

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Harvest fun set Oct. 19 at Carnwath Farms



The Sports Museum of Dutchess County and Friends of Carnwath Historic Site & Park will hold a Fall Festival on Oct. 19 in Wappinger.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier

After an incredible community showing at last year's Fall Festival, the Sports Museum of Dutchess County and Friends of Carnwath Historic Site & Park are back for the third year! The local nonprofits have partnered for even bigger family fun, with pumpkin painting, live music, a petting zoo, and much more.

The autumn extravaganza will be hosted at 72 Carnwath Farms Lane from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19. All are welcome to show their Halloween costumes and spooky design skills. The festival is free to attend, come rain, shine or snow. Food trucks will have delicious treats available for purchase, plus Cedar Hill Petting Zoo, raffles and games.

"The Sports Museum is happy to partner with the Friends of Carnwath on this yearly event. There is no charge for admission so that families in our community can enjoy pumpkin painting and other seasonal activities, including free tours of the Sports Museum," said the sports museum president, Bill Ponte.

The cost for pumpkin painting is covered through donations from Meadowbrook Farm and other members of the local community. The volunteers within Friends of Carnwath and the Sports Museum of Dutchess County work tirelessly to generate interest and attention to the local region's deep history. This end-of-season initiative is a great way to connect with the community ahead of winter.

"It is only through the generosity of many businesses, organizations and volunteers in the Town of Wappinger that we are able to offer this event free of admission. The Friends of Carnwath Farms Historic Site and Park is excited to cohost this event for the third time with the

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Pumpkins, pies and more during annual festival

By Kristine Coulter

The annual Beacon Sloop Club Pumpkin Festival might be your chance to pick up one or more pumpkins for your Halloween or Fall décor. The festival, which has free admission, takes place from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the Pete & Toshi Riverfront Park in Beacon.

Rob May, with the Beacon Sloop Club, said via email, "We are expecting a large and enthusiastic turnout at this year's Beacon Sloop Club Pumpkin Festival. We anticipate festival-goers of all ages and backgrounds to join us at Pete and Toshi Seeger [Riverfront] Park for a fun-filled day. Because the Club has been sponsoring the Pumpkin Festival for so many years, it has become a treasured annual tradition among members of the community. So, they make sure to include it in their fall weekend plans."

May noted, "Since the Pumpkin Festival is within easy walking distance from the Beacon train station, we are ready to welcome visitors from as far north as Poughkeepsie and as far south as New York City. Everyone is eager to celebrate the fall harvest season in the breathtakingly beautiful Hudson Valley."

The pumpkins are sourced from Seed Song Farm, which is an organic farm located in Kingston, Ulster County.

"Seed Song is a teaching farm owned and operated by Creek Iverson, a longtime friend and member of the Beacon Sloop Club and the Clearwater. Creek has been providing lovingly-grown pumpkins



The Beacon Sloop Club will hold its annual Pumpkin Festival on Sunday, October 19 at the Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. Pictured are volunteers slicing pumpkin pies during a previous year's festivities.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Sloop Club

to us for many years. He is not only a veteran farmer, he is also an excellent musician and has often performed at the stages of our festivals with his musician friends," remarked May.

There will be pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, all fresh and perfect for Halloween decoration, May said. "All [pumpkins] are ready to be carved or made into pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup

and other delicious treats," he stated.

There will also be vendors and educational booths during the annual festival.

"We have invited a wide range of vendors and craftspeople to cater to every taste and every age group. Many vendors

Continued on page 2

The Clothesline Project brings awareness to domestic violence

By Kristine Coulter

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the River Valley Arts Center, in Wappingers Falls, there was a clothesline in recognition of bringing awareness to domestic violence.

The clothesline was part of The Clothesline Project presented by Grace Smith House, as a "visual display of T-shirts created by domestic violence victims and their loved ones," according to the private nonprofit's website, www.gracesmithhouse.org. "Every shirt is designed to represent each individual's domestic violence experience. This emotional expression is part of a national movement created to bear witness, help those impacted by the healing process, educate, and raise awareness of the extent of the domestic and sexual violence problem."

Marianne, spokesperson for Grace Smith House (her last name is not being used for privacy reasons), said, "Our goal, in the last three years, has been to bring the exhibition to different parts of the county." She noted, "people are really impacted by the messages, which are multi-generational."

Grace Smith House's mission, according to its website, is to empower individuals and families to live free from domestic violence by:



The Clothesline Project was presented by Grace Smith House, Inc., brings awareness to domestic violence. The exhibition was at River Valley Arts Center in Wappingers Falls last week.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

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Community Day for Domestic Violence Awareness

Melanie Chianese Foundation holds inaugural event



The Melanie Chianese Foundation, in partnership with Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini and the Town of Wappinger, hosted its inaugural Community Day for Domestic Violence Awareness on Saturday, Oct. 11. The five-hour event took place at Brexel-Schlathaus Park in Wappinger. Melanie’s dog, Ziggy, with Jessica S., was at the event.

There were more than 60 vendors, food trucks, and local businesses. Representatives from the Grace Smith House, Family Services, and other domestic violence resources available in the community were also at the event. Live music was performed by the GoodTime Charlies Band.

Chianese was murdered on May 29, 2022. She was an innocent, secondary victim of domestic violence. The man convicted of fatally stabbing Chianese was sentenced to serve life in prison without parole in April 2023.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



The Clothesline Project brings awareness to domestic violence

Continued from cover

- Providing shelter and apartments, advocacy counseling, and education.
- Raising the consciousness of the community regarding the extent, type, and seriousness of domestic violence.

- Initiating and taking positions on public policies to provide options that empower victims of domestic violence.

NYS Senator Rob Rolison, who viewed the Clothesline Project, stated last week, “During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we’re reminded that protecting survivors and preventing future tragedies requires action — not just awareness.”

Rolison noted on social media he co-sponsored Senate Bill 2280. He stated it would “require a Lethality Assessment in incidents of domestic violence.

This proven, life-saving tool helps survivors make informed decisions about their safety.”

According to Rolison, Dutchess County is one of only three counties in New York currently using Lethality Assessment.

“The Lethality Assessment should be implemented statewide to strengthen how we support and protect survivors in every community,” he said.

Rolison stated: “We’re talking about people. We’re talking about survivors. We’re talking about children.

“I won’t stop fighting until this becomes law in New York State — because expanding this tool will save lives.”

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini remarked, “It’s an asset for

those who need it,” about Grace Smith House, adding he wished there was not a need for it. He said it was an honor to have Grace Smith House’s The Clothesline Project there.

“We’ll stand by victims of domestic violence and Grace Smith House; whatever they need,” said the supervisor.

For more information or to seek advice, go to www.gracesmithhouse.org. One may call Grace Smith House’s 24-hour, 7 days-a-week house hotline at 845-471-3033.

The project was at the River Valley Arts Center at 9 South Mesier in Wappingers Falls until Oct. 10.

Shirts that were part of The Clothesline Project.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter



Pumpkins, pies and more during annual festival

Continued from cover

are old festival favorites who return year after year because of popular demand. We are also thrilled to welcome exciting new vendors,” said May.

Among the vendors will be food

vendors, craft vendors, face-painters. and there will be rides. Pumpkin pie with fresh whipped cream will be available. There will be able cider for sale. Organizers ask attendees to bring refillable water bottles, as this is a sustainable event.

One can also take a sail that day,



Arm of the Sea performs during a previous Pumpkin Festival.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Sloop Club

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weather permitting. There will be limited availability for free sails on board the sloop Woody Guthrie. Tickets are handed out starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club merchandise table, said organizers.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy musical entertainment on one

of two solar-powered stages. One of the stages will be geared towards children’s entertainment.

Organizers suggest bringing a blanket or chair and enjoy the Hudson River as the Festival’s backdrop.

For more information on the Festival, visit www.beaconsloopclub.org.

Creative sheep community connects with ever-growing ‘herd’ of followers



Anne Juerss holds two Herdwick lambs on her family’s Bield Farm in Clinton Corners. The lambs were born in May and their fleece will change color as they mature. Sheep farmers, wool and yarn enthusiasts and many more will gather at this weekend’s NYS Sheep and Wool Festival at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

By Morgan E. Maier

Anne Juerss never expected to get into sheep. Always a horse person, she was drawn to the equine species that require passion, much like the woolen flocks that reside at Bield Farm.

It all began with their children in 4-H. Juerss and her husband, Peter, became absorbed, as one easily might from the first time they laid their hands on a sheep. Clinton Corners has been home to Bield Farm’s flock, horn to hoof, for the last 14 years.

“Bield” comes from an old English word meaning shelter. It refers to the stone walls in fields that don’t lead or connect to anything, but are ideal for sheep to seek cover. In the years since Bield Farms first came up, they’ve sought shelter in their community.

They found it in droves. Fellow flock leaders, fleece mills, veterinarians, and shearers, among others, have in their own way helped Bield Farm navigate this world of sheep.

With that community, grew a passion of Anne’s: creating felted rugs made of the fleece on sheep that roam Bield Farm’s rolling hills.

Juerss is admittedly unsavvy in knitting

or crocheting. Needle felting brings a happy medium, especially for the animals. “We don’t do pelts. The sheep would prefer to keep their skin,” Juerss said.

After felting by hand for years, the needling machine has taken Anne’s rugs up a notch. It’s no less a labor of love. A rug can take a month from start to finish, and no two are the same. They are much like sheep, the predictably unpredictable animal.

NYS Sheep and Wool Festival Preview on Page 8

When dealing with the bouncy-wooled Cheviot or rough Herdwick, as with crafting, one must get creative in their promotion. Thousands flock yearly to the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck. The majority are farms with larger, more established flocks than Bield’s Shetlands, Cheviots, and the



Above are two Shetland ewes at the Bield Farm in Clinton Corners. At the left is Sweetaams, who will be at the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds this coming weekend. The black and white Shetland is named Spice. Shetlands are renowned for their fleece.

newest crop of Herdwicks.

This year, the festival comes to town Oct. 18-19. Juerss will be spinning up another theme; visitors will just have to wait and see.

Most people are pleasantly surprised by the soothing softness of a sheep. Others find themselves equally charmed by the annual displays within Bield’s stalls.

“Many people haven’t touched a sheep in their lives, so for them it’s literally a hands-on experience. And actually, the sheep do appreciate it!” added Juerss.

Last year’s ‘Woolympics’ theme featured spandex-clad stuffed sheep, woolen rings up above. People ate it up. The extra time spent soaking in the displays means more eyes on the smaller farms, for longer.

“People stopped and looked, and they

continued looking at the other sheep, not just our sheep. It caught their attention and it kept them in the barn,” said Juerss.

Marketing for the sheep-crazy masses, is something Juerss enjoys putting on every year. Her sheep have graced commercials and live television - and they’ve not gone Hollywood, her flock is just as happy to graze in Clinton Corners.

Fourteen years into its ovine odyssey, Bield Farm is still relatively new to the game. Anne and Peter are developing new and different uses for the fleece every day. Anne credits Peter with his ingenuity, patience, and support for the growth-including the years she pleaded her case for a needle felting machine (and got it!). Every season, they are pushing the limits of what fleece can do, and showing the world how tough sheep can be.



“Out of the box” ideas are key elements of sheep farming. Above, fleece is used around plants to help retain moisture in the soil.

Harvest fun set Oct. 19 at Carnwath Farms

Continued from cover

Sports Museum of Dutchess County,” said Friends of Carnwath treasurer Jessica Sarrantonio.

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with interactive museum exhibits and explore the historic grounds of

Carnwath Farms. Rich with history and natural views at every season, Carnwath’s Fall Festival offers something for all ages to enjoy.

Sarrantonio added, “Our goal is to get more people experiencing the park and the museum and enjoying the beautiful public space that we have here in the Town of Wappinger. See you at the festival!”

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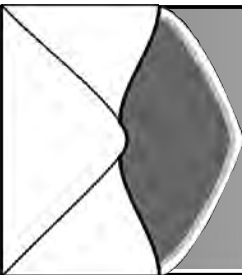
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Viewpoints



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Policy on letters:

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

Judge McLoughlin makes Dutchess County safe for all

To the Editor:

I’m supporting Judge Ned McLoughlin for Dutchess County Court because he’s dedicated to keeping our communities safe. Judge McLoughlin has a strong record of holding criminals accountable, ensuring that those who break the law face real consequences.

At the same time, he understands that lasting public safety also means addressing the root causes of crime. Judge McLoughlin supports treatment and recovery programs for those battling addiction, helping people get back on track and reducing repeat offenses.

His balanced approach — firm on crime, fair in judgment — makes Dutchess County a safer, stronger place for all of us. Please join me in voting to re-elect Judge Ned McLoughlin this November.

Marko Peratikos
Town of Wappinger

Judge McLoughlin shows steady leadership

To the Editor:

I’m proud to support Judge Ned McLoughlin for Dutchess County Court. Judge McLoughlin has shown the kind of fairness, integrity and professionalism that our community deserves on the bench. He treats every person who enters his courtroom with respect, follows the law and makes decisions that reflect both justice and common sense.

His record shows a deep commitment to public service and to keeping Dutchess County a safe and fair place for all. Judge McLoughlin’s experience and steady leadership make him the right choice to continue serving on the County Court.

I encourage everyone to vote to re-elect Judge Ned McLoughlin this November.

Christine Selback
Hopewell Junction

Why Assisting American Legion Post 429 Matters

To the Editor:

On September 8, 2025, the American Legion Post 429 in Rhinebeck suffered significant fire damage to its historic building. As the Post works to repair and restore its operations, let's rally around them and provide support. For years, Post 429 has been a cornerstone of the community, fostering patriotism, respect for service, and support for local organizations. It's also been a beloved venue for countless celebrations and events.

As we approach Veterans Appreciation Month in November, let’s seize this opportunity to give back to the veterans who have given so much to our country and community. By actively supporting Post 429, we can turn this setback into a chance for growth and renewal. Let’s lead by an example the children follow!

Donations can be made via gofundme at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-help-rhinebeckveterans-legion-post-from-fire>.

Virgil Capollari
Town of Fishkill

Poll inspectors wanted

The Dutchess County Board of Elections is seeking civic-minded individuals to serve as poll inspectors for Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4. “Poll inspectors are essential to running smooth elections and helping voters have a positive experience—it’s very rewarding work,” said Democratic Commissioner Lisa Jessup. Poll inspectors work a full day from 5 a.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. and receive \$300 compensation for their service. Duties include signing in voters, issuing ballots, overseeing voting machines, and assisting voters throughout the day. Each polling site is staffed by bipartisan teams to ensure a fair and transparent process.

To be eligible, individuals must be at least 18 years old, a registered voter in Dutchess County, and must complete a paid training session in advance of the election.

“Election Day workers are the front line of our democratic process, ensuring a free and fair election,” said Republican Commissioner Erik Haight. “I implore anyone willing and able to do their civic duty to reach out to us for training and an assignment at a polling location near their home.”

Interested residents are encouraged to contact:

- Araina Hutchings, Democratic Inspector Coordinator: 845-486-2721
- Gino Coppola, Republican Inspector Coordinator: 845-486-2724.

East Fishkill to participate in National Medication Take Back Day on Oct. 25.

The East Fishkill Rotary Club is partnering with CAPE (Council on Addiction Prevention and Education), East Fishkill Fire Department, East Fishkill Police Department and the Town of East Fishkill on National Medication Take Back Day, Saturday, Oct. 25, for an event to be held at our East Fishkill Training Facility to safely dispose of unused medications.

Unused medications can be disposed at the East Fishkill Fire Training Facility, 2502 Route 52, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in East Fishkill.

Accepted Items:

- Prescription medications
- Over-the-counter medications
- Pet medications
- Patches
- Liquids (in secure containers)

Not accepted: vape pens and syringes

Additional resources available on-site:

- Narcan Training and overdose prevention supplies
- Medication lock bags and drug destruction kits
- Referrals to local agencies offering mental health and wellness support for all ages

How it works:

- Drive-up or walk-up — no questions asked
- Law enforcement ensures secure collection
- DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) agents seal, weigh, and transport medications for safe destruction

This event is open to all Dutchess County residents — an opportunity to make a real difference in preventing substance misuse and promoting wellness.

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Fall Festival fun in Fishkill



The Town of Fishkill Recreation Department held its annual Fall Festival at Maurer Geering Park on Saturday, Oct. 11. (Clockwise from top left) Thumper, the rabbit, and Cleo, the tortoise, were 2 of the animals brought by Two By Two Animal Haven for the three-hour event. Meg Foster, left, Stacy Bernstein, right, with Assistant Recreation Director Lauren McMenamain were at tables where one could find out about the different programs and classes offered at the Fishkill Recreation Center. A pumpkin patch was available for those who took the hayride.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Dutchess County Awards \$100,000 to local organizations for food assistance

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced that \$100,000 has been awarded through the 2025 Dutchess County Agency Partner Grant (APG): Infrastructure program for four organizations providing food assistance to those struggling to afford food or experiencing homelessness. These projects complement Dutchess County’s ongoing efforts to combat food insecurity.

Serino said, “Every day, local groups are helping to make sure that our neighbors in need have enough to eat. This is a critical need in our community and Dutchess County is proud to offer these recipients the funding that helps them keep doing their great work and reach even more people who need assistance.”

The \$100,000 APG: Infrastructure pro-

gram funding was dedicated for food assistance programs through a Dutchess County Legislature amendment to the 2025 County Budget. Eligible applicants were non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation whose primary mission is to serve food to those experiencing homelessness or provide food to those in need of food assistance, i.e., food pantries, throughout Dutchess County.

Assistant Minority Leader Barrington Atkins said, “I was proud to introduce this crucial amendment to the County budget, ensuring support for the local organizations that work tirelessly every day to feed our neighbors. This grant program will provide them with the tools and resources needed to expand their impact and continue showing up for the people who rely on them, and I’m

grateful to have had the full support of my fellow legislators in making it happen.”

Projects funded through the 2025 Agency Partner Grant: Infrastructure Grant Program include:

Dutchess Outreach, Inc.; City of Poughkeepsie, \$42,000 – Purchase of commercial-grade kitchen equipment to support meal preparation, storage, and service for the agency’s Lunch Box community meal program and food pantry.

Mental Health America of Dutchess County; City of Poughkeepsie, \$25,000 – Purchase of kitchen equipment to upgrade and expand the agency’s veterans’ food pantry, including a commercial freezer and refrigerator; grab-and-go coolers; shelving units and cabinetry.

North East Community Center, Inc.; Millerton, \$15,000 – Purchase of equipment to enhance food storage and organization at the agency’s food pantry, including upright freezers; mobile display freezers; grab-and-go coolers; shelving units and mobile basket stands.

Pawling Resource Center; Pawling, \$18,000 – Purchase of a convertible refrigerator/freezer and shelving systems for the agency’s food pantry.

Learn more about the Agency Partner Grant program, visit the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development’s webpage.

HousingSearch.ny.gov ‘improved’ and ‘modernized’

New York State Homes and Community Renewal announced the New York Housing Search website has been improved and modernized to make it easier and more convenient for New Yorkers to search for available affordable housing. The new website is said to provide more robust functionality, including the capability to apply to open affordable housing lotteries online.

New York State Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said, “HCR’s new website is emblematic of the Governor’s commitment to making the affordable housing search easier and more accessible. New York Housing Search is our latest tool to improve access to State-financed housing in communities across the state.”

New York Housing Search consolidates listings for housing lotteries and waitlists for all HCR-financed projects into one website. New Yorkers have the opportunity to apply for affordable

housing online.

The website features lotteries and waitlists that are open throughout the state. The listings are available to various communities including families, households in need of support services, seniors, individuals experiencing homelessness, and veterans. New Yorkers will be able to search for apartments that are accessible and equipped for people with mobility impairments, as well as hearing and visual impairments. There is also a “translate” button for New Yorkers who may need to translate the listings or applications into the top twelve most spoken languages in the state. Owners of HCR-financed properties can create listings, accept electronic applications, run lotteries, and use their project’s waitlist to fill vacancies.

Each affordable housing lottery listing has information about eligibility including income, household size, ability, and age. Some affordable developments may have additional eligibility requirements such as veteran or workforce status.

Early voting starts October 25

Note: Information taken from <https://elections.dutchessny.gov/early-voting/>

Early voting for the Nov. 4 General Election begins on Saturday, Oct. 25, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 2. (In-person early voting is not available on Nov. 3, the day before the Election Day.) Dutchess County voters may visit any early voting site in the county. Please be aware that your typical poll site is likely closed for early voting.

Locations:

Pavilion at Brookmeade,	34
Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck	
Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52,	
Fishkill	
Boardman Road Library,	141
Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie	

Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 25,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27,	noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29,	noon-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 31,	8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 2,	9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cornell Cooperative Extension,
2715 Route 44, Millbrook
Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium,
105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
Board of Elections Training Center,
4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
Wappinger Town Hall, 20
Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Reasons for enlisting are personal and varied



Each of us who have worn the uniform of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces had different reasons for joining. The decision to enlist is always a personal one, and each brave man and woman who holds up their right hand and swears to protect this nation and its citizens brings with them a particular reason for doing so.

For some, enlisting in the military symbolizes the patriotism they hold for this country, selflessly choosing to defend the freedoms we have held dear for nearly 250 years. Some join to be part of something greater than themselves, to become part of a team that has been respected around the globe for centuries. Still others enlist to further their personal development, knowing the U.S. military transforms raw potential into leadership and molds individuals into men and women of honor, capable of leading others, mastering technology and navigating the complexities of an ever-changing world.

I recently sat down with local recruiters with four branches of our Armed Forces – the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps – to discuss what they look for in men and women who are thinking about enlisting a military life and the qualities that make a good recruit.

When asked about what he looks for in recruits, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Max Montgomery said, “someone looking to change,” adding a good recruit does not want “to be just average, (and) wants to tap into potential that they don’t know they have.”

Air Force Senior Airman Terrell Jennings added he’s looking for “motivated men and women from the ages of 17-42 that are looking to make a difference in, not only their lives, but the lives of the people around them.”

Army Staff Sergeant Justin Wedekind said in addition to possessing “the desire and drive to become someone better,” an individual who find success in the military is “the ‘Be-All-You Can Be’ person – someone that knows it’s up to them to make a change and do something.”

A recruit who can self-motivate is often a good candidate to join and succeed in the military, Navy Petty Officer Sean VanWarner said. “Someone who is committed, that type of person who puts your mind to it and just do it.”

The local recruiters said every path to a military career is unique, including their own – whether it was continuing a family tradition of service or seeking personal growth. Regardless of the journey they took, each said they’re happy with the decision they made.

“I needed a life change. I was sleeping on the floor of my brother’s apartment for years, going down a negative path,” Senior Airman Jennings said. “The Air Force provided me with the discipline and stability I needed to better, not only myself, but the lives of the family I created in the process.”

Staff Sergeant Montgomery said joining the military “was always a thought for me,” based on his loved ones’ legacy of service.

“I grew up around a military family,” he said. “I was the first Marine to join. I was 25 when I enlisted and never looked back. It was the best decision I ever made.”

Potential enlistees, though, might have apprehensions about joining the military and making such a life-altering decision. The recruiters I spoke with said that is completely understandable. They encourage those considering enlistment to discuss those feelings with a recruiter as they think about what’s best for them and their future.

“Just take the first step in contacting your local recruiter and discuss with him/her the concerns you have. Most of the time the concerns you have are just mental hurdles we create within ourselves,” Senior Airman Jennings said. “Usually when you address those concerns with someone, it helps alleviate those concerns.”

In a world that seems to always place self-interest above all else, we should applaud those considering life of military service, putting their nation’s well-being above their own. If you know a friend or loved one who’s thinking about enlisting in the Armed Forces, I hope you’ll encourage them to consider how this decision will change their life and urge them to seek guidance to ensure they make the choice that’s best for them.

There’s still time to reserve your seat at our annual “Red, White and YOU!” Veterans Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, Oct. 18 at James Baird State Park. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you’ll be treated to free food, live entertainment and the chance to connect with local veterans of various eras in a relaxed atmosphere.

You can also reserve a seat at one of our upcoming Veterans Appreciation Pasta Dinners (Oct. 26 in Pine Plains and Nov. 2 in Poughkeepsie) for some warm, welcoming comfort food as our way of saying thanks for your service. You’re invited to come share good food, good company and great conversation with your fellow veterans.

You’re invited to bring one guest to each event, and we ask you please register by calling (845) 486-2000 or emailing countyexec@dutchessny.gov.

Castle Point Acute Inpatient Medical Unit reopened

By Kristine Coulter

The Castle Point Acute Inpatient Medical Unit reopened earlier this month at the VA Health Care Systems Castle Point campus.

“VA temporarily closed the Castle Point Acute Inpatient Medical Unit in February to re-evaluate staffing needs, and the unit reopened Oct. 6. Veteran care continued uninterrupted during this closure, as patients with acute medical conditions were treated in urgent care, and those requiring hospitalization were sent to nearby community or VA medical facilities. The Democrats’ government shutdown will not affect VA’s ability to care for Veterans at VA Hudson Valley HCS,” said VA Press Secretary Peter Kasperowicz.

“The reopening of the Castle Point VA inpatient unit is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the veterans who have

served our nation. This 20-bed facility in Wappingers Falls will provide essential care to those who have sacrificed so much. I stand with our community and our veterans, ensuring they receive the support and services they deserve,” NYS Senator Rob Rolison (39th Senate District) posted on Facebook last week.

Rep. Pat Ryan (18th Congressional District) stated on social media, “We have a Patriotic duty to ensure that every veteran gets the care our country promised them. Closing Castle Point violated that sacred duty. But the Hudson Valley FOUGHT BACK & WON – because just like our vets fight for us, we’ll always answer the call to fight for them.”

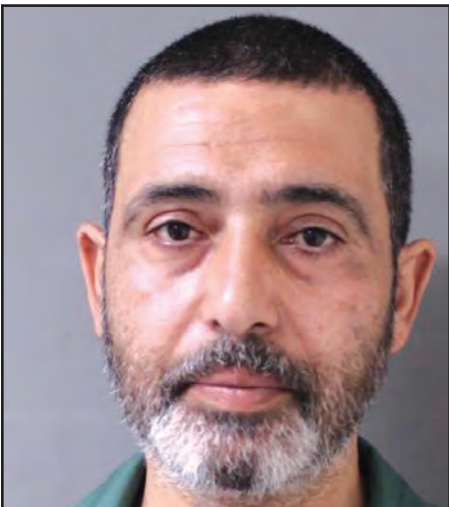
For information on how the government shutdown affects VA, visit <https://department.va.gov/contingency-planning/>.

D.A.: Poughkeepsie man arraigned on manslaughter indictment in the death of his 16-month-old child

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced on Oct. 9 that Haitham Dasan, 49, was charged by an Indictment returned by a Dutchess County Grand Jury and arraigned in Dutchess County Court on Wednesday, Oct. 8. The Indictment charges Dasan with Manslaughter in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony.

“When my administration began reviewing this case, we made a promise – that no victim would be forgotten and no case left unexamined. This indictment reflects that commitment,” said District Attorney Anthony Parisi. “The death of a 16-month-old child is an unimaginable tragedy, and we will never stop working to ensure that even the coldest cases are given the attention they deserve. Justice delayed does not mean justice denied, and we will continue to seek accountability, no matter how much time has passed.”

The incident charged in the Indictment occurred on April 12, 2021, in the early afternoon at 75 Oakdale Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie, according to the D.A.’s office. The defendant is accused of recklessly causing the death of his daughter Soraiya Dasan. It is alleged that Haitham Dasan possessed a hypodermic needle that contained both fentanyl and xylazine, as well as a plastic container with a clear plastic straw that contained fentanyl. An autopsy of Soraiya Dasan was conducted by the Dutchess County Medical Examiner’s Officer along with a toxicology report. Soraiya Dasan’s cause of death was determined to be from acute fentanyl intoxication, stated the D.A.’s



Haitham Dasan
-Courtesy photo D.C. D.A.’s Office

Office. Fentanyl and xylazine were both allegedly found in her blood. As a result of the defendant’s recklessness, Soraiya Dasan was exposed to fentanyl which ultimately caused her death, stated officials.

The case was investigated by the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Joseph Russo. Judge Edward McLoughlin presided over the case. The defendant was remanded without bail, and his next court date is set for Oct. 29.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely accusations, and Dasan is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Ribbon-cutting held for completion of pump station

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou was joined by City Superintendent of Water and Sewers Ed Balicki, Erin Moore, PE of Tighe & Bond Engineering, and City Engineer John Russo, PE for a ribbon-cutting event to mark the successful completion of the City’s West Main Pump Station and Force Main Project (the “Project”) on Monday, Oct. 6. Construction began during the summer of 2024, and was substantially completed on Aug. 15. The Project was originally estimated and budgeted for \$4.5 million but was completed by TAM Enterprises, Inc. of Goshen for \$3.3 million, nearly \$1.2 million under budget.

Work included the construction of an entirely new wastewater pump station next to the original one, which was built in the 1960’s adjacent to the Metro-North Railroad north parking lot. The now decommissioned station lacked sufficient pumping capacity to meet the City’s growing needs for wastewater collection for the northwestern areas of the City. The new facility doubled pumping capacity with three new pumps and a deeper wet well, and related work included the replacement of nearly 2,500 feet of force

main pipe in adjacent roadways. The project also included installation of a new emergency generator in the station and provided enhanced safety protections for City staff working at the station itself.

While completing road excavation for the new force main piping, crews encountered remnants of former manufactured gas tanks on property decommissioned by Central Hudson. The City worked closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Central Hudson Gas & Electric, and LaBella Associates to complete safe excavation and disposal of all remaining contaminants. Central Hudson fully cooperated with the cleanup and reimbursed the City for all costs relating to the contamination and its remediation.

Kyriacou remarked, “Thank you to Ed Balicki and our Water Department staff, TAM Enterprises, and our project engineering team who diligently saw through to completion this complex and critical project. This \$3.2 million investment is just the latest in the City’s ongoing program to modernize our wastewater and other infrastructure, which has seen the investment of more than \$50 million in City infrastructure and facilities since 2020.”



A ribbon-cutting event was held to mark the completion of the City of Beacon’s West Main Pump Station and Force Main Project on Monday, Oct. 6 in Beacon.
Pictured (left to right): City of Beacon Superintendent of Water and Sewers Ed Balicki; Erin Moore, PE of Tighe & Bond Engineering; Mayor Lee Kyriacou; and City Engineer John Russo, PE of Lanc & Tully Engineering and Surveying.
-Courtesy photo City of Beacon

Detached garage fire ‘under investigation’



City of Beacon firefighters work to put out a detached garage fire on Masters Place on Friday, Oct. 10 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo City of Beacon Fire Dept.

At approximately 6:24 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, the City of Beacon Fire Department was dispatched to a reported brush fire on Liberty Street in Beacon. While responding, Dutchess County 911 advised that multiple callers were reporting conflicting information, including the possibility of a brush fire or shed fire, with several reports of a loud explosion in the area. Fire Department apparatus arrived on the scene within four minutes and confirmed a working fire in a 15’ x 25’ detached garage located behind 17

Masters Place, City of Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi said in a press release.

Firefighters quickly stretched a handline to extinguish the fire and protect a nearby structure that was threatened by heat and flames, noted the chief. The fire was declared under control shortly thereafter, and all City of Beacon Fire Department units were clear by 8:40 a.m. No injuries were reported, said Lucchesi, who added, the fire remains under investigation by the City of Beacon Fire Department.

Fishkill Ave. project update

The ongoing Fishkill Avenue project was commented on during the City Council meeting on Oct. 6.

There was an update on the project on the City’s Facebook page on Oct. 7.

“We received calls and emails the past few days about the omission of crosswalks on Fishkill Avenue at Wilkes Street and Blackburn Ave (by Ron’s Ice Cream.) The original engineer’s design for this area included raised crosswalks at these two locations. However, as the contractor was starting to prepare to install these, a design issue that would have created drainage issues and winter freezing was flagged. We are working with the City Engineer and project engineers to come up with possible reconfigurations that will include permanent crosswalks and traffic

slowing installations (“speed tables”). These will be installed in the coming weeks along with additional signage,” it was stated.

“The replacement of water mains north/east of this location are nearly done with the last service line being done today. We anticipate the replacement of the sewer mains should begin later this week. There is still a lot of excavation and pipeline installation work to do before we finish later this year. We are still trying to finish in time to install a new road surface from Blackburn Ave to Prospect Street (Town of Fishkill border.)”

The post concluded: “Thank you again for your patience and flexibility as we complete these much-needed capital improvements.”

Public can comment on CAPER

The Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development (DCDPD) invites public comments on its draft 2024 CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report), which outlines Dutchess County’s accomplishments for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership programs for the period March 1, 2024 to July 31.

The draft CAPER is available for public review for a 15-day period from Thursday, Oct. 9, to Saturday, Oct. 25. The draft CAPER is available on the County’s website and during normal business hours at DCDPD, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107, Poughkeepsie

NY 12601.

A public hearing will be held in-person and virtually on:

Wednesday, October 15 at 10 a.m.

- Dutchess County Planning and Development, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107, Poughkeepsie
- Virtual Link – <http://bit.ly/48Eyz8Q>

Written comments and questions may be directed to Gail Padalino, Community Development Administrator via mail (at the above address), email to community-grants@dutchessny.gov, or phone at 845-486-3600. All comments will be considered and included in the final Report as appropriate, which will be forwarded to HUD on or about Saturday, Oct. 25.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

John Jay girls’ tennis stays undefeated with wins over Arlington, Lourdes

By Morgan E. Maier

Tina Zhang served up back-to-back dominant wins over Arlington and Lourdes to keep the Patriots’ perfect season alive. First, an 8-0 Pro Set win over Arlington’s Brianna Travis for the first of Arlington’s three singles set wins. Anika Panghaal and Katie Zhang both won 8-2. Morgan McKenna and Lorena Melendez blanked Jamie Gemmel and Rachel Lawrence for the doubles victory, followed by a tight 8-7 victory by Naya Patel and Isabella Ciraco. Makaylah Kelleher and Addison Zittel found Arlington’s lone win, 8-6 in the fourth doubles match.

Against OLL, Tina Zhang took a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Elia Bonavoglia. Second doubles Isabella Ciraco and Naya Patel blanked the second doubles pairing with twin 6-0 victories. Napolitano and Nidhi Pandya closed out the Patriots’ 4-1 victory with a win over Lourdes’ third doubles Isabelle Keller and Kelly McKee.

John Jay volleyball shines on home court

John Jay volleyball beat Clarkstown South in four sets to improve to 6-0 in their home gym. The Patriots and Vikings traded 25-21 victories in the first two sets. John Jay struck first in the clash, then came away with the win after taking the third and fourth, 25-17 and 25-19. Leading attacker Peyton Killam was all

over Clarkstown, landing 21 kills on the Vikings. Freshman Margaret Bojarczuk contributed 37 assists, five digs and five aces. Bella Cabrera had 10 kills. Samantha Seymour had 12 digs across the four sets, and Lilliana Bojarczuk had two aces, one of which set up the Patriots’ match point. Bojarczuk was at the line once more to secure the win.

Beacon girls soccer blanks O’Neill, 4-0

A pair of goals from Teaghan Burks made the difference on Oct. 8, as Beacon held off a tough O’Neill Raider squad for another non-league win. Claire Morgan and Sarai Horne also scored one goal apiece to stretch the lead from O’Neill’s reach. Drew Kelly and Victoria McKay both tallied one assist. The Raider offense forced just two saves by the Bulldogs’ keeper, Victoria Maruggi. O’Neill goalkeeper CJ Conkey made nine saves.

Beacon boys’ soccer goes 1-1-1

The Bulldogs enjoyed a dominant 8-0 win over Port Jervis, matching a goal scoring season-high that came against... Port Jervis. Beacon began the week against a tough Spackenkill team that’s undefeated on the road. They dueled the Spartans through overtime to earn a second straight scoreless tie. Two days later, blanked once more on Oct. 9. The Newburgh Free Academy Goldbacks won 4-0 on Beacon’s turf to close out the match week.

From workshops & demos to parades & sales, Sheep & Wool Festival is a hub of activity



A needle-felted rug is by Anne Jueress. The sample block and chair are from Herdwick fleece by a company in the United Kingdom. The photo shows a mature Herdwick sheep.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

By Morgan E. Maier

A sheep can store memories of faces and places its rectangular pupils have seen for two years. Hundreds will soon scan the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, as the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival celebrates its 45th annual ovine extravaganza.

During the October 18-19 festivities, Rhinebeck can expect people and sheep alike from all over the world. For one weekend a year, wool spinning demos and sheep-inspired dance theater are the norm at 6550 Spring Brook Avenue.

Want to spin a cozy sweater fit for northeast winter? The Sheep & Wool Festival has a full schedule for all ages, from basket-weaving workshops to shearing exhibitions, llama parades, there will be fiber art demos and much more. They’ll be pulling out all the stops, and the spools. The festival annually features an assortment of vendors with yarn, sweaters, rugs, and more handmade beauties straight from the woolen source. There will be plenty of food options and vendors available, plus lamb and live-stock sales for the winter stockpiling.

The Sheep and Wool Festival casts a cozy spotlight for prospective buyers and wool enthusiasts alike. It acts as a hub for information, similar to early editions of the festival. In the 1980s, it was born as Dutchess County’s resident ewe sale. It’s since become a global gathering of the savviest sheep shoppers. The Sheep and Wool Festival calls to all from Hudson Valley farms to Vermont, Japan and all

the lands in between.

For some folks, it is a yearly means of showcasing woolen works of art. Others are enrolling their flock in sheep shows, attending breed talks, or prepping for fleece sales and equipment auctions. Prospective buyers and fledgling farm owners can see firsthand the breeds they’ve heard of, while they get a hand on lesser-known breeds. Committed buyers can get a look at the popular breeds that have come up in their herding research. Sheep and farmers alike welcome the opportunity to get hands and eyes on smaller-sized flocks.

Each hoof and foot roaming the fairgrounds is assembling this community built on hard work. Growing a flock from individuals with their own flocks is no small task. The festival is a grand success because it beckons to people from all corners of life, for one October weekend. For the festival committee, a volunteer brigade dedicated to promoting such livestock events in the county, the weekend is a culmination of an entire year of planning.

“Without their work, I’d have all these sheep and nowhere to bring them,” said Bield Farm’s Anne Jueress, who represents Clinton Corners with Cheviot and Shetland displays that make a yearly festival highlight.

Go on, meet the sheep. Touch them, but be warned. The coats are softer and more soothing than they appear. The sheep will enjoy the scratches and massages and they’ll remember you came.

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



The devil is in the details, boys & girls



Pictured from left, Winterberry typically bloom in late spring. Daisies are composite flowers. Lilies and alstroemeria are “perfect” flowers, meaning they contain both male and female reproductive structures.

-Photos by Glen White and Francine Wizner

Alstroemeria were my go-to flowers for teaching reproduction. They are affordable and, conveniently, are often sold at grocery stores. Although not as large as true lilies, their size still allows them to be easily dissected. Plus, the parts of the bloom are self-evident, unlike composite flowers, such as daisies. Alstroemerias are great examples of typical flowering plants.

They are able to convey a simplified, core idea, which is a hallmark instructional technique for delivering new concepts. In the beginning, its best not to go “into the weeds” with details. Alstroemeria is like most flowering plants: it has “perfect” flowers. Perfect flowers are those that contain both male and female reproductive structures; they could also be called hermaphroditic or bisexual. Perfect flowers may be able to reproduce either through self-pollination (with their own pollen) or cross-pollination (from another flower).

The living environment is a broad curriculum

In the context of the New York State high school curriculum, the Living Environment Regents exam is the final, summative assessment for the high school Biology course. The exam evaluates students on their knowledge of a wide range of topics including cellular biology and processes, genetics and heredity, evolution, ecology and human impacts on the environment, biochemistry,

lab skills and scientific inquiry, data analysis, homeostasis, disease, human body systems, reproduction and development. Given that breadth, instruction about the minority of angiosperms that produce imperfect flowers (possessing only male or only female reproductive structures), is a detail that would more likely be taught in a Botany course.

An exception to the rule

Plants that are unisexual, with “imperfect” flowers, require cross-pollination to reproduce successfully. Cross-pollination leads to increased genetic diversity within plant populations, which enhances a species’ ability to adapt to environmental changes. Plants with imperfect flowers may rely on pollinators or alternative strategies like wind dispersal.

More details

Lots of plants have separate male and female (imperfect) flowers on the same plant. Other plants may have entirely hermaphroditic flowers. Regardless, the term monoecious is used for individual plants that contain both male and female structures.

A fewer number of plants have male and female reproductive structures that are found on other plants among their species. The term dioecious is used for plants that are strictly unisexual. Unlike monoecious plants, dioecious plants cannot self-pollinate. Fruit production on a female dioecious plant requires

pollen from a nearby male plant of the same species.

Boys and Girls

Although I was aware that some plants require two of the opposite gender to fruit, most of my adult life has been spent living on land parcels the size of a postage stamp, where I did minimal gardening. Also, I spent thirty-two years teaching a broad curriculum, where the focus was delivering core ideas. Exceptions to rules warranted brief mentions or invitations to consider elective courses or research to learn more.

Admittedly, when I went shopping for pretty shrubs for the much larger land area where I now live, I didn’t think about whether my new “babies” were boys or girls.

But, the devil is in the details. If you plant Ginkgos, be sure they are male. Otherwise, you may end up getting a whiff of the smelly fruit that results from cross-fertilization of a female tree. If you’re a regular cannabis user, and you prefer to legally grow your own, you’ll likely want to grow feminized seeds or cuttings from a female plant to get the buds. I am neither a Ginkgo Seed enthusiast nor a marijuana aficionado.

I simply wanted an interesting winter garden. That’s why I purchased two Winterberries. They had pretty orange-red fruit. I bought them last year in the late summer. Then, a dear friend reminded me

that I wouldn’t be seeing that fruit again unless I bought a boy, which I promptly did.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) typically blooms in late spring, with flowers appearing in May and June. But, even though I have an Apollo Winterberry (cultivar) planted near my two “girls,” they didn’t flower this past spring.

It turns out that Winterberry shrubs typically need 2-3 years to establish before they flower and fruit reliably. Hopefully, I’ll see winter fruit by 2027. If not, perhaps they aren’t getting enough sunlight or water. Those factors, Boys and Girls, are also details.

Here is a downloadable activity which is helpful for learning vocabulary related to angiosperms (flowering plants): <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Plant-Reproduction-Rules-Exceptions-Enrichment-Ecology-14165407>.

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

Revolutionary War Day at Mount Gulian set for October 25



Revolutionary War Day at Mount Gulian will take place on October 25 in Beacon. -Courtesy photo Mount Gulian

Revolutionary War Day at Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., is set for Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Beacon. This is their America 250 kick-off event. Visitors can fall-in with re-enactors from the 5th New York Regiment of the Continental Army, The British 15th Regiment of Foot and Mott’s Artillery.

Boys and girls, as well as interested adults, can enlist in the militia, swear a loyalty oath to the patriot cause and drill with non-firing wooden muskets. A skirmish between the Patriots and the British

troops will be re-enacted; fife and drummers will be heard, and much more.

The admission fee is \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$12 children (ages 3 to 16). There is no charge for children under 3 and Mount Gulian members. Membership is open to the public.

This event is made possible with the generous support of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, and The New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

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Obituaries

Joyce Edna Foley



Joyce Edna Foley, a former resident of Jersey City, NJ for over 50-years, and recent years of Wappingers Falls, NY; passed away peacefully on Friday, October 10, 2025 at her home; at the age of 94. She was born on August 13, 1931 in the Town of Wappinger, NY, daughter of the late Chester and Melva (Sutton) Foley. Joyce grew up in Wappingers Falls and was a graduate of Wappingers Central High School, class of 1949.

Along with her parents, Joyce was predeceased by her beloved companion Richard Miedema who predeceased her on June 18, 2015. She was also predeceased by her brother Leonard Foley, her sister Melva Mae Laffin, and broth-

er-in-law Morris V. Laffin, Jr.

Joyce is survived by her brother Roger Foley and sister-in-law Devon of Highland, NY as well as sister-in-law Carole Foley of Millerton, NY.

Joyce is survived by five nieces and nephews, Michael Laffin and his wife Betty Jean of Hopewell Junction, NY. Glen Foley and his wife Crystal of Loris, SC. Robert Foley and his wife Leslie of Terryville, CT. James Foley and his wife Lisa of Vero Beach, Fl and Marie Fox and her husband Ricardo of Millerton, NY. Over the years, Joyce loved visiting her nieces and nephews, spending time with them and taking many photographs of the families.

It was her ten great nieces and nephews and their families whom she dearly loved. She was proud of their accomplishments, and her generosity assisted them in achieving their life goals.

Having moved to New Jersey, Joyce entered the workforce in the telecommunications industry. A 40-year career saw her begin with Jersey Bell Telephone and retirement from Verizon. Joyce began as a switchboard operator and became a supervisor, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She often would say that she enjoyed working every day.

For over 50 years, Joyce traveled between her residence in Jersey City and Wappingers Falls. Joyce made it her priority to attend as many family events and holidays as possible. She was a Master of Working the bus schedules that would take her from Jersey City through Penn Station in NYC and up through the Hudson Valley to Wappingers Falls. Her life was made full by her attendance at her nieces and nephews life events. The joy it brought Joyce to be included in their lives was immeasurable.

Upon returning to Wappingers Falls from Jersey City, Joyce and Melva resided together and shared a sisterly bond that brought them much enjoyment. The love between them was something only sisters could understand. They truly enjoyed a good cup of tea in the afternoon sitting at the kitchen table where they discussed the events of the world and happenings of the family.

Joyce enjoyed travelling to many places, both in the United States and around the world. Her favorite trips included travelling throughout Europe and visiting family and friends in California.

Joyce was a kind, caring and generous person. She had a heart of gold and as family and friends, we were blessed that she was a part of our lives. She was a wonderful sister, aunt, great-aunt and a true friend.

Joyces' family wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to Hospice and her "Angels on Earth" (Mary Ellen, Judi, Esther, Monica, Kaitlyn, Mary & Alecia) who selflessly provided care to Joyce and made her comfortable in her later years.

Her Family & Friends will gather to remember and honor her life on Thursday, October 23 from 10-11am at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY; where a prayer service will be offered at 11AM, followed by interment to the Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, Route 9D, Wappingers Falls, NY.

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

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie seeks volunteers

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie has a need for volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday, picking up the meals at 11 a.m. & delivering them to clients in the greater Poughkeepsie area. The most immediate need is for Thursdays. One can volunteer once a week or once a month...whatever fits one's schedule and ours.

Please call Judy Lombardi or Amy Abrahams at 845-452-2245 for more information.

Former Beacon Elks can rejoin

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 in the months of October (Elks National Foundation Month) and November have reduced the application fee to \$1 for reinstatements.

The Elks realize life brings many people many different situations. Changes occur in life that now give people more opportunities to help their community. Applications for membership and applications for reinstatement are available at the lodge.

Questions can be directed to the lodge at 845-831-9746 or 845-831-6540.

Ginger Knapp Ringdahl



We are saddened to announce the unexpected death of our Mom, Gramma, and Great Grandmother ("GG"). Ginger Knapp Ringdahl, a longtime resident of Dutchess County and Key Largo, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie surrounded by her loving family. She was 90 years old.

Daughter of the late Vincent James and Anna Lucille (Gebbia) Grazioso, she was born Frances Louise Grazioso on October 15, 1934. She was raised in Beacon, NY and graduated from Beacon High School in 1952.

On August 28, 1954, she married Roy A. Knapp. They were longtime parishioners of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill. Together they raised three children, Larry, Lynn, and Steven, and welcomed eleven grandchildren. They were blessed with 45 years of marriage until Roy's passing on December 16, 1999.

A lifelong singer and musician, Ginger co-founded the Evergreen Chapter of Sweet Adelines International, a female barbershop chorus. She was involved locally as director for musical productions at Roy C. Ketcham High School, County Players, the Hyde Park Playhouse, Stepinac High School, and St. Mary's Players with longtime family friend, Father Vincent A. Lancellotti.

She and Roy enjoyed golf and tennis and were active members of Dutchess Golf and Country Club. In 1976, Roy and Ginger joined the Ocean Reef Club (ORC) in Key Largo, FL. and enjoyed many wonderful years there together. Ginger was very active in the Ocean Reef community and continued playing tennis, golf, croquet, and bocci as recently as last year. She was the driving force behind the annual musical, Christmas caroling, and musical theatre productions at ORC. She also founded and directed a mixed chorus that was appropriately named the "Ginger Snapps."

Ginger was also a dedicated member of Angler's Club in Key Largo and developed many dear friends there. Mom loved to sing throughout her life and was never one to let an open microphone sit unattended. Even after turning 90, she was frequently found singing at the piano bar at Angler's Club and, on most weekends, would be singing until closing time.

On October 21, 2006, she married Robert E. Ringdahl, who predeceased her on June 19, 2013. Bob and Ginger shared a relatively brief but wonderful life together. Mom was very lucky to have experienced the love of both Bob and our dad, Roy.

Ginger's infectious smile and warm heart touched everyone she met. Her magnetic personality and music resonated throughout the community, leaving an impression that time could never fade.

Survivors include her son, Larry Knapp and his wife Joann of Union Vale; her daughter, Lynn Donnelly of Wappingers Falls; her son, Steven Knapp and his wife Kathi of East Fishkill; her grandchildren: Clare Knapp and her husband Jesse Englehart, Courtney Matson and her husband Mark, Taylor Odell and her husband Shane, Gillian VanDervoort and her husband Adam, Michael Donnelly, Jr., and his wife Kayla, Joylynn Amelia Donnelly and her fiancé Ryan Murphy, Joseph Knapp and his wife Deniz, Elizabeth Knapp and her husband Jason Hocker, Patrick Knapp and his wife Ellie, and Timothy Knapp and his partner Haley Woods; her great-grandchildren: Mary Clare, Arden, Sloane, Charlotte, Finnegan, Graham, Emma, Sophia, and Arlo; as well as many other loving family members and friends.

In addition to her husbands and parents, Ginger was also preceded in death by her granddaughter, Amelia Lynn Donnelly, in 1994; her son-in-law, Michael Donnelly, Sr., in 2001; her sister, Tag Thayer, in 2010; and her sister, Lena Marie MacRobbie, in 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, October 11th at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson 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 Breast Cancer Research Foundation (www.give.bcrf.org/fundraiser/6742371) or to The Amelia Lynn Donnelly Fund for Children's Brain Cancer Research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (www.stjude.org).

Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Orinoco M. 'Noke' Tennant



Orinoco M. "Noke" Tennant, a resident of Wappingers Falls since 1961, died Monday, October 6, 2025. She was 88.

Daughter of the late Owen and Orinoco Matthews, she was born in May of 1937 in Ashtabula, Ohio. She graduated high school in St. Petersburg, Florida. Noke attended college at St. Petersburg Junior College and Dutchess Community College. She worked as an administrative assistant for much of her life, primarily at IBM, Dutchess County Health Department and the Dutchess County Jail. She was employed with the county from 1980 until her retirement in 2002.

In June of 1959, she married James F. Tennant in St. Petersburg, Florida. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1987 and he predeceased her in 2008.

Survivors include her daughter, Wendy Tennant-Beebe and her husband, Robert and their two children, Kyle and Jordan; her son, Michael Tennant and his partner Peggy Pulcare and Michael's son, Jared; as well as many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her dear companion of many years, William "Steve" Capowski.

She was predeceased by her siblings, John Matthews, Elnore Chitester, Estel and Sue Matthews and Georgiana King.

Those who knew Noke well knew that she enjoyed sharing a laugh with her friends and family and would laugh even louder and harder at her own expense. Before losing much of her eyesight she was a talented artist specializing in painting wildlife on beach shells found on the shores of Misquamicut beach and she was talented with pen and ink drawings and an expert seamstress. She enjoyed baking and many have been the recipient of her gifts from the kitchen be it cookies, pies or cakes. She was most happy when she could make others happy. Her sweetness and kindness will be remembered by many.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association, Donation Processing Center, PO Box 70360, Philadelphia, PA 19176-0360.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street in Wappingers Falls. To send the family a personal condolence, please visit our website at www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

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							5	
8		1					2	9

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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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4					
5					
					2

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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: KIDS' BOOKS

ACROSS

1. *The Big Bad Wolf: "I'll _____ your house down"
5. Edgar Rice Burroughs' Kerchak or Kala
8. Cosine's buddy
12. Target of grand theft
13. Influencer's journal
14. Food-grinding tooth
15. Bear's hang-out
16. Like a maxi skirt
17. Get up
18. *Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for _____"
20. March Madness org.
21. Expenditure, in the olden days
22. *"Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a _____"
23. Turn pale
26. Lachrymatory agent (2 words)
30. Swimmer's distance
31. Rinse and _____
34. Consequently
35. Join forces
37. Bruin legend Bobby
38. Jury duty event
39. Per person
40. Hockey player, e.g.
42. Approximated landing time
43. What naughty children do
45. Fortification made of wagons
47. Preceding month
48. Unnecessary embellishment
50. Customs document
52. *He had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day
56. Popular pie nut
57. Not final
58. Just a little
59. Choice dish
60. _____-do-well
61. Sudden and brilliant success
62. Doofus
63. Is, in France
64. Fail to mention

DOWN

1. Like a certain eagle
2. Oahu shindig
3. Related to ear
4. Exert persuasive powers (2 words)
5. Jennifer Aniston's movie "____ Came Polly"
6. *Canine father in Dodie Smith's "The Hundred and One Dalmatians"
7. *Dr. Seuss: "I do not like green ____ and ham"
8. *Philosopher in American edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"
9. Hipbone
10. U.S. space agency, acr.
11. **I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas..."
13. Not serious
14. Bipolar disorder phase
19. Filthy cabbage
22. Favorite student
23. Protected steel from rust with coating
24. Hawaiian veranda
25. Long stories
26. *The Queen of Hearts baked more than one of these
27. "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ____
28. Popular gemstone
29. Type of renewable energy
32. *Janette Sebring Lowrey's "The ____ Little Puppy"
33. Pitcher's stat
36. **One ____ and One Nights"
38. ____ -la refrain
40. Group of exercise reps
41. a.k.a. philosopher's stone
44. Flavorless
46. Aluminum+nickel+cobalt, magnetic alloy
48. What time does
49. Button on electrical outlet
50. Bride's cover
51. International Civil Aviation Organization
52. *Green Gables resident ____ Shirley
53. Gloom's partner
54. Evening purse
55. Wholly engrossed
56. Pipe material, acr.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



‘Fuhgeddaboudit!’

A word valued for its versatility

There are many saying in various cultures that we have come to accept as facts. However, many of these sayings have no basis in reality. For instance, the Irish saying “top o’ the mornin’” is mainly fake. However, for every fake term there is a real one; for example, Australian “g’day,” is mostly real. Then there is the Italian-New York term, “fuhgeddaboudit.” Fuhgeddaboudit is a term that I use often. The beauty of the term is that it is versatile and can be used in any context. It can be a noun, verb or adjective.

For instance, it can be used when you are agreeing with someone. “Wow, did you taste this Cheesecake? It’s freaking beautiful!” Your answer would be “Fuhgeddaboudit!” Note, it is important that the word be used with a slightly forceful tone, otherwise the meaning is lost.

Now if you don’t agree with some one you could use it also. “Wow, I love the extra taxes I get taken out of my paycheck

every week!” and your answer would be, “Fuhgeddaboudit!”

You can also use it when you are making a statement: “If you’re telling me that your mother’s Lasagna is better than my Mother’s, fuhgeddaboudit!”

You can use it to curse someone out. Hey Luigi, your haircut looks like a cat chewed the hair off your head!” and I would say, “Fuhgeddaboudit!”

Another way to use it is when you want to tell someone to mind their own business. “How much money do you make a week anyway?” and your answer would be, “Fuhgeddaboudit!”

Sometimes it can be used with other Italian phrases. Such as “How YOU doin’?” “Fuhgeddaboudit!”

And sometimes you can use “nonja-youworry” (don’t you worry) instead of fuhgeddaboudit.

Finally, you can use the term as “forget about it.” For example: “Hey, Johnny, thanks a lot for helping me move my deadbeat cousin out of my house.” Johnny

would reply “Fuhgeddaboudit!”

Now, enjoy my recipe for Ricotta Cheesecake. If you think yours is better than mine, fuhgeddaboudit!

RICOTTA CHEESECAKE

Ingredients

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
3 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
8 oz full-fat cream cheese
2 ¼ cups whole-milk ricotta cheese (drained overnight)
1 cup granulated sugar
4 large eggs
1½ tbsp cornstarch
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 oz Amaretto (if desired)
zest of 1 orange (or lemon for brightness)

Instructions

Prep the crust: Mix crumbs and melted butter. Press into a 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 350°F (180°C) for 8–10 minutes. Cool completely.

Make the filling: Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add ricotta and sugar; beat until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, then cornstarch, amaretto, vanilla, and zest.

Bake in a water bath: Wrap pan in foil. Pour batter over crust. Place in a roasting pan and add boiling water halfway up the sides. Bake for 60–70 minutes until set but slightly wobbly in the center.

Chill: Cool on a rack, then refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

Serve: Dust with powdered sugar.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Monument rededication in honor of late Beacon business owner Harrison Libby

A monument, which used to be at the former Libby Funeral Home on Teller Ave., is now at the Fairview Cemetery, on Washington Ave., in Beacon. The monument is at the entrance by the flagpole, explained Joe Schuka, who is with Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls, undertook the monument rededication task, along with the Green Teen from Beacon High School and their leader Emily Murnane.

The stone was in memory and honor of Harrison S. Libby, the original founding owner of Libby Funeral Home. Libby was a proud veteran of the United States Army, who fought during the Korean Conflict, so “it was pretty natural to place the stone at the foot of a flagpole,” said Schuka.

The following remarks are from Sue

Libby Van Ness, the daughter of the late Harrison & Cindy Libby: “This has touched me to the core. So thankful that this beautiful stone that was at the former Libby Funeral Home on Teller Avenue has a new home at Fairview Cemetery thanks to the dedication of Joe Schuka. This is much more than a stone to my family and me. It is a symbol of my dad’s commitment of helping others especially during a very difficult and sad time for those grieving a loved ones death.

Thank you also to Green Teen Beacon/Emily Murnane, Rose Story and Fairview Cemetery for making this happen and for making it so beautiful.”

Schuka also thanked The Green Teen, Rose Story and the Fairview Cemetery Board.

-Courtesy photos Joe Schuka



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