

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 8 • February 21-27, 2024 • 50¢

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

Serino puts priority on EMS services

Communities across New York State and throughout the nation, as well as here in Dutchess County, are grappling with the increasing challenge of ensuring life-saving Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are readily available, with the problem rapidly becoming a public safety crisis. Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has prioritized EMS delivery and is supporting a multi-faceted effort to address gaps in EMS coverage and improve response time, including taking steps to provide countywide, dedicated, supplemental ambulance service coverage.

The Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response (DCER) has begun serving as a facilitator for a shift toward regional contracts to enhance service, improve response time, ensure comprehensive coverage and drive down cost.

County Executive Serino said, "Emergency Medical Services is a vital service that we cannot allow to falter. I've heard from residents who are worried about whether or not an ambulance will be able to get to them in time if there is an emergency. This is a top priority, and we are working with both our local municipal partners, as well as engaging our state and federal representatives, to develop comprehensive solutions to ensure EMS is sustainable for the future for our residents."

Many would be surprised to learn that EMS is not considered an "essential" service and is not mandated by State or Federal government; therefore, there are no state or federal funding sources as exists for law enforcement or fire services. EMS has traditionally been coordinated at the local town or village level and funded through property taxes. This results in a patchwork system, with

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Hard work, determination prove injury 'can't stop' WKZE DJ

By Rich Thomaselli
and Curtis Schmidt

This is a story about hard work and belief - a veritable lesson in resilience and faith.

And it all starts - and ends - with the pinky finger.

On Easter Sunday April 17, 2022 DJ Rick Schneider, Music Director and host of "The Up And Running Morning Show" on 98.1 WKZE Radio, had an accident and tore a tendon in his pinky finger while collecting and storing some wood.

At first, he didn't know what to think.

"It was like a mind melt. The finger wouldn't move. All I kept thinking was, 'What is happening here?' My brain cannot move my finger," he said.

Schneider was obviously in great pain.

"So I went to my doctor and he was in disbelief and exclaimed, 'What the **** did you do to your hand?'

"I knew I was in trouble. My doctor did not sugarcoat the situation," said Schneider.

The physician said he couldn't do much and advised him to see a hand specialist.

So, he left the doctor's office and headed straight to a specialist in Kingston. After X-rays and an MRI exam, it was confirmed to be a torn ten-



DJ Rick Schneider, of 98.1 WKZE Radio, is back playing his favorite guitar after a rehabilitation process of over a year on his injured pinky finger. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

don, actually the top tendon, which is needed to bend the finger.

Schneider was told that he had only two choices - live with the now-deformed finger or have surgery in which there was only a 50-percent chance he would regain the use of the movement and function of the finger.

And there was/is another compounding problem. Schneider didn't just want to regain use of the small finger for his regular job at WKZE and do household

chores. He is also a guitarist in a local band called "Mister Roper."

Yes, the inspiration was the American character Mister Roper (played by John Saxon) in the 1973 Bruce Lee Kung Fu Classic "Enter The Dragon" with a touch of the superintendent of the apartment building from the TV show "Three's Company."

"Playing guitar," said Schneider "is my joy, my passion, my escape, my

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Susan Fox Rogers was recently named the Red Hook Public Library's first Ascienzo Naturalist-in-Residence. Courtesy photo

Red Hook Public Library names naturalist-in-residence

The Red Hook Public Library recently introduced its first Ascienzo Naturalist-in-Residence. Susan Fox Rogers will lead walks and discussions as part of her duties.

"[Naturalist-in-Residence] ... could be a daunting role, except my definition of a naturalist is simple: it is someone curious about the world around them," Fox Rogers stated in an email announcing her appointment. "That curiosity has led me down many paths, to being a bird watcher, kayaker, rock climber, writer and teacher. For twenty-two years I was writer-in-residence at Bard College, where I taught creative essays that focused on the Hudson River, the natural world, and on birds."

Fox Rogers has published two books "My Reach: A Hudson River Memoir,"

which explores the Hudson River from the perspective of her kayak; and "Learning the Birds: A Mid-Life Adventure," which chronicles her early birding life around the country and world.

"I have traveled to Antarctica (on a National Science Foundation grant) and to the Arctic (by tall sailing ship on an artist's grant) but am most happy exploring the Tivoli Bays and other haunts near home," she said. "I look forward to sharing my knowledge of the natural world (with a keen focus on birds!), and of this region, and to learning from others as we meet for walks or sharing ideas on a Thursday evening. We have so much to be curious about in this beautiful place we call home—so come join me."

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Dr. Oppenheimer

The ‘Tommy’ Zurhellen Fund



Many of you may know the name “Tommy” Zurhellen – he has been long been passionate advocate for veterans and their families. What you may not know is that there is special grant fund named in his honor offered through our Dutchess County Veterans’ Services to help veterans who are trying to reintegrate into the community and achieve a measure of self-sufficiency.

The fund was established in 2020 by former County Executive Marc Molinaro in recognition and honor of Mr. Zurhellen for all of his efforts on behalf of veterans, notably his walk across the country from Portland, Oregon to Poughkeepsie to draw attention to veteran homelessness and rising suicide rates. His walk also raised money for Hudson River Housing’s VetZero project which provides vets with rides to important appointments like doctor’s appointments and job interviews.

The Tommy Zurhellen fund provides one-time assistance to veterans and their

families during times of emergency and / or financial crisis that may arise unexpectedly. This could include something like a boiler breaking down or other situations that could compromise the vet’s ability to maintain or secure stable housing, access job training opportunities, or acquire employment such as transportation to and from a job or job interview.

Dutchess County veterans can apply for funding up \$750 for an individual or \$1,500 for a veteran and their spouse. To be eligible, the veteran can’t be seeking financial help from another entity for the same need. Award checks are issued directly to the vendor, service provider or landlord requiring the payment.

Many of the vets I know who have received assistance from the Zurhellen Fund during a critical time of facing challenges of daily life, have told me they almost didn’t take the time to apply for the money. They’ve said the paperwork seemed too cumbersome or they had feeling of inadequacy about how they

couldn’t make ends meet on their own. However, once they realized not following through only hurt themselves and their families and they applied for the assistance, a feeling of gratitude inevitable followed.

Since the fund’s inception, we at the Division of Veterans’ Services have helped scores of veterans obtain financial help from the Zurhellen Fund, and it is our desire to make the process of obtaining the grant as smooth as possible. Call our office and our staff will gladly advise you and walk you through what type of emergency needs would qualify for obtaining the grant and what documentation you would need to bring to complete the application process.

No veteran should ever feel awkward about seeking help as they reintegrate back into civilian life. It is well documented that the transition is challenging to a significant percentage of the nation’s returning veterans. In fact, a comprehensive 2019 Pew Research survey indicated that 46 percent of veterans who had some

combat experience indicated this adjustment was difficult, as opposed to just 18 percent who did not see combat. The number is even higher if someone has dealt with some form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

We understand the challenges of returning to civilian life because we have lived it too. All of the counselors you will meet here at the Division of Veterans’ Services have served in the armed forces and it is our heartfelt calling to assist our brothers and sisters make this transition as easy as possible. The Tommy Zurhellen Fund is just one of the many ways Dutchess County stands alongside those who served our country.

If you are facing a financial challenge and have questions about our Tommy Zurhellen Fund, please contact us at Veterans’ Services. Our offices are located at the Veterans One Stop at 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley; you can call us at (845) 486-2060; email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov or visit our webpage at www.DutchessNY.gov/veterans

Serino puts priority on EMS services

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local municipalities and fire districts throughout Dutchess County opting for differing approaches of volunteer, career and commercial services. While many municipalities have contracted with commercial providers to provide, or supplement, EMS coverage, other municipalities have no formal coverage. This results in fragmented, inconsistent, and non-standardized service delivery with a wide range of costs, coverage ability and response times, as outlined in the Profile of Dutchess County EMS and Options for the Future Review of Current Operations and Opportunities for Change report, which was completed in collaboration with the Center for Government Research (CGR), and the Dutchess County Citizens Advisory Committee on EMS.

Adding to the challenges of EMS is the diminishing number of professionals in the field as the demand for service rises. A 2023 EMS Sustainability report from the New York State Department of Health’s Bureau of Emergency Medical and Trauma Services found that fewer than 50% of certified EMS providers

statewide are currently working in the field, and the number of new paramedics getting certified is rapidly declining. The report pointed to pay rate and benefit disparity for EMS compared to other emergency services (law enforcement, fire services) that are mandated and consistently funded among the reasons for declining numbers of new recruits or recertifications.

EMS was the major topic of discussion at a meeting of Mayors and Supervisors, convened in January by Serino and DCER Commissioner Dana Smith. At the meeting, Commissioner Smith outlined County efforts to address this public safety and stressed the importance of intergovernmental collaboration for sustainable solutions.

Among the steps DCER is taking is a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI), issued in January, soliciting interest from qualified and experienced ambulance service providers to present potential approaches to supplement and enhance existing EMS coverage that would build on the current network of

municipal EMS service contracts. Responses to the RFEI, which are due March 1st, will help create a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) for supplemental ambulance service units that would be under the direction of DCER.

To potentially contract with commercial EMS providers and entice providers that do not currently operate in Dutchess County to add service to the area, the County will need to obtain a Certificate of Need (CON) from New York State Department of Health, providing the County the authority to direct contracted EMS units to respond to emergencies when a local agency is unavailable. The Dutchess County Legislature authorized DCER to apply for the CON in a resolution unanimously adopted late last year.

Commissioner Smith said, “We recognize that contracting for supplemental service is only a stop-gap measure, but it will enable us to address current needs while developing a long-term comprehensive solution that will require support from multiple levels of government.”

Dutchess County is partnering with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and a coalition of state lawmakers and advocates on the “Rescue EMS” initiative. As part of Rescue EMS, a package of State legislation has been introduced to strengthen local EMS service. The various legislations are designed to provide local governments with the authority to create and fund countywide EMS systems, provide financial incentives for EMS workers to enter and stay in the field, and update Medicaid reimbursement rates to reflect current needs and costs. Currently, Medicaid does not reimburse EMS providers who treat an individual on-site or transport them to a non-hospital facility such as the County’s Stabilization Center. The proposed legislation would establish a mechanism for Medicaid to reimburse the cost of medical care received via call, text, or other request for emergency medical assistance.

Dutchess County Legislator Chairman Will Truitt said, “Identifying and securing funding streams will be crucial to support this work. Local property taxpayers cannot solely bear the burden of the ever-increasing cost of EMS and

that is why every level of government must come together to find comprehensive solutions to drive down costs and develop diversified funding sources. We are counting on our state and federal representatives to support us in our efforts.”

As highlighted last year during the annual budget process, addressing the EMS crisis is one of the reasons the 2024 Dutchess County Budget was adopted with an increase to the county sales tax rate, which will require State approval later this year to go into effect. Additional sales tax revenue—which is shared with cities, towns and villages—combined with local municipal investment as well as state and federal funding, would provide the critical funding for real solutions without the cost burden being borne by a single level of government.

As these latest efforts move forward, DCER will also continue its ongoing work - meeting regularly with EMS providers in Dutchess County to provide resources and support whenever possible. DCER also works directly with many local municipalities, including recently assisting the City of Beacon in EMS contract development for a commercial provider in conjunction with local volunteer providers. DCER also helped develop an intermunicipal contract arrangement among the towns of Amenia, North East and Dover for EMS coverage. The department will continue this work, capitalizing on the current municipal spending and facilitating solutions to improve coverage and reduce response times.

DCER will also continue to research EMS models currently utilized or planned in other communities across the state and nation, including a recent visit to Nassau County, to learn about the latest innovations and best practices.

“Overcoming the challenges facing EMS is not a simple task, nor is there a quick fix. It will take time to develop a comprehensive, countywide approach, but we are committed to working with our partners at every level of government to develop solutions that are patient-centered, consistent, reliable, affordable and sustainable for Dutchess County residents,” said Commissioner Smith.

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See story,
page 8



State grant helps expand mental health and wellness support in Red Hook schools

Expanded access to school-based mental health professionals and other programs, services and supports for mental health and wellness is on its way for Red Hook students thanks to a state grant.

Red Hook Central School District (RHCSD) has been awarded a \$786,400 New York State Recover from COVID School grant (RECOVS) to add services. The NYS RECOVS Grant Program helps school districts counter the negative consequences of the pandemic on school-age children.

The district will use the grant to expand existing efforts to support students for the 2023-24 school year and develop new programs for 2024-2025. The main initiatives are:

- Providing new professional development for school staff to help them identify and address mental health concerns and receive certification as Mental Health First Aid trainers, to train every ninth grader in mental health first aid and expand students' capacity to recognize their own and their peers' mental health needs.

- Creating a targeted support program at the high school for students with sig-

nificant mental health issues, which consists of a self-contained classroom. The goal is to provide on-campus services tailored to each student that will have a flexible timeframe that is determined by the district. The program is also an alternative method of supporting our students to mitigate school refusal, low attendance, and dropouts.

- Expanding the time allotment with a behaviorist who is contracted through BOCES, which will enable us to offer a greater level of support for our students and families.

"I am very excited about receiving the grant and the increased opportunities it will bring for RHCSD to expand its support of its students' social emotional needs exacerbated by a post-COVID world, the negative impacts of social media, and the lack of community resources to adequately support our students and families," said Jack Costello, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Funding for RHCSD was awarded under the Mental Health RECOVS Grant Program for two years and covers expenses incurred from Nov. 1, 2023 to Oct. 31, 2025.

Drug Task Force K-9 Team begins 4-week training at Narcotics Detection School



The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force K-9 Team began a four-week intensive Narcotics Detection School earlier this month hosted by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. The Drug Task Force Agent and his K-9 Denver will be trained and certified to detect narcotics, including Fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine.

Upon their completion of the school, agents from the District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force, as well as other law enforcement agencies, will have this K-9 Team as a resource to combat drug dealers bringing dangerous drugs into our communities. Dutchess County is utilizing all available resources to prevent senseless overdose deaths. -Courtesy photo

DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUE SERINO TO DELIVER 2024 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS ON MARCH 14

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino will present her 2024 State of the County Address on March 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Red Hook High School, 103 W. Market St., in Red Hook. One may RSVP online at www.dutchessny.gov/RSVP.

Hard work, determination prove injury 'can't stop' WKZE DJ

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everything."

So he opted for the surgery, a "Z-Plasty," and the subsequent rehabilitation. But in what Schneider called a blunt, honest assessment by the medical crew, he was told that in order for this process to have a chance at succeeding, he would need to attend rehab sessions at least twice a week. He was told they would not be sure what the results would be due to scar tissue and the physical healing process, and if he wanted to play the guitar again, he had to work and work hard.

There was a lot of uncertainty, but it WAS his desire and goal to play guitar again. Most people, he was told, went to rehab, did the bare minimum and hoped for the best. But doing the bare minimum was unacceptable to Schneider, who quickly realized that if you don't put in the work, you won't reap the results that you want.

He said, "What I learned from myself being in therapy, it was scientific and kind of amazing. I had a tendon injury and pretty much what the rehab people and the doctor told me was 'This is no man's land and we mean this in the worst possible way. If there was a list of injuries that we can list and go from worse to best, yours is right up there with the worst.'"

Grim news, to be sure. But it only further motivated Schneider.

"I told my therapists that I was committed to do the work it would take for me to be able to play the guitar again," he said. "They informed me I might not get

back 100 percent mobility of my finger. I told them I would work as hard as I could so I can bring back as much percentage that I could. I needed to be able to put pressure on the tip of my finger where the injury was to be able to press the string down against the fret of the guitar, and also be able to bend my finger, so it doesn't mute all the strings, and just play one note at a time."

So after 12 difficult weeks of Occupational Therapy at Ivy Rehab in Kingston, immediately following his surgery, the therapists told Schneider "You are doing so great. At this point we consider you 100 percent."

Not 100 percent yet

But he responded, "No, I'm sorry I'm not." The therapists said they consider being able to hold a broom, move a vacuum cleaner, hold the steering wheel, etc... and your finger with that much bending and mobility to be 100 percent.

"I said 'thank you so much for all the work that you've done so far... but unacceptable!' I want to keep going. I need to have the dexterity that I'd like to have to be able to play the guitar and have that joy in my life. It's missing."

So, the therapists decided to extend his therapeutic prescription another 6 to 12 weeks, noting they were so happy with his progress and the work that he was doing.

"They told me that in order to get the results that you want, 'you also have to go home and repetitively do the exercises



The pinky finger is just as important as the index, middle and ring fingers when forming guitar chords. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

we ask you to do.' I complied," said Schneider.

One of the therapists surprised him when he came to his next appointment. She said "To understand and help you, we watched guitar players on YouTube and came up with a formula of how often the pinky is used while a guitar player is playing."

Schneider said, "I was so appreciative of the fact that they actually did research and wanted to help me get the results that I wanted. They even helped make prosthetic devices that would try to bend my finger the way I wanted it to bend. I thanked them for all their help, guidance and encouragement."

"The whole experience of rehab was so enlightening to me," Schneider said. "The pinky is every bit as important as the other fingers. I would never want to

lose it!"

After six months post surgery, he started playing guitar live again. He was slowly getting most of his dexterity back. Schneider was still frustrated his finger did not bend like it formerly did. The therapists at his final appointment said, "Trust us. In another six-nine months, the swelling will go down further, and you will have even more dexterity and bending."

Six-nine months seemed daunting at the time. "To play a bar chord, you have to have all fingers on the guitar at once," he said.

But time and healing are still progressing to this day and he plans to record and more live "Mister Roper" shows in the near future.

Sounds like he has a firm grasp on the situation.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

& Creative Living

(Published weekly)

Northern Dutchess News & Creative Living is a division of the Southern Dutchess News, produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959. The Southern Dutchess News is an official newspaper of Dutchess County, as voted by the Dutchess County Legislature. The Northern Dutchess News is the official newspaper of the Towns of Amenia, Millbrook, Union Vale, Stanford and Rhinebeck.

Submit all legal notices to sdnlegals@aol.com.

Publisher
Albert Osten

Executive Editor/
General Manager
Curtis Schmidt
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Editorial/Creative Director
Kate Goldsmith

Reporters
Kristine Coulter
Rich Thomaselli

Contributing Writers
Jim Donick
Stacey vanden Thoorn

Advertising Representative
Richard Wambach
845-417-5377
richardlw47@gmail.com

Advertising deadline: Friday, noon

To submit news and letters to the editor:
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com
Deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m.

To submit arts-related news
and calendar events:
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Creative Living deadline is Thursday
at 3 p.m. for publication the following week.

Northern Dutchess News serves the towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale and Washington; the villages of Millbrook, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli; and the hamlet of Salt Point

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Ukrainian Americans mark painful Anniversary – February 24th

Editor's note: Upon the writer's request, we have retained the lower-case spellings of "russia," "russian" and "russo."

To the editor:

February 24th will be a painful reminder of the horrific russian invasion, assault and ongoing atrocities levied on Ukraine and its people by Putin and his imperialistic lust for power.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, at 5 a.m., when russia launched missile attacks on many Ukrainian cities. The invasion was the largest attack on a European country since World War II. This invasion was an escalation of the russo-Ukrainian War that actually began in 2014. The 2014 annexation of Crimea by russia was a clear violation of international law and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Prior to the 2022 invasion, there had been eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian government forces and russia-backed separatists. These military atrocities against innocent civilians have been shockingly evident to the world, especially with the images coming out from Bucha, and have caused worldwide condemnation.

As members of The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, a Ukrainian American national organization established in New York City in 1925, our mandates are to preserve and educate about our culture, our ancestral history, our national identity, and to advocate for Ukraine's right to be a free, self-governing and democratic nation. As active community members of Dutchess and Ulster Counties, we are writing on behalf of our Hudson Valley Ukrainian diaspora.

The Ukrainians in Ukraine and we, as Ukrainian Americans, are so very thankful for the outpouring of support from around the world and especially the many-faceted aid from the United States. However, the longer this war continues, the more difficult it is to maintain Ukraine's defenses. Ukrainian troops are now being forced to ration their ammunition on the winter frontlines as russia presses on. Understanding that the chances of a quick replenishment of weaponry are diminishing because of other world conflicts, russia has stepped up its efforts to inflict maximum damage to the infrastructure and citizenry of Ukraine.

Ukrainians, as former prisoners of Soviet control, deeply understand that sacrificing Ukraine to russia, as some have suggested, will only further whet Putin's power appetite and, with the support of his allies in the Middle East and the East, will eventually lead to a broader power grab.

We are urgently asking for the help of our fellow Americans to pressure our elected officials, through letters, emails or calls, to continue to support bipartisan agreement to approve crucial aid to Ukraine. Helping Ukraine now is not only morally required but also a matter of national security for our home, the United States.

The Vassar Alliance for Ukraine, in collaboration with the Office of Religious and Spiritual life and Contemplative practices and the office of International Services, will be holding a Vigil for Ukraine on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Peace Garden (near the Aula Building) on the campus of Vassar College. All are invited to attend.

On behalf of the members of The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 95

Mary Panchyshyn
Maria Cade Marianna Zajac,
President, UNWLA Br 95 Vice President,
Br 95 UNWLA Honorary President

Saying NO to luxury hotel in Hyde Park/Clinton area

To the editor:

International Hotel Group, a global corporation, aims to construct a luxury hotel resort on 200+ acres of natural wetlands, farmland, and forests along Route 9G that is sure to undermine our rural community.

This proposed Six Senses US-debut hotel will have an irreversible impact that will be felt by all of us in the surrounding area, especially in these ways:

- The water treatment plant required will put our local water supply and its quality at risk. Historic Crum Elbow Creek faces wastewater dumping, and pristine Browns Pond could be affected.

- Up to 600 vehicles daily means more traffic, noise, wildlife casualties, and air pollution.

- The interconnected ecosystems of the protected wetlands that shelter five endangered species—including turtles, bats, butterflies—hang in the balance. Demise of the wetlands fuels climate change.

- At night, the surrounding neighborhoods will see the glow of lighting from the large campus and parking lot, also disruptive for wildlife.

Commercial hotels are not allowed in this area, but IHG/Six Senses hopes to use a loophole through a previous Town of Clinton Special Use Permit designed for small conference centers. And the public road frontage needed to access the development crosses the Crum Elbow Creek over protected Greenbelt wetland property, which the Town of Hyde Park has opposed.

A growing group of community residents called CommonSensesHV is organizing public awareness to protect our rural community. Join us in saying no to a large, self-contained luxury resort that has no commercial upside for our surrounding towns.

Kim Lewis
Town of Clinton

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)
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- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

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Rhinebeck students ‘Take A Stand’ in Social Change Art Program with ENTA

Families turned out in large numbers and showed their love of art and their students at the February 13th opening night of “Taking A Stand – Art for Social Change,” at Rhinebeck’s Bulkeley Middle School (BMS). The exhibit is open during school hours through the end of February.

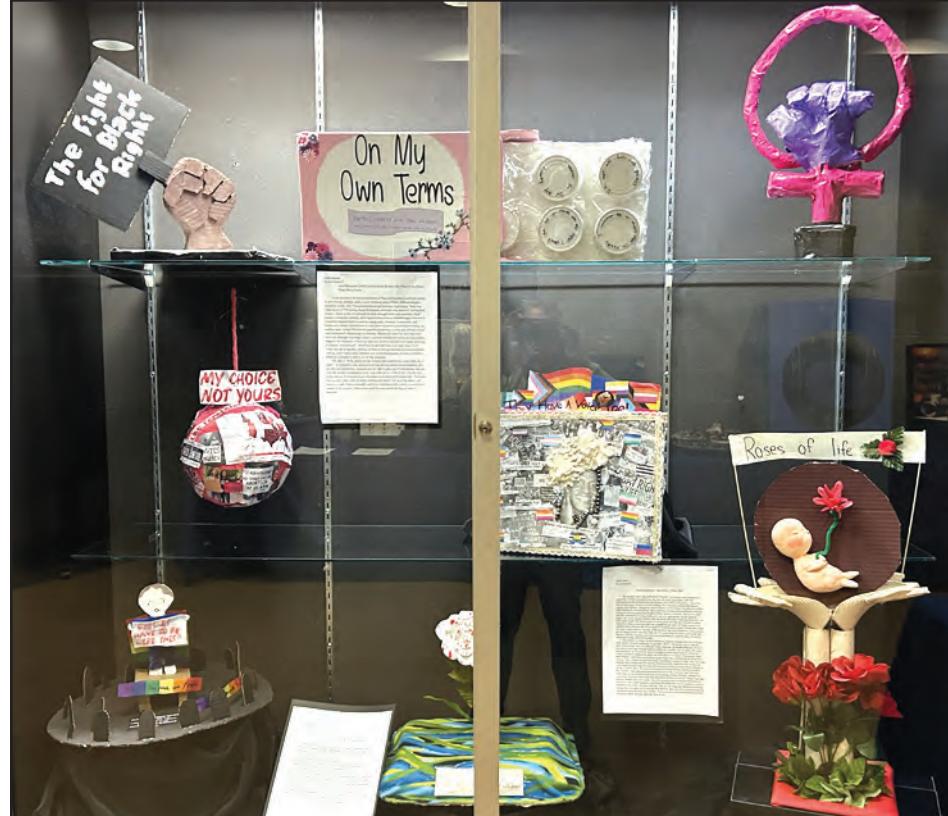
Seventy-five middle school 8th graders took part in the program designed by Dee Kaake, BMS English teacher, and Diane Linenbroker, BMS Librarian, in collaboration with ENTA – Education Network for Teachers & Artists, Inc., a Rhinebeck-based, non-profit arts organization, specializing in teaching all subjects through the Arts.

Hundreds of students have participated since the program’s inception in 2014, and this year’s students took on topics ranging from civil rights to environmental change, racism to gender bias, immigration and reproductive choices. In their English classes, students begin the program by researching their topic of choice and then working with local artists for several weeks to realize artwork that reflects their opinion on an issue of social change.

“The students demonstrate great courage in taking a public stand in this way. Sharing their work openly is an important part of the learning,” said Kaake. Student artwork is led by a team



Families and personnel at Bulkeley Middle School in Rhinebeck view artworks in an exhibit entitled “Taking A Stand – Art for Social Change.” At left is a showcase of some of the artworks. The exhibit is open during school hours through the end of February. Courtesy photos



of ENTA artists including Kim Chandler, Martha Tobias, Mimi Graminski and Alyssa Greenway. “

These talented teaching artists help the students work with a variety of materials to envision their statement and turn it into a powerful work of art. Students learn that making change is about speaking out,” added Pat Sexton, Executive Director of ENTA.

The student works include sculptures, paintings, collages and fiber hangings, utilizing a variety of art media, including recycled items, such as cardboard boxes, plastics and household items. Also on display are the students’ written artist state-

ments about their research, the materials they chose to work with and their process of creation and discovery.

Funding for this program was provided by the RCSD Arts in Education Committee, The Thomas Thompson Trust and individual donors to ENTA. ENTA works closely with school districts to engage collaboratively with classroom teachers to develop and execute arts-based learning programs for a wide range of subjects including math, science, literature and history, as well as art.

For more information on ENTA, visit the website at ent4arts.org, find ENTA on Facebook or call 845-876-6880.

“The personal touch from Bank of Millbrook really made a big impression on us, as our business was built by being on the front line.” - John Stefanopoulos



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Red Hook Public Library names naturalist-in-residence

continued from cover

A Launch Event will take place on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Greig Farm, 227 Pitcher Lane, Red Hook. Join the library at Greig Farm for cider and snacks, a short walk along the trails, and an introduction to the next three months of natural adventures.

Meet at the picnic benches, and bring quarters to buy food to feed the goats. All are welcome.

MONDAY MORNING OFFICE HOURS

Join Susan on Monday mornings at 7 a.m., starting on March 11, with a walk down Cruger Island Road in the Tivoli Bays. These walks are a great way to start the week.

These walks are open to all. The terrain is easy—a wide gravel road that allows for walking side-by-side. There is some incline—the road goes downhill to the bays—so the return might be strenuous for some. The group will walk out onto the Cruger Causeway, which can be muddy, so wear sturdy shoes, and if you want to venture further out, ones you don’t care if they get muddy. For walks in March/April dress warmly. Birding is slow. Participants can join and leave the walk at any time—this is an “out and back.”

On May 6 and May 20 the walk will

start at 4 a.m. for the dawn chorus (owls).

Parking at the top of the gravel road is good for 3-4 cars, so park in the Bard “Robbins” lot and walk down.

For more information, contact susanfoxrogers@gmail.com

THURSDAY EVENING NATURE CONVERSATIONS

Every other Thursday evening, starting on March 14, join Susan in the Library’s community room for a series of nature talks. These sessions will include nature observations and ideas on sustainability, and opportunities to share knowledge from moths to eels to salamanders.

Check <https://redhooklibrary.org/calendar/> for guest speakers.

SATURDAY MORNING NATURE WALKS

Every other Saturday, Susan will guide the group through and around local open spaces, with partner organizations including Winnakee Land Trust, Bard College, and the O Zone.

Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m.: Winnakee property on Linden Ave.

Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m.: Montgomery Place

Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m.: Vlei Marsh

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.: The O Zone

Visit <https://redhooklibrary.org/calendar/> to learn more.

Maple Sugaring Activity Day set Saturday at Stony Kill

By Kristine Coulter

A Sugar Maple Activity Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 24 at Stony Kill Farm, located at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls.

"All ages are welcome to attend and learn how to identify and tap a maple tree, play some outdoor games and learn the basics of backyard maple sugaring. We'll be cooking sap over a campfire while our team of Milking Devons demonstrate their oxen skills," said Farm Program Director Stacey Lynch Adnams.

Other activities will also be held that day. "The livestock barn will also be open for tours with our volunteer barn guides. Attendees can visit our sheep, cows, chickens and turkeys," said Lynch Adnams.

Stony Kill Foundation will host a Maple Sugaring Activity Day on February 24. Courtesy photo



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Breast Cancer Options announces support group meetings

Breast Cancer Options announced the following support groups.

First Thursday, 6 p.m. Monthly on Zoom. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uZMsds-ihpz0uSNg6Nvk0BsCGoFNR7ehfGw>

Breast Cancer Options Metastatic Support Group

Second Monday, 6:30 p.m. Monthly on Zoom. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZQqcuhpjwuAYdvO6TGRWfUwVQ7hMAeEQ>

Breast Cancer Options Support Group Second Wednesday, 10 a.m. Monthly on Zoom. Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/upEpdmqrj4pAwR5BPfzTVcc_qTOTBseQ

Breast Cancer Options Younger Women Support Group

Third Monday, 6:30 p.m. Monthly on Zoom. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uPMPd->

qprz8iJOhRvt18wjX9ux4bybtvg

Breast Cancer Options Metastatic Support Group

Fourth Monday, 4:30 p.m. Monthly on Zoom. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZQqcuhpjwuAYdvO6TGRWfUwVQ7hMAeEQ>

If one has any requests for special programs or educational topics, let them know. For information on all services: 845/339-HOPE, email hope@breastcanceroptions.org, www.breastcanceroptions.org.

Breast Cancer Options provides direct services in the Hudson Valley counties of Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Orange & Sullivan. Its Zoom support groups welcome survivors from all over as do several of its programs.

The organization welcome calls and provide information no matter where you live.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

Rhinebeck Chamber

Business Breakfast set Feb. 27

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Business Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at The Pavilion at Brookmeade. Hear from Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino about new initiatives and plans for Dutchess County. The cost to members is \$25, and non-members \$30. Visit www.rhinebeckchamber.com to register.

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board to meet Feb. 28

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, in person at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, in the library. Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend. To submit comments, for more information, including any requests for reasonable accommodation, including Sign Language Interpreters (requires 5 days notice), please call 845-293-3547 or email info@dcplcbank.org.

Rhinebeck Garden Club sets monthly meeting

The Rhinebeck Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m., at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. Program: Dirty Gaia; Small, Simple & Sustainable Ways to Garden & Grow Food. Presented by Sue Sie. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcomed. Every year the Rhinebeck Garden Club puts together a series of meetings, field trips and events which are mostly open to the public. For information, call Hannah at 914-263-5298 or log on to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

Good Egg Award set March 13 at Brookmeade

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Good Egg Award Dinner & Celebration on Wednesday, March 13, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Pavilion at Brookmeade.

The Good Egg Award is a time-honored tradition that celebrates those who have made significant contributions to the Rhinebeck community. This year's honoree is Carolyn Bennett, former executive director of the Rhinebeck Chamber. The Chamber's board of directors notes that Bennett "has shown exemplary dedication, commitment, and service to the Rhinebeck area" through "her tireless efforts."

The evening will begin with a cocktail social hour, followed by a dinner prepared by a special talented team at The Pavilion at Brookmeade. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with local business leaders, community members, the honoree and special guests.

Member tickets are \$90; non-member tickets are \$100. Tickets and sponsorship information is available at www.rhinebeckchamber.com.

Rhinebeck Grange holds Wintertime Soup Sale

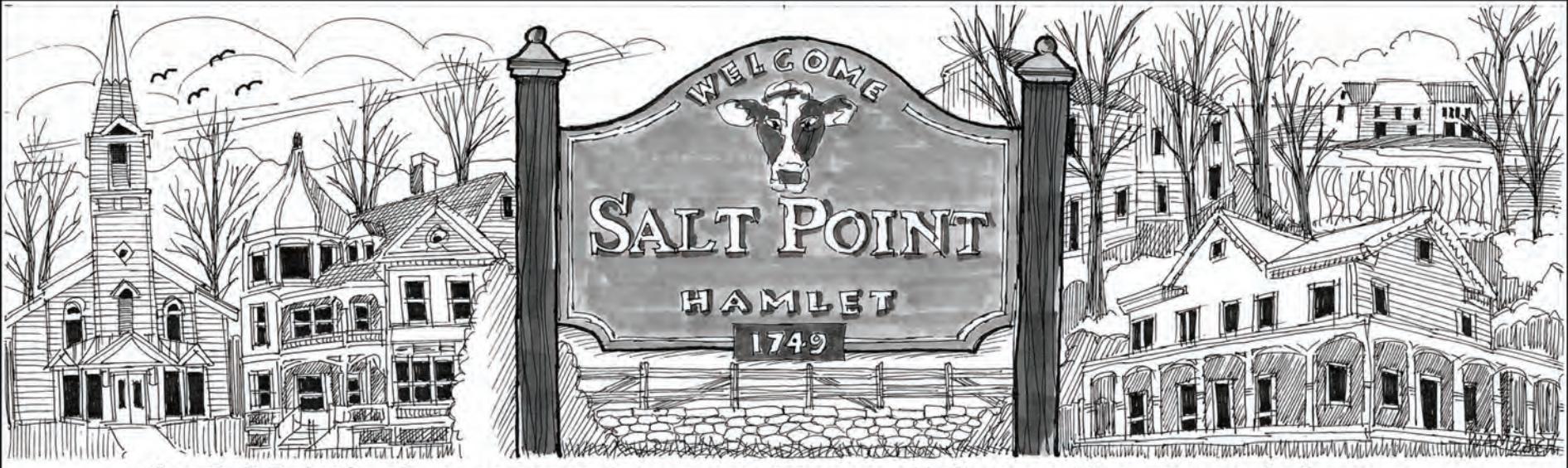
Rhinebeck Grange #896 will hold its final Winter Soup Sale on Thursday, March 21. Homemade soups sold for \$10 per quart, take-out only, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pickup is at the side door of the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell and Orchard, in Rhinecliff. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to receive the soup choices for each sale and to order in advance online.

Repair Cafes set in Stanford

The Stanford Free Library will host 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. 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 18 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. Work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call 845-229-6432.



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Millbrook Vineyards & Winery honors legacy of retiring winemaker, appoints Bearup to coveted role

Succeeding Millbrook Vineyards & Winery's (Millbrook Winery) first winemaker of 40 years, John Graziano, the Winery has appointed Ian Bearup to head winemaker. With an illustrious career marked by a passion for crafting exceptional wines and pushing the boundaries of traditional winemaking, Bearup brings his profound vision to the Winery as it embarks on its next chapter.

Recently, Millbrook Winery announced the retirement of Graziano, who served as the head winemaker since 1983, nearly the entire length of the winery's establishment. Graziano led the craft of developing the large variety of grapes and wines grown and served onsite to what it is today, including making the winery the first in the Hudson River region dedicated exclusively to the production of vinifera grapes. Graziano has long shared his knowledge and love of wine with others, including incoming head winemaker, Bearup, whose appointment comes at an exciting time for the Winery as it continues to expand its portfolio and enhance its reputation as one of the premier, award-winning wineries in all of New York State.

"I cannot express enough our deepest gratitude to John for his years of dedication and invaluable contributions to Millbrook Winery," said David Bova, general manager and vice president of Millbrook Vineyards and Winery. "Ian's passion for the art of winemaking, dedication to the craft, and expertise in the process perfectly align with our values as a winery. We have full confidence and are excited for him to continue to produce exceptional wines that showcase the unique range of winemaking in the Hudson Valley and build on the foundation laid by John."

Bearup has held a professional winery

career for nearly two decades, getting his start at wineries across California, Oregon, and New Zealand.

In these roles, Bearup has had firsthand experience at every step of the winemaking process, including harvesting grapes for wine varieties like Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and more, as well as sampling, overseeing ripening lab analyses and nutrient additions to barrels, leading to fine-tuning blending trials and expertly crafted bottles. Bearup previously served as an assistant and associate winemaker with Balletto Vineyards in Santa Rosa, California beginning in 2013. There, he worked berry-to-bottle with the family-owned brand, focusing on its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay varieties grown from Russian River and Sonoma Coast vineyards. In this position, Bearup also served as the winery's brand ambassador, hosting winemaker dinners, and attending trade shows and sales events. In 2021, Bearup and his family made the move to the East Coast to join the winemaking team at Millbrook Winery, where he quickly proved his unmatched expertise among the staff and guests. Today, he leads the production of over 12,000 cases of Millbrook wine annually and oversees the 30 acres of vines on the property, including plantings of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Tocai Friulano, Riesling, Grüner Veltliner, Gamay Noir, and Traminette.

Bearup was born in Northern California and raised in Upstate New York. He currently lives in Dutchess County, New York. He received his bachelor's degree from Elon University in North Carolina and a winemaking certification from the University of California Davis.



With an illustrious career marked by a passion for crafting exceptional wines and pushing the boundaries of traditional winemaking, Ian Bearup brings his profound vision to the Millbrook Winery as it embarks on its next chapter. The Winery has announced the retirement of John Graziano, who served as the head winemaker since 1983, nearly the entire length of the winery's establishment. Courtesy photos



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The Beekeeper (R)

Land of Bad (R)

Bob Marley: One Love (PG13)

Madame Web (PG13)

Local officials rally for increased funding for CHIPS

Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R,C - East Fishkill) in partnership with Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan took center stage on Feb. 16 at the Fishkill Highway Garage, hosting a spirited rally to champion the cause for increased funding in the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) as part of the forthcoming 2024 budget.

The event drew a diverse assembly of participants, including highway and town officials from across the Hudson Valley, who were united in their commitment to advocating for the critical funds required for local road and bridge repair and enhancement.

CHIPS serves as the essential conduit for collecting public funds, channeling them through the Department of Transportation to support the maintenance and improvement of local roads and bridges. Assemblyman Beephan, recognizing CHIPS's vital role in Dutchess County, is determined to secure continued and robust support for the local infrastructure projects.

"Today (Feb. 16), we stand united to ensure that Hudson Valley receives the support it needs through the CHIPS Program. Our local roads are the lifeblood of our communities, connecting us and facilitating essential daily activities," Beephan declared at the rally. "As we gather here with Highway and town officials from across the Hudson Valley,

along with my esteemed colleagues, we are collectively urging for the restoration of \$60 million to the CHIPS budget, matching last year's allocation. Additionally, we call for an additional \$200 million to address the impacts of inflation on critical infrastructure projects."

The joint efforts of Assembly members Anil Beephan, Matt Slater, John McGowan, Brian Maher and Senator Rob Rolison, and several community bipartisan officials underscore the commitment to securing the resources for the Hudson Valley region. Their call for restoring previous funding levels and an additional allocation to account for inflation reflects a forward-looking approach to maintaining and improving local infrastructure.

As the budget negotiations continue, officials emphasize the urgency of sustaining and enhancing the CHIPS program, recognizing it as an investment in the safety, connectivity, and prosperity of Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley.

Dutchess officials present included Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan, Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra, Fishkill Council members Brian Wrye and John Forman, East Fishkill Highway Superintendent Kenny Williams, Lagrange Supervisor Alan Bell, Beekman Supervisor Mary Covucci and Dover Highway Superintendent Jason Sartori.

AG: Takedown of ‘gun trafficking network’ that distributed counterfeit pills containing fentanyl

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced on Feb. 14th the takedowns of a gun trafficking network that allegedly sold ghost guns and assault-style rifles and a narcotics trafficking network that distributed counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl in Dutchess County. The takedowns recovered 31 firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, approximately 5,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl with a street value of about \$150,000, and approximately \$55,000 in cash, according to the AG’s Office. As part of a 154-count indictment, four defendants are charged with trafficking numerous firearms, including ghost guns, assault weapons, and high-capacity magazines. In addition, a 63-count indictment charges seven defendants with trafficking thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl.

“The individuals arrested today (Feb. 14) operated a dangerous network that trafficked untraceable ghost guns and flooded New York communities with fentanyl,” said James. “Today’s takedowns send a clear message that we will not allow anyone to fuel the epidemics of gun violence and drug addiction with their illegal activities. This operation was made possible through my office’s partnerships with state and local law enforcement, and I thank the New York State Police and our other partners for their hard work to bring these individuals to justice. I will continue to use my office to protect the safety of all New Yorkers.”

According to law enforcement, the Feb. 14th takedowns were the result of an eighteen-month joint investigation led by the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) and the New York State Police’s (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit – Hudson Valley (SIU-HV) and Troop K – Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (K-VGNET).

“I commend the New York Attorney General’s Office, the members of our New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, and our VGNET team for their extraordinary work in dismantling these firearm and drug trafficking networks,” said New York State

Police Acting Superintendent Steven G. James. “Their vigilance has stopped the infiltration of these guns and the flow of deadly narcotics into our communities as well as the crimes that are perpetuated by them. Each arrest, each seizure saves lives.”

The investigation began in April 2022 and centered around the activities of Muayad Qader, who allegedly sold firearms and drugs out of a Valero gas station in LaGrangeville where he worked, as well as his home in Poughkeepsie. During the investigation, the defendants and their co-conspirators allegedly utilized coded and cryptic terminology in an attempt to disguise their illicit activities, such as referring to ghost guns as “ghosties,” and the counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl as “erks,” “urks,” and “percs.”

The investigation included hundreds of hours of physical and covert surveillance, court-authorized wiretapping of cellular telephones, the analysis of electronic evidence, including cellular telephonic communications, and other traditional investigative operations, according to the OAG.

Firearms Trafficking Network

During the course of the investigation, Qader’s alleged primary supplier of firearms was Jason Knapp. Knapp assembled ghost guns and supplied high-capacity magazines for Qader to sell. Qader’s alleged other suppliers included Joseph Silverman and Louis Gonzalez, who supplied him with other firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The investigation into the firearms trafficking network led to the recovery of:

1. 31 firearms, including 14 un-serialized AR-style ghost gun rifles, two serialized non-compliant AR-style rifles, a defaced AR-style rifle, a defaced magazine-fed shotgun, a Polymer-80 ghost gun pistol, and a defaced Glock-21 pistol.
2. An AR-style ghost gun upper receiver and an AR-style ghost gun lower receiver.
3. 19 high-capacity magazines.
4. Hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The 154-count gun trafficking indictment, unsealed on Feb. 14 before the Honorable Edward McLoughlin of



The Office of the Attorney General provided photos of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl and firearms and ammunition recovered by the investigation. Courtesy photos

Dutchess County Court, contains counts for various felony firearms offenses, including charges against Qader and Knapp for Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree, a class B felony, which carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, and various counts of Criminal Sale of a Firearm (class C and D felonies) and Criminal Possession of a Weapon (class C and D felonies), as well as Conspiracy to commit those crimes.

Narcotics Trafficking Network

Beginning in January 2023, investigators also uncovered Qader’s drug trafficking operation, in which he sourced counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl from several individuals in Dutchess County. The pills were dyed and stamped to resemble prescription oxycodone, but contained only fentanyl, putting users in grave danger. The investigation revealed a drug trafficking network in which Curtis Holland would allegedly supply pills to Isaiah Atkins, who would then allegedly supply Qader’s alleged primary source, Aaron Steppe. It was alleged Steppe would meet Qader at the Valero station, transporting the pills in his car with his roommate, Christopher Evans, or his girlfriend, Angel Williams. Additionally, the investigation revealed that Stephen Gary allegedly supplied counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl to Qader at the Valero Gas Station.

The investigation into the narcotics trafficking network led to the recovery of:

1. Approximately 5,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, with an approximate street value of \$150,000.
2. Drug paraphernalia, including bags and scales, used to package and measure narcotics.
3. Approximately \$55,000 in cash.

The 63-count narcotics trafficking indictment, also unsealed today in Dutchess County Court, contains counts for various felony narcotics offenses, including charges against Qader, Steppe, Atkins, and Gary for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, a class A2 felony, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and various counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance (class B felonies)

and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance (class A2 and B felonies), as well as Conspiracy to commit those crimes.

Those charged in the Feb. 14th two indictments include: Muayad Qader a/k/a/ “Junior,” 34 years old, Poughkeepsie

Joseph Silverman a/k/a/ “Joey,” 30 years old, Port St. Lucie, Florida Louis Gonzalez, 53 years old, LaGrangeville, Jason Knapp, 43 years old, Verbank

Isaiah Atkins, 27 years old, Poughkeepsie Christopher Evans, 34 years old, Poughkeepsie Stephen Gary, 39 years old, LaGrangeville Curtis Holland, 32 years old, Poughkeepsie Aaron Steppe, 29 years old, Poughkeepsie Angel Williams, 24 years old, Poughkeepsie

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The multi-agency investigation brought together the resources of state and local law enforcement agencies led by the Attorney General’s OCTF, including NYSP K-VGNET, NYSP SIU-HV, and the Poughkeepsie Police Department.

The investigation was led by Investigators from NYSP SIU-HV, under the supervision of NYSP SIU Major Samuel Spezio and Lieutenant Jan Anthony. Investigators from NYSP K-VGNET, under the supervision of NYSP Troop K Major Kathryne Rohde and VGNET Lieutenant Trenee Young, and OCTF Detective Steven Cohan and OCTF Detective David Walsh, under the supervision of OCTF Detective Supervisor Bradford Miller, OCTF Downstate Assistant Chief Ismael Hernandez, and OCTF Deputy Chief Andrew Boss. The Attorney General’s Investigations Division is led by Chief Oliver Pu-Folkes.

In addition to the above listed law enforcement partners, Attorney General James would also like to thank Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, and the Dutchess County Drug Task Force for their assistance throughout the investigation.

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE
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By David Kalvitis

Renegades to honor Newburgh Gorhams

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, announced that for their game on Friday, August 2 against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws they will take the field as the Newburgh Gorhams, paying tribute to one of the first all-black professional baseball teams in the United States.

"The Gorhams are an integral part of baseball history in the Hudson Valley and are one of the best and most important professional teams of the early days of baseball," said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "We are so excited to be bringing them back to life to make sure their legacy is remembered for their significance to both our Hudson Valley and professional baseball communities."

"The rich history of America's pastime runs directly through the Hudson Valley," said Dutchess County Legislator Randy Johnson. "In the nascent days of baseball, all-black professional clubs such as the Newburgh Gorhams overcame obstacles that would seem insurmountable to the modern fan and in the process paved the way for generations of future ballplayers. The story of baseball, and the story of America for that matter, cannot be told without telling the story of clubs such as the Gorhams. I am thrilled that the Hudson Valley Renegades will honor

their legacy this season and I greatly look forward to this historic event."

According to research conducted by Bob Mayer, the New York Gorhams were organized in 1886 in New York City by Ambrose Davis, a saloon owner, and his business partner Phillip Snipper. They got their name from Alexander Gorham, another Manhattan saloon owner who operated an establishment on the same block as Davis.

Though the Gorhams are not the first known all-black professional baseball team, Davis is the first known African-American team owner in professional sports.

After spending 1886 barnstorming and playing exhibitions against other New York-area professional and amateur teams, the Gorhams joined the League of Colored Baseball Players, the first-ever all-black professional baseball league, which featured teams in Boston, Pittsburgh, New York, Louisville, Baltimore and Philadelphia, in 1887. The Gorhams beat the Pittsburgh Keystones 11-8 in the league's first-ever game on May 6, but by May 23 the league folded due in part to financial and travel issues among the clubs.

Still, even for that brief time, it was still precedent setting and deserves to be honored.

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LOCAL SPORTS

By Rich Thomaselli

Poughkeepsie HS girls basketball team grabs historic playoff win over Yonkers

For the first time in 12 years, the Poughkeepsie High School girls basketball team has won a postseason game.

The Pioneers, seated 14th in Section 1, Class AA, whipped No.19 Yonkers, 78-31.

Eighth-grade sensation Mahogany Felix had 20 points in the win.

Poughkeepsie was probably unlikely to defeat No. 3 Harrison on the road in the next round, but the first postseason victory in a dozen years was significant nonetheless.

Nyla Anderson added 14 points for the Pioneers. MoNahjae Dickens scored 13.

Wrestlers qualify for state finals

A handful of wrestlers claimed individual titles at the Section 9 high school wrestling championships last week.

The event was held at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park.

The individual champs, led by the Red Hook duo of Ewan Celestine and Mark Paschal at 124 and 285-pounds respectively, qualified for the state championships Feb. 23 and 24 in Albany.

They will be joined by Our Lady of Lourdes sophomore Bryce Reilly, who won the sectional Division II title at 108 pounds. Four other wrestles from Highland, New Paltz and Marlboro also claimed individual titles and advanced to the state tournament.

Arlington's Dillon Arrick and Michael Mauro of John Jay won their respective weight classes in the Section 1 tournament and also advance to the state championships, completing a strong local contingent that will compete in Albany.

OLL sophomore Connor Wilson was second at 152 pounds, and teammate senior Ivan Huenis was second at 160. OLL's Tristan McCormack took third at 145 pounds.

Poughkeepsie National Guard soldier receives new rank

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Darleny Neris from Poughkeepsie and

assigned to the 1569th Transportation Company, received a promotion January 18 to the rank of specialist.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

Creative Living

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

A division of Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845.297.3723 • www.sdutchessnews.com

Publisher: Albert Osten
Executive Editor/General Manager: Curtis Schmidt

Editorial/Creative Director: Kate Goldsmith

Advertising Representatives: Jeff Ohlbaum, Jaimie Rodriguez, Richard Wambach

Editorial: creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Advertising: sdnadvertising@aol.com

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Creative Living

celebrating all good things

Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee names Andrew O'Grady Grand Marshal

The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade will step off on Saturday March 2. The parade committee recently announced the 2024 Grand Marshal is Andrew O'Grady. O'Grady was selected because of his outstanding service throughout the community, stated the committee.

O'Grady is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College. He is the CEO of Mental

Health America of Dutchess County. He has 32 years of dedicated service to those affected by mental illness and the mental health professionals and systems that treat those individuals. One of the biggest growth areas for MHA under O'Grady's leadership is in working with the Veterans Department. O'Grady is very proud of his Irish heritage, and the committee applauds his dedication to family, service

and the community.

The Dutchess County Parade, held in the Village of Wappingers Falls, has grown into an event that attracts thousands of participants and spectators from near and far.

For additional parade information kindly visit the website at www.dcsppc.org or call 845-297-0800.



Andrew O'Grady

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

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- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.



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Vassar Brothers Medical Center, part of Nuvance Health, is the only hospital in the Hudson Valley to receive the America's Top 50 Best Hospitals award from Healthgrades. Vassar Brothers Medical Center has been consistently ranked for top quality by Healthgrades for the last fourteen years in a row, and most recently also received the Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ two years in a row (Healthgrades 2024). With our new state-of-the-art cardiac cath lab opening this spring, this means that you and your family have access to nationally-ranked care, right in your community where you live and work. Vassar Brothers Medical Center is proud to be recognized among the top 1% in the nation, because quality of care matters. And, what matters most to you, matters to us.



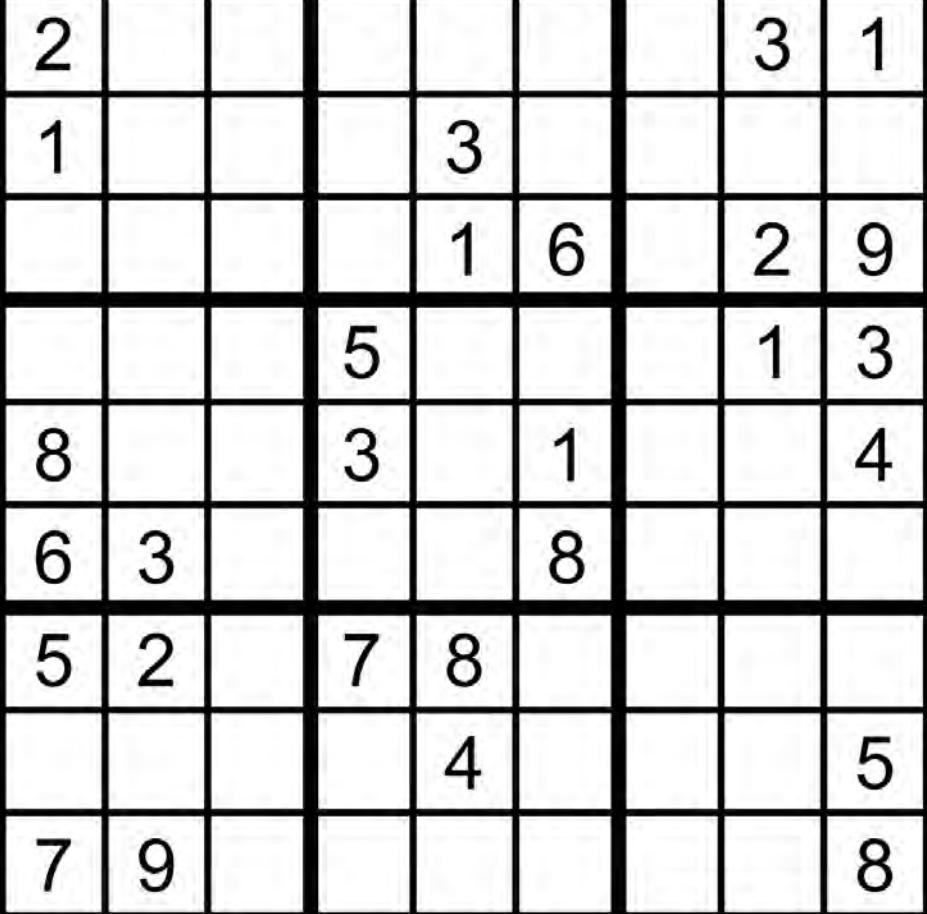
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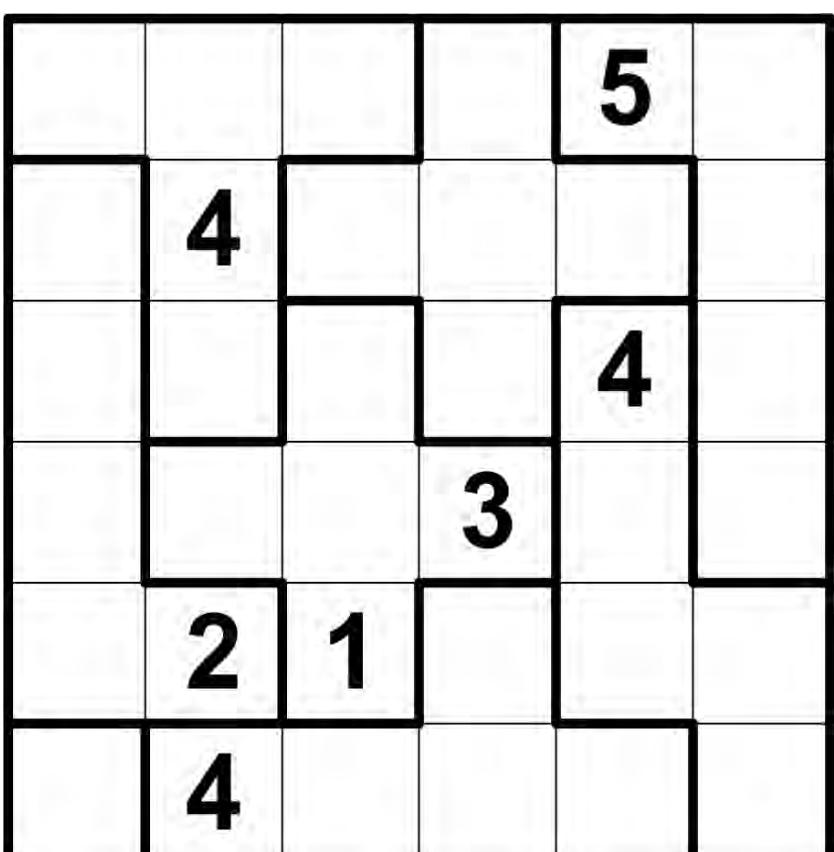
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: LOVE

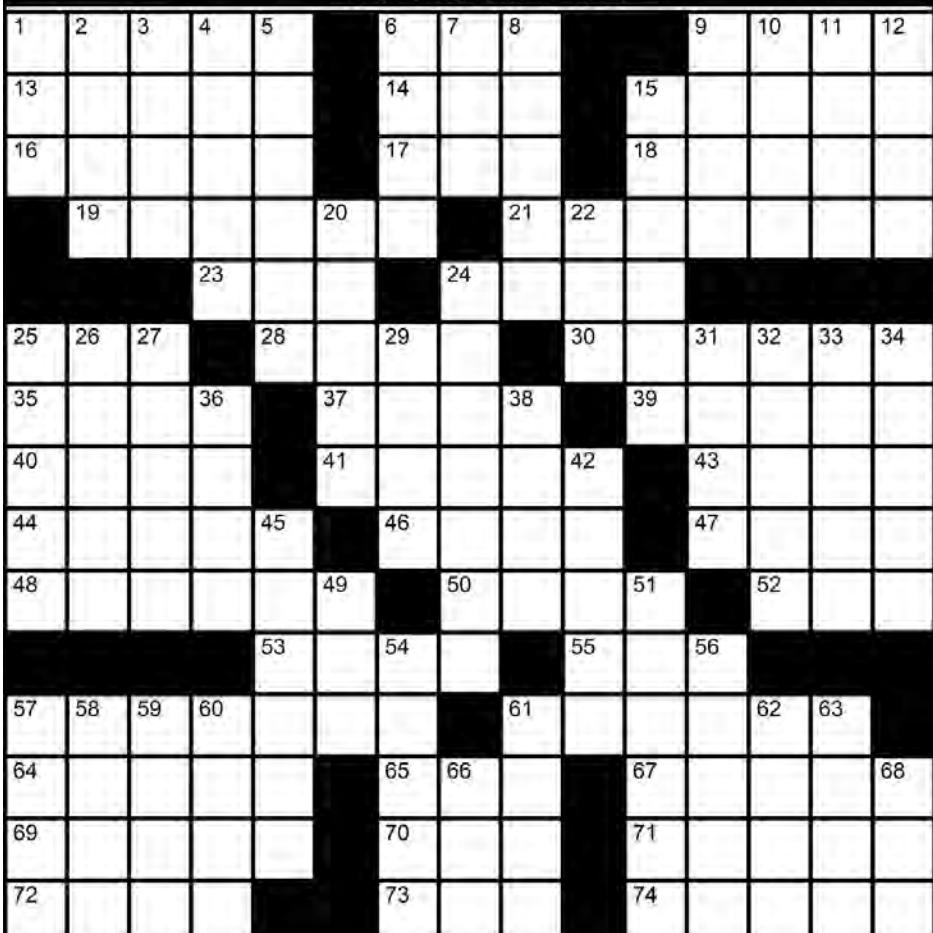
ACROSS

- Zagreb native
- Not St. or Blvd.
- Tucked in
- Whatchamacallit
- Robert Redford's Sundance _____
- In a cold manner
- Tiny island
- Mad King George's number
- Hearing, e.g.
- *Love's late Nirvana husband
- *Star-_____
- *Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at _____"
- Elementary particle
- Tire meas.
- Land of Israel
- *Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes: "Love lifts us up where we _____"
- Ladder crosspiece
- Frenzied
- London's Thames, e.g.
- _____European language
- Call it quits
- Very bright star
- What procedural and epidural have in common
- Crosby's and Still's partner
- Mountain valley
- Final words
- Future J.D.'s hurdle
- Food scrap
- Tax
- Pen point
- **All You Need Is Love" band, with The
- *Letters to Juliet destination
- Habituate
- NHL surface
- Ancient marketplace
- Like many bathroom floors?
- Blunderbuss, e.g.
- Entrenched (2 words)
- Whirlpool
- Volleyball court center
- English homework assignment

DOWN

- Computer-related imaging acronym
- CISC alternative
- Capital of Norway
- Single-cell protozoan
- Bottom lines
- Similar
- One of the Tudors
- Authoritative proclamation
- Single pip cards
- The Container Store purchase, pl.
- "What _____ can I say?"
- T-shirt, after tied
- Chemical cousin
- Homer's epic
- Actor Lowe
- Deviation from the norm
- *U2's "In the Name of Love" song
- First light of day
- Lemur from Madagascar
- Damien's prediction
- Ding-a-_____
- Convex molding
- **Love means _____ having to say you're sorry"
- **Love Actually" star
- Hockey score
- *True Love's _____
- Feudal lord
- Loafed
- "Holy moly!"
- Rant
- "Peace" with fingers (2 words)
- Phony
- Teeth mark
- Children's writer Blyton
- Old, in Scottish
- Three pointer
- Heater outlet
- Wooden pegs
- Rigoletto's "La donna mobile," e.g.
- Pool tool
- One or some

CROSSWORD



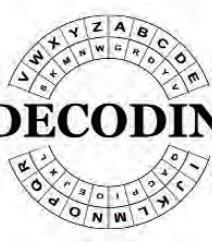
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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 19



DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

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By Melodye Moore

When Presidents' Day rolls around in February our thoughts generally focus on George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Those of us who live in Dutchess County, however, can expand our celebration by including stories of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the only President to serve for more than two terms. First inaugurated on March 4, 1933, he began his fourth and final term on January 20, 1945. Born on January 30, 1882 in Hyde Park, New York, he was passionately proud of his Hudson Valley roots; and "Springwood" remained his home throughout his life.

The collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society include everything from textiles, ceramics and paintings, to photographs, documents and ephemera. Recently two letters were found during a collections inventory that shed an interesting and humorous light on our own homegrown President.

On April 16, 1940, Charles E. Perkins sent the following to Postmaster General James A. Farley: "I have no doubt that the Great White Father is having a lot of fun with his stamps. I have no doubt that many other philatelists are having a lot of fun with his stamps. Perhaps you are having a lot of fun with his stamps, but I rather doubt it. But if you were going to depict a pony express rider, why in Heaven's name didn't you get someone who knew something about a horse to draw the design? The horse, as now depicted could not get himself into that position unless possibly in the agony of bind staggers, and if he did get himself into that position the mail would still be at Saint Joe. Or is this just another cute quirk of our Great White Father's Mind?"

Perkins, born in 1881 in Burlington, Vermont, was a classmate of Roosevelt's at Harvard and became a successful businessman. Like his father before him he became the President of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and later was a Director of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He relocated to Santa Barbara, California c. 1933-1934 and ultimately retired to "Alisal," a ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley where indulged his

passion for thoroughbred horses. He was well qualified to comment on the pony express horse depicted on the stamp.

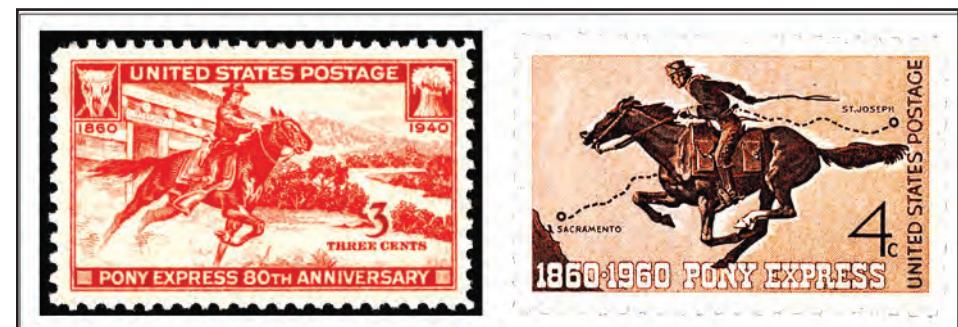
Farley was born in 1881 in Grassy Point, New York in the Town of Stony Point. Known as a political "kingmaker" in New York State politics, he ran FDR's 1928 and 1930 gubernatorial campaigns and the presidential campaigns of 1932 and 1936. He assumed the chairmanship of the New York State Democratic Committee in 1930, a position he held until 1944. In 1933 the President appointed Farley to the position of Postmaster General, considered by many to be the highest political patronage job in the nation. The political alliance between the two men was broken in 1940 when Farley opposed FDR's ambition to run for a third term, with Farley going so far as to run in opposition to Roosevelt at the July Democratic National Convention in Chicago. FDR went on to win in a landslide at the convention and the following month Farley resigned as Postmaster General.

And of course, "the Great White Father" was FDR. A stamp collector from childhood, it was observed by many that during the war years he turned to his stamp collection as a source of relaxation and solace. It is estimated that the President collected nearly one million stamps during his lifetime. Numerous photographs of the President were released by the White House during the war years depicting him enjoying his hobby.

The stamp referenced in the Perkins letter was a three-cent stamp issued on April 3, 1940, the 80th anniversary of the first trip made by Pony Express from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. The stamp was henna brown and pictured a rider leaving a relay station with a parcel of mail.

The second letter relative to this event was written by Oakleigh Thorne to Peter Troy on April 19, 1940, a mere three days after the Perkins to Farley letter. Troy was native to Dutchess County and, as a young man, organized the Red Hook Telephone Co. He was active locally in the Democratic Party, a delegate to two national conventions and hosted an event

A Presidents' Day reminder of FDR's philatelic passion



Above left: 1940 US Postage Stamp celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Pony Express, likely influenced in design by then President Franklin Roosevelt. Above right: By 1960 and the Pony Express' 100th anniversary, a galloping horse was depicted in a more likely stance. Courtesy photo

in Hyde Park where Roosevelt was notified of his first nomination for President. Oakleigh Thorne was born in 1866 in New Hamburg, Dutchess County, the fourth generation of his family to settle in the county. One of his first business ventures was the consolidation of the brick-yards along the Hudson River and by 1900 he had moved to New York City where he was the Vice President of the Banking and Trust Co. of America. In 1918 he returned to Dutchess County and bought Briarcliff Farm in the Town of Pine Plains where he became a renowned breeder of champion Angus cattle. Proof that Troy and Thorne were colleagues of Roosevelt is found in the July 24, 1931 edition of the Millbrook Roundtable, which reported that Peter H. Troy was serving as chair of the upcoming Governor's Day Program scheduled to take place on August 1 at Thorne's Briarcliff Farm.

At the time the second letter was written Thorne, like Perkins, was a resident of Santa Barbara, California. In it Thorne informs Troy about the recently issued stamp and echoing Perkins' comments says "the stamp referred to depicts a horse supposedly running with a cowboy on his back. As a matter of fact, the horse is running on his hind legs and trotting with his front legs and if any horse undertook to do this he undoubtedly would fall or get his legs so mixed up that he could not go any distance." Thorne implores Troy to make sure that Perkins' original letter, enclosed therein, makes it to Farley personally. Thorne closes his letter by commenting "it strikes me as amusing." It is hard to imagine what the correspondents hoped to accomplish with their letters other than to have a good laugh at the President's expense.

Locally it is known that FDR played a major micro-managerial role in the architectural design of the 5 Dutchess County post offices built under the WPA during his Presidency. What is less known but certainly predictable is that, given his lifelong interest in stamps, he assumed the same role in the design of United

States stamps. According to the National Postal Museum Roosevelt brainstormed with Farley over stamp designs, colors and themes and actually sketched numerous ideas for stamp designs. The FDR Presidential Library estimates that he contributed to the design of more than 200 postage stamps. "Delivering Hope," a 2009 exhibit at the Postal Museum in Washington that is available online, shows six original sketches by FDR for stamp designs.

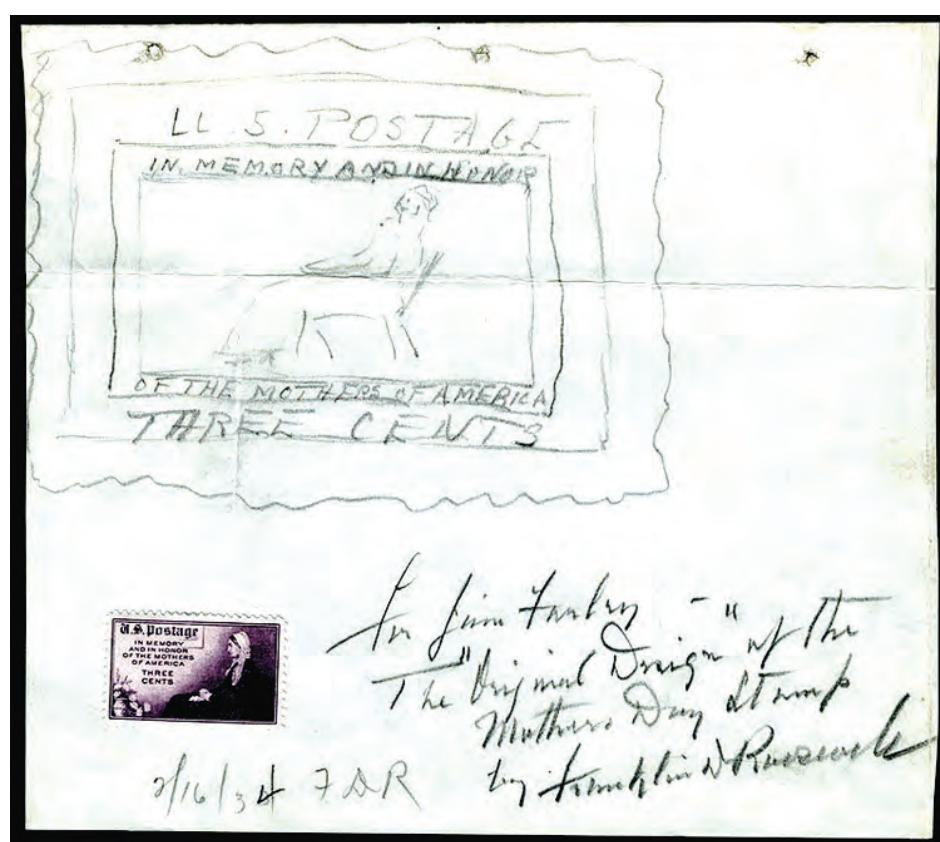
As an aside one wonders how enthusiastically Farley participated in these joint design sessions as the Perkins to Farley letter states "Perhaps you are having a lot of fun with his stamps, but I rather doubt it."

Whether or not FDR participated in the design of the "Pony Express" stamp is not currently known, but it is certainly possible. What is known though through these two letters is that his equine friends didn't miss the opportunity to poke irreverent fun at both the stamp and the "Great White Father."

Today the "Pony Express" stamp can be purchased online for anywhere from 35 cents to \$7.20, depending on condition. One wonders if the philatelists of today appreciate the aspects of the design that alarmed and frustrated the horse enthusiasts of 1940. After FDR's death his prized stamp collection was controversially sold through auction; and even today interested stamp collectors can still find pages of his collection online and own part of a Presidential collection.

Enjoy Presidents' Day, and instead of getting caught up paying reverence to our former Presidents, let us imagine the human side of a President whose friends had the freedom to poke fun at the "Great White Father" and his understanding of the anatomy of a horse.

Melodye Moore is a long-standing Board member of DCHS, Chair of its Collections Committee, regular contributor to the DCHS Yearbook, and develops a wide range of programs. More information is available at www.DCHSNY.org.



A 1934 sketch and note from FDR to postmaster Jim Farley revealing FDR's heavy influence in the design of the three cent stamp recognizing Mother's Day. Courtesy of Smithsonian National Postage Museum

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The Hudson Valley is the 'Catbird Seat' for Bald Eagle sightings

Editor's note: This week, the Northern Dutchess News is introducing a new columnist - Francine Wizner. Her columns will appear every other week.

I first learned about nearby nesting Bald Eagles when I visited an informational maple syrup presentation at Bowdoin Park in March 2023. I only had my cell phone with me and did not get any great pictures of the birds. I made a couple of return trips with my digital camera, but vowed to return to make better efforts in the future.

Since Bald Eagles often live within two-and-a-half miles of water bodies, the Hudson River Valley gives them perfect hunting grounds for their main food sources. From Tivoli in the north, to Poughkeepsie, and Beacon in the south - and anywhere in between - if you are in Dutchess County, keep your eyes peeled for these massive birds.

If the river is visible, you may see Bald Eagles on ice floes during winter or having a meal on an island. The birds most actively feed from 7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 5 p.m., though this may vary according to temperature and other factors such as how recently they last ate. Be prepared to wait a while. Eagle viewing requires patience.

Since winter is the best time to view Bald Eagles, remember to dress warmly and bring along a hot beverage. If you are able to stay in the warmth of your car, that is desirable. December through February allows an unfettered view of eagles in trees, sans foliage. But the freezing temperatures of winter are not for the faint of heart. I would certainly be selective when choosing the best Bald Eagle viewing days!

There are several places within Dutchess County that Bald Eagles have been known to roost and may provide some sightings of these fine-feathered

fish-eaters. Kayaking on the Hudson will get you great access, but if you prefer to remain on terra firma, there are several attractions that provide free access with clear views of the Hudson River and, thus, afford opportunities for Bald Eagle viewing. They are: Tivoli Bays Natural Heritage Area and Poet's Walk, both in Red Hook; Wilderstein Historic Site, Rhinebeck; Vanderbilt Mansion Historic Site and FDR Historic Site, both in Hyde Park; The Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, and Locust Grove all in Poughkeepsie; Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls; and Madam Brett Park in Beacon, at the mouth of Fishkill Creek.

I am merely a science-minded person, not an ornithologist. According to my internet research, Bald Eagles may become distressed during nesting. Be mindful of this and observe them from a distance with binoculars or a long camera lens. Refrain from loud noises: honking horns, door slamming, radios playing, yelling, etc. Keep pets at home and don't do anything to try to make the birds fly. Harassing or disturbing a Bald Eagle is a federal offense and carries heavy penalties.

My last trip out to Bowdoin Park yielded only the accompanying photo of a massive nest. Hopefully I'll have better luck next time.

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



Above: Since Bald Eagles often live within two-and-a-half miles of water bodies, the Hudson River Valley gives them perfect hunting grounds for their main food sources. Photo by Robert Rightmyer. Below: A large eagle nest is shown in this photo taken in Bowdoin Park. Photo by Francine Wizner



LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



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School lunch

Luigi finds a friend when faced with his first school cafeteria experience.

Growing up Italian definitely had its advantages. For one, the food is definitely better. Breakfast, lunch, dinner or snacks, there was always something traditional.

For example, a traditional American before school breakfast would consist of toasted Wonder bread with butter, raisin bran cereal and a small glass of orange juice. In our house, mom would break out the blender for breakfast. First she would crack a raw egg (brown shelled, of course) into the blender, put a few teaspoons of sugar, add a shot of espresso and milk and blend until frothy. She would then toast a few thin slices of homemade bread and serve it with a couple of wedges of cantaloupe. We would then dunk the bread into the "egg crème." When we were done with our toast we would finish the "egg crème" and then top it off with the cantaloupe. Needless to say, we would go to school wide awake from the espresso; and Sister Cecelia, the principal, could never figure out why we were bouncing off the walls.

I can remember the first time I had a school lunch as if it were yesterday. I am number four of five boys, so by the time I went to school, my mother was already very aware of the school lunches. She also understood that I would be coming home hungry because the school's version of lunch was very much different than ours.

Anyway, here I am, my first day in the first grade. I am really excited for lunch, because I have never really eaten "American" food and I can't wait to try it. In my mind, this was exotic, something that you would see Anthony Bourdain eat on the Travel Channel. So, when it's time, Sister Louis, my first-grade teacher, lines us all up for lunch. Sister Louis had a thick Italian accent, and wore a uniform that made her look like the penguin version of Marlon Brando in the Godfather. She was very quick with her ruler that she kept hidden under her cloak, which she used to crack your knuckles if you weren't paying attention. A lesson I learned on the first day.

Anyway, she already knew that both my parents were "off the boat." As I stood in line she looked at me and asked me if I was hungry. I told her I was and that I was very excited because I had never had any American food before. Well she started to laugh and said that today we were having spaghetti with meat sauce. I said you mean Bolognese Sauce? And she said it was the American version.

Needless to say, I was very disappointed that we were having spaghetti Bolognese and not some exotic American dish like Salisbury steak. Anyway, we get in line, and I am at the back of the column because I am the tallest, so I get to watch everyone go first. As I wait in line, I am craning my neck to see what is going on in front of me. As we wait in line a woman hands us these hard-plastic trays and eating utensils as we shuffle forward a few feet at a time.

So now I am holding my tray with this exotic-looking utensil that looks a spoon and a fork combined which I come to find out later is called a Spork. I try to be cool like I know what it is but in my mind, I have absolutely no idea what a spork is or what it is used for. When I get up to the "buffet" line, I place my trays on the line,

clutching my spork and start to slide my tray forward. Now, looking at me though the sneeze guard is this woman who to me looks to be 107 years old with a hair net on her head, plastic gloves on her hands and a hairy mole the size of my father's garden growing on her face. She looks like the wicked witch of the west from the Wizard of Oz. Seeing her should have been the first warning sign to me that this was not the spaghetti Bolognese that my mother made. But being a rookie to the school lunch program, the alarm bells really didn't start to go off. Not only that, I was too horrified by what I saw in the pans to really notice Miss Mole, I mean Miss Molly.

Staring at me in the pan was something Miss Mole called spaghetti. The only problem was that this red tinted goop was served with an ice cream scoop and I have never seen spaghetti served with an ice cream scoop. So, Miss Mole slops this concoction onto my plastic plate with a wet thud. She then puts this red liquid with some chopped hamburger mixed in it, on top of my "spaghetti ice cream." I was later informed that this was red sauce or gravy. A slice of white bread with margarine smeared on it completed my entrée.

On my tray is what I am sure will be my last meal. I start to walk away only to be told to wait, there is more. More? I thought. I hoped and prayed it was something I could eat. Instead, they threw a bowl of this green wobbly stuff on my tray and finished it all with a carton of milk.

Now remember, this is my first time eating something other than homemade Italian food. I clutch the edges of my plastic tray and began to wonder if maybe the tray would taste better than the contents. I walked over to the class table and sat down with my new friends. In my class there was one other person whose parents came from another country, Demetrius, who was Greek. As I approached the table I immediately sought him out and was looking at his face to see if he was thinking the same thing I was. I was hopeful that he would be smiling and shoveling this "food" into his mouth with this instrument of destruction called a spork. Instead, he was staring at his plate and playing with the green wobbly stuff with his fingers, that I would come to find out later was green Jell-O. When I asked Miss. Mole, what kind of flavor the green Jell-O had, I was told green.

Anyway, I sat down at the table and was looking around at all the happy faces of my new friends. They were all commenting how much better this was than their mom's and how great the meat sauce was. I decided that it had to be OK if they were all enjoying it, so I tasted the sauce. I was shocked that this was called meat sauce. Where was the basil, the parsley or garlic? Where were the little pieces of pork? Where was the hand-grated cheese? This sauce tasted like tomato juice.

And another thing, I was used to twirling my spaghetti with a fork. This stuff was all mashed together and you ate it with a spork.

My head started to spin. Partly because of the spaghetti and meat sauce, but mostly because watching the Jell-O wobble, I was getting dizzy. I looked over to

Demetrius and asked him what he thought. He just shook his head and kept playing with the Jell-O.

I didn't know what to do. In our house, we had to eat what was on our plate. Not only that Sister Louis was watching us, me in particular, to make sure we finished our lunch. I was afraid I was going to get hit with that ruler again.

Just then Miss Mole came out with a pot and asked us if anyone wanted seconds. Seconds? I didn't even want the firsts. The other kids at the table all raised their hands very enthusiastically. I looked at them like they were crazy. They all had red-stained faces, sauce spattered on their uniform shirts, a piece of buttered Wonder bread in one hand, with a spork-full of green flavored Jell-O in the other hand.

Sister Louis saw the look in my eyes and realized that I had just experienced culture shock. She came up to me and asked me if I was OK. I told her, in Italian, that I wasn't very hungry. She reached into the pockets of her nun habit and pulled out half of a salami sandwich. She told me I could have it. I told her "grazie" and she responded with "prego." I remember eating that sandwich like it was a piece of filet mignon.

Sister Louis and I had a special bond from that day forward. I would go out of my way to be respectful to her like she was one of my aunts. I never gave her a hard time and would make sure I always greeted her with "Buon Giorno" every morning. She retired after that year, but I will never forget her kindness and the salami sandwich. So while laughing at the story of my first school lunch, please enjoy this recipe for Rigatoni Bolognese.

RIGATONI BOLOGNESE

Ingredients

1 pound ground pork

1 cup chopped onion
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped carrots
1 teaspoon minced garlic (2 cloves)
3 cups chicken broth
3-4 bay leaves
1 jar Coppola's Tuscan Sauce
1 cup Burgundy wine
1 pound rigatoni pasta

Preparation

In large saucepan, cook and stir carrots, onion, celery, and garlic over medium heat until onion is tender, about 10 minutes.

Stir in broth, bay leaf and sauce; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes.

Stir in Burgundy. Return to high heat and boil until sauce is creamy. About 10 minutes.

In a separate pot, bring salted water to a boil. Pour in 1 lb. rigatoni pasta. Cook for 4-5 minutes or until it just starts to get a little soft. Drain the pasta and pour into the Bolognese sauce. Leave in the sauce for another 4-5 minutes stirring occasionally, allowing the rigatoni to finish cooking. Serve in four bowls with grated Reggiano Parmigiana cheese and, of course, crusty Italian bread.

Don't forget a nice ice-cold bottle of Pinot Grigio.

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



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Dr. Lynette Louise - Brain Change Expert, Global Speaker, Author

Ed Mitzen - Philanthropist, Entrepreneur, Executive - Business For Good

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A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 24: "An Ideal Husband," County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Written by Oscar Wilde, directed by Michael J. Frohnhofer. This witty and still-topical play brings an act of political sin into the heart of the English home. An ambitious government minister, Sir Robert Chiltern's smooth ascent to the top seems assured until Mrs. Cheveley appears in London with damning proof of his previous financial chicanery. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 18, 2 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 for seniors (60+), military, children under age 12, students (w/valid ID). (845) 298-1491 or countyplayers.org

Feb. 23-25: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 23: Mary Fahl, former lead singer of October Project, 8 p.m. With an earthy, viscerally powerful contralto that bridges the generational gap between Fairport Convention's Sandy Denny and London Grammar's Hannah Reid, Mary Fahl makes music that feels timeless, esoteric and ecumenical. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Feb. 24: The Weeklings – The Music of The Beatles and more, 8 p.m. The Weeklings perform and record explosive renditions of The Beatles album and Top 40 classics, '60s classic remakes like The Easybeats' 1966 garage rock hit "Friday On My Mind" featuring Peter Noone of Herman Hermit's fame on lead vocals, plus brilliant Beatles-inspired power-pop originals. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door Feb. 25: Omar Hakim & SONIC BOOM SQUAD, 7 p.m. 2024 marks the beginning of yet another chapter in the illustrious career of Drummer, Producer, Composer and Vocalist Omar Hakim with the launch of his new band SONIC BOOM SQUAD! SBS combines the elements of Rock, Funk and Pop, great grooves and catchy songs into an exciting and fun evening of music. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Feb. 23-25: The Royal Hanneford Circus, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Prepare to be dazzled by a mesmerizing array of circus performances that will leave you on the edge of your seat! The circus is perfect for families and kids of all ages. Show times: Fri., Feb. 23, 6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 24, 10 a.m.,

2 & 6 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 25, 1 & 5 p.m. Call the box office to avoid Ticketmaster fees: (845) 454-5800, ext. 1201. More info: www.MJNCenter.org

Feb. 23: Hyde Park Rotary's Comedy Night featuring Patrick Holbert and Gastor Almonte, Coppola's of Hyde Park, 4167 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. Dinner and show, 6-9 p.m., costs \$68 per person, and the proceeds will be used to support the Hyde Park Rotary Club's Youth Programs. Purchase tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hydeparkrotaryclub/1093852>.

Call (845) 758-6464 or email dmeyer@minutemanpress.com for more information.

Feb. 24: Author Event with Jack Kelly, virtually via Zoom and at The Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway (Rte. 9), Red Hook. Kelly will discuss his latest book, "God Save Benedict Arnold, The True Story of America's Most Hated Man," noon. Register for Zoom link at www.historicredhook.org/register.

Feb. 24: New Work Preview, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. The new work by Baye + Asa, 4 | 2 | 3, focuses on the generational impacts of climate change using the "Riddle of the Sphinx" as an allegorical structure. Reflecting on humanity's industrial history, Baye & Asa build new worlds on foundations that are less oppressive, less extractive, and more sustainable, 7 p.m. \$5-\$10 suggested donation. Free to Kaatsbaan Members. 30 minutes + Q&A. www.kaatsbaan.org

Feb. 25: Sunday Salon Speaker Series, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. "At the Confluence of History and Myth: Truman Lowe's Ethereal Elegance," 2 p.m. Dr. Patricia Marroquin Norby (Purépecha) will discuss the artist Truman Lowe (Ho-Chunk), whose work will be exhibited at the Thomas Cole Site in 2024, and her work at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Patricia Marroquin Norby is the first curator of Native American art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Admission \$15 General Admission. Reservations at thomascole.org/events. Winter Tours are offered on the same days as the Sunday Salons at thomascole.org/tickets.

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GOLDEN LIVING

News for Older Adults, Their Families and Caregivers

Todd N. Tancredi, Director
Dutchess County
Office for the Aging

'PANCAKES IN THE PARK' RETURNS MARCH 21

March means it's time for the FREE annual OFA "Pancakes in the Park" event for older adults (60+), co-hosted by Dutchess County Parks, at the auditorium within the administration building at Bowdoin Park (85 Sheafe Rd., Wappingers Falls), starting at 10:30 am on Thursday, March 21.

Seating is limited and advance registration with OFA is required. Registration opens on Friday, February 23; call us at 845-486-2555 during business hours to register. Guests must be Dutchess County residents age 60+.

Each participant gets a pancake breakfast accompanied by a splash of maple syrup tapped from Bowdoin's own trees. A limited amount of syrup will be available for purchase.

"Pancakes in the Park" is part of Maple Weekend at Bowdoin, March 21-24. For more information on the weekend, call 845-296-4600 or visit dutchessny.gov/parks.

'FRIENDLY CALLS' ORIENTATIONS COMING TO NORTHEASTERN DUTCHESS

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

Orientations are scheduled regularly at OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie. Here's what's on the schedule at present:

Tuesday, February 20th – 11 am

Thursday, February 22nd – 3 pm

Monday, March 4th – 10 am

Wednesday, March 6th – 1:30 pm

You can find Friendly Calls orientations at dutchessny.gov/calendar, and we add orientations to the calendar every week.

Let us know you'd like to come to an orientation by emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov, or call 845-486-2555 during business hours.

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.

SPRING 'THRIVE60+' COMING SOON

We're putting the finishing touches on the Spring 2024 issue of our quarterly THRIVE60+ newsletter for older adults and caregivers throughout Dutchess County. It'll be published at dutchessny.gov/thrive60, where you can also read back issues of the newsletter.

Not online? Not a problem. We distribute THRIVE60+ newsletters to every public library in the county, along with many senior housing facilities and all eight OFA Friendship Centers. If you're a client of the OFA Home Delivered Meals program, you'll get a copy sent to you.

If you'd like to volunteer to come to OFA offices in Poughkeepsie to help prepare THRIVE60+ newsletters for mailing, contact OFA outreach coordinator Brian Jones at bjones@dutchessny.gov for more information. We expect to be working on them in late February and possibly early March.

Contact OFA at 845-486-2555 during business hours if you'd like to be added to or removed from our mailing list, or if your mailing address has changed.

OF A MEDICARE CLASSES COMING UP IN POUGHKEEPSIE, RHINEBECK, PAWLING

Starting this month, OFA's "Medicare 101" class that takes place at 4 pm on the fourth Monday of every month in Rhinebeck moves to the Starr Library at 68 West Market St. The next Rhinebeck class takes place on Monday, February 26.

Medicare 101 classes also take place on the third Wednesday of every month at 10 am the Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room. There's also a Medicare class taking place at Adriance Memorial Library in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, March 6th at 9:30 am.

We've added a class on Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm at the Pawling Free Library.

For more information and to reserve a seat at OFA Medicare classes at the Galleria or in Rhinebeck, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

Booking a spot at a class at Adriance can be done at www.poklib.org or by calling 845-485-3445.

For the special class in Pawling, visit www.pawlingfreelibrary.org or call 845-855-3444.

A full schedule of all OFA events is available at dutchessny.gov/calendar.

'WATCH OUT FOR ME' SAFETY CAMPAIGN RETURNS

Dutchess County's Watch Out For Me traffic safety campaign has 12 new short videos! We'll introduce them over the next few months, but for a sneak peek, see the full playlist—and please share! Don't forget about our 5 original videos too.

Help us spread the word about how to get around safely, whether you're walking, biking, driving, or taking the bus.

TIPS TO AVOID COVID-19 & OTHER ILLNESSES

Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, Dutchess County's Health Commissioner, reminds us that NYS Department of Health's current guidance for preventing serious illness and spread of COVID-19 (as well as other illness) continues to be:

- Get vaccinated and boosted when eligible;
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cover coughs and sneezes;
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects;
- Stay home if you are sick;
- Consider wearing a mask to reduce your chance of exposure.

COLLEGE NOTES

CORTLAND, NY – More than 2,800 students earned recognition for academic excellence on the SUNY Cortland Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Among those honored were:

Mackenzie Armbrust of Staatsburg - Sport Management

Liam Boyd of Red Hook - Physical Education K-12

Richard Finn of Pleasant Valley - Physical Education K-12

Tyler Funk of Stanfordville - Physical Education K-12

Nadiya Grossman of Rhinebeck - Political Science

Kerry Hare of Red Hook - Inclusive Childhood Education

Ginamarie Kirk of Stanfordville - Exercise Science

Ryan Kolman of Rhinebeck - Physical Education K-12

Sadie Kubisch of Red Hook - Inclusive Childhood Education

Cory Murray of Red Hook - Physical Education K-12

Kelly Olmstead of Clinton Corners - Speech & Hearing Science

Sofia Raffaele of Pleasant Valley - Inclusive Childhood Education

Nuala Seabrook of Rhinebeck -

Outdoor Recreation

Colleen Spizuoco of Stanfordville - Communication Studies

Samantha Spizuoco of Stanfordville - Communication Studies

Madison Tighe of Pleasant Valley - Psychology

Brady Wade of Rhinebeck - Sport Management

Lorenzo Wilkins of Hyde Park - Sport Management

Aleksa Yambrick of Staatsburg - Adolescence Education: English

The Dean's List is the highest ranking for undergraduate students in their respective academic areas of the university. Students must earn a minimum 3.3 grade point average for the semester to make the list.

ONEONTA, NY – Hartwick College congratulates over 400 students who were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List. Local students include Natalie Calabro of Millbrook, Abigail DeMan of Pleasant Valley, and Ethan Kaiser of Red Hook.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must complete at least 12 academic credits during a term with a grade point average of at least 3.50 and no incompletes.

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Miranda Gendron of Clinton Corners has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Gendron, who is majoring in Marketing, is one of over 700 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence.

Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce local students who have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2023: Amelia Jensen of Pleasant Valley, Molly Doherty of Salt Point, and Briahna Curcio of Staatsburg.

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Briahna Curcio of Staatsburg has been named to its President's List for Fall 2023.

The President's List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full under-

graduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

CONWAY, SC – More than 3,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Local students include Aidan Furey of Millerton, Nicole Hegle of Hyde Park, Jessica Perrin of Pleasant Valley, and Natalie Traudt of Rhinebeck.

Students who make the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester.

DELHI, NY – SUNY Delhi announces its dean's list for the Fall 2023 semester, a recognition of academic achievement for students who enrolled in six or more credits and earned a 3.5 or higher grade-point average for the semester.

Local students making the list are:

Carter Brown of Red Hook, who is pursuing an associate in Construction Technology.

Sara Dragula of Red Hook, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Nursing.

Paula O'Dell-Jackson of Wassaic, who

continued on page 20

OBITUARIES

Florence L. Lee

HYDE PARK - Florence L. Lee, affectionately known as "Flo," passed away peacefully on February 9, 2024, at her home in Hyde Park, NY.

Florence was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on January 23, 1941. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Florence Hopper. She was a class of 1959 graduate of St Joseph's high school in Pittsfield, MA. On September 5, 1959, she married Thomas L. Lee, who survives at home. Her legacy includes her devoted children: Thomas L. Lee and his wife Linda of Clifton Park, NY, Colleen L. Kelly and her husband Michael of Hyde Park, Jeffrey P. Lee and his wife Melinda of Hyde Park, and William J. Lee and his wife Susan of Hyde Park. She was the beloved sister to Joseph Hopper and his wife Donna, FL, Richard Hopper and his wife Joanne Heffernan, RI, and Deborah McDermott and her husband Brian, MA. Florence was a loving grandmother to her nine grandchildren: Christopher, Matthew and Daniel Lee, Nicole McKillop, Jenna Kelly, Caitlyn Kimmerle, Carolyn Lee, Meagan, and Kevin Lee. She was also blessed with a great grandson, Rory McKillop. Florence was predeceased by her brother Timothy Hopper. Her absence will leave a void in the lives of her family and friends, but they take comfort in knowing she is reunited with those who went before her.

Relatives and friends were invited to call on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Sweets Funeral Home, 4365 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY. 12538. Funeral services were held on Friday, February 16th at the funeral home. Burial followed at Union Cemetery, Hyde Park. Donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or www.hvhospice.org. Condolences may be made to the family at www.sweetsfuneral-home.com.

Maryann C. Moul

RED HOOK - Maryann C. Moul, 87, a longtime Red Hook resident, passed away on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY, after a courageous two year battle with cancer.

Born on January 24, 1937, in Brooklyn, NY daughter of the late John and Dorothy (Gordon) Carley. Her family relocated to Tivoli, NY during her high school years. She graduated from Red Hook High School in 1954. She met the love of her life, Donald

"Red" Moul, and they were married on April 16, 1955, at St. Sylvia's Church in Tivoli. Red predeceased her on August 13, 1990.

For 26 years, Maryann worked as the receptionist and office manager for Dr. William Aierstok's practice in Rhinebeck, NY.

Always active, following her retirement, she went on to volunteer for 16 years at Northern Dutchess Hospital and was a 20-year member of the Hospital Auxiliary. She was a caregiver for several years.

She enjoyed traveling with her friends and many travel groups.

Maryann was an avid runner for 44 years and spent countless hours enjoying the outdoors with her beloved dogs. She also enjoyed watching her children's and grandchildren's sporting events.

Maryann was a lifelong communicant of St. Christopher's Church in Red Hook, where she sang in the church choir for over 25 years and served on the Ladies Guild.

Maryann was an amazing and beautiful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. We have been blessed in abundance by having her in our lives and part of her will live on forever.

Maryann is survived by her children, Robin Moul Tator of Red Hook, NY, Timothy (Kelly) Moul of Port Jervis, NY, Kevin Moul of Red Hook, NY, and Maribeth (Steven) Betsch of Port Washington, NY; her siblings, Peter (Yolanda) Carley of Gilbert, AZ, and Allen (Linda) Carley of Clifton, Virginia; her grandchildren, Brendon Tator, Tawny (Brad) Potts, Lauren (Daniel) Eckerson, Justin Moul, Erin (Cody) Strait, Brenna (Taylor) Nyser, and Steven Betsch Jr.; her great grandchildren- who were the apple of her eyes- Charlotte, Violette, Bayleigh, Brielle, Owen, Dylan, Ryan, and Logan; along with numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, her sister, Janet Mary Towner, and her son - in law, Robert Tator predeceased her.

Friends and family were received at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes in Red Hook on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, February 15th, 2024, at St. Christopher's Church in Red Hook. Interment followed at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Red Hook, NY.

Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook, 7461 South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571.

Timothy Michael Haymann Snyder

MILLERTON - Timothy Michael Haymann Snyder, 37, of Millerton, NY, passed away on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park, NY. Timothy was a Mechanical Foreman with Metro North Railroad in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Born on May 15, 1986 in Poughkeepsie, NY, he was the son of Dorothy Jean Delaney Snyder of Dover Plains, NY and the late Michael Paul Snyder. Tim was a graduate of Dover High School Class of 2004. He went on to study Electrical Construction and Maintenance at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY, graduating in 2010. He had great pride in his career at Metro North Railroad and above all sharing that passion

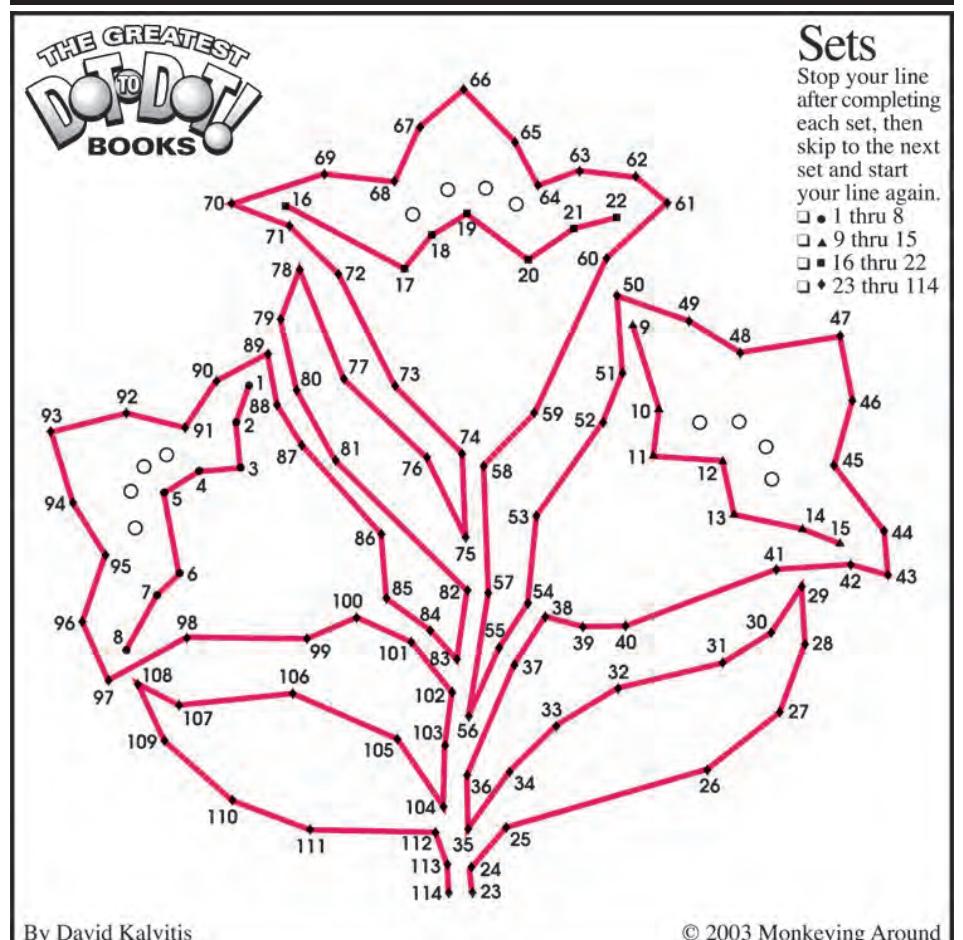
with his two young sons.

Tim is survived by two sons, Benjamin Haymann Snyder and Nathaniel Haymann Snyder and their mother Cornelia Haymann Snyder of Millerton, NY; his mother Dorothy Delaney Snyder; three sisters, Renee Harris and her husband, Robert of Staatsburg, NY; Stephanie Sutherland and her husband, Kenneth, of Wappingers Falls, NY and Erin Todriff and her husband, Timothy of Dover Plains, NY and several nieces and nephews.

Timothy loved spending time with his two boys, his friends and the outdoors. He was an avid NY Rangers and NY Mets fan and loved the time he spent on the ice playing hockey.

Funeral services will be private. To send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)



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713 Rummage Sale

714 Flea Market

715 Craft Corner

716 Barn Sale

717 Estate Sale

718 Auctions

719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted

721 Wanted to Buy

722 Bazaar

723 Consignments

724 Farmers Market

725 Collectibles

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Legal Notices

Public Notice of hearing before the zoning board of appeals town of pleasant valley, Dutchess County NY
Please take note that the zoning board of appeals of the town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:
33 Netherwood Plaza, Pleasant Valley Appeal #1069 Grid #6365-02-673567

Legal Notices

Area variance request: The applicant is seeking an area variance to build a 1500 square foot modular home located at 33 Netherwood Plaza, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. The parcel is zoned rural residential which requires 3.5 acres to build. The lot is currently 0.92 acres and requires a 2.58 acre variance. The applicant also needs a front yard setback variance. The rural

Legal Notices

residential front yard setback needs to be 70feet, and the applicant is requesting it be 58feet. This would require a 12 foot variance from the front. Said meeting will take place on February 28, 2024 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street Pleasant Valley, NY and begins at 7:00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Legal Notices

NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-03-24 Bottled Spring Water for Both Dutchess County and Ulster County
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 4th day of March 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of

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Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be

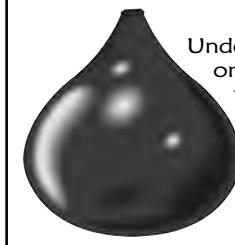
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obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding"

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and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

CROAT	AVE	ABED
GISMO	KID	ICILY
ISLET	III	SENSE
COBAIN	CROSSED	
PSI	ALL ATOM	
SSION	BELONG	
RUNG	AMOK	RIVER
INDO	DEMIT	NOVA
DURAL	NASH	GLEN
EPILOG	LSAT	ORT
LEVY	NIB	
BEATLES	VERONA	
INURE	ICE AGORA	
TILED	GUN DUGIN	
EDDY	NET ESSAY	

SUDOKU

This week's answer

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

Answers to this
week's diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

Grant funding available for National Heritage Area events

The staff of the Maurice D. Hinckley Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area recently announces a dramatic expansion to their popular event sponsorship program. The sunsetting of the Heritage Development Grant application has enabled the Heritage Area to devote more resources to directly supporting events throughout the Hudson Valley.

Events taking place at a single site are now eligible for up to \$5,000 in sponsorship funding: event series covering three or more sites on different days are eligible for up to \$10,000 of funding.

This dramatic increase in sponsorship levels comes at just the right time for groups planning events for the Rev250 cycle: this sponsorship program is cur-

rently the only form of federal assistance available to small cultural-sector organizations in our region.

All applications are made through the Hudson Valley Greenway's online grants portal: the process has been streamlined and staff are available to answer any inquiries. Organizations applying for

sponsorships will need to register an account in the grants portal.

Details on the National Heritage Area sponsorships, registering with the grant portal, and contact information for inquiries are available at the National Heritage Area Grant Page: <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>.

COLLEGE NOTES

continued from page 17

is pursuing a bachelor's in Criminal Justice.

Abigail Scott of Red Hook, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Nursing.

Lucas Staats of Red Hook, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Construction Management: Design & Building.

Jaden Taylor of Hyde Park, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Nursing.

Courtney Woodard of Hyde Park, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Veterinary Technology.

Gionna Wrobel of Clinton Corners, who is pursuing a bachelor's in Construction Management: Design & Building.

ALLEGHENY, PA – Congratulations to the following local students for being named to the Muhlenberg College Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester:

Serena Albahary of Rhinebeck, and Jane Carney of Red Hook.

Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.

ONEONTA, NY – More than 250 SUNY Oneonta students completed the

requirements for a bachelor's degree following the Fall 2023 semester. Graduates were honored and recognized during Fall Commencement, held Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, in the Dewar Arena of the Alumni Field House.

Local graduates included Erin Duke of Rhinebeck and Peyten-Michele Duncan of Hyde Park.

PURCHASE, NY – Purchase College announced that more than 1,300 students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester.

The following local students have been named to the Dean's List: Nox Mahoney of Hyde Park, Noah Bancroft of Clinton Corners, Harrison Bontecou of Amenia, Rafael DiFrancesco of Clinton Corners, Emma Hostetter of Stanfordville, Senna Levy of Tivoli, Harleigh Pickles of Millbrook, Ava Salman of Red Hook, Gabriella Starlin of Pleasant Valley, Macey Veeder-Shave of Hyde Park, Hannah Walker of Hyde Park.

Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and taken a minimum of 12 credits. For BA and BS programs, a semester GPA of 3.50 is required. For BFA and MusB programs, a

semester GPA of 3.75 is required.

TAMPA, FL – The University of Tampa has honored 2,217 students who were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2023 semester. The following local students were named to the dean's list:

Jennifer Martin, of Pine Plains, a Senior majoring in Psychology BA.

Sophia Gareri, of Pleasant Valley, a Sophomore majoring in Marketing BS.

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

RANDOLPH CENTER, VT – Vermont State University is proud to congratulate Mackenzie Wade of Rhinebeck for being named to the Dean's List for the

Fall 2023 semester.

Dean's List designation is reserved for students who maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

BATAVIA, NY – Claire Breton, a resident of Pleasant Valley, was among 230 students from Genesee Community College, including campus locations in Batavia, Arcade, Dansville, Lima, Medina and Warsaw, who were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. All full and part-time students honored on the Dean's List have earned a quality point index of 3.50 to 3.74.

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