencia has made 14 plate appearances in his young Hudson Valley career, and it's likely he will continue to split games with Tomas Frick.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greensboro PIT					11	4	.733	-	7-3	W1
	Hudson Valley NYY					9	6	.600	2.0	6-4	W2
	Brooklyn NYM *					8	7	.533	3.0	4-6	L2
	Wilmington WSH					7	8	.467	4.0	6-4	W2
	Aberdeen BAL					6	9	.400	5.0	4-6	L1
	Jersey Shore PHI					5	10	.333	6.0	4-6	L2
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Bowling Green TB *					9	6	.600	-	5-5	L1
	Hub City TEX					9	6	.600	-	7-3	W5
	Asheville HOU					8	7	.533	1.0	5-5	W1
	Greenville BOS					7	7	.500	1.5	6-4	L1
	Rome ATL					6	8	.429	2.5	4-6	W1
	Winston-Salem CWS					4	11	.267	5.0	2-8	L5



Home Schedule

July			August		
07/09/25	vs. Asheville	06:35 PM	08/05/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM
07/10/25	vs. Asheville	06:35 PM	08/06/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM
07/11/25	vs. Asheville	07:05 PM	08/07/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM
07/12/25	vs. Asheville	05:05 PM			
07/13/25	vs. Asheville	02:05 PM			
07/23/25	vs. Rome	12:05 PM			
07/24/25	vs. Rome	06:35 PM			
07/25/25	vs. Rome	07:05 PM			
07/26/25	vs. Rome	05:05 PM			
07/27/25	vs. Rome	02:05 PM			
Jewish Heritage Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery			Strikeout Cancer Night Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA		
Union Night Blue Renegades Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union			Renegades Musical HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)		
Italian Heritage Night Fireworks Friday			Copa De La Diversión: Caribbean Night Presented By Cafe Con Leche		
Beach Night Hawaiian Shirt Giveaway Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets			HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)		
Gades 5K Star Wars Day					
Camp Day Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery					
Hudson Valley Retrievers: Who's A Good Dog? Presented By The Brothers That Just Do Gutters Retrievers Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union					
Christmas In July Fireworks Friday					
Introducing The Hudson Valley Big Apples Big Apples Bucket Hat Giveaway Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets					
Princess Day Sunday Family Funday					





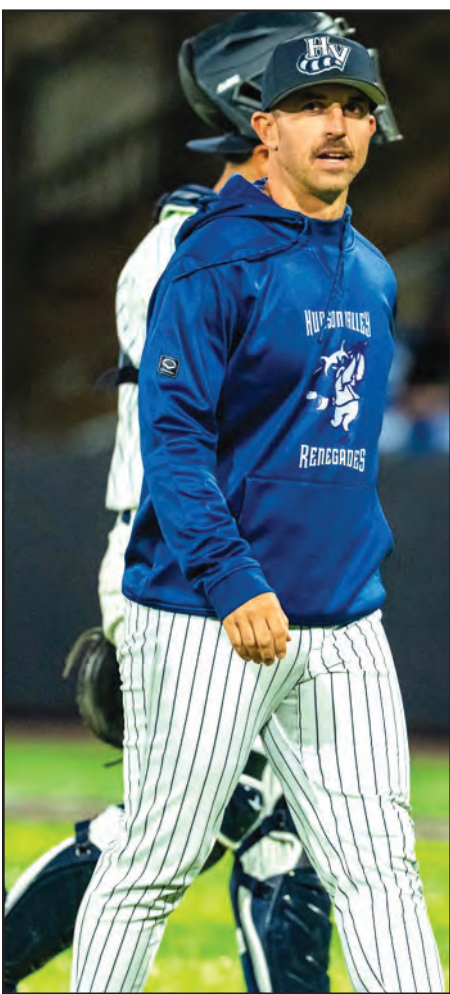
Renegades Extra!



‘Rascals’ - Renegades hand out inaugural red carpet awards



Above, shortstop George Lombard Jr. won the Rookie of the Year honor. He has moved to Double A Somerset.



Right, Demetre Kokoris was named Coach of the Year. The Renegades’ first-year pitching coach has dialed up the heat, playing each hurler to their strengths.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

The Renegades promotional staff has just released the inaugural Rascals. Jace Avina took the prize for favorite Renegade and Josh Moylan’s grand slam was voted favorite Play of the Season by

Renegades fans.

Fans in attendance on July 2 won their accolades, as youngster Jack won the “Super Swaggy” Award by unanimous decision. This is the writer’s first-half All-Hudson Valley awards. Of course, every-

one can’t be a winner in baseball, but everyone who walks on the Heritage Financial red carpet must feel like one.

2. Song of the Summer — “Fireman” by Lil Wayne. The song that happens every time the Renegades take the field. Every. single. Game. Other teams have “Thank God I’m a Country Boy” or “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” but the Renegades’ anthem speaks to their hot hitting and slinging pitches - especially the flame-throwing Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz. Batters beware. Blink and you’ll miss those triple digit pitches. The more Renegades games one attends, the more they may learn to rap like Mr. Wayne.

Runner-up: The entire lineup’s walk up songs. From Bad Bunny to Creed, to Pop Smoke, the Renegades offense is fueled by various genres, artists and pump-up jams. For fans who have chameleon-like music tastes, the bottom innings are a joy, a mixed bag of buzzing tunes.

3. Stephen Vogt Coach of the Year – Demetre Kokoris, no doubt. The Renegades’ first-year pitching coach has dialed up the heat, playing each hurler to their strengths. Before July, pitchers allowed just 29 home runs and 425 hits to lead the South Atlantic League. Vogt, reigning American League manager of the year, was himself a catcher. And he knows good pitching. His Cleveland Guardians boasted the lowest bullpen ERA in the majors last season, plus the Closer of the year and Cy Young finalist Emmanuel Clase. Kokoris’ relievers offered Hudson Valley a similar result, with the only sub-.200 batting average against in the league ahead of July - especially newcomer Tony Rossi, who made 15 straight appearances before allowing a run.

4. Best Dressed - Styled by Rene Gade, not Dolce and Gabbana. The vintage throwback threads win best in show. Where other, newer teams must enlist the designer “Fauxbacks” instead of classic looks, the Renegades have a costume fit for any retro feel.

A showstopper, a classic written in maroon and green. Just pinstripes, vintage Rookie decal, and a bushy-tailed HV for the cap.

one can’t be a winner in baseball, but everyone who walks on the Heritage Financial red carpet must feel like one.

1. Rookie of the Year – awarded to a player who played less than a full season at the High-A level. As the only Yankees prospect to be named to the 2025 All-Star Futures Game, shortstop George Lombard Jr. takes the award. Lombard, 20 years plus one-month-old, has stolen 14 bases for Somerset and reached safely in 13 straight games to close the month of June. He’s further amassed a highlight reel of defensive plays that bring him to

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades grab five key wins against Cyclones

By Morgan E. Maier

“Amazin’ Starts Here,” read the Maimonides Park backstop. So does resetting, apparently. The Hudson Valley Renegades (47-32) entered the latter half of a home-and-away series against the Brooklyn Cyclones (54-27) with three straight wins. As the MLB Subway Series was underway between New York’s Mets and Yankees, the Renegades won the High-A edition, winning five of six against Brooklyn.

It’s just a stone’s throw away from where Joey Chestnut devoured 70 hot dogs in the annual July 4 eating contest, Hudson Valley took two wins on Coney Island. Prior to dropping three at Heritage Financial Park from June 1-3, the Cyclones hadn’t lost more than two straight games all year.

Double or nothing – After Monday’s downpour couldn’t dry out the field, the Renegades swept Tuesday’s doubleheader. Three doubleheaders happened in the SAL that very day, culminating in three sweeps. The Renegades were on the right side of theirs, gaining two games on the division standings. In the Renegades’ first complete game this year, Kyle Carr went 7.0 scoreless innings. He held the Cyclones to just three hits in Hudson Valley’s second two-run win of the say. A few hours earlier, the Renegades prevailed 5-3, backed by a three-run first-inning bomb by Vargas. The who extended his hitting streak to 11 on July 2. Two wins in fourteen innings, and ground gained in the division standings. Not bad for a shortened homestand.

Fourth Fireworks – Perhaps propelled

by Chestnut’s antics, the Cyclones captured their only win of the series on July 4. Luis Durango’s speed on the basepaths made the difference on July 5. With a gutsy bunt off the triple digit-throwing Raimon Gomez, Durango set up Duncan Pastore to knock in the game’s first run. The Renegades own flamethrower Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz, (cue “Fireman” by Lil Wayne) pitched a three hit masterpiece for the Saturday series win. The Renegades scored all seven of their runs after the sixth inning. And Brenny Escanio twice flashed the leather – once on a screaming line drive and a sliding ground ball play – to keep ERC’s scoreless outing.

Running of the Bullpen - With six pitchers taking the mound for Hudson Valley, the visitors prevailed in the series finale.

Dillon Lewis hit a two run home run on

July 6 to break a 0-0 deadlock, while LHP Geoff Gilbert offered his longest outing of the season. The ‘pen combined for just two hits, and one run in the Renegades win. Though Brooklyn has three walkoff Sunday wins this season, they couldn’t finish the comeback. Hudson Valley closed the series with a 2-1 win, though Brooklyn threatened to tie with a leadoff ninth inning double. Tony Rossi shut down the Cyclones without real damage, stranding inherited runners at first and second base.

This series began with Alex Vargas’ first career South Atlantic League Player of the Month award. He looks to continue a 15-game hitting streak – Hudson Valley’s longest since 2007 – when the Asheville Tourists (37-43) come to visit Hudson Valley this week.

Annual reading of Declaration of Independence in Village of Fishkill



Community members gathered outside Van Wyck Village Hall in the Village of Fishkill for the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on Independence Day, Friday, July 4. This year's reader was re-enactor Jack Sherry, who portrayed Benjamin Franklin, one of the country's Founding Fathers. Members of the East Fishkill Historical Society took part in the event.

-Courtesy photos Village of Fishkill Facebook page



‘Wide range’ of events, exhibitions at Vassar’s Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center in Poughkeepsie

With the arrival of summer, Vassar’s Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center is rolling out the red carpet for art lovers this season with a wide range of events and exhibitions spanning improvised performances utilizing the gestural composing language of “Soundpainting” to exhibitions that explore the reciprocal relationship between place and person, showcase the museum’s collection of Hudson River School art, and examine images of the body fragmented into pieces.

“This summer, visitors to the Loeb will enjoy a dynamic mix of programming that will include performances, artist talks, and showcase the work of a vast array of amazing artists,” said Bart Thurber, the Anne Hendricks Bass Director.

On Thursdays in July (July 3, 10, 17, 24) from 6-7 p.m., the Loeb features “Biography Soundpainting,” an ensemble-based, improvised performance conceived and composed by Max Reuben and performed by members of the Training Company. Utilizing the gestural composing language of Soundpainting—a universal multidisciplinary live composing sign language for musicians, actors, dancers, and visual Artists, with roots in the Hudson Valley—“Biography” depicts the life and achievements of a spontaneously made-up person who is very, very real. This event is free and open to the public. No ticket required.

As part of the Loeb’s participation in Upstate Art Weekend (UPAW), following the performance on July 17, from 7-8 p.m. there will be an artist talk with

photographer Caleb Stein, Vassar Class of 2017, who will return to campus to discuss works from his ongoing series “Down by the Hudson.” Works from the series are on view in two current exhibitions. Following artist talk, attendees will be able to enjoy refreshments in the Loeb atrium.

All programming is free and open to the public.

Summer exhibitions include:
‘In Pieces: Fragmentation and the Body’

July 5–September 28

This single-gallery exhibition of photography from the Loeb’s collection explores images of the body fragmented into pieces, whether through techniques of collage and photomontage, or by using props and play. Artists including Justine Kurland, Mike Mandel, Nari Ward, and Vanessa Woods use experimentation and satire to question the idea that a person can be represented or known in full. They propose instead that we are often pieced together, bit by bit. “In Pieces: Fragmentation and the Body” is organized by Jessica D. Brier, Curator of Photography.

‘Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues: Art and Myths of the Hudson Valley’

February 15–August 17

For over two centuries, artists have continued to portray the Hudson Valley as an earthly paradise remote from the modern world. Artists imagined the

region as a promised land of religious freedom, a haven of ethnic identity, an opportunity to reconnect with nature, and a space to experiment with alternative lifestyles. At the same time, this enduring pastoral myth cloaks the region’s active ties to urban tourism and trade while obscuring histories of violent settlement, enslaved labor, and resource extraction. Gathering historic and contemporary art in various media, the exhibition invites viewers to explore how the Hudson Valley has been pictured as a place both proximate to the city and its opposite—a “great green hope” as much myth as reality.

“Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues” kickstarts the Loeb initiative, generously supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art, to reinterpret and reinstall the museum’s significant collection of Hudson River School art.

‘Water/Bodies: Sa’dia Rehman’

February 22–August 17

Artist and researcher Sa’dia Rehman has created a large, site-responsive wall drawing that breaks with the idealized pastoral representations of the Loeb’s founding collection of Hudson River School art. Paying attention to water’s material nature, and to its varying relationships with land (flooding, draining out of, contained within), Rehman will critically engage with the latent themes of empire, religion, and Manifest Destiny that undergird the Hudson Valley, as well as global histories of dam displacement and shifting waterways.

‘Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Space-Making from Harlem to the Hudson Valley’

February 8–August 17

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place” is a retelling of the history of the Hudson Valley. While there are hundreds of pages dedicated to capitalists and art they funded, this small exhibi-

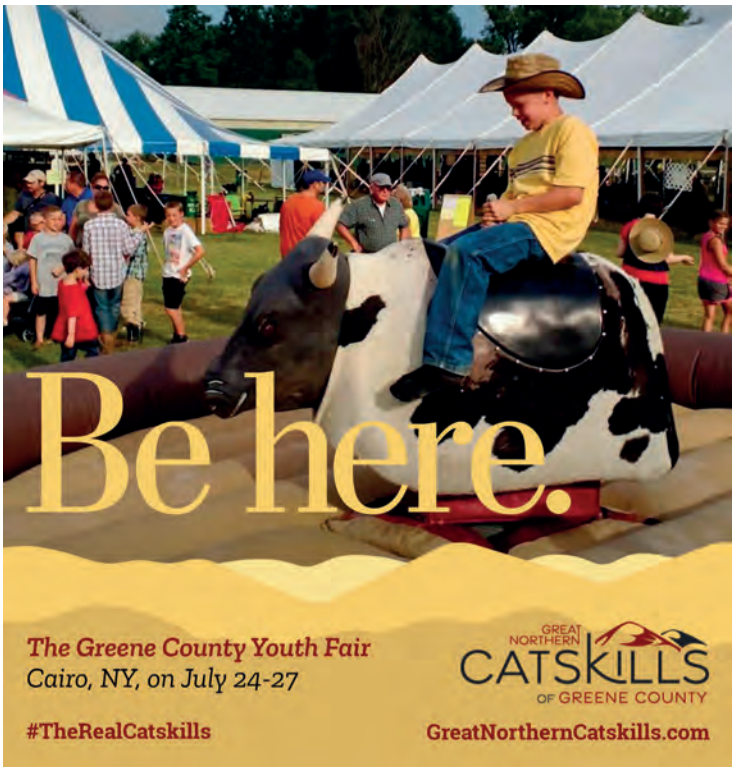
tion creates a home for an alternative history. With the Hudson River School built during the nation’s industrialization period, the Hudson Valley was a break from modernity. The school’s landscape captured the trees, the lakes, and called it utopia. Utopia for who?

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place” was organized by 2024 Ford Scholar/Pindyck Summer Fellow Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon, Vassar Class of 2026.

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College commits to Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion (DEAI) as core values across its culture, systems, and practices. They pledge to allocate resources (human and financial) to create and sustain a museum culture in which difference is celebrated. The Loeb staff is dedicated to integrating DEAI priorities into gallery installations, programming, interpretation, collections management, acquisitions, and internal processes. The ongoing work is guided by an intention to care for all people engaged with the Loeb while welcoming the exchange of ideas, enriching experiences, and diverse perspectives through art.

Admission to the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center is free and all galleries are wheelchair accessible. The Loeb is now open to the public Tuesday to Sunday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and from June through August, late nights on Thursdays (5 - 7 p.m.). The Loeb is located at 124 Raymond Avenue near the entrance to the Vassar College campus. Parking is available on Raymond Avenue. Directions to the Vassar campus in Poughkeepsie, are available at <https://www.vassar.edu/visit/tour#directions>.

The Art Center is also accessible via the Dutchess County Public Transit, Bus Route L. For additional information, the public may call 845-437-5632 or visit <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>.



‘Split Daughter of Eve’ reading on July 13

Reading of “Split Daughter of Eve,” published by Sheila-Na-Gig Editions at Poets’ Corner, Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, on Sunday, July 13, 3 p.m. It describes “a lifelong attempt to arrive at a sense of soul, self, and worldly identity, from an initial dark mess of imposed meanings.”

Tompkins Corners is at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley. Admission is \$10 at the door. Students are free. Seating is outdoors if the weather permits.

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

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Make an endothermic reaction AND my favorite dessert

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for ... the best dessert ever. Frozen confections, the precursors of ice cream, have been consumed since the second century BCE. Ancient writings tell us that Alexander the Great, King Solomon, and Nero Claudius Caesar indulged in snow and ice flavored with milk, honey, fruits, and juices.

A rare treat, snow and ice may have only been seasonally or geographically available, depending upon the ancient civilization. And, even with access to an “ice house” or other cooling method, cream that is frozen will produce large ice crystals. And that will result in a frosty, granular texture.

It wasn’t until the discovery of the endothermic effect that cream could be frozen and still be creamy. Heat energy is absorbed in endothermic reactions. Other examples of the phenomenon include evaporation, photosynthesis, and baking a cake.

In ice cream making, an endothermic effect is caused by adding salt to ice. Salt lowers the freezing point of the ice, enabling the ice cream mixture to reach a colder temperature. Smaller ice crystals form at the lower temperature, resulting in a smoother consistency.

Interestingly, the process of freezing is exothermic, which means it releases heat into the environment. But, because making ice cream involves using ice to absorb heat away from the ingredients and chill them, so that they freeze, the process of making the confection is endothermic.

Immerse yourself in the process

When you use a Cuisinart, or an ice cream attachment on your stand mixer, or even your Nostalgia Machine, you are disengaged from the ice cream making process. The best way to truly experience the endothermic reaction is to make the ice cream in a bag! You probably have everything you need for the sweet scientific indulgence right in your kitchen. Gather one cup of half-and-half, 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 1 tablespoon sugar, ice, 1/4 cup salt, a gallon size (large) zip top bag, a quart size (sandwich) zip top bag, and gloves or oven mitts.

Make ice cream in a bag

Pour the half-and-half into the quart bag, along with vanilla and sugar. Seal the bag firmly, removing any excess air. Fill the gallon bag to 3/4 full with ice, and then add salt. Place the quart bag with its contents inside the gallon bag with ice and seal it. Now, put on gloves or oven mitts and shake the gallon bag (with quart bag inside) for 10 minutes!

Feel the quart bag every couple of minutes while you shake it. Observe any changes to the ingredients and to the ice. Take the quart bag out of the gallon bag and rinse the outside of it with cold water to remove the salt residue. Use a spoon to mix the ice cream and enjoy!

Change it up

Try the recipe again, but this time, don’t add salt. After ten minutes of shaking the bags, notice how (or if) the ingredients or the ice changed. Note the temperature as compared to the recipe with salt.

Ice that is exposed to salt will melt more and feel much colder than the ice that has not been exposed to salt. The gallon bag with salt was cold enough to harden the ingredients in the quart bag and turn them into ice cream. In contrast, the gallon bag without salt was not cold enough and to solidify the ingredients in the quart bag.

As the ice started to melt in the gallon bag, the water molecules mixed with the salt molecules, making it harder for the water molecules to make an orderly pattern and crystalize. This caused a slower rate of ice re-freezing. Salt makes the temperature at which water freezes lower than it is for plain water.

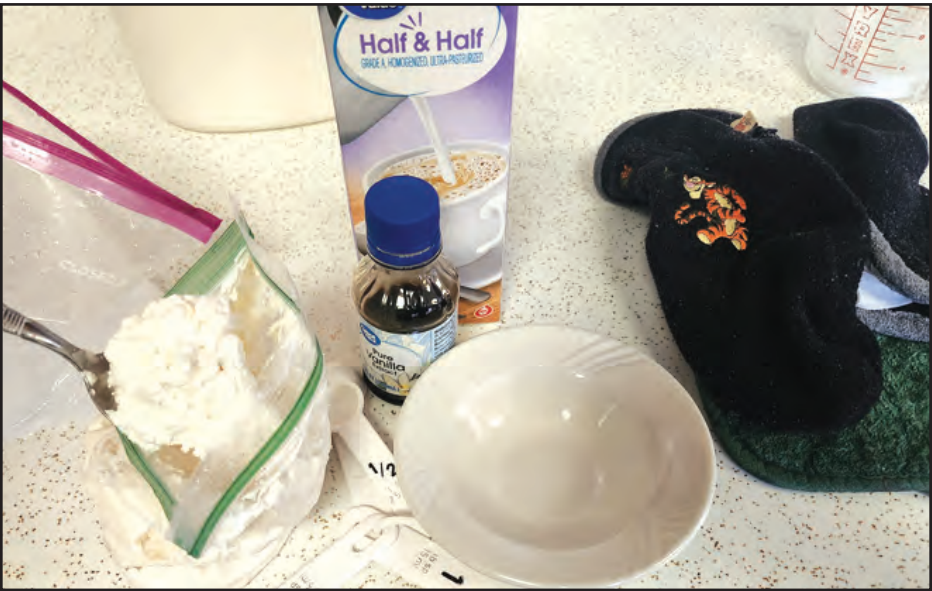
If the quart bag with the still-liquid ingredients is placed in a gallon bag with ice and salt and shaken for 10 minutes it will, at that point, turn into ice cream. Without an endothermic reaction, ice cream would just be soup. Here is an organized write-up of the activity. <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/ICE-CREAM-IN-A-BAG-BIO-CHEMISTRY-HANDS-ON-ACTIVITY-7511818>

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills



Above: Supplies for making ice cream in a bag.
Below: A serving of homemade vanilla ice cream in a bag.

-Photos by Francine Wizner



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/>

Broadway in Beacon at Saint Rita’s Music Room

Get ready to experience the magic of Broadway in Beacon at St. Rita’s – it’s going to be a show one will not want to miss!

Broadway in Beacon is hosted by Broadway’s (and Beacon’s) Jen Malenke and Will Reynolds - dazzling performances on a special night, Friday, July 18 as part of Upstate Art Weekend!

St Rita’s Music Room is a brand-new music venue at the KuBe Arts Center, 211 Fishkill Ave., in Beacon, this will be the inaugural show!

St. Rita’s Music Room is a sanctuary for cabaret, theater, and all live performance in the Hudson Valley. A home for jazz, burlesque, comedy, indie, drag,

dancing, and anything you can dream of, St. Rita’s is an independent venue hosting high-quality live events in an intimately sacred and eclectic space. The Music Room is also available for rent as a rehearsal and event space: get in touch with us via email or our contact form.

Doors open: 6 p.m.
Singing starts at 7 p.m.

Be prepared to be blown away as Broadway performers and incredible local talent sing your favorite show tunes. Bring your music (in a binder or have a PDF handy) or just come and listen while enjoying bevs and great food from a food truck! All ages are welcome. (No

food/drink minimum). Get ready for sing-alongs, Broadway Mad Libs, special guests, and unhinged, unrehearsed surprises! There are Ringside tix avail, and the VIP back area, both for \$25 per ticket.





APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Our mission is to provide no-cost repairs to ensure that homeowners live in a safe and healthy home.

Apply by September 30, 2025
to be considered for our 2026 programs.

If you or someone you know needs our assistance, visit RTHudsonValley.org or call 845-454-7310.

Obituaries

Thelma Elaine Wiley



Thelma Elaine Wiley, a longtime resident of Fishkill, N.Y., passed away on June 29, 2025, in Montclair, N.J. She was 102.

Daughter of the late Marx D. Heller and Bessie Edith Hallman Hudson, she was born in York Springs, Pa., on December 27, 1922. She grew up during the Great Depression on a farm near Gettysburg, Pa. Thelma graduated as valedictorian from Biglerville High School and then received a bachelor's degree in education from Temple University. She later earned a master's degree in nutrition from Penn State University, which is where she would meet her future husband.

Thelma married Morris Allen Wiley on September 11, 1948, in Mount Tabor, Pa. The couple moved to Newark, Del., where she worked for DuPont doing research, while her husband attended graduate school. Her husband got a job at Texaco in Beacon,

N.Y., and they settled in Fishkill where they raised their family. Thelma was a devoted homemaker and caring mother to her children as they were growing up. She was predeceased by her husband on March 8, 1977.

She was a member of the Fishkill United Methodist Church and volunteered in several of the church's ministry groups. Her hobbies included reading, playing bridge, doing crossword puzzles, and gardening. She was also a loving grandmother who was very dedicated to her grandchildren and had an immeasurable place in their lives.

Survivors include her daughter, Elaine C. Stalzer; her son, Dean H. Wiley & his wife Paula; her son, Mark A. Wiley & his wife Mary; her grandchildren: Emily Hittle & her husband Tim; Azlyn Wheeldon & her husband Ian; James Milliner & his wife Laura; Leela Stalzer; Amy Stalzer; Christopher Wiley & his wife Christina; Anne Goldsmith & her husband Aaron; Andrew Wiley; Kyle Wiley & his wife Eugenia; Thomas Wiley & his wife Stacey; and John Wiley & his wife Ariana; her great-grandchildren: Henry, Leo, Oliver, Jude, Iris, Layna, Quinn, Mattea, Sadie, and Everett; as well as many nieces, nephews, and countless other loving relatives & friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, Thelma was also predeceased by her four siblings: Marx D. Heller, Jr. & his wife Janet, Donald L. Heller & his wife Treva, Clair E. Heller, and Mary M. Bruno & her husband Carmen.

Visitation was held on Thursday, July 3, at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A memorial service took place at the Fishkill United Methodist Church, 38 Broad Street, Fishkill, NY. Interment followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Nancy Hoffman



Our beloved Mother, Gram, GG, Sister, Aunt and friend has gone to her eternal home. Nancy Hoffman (Cooper), age 82, passed away Monday, June 30, 2025 at Montefiore St Luke's Hospital. She resided in Beacon, NY.

Born August 28, 1942 in Rochester, NY, she was the daughter of the late Cecil and Frances Cooper. She met the love of her life Robert Hoffman and they were married at St Luke's Episcopal Church on February 11, 1961.

She is pre-deceased by her husband, Robert; her daughter, Kim; her parents; son-in-law, Marc Giammatteo; brother, Kenneth Cooper; sister Cheryl Miller; sisters-in-law, Loretta Robinson and Jeanette Beverly; brothers-in-law, Larry Riggs, Bob Miller, Bud Hoffman, Ed Beverly, Jerry Amundson and Joe Vescosi along with many of her cousins, aunts and uncles.

She leaves behind 3 daughters, Karen Siegel (James) of Smithfield, NC, Lorie Giammatteo of Wappingers Falls, Robin MacKay (Scott) of Catskill; her 10 grandchildren, Bryan Giammatteo (Jenny), Amanda Schneck, Robert Giammatteo (Lizzie), Stephanie Siegel Kip (Chad), Lindsay Easley (Drew); her cherished great grandchildren, Mya, Faith Giammatteo, Jeremiah, Melina and Sara Schneck, Keith Giammatteo, Ciena and Dayne Kip, and Elijah, Grant, Aurora, Wren Easley; her sisters Noreen Riggs, Wendy Vescosi and Jackie Buckley; sister-in-law, Mariane Hoffman; best friend, Marie Strack; her many nieces and nephews and cousins. Nancy also is survived by her adoptive daughters, and grandchildren whom she loved like her own.

Nancy was a member of the Monday Night Ladies Bowling League for many years. She was a member of the Degree of Pocahontas, and loved playing BINGO. Mostly Nancy loved being a mom, a gram, and loved being a GG. She always was full of love, and loved to help people.

The family would like to thank the staff of Montefiore St Luke's Cornwall Hospital, especially the staff on the 5th Floor. The care that she received their was beyond excellent. They went above and beyond for her and our family. There are no words that could show our gratitude and appreciation.

Family and friends gathered on Monday, July 7 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Nancy's memory to one of the following organizations:

Abilities First, Inc.
24 Fireman's Way
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(In honor of Keith Giammatteo)

Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
290 Turnpike Rd, Suite 5-315
Westborough, MA 01581
(In honor of Ciena Kip)

Thank you for your continuous love and prayers during our time of sorrow, the Family of Nancy Hoffman.

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

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

Dominick 'Sonny' Piacente



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Dominick "Sonny" Piacente, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend, who left us peacefully at home on June 25, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born in Beacon, NY, to the late Antonio Piacente and Rose Muccio, Dominick was a lifelong resident of Beacon. He married the love of his life, Marcia Brown, at St. John the Evangelist Church on September 18, 1955. He was predeceased by Marcia and siblings Lucille McCleery, Josephine Agunzo, Mary and Carmine Piacente.

He is survived by his children Becky and Tony and his wife Leann; grandchildren Nicole and Jordan; and his adored great-granddaughter Raylin, his nephew Jimmy McCleery and his wife Charlotte, his niece, Rosemary Lillo, many other nieces and nephews (especially the gang from PA) and cousins.

Dominick had a fulfilling career at IBM until his retirement in 1985. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed oil painting, bringing creativity and joy to those around him. A lifelong member of St. Rocco's Society, he treasured the camaraderie—and many beers—with friends who were like family.

An adventurer at heart, Dominick embraced travel well into his later years. At 80, he visited Hawaii and took a helicopter ride inside of a volcano, proving his sense of wonder never faded. Dominick also took great pride in his garden, where he watched his granddaughters pick flowers each year.

Known for his kindness and generosity, Dominick was always ready to support those he loved. In recent years, Dominick embraced his favorite new role as "Great Grandpa" to Raylin. The bond they shared brought him immense joy and added a beautiful new chapter to his life story. His legacy of love, loyalty, and hard work will live on in the family who misses him deeply.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for family and friends on Thursday, July 3 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Beacon.

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

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

Linda Woodward



Linda Woodward, age 68, departed this life on June 28, 2025.

She was born on November 4, 1956 in Beacon to the late Hastell Perry and Calvin C. Woodward, Sr. She graduated from Beacon High School in 1975.

Linda and her son, Marque Carter moved to Poughkeepsie in the 1980's. There she met a dear friend, Tony Bradford, which later became a lasting friendship.

She retired from Vassar College working as a cleaner. Linda enjoyed watching TV, cooking and jokes.

Linda leaves behind her three sisters, Wanda R. Woodward, Diane Woodward and Julia Anderson of Beacon; her three brothers, Calvin C. Woodward, Jr., Michael Woodward and Douglas Jerome Perry of Baltimore, MD; her nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Linda was predeceased by her parents; her son, Marque Carter; her brother, Conway Perry, Jr.; her uncle, William Woodward; her aunts, Sarah Ghent and Lucille Parker.

Funeral arrangements will be private for the family and a future service is being planned. To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

Eric D. Haight



Eric D. Haight, a lifelong resident of the area, passed away unexpectedly on July 2, 2025. He was 57 years old.

Born on January 14, 1968, in Cold Spring, Eric was the beloved son of Barbara Turco Haight and the late Frederick Haight. He graduated from Beacon High School in 1986.

Eric, known to his closest friends as "Fred," will be remembered most for his incredible ability to bring laughter and joy wherever he went. With quick wit and a huge heart, he formed deep bonds with those around him—friendships that lasted decades and enriched his life as much as he enriched theirs. Eric didn't just make friends—he cherished them. And in return, he was loved by all who knew him.

A passionate music lover, Eric sang in many local bands over the years and never passed up a chance to grab a mic at karaoke. He found joy in performing and sharing his love of music with others. A dedicated Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan, he rarely missed a game. He loved spending time with his partner Pam—whether they were on vacation, attending concerts and sporting events, enjoying time with family and friends, or simply relaxing at home together.

Eric is survived by his devoted mother, Barbara Turco Haight; his loving partner, Pam Steffanci Wood; his brothers, Jeffrey Haight (wife Ericalee, his daughter Amanda and her son Hudson and Ronald Haight (wife Marianne, children Victoria Maccarello and her husband Erik, and Christopher Haight); his sister, Stacey Post (husband Scott, her children Michael and Miranda Lyons, and his children Brandon, Danielle, and Taylor Post); and his beloved dog Mia, who he loved with all his heart and she loved him even more.

Family and friends gathered on Sunday, July 6 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home on Monday, July 7.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Eric may be made to a charity of one's choice.

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

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by luigi coppola



A father's lesson

Pop can sometimes be a master of chaos.

My parents have a knack at getting flat tires. I changed my mother's tire about 5 times and my father's about 4 times. I have gotten so good at changing tires I'm thinking of going to work for Mavis Discount Tires. However, it's been about a year since I had to change one, so I was due.

My father comes in to the restaurant every day at around 11:30 a.m. and leaves at 2 p.m. In those 2 1/2 hours he wreaks havoc on my kitchen making his dinner. When 2 p.m. comes and it's time for him to go home, my brother and I breathe a sigh of relief that we survived another day. Don't get me wrong, it is a pleasure being able to work with your father and to see him every day. But sometimes, well you know...

On this particular day 5-6 years ago, the temperature outside was around 100 degrees. We were in the middle of a heat wave like I had not felt in a few years. The kitchen was running around 120 degrees and everyone was short tempered due to the extreme heat. 2

p.m. came and Pop said his good-byes to everyone as he clutched his pan of Mussels Marichiana and walked to his car. I began to clean up his work table and to breathe a little easier. I no sooner got finished with cleaning his table then he came back inside.

Pop: I gotta the flat tire. Getta me John's keys. I'ma gonna to taka his car.

Me: Wait. What happened?

Pop: You no understand I gotta get home to mom. Get me the keys, then you figure out what you have to do.

Me: OK, Pop.

I walked outside to find the tire off the rim with a huge gash in the sidewall. He hit a curb. I don't know how or where, but he hit a curb.

John comes out with Pop. As I begin to take out his stuff and put it in John's car, Pop is explaining that he has to go to church tomorrow and we have to get it fixed in a hurry.

As I am loading the car, he gets in and start to back out. I stop him.

Me: Pop! What are you doing!?

Pop: What! I gotta go.

Me: Pop, I still have to put Mom's wheel-chair in the car and the rest of your stuff.

Pop: Why? You no can fix it now?

Me: (walking away twitching) @#%&*!!

Pop: Caio!

Pop pulls away not even looking as he pulls onto Route 9. As John and I change Pop's tire in the sweltering heat, we are both laughing. Not the laugh of joy, but the laugh of insanity. Gotta love Pop.

Mussels Marichiana Ingredients

20-30 fresh P.E.I. Mussels
5 cloves fresh peeled garlic minced
5 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

1/2 cup white wine
1/2 jar Coppola's Pizza and Cooking Marinara Sauce
1/2 fresh lemon

Directions

Place the garlic and extra virgin olive oil in a large pan on high heat. Saute until golden brown.

Add parsley and mussels.

Add white wine and sauce. Squeeze the 1/2 lemon, making sure not to add the seeds. Simmer until all the mussels open (5-8 minutes).

Serve over angel hair pasta

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. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

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County Players to present 'Lips Together, Teeth Apart'

Adult drama-comedy opens July 11

County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area, will present the adult comedy-drama "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" by Terrence McNally. This Main Stage production is directed by Kit Colbourn and opens Friday, July 11 with additional performances scheduled for Fridays & Saturdays July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday July 20 and Saturday, July 26 at 2 p.m. at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

Set on the beachside deck of a house on Fire Island during the 1990 Fourth of July weekend, McNally's story imagines a gathering between two mismatched couples. Debate, discussion, and disclosure (including secrets, a mystery, and an affair) follow. **Warning: Contains strong mature language.**

The production features the local talents of Deborah Coconis, Michael Frohnhoefer, Brian Kuchicki, and Jenn Propfe. “McNally has created a world that, on the surface, seems like a simple weekend by the sea for two couples,” said Colbourn, “but it’s quickly revealed that the four characters have deep seated conflicts and fears. It’s scathingly funny, because it’s scathingly human. It’s about life in the presence of death, and loneliness in the presence of others. You will recognize elements of yourselves as you laugh with them and feel for them as they

navigate their individual pain.”

Individual tickets are available online in advance of the performance dates at countyplayers.org. Prices are: Adult: \$26, Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door): \$24. Box Office is open for in-person ticket sales one hour before performance time.

This production of “Lips Together, Teeth Apart” is supported by show Bronze Sponsor, Facilities Maintenance Corp., and is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC serving Dramatists Play Service collection, dramatists.com. Hudson Valley Credit Union proudly sponsors County Players’ 67th Season.

One of the longest-running community theatre companies in our area, County Players is an all-volunteer organization that has presented more than 200 productions and has served thousands of theatergoers since 1958. Located in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls the all-volunteer theatre company acquired the former Academy Theatre and renamed it the County Players Falls Theatre, their home since 1977.

County Players Falls Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for the hard of hearing. If you require wheelchair accessibility, please contact our Box Office at 845-298-1491.

For more information, go to <https://countyplayers.org/show/lips-together-teeth-apart>.



The cast of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart." The adult drama-comedy will run at County Players in Wappingers Falls from July 11-26..

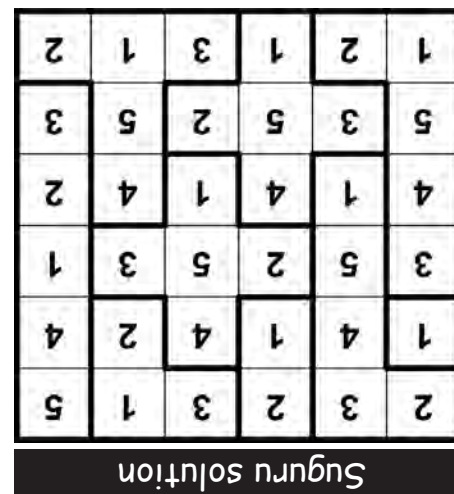
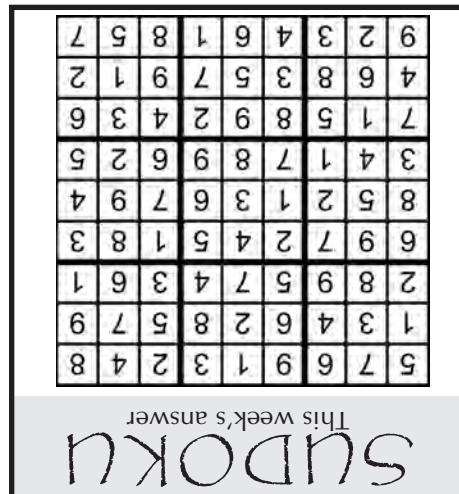
-Photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

BHS Class of 1965 to hold reunion

The Beacon High School Class of '65 will hold a 60th reunion in Beacon on October 4. If one graduated with that class, reach out to Linda Salvatore Beasimer, lbeasimer@gmail.com or Barbara Conley Gosda at bgosda4765@gmail.com or Connie Perdreau at corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-11-25 Rebid Alterations to Dutchess County Office for Central and Information Services. Single Prime Bids shall be received for the following classes of work: General Construction. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york-county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to obtain the

Legal Notices

ders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFPOpportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in

Legal Notices

person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on Bid-Net Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

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

THEME: HUMAN BODY

ACROSS

- Composer Joplin's first name
- Stomach pain-causing acronym
- Boxing practice
- Horatio ____ of "Ragged Dick" fame
- Not cooked
- This and desist
- *Torso, pl.
- Wrath
- *DNA half
- *Body part, not Elvis
- *Part of blood, not type of TV
- *Lung filler
- Same as on top
- Seth MacFarlane's bear
- Helps
- Genus, pl.
- Paper unit
- Comme ci, comme ça
- Burdened
- Egg on
- *Pumps blood, not tires
- Type of nuclear missile, acr.
- River in West Africa
- Fraternity recruitment season
- Purse to go with evening gown
- "Annie Hall" star
- Urban myth, e.g.
- Kenan Thompson's TV show, acr.
- Target of a joke
- Cemetery jar
- *Fingers, not numbers
- *Muscle, not skeletal or cardiac
- Enticed (2 words)
- ____ Baba
- Scary movie consequence
- "____ came a spider..."
- Old towel, e.g.
- Nail salon file
- *Gallbladder contents
- ____ of Sam
- Poet ____ Alighieri

DOWN

- Fri follower
- Hoofbeat sound
- Princess Fiona, by night
- Unit of magnetic flux density
- Ken Jennings' forte
- *Part of an eye, not a flower
- "Cheers," e.g.
- Moved under the rug
- Witnesses
- *Part of a hand, not a tree
- Continent
- Tyrannosaurus follower
- "____ of Love" by The Dixie Cups
- Like one from Dublin
- Lincoln lumber
- Battery's partner
- *Torso, not part of a tree
- Fear-inspiring
- Cannabis, in South Africa
- Not talker?
- Umberto Eco's "The ____ of the Rose"
- Marks on a manuscript
- Old episode
- *Part of an ear, not blacksmith's block
- Swimming competition
- Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
- Monotonous hum
- Dressing a priest, e.g.
- Bolt's partner
- Washed away
- Nicholas I and Alexander III
- Marilyn Monroe's original name
- Cold cuts shop
- Graven image
- Departed
- Manual communication gesture
- Thirteen-year-old, e.g.
- Wagner or Powers in a TV classic
- Chemist's office
- Burmese neighbor
- Yellow #5, e.g.

CROSSWORD

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Melzingah Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution installs new officers



The Melzingah Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) slate of officers for 2025-2028.

-Courtesy photo Melzingah Chapter

The Melzingah Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) installed its 2025-2028 slate of officers, with AnnMarie Griffith succeeding Nancy Giordano as Chapter Regent. Griffith joined the chapter in 2021 and previously served as Vice Regent. Other newly elected officers on the executive board are Cynthia Colarusso, Vice Regent; Candy Pisterzi, Chaplain; Sherry Tomaselli, Recording Secretary; Joan Miskell, Corresponding Secretary; Carrie Duke, Treasurer; Ruth Mower, Registrar; Robin Lucas, Historian; and Emily Murnane, Curator. The chapter was formed in 1895 and owns and operates the 1709 Madam Brett Homestead in Beacon, which is open for tours the second Saturday of the month. See melzingahnsdar.org for more information.

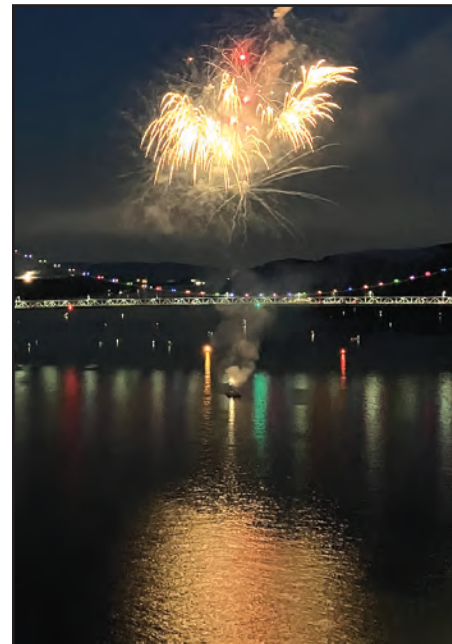
The DAR, founded in 1890 and head-

quartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization with 190,000 members worldwide dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

DAR members come from a variety of backgrounds and interests, but all share a common bond of having an ancestor who helped contribute to securing the independence of the United States of America. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join.

If one is interested in learning more about the DAR, visit DAR.org, or email Melzingah's Registrar at ruth-jarabek@hotmail.com.

Viewing fireworks on the Walkway



A stunning display of fireworks on the Hudson River near the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park provided a fitting culmination to activities on July 4th. Hundreds of visitors made the trek to the Walkway, which is the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge, perched 212 feet above the Hudson River.

-Photos by Jim Donick

Hyde Park July 4th parade is a 'big hit' with a big crowd



A large crowd lined the sidewalks on Route 9 for the county's only July 4th parade. Clockwise from top left are members of the Hyde Park American Legion Post 1303, members of the Roosevelt Fire District formed a color guard. "Hometown Heroes" posters were carried by members of a local Boy Scout troop and World War II veteran and parade marshal Ralph Osterhoudt waves to the crowd.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

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