

Yankees name
Ortiz to manage
Renegades

By Rich Thomaselli

The Hudson Valley Renegades will have a new field manager for the 2024 season.

The New York Yankees, parent club of the Renegades, have named Nick Ortiz will take over as the manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Yankees High-A affiliate.

The Renegades will be in their 30th season in the Hudson Valley in 2024. Ortiz becomes the 19th manager in team history, and fourth in four years during the Yankees era. He is joined on the field staff by Pitching Coach Spencer Medick (2nd season), Hitting Coach Rick Guarno (1st season), and Defensive Coaches Derek Woodley (2nd season) and Zak Wasserman (1st season).

"I'm very excited to be given the opportunity to manage the Hudson Valley Renegades this year, and I'm really looking forward to connecting with all our fans," Ortiz said in a statement. "We are going to present tremendous talent on the field and I hope that you could all join us in what should be a fun and exciting season."

Ortiz is returning for a second stint with the Yankees organization after spending the past four seasons as the Quality Assurance Coach for the San Francisco Giants. Before serving on Gabe Kapler's staff in San Francisco, Ortiz served a dual role for four seasons in the Yankees system, serving as an Amateur Scout covering Puerto Rico and a Minor League coach.

He has previously served as a minor league baseball manager.

In addition to his Major and Minor League coaching experience, Ortiz has coached and managed in the prestigious Puerto Rican Winter

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



During the month of February, the Town of Hyde Park Historical Society will display an exhibition of artifacts, such as the clay pipe pictured above, from the New Guinea Community, a population of formerly enslaved Blacks who lived around the Crum Elbow Creek before the Civil War. The artifacts were uncovered during an archaeological investigation in the early 2000s. *Courtesy photo*

By Kate Goldsmith

As Black History Month gets under way this week, a spotlight will shine on the New Guinea Community, a small population of formerly enslaved Blacks in Hyde Park, pre-Civil War, who took great risks to attain freedom. The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee (HPVEC), the Town of Hyde Park Historical Society (HPHS), the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) and others have partnered to bring a collection of New Guinea artifacts to the Town of Hyde Park Historical Society Museum, on display every Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A reception will be held this Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Museum, located at 4389 Albany Post Road (Route 9) in Hyde Park. According to HPVEC Board Member Walter Ring, a brochure about the exhibit will be available, and members of the committee and HPHS will be

on hand to assist visitors every Saturday in February.

In the early 2000s, an archaeological excavation was done at the Hackett Hill site, uncovering a variety of items including clay pipes, pottery and sheep teeth.

"One of the things I think is important is that these artifacts are commonplace things, from a very different population from those who resided in the mansions," said Ring, who noted that a lot of local people might not be aware of this chapter of local history. "These stories are a diamond in the rough," about people who survived difficult conditions that included epidemics of yellow fever and other diseases. At one point, yellow fever was so endemic in the area that it was called "Hyde Park Fever," according to DCHS.

The New Guinea Community comprised 120-150 people (mostly African-American) across two generations, settling along the Crum Elbow Creek in the area that is now Hackett Hill Park. Some

individuals were more successful than others; all endured hardship and struggle. Communities like these helped create profound political and social change, pushing back attempts at dispossession to create a propertied, economically successful class.

In 2018, the community was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the America's historic places worthy of preservation.

The name of the community referenced the African country of New Guinea; apparently it was a common name at the time, given by white landowners when identifying areas where former slaves lived. Members of Hyde Park's New Guinea Community came from many different places, including Brazil and the South, as well as some who were born in the area.

There are many interesting stories about the residents. One of the most

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Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department
to create new Community Policing Unit

Congressman Pat Ryan has announced that he secured \$375,000 for the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department to create a new Community Policing Unit dedicated to community outreach, addressing chronic crime issues like larceny, and remediating quality of life issues within the community. Three new officers will be hired and dedicated solely to the new unit, which will also build the capacity of the Department's current 83 officers for emergency response and crime prevention.

"Our local law enforcement officers work tirelessly to keep our communities safe, and I'm pushing every day to get

them the support they need. The new Community Policing Unit will bolster the department's ability to address chronic crime, increase community outreach, and significantly strengthen public safety in Poughkeepsie," said Ryan. "Too often, our smaller police departments don't get the resources they need – so we are fixing that here today. And I'll keep fighting to deliver for law enforcement across the Hudson Valley."

The new Community Policing Unit will allow three new officers to respond directly to community needs and quality of life concerns, conduct comprehensive

community outreach, address chronic crimes issues such as larceny, implement evidence based community policing methods, and focus enforcement on the Town's Main Street corridor. The hiring of the three new officers will also build the capacity of the Department's current 83 officers for emergency response and crime prevention.

"This is going to be a tremendous impact for the entire Town of Poughkeepsie community to have these dedicated officers to concentrate on finding solutions to recurrent problems

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Hudson Valley Hospice
Pleasant Valley Department Store

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Sabellico Farm
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INSIDE:
Adams Fairacre Farms

Legislator Valdés Smith announces run for NYS Senate District 39

Dutchess County Legislature Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith announced her candidacy on Jan. 27 for New York State Senate District 39 to represent parts of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties in the State Legislature.

The seat is currently held by Republican Rob Rolison.

As a former local public school teacher, longstanding union member and Latina, Valdés Smith said she is running to bring the urgently needed representation and crucial resources that SD-39 has been lacking under current leadership. She enters this race already with the endorsements and support of elected officials from all levels of government, party leaders, and labor, including Local CWA 1120, Congressman Pat Ryan, all 3 County Democratic Committees, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, former Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois, and countless others.

Valdés Smith said, “As a county legislator, I know firsthand what real issues look like on the ground. I know what it means when school funding doesn’t get delivered, affordability measures aren’t promoted, and environmental protections aren’t defended. I’ve seen how families are struggling to make ends meet, and I’ve worked hard to uphold the best interests of those that I represent in Dutchess County.

“Now, I am running for Senate District 39 to elevate that fight to Albany, and bring home the bigger results that our

region deserves. We cannot afford two more years of attacks on our education funding, reproductive rights, labor protections, and climate goals. As your next State Senator, I will be a guaranteed advocate for the Hudson Valley, and everyone who calls this place home.”

Congressman Pat Ryan said, “I proudly endorse my friend Yvette Valdés Smith to serve our community in the NYS Senate. I’ve worked closely with Yvette to deliver critical relief to the residents of Dutchess County, and look forward to continuing to partner with her — as our next State Senator — to protect our environment and fight to preserve fundamental freedoms for all residents of the Hudson Valley.”

Rob Pinto, Business Agent of CWA Local 1120 said, “2023 was the year of the strike. Unions stood tall. UAW, SEIU, CWA and NYSUT and NYSNA all fought and won great victories at the Bargaining table. All those victories started on picket lines across the state. The working class looked to their political leaders for support. And we found a champion in Yvette Valdés Smith. Yvette led the way to support workers. The outreach of support by vocally and publicly supporting the workers of the community truly helped move the scales in favor of the middle class. Albany needs a voice that speaks for the hard working people of the SD 39.”

Former Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois said “I am proud to endorse

Yvette Valdés Smith for NYS Senate District 39. Yvette’s dedicated leadership as the current Democrat Minority Leader of the Dutchess County Legislature reflects her unwavering commitment to public service and her community. As a legislator, a teacher, and a mom she has the perfect perspective and skills to continue her tireless advocacy for us in Albany and deliver the resources we need to make our community even greater. Yvette’s commitment, integrity, and compassion will continue to guide her to always do what’s right over what’s easy. I look forward to Yvette being my NYS Senator.”

Michael Dupree, Dutchess County Democratic Committee Chair said “Yvette Valdés Smith excels in service leadership. Yvette identifies needs within her community, conveys that upward while also conferring with stakeholders to create solutions. She is both dynamic and caring and above all fearless. The residents of every county in the 39th will have a terrific advocate in the majority by electing Yvette Valdés Smith.”

Zak Constantine, Orange County Democratic Committee Chair said “Yvette Valdés Smith is exactly what District 39 needs – a leader who understands our priorities and is ready to act. Her relentless focus on critical issues like housing affordability, environmental protections, and preventing gun violence resonates deeply with Orange County voters. Yvette’s proven track record in the Dutchess County Legislature, combined



Yvette Valdés Smith

with her collaborative work with Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, positions her to hit the ground running and ensure the needs of Orange County families are better addressed.”

Putnam County Democratic Committee Chair Jennifer Colamonico said, “Yvette Valdés Smith has done the hard work to run, win, represent all her voters, and be a leading Democratic voice in Dutchess. We look forward to introducing Yvette to Putnam and putting her energy and commitment to work for the people of our county.”

CORRECTION: The meeting to update the public on the project to restore the Hoyt Carriageway Bridge is set for 7 p.m. at the Staatsburg Library on Feb. 8. Our article in the Jan. 24 editions said the meeting would start at 7:30 p.m.

Yankees name Ortiz to manage Renegades

continued from cover

League for the Gigantes de Carolina and the Cangrejeros de Santurce, a league in which he played in for 16 seasons and was a six-time All-Star.

Ortiz comes to the Hudson Valley with a connection to the Renegades, having served on the Giants staff for four

years with former Renegades manager Craig Albernaz, who guided the Gades to the 2017 New York-Penn League Championship.

Hudson Valley now plays in the South Atlantic League.

DC Sheriff’s Office: Alleged homicide fugitive from Mississippi arrested in Pleasant Valley

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office announced the arrest of Stephanie M. Vance, 26, of Philadelphia, Mississippi on a homicide warrant from the State of Mississippi.

On the Jan. 11th the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office was contacted by authorities in Mississippi, who advised that Vance was wanted on a homicide warrant in their jurisdiction and was possibly in the Dutchess County area, according to the Sheriff’s Office. Through further investigation by the Sheriff’s Office’s Detective Bureau, Patrol Bureau, and Domestic Violence Unit, Vance was then located in the Town of Pleasant Valley and taken into custody without incident.

According to the Sheriff’s Office, at this time Vance has been charged in Dutchess County as a fugitive from justice, and after being processed she was arraigned before the Town of Hyde Park Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail pending extradition proceedings.

Questions about the homicide charge itself and/or the details of that case should be directed to the Neshoba County Sheriff’s Office in Mississippi at 601-656-1414.

As with any criminal case, the charge described above is merely an accusation and Vance is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Town of Poughkeepsie PD to create new Community Policing Unit

continued from cover

within the town and building better relationships with the community,” said Town of Poughkeepsie Police Chief Joseph Cavaliere. “This funding will create additional positions in our department, boost our ability to thoroughly respond to community needs, concentrate enforcement on areas that have increased crime, and help us really connect with community members. I’m looking forward to continuing to work with Congressman Ryan to deliver for our officers and to the residents and visitors of the Town of Poughkeepsie.”

“This funding is evidence of Congressman Ryan’s strong commitment to public safety, and will go a long way

towards helping law enforcement deal with the many issues facing our communities today,” said Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati. “I would like to take this time to thank Congressman Ryan not only for this, but for all of his efforts in support of law enforcement and community safety.”

“These federal funds will help our officers and our community focus on crime prevention—one of the most effective ways we can keep residents safe,” said Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards. “I’m so grateful to Congressman Ryan for these funds, and to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department for this important initiative.”



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GENERAC

Hyde Park Chamber holds annual Installation Dinner



The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce held its annual Installation of the Board of Directors at Coppola's Restaurant and Bistro on Thursday, Jan. 25. From left are President Dot Chenevert, Patty Moore, Felicia Kirschner-Meyer, Phyllis Delarm Dora L. Visbeck, Catherine Lane, Troy Adams, Dan Bush, Stu Davis, Ron Haase, Russell A. Haight Jr., Ron M. Lane and Bob Delarm. Visit the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce website at hydeparkchamber.online for information on events or to join the Chamber. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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

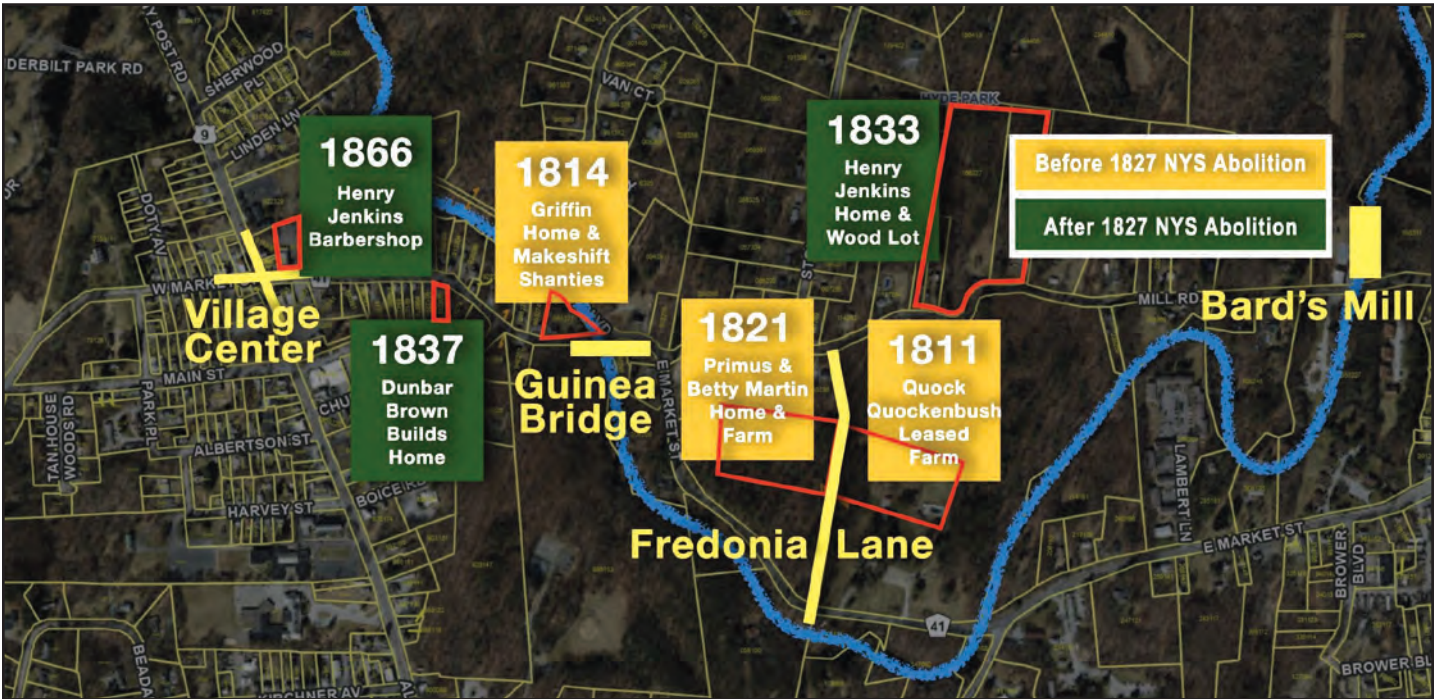
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noteworthy is that of Richard Jenkins, born in 1783 as a slave in the household of Dr. John Bard (owner of what is now the Vanderbilt property). Richard served as the Sexton at St. James' Episcopal Church in Hyde Park for 35 years, until his death in 1857. He is buried in the regular section of St. James' cemetery. His wife, Nancy, was also employed at the church as a laundress.

DCHS Executive Director Bill Jeffway, in a video presentation about the New Guinea Community, noted that local freed Blacks usually were affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion churches in Poughkeepsie and Southern Dutchess. Participation in St. James' community placed Richard and Nancy Jenkins (as well as other prominent Blacks) "sitting among the most prominent members of society," said Jeffway – albeit in a separate section of the church.

To learn more about Hyde Park's New Guinea Community before viewing the exhibit, visit <https://dchsn.org/new-guinea-importance/> and watch Jeffway's video presentation.

Contact hpvecboard@gmail.com for more information.



This property map details some of the important landmarks of the New Guinea Community in Hyde Park before and after 1827, the year abolition was enacted in New York State. Image courtesy of Dutchess County Historical Society

Corrections officers assaulted during alleged escape attempt

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Julia E. Marcinak, age 28 of Highland Falls NY, in connection with a recent investigation by both the Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions. Marcinak was incarcerated at the Dutchess County Jail at the time of both the incident and the arrest.

At this time Marcinak is accused of assaulting two Corrections Officers while attempting to escape from custody at

Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital on Dec. 7, 2023. She has been charged with assault second degree, attempted assault second degree, and attempted escape first degree (all felonies). Both Corrections Officers were treated for minor injuries as a result of the incident.

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



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

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AFD taxpayers burdened by budget increases
To the editor:
The Arlington Fire District (AFD), in the Town of Poughkeepsie, has blown both their total budget and overtime budget for the fourth year in a row according to their 2023 preliminary financial report.
These budget overruns are now a well-established pattern of an apparent financial management failure and lies squarely at the feet of the commissioners and the chief. The commissioners obviously appear to be failing their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers.
AFD commissioners adopted a 13.4 percent tax increase for 2024 that is reflected in tax bills being sent to AFD taxpayers, in January, from the town. Taxpayers attended the budget hearing in October to voice concerns about the tax increases, but the commissioners thumbed their noses at taxpayers just one week later adopting the double-digit tax hike with no hesitation.
The overtime budget increased by 61 percent, over a million dollars, since the Arlington Professional Firefighters labor contract was modified and extended in 2020. The commissioners were taken to the cleaners on the contract extension which added many more officer positions and costs. AFD taxpayers got saddled with the financial burden of the lopsided agreement.
Meanwhile there has been a 30.4 percent tax increase since the contract was extended. The contract and excessive overtime have led to some AFD firefighters earning over \$200,000 in 2022. Earnings for 2023 remain to be seen. The increases in earnings can lead to higher pensions that will further burden AFD taxpayers.
AFD appears to be headed for a fiscal cliff. What further, unnecessary, tax burden will be placed on the AFD taxpayers because of apparent financial and contract mismanagement? Blowing budgets four years in a row is clearly evidence of a dereliction of responsibility.
Jim Beretta
Poughkeepsie

Bellefield residence traffic - a scary proposition
To the editor:
The rosy description of the new Inn at Bellefield in Hyde Park was initially amusing. I can't wait to see what kind of "snacks" are sold in "Eleanor's Market"--did Mrs. Roosevelt prefer pretzels or potato chips?
But at the end of the article, my amusement disappeared. There are still to come two theatres, a second hotel (why?), and 801 residences at the site. Yes, 801 is the correct number.
Let's ignore the traffic to be generated by the new theatres and two new hotels, and just consider those residences: If one assumes two cars per household, this means the residences alone will dump 1,600 more cars onto Route 9. How could a development of this scale ever have been approved in Hyde Park?
Watch out, Staatsburg - it's all creeping northward.
Jon Lawson
Rhinebeck

Choose Zero Waste over garbage incineration
To the editor:
Former Dutchess County Executive William O'Neil, now advisor to County Executive Sue Serino, is seeking a low-cost exit strategy from the current solid waste management system in the count, which is based on burning 450 tons of garbage a day at the Poughkeepsie incinerator. (Mid Hudson News, Dec. 27)
The incinerator is costly to run and the pollution from the operation reduces the lifespan of residents and drives up health care costs, based on recent research on the incinerator in Baltimore.
There is a readily available solution. Invest in Zero Waste policies, programs and enterprises. The US EPA has outlined 150 local ways to do this, including unit pricing for garbage collection, distributed composting, reuse/repair centers and COVID-level public awareness and in-school education. (Managing and Transforming the Waste Stream, US EPA, prepared by Zero Waste USA)
The County would need to invest in

these and related strategies to both reduce the waste stream and monetize the recovered materials. The federal government will pick up the bill for these investments - a no-cost investment for the County. Zero Waste will yield new small businesses, 300 new good jobs and an expanded tax base within a few years.
To accomplish this, the County will have to develop a new Solid Waste Management Waste Management plan. The current Plan calls for renovation of the existing incinerator and possibly building a new one with an initial cost of \$450 million based on the industry average of \$1,000 per daily ton capacity. The County's residents and businesses will pay \$1 billion for the new plant when bonds are paid off over 20 years.
Judy Malstrom, Chair of Zero Waste Dutchess County, and Sandra Stratton-Gonzalez and Johanna Fallert, coordinating members of Mothers Out Front-Dutchess County, say that the County can't afford incineration and can't afford to miss the opportunity to avoid the financial and public health risks for the next generation of Dutchess County residents. These organizations are working together on a public awareness campaign focused on the County's schools, civic and business associations and elected officials to convince them of the promise of Zero Waste and the pitfalls of continued reliance on incineration. They want Dutchess County to emulate developments in nearby Ulster County's investment in composting and reuse enterprises, and Westchester County's decision to spend \$90,000 on a study on how to transition away from the Westchester garbage incinerator in Peekskill, NY.
Let's hope these grassroots groups succeed in convincing residents and officials to choose Zero Waste over garbage incineration.
Neil Seldman
Director of the Recycling Cornucopia Program
at Zero Waste USA, a national non-profit research, policy and technical assistance organization

Failing to support Ukraine now will make the world a much more dangerous and expensive place
To The editor:
For everyone who has taken any action in support of Ukraine – whether flying a flag, lawn sign, attending an event, making a donation – and especially for those who have made significant efforts of time or money organizing drives for winter clothing, emergency equipment, fundraisers - these are difficult times.
Never has something so urgent and clear as the benefits we Americans reap from Ukraine's victory and supporting her through it been held hostage by one of our political parties in Washington. For months, we have been told that without a deal on controlling immigration on our southern border, there can be no funding for either Ukraine or Israel.
This week, such a deal has been reached supported by the Senators of both parties, The White House, and the Democrats in the House - only to have the House Republican Leadership declare it dead on arrival there.
We in the Hudson Valley have elected a bi-partisan delegation to the house. Many of your readers know Marc Molinaro. Some will know Mike Lawler or Pat Ryan. We urge you to call and write to them and ask them to support the deal which strengthens these pillars of our security: Support for Ukraine, Israel, and securing the southern border as it is essential we staunch the undocumented and illegal flow across it.
The facts are clear and bleak: Without US ammunition and weapons, Putin will win. Russia's victory in Ukraine will lead to larger conflicts with NATO states - putting our troops in harm's way. Russian victory will embolden China, destabilizing the Pacific rim and putting our allies Taiwan, Japan and South Korea in danger.
In other words, failing to support Ukraine now will make the world a much more dangerous and expensive place. So please call or write your representatives and ask them to do the right things for our security today. The efforts of our Dutchess community have already made a difference in the lives of Ukrainians. By ensuring the flow of weapons and ammunition, we can - and must - still do more.
Mark Lagus and Leevi Ernits
Bangall

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- 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.

Inaugural Eleanor Roosevelt Banned Book Awards Ceremony set Feb. 17

As more books are being banned than ever before in U.S. history, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center and the Fisher Center at Bard will present the inaugural Eleanor Roosevelt Banned Book Awards ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sosnoff Theater at the Fisher Center. The ceremony will launch the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Bravery in Literature, whose first-ever winners will be celebrated for championing intellectual freedom and the fight against censorship.

Each author receiving the honor—seven in total for the inaugural award—has created a vital work of literature that has experienced challenges and been banned by local municipalities, governments, or school boards. The awards for 2024 are given to authors whose works focus on racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender equality. Awardees include Laurie Halse Anderson for "SHOUT," Mike Curato for "Flamer," Alex Gino for "Melissa" (previously published as

George), George M. Johnson for "All Boys Aren't Blue," Jelani Memory for "A Kids Book About Racism," and Maia Kobabe for "Gender Queer." (Maia Kobabe will receive the award virtually.)

The Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Bravery in Literature follows on from three decades of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center honoring individuals who embrace her call to build a better world through humanitarian efforts in education, advocacy, social justice, and civil and human rights. Eleanor Roosevelt was a prolific writer, authoring hundreds of articles and essays and 28 books in her lifetime. She was passionate about supporting the role of libraries and the importance of access to information as an essential element of democracy. She tirelessly championed the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become the foundation of international human rights law. The rights in Article 19 on intellectual freedom are

at the very heart of this award.

The Fisher Center at Bard has a long history of developing and supporting performance and cultural events at the intersection of the arts and social justice, producing innovative programming in the Hudson Valley, and supporting artists at critical career junctures. For Bard, this partnership builds on a multi-pronged approach to addressing the erosion of free expression across the globe and uplifting those who combat these disturbing trends.

Along with the recipients, legendary author Judy Blume will receive the first Eleanor Roosevelt Lifetime Achievement Award for Bravery In Literature, and will join for a virtual conversation. At the ceremony, the authors will be joined on stage by leaders in the field—Emily Drabinski, President of the American Library Association, and Matt Nosanchuck, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, often referred to as the Biden Administration's Banned Book Czar—providing insights from the front lines of the fight against banning books.

Numerous national and local Hudson Valley organizations are collaborating to present the Awards with the Eleanor

Roosevelt Center and the Fisher Center, including, National Coalition Against Censorship, Freedom To Read Foundation, Penguin Random House, Mid-Hudson Library System, Oblong Books and The Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center. Additionally, Bard College's Center for Civic Engagement, Center for Ethics and Writing, Community Arts Collective, Community Partner Gender Equity Initiative, and Office of the Dean of Inclusive Excellence, as well as the Stevenson Library, are joining in the collaboration.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$65 and are \$5 for students with a valid ID. Tickets can be purchased at <https://fishercenter.bard.edu/events/banned-book-awards-24/>.

Copies of all featured titles will be available for purchase in the lobby courtesy of Oblong Books.

All proceeds will support the Eleanor Roosevelt Center's future programming including the 2025 Award for Bravery in Literature.

The Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College is on Manor Avenue in Annandale-on-Hudson.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Seed Swap & Sow at Morton Library Feb. 3
Dirty Gaia and Morton Seed Library will hold a Winter Seed Swap & Sow on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Call (845) 875-2903 for more information.

Travel Club sets Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner
The Travel Club of Stissing Mountain Junior - Senior High School in Pine Plains will serve a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, February 3, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take-out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include Spaghetti, Meatballs, Side Salad, Italian Bread, and Dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Total proceeds will benefit the Travel Club's trip to Iceland during Spring Break 2024. For reservations, contact James Wiley, Travel Club Co-Advisor, at (518) 398-7181 Ext. 1204 or Stanford Grange Secretary and Travel Club Co-Advisor Ryan Orton at (518) 398-7181 Ext. 1144 or (845) 868-7869.

Climate Action Conversation set Feb. 6 in Rhinecliff
Morton Memorial Library will host a discussion about Food Forests on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. Jared Williams and Stefanie Geisel from Future Fruits LLC will discuss how Food Forests can help make communities like Rhinecliff more resilient in the face of increasing heat, food insecurity and climate change.

In case of inclement weather, the talk will meet on Zoom. For more information, contact Nick Sussillo at nick52rc@gmail.com.

Stanford Grange sets tag sale
Stanford Grange #808 will host an Indoor Tag Sale on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Proceeds will benefit the Grange's continual community service projects and maintenance for the Grange Hall. No donations of items for the sale, please - we don't have room to store them. Please call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869 for more information.

Rhinebeck Grange holds Wintertime Soup Sales
Rhinebeck Grange #896 is holding its monthly Soup Sales on the third Thursday of the month, through March. Upcoming dates are Feb. 15 and March 21. Homemade soups sold for \$10 per quart, take-out only, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pickup is at the side door of the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell and Orchard, in Rhinecliff. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to receive the soup choices for each sale and to order in advance online.

Free rabies clinic set Feb. 24
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.

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 our website at <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call 845-229-6432.

Join Us At A
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The Garrison
& Southern Dutchess News

When: Sunday, March 10, 2024

Time: Noon – 3pm

Where: The Garrison
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Enjoy an afternoon of meeting local wedding professionals who can make all your Wedding Day Dreams come true. We will have plenty of prizes to give away with a Grand Prize Drawing at 2:30pm.
Tell your friends, relatives and co-workers!

AHA's 'Go Red for Women' saves and changes lives

Women are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our spouses, and our friends. They give and give and give - often at the expense of their own health.

And, therein lies a problem.

However, we are aware of solutions. The more a woman knows about heart disease, the better chance she has of beating it. Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year - more than all cancers combined.

"Go Red for Women" - the American Heart Association inspires more women to make lifestyle changes, mobilize communities and shape policies to save lives. United, we are working to improve the health of all women. We know that with your help, we can reach more women and help them live longer, healthier lives.

Our mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

Woman of Impact - Each year a select group of individuals from communities across the country are nominated to be a part of this nine-week blind competition because of their passion and drive to make a difference. Together, they are educating more women about the risk factors and warning signs of heart disease and stroke, building a culture of health in their communities, and raising critical funds to support the mission of the American Heart Association. Nominees will bring together their network to form an impact team, set a goal, explore fundraising resources, and make an impact on their community. At the end of the campaign, the nominee that makes greatest impact and raises the most funds locally will be named the local Woman of Impact winner. Additionally, the nominee who raises the most funds nationwide will be named the American Heart Association 2024 National Woman of Impact Winner.



Local "Go Red" team members include, from left, Catherine A. Lane, Dennis Conn, Kelly Maroney, Melissa Morrison, Kayla Bengough, Dora L. Visbeck, Kristen Pietras, Nadine Snipe, Andrew Fauci, Harley Wimberley and Abby Paul. Seated in the middle are Casey Simons and Lynne Versaci. Seated in front are Geraldine Saso, MaryRose Warcholak, Michele Rizzi and Amanda Sullivan. Not pictured: Regina Jacobson, Sienna Cody, Dave Stewart and Connie Harkin. *Courtesy photo*

Meet the Hudson Valley Team led by "Woman of Impact" nominee Dora Visbeck.

Visbeck, like many others, has lost family, friends, and coworkers to heart disease way too soon. In fact, heart disease runs in her family and is genetic. She feels blessed to have received education through her experiences with the Go Red Executive Leadership Team, hearing the inspiring stories of survivors, and seeing the impact of the Go Red Movement.

Visbeck says, "If I can use this platform to make a difference for other women, then I will have fulfilled my mission."

Heart disease touches everyone, it does not discriminate. "With over 60 million women in the United States living with some form of heart disease it is my goal to educate women to recognize the signs, symptoms, and risk factors to help protect their health," Visbeck explains. "It is a fact that just 1 of 5 women recognize that heart disease is their number 1 killer.

My impact team make-up includes survivors who are ready to share their experiences. It is my honor to accept this nomination and lead my impact team for this campaign."

Every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life. As champions for health equity, by 2024, the American Heart Association will advance cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality.

Central Hudson announces year's first two Customer Open Houses in Kingston, Newburgh

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. will hold its first two customer open houses of 2024 in its Kingston District Office on February 15 and in its Newburgh District Office on March 6. Central Hudson began hosting open house events in 2022 to provide customers the opportunity to meet with representatives to address concerns in a face-to-face setting.

Central Hudson's open house will be by appointment only and customers will be provided a time slot to meet with a customer service representative who will walk each customer through their account in a one-on-one setting to address any

questions or concerns.

"Rebuilding trust in our communities will take time and it will happen one customer at a time," Central Hudson Senior Vice President of Customer Services Anthony Campagiorni said. "We believe that these in-person events, along with our transition to monthly meter reading, which is already underway, are vital to rebuilding that trust."

Since December 2022, Central Hudson has worked to increase its overall accessibility to the communities it serves by inviting more than 100,000 customers to 10 different open house-style events throughout the service area, including

two previous events in Kingston and Newburgh. The Utility has also partnered with several state and local elected officials to assist hundreds of concerned customers at events held in Dutchess, Greene, Orange and Ulster counties.

"Based on the feedback received from customers and elected officials like Congressman Pat Ryan and State Senator Michelle Hinchey, some customers may not be fully satisfied and still have lingering concerns regarding their accounts," Campagiorni added. "We will be conducting direct outreach to these customers to ensure they have priority in meeting with us at these open houses so we can ensure proper resolution."

The Kingston open house will be held at Central Hudson's district office located at 2001 Ulster Ave. in Lake Katrine from 5 - 7 p.m. Customers will be contacted via email with an invitation to set up an

appointment. Newburgh's open house will be held at Central Hudson's Newburgh office, located at 610 Little Brittan Rd. in New Windsor, also from 5 - 7 p.m.

Central Hudson will continue to host additional by appointment only open houses and other informational events throughout its service area in 2024. Announcements of future events for all customers will be made in the coming weeks and months.

Central Hudson offers assistance and payment programs to help customers manage their accounts. Visit <https://www.cenhud.com/en/account-resources/assistance-programs/>. Customers looking to learn more about Central Hudson's transition to monthly meter reading can visit <https://www.cenhud.com/en/account-resources/monthly-meter-reading/>.



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‘Rosie and Rascal wedding’ tops Renegades theme nights

By Rich Thomaselli

A baseball-themed wedding is just one of the promotions this summer for the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Renegades mascots Rosie and Rascal will tie the knot at Heritage Financial Park.

“We are so thrilled that Rascal and Rosie are taking a walk down the aisle at Heritage Financial Park this season,” said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. “Having witnessed their flirtation and the beginning of their relationship at the ballpark throughout the 2023 season, we are so glad that they have chosen to host their ceremony at the place that has meant so much to their relationship.”

This is the team’s 30th anniversary season at the ballpark on Route 9D.

In addition to the wedding, the Renegades’ 66-game home schedule features another slate of promotional nights, with a unique theme at every home game. The Renegades have a team-record 22 giveaways and several special appearances planned for the season. Previously announced, the team will give away a special 30th anniversary-themed item

during every Saturday home game. Additionally, 2024 sees the return of T-Shirt Tuesday presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union with a unique t-shirt handed out to the first 1,000 fans each Tuesday home game, and WeCare Wednesday presented by Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth).

The Renegades have 15 fireworks shows planned for the 2024 season. Fireworks shows will be hosted after every Friday home game, on select Saturdays (June 29 and July 6), along with two MEGA Fireworks Shows on July 4 and July 5 to celebrate Independence Day.

“Our 30th anniversary season is going to be a celebration of Renegades baseball and our mission to make magical memories which become life-long memories for our entire community,” said Betkowski. “We are looking forward to continuing to provide affordable family entertainment to the Hudson Valley with our unique theme nights and experiences.”

A full listing and theme nights for the 2024 season can be found at the Renegades website.

Marist men grab key win over rivals from Siena

By Rich Thomaselli

Traditionally, the Marist College men’s basketball team has had trouble with its’ rivals from Siena College.

For some reason, the Red Foxes seem to stall against the Saints.

That - and the fact that this was a critical early-season Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference game made it seem like it had a playoff atmosphere.

Marist didn’t disappoint.

The Foxes eeked out a 50-48 home win to keep their record above .500.

Marist was 9-7 overall and 4-3 in

MAAC play, good for fifth place and staying right in the thick of a playoff berth.

Not only was it a good win, it showed the resilient side of Marist. The Saints bolted to an early lead by hitting eight of their first 10 shots. Sienna held a 16-point lead at one point early in the first half.

Marist’s Matt McCool capped the comeback by scoring his only points of the game on a shot with less than five seconds to play to win it. The Foxes won despite shooting 2-for-16 from 3-point range. But Siena committed 20 turnovers to balance that out.

Poughkeepsie Day School announces launch of HS Navigator Institute

By Rich Thomaselli

There’s going to be a new high school in Dutchess County.

Or, at least a revamp of an existing one.

Following the news in June that Poughkeepsie Day School (PDS) is continuing on its Boardman Road site, the school has announced the launch of its new high school program, the Navigator Institute.

The Navigator Institute will maintain the rigorous program of study that has long been a hallmark of the PDS high school experience, but with a renewed focus on three central tenets: service, engagement, and self-efficacy.

Faculty are developing curricula to support these tenets alongside trademarks of Poughkeepsie Day School, like the weekly day-long central study, where students specialize in an intensive study. The school will continue the tradition of being one of the Northeast’s only gradeless high schools, where students receive

quarterly narrative reports instead of graded report cards.

“Today, more than ever, colleges are looking beyond basic number or letter scores in their acceptance decisions. Because narrative reports provide more contextualized, detailed, and credible information about student performance, they often receive extra attention from college admissions offices,” said Tammy Reilly, Director of Admissions.

Established in 1934 by Vassar College faculty, PDS launched its high school in 1970. Since reopening in 2021, PDS has maintained a small high school, primarily consisting of former students who returned to complete their pre-college careers at the school.

With the launch of the Navigator Institute, PDS enters a new chapter. Head of School Spiro Gouras said, “Our intent is to remain close to our long-term mission of graduating students that will make the world a better place while being responsive to each individual student’s educational needs.”

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – Rebecca Rugar of Clinton Corners was named to the dean’s list at Slippery Rock University for the fall 2023 semester. The dean’s list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

SUMTER, SC – Brian Baccomo of Rhinebeck was named to the Central Carolina Technical College’s Fall 2023 President’s List for Part-time Students. Baccomo was among more than 255 students named to the Fall 2023 President’s list. The Part-Time President’s List recognizes students who were enrolled in 6-11 credit hours and achieved a 4.0 grade-point average for the term.

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Siena College names students to the President’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. Local students include Isabella Ferragine of Staatsburg and Samantha Riley of Red Hook. The President’s List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Siena College names students to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. Local students include Ashley Bavis of Millbrook, Jillian Burns of Clinton Corners, Shannon Christensen of Red Hook, Natalie Colaizzo of Hyde Park, Riley Constable of Hyde Park, Grace Foster of Rhinebeck, Gloria Graff of Red Hook, Jacee Leight of Salt Point, Jade O’Connell of Staatsburg, Mairead O’Donnell of Pleasant Valley, Jonah O’Hearn of Pleasant Valley, Brooke Pociask of Rhinebeck.

SCRANTON, PA – Jeremy P. Dickinson of Hyde Park was among more than 1,600 students named to The University of Scranton’s Dean’s List for the 2023 fall semester. Dickinson is a senior nursing major in the University’s Panuska College of Professional Studies.

A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean’s List. The list includes students from the Jesuit university’s College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and Panuska College of Professional Studies.

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Connor Cavey of Pine Plains was named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Cedarville University. Students receive this recognition for obtaining a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours.

TROY, NY – More than 1,400 students were named to the Fall 2023 President’s List at Hudson Valley Community College. Local students named to the list include:

Zinnia Cintron of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Health Information Management and Technology academic program.

Kaitlyn Cope of Millerton, who is studying in the Health Sciences academic program.

Amber Greer of Salt Point, who is studying in the Dental Assisting academic program.

Eoghan Haughey of Staatsburg, who is studying in the Non-matriculated academic program.

Alexander Hedhili of Wassaic, who is studying in the Exercise Science academic program.

Sydni Koster of Rhinebeck, who is studying in the Respiratory Care academic program.

Megan Meccariello of Pine Plains, who is studying in the Accounting academic program.

Ryan Romani of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Heating / Air Conditioning / Refrigeration Technical Service academic program.

Michael Smith of Pleasant Valley, who is studying in the Business Administration academic program.

Benjamin Winstral of Red Hook, who is studying in the Heating / Air Conditioning / Refrigeration Technical Service academic program.

Each fall and spring term, the college’s President’s List names those full-time students and part-time students registered for at least six college credits who have a term average of between 3.5 and 4.0 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.

NEWTON, MA – Chloe Milholm, a Lasell University student from Lagrangeville, 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.

ONEONTA, NY – A total of 312 SUNY Oneonta students earned Provost’s List honors for the fall 2023 semester. Local students include Madison Knapp of Red Hook and Edward Sablinski of Pleasant Valley.

To qualify for the Provost’s List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

SYRACUSE, NY – Le Moyne College has named local students to its Fall 2023 Dean’s List. Local students include Fiona Hickey, a Senior Nursing major from Poughkeepsie, and Kennen Smith, a Senior Marketing major from Poughquag.

To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

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Anderson Center for Autism kicks off centennial celebration

Executives and members of Anderson Center for Autism's team, along with members of the Boards of Trustees from Anderson Center and Anderson Foundation for Autism, gathered on Thursday, Jan. 25 with a room full of volunteers, donors, and family members to kick off the organization's Centennial Celebration.

Held at The Spruces, Anderson's state-of-the-art Business Center, the event included a program and the unveiling of Anderson's 100th year logo. Also announced was the official theme for the Centennial Campaign: "A Legacy of Compassion, a Century of Impact," a tagline developed by Anderson Center for Autism dietician Taylor Reynolds.

Founded in 1924, Anderson Center for Autism provides educational, vocational, residential, and clinical services to autistic individuals.

Patrick Paul, CEO and Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, said, "This is an extraordinarily exciting moment in Anderson's history. It is such an honor to celebrate our very rich history, how far we've come over the past 100 years, and what we envision for the next century. Since 1924, Anderson's main

focus has been on enriching the lives of people with special needs. That is still at the heart of everything we do - but today, we are part of a movement that is so much bigger than the programs we deliver every day on campus. Now our services are impacting the lives of people throughout the region, our country, and all over the world."

The Centennial will be celebrated throughout the year with both new and annual events, as well as the launch of a capital campaign. Anderson's gala, scheduled for September 28th, 2024, will honor Vance Gage, grandson of Anderson's founder (Dr. V.V. Anderson). Gage, who now lives in the Washington, DC area, grew up on Anderson's campus and has since volunteered as a trustee for the organization.

Noted Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer, Anderson Foundation for Autism: "We are so excited to honor Vance Gage; not only is he a direct descendant of Anderson's visionary founder, but he has generously shared so much of his own time and talent to carry on his grandfather's legacy. We hope that the entire community, along with families, donors, and trustees - past

and present - will come to the gala and join us in applauding Vance's unwavering commitment to our cause."

"It is an honor to remain actively involved as a volunteer - which is one way I can help carry on my grandfather's legacy. The gala will be a wonderful celebration of all that has been accomplished over the past century, and all the good work that will be done as the years go on," said Vance Gage.

Bozenski continued, "In addition to the gala, our other events and the capital campaign will also support our fundraising goals, setting the stage for another century of impact. With 1 in 36 now diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, it is clear that Anderson Center for Autism plays a vital role in society - not just from a programmatic standpoint, but also in terms of cultivating a culture of inclusivity and accessibility for all. Our work is critically important on many levels."

In addition to the full-time residences and school at its Staatsburg campus, Anderson also runs Cold Spring Early Learning Center (in Pine Plains), Anderson Early Learning Academy and The Anderson Center Clinic (based in Latham), Anderson Center International

(a training program for scholars from all corners of the globe who spend 12-18 months gaining the skills needed to develop programs upon return to their home countries), and Anderson Center Consulting and Training (which educates families/caregivers, educators, businesses, community groups, and others on how to best support the needs of neurodivergent and autistic individuals). Over 800 people are currently employed by the organization.

Anderson Center for Autism's programs are rooted in the evidence-based principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, and the organization has developed collaborations with institutions of higher education such as Empire State University and Marist College to build capacity for future professionals in the field.

Paul said, "We continue to pivot and expand as needs arise and change, and given the increasing demand for our expertise, we expect to do so for generations to come."

To learn more about Anderson Center for Autism's Centennial Celebration, visit andersoncenterforautism.org.

GOLDEN LIVING

News for Older Adults, Their Families and Caregivers
Todd N. Tancredi, Director
Dutchess County
Office for the Aging

OFA HOME CARE SERVICES EVERY CAREGIVER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

At the Office for the Aging, we can help caregivers of older adults in Dutchess County find out about services of which they may be unaware. Just as importantly, we can help explain these services in plain language, beginning with a simple conversation about an older person's strengths and needs, whether you're a caregiver or the older person in question.

To fulfill our mission of helping older Dutchess County adults thrive in the home atmosphere they overwhelmingly prefer, we employ New York State Certified Case Managers. These trained Case Managers work with older adults throughout the county to determine eligibility for home services such as light housekeeping, shopping, laundry, or even assistance with personal care needs. These services can make all the difference for an older adult who wishes to "age in place."

Older adults may also need a Personal Emergency Response button, which can summon help in cases when an older adult is alone and in an emergency. OFA offers these to eligible older adults.

WHAT'S EISEP?

EISEP (pronounced eye-sep) stands for Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly. EISEP has been around for many decades, allowing older adults to access the help that is so vital in allowing sustained independence and dignity. EISEP provides comprehensive case management and coordination of services. The cost of in-home services may be free for the older adult, or there may be a cost-

sharing responsibility. An OFA case manager will determine this upon assessment of the older adult, and prior to any in-home services provided.

Another core service of the EISEP program is Social Adult Daycare. This is a day program that offers meals, snacks, activities, assistance with toileting, and supervision. Many caregivers trying to balance work and caregiving duties find a great respite in social adult daycare, as a safe and nurturing place for their loved ones during the day.

Whether you're an older adult who is struggling to complete tasks around the house that once were much easier, or if you are providing care for another person and have questions about options and services to supplement this care, we are here at OFA and want to hear from you.

LANGUAGE LINE

Throughout its history, Dutchess County has been a diverse community with ample opportunity to thrive. Many Dutchess County residents came here as children or young adults, bringing strong traditions of caring for older family members, who often join their American families as they age.

Whether your family has a "dadi," "abuela" or a "mémère," OFA's "Language Line" service helps older Dutchess residents who speak languages other than English communicate their aging-services preferences, in the language with which they feel most comfortable. Contact OFA for information on arranging an OFA meeting with support from Language Line.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

You're likely aware that Monday, February 19th is the President's Day holiday, but New York State is one of eight states that also continue to observe the Lincoln's Birthday legal public holiday, Monday, February 12th.

Dutchess County Government including OFA and our Friendship Centers will be closed for both holidays, with clients of our Home Delivered Meals program receiving shelf-stable meals in advance.

Two other states honor Lincoln with a holiday on the day after Thanksgiving, because Lincoln was the first president to issue a proclamation commemorating Thanksgiving.

'SENIOR PARK PRINTS' ADDS A CLASS (Thu 2/29)

Thanks to popular demand, OFA and Dutchess County Parks are adding another Senior Park Prints class for Dutchess County older adults (age 60+), on Thursday, February 29th from 2:30-3:45 pm, at the OFA Poughkeepsie Friendship Center at OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie (114 Delafield St.).

The class is free, with all supplies provided. Class size is limited to 12. Please sign up by contacting OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

In northeastern Dutchess, a few seats are still available for the Thursday, February 1st Senior Park Prints class, to be held 2:30-3:45 at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex (28 Century Blvd.). Call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to sign up.

'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 northern and eastern Dutchess County. Rather than have prospective 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 on the following schedule:

Wednesday, February 28th, 11 am – South Amenia OFA Friendship Center,

229 South Amenia Rd. (South Amenia Presbyterian Church), Wassaic

Thursday, February 29th, 11 am – NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton

Let us know you're coming to either orientation by emailing bjones@dutchessny.gov, or call 845-486-2555 during business hours – so if we get snowed out, we can let you know.

If you're part of a civic organization or seniors' group that's interested in Friendly Calls or any other OFA presentation, contact OFA using the information above. We can travel to any suitable venue in Dutchess County.

SAVE THE DATE(s) FOR PANCAKES, PICKLEBALL AND PICNICS

The popular "Pancakes in the Park" event, presented by OFA and Dutchess County Parks, will return Thursday, March 21st at Bowdoin Park. Sign-ups for Dutchess County seniors are expected to begin in February, with details to come in future OFA newsletters.

Last fall's initial series of Introduction to Pickleball classes were a ringing success, and OFA and Parks plan to schedule another session of introductory lessons in April/May.

OFA will be back with a 32nd season of OFA Summer Picnics, presented with assistance from The Pines at Poughkeepsie, with 12 picnics serving every community in the county taking place between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We'll begin taking reservations in May, after the schedule is finalized. You can read more about the picnics at www.dutchessny.gov/ofapicnics.

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

Creative Living

celebrating all good things

NDSO brings movie magic to life with Feb. 10 concert

Get ready for a magical night as Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) transports audiences to mesmerizing realms with a captivating performance featuring music from beloved fantasy movies. This family-friendly event will take place on Saturday, February 10, at 8 p.m., at the Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America, located at 1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park. A tentative snow date is set for Sunday, February 11, at 3 p.m.

The orchestra will perform iconic soundtracks from cinematic classics such as “Star Wars,” “Lord of the Rings,” “The Wizard of Oz,” and more. During “Jurassic Park” you might spot a previously believed to be extinct dinosaur.

Adding to the excitement, the concert encourages young music enthusiasts to come dressed as their favorite fantasy movie characters. The orchestra has planned a special surprise for those who participate, offering a small prize for the most creative and imaginative costumes.

“We are delighted to bring this unique

concert experience to the community,” said Music Director Kathleen Beckmann. “The music from these iconic fantasy films has the power to transport us to other worlds, and we can’t wait to share that magic with our audience.”

Tickets for this event are priced at \$38 for adults with special discounts available for seniors and students. A Family Package is available for this concert: \$40 for one adult and two children. For further details about the concert and to purchase tickets, visit www.ndsorchestra.org or call (845) 635-0877.

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra was formed in 2006 to bring live orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley area. Now in its 18th season, the orchestra offers the best possible live performances of classical music at family-affordable prices. Since the beginning, the orchestra has been under the dedicated leadership of Kathleen Beckmann, who serves as both conductor and artistic director.



Music Director Kathleen Beckmann conducts the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra. Photo by Guy Peifer

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.

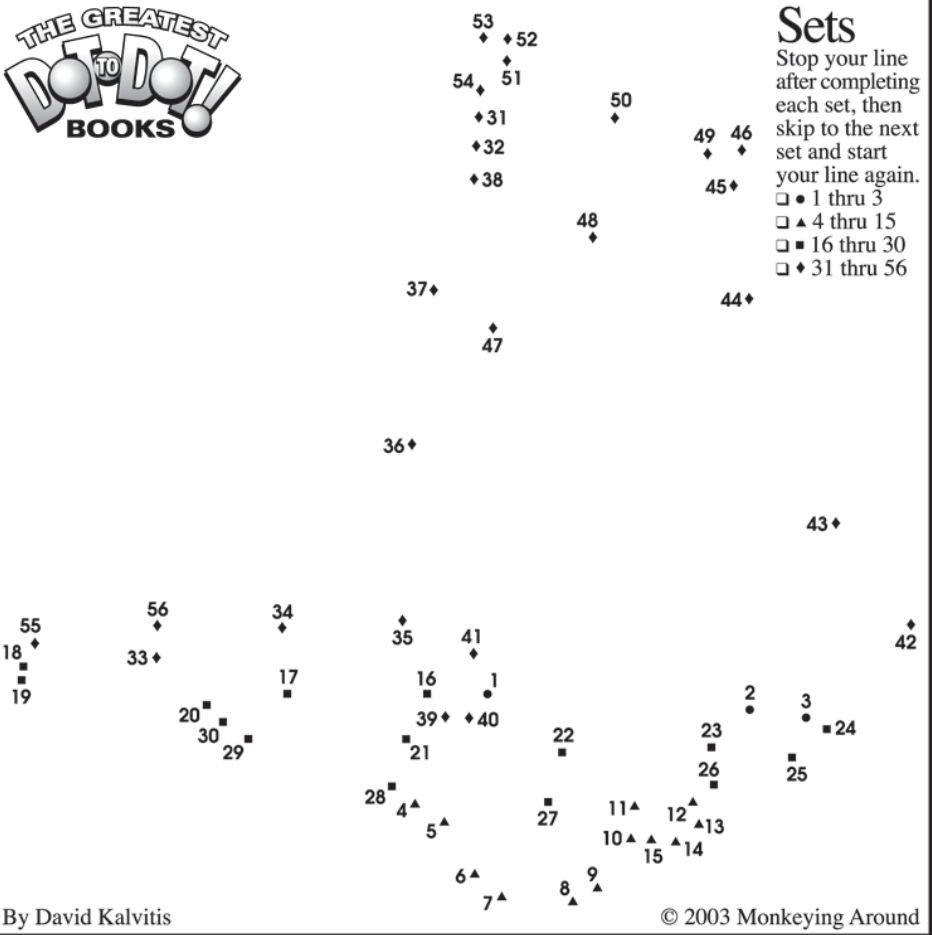
Contact Sandy (sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org) by Feb. 2 if you are interested. Bring in your piece to the library by Saturday, Feb. 17.

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

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



Sets
Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.
□ • 1 thru 3
□ ▲ 4 thru 15
□ ■ 16 thru 30
□ ♦ 31 thru 56

By David Kalvitis

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HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

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Chicken Pot Pie

Puff pastry makes this version flaky, in the very best sense of the word.

I love cooking when it's cold outside. I think it has a fair bit to do with being in hibernation mode and finding comfort in all things home and cozy but, for me at least, there's more to it than that. There's a certain soul-soothing quality in the rhythms of cooking like stirring, kneading, measuring and dicing, especially when it's chilly, damp and dark outside.

I've been cooking a lot lately and it's hardly a chore. Long before I started writing this column, I had fallen in love with all aspects of preparing food, from planning menus and creating recipes to plating and serving. Admittedly, as time went by, I started taking it for granted and some of the passion I had for it got lost in the shuffle of balancing a busy life. Because it happened gradually, I didn't really notice what was going on. What I did notice was that cooking was becoming less of a creative outlet and more of a necessity I didn't always carve out enough time for. Crazy work schedules were not conducive to set routines, and so food became almost an afterthought.

Over the past year, changes in our work lives and schedules made it necessary for all the planning, shopping and

cooking to fall to me and I realized how I'd let the joy of it all slip away and how much I'd missed it. But now I'm back in the groove of planning meals for the week, challenging myself to come up with new takes on old favorites and making the most of every bit of food I buy, and it's rewarding and fun.

I am happy to say I fell back into it easily, so maybe it never really left me. Life has a funny way of diverting us away from the things that matter, the little things that bring us joy and feed our creativity. Just as it was once upon a time, now while I'm cooking I have no sense of time in the best of ways because, before I know it, I'm done and have something delicious in front of me with little memory of the process.

Such was the case the other night when I found myself in the kitchen ready to make a dinner I'd planned. On the menu was a comforting favorite – chicken pot pie – but I was suddenly inspired to change up what I usually do. I had enough things on hand to adapt my usual recipe. I was about to make the classic pie crust I always use when I suddenly

continued on page 14



This Chicken Pot Pie recipe uses store-bought puff pastry sheets and frozen vegetables, saving time while producing delicious results. *Photos by Vicki Frank Day*



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There will be a 'CSA Q&A' at Sabellico farm on Sat. Feb. 3 at 10:00. Come and meet our farmers and get all your questions answered.

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Why Uruguay?

It's the safest bet for visitors to South America who don't speak Portuguese.

Every January, Sue and I try to visit South America. It's getting harder these days, with unrest returning to Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Peru. Argentina is a mess, Bolivia is too high (I get altitude sickness), and forget about Venezuela. Brazil is ranked as one of the world's safest countries, but we don't speak Portuguese. That leaves Uruguay, for our ninth trip south of the equator.

Sue picked a quaint town called Piriapolis, an hour's bus ride east from the capital of Motevideo. The idea was to relax on the beach. Sue was afraid I'd get bored, with nobody trying to rob us, and no weird foods to eat, although I did get to try bunuelos de algas – deep fried seaweed. We rented a Hobie sailboat, rode bicycles along the boardwalk, climbed a 2,000-foot mountain and swam in the ocean.

One morning we walked five miles along the beach to SOS Rescate de Fauna Marina, Uruguay's premier marine animal rescue and rehabilitation center. Over the past several decades, dead penguins have been washing up on the shores of southern Uruguay and Brazil. Ricardo Tesore founded the nonprofit SOS in 1990 to help the penguins that were still clinging to life. Evidently they've been starving, brought about by over-fishing and climate change.

Last summer, an outfit called Science Alert counted more than 2,000 dead penguins, mostly juveniles, that had no fat reserves and empty stomachs. Unfortunately, little action has been taken to ensure the sustainability of the Magellanic Penguins' main food sources of anchovies and sardines.

Ricardo's son Diego Tesore, who's been volunteering at the family-run operation pretty much since the day he was born, showed us around. A sea lion was in rehab, recovering from a run-in with a group of delinquent kids who pelted him

with rocks. Sea turtles were in holding pens, soon to be released in a remote area. It seems that tourists are always throwing them back into the ocean, not realizing that the turtles have crawled on to the beach to warm up.

By the way, the tourists in Piriapolis are from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where there are zero beach resorts and a shattered economy.

To lighten the mood, Diego entertained the six people in our group with a few trivia questions:

- Name the twelve countries with native penguins, all in the southern hemisphere: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, South Africa, Namibia, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Ecuador (the Galapagos Islands), Angola, Mozambique and Peru. I mentioned the Falkland Islands, but Diego claims it's part of Argentina. And Antarctica is not a country.

- What is earth's oldest living animal? Elephants and tortoises are not even close. Sue guessed "coral," which turns out to be number 3. I said "sponge," which is number 2 at 10,000 years old. Hydra and Jellyfish are the oldest; in fact, according to Diego, they never die.

The next day, Sue and I visited Estacion de Cria de Fauna y Flora Autoctona (Native breeding center). A nature path led us through native woodlands of erythrina and imported eucalyptus. (80% of Uruguay's land is covered in prairie grass.) The most recognizable native animal is the cabybara, the world's largest rodent. We also saw wild tegu lizards, the ostrich-like rhea birds and flocks of Monk's parakeets.

Back in Motevideo the day before our 15-hour flight home, we stopped at the sprawling indoor mercado for thick Uruguayan steaks grilled on the parilla. And of course the obligatory visit to the Hard Rock Cafe, curiously devoid of patrons on a Friday afternoon.



Magellanic Penguins and (below) Wild Ice Plant are found in the South American country of Uruguay. Photos by Sue Adams

Don't miss Sue's seminar, "What Do Your Flowers Say Today?" at Paula's Runway Cafe, 2 p.m., Sunday, February 11. Sue will be giving flower readings after a brief discussion of her book.

Also, I will be performing at the 16th annual Foodstock, a benefit for Dutchess Outreach and The Children's Home of

Poughkeepsie. The event runs from 2 to 7 p.m. at Mahoney's Irish Pub and Steakhouse. \$20 admission. Bring non-perishable food items.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.



A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 4: MODfest, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. Vassar's annual tribute to the visual and performing arts, held at various locations on the campus. The festival 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. www.vassar.edu

Feb. 3: Hudson Valley WingFest, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Restaurants, food trucks and caterers offer wings with amazing and

unique flavors to savor. Vote for your favorite to see who will be the King of the Wings! Also live music, games, prizes and more. GA 5 p.m. VIP enters at 3:30 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at (845) 454-5800.

Feb. 3-4: The Orchestra Now Concert, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Winter/spring season opener features Metropolitan Opera star Stephanie Blythe in an all-Brahms program. The performance also features tenor Joshua Blue. Leon Botstein, conductor. Performances: Sat., Feb. 3, 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 4, 3 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$35. fisher-center.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

SEND US YOUR EVENTS

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‘Alice by Heart’ opens at The Center Feb. 2

CENTERstage Productions and Teens on Stage will present “Alice By Heart” Feb. 2-11 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. First performed in 2012 by London’s Royal National Theatre, audiences at The Center can immerse themselves in both the fantastic world from “Alice in Wonderland” and the reality of England during World War II.

In the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, Alice Spencer’s (Sarah Griffin, Pine Plains) budding teen life is turned upside down, and she and her dear friend Alfred (E Jeffreys, Rhinebeck) are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station. When the ailing Alfred is quarantined, Alice encourages him to escape with her into their favorite, cherished book and journey once more down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. As Alice draws upon her memory to spin the story, the children, nurses, and doctors trapped underground transform into characters familiar and feared.

“Alice by Heart” explores the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. This musical, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s 1865 novel “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland,” encourages us all to celebrate the transformational power of the imagination, even in the harshest of times.

Teens on Stage previously entertained audiences with productions of “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical,” “bare: A Pop Opera,” “Be More Chill,” and “13: The Musical.” This production of “Alice By Heart,” features high-caliber performances by local teen talent.

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are available for \$19 at CenterForPerformingArts.org, by calling (845) 876-3080 or emailing boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org.

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, “Alice By Heart” is a musical with music by Duncan Sheik, lyrics by Steven Sater, and a book by Sater with Jessie Nelson. Two local educators and professional performers lead this production: director and choreographer Lynne Czajka, and musical director Russell McCook.

This Teens on Stage production features Lexi Beaumont, Noah Cinatti, Hayden Cipriano, Lee Griffin, Riona Hack, Liv Heuser, Ana Kirsch, Max Leipham, Eli Marlborough, Maximilian McBride, Haley Polidore, Kate Schaffer, Lily Strattman, Zoe Ulrich, & Ellie Walker.

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck is at 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck.



The musical “Alice By Heart” will run Feb. 2-11 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. *Courtesy photo*

Love to Cook

continued from page 11

remembered the puff pastry I had in the freezer, and before I knew it, I was pulling a new version out of the oven. It was a last-minute decision that had me over the moon and anxious to share.

INDIVIDUAL CHICKEN POT PIES

I’ve made pot pie in both casserole form with biscuits on top and the classic two-crust version. The decision to use puff pastry rather than pie crust lent itself to making individual pies in bowls, and this is my new favorite. There’s no bottom crust to get soggy, just a flaky top crust over the rich, creamy filling, which is made easier with pre-cooked pulled rotisserie chicken and frozen mixed vegetables, saving time without sacrificing flavor.

You will need ramekins or oven-safe bowls – I used 2 bowls, one for each pastry sheet, and had enough filling and pastry scraps left for one 14oz ramekin, too.

INGREDIENTS

1 package frozen puff pastry (I used Pepperidge Farm), thawed to almost room temperature

5 tablespoons butter

1 medium onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/3 cup flour (plus more for rolling out the pastry)

2 1/2 cups chicken broth or stock

1 (10oz) package mixed frozen vegetables (like carrots, green beans and corn)

1/4 cup cognac or dry white wine (optional)

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste (start with 1/2 teaspoon each)

1 tablespoon dried oregano and/or thyme

1/2 cup heavy cream

1 egg (for wash)

METHOD

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil and set aside.

Dust work surface with flour and unfold one sheet puff pastry on top. Dust pastry with more flour and roll to about 1/8” thick, smoothing out creases from the folds. Invert bowl or ramekins on pastry and use a knife to cut rounds 2 inches wider than their circumference. (The bowls I used only allowed one per sheet, but I saved and rolled out the scraps for an extra, 14oz ramekin. Bonus!) Place rounds on foil or parchment and pop in the fridge while you make the filling.

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add chopped onion and garlic and sauté until onions are golden, about 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add frozen vegetables and flour and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is coated, about 2 minutes.

Add broth, cognac or wine (if using) and salt and pepper. Stir to combine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until thickened, 4-5 minutes more.

Remove from heat and stir in cream, herbs and chicken. Give it a taste and add more salt and pepper, if needed.

Take pastry out of the fridge. In a small bowl, whisk together egg and 1 tablespoon water. Ladle filling into bowls/ramekins (about 3/4 full). Brush rims of bowls with egg wash and place pastry rounds on top, pinching edges all around to secure. Brush pastry tops with egg wash. Cut slits in the pastry to vent steam (I cut 3 around the edges and an “x” in the center).

Place bowls on prepared baking sheet and bake until tops are puffed up and golden brown, 20-25 minutes (check after 20). Eat with a spoon and be sure to tear off any overhanging crust, adding it to the filling so you don’t waste a single buttery bite!

The night I made these I was recovering from a nasty cold and wasn’t overly hungry. I hadn’t eaten much while I was sick, but once these were out of the oven, the look and aroma had me digging in and before I knew it, I’d downed the whole bowl, curled up in my comfy chair with a soft blanket as an icy rain pelted the windows. It made me feel better inside and out, in equal measure because it tasted good and warmed me up just as it reminded me how much better things are when we infuse them with love and passion, truly food for the soul. Enjoy!

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

Prizgintas to celebrate ‘Love’ in program at PV Library



Alex Prizgintas with his amplified cello will present a program dedicated to “Love” on Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library. *Courtesy photo*

Alex Prizgintas invites all to celebrate Love with a program dedicated to a mix of great love tunes on Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library.

Prizgintas, with his amplified cello will present a program with the soft jazz of Nat King Cole’s L-O-V-E to the sweet tenor tone of “A Night in Berkeley Square” and, of course, the Rock n’ Roll adventure with “Sunshine of Your Love,” discover pop, rock, Broadway and classical tunes that all share the theme of Love.

Classically trained, Prizgintas employs non-classical tools like distortion, delay, and the iconic “wah-wah” guitar pedals symbolic of 1960s Rock n’ Roll bands--all in conjunction with a looping station. Equally comfortable with intimate and stadium settings, Alex is able to craft his own wall-of-sound through his 1,000 watt amp. Accompanied with a narration that reveal some of the back stories of

baroque, jazz, folk, and Rock n’ Roll classics, he immerses his audience in a journey through musical history.

He recently graduated summa cum laude in both an undergraduate degree from Marist College in regional history and has a graduate degree from Marist in public administration.

“I tend to have two audiences; those who know me as a cellist and those who know me through my lectures on topics of regional history,” said Prizgintas. “My bifurcated interests certainly keep me busy developing new stories to share about our Hudson River Valley as well as expanding my concert programs that strive to keep audiences engaged, enlightened and hopefully entertained.”

To learn more and see other video samples of his music and lectures, please visit alexprizgintas.com.

Bardavon to present films that revolutionized cinema



“Citizen Kane” (left) and “Black Panther” (above) are two of 12 films to be screened during the Bardavon/UPAC film series, “Game Changers.” *Courtesy images*

“Game Changers” is a free movie series at Bardavon in Poughkeepsie and Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC) in Kingston. This new series features 12 films that revolutionized cinema. Each film in the series represents a bold step forward; using new and adventurous techniques, courageous directorial visions, or telling stories from new points of view.

In addition to the screenings being free

of charge, all 12 films are preceded by a Happy Hour starting at 6:30 p.m., featuring half-price beer and wine as well as free snacks and soda. All movies begin at 7:30 p.m.

The schedule:
“Citizen Kane” – Feb. 1 at Bardavon
“Black Panther” – Feb. 15 at Bardavon & UPAC
“Stray Dog” – March 7 at UPAC
“The Seventh Seal” – March 21 at

Bardavon
“Cleo From 5 to 7” – April 4 at UPAC
“Playtime” – April 11 at UPAC
“The Thin Blue Line” – April 25 at Bardavon
“Close-Up” – May 9 at UPAC
“Chungking Express” – May 16 at Bardavon
“Beau Travail” – May 30 at UPAC
“Pan’s Labyrinth” – June 13 at UPAC
“Moonlight” – June 20 at Bardavon

Reserve your free ticket by stopping in to the Bardavon or UPAC box office, or by calling Bardavon at (845) 473-5288 or UPAC at (845) 339-6088.
The Bardavon/UPAC film series is sponsored by Marshall & Sterling and Herzog’s; and is supported by the New York Theatre Organ Society, who will bring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ to life before every film screening at the Bardavon.

Applications open for Rhinebeck Writers Retreat’s weeklong summer residencies for musical theater writers

Applications are open to all musical theater writers for Rhinebeck Writers Retreat’s summer residencies. Nine teams will be selected to receive a private retreat for nine weeks in a row between June 23 and Aug. 25 to focus solely on writing their musical in the Hudson Valley. There is no fee for applications received by Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. EST; there is a fee of \$30 for applications received by the final deadline of Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. EST. All details and the online application can be found at www.rhinebeckwriters.org.

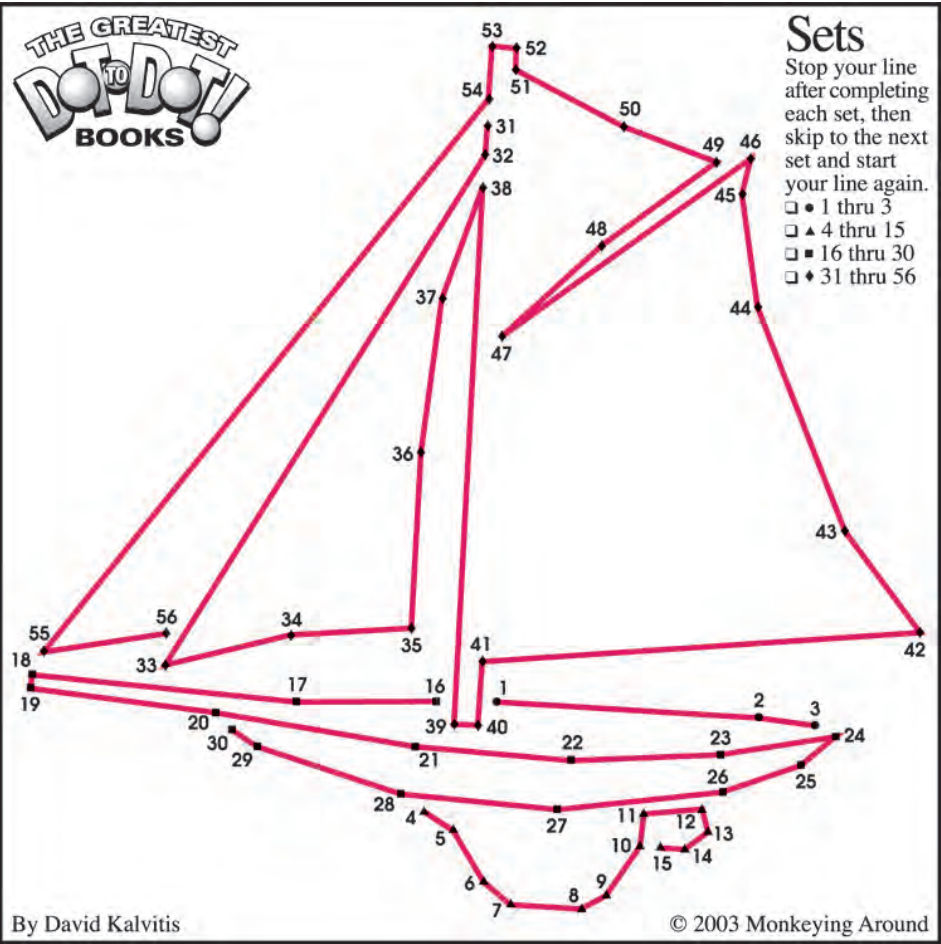
Rhinebeck Writers Retreat relies on donations to cover all the writers’ costs, including their home, food, pianos, travel up to \$1,000,

and a \$550 stipend for each writer. Funding comes from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, The ASCAP Foundation Bart Howard Fund, The Noël Coward Foundation in honor of Geoffrey Johnson, The National Foundation for Musical Theatre, and hundreds of individual donors.
Kathy Evans, Founding Executive Director of Rhinebeck Writers Retreat said, “We’re excited to begin the process which will lead to over 20 musical theatre writers joining us in the beautiful Rhinebeck area to work exclusively on

writing their musical. We are honored to play a part in bringing more musicals to life with diverse stories and artists.”
Since its creation in 2011, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat has supported over 200 musical theater writers. Many musicals developed at Rhinebeck Writers Retreat have received world premieres including in the last two years: “A.D. 16,” by Bekah Brunstetter and Cinco Paul at Olney Theatre Center (MD); “Bhangra Nation,” by Mike Lew, Rehana Lew Mirza, and Sam Willmott at La Jolla Playhouse (CA); “Noir” by Kyle Jarrow and Duncan Sheik at The Alley Theatre (TX); “On This Side of the World,” by

Paulo K Tiról and Noam Shapiro at East West Players (CA); “Operation Mincemeat,” by David Cumming, Felix Hagan, Natasha Hodgson and Zoë Roberts at Fortune Theatre (West End); and “The Tattooed Lady,” by Erin Courtney and Max Vernon at Philadelphia Theatre Company (PA). In 2024, two Rhinebeck musicals will have their world premieres: “Mexodus,” by Brian Quijada and Nygel D. Robinson at Baltimore Center Stage (MD) and “TL; DR: Thelma Louise; Dyke Remix,” by EllaRose Chary and Brandon James Gwinn, at Diversionsary Theatre (CA).

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



SUDOKU
This week’s answer

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

Answers to this week’s diversions
(puzzles on page 12)

STILL SZA HERS
HALEY HIM HETUP
ILIAC APE ARUBA
ACADEMY BARBIE
SUE BARB
SOP MENU COLORS
PARK DORK RENEW
IKON SARAN ASTI
CUBIT HIVE KERF
EMETIC TAWS TOT
EURO END
CRYPTO FLOWERS
CHILI AIR REMIT
HAVEN COO ELIDE
ITEM HUM STREW

Suguru solution

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

PPLD sets Black History Month events

Celebrate Black History Month at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District with one of the many events honoring and exploring Black history and culture. There will be interesting and fun events celebrating music and literature, and discussions of Black history and modern political issues.

On Saturday, February 3 at 2:30 pm at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, the Souls United Choir of the Hudson Valley, an interfaith gospel choir, will perform music from their repertoire consisting of Christian, Bahá'í, and other faith traditions reflected by the choir's membership. No registration is required for this event.

Take in the history of the Black Civil Rights movement on Thursday, February 8 at 10:30 am or 2:30 pm at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum. Join the museum curator for the "Meet the Curator Exhibit Tour: Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts." Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, it centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and pushed for progress.

Teachers often face challenges when discussing race in an educational setting, which will be explored in a talk by Michael Reyes Salas, an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Vassar College. "International Demands for Educational Reparations: Memory Laws and Black History," on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 pm at Adriance Memorial Library, explores how elected officials have manipulated academic programming of the Black Studies curriculum to suit their political agendas. Salas will discuss the newly enacted teaching regulations in places like Florida, alongside a "memory law" in France that mandates how to teach histories of slavery. With the resurgence of far-right parties across France and the U.S., educators often face hostility when discussing race in public educational settings. Questions the lecture will explore include: In the struggle against erasures of Black history, how do we demand reparations in the educational setting, including the redistribution of educational resources and the creation of educational systems that refuse political economies?

Explore the coming-of-age stories of Black women on Thursday, February 8 at 7 pm for a virtual book club featuring *Hot Comb* by Ebony Flowers, a look at Black women's lives through a hair salon, with stories covering experiences such as a girl's first perm and the stress of being the only Black player on an otherwise white softball team.

Learn about the Tuskegee Airmen on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm with "The

Tuskegee Airmen," a virtual program led by Jeffrey Urbin, the Educational Outreach Specialist at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum. He will explore the story of the Black pilots who, though once devalued by the World War II effort, proved they could take down enemy aircraft abroad and racial barriers at home.

Understand the tradition of Hoodoo Medicine on Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 pm with "Root Doctors & Hoodoo Medicine," a virtual program led by Dr. Yvonne Chireau. She will discuss stories of Hoodoo medicine, illnesses, and healing traditions that abound in Black history. These stories reveal the knowledge and ancestral wisdom of Black people in poignant and powerful ways. Dr. Chireau will share historical accounts of Hoodoo and rootworking as forms of traditional healing that were utilized to give meaning to bodily suffering for African American people with rituals, material formulations, and the skilled repertoire of practitioners in enslaved communities.

Join the Books & Brews book club on Thursday, February 21 at 7 pm at Juan Murphy's Pub in Poughkeepsie to discuss *All About Love: New Visions* by bell hooks. hooks writes about a proactive new ethic for a society bereft with lovelessness, a lack of care, compassion, and unity. No registration is required for this event.

For kids, there is a scavenger hunt that runs through February 29 at Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library, where kids can have fun looking for nine innovations created or improved upon by Black inventors that are hidden around the library, while also learning about each of those inventors.

Throughout the month of February, there is a Black History Month Exhibit at Adriance Memorial Library presented by Celebrating the African Spirit, an organization that presents memorials to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of Africans and their descendants to the building and growth of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess County region.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated to accommodate appropriate attendance guidelines and sharing of meeting links.

Adriance Memorial Library is located at 93 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library is located at 29 North Hamilton Street in Room 224 of the Family Partnership Center. For more information on these programs, follow the Library District on Facebook and Instagram, or pick up a flyer at any library location. Information is also available by calling (845) 485-3445, ext. 3707 and on the website: poklib.org/black-history-month-at-your-library.



Highlights of the Black History Month events at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) include (clockwise, from above) a performance by Souls United Choir, a virtual program about the Tuskegee Airmen, a talk by Vassar Professor Michael Reyes Salas, and a virtual program by Dr. Yvonne Chireau. *Courtesy photos*



'Shadow Dancing' at Trolley Barn Feb. 2

"Shadow Dancing," an illuminated musical dance performance, will take place at the Trolley Barn, 489 Main St., Poughkeepsie on Friday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants include Nick Jackson, Franc Palaia, David Henningsen, Kaela Miller and Kazi Oliver. Tickets are \$10 and available on EventBrite.

"Shadow Dancing" is inspired by a series of unique photographs by award-winning multi-disciplinary artist Franc Palaia, based on an historic series of urban wall paintings by pioneer street artist Richard Hambleton.

The historic photographic series entitled, "NightLife," is a collection of color and black & white photographs taken by Palaia in New York City and Europe from 1981-87. The painted black shadow wall paintings depict standing, posing and jumping life sized human figures that appeared throughout NYC and the world, a total of 400 in total. In the early 1980s, these ominous black shadow figures caused a sensation of fear, mystery, anxiety and unease throughout NYC and worldwide.

"Shadow Dancing" is an animated manifestation of the "NightLife" photographs. The performance includes two dancers, dressed in black and moving and posing, simulating the shadow paintings but animated accompanied to live music by Franc Palaia on drums and Kazi Oliver percussion. Pre-recorded music is

incorporated to enhance the musical effect. The dancers move behind a large 35-foot white scrim that is illuminated from behind, which in turn makes the dancers appear as moving shadows.

The performers pose, dance, twirl and jump according to the musical styles of Hip Hop, Jazz, Ethereal, Afro and Funk. A variety of props help set the urban scene which include a door, a lamppost, a gate, a window, a tree, steps, a trash can, fire hydrant, a rat and a black cat. The dancers perform individually as well as in groups of two sometimes wearing headgear of antennae, a sword and an arrow.

The "Shadow Dancing" event will include an exhibition viewable by visitors. The display includes several of Palaia's large scale photographs (from 4' - 7') from the "NightLife" series. There will be refreshments served so visitors can discuss and become familiar with the "NightLife" Shadow imagery before seeing the animated musical performance.

At the conclusion of Shadow Dancing, the audience will be invited to meet the performers, ask questions and go behind the scrim set to observe the props. Attendants will also have the opportunity to review and purchase signed copies of Palaia's "NightLife" photo book, from which the entire performance is based.

Call (845) 505-3123 for more information.



Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
<p>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, 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. FURTHER NOTICE: that a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 15th, 2024. A fee of \$2.00</p>	<p>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</p> <hr/> <p>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE</p> <p>The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed</p>	<p>proposals for: Bid#RFP-DCP-13-24 Forensic Pathologist Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 13th day of February 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.</p> <hr/> <p>LEGAL NOTICE - WORKSHOP EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT</p>	<p>BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners will hold a workshop on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the firehouse located at 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, New York for the purpose of a discussion regarding a new firehouse, in particular, bonds and grants. Dated: January 28, 2024 By order of the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners Karen Buechele, Secretary</p>	<p>People vs. Brian King 13 Gifford Ave. Apt. 2 Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Eugene Lafayette 57 Smith St. Apt. 1 Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Mark Levy 53 Pendell Road Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Peter Marinelli 510 Maloney Road Poughkeepsie NY 12603 People vs. Victor Martinez-Juan 211 Mill St. #1 Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Shamaya Meekins 49 Points of View Warwick NY 10590 People vs. Luis Menendez Flores 532 Setate St. Apt. 2 Hudson NY 12534 People vs. Amanda Navarro 57 Sasso Lane Wingdale NY 12594 People vs. Matthew Pugnali 87 Traver Road LaGrangeville NY 12569 People vs. Jonathan Taber 596 N. Quaker Lane Hyde Park NY 12538 People vs. Devvon Taylor 21 Charles St. 10C Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Marvin Thompson 42 College Ave. Apt. A Poughkeepsie NY 12603 People vs. D. Turnquest 63 B. College Street Enfield CT 06082 People vs. Jason White UNKNOWN Deposited in Action of Proceedings in the City of Beacon Court People vs. Eric Anderson 56 E 1st Street New York NY 10003 People vs. John Battle 26 North Hamilton Street Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Mark Cargine 20 Summit Road Mahopac NY 10541 People vs. Dasean Turner 6 Spring Street Beacon NY 12508 People vs. Fisher Fisher 6 South Davies Terrace Beacon NY 12508 People vs. Dustin Folkes Jr. 341 Carey Ave. Fishkill NY 12524 People vs. Jaciara Hakim 512 Liberty Street Newburgh NY 12550 People vs. McGrath McGrath 276 Temple Hill Road New Windsor NY 12553 People vs. Michael Schneider 149 Main Street Beacon NY 12508 People vs. Christine McMahan 17 E Hook Cross Road Hopewell Junction NY 12533 People vs. Marquis Thompson 78 Bridge Street Newburgh NY 12550 532 Chapel Lake Dr A Virginia Beach VA 23454 Deposited in Action of Proceedings in Dutchess County Courts Dutchess County vs. Gjobalin & Prena Bujaj and MERS as Mortgagee 683 Beekman Road Hopewell Jct. NY 12533 NYS vs. April C. Martinez-Gutierrez 95 E. Main St. Beacon NY 12508 Estate of Enrico Perri for Enrico Joseph Perri 19 Fairview Drive Yorktown Height NY 10598 Oscar Segura vs. Mark G. Hussey 130 North Main St. Port Chester NY 10573 TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT (A) A list of names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Commissioner of Finance; (B) Any such unclaimed moneys or other property will be paid of delivered by her on or before the thirty first day of March to persons established to her satisfaction their right to receive the same; and (C) In the succeeding month of April, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed moneys or other property still remaining will be paid or delivered to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and the undersigned shall thereupon cease to be liable therefore. Dated: February 1, 2024 Poughkeepsie, New York /s/heidi seelbach Heidi Seelbach Commissioner of Finance Dutchess County, New York</p>		
<p>Legal Notices</p> <p>NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County. The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more. People vs. C. Berchtold 86 Prospect Street Marlboro NY 12542 People vs. Jayson Birdsell 63 Sutton Park Road Poughkeepsie NY 12603 People vs. Raymond Brubacher 609 First Street Watervliet NY 12189 People vs. Mario Buckham 146 Manson St. Apt. C Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Alesha Bunn 73 N. Clinton St. Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Brian Clarr 19 Conklin Street Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Nicholas Cooper 3538 Rt. 9W Highland NY 12528 People vs. Luigi Dagostaro 48 Gates Ave. Apt. C1 Montclair NJ 07042 People vs. Andre Dennis 60 Taylor Ave. Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Taiquan Elting 100 Innis Ave. Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Celestino Gaspar-Balta 559 Main St. Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Junios Green 18D Flannery Ave. Poughkeepsie NY 12601 People vs. Isaac Hasbrouck 590 Noxon Road Poughkeepsie NY 12603 People vs. Muhammad Khan 844 Route 6 Mahopac NY 12541</p>	<p>Legal Notices</p>	<p>Legal Notices</p>				
<p>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.</p>						

OBITUARIES

Philip F. Arnold
MILLBROOK - Philip Fenwick Arnold, 88, of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at The Fountains in Millbrook, NY. He was born on November 24, 1935 in Providence, RI, the son of Richard and Florance Arnold.

Philip honorably served his Country in the United States Navy on the USS Ranger. After serving his Country, he went on to work for the YMCA, Greer School for Children and retired as a College Professor at Dutchess Community College where he served as the Chairman for the Recreation Leadership Program. He also served as the Scout Master for Troop 100, was a longtime volunteer in the Lagrange Fire Department and served an Elder at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his two sons Ross Arnold from Manchester, NH and Peter Arnold from Woodinville, WA, and sister Carla Woodcock from Mentor, OH.

Service to be held on Saturday, March 16th at 11am at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 State Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made in Philip's name to Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com.

Mary Kathleen Fagan
RHINEBECK - Mary Kathleen Fagan passed away on January 23, 2024 after facing cancer with her trademark humor, stoicism, and grace. Known to all who love her as "Kate," she delighted us when--after starting childhood as a frail, asthmatic girl--she blossomed

into a brilliant lawyer; a beloved, devoted mother, a hilariously funny and deeply kind sister, friend, & colleague, and a woman who remained open to life's adventures. Whether traveling to Africa to visit her brother in the Peace Corps, or becoming one of the Fagan family's contestants on the TV show "Family Feud," or creating a family-size version of Woodstock in her own backyard (which Kate dubbed "Fam Jam," an hours-long hootenanny of family onstage, singing and playing music into the wee hours) --Kate was the brightest light of us all.

As a young woman, Kate embraced Mazda Miatas, tanning beds, the Melody, and the Jersey shore. As she grew older, married, and had children, Kate's primary joy was raising her two children, Chloe and Cole--followed by her love for family and friends, for the law, for her beautiful home in Rhinebeck, NY, for the natural world, for dogs and wild birds (she loved her Bird Buddy) and for making and serving to her visitors a perfectly designed charcuterie board. Her career with felting started at an early age when she created the family Christmas bear tree and continued through her mastery of plump felted birds. She took great pride in her excellent credit score. A graduate of Rutgers Law School, Kate was the Senior Associate General Counsel at Nuvance Health.

So radiant was her spirit that she has left each one of us, who have had the great privilege of knowing and loving her, with a piece of her light. She was surrounded by family on the night she left us. We are heartbroken she is gone but will continue to carry the warmth of her light with us all of our days.

Kate was pre-deceased by her father Raymond Francis Fagan, her brother Brendan Michael Fagan, her sister-in-law Judith (Bug)

Depp and her brother-in-law Allan Abrams. Kate is survived by her large, loving family: her children, Chloe Dixon and Cole Dixon; her mother, Mary Ellen Fagan; and her siblings (and their spouses/partners): Tricia Fagan and Wilbo Wright; Raymond Fagan and Dot Jatzen; Maureen Fagan; Sharon Fagan McDermott; Terrence and Maryann Fagan; Brian Fagan; Ellen Hackl Fagan; Sean and Maggie Fagan; Dan Fagan; Kieran and Molly Fagan; and Siobhan Fagan and Anthony Sisto; her nieces and nephews: Brian McDermott (her godson); Christine Davidsaver and Ray Fagan; Kate Abrams; Christopher, Andrew, and Thomas Fagan; Conor and Aisling Fagan; Claire and Patrick Fagan; and great nieces Tracey, Sarah, and Zoe, her extended family and friends; and finally, her beloved dogs, Joe and Lola.

Friends may call at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, New York on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 11 am to 1 pm. A memorial service will begin at 1 PM.

In lieu of flowers, mourners are asked to donate to Kate's favorite causes: The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, SPCA Hyde Park, New York; and the Winnakee Land Trust, Rhinebeck, New York.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY.

John L. Lane
HYDE PARK - John L. Lane, 84, a longtime Hyde Park resident, died January 19, 2024, at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

Born March 16, 1939, in Poughkeepsie, he was the son of Raymond D. Lane Sr. and Lucy E. Enright Lane. He was a 1957 graduate of Poughkeepsie High School.

John proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1957 to 1961, spending a few years working at the Pentagon.

After the Air Force, John worked for Mid-Hudson Oil from 1961 to 1964. In 1964, he joined the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department. He retired from the force in 1986 after a 22-year career. In 1963, he started his own business, Lane Chimney Cleaning, a business he proudly ran for over 60 years. Still in operation today, John's legacy continues.

John loved horses and at one time owned and raced harness racing horses. More recently, he loved watching the races and maybe placing a wager or two. He also enjoyed playing golf, bowling, and especially spending time with his grandchildren.

In 1959, he married the former Patricia A. DeVaux. Mrs. Lane survives at home.

He is also survived by two daughters, Patricia VanDuser and Kim Conklin (Peter); three grandchildren, Heather Cosenza (Michael), Adrianna Hodgdon (Frank), and Patrick Conklin (Cara); four great grandchildren, Logan and Addison Oles and Anastasia and Aiden Hodgdon; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by one daughter, Noreen Lane; son-in-law, David VanDuser; and two siblings, Raymond D. Lane Jr. and Eleanora M. Wedge.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, January 25th, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park.

Funeral services were offered on Friday, January 26th, at the Funeral Home.

Entombment with military honors

continued on page 19

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OBITUARIES

continued from page 17

followed at the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, John's family respectfully requests memorial donations to a charity of your choice.

To send an online condolence, please visit John's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneral-home.com.

Rafael A. Acosta Martinez
SALT PONT - Rafael A. Acosta Martinez, a Hudson Valley resident from NYC, NY passed away at home on January 16, 2024. He was 78 years old.

Rafael was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico on August 31, 1945, the son of the late Rafael and Gloria Acosta-Martinez.

Rafael was a devoted, dedicated employee of the New York City Housing Authority where his last position was a Housing Supervisor until his retirement of 25 years.

On June 5, 1965, he married the love of his life Carmen Alicea who survives at home with her children.

Rafael loved being with his family and taking care of them. He enjoyed working in his garden with his wife and tending to his yard and many animals. He also volunteered many hours of his life to local food pantries throughout the Hudson Valley.

In addition to his wife Carmen, Rafael is survived by 10 children: John Martinez, David Martinez, Carmen Martinez, Lucas Martinez, Jesse Martinez, Timothy Martinez, Natalia Martinez, Andrew Martinez, Matthew Martinez, and Rebekah Martinez. He is also

survived by his eldest granddaughter Christiana Martinez along with many other grandchildren. He is survived by two sisters: Elsie and Awilda Acosta and many other family members and friends.

Calling hours were on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at McHoul Funeral Home Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

Prince de Syrmia
Dr. Edmond Péry Odescalchi
PLEASANT VALLEY - Prince de Syrmia, Dr. Edmond Péry Odescalchi, peacefully passed away on January 21st at the age of 96, surrounded by his loved ones at the Lutheran Care Center in Poughkeepsie.

Born in 1928 in Budapest, Hungary, into a noble lineage, he was the son of Princess Charlotte de Bay and Prince Bela Mano Gyula Geza Imre Balthazar Odescalchi. In 1945, as World War II neared its end, his family fled the Soviet Armies' invasion. Fluent in multiple languages, he served as a translator for the French military government, contributing to the dismantling of the Nazi Empire. In 1951, he and his family immigrated to the United States.

After serving in the US Military, he pursued higher education, graduating from Cornell University and obtaining a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After painting objects in a machine shop for a few months as his first job, he made a successful career at IBM, becoming the Manager of the Technical Communications Department in Poughkeepsie and the Information

Development Department for all technologies in East Fishkill. "I am not retiring" one of his employees remarked, "because I enjoy working for Edmond. He is the best."

In 1961, he married Esther Maria Kando, the love of his life, and together they raised two children. Dr. Odescalchi is survived by his wife and his sons Daniel (and wife Kelly Egan) and Dominic (and wife Vida Nejad), two grandchildren, Alexander, and Victoria Odescalchi, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was an encyclopedia of knowledge and was the author of numerous books, such as "At the Head of Nations," "The Third Crown," "The Evolution of Behavior," etc. His legacy is marked by his kindness and respect for everyone he encountered, leaving an indelible impact on family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances alike. His unwavering respect for all individuals truly distinguished him as a prince among men. He lived by the golden

rule, embodying the adage, "if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything." Dr. Odescalchi cherished moments with friends and family, and a martini at 4:00 every afternoon. His laughter was quick, and his willingness to listen made him a beacon of empathy. The world has lost a true gentleman, but his spirit lives on in the hearts of those who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, 1590 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please donate to one of Dr. Odescalchi's favorite charities: American Museum of Natural History, 200 Central Park W, New York, NY 10024, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

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Sabellico's introduces new farm-harvest CSA program

By Curtis Schmidt

Matt Sabellico and his staff at Sabellico's Greenhouses and Florist, Inc. in Hopewell Junction are entering a new chapter. Come spring, they will be producing a wide variety of vegetables and other local products as part of their own CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program.

The Sabellico family has run the farm/business for over 70 years and Mom, Diane said her son, Matt, is the impetus behind the CSA idea.

"He was growing organic produce here at Sabellico's for a few years before COVID. He had a non-commitment CSA where he packed up the week's haul from the garden in boxes and sold them to whoever showed up," said Diane. They survived the uncertainty of the COVID era by concentrating on their core business of selling vegetable plants and flowers, because she said, "No one knew how things were going to shake out."

Diane pointed out that Matt "learned a lot from his first go around with produce - what worked well and what did not. It has taken him up til now to get reorganized to try growing produce again." He is also trying to involve other area agricultural businesses in this endeavor. Right now, Dan Moon from Sunnyvale Farm (formerly Secor's Strawberries) and Nicole Harris from Tiny Green Farms (microgreens) are involved in the CSA.



Sabellico's Greenhouses and Florist, Inc. in Hopewell Junction will be offering vegetables and other products as part of their newly-formed CSA. They are currently signing up participants. *Courtesy photos*

Matt is also trying to get other providers with eggs, meat, honey, maple syrup etc. involved as add-ons to the CSA. He feels that these partnerships can benefit all involved. He was chairman of the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Board for seven years and is

now Chair of the Dutchess County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to offer more programs like this to our community. I am deeply passionate about our agricultural communities here at home and across these beautiful lands," said Matt. "I believe that optimal health and nutrition begins on farms, both for the lands and the people they feed. The Hudson Valley is one of the most beautiful and fertile lands that we have left in this country and needs to be treated with care and consideration."

He added, "We have a diverse and unique farming community here in Dutchess, imbued with passion and respect. It is important that we work to preserve and restore the respect of our

lands and their ecological and agricultural value."

Matt said he believes that "farming and the principals it teaches us can help lead us to a simpler, more connected way of life. I dream of a day when instead of lush green lawns, the neighborhoods we have built have dedicated areas for gardens, orchards, greenhouses and animal pastures."

He also believes that if the agricultural health land is preserved, it will continue to achieve optimal health for all.

The new "Goddess Garden" carries that name after Matt's daughters, who are named after goddesses Freya and Artemis.

To gain more information or to sign up for the CSA, visit the Sabellico website at 845-226-5943 or call 845-226-5943.



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Empire State Fellows Program applications now available

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on January 24 that the application period for the 2024 class of Empire State Fellows is now open. The prestigious program attracts exceptional and diverse talent from New York State and across the country to serve in high-level positions in the administration. Since the program's inception 12 years ago, graduates of the Empire State Fellows program have gone on into senior roles, including Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff positions throughout State agencies.

"The Empire State Fellows Program has served as a gateway for some of New York's best and brightest looking to make a difference in their communities through a career in public service," Hochul said. "We look forward to welcoming the next class of Fellows into this transformative program. Anyone who dreams of making a positive change in the lives of New Yorkers is encouraged to apply and join the ranks of our future leaders."

The Empire State Fellows Program is a full-time leadership training program that prepares the next generation of talented professionals for careers as New York State policymakers. The incoming class of Empire State Fellows will serve from September 12, and receive an annual salary of \$85,000, plus a generous benefits package. At the end of the fellowship, the program will identify high-performing

Empire State Fellows that will be given the opportunity to continue to serve as leaders in New York State government after completing the program.

Engagement in the work of the New York State government lies at the heart of the Empire State Fellows Program. The Governor's Office will appoint each Empire State Fellow to work directly with a Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or other high-level policymakers at a New York State agency or authority, or in the Executive Chamber. Work assignments offer Fellows unparalleled experience collaborating with senior officials and participating in the policy-making process.

While taking part in the work of State government, Empire Fellows will participate in educational and professional development programs that will help them to serve as effective and ethical government leaders. The educational component of the Empire State Fellows Program kicks off with an orientation course in September. Educational coursework will continue on a semi-monthly basis. Meanwhile, professional development activities, including a mentoring program and regular meetings with Cabinet members and other government leaders, will enhance Empire Fellows' collaboration with policymakers.

Applications will be accepted through April 1.