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**Serino delivers
first State of
County address**



County Executive Sue Serino. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her first State of the County Address this evening, outlining many of her priorities for Dutchess County Government, before hundreds of residents, business and nonprofit leaders, as well as local and state officials gathered at Red Hook High School's Performing Arts Center in Red Hook.

County Executive Serino said, "The state of Dutchess County is strong, thanks to the dedicated women and men of County government who go above and beyond to enhance our quality of life. We are truly fortunate to live and work in this vibrant and thriving community, but we must commit ourselves to always striving to do more – to be responsive to each of our young people, families, seniors, veterans and those who are struggling – to listen to their concerns and encourage them to help us decide how we, as a community, tackle difficult challenges. We must, above all, treat each other with respect, kindness and compassion. These are the principles and goals

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By Rich Thomaselli

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The Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team, at one time the most dominant program in the area, won the state championship for the first time in two decades on Sunday with a 69-54 victory over Liverpool of Syracuse in the Class AAA final.

The game was played at Hudson Valley Community College.

"Unreal feeling!" said Warriors star Simone Pelish, who will matriculate at the University of Miami in the fall.

OLL won nine state titles in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s under Coach Brian Giorgis until he left to coach at nearby Marist College, and then one another state crown under Sarah Hoyt in 2004. This is the first state championship under current coach Al Viani, whose daughters Jenna and Julianne starred for the Warriors.

"It's all about these kids," he said. "I'm just so proud of them."

Actually, Lourdes had a class trip to Disney World scheduled that several players had to miss to play in the finals. Now they can agree that this was just as magical, if not more magical, an experience.

Between the two teams, there are just



Members and coaches of the Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team hold the NYS Championship trophy after winning the title on Sunday in Troy. Courtesy photo

three losses – so Sunday's game was a classic matchup between Lourdes and Liverpool.

The Warriors led by 10 points at half-time and had as much as a 24-point lead in the second half.

Pelish scored 33 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Bianca Velovic tallied 18 points for OLL.

In the semifinals, Claire Wagner

came in off the bench and hit four three-pointers in the second half of a 60-51 Lourdes win over Long Island champion Walt Whitman.

Three of her triples came in the fourth quarter.

Wagner finished with the 12 points. Pelish had 14. Kayla Johannessen hit six free throws in the final minute and finished with 12 points.

**Probation Director to end
46-year career in Dutchess County**



Mary Ellen Still

**Mary Ellen Still set to
retire end of April**

Following a remarkable 46-year career in the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections in which she distinguished herself as a compassionate and respected national and statewide leader in restorative justice, Probation Director Mary Ellen Still will retire on April 30, County Executive Sue Serino announced on March 13th. Still is the longest-tenured active department head in Dutchess County Government, having served as Probation Director for more than 22 years.

Throughout her career, Still has been a champion of community engagement and collaboration, forging strong partnerships with local organizations, law-enforcement agencies and community leaders to develop practical and effective solutions. She has actively worked to create a holistic approach to pretrial services and probation supervision – emphasizing rehabilitation, support and the reintegration of individuals back into society.

She has been a trusted leader throughout New York State with Governor Kathy Hochul appointing her in 2022 to serve as Commissioner on the State Probation Commission to advise and consult on all

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Serino delivers first State of County address

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that guide me each day and will inform the decisions I make on behalf of our taxpayers."

Welcomed by Red Hook Central School District Superintendent Dr. Janet Warden, the audience enjoyed an opening program that featured a performance from Red Hook High School student Nora Callaghan-Jurgens who sang "I Have Confidence" accompanied by Choral Director Matthew Funigielo. Bishop Debra Gause of Holy Light Pentecostal Church offered the invocation. Desiree King of Mental Health America of Dutchess County sang the national anthem with Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Dutchess Community College student Robert Bohl, who will be graduating from the Mechatronics Lab program this spring, introduced the County Executive.

Event attendees also had the opportunity to view artwork from Red Hook High School students on display in the lobby, as well as enjoy piano music played by student Jacob McGee and learn about various student programs in including the FFA agricultural program and the RoboRaiders technology program.

County Executive Serino's address affirmed her commitment to ensuring the work of Dutchess County Government remains focused on enhancing the quality of life for residents. Having taken office just over two months ago, she has been engaged in learning about projects under development as well as promoting new ideas and concepts to explore. The County Executive underscored throughout her address that bringing people together - through roundtables, discussions and events - is paramount to

creating effective solutions for difficult challenges and that every decision must be carefully weighed for its impact on the taxpayer and how it will benefit people for generations into the future.

The County Executive touched on a wide range of initiatives and programs that she has already been engaged with, as well as some of what she is focused on for the coming year, including:

- Creation of the County's first Community Engagement Office, tasked with listening to residents' concerns, developing active solutions to their issues and creating a more responsive County government. This will include mobile office hours around Dutchess, expansion of community education events as well as County employee outreach.

- Creation of new opportunities for youth, including: Expansion of Dutchess County's ongoing "YOU Without Walls" initiative by continuing to offer new and unique innovative programming in collaboration with community partners; Encouraging local students to pursue alternative paths to success through partnerships with local trade unions as well as Dutchess Community College (DCC) where additional pipelines to jobs programs in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) sector and Automotive Maintenance Technician are being created to augment the successful Mechatronics Lab and Aviation Education programs and partnering with Wappingers Central School District to host a "Career in the Skilled Trades" fair on Thursday, April 18th to highlight trades and other skilled job opportunities at Roy C. Ketcham High School.

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Members of the Red Hook High School Robotics "Roboraiders" demonstrated their skills to visitors prior to the State of the County address on March 14. Senior captain Wade Hoen works with freshman Adee Wilson. Not pictured is team member Nola McCann. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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Serino delivers first State of County address

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- In partnership with Dutchess Outreach and the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, launch the "Dutchess County Food Security Council" to more effectively address hunger and food insecurity while improving access to healthy, locally grown food for the growing number of people who depend on the 65 food pantries throughout Dutchess County.

- Expanding the impact of mental health and public health by returning to independent departments of Health and Mental Health, with current DBCH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado continuing to lead public health efforts and Jean-Marie Niebuhr taking the helm to oversee mental health services. The planning process to make two separate departments is underway. The County Executive highlighted several of the County's mental health efforts including: The Dutchess County Stabilization Center, a partnership with People USA, has just become the first licensed Supportive Stabilization Center in New York State; With support from the County Legislature, adding new recovery coaches at the Empowerment Center at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie, primarily focused on serving young adults, ages 18 to 25; Funded through Opioid Settlement Fund dollars, Dutchess County has partnered with Oxford House for the opening

of the first of three sober-living houses for individuals in recovery.

- Continuing to address homelessness with a multi-faceted approach that includes the upcoming opening of Hudson River Housing's youth transitional housing facility in the City of Poughkeepsie that will house up to 12 individuals ages 18 through 25 who may be at a risk for homelessness, and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program that has been highly successful in helping dozens of individuals find housing, get treatment and more.

- Dedicating hotel tax revenue from short-term rentals to ensure a sustainable funding stream for the County's innovative Housing Trust Fund, bolstering the original \$12.3 million commitment that created the fund, to encourage more developers and organizations to partner with the County to create additional transitional and affordable housing across Dutchess County.

- Address challenges of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) plaguing communities across the nation, including contracting for supplemental ambulance service to address gaps in coverage, facilitating regional collaboration, working with DCC to attract more people into the EMS field, support current first responders with mental health support to prevent burnout, advocate for state and



Members of the Red Hook High School Future Farmers of America (FFA), above, and Industrial Arts and Engineering program provided information to visitors at the State of the County Address on March 14. FFA members include, from left, Sophomore James Hegarty, Junior Marleah Catuzza and Sophomore Justin Juran. Staffing the Industrial Arts and Engineering display were student Shepherd Cohen and instructor Steve Hutman. Photos by Curtis Schmidt

federal legislation to address EMS challenges, re-establish a critical incident response team to assist first responders and help them cope with the traumatic incidents they witness while on the job as well as provide public education on when to call an ambulance.

- Creating a think accessible public awareness campaign, focusing on residents and visitors with physical disabilities, while also incentivizing small-business owners to make their businesses more accessible.



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Maundy Thursday, March 28th
7:00pm Service foot washing & stripping of the altar
Good Friday, March 29th
5:30pm Procession from St. Paul's to First Presbyterian
6:00pm Ecumenical service at First Presbyterian
Holy Saturday, March 30th
7:00pm The Great Vigil w/music and bonfire
Easter Sunday, March 31st
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Ecumenical Service at Mill Site Park
10:00 a.m. Sunday Service with music

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The importance of Gideon's Promise

By Margaret Walker

Etched above the entrance to the United States Supreme Court is the phrase "Equal Justice Under Law." These words are both an ideal and a promise. An ideal that the quality of justice should never be based on impermissible factors such as race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or the amount of money you have. A promise of our society's abiding commitment to provide equal justice for all.

The Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution, ratified in 1791, gave citizens certain rights in criminal trials, including the right to counsel. Some may not realize that prior to 1963, that right only applied in the federal courts, not in state criminal trials. Local defendants who could afford to pay a lawyer could retain one, of course, but if someone did not have enough money, they could be tried and convicted without a lawyer in the state courts.

It was not until 1963 that the United States Supreme Court decided in the landmark case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* that the Sixth Amendment right to counsel applies in every court in the land. They did this by determining that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which provides all citizens with "equal protection under the laws," includes the Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel. The story leading to one of the most important legal rulings ever decided by the Nation's Highest Court is an iconic American tale.

In the summer of 1961, Clarence Earl Gideon faced a criminal trial in a Florida state court on charges that he broke into a poolroom and stole coins from a cigarette machine. He asserted his innocence and requested a lawyer. That request was denied because there was no right to a court-appointed lawyer at the time. Gideon cross-examined the witnesses himself, without knowing criminal procedure law. He was basically a lifelong drifter at the age of 51, with an eighth-grade education. He was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

Writing from his prison cell in Florida, he sent a handwritten petition to the U.S.

Supreme Court arguing that the Constitution does not allow poor people to be convicted without legal representation. The time was finally right for this argument.

On March 18, 1963, Justice Hugo Black, writing for a unanimous Court, stated: "...reason and reflection require us to recognize that in our adversary system of criminal justice, any person haled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured a fair trial unless counsel is provided for him. This seems to us an obvious truth."

At his retrial, with a lawyer, Gideon was acquitted. Ever since, it is accepted that the right to counsel is essential. But the question remained of what level of government would pay for lawyers to represent criminal defendants who could not afford a lawyer.

The states handled the creation of their public defense systems very differently. Some created a statewide Public Defender office. New York, two years after *Gideon*, enacted County Law Article 18-B, which became a dysfunctional guarantee of the right to counsel insofar as that law mandated New York's 62 counties to fund their own public defense. Compensation rates for county-provided lawyers were variable and for many years, not enough to provide meaningful representation.

New York State now has a hodgepodge of public defense systems, from county public defender offices, to contracts with Legal Aid Societies, to private attorney panels. Today, 61 years after *Gideon*, implementation of the right to counsel remains uneven across the state and nation, and people who cannot afford counsel are regularly denied their basic right to a qualified attorney, resulting in unjust verdicts.

It is a challenging task to bring to life the promise of *Gideon v. Wainwright* – the dream in which every person charged with a crime will be capably defended. Public trust in the legal system is still shaken by tales of wrongful convictions and the exoneration of the innocent after serving years in prison.

In 2010, New York State created the Office of Indigent Legal Services to assist



county governments to improve the quality of legal representation. The funds provided by that Office were deeply needed and made all the difference.

We are most fortunate in Dutchess County to have a public defender office with experienced and dedicated full-time criminal and family defense lawyers, as well as investigators, social workers, and a legal support staff which deliver on *Gideon's* promise every day.

Gideon stands as a milestone in American constitutional law. It affirms the principle of equal justice under the law, the most fundamental aspiration of our legal system. It represents the kind of legal system we would like to have and the kind of society we aspire to be.

As we cherish the ideal, we must continue to deliver on the promise.

Margaret Walker was appointed as Dutchess County's 6th Public Defender on January 2 by new County Executive Sue Serino, after long-time Public Defender Tom Angell retired. Walker was office's Director of Training since 2019 and was a prosecutor prior to that.

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Northern Dutchess News. To submit a column, write to us at creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

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Probation Director to end 46-year career in Dutchess County

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matters relating to probation in New York State.

Serino said, "Mary Ellen Still has dedicated her professional life to Dutchess County's Office of Probation and Community Corrections, ensuring public safety through her innovative solutions – in the process, becoming an esteemed national authority on restorative justice. Mary Ellen has been a driving force in the transformation of our county's probation and community corrections programs, implementing effective strategies that prioritize rehabilitation, public safety and community well-being, including our highly successful alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County is grateful to Mary Ellen for her decades of services, and we wish her every success in her next chapter."

Still began her tenure in County government as a Probation Officer trainee in 1978, eventually serving every function in the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, being promoted to Senior Probation Officer, Supervisor and Deputy Director, respectively, before then-County Executive William R. Steinhaus tapped her as Director in 2002.

As Director, Still has led the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, overseeing nearly 50 employees who protect the community through intervention in the lives of those under supervision, facilitating compliance with court orders and serving as a catalyst for positive change. Still's department promotes public safety through effective supervision of some 2,000 defendants and probationers placed on community supervision by the courts, through evidence-based probation and diversion programs. Among others, those programs include the successful interagency collaborative in-jail transition program known as RESTART (Re-Entry Stabilization Transition and Reintegration Track) in partnership with Project M.O.R.E. and Family Services, as well as RECHARGE (Re-Entry Community Housing and Resource Guided Empowerment) to provide justice-involved people with supportive housing and services in partnership with Project M.O.R.E. to increase participants' success once they return to their community.

She has been involved with a multitude of efforts to help individuals who encounter the criminal justice system, including the development of specialized courts for veterans and substance-users and the creation of college credit classes at the Dutchess County Jail and through EXODUS Transitional Community.

Still has also been instrumental in navigating the evolving New York State bail reform legislation that first passed in 2019 and has undergone various revisions, significantly impacting the criminal justice system process throughout the state.

Still shared the news of her impending retirement Tuesday at the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council. Still has been involved with the CJC since its original formation in 1993 and currently serves as CJC Chair. The Dutchess County's Criminal Justice Council has been an innovative, national model for working in a collaborative process of information-sharing to maximize resources for an enhanced criminal justice process, utilizing research-based practices to ensure community safety through the promotion and support of intervention for at-risk youth and adults, addressing victims' needs and reduction of recidivism.

Still is also the current Chair of Training and Qualifications Committee for New York State Council of Probation Administrators; Chair of New York State Council of Probation Administrators Area III; as well as being a member of the New York State Probation Commission and

the Dutchess County Police Chiefs Association. She was a past member of the Dutchess County Universal Response to Domestic Violence, and she previously served as a member of the New York State Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

Dr. Gary Christensen, President of Justice Solutions, Inc, who served for many years as the Dutchess County Jail Administrator, as well as Chair of CJC, said, "Mary Ellen Still is a true legend—committed to ensuring a strong, fair and efficient criminal justice system that is focused on reform, rehabilitation and restorative justice. She stands alone at the forefront of progressive efforts to affect positive change in criminal justice practice both within Dutchess County and beyond, throughout the field of evidence-based criminal justice practice. I have been honored to work with her over the past 45 years and, due to her efforts and teachings, we will all continue to benefit for many years to come—her work has truly made a difference in people's lives."

In 2017, the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women and American Jail Association invited Still to speak at its national summit in Washington, D.C., where she presented on the development and current use of the Inventory of Needs instrument – a pretrial and screening tool for justice-involved women used to create unique case plans based on women's needs, resulting in better pretrial and supervision outcomes. Ms. Still has also worked with the Center for Effective Public Policy; engaged in a collaborative project with researchers from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Houston on gender-responsive strategies; and, in partnership with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (NYS DCJS), worked with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice on a comprehensive review of the probation and juvenile justice system to enhance system practices, resulting in development of trauma assessment and interventions for young people.

Still has received numerous local, state and national awards and citations, including the Arlington Rotary's Recognition of Service in 1995; the Van Bramer Award from Mental Health Association in 2005; New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services' Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award in 2011; recognition by the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence for Outstanding Contributions to Victims in 2003; and Project M.O.R.E.'s 2015 Distinguished Service Award, among others. Still graduated from the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections Executive Excellence Program in 2000, as well as Sam Houston University's Executive Orientation Program in 2002.

Long active in her community, Still has served on various boards and committees, including the County's Mental Hygiene Board, Family Services Board, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She has also served on various workgroups and committees of NYS DCJS, including Staff Development, Revision of Rules and Regulations Governing Probation, Domestic Violence Workgroup.

Still said, "Over my career, I have witnessed a transformative journey of rehabilitation and growth in the criminal justice system. I have been a proud proponent for restorative justice because I've seen, firsthand, the power of second chances and the resilience of the human spirit. I carry with me the belief that compassion and understanding can reshape lives. This hasn't been a career for me; it's a testament to the possibility of transforming lives and the enduring pursuit of a better tomorrow."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rhinebeck Grange holds Wintertime Soup Sale

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

Easter Egg Hunt March 23 in Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley Rec will present an 'Egg-cellent' adventure at its Family Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza on Saturday, March 23, at 22 Camp Nooteeming Road in Salt Point. Hop on over with your little bunnies for a day packed with egg-citing surprises and loads of fun for the whole family. Ages 1-4 will hunt at 11 a.m.; ages 5-8 at 12:30 p.m.; and ages 9 & older at 2 p.m. Admission is free into this event but registration is required at <https://pleasantvalleyny.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>. There is a limit of 100 children per age group.

Vanderbilt Garden Association sets Garden Kick-off Meeting March 24

Those interested in finding out more information about volunteering at the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden in Hyde Park are invited to a Garden Kick-off Meeting on Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m., at the Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic Site Visitor Center. No gardening expertise is needed, training will be provided.

Garden volunteers must be 18 years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. If you cannot attend the Kick-off Meeting, for further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call (845) 229-6432.

Pancake breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt set for March 24 in Stormville

The Stormville Volunteer Fire Company, 112 Old Route 52 in Stormville, will hold an all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, March 24, 8-11:30 a.m. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. More Information can be found at Stormvillefire.org.

Master Gardener to speak at Rhinebeck Garden Club meeting

On Wednesday, March 27, at 10 a.m., the Rhinebeck Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. The program, "Native Flowering Shrubs to Replace the Invasives," will be presented by Master Gardener Cathy Lane. Afterward, John Lobotsky will give an update of The American Chestnut Tree Restoration Project. Visitors are welcomed. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Hannah at 914-263-5298 or logon to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

Reformed Church in Poughkeepsie presents the Living Last Supper

DaVinci's painting comes to life on Holy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Ave., in Poughkeepsie. Free will offering. For more information, e-mail info@poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com, visit www.poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com, or call (845) 452-8110.

Walk of the Cross set March 29

The Hyde Park Clergy Association will hold a Walk of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29, at 10:15 a.m. Join us for a communal act of devotion that has long been a custom in Hyde Park. Meet at Regina Coeli Church (4337 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park). Process through town with the cross,

hearing portions of the Passion story along the way. Conclude at Hyde Park Reformed Dutch Church with prayers and a time for fellowship. All ages are welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt set March 30 in Stanford

Stanford Recreation Commission will present an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m., at Cold Spring Early Learning Center, 358 Homan Road, Stanfordville.

Screening of 'Israelism' set March 30

On Saturday, March 30, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Mountain View Studio, 20 Mountain View Avenue, Woodstock, there will be a showing of "Israelism," a movie about the experiences of two young American Jews who have been raised to unconditionally love Israel. When they witness the way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take a sharp left turn. All donations will go to aid Gaza. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastrcrisis.org, Hudson Valley BDS hudsonvalleybds.blogspot.com, Jewish Voice for Peace-HV hudsonvalley@JVP.org, Veterans For Peace-Catskill Mountains, and New Paltz Women in Black for Peace and Justice. Contact: mecr@mideastrcrisis.org or 845 876-7906

Stanford Grange Penny Social

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Spring Penny Social on Saturday, April 6, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. (strictly enforced) and calling begins at 7 p.m. There will be penny prizes, \$1 table, homemade baked goods, theme baskets, 50/50 drawing, and door prizes. Spring items will be featured. The Grange Youth will have refreshments for sale; no outside food/beverages, please, as it takes money away from the kids. Total proceeds benefit continuing maintenance for the Stanford Grange Hall and the Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Holy Cow annual St. Jude Fundraisers set April 6 & 20 in Red Hook

Ice Cream for Breakfast, Holy Cow's 14th Annual St. Jude Fundraiser, will be held on Saturday, April 6, and Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., at Holy Cow on Route 9 in Red Hook. Special guests include Bee Bee the Clown, Dr. Willie's Magic and Jace (illusionist and hypnotist). Special limited menu only. Cost is donation of your choice. All proceeds go to St. Jude. These events have raised \$79,000 over the years thanks to all of you! All helping to support..One Scoop at a Time.

Repair Cafes set in Stanford

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

DAR meeting set April 7

On Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m., the Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR will meet at the CLC Chapter House and Museum, 77 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. The program, "Early Rhinebeck Stories," will be presented by Henry (Huck) Hill & Paula Schoonmaker. Visitors are welcomed. For more information, call (845) 871-1777.

Skilled Trades Fair set April 18 at Ketcham

The Skilled Trades Fair will take place on Thursday, April 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Roy C. Ketcham High School at 99 Myers Corners Road in Wappinger. The free event is open to the public and students from across Dutchess County are encouraged to attend. It is a walk-in event; student registration is not required.

FDR Library to present Women's History event

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum presents a Women's History Month Conversation, "The Prescient Life of Ida B. Wells" with Paula J. Giddings – a discussion of Ida B. Wells, a crusading journalist and pioneer in the fights for women's suffrage and against segregation and lynchings – at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26.

The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home and streamed live to the official FDR Presidential Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. This is

a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person. Visit fdrlibrary.org to register.

Registered attendees can visit the Library's special exhibition, "Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts," free of charge before the program, from 4-6 p.m. Professor Giddings was a member of the Library's exhibit advisory committee -- a distinguished committee of historical advisers who worked closely with Roosevelt Library staff to develop the current special exhibition.



Sheriff's Office issues warning on scam involving 'USPS survey'

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office is warning the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about scams that once again seem to be on the rise.

Scams are ways in which criminals will attempt to get money from people by contacting them and making up elaborate stories. In some cases the perpetrators have tried, sometimes successfully, to use the victim's emotions about a loved one in trouble to get money. It's common for the perpetrators of these scams to try to get money by telling people that one of their relatives has been seriously hurt or is in jail, and that they need money right away. In many cases they will pose as a law enforcement official or another relative to try and convince the victim that it's legitimate.

The latest scam involves the perpetrators asking victims to participate in a United States Postal Service (USPS) survey. The perpetrators mail the victims a fake, but official-looking letter from the USPS, which informs them that they've been chosen help provide better service

by participating in the survey. The letter goes on to say that in order to do this they will need to cash a bank check that comes with the letter, then proceed to give them step-by-step instructions on what to do with the money. At this time the Sheriff's Office has one report of someone receiving this letter, and that person recognized it as a scam before cashing the check or giving any money. If anyone receives a letter like the one accompanying this release they are urged to not follow any of the instructions and contact the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau at 845-486-3820.

It is very important to not send any money to anyone that you don't know until you've confirmed the situation through an independent source and feel comfortable with it. If it's a scam once the money is sent it's very difficult, and most times impossible, to get it back. If anyone thinks they may have been the victim of a scam they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3800 or via the tipline at 845-605-CLUE or desotips@gmail.com.

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VA to join One-Stop Campus



In January, I detailed some of the highlights of 2023 and expressed that we at Dutchess County Veterans Services and our partners working at the MHA One-Stop facility are always looking to find new and creative ways to better serve our veterans.

I am excited to share that beginning this month, the VA Administration at Castle Point is setting up a satellite office on our campus to give veterans another way to receive personal guidance regarding VA benefits. This will help streamline the application process of obtaining healthcare for all those who have faithfully served our country.

The new VA office will be open at the One Stop in Pleasant Valley the last Thursday of each month for in-person counseling from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Virtual appointments will be available daily for those who don't have transportation or may have other commitments that make it difficult to get to Castle Point.

There are two rooms dedicated to Video Virtual Care (VVC) where veterans can connect with their VA medical providers for telehealth appointments or meet in-person with a VA representative about any questions or concerns they have regarding their healthcare benefits.

In addition, VA Telehealth icons will be placed on the desktops so vets can easily click and access VA Telehealth Information and resources such as direct links to MyHealtheVet (VHA's Patient Portal), the VA App Store, VA Online Scheduling, and VA Health Chat. Several live virtual VA group programs and classes will be offered.

In my experience working with veterans over the years, I know the challenges of wading through paperwork and providing all the documentation required to get an application completed and ready for a decision by the VA Administration.

Getting many of our vets to go through this sometimes-long process has a lot to

do with how they are treated in their initial meeting and how they relate to the person conducting the interview. This is why I am excited about the VA coming to the local one-stop building. I have worked with VA Outreach Coordinator, Lenox "Lenny" Okall, who will oversee this new initiative, and his story is inspiring. While just in his 20s, Okall made the journey from Kenya to America alone and with no money. Within a month he made the decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps, simply because he wanted to serve our country.

After active duty, Lenny began his work with the VA as a Health Eligibility Advisor in 2017; and after holding several progressive positions, he eventually became Outreach Coordinator. Those who have worked with him know he is not only an expert at navigating the VA Healthcare system, but he is passionate about helping his fellow veterans secure all the allowances available to them.

As Dutchess County Veterans Services Director, it's hard to fully express how exciting it is to see the energy around the one-stop campus as it continues to draw more people and organizations who understand its vision and who want to find the most effective ways to help our veterans.

I encourage any organization that works with veterans and wants to help connect vets with the VA, to access the health benefits they've earned, to contact Lenny Okall at 845-831-2000 ext. 217666 and make a virtual or in-person appointment.

And, of course, we at the Dutchess County Veterans Services and everyone at the MHA One-Stop facility are available every weekday to help our veterans in any way we can.

Contact us at (845) 486-2060; email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov or visit our webpage at dutchessNY.gov/veterans.

Legislature seeks citizens to serve on committees, boards

The Dutchess County Legislature is seeking individuals to serve on the following committees and boards.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence – (member – 1 year term). The committee works to solicit and consider advice and recommendations from the community-at-large with respect to the problem of domestic violence. This committee meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Environmental Management Council – (member – 2 year term) The primary mission of the Council is to advise the legislature and county government on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the natural resources, features and conditions of Dutchess County that impact the quality of the environment. The EMC also considers matters referred to it by the county legislature for research and recommendations. For further information and meeting dates, please visit <https://dutchessemc.org/>

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (District 3), landowner representative (alternate – 2 year term); Must reside on rural lands that engage in production of agricultural commodities or forest products.

sportsman (alternate) – (2-year term) encourages the preservation and develop-

ment of fish and wildlife resources on privately-owned lands and waters, and to improve public recreational access to these resources. This board meets March, June, September, and December on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Planning board member – (3-year term) The board advises the Commissioner of Planning and provides recommendations regarding metropolitan, regional, county, or municipal planning issues. For further information and meeting dates, please visit the Dutchess County Planning board website.

Stop-DWI Policy Planning Board (member – open term) The program's mission is to deter drunk/drugged driving through enhanced enforcement, prosecu-

tion, rehabilitation, and education services. This program meets on the second Tuesday during the months of January, May, June, September, and December at 3:30 pm. For further information, please visit stop-dwi.org.

Tick Task Force (member – 2 year term) The mission of the force is to develop long-term goals and make recommendations to the legislature in the efforts of understanding and safely controlling ticks and reducing Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases. The force meets March, April, May, August, September, and October at 4 p.m. For further information please visit: www.dutchessny.gov/departments/county-legislature/tick-task-force.htm

Water and Wastewater Authority (member – 5 year term) The mission of the authority is to protect and enhance the health, environmental sustainability, and economic stability of Dutchess County and its residents through the provision of clean drinking water and proper treatment of wastewater, acting at all times with a commitment to accountability and transparency. For further information and meeting dates, please visit waterandwastewater.org

If you are interested, please send a resume and a brief letter of interest to the Dutchess County Legislature, attention: Leigh Wager, 22 Market Street, 6th floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or email to lwager@dutchessny.gov.

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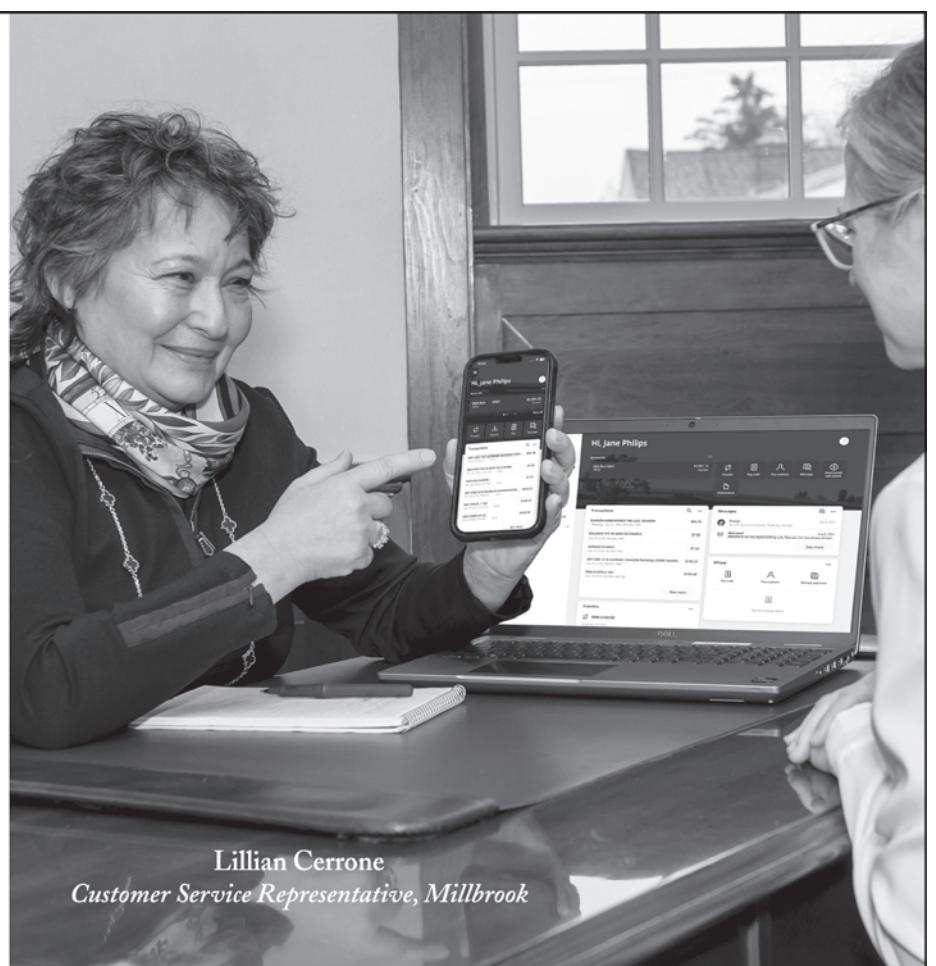
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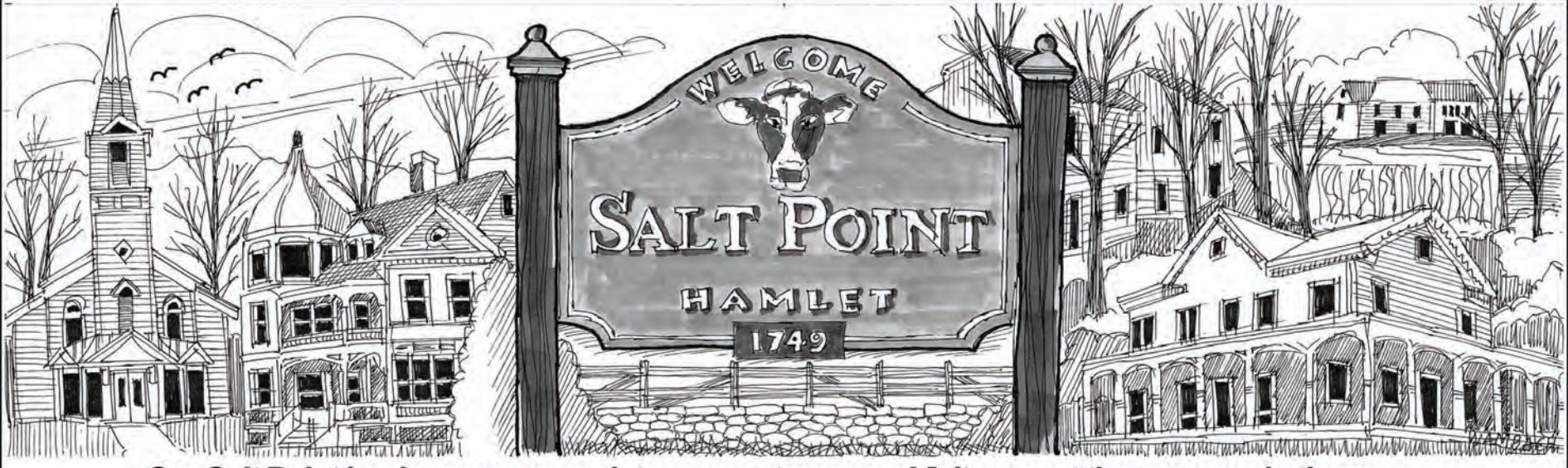
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Customer Service Representative, Millbrook

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- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cover coughs and sneezes;
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects;
- Stay home if you are sick;
- Consider wearing a mask to reduce your chance of exposure.



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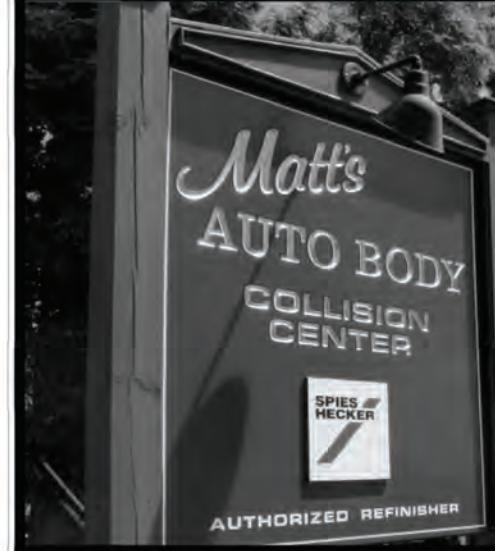
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Olana to host Third Thursday

The Olana Partnership will hold its monthly free Third Thursday on March 21 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Olana State Historic Site. Olana Third Thursdays are monthly days of free tours and programs for all ages.

Join a special free Lunch & Learn with Allegra Davis, Associate Curator, at 11:00 am, for a look into some of the women who called Olana home. This talk, entitled Women of Olana, is in honor of women's history month and will explore the untold histories of Olana's female residents, their social circles, and these women's artistic contributions.

Beginning at 1:00 pm visitors are invited to explore themes of art and advertisement by experimenting with technologies used for popular print in the late 1800s, such as letterpress, engraving, woodcut, and lithography. Make your own poster or nature print and take away a special letterpress commemorating the event. Learn more about the history of printmaking from a special resource library of books, objects, and source images. Led by teaching artists Meghan Forbes and Joana O Leary. This is a free drop-in artmaking program with all materials provided.

Visitors are also invited to attend free tours of the historic landscape, Main House, and special exhibition SPECTACLE: Frederic Church and the Business of Art. Visitors are required to have a ticket to attend a tour. Tickets can be reserved on-site, day-of, starting at 10:00 am on a first-come, first-served basis. Tours and programs will be offered in both Spanish and English. Spanish tours

will be given at 11:45 am and 2:45pm. Space is limited.

Generous support for Olana Third Thursdays is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. To learn more about each month and upcoming events and programs or to secure your free tickets visit, OLANA.org/ThirdThursdays or call 518-751-0344.

Olana is the greatest masterpiece of Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900), the most famous American landscape artist of the mid-19th century and the most important artist's home, studio, and designed landscape in the United States. Church designed Olana as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and environmental conservation. Olana's 250-acre artist-designed landscape with five miles of carriage roads and a Persian-inspired house at its summit embraces unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains and welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually. The landscape is open for guided touring, and reservations are highly recommended. The landscape is open daily 8 AM-sunset.

Olana State Historic Site, administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit cooperative partner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at Olana State Historic Site.

NPS to hold garden volunteer information meetings

Join the National Park Service (NPS) Horticulture staff to learn about the many opportunities to help maintain and preserve the historic gardens and landscapes at Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

No prior garden experience is necessary, and volunteers are encouraged to participate as their schedule permits – no required hours.

To register or ask a question email: anna_decordova@nps.gov

Tuesday, March 26 OR Tuesday, April 23, 10:00 AM

Wallace Visitor Center, The Home of Franklin Roosevelt
Route 9, Hyde Park, NY 12538

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 424 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Wilderstein Spring Tea set April 13

Put some spring in your step by attending Wilderstein Historic Site's "Spring Tea" on Saturday, April 13 from 1 to 3pm. Experience a glimpse of what tea time was like during the Victorian Era.

Come enjoy fine tea from Harney & Sons and an assortment of homemade sweet and savory delectables. Guests are encouraged to stay for a tour of the mansion and/or a stroll on the grounds to appreciate the beauty of spring flowers in bloom.

Tea time has always been a cherished tradition at Wilderstein. Margaret (Daisy) Suckley, the last resident of the estate, was well-known for hosting afternoon tea. Many remember her warmth,

elegance, and gracious hospitality.

Tickets for the tea are \$60, and a tour of the mansion may be booked for an additional \$15 per person. Use the link below to register online at www.wilderstein.org. For more information, call (845) 876-4818.

Wilderstein Historic Site is a not-for-profit house museum in Rhinebeck, New York. With its exquisite Queen Anne mansion and Calvert Vaux designed landscape, Wilderstein is widely regarded as the Hudson Valley's most important example of Victorian architecture. Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram.

Statewide outdoor burn ban ongoing through May 14

By Kate Goldsmith

New York State's annual burn ban is in effect from March 16 through May 14.

According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), open burning is the single greatest cause of wildfires in the state. To report a wildfire, call 1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264) or contact a forest ranger in your area.

When you plan a fire, always check for fire danger in your area on DEC's online map (updated every week).

The DEC advises that local governments may have stricter rules than the state; check with your fire department about local burning laws.

There are several exceptions to the open burning prohibition:

• Camp fires or any other outdoor fires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed.

• Small cooking fires are allowed.

• Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires are allowed. Disposal of flags or religious items in a small-sized fire is allowed, if it is not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

• Only charcoal or dry, clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned.

• Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.

• Open burning to control invasive plant or insect species is allowed. Case-by-case DEC approval is required.

Check the DEC website at <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/air-quality/open-burning> for more information.

Stormville Fire Co. to host pancake breakfast, egg hunt on March 24

By Kristine Coulter

The Stormville Fire Company, 112 Old Route 52 Stormville, will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, March 24, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. The volunteer firefighters have been offering pancake breakfasts since 1991.

Bill Leo, the fundraising chairperson for the fire company, said those who attend the breakfast and egg hunt can expect value.

"We put on a good show for the price. It is an opportunity for [the community] to meet the volunteers with the company and to speak to the firefighters," said Leo.

The menu will include eggs, pancakes, sausages, bacon, hash browns, bagels, an omelet station, coffee, tea, apple juice and orange juice. Approximately 200 people are served during these breakfasts held throughout the year.

The egg hunt "has been happening for many years. It is always on Palm Sunday (the day Christians commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem)," he explained.

"We have the Easter Bunny there for the children," said Leo. The egg hunt is for those in the age range of 3-10. There will also be a time for children to have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, he said. Attendees can also participate in raffles that will be available.

One does not need to register to attend.

The funds will go towards necessary gear throughout the year, or food for when firefighters are out on a long call, and any other necessary items that come up, he said. This year the Stormville Fire Co. Inc. is celebrating its 75th anniversary, said Leo.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for children (6-12), free for children 5 and younger.

For more information, visit Stormvillefire.org.

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Traditional Okinawan Karate students compete, succeed in regional tournament



Students from Traditional Okinawan Karate schools in Pleasant Valley and East Fishkill were winners among the hundreds of participants in the 22nd annual New Paltz Karate Invitational Tournament on Feb. 24. The tournament featured competitions in kata (martial arts forms), sparring and, for more advanced students, kata with traditional weapons and padded weapons sparring. Students competed against other students of their age and rank.

Left: The Pleasant Valley winners of the 14-16 year old Orange-Purple belt sparring division: Abdul Hakim, Jr., (first place, center), Lara Al-Hanakta (second place, left), Emojo Lucarini (third place, right). Courtesy photo

Following the competition, a huge pizza party was held for the participants and their families and friends. Traditional Okinawan Karate focuses primarily on self-defense and improvement, not competition, but the school participates in one annual tournament as an opportunity for students to learn how to perform under pressure. For more information about Traditional Okinawan Karate, call 845-635-1426 for Pleasant Valley, or 845-978-5856 for East Fishkill.

Student mathematicians enjoy Pi Day

By Irvin Miller

Since March 14, 2015, The Math & Physics Exploration has sponsored an annual math recognition program on March 14 to honor top math students in Dutchess County and in other counties such as Orange and Putnam. Sponsors such as The Hudson Valley Credit Union, Top's Markets, The Daily Planet Diner, Adams Fairacre Farms and Mellina Weiss through the Dutchess County Community Foundation have sponsored this event.

A special program has been offered in the elementary and junior high schools in the Wappingers Central School District with Drs. Irvin Miller, Chris Parks, and Sara Rothman offering instruction. This math program is so supercharged that the students learn how to do 18x18 digit multiplication, how to multiply infinite power series to prove algebraic identities, and how to program in Python.

With the 18x18 digit, they learn a creative way of doing a problem that cannot be done by an ordinary computer and their parents. This approach is being taught to some of the teachers so that they can seamlessly integrate it with the current instruction. Last year, Mrs. Nelson and Patterson of Fishkill Plains Elementary taught their entire fifth grade class to perform this task, while this year, Ms. Halliday, Ms. Leone and Ms. Tompkins are teaching their fourth grade class the same thing.

I believe that there are hundreds of children in the Wappingers Central School District who have accomplished a math task that has not been done by any other students in New York State except for the students that Dr. Miller taught. Some of those children have gone on to become Valedictorians of their schools.

The multiplication of infinite power series is something that many high school and college students cannot do. Here we have elementary and junior high school students who are more advanced mathematically than their parents and older brothers and sisters. In fact, Dr. Miller did not learn to do these feats until well after he finished his graduate work in High Energy Physics.

The next step was to show these students how to challenge Mathematicians. Last year, a video was produced on Nova explaining some concepts about zero. The students in the enriched math course were shown possible logical errors that these professors made and the process for refuting them. They were then shown another way of looking at math to discover negative numbers and to explain, not just accept, the rules of operation.

The students in the program were given this opportunity to learn how to study advanced math topics through the leadership of Drs. Cardwell and Bonk and support of the Board of Education presided over by John Lumia.

The following students were recognized through certificates and speeches at the event by the following community leaders: Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Ryan and Lawler, State Senator Rolison, State Assemblyman Beephant, County Executive Serino, Chairman of the Legislature Will Truitt along with legislators in the school district, and town Supervisors Rebecca Edwards, Nicholas D'Alessandro, Joey Cavaccini, and Ozzy Albra:

Myers Corners: Marc, Emilia, Iliona, Austen, Bekim, Dylan, Emma, Tristan, Sarah;

Brinckerhoff: Madison, Adam, Megan, Xavier, Gary, Nehlah, King, Maddox, Martin;

Oak Grove: Owen, Gianna, Giovanni, Joshua, Alex, Jack, Keegan, Kian, Sean, Roslyn;

Sheafe Road: John, Luca, Yassin, Michael, Leia, Luke, Ria, Erika

Fishkill Plains: Gouda, Noelle, Grady, Anthony, Aurelia, Michael, Colton, Ariana, Eashan, Devan, Rebecca, Sabrina, Kelly, Janiyah, Luke, Ian, Levi;

Wappinger JHS: Roy, Rockwell, Arden, Landon, Anatole;

Van Wyck JHS: Nicolette, Steven, Johan, Jacob, Bennett, Vincenzo, Morgan.

Several students, parents and teachers gave presentations on the impact of this program on the enhanced confidence and the enjoyment of math. After the students were given their certificates and awards generated by a 3D printer, they enjoyed fruit pies and other refreshments.

You can watch the ceremony at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGzOJUHtnaQ>

Dr. Miller is the President and Director of The Math & Physics Exploration (501(c)3).



Ms. Halliday, whose 4th-grade class was recognized for multiplying 18x18 digits, looks at a 5 foot 3D print of three intersecting cylinders, that took two months to print, which embodies the utilization of the STEAM concepts. Courtesy photo

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By Rich Thomaselli

OLL boys finish strong season with loss in NY State semifinals

It's difficult to find any joy and positives in a loss but the Our Lady of Lourdes High School boys basketball team will look back on this and realize that they made it to the state semifinals.

Despite being shorthanded.

The Warriors played the game without their best player, Patrick Faughnan, who suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament halfway through the season. OLL had many successes in the season, including a Mid-Hudson Athletic League title and championships in Section 9 and the state regional final, but lost to West Genesee, 79-61, in a Class AA game on Saturday.

The game was played at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

"This season was a hell of a ride," OLL coach Jim Santoro said. "I'm so proud of what these boys were able to accomplish."

Lourdes had not been here in seven years; the Wildcats were seeking their first title since 2019.

It was still a fantastic season.

Remember, this was a team that started the year with state championship aspirations and an 8-0 record, and then had to remake everything. In 35 years, it might have been Santoro's best coaching job.

But West Genesee was just too much

in this one, rolling to a 14-point lead early in the second quarter and never looking back.

Zach Hart had a double-double for the Warriors with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Local youth leagues to benefit from Renegades 'Show on the Road'

Youth baseball and softball players will now get a chance to see what it's like to play professionally.

The Hudson Valley Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union have announced an all-new initiative for the 2024 season centered on their partnership's joint commitment to supporting youth baseball and softball programs throughout the Hudson Valley.

It's called "Show on the Road."

As the name implies, the Renegades will be taking their game entertainment experience on the road from Heritage Financial Park and delivering it directly to youth leagues across the community.

"The 'Show on the Road' program is a great example of the positive impact of our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union," said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "The fact that we are able to bring our show and experience directly to local youth leagues and give them a taste of the Renegades experience is a core

principle of our mission statement. Supporting youth baseball and softball in our community is truly an exciting way to create life-long memories for families in our community and a means to help grow the game of baseball from a grassroots level."

Every element that fans have come to enjoy and associate with the fan experience of Renegades baseball will come to these games – they will have the full treatment of a public address announcer doing player introductions, walk-up music for batters, promotions and games performed in between innings, and of course appearances from mascots Rascal and Rosie.

Broadcasting games

Separately, the team and Pamal Broadcasting announced an expanded partnership, with the home of the Renegades Baseball Network moving to five stations throughout the Hudson Valley.

All 132 Renegades regular-season games and all postseason games will be broadcast on WBNR 1260 AM in Beacon, WGHQ 92.5 FM and 920 AM in Kingston, and

WLNA 1420 AM in Peekskill. This network of stations is also the radio home of Army football.

"I couldn't be happier or prouder with our expanded partnership with the Renegades. Since 1994 the Renegades have epitomized family fun and success. As a family-owned and operated broadcast company, we are drawn to anything that brings families to affordable fun, so our partnership with the Renegades checks all the boxes," said Chuck Benfer, Chief Operating Officer of Pamal Broadcasting. "...To be able to deliver the play-by-play to those unable to make the game in person on our expanded sports network of stations throughout the Hudson Valley is our honor."

"We are very excited for the expansion of our partnership with Pamal Broadcasting and their sports network becoming the new radio home of the Renegades," said Joe Vasile, Director of PR & Broadcasting for the Renegades. "Our 30th anniversary season is shaping up to be our best yet, and our expanded radio network is just one of many exciting developments."

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Art & Soul Gala set for March 28

Vassar Haiti Project to host annual event in Poughkeepsie

By Kristine Coulter

The 12th annual Art & Soul Gala will be held by the Vassar Haiti Project on Thursday, March 28 at Vassar College's Alumnae House, 161 College Ave., in Poughkeepsie from 5:30-8 p.m. For tickets visit www.thehaitiproject.org.

"This is the 12th annual Gala at Vassar College's Alumnae House. The evening's high energy starts with live entertainment from Vassar's Student Jazz Band. At the

event sponsors and community members who loyally attend each year mingle and reconnect with each other, knowing that they are directly impacting the health of

thousands of Haitian patients. Speeches from both of our honorees as well as students and visiting guest alumnae set the stage for the evening. There will be beautiful, vibrant Haitian art available to purchase. Paul Pesco, of Millbrook, is bringing his band, La Bonne Vie to entertain us with Haitian music. Additionally, there will be delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages, catered by Twisted Soul," said Lila Meade, who along with her husband, Andrew, founded the VHP.

This year Dr. Daniel "Danny" Aronzon, the former CEO of Vassar Brothers Medical Center, and Edwidge Danticat, a renowned Haitian-American writer and novelist, are the honorees.

Meade explained, "Our honorees are chosen by the Medical Advisory Board, a group of local physicians who oversee the work of the clinic in Haiti. Dr. Danny Aronzon was chosen because he was the



"Water," one of the works that will be auctioned off on March 28. Courtesy image

founding member of the Advisory Board. His focus, dedication and connections brought together a group of physicians who helped to build the clinic and make it a reality. His presence back in the community has spurred great excitement."

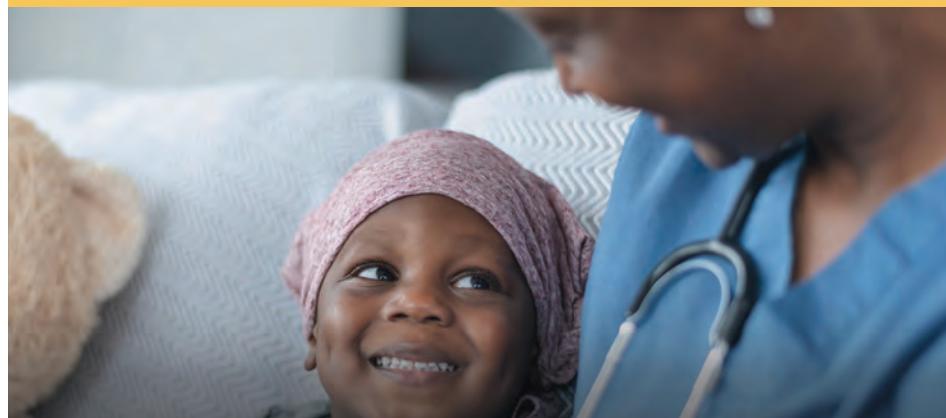
As for Danticat, Meade stated, she "is an acclaimed Haitian-American author who has won over 30 awards from her mostly fictionalized depictions of Haitian

life. Her works are reflected in 17 novels that have been heralded and studied by college and high school students internationally. Ms. Danticat has met with the Vassar Haiti Project students over the years and was pleased to be invited as an honoree this year."

Member of Vassar College's Class of 2024, Jessica Porras is president of the

continued on page 17

What is Hospice?



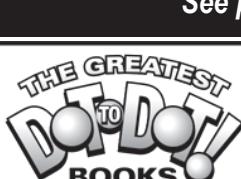
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Sets

Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.
□ • 1 thru 3
□ ▲ 4 thru 11
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□ ♦ 64 thru 92



By David Kalvitis

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Getting an Easter Suit

Luigi and Vinny were thankful that Easter only comes around once a year.

Growing up with two foreign parents has been interesting. When other kids were getting Star Wars action figures, I was getting new socks. Shopping with my mother was also an adventure. Especially clothes shopping.

I can remember getting my Easter suit with my little brother Vinny. I think I was around 7 or 8 years old and he was 3 or 4. We were going to Poughkeepsie to shop at Schwartz, which was located next door to Coppola's on Main Street on the Main Mall. The Main Mall was a magical place for kids. The stores were huge. There was Lucky Platts, Woolworths, Up to Date, not to mention the House of Cards and, of course, Schwartz. There were fountains in the middle of the Main Mall, which was an open-air plaza the length of Main Street, that you could throw pennies in and make a wish. Vinny and I were very excited because that meant we could also stop by to see our Uncle at the restaurant and maybe even have a soda.

However, business was first. We would have to go get our suit. As I said, clothes shopping was an adventure and not in a good way.

Into Schwartz we marched. Mom, Vinny and I. Through the ladies jewelry department and the purse section, around the fake fern plants and up the glass staircase to the children's department.

Now in the children's department there was two sections. The kids section for normal-sized kids was in the front next to the boy scout section. However, since Vinny and I were not your normal run-of-the-mill sized boys, we had to go to the Husky section.

I'm not going to say Vinny and I were fat. Let's just say that our legs hadn't quite caught up with the rest of our body. The Husky section was for boys who were too big for kid-sized clothes, yet too small for adult clothes. They were meant for taller kids also, so they were proportioned for tall "Husky" kids.

Shopping in the Husky section was embarrassing. The clothes never fit right because the crotch would hang too low, and the selection was small. Mom picked out matching powder blue suits with possibly the ugliest polyester faux silk shirt ever known to man and an orange tie. The blue suit was bad enough; however, the shirt looked like a paint factory threw up on it and, well, the orange tie just set off the menagerie of colors perfectly. It had every single color known to man splashed onto this funky, silky feeling shirt. But young as we were, we did not have a choice in the matter.

So here are these two "husky" boys standing in this section where there are no other kids. Mom is telling us in Italian to

stand up straight as she held up the pants to us to see which one might fit us. First one, then another. The sizes going up and up. Vinny and I just stood there with a "Husky" sized pout on our face. Finally she decided which ones would fit us. Now she wanted us to try on the pants to make sure they fit around the waist properly. The fitting rooms were clear across the store and Mom was in a hurry.

So picture two husky boys in the husky section with a mom holding up Husky pants. Not embarrassing enough, right? Naturally, Mom tells us to try on the pants right there. After we put up a fight, off came our pants and on went the other pants. There we stood Vinnie and I, no pride left in our husky bodies. Mom poking and prodding us to make sure the fit was right. She had us bend down to make sure we wouldn't split the seam. Telling us to stand up straight. All in Italian all the while, other people and their kids were milling around. It wasn't bad enough that the Husky kids were trying on Husky clothes in the Husky section, but now we also had to change in the husky aisle.

Once Mom was satisfied that the suit basically fit right, and that we were completely embarrassed, we had to go see the tailor on the main floor. Now, logic would dictate that we could change back into our normal clothes Right? Not us. We trudged down the glass stairs to the men's department still wearing our suits with our shoes and our normal clothes in our hands wearing matching powder blue suits.

The tailor was an old Italian man who spoke very little English. He materialized out of nowhere, with some white chalk and proceeded to mark us up. He spoke Italian very fast but I can remember him saying that we were wearing a husky sized suit. Perfect.

Once he was done, he allowed us to go into the dressing room and get changed. Thank God. We didn't have to get changed in the aisle again.

Mom paid for our powder blue suits and our genuine polyester faux silk shirt, our neon orange tie and we were free.

We then walked next door, with our heads hanging low and had our soda.

While Vinny and I consoled each other about the experiences of the day over an Uptown cola, Mom visited with our uncle for a few minutes. Once our time was up, Mom came over to us and said it was time to go.

That night mom made Asparagus and Pasta. Hmm. No wonder we were always in the husky section. Well, at least the end of the day was good.

ASPARAGUS AND PASTA

Ingredients

1 lb. tagliatelle pasta
1 lb. fresh green asparagus, washed and stalk ends removed
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and diced
1/4 cup fresh parsley, rough chop
2 zucchini, cut and cubed
1/4 cup cream cheese
2 oz. Parmigiano Reggiano
1 pinch salt (for pasta/asparagus)
1 pinch black pepper
4 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Directions

In a large frying pan place the asparagus, zucchini, onions, garlic and olive oil. Cook on low heat until onions are translucent.

Add, parsley, grated cheese and cream cheese and set aside.

In a pot of boiling, salted water add the tagliatelle past and cook until tender, about 4-5 minutes.

Drain pasta and add to asparagus mixture while the pasta is still dripping wet. In other words, add a little bit of water.

Combine until pasta and sauce are combined. Serve with toasted crusty Italian bread and wine, of course.

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

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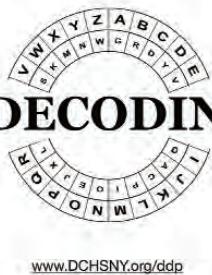
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The People's Choice in 1824?

by Bill Jeffway

A small sewing box in DCHS Collections says "The People's Choice" on the top with an engraving of John Quincy Adams on the inside. It is an early example of a political campaign trinket. Adams was elected President in 1824.

Whether he was the people's choice, or not, is debated among historians and scholars and shows how the American electoral system has been evolving over time. The election outcome is often referred to as having been a "corrupt bargain" which is language that showed up in local newspapers at the time.

The election was conducted from Tuesday, October 26 to Thursday, December 2, 1824 and involved four major candidates: John Quincy Adams, mentioned earlier, the son of the second US President, was from a well-to-do and established Boston family. Andrew Jackson, the rough and rugged self-made military man was from Tennessee. Also running was House Speaker Henry Clay of Kentucky, and Secretary of the Treasury William Crawford of Georgia. Town of Amenia's Smith Thompson, then Secretary of the Navy, had wanted to run but pulled out from the crowded field.

First, let's look earlier that year when bills that would have changed the system in New York from having electoral college electors chosen by a vote of a joint session of the New York State Senate and Assembly, to direct election by voters going to the polls as they are today. This "direct" system was in place in most States, but not New York State. The change in law failed. The Poughkeepsie Journal was furious, editorializing on March 3, 1824, "Voice of the People. The proceedings of the people who are daily assembling in the different towns and counties of the state to express their wishes respecting the electoral law and their indignation at the conduct of Governor

Yates, [US President] Martin Van Buren and the other men who have lent their influence and exertions to defeat the public will on this occasion pour in upon us in such floods that it is no longer in our power even to notice all of them..."

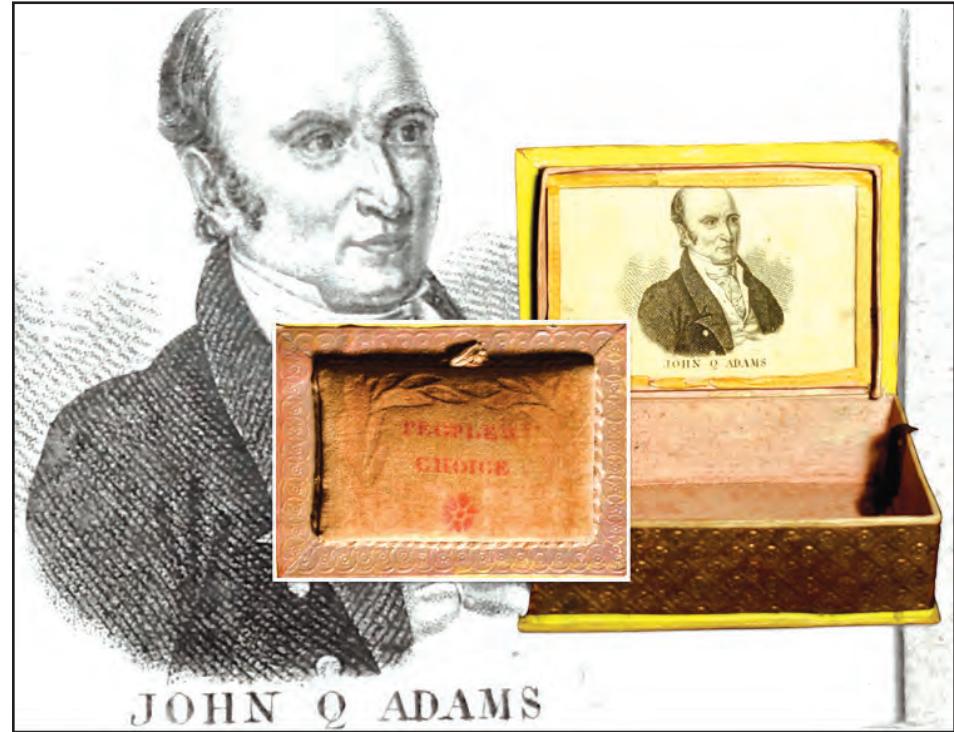
So in late October the two bodies, the NYS Senate and Assembly, got together to vote.

Several rounds of voting were inconclusive because both houses needed to agree on a candidate. Ultimately, John Quincy Adams got a majority of votes in both houses, including the support of Dutchess County State Senator Isaac Sutherland, of Stanford. New York's 36 electoral college votes were sent to the US Capitol in Washington DC, for John Quincy Adams.

But when all thirteen states' votes were counted, four candidates split the vote such that none won enough electoral college votes to become President. In States where votes had been counted, Jackson had a majority of the popular vote: Jackson got 151,363 and Adams 113,142. Jackson got 99 electoral votes and Adams got 84; but 131 was required to win.

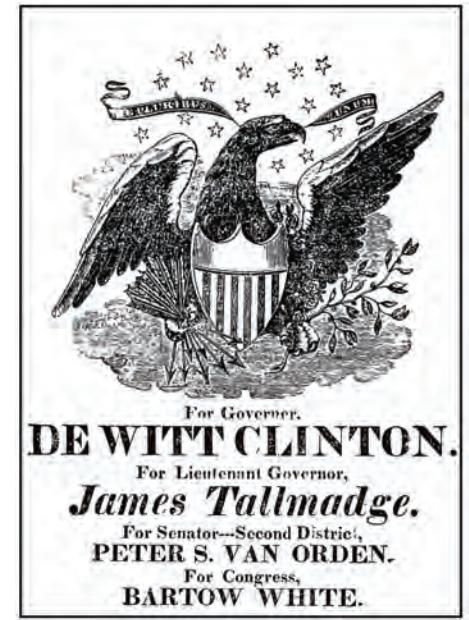
The rule that was in place then, is the rule that is in place now. When a candidate does not receive enough votes from the electoral college, the Presidential election is determined by one vote from each state in the US House of Representatives. Each state's vote is determined by a majority of votes of the congressmen for that state. New York had 36 Congressmen.

During this unprecedented period, newspaper editorials lobbied for their respective favorite candidates. The Poughkeepsie Journal was firmly for Andrew Jackson, writing, "...Jackson could probably poll twice as many votes in old Dutchess as all of them together." The local names associated with the pro-



JOHN Q ADAMS

Above: Although it is now faded and hard to read, the top of the box, when closed, has the words "The People's Choice" with an image of John Quincy Adams on the inside, visible when open. The box might be related to the 1828 election which saw an identical match up of the 1824 candidates of Adams and Jackson. Jackson won in 1828. Right: From the newspaper, the Dutchess Observer; during the election of 1824, the paper supported DeWitt Clinton for Governor and James Tallmadge for Lieutenant Governor. Unlike the US Presidential election taking place at the same time, the election of the Governor was by direct popular vote while Presidential electoral college electors were chosen by the New York State Senate and Assembly in a joint session. Clinton ran on a campaign of making Presidential electors a direct choice by the vote of the people which came to pass by 1828. Courtesy photos



motion of Jackson for President were formidable: Hyde Park's Morgan Lewis, the former Governor, among them.

The Journal editorialized repeatedly that the public should lobby the local Congressman at the time, William W. Van Wyck of Fishkill, to vote for Jackson, although his vote would be but one of 36. The majority vote of the New York delegation went for John Quincy Adams.

In what became known as the corrupt bargain, Clay lent his support (and all his electoral college votes) to Adams with the agreement that Clay would become Secretary of State (which he did). This gave Adams enough votes to win in the House of Representatives.

On February 2, 1825, the Poughkeepsie Journal reported the following, "The latest rumors from Washington represent that Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay have concluded a bargain by which the latter has agreed to smother his resentment against the former and unite in making him president. rumor says Mr. Clay is to receive as payment the office of Secretary of the State. Such are the rumors from Washington that efforts are being made to defraud the American people of the candidate of their choice by corrupt combinations among some of the leading friends of Adams and Clay."

Two weeks later the Poughkeepsie Journal editorialized with an olive branch, "Having been decidedly opposed to Mr. Adams election to the presidency from a sincere conviction that he was unworthy to fill that exalted station it will not be expected that we should rejoice at his success especially when we add as our firm belief that Mr. Adams is not the choice of the nation and that his election has been affected by bargaining and corruption. Still, Mr. Adams has been chosen agreeably to the forms prescribed by the Constitution and we must submit to his reign with the best grace we can."

Four years later, in 1828, Adams and Jackson met in a rematch. Jackson took 56% of the popular vote and won almost every state outside of New England. Jackson handily won Dutchess County and all towns went for him except the following for Adams: Beekman, Hyde Park, Pawling, Union Vale. The "people's choice" of 1828 emerged as Andrew Jackson.

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



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Volunteers sought for 2024 season at Olana

The Olana Partnership will be holding an in-person Volunteer Information Session on Sunday, March 24, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., for anyone who is interested in learning about 2024 volunteer opportunities at Olana State Historic Site. If you love nature, art, history, and Frederic Church's Olana, volunteering is the perfect way to give back to our community, meet new people, and get involved. Volunteering with The Olana Partnership provides a great way to immerse yourself in one of the Hudson Valley's most unique cultural treasures

and interact with visitors who are looking to learn more about Olana and artist Frederic Church.

"Our volunteers are an essential part of the collaborative work we do here at The Olana Partnership," said Lauren Miller, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator at The Olana Partnership. "From the volunteers who help out in Olana's Historic House, to the friendly faces at our special events, volunteers are an integral part of the Olana community."

There are many opportunities to volunteer depending on interest and avail-

ability. The in-person information session will give perspective volunteers an opportunity to meet staff, ask questions, and learn more about these opportunities.

Olana volunteers enjoy free landscape tours, discounts in the Olana Museum Store, invitations to lectures, volunteer appreciation events, field trips and more. Join like-minded people who enjoy learning and sharing their love of Olana and the region. All volunteers will participate in a training program to familiarize themselves with Olana State Historic Site, New York State Parks, The Olana

Partnership, and the history of Frederic Church and his family.

The Olana Partnership will work with you to ensure that your volunteering interests are met based on your availability.

Registration is required by contacting Lauren Miller, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator, The Olana Partnership, at (518) 751-6857 or email lmiller@olana.org. If you would like to volunteer but cannot attend the information session, please reach out to Lauren Miller for more information.

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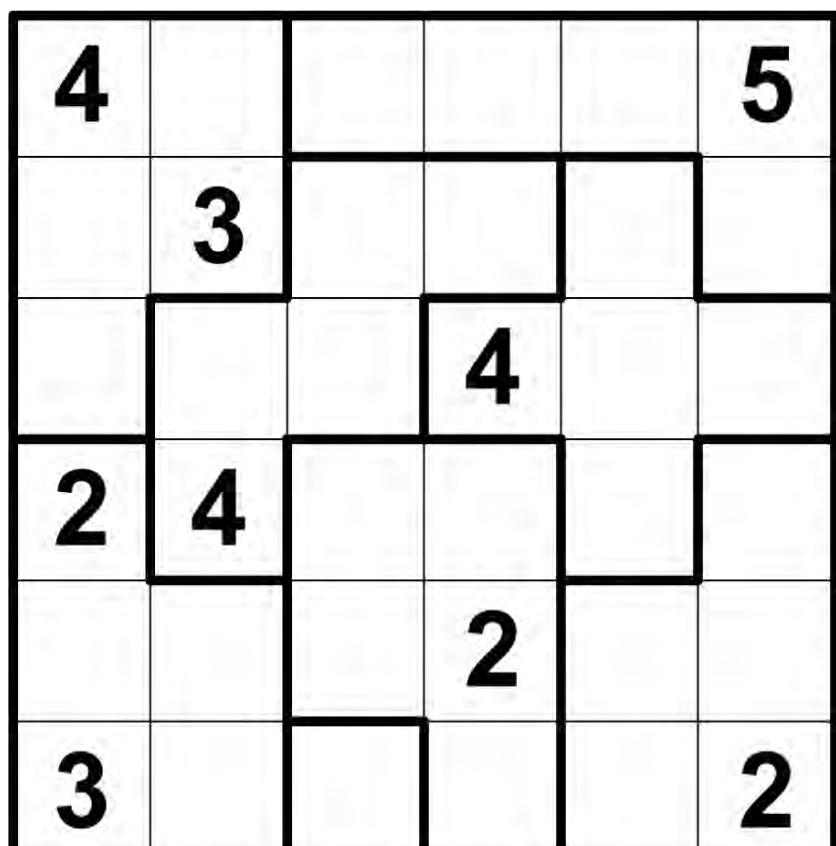
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

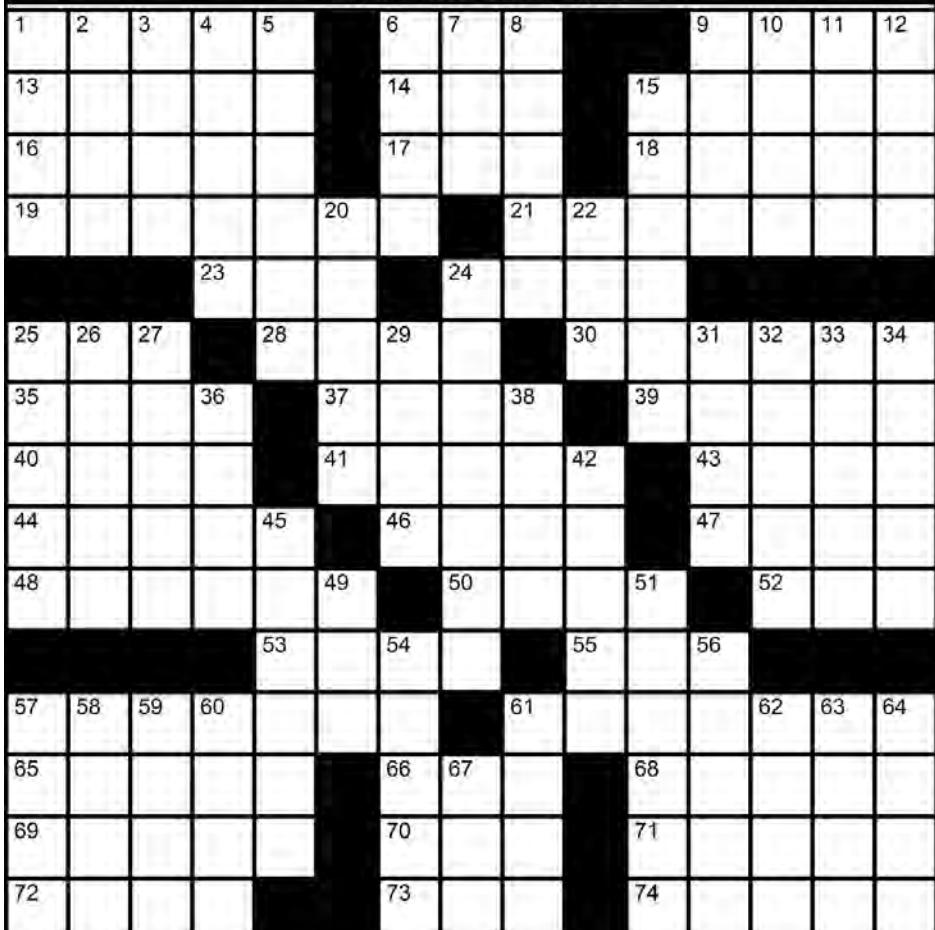
ACROSS

- Window addition?
- Huge software company
- Spill the beans
- Watcher
- Acronym, abbr.
- Words to live by
- Ocean-dwelling ____ ray
- Polynesian necklace
- "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
- *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
- **One ____ Moment"
- Like jalapeño
- Give off
- Bean counter?
- *Dominate opponent, slangily
- *____-elimination tournament
- Bricklayers' carrier
- Wood sorrels
- Jeweler's unit
- Alight, past tense
- Swings around
- Spice Girl
- Bubonic plague carriers
- Away from wind
- D'Artagnan's sword
- *Elite Eight, or the ____ round of tournament
- Bono's bandmate, with The
- Make a mistake
- Landlord's due
- Small lump
- *State Farm Stadium state
- *Not pro
- Chocolate substitute
- Hot temper
- Derived from oats
- Cuckoo
- Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
- Baby at a recital
- Have supper
- Young newt
- Many affirmatives

DOWN

- Brush alternative
- Culture-growing turf
- Long forearm bone
- Satyr
- City in Poland
- *Delta Center location: ____ Lake City
- Hole-in-one
- Type of polyhedron
- Raisin's breakfast companion
- Denim innovator
- Port in Yemen
- Toker's pipe
- Professional reviewer
- Not pathos
- Not hers
- Shoulder rank display
- Winnowing leftovers
- Chicken in Mexico
- Farewell in Paris
- *School with most NCAA basketball titles
- Back of the neck
- Search blindly
- Lightsaber beam
- Olden days anesthetic
- *____ player
- Garden starter
- D.S., in sheet music
- Dance club light
- Female chicken
- Speech at a funeral
- Lacking guile
- What speakers do
- LSD, e.g.
- Indian princess
- Turkmenistan's neighbor
- *Type of defense
- One tenth of a dime
- Airline postings, acr.
- Type of pool
- What means justify
- Churchill's "so few"

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



I made a pile of rot and so can you!

After years of teaching about composting in my biology classes, I finally started my own. It sits a short distance from a door off my kitchen. The key to making it a success (and keeping it smelling good) is maintaining the right balance of carbon and nitrogen decomposing materials. (That's right ... I have a rotting pile of compost close to my house and it does not smell!)

What is compost?

Compost is a mixture of ingredients used as plant fertilizer. It improves soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, recycling organic materials, and manure. Compost improves soil fertility.

How I created my compost pile

I chose a place to put my compost pile that is relatively flat, close enough to my kitchen to be convenient, but far enough away to not be an eye-sore. It is also close to the hose and spigot.

Next, I decided how I would collect

and store my browns (carbon-rich items) and greens (nitrogen-rich items). For browns, you can use cut up newspaper, toilet paper and paper towel roles—or the “ready-made browns” that fall from the trees each autumn. As for the greens, I collect and store plant-based wastes in a container in my fridge. Cut pieces small so that they decompose faster.

I started the compost pile with a 4"-6" layer of leaves (browns). They absorb extra liquids, elevate the pile, and encourage air circulation. Next, I layered greens and browns like lasagna. I added water to dampen the pile as I made layers.

Keep the volume of browns to greens at about 3:1. (I just visually guesstimate this!) When I get a full container of food scraps (every 4-7 days) I dump them on the pile and mix them in with a garden fork. Cover the greens with about 4"-8" of browns.

Hot makes it rot!

As the materials in a compost pile begin to rot, its temperature begins to



Above: Turning the compost pile promotes decomposition and good circulation of the organic materials. Below: Collect and store plant-based waste in the fridge until ready to place in the compost pile. Courtesy photos

rise. Temperatures between 90-140 degrees F are usually considered ideal. High temperatures help reduce the presence of pathogens and weeds.

Monitor the pile for temperature, moisture, and odor, and make adjustments as needed. Decomposition will be slow if the pile is too cool or dry. Remedy it by adding greens and turning the pile. If the compost is too wet, there may be a bad odor or poor air circulation. Address that problem by adding browns and turning the pile.

Get the kids involved

Those who compost reduce trash that would otherwise go to landfills or incinerators. That is a powerful way to limit greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Creating a compost pile takes minimal effort, equipment, expense, or expertise. In fact, it helps eliminate the need to purchase compost, fertilizer, and pesticides. Simply add fin-

ished compost to your soil to make it healthier, prevent erosion, conserve water, and aid plant growth. Composting can even be fun!

Instruction about composting is standard fare in most Ecology units and classes. But don't let that learning stop at school. Try composting at home with your kids. Its Backyard Biology---learning for the fun of it.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>



Art & Soul Gala

continued from page 12

VHP. Jessica stated, “Witnessing individuals from Vassar and the community collaborating to foster positive change for those with whom they have no direct acquaintance is truly a profound experience.” It was stated that she’s looking forward to the event and working with her colleagues in VHP to “making the event an unforgettable one for the supporters.”

This year the funds will support the clinic for a whole year. The funds will pay “the salaries of the staff at the clinic, (doctor, nurses, midwife, support staff) and also for the medications for the patients, Meade explained. “The clinic is the only operating health care facility in the area with patients walking for up to two hours to see the doctor. This year, the Solar Lab will be finished and a technician and medical director who can oversee the operations of the clinic will be added to the staff,” she said.

It was noted that even when turbulence and uncertainty pervade Haiti, Dr. Norvillus, the clinic’s new physician said, “We must continue with our mission because in turmoil, there is always hope; when everything appears black, a wisp of light will appear.” For him, that wisp of

light is the Haiti Project. According to him, “Without fail, thousands of people have received free treatment. With you, there is still hope and the population is counting on you.”

“VHP is inextricably linked to my passion for working in the health field - without my experiences in VHP, I would not be in the place, personally or professionally, that I am in today. Having the privilege of learning from and collaborating with our dedicated Haitian partners, the Medical Advisory Board and Vassar students deepens my appreciation of the gift of health. I’ve just entered medical school and look forward to improving health care accessibility,” said Sonia Gollerkeri. Gollerkeri, a member of the Class of 2021, will be speaking during the gala.

Isabella Sagman, a member of the class of 2026, and Vice President for the student’s Health Committee, said, “This event is an integral part of The Haiti Project and the clinic’s work, “It is a night of celebration, remembrance, and looking forward. The funds raised fund our clinic in Fiervil, Haiti for another year and give way to new possibilities.”

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Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through April 1:** Paintings by this month's featured artist, Julia VanDevelder, whose principal subject is the natural world, particularly the Hudson Valley, a region she has called home for many years. www.artgallery71.com

Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. Through April 7: Annual "Art of the Garden" art exhibition, floral & still-life garden themed art show featuring paintings, watercolors, and other mixed media. All works for sale, part of the proceeds help further restoration projects on Historic Bannerman's Island. Contact (845) 831-1001, 845-416-8342 or bannermangallery150@aol.com for more information. www.bannermancastle.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through April:** Showcased in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. are works by Liliana Washburn, and at 12 Vassar St., Arquimedes Mejia and Naomi Berkery display their artwork in the Reception Gallery and Hancock Gallery, respectively. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 2:** "Making A Life In Photography: Rollie McKenna," the first survey of the prolific career of American photographer Rosalie (Rollie) Thorne McKenna. The exhibition, presented thematically in four galleries, features over 100 gelatin silver prints made during the artist's lifetime, drawn primarily from the Loeb's collection with the addition of several key loans. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/thelob>.

Gallery 40, 40 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. **Through April 28:** "Coming Home," an exhibition by LongreachArts Collective. www.gallery40pok.com

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through March:** "Photographs and Improvisions" by Jim Stasiak. Artist Talk: Sun., March 24, 3-5 p.m. (845) 490-2281

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through March 30:** Morton Talent Show Art Exhibition. Sales will benefit the library. (845) 876-2903

Olana State Historic Site, Hudson. **Through March 24:** "Spectacle: Frederic Church and The Business of Art," a 21st-century way of viewing Frederic Church's great masterpiece, "The Heart of the Andes," and this exhibition highlights the showmanship and marketing that Church used to promote the debut of this work in 1859. For more information and to purchase tickets visit olana.org/spectacle

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **Through April 7:** Pop-Up Exhibition & Book in partnership with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute School of Architecture. "Imaginary Wilds: Architectural Interventions for the Thomas Cole National Historic Site." RPI Architecture students spent a semester dreaming up a new building for the Thomas Cole Site campus. Ten student projects, including both 3D models and digital illustrations are on display in Thomas Cole's New Studio. www.thomascole.org

WomensWork.art, 4 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie. **Through March 30:** "The Remnants of Summer," new photo works by Nikki Hung. (845) 293-3660 or www.womenswork.art

Woodstock School of Art, Robert H. Angeloch Gallery, 2470 Rte. 212, Woodstock. **Through May 4:** "Segalman at 90," an exhibition of select oil paintings, watercolors, monotypes, charcoal drawings, and pastel paintings of Richard Segalman from the private collections of his Woodstock circle of friends. 845-679-2388 or visit woodstockschooolart.org.

Rhinebeck High School art students exhibit at local Rhinebeck Bank branch

Students from Rhinebeck High School's Advanced Drawing and Painting Class are exhibiting their work at Rhinebeck Bank's Rhinebeck branch, 6414 Montgomery St., through April 12.

"Emotions: A to Z" features 26 paintings made as a class collaboration project that will result in a 32-page Alphabet picture book. Under the tutelage of instructor Cynthia Baer, seven students (Silvia Higgins, Naomi Bozenski, Diego DeLeon-Michel, Willa Kurtz, Genevieve (Gigi) Oleszewski, Sadie Traudt and Tully Walther) worked tirelessly on the project, with each student creating three to five paintings each.

The public is encouraged to visit the Bank's Rhinebeck branch during regular business hours to enjoy this student exhibit.

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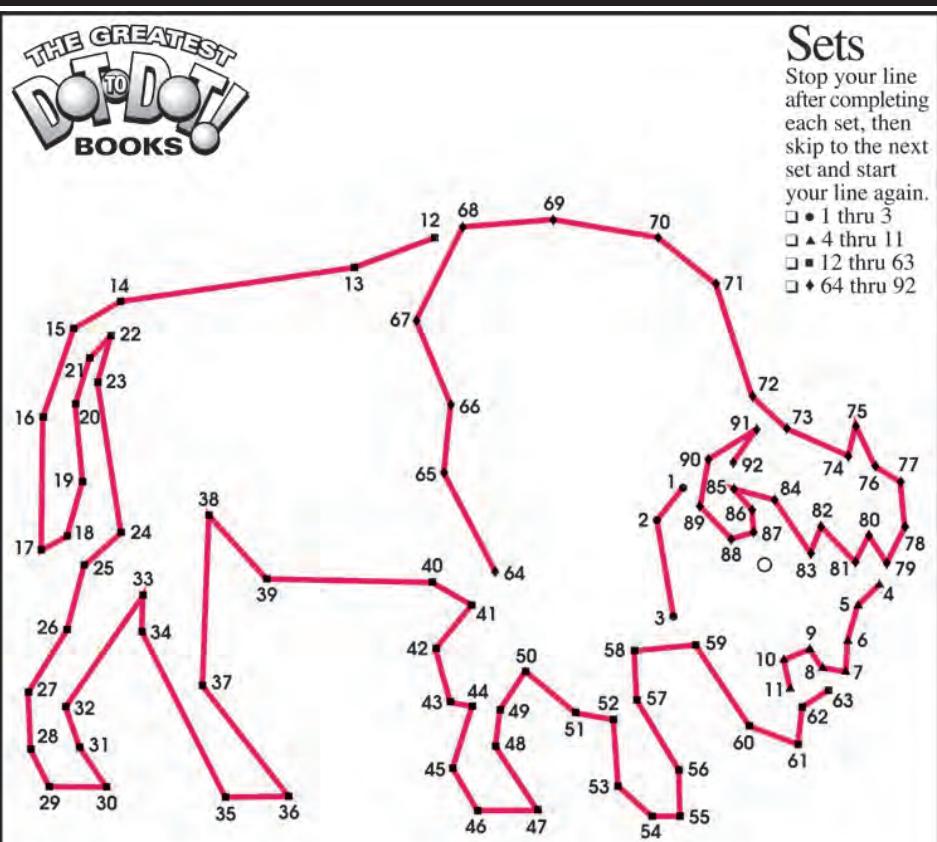
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Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 12)

THE GREATEST
DOT TO DOT
BOOKS



Sets

Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.

- • 1 thru 3
- ▲ 4 thru 11
- □ 12 thru 63
- ♦ 64 thru 92

By David Kalvitis

© 2003 Monkeying Around

March 21: Game Changers Movie Series, "The Seventh Seal," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Series features films that revolutionized cinema, 7:30 p.m. Reserve your free ticket by stopping in to the Bardavon or UPAC box office, or by calling Bardavon at (845) 473-5288 or UPAC at (845) 339-6088.

March 21: Jo Koy World Tour, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Jo's uniquely relatable comedy pulls inspiration from his colorful family, and has translated into sold-out arenas around the world and record breaking ticket sales. www.MJNCenter.org

March 21: Leading with Artivism: An interview with Sammie B, led by Poet Gold. This virtual event will take place at 7 p.m. via a link provided by Arts Mid-Hudson and will also live stream on YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event. www.artsmidhudson.org

Through March 22-24: "Hamlet," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck,

661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Shakespeare's iconic work in a new adaptation by director Lou Trapani. Not your Elizabethan revenge tragedy, nor any of the modern theatre's/contemporary cinema's brooding hero plays or avenging angel action flicks or orphan/prince psycho-dramas, this Hamlet is about families and their angsts in 2024 America. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$25. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

March 22-24: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. March 22: Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones, 8:30 p.m. Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones are bringing that musical tradition forward with a reverence for Ireland's past and the energy and optimism of a new generation of Irish musicians. Tickets \$40 advance, \$45 door. March 23: Feast of Friends (The Doors Tribute), 8:30 p.m. This tribute pays homage to the music of The Doors, with precision and accuracy, fusing elements of the bands' studio sound with their epic improvisational live experience. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. March 24: Hot Club of Cowtown, 7 p.m. Since its beginnings in the late 1990s, the Hot Club of Cowtown's star has continued to rise as its reputation for jaw-dropping vir-

tosity and unforgettable live shows has become the band's global brand. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

March 23: Easter Eggtravaganza! Public Skate, McCann Ice Arena, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Easter themed public skate, 2-4 p.m. Enjoy an egg hunt, photo booth, hot chocolate stand and more. www.MJNCenter.org

March 23: Wine Lecture & Tasting, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Road, Rhinebeck. Learn about and taste heritage wines at this tantalizing lecture by author and Cedar Cliff Vineyards owner Stephen Cassles, 2-3:30 p.m. He will discuss his book "Grapes of the Hudson Valley," which chronicles the history of grape growing practices in the region during the 19th century. Audience will have the opportunity to sample a variety of local heritage wines. Tickets \$25. Reservations required. (845) 876-4818 or www.wilderstein.org

March 24: Moxie Events Presents Night Fever featuring the New York Bee Gees, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. The band offers all the classic '70s disco hits from "Stayin' Alive" to "Night Fever"

while embracing The Bee Gees' early works such as "To Love Somebody," "I've Got to Get a Message to You" and "Massachusetts." The New York Bee Gees Tribute Show is comprised of some of Long Island, New York's most versatile and exceptionally talented players. Tickets \$55, \$60, \$65, \$75. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org

March 25: Reading by Author Brian Evenson, Weis Cinema, Bertelsmann Campus Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Novelist and short story writer Brian Evenson will read from new work, 5 p.m. Free and open to the public. More info: (845) 758-1539

March 25: Sunday Salon Series, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. "Imaginary Wilds: Architectural Interventions for the Thomas Cole National Historic Site," a discussion on the pop-up exhibition at the site by the students and faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's School of Architecture, 2 & 4 p.m., with a reception in between. Tickets \$15 GA. Children 15 & younger, and all food stamp recipients, receive free admission. Reservations at thomascole.org/events.

'Your Town' original play to mark Copake's bicentennial

Local theater company Taconic Stage Co. (TSC) presents Your Town, a play with music written to celebrate Copake's bicentennial in April. The script and lyrics are by TSC Founder and Producing Artistic Director Carl Ritchie with music by Wayne Moore and Chuck Pelletier. Music director and pianist is Joe Rose and costumes are thanks to Kevin Draves. The light-hearted show has romance, songs and laughs for the whole family.

This celebration of Copake's 200th anniversary was inspired by Thornton Wilder's play, Our Town, as well as by the actual minutes from the first town meeting in April 1824. It stars Craig Addams, Diedre Bollinger, Susan Fullerton, Andrew Joffe and Constance Lopez, as well as some local luminaries.

Performances will be held the weekend of April 5th – 7th at the historic Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road in Copake, NY. Sponsored by the town as part of its 200th bicentennial celebration, admission is free – but reservations needed - for all four performances!

Since its founding in 2009, TSC has delighted audiences with shows such as the hilarious, original send-up of growing older, Senior Moments, a spoof of the local vs. weekender mentality, The Real (Desperate) Housewives of Columbia County and a celebration of middle-age, I Know I Came in Here for Something..., all written and directed by Ritchie. Other productions include Private Lives, The Belle of Amherst, The Last Flapper and A

Lady of Letters, just to name a few.

Carl Ritchie (script & lyrics, director) was born in New Brunswick, Canada and began his career as a child actor. After playing Oliver in a 1000 seat venue in his hometown, he insisted--at age 11--on moving 1000 miles away to Toronto to pursue an acting career. Subsequently, after living as a teen in Burma and graduating from high school in the Himalayas of northern India, he attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Ritchie has acted, written and directed for theaters worldwide, from Rangoon to Soho. He is the author of over 20 plays, which have been performed in well over a hundred theatres in the US, Canada and as far away as New Zealand. He and his husband, Christopher Grant, have had a home at Copake Lake since the mid 90's and have been full-time residents for nearly twenty-five years.

Performances will be held at the Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, NY, 12516 on Friday and Saturday, April 5th & 6th at 7:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday, April 6th & 7th at 2 p.m. Tickets are FREE but reservations must be made at www.copakegrange.org.

Although this production is sponsored by the Town of Copake, Taconic Stage Company has been sponsored by Herringtons, Inc and Kneller Insurance Agency since Day One. Through thick and thin they have been by our side and we truly appreciate it. Big thanks, Ed Herrington as well as Kirk Kneller.

Celebrate 25 years of poetry during Arts Mid-Hudson, Calling All Poets special event

Arts Mid-Hudson and Calling All Poets (CAPS) are collaborating for a special event on Saturday, April 6 at 2 p.m. The event will celebrate 25 years of poetry performance and the publication of the CAPS 25th Anniversary Anthology Reading.

The event will feature:

Tim Brennan, winner of 3rd Place Prize Winner of CAPS Poetry Competition

Dr. Lucia Cherciu, DC Poet Laureate 2021-2022, author

Susan Chute, host of Next Year's Words and 1st Place Prize Winner of CAPS Poetry Competition

Cassandra Clarke, poet, life coach, and social activist

Greg Correll, award winning design and Calling All Poets IT guru

Ruth Danon, author, poet, former director for adult undergraduates at NYU's School of Professional Studies.

Jim Eve, poet, founder Calling All Poets

Ken Holland, award winning poet and special advisor to Calling All Poets

Mike Jurkovic, poet, pundit, provocateur, President, Calling All Poets

Mary Louise Kiernan, award winning poet, 2015

Raphael Kosek, DC Poet Laureate, 2019-2020, author American Mythology

Irene O'Garden, author, poet, playwright, Pushcart Award Winner, 2020

Stephanie JT Russell, current DC Poet Laureate

Judith Saunders, author, poet, professor at Marist College

All ages are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. This event is free but please RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/3py4exxd>

Arts Mid-Hudson is at 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F in Poughkeepsie.



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The Two of Us Productions to offer 'A Shayna Maidel' this weekend

The Two Of Us Productions, the award winning theater company based in Copake NY, is pleased to present the strong emotional drama A Shayna Maidel, the Obie and Outer Critics Circle award winning script by Barbara Lebow. Performances are one weekend only, March 22nd, 23rd & 24th, 2024. Presented in collaboration with the Copake Grange in the intimate Theater at the Copake Grange in Copake NY., you don't want to miss this exploration of human strength and frailty punctuated by moments of humor & hope.

A Shayna Maidel features Karissa Payson as Rose White, Kenneth Goldfarb as Morcechai Weiss, Constance Lopez as Lusia Weiss Pechenik, Deborah

Lombardi as Mama (Liba Eisenman Weiss), Leigh Fisher-Troch as Hanna and Matthew Leinung as Dovid Pechenik. The Theater at the Copake Grange provides an intimate performance space that brings the audience into this gripping family drama.

Performances of A Shayna Maidel are 1 weekend only – March 22nd, 23rd & 24th, 2024. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30pm and the Sunday matinee is at 3pm. The comfortable & intimate Copake Grange Theater is located at 628 Empire Road in downtown Copake NY, right down the street from the Clock Tower Pub in the center of town. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for Students & Seniors. Please call for

Group Rates. For advance reservations visit www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org or call 518-329-6293. Make your reservations early for the best seats on the date you want!

The Two Of Us Productions is well known throughout the Hudson Valley for presenting quality theater, both musicals and dramas. Their recent productions of Cabaret, Blithe Spirit, The Lady And The Clarinet, Sweeney Todd, Chicago, Les Miserables, next to normal, Deathtrap, Lend Me A Tenor and Jesus Christ Superstar were all recognized by the Theatre Association of NYS with multiple awards, including outstanding work by the company, outstanding performance by the orchestra, excellence in direc-

tion, and many individual actor awards.

These performances are supported with funds from Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation, Stewart's Shops, Bank of Greene County, Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Key Bank Foundation and The Ackerman Fund. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrants Program, a program of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature and administered in Columbia County by the Columbia County Council on the Arts dba. CREATE Council for the Arts.

County Players to offer annual theater tour free to the community on April 6

County Players, a local all-volunteer community theater company will help commemorate their 66th Season of producing quality theatrical productions by offering visitors a rare glimpse behind the backstage theatre magic. The troupe is opening their doors to beloved community members on Saturday, April 6 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. by hosting their Annual Theatre Tour at their County Players Falls Theatre located at 2681 W. Main, in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

Open to all, the Board of Governors invite you to go behind-the-scenes to see how our productions come together.

According to County Players Board President, Michael Boden, "County Players has been honored to be a part of the Wappingers community for over 65 years, and it is such a pleasure to share this opportunity for our neighbors to see 'behind the curtain' here at the theater. Thank you for your dedicated and continued support of County Players!"

Upon arrival, guests will receive a map highlighting stations of interest where they can learn more about the various production departments. During the self-guided tour attendees will have an opportunity to interact with several of our ded-

icated volunteer personnel, including costume, lighting and sound design, set and prop construction. There will be representatives of the creative team working on the May musical, "Ragtime", and there will even be theatrical makeup demonstrations at 1pm and 3pm. Visitors can enter a raffle to win free tickets to upcoming main stage shows, two subscriptions to the recently announced Season 67, gift certificates donated by local businesses, and all attendees also get a goodie bag!

COVID-19 POLICY: Masks are no longer required when visiting the County

Players Falls Theatre but they are strongly recommended. For full info visit <https://countyplayers.org/covid-19-policy/>

For information on the April 6 County Players' Annual Theatre Tour please visit: <https://countyplayers.org/2024-2025-events/>, you may call the Box Office: 845-298-1491, or email info@countyplayers.org

County Players Season is generously sponsored by Hudson Valley Credit Union. The County Players Falls Theatre is located at 2681 W. Main Street in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls, NY.

Call for volunteers at Wilderstein on April 6

Volunteering at Wilderstein is a fantastic way to learn about local history, make friends, and become involved in the community. Additional volunteers are needed to conduct guided tours, work in the gift shop, help maintain the landscape, and more. Retirees, work-at-home parents, college students, and anyone wishing to find out about these opportunities is invit-

ed to attend Wilderstein's annual orientation meeting for new and returning volunteers on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 am.

Three generations of the Suckley family called Wilderstein their home. The estate, with its exquisite Queen Anne mansion and Calvert Vaux designed landscape, is widely regarded as one of the Hudson Valley's most important exam-

ples of Victorian architecture. The last person to reside at Wilderstein was Margaret (Daisy) Suckley, whose remarkable friendship with Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been well-chronicled and is the subject of much interest. Wilderstein's cadre of dedicated volunteers are critical for the operation of this cultural destination that serves visitors

from around the region and the world.

Wilderstein is located at 330 Morton Road in Rhinebeck. The orientation meeting will take place at the Wilderstein Gate Lodge, just past the main entrance near the trails parking area. Coffee and refreshments will be served. For further information, call the Wilderstein Office at 845-876-4818.

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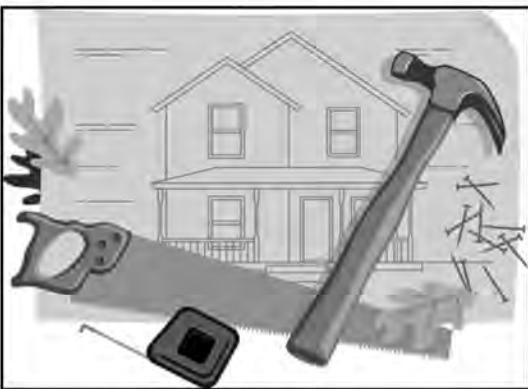
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This week's answer

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

Answers to this
week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

Puppet festival to feature regional events through April 27

The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program and Paper Heart Puppets bring the first Hudson Valley Puppet Festival to the area through April 27. The Festival will feature several events in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties.

On Saturday, March 23, 2024 (11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.), the Newburgh Free Library will host "Pirate Song" by Up in Arms Theater. This family-friendly show will take place in the BOE auditorium at the library, 124 Grand Street Newburgh, NY 12550. Main Phone: (845) 563-3600 for more information.

The month of April features "Guiding by Hand", artistic interpretations of puppets at The Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory (8 N Cherry St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) with a reception and Q&A about puppetry on April 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The festival's closing event is "A Day of International Puppetry" on April 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cornell Creative located at 129 Cornell Street, Kingston, NY 12401. This family-friendly event will feature puppet theaters from around the region in sharing their puppets, explanations of puppet mechanics, as well as make-and-take activities for all. It is part of the celebrations for the National Day of Puppetry.

The Hudson Valley Puppet Festival 2024 is partially funded by a grant from the Robert R. Chapman Fund of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley.

Brad Shur is the founder and lead artist of Paper Heart Puppets, based in Poughkeepsie, New York. For over twenty years, Brad has been creating and touring original puppetry productions that combine ancient traditions with innovative ways of connecting with audiences using puppets of all sizes, materials, and disciplines.

WOOD & STRINGS THEATRE, founded and directed by Clarissa Lega and Leon Fuller, produced original works involving nationally renowned writers, directors, puppeteers, and musicians. The company operated for 34 years with four puppeteers, five productions, and a host of astounding puppets.

Up In Arms prides itself on presenting quality shows in a fun, family musical style. They create engaging soundscapes with professional voice actors in the studio and perform our shows with professional puppeteers. Whether for schools, a theater presentation, a library show, events, or festivals, an Up In Arms story is one that audiences will never forget.

Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory is a

historic factory building located at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York. It was built in 1874 and is a eight-bay brick building. It was expanded about 1887. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. It is now a multi-use building with residential apartments, a community kitchen, a coffee house space, artist studios, and a print studio.

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District offers the community diverse services and programs resulting in an informed and educated public and will promote lifelong learning, literacy, and reading.

Since 1852, Newburgh Free Library has provided library resources that enhance our residents' quality of life. We offer lifelong learning opportunities for all ages. The library is an active community and economic development institution that addresses key issues such as literacy, job information, early childhood education, and community vitality.

Cornell Creative Arts Center (CCAC) strives to make sure that every person is supported, encouraged, empowered, and accepted into an environment where they are provided with rich opportunities to learn and grow their artistic talents. CCAC promotes exhibitions and educa-

tional programming that offer classes, workshops, gallery exhibitions, and community event space for people of any age. Our facility includes a ceramic/sculpture studio, dance/movement studio, gallery exhibition space, painting /mixed media studio, rehearsal halls for music, and creative writing, and a digital arts-media studio.

The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program researches the arts and traditions of the region's rich cultural, ethnic, religious, and occupational heritages. Through educational and public programs like Kakizome, the Folk Arts Program shares these traditions. The program is open to ideas and suggestions about how to assist in celebrating your community's heritage.

Arts Mid-Hudson is the preeminent nonprofit arts service organization serving the Mid-Hudson region. Since 1964 our initiatives have engaged and promoted the arts benefiting our artists, arts organizations, and communities. Arts Mid-Hudson provides vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson region.

For more information about Arts Mid-Hudson and future art events, sign up for the monthly E-newsletter at www.artsmidhudson.org.

Official DCSWGA Farm Tour Stops

Spring Farm Tour

Come See Us April 20, 2024
between 10am & 4pm

Point of View Farm
41 Ludlow Woods Rd, Stanfordville NY 12581 | finnsheep.net | Finnsheep@finnsheep.net |
845.868.4140

Lime Kiln Farm
523 Lime Kiln Road West Coxsackie, NY 12192 | limekilnfarm.com | bz@priello.com |
517.607.62540

Buckwheat Bridge Angoras
111 Kozlowski rd Elizaville, New York 12523 | dan-melamed@mail.com | 518.965.4603

Clover Brooke Farm
175 Ruskey Ln Hyde Park NY 12538 | cloverbrookefarm.com | cloverbrookefarm@gmail.com |
845.444.6066

Black Sheep Hill Farm
1891 Route 83 Pine Plains, NY 12567 | www.blacksheephill.com | irene@blacksheephill.com |
845.233.0937

Morehouse Farm
141 Milan Hill Road Red Hook, NY 12571 | MorehouseFarm.com | hello@morehousefarm.com |
845.758.3710

Lilymoore Farm
21 Moore Road Pleasant Valley, NY | lilymoore.com | lilymoorefarm@gmail.com | 845.605.7002

Patchwork Pastures
475 North Quaker Lane Hyde Park NY 12538 | patchworkpastures475@gmail.com | 845.380.9639

Nobletown Fiber Works
9221 ST RT 22, Hillsdale, NY 12529 | nobletownfiberworks@gmail.com | 646.285.4207

Stonykill Educational Center
79 Farmstead Lane Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 | foundation@stonykill.org | 845.831.3800

Tour our farms, shop our stores and visit with local farmers!!
Dutchess County Sheep & Wool Growers