

NORTHERN

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& Creative Living

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Hyde Park Town Hall renovation set for completion this summer



Renovations to the Hyde Park Town Hall will include a 3,200-square-foot extension, which will house offices that are currently located in the basement of the 1960s-era building. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

By Kate Goldsmith

The renovation of Hyde Park Town Hall, which began in October 2023, is set for completion in June or July this year, said Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani. The project, coming in at \$2.8 million, includes a number of upgrades to comply with ADA requirements for public buildings, as well as a 3,200-square-foot extension which will house offices that are currently located in the basement of the 1960s-era building.

“I don’t know how they’ve been able [operate] this way for this many years,” Torreggiani said.

The project was originally approved by the previous Town Board under Supervisor Aileen Rohr; and in 2021 the late local benefactor John Golden donated \$1 million toward the total cost. The Rohr administration earmarked an additional \$1 million. Due to explosive price increases in construction supplies around the time Torreggiani took office, the new Town Supervisor opted to wait until costs became more reasonable; still the current

board had to use an additional \$800,000 from the town’s funds.

Currently, offices in the basement include the Assessor and her secretary, the Fire Inspector, the Assistant Deputy Building Inspector and his secretary. With all offices being moved to the main floor, the downstairs spaces are being converted to much-needed storage areas, Torreggiani said.

The current Zoning offices will become a handicapped-accessible bathroom, and those offices will move into the new extension. The center of this new space will include a conference area.

“The meeting hall [where board meetings are held] is still going to be the meeting hall, but we’re fixing it up with new lighting and paint,” Torreggiani said. The only thing from the original plan that isn’t being done, due to budget constraints, is asbestos abatement.

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This view of the snow-covered Hoyt Carriageway Bridge is from the entrance bridge at the Mills Mansion. *Photo by Jim Donick*

Hoyt Carriageway Bridge restoration under way

By Jim Donick

It’s been many years since the Hoyt Carriageway Bridge in Staatsburg was open to allow access to the mansion and gardens that were home to Lydig Monson Hoyt and then to his family for several generations. If all goes to plan, the bridge should reopen this year.

A presentation to update the public on the project’s progress is scheduled for Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Staatsburg Library.

In the early 1960s, the property was acquired by the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation. In Hoyt’s day the site was breathtakingly beautiful.

Once upon a time visitors to this magnificent home, called “The Point,” on the river in Staatsburg arrived via a sylvan lane from the old Albany Post Road winding through the woods for just over a mile. Visitors then proceeded under a canopy of green provided by the trees that lined the route.

Upon entering the grounds they were presented with views of Hoyt’s house and gardens, both of which were designed by

Calvert Vaux. Vaux is one of the giants of American park and landscape design. Though not always recalled in the popular understanding, the quiet and possibly shy Vaux was the co-designer, along with Frederick Law Olmstead, of New York’s Central Park.

James F. O’Gorman, writing in the New York Times some years ago, reflected that Vaux “remains uncelebrated by all but specialists because he was an introvert who frequently joined gifted and outgoing associates. Although he had an equal -- if not upper -- hand in the design of Central Park and of Prospect Park in Brooklyn, as well as many other New York landmarks.”

Vaux managed to leave his imprint up and down the river. His other big project here was his work at Frederick Church’s Olana further north. Church imagined the entire property as some of his paintings come to life. Vaux worked with him to turn that dream into the reality that we still visit today.

The Staatsburg property with house and gardens is now integrated into the Mills Norrie State Park and can be

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‘Teach-In’ set on Israeli/Palestine conflict

As the Israeli/Palestine conflict continues, Hudson Valley groups promoting peace are holding a “Teach-In” on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Upstate Films/Starr Cinema in Rhinebeck.

Four Hudson Valley individuals with experience in Israel and Palestine will speak about the impact of the war and solutions leading to a hostage and prisoner release, a permanent ceasefire, and long-term solutions.

The panelists include Award winning Palestinian filmmaker Talal Jabari, Psychologist, IDF veteran and US/Israeli citizen Mark Hammel, Jordanian/Palestinian artist and researcher Razan Sadeq-Keyes, SUNY New Paltz faculty, psychologist and Jewish Chaplain Lori Winters and Moderator Marjorie Leopold, Mid-Hudson Valley Jewish Voice for Peace.

“Our aim is to illuminate and discuss various points of view that generally are

not heard in the current public discourse,” explained moderator Leopold. The event will include presentations by the panelists followed by questions from the audience.

The “Yearning for Peace and Justice Teach-In” is co-sponsored by the New York State Council of Churches, Jewish Voice for Peace, Middle East Crisis Response, United Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, and USA Palestine Mental Health Network.

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Hyde Park Town Hall renovation set for completion this summer

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Upon completion of renovations, Hyde Park's Town Hall will be renamed John Watson Golden Town Hall in honor of the late John Golden's father. John Golden Jr. donated \$1 million toward the project. *Rendering courtesy of the Town of Hyde Park*

"The new main entrance will have two new ramps and an elevator to go downstairs," said Torreggiani.

The project came within \$4 of the \$2.8 million budget, Torreggiani said.

"That [accuracy of the estimate helps] with me being a construction [guy]," he

added with a laugh.

"The addition will definitely make the town hall more efficient," said Torreggiani. "We've upgraded the fire systems and security systems, as well."

The electrical wiring for security and smoke detectors have been installed in

the existing building, and work on the extension will soon begin.

When completed, Town Hall will be renamed in honor of John Golden's father, John Watson Golden Sr.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rowe Methodist Church changes worship time, welcomes new pastor

The Rowe Methodist Church, at 1376 Route 199 in Milan, is pleased to welcome their new pastor, Pastor Nan Ernst. They are changing their worship time to Sunday at 10 a.m. All are invited to celebrate with them.

UNO tourney set at Stanford Grange Jan. 26

Join the Stanford Grange Sports & Activities Committee for our first ever "UNO Tournament" on Friday, Jan. 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Stanford Grange Hall; 6043 Route 82; Stanfordville. Bring a snack or drink to share as a buy-in for the game. Additional food such as hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches, and drinks will be for sale. The winner of the Tournament will receive a \$25 gift card to Stewart's Shops! This will be great fun for young and old alike as well as the entire family! For more information, contact Alex Bass at (845) 337-1229.

Defensive Driving Course to be offered at Stanford Grange Jan. 27

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, Jan. 27, 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 application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869

Repair Cafes set in Stanford

The Stanford Free Library will host a series of Repair Cafes on April 6, July 6 and Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, toys and more to be repaired, instead of throwing them away. The cost is a voluntary donation. The library is at 6035 Route 82 in Stanfordville. Visit repaircafe.org for more information.

ONGOING

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be eighteen years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call 845-229-6432.

Artifacts from Hyde Park's New Guinea Community on display in February

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee invites you to discover a historic treasure located in the Village of Hyde Park. The New Guinea Community was a transient community of two to three generations of formerly enslaved people and others who initially resided in humble abodes during the pre-Civil War era. Some residents constructed homes in the village proper within a generation, while some moved to other opportunities elsewhere.

During the month of February, the Town of Hyde Park Historical Society will display an exhibition of artifacts from the New Guinea Community discovered during an archaeological investigation done in the early 2000s. The Hyde Park Historical Society's museum, located at 4389 Albany Post Road in Hyde Park, is open every Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, sponsor of the event, and other community organizations, in conjunction with the Town of Hyde Park, continues a journey begun centuries ago by illuminating the history and significance of these heroic people.

Come celebrate the resilience of formerly enslaved people who built a community against all odds. Contact hvpcboard@gmail.com for more information.

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THE BUNKER
AT THE VFW



Hoyt Carriageway Bridge restoration under way

continued from cover

accessed via the hiking trails therein. Up until 2015, it was also possible to access the park and the Hoyt House property by walking across Hoyt's old carriageway bridge above the railroad tracks and arriving as visitors might have over a hundred years ago.

The current bridge was built in 1912 and replaced an earlier structure that had been put in place in 1855.

The bridge opened up the old carriage trails to hikers in the summer and to cross country skiers in the colder months. The Staatsburg community made good use of this much loved pathway until the Parks Commission concluded that the bridge had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer thought to be safe.

Members of the community, led by the enthusiasts of the Calvert Vaux Preservation Association (CVPA), have been steadfast and diligent in developing a plan to restore the bridge and its access to the park as a prelude to going even further. The longer range plan, after access via the bridge is assured, is to begin restoration of the house. (Ideas for the restoration of the house will await a future story.)

Today, the promise of reopening the bridge is coming closer to reality. The restoration project is divided into four parts. The first part, repair of concrete on the lower portion of the eastern abutment, was completed in this past autumn. The earth beneath a portion of the abutment washed out over the years.

The second part, the replacement of the wooden decking, is the largest part of the project and should begin in the spring with completion planned to allow opening the bridge to hikers for the summer hiking season.

The third part of the plan will replace and enhance the fencing along the bridge. It will follow quickly upon completion of the decking.

The fourth part of the plan, further reinforcement of the eastern abutment, will come sometime after that.

Jon Lawson, the Chairman of CVPA, is enthusiastic and optimistic, though the project is far from simple. He notes that "the state park owns the walkway and the access. AMTRAK controls the railway right of way and the rails, though they are, in fact, owned by CONRAIL. Nobody seems to claim to actually own the bridge, itself. That said," he continues, "it doesn't keep all of these interests from expecting to review and approve the project."

It's complicated, but Lawson is comforted by the fact that "the Parks Commission in Albany is very supportive and AMTRAK has been very supportive as well."

Both sources of support bode well for success, though not necessarily for speed in the review process.

With help from a Hudson Valley Greenway grant, the CVPA engaged respected upstate New York-based engineer Peter Melewski to determine the repairs needed to enable pedestrian use of the Staatsburg bridge.

Lawson has commented that "the engineering firm of Peter Melewski also did some of the engineering work on the Walkway Over the Hudson. They have been very supportive and their breadth of knowledge has made this effort progress more smoothly."

The initial engineering report was completed two years ago. Its conclusions were heartening. The bridge structure is in remarkably good condition. The steel structure is solid. One of the bridge piers needs some limited repair. Most of the wooden deck needs replacing and some of the underlying wooden stringers on the deck will also want replacing. Cost is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. This number has held well for the ensuing two years due to community support and assistance from local organizations and the state.

Additional support has come with a Parks and Trails Stewardship Grant of \$150,000. They proudly note "The Hoyt Carriageway Bridge repair project is supported with funding from the New York State Park and Trail Partnership Grants and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The Park and Trail Partnership Grants are administered by Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation."

Lawson and Dr. Jeffrey Anzevino of Scenic Hudson will outline the work to date as well as the next steps at the Feb. 8 meeting.

"These people will get to see how their donations have been put to good use," says Lawson. All are welcome.

Those wanting more information may search the Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance's website at calvertvaux.org. Anyone wishing to inquire about volunteering services or materials for the effort may e-mail the CVPA Chairman, Jon Lawson, at jklawson1111@gmail.com.



After years of neglect, the 112-year-old Hoyt Carriageway Bridge looks to be ready for a good cleanup and restoration. Even after so many years, the basic structure is sound and the majority of the restoration effort will be replacing the lumber on the wooden deck, then sand-blasting and painting. There is even hope that removal of so many years' graffiti may encourage local artists to find a different canvas for their work. Below: Known as "The Point," the Hoyt house today is stabilized from further deterioration while it awaits restoration and a new purpose for its historic spaces. *All photos by Jim Donick*



The underside of the Hoyt Carriageway Bridge's wooden deck is shown above. There is a lot of light coming through and it is no longer safe. The restoration plan will have the wood of the deck replaced this spring so that the bridge can support pedestrian traffic in time for the summer hiking season.

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Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Raise in pay for providers of EI services would also benefit children and parents

To the editor:

Early Intervention (EI) has proven to be a very successful program for infants and toddlers (0-3 years) with disabilities. It originated from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1986, Part C. It ensures special education and related services for children with disabilities and their families. EI was established in New York State in 1993, as part of the Public Health Law, Article 25.

The providers of EI services, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists, special educators, etc. are all licensed, certified and specially trained professionals with advanced degrees. The reimbursement rates are regulated by New York State. Under former Governor Andrew Cuomo, the providers' rates were dramatically reduced during two consecutive years, amounting to 15% in total. Now, over a decade later, those cuts have never been restored. EI providers' reimbursement is significantly less now than in 1993, when pizza was \$5 for a large pie. No one else in NYS is paid less now than in 1993! Is it any wonder that more than 2000 therapists have left the EI program since 2019, creating a huge shortage of providers?

Thousands of infants and toddlers are being unserved and/or underserved. That's 51% of those eligible according to NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. This is not a secret. It's well known throughout the State, and every County is affected. A sad commentary for the Empire State! For the past two plus years, providers have pleaded for a fair increase of 11%, which would essentially restore the 1993 rate. Not at all unfair!

Due to mounting pressure, Governor Hochul has agreed to a 5% rate increase for in-person EI Providers, effective April 2025. This minuscule increase does not restore the draconian cuts of a decade ago, and will do little to improve the Provider shortage. It is blatantly unfair, and flies in the face of the recently published joint report by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, regarding the "importance of inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood programs."

Governor Hochul can fix this with a stroke of her budgetary inclusion pen!

Please Governor Hochul, hear the pleas, of the 75,000 plus infants and toddlers with disabilities, and their families, as well as, the dedicated professionals who serve them. Please include the long overdue 11% restoration increase for EI services.

Frank M. Volz, Jr.,
Pine Plains

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- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- 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.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Northern Dutchess News will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

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FDR Museum to present film
on Holocaust Remembrance Day

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County will present an International Holocaust Remembrance Day film screening of "Here Lived," a film by Jane Wells at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 The program 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 jewishdutchess.org/events to register.

"Here Lived," is the story of hidden children, murdered parents, and the stones that bring healing. Gunter Demnig's Stolpersteine project provides a path from one of the most egregious wrongs of history, the Nazi reign of terror, to individual and community reconciliation.

When conceptual artist Gunter Demnig first conceived the idea of laying Stolpersteine (literal translation: stumbling stones) for Roma, Sinti and disabled victims of National Socialism in his native Germany, he never imagined his project would grow to become the world's largest decentralized memorial. The Stolpersteine he crafted are, in theory, quite simple: concrete blocks measuring 10x10cm, topped with permanent brass plates that are hand stamped with the names and fates of victims of Hitler's reign of terror. The stones are laid into the pavement in front of the last voluntarily

chosen residence of those murdered by the Nazis. They are deeply personal and draw attention to individual tragedies. They have now been placed in 30 countries across Europe and on May 23, 2023 we filmed Gunter Demnig laying the 100,000th Stolpersteine.

The Netherlands, second only to Poland in the percentage of Jews murdered in World War II, is where the demand for Stolpersteine is greater than anywhere else in the world. It is here that the film is focused.

"Here Lived," tells the story of the current Stolpersteine project, as racism, anti-semitism, and autocracy are on the rise and another grim war is being fought in Europe. The film opens as Demnig lays his 100,000th stone in Nuremberg. It retraces his work, journey and impact, through the stories of families of Dutch victims: Ulrika Citron (daughter of a hidden child), Reini Elkerbout (a hidden child), Demnig's Amsterdam apprentice Alexander Stukenberg, local and international politicians, volunteers, and even an American teenager Bella Leavitt. As their stories merge, we come to understand how the art project Demnig calls "social sculpture" has created a new way to help heal the Nazi horrors. And it does so on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the fall of their regime. This is one of the most unusual story-telling projects in history.

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Five Hudson Valley properties proposed for historic preservation

Five properties in the Hudson Valley are among 36 that Governor Kathy Hochul has recommended to the New York State Board for Historic Preservation for State and National Registers of Historic Places.

“These nominations reflect generations of community building, planning, and activities that give us a glimpse into our collective past as New Yorkers,” Hochul said. “Identifying these resources and adding them to our historic registers expands our ongoing understanding of our shared history and are important reminders of the innovation, passion, and lived experiences of New Yorkers who came before us.”

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Erik Kulleseid said, “State and National Register listing can assist owners in revitalizing properties, making them eligible for various public preservation programs and incentives, such as matching State grants and federal and state historic rehabilitation tax credits. Nominations to the State and National Registers of Historic Places are opportunities for us to pause and recognize that every day we live with historic infrastructure that not only has a past but can and does have a future. In addition to the stories these places can tell, they are also valuable resources to consider for today,

especially since communities throughout the state are interested in investing in their historic resources for revitalization projects, housing initiatives, and economic development.”

In the Hudson Valley properties recommended include the following:

- **Main Mall Row Historic District (Boundary Expansion and Additional Documentation), Poughkeepsie Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess County** – The Main Mall Row Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 as part of the Poughkeepsie Multiple Resource Area, a very early multiple property nomination that was based on a survey of the city of Poughkeepsie. This nomination is intended to add one building, 317 Main Street, to the Main Mall Row Historic District. The row is a striking grouping of stylish commercial buildings that stand within the central business district and illustrate the important role that merchants played in the city’s economic history. The building at 317 Main is similar in period, scale, massing, materials, design, and function to the other buildings in the district and contributes to the architectural and historical significance of the listed district. In addition to adding information for 317 Main Street, this submission also includes an updated building list and new photos for the entire district.

- **Standard Gage Company Plant, Dutchess County** – This large, multi-section former industrial manufacturing complex is located in Poughkeepsie. Tenants included the internationally recognized Standard Gage Company, which made precision blocks and gauges and occupied the site for almost 80 years. The property consists of interconnected building sections, extensions, and additions, with the earliest construction dating to 1905. Its architecture represents best practices of industrial manufacturing building design and technology at the time for dealing with fire resistance, structural strength, vibration, natural light, and ventilation. The plant had a broad-reaching impact on the industrial growth and development of Poughkeepsie as the headquarters of several early twentieth-century industrial enterprises and served as an economic base for generations of residents.

- **William H. and Mary M. Romeyn House, Ulster County** – The 1853 William H. and Mary Romeyn House is an excellent example of an intact mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival cottage that is strongly associated with the Picturesque Movement which swept much of the nation in the decades before and after the Civil War. This architectural movement marks a departure from earlier Neoclassical styles. Originally built by noted local architect Edward Brink, the cottage was expanded in 1870, 1889, and 1911 to better suit the needs of its inhabitants. These changes included the addition of rooms that were used by the Romeyn family to entertain guests and additional exterior architectural ornamentation, such as distinctive Neo-Grec style window surrounds. The front wraparound porch and an additional side door were also added in 1911 to enable Dr. E.E. Little, a well-regarded physician who owned the home, to admit patients easily into his home office. This cottage is an excellent example of mid-nineteenth-century domestic architecture and is the only surviving example in Kingston with such intricate features.

- **Copake Railroad Depot, Columbia County** – Located in the Town of Copake, the Copake Railroad Depot is a small, one-story wood-frame 1876 passenger

station connected to a one-story 1913 freight house. It is an intact and increasingly rare example of a small, rural railroad station building in the Hudson Valley that illustrates the distinguishing characteristics of the rural depots built throughout the region into the early twentieth century. Built for the Rhinebeck & Connecticut Railroad Company, the no-frills passenger and freight station is one of only three of the company’s surviving depots and the only one that has not been moved or substantially altered. It has wood-frame construction, original board siding, a gabled roof with deep overhanging eaves, Gothic-inspired motifs, and a strong association with its setting. The interior follows the classic plan for a railroad station by incorporating both passenger waiting and baggage storage areas, and many historic finishes survive. The Rhinebeck & Connecticut Railroad was an important means of transporting Hudson Valley farm products and other commodities to urban markets and it significantly bolstered the local dairy industry; it was also widely used by tourists for passenger service.

- **Philmont Historic District, Columbia County** – The Philmont Historic District in the Town of Claverack is an important representation of New York’s factory-built villages of the nineteenth century. Access to water power from the Agawamuck Creek and later the power canal plus the proximity to the railroad made the district an attractive location for straw paper and hosiery manufacturers for several decades. These factories were the economic backbone of the community until the 1950s. While most of the shuttered mill buildings have been lost, many mill-era residences survive. Workers’ housing tended to be smaller, wood-frame houses that may have been built as early as the 1820s, and many of them were designed to accommodate multiple households per building. Early millowners built their homes near their factories, but later trends dictated that they be located further away with a more suburban feel created by lush lawns and deep setbacks. During the 1910s and 1920s, residents often added Craftsman style details and finishes to update their older homes.

SITED Act signed into law

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (Dutchess/Columbia) and Senator Michelle Hinchey (SD-41) recently announced that the Smart Integrated Tools for Energy Development (SITED) Act has been signed into law (Ch. 759 of 2023). The bill will require New York State to develop a Clean Energy Mapping Tool to allow communities to identify the lands best suited for renewable energy siting and designate preferred sites on the map for renewable energy developers to search. The bill also provides for educational programs to help communities better understand host benefits and to identify energy production sites with minimal negative environmental and community impacts.

“The challenges of balancing the critical need for more clean energy with preserving farmland for food production and ensuring the viability of local economies has played out across New York State over the last several years,” said Barrett, Chair of the Assembly’s Energy Committee. “The SITED Act empowers local communities to be engaged early in the siting process by providing them with the knowledge, tools and resources to identify and communicate their priorities and to understand the benefits of hosting a renewable energy project. We need to work together throughout the state to reach our ambitious climate goals and I thank Governor Hochul for signing this legislation to ensure local governments have a seat at the energy siting table.”

Hinchey said, “Our communities should have the opportunity to provide real input when developers are identifying lands for renewable energy projects in order to prevent further unintended consequences caused by poor siting decisions. At current levels, large-scale solar projects are overtaking prime farmland essential for our food supply and encroaching on sensitive environmental areas and water sources. This is happening, in part, because developers lack the tools to assess local impacts before siting. Recognizing the critical role of communi-

ty input in our battle against the Climate Crisis, the SITED Act is one among several actions we will take to ensure smarter and more sustainable choices in our pursuit of a clean energy future.”

The SITED Act will allow municipalities to learn about different renewable energy projects and the impact they could have on their community, including wind, solar, energy storage, and transmission and distribution system upgrades. Proactively educating communities about the benefits of sustainable energy sources will expedite the siting process and help to ameliorate conflicts that could arise in the future, noted Barrett.

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DiNapoli: State must do more to address nursing home pandemic issues

The state Department of Health (DOH) has made limited progress in addressing the widespread failures identified in a March 2022 audit of the state's response to the COVID-19 outbreak in nursing homes, according to a follow up report released today by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The initial audit found the state was unprepared to respond to infectious disease outbreaks at nursing homes, even before the pandemic, under the previous administration. Also, the state's persistent underinvestment in public health over the past decade may have limited DOH's ability to prepare and respond in the most effective way. If DOH had better data, accurate information systems, and an established system of proactive infection control for facilities prior to the pandemic, it could have helped facilities be better prepared. Auditors also determined that DOH gave the public inaccurate COVID-19 death tallies and undercounted those deaths as the Executive took control of public updates on the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic devastated families and left many whose loved ones contracted the virus in nursing homes with unanswered questions," said DiNapoli. "Last year, my office examined the extent to which residents in New York's nursing homes were not adequately protected and the state's shortfalls in managing the outbreak. Our follow-up review shows limited progress in fixing

all that went wrong. Much more work must be done to address problems that still exist to this day. We have to learn from past mistakes, or we risk repeating them."

Of the four recommendations to DOH in the initial audit, one was fully implemented, one was partially implemented, two others were unaddressed, and one recommendation to the Governor was partially implemented.

The initial audit recommended:

- DOH expand its use of infection control data to identify patterns and find ways to improve infection control practices and nursing home surveys, among other recommendations. Status: Partially implemented. Auditors found that some improvements in data quality were made. They compared DOH's publicly reported nursing home resident deaths from COVID-19 as of May 16, 2023, to its internal documentation and determined the data sets matched, which was not the case for nearly the entire scope of the initial audit. However, due to data limitations auditors were unable to test the completeness or accuracy of the data. Moreover, DOH has yet to fully use infection control data to detect or identify emerging infectious diseases to shape policies or develop an outbreak management system. Officials said they were strengthening their collection, use and analysis of data but did not provide specifics. DOH also did not provide supporting documentation, such as meeting

minutes, to show it has strengthened communication and coordination with localities and epidemiologists.

- DOH help facilities understand how to correctly submit information into the Nosocomial Outbreak Reporting Application (NORA) and maintain support for data submitted on Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) surveys to improve data quality, consistency and accountability. Status: Not implemented. DOH has not provided any new guidance to facilities on NORA submissions or support for data submitted on HERDS surveys. Because the initial audit found infections and outbreaks were significantly underreported in NORA, and inaccuracies in non-death COVID-19 data in HERDS, auditors urged DOH to guide facilities on submitting data. DOH's failure to act on this recommendation means it is likely still collecting, reporting and analyzing data that is inaccurate, inconsistent, and incomplete.
- DOH should improve controls over additions and deletions from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare (CMS) database and determine if publicly reported nursing home survey data is reliable. Status: Not implemented. Auditors tested data in the initial audit and the follow-up and found a significant number of discrepancies, which means that not all publicly reported data is reliable. The reliability of this data is critical because it is used by the public to make decisions

about nursing homes.

- DOH evaluate and request resources as necessary to adequately address public health emergencies. Status: Implemented. DOH conducted a needs assessment and requested 74 new staff positions. 55 are currently filled.
- The Governor should assess and document the adequacy of the internal control environment at DOH and the Executive Chamber and take steps to fix it. Status: Partially implemented. According to the Executive Chamber, it has required state agencies to develop transparency plans and post data online. It is working with health providers to collect operational information and has encouraged DOH to improve communication with stakeholders to address concerns about public disclosure of COVID-19 information. It has appointed a new leadership team at DOH, who have restructured the flow of information. However, the Executive Chamber did not provide detailed information to support that it had assessed the internal control environment.

A separate independent review is under way at the direction of the Executive. The review, conducted by an outside contractor, is evaluating the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once public, this review may also give families more answers and help improve accountability.

Friends of the Walkway receives grant to create plan for next phase of growth

The Friends of the Walkway nonprofit organization has been awarded a \$33,740 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program to build a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide the organization for the next five to seven years. The Friends of the Walkway will raise an additional \$15,000 in matching funds to complete the project, for a total budget of \$48,740.

Since Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park opened in 2009, Friends of

the Walkway's fundraising efforts have largely centered on building critical park amenities and infrastructure like bathrooms, welcome centers, pavilions, interpretative signage, and lighting. As the Walkway's era of large-scale capital improvements winds down, the Friends of the Walkway have identified expanding its programming and community engagement activities as a top priority to maximize park's impact as a resource for residents and as a leading tourist destination in the Hudson Valley. "This vital funding

from Parks & Trails New York will help us chart the course for how to best create a meaningful experience for the more than 600,000 people that visit the Walkway each year," said Lori Robertson, Executive Director, Friends of the Walkway. "We look forward to engaging a diverse group of stakeholders over the coming months to form a plan that is inclusive, unifying, and ultimately beneficial to all that step through our gates."

The grant is one of 27 awards totaling \$1.8 million for organizations dedicated to the stewardship and promotion of New York's state parks and historic sites, trails, and public lands. The grants will be matched with private and local funding and will support projects to strengthen Friends groups and enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

The Friends of the Walkway are essential partners helping to maximize the value of Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. The dedicated group raises private funds for capital projects, manages a robust volunteer program, provides educational programming, and promotes public use through hosting special events. To learn more about how individual support can improve the Walkway Over the Hudson and the communities of Poughkeepsie and Highland, visit walkway.org.

The Park and Trail Partnership Grants

are administered by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide non-profit organization, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

"Behind many of our favorite outdoor experiences—hikes, picnics with our family, bike rides—there is a hard-working local organization making that experience possible," said Paul Steely White, Executive Director, Parks & Trails New York. "These amazing grassroots organizations do so much with elbow grease, expertise, and volunteerism... but they also need the critical financial assistance our Park and Trail Partnership Grants provide. We are proud to work with OPHRP to ensure these groups, and the crucial work they do for our public lands, are supported in the benefit they provide for our communities. We are proud we've helped enable what literally amounts to billions of breathtaking experiences every year in our parks, greenway trails and other public lands.

This year's cohort of PTPG grant recipients are all pursuing different projects— from trail restoration at Hook Mountain to the installation of an ADA kayak launch at Point au Roche— but they all add up to a healthier, happier New York just in time for the NYS Parks Centennial celebration."



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Lourdes retires No. 20 jersey for pro player Maddy Siegrist

By Rich Thomaselli

One of the best girls basketball players ever to come out of Dutchess County was recently honored by her former high school.

Maddy Siegrist had her No. 20 jersey retired by Our Lady of Lourdes High School in a ceremony at the Town of Poughkeepsie school.

She is the daughter of former Franklin D. Roosevelt and Marist College stand-out George Siegrist.

She is the fourth player in school history to have her jersey retired, joining

Mylaine Riobe – now Dr. Riobe – Karen Lounsbury and Jenna Viani.

Siegrist attended Villanova University and scored more than 3,000 points in her career.

“I followed Maddy’s college career closely, and kept in close contact with her,” OLL coach Al Viani said. “The ceremony was very special to me. ... She was one of my favorite players at Lourdes.”

Siegrist now plays professionally for the Dallas Wings of the Women’s National Basketball Association.



Maddy Siegrist had her No. 20 jersey retired by Our Lady of Lourdes High School in a ceremony at the Town of Poughkeepsie school. *Courtesy photo*

OLL boys learning new roles after loss of star performer

By Rich Thomaselli

The boys high school basketball season starts this week for Our Lady of Lourds High School.

Or should we say, restarts.

OLL started off the season at 9-0 with aspirations of a state championship run. Then star player Pat Fayghnan suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament injury and was lost for the season.

Now, 35-year head coach Jim Santoro has to start over and rebuild his team and restart the season. Fayghnan is a tough loss to overcome considering he was the Dutchess County Player of the Year last year.

But, in a sense, Santoro already remade his team prior to this year when he moved his two tallest players to the perimeter. Now the remaining Warriors have to accept new roles and new challenges for the remainder of this season.

In the preseason, Santoro said the team was suffering from a spate of selfishness “and I was pulling my hair out.” This from a coach and a team who made the Section 9 championship game last season against Goshen.

In order to make sure the 6-foot-5 Fayghnan and 6-8 Zach Hart got the ball more and got better looks at the basket, the coach moved them to point guard and shooting guard from the inside.

“We went through a lot of struggles

with it,” Santoro said. “I had to be want with the kids and say to them, ‘Look, You guys are not playing as a team. You don’t recognize what the strength of our team is.’”

He paused and joked “Everybody thought I was nuts. I mean, I might look crazy, but I’m not stupid.”

Soon, the Warriors did understand. OLL was rolling until the Fayghnan injury and consecutive losses. Time to remake the team again. Ironically, Santoro, at least subconsciously, might have been best prepared for the situation because not only is his standout player a senior, but he gave up swinning for the basketball court. Fayghnan is an accomplished swimmer who has already been offered a scholarship by Iona College.

“At first, we had no identity,” Santoro said. “I mean, he’s the best player in four counties. He’s our point guard and our power forward and our big man all at once. Pat made a decision to give up swimming for basketball, and he has never regretted it.”

Still, after all these years as coach, Santoro finds himself in a different spot.

“I’ve never been in this situation before,” he said. “I never had a team where midway through the season, my best player went down.”

OLL has the talent. Now they just have to learn their new roles.

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City of Poughkeepsie resident arrested for criminal possession, intent to sell by Drug Task Force

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force announced the arrest of City of Poughkeepsie resident Joseph T. Anderson, 20, for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree with intent to sell, both class B felonies. Additional charges are pending, according to the Drug Task Force.

The Dutchess County Drug Task Force has been conducting ongoing investigations into the sale of narcotics including fentanyl in the Dutchess County area. On Jan. 18, the Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at a residence on Harrison Street in the City of Poughkeepsie resulting in the arrest of Anderson, according to the Sheriff’s office. This investigation and arrest were the result of ongoing

collaboration between the District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force, City of Poughkeepsie Police Neighborhood Recovery Unit and the Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force. Anderson was arrested at his residence without incident, stated a press release. Fentanyl, numerous amounts of ammunition, a high-capacity drum style magazine for a Glock handgun and other handgun magazines were allegedly seized by the Drug Task Force. Anderson is being held pending arraignment in the City of Poughkeepsie Court. If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, one is urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by sending an email to the following web address: DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com.

Creating enriching experiences for students

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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.

845-266-4283

The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org



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“We are energized and optimistic about this new year,” says Love INC Executive Director John Marrine. “We are welcoming six new community members to our Board of Directors, Spectrum has given Love INC a Community Grant of \$1,000, and the Dutchess County Community Grants Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley approved our application for funding a much-needed technology upgrade.”

In 2023, Love INC Board Member Michael Mauro alerted Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ to the Spectrum Employee Community Grant program. Mauro has been with Spectrum for eleven years and currently holds the position of Director of Sales. “I am passionate about investing time and energy into my community to make it a better place,” said Mike. “Love INC is an amazing organization that I feel blessed to be a part of.” The organization plans to use the \$1,000 Spectrum grant with the recently approved Dutchess County Community Grants Fund support of \$3500 to purchase new computers for the office and a data management system to track the work of their many volunteers.

Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ is a network of local churches that works with local agencies assisting individuals experiencing poverty. Love INC has a team of 180 volunteers that handle phone requests for help, deliver much-needed resources, and offer life-skills classes. For more information or assistance, call 845-471-0102 or visit www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced a plan on Jan. 17 to remove barriers for perspective school bus drivers applying for a commercial driver license. At the Governor's direction, the DMV has implemented a federal waiver that allows school bus driver applicants to skip the engine compartment component, also called the "under the hood" component of the commercial driver license road test. This will make it easier to get a commercial license at a time when school bus drivers are desperately needed and is the latest in a series of actions directed by Governor Hochul to address the critical shortage of truck and bus drivers.

DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "Bus drivers are such an important part of our school system. Not only do they have the incredible responsibility of getting our children to and from school safely, but they're also often the first friendly face a student sees outside of their family as they begin their day. New York State values and appreciates our school bus drivers and hopes this step will help more people qualify to take these jobs and help shape the future of New York's children."

The "under the hood" exemption is allowed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to help States hire more bus drivers without sacrificing safety, as existing school bus inspection and maintenance standards continue to apply. During the road test, applicants are still required to perform the

At the Governor's direction, in 2022, the DMV launched a program authorizing third parties to conduct commercial road tests, which has significantly increased the capacity for these types of road tests statewide. There are currently 27 third-party entities conducting commercial driver license road tests throughout the State. In addition, through cooperation with county-operated DMV offices, the State also increased testing capacity for written commercial permit exams across the State.

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has selected returning Hudson Valley resident Laura Washington to serve as the regional charitable organization's President & Chief Executive Officer, effective Feb. 1.

Washington was selected after a seven-month long, nationwide search led by Kittleman & Associates, an executive search firm dedicated exclusively to recruiting leaders for nonprofit organizations. She most recently served as Chief Communications Officer and Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at the New-York Historical Society. Prior to that, she held a senior leadership role at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where she established and led the organization's inaugural communications function.

CFHV delivers community leadership and strategic philanthropy to inspire and celebrate local charitable giving in the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Partnering with its generous donors, CFHV addresses current and emerging community needs through effective grantmaking to improve the quality of life for all, and by offering technical assistance to help nonprofits operate more effectively.

Charles "Chip" Simon, Chair of the CFHV Board of Trustees, said: "The entire Board of Trustees congratulates Laura and looks forward to her professional leadership, especially in light of our desire to expand CFHV's community impact throughout the Hudson Valley. We were immediately impressed with her back-

ground in strategic planning, communications, and successful grant campaigns. When we considered that she's also a graduate of Vassar College, we knew she was the perfect match to serve our board, staff, and community partners."

"I've always been inspired by the generosity evident in so many people in our region. That spirit gets passed down from generation to generation, and is needed now more than ever," said Washington. "I am honored to lead the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and I am committed to championing our counties with unwavering enthusiasm as I collaborate with our dedicated Board of Trustees, staff, donors, nonprofits, and philanthropic partners to ensure that ours is a thriving community for everyone."

A native New Yorker, Washington has close ties to the Hudson Valley where her family resided for several decades. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Vassar College, a Master of Science in Strategic Communications from Columbia University, and is a graduate of the Council on Foundations' Career Pathways program. Washington serves locally on the board of Historic Huguenot Street as Chair of the Education and Programming Committee and has volunteered with multiple non-profit organizations, including Brooklyn Org's SPARK Prize selection committee, the New York Regional Selection Committee for the Marshall Scholarship, and has been a review panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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MEET OFA'S NEW 'FRIENDLY CALLS' PROGRAM MANAGER

OFA's Friendly Calls program enters its second year of operations with a new Program Manager, Linda Edgar. Many older adults in Dutchess County know Linda as the recent past director of the Town of Poughkeepsie senior center, and before that as a tennis instructor and former coach of the tennis teams at Roy C. Ketcham High School. She's taking the reins of the Friendly Calls program now that its first program manager, Sue Serino, became Dutchess County Executive this year.

If you're a Dutchess County older adult who'd like to receive a weekly Friendly Call from an OFA volunteer, please contact us at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov. Prospective volunteers can also reach us this way. We schedule regular Friendly Calls orientation sessions at the OFA main office in Poughkeepsie, with dates and times of each orientation available at www.dutchessny.gov/calendar.

Those who are caregivers for a Dutchess County older adult at risk of social isolation can also contact us to learn more about Friendly Calls and how it can help support caregiving.

'SERIOUS TOYS'

Plentiful research backs the idea that an animal companion can help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation among older adults; but, as many a grownup has told many a child, having a living animal companion is a long-term commitment of time, money, and cleanup work. A pet might not be something within an older adult's abilities, especially for homebound individuals.

All is not lost for older animal lovers, though. During the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State tested the effectiveness of robotic pets on isolated older adults and found that the pets were 70% effective in producing a decrease in feelings of isolation. OFA's own observations of animatronic pets in action with selected Dutchess County older adults mirror these findings. The pets have been effective companions often enough that we're taking the program out for walkies, so to speak.

OFA has a limited supply of realistic animatronic pets for qualifying older adults, courtesy of the New York State Office for the Aging. The pets respond to both touch and voice. The cats purr when petted, but don't claw the furniture. The dogs make lifelike sounds, but don't start barking while you're on the phone.

We've been distributing animatronic companions to older adults most at risk for isolation, and who would likely be unable to care for a living pet. Contact OFA at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov to find out more, especially for older adults who may be unaware of the many OFA services for which they qualify. Visit dutchessny.gov/aging for more details.

SENIOR PARK PRINTS ARTS SERIES – ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!

If you're a Dutchess County older adult (60+) who's looking to develop a new skill, there's space available at one of the remaining free Senior Park Prints art classes, co-hosted by OFA and Dutchess County Parks:

- Thursday, February 1st - 2:30-3:45pm - Millerton Northeast Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton

Space is limited to 12 registered older adults per event. Call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to register.

All art supplies will be provided, and each artist can take home their new masterpiece after class.

'FRIENDLY CALLS' ORIENTATIONS COMING TO NORTHEASTERN DUTCHESS IN FEBRUARY

There's been an upswing in interest in becoming an OFA "Friendly Calls" caller from prospective volunteers in northeastern Dutchess County. Rather than have volunteers make the long winter drive to and from OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie for an orientation session, we're bringing the orientation out to northeastern Dutchess. We should have a schedule of orientations available by the time you receive next week's (week of January 29th) newsletter.

For more information, email bjones@dutchessny.gov

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS

Another season of free tax preparation for low- and moderate-income taxpayers, families and individuals is underway, courtesy of AARP Foundation and the CASH Coalition.

Appointments go fast, and can be made by calling 2-1-1, or 800-899-1479.

No age restrictions, and AARP membership is not required.

'STEPS TO SAFETY'

AT LaGRANGE LIBRARY (Thu 1/25)

Vassar Brothers Medical Center and the LaGrange Fire District present "Steps to Safety," a fire and fall prevention program for older adults created by the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA). The Office for the Aging will be represented as well, with fall-prevention materials available.

The free presentation (no registration necessary) takes place at 10 am on Thursday, January 25th, at LaGrange Association Library (1110 NY 55, LaGrangeville).

The "Steps to Safety" approach promotes independence, collaboration, engagement, and empowerment for older adults for whom fire and fall prevention become increasingly essential as they age. NFPA reports that at age 65, older adults are twice as likely as the population at large to be killed or injured by fires. By age 75, that risk increases to three times that of the general population—and to four times by age 85.

For more information, email amanda.gosson@nuvancehealth.org.

Related news: the Office for the Aging is preparing to schedule the spring session of "A Matter of Balance" fall prevention classes. Class venues, dates and times are provided once a participant's registration is confirmed; "A Matter of Balance" cannot accept walk-in participants. For more class information, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION (Thu 1/25 on Zoom)

Route 9 wasn't always a crowded highway; its origins date back to footpaths used by Native tribes, before the earliest European settlers arrived in the Hudson Valley.

Join the Dutchess County Historical Society and presenter David Turner on Zoom, on Thursday, January 25th at 7 pm for "How The Automobile Changed the Hudson Valley Landscape: A Look Through Vintage Postcards."

Click here for information on how to get the Zoom link.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

County to offer free rabies clinic

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) is partnering with the Dutchess County SPCA to host a free rabies vaccination clinic for pets on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Dutchess County SPCA, located at 636 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park. This clinic is open to dogs, cats, and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Advance registration is required and will open on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Residents can register at DCSPCA.org or by calling the DCSPCA at (845) 452-7722, ext. 425.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents; non-residents will be charged a fee of \$10 per pet vaccinated. All dogs must be on leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years for pets with proper proof of a prior immunization. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year.

Rabies vaccinations are required by New York State law for all cats, dogs, and domestic ferrets by the age of four months of age. Pet owners are required to revaccinate on a regular schedule to keep the animal properly immunized against the rabies virus.

DBCH diligently investigates and monitors rabies exposure cases

throughout the county. In 2023, 95 animal specimens were tested, 729 people were evaluated for rabies exposure with 109 people treated with post exposure prophylaxis.

The County offers three to four clinics each year. In 2023, more than 400 pets were vaccinated through these clinics and DCBH's community partnerships.

DBCH is available 24/7 to assist with any questions or concerns regarding potential rabies exposure to people or domestic animals. Pet owners should report to DCBH any incident in which their pet has been bitten by or has an open wound exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a domestic or wild animal. Staff will investigate and advise the pet owner of any necessary steps they should take to ensure the safety of their animal.

Residents who see an animal acting strangely are advised to contact their local police agency. If a person has been bitten, or a domestic pet is bitten or is in contact, with any animal, they're to contact DBCH immediately at (845) 486-3404 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; or (845) 431-6465 on nights and weekends.

To learn more about rabies, visit dutchessny.gov/rabies or contact DCBH at HealthInfo@dutchessny.gov.



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‘Defining Lines’ theme of MODfest at Vassar College

Annual festival opens Jan. 25

MODfest, Vassar College’s annual tribute to the visual and performing arts, opens on Jan. 25 and continues through Feb. 4 on the campus in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Now in its 22nd year, MODfest features performances and exhibits by students, faculty, and guest artists. It is hosted by the Vassar College Music Department in collaboration with the Creative Arts Across Disciplines office. Some events require tickets and reservations, but all are free and open to the public.

The theme of this year’s festival, “Defining Lines,” invites audiences to examine, celebrate, and challenge the lines that exist between cultures, spaces, bodies, identities, and more.

“MODfest 2024 invites us to view things from different perspectives or consider what defines or separates people, places, and ideas,” said MODfest Co-Director Tom Pacio. “A theatrical story of grief told through acrobatic movement, the relationship between the audience and dancers from a scientific perspective, and the impact of people’s lives and their surroundings told through music are just a few examples of what awaits us in this year’s festival. With exciting visiting artists from UPLift Physical Theatre, the creative team and performers of the new musical “Shanghai Sonatas,” and acclaimed dancers Baye & Asa (2023 Dance Magazine Award Winners) alongside our extremely talented faculty and students, there is something for everyone.”

“Shanghai Sonatas,” a new theater work to be held Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. in the

Alumnae House, is based on first-person accounts. It tells the true story of musicians from Europe living in China during World War II who used their optimism, humor, and musical talents to survive, forging friendships with their Chinese neighbors who helped save their lives.

MODfest will also feature the work of two current Vassar students. In “Reciprocal Visions: Reimagining the Dance,” to be performed on Jan. 25 in the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, cognitive science major Camryn Spero ’24 will examine how the audience, the lighting, and sensational experiences physiologically change the dancers’ realization of their performance. On Jan. 26 and 27, “The Game,” a play written by Solomon Hess ’24, will be performed in the Powerhouse Theater. The play tells the story of a white lacrosse coach who engages with a Native American friend to honor the origins of the game.

MODfest will also feature several musical performances, including a tribute by faculty musicians to MODfest co-founders Professor Emeritus of Music Richard Wilson and Adene Wilson ’69. This year’s concert will be held February 3 in Skinner Hall.

“We are thrilled to highlight our faculty and the music of Rogerson, Stravinsky, and Wilson in this year’s honorary concert for Richard and Adene Wilson,” said MODfest Co-Director and Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities Christine Howlett. “Thomas Sauer, piano, collaborates with guest violinist Grace Park on the music on Rogerson’s ‘Lullaby: No Bad Dreams,’ Stravinsky’s ‘Duo concertant,’ and Wilson’s ‘Eclogue’ for solo piano. The second half of the program features Stravinsky’s iconic ‘L’histoire du soldat,’



“Shanghai Sonatas” will be featured on Jan. 28 as part of Vassar College’s MODfest. Courtesy photo

a fascinating tale of a soldier named Joseph who meets the Devil in disguise. Composed for seven instruments and a narrator, the music includes the influences of tango, waltz, ragtime, and klezmer instrumentations and textures, and even Bach. This piece is performed entirely by our brilliant Vassar faculty Drew Minter, narrator, Marka Young,

violin, Daniel Merriman, bass, Ian Tyson, clarinet, Elisabeth Romano, bassoon, James Osborn, trumpet, Paul Bellino, trombone, Frank Cassara, percussion, and Eduardo Navega, conductor.”

Vassar College is located at 124 Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Visit www.vassar.edu for more information.

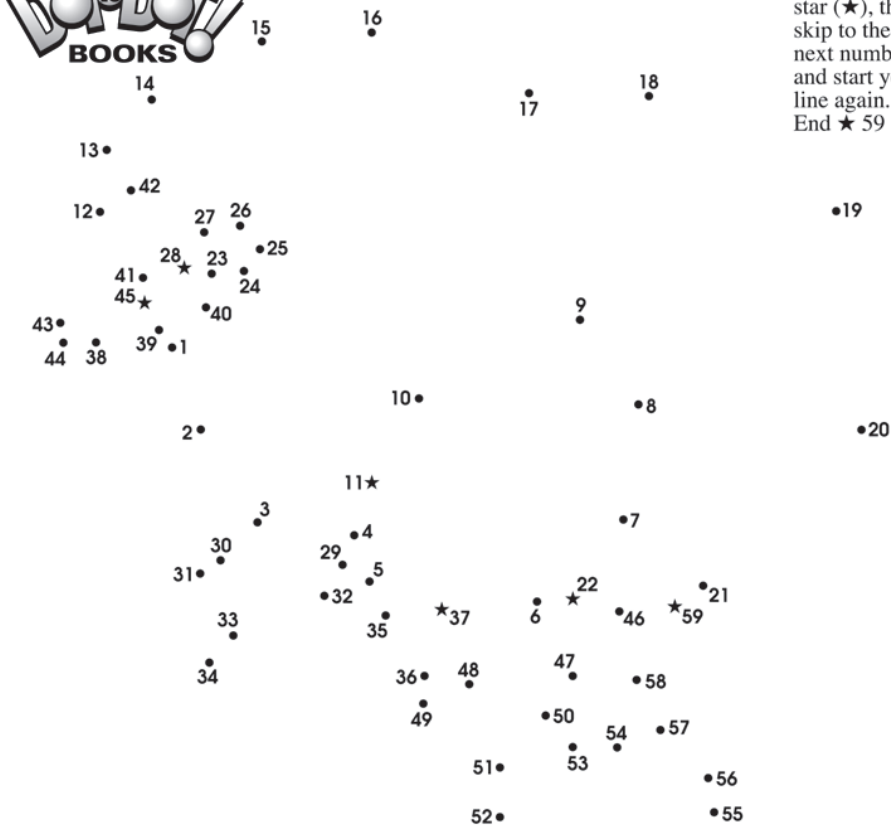
DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



Stars

Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 59



By David Kalvitis

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Altar Server

Luigi dreams of a traditional Italian pastry during Mass.

When I was little, on Sundays I would sit in the pew and watch as my brothers got to be altar servers. I would make funny faces at them and try to get them to laugh. That is, I would until my father would catch me and give me a smack. When I was not making faces, I would fall asleep, until my father would give my hair a tug and wake me up. On top of all that, my stomach would be growling. We never ate before church. In those days you had to fast after your last meal the night before. However, in between funny faces, sleeping and growling, I would imagine how great it was to be up there on the alter helping out. I thought it was so glamorous.

When the day came that I was able to be an alter server, I never imagined, how incredibly boring it actually was. I mean, so boring that I would fall asleep.

At the time we had a priest that was long-winded and foreign. Being a naïve wise-ass of 10 years, this was not a good combination. I already had problems staying awake during church when I sat in the pew, let alone sitting up on the altar. Not to mention when my eyes were open, I was yawning like a lion. Then on top of

that, my little brother Vinny was making faces at me just like I used to do to my older brothers. This truly was a recipe for disaster.

All of these influences came together in the perfect storm during one fateful Sunday. As usual, my family sat in the first pew over to the left of the altar. Mom did this so she could keep an eye on me and watch me so I wouldn't fall asleep. After everyone was settled, the choir began to sing. That was my signal to come down the aisle.

I'm carrying the cross and leading the way with Father behind me. We walk up onto the altar. I put the cross away and assume my position. Right away, Vinny starts making faces at me. I'm fighting laughing right at the start of the mass. Not a good sign.

After our bow to the altar, I proceed to my spot, to the right of our priest. I stand there with my hands crossed, facing my family, trying to look solemn. Father begins his prayers and not 10 seconds into it, my first yawn hits. I put up a good fight. I kept it discreet. Next comes the reading, which I liked because I always thought they were good stories. Vinny is

hammering away, make faces until my father notices what is going on and smacks him. I laughed out loud, but hid it as a cough.

I'm still OK. I haven't done anything outlandish yet. I'm holding it all together so far. The readings and Gospel are done and it's time for Father's sermon. I know I'm dead, but there is nothing I can do about it. I sit down, determined not to fall asleep.

Father begins his sermon with a joke. When he says the punch line, everyone laughs but me. My mind has already begun to wander. He starts to get serious and begins his homily. Almost immediately, the yawning starts. I fought it best I could, but the yawns kept coming. Harder and harder until, I'm now yawning like a lion and not even caring what people are saying.

Every 10 seconds, I let loose with another lion-like yawn, sucking in all the air up on the altar making the candles flicker. I start to notice the flames bending to and fro as I yawn harder and harder.

My eyes start to blink. First quickly, then they start to stay closed longer, only

opening up when I yawn. Little by little, Father's voice starts to sound like the teacher on Charlie Brown, until, I'm out. According to my brother Vinny, I am now snoring instead of yawning with my head back and my mouth wide open. Mom is beside herself, unable to come wake me up. My head starts to bob forward and back. At first I startle myself awake. However, between each bob, I stay asleep longer. Until ... With the last bob, I started to lean forward a little.

At this point I'm dreaming of sfogliatelle, an Italian breakfast pastry that my Mom had made the night before. Vinny told me afterward that I was leaning a little, then a little more until ... I fell forward and out of my chair face first onto the altar floor.

Father looks to his left to see me fall down. He doesn't move, but continues to preach. Naturally, I wake up when I hit the floor. As I stood up and sat back down, trying to make believe that it didn't happen, I looked forward to see my brother laughing, my mother with her hands in front of her mouth and my father with the look of the devil in his eyes.

continued on page 17

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Diversions

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Historical Society

The construction of Great Bridges was a hallmark of ‘The Gilded Age’

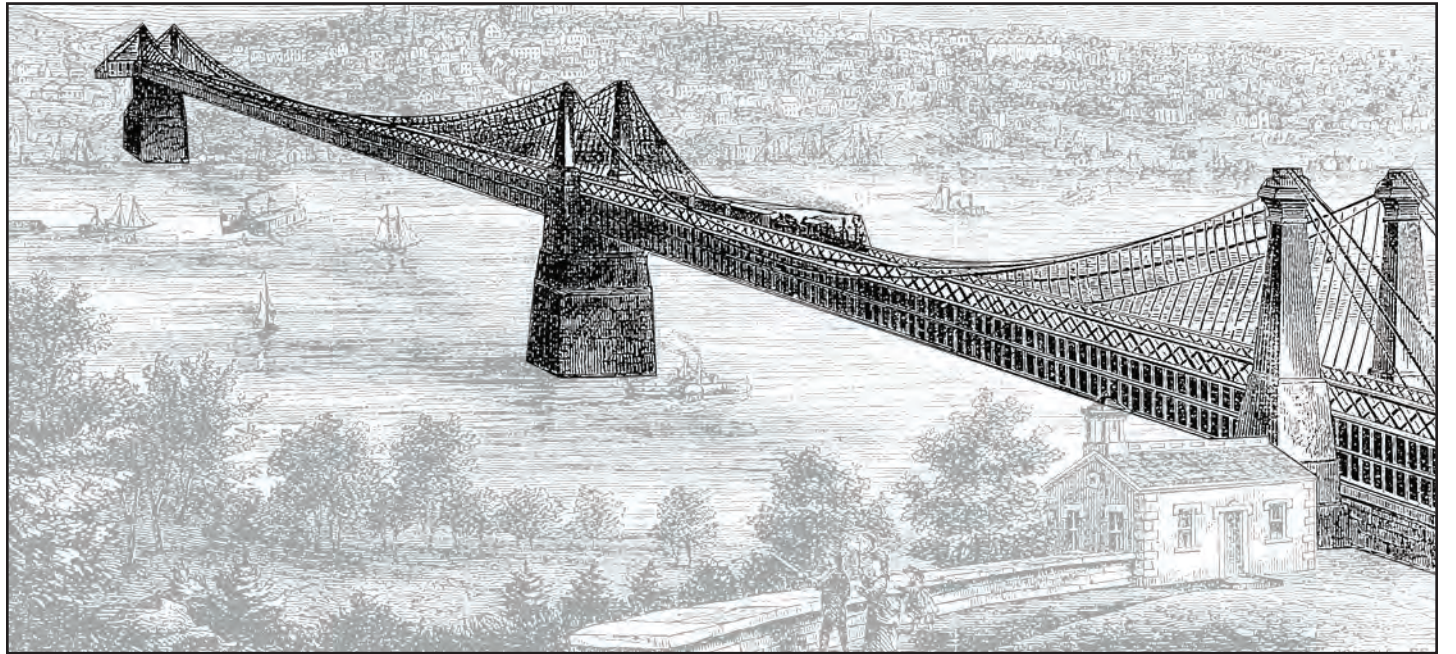
By Bill Jeffway

“The Gilded Age” just finished its second season on HBO and is the inspiration for a series of occasional articles in the coming months. If you have not seen “The Gilded Age,” but intend to, there will be no spoilers, just general references showing parallels with local people activities at the time.

In the portrayal of the wealthy New York City aristocracy of the 1880s, the Astor family represents the old established wealth, and the Russell family, based on the Vanderbilt family, represents new wealth. It was a time when powerful men, and women, made a personal mark through large, iconic infrastructure involving construction of railroads and bridges. The opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 was featured as an important national event in the series. This article examines a parallel project locally: the opening of the Poughkeepsie Bridge, known today as the Walkway Over the Hudson, which opened in 1889.

At the time, such bridges were called “great bridges” and were seen as wonders of the world on the scale of the Egyptian pyramids. The Brooklyn Bridge was designed to serve horse and carriages and foot traffic, and the Poughkeepsie Bridge was designed to handle railroads.

The industrialist leading the charge for the Poughkeepsie Bridge in its earliest days was the businessman, and owner/operator of Eastman Business College – Harvey Eastman. He can be seen in an accompanying cartoon from DCHS Collections, where he dressed in the iconic top hat worn by the industrialists of The Gilded Age (and the banker in the Monopoly board game) as he lays out the list of massive economic benefits on the side of a pier to the bridge. One the



The original design of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge in the 1870s shows a suspension style construction similar to the Brooklyn Bridge that was never realized. This image looks from the west bank of the Hudson toward Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy of DCHS Collections*

other pier (not visible here in this edited version of the cartoon) is the name of Andrew Carnegie, one of the better known names who was supporting the project.

Eastman had built a highly successful business college that attracted students from around the world. He was at one time seen as the invincible business champion of Poughkeepsie, especially after the death of Matthew Vassar in 1868. His school had its own bank and issued its own currency. The Eastman Band was performing at every turn. His elaborate home and grounds (what is today Eastman Park) were the site of public gatherings. During the ambitious bridge period he became mayor and then

New York State Assemblyman, all to advance the cause of Poughkeepsie’s “great bridge.”

The evolution of the Brooklyn and Poughkeepsie bridges was happening at the same time. Brooklyn was the third largest city in the U.S. after New York City (then consisting only of Manhattan and western Bronx) and Philadelphia. So, a horse and carriage and footpath bridge had a sizable waiting population. Brooklyn became part of New York City in 1898.

The transcontinental railroad made its historic connection in 1869. But, as seen in *The Gilded Age*, the competition for railroad routes was ruthless.

Although it met with accidents and difficulties, the evolution of the Brooklyn Bridge was a smoother process. A state charter for a suspension bridge connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn started the process in 1867. Construction began in 1870, the towers were completed by 1872, the wires started to be strung in 1877, and construction of the suspension structure started in 1879. The bridge opened in 1883.

By contrast, Eastman’s effort to get a state charter was achieved in 1871, but the economic panic of 1873 created a failure in the company. By 1875, Eastman had successfully invited New England businessmen to participate and in November 1876 construction began again. Both bridges suffered significant accidents when first trying to sink what would become an underwater base pier. While the Brooklyn Bridge was able to carry on, a pier built just visible above water in 1877 in Poughkeepsie ended up

languishing for a decade and became known as “the monument” to Harvey Eastman as he died in 1878. In October of 1886 work was begun for a third time and this time brought an opening of the bridge in January of 1889.

Original plans called for the creation of a suspension bridge in Poughkeepsie, the style of the Brooklyn Bridge, a depiction of which can be found accompanying this article from DCHS Collections. But those plans changed to a cantilever, deck, and truss bridge which involved more piers in the river.

Although the “great bridge” served its extraordinary purpose of connecting New England and Pennsylvania coal mines, and beyond, the evolution of the automobile in the 20th century reduced its role below anticipated expectations.

Both the Brooklyn and Poughkeepsie Bridges are now surrounded by all sorts of new and extraordinary technology. Although both continue to impress us even today, in their day they were even more exceptional as icons of personal and national power and wealth.

- Brooklyn Bridge: Total length: 6,016 feet. Span: Total longest span, 1,600 feet. 127 feet above the water.

- Poughkeepsie Bridge: Total length: 6,768 feet. Span: 7 spans, ranging from 201 to 548 feet. 212 feet above the water.

Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsn.org or (845) 293-7711.



This cartoon shows the early leader of the movement to build the Poughkeepsie Bridge, Harvey Eastman, who became Poughkeepsie Mayor and NYS Assemblyman as part of his effort to advance the cause. He is shown outlining the economic benefits of the bridge. Inset: the celebratory edition of the Poughkeepsie Eagle upon the bridge’s opening in 1889. *Courtesy of DCHS Collections*

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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR MARCH ‘MONOLOGUE’ MADNESS AT MORTON LIBRARY

Morton Memorial Library & Community House presents the second annual March “monologue” Madness on Saturday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Original submissions are requested for the event. All genres welcome; original work only, 10 minutes (or less) in length (include the approximate time length of piece).

Scripts or video clips to be received at Morton by January 31. Email to sandy@morton-rhinecliff.org; or bring in person or via snail mail to: 82 Kelly ST, PO Box 157, Rhinecliff NY 12574.

Accepted play authors notified by March 1.

Another L² Production

Two of Us Productions to present suspenseful staged readings on Jan. 27

The Two Of Us Productions, the award winning theater company based in Columbia County NY, is pleased to present their Virtual Live-Staged Reading for 2024. Our 2nd installment is two exciting radio dramas from Suspense Theater: “Love, Honor & or Murder” from Suspense Theater, and “The Outer Limit” from Dimension-X. This performance is being presented on Saturday evening January 27th, 2024 at 7:00pm in collaboration with Roving Actors’ Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc.

In “The Outer Limit” we find that mankind has discovered the power of the atom, has used it to end a war, but is swiftly developing the atom bomb as a way to end civilization itself. A rocket pilot sent up for scientific research come back, not with scientific discoveries, but with a warning from the stars that continued use of the bomb will not only end war, but will end civilization on the Earth FOR GOOD!

“Love, Honor or Murder” introduces us to a certain not-so-happily married couple, Harry & Helen Blake. Harry is a hardworking cab driver who yearns for something better. Helen is equally tired of their life but thinks she’s found a way for something better but to get it needs to convince Harry to commit a murder!

To learn the rest of these thrilling stories you’ll have to R.S.V.P to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org and then see these thrilling dramas in the comfort of your own home on Saturday night January 27th, 2024 at 7pm.

“Love, Honor or Murder” and “The

Outer Limit” will be performed as a live-virtual staged reading on Saturday January 27th, 2024 at 7:00pm. Hurry to R.S.V.P and get your access code by visiting www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org

This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

The Two Of Us Productions is well known throughout the Hudson Valley for presenting quality theater, both musicals and dramas. Their recent productions of Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Young Frankenstein, Deathtrap, Chicago, Les Miserables, next to normal, Mamma Mia! and Jesus Christ Superstar were all recognized by the Theatre Association of NYS with multiple awards, including outstanding work by the company & outstanding performance by the orchestra. Reviews of their recent virtual live-staged readings of three Arthur Miller scripts; All My Sons, Broken Glass, and an adaption of An Enemy Of The People will appear in upcoming editions of The Arthur Miller Journal.

These performances are supported with funds from Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation, Stewart’s Shops, Bank of Greene County, Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, The Ackerman Foundation, and Key Bank Foundation. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by CREATE Council on the Arts.”

Fundraiser set Jan. 28 for Hyde Park Library renovations

The Hyde Park Library presents “Words and Music,” a musical revue starring performers from the Broadway stage, plus local and future celebrities, on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m. The musical extravaganza, which takes place at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Home and Library, 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, will be followed by refreshments and a meet-and-greet reception. It is a fundraiser for the library’s Accessibility Improvement Renovations Project, to make the library

accessible to all.

Doors open at 1:30. Tickets are \$150 donation per reservation, and must be purchased ahead of time; tickets will not be available at the door.

Call (845) 522-9359 to pay with a credit card or bring a personal check to the library circulation desk. Checks can be written to “Friends of the Hyde Park Library.” Or go to www.hydeparkfreelibrary.org and click on the QR code to pay online.

Morton Library seeks art for annual Talent Show

Morton Memorial Library’s Talent Show Art Opening will take place on Friday, Feb. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The library will host the art opening for the visual component of the Talent Show a week before the performance component. This allows the participating visual artists to be fully recognized and appreciated.

The art will remain up for the month

of March.

Contact Sandy (sandy@morton-rhinecliff.org) by Feb. 2 if you are interested. Bring in your piece to the library by Saturday, Feb. 17.

Morton Memorial Library & Community House is at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff. Call (845) 876-2903 for more information.

ATTENTION ART GALLERIES

Email exhibition listings to
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com


EXHIBITIONS

- Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center**, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 29:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is Stacy Pearl; and at 12 Vassar St. is Jane Ehrlich in the Reception Gallery and Rebecca Zeh in the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org
- Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center**, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Jan. 28:** “Silver Linings: Celebrating the Spelman Art Collection,” the inaugural show in a five-stop, nationwide tour, made possible through the Art Bridges Foundation. Through the work of nearly 40 artists, Silver Linings uplifts the legacy of artists of African descent spanning the 20th Century through the contemporary moment, many of whom have been overlooked by mainstream art museums. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum**, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through December:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, “Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962” centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and who pushed for progress. Within this context, the exhibit examines the political evolution of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt regarding racial justice. www.fdrlibrary.org
- Hyde Park Library Annex**, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through February:** The Art of Peggy Milone, paintings inspired by the colors of nature. (845) 229-7791
- Morton Memorial Library**, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through Jan. 30:** “Rhinecliff Train Station: A Celebration,” art exhibition inspired by the beautiful train station before the renovations begin to take place. (845) 876-2903
- Olana State Historic Site**, Hudson. **Through March 24:** “Spectacle: Frederic Church and The Business of Art,” a 21st-century way of viewing Frederic Church’s great masterwork, “The Heart of the Andes,” and this exhibition highlights the showmanship and marketing that Church used to promote the debut of this work in 1859. For more information and to purchase tickets visit olana.org/spectacle
- Rhinebeck Bank**, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through Feb. 9:** “Here, There and Eclectic,” paintings by Richard Trachtman.
- Super Secret Projects** (Back of Hyperbole), 484 Main St., Beacon. **Through Feb. 3:** “Visual Memoirs: Portraits, Self-Portraits, and Selfies,” a curated group show of work that explores the art of portraiture. supersecretprojects.com
- Tivoli Artists Gallery**, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Feb. 11:** “Figures & Faces Show,” 2-D and 3-D work depicting figures and faces. (845) 757-2667
- Composite images courtesy of the artists*



LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK IN NEXT WEEK’S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.





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COLLEGE NOTES

ROCHESTER, NY – Nazareth University is proud to announce the students named to the Dean's List for fall 2023: Mackenzie Storrs of Red Hook and Lauren Sanford of Hyde Park.

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 – More than 1,200 SUNY Oneonta students earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2023 semester. Local students include:

Michael Aaron of Pleasant Valley
Leah Brody of Red Hook
Peyten-Michele Duncan of Hyde Park
Jennie Koch of Hyde Park
Isabella Torre of Clinton Corners
Kayla Vanpelt of Tivoli
Christopher Whitten of Salt Point

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.

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA – Eleeana Francia, Physical Education Teacher Education major from Clinton Cors, N.Y., was among the 1,494 students to be named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (ESU) for the Fall 2023 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year, according to Margaret Ball D.M.A., provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Students eligible for the Dean's List are those who have attained a 3.50 quality point average or better and are enrolled full-time. The letter grade "B" earns 3 quality points per credit, and the grade "A" earns 4 quality points per credit.

NEWTON, MA – Adrianna Tassone, a Lasell University student from Salt Point, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the fall 2023 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.

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for academic excellence for the 2023 Fall Semester.

Hope Christensen from Red Hook was named to the dean's list. Christensen has a primary major of Education.

Collin Fuller from Millbrook was named to the dean's list. Fuller has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Kevin Lee from Hyde Park was named to the dean's list. Lee has a primary major of Criminal Justice.

Sebastian Ortega Gutierrez from Red Hook was named to the dean's list. Ortega Gutierrez has a primary major of Exploratory Studies.

Thomas Rice from Pleasant Valley was named to the dean's list. Rice has a primary major of Exer Sci / Pre-AT.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

STATESBORO, GA – Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 3,550 students on the Fall 2023 Dean's List. Shayla Snow has been named to the list for excellence in academics. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

POTSDAM, NY – The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 809 students to the President's List, in recognition of their academic excellence in the Fall 2023 semester. The SUNY Potsdam students were honored for earning top marks by President Dr. Suzanne Smith.

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.

The students included:
Josh Buessem of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Music Education

Emily Esack of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Public Health

Mya Peek of Hyde Park, whose major is Mathematics

Katie Pullaro of Red Hook, whose major is Music Education

Jaelyn Twitchell of Hyde Park, whose major is Music Education

POTSDAM, NY – The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named Ryan Shaw of Staatsburg, NY, to the SUNY Potsdam Dean's List.

Shaw, whose major is Music Education, was among 204 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Fall 2023 semester.

To achieve the honor of being on the Dean's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of between 3.25 and 3.49 in the given semester.

BRIDGEPORT, CT – Jada Rose, of Hyde Park, was named to University of Bridgeport's Fall 2023 Dean's List.

Rose was among more than 400 students named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have a term grade point average of between 3.2-3.69.

EASTON, MA – Maeve Doran, a member of the Class of 2027 from Rhinebeck, NY, has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College. To qualify for this honor, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

TROY, NY – More than 900 students were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Hudson Valley Community College.

Local students named to the list include:

Jillian Foreman of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography academic program.

Casidy Shook of Red Hook, who is studying in the Radiologic Technology academic program.

Kaylee Shufelt of Millerton, who is studying in the Polysomnography academic program.

Tara Wagner of Red Hook, who is studying in the Nursing academic program.

The Dean's List recognizes those full-time students and part-time students registered for at least six college credits who have a term average of 3.00 to less than 3.50 and who received no grade of "D," "F," "I," "Z," or "W" on their record for that term. Students must have completed at least 12 college credits successfully.

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

Suguru solution

3	4	5	1	5	2
1	2	3	2	4	1
5	4	1	5	3	2
1	2	3	2	4	5
3	4	5	1	3	1
2	1	3	4	2	4

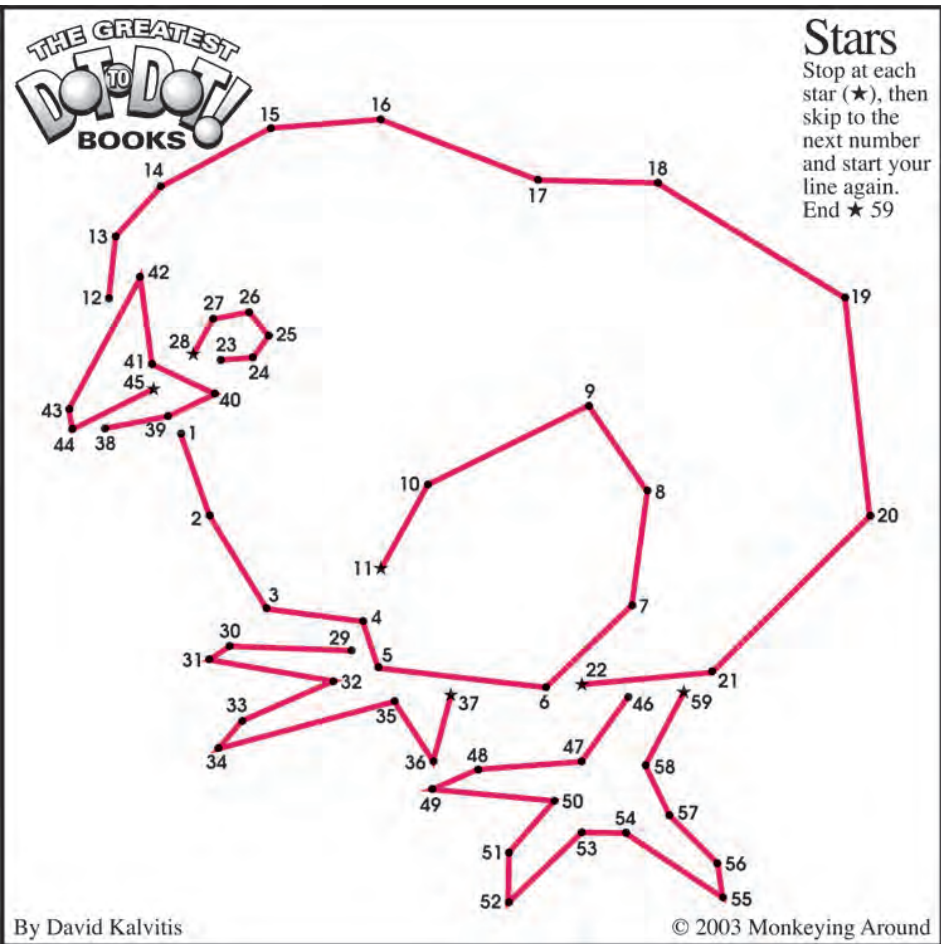
SUDOKU

This week's answer

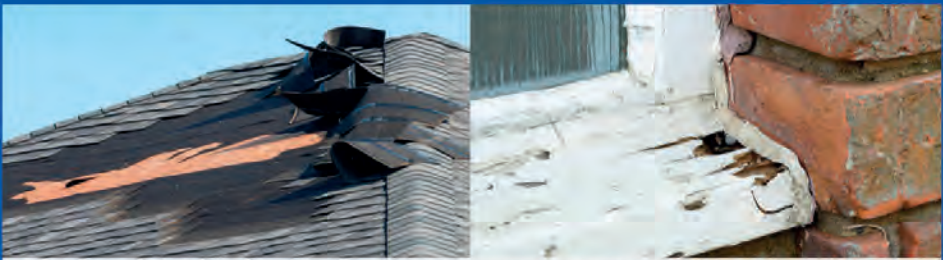
4	3	5	7	9	8	6	1	2
7	6	2	3	1	5	4	8	9
9	8	1	6	2	4	5	3	7
1	2	8	5	4	9	7	6	3
3	7	9	8	6	2	1	5	4
6	5	4	1	7	3	9	2	8
8	4	7	2	5	1	3	9	6
5	9	3	4	8	6	2	7	1
2	1	6	9	3	7	8	4	5

M	A	C	H	O		A	S	H		P	O	C	O
A	R	R	O	W		G	S	A		E	L	V	E
P	A	E	A	N		O	W	L		N	E	E	D
	B	E	R	I	N	G		O	N	T	A	R	I
			D	N	A			T	S	A	R		
F	D	A			G	I	R	O		N	A	C	R
J	I	B	S		R	O	E	S		P	L	U	M
O	V	A	L		A	S	C	O	T		A	N	O
R	E	C	A	P		E	A	S	E		Y	E	T
D	R	I	V	E	L		P	O	N	D		S	E
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E	Q	U	A	T	O	R		B	E	N	G	A	L
R	U	M	B	A		O	D	E		T	A	R	O
G	I	B	E	D		T	E	A		A	V	I	A
S	P	O	T			E	L	M		L	E	A	N

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



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Old Dutch Village Garden Club plans for the new year

By Felice Gelman
and Nancy Bendiner

At its meeting on January 11, officers of the Old Dutch Village Garden Club (ODVGC) in Red Hook outlined the club's plans for the year. Of course, the club's wildly popular plant sale, scheduled for May 18 this year, was a major topic. Plant donations are solicited from the community. If you are thinning out a planting or renovating a section of your garden, let the plant sale chairperson Linda Lawson at 845-758-5653 know and the club can provide pots and, if necessary, help in digging up the plants to be donated. The club will accept plant donations from mid-April until the first week of May.

ODVGC meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday of most months at St.

John's Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook. Meetings are open to the public. February's meeting will feature a presentation by Rhinebeck's Brenda Brockett on Gardeners of Color. In March the club will learn about Gardening in a Changing Climate an expert from the Columbia County Extension. In May, area farmer John Lobotsky will talk about the American Chestnut, and in June the club will make a tour of the gardens at Blithewood. More details will be posted on our Facebook page.

The club is restoring the beloved windmill landmark in its garden at Memorial Park in Red Hook village. The old windmill, generously built by Rick Riley, had felt the impact of the elements and birds' nests since it was installed in 2012. The club ordered a new one and Rich Lawson kindly installed it.



Above: The new windmill at Memorial Park in Red Hook, maintained by the Old Dutch Village Garden Club, was recently installed by Rich Lawson. The old one (left) was weather-worn. Below: The line forms for the Old Dutch Village Garden Club's 2023 plant sale. *Courtesy photos*



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OBITUARIES

David C. Brands

PLEASANT VALLEY - David Cecil Brands, age 78, passed away on January 11, 2024. He was born on February 25, 1945 and attended Hyde Park schools, graduating from Roosevelt High School, Class of 1963. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy in 1968.

He worked as a pharmacist at Cortland Memorial Hospital. While living in Cortland, he met Marilyn Vail. They were married in 1976 and moved back to Dutchess County to be near their families. David worked for Bob Drug, Green Haven, Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center, and then retired from Hudson River Psychiatric Center in 2007.

In 1981 David and Marilyn welcomed twin boys, Kenneth and Benjamin, who made their life complete. As the boys grew, life was busy with town baseball and soccer games, and then Arlington track and marching band.

David was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, serving as elder, deacon and trustee and arranging his schedule around church activities. He was a member of Pleasant Valley Grange, Dutchess County Pomona Grange, New York State Grange, and National Grange. He filled many offices at Pleasant Valley Grange and enjoyed attending State Grange conventions.

David loved socializing with family and friends. He looked forward to family dinners, picnics, and card parties. He played pinochle with a men’s group that had continuously played cards since the 1940’s, through 3 generations. He loved camping trips to explore nature and history but his favorite was the annual Labor Day camping trip to Gilbert Lake State Park that began when the children were small and grew to include extended family.

Most of all, David loved his life as a father and grandfather. As his Parkinson’s

progressed, he maintained his cheerful disposition, his sense of humor, and his determination to keep going. His grandchildren brought him so much joy.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn, his son Kenneth and daughter-in-law Dara and their son Parker, and his son Benjamin and daughter-in-law Sarah and their children Ian and Layla. He is also survived by his sister Helen Traver and his brothers Charles (Frances)Traver and Donald (Patricia) Traver and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents, Dorothy and Alden Traver.

Calling hours took place at the Allen Funeral Home, 1605 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, on Friday, January 19. The funeral was held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1576 Main Street, Pleasant Valley on Saturday, January 20. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Valley. For condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley.

Ernest A. Kilmer

HYDE PARK - Ernest A. Kilmer, 77, of Hyde Park, NY passed away on January 12, 2024. He was born on July 7, 1946, in Poughkeepsie, New York to the late Alfred E. and the late Virginia H. (Hunter) Kilmer.

Ernest was a local resident all his life. He was a graduate of Arlington High School and Dutchess Community College.

He was a Purchasing Agent for IBM - Poughkeepsie, NY., retiring in 1995.

Ernest was a member of Rogers Point and the Poughkeepsie ELKs lodge BPOE 275.

He was the husband of the late Sandra Byrum, they were married September 18, 1983 in Wappingers Falls, New York.

Survivors include son Terry and Jennifer Kilmer Hyde Park New York,

daughter Tammy L. Braig Raleigh North Carolina, Stepson Michael A. and Lauren Lewis Poughkeepsie New York, grandchildren Christopher M. Lewis and his wife Sara, Rebbecca Lewis, MacKenzie Lewis, Gretah Kilmer, Addie Kilmer, Oliver Kilmer, Wyatt Kilmer, Shala Sneed Tegan Sneed and great granddaughter Addison.

His Graveside was held January 19, 2024 from Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, South Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY. Interment took place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Funeral services are being handled by the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home 371 Hooker Ave

If you would like to leave an online condolence, please visit our website at www.doylefuneralhome.com.

Richard Neil Sinclair

LAGRANGEVILLE - Richard Neil “Rick” Sinclair, 70, passed away peacefully at Vassar Brothers Medical Center January 13, 2024, following a lengthy illness. Born May 20, 1953 in Dover, New Hampshire, he was the son of the late Neil Anthony Sinclair and Barbara (Woundy) Sinclair. He was the eldest of five children. Rick was a graduate of Arlington High School and Dutchess Community College.

Rick lived in Oregon for several years and became a Salmon Fisherman. He returned to New York and was employed by Schatz Federal Bearing in Poughkeepsie prior to the business closing. Rick then used his passion for antiques and became owner of Papa Hobo Antiques on Main Street in Millerton, NY. After closing the store, he became a Group Home/Human Services Manager.

Rick was the former President of The Danbury Mineralogical Society and former Board Member of the Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral Society and was passionate about his large rock and mineral

collection. He was the Founder and co-chair of the Water Alliance in South Kent, Connecticut.

Richard was married in 1979 to his lifelong partner Robert Joseph Rockefeller. Together they lived in South Kent for 32 years. Rick had recently moved to LaGrangeville, New York following Bob’s passing on April 19, 2022. Their marriage lasted nearly 44 years. Most recently Rick became a resident at Holiday Manor at Woodside.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Manor at Woodside, the staff at Fresenius Kidney Care, and the staff at Vassar Hospital for their loving care.

Richard is survived by his four siblings and their spouses; Mark Sinclair (Karen), Sharon Sinclair Merriam Young (Stephen), Sandra Sinclair and Donna Sinclair Burke (Brian). He is also survived by his nieces and nephews and their children; Eric Sinclair (Samantha) Jake, Gracie, Connor & Gus; Andrew Sinclair (Lauren) Charleigh & Riley; Cathrine McCormick (Michael) Quinn & Emma; John Merriam (Jennifer) Jonah & Jared and Kayla Burke. Rick is also survived by his aunt, Janet Bardawell and cousins Linda Heider (Terry), Bob Williamson (Joan), Nancy Duval(Gary), Steve Williamson (Annie), Michael Woundy and Debra Woundy (Jacqueline).

Calling hours were held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. A funeral service took place at the funeral home. Rev. Zora F. Cheatham. Burial followed at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church, 6 S. Cross Rd, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Rick’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

That’s Italian!

continued from page 11

I knew I was dead. Needless to say, after mass, Father had a long talk with me, explaining that I needed to go to bed earlier so I would be ready for church. Me, the wise ass that I was, replied that it wasn’t because of lack of sleep, it was because he was boring. I didn’t mean it in a bad way, I was just stating a fact. Father just sighed and told me to put everything away.

I walked out of the church convinced that I was a dead man. I came out of the church to see that my father and uncle were talking. I slipped into the car without a word. My father, seeing that I’m in the car, says his goodbyes, got into the car and off we go home. I was waiting to get smacked or punished, but it never came. I wasn’t even lectured. I was scared. I started thinking the worst.

The following week, my mother made me a cup of espresso before church. She set it in front of me, put a few spoonfuls of sugar and stirred it. She told me to drink it. When I told her that I couldn’t have that before church, she told me because it wasn’t food, it was OK. It would help keep me awake.

SFOGLIATELLE RICCE

Serves 4

Ingredients

PASTRY

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour (add more if needed)
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into

cubes

1 cup water (only use enough to make dough, you may not have use it all)
3/4 cup butter melted

RICOTTA FILLING

1 lb. ricotta cheese
2 tsp. milk
1/4 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup sugar
1-2 tsp. grated orange peel
1 dash ground cinnamon

Preparation

For Filling:

Combine ricotta, milk, vanilla, egg, sugar and grated orange peel. Store in refrigerator until ready to use.

For Pastry:

Sift together flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Mix in cold butter using a food processor. Gradually add enough ice water to hold ingredients together. Toss on lightly floured surface and knead for about 8 minutes or until dough is smooth. Cover and store in cool place for 30 minutes.

Divide dough into four equal parts. Roll out each piece with rolling pin on lightly floured surface, making sheets about 20 inches long. Pull and stretch dough if need while rolling to make dough tissue-thin and transparent.

Brush each sheet with melted butter and place sheets on top of one another. When four sheets are piled together,

brush top with melted butter. Let stand 5 minutes and then roll tightly as you would a jelly roll. Roll in waxed paper and set aside for 30 minutes or more in refrigerator.

With sharp knife, cut roll in half-inch slices which will resemble narrow rolls of ribbon. Place on board or platter, cover with towel and side aside in cool place for 15 minutes.

Place each slice on palm of left hand; with right thumb on center of roll, gently press through slice so that it forms a ribbed cone. Make sure that ribs do not become entirely separated or the pastries will be too elongated.

Carefully work around cone with thumb and index finger until it is well shaped. 3 inches across mouth and a ½ inch tip (resembling a closed clam V-shaped) Press tip together.

Fill each cone with 1 heaping

tablespoon of ricotta filling. Flatten cones gently between palms of hands. Place on lightly buttered parchment lined cookie sheet.

Bake at 375 degrees for about 30 minutes or until pastries are light golden color, crisp and filling is firm. Remove from oven and let cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

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



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Legal Notices

EXTENDING LOCAL ORDERS 1, 2 & 3 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 5/2023
EXTENSION TO DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDERS DECLARED BY DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Please take notice that on January 18, 2024 at 12:00 am., pursuant to Article 2B of the New York State Executive Law, Article III of the Dutchess County Charter and Administrative Code Section 3.05, Acting Dutchess County Executive William F. X. O'Neil extended Local Emergency Order #1, Local Emergency Order #2, and Local Emergency Order #3 in furtherance of Executive Order No. 5 of 2023, dated May 18, 2023. The text of the

Legal Notices

declaration of state of emergency and local emergency orders is available at www.dutchessny.gov.
PUBLIC NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: I Catherine Gill, 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 of 2024. 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 29,

Legal Notices

2024 – 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 29, 2024 without charge or interest. All taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest 2 % interest if paid on or before March 31, 2024 and 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.

Legal Notices

FURTHER NOTICE: that a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 15th, 2024. 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 2024.
Dated: January 18, 2024
Catherine Gill
Milan Tax Collector

Legal Notices

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 103A/2024
RE: AMENDING THE 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**
WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley annually establishes the paid holidays for those employed by the Town in accordance with Section 801 of the Town of Pleasant Valley Employee Handbook; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the paid holiday schedule for 2024 is as follows:
New Year's Day Monday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 15th
Presidents' Day Monday, February 19th
Good Friday Friday, March 29th
Memorial Day Monday, May 27th
Juneteenth Wednesday, June 19th
Independence Day Thursday, July 4th
Labor Day Monday, September 2th
Columbus Day Monday, October 14th
Veterans' Day Monday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 28rd
Day after Thanksgiving Friday, November 29th
Christmas Wednesday, December 25th
Floating Holiday Add On
MOTION: Councilman Rifenburgh
SECOND: Councilwoman Adams
DATED: January 8, 2024
ROLL CALL:
Councilwoman Adams **AYE** **NAY**
Councilman Degan **X**
Councilman Rifenburgh **X**
Supervisor Albrecht **X**
Carried.

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.

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National Park Service invites public comment on proposed entrance fee increase at Hyde Park national historic sites

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to increase the entrance fee at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site to support projects that benefit visitors and protect park resources.

The increased fee revenue will allow the parks to address preservation needs of the homes, which is critical to ensuring the continued enjoyment and long-term preservation of these significant sites.

Under the proposal, the current entrance fee of \$10 per individual 16 years and older would increase to \$15 person. Those 15 years old and younger would still enter for free. The proposal also includes a new yearly park specific pass for both the Home of FDR and Vanderbilt Mansion for \$45. The new

entrance fee would go into effect in May 2024 and be required year-round for entrance into the historic houses. The NPS is requesting feedback on the entrance fee increase during a 30-day public comment period that will be open through Feb. 16, 2024. Comments must be submitted online through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/hydeparkfeeincrease>.

The proposed increase would make the Home of FDR and Vanderbilt Mansion national historic sites' entrance fees consistent with historic sites, museums, and other cultural institutions in the Hudson Valley. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, operated by the National Archives, also plans to adopt this fee

increase to maintain consistent fees at the FDR sites.

This fee increase would occur in concert with an increase at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in Oyster Bay, N.Y.

The previous entrance fee increase at the Home of FDR was \$1 in 2018. The previous entrance fee increase at Vanderbilt Mansion was from \$8 to \$10 in 2013.

Both national parks in Hyde Park retain 96.5% of their entrance fee revenue which, by law, must be expended on improving, preserving, and maintaining park resources and programs that directly benefit park visitors.

Over the past five years entrance fee dollars have funded trail maintenance, the preservation of historic structures, gardens and landscapes, and the care and conservation of historic furnishings in the

homes.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The entrance fee increase would not change the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes that are valid for entry at national parks, including the Annual, Senior, Access, 4th Grade, Military Annual, and Military Lifetime passes.

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 428 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Applications open for Powerhouse Theater Training Program

The Powerhouse Theater Training Program, set June 20 - July 28, offers a unique opportunity for students to dive head first into a conservatory-like experience on the Vassar College campus. Students in this five-week immersion program receive extraordinary training and create their own season of work alongside professional theater artists who

come to campus to develop new plays and musicals. Read more about this unique program here.

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- an outstanding faculty
- an outdoor theater season plus

workshops and special projects

- masterclasses with visiting artists and professionals
- access to the professional season
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- use of Vassar's 1000-acre campus

and facilities

Applications are being accepted now through April 1.

Visit <https://app.getacceptd.com/powerhousetheater> to apply and for more information.

www.s Dutchessnews.com



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