Rottkamp is new leader of Dutchess Tourism Inc.

By Kristine Coulter

Melaine Rottkamp is the new CEO & President of Dutchess Tourism Inc. (DTI). Former CEO & President Mary Kay Vrba retired on July 20. Rottkamp took over on July 21.

The last four years,” noted Rottkamp. “Tourism marketing and promotion was a natural fit for me. In fact, DCT, which moved to full-time and then to the organization’s succession plan.

“I have been lucky enough to live in Dutchess County for 27 years,” said Rottkamp.

Asked about her first position with DTI, Rottkamp replied, “I actually started out as a volunteer at what was then known as Dutchess County Tourism (DCT).” She said she was a stay-at-home mom “of two amazing boys.” She used her Syracuse University public relations degree to run Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) PTA programs at Spackenkill Union Free School District’s Hagan Elementary School when she saw Dutchess County Tourism (DCT), which is now DTI, was looking for office volunteers.

“Within a few months they hired me as a part-time office manager which moved to full-time and then to roles with increased scope and responsibility, including director of special events, outreach and administration and then vice president for the last four years,” noted Rottkamp.

So how did Rottkamp become interested in tourism in Dutchess County?

“Tourism marketing and promotion was a natural fit for me. In fact, DCT was one of the first places I remember dropping off my resume when I first moved to Dutchess County as a newlywed looking for a job. There weren’t any openings but I thought this was something I would really enjoy and be able to make a meaningful contribution towards,” explained Rottkamp.

Asked why Dutchess County is such a tourist attraction, Rottkamp replied, “Dutchess County has just about everything you could want in a destination. It has gorgeous outdoor attractions with options for all abilities. It has amazing local farms where people can pick their own fruits and vegetables as well as top-notch chefs who create unbelievably spectacular dishes from those fresh ingredients.

The craft beer scene is just exploding with a wide variety of options for every palate. There’s unique shopping and cute streets.

Continued on page 2
Happy or sad - or evokes special memories?

On Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. Have you happy to follow her future adventures."

Her retirement is well-earned and I'm so much miss having her in my daily life.

She has been incredibly well-respected, she is also an incredible mentor to me and I will very loved and admired. Mary Kay has been advance our industry and not only is she here and across the state has helped County and her steadfast belief in us all involved bigger and better for Dutchess

Rottkamp noted, “Everything we do is for the benefit of our community and the almost 1,000 tourism-dependent business that make our destination so special. Tourism is a major economic driver for the community, supporting 11,000 jobs and bringing in more than half a billion dollars to our economy annually. I am humbled that our board of directors has entrusted me with the helm.”

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said about Rottkamp when it was announced Rottkamp new CEO at Dutchess Tourism Inc.

"Her energetic commitment to serving Dutchess County and its world-renowned attractions is unparalleled; and with her all my best as the new leader of Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

"Mary Kay has been a trailblazer in so many ways," Rottkamp said about her predecessor. "Her vision has always involved bigger and better for Dutchess County and her steadfast belief in us all has helped us achieve that. Her leadership here and across the state has helped grow our industry and she is incredibly well-respected, she is also loved and admired. Mary Kay has been an incredible leader and mentor to so many Dutchess County residents who have never been to Rhinebeck or Red Hook and vice versa. There are so many cool things to safely see and do here even in the midst of a pandemic.

Rottkamp noted, “Everything we do is for the benefit of our community and the almost 1,000 tourism-dependent businesses that make our destination so special. Tourism is a major economic driver for the community, supporting 11,000 jobs and bringing in more than half a billion dollars to our economy annually. I am humbled that our board of directors has entrusted me with the helm.”

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said about Rottkamp when it was announced she would be the new CEO & President of DTI, “Melaine’s passion for Dutchess County and its world-class attractions is unparalleled; and with nearly nine years at Dutchess Tourism, Melaine will bring experience that will continue to propel this vital organization forward. We look forward to continued collaborations with Dutchess Tourism, under Melaine’s leadership, and we await the chance to welcome visitors to write their own story here in Dutchess County.”

Rottkamp said, “We want everyone to know how important they all are to helping our economy recover and that by working together, we will rebound faster. Please shop local and invite your friends and relatives to visit you here in Dutchess County when you feel it’s safe to do so. DutchessTourism.com is a great source for ideas, inspiration and updated information. And, follow us on social media and share our posts to help generate interest and enthusiasm for future travel to Dutchess. Everything helps and community support for tourism makes all the difference in the world!”

To the secret behind melody and harmony

Join Tanisha Mitchell for a program hosted by the Hudson Public Library titled “The Secret Behind Melody and Harmony” on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. Have you ever wondered why music makes you feel happy or sad - or evokes special memories?

Learn the secret behind melody and harmony with this interactive online lecture. Participants will conduct along with an animated orchestra and explore how popular music borrows from classical music. This program is led by Mitchell and is for adults and teens.

Email Adult Services Librarian, Alison Herrero, at adults@beaconlibrary.org for the Zoom invitation link.

Adult Summer Reading Program 2020

Adults: 845-879-5161.

For more information, or questions, call Animal Rescue Foundation at 845-831-5161.
Webinar details updated plan for Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

By Kristine Coulter

There was an update on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The webinar was held on the evening of Tuesday, July 21. Amy Kacala, Executive Director of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. and Gena Wirth from SCAPE Landscape Architecture discussed “Exploring the New Vision: The Fjord Trail Master Plan.” The webinar offered the public an opportunity for Q & A and to see visuals of the project, which connects the village of Cold Spring and the city of Beacon.

Among the stakeholders in the project are:

- Municipalities:
  - Village of Cold Spring
  - Town of Philipstown
  - Town of Fishkill
  - City of Beacon

- New York metro-area agencies:
  - Metro-North Railroad
  - Dept. of Environmental Protection

- Community-based non-profits:
  - Friends of Fahnestock & Hudson
  - Highlands State Parks
  - Little Stony Point Citizens’ Assoc.
  - Philipsburg Greenway Committee
  - Scenic Hudson
  - Hudson Highlands Land Trust
  - NY-NJ Trail Conference
  - Open Space Institute
  - The Lenape Center
  - Riverkeeper

- New York State agencies:
  - Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
  - Dept. of Transportation
  - Dept. of Environmental Conservation
  - Dept. of State

Kacala said this was “a whole new mater plan” for the project. One of the questions, she said, was how to deal with parking. One has to be prepared for this trail, she noted. Wirth said part of the trail will wrap around the Hudson River’s edge. The project will “respect” the different landscapes the trail will go through, Wirth explained. The main goal, she noted, is to “reunite people with the water.” There will be parts of the trail that will be open to all and that will be designed as an accessible trail. There will be parts of the trail that can only be accessed by pedestrians. There will be bike and pedestrian entryways at different points on the trail. At Break Neck, in Putnam County, one will be able to safely park and enter, she said. There will be places for people to stop along the trail to rest and look at the landscapes.

There will be the river’s edge portion of the trail, the highlands, the steep cascading portion with stones and the forest and marsh section. The meanders will create loops to allow people to explore, said Wirth. Each meander will offer a unique opportunity, she said.

Another webinar has been announced for Aug. 19. This webinar will include a virtual tour of the new Breakneck Connector and Bridge.
By Harold G. Delamater

An article recently appeared in the Beacon Free Press about the lack of a Veterans Treatment Court in Dutchess County. As a veteran concerned with this topic, I spoke with Dutchess County Court Judge Peter Forman about whether veterans are incorporated into existing drug treatment courts.

Judge Forman has been presiding over drug treatment courts in Dutchess County since 2004. Drug treatment courts are problem-solving courts that operate state-wide in a non-adversarial manner facilitating the recovery of individuals who have been diagnosed with substance abuse additions. While serving in Family Court in 2004, Judge Forman volunteered to open the first Family Treatment Court in Dutchess County. He recruited a team of professionals (including substance abuse counselors, therapists, attorneys, law guardians and probation officers) to operate that drug treatment court. This team traveled to various locations around the country to take advantage of specialized training sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Each session helped us understand how substance abusers think and how to utilize the best practices available in designing a successful drug treatment court. Our goal was to help the parents become clean and sober and eventually reunited with their children, who had been placed in foster care,” explained Forman.

Judge Forman, now sitting in County Court where felony crimes are prosecuted, has presided over the Judicial Diversion court since 2016. This is a drug treatment court that admits non-violent felony offenders who enter the program voluntarily to seek intensive substance abuse treatment overseen by the court and a complement of professionals, which resembles the Family Court team that Judge Forman had previously assembled.

When asked about the lack of a Veterans Treatment Court in Dutchess County, Judge Forman assured me that the unique issues facing Veterans who are admitted to Judicial Diversion are dealt with in a professional and therapeutic setting.

For example, if a Veteran demonstrates a need for specialized services, the coordinator of Judicial Diversion makes a referral to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as part of the drug court protocol. In fact, Judicial Diversion often utilizes a residential facility operated by St. Joseph’s Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center in Saranac Lake in upstate New York that maintains a curriculum specifically designed to treat the multi-faceted needs of Veterans.

“In Dutchess County,” Judge Forman continued, “we have treated eight Veterans as part of Judicial Diversion and six have graduated from our 18-24 month long program - including an Army veteran who completed just last week! I am very proud of the hard work that the Judicial Diversion team does year-in and year-out in County Court. Since 2016, 66 drug treatment court participants have successfully graduated and gone on to live productive lives, no longer involved in the criminal justice system. We value the sacrifices our Veterans have endured to protect our freedom here at home and we especially enjoy helping them succeed in this treatment court.”

If you would like to contact Judge Forman for more information about Veterans services or treatment court, he can be reached at pforman@nycourts.gov.

The Beacon Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting will meet via Zoom on Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. You are not alone. Join us on August 11 for a presentation about building your own inner resilience in the face of adversity. Learn how to turn your obstacles into opportunities.

See the City of Beacon website for more information about the City of Beacon at https://www.cityofbeacon.org.

Veterans included in drug treatment courts in Dutchess County

By Harold G. Delamater

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This week’s puzzle solutions

- Sudoku

Great for:
1. Coloring, sketching & all kinds of art projects.
2. Drop Cloth for all kinds of messy situations, very absorbent.
3. Gardeners love this for weed control & water retention.
5. You decide. Hey, it’s a crazy mixed up world.

Get Blood Give Life

Who needs blood?
Transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

- Student with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thrombocytopenia.

If we don’t have high school sports, we lose a lot more than just games

Commentary by Rich Thomelli
If we don’t have high school sports – if the season, already delayed a month to Sept. 21, isn’t able to start by then or even be played in its entirely due to the coronavirus pandemic – we lose more than just athletic contests.

We lose the band, drama, the debate club – any extracurricular activity, really – we lose more than just music, the school play, or thoughtful, passionate arguments.

We lose essential elements of the schooling process that extend far beyond the classroom.

We lose … Elements of life as we know it.

In the midst of the cancellation of the end of the 2020 winter postseason and the entire spring season, we forgot what we were really losing. As schools went to strictly online learning, our great student-athletes sacrificed so much more.

Correction – our great students. Period.
No sports, no band, no cheerleaders, no budding thespians from the drama club, no financial analysts from the economics club, no yearbook staff to chronicle what should be the memories of a lifetime. We lost the very components of what defined – and in many cases enhanced – the high school experience.

Because things like athletics are necessary to the development of the next generation, teaching them tenets of life that simply can’t be learned in a classroom.

Trust.
Respect.
Camaraderie.
Bonding.
Friendship.
Acceptance.
Mental acuity.
Time management.
Character-building.
Tolerance.
Leadership.
Mentoring.
Diligence.
Teamwork.
Accountability.

Need I go on?

Arlington girls basketball star Mia Capra and being part of a team is “like having a second family. We’re really a tight-knit group, and basketball season for me is the best part of the school year because I’m with my best friends six days a week. Practices are always so much fun too because we all work so well together.”

Take away sports, and you take away family. Maybe not blood family, but just as important.

In the hot days during the summer, experiencing the hell we go through just getting ready for the season, that is really where we create that bond,” John Jay football standout Brayden Rossi said.

“It’s a brotherhood, it really is.”

Let’s not sabotage the brotherhood.
Let’s not deny our students in any activity the chance to learn and grow. Let’s do what we can to get these youngsters back in school, back on the stage, back behind a podium and certainly back on the fields and courts and tracks.

Let’s not break up family.
Red Cross seeks blood donations

Though this summer may feel different than summers past, one thing remains constant: The need for blood donations never stops. The American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to give blood to restock the shelf at hospitals and face the unexpected.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many blood drives have been postponed or canceled to help prevent the spread of the virus. But steps have been taken to help step up to help give blood with the Red Cross. Blood drives from local organizations, as well as blood drives held by the Red Cross, are now taking place with strict social distancing and other safety measures in place.

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Rafaela Hortencia Ducasse
Age 94, of The Highlands, Topsham, ME, passed away peacefully at her family’s home in Topsham, ME, on July 24, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of Gerald A. Ducasse and the mother of the three children.

Rafaela was born on July 24, 1926, in the Dominican Republic to Hattie Rice Hensley in Flag Pond, TN, on August 3, 1926, and Procopis Labrinos in the Dominican Republic. She was one of 10 children.

Rafaela graduated from high school in Puerto Rico and moved to Maine with her future husband Marie E. Walther on a 1942 cruise ship.

Her stay in Maine was brief as they moved to New York during World War II. Rafaela worked for the U.S. Army during the war and was a part of the Signal Corps, working as a telephone operator.

After the war, Rafaela and her husband settled in the Dominican Republic, where she continued her work as a telephone operator.

In 1951, Rafaela and her husband moved to the United States, where she worked for the Department of Defense at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE.

Rafaela and her husband settled in the Florida Keys, where she worked for the U.S. Army as a telephone operator. She continued to work in the field of telecommunications until her retirement in 1980.

Rafaela is survived by her husband, Gerald A. Ducasse; her son, Mabel L. Hensley Malley; her daughter, Gloria A. Taylor; her grandchildren, Daniel P. Malley, Christopher (Megan) Malley, and Michael Malley; and her great-grandchildren.

Rafaela was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is deeply missed by her family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Red Cross or to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (www.stjude.org).

James F. Anderson
James F. Anderson, 86, of Wappingers Falls, passed away peacefully at home on July 13, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. Born on October 31, 1933, to Carl and Margaret Anderson in Highland, NY, James lived a life of serenity and quiet introspection.

In 1951, James married his high school sweetheart, Eunice Maley, and together they raised their two children, Margaret Anderson and Carol Anderson.

James was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus, and he was an active member of the Wappinger Falls Historical Society. He was also a member of the Wappinger Falls Cemetery Association.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wappinger Falls Cemetery Association or to the American Cancer Society.

Farewell to our dear friends


Adeline is survived by her husband of 38 years, Michael P. Capparelli of Beacon; her daughter, Theresa Brown of Tarrytown; 14 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to her family, Adeline leaves behind her beloved friends.

Adeline was an avid reader, a passionate gardener, a devoted cook, and a devoted member of the Beacon Area Historical Society. She was known for her love of animals, her love of nature, and her love of cooking.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Beacon Area Historical Society or to the American Cancer Society.

Helen Fuimarello, 93, once called the “grande dame of constituent services” for her expertise in working federal, state and local government offices in the Hudson Valley, died peacefully on Monday, July 20, 2020, at her home in Newburgh.

Helen was born on August 21, 1926, in Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie to Carl and Margaret Labrinos Fuimarello, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Health Center in Newburgh. She was a member of the board and president of the Poughkeepsie Hispanic Health Center, Inc.

Helen was a life-long resident of Dutchess County, and was a member of the Hispanic Health Center in Newburgh.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hispanic Health Center in Newburgh or to the American Cancer Society.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hispanic Health Center in Newburgh or to the American Cancer Society.

Page 6 BEACON FREE PRESS July 29, 2020
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Realtor Profile

Tammy Jones of Tammy Jones Realty

For Tammy Jones, success in real estate is a blend of enjoying what you are doing and achieving a high level of quality and customer satisfaction. She has done both with flair and confidence and continues to be a top performer year after year.

The very unreal Tammy became your passport to achieving great levels of boldness,” says Tammy. “The Tammy ‘bold” Jones name has become synonymous with real estate in the United States. Many individuals say “Everything she touches turns to ‘Bold.”’ Tammy has the most listings “closed” every year and says that she prides herself on doing both with flair and confidence and continues to be a top performer year after year.

Contact her at 555-3333 (office) or 555-4444 (direct).

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845-896-8120
The Town of Pleasant Valley is soliciting proposals for the use of the 4,000 gallon (gasoline) and 2,000 gallon (diesel) steel aboveground fuel storage tanks located at 1222 Mesier Avenue in the Village of Pleasant Valley, 24 Sherwood Road, New York, 12569. Pre- vailing wage rates app- ied. Copies of plans and specifi- cations may be obtained by contacting Beth Marie Muth at Town Clerk, pleas- anteastvt@gmail.com or Greg Bolmer at gobolmer@townofeastvt.com or by copies of docu- ments marked, “TOWN OF PLEA- NT VALLEY, REQUEST FOR BID, FUEL STORAGE TANKS”. A conference for the Project will be held on July 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Highway Garage.

TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Board of the Town of East Fishkill will hold a public hearing on the 18th day of Au- gust, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at 330 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, New York, at which time and thereafter as the mat- ter may be heard, in the matter of the application of i.Park 84 Visitor Cen- ter, as shown on maps prepared by Soko Stone, 3 Van Wyck Lane #2, Woodstock, New York, as filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Planning Department, and which site is located at 738 Keepies Drive and being described as a 85.05 acre tax parcel identified as Tax Parcel #1-32800-6456-038.00.00.00. The purpose of the plan application for consideration by the Board is as follows: • Proposed renova- tion to Building 338 to add a 1,030 square foot foot entrance porch to the south- west corner of Building 338 and an additional 2,197 square foot foot addition to the eastern portion of Building 338 for Visitor’s Center. • Improvements to sup- port the Food Hub. In addition to the 2,197 square foot addition proposed to Building 338 for Visitor’s Center as well as improvements to support the Food Hub.

The Town of East Fishkill Planning Board has scheduled a Public Hearing for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:15 for the following link: https://wppingers.falls@hotmail.com/download/ad553 eb35d4ca81b8171707d7365 @wppingersfallsworthenY MYTDm404@f dabe2056

To join by telephone, please dial: -401 - 418-9386 and enter password: jyEPads24

PLEASE TAKE notice that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Wappingers Falls will hold a public hearing on the 18th day of Au- gust, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. on line and telephon- e if the site is approved Order 2021 is ex- tended through this date; if it is not ex- tended, the public hearing will be held in the Village of Wap- pings Falls, NY, to be held in the Commercial Mixed-Use (CMU) Zoning District. The site is seeking to construct a mixed-use building in the CMU Zoning District. The required in- creases in existing setbacks 4’15” Table 2- re- quired minimum Lot size are all of the re- quirements – existing struc- ture and proposed addi- tion are only 1 story. Therefore, one 4’15” Table 2- required setback is the maximum permitted setback for a prin- cipal structure on a lot sit- ulated side frontages following Table 2- required setback is set back 70’ ft. from the secondary structure in Mos- eley Avenue and there is a 58’ ft. setback. 3.15 Table 2- requires minimum building setback at setback for the princi- 3.15 Table 2- requires propo- tion of the principal building which is the frontage of the total frontage is 70’ ft. The total frontage of the principal building is 80% of which is 119 ft. The structure, inclu- ing the proposed addition, is 64 ft. wide, requiring a vari- ation of 41’15” (D) from the frontage is 119 ft. The structure, inclu- ing the proposed addition, is 64 ft. wide, requiring a vari- ation of 41’15” (D) from 41’15” (C) of the frontage. 4.15-25”(C) pro- vides for variances for blink- ing, blinking, intermittent, or moving lights, which does not main- tain stationery and constant intensity and color at all times, ex- cept for a minimum of 15 min- ute and time and temperature.

The proposed

signwithdigitalpricingviolates this section of the code. Acopy of this applica- tion is on file in the Planning Depart- ment and is available for inspec- tion in the Office of the Town Clerk, Mon- day-Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The tele- phone number is 845- 267-5277. All appli- cated persons may appear by agent, or by their attorney, or in person as he/she shall hear.

TANKS. "ABOVEGROUND

PLEASANT VALLEY, marked, "TOWN OF

sealed envelopes

posals will be received

Separate sealed pro-
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.

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

ACROSS
4. Discoverer’s cry
7. Word with what or where
11. Excuse
13. Real meaning
15. Cook
16. Quilts beating around the bush
19. Wobble
20. Voluptuous
21. Dive
23. Morse code character
24. Part of a blackjack
27. Musical instrument
30. Means of transportation
34. Consent
36. Sodium carbonate
38. Black cuckoo
39. Nursery purchase
40. IX times VI
41. Music-and-drama medley
43. Tipsy one
44. Too heavy
46. Rows of seats
47. Pasture creatures
49. Places of perfection
51. 90’ from WWN
52. For each
54. Hot mo.
56. Ones released early
61. Dies, angrily
66. Become furious
68. Extended family group
69. New Mexican town
70. Soak
71. Happy & glad, e.g.: abbr.
72. Big records, for short
73. 2/9 and 7/9

DOWN
1. Huge piece of ice
2. Juicy fruit
3. Lend a hand to a thief
4. In the past
5. Swats
6. Arthur of tennis
7. Youth group members
8. Birthplace of seven Presidents
9. Café literature
10. Salamanders
11. Performance
12. Words of understanding
14. Connective tissue
17. Mouse’s nemesis
18. Greek letter
22. Gave a name to
24. Shining
25. Shipping container
26. Poet’s word
28. Stand
29. Religious devotion
31. Shelter
32. Accustom
33. Desserts
34. Church projection
35. DDE’s command
37. Gallery display
42. German article
45. Deprived
48. Gifts for baby
50. as, for example
53. Little one
55. Mardi ___
56. Enlisted persons: abbr.
57. Supporter
58. Tatum’s dad
59. And others: abbr.
60. Place of business
62. Preposition
63. Yemen’s capital
64. Swiss painter
65. 54 Across’ follower
67. Ending for giant or shepherd

• 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.

The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 5
NYSTAR awards $50,000 grant to Poughkeepsie-based MPI

NYSTAR, Empire State Development’s Division of Science, Technology and Innovation, has awarded a $50,000 grant to MPI, Inc., a Poughkeepsie-based manufacturer, after the company launched a product diversification initiative—a project it completed with support from the Highland-based Manufacturing & Technology Enterprise Center (MTEC).

“Through this diversification program for New York State manufacturers, NYSTAR has helped companies across the state pave new paths to growth,” said NYSTAR Executive Director Matt Watson. “MTEC’s work with MPI is an outstanding example of how the NY MEP’s regional centers help manufacturers in their communities solve potential challenges, increase their competitiveness and create and retain jobs.”

MPI is the worldwide leader in wax-room and ceramic core injection as well as automated injection and assembly equipment. It worked with MTEC, the Hudson Valley’s regional center of the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP), to implement an accelerated program to introduce a new product that broadens the industry sectors it can serve.

“Developing new equipment for the commercial consumer market was an opportunity for MPI to achieve new growth and create jobs here in the Hudson Valley,” said Aaron Phipps, vice president of manufacturing and engineering at MPI. “Working alongside MTEC to secure the NYSTAR grant helped us accelerate the project and future-proof our business. We’re excited about how our new innovations will drive growth, and we’re grateful to have MTEC and NYSTAR as partners in our collective efforts to advance our region’s manufacturing industry.”

“As a regional resource for manufacturers, our team at MTEC worked closely with MPI to identify the right solutions to foster sustained growth,” said Bob Incerto, MTEC director of engineering. “MPI is a leader within its industry—but to remain the leader, you need to stay ahead of your competition. By bringing these new product capabilities to market, MPI will strengthen its industry position and remain an important contributor to the vibrancy of the Hudson Valley’s manufacturing sector.”

NYSTAR awarded the grant through its defense diversification program, which assists New York State companies with diversifying their product mix and operations to make them more resilient to spending fluctuations within the U.S. Department of Defense.

A significant share of MPI’s customer base is made up of DOD supply chain manufacturers, or firms that manufacture components for military equipment. The NYSTAR grant supported MPI’s development of next-generation product capabilities that provide the high reliability, precision and customization required to meet the needs of the commercial consumer sector.