

Hochul unveils ambitious agenda in State of the State

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

On Jan. 13, Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered her 2026 State of the State address, outlining more than 200 initiatives to make life more affordable, keep New Yorkers safe, and expand opportunity. Hochul’s proposal lays out a clear, actionable plan to meet the challenges families face today, while preparing New York for the road ahead. The Governor provides a path to universal child care, to lowering energy bills, protecting consumers, and confronting the rising costs that hit working families hardest. The plan continues to invest in public safety with strategies that work – including targeted enforcement, cutting-edge technology, and a mental health system that treats people with dignity while keeping communities secure.

“I’ve said from the beginning: Your family is my fight. And in this moment, when the future feels full of promise, but under real threat: your future is my fight as well,” Hochul said. “I fight every day to make life more affordable, keep people safe, and expand opportunity – not shrink it. My 2026 State of the State lays out a clear, actionable plan to meet the challenges families face today, while preparing New York for the road ahead.”

A summary of highlights follows.

Making New York more affordable

Hochul said she is committed to making New York a place where all our families can afford to live. Since taking office, she has moved aggressively to put money back where it belongs – in the pockets of working people. In 2026 she is doubling down on these efforts in ways people can feel. To do that, Hochul proposes:

- Putting New York State on a pathway toward achieving universal, affordable child care, increasing funding by \$1.7 billion to provide care for children around the state;
- Cracking down on fraud to lower vehicle insurance rates for everyday New Yorkers, and ensuring bad actors can’t get large payouts;

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County Office of Veterans Affairs goes mobile with outreach efforts

By Kate Goldsmith

Responding to a growing need, the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs is going on the road to meet veterans and their families where they live. Operation: Mobile Outreach is a new program that expands the county’s veterans support services beyond the Veterans Affairs’ regular weekday hours, making it more convenient for those veterans who work and don’t live near the office in Pleasant Valley.

In addition, the department is continuing its series of informational outreach events – in conjunction with the MHA Dutchess Veterans Programs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – with the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall this Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 1302, at 55 Overlook Road in Poughkeepsie. This free event will connect local veterans with local service providers for an open, informative discussion focused on the programs, services and supports available to local veterans, their loved ones and



Members of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Operation Mobile Outreach team include, from left, Veterans Outreach Coordinator Beth-Anne Canero, Program Assistant Rose Joerg, Deputy Director Julie Leslie, Secretary Paige Walag and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

caregivers. (More information is provided at the end of this article.)

Veterans Outreach Coordinator Beth-Anne Canero has worked with the county’s Office of Veterans Affairs since July 2025 and joins its team of Veterans Services Officers, all of whom have served our nation. She presides over the mobile outreach events, the first of which took place on Jan. 8 at the American Legion Post 429 in Rhinebeck. Speaking via phone last week, Canero said about 10 veterans attended, five of whom she was

able to assist with various claims on that evening, along with follow-up calls, with everyone in attendance learning more about the office’s services and programs.

“I’m glad we’re finally off and running [with the mobile outreach],” she said. “I look forward to seeing how participation continues in the upcoming months.”

“Beth-Anne was the perfect person to perform this job,” said Adam Roche, director of the county’s Veterans Affairs office. Canero retired from the Marine

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Hyde Park Chamber installs new officers



Judge Jean McArthur is pictured swearing in new officers of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce at the Installation Dinner at Coppola’s Bistro on Jan. 15. From left are President John Coppola, 1st Vice President Dora Visbeck, Harvey Burns, Stu Davis, Felicia Kirschner-Meyer, Dave Stewart, Treasurer Maribeth Giesler, Phyllis Delarm, Michael Evans, Brian Lashere, Dot Chenevert, 2nd Vice President Kristin Anello, and Bob Delarm. Missing from the group are Secretary Catherine Lane and board member Ron M. Lane. See page 18 for more from the Installation Dinner. Courtesy photo

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Hochul unveils ambitious agenda in State of the State

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- Tackling rising home insurance costs by increasing accountability and transparency for providers and expanding automatic discounts;
- Protecting renters by increasing the income eligibility limits for New York's Rent Freeze programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- Tackling utility costs by demanding strict fiscal discipline from utilities, empowering the State to fight more effectively for lower bills, and supporting New Yorkers to make energy saving investments like weatherization and smart thermostats;
- Helping New Yorkers put food on the table with additional investments in the Department of Health (DOH)'s Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and tackling theft of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
- Eliminating state income taxes on tips; and
- Freezing tuition for SUNY and CUNY students for the seventh year in a row.

Keeping New Yorkers safe

- Hochul has made public safety her top priority, committing over \$3 billion to initiatives that are producing results statewide. During her time in office, Hochul strengthened New York's bail, discovery, and gun laws; invested record-level funding to support local and state law enforcement efforts; and secured funding to drive down gun violence, subway crime and pandemic-era surges in motor vehicle thefts, retail thefts, and other larcenies. The Governor said she will continue to drive down crime and protect New Yorkers by:
- Stopping illegal homegrown guns by strengthening New York's nation leading gun laws and cracking down on illegal 3D-printed firearms and firearms that can readily be converted to DIY machine guns;
 - Confronting the unprecedented escalation in aggressive federal immigration enforcement by establishing a right to sue federal officers for Constitutional violations and protecting New Yorkers in sensitive locations;
 - Protecting individuals from harassment and obstruction by advancing legislation to establish buffer zones around houses of worship and healthcare facilities while preserving the right to lawful expression;
 - Sustaining record lows in subway crime by putting police on platforms, expanding SCOUT teams, and protecting riders through platform edge barriers;
 - Enhancing resources that are available to support law enforcement officers and first responders, combat crimes, and ensure justice for New Yorkers;
 - Safeguarding New York's roads by empowering New York City to stop super

speeders through intelligent speed assistance and ensuring safety first in New York's work zones; and

- Improving New York's emergency and disaster response to better protect the lives of New Yorkers during times of public safety risks, disasters and emergencies.

Investing in critical infrastructure New Yorkers need

- When Hochul took office, she vowed to re-establish New York's position as a leader in building world-class infrastructure. She has demonstrated that the state can build at scale and with urgency so that New Yorkers get the housing, transportation, water, parks, and other infrastructure they desperately need. The Governor will build upon this progress by:
- Building more housing by enacting common-sense policies to tackle the housing shortage and bring down housing costs, and investing additional funding in building or preserving units and innovative manufactured home models;
 - Delivering clean and safe drinking water led by a bold five-year \$3.75 billion commitment to water infrastructure;
 - Upgrading state parks by expanding green spaces across New York State to provide children and families opportunities to be outside, unplug and play, and spend time with loved ones;
 - Strengthening communities by launching NY Kicks: A World Cup Legacy Investment Fund, to build soccer pitches, as well as investing in community centers, preserving performing arts space, and investing in county fairs;
 - Committing \$50 million to advance design phase to reimagine Jamaica Station for its millions of commuters; and
 - Beginning preliminary engineering and design to extend the Second Avenue subway tunnel westward across 125 Street to Broadway, saving project costs and time.

Cutting red tape to better serve New Yorkers

- Whether standing up the homes that will house a new generation of New Yorkers, running a business that will serve and employ our neighbors, or constructing the 21st-century infrastructure that undergirds the economy, too often New Yorkers who want to build something new are stymied by red tape and bureaucratic obstacles that drive up costs and waste time. Building on past progress, Hochul is redoubling her commitment to saving New Yorkers time and money through an all-of-government effort to cut red tape and better serve New Yorkers, while making government work for all:
- Launching the "Let Them Build" agenda, a set of common-sense reforms to get the state out of the way of progress, allowing localities to build housing and other critical projects faster and more



Gov. Kathy Hochul visits a daycare center. Courtesy photo

- affordably while continuing to protect the environment;
- Reforming the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to speed up the building of zoned and permitted housing while preserving environmental safeguards;
 - Accelerating critical infrastructure projects that New Yorkers depend on;
 - Establishing clear timelines and transparency for environmental review;
 - Making every New Yorker count in the 2030 census by planning early to ensure the state gets its fair share; and
 - Tackling outdated and burdensome government regulations
- ### Protecting New York's consumers and workers
- For Hochul, affordability and consumer protection go hand in hand. For the past four years she's pushed back on institutions that prioritize profit over people, and that fight continues today. Protecting consumers means protecting them online, as well; New Yorkers should be able to trust technology and safely interact with tools that work for, not against them. The Governor will build on this work by:
- Creating a new Office of Digital Innovation, Governance, Integrity & Trust (DIGIT), to serve as a central, authoritative body for digital safety and technological governance;
 - Protecting New Yorkers' personal information by cracking down on shadowy data broker industry;
 - Requiring labeling for AI-generated content, protecting elections from misleading or deceptive AI content, and prohibiting misleading "discounts";
 - Ending taxes on tips for hardworking New Yorkers;
 - Fighting workers' compensation fraud and combating wage theft; and
 - Improving disclosures for student loan refinancing and setting cosigner standards for student loans
- ### Driving innovation and economic development by and for New Yorkers
- Since taking office, the Governor has ushered in a new era of economic growth

- by prioritizing job creation, community development and economic revitalization. Hochul remains committed to growing New York's vibrant economy, bringing jobs back home, revitalizing communities, and cementing New York as the center for innovation:
- Driving innovation and economic growth across the state through investments in, quantum technology, biotechnology, semiconductor chip design, and modern manufacturing;
 - Launching Empire AI Beta and creating the first independent AI research center at SUNY Binghamton;
 - Enhancing the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and New York Forward;
 - Launching the next phase of New York's Autonomous Vehicle pilot program outside of New York City;
 - Uplifting businesses statewide by eliminating outdated restrictions on dancing, modernizing the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, and investing in equity across the cannabis supply chain; and
 - Preparing SUNY and CUNY students for the workforce, connecting them to experiential work experiences, and expanding SUNY and CUNY Reconnect to cover additional in-demand fields such as logistics, air traffic control and transportation, and emergency management.
- ### Helping New York's students learn and thrive
- Hochul is committed to building on her robust track record as a champion for students, families, and teachers to creatively address many of the challenges New York families confront. The Governor is advancing a bold agenda that strengthens New York's schools, universities and colleges, youth mental health services, and online safety:
- Transforming math and literacy outcomes through evidence based instruction and professional learning;
 - Creating an accelerated teacher preparation pathway for career changers;
 - Establishing the inaugural Empire AI

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Now accepting students for the upcoming spring semester!

Giving back through life-changing experiences!

The Ridge School is a New York State Board of Regents Accredited School, Not-for-profit organization located in Dutchess County, New York dedicated to the creation of a rich and positive setting for students who are not succeeding in their current educational placements. The Ridge School is a day school for students who are diagnosed with High Functioning Autism.

845-505-5483
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The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org



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A Sweet Arrival: Fruition Chocolate Works to Open at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie








County offers Recycle Coach app to make recycling easier for Dutchess residents

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently announced a new partnership with Recycle Coach, a free mobile and desktop app designed to help residents better understand what can and cannot be recycled, right from their smartphones or computers. The collaboration aims to avoid confusion about recycling, answer residents' questions about recycling at any time of day and increase Dutchess County's recycling rate.

The Recycle Coach digital platform offers several benefits to residents, including a handy search tool to learn how to properly dispose of household items – from aerosol cans to wrapping paper – as well as educational tips to reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle more effectively. Users of the mobile app can snap a photo of materials and learn how they can be correctly recycled or disposed of.

Recycle Coach helps people avoid “wishcycling,” which occurs when people place items in recycling bins hoping they can be recycled, even though those items are not accepted by local recycling programs. This practice, while well intentioned, can create problems for recycling facilities and reduce the effectiveness of recycling efforts. Other great features include the Recycle Coach blog which provides

timely tips and information with topics like “What to Do with Unwanted Items after the holidays to start the new year off right.” There is also a Recycling for Kids section with activity packets for ages 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Residents can access the Recycle Coach app directly through the County's website at dutchessny.gov/solidwaste or download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs goes mobile with outreach efforts

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Corps in 2021 and has worked in various positions since then. She has expertise as a Veterans Service Officer and trained for the last five months to become the department's Veterans Outreach Coordinator. Roche said response to Operation: Mobile Outreach has been enthusiastic since information about the events was posted on the county's website and Facebook page, facebook.com/dutchesscogov. “[The feedback has been] this is something that was definitely needed, it's a need that wasn't being met by our office [due to being open Monday to Friday, 9 to 5],” he said. “What we do in our office, we can fully do on the spot for them now. Especially younger vets who have a family with younger children – they [might] need childcare, because it can take an hour or couple of hours to fill out a claim. With these outreach events, Roche's message to veterans is, “We're coming to you, to your VFWs, to your town halls.” Roche said department personnel “met with every municipality to let them know what our plan is.” Canero added, “We've been talking to municipalities all [last] fall,” and said the department has done “a deep dive” to find out where the bulk of veterans reside in Dutchess County. The outreach events are then set in these areas, creating a hub to reduce travel time. For example, if a veteran living in Rhinebeck had to travel

to the DC Veterans Affairs office in Pleasant Valley, the drive alone would take a lot more time than visiting an outreach event at the local American Legion Post. **Eligibility requests** Some of the most common requests Roche's office gets, unsurprisingly, relate to eligibility for programs available to veterans and their families. “It's lack of knowledge, not knowing exactly what they're eligible for,” he said. “A lot of times we get children of veterans, especially the older vets, where the mother or father passed away and they're paying for a health aide, who are seeking eligibility [for assistance programs].” As an example, Roche noted that spouses of Vietnam veterans can apply for DIC (dependent indemnity compensation), entitling them to a sum of money. “There's so much out there, but it's not automatic. They have to be submitted [as claims],” Roche said. “We try to keep the [paperwork] process as simple as possible. We'll walk them through the entire process.” Canero noted that veterans are sometimes reluctant to claim benefits. “In regard to younger veterans, they believe there's some kind of stigma to apply for some type of claim, or that they're not eligible,” she said. “All veterans are eligible because they served their

country. There's a whole slew of benefits that they earned through their service. Some benefits depend on war time service, [but they] don't necessarily have had to put boots on the ground to be eligible for benefits.” Roche pointed out, “The way the VA [Federal Veterans Administration] is funded depends on the amount of people who utilize [it].” **What to know if you go** The outreach events are a great way to find out what benefits are available and what is needed to get the process going. “If you do come to these [events], bring your paperwork with you,” Roche advised. “Bring your discharge papers so we can get you into our system. We can do an ‘intent to file,’ which gives them one year from that submission date to submit a fully developed plan.” Roche and Canero hope that many of our county's veterans will learn more by attending a Town Hall or Mobile Outreach event in the near future. “If you have any questions whatsoever, we'd love to sit down and let you know what you are eligible for,” Roche said. Upcoming outreach sessions are listed on the Veterans Affairs calendar of events, accessible via dutchessny.gov/veterans. For more information about the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall or County Veterans Affairs' services, residents can

call the office at (845) 486-2060. **More information about upcoming town halls** Attendees at the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall will have the opportunity to: • Familiarize themselves with the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, meet its director, Adam Roche, and the learn about work he and his staff perform daily to advocate for local veterans; • Hear from local VHA leadership about benefits, enrollment and services, along with other important updates about how they are putting veterans at the center of everything they do; • Connect with fellow veterans offering shared lived experience support through MHA's Vet2Vet peer support program; • Ask questions directly of veterans service providers and leaders; and • Access guidance on navigating benefits, claims and local resources. Staff from the Office of Veterans Affairs will be on hand to explain the full range of services Dutchess County offers, including benefits counseling, claims assistance, transportation support, outreach initiatives and referrals to community partners.

Here is your opportunity to support Operation Mobile Outreach

1/8 PG B/W \$70.00

TO SIGN UP NOW, CONTACT:

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DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OPERATION: MOBILE OUTREACH

Our Veterans Services Officer is visiting local communities to help every veteran, especially those recently discharged, as well as family members and caregivers, navigate the extensive, and often overwhelming process of applying for benefits for the VA, State and Dutchess County.

Check the upcoming schedule for a location near you with the QR Code to the DCOVA calendar



In your browser find calendar: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Calendar-Page.htm>

This ad space courtesy of Southern Dutchess News Group as we Support Veterans.

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- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- 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.
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- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Meet with your Town Assessor to potentially
reduce assessment value of property

To the editor:
Did you know you can discuss and potentially reduce the assessment value of your property by meeting directly with your Town Assessor at no cost?
Recently, municipalities all over Dutchess County have been in litigation with third-party companies, who commence tax certiorari proceedings on behalf of county residents. These proceedings cost the taxpayers in court fees and overtime hours for town employees. Additionally, these third-party companies charge anywhere between 30%-50% commission on any money they save a resident, if they reduce the property’s assessment.
Would you opt for a minimum of 30% charge on your savings if you knew you could do this for free? Most likely not. These companies bank on you being too busy to handle this directly with your town assessor. If the assessor agrees that your assessment is too high, they can lower it for the next fiscal year.
A meeting with your assessor does not guarantee that your assessment will be lowered. If not, you still have the option of filing a Grievance with the Board of Assessment Review, which is the fourth Tuesday in May every year. You also have the right to eventually commence a tax certiorari proceeding. The Tentative Roll with any changes to your assessment comes out on or around May 1st each year and is available online and at the Town Hall.
It is our job as town employees to let residents know: There is a better way to address an issue with your property’s assessed value. Aside from the annual Grievance Day held by each town’s assessor’s office, residents are encouraged to contact us first before accepting a third party’s proposal to take the matter up on your behalf.
Town of Milan’s 2026 Grievance Day is held at Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571 between the hours of 10 a.m. – 12 noon, 1 – 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on May 26. We ask that you call ahead to schedule an appointment for that day, or you will have to wait in line.
Keep your money in your wallet! Call us first. 845-758-5133 Ext. 4
Pat Warren
Deputy Assessor
Town of Milan

Scenic Hudson statement on Hochul’s
2026 State of the State Address

To the editor:
Affordability, renewable energy, and investments in sustainability go hand in hand — which is why Scenic Hudson was pleased to see Governor Kathy Hochul's attention to these issues in her 2026 State of the State address, amidst growing challenges at the federal level. The Governor showcased her commitment to the well-being of all New Yorkers by announcing her continued investment in environmental protection and energy affordability. Scenic Hudson also hopes to see those priorities advanced in the Executive Budget through increased investment in renewable energy and advancement of the goals laid out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).
Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said, “We are thrilled that Governor Hochul’s 2026 State of the State address highlighted strong commitments to funding the Environmental

Protection Fund (EPF), expanding programs for clean drinking water, and climate resilience support for at-risk New York communities. The Governor’s proposal to maintain \$425 million in record funding for the EPF will ensure the continuation of critical farmland preservation, native habitat restoration, public land stewardship, and other crucial conservation programs in the Hudson Valley and throughout the state. Furthermore, her bold \$3.75 billion commitment to modernize New York’s water systems over the next five years will bolster and expand the state’s nation-leading drinking water protection programs, and strengthen the ability of drinking water suppliers to protect communities from toxic “forever chemical” contamination. Scenic Hudson is proud to partner with Governor Hochul to help ensure that New York remains a national model for conserving our precious land, water, and agricultural resources.”
Pete Lopez, Scenic Hudson Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Science, said, “At a time of skyrocketing utility bills, Governor Hochul has announced important steps to decrease costs for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers through expanded funding for programs like Empower+. Scenic Hudson applauds those efforts, along with the Governor’s plan to support farmers and schools in decreasing their utility costs by integrating solar energy. Governor Hochul’s focus on affordability must prioritize renewable energy, which is the fastest, cheapest way to put new energy on the grid and decrease costs for ratepayers. Reliance on new fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines is not just bad for the environment — it will also make energy more expensive down the road.
As federal tax credits for solar and wind power are phased out, it is imperative that New York State support renewable energy development by both cutting red tape and investing in renewables. Scenic Hudson looks forward to working with Governor Hochul to achieve those goals and urges her to include the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power Act in the Executive Budget, which would save billions of dollars for ratepayers by making it cheaper and easier to build rooftop and community solar projects in New York. Similarly, we request that Governor Hochul continue working to achieve the goals laid out in the CLCPA, which are not just compatible with her affordability agenda, but essential to achieving it.”
Ned Sullivan, Pete Lopez
Scenic Hudson

In regard to Venezeula,
we can learn from the past

To the editor:
In Terrence McNally’s play “Adaptation,” a man’s life is portrayed as a board game, jumping from one life situation after another, never finding the sought-after “opportunity” square that leads to happiness. “If only I could have found that opportunity square,” he bemoans.
Off stage, a voice says he could have declared any square or situation to be the opportunity event.
In Venezuela, during the last 25 years, we (U.S.) had an opportunity for both countries regarding oil - just be less insistent on how much income went to Venezuela, and how it was used. Chevron’s continuing production and sale of Venezuelan oil demonstrates the possibility. In Saudi Arabia, the U.S. is not telling the monarchy how to run things.
Like Iraq, there are now proposals to have private security

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VIEWPOINTS COLUMN

Ryan endorses Kaul in Democratic
primary for NY Senate District 39

Hudson Valley Congressman Pat Ryan is backing New York State Senate candidate Lisa Kaul in the Democratic Primary for New York State Senate District 39.
“As a true servant leader, Lisa puts others first, listening to constituents and working tirelessly to address their needs. Lisa has the courage to fight for what is right, even when facing opposition, and most importantly, she delivers results. I’m proud to endorse her in this race,” said Ryan.
The pair appeared together at a special event in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, Jan. 18 for the announcement. “I am deeply honored to be endorsed by Congressman Pat Ryan,” said Kaul. “I have been inspired by

his straightforward and fierce commitment to doing right by his constituents. He shows up, he does the work, and he delivers. Congressman Ryan’s servant leadership mirrors my commitment as a New American to giving back to the country I’m proud to call home.”
Kaul, a second-term Dutchess County Legislator and Chair of the Environment Committee, announced her campaign a month ago. “I’m running because we are at a critical moment. Working people are being crushed by rising costs. Our freedoms and basic dignity are under attack. And climate change threatens our future,” said Kaul. “I’m running because we all deserve the opportunity to thrive, not just make ends

meet. To get there, we need new leadership who will fight and deliver for us.”
In the 21 years that she’s lived in the Hudson Valley, Kaul has contributed extensively in her community—including leading a fight to keep her local elementary school from closing, and then being elected to the Board of Education; organizing the Poughkeepsie Women’s March Across the Hudson; and serving on the board of Planned Parenthood Greater New York Action Fund.
The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Northern Dutchess News. To submit a column, write to us at creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

News from Red Hook VFW Post 7765



WKZE Station Owner Andy Gladding (center) presents a \$1,500 check for the VFW Scholarship Fund to Commander Jon Conroe. Also pictured (from left) are Trustee Thomas Sullivan, chairman of the VFW Scholarship fund; Adjutant Rick Christensen; Quartermaster Troy Haley; and Senior Vice-Commander William Moore. Photo by Richard Wambach. Right: Red Hook VFW Post 7765 Trustee Frank Boteggo (right) presents a plaque to Red Hook Diner owner Corey Stratton for contributions he has made to the local veteran community. Photo by Tom Sullivan.

Submitted by Richard Wambach

WKZE 98.1 FM radio recognizes Post
At the monthly meeting of the VFW, WKZE station owner Andy Gladding presented event posters and a donation of \$1,500 to the VFW Scholarship Fund following a highly successful and well received presentation of a new oral history series, “Voices of Valor.”
“Voices of Valor” features stories of local veterans from VFW Post 7765. The series was hosted and produced by Red Hook High School Freshman Olive

Haley. To find out more about the program and listen to the audio segments go to <https://wkze.com/voices-of-valor/>.

Stratton honored for support of local veterans
On Monday, Jan. 12, several members from Red Hook VFW Post 7765 gathered for breakfast at the Red Hook Diner on South Broadway to present owner Corey Stratton with a plaque in gratitude and recognition of the awesome contributions he has made for our local veterans and Red Hook VFW Post 7765.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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contractors to give oil companies whatever they want above what Chevron gets. In Iraq, contractors had a hundred thousand U.S. soldiers backing them.
Perhaps President Trump can take a lesson from Barrick Mining Corporation. Its African mine closed when a new government’s request for a better deal was refused.
There things stood, until the old company president left, and the new people in charge somehow resolved the African dispute.
The future of Trump’s muscular, “We’re gonna run things for our benefit” approach is easy to see from recent history. The East European satellites quickly abandoned Soviet-centered oversight at the first chance.
Basic principle, from horses and rabbits: carrots work better than sticks.
Frank Stoppenbach
Red Hook

despite her not getting out of the car, despite any language, there WAS NO EXCUSE TO KILL HER. They had her license number. Couldn't he just wave her on, noting her license plate number and following up later?
Trump promised once to clean up the swamp. Is he and his tribe now becoming the swamp? Yes, take the criminals out, but isn't ICE and the president going too far? Are we not becoming a Third World nation? For years we watched horrid violence erupting in other countries, people knifed, shot on TV, women, children harmed, killed. Is this what is happening to our nation now?
When did the fabric of our society begin to break down? When drugs began surfacing in schools in the '60s? I described above what it used to be like. How far we have fallen.
Joyce Benedict
Hyde Park

How far we have fallen

To the editor:
It wasn't that long ago my kids went to school where there were no exercises to dodge bullets or fear for one's life. Children did very well without cell phones. Walks through wooded areas or parks were safe. Friends and I walked 3 miles at night to the movies. Safe. Stores were closed. Sundays for rest, church, sports. A few gas stations and a diner or two remained open. Public phone booths everywhere. More family gatherings occurred. Many parents participated in badminton, tennis, or square dancing.
In a span of just fifty years we now witness endless knifings, people pushed onto tracks, shootings daily. The rise of crime shows on TV. Businesses being robbed, owners shot. Numerous commercials on TV at every break.
The recent crime, a shooting of a lovely 37-year-old woman trying to get away from ICE men. One ICE man breaks the law being in front of a moving vehicle. The one to her left shoots and kills her claiming “self defense.” Any 12-year-old looking at those clips would agree those men were not being attacked. A mother of three trying to leave a threatening scene. A callous reaction from the White House.
Despite the supposed car moves,

Dutchess soldiers receive promotions for NYS Army National Guard Service

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.
John Vicente of Arlington and assigned to Bravo Company, NY Recruiting and Retention Battalion, received a promotion Dec. 8, 2025 to the rank of private.
Lucas Lacken of Poughkeepsie and assigned to Bravo Company, NY Recruiting and Retention Battalion, received a promotion Dec. 16, 2025 to the rank of private first class.
Miguel Rodriguez of Wappingers Falls and assigned to Bravo Company, NY Recruiting and Retention Battalion, received a promotion Dec. 22, 2025 to the rank of private.
Jonah Usher of Wappingers Falls and assigned to 1501st Quartermaster Company, received a promotion Dec. 26, 2025 to the rank of private first class.
Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.
These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

Commissioner Ball delivers State of Agriculture address

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball delivered the State of Agriculture Address at the 194th New York State Agricultural Society Annual Forum on Jan. 8, outlining the agricultural industry’s progress in 2025 in several key priority areas.

The Forum, which is traditionally the oldest and largest agricultural meeting of its kind in the State, took place at the Wegmans Conference Center in Rochester. This year’s State of Agriculture address was accompanied by a series of videos showcasing the on-the-ground impact of the State’s efforts to support the many diverse sectors of New York agriculture, including in the areas of school food, agricultural education, dairy, and environmental protections.

“We all have a shared mission, a common goal that brings us together: to uplift New York agriculture, to see it grow and thrive. It’s because of this, despite all that is going on in the background, I carry tremendous optimism for the future of our industry here in New York,” said Ball. “With the support of our Governor, here in New York State, we are staying the course. We are working harder than ever toward our number one priority of supporting our farmers, our producers, our food businesses, and our families who rely on the food we cultivate.”

In keeping with this year’s Forum theme of “Harvesting Change,” Commissioner Ball spoke about the need for adaptation in the face of challenges that New York farmers are facing on the global, national, and local fronts. The Commissioner highlighted the progress of the State’s many programs aimed at helping industry stakeholders evolve and adapt, including through climate- and land-focused initiatives such as the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program, the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program, and the Farmland Protection Program; and through programs aimed at helping farmers modernize their operations and remain flexible, like the Dairy

Modernization Grant Program, the Aquaculture Infrastructure Grant Program, and the NYS Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Development Grant Program.

Calling the 2020s “the decade of collaboration,” the Commissioner additionally emphasized the need for the agricultural community to continue working in partnership to tackle challenges and uncertainties and highlighted the many opportunities the industry has before it. This includes the State’s efforts to provide increased support for agricultural education and agricultural workforce development, ensure continued innovation and the future of the industry, and maintain its high level of environmental protection programming.

Ball also highlighted the Department’s continued work alongside its many partners to ensure Governor Kathy Hochul’s priority of a strengthened food supply chain through several programs and initiatives, including the Nourish New York program; the Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program; the Regional School Food Infrastructure Program, the Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant Program; the Farm-to-School initiative; the 30% NYS Initiative; and the New York Food for New York Families program.

Finally, the Commissioner spoke about the Department’s ongoing activities to promote New York producers through the Taste NY and NYS Grown & Certified programs and to maintain its essential functions to protect public health and the food supply; ensure animal and plant health; and protect consumers and businesses.

A recording of the State of Agriculture speech will be made available on the New York State Agricultural Society’s YouTube channel. A transcript of the Commissioner’s remarks as prepared can be found on the Department’s website at agriculture.ny.gov/2026-state-agriculture-address.

Anderson Foundation, Anderson Center name officers for 2026 Boards of Trustees



Philip Bronzi



Marybeth G. Cale

Anderson Center for Autism’s executive leadership team has announced today that the Boards of Trustees for Anderson Foundation for Autism (AFA) and Anderson Center for Autism (ACA) have appointed officers for 2026.

At its December 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, Anderson Foundation (AFA) trustees voted to approve the following slate: Chair: Marybeth G. Cale, Co-President of Cale Communications and Estuary Coaching; 1st Vice Chair: Susan E. Brune, Parent and Attorney at Brune Law, P.C.; 2nd Vice Chair: Michelle Almeida, Attorney/VP, Assistant General Counsel, Contracts and Operations at Longboard Pharmaceuticals; Treasurer: Kevin DeHond, Director of Institutional and High Net Worth Investments at Hudson Valley Investment Advisors (HVIA); Secretary: Brittany N. Cataldo, Sr. Relationship Banker at M&T Bank.

Officers of the Board of Anderson Center for Autism (ACA) will include the following in 2026: Chair: Philip Bronzi, Chief Lending Officer at Rhinebeck Bank; 1st Vice Chair: Julie H. Krieger, Retired/Commercial Banking; 2nd Vice Chair: Charles M. Cullen, EVP, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer at Rondout Savings Bank; Treasurer: Kathryn Seckler, Partner at RBT CPAs, LLP; Secretary: Joseph J. Hally, Vice President of Regulatory

Affairs at Central Hudson Gas & Electric.

Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, said “These two Boards of Trustees, along with our Anderson Center International Board, include a diverse group of talented, forward-thinking people who are steadfastly devoted to our mission. We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of these volunteers, and to all of our trustees, who work to help us address growing needs of the autistic and neurodivergent community - locally, regionally, throughout the country, and even around the world.”

Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer of Anderson Foundation for Autism, added “We are all very excited to work with these leaders, and also want to express our deepest gratitude to those who recently completed their terms. Over the years, I’ve had the privilege of collaborating with so many trustees and officers who are smart, strategic, and deeply sensitive to the needs of individuals with autism and their families; I very much look forward to working with this group as we collectively bring our vision to life in the next chapter of Anderson’s story.”

To learn more about Anderson Center for Autism, visit andersoncenterforautism.org. For further information about Anderson Foundation for Autism, visit andersoncenterforautism.org/giving/.

Ulster Savings Bank hosts free Virtual Homebuyer Seminar on Jan. 28

Are you looking for the home of your dreams and don’t know where to start? Ulster Savings Bank invites you to a free homebuyer seminar on Wednesday, Jan 28, starting at 5:30 p.m. They are hosting this event along with Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County to help you understand the critical steps to owning your own home. This seminar will be offered as an interactive live Zoom meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in real time.

They will discuss: • Steps in getting pre-qualified • Credit scores and why they are important • Documentation needed to apply • Low down payment options • Choosing the right lender • What to expect during the buying process.

One may be eligible for a \$750 Home Buyer Credit* just for attending.

Sign up at: <https://www.ulstersavings.com/personal/loans/seminars/>

*Receive a \$750 coupon good towards borrower’s choice of closing costs, down payment, or post-closing payment assistance, in accordance with the loan program selected and that program’s eligibility requirements. The certificate must be presented at the time of application. Customer pays for all other fees and services. Eligible mortgages are for owner-occupied purchases. Not valid for refinances, home equity products, second homes, construction loans, or mortgage applications received prior to the date of seminar on certificate. Offer may not be combined with any other offers or discounts unless otherwise noted. This offer expires on Dec. 31, 2028. Limit one per loan transaction. Certain conditions apply. Ulster Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender & Member FDIC. NMLS# 619306.

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Red Hook boys off to strong start in basketball

By Morgan E. Maier

At the turn of the new year, boys’ and girls’ teams across Dutchess County bounce through both ends of the basketball spectrum (all records as of Sunday, Jan. 18). Amid each division’s individual and team performances, some standings hold tight as others start to widen.

Unstoppable court forces - Red Hook is the boys’ team to beat in Division-II of Section 9. With a 7-0 overall record (2-0 in divisional play), including the most recent 62-52 win over Our Lady of Lourdes, the Raiders have shown early success in tournaments, within the division, and across nonleague matchups. With it, they will likely have to fight the Highland Huskies for top spot in the division.

Spackenkill has also enjoyed a strong start to its boys’ season, undefeated across its first four divisional contests. The squad boast a 6-3 record overall, including a resounding 82-57 win over Mount Academy to bolster its nonleague resume. Jalin Thompson led the Spartans with 36 points, while Kason Cummings notched a triple-double against the Eagles.

Seeking wins in Section 9 - A few squads still look to their first wins of the season. On the boys’ end, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidents haven’t found it in their first six games. Somto Awaka has had a few stellar performances for FDR, including a 33-point performance against the Wallkill Panthers.

Dover’s teams have found limited success on both sides. Sitting at 3-5 overall, the boys still seek the coveted divisional win. The girls have lost their first five divisional games. They will need a scorching end to January to overcome the sluggish start in Division-III.

Also in girls’ competition, the undefeated Mount Academy and winless Pine Plains bookend the Division-IV standings, as the 1-9 Bombers have fallen in their first four interdivisional matchups. In near-identical standing, the boys’ team also trails the pack in its division. With five straight losses to start the season, Pine Plains’ 0-5 is the contrast to Mount’s 5-0 start. The Eagles hold a one-game lead over Webutuck (4-4 overall, 3-1 in division), while widening the gap over Rhinebeck (4-6, 2-2 in division) and Millbrook (3-5 overall, 1-4 in division).

Poughkeepsie High School athletics to rejoin Section 9

Poughkeepsie High School’s interscholastic athletics teams will compete in Section 9 beginning this fall. Section 9 approved Poughkeepsie’s application for admission last week at its monthly meeting, after the Mid-Hudson Athletic League gave its blessing last month. Poughkeepsie will leave Section 1 at the end of this school year.

Dr. Jonathan Jefferson, Poughkeepsie’s executive director of physical education, health services, athletics and recreation, called it an “easy” decision to apply to rejoin Section 9, citing academic, social emotional, geographic and economic benefits.

“What’s in the best interest for Poughkeepsie is to be in a region where we don’t have excessive travel, where we’re not pulling kids out of school academically, where they will get to experience diversified environments,” Jefferson said. “I want to thank our neighboring schools in Section 9 for welcoming us back.”

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association divides the state into 11 geographic sections for regional competition; Schools are further divided for postseason play into classifications based on enrollment size.

While some of Dutchess County’s schools compete in Section 1 – which also includes Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties – many compete in Section 9 with teams from Ulster, Orange and Sullivan counties. The Pioneers previously left Section 1 in favor of Section 9 in fall 2014 and returned in fall 2017. They will compete in

the Mid-Hudson Athletic League. Superintendent of Schools Gregory Mott said, “This move reflects our commitment to putting students first. By rejoining Section 9, we are prioritizing instructional time, student wellness and access to athletic opportunities. We see athletics as a powerful partner to our academic mission and this decision recommit us to that ideal.”

Rejoining Section 9 is expected to reduce travel time for student-athletes, which will limit the instances in which they are forced to leave school early for a game and allow them to arrive home earlier, providing for more time for homework and rest. It will also reduce travel expenses, allowing the district to reallocate those resources to better serve students’ needs.

United Way to host free virtual seminar Jan. 22

On Thursday, Jan. 22, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region invites non-profit leaders, program managers, development staff and board members to attend a critical virtual session designed to provide actionable strategies for financial stability and successful resource development in 2026.

In an ever-changing landscape, understanding how to budget effectively and target grant opportunities is paramount. Insights from financial experts and key funders will help ensure organizations are “meeting the moment.”

Registration is required at uwdor.org/nonprofitseminar. A Zoom link will be provided to all registered users.

The agenda for this seminar includes these topics:

- **Budgeting During Uncertain Times:** Learn proactive financial planning strategies to build resilience and maintain operational stability regardless of economic fluctuations. Covering this topic are

Rebecca Reynolds, CPA, MA and Katelyn Tymczynszyn, CPA.

- **Grant Writing Techniques for 2026:** Master the latest techniques and best practices to craft compelling proposals that stand out and secure competitive funding.

Speaking on this subject is Maureen Fox, Co-President of the Grant Professionals of the Lower Hudson. Maureen has dedicated her career to improving the communities in which she lives and works, raising funds and awareness for many important causes.

- **UWDOR Funding Priorities:** Get a direct briefing on the focus areas and strategic investments UWDOR plans to make in the coming year, helping you align your mission with their opportunities. Rebecca Lull, Director of Community Impact at United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, will share her vision and expertise gained from her many years of work at United Way.

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A Sweet Arrival: Fruition Chocolate Works to open at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie

Fruition Chocolate Works (Fruition), the region’s premier specialty chocolate maker, will bring its award-winning product to the east side of the Hudson River with a second location at Eastdale Village Town Center in Poughkeepsie. The new location will offer an immersive experience for learning and tasting the world of high-quality chocolate, featuring confections crafted at its flagship Shokan store by master chocolatier and co-owner, Bryan Graham. The grand opening celebration will take place on Feb. 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., welcoming locals and visitors across the Hudson Valley to taste, shop and learn.

“The second location marks a major milestone for Fruition,” said Dahlia Graham, co-owner of Fruition. “Eastdale Village is a vibrant live-work-play community, and we’re excited about being a part of it, offering a unique space where visitors can taste, learn and appreciate chocolate the way we do.”

In addition to Fruition’s celebrated creations, the Eastdale location will fea-

ture hand-selected craft chocolates from around the world, highlighting other ethically sourced makers whose products complement Fruition’s own, alongside an espresso and hot chocolate bar. The shop will also offer locally made jams and syrups used to enhance Fruition chocolate, creating a curated experience for visitors.

Founded 14 years ago and operated today by husband-and-wife duo, Bryan and Dahlia Graham, Fruition has earned an international reputation for crafting high-quality, ethically sourced chocolate and goods that have been refined to perfection. Both the business and chocolatier, Bryan Graham, have received international recognition for its products, including multiple Gold Medals from the International Chocolate Awards, accolades from the Academy of Chocolate and honors from the Good Foods Awards. Graham has previously been named one of the Top 10 Dessert Professionals in America, a distinction reflecting his skills and dedication to the craft and testament to his education at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.

To learn more about Fruition Chocolate Works or place an order, visit: fruitionchocolateworks.com or connect with Fruition on Facebook (Fruition Chocolate) and Instagram (@fruitionchocolate).

Fruition Chocolate Works co-owners Dahlia and Bryan Graham are pictured at the new Eastdale Village location. In addition to Fruition’s celebrated creations, the Eastdale location will feature hand-selected craft chocolates from around the world. At left is a packaged Fruition chocolate bar. *Courtesy photos*



Hochul unveils ambitious agenda in State of the State

continued from page 2

Student Challenge;

- Investing in high-impact tutoring to accelerate student success;
- Investing in Indigenous youth education and mentoring and leadership resources for young Black and Latina women;
- Doubling the size of the Empire State Service Corps on SUNY campuses;
- Enhancing supports to educate borrowers navigating the increasingly complicated student loan landscape;
- Directing SUNY and CUNY to develop standardized, system-wide policies governing emergency aid for students, and directing SUNY to permit additional flexibility over tuition liability policies in emergencies;
- Implementing statewide teen mental health first aid training; enabling kids to support their peers;
- Protecting kids from predators, scammers and harmful AI chatbots on online platforms; and
- Safeguarding kids online by ensuring fair play in online sports betting and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

Keeping New Yorkers healthy

Since taking office, Governor Hochul has made historic investments in New York’s health care system. Where the federal government has prioritized draconian cuts that threaten the most vulnerable New Yorkers, Hochul has invested bil-

lions to strengthen and stabilize health systems, expand coverage, lower the consumer cost of care, bolster the health workforce, and drive long-term transformational change within the health sector. The Governor will build on these investments by:

- Strengthening safety net hospitals by investing in transformational partnerships;
- Bolstering patient protections by keeping drug costs down;
- Keeping New Yorkers safe by safeguarding scientifically based vaccine policies and coverage from federal politicization;
- Strengthening cardiac emergency readiness across the state; and
- Increasing support and resources for New York’s older adults.

Securing New York’s energy future

New York’s grid is already among the cleanest in the country. By treating energy policy as economic policy, the Governor is ensuring that decades from now, New Yorkers will inherit a stronger, cleaner, and more secure energy future. The Governor proposes to build on these efforts by:

- Introducing the NYS Affordable Utilities Omnibus Legislation, to ensure oversight and accountability for utilities;
- Supporting consumers to make energy investments that save them money in

the long-term, from investing in weatherization to money back in their pockets for smart thermostats;

- Requiring data centers to pay their fair share for the massive amounts of energy they consume;
- Investing in a nuclear reliability backbone for a zero-emission grid and ensuring New York’s nuclear power future is built by and for New Yorkers;
- Protecting New York’s energy grid from cyber threats;
- Supporting public schools looking to deploy more solar power;
- Establishing a sales tax exemption for electricity sold at electric vehicle (EV) charging stations; and
- Supporting farms through the Sun and Soil Program.

Protecting New York’s environment

For decades, New York has led the nation in environmental protection. Hochul’s environmental agenda aims to protect the state’s natural resources, hold polluters accountable, and build more resilient communities. The Governor proposes to:

- Continue record investments in the Environmental Protection Fund to safeguard natural resources;
- Increase New York’s commitment to clean water projects statewide;
- Invest in coastal resiliency for local communities;

- Mitigate flood risk through FloodSafe NY;
- Enhance the implementation of waterfront revitalization plans;
- Expand access to state parks for all New Yorkers; and
- Establish the New York State Parks Trades Corps

Building resilient communities for New Yorkers

Every New Yorker should have the chance to build a life they’re proud of. Hochul is leveling the playing field by investing in New Yorkers’ independence, dignity and opportunity. The Governor is doubling down on previous investments by:

- Strengthening care and opportunities for New Yorkers with behavioral health needs, veterans and people with disabilities;
- Addressing today’s most urgent behavioral health challenges and creating stability so New Yorkers can thrive; and
- Making New York a more inclusive state for people with disabilities through a suite of initiatives to promote independence, dignity, education and opportunity for every New Yorker.

For details on these policies, visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/2026-state-state>.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Skating rink open to the public

Town of Clinton Recreation announces that the Friends Park Ice Skating Rink is open to the public for open ice skating, weather permitting. Helmets encouraged. Friends Park is at 2350 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners.

DC Parks’ rental reservation system open for pavilions, camping & more

Dutchess County Parks recently announced 2026 reservations are open for pavilions, campsites, kayak slips, boathouse, and other facility rentals. Due to the popularity of rental facilities, the online reservation system for rentals at Bowdoin, Quiet Cove, and Wilcox Park will open on staggered dates to handle demand and ensure a smooth reservation process for guests and staff alike.

Reservations for Bowdoin Park Pavilions opened on Jan. 13. Reservations for Quiet Cove boathouse and kayak slips opened on Tuesday, Jan. 20; and reservations for Wilcox Park pavilions and campsites will open on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Reservations can be made online at dutchessny.gov/ParksEducation (login required). Some facilities, including Maple Knoll Lodge and Scout Field, are only available by calling the Parks office. Rental fees vary by facility and are due upon reservation. Additional permits or proof of insurance may be required. Visit dutchessny.gov/parks or call (845) 486-4600 for complete information.

Registration open for weekend archery classes at Bowdoin Park

Registration for the winter session of Dutchess County Parks’ weekend archery classes at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie is open while spots are available. Sessions begin on Jan. 31 and will take place inside Bowdoin Park’s community center auditorium. The program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots to accommodate more students. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for children ages 8 and up, and adults with any level of archery experience. Space is limited, so be sure to register early at www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

The first session will cover basic archery safety and skills for new participants. Most of the sessions will be spent practicing with the bows, allowing participants to learn through experience. All equipment is provided. The total cost for the program is \$70 per person and includes all five classes and equipment.

Dates for the archery sessions are Jan. 31, Feb. 14, Feb. 28, March 7 and March 14 (all Saturdays).

Time slots: 8:30-9:30 a.m.; 10-11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3 p.m.; and 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Other naturalist programming, including group weekday Archery, Junior Survival, Scout Programs and School Field Trips, are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling the Parks

office at (845) 298-4602. For registration and programming information, visit DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

Skating Party & Tree Burning set Jan. 24 in Clinton Corners

Clinton Recreation Department is hosting a Skating Party and Tree Burning on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting), at Friends Park, 2350 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Bring your Christmas trees to the Park or Highway Garage by Jan. 23. There will be hot cocoa and ice skating. Call 1-914-489-0962 or email Dan@clintondcny.gov for more information.

Soup Night at the Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook will host its Soup Night on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m., at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook. Join friends and neighbors for a cozy winter evening enjoying a variety of homemade soups. Reserve seats for a seating at 5:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Reserved tickets (via www.historicredhook.org) are \$15/ a person, but tickets will be \$20/ a person at the door. Tickets include two mugs of soup along with salad, bread, and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Take-out option is available; reserve at www.historicredhook.org. Cost for take-out soup is \$10 and includes a pint of 1 type of soup and bread. Orders can be reserved and picked up on the 24th after 5:15 p.m. You can also make a reservation by calling 845-546-9668 or emailing reserve@historicredhook.org. Please Note: Tickets for wine and beer must be purchased separately and can be purchased for \$5/ a drink in person.

Upcoming events at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Fraud & Scam Awareness Presentation for Seniors by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82; Stanfordville. Those attending will learn how to recognize common scams targeting seniors, protect personal information, avoid phone and internet fraud, and what to do if a scam is suspected. Admission is free, and a continental breakfast will be available. For more information, contact Grange Chaplain Heidi Bornemann at (914) 484-0919.

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$38 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10% discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and remove up to 4 points on your license for any violations incurred in the last 18 months. The class includes festive classroom participation and informative movies as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Dinner Committee with a free will offering asked. For more information or to request an applica-

tion for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Winter Bonfire in Rhinecliff set Jan. 24

Rhinecliff residents can save their holiday trees for the ninth annual Winter Bonfire on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Firemen’s Field, Beginning at 4 p.m. (snow date: Jan. 31). Dress warm and join us to celebrate Winter around a bonfire burning local holiday trees. Drop your tree off at Firemen’s Field by the parking area. Trees must be cleared of décor. People living within the Rhinecliff Fire District can call Joe at (845) 489-0835 to arrange a pick-up from the end of their driveway. Firemen’s Field is located on Valley Way Road and Loftus, next to the Old Schoolhouse Condos.

Red Hook Repair Cafe set Jan. 24

The Red Hook Repair Café will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Red Hook Community Center, 59 Fisk St. in Red Hook. This is volunteer-driven event featuring skilled neighbors who fix your broken items for free. Bring your lamps, small appliances, watches, clocks, jewelry, computers (and l-phones), small electronics, sewing items needing mending, broken zippers, toys, sewing machines, and more. Our repair coaches will do their best to have you leave pleased with your repaired items.

Coming up at the Copake Grange

The great Chili Cook-off takes the edge off winter at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. Spice up the evening with a delicious variety of chilies. Those in the mood for cooking, can bring their favorite chili in a large crockpot. Those in the mood for eating can choose from plenty of tasty concoctions to eat-in or take-out. Prizes go to the favorites. Attendees are invited to taste, vote and eat. Free admission. The price of chili is \$5 to eat-in or take-out. To get more information email copakegrange@gmail.com or visit www.copakegrange.org/events

The Chatham Trio showcases an engaging program of solos, duets, and trios for clarinets and piano at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The program includes opera arias by Mozart, a concert piece by Mendelssohn, and works by other classical masters, along with klezmer and soundtrack selections. All ages are invited to be entertained and have their appreciation of classical music enhanced.

Veteran Town Hall set Jan. 24

The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County invite veterans and their families to a Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 1302, 55 Overlook Road in Poughkeepsie. This free event will connect local veterans with local service providers for an open, informative discussion focused on the programs, services and supports available to local veterans, their loved ones and caregivers.

Pancake Breakfasts in Rhinecliff

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad host Winter Pancake Breakfasts on

Sunday Mornings from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 8, March 8 and April 12. Enjoy a pile-high of “Rhinecliff’s Best” pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It’s all-you-can-eat, so bring your appetite and your friends! Breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children (children under age 6 eat for free).

Breakfast is held at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard, Rhinecliff). Proceeds Support the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Co. Call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail csaniewski1@gmail.com for more information.

Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales

Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896, are offered on the third Thursday of the Month: Feb. 19 and March 19. Soup is sold by the Quart. \$10 per quart. Take-out only. Pick up at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Email: JoBaer2@gmail.com to be emailed the soup choices for each month and pre-order online.

ONGOING

Parkinson’s Support Group - at Starr Library Community Room, third Monday of the month, noon-1:30 p.m. The monthly Parkinson’s Support Group is a gathering place for those with Parkinson’s and their loved ones to create community and share information. The group will meet each month to offer a space for everyone to discuss their challenges and successes, share stories, connect with others who are navigating similar issues, and sift through medical information and the latest news about available treatments. Refreshments and resources provided. Register via the online calendar at www.starrlibrary.org. The library is at 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

Chess: First & third Mondays, 7 p.m., at Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

Men’s fellowship and Bible study: Tuesday nights, 7-9 p.m., in the home of David Mahoney, 21 Mountain View Road, Staatsburg. Call (845) 797-4805 for more information.

PV Garden Club meets first Thursday of the month. Want to learn more about gardening while helping your neighbors? Join Pleasant Valley Community Gardens for its monthly meetings at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at the Pleasant Valley Library. No experience necessary. Pleasant Valley Community Gardens are volunteers learning as they grow vegetables and flowers in Helen Aldrich Park on Route 115. Everything we grow is to benefit local food pantries. See our Facebook page and web site at www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com.

Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

send us your news ————— cschmidt@sducthessnews.com

Skilled Trades Fair returns to Arlington High School Feb. 11

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino’s Skilled Trades Fair, in partnership with the Arlington Central School District, will return to Arlington High School, 1157 Route 55 in Lagrangeville, from 6 to 8 p.m. This free event is open to all Dutchess County residents and no RSVP is required to attend.

“I know firsthand, there’s no such thing as one-size-fits-all when it comes to your career path,” said Serino. “Our partners across various skilled trades industries are ready and willing to help students – and adults – from across Dutchess County plan for their future professional achievements. We continue to host these Skilled Trades Fairs every year to showcase the wide range of opportunities available in our community. We are grateful to the busy professionals who so readily participate, and to Arlington Central School District for welcoming us back to the High School again this year.”

Dr. Philip Benante, Arlington Superintendent of Schools, said, “Building on the incredible success of last year’s event—which brought together over 70 vendors and 800 attendees—Arlington is thrilled to partner with

County Executive Sue Serino for the second year to host the Skilled Trades Fair. This event remains a vital bridge between our students and the rewarding career paths within the trades. We are proud to continue this tradition of shaping our future workforce and look forward to welcoming the Dutchess County community back to Arlington High School on February 11.”

The County Executive’s Skilled Trades Fairs connect hundreds of students and their families with diverse career opportunities in the Hudson Valley in fields such as construction, electrical work, plumbing, masonry, and more.

Participating businesses will have a unique opportunity to engage with motivated students and adults, eager to explore careers in their trades. Local businesses and trade organizations interested in showcasing their opportunities at the fair are encouraged to register online at dutchessny.gov/AHSTradesFair or contact the Dutchess County Executive’s Office at 845-486-2000 or CountyExec@dutchessny.gov. There is no fee to participate, however space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

THE GREATEST
DOT-TO-DOT
BOOKS

No Dots
Connect Numbers:
1 - 94

By David Kalvitis

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Tip: Aim for the middle of each number.

Firefighters attend leadership conference

Members of the New Hackensack Fire Department, Hughsonville Fire Department, and Town of Wappinger hosted a leadership conference on Saturday, Jan. 10. This event was organized in collaboration with the Fire Chief's Council of Dutchess County, Dutchess County Association of Fire Districts and the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association.

The workshop attracted over 120 firefighters from across the Hudson Valley, highlighting the strong commitment to professional development within the region's fire service community.

Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, a best-selling fire service author and the 2025 FDIC Instructor of the Year, led the conference. He presented his critically acclaimed interactive leadership program, "Step Up and Lead."

The workshop was designed for a wide range of participants, including firefighters, lieutenants, captains, chief officers, future fire officers, and commissioners. Recognizing the ever-changing



Over 120 firefighters from across the Hudson Valley attended the leadership conference at the New Hackensack Fire Department on Jan. 10. From left, Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, Dutchess Count Emergency Response Commissioner Willam Beale and Chief Ray Valentin are pictured at the conference. *Photos by Vincent Galvin*

nature of the fire service, the program emphasized that firefighters can always add another tool to their toolbox by engaging in ongoing leadership training.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.
- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE TO MEET ON JAN. 28

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will hold a virtual Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. They will discuss membership updates, the Draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program, the long-range plan - Moving Dutchess Forward, and other planning efforts. Join on the web by entering meeting ID: 292 820 773 310; Passcode: NL9Vv2Rc or call in (audio only) +1 516-268-4602; Phone Conference ID: 932 321 65#.

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Vassar College to host MODfest Jan. 23-Feb. 7

MODfest, Vassar College’s 24th annual interdisciplinary tribute to the arts, featuring music, dance, visual arts, and—for the first time, an opera—opens on January 23 and concludes on Feb. 7 on the Vassar campus. All events are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule of events, go to <https://modfest2026.vassar.edu/>

The festival opens with performances of the award-winning opera “Computing Venus” on Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and on Jan. 24 and 25 at 2 p.m. in the Martell Theater of the Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film. Composed by Timothy Takach with libretto by Caitlin Vincent, the opera tells the story of astronomer Maria Mitchell, one of Vassar’s first female faculty members, weaving together music, science, feminist theory, and 19th-century women’s history to illuminate her pioneering legacy. Lead performers are Vassar alums Eden Bartholomew ’23, Michael Hoffman ’13, Beatrix Postley ’24, and. It is co-directed by Senior Lecturer in Music Drew Minter and Professor and Chair of Drama Christopher John Grabowski. Christine Howlett, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities on the George Sherman Dickinson Chair, is the musical director.

Vassar Trustee Kathy Zillweger Putnam ’75 first brought “Computing Venus” to the attention of Music Department faculty and is a major benefactor of the production. The event is free but requires tickets. Reservations can be made by going to <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/vassardrama/3300>. The opera will be livestreamed for an off-campus audience at 2 p.m. on Jan. 24.

For access to the livestream, go to <https://modfest2026.vassar.edu/computing-venus/>.

Other highlights of the festival include a talk by award-winning artist and poet Cecilia Vicuña; “Rescoring Richter,” a multimedia event pairing the experimental films of Hans Richter made in the 1920s; the annual Honorary Adene and Richard Wilson Concert featuring the works by Professor of Music Emeritus Richard Wilson and composer Celeste Oram; plus a premiere by first-year faculty member, Assistant Professor of Music Alan Hankers.

The festival concludes on the weekend of Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. with a performance by the Vassar Repertory Dance Theater in The Frances Fergusson Dance Theater in Kenyon Hall, and a student-centered weekend featuring a student composer symposium, SoundCrawl, and a live listening part with WVKKR—celebrating the next generation of visionary artists.

Professor Howlett and Associate Professor and Chair of Music Justin Patch are co-directors of this year’s event. “This year’s MODfest explores the power of creative vision to shape culture, spark change, and imagine new futures,” Howlett said. “Through music, opera, dance, film, and visual arts, the event honors artists and thinkers who break boundaries, reimagine the world around them, and inspire us to listen, move, and see differently.”

Patch said the two-week event “celebrates nearly two centuries of fearless, creative innovation. From Mariah Mitchell’s scientific work and advocacy for women in the sciences, to provocative films and installations, to contemporary works by Vassar faculty and students, this year’s program illuminates the spirit and transformative power of creativity.”



Highlights of MODfest include Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, which will perform works created by faculty, students, and guest choreographers, selected from the current repertory. The performance is set for Feb. 6. Below: The festival opens on Jan. 23 with the award-winning opera “Computing Venus” (2024), which provides a glimpse into the life of astronomer Maria Mitchell (1818–1889), who paved the way for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in America. *Courtesy photos*



MORTON LIBRARY OPENS CALL FOR TALENT, VISUAL ART

Morton Memorial Library seeks participants for its annual Community Talent Show and accompanying Art Exhibition.

The Talent Show Art Exhibition will open on Friday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m., and will be up for a week prior to the Talent Show itself, which will take place on Friday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. The exhibition will remain up for the month of March.

Contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org by Feb. 7 if you are interested in participating. Works must be delivered to Morton by Saturday, Feb. 21. Contact Sandy if you have questions.

This year marks Morton’s 17th annual Talent Show: an evening of jokes, bands, storytelling, guitar playing, dance, opera and much more. Use your imaginations and share your immense variety of talents with the community. This show and Morton’s community are all about enjoyment and camaraderie, never judgment.

Contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org if you are interested in participating.

The plan is to do the Talent Show in person this year. But, if you don’t live in the area or would prefer, you can record your performance and send it in.

Richard Kopyscianski has again agreed to emcee the event.



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Procreation, not prognostication

Animals simply prepare for seasonal changes

Beasties are tuned into the weather. Birds can detect changes in air pressure and humidity and seek shelter in advance of severe conditions. The largest mammals, as well as subterranean insects, move to higher ground before a downpour. Restlessness in dogs can result from their smelling ozone changes caused by approaching lightning. Critters can hear a storm in the distance before its rumble is audible to humans.

The acuity of their senses to environmental shifts enables animals to perceive climatic changes earlier than we can. And they alter their behavior to prepare. In autumn, squirrels and mice gorge, as well as store food in caches for later consumption. Bears become hyperphagic to gain fat for energy and insulation. Groundhogs also add girth for their winter hibernation. Their thick layer of fat sustains them during a three-month-long dormancy.

As winter draws to an end, when temperatures begin rising, groundhogs emerge from their sleep. In some cases, the event is the subject of great observation and fanfare. But, even with the rodents' animalistic sensitivities to environmental cues, their documented accuracy at meteorological predictions is only 30-40%.

Wise woodchuck or squirrelly substitute?

The custom of using hibernating animals to predict weather is an ancient European practice. In that continent, the badger, *Meles meles* (related to shrews), and the hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus* (related to weasels), were used to forecast winter's end. As Europe became Christianized, in the 5th through 9th centuries, the Pagan Festival of Imbolc, which signified the beginning of spring, was blended with Candlemas, a holiday that uses blessed candles to represent Christ's light and bring a sense of peace.

In the 1800s, when European immigrants brought their traditions to North America, they found that *Marmota monax* (related to squirrels) were a more readily available alternative to the animals used in their former home. The woodchuck became their pinch-hitter.

The settler's regional tradition of Groundhog Day was first publicized in 1886, by the Punxsutawney Spirit newspaper in Pennsylvania.

Long shadows = more winter

I find it counter-intuitive, but cloudless, sunny days in winter can be indicative of chilly weather. Usually cold, northern air brings clear conditions. There are also fewer daylight hours in winter, which means that there is less time for heat to accumulate. And clouds act as an insulating blanket; without clouds, any heat reaching us quickly radiates back into space. Most importantly, though, in winter, the sun's rays are spread over a larger area, less effectively heating the ground and air.

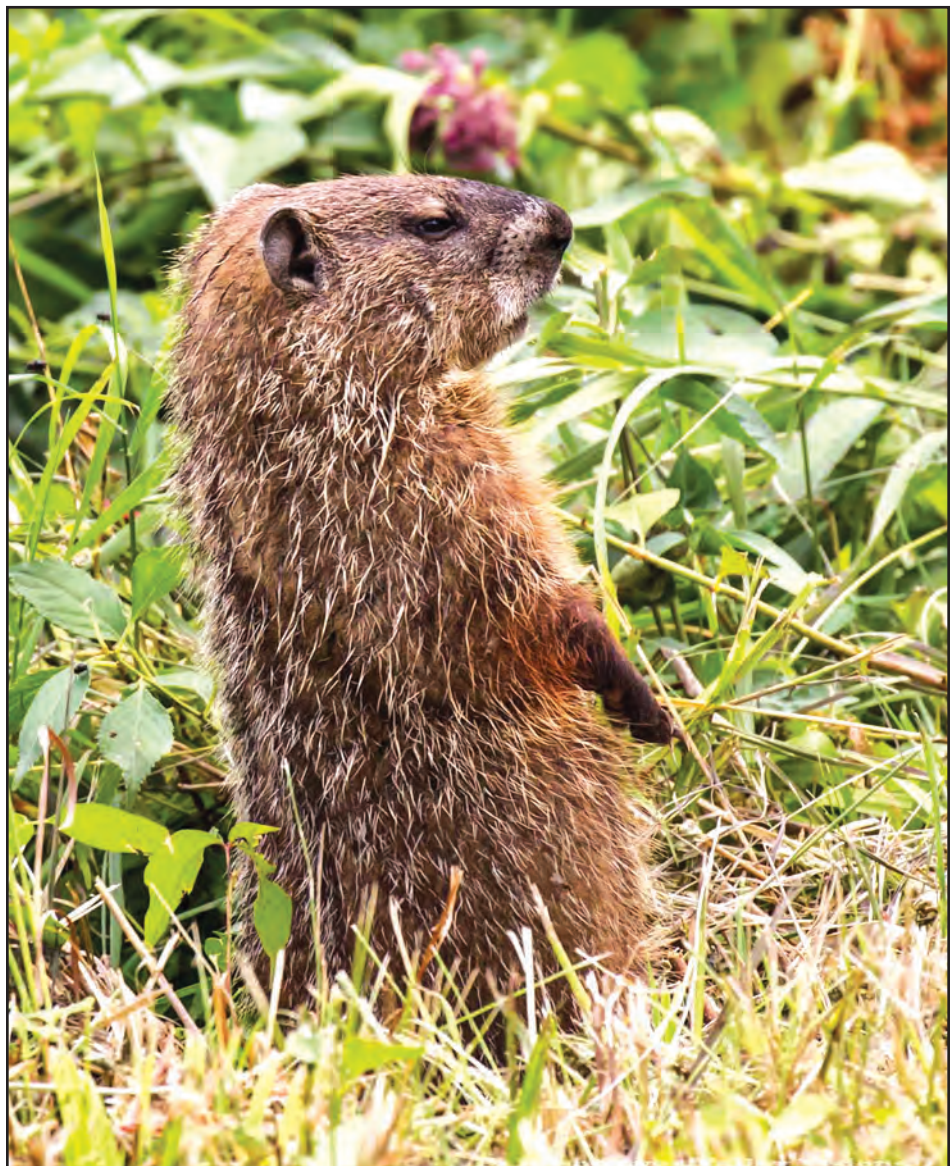
So, if Bucky the Unlucky Woodchucky lumbers outside his burrow one fine, sunny February 2nd, he will see a much more elongated shadow than he would observe in June, when the sun is more directly overhead. He will thusly return to his den for an additional month-and-a-half of slumber. So-sayeth the tradition and its adherents. (Conversely, a cloudy February 2nd foretells an early spring, as Bucky would not throw shade).

Thumb stubs and limited shoulder range-of-motion

As if marmots could throw anyway! These land-based, chisel-toothed rodents have "thumb stubs" that only allow them to grip small items. Without fully opposable thumbs they could not hold a branch. Plus, they lack the complex biomechanics necessary for chucking anything. Their limbs are built for powerful, linear movement needed for moving dirt.

Whistle Pigs are habitat engineers; they aerate the soil and cycle nutrients, keeping it healthy through their digging. They are often seen guarding their burrows, emitting a high-pitched noise if they become alarmed.

Though their monikers include woodchuck, marmot, and whistle pig, they are most commonly called groundhogs. "Woodchuck" is a phonetic corruption. The Algonquians' name for the animal is "wuchak," which prompts the query, "How much wood would a wuchak



Groundhog on guard, Bowdoin Park. Photo courtesy Valley Visions

chuck if a wuchak could chuck wood?"

Final observations

According to the Oregon Zoo, their hedgehogs have an accuracy rate of about 50% at predicting the arrival of spring. There is no data on the accuracy rate of badgers' predictions, as it is not a widely studied phenomenon. Scientists have observed that male groundhogs emerge in search of females and don't seem particularly interested in the length of their shadows. That's procreation, not prognostication.

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>.

what's happening?

creativeliving@sduchessnews.com

Red Hook Library's Trivia Contest set Feb. 1

Think you know more general knowledge trivia than your local librarians? Find out at the Red Hook Public Library's Annual Trivia Contest at Cancun's on Sunday, Feb. 1. Check-in begins at 12:20 p.m., with the contest starting at 1 p.m.

Teams of five or six are welcome. Advance registration is required; send an email to Karen Sipperley at sippinredhook@aol.com.

The cost to participate is \$25 per person. Teams must designate a Team

Captain to be the point person and collect the entire team's entrance fee. Checks must be made out to "Red Hook Public Library" for the entire team and mailed to: Karen Sipperley, 294 Pitcher Lane, Red Hook, NY 12571.

Cash bar and food will be available for purchase.

Please note: Early registration is requested and confirmed when payment is received. The library is limiting the number of teams this year; early payment is essential to successfully register.

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‘Shopping with Pop’

A trip to buy strawberries brings an unexpected twist.

The other day I went to the grocery store to buy fruit for the restaurant. I needed some strawberries for a dessert I was making. I was in a hurry, so I was walking very fast with my head down. I come around the corner and nearly ran into my father, who was shopping for home.

Pop looked at me with a big smile.

Pop: Whea Luigi! Ima so happy to see you!

Me: Hi, Pop!

Pop: Listen, I need you to pick me up a few things, okay?

Me: But, Pop, I’m in--

Pop: OK. I need 1 1/2 bananas

Me: What? 1 1/2? What?

Pop: Yeah, just break it off. I do it all the time.

Me: Pop, you can’t do that.

Pop: Why? Youa pay by the

pounda, no?

Me: It’s not right.

Pop: Itsa OK. Nonja you worry. OK, then getta me two apples anda five grapes.

Me: What? Huh?

Pop: Whatsa matter for you.

Me: Five grapes?

Pop: Yeah. You getta five grapes and put them in a little bag. Oh. Maka sure you use double bags. Thisa way I cana put the broccoli di rabe ina the freezer.

Me: What? Huh?!

Pop: Thena I wanta the ... Come si chiama (How is it called)? Cachi.

Me: Persimmons?

Pop: Yeah! Geta me four.

Me: Four? Don’t they come in a box of six?

Pop: Yeah, so? OK, Imma gonna wait right here for you.

So I go over the fruit aisle and I get everything he asked for, including the 1 1/2 bananas double bagged, and I run back put everything in his cart, give him a kiss goodbye and run out to my car. I zip back the restaurant and run inside and ... DAMN IT!!!!!! I forget the strawberries! That man has a way of confusing you.

At least I can tell you the recipe for the strawberry dessert I was going to make.

STRAWBERRY CHOCOLATE BRUSCHETTA

Ingredients

6 slices crusty Italian bread

10 oz. semi sweet chocolate

10 oz. Strawberries, diced

1/2 cup pistachio nuts, coarsely chopped

2 oz. Grand Marnier liqueur

Method

Preheat the broiler and toast one side of the bread. Remove the bread, add chocolate to each slice and return to the broiler until chocolate is melted.

Add diced strawberries, pistachio nuts and sprinkle Grand Marnier.

Serve with espresso

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.

EXHIBITIONS

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 &12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through February:** The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center kicks off its 2026 Art Exhibition Season with 13 artists in three Visual Art Galleries. Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. in Poughkeepsie will be Kelly Stohr, presenting her solo exhibition, “Shadow Map.” At 12 Vassar St., WomensWork.Art brings together 12 artists for their group show, “Something About the Women,” in the Hancock and Reception Galleries. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Curio Cabinet of the Hudson Valley, 300 Main St., Poughkeepsie. **Through February:** “Curio - Curioso” a solo exhibition by noted multidisciplinary artist Franc Palaia. www.curiocabinetHV.com

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 1:** “Chronostasia: Select Acquisitions 2020–2025,” an exhibition that brings together more than s60 works acquired over the past five years. Closing Program: Thurs., Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m., in Taylor 102, artist talk with Cecilia Vicuña. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through July 7:** Special exhibition, “Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans.” During their extraordinary public careers, the Roosevelts interacted with a “who’s who” of the 20th century. “Signature Moments” opens the FDR Library’s archives and museum for

an insider’s view of the remarkable – and sometimes surprising – variety of personal exchanges with an amazing array of famous (and a few infamous) people, including golden age movie stars, queens and kings, scientists, and legendary military heroes. Visitors will see signatures of literary giants, celebrated artists, world leaders, and, of course, prominent politicians and political activists – including seven American presidents. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. **Through April 12:** “Bannerman Island and the Mighty Hudson River Exhibition,” the Second Annual Collaborative Hudson Valley Landscape Fine Art Show, featuring unique fine art paintings, watercolors, prints, photography and mixed media works in a variety of genres - from traditional and representational works to abstract masterpiece. (845) 831-4988 or www.howlandculturalcenter.org

The Inn at Bellefield, 25 Old Vineyard Place, Hyde Park. **Through January:** Arts Mid-Hudson presents an exhibition of alcohol ink paintings by Linda Lavin. Her semi-abstract images often echo impressionistic landscapes, alive with flow and movement. Working without brushes, she embraces the fluid, unpredictable techniques of alcohol ink on impervious surfaces such as tile, glass, and yupo paper, creating works that are both dynamic and distinctive. More info at artsmidhudson.org/art-at-the-bellefield.

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through February:** The Millbrook Arts Project presents “The Color of Growth,” bringing together four artists - Irja Bodén, JoAnne Lobotsky, Patrick Neal, and Colin O’Con - whose work re-imagines nature and landscape as dynamic sites of transformation. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Feb. 8:** “The Language of Black & White,” an exploration of light, shadow, texture, and emotion through the timeless world of black and white art. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

‘The Mortal Storm’ screening set at FDR Museum on Jan. 27

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with the next program in the Library’s year-long film series “Hollywood Goes to War”-- a screening “The Mortal Storm” (1940) on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 2 p.m.

The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. This is a free public event, but registration is required. Visit fdrlibrary.org to register.

“The Mortal Storm” is the story of Hitler’s rise to power as seen through the microcosm of one German family. What may seem small and personal is instead towering, a bold revelation of the

brutality of the Nazi regime that so infuriated propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels that he banned all MGM movies in Germany. In their fourth and final teaming, Margaret Sullavan and James Stewart play sweethearts, evoking the tender, romantic empathy that always marked their work together. They lead a sterling cast in director Frank Borzage’s sweeping tale of the political and human chaos that rips a family apart, sets child against parent and lover against lover, and leads to savagery, to sacrifice and to heroism.

Upcoming films in the “Hollywood Goes to War” film series include “Hollywood Canteen” (1944), “Four Jills in a Jeep” (1944) and “They Were Expendable” (1945).

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A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 1: “Mary Poppins,” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. CENTERstage Productions presents a musical is based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film; with original music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, book by Julian Fellowes, plus new songs and additional music and lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Performances: Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$29. www.centerforperformingarts.org or (845) 876-3080

Jan. 22: Live Music, 1915 Wine Bar, 40 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. Singer-guitarist Robert Arthurs & special guest Steve Raleigh on guitar, 7-9 p.m. 1915.wine

Jan. 22: Presentation, “Olin Dows and Franklin Roosevelt at Hyde Park,” Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. With Hyde Park Historian Carney Rhinevault and Roger Kolp. Olin Dows was a lifelong friend and neighbor to Franklin D. Roosevelt, and an artist involved in New Deal art projects like the Hyde Park Post Office murals. He was also the author of the 1949 book Franklin Roosevelt at Hyde Park, a personal account illustrated with his own drawings, showcasing their close relationship and Dows' artistic contributions during the Roosevelt era. Free, but registration required via www.fdrlibrary.org

Jan. 22-25: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Jan. 22: Latin Dance with Beacon Dance Beat, 7 p.m. Tickets \$15. Jan. 23: Last Minute Soulmates Multimedia Concert, 8 p.m. No cover. \$20 minimum purchase of

food/drink required. Reservations suggested. Jan. 24: Slam Allen's Soul & Blues Revue; special guest Elly Winger, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25, \$30 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Jan. 24: Maeve Gilchrist, “12 Dances,” Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. In this new multidisciplinary venture by harp innovator and composer Maeve Gilchrist, time is slowed down through the process of careful observation and imagination. The performance is the culmination of a year-long residency at Kaatsbaan in 2025, during which Maeve wrote a solo-harp composition each month. Into 12 Dances, she interweaves site-specific recordings, poetry, and visual stimulation she gathered each day while at Kaatsbaan. Performance at 7 p.m. Tickets \$30 GA, \$15 students w/ID. www.kaatsbaan.org

Jan. 24: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, “Epic Movie Scores,” Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America, 1946 Campus Dr., Hyde Park. Conducted by Music Director Kathleen Beckmann, the concert features returning guest artists Jiayi He, harmonica, and Marka Young, violin. The program includes film music from “Back to the Future,” “Forrest Gump,” “The Great Escape,” “Dances with Wolves,” “Schindler's List” and more, concluding with a medley of classic James Bond themes, 7:30 p.m. Guest musicians are harmonica virtuoso Jiayi & violinist Marka Young. Tickets \$38 per person, with special discounts available for seniors and students. www.ndsorchestra.org or (845) 445-9606

Jan. 25: The Howland Chamber Music Circle Piano Festival, Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. Award-winning pianists Timo Andres and Aaron Diehl perform, 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. Tickets at www.howlandmusic.org.

Chess players compete in 2nd PV Winter Swiss event



Above, winners in the 2nd Annual Pleasant Valley Winter Swiss Chess Tournament included, front, Bob Simmons - 2nd place, Shawn Cimorelli - 1st place and Steve Diaz - 3rd place. In back are George Oliveras and Dean Tichy. The players in the back tied for 2nd - 3rd with 3-1 scores, but didn't qualify for trophies due to the tiebreak system. Below, competitors take part in the event at the Pleasant Valley Library. *Courtesy photos*



Sixteen chess players participated in the 2nd Annual Pleasant Valley Winter Swiss Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Shawn Cimorelli from Milton took clear first place with a perfect 4-0 score. Bob Simmons of Millerton came in second on tiebreaks over Steve Diaz from Hyde Park, who finished third. Both had the same 3-1 score. All winners received trophies. Souvenirs were given to all the tournament participants.

Although the snowfall was light when the tournament began at 10 a.m., it never

let up for the entire four hours of play. Thanks to the Pleasant Valley Library for hosting the event - in particular Linda Hanlon, the library programmer and Bethany Lowe, assistant to the director, who printed the flyers for the tournament.

The tournament director was Robert Wehrli from Salt Point. The Pleasant Valley Library Chess Club (1584 Main St (Rt 44)) meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday monthly. The players ages ranged from 8 to 80, as chess is a game that can be played for a lifetime.

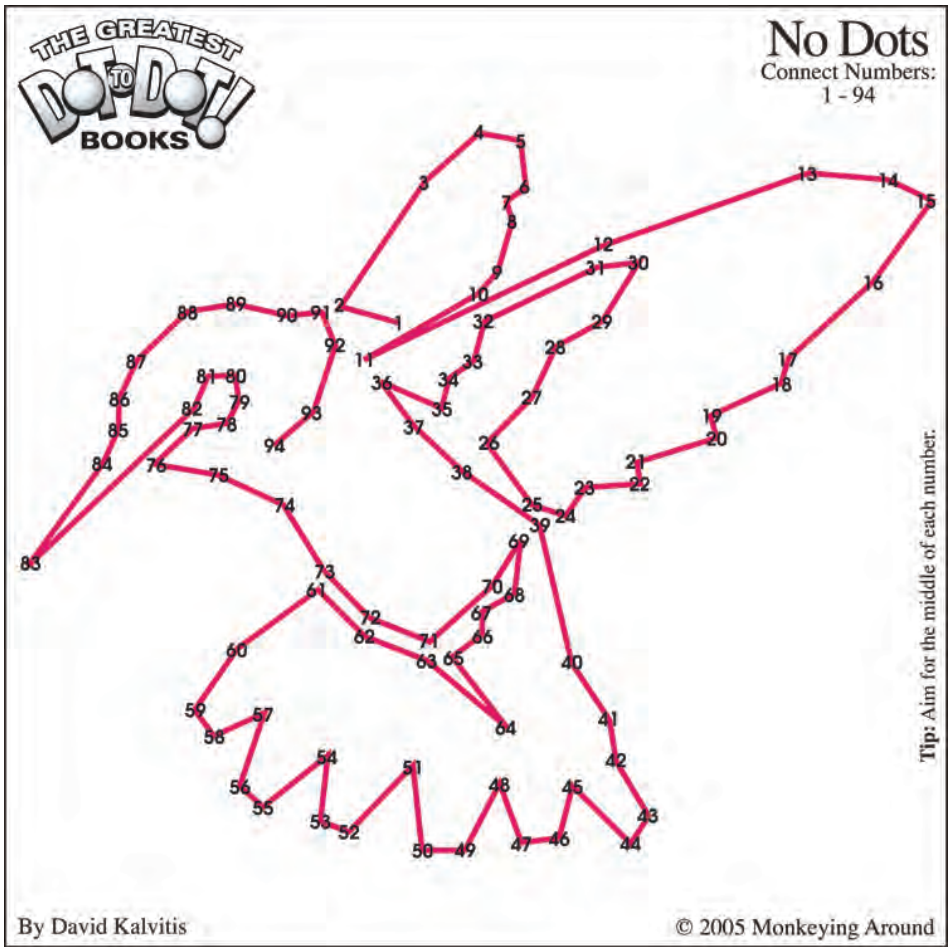


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Southern Dutchess News Group



Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)



Registration now open for Parks' Adult Park Palette Painting Series

Dutchess County Parks continues its wide array of popular programming with another series of Park Palette painting workshops for adults. Due to the popularity of the program, this session will include a session for beginners, and two sessions for more advanced artists. Registration opened Jan 20 at DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

Beginner Adult Park Palette will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Maple Knoll Lodge at Bowdoin Park. The class will include step-by-step introduction to acrylic painting, focusing on the basics of creating nature-based artwork. The class costs \$12 and includes all supplies. Sessions are limited to 12 participants.

Advanced Adult Park Palette will be

held on Thursdays, Feb. 5 and March 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Maple Knoll Lodge at Bowdoin Park. The Advanced class is for adults who have taken a Dutchess County Parks painting class in the past and wish to expand on their skills with more advanced techniques and more challenging scenes. Each session is \$12 and includes all supplies. Sessions are limited to 12 participants each.

Other naturalist programming, including group weekday Archery, Junior Survival, Scout Programs and School Field Trips are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling the Parks office at (845) 298-4602.

For other Parks information, visit DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

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

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.

		2			
2		5			3
		4			
	1				
		3		1	

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.

1. Inundated
6. Word before humbug
9. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
13. Rough, as in voice
14. Kimono sash
15. Misrepresent
16. Do like ivy
17. Go for the bronze?
18. Poem of lament
19. *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
21. *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
23. Sought at crime scene
24. Lord's worker
25. Rob Manfred's org.
28. Jab, in speech
30. * _____.com Arena
35. Rowboat engine, pl.
37. _____ gum, ingredient
39. Cowboy's cry of joy
40. Big attraction
41. Spring holiday honoree
43. Live bait
44. Daytime moth
46. Puerto follower
47. Finger move
48. Colonnade
50. Invitation letters
52. "Zip it!"
53. Trash bag brand
55. Polar helper
57. *Lady Gaga's nominated album
60. *Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The
64. Prejudiced one
65. Busy one
67. Do penance
68. Approves
69. Make a mistake
70. Sans-_____ font
71. "I, Claudius" role
72. Jack and Jill did this
73. Changes to a manuscript

1. Parentheses, e.g.
2. "Star Trek" speed
3. Away from port
4. Not be frugal
5. What TikTokers are often doing
6. This and that
7. Legal grp.
8. Door holder
9. Mix together
10. Away from wind
11. Leo or Libra, e.g.
12. *Wonder's "Songs in the ____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
15. Where bats are?
20. Eurasian goat-like antelope
22. Middle-earth dweller
24. Pelican or albatross, e.g.
25. Person in an ad
26. One of Florida Keys
27. Health food pioneer of liquid
amino acids
29. *Nominated "Drop Dead Years"
comedian Bill ____
31. Swerves
32. Sound units
33. Synagogue scroll
34. Zing or pizzazz
36. *Justin Bieber's nominated song
38. Fabled fliers
42. Red one, send somebody over!
45. Unfabled ones are in the
Declaration of Independence
49. Draft pick
51. Give satisfaction
54. Spot for prehistoric fly
56. Doomed
57. *MCA, Ad-Rock and ____ D,
Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
58. Culture-growing turf
59. Walk-the-dog toy
60. What concerning and discernable
have in common
61. *Nine-time Grammy-nominated
Amos
62. Fonzie's comeback: "Sit ____
"
63. Whistle blowers
64. * ____ Iver of SABLE, fABLE fame
66. Historical period

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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16						17				18			
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68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page **23**

COLLEGE NOTES

Marisa Markou of Clinton Corners was named to PennWest University’s Fall 2025 Dean’s List.

Markou, a PennWest Clarion student who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management , was among nearly 3,000 outstanding PennWest students recognized for superior academic performance during the fall semester.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, degree-seeking undergraduate students must earn a minimum semester GPA of 3.4 while taking at least 12 graded credits.

NASHVILLE, TN - Joseph Dicarlo of Red Hook was among over half of Belmont University’s undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 semester Dean’s List. Approximately 55% of the University’s 6,934 undergraduate students qualified this semester.

Dean’s List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

CEDARVILLE, OH - Students at Cedarville University have been named to the Dean’s Honor List for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students include Gabriel Hieter of Clinton Corners, and Elizabeth Hieter of Clinton Corners.

This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

CEDARVILLE, OH - Connor Cavey of Pine Plains was named to the Dean’s List at Cedarville University for Fall 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

CANTON, NY - Maria Alonso, a SUNY Canton Early Childhood major

from Millbrook, earned Part-Time Honors during the fall 2025 semester.

Part-Time Honors recognizes students who earned at least a 3.25 GPA in 6 to 11 credit hours of coursework during a single semester.

CANTON, NY - Nearly 850 SUNY Canton students made the President’s List during the fall 2025 semester. Among the students recognized were:

Michael Bonanno, a SUNY Canton Criminal Justice major from Pleasant Valley.

Caleb Cisco, a SUNY Canton Finance major from Pleasant Valley.

Harol Quintero, a SUNY Canton Cybersecurity major from Wassaic.

To earn a spot on the President’s List, full-time students must earn a 3.75 or greater GPA during a single semester of study.

CANTON, NY - Trevor Scarperi, a SUNY Canton Esports Management major from Millbrook, made the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester.

Dean’s List recognizes full-time students who earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.74.

NEWTON, MA - Claire Celaya, a Lasell University student from Hyde Park, was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the Fall 2025 semester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

MANCHESTER, NH - Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List: Brett Robertson of Staatsburg and Andrayah Nichols Gilliard of Hyde Park. The fall

terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

MANCHESTER, NH - Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President’s List: Shane Horboychuk of Red Hook, Branden O’Brien of Red Hook, Rameikka Emanuel of Pine Plains, Francesco Jerry of Hyde Park, Melissa Lawson of Hyde Park, and Alexis Sullivan of Clinton Corners. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA - In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Rebecca Rugar from Clinton Corners was named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2025 semester at Slippery Rock University. The dean’s list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

MANCHESTER, N.H. - Jonathon Weishaupt, a Politics Major from Red Hook, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

ROCHESTER, NY - Nazareth University is proud to announce that Autumn Cupano of Rhinebeck has been named to the dean’s list for the fall 2025 semester.

A student’s grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean’s list at Nazareth.

ONEONTA, NY - One thousand two hundred ninety-nine SUNY Oneonta students earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2025 semester. Local students earning the honor include Kaitlyn Belliveau of Pleasant Valley, Jackson Booth of Staatsburg, Dustin Burgess of Hyde Park, Natalie Calabro of Millbrook, Chloe Camburn of Hyde Park, Henry Frischknecht of Staatsburg, Mckenzie Hannon of Hyde Park, Abrianna King of Pleasant Valley, Delano Knox of Pleasant Valley, Jason Moffitt of Millbrook, Marc Myers of Hyde Park, Nj O’Hearn of Pleasant Valley, Gabriella Torre of Clinton Corners, Jack Viator of Rhinebeck, Nicholas Whitten of Salt Point, Joshua Youngquist of Rhinebeck.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

OXFORD, OH - Annabel Allen from Rhinebeck was named to the Dean’s list at Miami University for the 2025 fall semester.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduate students within their division for the 2025 spring semester have been named to the Dean’s list recognizing academic performance.

POTSDAM, NY - Students have been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University. The list includes Kirby Davidson of Red Hook, Maxwell Moore of Pleasant Valley, Jack Rickard of Pleasant Valley, and Patrick Roach of Clinton Corners.

Dean’s List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

POTSDAM, NY - Janneke P Baks of Pleasant Valley, a sophomore majoring in university studies, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

LEWISBURG, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2025-26 academic year. Local students include Josie Duggan of Millbrook (2026, International Relations); Julia Daly of Poughquag (2028); Spencer Firestone of Rhinebeck (2028); and Dana Nguyen of Stormville (2026, Economics).

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

CHARLESTON, SC - College of Charleston congratulates more than 1,900 students named to the Dean’s List for Fall 2025. They include Beatrice Zorub of Millbrook, majoring in Undecided; and Kymora Ohrvall of Hyde Park, majoring in Finance.

SYRACUSE, NY - Madyson Simmons, a Junior Human Resource Management and Management and Leadership major from Red Hook, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2025 Dean’s List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

HARRISONBURG, VA - Millbrook resident Marissa Chomycz has been named to the Dean’s List at James Madison University for the fall 2025 semester. Chomycz is majoring in Nursing – BSN.

Students who earn Dean’s List honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.

POTSDAM, NY - The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 738 students to the President’s List, in recognition of their academic excellence in the Fall 2025 semester. The SUNY Potsdam students were honored for earning top marks by President Dr. Suzanne Smith.

This semester’s President’s List included:

Josh Buessem of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Music Education;

John Havird of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Literature/Writing;

Sebastian Hughes of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Music Education;

Ilse Kollmar of Millbrook, whose major is Biochemistry;

Ryan Shaw of Staatsburg, NY, whose major is Music Education.

To achieve the honor of being on the President’s List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

CHARLESTON, SC - Summer Vogliano of Millbrook recently graduated with a degree in Psychology from the College of Charleston.

Vogliano was among more than 185 bachelor’s degree and master’s degree candidates who participated in the Winter Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Oakwood Friends School marks 105th year in Poughkeepsie



Oakwood Friends School's junior class in 1920, the year the school officially opened in Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*

This year marks Oakwood Friends School’s 105th anniversary in Poughkeepsie. Founded in 1796 as the Nine Partners Boarding School near Millbrook, Oakwood is New York State’s oldest coeducational boarding and day school. From its earliest days, the school has been rooted in Quaker values and has welcomed students of all religious backgrounds.

The school moved to Union Springs, N.Y., in 1858. Sixty years later, after a devastating fire in 1918, Oakwood began searching for a new home, and Poughkeepsie quickly became a leading choice. That same year, Mayor Ralph Butts wrote, “this famous institution will without doubt, prove an asset to the community ... and it will prove a permanent feature of the city,” and local residents pledged \$25,000 to help build a new cam-

pus. Oakwood officially opened in Poughkeepsie in September 1920, where it remains today.

For its entire 229-year history, Oakwood has offered boarding and day programs, and for the past three decades, it has also included a middle school for grades 6–8. The school continues to welcome students from across the Hudson Valley and around the world while remaining closely connected to the community.

School archivist Matt Voorhees, an Oakwood alumnus, reflected on the milestone, noting that the school and the city have grown together for more than a century, creating a shared history that continues today.

Visit www.oakwoodfriends.org for more information.

Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce members present awards at annual Installation Dinner



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce held their annual Installation Dinner on Jan. 15 at Coppola's Bistro. Above, Immediate Past President Dot Chenevert, center, is honored for all of her past contributions and work by incoming president John Coppola and First Vice President Dora Visbeck. Below, Aleksandra Chancy, President of DACK Consulting Solutions, Inc., speaks at the event. DACK Consulting Solutions, Inc. is a new chamber member and was a sponsor of the Installation Dinner.



Top, Past Treasurer Phyllis Delarm, center, is honored for all of her past contributions by new President John Coppola and new First Vice President Dora Visbeck. Above, 2025 Volunteer of the Year Debra Belding is pictured with Coppola and Visbeck. *Courtesy photos*

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GENERAC

Renegades, Heritage Financial Credit Union issue expanded Rascal's Reading Challenge for 2026 season

The Hudson Valley Renegades, High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Heritage Financial Credit Union, a local Credit Union serving communities in and around the Hudson Valley for over 85 years, have announced that they have teamed up to expand “Rascal’s Reading Challenge” for 2026, an educational program aimed at encouraging students throughout the Hudson Valley to pick up a book and read.

Renegades mascot Rascal is challenging students from grades K through 8 to hit a Grand Slam by reading four (4) books beyond their regular reading

requirements for school during the duration of the challenge. Students that reach this goal will earn two (2) complimentary tickets to celebrate at the Rascal's Reading Challenge Night of their choice at Heritage Financial Park. Students can read books of any length, subject, or reading level.

"We are excited to expand our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union to expand upon this initiative focused on literacy to incentivize and encourage students throughout the Hudson Valley to read," said Tom Denlinger, General Manager of

the Renegades. “We saw this program have great success in its first season in 2025, and we are looking forward to this being a cornerstone of our impact on the community for years to come!”

The Rascal's Reading Challenge games in 2026 are Tuesday, May 7 vs Winston-Salem, Sunday, May 16 vs Frederick, and Tuesday, June 9 vs Jersey Shore. First pitch on May 7 and June 9 is scheduled for 6:35 p.m., and at 2:05 p.m. on May 17. Students who complete Rascal's Reading Challenge will be able to take place in a pregame parade around the warning track at Heritage

Financial Park.

Parents and family members may purchase additional tickets to celebrate their child's accomplishment at the ballpark through the link sent to redeem the complimentary ticket. Rascal's Reading Challenge is open to all K through 8 students in Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan Counties.

The Hudson Valley Renegades offer many school programs, and we invite you to learn more by visiting: hvrenegades.com/schools.

Stanford Free Library

upcoming events

Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please register via the online calendar at www.stanfordlibrary.org or call 845-868-1341

Free Beginner FORRO Dance Classes
Jan. 23rd, 30th, Feb. 13th, 20th

Learn to dance Forro, a vibrant Brazilian partner dance originating in the Northeast of Brazil. No Partner Needed

February Book Club
Monday, Feb. 2nd, 1:00 pm-2:00pm
This month's selection is *Intermezzo*
by Sally Rooney.

Visit With Therapy Dog Jambo
Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm
He's a gentle giant who loves to make new friends. People of all ages are welcome to come and visit with him. Sign up for a 15 minute slot with Jambo.

Supper Club with Lenny
Wednesday, Feb. 11th, 6:00-7:00 pm
Enjoy a community tasting and sharing event with friends and family. This month the theme is: Chocolate. Bring chocolate to share and enjoy tasting many varieties of chocolate treats

Book and Art Talk with Jim Bennett
Saturday, Feb. 14, 1- 2 PM

Come join visual artist, and writer Jim Bennett, for this unique exhibition featuring a series of rhythmic paintings, built up in translucent veils of color and gesture. Drawing inspiration from nature's patterns and the choreography of the cos-

mos, Jim's work bridges visible, and the invisible.

Aging In Your Home
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2 PM

Where do you think you'll be in three, five, 10, 20 years or more? This program presented by the Dutchess County office for the aging discusses aging in place and other options.

Tame Your Paper Piles andFiles
Saturday, Feb. 21, 1 PM

Does the thought of tackling your paper piles keep you up at night? Seasoned, Certified Professional Organizer, and Certified Senior Move Manager Colleen Ash will share her smart tips and proven strategies for finally taming the paper piles and files.

Yo-yo club
Saturday, Jan. 24th , 1p-2pm
Open to students grades 4+

Join us at yo-yo club with Marc Smith. Have hands-on fun while learning about different types of yo-yo's including fixed axle, responsive, and unresponsive. Yo-yos will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Space is limited so register early.

Music in the Library
Saturday, Jan. 24th , 12-1pm

Local Musician Walt Otto returns to play his much loved standards, early pop tunes and classic country songs for us. Just drop in and enjoy the music.

Mid-Hudson Library members awarded more than \$1.7M in NYS Library Construction Aid

The FY 2024-2025 State Aid for Public Library Construction Grant Program Awards were announced on December 23, and 13 Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Member Libraries have been awarded funds, for a total allotment of \$1,715,727.

2025 Awards in the Mid-Hudson Library System include the following in the Mid-Hudson area:

- Hyde Park Library District: \$121,250 - Energy Efficient HVAC System Upgrade

- Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (Cold Spring): \$55,296 - Energy Efficiency Project

- Kingston Library: \$587,708 - Basement Renovation

- Marlboro Free Library: \$288,681 - Children's Library Upgrades and Improvements

- Patterson Library: \$176,068 - Phase 2 Adult Collection Area Improvements

- Plattekill Public Library: \$22,719

- Septic System Replacement

- Pleasant Valley Library: \$14,323 - Installation of 2 Double EV Charging Stations

- Putnam Valley Free Library:

\$72,709 - Renovation of the Community Room

- Woodstock Public Library District: \$302,833 - Fire Safety and Accessibility Renovation

"We are grateful to our elected officials for their support of this critical state aid program," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director. "These funds greatly assist local libraries keep up with the aging infrastructure our libraries are operating within."

There is a documented need of \$1.75 billion for public library construction and renovation in New York State. More than half of the over 1,000 public library buildings in New York are now over 60 years old and one third are between 30 and 60 years old. The funds for all listed projects are from \$44 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the FY2024-2025 State Budget.

To view other projects that were funded and to learn more about the urgent need New York's public libraries have for renovations and upgrades, visit nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/info/plcovrvw.htm.

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The logo for KZE 98.1 is a circular emblem. At the top, it says "CELEBRATING MUSICAL DIVERSITY". In the center, the call letters "KZE" are prominently displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the call letters, the website "WKZE.COM" is written. At the bottom of the circle, the frequency "98.1" is shown. The top half of the circle features a series of concentric white lines, resembling a stylized sunburst or a radio signal.

Resumes:
gm@wkze.com

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--STARTS FRIDAY-- HAMNET PG-13			
--STARTS THURSDAY-- MERCY R			
--HELD OVER-- 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R) Marty Supreme (R) Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG13) Zootopia 2 (PG) Primate (R)		--HELD OVER-- 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R) Marty Supreme (R) Song Sung Blue (PG13) The Housemaid (R) Zootopia 2 (PG)	
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OBITUARIES

Mary A. Bialosuknia

Mary Alice (Mowell) Bialosuknia of Hyde Park, NY left on her journey to heaven on January 12, 2026. Mary was 97 well lived years old. She was predeceased by her amazing husband Joseph J. Bialosuknia Sr.

Mary came into this world on February 15, 1928, in Poughkeepsie. She was the daughter of Louise and Henry Mowell.

She leaves behind her loving children, Mary Ellen Bialosuknia, Joanne and Greg Tucker, Joe and Joan Bialosuknia, Steven and Theresa Bialosuknia and her grandchildren Sean, Ange' and Tanner, who were the light of her life.

She also leaves behind several cousins, nieces, and nephews, all of whom she adored. Additionally, there are countless friends and colleagues that will miss her dearly. Mary was predeceased by her brother, Herk Mowell, her sister and brother-in-law, Anna Mae and Charlie Fitzpatrick.

Mary was a devout parishioner of St. Peter's Church and volunteered at the school when her children were enrolled. Faith was important to her. She brought up her family with love, and modeled compassion for everyone and everything.

Mary always felt blessed with her loving husband and children. Her world truly revolved around them. She skillfully nurtured the unique personalities of her family. She truly was able to make everyone feel special in their own skin. Her brother, Herk, and sister, Anna Mae, were always close to her heart as well.

Mary treasured her fun times with Anna Mae and Charlie, Dutch and Bud. Always up for a party and dancing in the living room. Her house was standing room only.

Mary's smile would light up a room. Her compassion for others and empathetic nature provided comfort and love to everyone she encountered. As the saying goes, "to know her was to love her". As Ellen, our cousin, put it "Believe me, if anyone has a one-way ticket to heaven, she has."

But....Mary never had to raise her voice if she was not happy with your behavior. She had a look that would stop you in your tracks no matter who you were. She might have been small in stature, but you bet you would step in line if you got that look!

After Joe died in 1979, Mary went to work. She started at Dutchess Community College in the cafeteria with Anna Mae and quickly made friends with the coworkers. Mary also volunteered for Meals on Wheels. She also had a 30-year stint at the Gift Shop in St. Francis Hospital where patients with weekly appointments would make sure to stop and see her. See, Mary was medicine for the soul, and warmed hearts for sure.

Mary's family would like to thank the ENTIRE staff of the Meadows at Brookmeade where she spent the last two and a half years of her life. The love and attention she received there is indescribable. EVERYONE knew Mary there, although maybe as Smiley, Tootsie or Lil Mary. There are several special individuals there (you know who you are) that showed Mary extraordinary love, compassion and friendship. She was truly family in their eyes and hearts and for that we are eternally grateful.

Mary didn't have much money and whatever extra she had she would give to anyone in need. Mary was wealthy in so many more important ways and she taught us how to live life focusing on the things money can't buy.....Love, compassion, seeing the good in others, treasuring the simple things in life, do what you can....it's ok to be silly, wacky, burst out in song and smile at every passing person. All the things that would make this world a better place. With that in mind, to truly honor Mary, in lieu of flowers, please share kindness every day, in every way you can. She will be smiling down on you when you do.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 17th at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel of St. Peter's Parish, Poughkeepsie. Burial of her ashes followed in St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie.

To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit Mary's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

James Brandow

James Frank Brandow, 92 of Pleasant Valley, died peacefully at his residence on January 8, 2026 surrounded by his loving family. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY on March 12, 1933, he was the son of James W. and Elsie Burmeister Brandow. He attended Poughkeepsie High School.

Widely known as "Buddy" he was a gifted left-handed pitcher and played on the varsity Poughkeepsie High School baseball team since his freshman year. In 1956, he received a trophy from the Poughkeepsie Twilight League for most valuable pitcher. Buddy was inducted into the Dutchess County Baseball Association Hall of Fame in 1990. Buddy received a letter from the New York Yankees to be invited to play in their minor league program. However, he was drafted by the US Army and was extremely proud to serve his country.

In 1958, he married Judy Conklin and together they had 4 children: James W. Brandow (Christine), Darlene Woodrow (Pete), Brian Brandow (Angela) and Darryl Brandow (Margaret). In addition to his wife and children he leaves behind his 7 grandchildren, James Brandow, Katie Salach, Chloe Woodrow, Sabrina Brandow, Michael Brandow, Alec Brandow and Pierce Brandow; 3 great grandchildren, Jackson Brandow, Carson Brandow and Bennett Salach. Also surviving is his twin sister, Elsie Eignor and several nieces and nephews. Buddy is predeceased by his sisters, Mary Kilhmire, Jenny Kilhmire and Ruth Smith.

He played on the Interstate Baseball League of Amenia team and was one of the best pitchers in the entire league. Buddy was a highly respected builder throughout Dutchess County for many years. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and was an avid train collector.

Visitation was held on Friday, January 16 at Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley. Funeral services took place on Saturday, January 17 from the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Valley. Interment followed in Pleasant Valley Cemetery with military honors. Memorial contributions may be made in Buddy's memory either to Tunnel to Towers Foundation or Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church. For directions and condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Christopher Flynn

It is with great sorrow that Christopher Flynn, 56, of Stanfordville, NY passed away in his home on January 5, 2026. Chris was born in Sharon, CT, on November 30, 1969. A lifelong resident of the area, he was a graduate of Millbrook High School and self-employed at Flynn Plumbing and HVAC. He was a proud member of the Stanford community, especially through his dedicated time on the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board. Chris was a hard-working and generous man, who would quite literally give someone the shirt off his back. His heart was made of gold, always the first to show up for a friend in need, and the last to leave. He loved his annual fishing trips to Montauk, weekly golf nights with his friends, telling a good story (typically more than once), listening to classic rock, painfully cheering on the Dallas Cowboys, and enjoying an ice-cold beer with friends and family.

Of all his accomplishments, his greatest were his children, who he loved more than life itself. Whenever you ran into Chris, there was a strong chance you would hear about them, as his world revolved around the four of them. Chris was a dear friend and neighbor to his close knit group of friends. No words can adequately describe what he means to us, but his spirit will live on throughout us all.

He is survived by his children, Ryan, Rachel, Jack, and Maegan; his mother, Dorothy (Dot) Shaffer; his stepmother, Susan Flynn; his sister, Jillian Myers (Joe); and nieces and nephews, Joseph (Samantha), Laken, Cody, and Olivia. He is also survived by his four-legged girls, Maggie and Olive, who rarely left his side. He is predeceased by his brother, Joseph; his father, William Flynn; and his stepfather, Bruce Shaffer.

A time to gather and share condolences and memories took place at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook, on Thursday, January 15.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be to the Animal Farm Foundation <https://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/donate/>. For directions and condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Robert J. Hechler

Robert J. Hechler, 81 of Red Hook, New York passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026 at the Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Born on April 26, 1944, in Teaneck, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Arthur O Hechler and Hattie B Hechler.

Robert graduated from Georgia Tech in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He continued his education at Lehigh University where he earned a Masters degree in Finance.

Robert worked in the technology finance field, spending over 25 years with IBM at various locations in the Hudson Valley.

Robert was a true Renaissance man, who enjoyed the arts, architecture, literature and photography. He was a history buff that knew something about everything.

Robert was a dedicated parishioner at The Good Shepherd in Rhinebeck and enjoyed serving his Lord.

He is survived by his brother and sister in-law, Arthur and Patricia Hechler, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Robert is predeceased by his only sister, Katheryn Gardes.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Good Shepherd Church in Rhinebeck, NY, Father Douglas Crawford officiated.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY.

Raymond Odell

Raymond J. Odell, 94, a lifelong resident of Poughquag, NY, passed away peacefully on January 10, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, surrounded by his loving family. Born on April 17, 1931, he was the son of Ella and Raymond Odell.

Raymond retired from Operating Engineers Local #137 after 32 years of service. He was a life member of the Beekman Fire Department.

Raymond was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He shared 66 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Claire Odell, and together they raised seven children.

He is survived by his children: Honora Knox and her husband Bill of Myrtle Beach, SC; Raymond Odell and his wife Hollie of Beekman; Michael Odell and his wife Brenda of Clinton Corners; Stephen Odell of Red Hook; Sean Odell and his wife Ivy of Dover Plains; and Tara Maucieri and her husband John of Pleasant Valley. He is also survived by his sister, Christine Wilde of Arizona.

His pride and joy were his 18 grandchildren: Ryan Knox, Peter Knox, Daniel Odell, Adam Odell, Erin Essery, Cassandra Orser, Carly Odell, Kyle Odell, Shane Odell, Branden Odell, Courtney Pomerantz, Denis Odell Jr., Tessa Odell, Lauren Muncey, Lindsey Odell, Alessandra Maucieri, John Maucieri, and one "adopted" grandson, Sean

Greene; and his 27 great-grandchildren, with number 28 on the way.

He was predeceased by his wife Claire Odell; his son Denis Odell; his sister Janice Capalbo; his granddaughter Lila Claire Odell; and his daughter-in-law Lynn Odell.

Raymond loved the outdoors—fishing, hunting, golfing, gardening, and splitting wood—and he stayed active in the things he loved up until his very last day. Some of the highlights of his year were his deep-sea fishing trips to Rhode Island, especially the annual trip with his granddaughters. He lived a full, rich life, filled with adventures, experiences, and memories that he cherished and often shared with those around him. Raymond had a warm, welcoming spirit and never met a stranger, known as "Raymie" to his many friends. He often said, "I've been very lucky. I've had a great life," and he truly lived those words every day—with humor, gratitude, and love for his family and everyone around him.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, January 14th at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., Hopewell Junction. A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 15th at the funeral home followed by burial at Beekman Cemetery.

Donations may be made in memory of Raymond to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Donald H. Wilson

Donald Hoover Wilson, 97, of Poughkeepsie, NY, died on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Born on November 15, 1928, in Poughkeepsie, he was the son of the late Daniel Stewart Wilson and Flora Edith Bailey Wilson.

Donald proudly served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1953.

After his time in the service he later became the owner and operator of Wilson Electronics, which he ran for many years before retiring. Donald enjoyed working with computers, especially building them, and he loved bookkeeping for various local small businesses. He also enjoyed watching movies and had a passion for traveling, particularly with his wife. Together, they especially loved spending time at the beach.

On June 14, 1974, in Millbrook, he married the former Patricia Prindle. She predeceased him on April 12, 2013.

Donald is survived by his children, Vicki Halbison, Donald Wilson Jr., Tracey Wilson, Kathy Cady, Patricia Bittner, and Michael Chiarito; his grandchildren, Dana C., Denise, Tania, John, Dana M., Andy, Jimmy, Hal, Kayla; his great-grandchildren, Kaleigh, Emily, Jaxson, Camden, Johnny, Maddox, Liam, and Madilyn; and nieces, Barbara Gavin and Terri Zittel.

Along with his wife he was also predeceased by his son James "Jimmy" Christopher Wilson on December 11th, 2007.

In keeping with his wishes, graveside services were at St. Peter's Cemetery in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Arrangements were under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park. To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.



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Legal Notices REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-14-26 On-Call Commercial/Industrial Plumbing Services Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 29th day of January 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.	Legal Notices website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.	Legal Notices an additional 1% for each additional month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the county treasurer pursuant to law. FURTHER NOTICE: that a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 15th, 2026. A fee of \$2.00 will be added to your tax bill during the full month of May. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Tax Roll of the Town of Milan will be returned to the Dutchess County Commission of Finance on the 1st of June 2026. Ingrid Kulick Milan Tax Collector	Legal Notices PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF BONDS Dated January 13, 2026 Public notice is hereby given that, at the time and place designated below, a public hearing, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), will be held by the County of Dutchess, New York, for the purpose of giving interested persons an opportunity to be heard with respect to the proposed application of the proceeds of certain revenue notes or bonds issued by the Public Finance Authority ("PFA"), as airport exempt facility bonds, as defined in Section 142(a)(1) of the Code, in one or more series (the "Bonds"), the proceeds of which are being loaned to POU Development LLC (the "Borrower"), an affiliate of Sky Harbour Capital II LLC, or one or more subsidiaries or other affiliates thereof (collectively, "Sky Harbour") to finance the project described below (the "Project"). A. Owner: County of Dutchess, New York (the "County"). B. Initial Occupant/Borrower: Sky Harbour or an affiliate thereof C. Description of Project: The Project includes the development of a general aviation and aircraft storage facility at Hudson Valley Regional Airport (the "Airport"), comprising 3 hangars aggregating approxi-	Legal Notices mately 117,000 square feet. D. Project Location: Hudson Valley Regional Airport, 263 New Hackensack Road, Wappinger Falls, New York, 12590 E. Maximum principal amount of Bonds to be issued with respect to the Project: \$80,000,000. The public hearing is being held by the Deputy County Executive, on behalf of the County, and notice thereof is published in accordance with Section 147(f) of the Code and regulations promulgated thereunder. The public is invited to comment either in person or in writing with respect to the Bonds and the financing of the Project. At the public hearing, any and all persons in attendance will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed Project and the issuance of the Bonds. A public hearing with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds will be held in the County Executive Conference Room located at 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 at 10:30 a.m. on January 28, 2026. Written comments must be received at the above address no later than such date. The Bonds will be special limited obligations of PFA payable by PFA solely from the loan repayments to be made by the Borrower to PFA. None of the Airport, the	Legal Notices County nor any political subdivision thereof shall be obligated to pay the principal of or interest on the Bonds. The Bonds will not constitute an indebtedness or a general obligation of the Airport, the County, or any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the State of New York. The Notes will not be paid from taxes. REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-13-26 On-Call Commercial/Industrial General Contractor Services Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 10th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.	Legal Notices Pre-Qualified List for Medicolegal Death Investigative Services Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNetDirect) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 6, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.
REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-21-26 REBID Vehicle Body Repair Services for Dutchess County Public Transit Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 30th day of January 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our	PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: I, Ingrid Kulick, the undersigned Collector of Taxes for the Town of Milan, County of Dutchess, and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Milan for the year 2026. I will be collecting taxes at the following place and time listed below: MILAN TOWN HALL: Collection of taxes will be at the Milan Town Clerk's Office, 20 Wilcox Circle in the Town of Milan from today to February 28, 2026 – Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM or by mail anytime – excepting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. FURTHER NOTICE: The taxes may be paid on or before February 28, 2026, without charge or interest. For all taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of 2 % if paid on or before March 31, 2026, and	PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Regular Meeting for the Town of Milan Town Board will be held on the third Monday of the month in the Wilcox Memorial Town Hall at 20 Wilcox Circle in the Town of Milan at 7:00 pm. By order of the Milan Town Board Ingrid Kulick, Town Clerk			REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid RFQu-DCP-12-26	REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-22-26 Rebid Cummins Engine Repair and Replacement Services Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

The deadline for Legals is every Friday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Thursday at noon.

Eligible Central Hudson customers can now apply for EEAP

Central Hudson announced the launch of the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program (EEAP), a new two-year pilot designed to support customers who do not meet the income requirements for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) or Central Hudson’s Energy Affordability Program (EAP), but still need help managing their energy bills. EEAP provides a fixed monthly bill discount to help low- and moderate-income families reduce their energy costs.

To qualify for EEAP, applicants must:

- Be an active Central Hudson cus-

tomers with an active electric or gas account.

- Have a household income at or below 100% of State Median Income or Area Median Income. Income guidelines are available at www.CentralHudson.com/EEAP.
- Provide complete income documentation for all household members for the past month.
- Not be currently enrolled in the Energy Affordability Program (EAP).

EEAP is separate from EAP, which supports households receiving qualifying

government assistance benefits. Customers enrolled in EAP are not eligible for EEAP.

Eligible customers may apply for EEAP at <https://cenhud.nyeeap.com/program>, or by calling 877-400-2501 for support.

Applicants will be required to submit:

- A Central Hudson bill from each of the last three months. Copies of bills may be downloaded at www.cenhud.com/en/login
- Proof of income for all household members from the past month, such as

pay stubs, Social Security or pension statements, or self-employment records.

- Customers are encouraged to ensure all uploaded documents are clear and readable.

For more information on EEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, visit www.CentralHudson.com/EEAP. To learn more about Central Hudson’s payment assistance and billing programs, visit www.CentralHudson.com/Paymentassistance.

NYS announces an additional \$200,000 available for New York farmers markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball announced last week that an additional \$200,000 is available to New York’s farmers’ markets through Part 2 of the fourth round of the Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant Program, bringing the total available to markets in Round 4 to \$700,000.

The Part 1 funding opportunity was announced in December. Grant funding will help farmers’ markets across the state to enhance local food system resiliency by improving market infrastructure, increasing marketing and promotion efforts, and adding delivery capability. Funding for the program was included in the New York State Budget and builds on Governor Kathy Hochul’s commitment to ensure a resilient food system in New York State. Round 3 program awards were announced in August 2025.

Ball said, “A top priority for the Department is ensuring the resiliency of our food supply chain right here at home. The Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant Program is a crucial component of that work, helping our farmers and producers remain strong and reach more consumers. I look forward to seeing the success of the projects funded in Round 4.”

The Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant Program was created to enhance long-term food system resiliency through New York State’s farmers’ markets. Part 2 of this funding opportunity offers \$200,000 in funding direct to eligible to farmers’ markets, without a sub-grant structure as required in Part 1. This split structure is intended to provide more opportunities to smaller markets, or those needing lower levels of financial assistance.

Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 will be made on a rolling basis to

eligible and qualified applicants until funds are depleted. Successful projects’ must aim to build resilient and stable local food systems; maintain long-term farmers’ market viability; and/or promote and maintain farmed-food access through New York State’s farmers’ markets. Eligibility criteria and more information on the program, including how to apply, can be found on the Department’s website.

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on Feb. 18. Funding for the Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant Program is a part of Governor Hochul’s investment in New York’s agricultural and food industries, aimed at boosting demand for New York agricultural products; bolstering New York’s food supply chain; ensuring all New Yorkers can access fresh, local foods; and creating a resilient food system that can withstand extreme events.

In addition to the Farmers’ Market Resiliency Grant program, the Department of Agriculture and Markets has implemented an array of programs to build a more reliable food system and ensure that farmers can connect with new local markets. These include the Nourish New York program, the 30 Percent NYS Initiative for school meals, the FreshConnect Program, and the Farm-to-School program. Additionally, the Governor recently announced the third round of funding as part of the Regional School Food Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides \$50 million over five years to support regional cooking facilities that will advance the use of fresh New York State farm products in meal preparation for K-12 school children. Farmers’ markets, farm stands, and mobile markets are crucial components to a healthy food system.

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722 Bazaar
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725 Collectibles
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GOLDEN LIVING

Not that we're counting, but pitchers and catchers report for the Mets and Yankees in about three weeks down in Florida. The first daffodils should bloom about a month after that.

What else can sustain us through the winter?

Follow the sun: Natural sunlight remains an effective remedy for the winter blues, even if we don't get much of it in January. Sunlight helps the body maintain a consistent circadian rhythm. Your skin produces Vitamin D when exposed to the sun's rays, although less effectively as we age. A UCLA Health study found that 23 minutes of noontime sun exposure at our latitude would produce enough Vitamin D. If you can't get outside, even opening the curtains to sit by a window can help.

Keep moving: Exercise is important at any time; but it can be a vital pick-me-up during the winter. OFA offers exercise and tai-chi classes, plus a remote "Staying Active and Independent for Life" class. Contact OFA to find out more.

Eat right: Eating a balanced diet is essential for older adults and is a natural way to boost your mood and energy. Provide your body with the right combination of proteins, carbohydrates, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. Avoid the temptation to eat unhealthy snacks, and instead, snack on complex carbohydrates and super foods such as blueberries and Greek yogurt. Visit dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition for tips.

Leave hibernation to the bears: It can be tempting to wait out the winter by avoiding socialization and activities and just retreating into a cave (so to speak) until springtime; but keep up your routine as best you can. Being around other people, or talking to them on the phone, can lift your spirits. OFA's "Friendly Calls" program is a great way to stay connected, for both participants and volunteers. For more information, visit dutchessny.gov/friendlycalls or call (845) 486-2548.

Find things to look forward to: Invite grandkids or a friend over to visit, or plan an outing with a loved one.

Adapt to new technology: It's tough not being able to see the people you care about, but virtual communication platforms (for example, Skype, Zoom or FaceTime) can at least let you see loved ones' faces as you talk with them. If you struggle with technology at first, there are plenty of ways to get caught up.

Do what they do way up North - Stay positive: Think there's not enough daylight around Dutchess County in the winter? Let's get some perspective from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare in Helsinki, where the sun comes up at just after 9 in the morning this week and sets about six hours later. At 3:15 p.m. it's dark over there; and that's southern Finland.

Limited daylight throws off our internal body clocks, says Institute research professor Timo Partonen. We sleep, maybe even more than usual, but we don't wake up refreshed. Dr. Partonen suggests

trying a daylight simulator, also known as a sunrise alarm clock, to be eased awake and more likely to be refreshed through the day.

Other strategies adopted by residents of northern regions include maintaining a positive outlook. That means embracing the winter rather than dreading it.

At the University of Tromsø in northern Norway, associate psychology professor Ida Solhaug notes that there are low rates of seasonal depression in her part of Norway, even though the region goes without any sun at all for two months. Spending time outdoors in winter weather doesn't faze them, at any age, because they prepare for it.

"No such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing" is the Nordic saying.

But bring a buddy if you're going out

Preparedness is essential for winter outdoor activities of any kind, whether it's a nature hike or a walk across a grocery store parking lot. If you can bring a companion with you, do it.

Make sure steps, parking lots and walkways are clear before you walk, especially if you see pavement that looks wet but could be iced over. Stock up on ice melter before forecasts call for bad weather.

Wear boots with non-skid soles. If you use a cane, remember that its business end needs to be non-skid as well. The tip of your cane can wear out just like shoes and tires do. Get yourself a replacement cane tip. For winter use, there are even ice gripper cane tips that can adapt to both frozen and regular surfaces.

Let somebody know where you're going, and when you think you'll return home. If you have a mobile device, set it up to share your location with loved ones if you haven't already done so.

Some ailments can affect body heat, including diabetes and thyroid conditions. Arthritis and Parkinson's disease can make it challenging to put on more clothes for the cold.

Layer up. The air between layers of clothing helps keep you warm. Change out of damp clothes as soon as possible.

'SENIOR PARK PALETTE' RETURNS

OFA and Dutchess County Parks are presenting the 2026 series of "Senior Park Palette" classes for Dutchess County older adults (age 60+). Dutchess County residents over 60 can sign up for one of the following free classes:

Tuesday, February 10th, 2:30-3:45 pm – Poughkeepsie Friendship Center, 114 Delafield St.

Tuesday, February 17th, 2:30-3:45 pm – Millerton Friendship Center, 28 Century Blvd. (Library Annex)

Wednesday, February 18th, 2:30-3:45 pm – Red Hook Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St. (Red Hook Community Center)

Tuesday, March 24th, 2:30-3:45 pm – East Fishkill Friendship Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction (East Fishkill Community Center)

All supplies are provided. Class size is limited to 12.

Please sign up by contacting OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

'STAR' TAX EVENT AT BOARDMAN ROAD LIBRARY (Thu 1/22, noon-3)

Have you received mail from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in the past month? The letter may

have requested something called "Form RP-5300-WSC" – in other words, a request for documentation of your income, as part of qualifications for New York State's STAR tax savings program.

The letters went specifically to homeowners who were not required to file 2024 New York State income tax returns. If you did file a 2024 state tax return, the state already has your information, and no further action is required on your part. Still, if you have other questions about STAR, you'll want to know about this upcoming event.

State tax department employees will be on hand to help individuals submit income information, and to answer other questions about the STAR program, on Thursday, January 22nd, from 12 noon to 3 pm, at Boardman Road Branch Library (141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie).

Walk-ins are welcome. For additional information on STAR, visit tax.ny.gov/star or call 518-457-2036.

SIGN UP FOR MARCH 10TH ALZHEIMER'S MINI CONFERENCE (Wed 3/18)

Join the Alzheimer's Association, the Office for the Aging, Sun River Health and community partners for a mini-conference and listening session on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and memory loss:

Wednesday, March 18th, 9:30-11:30am

Millerton-NorthEast Library Annex (OFA Friendship Center)

28 Century Blvd., Millerton

It's essential learning for older adults and caregivers of all ages. Sign up by calling OFA at 845-486-2555 or emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Light refreshments will be provided. The event is supported in part by grants from the New York State Department of Health.

SUBSTITUTE OFA FRIENDSHIP CENTER MANAGERS WANTED

The Office for the Aging is looking for candidates for Substitute Site Manager positions at our eight OFA Friendship Centers.

Friendship Centers are in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Hopewell Junction, Millerton, Pawling, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, and Wassaic (South Amenia).

Whether an applicant can help at only certain sites or all eight, we'd like to hear from them.

A typical day for a substitute site manager covers any weekday, from 8:30am-2:30 pm, and includes coordinating with OFA's nutrition coordinator, senior site manager, friendship center staff and volunteers. A background check is required.

Interested? Send an email, with an attached résumé, if possible, to ofa@dutchessny.com; or contact Janet Nuccilli at OFA, during business hours at 845-486-2555.

For more information on OFA's Home Delivered Meals and Friendship Center services, visit www.dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition.

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