

Winners Circle Project goes county-wide

Red Hook HS would be 7th race car team

By Staff Writers

The Red Hook Central School District plans to add an innovative, hands-on training program called the Winners Circle Project (WCP) to its offerings in the 2026-2027 school year. If approved, Red Hook will join six other Dutchess County high schools that already participate in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) program. They include Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park, John Jay in East Fishkill, Roy C. Ketcham in Wappingers Falls, Stissing Mountain in Pine Plains, Dover and Arlington.

WCP is a nonprofit organization founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt High School alumnus Pius Mawejje Kayiira. Students in one course build a Factory Five (kit) race car from scratch, while students in a visual communications art course and a marketing/media relations business course learn and use public relations, marketing, journalism and video production skills to promote their car and build a multi-department race team.

The project culminates toward the end of the school year with a competition on



Members of the Technology Education class in the Winners Circle Project at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School gather behind the chassis donated by Matt's Auto Body in Salt Point. From left are Jeremiah Williams, Braydin Moser, Noah Affify, David Tarkos, Rocco Marchese, Trent Stabell, Tyler Curcio, David Pakora, Tev Phoenix, Hudson Thomas, and Shawn Christensen, Technology Education Teacher. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt.* Below: Mark Dougherty, Master Tech Director for Winners Circle Project, speaks to students at Red Hook High School on Feb. 12. *Courtesy of Winners Circle Facebook page*

all phases at Lime Rock Race Track in Connecticut.

According to its website (winners-circle.org), WCP states "...our teaching artists will guide students through the process of creating a functioning racing organization over one school year. The program is focused on more than just the technical process of building a car, but

what it takes to develop an entire racing team as a business."

Along the way, students receive career coaching and take field trips that include career exposure experiences and networking. They compete against other school districts, not only in how well they can build a car, but how well they can market it and build a plan for success.

Each year, up to 35 students in each school can take part across the three classes.

WCP leadership attends Red Hook presentation

On Thursday, Feb. 12, WCP visited Red Hook High School for a presentation, led by Executive Director Kayiira. A

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Red Hook High students construct shed for VFW Post



Red Hook High School's Residential Construction students in the first semester constructed a shed at the request of the Red Hook VFW Post 7765.

"I put the word out last spring, asking if anyone needed a shed," teacher Dan Gall said. The VFW "had a shed for 25 years, or so, the roof was caving in. They were looking to replace it."

With two sections of Residential Construction

working on the project, "we made progress every single day," Gall said.

The students involved included the following: Will Anagnos, Victor Baker-Bozsis, Connor Clark, Ben Godfrey, Jimmy Hegarty, Anthony Lozito, Jace Moore, Asher Papeika, Williams Romero, River Ceasarine, Nygell Choinsky, Chance Dayton, Chris Frettoloso,

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Students in the Residential Construction class at Red Hook High School recently completed the construction of a shed for members of VFW Post 7765. *Courtesy photo*

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Feb. 13 post on the Red Hook Central School District's Facebook page provided a detailed account of the presentation, along with video excerpts.

"Good people is what this is all about," Kayiira said. "I know that we talk about a car, and the car is really good, but I have failed you as an educator if I have not prepared you to be successful in life. And, in life, you're on so many different teams. Some of you are on good teams that are filled with good people."

Other members of the WCP leadership attended the presentation. Those who would work directly with the students include Program Enrichment Coordinator Matteo Lundgren, Master Tech Director Mark Dougherty, Visual Communications Director Matteo Banfo, and two recent alumni of the program from Roy C. Ketcham who now are working with the program as coaches for using the racing simulator and social media marketing, Cody Schmitt and Hayden Maloney.

The Facebook post noted: "While, between them, all aspects of the program were discussed, the overarching theme of the presentation was the importance of being a good teammate and the program's objective to cultivate those behaviors to set students up for their professional futures regardless of their chosen field of work."

Following the presentation, students had the opportunity to see a Shelby Cobra built at FDR last year, and approach members of the Winners Circle team directly to ask questions and express interest in joining.

Link to presentation highlights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zLOhNUq_jI

Red Hook Board of Education to decide
At its Feb. 19 meeting, the Red Hook Board of Education viewed a version of the Feb. 12 video presentation and is set



All participating schools in the Winners Circle Project gathered at Lime Rock Park for 2025 Championship held on Memorial Day weekend. WCP Founder/Executive Director Pius Maweje Kayiira (front row, second from left) and his team organize the annual event, which culminates the year-long program. Photo courtesy of Winners Circle Project. Below, FDR student Tev Phoenix operates the Winners Circle simulator at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

to make a decision on whether to include WCP in this year's budget, which will go before voters on May 18.

A separate Facebook post on Jan. 27 broke down the estimated costs associated with the program:

"Entry to the program is roughly \$150,000, though around \$88,500 of that would be reimbursed by state aid. The kit to build the car is roughly \$50,000; districts recoup most of by auctioning off the car at the end of the program cycle and they can use the money to purchase the next year's kit. The actual cost of the

program each year, Principal Dr. Kyle Roddey estimates, is roughly \$71,000. The program would not require the high school to hire additional staff."

Roddey called Winners Circle "an all-compassing program" that crosses over several areas of study and will involve collaboration between students in the different classes.

"It is an additional example and follows our ongoing attempts to provide more career and technical opportunities that align with the real world and incorporates project-based learning," Roddey said.

FDR program now in its third year

FDR High School in Staatsburg initiated the WCP in 2023. On May 17, 2025, students in the program hosted their first Car Show at the school to benefit the Roosevelt Racing Booster Club.

In an interview with this newspaper last year, Technology Education Teacher Shawn Christensen said he saw the show as "an opportunity for students to showcase their work and network with the community."

Christensen and his fellow instructors share in the excitement of the students.

"This program brings back hands-on skills training and learning experiences to the high school in a generation where this has been somewhat forgotten," he said. "Students are given a unique opportunity to collaborate across different disciplines and most importantly learn how to work alongside their peers to solve problems

and build something that most students never have an opportunity to do."

In addition, students learn the importance of building relationships in the community. Christensen illustrated this element with Matt's Auto Body in Salt Point, which donates the body work and painting of the race car and has created a Booster Club to help with financial support.

"Growing up in the area, Matt's Auto Body has always been a shop I used when the need arose," Christensen said. "I learned about [co-owner] Bob Beckmann's commitment to the community and school through his participation in the [FDR] crew team. So I approached him hoping he would be able to help us with the body work and painting as we do not have the facilities to do this kind of work in school. He was excited to hear about the project and without hesitation was willing to help us out and donate his service. Matt's takes care of all of our body work, paint and finishes the car. We hope to continue to evolve this relationship as the years progress, creating internship opportunities and more."

Beckmann, who served as a volunteer crew coach at FDR for nine years and retired last year, commented, "I have always been interested in supporting efforts that are devoted to the positive development of our young people. They're our future. This program gives instructors the ideal opportunity to teach

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"The Winners Circle Project isn't just about crossing the finish line – it's about the grind behind it. I love building the car from the ground up, working together as a team and every detail, hitting the simulator races to sharpen my skills, and having fun with the process. It's not just racing ... it's creating, learning and living the journey to the winner's circle."

FDR Student Tevaughn Phoenix

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skills that students need to succeed in life, regardless of the career path they choose.”

Enthusiasm for the Winners Circle Project hasn't waned since its inception at FDR.

“Now in our third year, this program never fails to impact our students on such a level that typical classes just can't do,” said Christensen. “The Winners Circle Project provides our students with once-in-a-lifetime experiences, helping them become better students and lifelong learners.”

Participating students point to a myriad of benefits WCP provides.

“The Winners Circle Project isn't just about crossing the finish line – it's about the grind behind it,” said FDR Student Tevaughn Phoenix. “I love building the car from the ground up, working together as a team and every detail, hitting the simulator races to sharpen my skills, and having fun with the process. It's not just racing ... it's creating, learning and living the journey to the winner's circle.”

“The program provides challenges which require creativity and real-world thinking to solve,” said FDR Student Trent Stabell. “It allows me to learn and explore along with my friends and teammates. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

‘Not just about building a car’

This is Stissing Mountain High School's first year in the Winners Circle Project. Humanities Teacher Jennifer Blackburn leads eight students in the Marketing and Social Media classes.

The students in Blackburn's class are spending the year “developing top-notch marketing and media strategies for the project,” she said. “These strategies include designing a logo, writing editorial pieces and creating engaging social media posts, all designed to market and sell their race car!”

Technology Teacher James Benincasa leads 17 students in the Build class. Benincasa said he learned about WCP a couple of years ago, when Kayiira spoke at a Hudson Valley Tech Association meeting.

“I said, ‘Wow, that is so cool!’” Benincasa recalled in a recent phone interview. “And [soon afterward], the principal came in and said he'd just come from a meeting with Pius.”

Benincasa is impressed with the dedication of the WCP staff, who work directly with the schools, teach life skills, meet with students individually, arrange field trips and much more.

“It's not just about building a car,” he said. “It's not your traditional type of class. You're actually doing stuff non-stop.”

Pine Plains Racing, as the group is known, does fundraising, as well. The club just purchased a car trailer that will transport their Shelby Cobra to Lime Rock Park at the end of this year's program. They'll also host their own car show in May.

Local businesses and the community in general have supported Pine Plains Racing in various ways. Benincasa said Pine Plains Auto Body has done a phenomenal job painting the car, and Wheels of Time is doing the upholstery. Some eateries in the area have also been generous with donations, he added.

“I'm just grateful for all the support from the school and the community,” he said. “We've never been told ‘no.’”

Benincasa noted that the WCP provides several field trips for students in the program, including a car show in Bedford (Westchester County), and visit to New York City to hear a talk by former race car driver Willy T. Ribbs. Upcoming outings include an overnight trip to Dyson Racing and touring Factory Five, which manufactures the kit cars the students build.

Then there's the racing simulator, where each month students from participating schools race against each other virtually, encountering virtual challenges, such as adverse weather conditions, night vision racing, and unexpected obstacles.

“It's always streamed on YouTube. There's a guy in England [James Parfitt] who is a professional racing announcer [who announces for WCP],” said Benincasa. “This is the quality of the people they give us to support the program. They bring in the best of the best to work with these guys. The organization that [WCP Executive Director] Pius [Kayiira] has put together is unreal.”

Embodying the spirit of teamwork

Kayiira explained that the simulated racing software from Scimitar Software allows the students to load the exact specifications of their cars, the weather for the simulated race, temperatures, chassis settings and even tire choices, as they race virtually on circuits all over the world. Thus the simulated race teaches not only car control and race craft but even demonstrates the results of changes to any of the variables. For instance, if the simulated race is in the rain, that requires a different chassis set up as well as different tires. The students can experiment and learn exactly what works.

This part of the project has been amazing, said Kayiira.

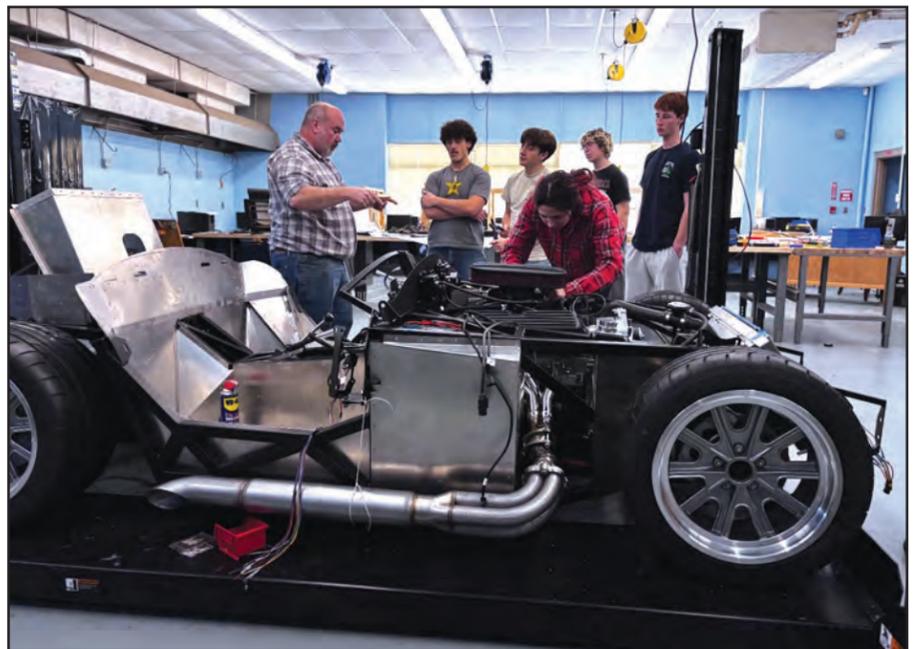
“Just recently I watched one of the teams racing in the rain at a circuit in Brazil. I must say it was some of the best racing I've ever seen anywhere,” he added.

The students using the simulator take part in a championship that lasts for the entire season.

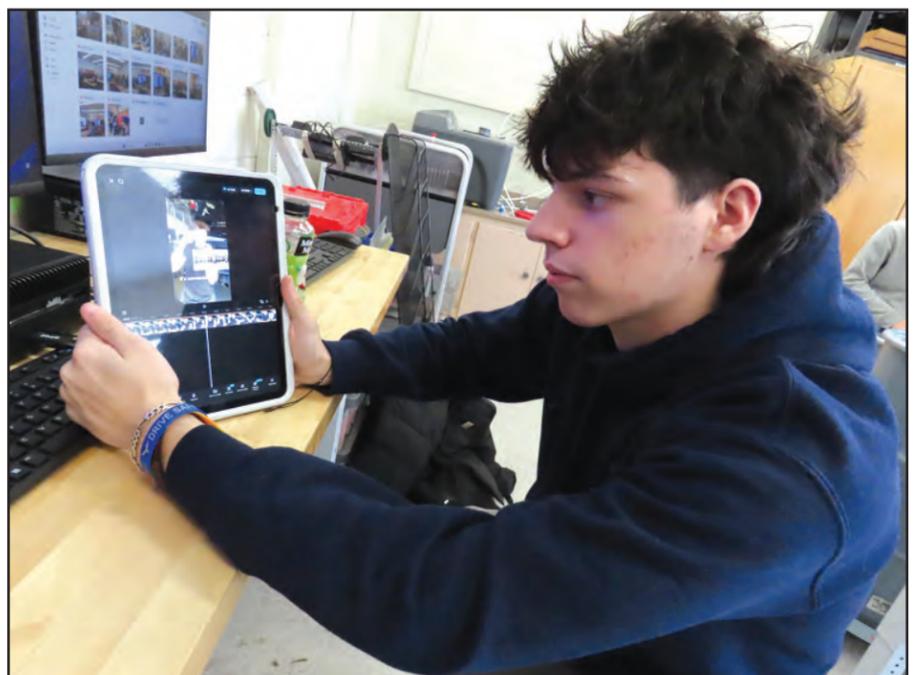
“You know, we manage to impart a broad range of skills in the project, but we're not only building cars; we're building good and effective people,” Kayiira said. “They learn that teams require a collection of differing skills. They have to work together creatively and manage real-life situations.”

“These teams and their leaders never cease to impress,” he said.

When completed, the actual cars will



From left: Stissing Mountain High School's Build Teacher Jim Benincasa instructs students Danny McPherson, Paulino Piazzini and Luke Blackburn, while student Alivia Dillinger works on the car. Photo courtesy of Winners Circle Project. Below, visual arts student Brenden Cohen works on the Winners Circle project at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. Photo by Curtis Schmidt



be tested on track over Memorial Day at Lime Rock Park, operated by a professional racing driver. After a number of years in the role, TransAm champion Chris Dyson will take a break and the testing will be handled by Mathew Brabham.

Kayiira noted WCP is “very proud of two Dutchess County winners of scholarships for their performance within their

teams: Gianna Orellana of Ketcham Racing (Ketcham High) and Dulce Garcia-Lopez from Dover Legacy Racing.”

Both are rising seniors and will also be invited to a wider series of events over the next year with chances to interact with student leaders from around the world.

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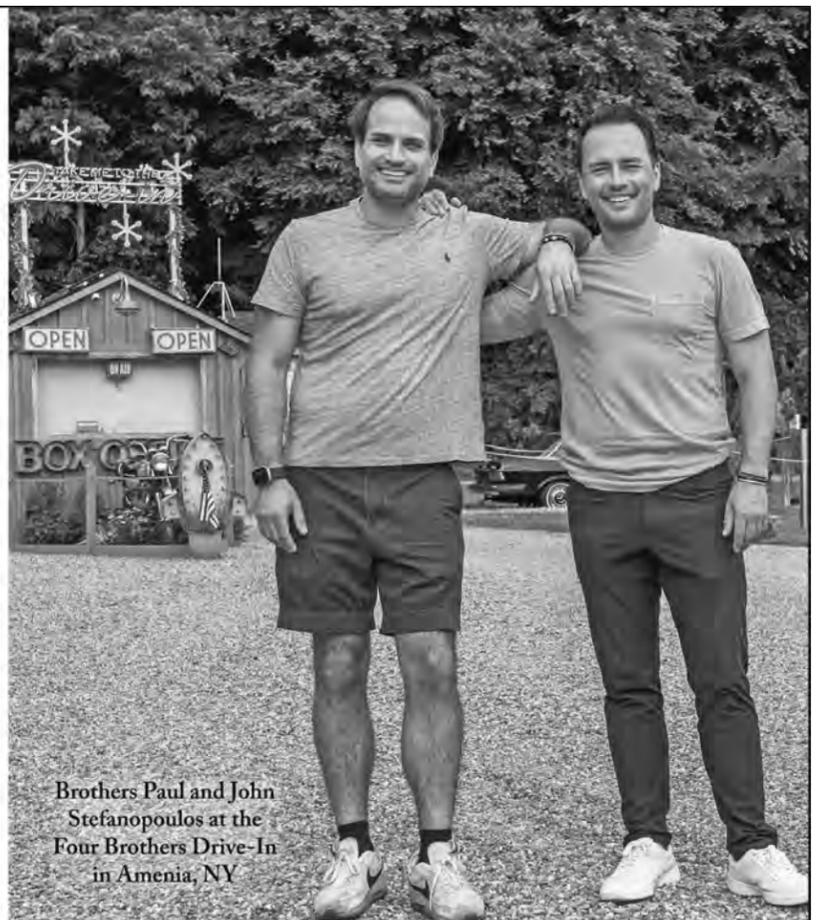
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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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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.

Stopping the Russia-Ukraine stalemate

To the editor:

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, (and) by some stroke of luck the Ukrainians were able to hold back the Russians. The war has turned into a stalemate with thousands of people on both sides dead.

This war needs to be stopped and needs to be stopped now. President Trump has tried on numerous occasions to end the war, but he has not been able to do it. So, I feel that it is time that we use the nuclear option. I am not talking about the bomb, but something else that I feel could end the war. Trump needs to go on television, let's say on a Wednesday night, and tell the American people and the world the following:

Starting on Monday at 12:01 the United States is telling the world that until the war is over, there will be a complete embargo of all Russian goods. Nobody is to trade ANYTHING with Russia. If any country does not follow this, then they are not able to trade with the United States. So, it comes down to either us or Russia. The President needs to make it very clear to the American people that if some countries (ie- China) do not listen and continue to trade with Russia, then we do not do any business with them.

This might mean some hardships for the American people, but I feel we are strong enough to withstand it. If some countries say but wait, we have a contract with Russia to buy X item, I say tough do not do it. If a country needs oil, let's say they can buy it from us, the Saudis or anybody else.

Let's face it, Russia really does not have anything that the rest of the world needs with the exception of oil.

If this is done and Putin calls Trump and says OK, we are ready to sit down and end this war, that is fine. However, the embargo continues till the war is totally over and the fighting has stopped.

I think that this is a good option and needs to be tried and needs to be tried NOW.

Marc Savino
Tivoli

Beephan announces endorsements

To the editor:

I am honored and deeply grateful to receive the endorsement of the Republican and Conservative Parties. Their support reflects our shared commitment to principled leadership, fiscal responsibility, and standing up for hardworking New Yorkers.

Over the past several years, we have delivered meaningful results for our community — including securing a record \$670,000 in state funding to support local priorities. That investment represents tangible progress for our district, and I look forward to building upon these accomplishments in the years ahead.

New Yorkers are facing serious challenges that demand practical, results-driven solutions. I remain fully committed to addressing the ongoing utility crisis by pursuing responsible reforms — including suspending costly renewable energy mandates and related payments that drive up rates, advancing clean nuclear energy as a reliable long-term solution, and demanding greater transparency and accountability from utility companies.

At the same time, we must confront the rising cost of living in our state. I will continue to oppose new taxes on hardworking families and small businesses while advocating for policies that make New York more affordable and competitive. We must also urgently address the growing EMS crisis to ensure our first responders have the resources and support necessary to protect our communities.

I also vow to run a clean and respectful campaign focused on the issues that matter most to our residents. Our community is not Washington, D.C. — we do not need the toxic rhetoric and personal attacks that have come to define national politics. I challenge my opponent to join me in keeping this race focused on ideas, solutions, and service to the people we seek to represent

My responsibility is to the residents of this district — not to serve as a rubber stamp for any political party. I will continue to work independently, thoughtfully, and tirelessly to advance policies that strengthen our community and improve the lives of the people I am privileged to represent.

Together, we will continue building a stronger, more affordable, and more accountable future for New York.

Anil Beephan Jr.
Assemblyman, 105th Assembly District

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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.

send us your news

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Applications available for DC Fair Scholarship

RHINEBECK, NY – The Dutchess County Agricultural Society recently announced that their scholarship application is now available online. This renewable scholarship awards a Dutchess County high school senior, or student enrolled in college or tech school with a \$10,000 scholarship.

The qualifying student must be a Dutchess County resident and/or participate in the programs operated by the agricultural society. The recipient must seek an undergraduate degree in agriculture, horticulture or human ecology or a career related to agriculture or horticulture. All applicants must submit their applications by 3 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Information and a fillable pdf application are available at the Dutchess County Fair's website <https://dutchessfair.com/scholarships/>, through Cornell

Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and from local high school offices.

The NYSAAF and NYSSA offer an annual scholarship program which is available to students who are New York State residents, who currently are (or have previously been) active in a fair that is a member of the NYSAAF or the NYSSA and who plan to attend (or already attend) college in pursuit of a degree. The fair where you have been active, or the NYSSA must endorse your application and will submit it for you. The website www.nyfairs.org offers a complete list of member fairs, the scholarship application, and instructions.

Visit www.dutchessfair.com/scholarships/ or www.nyfairs.org for information regarding both scholarships.

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The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance announced that the Tax Department and the IRS will begin accepting and processing income tax returns. The deadline to file returns and pay any tax owed (or request an extension of time to file) is midnight on April 15, 2026.

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take advantage of this truly free service each year, saving them on average \$269 in tax preparation fees.

Free File information is available in multiple languages on the Tax Department's website, www.tax.ny.gov.

For information on gathering key documents to prepare and file income tax returns, the benefits of choosing direct deposit, and information on income tax credits, visit the Tax Department's Income tax filing season resource center.

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New format, sites set for Polar Plunge; All events benefit Special Olympics

By Morgan E. Maier

The 28th annual Polar Plunge is coming to dunk Dutchess County for three days straight, thanks to one of New York's first mobile plunge units. Plunge pros and those less inclined to brave the brisk water can find other ways to support of Special Olympics programs with this full slate of festivities.

Sharpe Reservation was once Fishkill's beacon for the annual Polar Plunge. While interest and participant numbers increased, Special Olympics New York was faced with a good problem. The festivities had outgrown the space. So Dutchess County communities united for the solution, are unveiling three new sites and a plunge unit on wheels for 2026.

Inspired by programming in other states, Special Olympics New York is increasing visibility of the Plunge, while also increasing community access. Dutchess County is among the first in the Empire State to roll out the mobile plunge unit, tripling access to potential participants.

The threefold Polar Plunge will take place Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, 2026, rain, sleet or shine. On Friday, Marist University kicks off the weekend at McCann Center (3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie). The plunge will take place in the parking lot, as further fun goes on inside. On Saturday, Heritage Financial Park (1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls) closes out February



Above and right, participants take part in previous Polar Plunge events at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill. The event is being held in three different parts this year, including Marist University and Eastdale Village. *Courtesy photos*

with a tailgate, music, campfires fit for s'mores, food trucks, and more. A slate of activities at Eastdale Village Town Center (10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie) rounds out the fundraising frenzy, as select businesses will offer discounts for participating plungers, music, and more.



Red Hook High students construct shed for VFW post

continued from cover

Avery Marsh, Noah Schultheis, Brady Selfridge, Matt Simmons and Prestin Welch.

While the VFW paid for the materials, the students assembled the 10-by-16-foot shed free of charge.

"It's a nice way for us to be able to offer the class without putting out the money and then having to find a buyer or use for a shed," Gall said.

In the Residential Construction class, students study the skills involved with the construction of residential buildings, including planning, measuring, the use of power tools, framing roofs, floors and walls, quality assurance and other aspects. Completing the creation of a

large wood structure is the culmination of the half-year course.

"That's a really fun class. They learn a lot, they're doing a lot of hands-on application of the skills they're learning," Gall said. "The work mentality is really fostered there."

The shed was recently transported to the Red Hook VFW facility earlier this month by Bayhorse Structures LLC, which likewise provided the service free of charge.

Last school year, students similarly built a shed that is now being used at Linden Avenue Middle School for recess and other outdoor equipment.

Proceeds from Polar Plunges support the training and inclusive opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to compete in Special Olympics programs at no cost to families or caregivers.

Even if you plan to stay dry, why should you visit one – or all – of Dutchess County's Polar Plunges?

"The Polar Plunge is more than just a cold jump; it's a celebration of inclusion, community, and support for Hudson Valley Special Olympics athletes. When you come out, whether you're plunging or cheering from the sidelines, you're directly impacting local athletes by helping fund year-round sports training and competitions. It's a fun, high-energy event that brings people together for a great cause, and every plunge site will have its own unique personality and excitement," said Susanne O'Neil, director of development at Special Olympics

New York.

Advance registration for all three days will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m., with all Plunges to take place at noon. Participants must donate at least \$25 to participate, and will receive a 2026 Polar Plunge sweatshirt with a \$125 donation. Participants should bring a towel and a post-plunge change of clothes; heated changing areas will also be on site. Advance registration is encouraged, though same-day signups will be available.

For polar novices and repeat Plungers alike, the weekend offers an opportunity to engage. Not just with the teams of participants and local organizations and athletes, but also the first responders, and volunteers driven to raising money and awareness for their communities' Special Olympics athletes.

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Central Hudson: Scammers posing as utility representatives

Central Hudson Gas & Electric is alerting customers to an increase in scam attempts across the region involving individuals posing as utility employees through phone calls, emails, text messages, and in-person visits.

The company has received reports of scammers threatening immediate service shutoffs, demanding payment, or requesting personal and financial information while falsely claiming to represent Central Hudson. These scams can appear highly convincing and may include spoofed phone numbers, official-looking emails, or individuals wearing branded clothing and identification.

“Scammers are becoming increasingly more sophisticated and aggressive in their attempts to pressure customers,” said Danielle Caruso, Director of Information Security & Corporate Security. “If you’re ever unsure whether a call, message, or interaction is legitimate, hang up the phone, delete the email, or

shut the door, and contact Central Hudson immediately.”

Common Scam Warning Signs

Central Hudson urges customers to be alert for the following red flags:

- Requests for payment via prepaid debit cards, gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers, or peer-to-peer apps
- Unexpected visits from individuals claiming to be utility employees requesting payment or access to your home. All Central Hudson employees carry identification and will show it upon request.
- Calls, texts, or emails asking customers to verify Social Security numbers, bank account details, passwords, or other sensitive information.

Additional scam tactics reported include:

- Fake Bill Payment or Credit Con: Providing fraudulent routing or account numbers to collect payments, issue credit cards, or claim eligibility for assistance programs.

- Bogus Equipment or Repair Fees: Demands for payment to replace or install meters or other utility-related equipment.

- Overpayment Refund Scams: Claims that a customer has overpaid, followed by requests for bank or credit card information.

- Smishing (SMS Phishing): Text messages designed to trick recipients into sharing personal information.

- Fraudulent Bills: Emails that appear to be legitimate utility bills and may include Central Hudson branding—customers should never click on any links or open attachments unless the sender is verified.

What Central Hudson Will – and Will Not – Do

Central Hudson emphasizes that the company:

- Will not request payment through gift cards, prepaid cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers
- Will not threaten immediate service

shutoff without prior written notice

- Will always ensure employees carry proper identification
- Will only direct customers to established payment channels or to contact the company directly

What Customers Should Do

Customers who believe they are being targeted by a scam should:

- Hang up, delete, or ignore suspicious calls, texts, or emails
- Never provide personal or financial information

- Contact Central Hudson directly using the phone number listed on their bill or at www.cenhud.com

- Report suspected scams to local law enforcement and the New York State Department of Public Service

Central Hudson encourages customers to share this information with family members, friends, and neighbors; especially seniors and those who may be more vulnerable to fraud.

Free Virtual Homebuyer Seminar set for March 4

Ulster Savings Bank invites one to a free homebuyer seminar on Wednesday, March 4, starting at 5:30 p.m. They are hosting this event along with Ulster County Habitat for Humanity to help one understand the critical steps to owning one’s own home. This seminar will be offered as an interactive live Zoom meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in real time.

They will discuss:

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

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

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

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

*Receive a \$750 coupon good towards borrower’s choice of closing costs, down payment, or post-closing payment assistance, in accordance with the loan program selected and that program’s eligibility requirements. The certificate must be presented at the time of application. Customer pays for all other fees and services. Eligible mortgages are for owner-occupied purchases. Not valid for refinances, home equity products, second homes, construction loans, or mortgage applications received prior to the date of seminar on certificate. Offer may not be combined with any other offers or discounts unless otherwise noted. This offer expires on December 31, 2028. Limit one (1) per loan transaction. Certain conditions apply. Ulster Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender & Member FDIC. NMLS# 619306

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Tax credits available to eligible New Yorkers

In a recent press release, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance urged taxpayers to review their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit. Both credits provide financial boosts to hardworking families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable credit for working taxpayers who earn less than \$68,675. This means taxpayers get a refund even if the credit amount is more than what they owe in taxes.

When combined, Federal, New York State, and New York City Earned Income Tax Credits can be worth \$12,873 for a family with three or more qualifying children.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit for the first time because of changes to their financial situation, filing status, or personal life. For eligibility requirements, see the Tax Department’s Earned Income Credit (New York State) webpage, https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/earned_income_credit.htm. For federal qualifications, see the IRS Earned Income Tax Credit webpage, <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-etc>.

Expanded Empire State Child Credit

For tax year 2025, the Empire State Child Credit has been substantially enhanced. The maximum amount for the Empire State child credit for children under age four increased from \$330 to \$1,000 per child. This refundable credit provides support to eligible families who file New York State income tax returns.

You are eligible for this refundable credit if you are a full-year New York State resident and have at least one qualifying child less than 17 years old on December 31 of the year you are claiming the credit for. For more information on this credit, visit Empire State child

credit.

File a tax return to claim these credits

Taxpayers must file a personal income tax return to receive both credits, even if they don’t owe any taxes. Most taxpayers who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit, are likely also eligible to take advantage of the free e-filing options available through the Tax Department. Options include:

Free File

Depending on your income and other criteria, you may be eligible to use Free File software to e-file your federal and state income tax returns at no cost through the Tax Department website.

Take advantage of this truly free service each year, saving hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in tax-preparation costs. Free File information is available in multiple languages on the Tax Department’s website, www.tax.ny.gov.

Other e-filing options

If you don’t qualify for Free File, we have other options—including some other free ones—that may work for you. See other e-file options at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/> for personal income tax to learn more.

Need assistance?

For taxpayers who qualify, the Tax Department’s Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) can help electronically prepare and file their federal and state income tax returns at no cost.

During a scheduled session, Tax Department representatives will guide taxpayers through free tax preparation software, step-by-step, as they complete and file their own tax return. The Tax Department’s online tax software is a safe and secure way to file. It’s quick and easy!

Visit the Taxpayer Assistance Program at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/tap/> to register for a session.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 10 5-7PM—VFW Post 5519, Pine Plains, NY

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 1-4pm—Stanfordville Library (Refreshments), Stanfordville, NY



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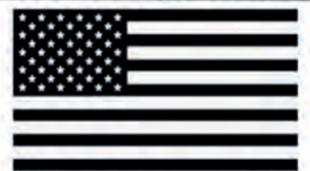
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County's Commissioner of Finance to retire in April

In a recent press release, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced the upcoming retirement of Heidi Seelbach, the County's Commissioner of Finance, following more than a decade of service in County Government. Ms. Seelbach will officially retire April 30, 2026.

Serino said, "In her tenure with Dutchess County, Heidi has been a tireless advocate for improved efficiency and modernizations that have saved millions over the years. The Department of Finance is vital to the operation of County government, and we are grateful for the legacy of professionalism and expertise Heidi has instilled in her team, ensuring the thousands of transactions completed each year are done efficiently and securely. I am especially thankful to Heidi for agreeing to delay her retirement to help me transition into my role as County Executive—her dedication and support speak volumes about her commitment to this County. We wish her all the best in her future!"

Seelbach began her tenure with Dutchess County Government in 2011 when she was appointed Director of Central Services by former County Executive William R. Steinhaus. In 2012, she became the Deputy Commissioner of Finance before being appointed

Commissioner in 2014 by former County Executive Marcus Molinaro. Prior to joining Dutchess County Government, she oversaw fiscal management at St. Cabrini Home in West Park, NY, serving in various roles including Comptroller and the Director of Finance.

As Dutchess County's Commissioner of Finance, Seelbach has served as the Chief Fiscal Officer of the County charged with the responsibility of receipt and disbursement of county funds. As Commissioner, she has been responsible for the enforcement of real property taxes levied for county, town, school district and village purposes; obtaining borrowing on behalf of the County to finance capital projects; issuing Official Statements as required; and ensuring all financial records comply with the rules established by the Comptroller of the State of New York as well as accounting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Under her leadership, the County's bond rating was upgraded to AA+ by Standard & Poor's (S&P), among the highest ratings for counties in New York State. The County has maintained that impressive rating since 2014, thanks to Ms. Seelbach's strong financial policies and practices, which include employing a range of strategies for cash management,



Heidi Seelbach Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't

such as taking advantage of market conditions to maximize interest earnings, refinancing bonds, paying down debt, and avoiding new debt by financing critical capital projects with cash.

Seelbach, a resident of Hyde Park, has recently become engaged and looks forward to retirement and her upcoming wedding, travelling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Seelbach said, "I am grateful to County Executive Serino for her support of the Finance department team and for taking the time to learn more about the intricate workings of this complex

department. As I look forward to this next chapter of life, I leave with confidence knowing that the devoted team in the Finance Department will continue their dedicated work to be prudent and efficient fiscal stewards to ensure the County's strong financial future."

The County will begin a search for an individual with the necessary combination of management skills and financial knowledge to serve as Commissioner of Finance. Those interested in the position can read the full job description and apply online at dutchessny.gov/jobs.

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Support Connection's lists support group dates for March

Below is a list of Support Connection's Support Groups March for those who have been impacted by breast, ovarian, and any gynecological cancer.

Monday, March 2: Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Wednesday, March 4: Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Post Treatment Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Wednesday, March 11: Offered Via Zoom – Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Monday, March 16: Breast Cancer Support Group (Hybrid Format, In-Person and ZOOM videoconference) 7-8 p.m. at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor, Westchester County

Wednesday, March 25: Breast and

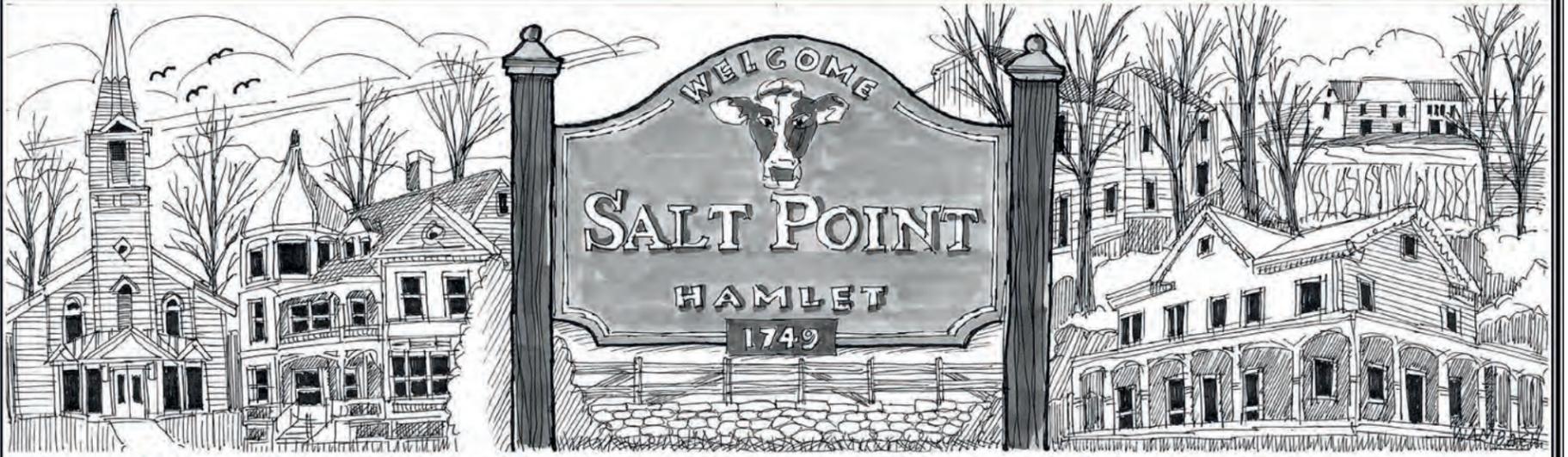
Ovarian Cancer Support Group (Hybrid Format, In-person and ZOOM videoconference option) Soul Ryders Office

There are many other support groups for women with breast, ovarian, or other gynecological cancers. For details, please visit the calendar.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. To register or to learn more, please call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Support Group meeting location for in-person groups and/or Zoom login info will be provided to anyone who registers.

In addition to support groups, professional Peer Counselors are available to provide unlimited one-on-one, individual support. Anyone dealing with breast, ovarian, or any other gynecological cancer can learn more by visiting: www.supportconnection.org or by calling toll-free at 800-532-4290.

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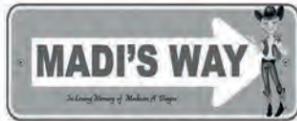
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Join Madi's Way for a Fabric Clothesline Bowl Class on April 18th from 1-3:30pm.

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Gardening Calendar

A welcome reminder that spring is not far away.

Based on 50 years of garden diaries, I am presenting a garden calendar created especially for Dutchess County. Sure, there are micro-climates, from the top of Stissing Mountain (at 1,403 feet, the county's highest point) to Dennings Point on the Hudson River estuary. My experience centers on latitude 41.70 degrees north, 73.52 degrees west – Poughkeepsie, NY:

- **February 25** – Order new varieties of flowers and vegetables from Johnny's Selected Seeds. I'd have to admit that this is when my garden looks its best. A new early potato – "Envol," Zinnia "Linen," and the cherry tomato "Sunpeach" (from Ball Seed) are at the top of my list.

- **March 1** – Sow seed indoors to have transplants ready in May. Tomatoes, peppers, celosia and marigolds are popular choices. The key is to give the young seedlings plenty of light so they don't stretch.

- **March 17** – Believe it or not, the soil always thaws out by March 17, just three weeks from now. Whether it's dry enough to plant, who knows? The old saying "plant the peas by Saint Patrick's Day" refers to gardens in Ireland, not here. Although it's therapeutic to get out and work in the garden on the first warm days of spring, I've found no real advantage to planting so early. Peas, beets, spinach and carrots, all sown from seed directly into cold soil, will just sit there 'til it warms up in April.

- **April 20** – The weather should be warm enough now to set out transplants of cold-tolerant flowers and vegetables. Pansies and lettuce will survive a hard freeze, which is still possible until May 20. Parsley, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, snapdragons and perennial flowers like daisies or delphiniums can tolerate cold nights. Also you can direct seed the peas, beets, onions, carrots and Swiss chard that will sprout more quickly in warmer soil.

- **May 1** – I buy "seed potatoes" from Johnny's or Hudson Valley Seed Co. The larger tubers can be cut in pieces and planted now. Any earlier and they risk being burned by a late frost just as the new growth is emerging, Friends of mine grow potatoes in bags or bushel baskets filled with fluffy soil. It's amazing how good fresh potatoes can taste.

- **May 20** – Now the garden is in full swing. My records going back to 1974 show a last killing frost on May 16 (2023), May 1 (1975) and May 21 (2002, my notes say "apple farmers wiped out"). Transplants of tomatoes, peppers, and annual flowers – petunias, begonias, marigolds, salvia – can be set out. I keep some old blankets in the garden shed to cover tender plants if we get an unusually late frost. You can also direct-seed beans and corn at this time.

- **June 5** – Now the soil should be warm enough to sow the seeds of squash family veggies. These include zucchini,

yellow squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. They need very warm weather to germinate. Also at this time, get rid of any weeds around the plants while they're still small. A first application of fertilizer is critical, if you didn't work compost or manure into the soil at planting time, or even if you did. Fertilizer makes plants grow.

- **July 4** – You've harvested your earliest veggies – spinach, radishes, maybe lettuce and broccoli. Now you can plant a succession crop in the same space. Beans are a good choice. Or a second round of zucchini, which will mature just as the first zucchini is falling victim to the dreaded vine borer. Even a late crop of tomatoes ripen in September for canning. This is also a good time to cut back hardy chrysanthemums and trim overgrown flowers in hanging baskets, adding extra fertilizer to boost new growth. If your early tomato plants are showing signs of blight (brown lower leaves), treat them with a copper based fungicide.

- **August** – Gardens should get at least a weekly inch of rain. If you must irrigate, apply one thorough soaking rather than a few sprinklings. Water must get down to the roots. And keep adding fertilizer, especially if you're growing in containers.

- **September** – Harvest herbs for drying. Protect tender flowers and vegetables from a late frost. It's been a few years since I've seen a heavy freeze in September. The last time was September



Basil transplant ready to go. Photo by Mark Adams

20, 2020. Last year it wasn't until October 10.

- **October** – Plant garlic, daffodils and tulips. Don't bother with tulips if you have any deer. Also, put a heavy layer of mulch – straw or dried leaves on top of your remaining carrots and beets, and they'll last in the ground until Thanksgiving. And don't forget to clean all garden tools and store them in their proper place. (I never do. They're probably buried under the snow).

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

SKYLLKILL FELTING FIBER PROGRAM ON MARCH 4

Fiber Artist: Un-A-Frayed, on March 4 at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville. Join local fiber artist Karen Madden who will be presenting and discussing the techniques of felting fiber that she uses in her creations of fiber art. She will display finished pieces that show depth of this art form and explain how out-of-the-box creativity leads to this unique art form.

Skyllkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, presents this program beginning at 12:30 p.m. Join other needleworkers for learning beginning at 10 a.m. or come for this program only beginning at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/SkyllkillIEGA or email to EGASkyllkill@gmail.com.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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Stout float

Get a jump on St. Patrick's Day with a good stout beer poured over vanilla ice cream.

It isn't at all unusual for our tastes to change as we get older, and I should know. I went from being a picky eater as a child to an adult who is passionate about all kinds of food. When we're younger, our tastes tend to run to the sweeter side. Your first-ever cup of coffee may well have been laden with sugar and cream, but now you (like me) may prefer dark roasts and espresso without all of that. I like to think we become more sophisticated with age, or at least our palates do.

I love a good beer, and Guinness – or any dark, rich, lovely stout for that matter – always tops the list for me in the colder months. Not only is it delicious, but it brings up fond memories for me. The first time I experienced it was in a pub after the Greenwich Village Halloween parade waaaaay back in the late 1980s. Favorite time of year + a perfect pour = unforgettable pure delight. Watching the milk chocolate colored stout separate into pure darkness on the bottom with a creamy white froth on top was magical, and the first sip was like nothing I'd ever had before. It's a love affair that hasn't lessened over time and is always just the thing when the weather turns cold. The first sip of each one transports me back to that time, place and feeling.

So, let's talk about stout. Before there was stout, there was porter, a dark, roasted malt beer consumed in vast quantities by the workmen of London during the Industrial Revolution (though I suspect there may have been a similar version dating back much further somewhere in human history). Its hearty nature makes

me think it was a sort of meal replacement shake of its day. It was readily available and relatively cheap because it was one of the first mass-produced beers (thanks to the very revolution that kept the workers in demand) and so widely consumed by the many working-class laborers who moved goods and materials to literally keep the Industrial Revolution gears turning. These workers were known as porters and the name carried over to their drink of choice.

As is the case with all beer, there were many styles of porter, which was derived from the brown ales so popular in Great Britain at the time. A key difference between lighter and darker beers is malt, dried cereal grains (often barley), steeped in water until sprouted, then kiln-dried or roasted, which converts the starch to the sugars essential for fermentation and contributes to the color, aroma and flavor of the finished beer. (I am way over-simplifying, so apologies to any brew masters out there.) When the malt is dried or roasted longer, or even smoked, it adds even more, creating notes of coffee, chocolate, toast, even molasses. When unmalted (or essentially raw) barley was roasted and used, the result was a darker, drier beer with a smooth, creamy texture that was also more robust, or stout, something Irish brewers, like Arthur Guinness, excelled at. Stout porter was shortened to its adjective when ordered, and a classic was thankfully brought to the world. That's the word in the back allies of industrial age London, anyway.

Of course, with its Irish roots, stout is perfect this time of year, and no Saint

Patrick's Day celebration would be complete without it (if you're able to imbibe). So, absolutely I'll be knocking back a pint or two, but I'll also indulge in my other favorite way to enjoy it: as a float. First of all, don't judge me and second of all, if you do it's likely because you've never had a stout float, which has actually been a thing for a while. All the aforementioned descriptives associated with stout - rich, creamy, smooth, roasted coffee, chocolate – make the pairing of it with vanilla ice cream kind of a natural, and I highly recommend you make one in the comfort of your own home so you can sit comfortably to savor it.

Stout floats are also a surprisingly refreshing and really simple way to end a meal. Just put 2-3 scoops of vanilla ice cream into a pint glass and slowly pour in your stout. You can top it with a drizzle of chocolate sauce or whiskey whipped cream (just add a teaspoon of the good stuff when you whip it), but I like mine straight up to let all the inherent goodness of the pairing shine. Starting with a classic Guinness is always a good idea, but you can use any one of the hundreds of stouts or other dark beers out there and can certainly find a few excellent ones locally with all the breweries we're lucky to have in the Hudson Valley.

If excellent beer, especially from the dark side, is your thing or just has you curious, make a luscious stout float as a treat and see what the fuss is all about. Is it a wee bit early to refer to St. Paddy's Day? Maybe, but remember, I fell in love with stout in October. Besides, this float may be the perfect bridge between being



Photo of stout float by Vicki Frank Day

a kid and a grownup, and it might just become one of your fond memories, too. Slainte!

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

Oakwood Friends to offer musical evening

"An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals" will take place at Oakwood Friends School, The Spencer Family Theater, 22 Spackenkill Road, in Poughkeepsie, on

Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. No intermission.

An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals: "Time Travel Makes Complete Sense;"

Pellets, Cherries, and Lies;" "The Almost In-Laws;" "Big Ass Secret;" "The Future Was Ours" (written by Oakwood's Arts Chair, Ted Messerschmidt).

Linked by the theme of "secrets,"

these plays tell stories of love, loss, surprises, and Pac-Man. Each play is unique and has a complete narrative.

No reservations, donations are welcome. For more information, call (845) 462-4200.



Oakwood Friends students are pictured during recent rehearsals for "An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals." Above: (L-R) Livy Johnson '29, Matty Canez '28, Ruby Pearce '26 and Parsley Ascione '27 at rehearsal. Left: Seniors Ruby Pearce and Martin Lozada during a recent rehearsal. Courtesy photos

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

Suguru

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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: THE 1990s

ACROSS

- *First cloned mammal
- Fuel economy acronym
- Land measure
- Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
- Second O in EVOO
- a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
- Plant fungus
- *"Titanic" star
- *"The ___ Whisperer" (1998)
- *PepsiCo offering
- *One of the Walsh twins, 90210
- Long reef dweller
- Reach a high
- Color of passion
- Agitate
- Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
- Gave the boot
- Arab League member
- One of Florida Keys
- Summer month
- Polished diamond surface
- Safecracker
- Lazybones
- Before "saw" and "conquered"
- Glitch
- Watercraft
- Remains repository
- Like some martinis
- Comfort
- One in a pod
- * ___ bubble
- *The 1990s, a.k.a. post- ___ decade
- Biblical patriarch
- Sensitive subject?
- "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
- ___ shopping cart
- Father's progeny
- Trojan War epic
- Difficult situation
- Like jalapeño
- So out it's in

DOWN

- Design detail
- München mister
- Jittery
- Irregularly notched
- *Harry of Privet Drive
- Gangster's gal
- *"American ___" (1999)
- Geography class prop
- Any minute, arch.
- Cut at birth
- Parks on a bus
- ___ out a living
- Israeli monetary unit
- Remote in manner
- Did a marathon, e.g.
- Mollify
- *Assassinated Gandhi
- Radiate
- Small wooded hollows
- *Apple offering
- Simon does what?
- Influencer's creation
- Daytime moth
- *Snoop ___ Dogg
- Coloring substances
- Nautilus' captain
- Allegro or lento
- Repeat an echo
- Pathet ___
- *Fresh Prince's town
- * ___ Mouth of "All Star" fame
- Discombobulate
- *Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The
- Made in Vegas
- Makes lace
- One-tenth of a dime
- *" ___ Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR
- Petri dish gel
- Do over
- Fruit spread
- * ___ Goo Dolls of "Name" fame

CROSSWORD

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

FDR sends four wrestlers to State Championships

By Curtis Schmidt

Four athletes from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School have qualified to compete in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHAA) State Championships set Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27-28 in Albany.

Representing FDR's Girls team is Natalia Quinteros Tejada in the 100 lb weight category. Natalia is a three-time Section 9 champion and is only a junior. FDR coach Eric Sciuotto said Natalia has been wrestling mixed competition since the 7th grade and "is a natural at Freestyle wrestling as she has strong hips, and great technique from all positions."

He added, "Natalia has incredible instincts in this sport and is equipped with a high wrestling IQ where she allows her moves to flow by predicting her opponents' pressure and making quick decisions to maximize her technique in the moment."

FDR is also sending three boys to the State Championships: Senior Luke Dakin (138 lb), Senior Liam Dakin (175 lb) and Junior Cashmere Curtis (285 lb).

"Luke Dakin is one of our captains and leads our team with his unmatched tenacity and will to win," said Coach Sciuotto. "Luke is extremely explosive and creative in his style, loves to scramble and has a natural ability to come out on top."

Luke has been on the varsity team since the 8th grade and has achieved over 100 varsity victories and is the all time

wins leader, as well as record holder in Technical Falls, according to Coach Sciuotto.

Liam Dakin is another captain and carries the nickname "Ice Man." Coach Sciuotto said Liam is "cool under under pressure and always stays composed even in tight matches. He is one of the best 3rd period wrestlers as he has the endurance to go the full 6 minutes and turn it on when his opponents get tired." His only losses this season were to top opponents at Eastern States Classic and to the #1 seed in the state at 175 lbs.

Coach Sciuotto said "Curtis is a force! He is a true 285-lber who is athletic, competitive and determined to be his best in every match. Cash fell short the last two seasons by finishing 4th in our last two seasons, however he punched his ticket this year pinning his opponent in the 3rd and 4th place round at sections. He is very strategic in his performances and has the potential to hit the podium come tournament's end."

Coach Sciuotto said FDR wrestling is in its sixth season as a varsity program.

"Representing Dutchess County and Section 9 Division 1, we haven't had it easy to start a program. Each year we are competing against the toughest schools in NYS," he said. "Our team placed 7th at the Section 9 tournament surpassing many large schools with established programs. Our athletes have earned every inch of their success through hard work and mental toughness."

He noted that the FDR Wrestling

Booster Club has raised over 50K dollars in this short time and have supported this journey from the start.

"Our team has been able to purchase new uniforms, 2 new mats, a drop-down spotlight and an array of coaching supplies that allow us to perform at the highest level," said Coach Sciuotto. "Our team

motto is 'Family First.' Our team chemistry is strong where each family and member supports one another regardless of the issue."

They also operate a wrestling club, the Hyde Park Hammers, where elementary through high school age athletes can improve their skills in the sport.

EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through April 12:** "Artists Respond to Poetry," Arts Mid-Hudson's ninth annual celebration of National Poetry Month, bringing together 20 poets and 20 visual artists in a collaborative exhibition exploring the dialogue between word and image. **Closing Reception Artist Talk:** Sun., April 12, 1-3 p.m. RSVP required to attend reception. www.artsmidhudson.org or or (845) 454-3222

Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through April 7:** "Look Close", photographs by Jen Radicone. poklib.org/events/art-in-the-library

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

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

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 7:** "Bunmei Kaika: Political Landscape in Early Modern and Modern Japan," the exhibition examines the drastic shift in Japan's national identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While this was a time of major political and social upheaval for the nation, it was also a time of expansion and modernization. Many artists responded to the shifting political and physical landscape by depicting it in woodblock prints and works on paper. **Opening lecture** on Sat., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. by Chelsea Foxwell, University of Chicago Professor of Art History, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, will bring context to the significance of works from this time period. **A reception** in The Loeb's atrium will follow at 3:30 p.m. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through July 7:** Special exhibition, "Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans," During their extraordinary public careers, the Roosevelts interacted with a "who's who" of the 20th century. "Signature Moments" opens the FDR Library's archives and museum for an insider's view of the remarkable – and sometimes surprising – variety of personal exchanges with an amazing array of famous (and a few infamous) people, including golden age movie stars, queens and kings, scientists, and legendary military heroes. Visitors will see signatures of literary giants, celebrated artists, world leaders, and, of course, prominent politicians and political activists – including seven American presidents. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

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

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

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Feb. 27-March 28:** Talent Show Art Exhibit, the visual component of Morton's Talent Show. **Opening:** Fri., Feb. 27, 6-8 p.m. Refreshments served. The work will be on full display for the performance part of the Talent Show on March 6. Purchases benefit local artists and Morton. Free admission. (845) 876-2903

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Feb. 27:** "Mother's Favorite Spatula: 20 Years of Painting by Angela Basile," the exhibition spans work made between 2006 and 2026, offering a glimpse into how ideas, themes, and styles overlap and evolve over time. (845) 876-4030 or www.starlibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through March 15:** "Artist's Choice," exhibition featuring 20+ members of Tivoli Artists Gallery working across different mediums and approaches. Seen together, the works form a kind of conversation: about making, choosing, trusting one's instincts, and allowing space for difference. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

LOOK FOR THAT'S ITALIAN!
IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Luigi Coppola shares stories and recipes.



A & E CALENDAR

Feb. 26-28: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 26: Latin Dance with Beacon Dance Beat, 7 p.m. All seats \$15. Feb. 27: Murali Coryell; also Dan Brother, 8 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. Feb. 28: The Best of the 70s Record Release Party, 8 p.m. Tickets \$45 advance, \$50 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Feb. 27: Hyde Park Rotary Presents Comedy Night, Coppola's, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. Featured comedian Joshua Lyons Gondelman will be selecting a surprise comedian to join him for Comedy Night. Show with dinner and cash bar. Doors at 6 p.m., and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$75 per person. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds to benefit the Hyde Park Rotary Club's programs. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryhydeparkny>, (845) 758-6464 or dmeyerson@minutemanpress.com.

Feb. 28: Millbrook Arts Group Winter Concert Series, Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. Lost Radio

Rounders, Acoustic Americana trio Lost Radio Rounders' deep repertoire of song is rooted in work of folklorists and musicologists such as John & Alan Lomax, Carl Sandburg, Irwin Silber and Harold Thompson. Featuring Tom Lindsay (Vocals, guitar & guitelele), Michael Eck (Mandolin, uke & percussion) and Paul "Bowtie" Jossman (Banjo & vocals). Pre-show reception, 4:30 p.m. Concert, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Feb. 28: Winter Dance Party, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Chase away the winter blues by dancing the night away, 7-9 p.m. Participants help create the playlist by submitting their favorite dance tunes at <https://tinyurl.com/WinterDanceAtTheGrange>. Refreshments served. Free to attend, a \$5 donation is suggested. The Grange Program Committee asks attendees to bring a shelf-stable item for the Roe Jan Food Pantry. More info at CopakeGrange@gmail.com or www.copakegrange.org/events.

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The local Black community in 1776

UPCOMING PRESENTATION: DCHS presents, "1776 to 1876: The Long Journey of African Americans & the Elusive Promise of Equality," sponsored by Celebrating the African Spirit and Dutchess County Government on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.dchsnny.org/2026-0226.

By Bill Jeffway

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and Black History Month, we profile a handful of the roughly 2,300 persons of color in Dutchess County at the time of the Revolution, then including what is today, Putnam County. The closest count comes from the 1790 Federal Census, which shows that 1,856 (about four out of five) were enslaved.

The July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence's premise – that all men are created equal and have unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – was not persuasive to many Black men. Roughly three times as many joined the British rather than the American Patriot side.

In November 1777, the royal governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, declared that all enslaved people owned by "rebels" who fought for the British would be freed. Although limited to Virginia, it was widely interpreted as applying colony wide. The immediate Patriot response in Virginia was defensive: promising to protect the "property" of "slave owners" and threatening to execute any enslaved people who went to the aid of the British. The American Patriots never made a comparable statewide promise.

Philip Field was born in what is today, Putnam County. His White "owners," the Field family, were Quakers from Long Island and Connecticut who settled in

Dutchess County near the Connecticut border. They arrived in 1733 as part of the earliest wave of New England Quakers relocating here.

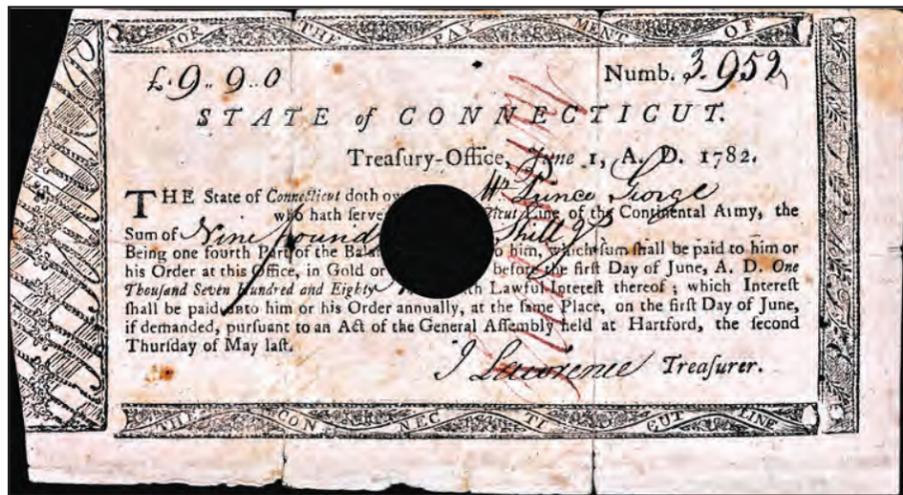
Field enlisted in the 2nd New York Company at West Point on April 15, 1777. He may have seen action at Saratoga, though that is unconfirmed. We know he endured the brutal winter at Valley Forge from 1777 into 1778 but died in 1778 from its effects.

Philip's manumission was declared before the war but would not take effect until May 13, 1780 – ensuring the Field family, not Philip, received any wages or land-bounty rights from his service. The manumission document refers to him as "my man" and, more strikingly, as "my mulatto man bred by me" – language suggesting paternity that constitutes an unusually explicit admission. A December 18, 1794, document in the DCHS collections shows Stephen Field selling inherited land gained through Philip's service – Lot 88 in Marcellus – underscoring who ultimately benefited.

Prince George enlisted at age 13 as a drummer in the 3rd Connecticut Line of the Continentals. Musicians were paid more than privates for their specialized, risky front-line work. He took part in Meigs's Raid across Long Island Sound to Sag Harbor. This daring, highly visible operation plundered British stores and supplies, succeeded, and boosted Patriot morale. George served for six full years.

Prince George submitted discharge papers signed by George Washington with his pension application. He died impoverished in the free Black community of Freemanville (Beekman), where he lived with his wife, Martha, and their children.

Jacob Lyle served as a fifer and guard of stores in the New Jersey militia – guarding cattle, flour, and salt; "hunting Tories"; and standing guard with musket and bayonet. Lyle's pension was denied despite sworn testimony from General Jarrett Stillwell. In



The 1782 promissory note for Prince George's service in the Revolutionary War in a Connecticut regiment. The back shows he earned interest on money he did not cash in. Immediately after the war, George spent the rest of his life in Dutchess County with his wife and children. Image from the Museum of the American Revolution. *Courtesy photo*



Frazier family, the start of many generations of service. Top row, left to right: Andrew Frazier, Revolutionary War, buried Rhinebeck. Edward Frazier, Civil War, buried Stanford. Jerome Frazier, Civil War, buried Union Vale. Middle row: Jerome Frazier, WW1, Beverly National Cemetery. Susan Elizabeth Frazier, WW1, buried Rhinebeck. Bottom photo: James Harris Frazier, WW2, buried Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*

1821 he and his wife bought an acre in Milan for \$50. After their deaths, they were buried at their homestead, as was common. The small burial ground, surrounded by a stone wall, became what was then called a "colored burial ground."

Many of the blue and yellow historic markers you see, like the one at his grave, were generated by the state program begun in 1925 to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Revolution. This is ironic because the sign erected in 1935 erased Lyle's war service. The sign read then, as it does today, "Resting Place of Chief Crow and other Shacomco Indians, Last Burial around 1850." Chief Crow appears to be fictitious. The lot was referred to as "Crow Lot" in reference to Black burials. The last known burial of a person of color there was in 1927. The town now properly memorializes Jacob Lyle as a Revolutionary War veteran at Milan Town Hall.

Anthony "Tone" Waring was a committed Patriot who fled British-occupied Smithtown, Long Island, and earned his freedom through military service. A resident of Southeast, he enlisted at Danbury, Connecticut, in 1780. He served three years in the Continental Army as a sapper and miner—brutal front-line work using axes and shovels to build and breach fortifications under fire. His discharge papers were signed by General Knox at West Point in 1783.

In his successful 1820 pension application, Waring described a life marked by hardship. Once a broom and basket maker, he said he survived on "a scanty subsistence," disabled by age and a lame leg injured from carrying heavy burdens during the war. He and his wife, Hetta, then 76, were unable to support themselves. Though once honored locally through the naming of Tone's Pond in Southeast, it is today known

as Tonetta Lake, derived from a combination of the couple's names.

Andrew Frazier was born ca. 1742 in the Manor of Morrisania, today the Bronx. His enslavers were generations of the well-known and wealthy Morris and Graham families. The family member most closely associated with Frazier was Morris Graham, whose name reflected the multi-generational union of the two families.

When Morris Graham inherited vast acreage in the Little Nine Partners Patent in the 1760s in what is now Pine Plains, Andrew Frazier went with him. When the war began, Morris Graham became colonel of an important local unit and participated in major engagements such as the Battle of White Plains. Frazier served in his unit as waiter or footman to Graham, and also as driver of a wagon team to and from the Amenia furnace.

He became known locally as "the ancestor" because of the size of his descendant community. His great-great-granddaughter was Susan Elizabeth Frazier, the first Black woman allowed to teach White students in New York City in 1895 and leader of the women's auxiliary to the Harlem Hellfighters in World War I.

Rachel. Historian Michael Groth cites two 1781 newspaper ads (I am working to locate the originals). He writes that Ebenezer Husted's enslaved woman, Rachel – about age 35, from "Great Nine Partners" – fled to British-occupied New York City to gain her freedom. Census records show the Husted family farm was located in the part of the town of Washington that later became Stanford. In the ad, Husted declares that Rachel returned with an accomplice and burned his house to the ground. He described her as "tall, powerful, cunning and subtle," and urged "all

continued on page 15

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GOLDEN LIVING

Your mission, should you choose to accept it

We promise this week's issue won't be a Mission: Impossible. But as a reader of this newsletter, you may find yourself in the position of being asked by caregivers, family, and other older adults about the Dutchess County Office for the Aging. We appreciate anyone who helps spread the word about OFA, so it's only right to ensure we all have our ducks in a row.

The short version

We help all older Dutchess County residents be as independent as possible, for as long as possible.

The longer version

Reaching the goal of maximum independence can be easier said than done. OFA can help Dutchess County's older adults with any of the following:

- Information and referral about issues of concern to older persons;
- Advocacy and case assistance in applying for Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), and other programs;
- Home delivered meals for home-bound older adults;
- OFA Friendship Centers, featuring nutritious, hot meals along with activities at our eight centers located in Beacon, East Fishkill, Millerton, Pleasant Valley, Pawling, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, and South Americaia;
- Transportation services, including rides to Friendship Centers and grocery shopping where available, as well as contracting for nonemergency medical transportation;
- Legal services, focusing on issues of concern for older adults, including wills and power-of-attorney documents;
- Long term care services through our NY Connects unit, providing a single point of entry for a variety of community and home based services;
- Energy assistance for help with fuel bills and emergency fuel/utility terminations via the Home Energy Assistance Program dutchessny.gov/ofaheap has details;
- Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) to assist seniors navigating the intricacies of Medicare and health insurance;
- Case management, to provide home care needs assessment;
- Senior exercise classes to exercise the body and the mind, including Tai Chi and the "Stay Active and Independent for Life" (SAIL) remote exercise class; details are available at dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise;

• "A Matter of Balance," a program designed to help reduce falls in older adults. Limited spots for the next eight-week session are still available;

• Volunteering opportunities throughout Dutchess County in programs including Home Delivered Meals, Friendship Centers, Friendly Calls, Senior Exercise, OFA events, health insurance counseling and more. A printable application is available at dutchessny.gov/ofavolunteer;

• Caregiver services, including workshops, counseling and assistance, case management, and services for grandparents raising grandchildren; dutchessny.gov/ofacaregiver has more information, and if you're a caregiver who needs help having "the conversation" with an older adult you care for, please contact us.

Didn't see what you needed on that list? OFA can help connect you to the resource you're looking for. Contact us at ofa@dutchessny.gov or (845) 486-2555.

OFA AT ENERGY SAVINGS

EVENT IN WAPPINGERS (Wed, 3/4)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson Regional Clean Energy Hub are partnering with Central Hudson to host a Community Energy Application Assistance and Program Enrollment Event on Wednesday, March 4 in Wappingers Falls. OFA will have staff and information onsite also.

Event Details: Wednesday, March 4, 4-8 p.m., Brexel-Schlathaus Park Community Center, 126 All Angels Road, Wappingers Falls

Walk-ins are welcome, but RSVPs are appreciated (link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EnergySavingsSimplified>)

The event will offer residents one-on-one support from the Hub's Energy Advisors to complete EmPower+ enrollment onsite, enroll in EAP (Energy Assistance Program), and learn about the new Enhanced Energy Assistance Program, which may be available to customers who previously did not qualify for traditional income-based assistance like the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

SUBSTITUTE OFA BUS DRIVERS WANTED

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is seeking compassionate and responsible substitute Bus Drivers to transport older adults safely to and from OFA Friendship Centers, scheduled outings, and other destinations.

An ideal candidate will prioritize passenger safety, and create a comfortable,

friendly atmosphere for our senior community.

Key Responsibilities:

- Safely operate a passenger bus or van, adhering to all traffic laws and safety regulations.
- Assist older adults with boarding and exiting vehicles, including those using walkers or wheelchairs.
- Follow scheduled pick-up and drop-off times.
- Maintain a clean and well-kept vehicle, reporting any maintenance issues as needed.
- Engage with passengers in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Monitor passengers for signs of distress or medical concerns, and respond appropriately.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Valid New York State driver's license. Both CDL and non-CDL applicants welcomed.
- Clean driving record and background check.
- Previous experience driving older adults and/or individuals with mobility challenges is preferred.
- Ability to assist passengers with mobility aids (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.).
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Patience, reliability, and a friendly demeanor. Click here for a full description of requirements and qualifications.

To begin the application process, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email jnuccilli@dutchessny.gov.

OFA MOBILE OFFICE HOURS FEBRUARY / MARCH

If you have questions about aging services that would be best served by an in-person meeting, but travel to and from Poughkeepsie is a challenge, OFA Ambassador Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County.

Appointments are 30 minutes long and can be made by calling (845) 486-2555 during business hours. Here's the schedule:

Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Pawling Friendship Center 154 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling

Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Tri-Town Friendship Center 1576 Main St. (US 44), Pleasant Valley

Monday, March 23 – Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center, 14 Abe's Way, Poughkeepsie

Tuesday, March 31, noon-3 p.m. – Beekman Town Hall, 4 Main St., Poughquag

If your Dutchess County civic organi-

zation wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email ofa@dutchessny.gov or call (845) 486-2555 during business hours.

SCAM PREVENTION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (Tue 3/17)

OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones will give a presentation on scam and fraud protection for members of the hearing loss community and their caregivers on Tuesday, March 17 at 5:15 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Library at 1584 Main St. (US 44) in Pleasant Valley, for the Hearing Loss Association of America's Mid-Hudson chapter.

The presentation is open to the public and recommended for people with hearing loss and/or family members with hearing loss. To register, visit hearloss-midhudson.org, email hearloss.midhudson@gmail.com, or call (845) 489-7008. Can't make it to the presentation, but want some close-at-hand scam prevention resources? Visit dutchessny.gov/ofaprintable for important strategies and contact information.

OFA AT ALZHEIMER'S MINI-CONFERENCE IN MILLERTON (Wed 3/18)

Join the Alzheimer's Association, the Office for the Aging, Sun River Health and community partners for a mini-conference and listening session on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and memory loss on Wednesday, March 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Millerton-NorthEast Library Annex (OFA Friendship Center), 28 Century Blvd., Millerton.

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

Light refreshments will be provided. GET CAUGHT UP ON VACCINATIONS (Tue 3/24)

If you've been meaning to get caught up on necessary vaccinations and are available on Tuesday, March 24, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., OFA and Walgreens are offering a chance to get up-to-date for Dutchess County older adults (60+) at the main OFA office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Available vaccines: COVID-19, RSV, Influenza, Tetanus, Shingles, and Pneumonia

For more information and to set up an appointment, call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

Have your Medicare/insurance card handy when you arrive for your appointment.

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

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS!

Odd/Even
Connect Dots:
odd numbers only ▲ 1 - 115
even numbers only ■ 2 - 118

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around

Decoding Dutchess' Past

continued from page 14

well-wishers to their country" to apprehend her. Courageous Rachel.

Eype Shouten. A familiar local story concerns a woman named Eype who was enslaved by Fishkill's Garret Storm. In 1781 Loyalists broke into the occupied house to take cash and valuables and decided to hang Storm in the attic. Published stories in the 1930s began describing Shouten as cutting the rope to save Storm's life. Newspaper accounts from 1781 describe a more likely scenario in which the old rope broke when they attempted to hang Storm.

The Loyalists fled in confusion, and Shouten—or another enslaved person—ran to bring help to save the elder Storm. In any case, later accounts note that Storm was generous to Shouten in his last will and testament.

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



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OBITUARIES

William Alexis

BEEKMAN – William “Bill” Alexis passed peacefully at home on February 16, 2026 surrounded by his loving family.

Bill was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose strength, loyalty, and quiet kindness touched everyone who knew him. He is lovingly survived by his beloved wife of 17 years, Linda Alexis, with whom he shared a life filled with love and partnership; his proud and devoted children, Danny Alexis and Andrea Malouf; his cherished grandchildren, Sonia Alexis and William Alexis, who lovingly called him “Pop”; his dear brother and sister, Richard and Anatilde Alexis and Linda Sayers; his loving nieces and nephews, Debbie and Jody Wilson, Zachary Wilson and Megan Pharis and Kathy and Mike McCullough, and Joe Sayers; and his treasured fur babies, Abby and Henry.

Bill honorably served his community for 34 years as a Correctional Officer at Fishkill Correctional Facility. Throughout his long and dedicated career, he was known for his strong work ethic, integrity, and unwavering commitment to fairness and respect. He carried himself with quiet strength and a deep sense of responsibility, earning the respect of those he worked with over the years.

Above all, Bill was a family man. He found his greatest happiness in the simple, meaningful moments — family gatherings, conversations around the kitchen table, watching the Yankees, and watching his grandchildren grow. He also truly enjoyed spending time with his in-laws, valuing the extended family bonds and the laughter and memories they shared together. Nothing brought him more pride than being “Pop.” His steady presence, protective nature, and unconditional love created a foundation of security and warmth for his family.

Bill’s legacy lives on in the values he instilled, the love he gave so freely, and the family who will carry his memory forward each day. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., Hopewell Junction. The funeral service was held at the funeral home followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation, 54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508.

Judith Beyer

BEEKMAN – Judith G. Beyer, 87, an area resident for 62 years and formerly of the Bronx, died peacefully on February 17, 2026.

Born in the Bronx on April 9, 1938, she was the daughter of the late Gasper and Vera (Stella) Vacchelli. Judie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who dedicated her life to caring for her family. She had worked for a short time as a switchboard operator for New York Telephone Company. She volunteered at St. Columba School while her children were students there, and with Beekman Little League and Beekman Girls Softball where she sponsored a team, “Judie’s Girls”.

She also served as a poll worker for the Dutchess County Board of Elections in the town of Beekman for many years.

On September 22, 1957 in the Bronx, Judie married the love of her life, William Beyer, who survives at home. She is also survived by her children, Lynne (Matthew) Theodoseau, Karen Millard, Beth Daley, John Otto Beyer and Timothy Beyer; her grandchildren, Daniel Beyer, Shannon Beyer, Christopher White, Steven White, Alaina White, Robert White, Robin Boniello, Jessica Dively, Gregory Eisenhut, James Daley and Joseph Daley; her sister, Carol Ann Hurray; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to her parents, she was also predeceased by her children, Bill Beyer and Judith White; her sons-in-law, Raymond Millard and James Daley; her daughter-in-law, Linda Beyer; and her siblings, Georgianna Foley and Charles Vacchelli.

The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, February 24 at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, Lagrangeville. Interment followed in St. Denis Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation.

Anne Virginia Church

HYDE PARK – Anne Virginia Church, 81, of Hyde Park, N.Y., passed away peacefully on December 27, 2025.

Born on September 10, 1944, in Quincy, Mass., to Richard and Virginia Carlisle, Anne graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1966 with a BS in Nursing, where she met her college sweetheart, Rodney Church. She dedicated her 30-year career to caring for others as a Public Health Nurse for Dutchess County.

Anne dearly loved her family (including her pets!), the Red Sox, volunteering with Meals on Wheels, traveling with Rod, and celebrating with friends and family. She was thoughtful, funny, generous, and had a warm spirit that touched everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Rodney Church; sisters Susan (Deborah) Carlisle and Kate Carlisle; daughters Patty (Paul) Johnson of Salt Point, N.Y., and Jen (Angelo) Biasi of Naples, Fla.; grandchildren Kirsten (Andrew) Becker, David Johnson, AJ Biasi, and Lila Biasi; and great-grandson Simon Becker. She was predeceased by her parents and brother, Alan Carlisle.

Memorial Service: Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 AM First Congregational UCC 269 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church or to Meals on Wheels of Greater Hyde Park, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

Ronald H. Hanson

RHINEBECK – Ronald H. Hanson, a widely loved resident of Rhinebeck, passed away peacefully during a nap at home on February 14, 2026, Valentine’s Day. He was 84.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, he moved with his partner of 47 years, Richard Krueger, to Claverack in 1988 and to Rhinebeck in 1999. The couple is well known in the area for their routine visits to local restaurants, where they have befriended an ever-growing circle.

Mr. Hanson had a rich and varied life. He was an Army veteran, having served for two years. He was an accomplished dancer, and toured the world as a Swedish folk dancer. He volunteered in his community, including serving on the board of the ASPCA. He taught professional courses, including public speaking and life insurance. Mr. Hanson had a long career in banking before he and Mr. Krueger opened Astor Square Wine and Liquor in Rhinebeck. They owned and managed the store for 28 years, and Mr. Hanson could often be found there, ringing up customers and making consistently excellent wine recommendations.

Mr. Hanson was well loved for his wide smile, easy-going manner and dry sense of humor. He could say volumes with a knowing look or a quiet phrase. He would often surprise friends and acquaintances with small gifts, like colorful socks. He had purchased a stack of heart-shaped chocolates ready to dole out to waitstaff on Valentine’s Day.

He will be missed dearly by Mr. Krueger, and others who survive him, including his brother Richard Hanson in Colorado and his friends in and around Rhinebeck.

At his request, there will be no public services. Instead of sending flowers, he would want you to enjoy them, make a toast in his honor, or send a donation to Dutchess SPCA (dcsPCA.org).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes of Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

Gerald G. Herbert

DOVER PLAINS – Gerald G. “Mugsy” Herbert, 75, a lifelong resident of Dover Plains, NY, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at his home in Dover Plains surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Herbert was a Teacher’s Aide at the Dover Elementary School and later Dover High School retiring in 2013. Prior to becoming a teacher’s aide, Mr. Herbert was a therapy aide at the Wassaic Developmental Center and owned and operated Herbert’s Liquor Store in Dover Plains.

Born on November 10, 1950 in Sharon, CT he was the son of the late Gerald Gairey Herbert Sr. and Madalyn (Bottini) Herbert. Mr. Herbert was a graduate of Dover High School class of 1968. On September 19, 1981 at St. Patrick’s Church in Syracuse, NY he married Diane Procopio who survives at home.

Mr. Herbert was a former member of the Elks Club in Poughkeepsie, NY. He was also a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Dover Plains.

In addition to his loving wife, Mr. Herbert is survived by a son, Sean Herbert of Dover Plains. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Barbara Bauersfeld and her husband, Nelson, of The Villages, FL; a brother-in-law, Tony Procopio and his wife, Kathy, of Syracuse, NY and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Mr. Herbert was predeceased by a son, Gerald A. Herbert on November 5, 2012 and a brother Richard “Rick” Herbert in 1999.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, February 20, 2026 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Dover Plains, NY. Burial followed at St. Charles Cemetery in Dover Plains. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or www.stjude.org/give.html. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com

Sherrie Keery

PLEASANT VALLEY – Sherrie J. Keery, 65, of Pleasant Valley, NY, passed away peacefully at her residence on February 16, 2026.

Born on December 7, 1960, in Suffern, New

York, Sherrie was the daughter of William Youmans and Josephine Youmans.

A proud veteran, Sherrie honorably served her country in the United States Army. Her military service reflected her strength, dedication, and deep sense of commitment.

Sherrie was a high school graduate who spent her life rooted in New York. Widowed, she carried herself with resilience, independence, and quiet strength. She was known for her determination, her spirited personality, and her ability to face life’s challenges head-on.

She is survived by her loving children: Sean (significant other Erin), Patricia, Heidi (significant other Jon), Stacey, Sherrie, and Shane (significant other Ashley); and her eight cherished grandchildren, who brought her immense pride and joy.

She cherished the friendship of her best buddy, Chris.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Sean Keery, and her son, Timothy.

Sherrie had a fun and vibrant spirit. She loved her hundreds of nutcrackers and took great pride in her collection. She also enjoyed relaxing with an ice-cold Bud Light and a Fireball shot, especially while spending time with family and friends.

Sherrie will be deeply missed and forever remembered for her service, her strength of character, her sense of humor, and the love she shared with those closest to her.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home.

Patricia Rose Rooney

POUGHQUAG – Patricia Rose Rooney, 86, an area resident for 15 years and formerly of Yorktown Heights and New Rochelle, died peacefully at her home on February 13, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

Born in New Rochelle on July 11, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Aloysius and Marjorie (Gedney) Maguire. Patricia received her bachelor’s degree from Hunter College and master’s degree from Fordham University. She taught math and English at St. Teresa of Avila School in Tarrytown and at Our Lady of Victory Academy in Dobbs Ferry.

Patricia was a devoted parishioner of St. Denis Church in Hopewell Junction where she was a member of Women of Grace. An avid fan of the New York Mets, she also enjoyed quilting, sewing, gardening, reading, cooking, completing crossword puzzles and playing board games. More than anything, she loved spending time with her family.

On January 23, 1960, Patricia married the love of her life, Peter S. Rooney, who predeceased her on September 21, 2017. She was also predeceased by her sister, Leslie Maguire Shortt; and her grandsons, Patrick and Jack Rooney.

Patricia is survived by her children and their spouses, Peter and Adele Rooney, Eileen and Eugene Mulligan, Joseph Rooney, Susan Oswald, Stephen and Etta Rooney, John and Mary-Jane Rooney; her grandchildren, Brian and Kirsten Mulligan, Nicholas and Rachel Rooney, Meagan Rooney, Joseph Rooney, Zachary Oswald, Kevin Mulligan, Jake Rooney, Sean Mulligan, Luke Oswald, Connor Oswald, Brennan Rooney, Doyle Rooney, Jeanne-Rose Rooney, Cian Rooney and Suzanne Rooney; her great-grandsons, Peter and Christopher Rooney; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Calling hours were held on Friday, February 20 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, February 21 at St. Denis Church, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Denis Church, PO Box 10, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533, St. Vincent de Paul Society, PO Box 428, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 or Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY

Ernest Stutzbach

HYDE PARK – Ernest M. Stutzbach, affectionately known as Ernie, passed away on February 11, 2026, at the age of 80, in Montrose, NY. Born in Brooklyn, NY, on January 13, 1946, to Martin Stutzbach and Mildred Hoss, Ernie’s life was marked by dedication, service, and the joys of family.

After graduating with a BS in Industrial Engineering from Fairleigh Dickinson, he answered the call of duty and served his country as a Sergeant in the US Army 101st Airborne during the Vietnam War. His bravery and commitment to his nation were hallmarks of his character, which he carried with him throughout his life.

Following his military service, Ernie embarked on a successful career with IBM, where he worked for 33 years in Fishkill and Somers, NY. He retired in 2001, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism and camaraderie. His colleagues remember him as a thoughtful and funny individual, always ready to lend an ear or share a funny story.

Ernie’s family and faith were the cornerstone of his life. He was a devoted husband to his wife of 53 years, Maureen T. Stutzbach, and a loving father to his daughter Jill Smith (Chris), his son Rory Stutzbach (Beth), and a doting grandfather to Kayla Smith (fiancé Justin), Kevin Smith, and Michael Stutzbach. Ernie’s love for his family was evident in everything he did, from coaching his children’s sports teams to being their most enthusiastic supporter as they grew.

No one could deny Ernie’s passion for sports, particularly his beloved New York Yankees. He understood the game deeply and appreciated the strategy and skill involved, especially a well-executed bunt or a timely stolen base. His enthusiasm for the game was infectious, and many fond memories were made cheering on his favorite team with family and friends.

In retirement, Ernie found joy in the great outdoors, hiking the Catskills’ seven peaks with his close companions. Each hike was not only a physical achievement but also an opportunity for fellowship, culminating in laughter, stories, and a cold beer with lunch. These moments were cherished by Ernie and his friends alike.

As we remember Ernest M. Stutzbach, we celebrate a life well-lived, full of love and laughter, service and faith. He has left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who knew him, and his legacy will live on through the lives of his cherished family and the many friends who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him.

Ernie’s family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Rosa Ayala for the wonderful friendship and exceptional care she has provided for the last 5 years. They would also like to thank Father Michael Morris, pastor of Regina Coeli & Father Tyson Wood, Chaplain Montrose VA for their spiritual guidance and support. Finally, they would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the entire staff at the Montrose Veterans Home for the compassion and commitment to his well being the last 9 months.

Relatives and friends called on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at Sweet’s Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial took place at Regina Coeli Catholic Church, Hyde Park, NY followed by Christian Burial at St. Denis Cemetery, Hopewell, NY.

Donations in Ernie’s memory may be made to the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System, Voluntary Services - Building 6, 2094 Albany Post Road, Montrose, NY 10548.

Douglas Wicks

RED HOOK – Douglas Fredrick Wicks, 92, a longtime resident of Red Hook, NY, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2026.

Born on August 9, 1933 in New York City, he was the son of the late Walter Wood Wicks and Marion (Blakney) Wicks. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree from Endicott College, now known as Binghamton University, and later received his Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School.

Douglas proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1957.

On July 31, 1959, he married the love of his life, Anne Rennie, at Zion Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY. The couple settled in Red Hook in 1970, where they would raise their family and build a life together. Anne predeceased Douglas on June 21, 2002.

A beloved and respected attorney, Douglas was a successful law partner at Walsh, Wicks & Salisbury in Red Hook. He was known for his dedication to his clients, serving Northern Dutchess County as a civil attorney for over 50 years.

He cherished his community and his life in Red Hook. Douglas served as village attorney for some years, and was a member of the Red Hook Lion’s Club and Businessmen’s Association. Douglas deeply valued education, chairing the Red Hook Board of Education. He likewise served on the board of trustees for Northern Dutchess Hospital.

Aside from his profession, Douglas enjoyed photography and was an avid dancer. He was also a longtime parishioner of Christ Church in Red Hook.

Douglas is survived by his children, Lisa Anne Wicks of El Cerrito, California, and Douglas Frederick Wicks, Jr. of Reno, Nevada; his grandson Drew Walter Wicks of Manhattan, NY; and Lisa Wyant, his caretaker and trusted partner in business for many years; as well as extended family and friends.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Mary Wicks Zeilman.

Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship fund at the Red Hook Alumni Association.

Friends and family called on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook. A funeral service was held on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Christ Church, Red Hook, NY. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains, NY.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Skating rink open to the public

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

Pleasant Valley UMC hosts Lenten meal series

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 92 Martin Road, Pleasant Valley, hosts a Soup & Roll Lenten Meal Series on Fridays in Lent through March 27, from 4 p.m. until sold out. Enjoy homemade soup, fresh rolls and warm fellowship. There is a suggested donation (give what you can) for a hearty dinner. Soups of the week: Cream of Broccoli (Feb. 27), Butternut Squash (March 6), Black Bean (March 13), Split Pea (March 20) and Soup Buffet Night (March 27; selections TBA). Email pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com or call (845) 635-3022 for more information.

Friday Fish Fry at East Clinton Firehouse

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department will be holding its Annual Fish Fry every Friday through April 3. It will be held at the East Clinton Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane Clinton Corners, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out for \$18 a dinner. The menu includes fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverages. For information call Lynn at (845) 266-5485.

Menopause Journey program

"Change is Inevitable: Courage and Confidence through Midlife Transitions" is set February 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the Starr Library, 68 W Market St, Rhinebeck (downstairs; use back door for entry.) This event is designed to empower and educate women navigating the perimenopause/menopause journey. Dr. Amy Novatt will lead an informative discussion that covers hormonal changes, HRT, and body image, and certified life and health coach Marybeth Cale will facilitate activities designed to help guests consider what makes them thrive and what action steps they can take to optimize feelings of well-being. Space is limited; reservations required. Learn more at estuarycoaching.com/packages.

Virtual program to recognize Black History Month set Feb. 26

In recognition of Black History Month, the Dutchess County Department of History is sponsoring a free virtual historical program, hosted by the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS), on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., focusing on the experiences of people of color in Dutchess County during the American Revolution. The program, entitled "1776 to 1876: The Long Journey of African Americans & The Elusive Promise of Equality," will be presented by Bill Jeffway, DCHS Executive Director and member of the research committee for the Poughkeepsie-based Celebrating the African Spirit. Drawing on extensive research, Mr. Jeffway will examine the personal histories of Dutchess County men, women and children of color and their experiences within the broader context of the events surrounding the 1776 struggle for independence. Registration for this free event is available at dchsny.org/2026-0226, and registrants will receive a Zoom link to join the event.

The Rhinebeck Historical Society announces upcoming programs

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m., Third Lutheran Church, 31 Livingston St. The History of Third Lutheran Church as presented by Rev. James Miller, who is Pastor of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess. Third Lutheran Church was so-named because it was the third Lutheran Church which was formed in this area, following St. Peter's in Red Hook (1715) and St. Peter's (1756) now Wurtemberg on Route G. Pastor Jim will speak about Third's history from its formation in 1842 through the present time as well as its presence in Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess: three united yet autonomous congregations.

Friday, March 20, 7 p.m., Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear), 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck. "The History of the Sisters of St. Ursula at Linwood," Sister Kathy Donnelley will address the history of the stewardship of the site by the Sisters of Saint Ursula, their missions, and their community activities/outreach.

Friday, April 24, 7 p.m., Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear), 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck. Dr. Mary Mistral will present "Ladies of the Valley." With names like Astor, Roosevelt and Livingston, the women featured in Ladies of the Valley were born to great privilege, and raised to be hostesses who would grace the drawing room. But they would often be called upon to take charge of the operation of their family estates. They also oversaw the welfare of the estate workers, the upbringing and education of their children, and created a tradition of women involved in the social issues of their times. As matriarchs of their families, these women played an important role in establishing the culture and society of the Hudson Valley for generations.

Anyone doing local history research can make an appointment to visit the Local History Room at Starr Library, which is available on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout the year. Email michaelfrazier@earthlink.net or call 845-464-2015 to make an appointment or to ask questions about Rhinebeck history. For more information about the historical society, visit www.rhinebeckhistoricalsociety.org.

Stanford Winterfeast set Feb. 28

The Stanford Grange and Stanford: A Caring Community invite you escape the clutches of winter and share a meal with other Stanford community members at the Stanford Grange on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be live local musicians, great conversation and a delicious winter feast on the table, featuring family and heritage recipes. We will be gathering together to share laughter, conversation and a look forward to the first signs of spring. If you would like to bring and share a special family or heritage dish, please email Maeda Bloomberg at Macdakkb@gmail.com or Ryan Orton at orton808@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

Morton Library's Talent Show set March 6

Morton Memorial Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) will host its 2026 Celebration of Community Talent show on Friday, March 6. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. This is an evening to celebrate the talents of the community, friends and family. Refreshments courtesy of the library's culinarily talented friends. Suggested: \$5 donation. Contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org for more information.

Annual Chili Night set March 7 at Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook presents its Chili Night on Saturday, March 7, at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway (Route 9), Red Hook. Join friends and neighbors for a cozy winter evening in the historic Elmendorph Inn enjoying homemade chili. Reserve seats for a seating at 5:15 or 6:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$15/ a person, but tickets will be \$20/ a person at the door. Tickets include a bowl of chili along with salad, corn bread, and a non-alcoholic beverage. Space is limited, so guarantee your seat by reserving tickets in advance online at www.historicredhook.org. You can also make a reservation by calling (845) 546-9668 or emailing info@historicredhook.org.

Pancake Breakfasts in Rhinecliff

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad host Winter Pancake Breakfasts on Sunday Mornings from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on March 8 and April 12. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat, so bring your appetite and your friends! Breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children (children under age 6 eat for free). Breakfast is held at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard, Rhinecliff). Proceeds Support the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Co. Call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail csaniewsk11@gmail.com for more information.

Chili Mac event at Red Hook Community Center March 11

Red Hook Community Center (59 Fisk St.) will hold its Chili Mac Warm Up on Wednesday, March 11, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Snow date: March 19. Choose the take out option to eat at home, or join friends and neighbors for an evening of lively conversation and connection. RHCC will

Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 101A/2026 RE: AMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, that subject to the schedule set forth below the regular meetings of the Pleasant Valley Town Board will take place on the third (3rd) Monday of each month for the year 2026 at 7:00 PM in the main meeting room of the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, New York; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that subject to the schedule set forth below the Town Board Workshops will take place on the first (1st) Monday of each month for the year 2026, at 7:00 PM in main meeting room, and that special meetings will be scheduled and advertised by posting the announcement on the front door entrance of the Town Hall, with notification to the press (time permitting); and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026 meeting dates are as listed below:

January 5	Re-Organizational Meeting
January 21 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
February 2	Workshop Meeting
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, THE MEETINGS LISTED BELOW SHALL BE HELD AT TOWN HALL, 1903 ROUTE 44, PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK, AS AMENDED	
February 18 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
March 2	Workshop Meeting
March 16	Regular Meeting
April 6	Workshop Meeting
April 20	Regular Meeting
May 4	Workshop Meeting
May 18	Regular Meeting
June 1	Workshop Meeting
June 15	Regular Meeting
July 6	Workshop Meeting
July 20	Regular Meeting
August 3	Workshop Meeting
August 17	Regular Meeting
September 9 (Wed)	Workshop Meeting
September 21	Regular Meeting
October 5	Workshop Meeting
October 19	Regular Meeting
November 2	Workshop Meeting
November 16	Regular Meeting
December 7	Workshop Meeting
December 21	Regular Meeting

And;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any changes to the above-mentioned schedules will be posted at the Town Hall entrance as necessary, with notification to the press.

MOTION: Councilman Rifenburg

SECOND: Councilwoman Chapman

DATED: February 3, 2026

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Borland	AYE	NAY
Councilwoman Chapman	X	---
Councilman Degan	X	---
Councilman Rifenburg	X	---
Supervisor Albrecht	X	---
Carried.		

Legal Notices

NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND VALUATION DATA

(Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data is Available for Examination of Review.

The Data is the information that will be used to establish the Assessment of Each Parcel which will appear on the Tentative Assessment Roll of the Town of Milan which will be filed on or Before May 1st, 2026. The information May be Reviewed, by Appointment, in the Assessor's Office at Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York 12571.

To set up an Appointment to Review the Assessment Information, Please call the Assessor's Office at 845-758-5133 ext. 4. Dated 1st day of MARCH 2026
ELIZABETH BURNS
ASSESSOR

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

feature a variety of chili and mac 'n' cheese recipes prepared by members of the community. Dinner will include vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Each dinner also includes cornbread and dessert. A selection of the handcrafted bowls will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting RHCC programs.

Meal options and prices: \$40 - Chili Pepper Supporter (Dine-in or Take Out); \$20 - Dine-in, includes two hearty servings of chili, cornbread, dessert, and drinks; \$10 - Dine-in Kids (12 and Under), includes chili, cornbread, and dessert; \$10 - Take Out, includes one serving of chili, cornbread, and dessert. Purchase tickets at <https://redhookcommunitycenter.org/>.

Rhinebeck Garden Club to meet March 11

On Wednesday, March 11, at 10 a.m., the Rhinebeck Garden Club's meeting will take place off site at Battenfeld's Wholesale Growers, 856 NY-199, Red Hook. Program: "History of Growing Violets and the Process of Harvesting Flowering Plant," presented by David Marker & the Battenfeld family. The meeting is open to the public, but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. For more information about this program, or the RBGC or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, (845) 797-3226 or Hannah, (914) 263-5298.

Kim Williams to receive 'Good Egg' Award March 12

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce and Six Senses Hudson Valley will present the 2026 "Good Egg" Celebration on Thursday, March 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Beekman Arms, 6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck. This year's honoree is Kim Williams, CEO of Williams Lumber & Home Centers. Tickets are \$105 for members, \$125 for non-members. The ticket price includes a three-course, seated dinner (cash bar available); a silent auction, live music and more. Proceeds benefit the annual Chamber give-back programs. Visit www.rhinebeckchamber.com to purchase tickets and for more information.

Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast set March 12

The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, March 12, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Eveready Diner, 4184 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde Park. The speaker will be Patricia Munk, Dutchess County Emergency Response. The cost to attend is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member. Advance reservations are requested via www.hydeparkchamber.org; payment online or

at the door.

'Shrek The Musical' set March 13-15 at Stissing Mountain Jr/Sr High

The Stissing Theatre Guild presents "Shrek The Musical" March 13-15 at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School. "Shrek The Musical" is the stage adaptation of the DreamWorks film. The show tells the tale of an ogre named Shrek who embarks on a journey with Donkey to rescue Princess Fiona for the diminutive Lord Farquaad. Their journey is full of fun and surprises that are sure to keep the audience laughing throughout. Performances will take place on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at SeatYourself Tickets or by calling the Stissing Theatre Guild box office at (518) 398-1272. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors (62+). All performances will take place in the auditorium at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, 2829 Church St., Pine Plains. Visit <https://stissingtheatreguild.org/> for more information.

St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie sets Irish Dinner March 14

On Saturday, March 14, St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie will hold their annual Irish Dinner prepared by JJ & the students from the Culinary Institute of America. The menu includes baked potato soup, tossed green salad, shepherd's pie, Irish soda bread, apple cake, tea & coffee, cider, water. All of this for only \$20. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the church at (845) 452-8440 to make your reservation. Pay at the door. St. Paul's Church is at 161 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie.

Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales conclude on March 19

The last 2026 Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896, is on Thursday, March 19. Soup is sold by the Quart. \$10 per quart. Take-out only. Pick up at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Email: JoBaer2@gmail.com to be emailed the soup choice and pre-order online.

Ale Launch at Mill House to benefit Anderson Center

On Thursday, April 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., Mill House Brewing Company (289 Mill St., Poughkeepsie) will host a Mr. Anderson Ale Launch Event to benefit Anderson Center for Autism. The cost is \$40 per person; includes pint glass. Reservations/Information: andersoncenterforautism.org/mranderson. Note: Event is open to the public, but NYS law requires that you must be 21 years of age or older to drink alcohol.

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122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
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Upcoming events at Morton Library

Rockin' Rooks Youth Chess at Morton Mondays @ 5:30 pm
Join the award-winning Rockin' Rooks every Monday from 5:30-7:00 with D. Suris and Cathy Young. Students in grades K - 12 are welcome to join for fun, learning, and tournament competition. To sign your child up, for more information, or to volunteer contact: D. Suris 845-416-3287 or email racersplace@hotmail.com

Our open studio is a drop in class for adults on Monday evenings.
We still have a few spaces left in our Tuesday high school class.
Please contact MakerSpace@morton-rhinecliff.org to be placed on the waiting list.

Oblong Books Presents:
Jeff Brouws, SILENT MONOLITHS: The Coaling Tower Project
Thursday, February 26 @ 6:30 pm (at Morton)
Free: Registration requested.

A fine art photography must-have for railroad enthusiasts and anyone interested in the industrial golden era.

In 1906, America commenced a major railroad modernization project, driven by massive industrial era investment and development. A lasting symbol of this time in history remains today: the imposing coaling towers that pepper the country and which once held the coal that powered steam locomotives. Essays from industrial and railroad historian John Hankey and art historian Marcella Hackbardt illuminate the significance of these otherworldly relics. In the spirit of Hilla and Bernd Becher, Brouws' photographic portfolio presents over 105 examples of these austere monoliths, convey-

ing their unique place in cultural history.
Jeff Brouws is a photographer, writer, and graphic designer. His publications include Various Small Books (MIT Press), Approaching Nowhere, Readymades, and Highway. His photographs are held in major museum collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Fogg Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, and the Getty Museum.

Talent Show Art Opening
Opening: Friday, February 27, 6 pm - 8 pm. Exhibition: February 27 - March 28
Join us for our art opening for the visual component of the Talent Show. The work will remain up for the month of March and will be in full display for the performance part of the Talent Show on Friday, March 6th. Please stop by to see the work created by our local artists and perhaps take home a piece to beautify your home, office, or as a gift to someone special.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. Purchases benefit your local artists and Morton. Donations accepted. Library open hours for exhibition.

Knit 'n' Knatter
Wednesday, March 4 @ 3:00 pm
Come to knit, crochet, to do any needlework, or just for the confab. We will drop purls, collaborate on projects, and work on our own. We'll meet in Morton Hall where there is plenty of room to spread out. All are welcome.

Morton Community Talent Show
Friday, March 6, 2026
Show begins @ 6:30 pm
Doors open @ 6:00 pm

This is our 17th annual evening celebrating the talents of our community, our friends and family. What a show we have for you! Visual art, MC Richard, performances including but not limited to: singing, videos, performers with guitars, performers with pianos, AND comedy!
So come one, come all to the greatest show around! Refreshments courtesy of our culinarily talented friends! Suggested: \$5 donation. For more info, contact Sandy at sandy@morton-rhinecliff.org.

DCLA Presents Virtual Screening:
"Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: Two Halves of a Whole"

Monday, March 9 @ 6:00 pm
FDR Presidential Library's Jeff Urbin discusses one of America's foremost "Power Couples" as their relationship transitions from a secret engagement, to a marriage in crisis, to a political partnership.

This is open to all. Please register for this virtual program.
Sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association

Miss Lindy's Dance Hall
Saturday, March 14 @ 2:00 pm
Partner Dance - beginning lesson and practice space for all.

Also known as Social Dancing, with origins in swing dance, these steps and moves can be used with many musical genres ... 6-count single step and 6-count triple step. Learn leader and follower roles. No partner needed for class, invite

your friends. Beginners and All Levels of experience welcome.

Morton Book Club: "Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens

Thursday, March 19 @ 4:00 pm
Read, ponder, discuss, broaden your horizons, and have fun - all in a very casual and low key style. Potluck encouraged!!

Rhinecliff Folk Choir
Tuesdays @ 1:30 pm
Begins Tuesday, March 31

Please come check out this new, daytime community music offering. Rhinecliff Folk Choir will explore traditional harmonies from the Americas, the Balkans, the British Isles, Caucasus Georgia, Corsica, Sardinia, Ukraine and always some more surprises. All are welcome regardless of prior experience. Songs will be taught by ear mostly, with occasional sheet music.

Led by Eva Salina, founder and director of Driftwood Chorus, and a lifelong singer of traditional music. She is a mother, singer, gardener, and community music educator who believes sometimes the simplest ideas (community! harmony! traditional music!) are the medicine we need to build a better world.

To read more about Eva you can visit www.evasalina.com. For any questions about folk choir, please email Eva via chorus@evasalina.com

Participation is by donation (suggested \$10-15 per class meeting, but all are welcome).

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