

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH



The Walkway Over the Hudson offers a tram through the entire length of the Walkway. The Walkway also participates in two different trainings to help its ambassadors best serve visitors and fellow volunteers with autism or neurodivergent needs. *Courtesy photo*

Anderson's goal of enriching lives is essential for Emerson family



The Emerson family includes, from left Jason, Maria, Avery, Grandfather Richie Arra, Zach and Jonas. *Courtesy photo*

Access, knowledge highlight Anderson Center training

By Morgan E. Maier

Spring is upon Dutchess County, where local shops, farms and outdoor spaces have spent the off-season preparing for their guests. For a growing list of businesses and organizations welcoming a new season, that checklist includes Autism Supportive Programs, offered by Anderson Center Consulting and Training (ACCT).

Two of these include Walkway Over the Hudson and Fishkill Farms.

For visitors from Poughkeepsie, Highland and across the country, the Walkway Over the Hudson welcomes everybody to explore its 1.8-mile path above the Hudson River. For Tamara Palmateer, manager of volunteer services and programs, the knowledge gained through ACCT training translates to many levels of Walkway operations - not just to ambassadors, but also to others in leadership or supervisory roles. Palmateer and her team participated in a

two-part training with ACCT. One component was designed to teach groups about autism, how it may look, and others. The supportive employment training further equipped Tamara and her team to train ambassadors with autism or difficulties adjusting to certain stimuli.

The Walkway offers a tram through the entire length of the walkway, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., seven days a week. It was first available a few days a week as a support

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By Cynthia Baer

April is designated as Autism Acceptance Month. Formerly known as Autism Awareness Month, Autism Acceptance Month is meant to highlight the issues affecting people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families, educate the public about support services, and celebrate and destigmatize the perspectives of those living with autism.

Jason and Maria Emerson are a family of five, nine if you include their four-legged babies (two dogs and two cats). Jason is a stay-at-home dad. Maria is the Director of OBGYN at Montefiore/Nyack and also practices out of Highland Medical in two separate offices. Jonas, the oldest, is finishing up his senior year of High School at Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey and off to

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County Clerk Brad Kendall announces retirement plans



Brad Kendall

Brad Kendall announced on Monday that he will not seek a 6th term as County Clerk and will conclude his service as County Clerk at the end of his current term on December 31, 2027.

"After much thought and reflection and discussion with my family and with Barbara, my sweetheart of 48 years, I've decided to retire next year at the end of my 5th term as County Clerk. For the past 20 years, it has been a privilege to lead my dedicated co-workers in the delivery of exemplary public service," said Kendall.

He added, "I'm especially grateful to Anne-Marie Dignan, Deputy County Clerk for Legal Services, Lisa Ayala,

Deputy Clerk for DMV and Sandra Strid before her, Deanne Flynn, Secretary to the County Clerk and Will Tatum, County Historian for their leadership and service to the people of Dutchess County."

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Congratulations to my friend, Brad on an outstanding career in public service and a well-deserved retirement! For almost 40 years, Brad has made a lasting impact on our community, first at the town level and over the past three-plus decades with Dutchess County Government. Throughout his career, Brad has always put our neighbors first

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APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Access, knowledge highlight Anderson Center training

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A volunteer ambassador guides a group of children on the Walkway Over the Hudson. Courtesy photo

for people with mobility difficulties, and has since become a mainstay across the Hudson. It also inspired the Walkway to participate in two different trainings to help its ambassadors best serve visitors and fellow volunteers with autism or neurodivergent needs.

Long after ACCT training sessions, the Anderson's team continues to be a resource for the groups that run these Autism Supportive Environments. For Palmateer, Anderson is a resource that helps her organization run smoothly, whether in answering questions or assistance interacting with someone on the spectrum.

"In any type of leadership role, you want everybody to be as prepared and ready as possible. Anybody can benefit from having more training on working in the pavilions, but [the training] is specifically understanding the barrier or hurdle that people with autism generally have," said Palmateer.

Anderson Center Consulting and Training also provides additional resources to the Walkway, like the sensory kit available in the Walkway pavilions for any visitor or volunteer who may need the support. For training volunteers, Palmateer opted for a visual guide that clearly outlines tasks and expectations for ambassadors on shift. Orientation has been changed to include a clear outline of the training schedule and topics, plus overviews of bathrooms and building layouts, so volunteers can map their surroundings. This protocol is meant to alleviate any orientation stresses without singling out any prospective volunteers. Whether a person employing these on-site accommodations is working or visiting, they can make an unnerving experience a positive one.

Some groups have also visited Fishkill Farms for its commitment to accessibility. With the help of ACCT and its training program, Fishkill Farms can continue its mission for all who may hear it. Skills in teaching about healthy foods and farms

are all the more valuable for the farm's multifaceted team, now further equipped with a better understanding of guests with autism.

The training featured a point-of-view shot of a boy with autism during a visit to the mall. The sights, sounds, and enhanced lighting and noise created an environment too much for him to cope with. Where others noticed shouting or crying, trainees were looking at what the boy was seeing to invoke such a response. It was over-stimulation. Seeing a difficult scenario from a different perspective was ACCT's lasting impact on Katie Ross, Fishkill Farms' manager of marketing, communication and events.

"It's always nice to have a refresher, to keep learning and improving," said Ross. "We're a part of the community. We want to be as welcoming as possible, and we want to meet people where they're at."

ACCT is dedicated to the same, offering virtual training when a mass in-person training is not feasible. Training sessions are set around the group's individual schedules to accommodate everyone who will participate in the training. The online session worked best for the Fishkill Farms crew, without a meeting room big enough to hold the entire team. Anderson gladly obliged.

At Fishkill Farms, the impact of ACCT is not limited to in-person interactions, explained Ross. The website was also updated to include icons, an easy-to-navigate layout, and a full page about what to expect at the farm, market, or cider room.

Local businesses are seizing the opportunity to learn from the resource that is the Anderson Center Consulting and Training. There are many ways to ensure a home, organization, or event is autism-friendly – asking questions is just the first step!

Learn more about Autism Supportive training opportunities by visiting <https://www.andersoncenterforautism.org/anderson-center-consulting-training/>.

Anderson's goal of enriching lives is essential for Emerson family

continued from cover

Wesleyan University in the fall. Avery and Zachary are twins. Zach is in his junior year at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. He is a member of their pop-ensemble playing piano/keyboard. Avery loves the water, swimming, water parks, the ocean. He will also never refuse a trip to a trampoline park and is a resident at Anderson Center for Autism.

Says Jason, "When Avery was 18 months old, it became clear that he was on a different trajectory than his brothers. He began performing visual and physical stimulations and engaging in parallel play rather than fully engaged play with his brothers. Also, having a twin brother gave us a basis for comparison when observing certain milestones of development."

Willow Baer, Commissioner of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities states that, "In 2025, of more than 75 million people in the world who identify as living with autism, 35,000 live in New York State. We have certainly moved beyond the former 'awareness' and expect that people with autism are accepted just as they are, with all the diverse traits that make people unique."

When the question of differences between being aware of and acceptance of an autistic person was posed to Jason, his answer came quickly.

"That's easy," he said, "one precedes the other. It has to begin with awareness, fundamentally understanding that a 'thing' exists, that it can be studied and understood to the best of our ability. Only then, can we accept that 'thing' for what it is. You can substitute the word 'thing' with Autism or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), or for anything you want. When we approach acceptance, we learn how to coexist with that 'thing' and not attempt to suppress, change or ignore it."

That being said, Jason and Maria personify the quality of acceptance when it comes to talking about their son.

"We love Avery's intellect and his curiosity (although this can sometimes get him in trouble), which certainly keeps us on our toes. He's a great cuddle bug!" says Jason. "While some people with IDD have an aversion to touch, that is certainly not the case with Avery. He also loves trains; toy trains, cartoons about trains, 'Thomas The Tank Engine.' And he loves music - some of his favorite albums are by a band called 'They Might Be Giants.' Oh, and he loves Trader Joe's."

When Avery was approved for residential placement, Anderson Center of Autism was the first school the Emersons toured. It was also the last.

"From the moment we stepped onto the campus, we knew this would be Avery's home away from home," Jason says. "Combine the sprawling campus with the dedicated administration/leadership, the kind and compassionate staff that work in the school and residences, Anderson has it all."

The strong sense of community there makes a difference too.

Adds Jason, "This is really a strong point for Anderson, both on campus and off. They are always seeking ways to enrich the lives of the residents with activities that bring the community together. Recent on-site events included tie-dye making, a site visit by Two by Two Animal Haven, movie / bingo nights in the recreation center and an Olympic themed spirit week. Some recent off-site trips included the American Dream mall and a trip into NYC to see MJ the Musical.

As a Board Member of the Anderson Center for Autism, Jason Emerson sees first-hand how effectively Anderson is in their ability to raise awareness and foster acceptance within the community.

"They (the PR committee) do an amazing job promoting awareness for Anderson both within Dutchess County and throughout the Hudson Valley. Their messaging is multi-faceted in such that they convey their achievements in addition to offering solutions/ opportunities to families & organizations who may have otherwise been uninformed."

Case in point, as part of Autism Acceptance Month, the Village of Rhinebeck Autism Supportive Community Committee and Upstate Films, hosted a free community screening of "Autism: The Musical" on April 11. This 2007 documentary follows the lives of five autistic children who write and perform their own music. A panel discussion will follow.

Says Committee Chair, Joe Phelan, "This is just one of the many opportunities we offer to increase awareness about autism and neurodiverse populations. I hope it give people a platform to ask questions and reach a better understanding and acceptance."

These days, there are many ways to learn more about Autism. Start by typing a search for Autism Acceptance (for your geographical region).

Adds Jason, "Of our personal favorite resources is the 1 in 31: Autism Today podcast hosted by none other than 'The Voice of Anderson' Chief Development Officer Eliza Bozenski. She's been at it for many years and has hours of valuable content."

It is interesting to note that the effective title of the podcast has been forced to change over the years, as the diagnosis rates have changed. It started out as 1 in 88 and is now 1:31: Autism Today. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of ASD has risen significantly over the past two decades, with a shift from 1 in 59 children in 2014 to 1 in 31 children in 2022, based on data released in April 2025. This change reflects a trend toward increased acceptance, better awareness, improved screening, and expanded diagnostic criteria.

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Benjamin Krevolin



Walkway event honors Fred Schaeffer

By Jim Donick

Hundreds of Walkway enthusiasts gathered amidst a sea of Red Walkway Ambassador vests to honor Fred Schaeffer, the “Father of the Walkway,” on Sunday, April 12.

Though the original idea for saving the bridge belonged to Bill Sepe, it was Schaeffer who imagined it growing to be “the friendliest park in the world” and led the effort to fund it and turn it into the glorious reality it has become.

Friends of the Walkway Over the Hudson Executive Director Lori Robertson hosted the tribute and introduced a number of dignitaries, who shared recollections of Fred’s untiring efforts to build support by bringing any and all out onto the walkway when it was still just the remains of a burnt out railroad bridge.

Rob Dyson, one of Fred’s earliest supporters and collaborators, recalled being brought out to “see the view” one February day many years ago when the wind was howling and the temperature was six degrees Fahrenheit. Despite the circumstances, he was enchanted by the view and committed himself to the vision.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, knowing that the bridge has almost from its inception been known as “the great connector,” echoed the words of many in offering that same title to Schaeffer for his monumental effort in bringing so many people together to create a park that would go on to welcome people from all over the world.

Robertson finished the proceedings with the note that this event had two purposes – first and foremost, to honor Fred Schaeffer – but also to kick off the Fred Schaeffer Ambassador Legacy Fund that would serve to keep Fred’s dreams vibrant through the Walkway’s all-but-unique Ambassador Program.



Several area governmental leaders honored Fred Schaeffer on Sunday, April 12. From left are NYS Senator Rob Rolison, a representative of the Ulster County Legislature, a representative of NYS Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey, Fred Schaeffer, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and Rob Dyson, who was one of Fred’s earliest supporters and collaborators. Below, right: Serino speaks as Hinchey and Schaeffer look on. Below, left: A plaque honoring Fred Schaeffer as the “Father of the Walkway” was unveiled during the event. *Photos by Jim Donick*



County Flags lowered to honor former County Attorney Fedorchak

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has directed all Dutchess County Government facility flags to be lowered to half-staff following the death of former Dutchess County Attorney James Fedorchak last week.



James Fedorchak

“Jim Fedorchak was a devoted public servant who served the residents of Dutchess County with dedication, integrity and professionalism. He was a mentor to so many and his

positive influence continues on throughout Dutchess County Government. We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. Jim will be greatly missed,” said Serino.

Fedorchak first began in the Dutchess County Attorney’s Office in 1974, following his completion of his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law, and served until 1979. Following an expansive career practicing law in private practice, Fedorchak returned to Dutchess County Government in February 2010, serving as Dutchess County Attorney until his retirement in October 2020.

Flags will remain lowered until interment.

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More reasons to work to end the reign of our mad king

To the editor:

At this point, it is hard to say whether we are turning the final pages of the War on Iran or whether they remain chapters away. Regardless, we can be certain that this illegal and ill-conceived war that every other President of the United States knew would be disastrous has rendered America weakened, humiliated and much poorer than we were six weeks ago while strengthening our hardline enemies in Iran and Putin in Russia and leaving China as a true victor.

We have witnessed our President promise genocidal destruction and spout obscenities in efforts to reopen the straits which flowed freely before the first bombs dropped. He has threatened allies with nearly as much animosity as our enemies, and refuses to acknowledge the assistance that Ukraine is providing to us and our Gulf-state partners, even as Russia provides material assistance of arms and intelligence to the country killing our service men and women.

It has been reported that the War in Iran is costing us \$1.3 million a minute. Before the shooting stops, we're likely to exceed a trillion dollars spent on this grand misadventure.

For those who have stayed with him through the Epstein related documentation of abuse, the ICE induced terror on streets of America, the imperial disregard of courts and congress, and our shameful switching of sides in the fight for Ukraine, the only question that remains is whether this is finally enough to cause the scales to fall from the eyes of those blinded by his promises of greatness? Because this isn't it—this is simply another reason to call and work for the end of the reign of our mad king.

Mark Lagus
Town of North East

Join 'Zero Waste' to for the future health of our children

To the editor:

2026 is a pivotal year for Dutchess residents. Do we continue a 40-year practice of polluting our air, waters and grounds with tons of toxic and dangerous substances burning our trash, spending tens or hundreds of millions "upgrading" an outmoded incinerator or building an even bigger one?

Or, do we begin a real program of waste management using sustainable programs to reuse, repurpose, recycle and compost the valuable materials out of the waste stream? Most of us have noticed the amount of recycling stuff has increased whereas the

amount of real garbage has decreased, with more state restrictions soon, we hope, on the use of plastic packaging that should lessen our trash even more.

The Hudson Valley Post and WPDH reported a "study identified the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Facility in Poughkeepsie as one of the most polluting incinerators in the United States. The report found Poughkeepsie ranked in 'dirty dozen' for emissions of mercury and carbon monoxide."

Get the facts-- join our pre-Earth Day Zero Waste Dutchess Zoom Thursday, April 16th at 8 p.m. with Neil Seldman of Zero Waste USA and Mike Ewall of the Energy Justice Network-- find link/details at Zero Waste Dutchess on Facebook. It is urgent for the future health of our children that we make effort to change now-- see EnergyJustice.net, ZeroWasteUSA.org for more on cost-saving, green-jobs zero waste plans already in Delaware County, PA, Washington, DC, Montgomery County, MD, Austin, San Francisco, and Alameda County, CA-- and contact us at zerowastedutchess@gmail.com or 876-2488.

Judy Malstrom
Staatsburg

Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome expansion part of public hearing in Red Hook

To the editor,

An application has been submitted by the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome to the Red Hook Planning Board outlining a proposed expansion of its site. The application proposes approximately 66,000 square feet of new buildings to replace 11+ demolished structures, significantly increasing its parking area and moving to a year-round operation.

Since the public hearing concluded in February, new documents have been added to the record that were not previously available for the public. A request has been made to the planning board to reopen the hearing in light of these new materials so that residents can better understand its scope and ask questions. The Board is expected to discuss this request at its April 20 meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Hook Town Hall.

I ask and encourage our community and neighbors to show up at this meeting. Simply attending signals that the community is paying attention and helps demonstrate community interest.

I hope to see you there.

Mark and Marion Power
Red Hook

RED HOOK CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATE CHANGES ANNOUNCED

The Red Hook Central School District Board of Education announced the following changes in meeting dates and times:

- April 21 – Regular Board Meeting
- 5 p.m. Proposed Executive Session
- 6 p.m. Committee Meetings
- 7 p.m. Public Meeting

June 11 (Committee Meetings) – 7 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the Mill Road Elementary School PK-2 Cafeteria, unless otherwise stated.

BOARD OF ETHICS MEETING SET MAY 1

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Friday, May 1, from 10 to 11 a.m. The public has the right to attend at the Dutchess County Attorney's Conference Room, 22 Market St., 5th floor, Poughkeepsie.

Public comments will also be accepted verbally, up to three minutes per person, for a total of up to thirty minutes in the aggregate at the end of the meeting. Each person may only speak once up to three minutes.

This purpose of this meeting is to review complaints received, if any, by the Dutchess County Board of Ethics.

Sign up now for annual Taste of Rhinebeck May 6

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of "Taste of Rhinebeck," an annual event that brings the village's award-winning food and beverage scene to life through a unique, walkable tasting experience—offering a memorable night out in the Hudson Valley while supporting meaningful community causes.

The event is set May 6 from 5-8 p.m. Sign up now at the Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce website rhinebeckchamber.org.

Guests will stroll the charming streets of Rhinebeck, visiting a curated selection of restaurants, spirit shops, and specialty food retailers along the way. With more than 25 tastings included, attendees can enjoy an evening of exceptional flavors—whether exploring solo or gathering with friends.

More than a celebration of local cuisine, Taste of Rhinebeck is an opportunity to give back. Proceeds from this year's event will support American Legion Post 429 as they rebuild following last fall's devastating fire, as well as the Village Autism Supportive Community Committee and the Chamber's ongoing

give-back initiatives, including food drives, toy drives, and the Rhinebeck High School scholarship program.

Attendees may choose between two staggered start times—5 p.m. or 5:45 p.m.—designed to ensure a relaxed and enjoyable flow throughout the evening. Upon arrival, guests will be guided along a designated tasting path, allowing them to fully experience each stop without overcrowding.

Throughout the evening, interactive experiences will showcase the meaningful strides Rhinebeck and its partners have made toward environmental sustainability, adding an engaging and educational element to the event.

Rain or shine, Taste of Rhinebeck will go on, with tents and coverings in place to ensure a comfortable experience for all guests.

Save the date, spread the word, and prepare to indulge—Rhinebeck's most flavorful night of the year awaits.

For local business owners, this is also a unique opportunity to gain visibility while aligning your brand with a beloved community event.



2026 Hudson Valley AI Summit explores ethics, integrating technology into workforce

From County reports

POUGHKEEPSIE — Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming governments, businesses and impacting decision making as well as policy, making it essential for individuals and organizations to understand this technology and how to ethically integrate it into daily operations. To help local organizations including municipalities, school districts, fire and police agencies, nonprofit organizations, local businesses and others on their paths to transforming AI into practical solutions, the Dutchess County Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS), in partnership with Marist University, hosted its fifth free technology-centered summit, the Hudson Valley AI Summit on April 9 on Marist's Poughkeepsie campus, with more than 200 people in attendance.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "As businesses and organizations continue to incorporate AI into their day-to-day operations to support their workforce and boost efficiency, it's important to keep ethics at the forefront of those efforts. Using AI responsibly helps make sure we continue to build trust, empower people, and improve our work on behalf of our residents. We are so grateful to the team at OCIS for encouraging thoughtful conversations and learning around this ever-evolving technology, and to Marist University for once again hosting the Hudson Valley AI Summit and giving our region a great space to explore what's next."

At the summit, experts, including representatives from private sector industry leaders, educational institutions, and New York State and County agencies, discussed topics such as:

- Integrating ethics into practical AI solutions;
- The foundations of AI, including literacy, ethics and workforce development;
- Putting AI to work, including how to prepare attendees' teams for success with AI and operational efficiency;
- How to apply AI to real-world problems; and
- AI in various settings such as healthcare and clinical applications, and emergency management.

OCIS Commissioner Stephen Oscarlece said, "Our Hudson Valley AI Summit continues to be an important forum for exploring how artificial intelligence and technology can strengthen public and private sector work environ-

ments. It's vital that we keep focusing on how to integrate these tools ethically and effectively by protecting personal information and maintaining meaningful human interaction. We are proud to continue this important conversation and are grateful to Marist University leadership for their support."

Dutchess County Government is leveraging AI for efficiency and provide better service to the public. Currently, AI is used to streamline tasks such as refine or compare versions of documents to identify missing information, conduct research or review large volumes of information. Employees use AI to develop information content for the public that is easy to understand with plain language rather than complicated acronyms or government jargon. The Department of Community & Family Services is looking to implement a new AI-powered call center to safely and securely answer calls about temporary assistance benefits and guide people through the intake process, helping to get applications completed faster and improve client satisfaction.

To guide AI integration in County operations, OCIS is working on various staff trainings and further developing the County's AI policy to ensure the technology is utilized responsibly, with strong standards for ethics, security, accountability, and transparency.

"As part of Marist's commitment to preparing every student for an AI-driven future, I've spent the past two years as co-chair of the University's AI Steering Committee working with colleagues and students to articulate our vision for this technology," said Dr. Kevin Gaugler, Assistant Dean of Marist's School of Liberal Arts. "This summit is exciting because it gives us a chance to put that vision into practice, with education, industry, government, and healthcare in the same room in conversation with one another. That kind of cross-sector dialogue is the best way we will all best address both the challenges and the opportunities that AI presents."

Last week, Marist University released a bold and comprehensive institutional AI strategy designed to ensure every student—across all majors—graduates prepared to thrive in an increasingly AI-driven world. The Marist+AI strategy was designed to look to the future while remaining grounded in the University's commitment to a liberal arts education, experiential learning, and technological innovation.



From left, Gary Albaugh, Vice President of Innovation & Development at MicroTheory Engineering; Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Chief AI Officer for the State of New York; Ron Hicks, Assistant County Executive for Economic Development for Dutchess County Government. At the April 9 Hudson Valley AI Summit, experts, including representatives from private sector industry leaders and New York State and County agencies, discussed topics such as integrating artificial intelligence into workforce development initiatives. Over 200 attended the Summit, held by the Dutchess County Office of Central & Information Systems, in partnership with Marist University, at Marist's Poughkeepsie campus. *Courtesy photos*



County Clerk Brad Kendall announces retirement plans

continued from cover

and has been a mentor to me since I began in elected office. I am so very lucky to call him a friend and to have worked with him all these years. His dedication to his team and community shines in how he rolls up his sleeves and works alongside them at the counter in the DMV. We are glad he's not leaving quite yet, and we look forward to continuing our work together over the next year and half before he begins his next chapter of life that is sure to be filled with joy, relaxation, and precious time with his family."

As for the next 21 months, Kendall said he is looking forward to the implementation of electronic filing in the criminal court of Dutchess County, finalizing the Clean Slate Act and completion of the renovations of the 1st and 2nd floor of the County Office Building.

"Thank you to all those I work with. You continue to make every day a great

day," said Kendall.

He was first appointed to public service as a member of the Town of Dover Planning Board in 1988. In 1993, he was elected to the Dutchess County Legislature representing first the residents of Dover and then the residents of Dover and Union Vale. In 2000, he was elected Chair of the County Legislature, a position he held for the next seven years.

On December 29, 2006, Kendall was appointed by then Governor George Pataki to fill the unexpired term of retiring County Clerk Colette Lafuente. He was subsequently elected County Clerk in 2007 and reelected in 2011, 2015, 2029 and 2023.

He has previously served as President of the New York State Association of County Clerks and received the Association's Lifetime Achievement award in 2019.

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Tough start as HV drops 5 of 6 games to Blue Rocks

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades lost their first home series to the Wilmington Blue Rocks, High-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals. The early-season matchup saw quite a few cold evenings, debuts, and some final score *deja vu* as Wilmington took 5 of 6 from the Renegades.

CRAZY 8s

The Renegades allowed exactly 8 runs in three of four losses to Wilmington, and twice fell by a score of 8-6. The first, the Renegades started the homestand with some free baseball, punctuated by a Camden Troyer's quasi-inside-the-park home run. If the wind had taken the ball a few inches further out, Troyer would have had an easier commute to home plate. Instead, it was fortuitously booted by a Wilmington outfielder as Troyer headed around second. Ultimately scored as a double on a fortuitous error in the outfield, Camden's carousel around the bases tied the game for the 'Gades. Wilmington later sealed the extra innings win with three runs in the top of the 11th. The Renegades dropped another 8-6 decision on Saturday, April 11, after Wilmington put up 5 runs in the 4th inning (they'd done the same on Wednesday, April 8, to propel an 8-3 win). The streaky scoring for Wilmington was too much for the Renegade offense to undo.

Xs and Os

Renegades batters are showing discipline to start the year, with the second-fewest (as of April 11) strikeouts in the South Atlantic League (SAL). The pitchers have the second-most punchouts, with 89. Baserunning numbers tipped heavily in favor of Wilmington this series, with the majority of runs scored via clusters in a single inning. Pitchers are further being burned by bases on balls. Hudson Valley pitching is tied with the Asheville Tourists for third-most walks (42) in the league, just behind Brooklyn (44) and Greensboro (43).

What stings worse than the league-leading 11 opposing batters plunked by Renegades' pitching, Hudson Valley is third-fewest in runs scored. They were outscored 32-20 by the Blue Rocks. Renegades have the fourth-fewest hits with 47; Wilmington is just behind with 43. A steady offensive performance by catcher Eric Genter (9-for-18, 1 RBI, 2 R) highlighted Hudson Valley's offense against the Blue Rocks homestand. Three multihit games, including a 3-5 performance in the opener, were an especially eye-catching element of Genter's six-game hitting streak. Genter didn't get on base in the finale, which the Renegades lost 5-2.

Serna & Cebert stretch starts

The Yankees were one-hit by the Athletics for a loss on April 9. Hudson Valley followed the lead that evening,



Hudson Valley Renegades infielder Roderick Arias slides headfirst into third base during a game against Wilmington last week. Photo by Dave Janosz

handing Wilmington its own combined one-hit shutout. Starter Luis Serna was fierce, fanning 10 Blue Rocks and allowing just one baserunner in seven stellar innings. In a bounce-back outing from the extra-inning loss on April 7, Tony Rossi earned the save on a six-pitch out. On April 11, Jack Cebert went 7.1 innings with 8 strikeouts on April 10. He'd give up just two earned runs, but the Renegades' offense stalled after a single

first-inning score. Hudson Valley loaded the bases in the ninth, but would leave all three stranded in the 3-1 loss.

The Renegades close out the first full-length series with a 3-5 overall record and hold 5th place in the South Atlantic League. The 'Gades will next travel to Maryland to face the fourth-place Frederick Keys, now the Baltimore Orioles' High-A affiliate after replacing the Aberdeen Ironbirds.

Pitchers Kohn, Serna have strong debuts for Renegades

By Morgan E. Maier

Within the plethora of new faces on the Hudson Valley Renegades pitching staff, two starters dealt a win in their debuts. Pico Kohn and Luis Serna dominated in their Renegades debuts, while their longevity and the capacity to hold a lead supported batters and the bullpen alike.

Signed out of Mississippi State in July 2025, Pico Kohn began his professional debut with a three-pitch strikeout on Opening Day. His deceptive delivery had the Brooklyn Cyclones spinning and guessing incorrectly, to the tune of 8

strikeouts. Kohn went 5.2 strong innings, allowing just three hits, including a solo home run. He escaped a bases-loaded jam with the Renegades leading Brooklyn 2-1, powered by a pitching repertoire and temperament of a seasoned veteran.

The Alabama native garnered national attention as a high schooler, rolling to a 9-2 record his senior year, with a minuscule 1.17 earned run average (ERA). He began in the bullpen at Mississippi State before a UCL injury sidelined him in 2023 and most of 2024. Kohn and his nipping slider returned with vigor and a slide into the Bulldogs' starting rotation. As a redshirt junior in 2025, the lefty led

the Bulldogs to the Tallahassee Regional, where they were eliminated by eventual College World Series contender Florida State. Six weeks later, the Yankees drafted Kohn in the fourth round, the 134th pick.

Serna similarly dazzled in his April 9 High-A debut. The right-hander, revered for his change-up, . He threw 74% (63 of 85) of pitches for strikes, only walking one Blue Rock. Just 21 years old, Serna joined the Yankees organization in 2021. As a member of the FCL Yankees, Serna was a Baseball America rookie All-Star in 2022. He amassed a 1.96 ERA in 41.1

innings pitched, while striking out 56. He set a career high in strikeouts in Single-A Tampa in his penultimate start of 2024, before missing all but four games for the Tarpons in 2025. The Mexico native, primed by years of experience in the prospect leagues south of the border, looks to continue elevating his performance in High-A.

Kohn was placed on the 7-day injured list following his outing, but Serna will likely make his second start in Maryland for the Renegades' first-ever faceoff with the Frederick Keys, April 14-19.



Luis Serna allowed just one hit in seven innings and matched a career-high with 10 strikeouts against Wilmington batters last week. Photo by Dave Janosz

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Month of the Military Child recognizes unique challenges for service members' children



They bring a tear to the eye of even the most hardened of us: videos of deployed service members, surprising their children after months away from home. It might be a fatigue-clad mom walking into her son's classroom, as he runs into her waiting arms, hugging her as tightly as possible. Perhaps it's Dad, in full military uniform, emerging from the opposite dugout as his daughter steps to the plate, the two sharing an embrace more meaningful than any play on the diamond.

The emotions are undeniable – a parent's love for their child, the kids' relief knowing that, at least for now, Mom or Dad are home and out of harm's way – and these videos share a glimpse into the lives of countless military families across the country. We often talk about the burden military spouses face, and rightly so; all too often, though, the plight of troops' children doesn't seem to get the same attention.

In April, our nation pauses to recognize the sacrifices of the sons and daughters of our dedicated service members. Established in 1986, the Month of the Military Child is a time to celebrate the more than 1.6 million kids with parents in the service, many of whom deal with frequent moves and being away from their parents during deployments.

As the Director of the Dutchess

County Office of Veterans Affairs, I've been fortunate to have met many military families and can say with certainty their children carry a unique and often unseen burden, a unique stress that deserves our respect, understanding and support.

Military children grow up in a world defined by their parent's service. While most of their friends measure time by birthdays or their year in school, children of service members often measure time by relocations, deployments and their parent's homecomings. These kids know all too well what it means to say goodbye, often for months at a time, and never knowing exactly when Mom or Dad will return. Goodbyes like these are never easy; rather, they are a mixture of pride and quiet strength coupled with uncertainty and worry.

Life for a military son or daughter can be very different than their peers' childhoods. Picking up and moving are common occurrences for these kids; that often means attending numerous schools before graduating high school. Each of those moves means a fresh start in another school: making new friends, adjusting to new teachers and learning a new community. Sure, this can build adaptability and confidence, but it often brings a sense of loneliness and instability.

No matter where they currently call

home, children's responsibilities can shift when a parent is deployed. It might mean older kids take on extra chores like helping care for their siblings or being the moral support for the parent left at home. Younger kids often can face a hard time adjusting to the change in routine, or they might feel a bigger mental load than they're prepared for, worrying about their parent's safety or finding their absence during birthdays, holidays and school events too much to bear.

Still, military children can be remarkably resilient in how they deal with these challenges: learning to adapt, staying strong and supporting one another – the same traits their parents in uniform display every day. Not just that, they take great pride in their parent's service, which teaches them about commitment and sacrifice, setting them up to become capable, compassionate young adults who value service and community.

Aware of all that these children face each day, we each have an opportunity to support them, knowing that even a small act of kindness can have a big impact. Teachers can show empathy for the child's living situation and welcome them to their latest school. Classmates can offer to be a child's first friend in their new hometown. In Dutchess County, we continue to be a community that embraces our service members, offering

countless services and programs to support their families.

Our partners at the New York State Department of Veterans' Services is honoring military children this month with free events throughout the state, including a pair in the Hudson Valley this weekend. On Saturday, April 18, the State will host a free day of fun at Legoland New York in Goshen (Orange County), beginning at 11 a.m. On Sunday, April 19, military children and their families can enjoy a free visit to the U.S.S. Intrepid, the floating museum docked at Pier 86 in New York City, starting at 10:30 a.m. Each of these events are free, but registration is required by emailing benjamin.pomerance@veterans.ny.gov.

The Month of the Military Child reminds us that service to our nation isn't limited to those who wear the uniform. Service members' loved ones, particularly their children, also face sacrifices that are unique but no less selfless than those made by their parent in the Armed Forces. In the face of uncertainty, these children display courage; in times of change, they demonstrate strength; facing life's most difficult moments, they are often their family's hope.

Each of these kids, no matter their age, deserve our kindness, respect and gratitude – not just in April, but every day.

Groups call on Hochul to pass ASAP Act

Assemblymember Didi Barrett's office announced in a press release that a coalition of more than 50 environmental, labor and civic organizations, led by the New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA), is calling on state leaders to pass the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act in the State Budget. The ASAP Act is sponsored by Barrett (D-106th Assembly District) and Sen. Pete Harckham (D-40th Senate District), along with 84 cosponsors in the Senate and Assembly.

As Gov. Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature continue to negotiate the FY2027 State Budget, the coalition has met with lawmakers in Albany multiple times over the past few weeks, including recently hand delivering a letter to Hochul outlining their request.

According to the release, the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act (S.6570-A/A.8758-A) would expand access to rooftop and community ("distributed") solar energy by modernizing interconnection to lower costs, incentivizing solar development, and ensuring there is equitable distribution of renewable energy benefits. New York currently has nearly 8 gigawatts of rooftop and community solar up and running, and the State is on track to achieve its 10 gigawatt by 2030 goal 3-years ahead of schedule. The legislation would increase New York State's distributed solar target to 20 gigawatts by 2035, ensuring continued growth in a proven and successful clean energy sector.

The release also states that a January 2026 analysis by Synapse Energy Economics found that deploying 20

gigawatts of rooftop and community solar would save New Yorkers \$1 billion per year in avoided energy costs, savings that flow to all ratepayers through lower wholesale electricity prices. In addition to helping bring down skyrocketing utility prices, the increased investment in solar energy, as prescribed by the ASAP Act, would reduce New York State's exposure to global fossil-fuel price swings brought about by the current war in the Middle East.

"The ASAP Act is receiving wide support statewide because it will save residents over \$1 billion annually, enhance grid reliability and create well-paying jobs and new industries in New York," stated Harckham, chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation. "It will lead to cleaner, healthier air to breathe in communities as well. All this and the risks inherent with fossil-fuel dependency make our commitment to solar energy needed more today than ever before."

Barrett, chair of the Assembly's Energy Committee, said: "With an unprecedented energy affordability crisis and a hostile federal administration set on hindering our efforts to combat climate change, it is critical that New York State double down on the success of distributed solar – the only climate goal we've been able to meet and exceed – and streamline the interconnection process to get these projects online quicker. The ASAP Act is a win-win-win for New York, and I stand with my colleagues and advocates from across the state in urging its inclusion in the Final 2026-27 New York State Budget!"

Grace Church Millbrook to host 'Great Whale of a Weekend' Rummage Sale

Grace Church Millbrook invites the community to its annual Great Whale of a Weekend Rummage Sale, taking place Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19 in the Parish Hall.

Shoppers will find hundreds—perhaps thousands—of quality items priced to sell quickly. Offerings include antiques and collectibles, clean clothing, children's toys, books, puzzles, games, household goods, glassware, sports equipment, bookshelves, furniture, jewelry, linens, bedding, and more. All items must go.

Fresh baked goods will also be available for purchase.

Sale hours are:

Friday, April 17: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, April 18: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, April 19: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$5 Bag Sale Day)

Proceeds from the rummage sale will support Grace Church's community outreach programs.

The Parish Hall is located at 3328 Franklin Avenue in Millbrook, directly across from the Millbrook Bandshell.

For more information, call the office at (845) 677-3064, visit www.gracemillbrook.org, or follow Grace Church on Facebook or Instagram.

Donations of items are welcome; contact the church office for details. (Please note: only new electronics will be accepted.)

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The Ridge School is a New York State Board of Regents Accredited School, Not-for-profit organization located in Dutchess County, New York dedicated to the creation of a rich and positive setting for students who are not succeeding in their current educational placements. The Ridge School is a day school for students who are diagnosed with High Functioning Autism.

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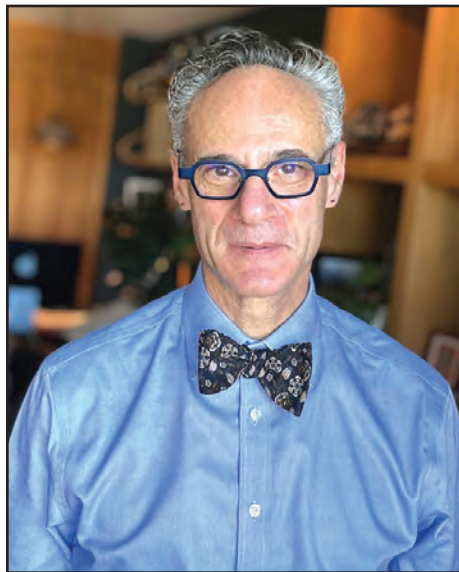


Community Foundations announces key leadership hire to support growth, impact

Building upon the nonprofit's momentum in driving impactful change in the Hudson Valley, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) announced the recent addition of Senior Vice President of Development, Benjamin Krevolin, to the CFHV team. Krevolin's leadership will aid in strengthening the organization's grantmaking and will expand its programming. Particularly, his involvement will bolster CFHV's capacity-building training series that equips local nonprofits with the tools and resources they need to thrive.

"Bringing Benjamin onto our leadership team reflects both where we are as an organization and where we're going," said Laura Washington, president and CEO of CFHV. "His experience, vision and deep connections to the Hudson Valley will help us grow our impact and better serve our community of nonprofit partners, fund holders and donors."

Krevolin has 25 years of experience in fundraising, arts administration and nonprofit leadership. A Stone Ridge resident raised in Poughkeepsie, Krevolin most recently served as the Director of Development for Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County and the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, following his role as Chief Advancement Officer for Bard Graduate Center. He also previously served as President of Arts Mid-Hudson, where he oversaw grantmaking, technical assistance and advocacy efforts, and held roles at Vassar College supporting scholarships, faculty research and capital



Benjamin Krevolin

initiatives. Krevolin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vassar College and a post-graduate diploma from The Juilliard School. He remains deeply engaged in the Hudson Valley community through board service and regional leadership.

Krevolin will play a critical role in advancing CFHV's mission of strengthening philanthropy in the Hudson Valley, supporting nonprofit organization partners and addressing the evolving needs of communities throughout the region.

For more information about Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and its work, visit CommunityFoundationsHV.org.

Red Cross: Give blood or platelets

In April, the American Red Cross asks people to keep patients top of mind by making an appointment to give blood or platelets. The need for blood doesn't take a spring break, and acting now can ensure blood is available in the coming weeks at medical centers. Regular donors of all blood types and those looking to give for the first time are encouraged to make days brighter this spring for those in need.

April is National Volunteer Month, and the Red Cross celebrates the kindness of blood donors and those who volunteer their time. There is no substitute for blood – volunteer donors are essential to patient care. Blood Program Leaders and Blood Donor Ambassadors are the heartbeat of our work at blood donation centers and community blood drives.

Book a time to give blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

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Claverack: 4/28, 1-5 p.m., A. B. Shaw Fire Company, 67 NY-23

DUTCHESS

Amenia: 4/28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Olivet Academy - Gym, 425 Morse Hill Rd

Hyde Park: 4/24, noon-5 p.m., Moose Lodge 904, 1273 NY-9G

Poughkeepsie: 4/22, noon-5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Poughkeepsie: 4/25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Family Partnership Center, 29 N Hamilton St

Rhinebeck: 4/22, 1-5:30 p.m., Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club, 140 Enterprise Rd.

Tivoli: 4/23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., The Masonic Lodge in Tivoli, 7 N Rd

GREENE

Cairo: 4/22, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Cairo Durham High School, Route 145

Catskill: 4/23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Catskill High School, 341 West Main Street

ORANGE

Middletown: 4/18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., New Beginnings House of Worship, 11 Mulberry St

Monroe: 4/25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd.

New Windsor: 4/22, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., New Windsor Community, 555 Union Ave

Port Jervis: 4/28, 1-6 p.m., Port Jervis Elks Lodge 645, 35 US-6

ULSTER

Highland: 4/17, noon-5 p.m., Highland Hose Company 1, 25 Milton Ave

Kingston: 4/17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church, 104 Wurts St

Kingston: 4/20, noon-5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St

New Paltz: 4/17, noon-5 p.m., Christ the King Charismatic Episcopal Church, 2 Eugene L Brown Dr

Wallkill: 4/29, 1-6 p.m., Wallkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge St

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Hyde Park Food Pantry to host Open House April 22

HYDE PARK – The Hyde Park Food Pantry, Inc. will host a community Open House on Wednesday, April 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., at its facility located at 4337 Albany Post Road. The event serves as a formal "thank you" to the residents and businesses of Hyde Park for their unwavering support during the food crisis triggered by last fall's federal shutdown.

The Open House offers a unique opportunity for neighbors to see the inner workings of an organization that serves as a vital safety net for the region. Currently, the pantry fulfills its mission by providing 45 to 50 local families with a three-day supply of food for every family member, twice each month.

"The community is incredibly responsive to our needs," said Walter Ring, President of the Hyde Park Food Pantry. "Donations of food, financial contributions, and the dedicated time of our volunteers are what allow us to keep our doors open. We want to welcome

everyone in to see the impact of that collective effort."

Event highlights include:

- Tours & Education: Guided tours of the facility and insights into how food distribution is managed.

- Behind the Scenes: Information regarding organizational structure, funding sources, and the critical roles played by volunteers.

- Community Connection: Meet the neighbors who volunteer their time; light refreshments will be served. The Hyde Park Food Pantry is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in the Hyde Park area. Whether you are a long-time donor or someone interested in learning how to get involved, the pantry staff and board members look forward to welcoming you.

RSVP is requested to hpfoodpantrydc@hpfoodpantry.org For more information, contact Walter Ring at (845) 275-7727.

NETWORKING AND MUCH MORE WITH THE HYDE PARK CHAMBER



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce expressed "great networking, strong community vibes, and even a little filming happening behind the scenes" at their meeting at Coppola's Bistro last week.

A big thank you went to Rob Pollard from the Hyde Park Recreation for sharing all the exciting happenings in the local parks and programs

A special shout out went to Ron & Cathy Lane and DACK Consulting Solutions (above) for sponsoring the event—we truly appreciate your support!

Members were excited to be partnering with Dutchess BOCES on new video projects. Stay tuned, there's more to come!

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The peculiar purgative of Medieval monasteries

One of my outside chores is curbing the growth of plants that I have deemed “yucky.” I’m referring to vegetation flourishing in the woods that is taking over large sections. My Yuck List mirrors the many invasive species identified by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the DEC. They include Multiflora Rose, Japanese Barberry and others. One day, whilst performing my duties, I directed my loppers to, what I now call, The Spiny Scatbush. It is more commonly known as Buckthorn.

Coming to America

In its native European range, Buckthorn is a hardy shrub that is kept in check by insects, herbivores and pathogens that have co-evolved with it. It forms effective natural barriers. It provides nectar for pollinators. Its unique two-tone quality makes it desirable for small-scale furniture and décor objects. Its density makes it a slow-burning firewood.

Settlers brought Buckthorn to America in the 19th century as a fast-growing hedge. But, by the early 1900s, the shrub started to dominate due to its many adap-

tations. Buckthorn has an extended growing season and shades out natives; Here, it has few pests or diseases to control its spread. It alters the soil’s chemistry, thus inhibiting the growth of surrounding plants. It is prolific because birds eat the berries and evacuate the seeds over long distances.

Anthraquinone

Some plants, such as Wild Senna, Rhubarb and Buckthorn, produce anthraquinones for defense against microorganisms. Separately, anthraquinones stimulate bowel contractions and cause diarrhea. Despite this painful effect, wildlife will consume Buckthorn during harsh winters. But, generally, animals learn to avoid eating plants with the toxin.

Not people

The Church of England Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban is a significant historic site. Prior to construction of a welcome center, an archaeological excavation unearthed graves containing remains of individuals from the Norman

continued on page 11



Right: Buckthorn berries are green in early summer (photo by Francine Wizner) and ripen to purple in September-October (photo by Matt Lavin from Bozeman, Montana, USA Wikipedia CC Buckthorn). Left: Buckthorn leaves. Photo by Francine Wizner

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

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Period (c. 911-1204 CE). Found evidence suggests that the decedents included monks, dignitaries and early benefactors of the monastery, then known as the Benedictine Abbey at St Albans.

Biomarkers in the skeletal remains, as well as further excavations of the surrounding orchard, provided details of medieval monastic life within the community. Characteristics of the bones, such as thickness, mineral density and collagen levels, indicate that the decedents ate rich animal protein diets and had ailments such as obesity. Typically, arm bones from the general population of that era exhibit joint degeneration and asymmetry from manual work. The decedent's arm symmetry indicates that they led more sedentary lives.

In earlier excavations at St Albans, researchers discovered prodigious amounts of Buckthorn seeds mixed with fragments of cloth in the abbey's cesspits. The quantity of seeds, along with the textile "lavatory paper" suggests that monks routinely used Buckthorn as a purgative. The berries were made palatable as a spiced syrup.

Middle Age MiraLAX

Medical belief at the time was that health required a balance of "humors." Imbalances, rather than infections, were thought to cause illness. Treatments were intended to remove excess fluids and restore physical and spiritual alignment. They included the use of agents to induce sweating, bloodletting (therapeutic phlebotomy), emetics (to induce vomiting) and purgatives (to cause bowel contraction).

Medieval peasants ate seasonal, plant-based diets. That was viewed as too

coarse for the refined stomachs of the elite. Monastic consumption at high-status abbeys included up to 6,000 calories a day of meat, fish, eggs and white bread. Clergy followed patterns of strict fasting, followed by days of feasting. It wouldn't be surprising if they suffered from excess weight and constipation.

Monasteries, such as St Albans, were the centers of knowledge and healthcare of the day. As such, they maintained herb gardens and medical guides. Indeed, a suite of medicinal herbs have been found growing at St Albans. Among them: Buckthorn. Humoral Theory would have prescribed it as a means of managing chronic constipation.

History and honor

The unearthed medieval remains were studied to understand the abbey's early history. That purpose has been served; the decedents were subsequently reburied. They were not placed on public display for ethical and religious reasons. Among the archeological discoveries were the remains of Abbot John of Wheathampstead, whose work influenced the restoration of St Albans after the plague. A lifelike digital reconstruction of Abbot John's face is on display in the exhibition area; his remains were reburied in a vault near the Shrine of St Alban.

The Spiny Scatbush

Beyond the "cathartic" purge attributed to Buckthorn berries, they were also a source of pigments in medieval manuscript illumination. St Albans would have used them in its scriptorium. They were used for illustration in North America in the early to mid-19th century, as well. Today, the invasive could be



made to positive use by woodworkers or natural dye artisans. I wish someone would make a constructive application of the Buckthorn growing locally.

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://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.



A bowl and trees crafted from Buckthorn by Roy Jacobsen of Fargo, North Dakota. Photos courtesy of the artist

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

Suguru

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

THEME: FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

ACROSS

- Double's trick
- Pick
- Marching band member
- North one or South one, in Asia
- Morse Code dash
- Root of iris
- Indian black tea
- Mother lode stuff
- Disinclined
- *Mad as a _____
- *Fit as a _____
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- *_____ A Sketch
- R&R destination
- Table, in Mexico
- Aerie baby
- Otter's den
- *_____ as a button
- Type of union
- Axillary, in biology
- *Bored to _____
- Fit of shivering
- Treated with calcium hydroxide
- Recipe amt.
- Not fiction
- *Lawrence and DiCaprio movie "Don't _____"
- Like some hard times
- *To the _____ degree
- Not less
- *Hi-_____ graphics
- *Fly off the _____
- *Storm in a _____
- Louisiana swamp
- *"_____ whiz!"
- Did like a lunatic
- Mr. T and friends
- *Am is to I a _____ is to we
- Certain pudding ingredient
- Mosquito net, e.g.
- Local area network
- Leavening agent

DOWN

- Reggae's cousin
- Silly talk
- Minor one in the sky
- Not o'er
- Type of gong instrument
- *_____ -Eaters
- *_____ for the course
- *"Grand _____ Auto"
- Walked on
- Caspian Sea feeder
- *"Take a _____ Out of Crime"
- Type of tree
- Idiom for outdated or trite (2 words)
- Tape deck button
- *Break the _____
- Palatable
- *_____ we dance?
- President Franklin Roosevelt's diagnosis
- *"Remember the _____!"
- Cooking grease
- Tennis' Steffi
- Flotsam and jetsam alternative
- Something educated
- *By the skin of your _____
- Hiker's journey
- Gaelic language
- *_____ tire
- Lollipop brand
- D.C. mover and shaker
- Not very far
- Fit for a king
- Go "Boo!"
- *A _____-hate relationship
- Pirates' affirmatives
- Famous flood survivor
- *Nirvana's "Smells Like _____ Spirit"
- Iris holder
- *Three _____ in a pod
- "Kapow!"
- Pitcher's stat
- Banned insecticide, acr.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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71						72				73				



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



Vacation adventures

There's never a dull moment...

Vacations in my family were never a relaxing, wonderful trip. They always ended that way, but the trips to and from never were easy. Something always happened, and usually it was because either they didn't understand my father or he didn't understand them.

This happened throughout my life with my parents. Whether it was getting a ticket for going through a YELLOW light, or getting held up in customs because we had a coconut in our suitcase, something always seemed to happen.

This particular adventure happened a long time ago when my father was taking a trip to Florida by himself.

My father always brought his homemade wine with him when they went down to their condo in Florida, and usually there was never any problem. The sight of two older Italians usually got my parents certain privileges. However, this time in particular, my mom was not traveling with my father, and he realized that things are totally different when you're alone.

My mom drove my father to Stewart airport early. It was 6 a.m., and the airport was pretty empty. My mother pulled up to the curb and noticed a police car parked at the curb in front of her. She went up to the officer's window to let him know that she was going to help my father bring his luggage inside. Quickly she realized that the officer was fast asleep in his car. Figuring that she would be in and out before he woke up, she helped my father bring his luggage inside.

Into the airport they walked, lugging luggage and a box of wine, tied up with string. Not only was the box tied with string, it was tied up well enough that there was no way in hell anyone would be able to untie the box and retie it. This box looked like it was ready to travel overseas on the Titanic.

So, my mother helped my father to the

check-in counter, kissed him goodbye and went back to the car. By the time she got out to the car, the officer was awake and furious that someone had parked a car at the curb and right behind him. So here comes my mother, this little Old Italian lady walking out to her car, not realizing that you were not allowed under any circumstances to park at the curb of an airport.

In the meantime, my father was explaining to the counter person that this cardboard box was filled with bottles of homemade wine. They wanted him to untie this box that would give Harry Houdini a hard time. He was having a difficult time explaining to them in his broken English that he did this all the time, and there never was a problem. They didn't care, and they wanted him to open the box. After much debate, the now exhausted flight stewards allowed him to check the box, and on he went to the checkpoint to get scanned before to the waiting area.

In the meantime, outside, my mother was getting yelled at by this officer because she had left the car at the curb. Once he was done yelling at her, she looked him right in the eyes and in full Italian mother mode, explained to him, that if he wasn't asleep in the car, she would have been able to tell him what was going on; and if he really wanted to pursue this any further, she would be more than happy to tell his boss, that he was asleep in the car instead of watching what was going on at the airport. She then scolded him for harassing a little old lady and told him that if he were his son, she would smack him for being so disrespectful.

In the meantime, Pop was setting off alarms at the check point. After taking off his belt, shoes, wallet, chain, watch, wedding ring, and glasses, he still set off the alarm. So now they had to strip search him. My father started to protest, saying

that he was an old man and this was a complete waste of time. However, all they heard was this unrecognizable accent; and in the post-911 world, he had to be searched.

Back at the curb, the poor officer was apologizing to my mother for yelling at her and asking if he could go help my father inside. My mother told him that she already did, and now it was time for her to go home. She then got in her car and drove away while this poor shell-shocked officer was left at the curb watching her drive away.

Back inside, my father had stripped down, and the TSA officers were realizing that my father's back brace had metal clips on it, and that was what was setting off the alarms. So my father got his back brace hooked back up, got dressed again, all the while cursing out the TSA agents for harassing a little old man and making him undress. Those poor TSA agents didn't know what to do or say. First of all, they didn't understand a thing that he was saying, and second, they were afraid to. So, when he was done getting dressed and cursing them all out, off he went to his flight.

That night, I was at my mother's house for dinner, and she was telling me her part of the story. She made one of my favorite dishes, Roasted Chicken with Potatoes. She was telling me her story, not realizing what had happened to her husband. Earlier that day, my father called me to let me know that he had arrived and told me his story. So, while my mother was telling me about what happened to her outside the airport, I was reliving what happened to my father at the same time inside the airport. It was like an Abbot and Costello movie!

You almost feel bad for the people at Stewart airport, don't you? While you are thinking about this little story, please enjoy the recipe for Roasted Chicken with Potatoes.

ROASTED CHICKEN WITH POTATOES

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. chicken, legs or breasts of even size
- 20 fresh sage leaves
- 5 potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper, to taste

Method

1. Season chicken with salt and pepper; set aside. Finely chop 4 of the sage leaves; set aside.

2. In large ovenproof skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; fry garlic and remaining whole sage leaves until garlic is lightly browned, 1 minute. With slotted spoon, set sage aside for garnish. Remove garlic and chop; set aside. Brown chicken, in batches, 5 to 6 minutes. Transfer to plate.

3. Add potatoes to pan. Sauté until browned, about 7 minutes. Pour off fat. Return chicken and any accumulated juices to pan. Add wine, remaining salt and pepper, and reserved chopped garlic and chopped sage; bring to boil.

4. Place the entire pan into the oven and roast at 425 degrees, basting 2 or 3 times, until sauce is thickened and juices run clear when chicken is pierced, 30 minutes. Serve garnished with reserved fried sage leaves.

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.

EXHIBITIONS

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through April:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is Ivars Sprogis, whose works encompass oils and watercolors. At 12 Vassar St., mixed media painter Kevin Sterne is featured in the Reception Gallery and Shirley Tuttle brings her acrylic works of art to the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 7:** "Bunmei Kaika: Political Landscape in Early Modern and Modern Japan," the exhibition examines the drastic shift in Japan's national identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While this was a time of major political and social upheaval for the nation, it was also a time of expansion and modernization. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theleob>

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

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through May 24:** "A Love Letter to New York State," photographs by Jane Haslam. (845) 490-2281 or www.landgallery.com

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through May 2:** The Millbrook Historical Society presents "Embroidery: A Living Tradition," a celebration of the Millbrook artisans who paved the way for the Embroiderers' Guild of America and their continuing legacy. The exhibit includes works on loan from the collections of the Thorne family, Grace Church (Millbrook), St Peter's Church (Lithgow), and the Skyllkill Chapter of the

Embroiderers' Guild of America. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through April 25:** "Jake Melley: ART," Rhinebeck born-and-raised Melley works in a variety of mediums. (845) 876-2903

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through April:** "Remnants of Impermanence," photographs by Chad Kleitsch. The images featured in this photographic essay between 1991-2001, taking 4x5" large format color photographs in the Hudson Valley region's abandoned industrial and other local sites. He has returned to these places many times to photograph, and they are always different from the times before. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Taste Budd's Cafe, 40 W. Market St., Red Hook. **Through April:** Drawings & paintings by youth ages 5-13 from iStation Art Studio. The artwork highlights their concern for global issues as international relations/peace, environmental stability, climate change, endangered ecosystem and species, and more.

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **In the 1846 New Studio, Through May 24:** "Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects, A Career Retrospective," celebrating the work of the late, award-winning artist Hudson Talbott, whose talents have inspired audiences for decades through his children's picture books. **Through December:** "Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES" presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. www.thomascole.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through April 19:** "Landscapes and Life: Three Artistic Visions," featuring works by Elisabeth Barnett, Janine Privratsky and Dan Shornstein. These 3 local Hudson Valley artists frequently paint together and their works include landscapes and other subjects from life including wildlife, people, local buildings, and still life composition. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through April 26:** "Art Beyond the Walls," a group exhibition featuring works by incarcerated artists. www.womenswork.art

A & E CALENDAR

Through April 19: "Othello," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. CENTERstage Productions presents William Shakespeare's "Othello," adapted by Lou Trapani. Directed by Michael Juzwak and assistant directed by Emily DePew. Othello is a Moorish general in the Venetian army who has recently married the young and beautiful Desdemona against her father's wishes. Othello's enigma is the malicious Iago, who is resentful about being passed over for promotion. Iago exacts revenge upon Othello by manipulating him into believing Desdemona has been unfaithful. Othello pays the ultimate price for his jealousy. This production's concept sets the play in modern times and explores themes of patriarchy, racism, and jealousy with an all-woman cast. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

April 16: Badfish, Blizzy Tour 2026, Daryl's House, 130 Rte. 22, Pawling. Sublime tribute band, 8 p.m. Tickets \$40. All ages. www.darylshouseclub.com

April 17: The Tom Duffy Band, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Classic rock meets high-energy performance, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10. www.thestissingcenter.org

April 17-18: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. April 17: Little Lies - A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. April 18: Cuborica, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

April 17: La Verdad presents "Unchainable Voices," Studio 2/Horses, Studio Complex, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. "Unchainable Voices" is a work rooted in dance that speaks to the profound history of Black women, 7 p.m. They have stood as the foundation of civilization and its most tireless steward. Their benevolent songs - bold, unwavering, unchainable - have galvanized societies forward, even as they have often been silenced, ignored, or marginalized. Free admission with RSVP. 30 minutes. www.kaatsbaan.org

April 17: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring Carole White, Jasperoo, Tina Pierce, Paul Clarke, Too Lazy Boys, 8 p.m. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested. (845) 876-7007

April 17: "Setting The Record Straight: The Music and Careers of Recording Artists from the 1950s and 1960s," Stanford Free Library, 6035 Rte. 82, Stanfordville. Stanford Historical Society presents Anthony Musso, who will share true stories of some of the artists of the early rock & roll era, 7 p.m. This program is based on Musso's personal interviews with 100 solo artists and founding vocal group members. Registration required via the calendar at <https://stanfordlibrary.org/>. (845) 868-1341

April 17: The Slambovian Circus of Dreams, The Falcon, 1348 US-9W, Marlboro. An evening of rootsy, rockin' psychedelia, fantastic stories, and songs, 7:30 p.m. Reservations required. Shows is donation-driven, with 100% of proceeds going directly to the performers. (845) 236-7970

April 17: Spring Book Fair for Grown-Ups, Rose Hill Farm, 19 Rose Hill Farm, Red Hook. Explore tables of books, find stickers that make your heart soar, and pick up a drink from Rose Hill's excellent taproom, 4-7 p.m. Plus special wine and cider pairings to vibe with your favorite reads. Oh My! Gyro food truck will be on hand as well in case all that book buying makes you hungry and you can satisfy your sweet tooth with vegan treats from The Flour Forest. Plus Twin Tides Tattoo will be there with flash tattoos should the literary muse strike! Tickets required: \$10. (845) 876-0500, <https://bit.ly/OBL-spring-book-fair-2026>

April 18: Author Talk & Storytime, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Dorna Schroeter ("We Are One: A User's Guide for Young Earthlings"), noon. Narrated by Earth, "We Are One" gently introduces children to key science concepts, ecosystems, biodiversity, and human impact through clear language and vivid, enchanting illustrations. Blending factual environmental concepts with practical, age-

appropriate actions, this engaging story shows how small actions can make a big difference for our planet. (845) 876-2903

April 18: Baldwin et Lucien, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Experience the Broadway-bound original play (with music) Baldwin et Lucien by playwright and actor R. Jahan, 7 p.m. Set in the winter of 1952 in a secluded chalet in Loeche-les-Bains, Switzerland, Baldwin et Lucien is a surrealist drama that imagines an intimate chapter in the life of a young James Baldwin and his one true love, Lucien Happersberger. Free admission with RSVP. 75 minutes with a talkback. www.kaatsbaan.org

April 18: Bees in the Barn, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Anchored in bluegrass but pushing far past its boundaries, Bees in the Barn crafts a "beyond grass" sound—an exhilarating mix of colors, rhythms, and heart-pounding joy. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org

April 18: Birding by Sight and Sound at the Sharon Audubon Center, Sharon, Conn. Join Millbrook Library for a two-hour beginner bird-watching workshop, where you'll learn how to identify birds by sight and sound on the beautiful grounds of Sharon Audubon Center in Sharon, CT, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Geared toward adults and teens, this program will be led by our friends from Sharon Audubon and involve some light outdoor trail hiking. Register at www.millbrooklibrary.org and for directions and more information.

April 18: Birding Walk, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburgh. Experienced birders will enjoy a walk through several interesting environments, inexperienced birders will find encouragement and a helping hand, and newbies will be able to discuss equipment, apps, and techniques, 9 a.m. Volunteer walk leader David Lund has been birding Mills-Norrie State Park daily for over 35 years. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

April 18: Concert, Congregation Shir Chadash at the United Presbyterian Church, 1168-11 State Rte. 55, Lagrangeville. Featuring singer-guitarist Cantor Jerry Korobow with percussionist Akiva Wharton (Akiva the Believer), 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets at www.shirchadash.org for \$36/person or \$54/couple. Tickets at the door, if available, will be \$40/person or \$60/couple. Tickets are \$10 for students/children. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. More info at (845) 232-1029 or info@shir-chadash.org.

April 18: Earth Day, Vassar Barn, 50 Vassar Farm Lane, Poughkeepsie. The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management and the Environmental Cooperative will offer a free, family-friendly event, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., designed to educate, engage and inspire residents of all ages to take part in protecting the environment. Attendees can take part in a variety of activities and educational opportunities; see <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Docs/Earth-Day-2026.pdf> for details.

April 18: HV History Reading Festival, Wallace Center, The FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Hyde Park. In four sessions, beginning at 10 a.m., authors of recently published books on Hudson Valley history will present author talks followed by book signings. Copies of the books will be for sale in the New Deal Store. Free, but registration required for in-person attendance via www.fdrlibrary.org. More info at the website.

April 18: Military Collectibles Show, Patterson Recreation Center, 65 Front St., Patterson. Historical items for sale will include insignia, medals, uniforms, equipment, swords, knives, headgear, books, artwork, surplus, etc., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The material will cover the years from the American Revolution to the present day. There will also be several uniformed "Living Historians" who are ready to answer questions about the eras they represent. Vendors come from all over the Northeast. Admission \$10; children under 12 free with an adult. Part of the proceeds of this event goes to Patterson Recreation Center & The American Veterans Historical Museum. More info: Patterson Recreation Center, (845) 878-7200, or The Duffle Bag,

Satire and identity collide in 'American Fiction,' screening in Kingston April 18



Jeffrey Wright stars in "American Fiction," playing a frustrated novelist who writes an outrageous "Black" book as a joke, only for it to become a massive hit. The Academy Award-winning comedy drama will be screened in a special 3 p.m. matinee April 18 at New Progressive Baptist Church in Kingston. *Photograph: Claire Folger/Orion Pictures*

A Black novelist frustrated by stereotypes of Black life writes a parody under a pen name, only to be pulled into the same double standards he set out to expose.

That's the premise of "American Fiction," a special 3 p.m. matinee Saturday, April 18, at New Progressive Baptist Church, 8 Hone St. in Kingston, as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series.

The film stars Jeffrey Wright as Thelonious "Monk" Ellison, a serious writer whose work is ignored by publishers. What does sell, he notices, are books that lean on caricatured versions of Black life.

To expose the hypocrisy, Monk writes an outrageous parody of a "Black" book under a pen name - only to watch it become a massive hit he can't control. The chaos spills into his family life, including his relationship with his aging mother (Leslie Uggams).

The 2023 film runs 1 hour 57 minutes and is rated R. Based on Percival Everett's novel "Erasure," the film won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for writer-director Cord Jefferson. It also earned 64 other critic and festival awards, including 11 Best Actor awards for Wright.

The screening will be followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 13 and up.

The monthly Movies With Spirit series, organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston, features films about connection, compassion and the search for meaning. It respects all cultures and beliefs but isn't bound to any one of them. It points instead to universal themes that connect everyone.

For more information: tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebookPage, call (845) 389-9201 or email gerryharrington@mindspring.com.

(845) 878-7106.

April 18: Movies With Spirit, "American Fiction," New Progressive Baptist Church, 8 Hone St., Kingston. A Black novelist frustrated by stereotypes of Black life writes a parody under a pen name, only to be pulled into the same double standards he set out to expose, 3 p.m. The 2023 film runs 1 hour 57 minutes and is rated R. Screening followed by discussion. Refreshments served. Suggested donation \$10 for ages 13 & up. More info: (845) 389-9201 or gerryharrington@mindspring.com

April 18: Spring Tea, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Enjoy an elegant afternoon with fine tea and an assortment of sweet and savory delicatibles, 1 p.m. Attendees can also add a tour of the Wilderstein mansion and/or stroll on the grounds to appreciate the splendor of springtime flowers in bloom. Tickets for the Tea are \$75 per person; Tea and Tour Tickets are \$85 per person. Register at www.wilderstein.org or call (845) 876-4818.

April 19: Historical Talk, Clermont State Historic Site, Visitor Center, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. "America 250: Revolutionary New York: 250 Years of Social Change," talk with Ashley Hopkins-Benton, 2 p.m. Hopkins-Benton is a senior historian and curator of social history at the New York State Museum and author of the chapter "The Stonewall Uprising and the Fight for Gay Rights" in the new book "Revolutionary New York: 250 Years of Social Change," edited by Bruce W. Dearstyne. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org

April 19: Tea & Talk Series, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburgh. Enjoy tea & scones in Staatsburgh's formal dining room while listening to talks on Gilded Age history, 1 p.m. This time: "Well-to-do Women's Dress in

the Gilded Age," learn about the clothing that a fashionable Gilded Age lady would have worn in this presentation and dressing demonstration. Librarian and historical costumer Caitlin Sheldon will illustrate with fashion plates, historical images, and reproduction garments, all of the pieces of a 19th-century lady's toilette. Cost: \$65. Tickets required: <https://TeaAndTalk2026.eventbrite.com>

April 19: The Putnam Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert, Brewster High School Performing Arts Center, 50 Foggintown Rd., Brewster. "Dancing Through American History," 3 p.m. PSO will perform some of their favorite dance music on a historical journey for the USA's Big Birthday. From waltzes to big band and theater to dance parties, Americans have been dancing for centuries. Tickets start at \$10, available on the website and at the door. Visit putnamsymphonyorchestra.org for more information.

April 22: Between the Stacks: An Evening of Library Stories, Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. Storytime isn't just for kids! Celebrate National Library Week with Between the Stacks, an evening of stories brought to life by local talent, 6:30-8 p.m. Featuring library-themed stories by Ray Bradbury, Susan Orlean, and more. Light refreshments will be served. www.millbrooklibrary.org

April 22: Screening of "April Morning," Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. The next program in its "America250 Film Series" is this 1988 Emmy-nominated, made-for-television film, an adaptation of Howard Fast's 1961 novel about a teenage boy's coming of age on the eve of the American Revolution, when the Colonists made their stand on the Lexington green, 2 p.m. Free, but registration via www.fdrlibrary.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Vendors wanted for Freedom Plains flea market

Flea market vendors wanted for the Freedom Plains Fall Rummage Sale and Flea Market, May 9 2026, from 9am-3pm. For \$25, you can reserve a generous space on our front lawn. To fill out an application and pay the \$25 fee online, go to our website www.fpupchurch.org or call the church office weekdays from 9am-3pm (845-452-0684).

Historic Tavern Trail at Lasting Joy set April 17

Join Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum on Friday, April 17, for the next installment of his "Revolution in Real Time" series, exploring events in New York as they unfolded 250 years ago. The event will take place from 6 to 7 p.m., in person at Lasting Joy Brewery in Tivoli and on Zoom. The Historic Tavern Trail brings history and local beverage culture together at distinctive community gathering places across the county. RSVP required.

Casserole Dinner set April 18 at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Chicken/Rice/Broccoli/Cheese Casserole Dinner on Saturday, April 18, at 5 p.m., at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. The menu will consist of Chicken/Rice/Broccoli/Cheese Casserole, Cold Cucumber Soup, Ambrosia Salad, and Tomato Soup Spice Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. The dinner will be take out only. Drive up to the Grange Hall back door, pay for your dinner, get your dinner through your car window, and take it home to enjoy! For reservations, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Gardening workshop

set April 18 at Beatrix Farrand Garden

The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association will present a gardening workshop on Saturday, April 18, 1-1:30 p.m. In this hands-on class, Meei-Huey will begin with a brief introduction to Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging. She will then demonstrate two different styles of arrangement, after which participants will receive step-by-step guidance in creating their own piece to take home. The cost is \$75. Registration required at www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org.

Roadside Clean-Up set April 18 in Stanfordville

The Conservation Advisory Committee will be hosting its annual roadside clean-up on Saturday, April 18. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community in coordination with Earth Day and help care for Stanford's beautiful roadways. We encourage residents of all ages to participate in this meaningful day of service. Additional details, including meeting times and locations for clean-up materials, will be shared soon.

Red Hook Repair Café set April 18

The Red Hook Repair Café will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, at the Red Hook Community Center, 59 Fisk Street in Red Hook. This is volunteer-driven event featuring skilled neighbors who fix your broken items for free. Bring your lamps, small appliances, watches, clocks, computers (and I-phones), small electronics, sewing items needing mending, broken zippers, blades needing sharpening, toys, sewing machines, bikes, and more. Our repair coaches will do their best to have you leave pleased with your repaired items! This event is sponsored by the Town of Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council.

Clinton Community Roadside Cleanup set April 18

The annual Town of Clinton Community Roadside Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day by walking Clinton's scenic Town roads and cleaning them up. Start at Clinton Town Hall where you will receive road assignments and bags. When you're done, bring the roadside garbage you've collected back to Town Hall.

Water and chips will be provided to participants. So will sunflower seeds for planting at home. Free disposal of roadside garbage available on April 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only. Register to volunteer and/or nominate a road for cleanup by contacting Rick McGlaulin at (845) 266-3003 or ncouse330@gmail.com.

Earth Day Celebration in Millbrook

The Town of Washington Recreation's Earth Day Celebration will take place on Sunday, April 19, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Town Park & Pool (3744 Route 44, Millbrook). There will be activities for kids, educational programs, a Sustainable/Upcycled Market and more. For more information, visit www.townwashington.com or email assistantrecdirector@washingtonny.gov or recdirector@washingtonny.gov.

Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR meeting set April 19

The next meeting of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR will take place on Sunday, April 19, at the Chapter House, 77 Livingston St., Rhinebeck. The business meeting (members only) is at 2 p.m., followed at 2:30 by a program, "A Revolutionary Kitchen Garden" with Barbara Hobens, that is open to the public.

Hobens has been an invited speaker at the Philadelphia Flower show and featured on two episodes of HYTV's Gardening By The Yard; has designed and installed backyard and roof gardens for residences, not-for-profits, public parks, and historic sites in NYC and the Hudson Valley. She served as Hyde Park Historian and president of the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden Association. Hobens was named a Harrison Fellow of the Historic Landscape Institute (Monticello/University of Virginia).

The program is free and open to the public. For information about this meeting or how to become a member, email Doris at darrhinebeck@gmail.com.

Holocaust Remembrance set April 22

Stanford: A Caring Community and Stanford Free Library will present a program in remembrance of Yom Hashoah on Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m., at Stanford Free Library, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville. Eric Alexander (Dutchess County Legislator, Chairman Emerson College, President of Compitium, LLC) will discuss "My Family's Story - The Impact On My Life."

Garden volunteer info meeting set April 22

Learn about the many ways to be involved in the gardens at The Homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield and the Vanderbilt formal gardens. A volunteer information meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m., at the Wallace Visitor Center, Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Hyde Park. No experience is needed, the schedule is flexible and there are many fun options for getting involved.

Rhinebeck Garden Club off-site meeting April 22

Rhinebeck Garden Club's off site meeting is set Wednesday, April 22, 10 a.m., at Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens, 389 Salisbury Turnpike Rhinebeck. The program, "The Growing Experience," will be presented by Marcella Santini. The meeting is open to the public but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. For more information about this program, or the RBGC or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, 845-797-3226 or Hannah, 914-263-5298

Anderson Connects Career Fair Day

Anderson Connects Career Fair Day will be held Thursday, April 23, 12:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. For more information, visit andersoncenterforautism.org/careerfair. This event is supported by the Barry and Holly Feirstein Endowment Fund and hosted in part by Dutchess County Works.

Rhinebeck Historical Society program set April 24

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

Spring Tag Sale at Mt. Alvernia April 25

Mt. Alvernia's Spring Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 158 Delavergne Avenue, Wappingers Falls (follow signs to the gym). Something for everyone, including household items, small appliances, toys, jewelry and more, to benefit Mt. Alvernia.

Town of Poughkeepsie's Earth Day event set April 25

Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation will hold an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Stanley Still Park, 80 Jackson Road, Poughkeepsie. Activities include tree planting and other projects to help beautify the park. For more information, email rec@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov or visit poughkeepsietownrec.com on Facebook.

Millbrook Community Spring Sale set April 25

The Fourth Annual Millbrook Community Spring Sale is set for Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy yard and store sales throughout the Village, a Repair Café at the library, and live street music by the Millbrook Arts Group. This year's event is self-organized. Those interested in participating can email their name and sale location to millbrookspringale@gmail.com to be added to the event map.

Earth Day Celebration set April 25 in Rhinebeck

The Town of Rhinebeck will host an Earth Day celebration at the Thompson-Mazzarella (aka Starr Park) on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. There'll be a big tent and a food truck, wildlife shows,

hands-on activities, a clothing swap, a "recycle-a-palooza" and more. Free and family-friendly, zero-waste (BYO water bottle).

Donations for the Red Hook Responds food pantry will be collected; and the Rotary Club will accept donations of used bikes.

The Village of Rhinebeck Tree Commission will give out seedlings, and the Village Compost Subcommittee will be giving out finished compost to registered participants.

More information is available at <https://villageofrhinebeck.gov/> (under Announcements) or at the Village of Rhinebeck Facebook page.

Red Hook VFW Civilian Military Ball

The Red Hook VFW Post 7765 will hold its Civilian Military Ball, commemorating 80 years of faithful service to veterans and the community. The event will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 6 - 10 p.m. at The Red Hook Community Center, 59 Fisk Street, Red Hook. This special evening will bring together community members, veterans, and supporters to honor the legacy of service and sacrifice. Guests will enjoy a night of camaraderie, entertainment, and recognition of those who have served our nation. Information or sponsorship inquiries or more information, contact: Jon Conroe, Post Commander: (619) 855-6099 | Jon@vfw7765.org or Red Hook VFW Post 7765: (855) 758-7765 | info@vfw7765.org

Clinton Rec seeks volunteers for playground build April 25-26

The Town of Clinton Recreation Department seeks volunteers for a Community Playground Build on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26 at Friends Park, 2350 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Start time is 9 a.m. The Rec Department will provide lunch. Bring your tools. RSVP to (914) 489-0962.

Pleasant Valley Lions to host 2nd Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser

Come join the Pleasant Valley Lions at Gold's Gym LaGrange for a fun filled afternoon of Bingo on Sunday, April 26. Guests play 10 rounds of Bingo for designer pocketbooks and door prize drawings. There will be tickets available for the raffle able and 50/50. Bring your own food and beverage. Only 100 seats will be pre-sold, ages 18+. Doors open at 1 p.m. Bingo 2 p.m. Tickets available at PV Lion Club 2026 Pocketbook BINGO - zefy.com or call Pam at (845) 453-0023 for purchase options or more information.

LaGrange Rotary club to hold meet-and-greet April 28

The Rotary Club of LaGrange Sunrise will hold a meet-and-greet event on Tuesday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Simply Gourmet, 399 Manchester Road, Poughkeepsie. The purpose of the event is in appreciation to the Rotary's golf tournament sponsors (the tournament is its major fundraiser) as well as to share information regarding all that the organization does in the community. In addition, the group will present a check to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation. RSVP to Rose by April 21 at SALMONROSE41@GMAIL.COM.

Hyde Park Chamber's upcoming events

The Chamber's Business Of the Year Dinner will take place on Thursday, April 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. Location TBD.

The next Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast is set

continued on page 16

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Thursday, May 14, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Joseph's Steak House, 728 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park. The speaker will be the Hyde Park Superintendent of Schools. The cost is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member. For tickets and more information for these events, visit www.hydeparkchamber.org.

Spring Rummage Sale set May 1-2 at Salt Point church

The Spring Rummage Sale at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 1872 Salt Point Turnpike in Salt Point, will be held on Friday May 1, from 3 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a \$5 per bag sale from 2 to 4 p.m.

Featured will be perennial plants, spring & summer clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, luggage, linens, kitchenware, children's toys, puzzles, games, books, CD's and so much more at reasonable prices. Bake goods are available both days with lunch available on Saturday. For information or directions, call Diana at (845) 656-9959.

Defensive Driving Course set May 2 in Stanfordville

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, May 2, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$38 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10% discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and remove up to 4 points on your license for any violations incurred in the last 18 months. The class includes festive classroom participation as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Dinner Committee with a free will offering asked. For more information or to request an application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Miles of Hope Spring Brunch set May 3

Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation will hold its 22nd Annual Spring Brunch on May 3, at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. Guests will learn about the importance of exercise for a happy and healthy life from Dr. Jessica Scott, Director of the Exercise Oncology Program and Associate Attending at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Dr. Scott will discuss how exercise plays a vital role in living a happy and healthy life. The event will also feature raffle and auction items. Purchase tickets at www.milesofhope.org

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals theme for 2026 is "The Year of the Humane Child." This year's event will be held at the Third Lutheran Evangelical Church, 31 Livingston Street, Rhinebeck on Saturday, May 30 from noon - 4 p.m. Rain Date, Sunday May 31, 1-5 p.m. The goal of the event is to promote kindness as a habit in our homes and in our lives. Kindness costs nothing and is truly a superpower since all living things depend on each other. Come mingle with or without a pet. Enjoy this connection with nature, neighbors and numerous local animal charities.

Brookmeade Golf Classic set June 1

The Brookmeade Community Foundation is hosting The 9th Annual Brookmeade Golf Classic. Golf Classic will be held on June 1 at the Red Hook Golf Club starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast, lunch and golf shirts provided. Raffles throughout the day, and top team awards. Hole-in-one contest and more. Player cost: \$175 per person. Proceeds to benefits the programs for senior citizens living in the Brookmeade Community. To sign up, contact us at info@brookmeadecommunity.org. Sponsorship opportunities also available.

Stanford Fire Company golf tourney set June 12

The Stanford Fire Company will hold its 7th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday June 12, at James Baird State Park. There will be a Shotgun Start at 9 a.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.). The outing includes 18 holes golf with cart, hole in one prize, prizes for top three teams, long drive men and women, closest to the pin, lunch/beer on course, raffle prizes, silent auction, dinner following tournament.

Aim for Gold Jamboree set June 13

The USA Archery Foundation will hold the Aim for Gold Jamboree, a fundraising event, on Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m., at Mashomack Preserve Club in Pine Plains. There will be a barbecue and the event includes archery lessons, 3-D targets, trick shooters, Kid Zone, and special guest coach Joel Turner. Visit usaarcheryfoundation.org/aimforgold for tickets and more information.

ONGOING

Parkinson's Support Group - at Starr Library Community Room, third Monday of the month, noon-1:30 p.m. The monthly Parkinson's Support Group is a gathering place for those with Parkinson's and their loved ones to create community and share information. The group will meet each month to offer a space for everyone to discuss their challenges and successes, share stories, connect with others who are

navigating similar issues, and sift through medical information and the latest news about available treatments. Refreshments and resources provided. Register via the online calendar at www.starrlibrary.org. The library is at 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

Chess: First Monday, 7 p.m., at Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

PV Garden Club meets first Thursday of the month. Want to learn more about gardening while helping your neighbors? Join Pleasant Valley Community Gardens for its monthly meetings at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at the Pleasant Valley Library. No experience necessary. Pleasant Valley Community Gardens are volunteers learning as they grow vegetables and flowers in Helen Aldrich Park on Route 115. Everything we grow is to benefit local food pantries. See our Facebook page and web site at www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com.

Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

send us your news
cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

OBITUARIES

Hon. Redmond Wren Abrams

DOVER PLAINS – Honorable Redmond Wren Abrams, lovingly known as Renny, 79, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, surrounded by his loving family at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. For 54 years, he owned and operated Renny's Store and served as the Town Justice in Dover Plains for 36 years.

Judge Abrams was born on July 21, 1946, in Waddington, NY, the son of the late Benjamin and Mary (McMillan) Abrams. He was a graduate of Husson College in Bangor, ME, Class of 1968, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

On July 23, 1966, in Herkimer, NY, he married the love of his life, Helen Carswell, who survives at home. Together, they created a lasting legacy of unconditional love and steadfast faith. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons: Hon. Redmond W. Abrams II (Annemarie) of Dover Plains, NY; Christopher Abrams (Shelly) of Madison, MS; Shane Abrams (Ryann) of Haverhill, MA; and Kurt Abrams (Kelly) of Wading River, NY; a daughter, Erica Drnek (Thomas) of Dover Plains, NY; two sisters, Angela Fusco of Wingdale, NY, and Sue Allen of Wingdale, NY; and a brother, Todd Abrams of Kingston, NY.

He is also survived by 13 grandchildren: Andrew (Sara), Alexandra (Connor), Lucas, Noah, Logan, Levi, Georgia, Haylie, Collin, and Owen Abrams; and Nolan, Conor, and Thomas Drnek; as well as two great-grandchildren, Henrik and Edith Abrams.

Renny possessed a gravitational pull that rivaled the sun itself. He was a man rooted in faith and committed to serving in every endeavor. As a husband, father, grandfather, friend, business owner, and Town Justice, he was guided by an edict: that there is no sin beyond forgiveness, no situation beyond redemption, and no soul beyond salvation. Surely, everyone who encountered him felt the love, humility, steadiness, and grace that poured from his soul. His life of intention and purpose was driven by his passion, compassion, and adventurous spirit. He was a giant of a man who leaves an enduring legacy through his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the countless lives he touched. We are certain that his Maker met him and said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Calling hours will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Interment will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or online at <https://t2t.org/donate>

Christine K. Brand

HYDE PARK – Christine K. "Chris" Brand, devoted daughter, sister, and friend, was called home to her Lord and Savior on November 18, 2025, at the age of 62. Born on July 1, 1963, in Burlington, Vermont, Chris was a devout Christian woman who acted with a deep love for her community, country, and the many charitable causes she championed. She passed peacefully in her sleep doing what she loved: traveling to visit national parks, state capitols, and friends.

Chris is survived by her father, Ronald P. Brand; her brother, Terrance A. Brand, and his wife, Trina; her nephew, Thaddeus; and many close friends who became family. She was preceded in death by her mother, Suzanne (Weber) Brand, who passed in June 2024.

Chris was a proud graduate of FDR High School in Hyde Park, NY, Dutchess Community College, and Marist College with a major in accounting. She later earned her MBA from Long Island University, reflecting a lifelong dedication to learning and personal excellence. She was an accomplished musician having mastered multiple instruments, and enjoyed performing in, and leading, many local groups.

Her professional life as an accountant was marked by commitment and integrity. Chris spent 20 years with Texaco, where she enjoyed temporary assignments in China, the Middle East, and Europe, and 17 years with IBM. Even after retiring in September 2024, her spirit of service continued as she shared her expertise as a financial advisor and bookkeeper at the Pellegrino Healing Center in Hyde Park.

Chris's Christian faith was the foundation of her life. A devoted 50-year member of the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park, she lived out her beliefs through steady service and heartfelt leadership. Baptized and confirmed at age 12, she remained deeply rooted in her faith, contributing joyfully to the worship band and serving with the Mid-Hudson

Tres Dias and Vida Nueva ministries.

A lover of classic Disney, chocolate, and the wonders of God's creation, Chris embraced life with vibrant enthusiasm. She pursued her dream of visiting every U.S. National Park site, having explored an extraordinary 349 parks—with only 82 remaining. An expert trip planner, she inspired many to see the beauty she saw so clearly in the world. Her friendships, spanning countless places, stand as lasting testaments to her generous spirit.

Chris believed in living with strength, humility, and Godly character. Whether tending lovingly to her homestead, encouraging excellence in others, or caring fiercely for those she loved, her life consistently reflected her deepest values.

To call Chris loving, kind, and faith-filled only begins to describe the remarkable woman she was. Her legacy of love, service, and unwavering devotion to God lives on in every life she touched. As we say farewell, we rejoice in knowing that Chris Brand now sings with the angels, her spirit forever at home in the beauty of heaven she cherished so deeply.

Cremation has taken place as she had requested. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 AM, Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park. Services will be livestreamed on YouTube @umchpny. A reception will follow.

Her ashes will be interred in the family plot at Lakeview Cemetery, Burlington, VT at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the National Parks Conservation Association, Attn: Membership Dept., 777 6th St., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 (www.npca.org) or the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park Memorial Fund, 1 Church St., Hyde Park, NY 12538 (www.umchp.com). Chris would be honored by you baking some cupcakes with the young people in your life and sharing them with loved ones.

To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit Christine Brand's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Robert W. Stramm Jr.

Robert W. Stramm Jr., passed away peacefully upon Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center with his loving fam-

ily by his side. He was born on February 11, 1945 in Brooklyn to the late Robert and Jessie (Young) Stramm. After graduating from Carmel School in 1964, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Serving from April 16, 1967 to October 2, 1970. On February 6, 1971, Robert married Sharon LaForge. They shared 55 wonderful years together raising their family. Robert worked as a heavy equipment operator for many years with Clove Excavators out of Poughquag. This is where he gained the nickname, Cactus.

Robert started his firefighting career in the U.S. Navy and then joined the Lake Carmel Fire Department. After many years of service there, he joined the Union Vale Fire Department where he was the assistant chief. In 1993, he joined the Stanfordville Fire Company where he served for 33 years. During that time he served in various roles including chief.

Robert is survived by his loving wife Sharon Stramm, of Stanfordville. His four daughters, Edith Rickens, of Amenia, Sharon Stramm and spouse Shawn Morrison of Millerton, Becky LeClaire, of Malone and Bobbie Jo Kangas of Wappingers. His seven grand children, Zackery Stramm and his wife Gwen of Stanfordville. Kristen Snyder and her husband Grant, of Millerton, Oby and Jeremy LeClaire of Malone, Megan Smith of Malone, Peyton and Adam Kangas of Wappingers. Great grandsons Connor & Trenton Stramm of Stanfordville and great granddaughter Adiline Smith of Malone. In addition to his two sisters Jean Schnaudigel of Florida and Jessie Wenisch and her husband Bob of South Dakota and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents and his beloved dog, Conan.

Family and friends shared memories and offered condolences on Friday, April 10, 2026 at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Pine Plains, NY. A funeral service took place on Saturday morning from Peck & Peck. Interment took place at Stanford Cemetery, Stanfordville. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Robert's memory to the Stanford Fire Company. For directions, to leave a message of condolence or share a favorite memory of Cactus, please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW OF THE YEAR 2026 "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY BY ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 72 ENTITLED 'RESIDENTIAL RENTALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTING GOOD CAUSE EVICTION'"

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York on April 20, 2026 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., on Local Law A of 2026, "A Local Law Amending the Town Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley By Enacting a New Chapter 72 Entitled 'Residential Rentals for the Purposes of Adopting Good Cause Eviction'".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that

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all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.

Dated: March 23, 2026

Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS INDEX NO. 2025-51087 Date Filed: 03/12/2026 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates DUTCHESS County as the Place of Trial Designation of Venue is based upon the situs of the Subject Property.

Subject Property: 2440 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners, NY 12514.

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2006-1 MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2006-1, Plaintiff, against BEVERLY BROWN A/K/A BEVERLY L. BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; MICHELLE BROWN PAULA/K/A MICHELLE BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE

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BROWN; REGINALD BROWN A/K/A REGGIE BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; MARGARET WILLIAM BROWN A/K/A MARGARET W. BROWN A/K/A MARGARET BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWN A/K/A ANTONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; CHELSAY BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; DARIA S. BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ANTHONY BROWN A/K/A TONY BROWN, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance,

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lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE," the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or lien upon the premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Sum-

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mons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE: YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Maria G. Rosa, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Dutchess County, granted on the 10th day of March, 2026, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Dutchess County. The object of this action is to foreclose a consolidated mort-

Legal Notices

gage upon the premises described below, executed by ERNESTINE BROWN to SMI HOME MORTGAGE, bearing date January 26, 2006 and recorded in Document Number: 01 2006 2950 in the County of Dutchess on February 23, 2006, which was modified by a loan modification agreement dated January 27, 2017, which was assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2006-1 MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2006-1 by instrument executed February 7, 2020 and recorded March 13, 2020, in Document Number: 01-2020-50421A. Said premises being known as and by 2440 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners, NY 12514, bearing tax map designation Section: 6566, Block: 02, Lot: 627814, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 File 1221-4175B

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the

Legal Notices

submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-35-26 On-Call Parking Lot Repair Services Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 28th day of April 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

The Annual Meeting of the Clove Cemetery Assn. will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 10:00AM at the Valley Bible Fellowship Church, 1857 Clove Valley Rd., Lagrangeville, NY. All plot owners are invited to attend. Further information, contact Elfriede Tillman (845)724-5840.

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

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

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

No Dots
Connect Numbers:
1-115

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

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

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Suguru solution

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

Classified

Place your ad today! Call 297-3723

Deadline Thurs at 3 p.m • Publication Wednesday

Fax your ad today! 297-6810

Classified Rates

Classified Line Ads
20 words \$12.50; each additional word 20¢

Classified Display Ads
\$14.50 per column inch

If submitted by deadline, ads appear in three newspapers:
**Northern Dutchess News,
Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press**

We are not responsible for typographical errors.
A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

100 Help Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity
106 Business Opportunity
107 Situations Wanted
120 Schools
121 Special Instruction
122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
141 Child Care
142 Day Care
143 Baby-sitting
145 Adult Care
150 Announcements
151 Adoption
152 Novenas
154 Lost & Found
155 Personal Services

201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
226 Travel & Services
227 Bridal Services
295 Financial
296 Mortgages
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302 Commercial Property
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802 Motor Homes
803 Recreational Vehicles
900 Autos for Sale
901 Vans/SUV's
902 Trucks
903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

Contact Us

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Fax: 845-297-6810

E-Mail: sdnadvertising@aol.com

Monday-Friday
9 am-4 pm

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Looking for someone to sell my Antiques and Collectables on Ebay or online.
Call: 845-321-4911

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PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-549-0598 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers FREE water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your FREE test today. Call 1-866-247-5728

201 Home Improvement

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496

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219 Attorney Legal

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-323-0318. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

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401 Apartments for Rent

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC-WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

TWO (2) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$2,150.00 per month and one month security deposit. Tenant is responsible for electric, cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

DIMARCO PLACE I, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,768.00 per month and a one month security deposit. Rent includes electric for lights, cooking, air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided), heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. All household members must be 55 years or older or disabled. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE FAMILY COMPLEX, Beacon, NY

THREE (3) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,764.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,540.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE II SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,507.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,575.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, One (1) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,247.00 per month and Two (2) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,561.00. One month security deposit required. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is electric, heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

516 Misc. Merchandise

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682

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GOLDEN LIVING

Keeping your cognitive health at its best

Here's how the National Institutes of Health defines the term: "Cognitive health is the ability to think, learn, and remember clearly. It is needed to carry out many everyday activities effectively. Cognitive health is just one aspect of overall brain health."

And that's just one aspect of brain health, which includes cognitive health along with:

- Motor function - how well you move, including your balance;
- Emotional function - how well you respond to and interpret both positive and negative emotions;
- Tactile function - your response to temperature, pressure, and pain;
- Sensory function - how well you see, hear, taste, and detect odors.

Physical health helps lead to brain health

Ever go for a walk and feel like it helped "clear out the cobwebs?" It's a common description for the sort of things happening inside your mind and body when you get a bit of exercise. Staying current with your recommended health screenings can help brain health, even if what's being screened seems to have little to do with your brain.

While you're visiting your doctors, talk with them about the medicines you take, to learn about possible side effects on memory, brain function, and sleep - of which you should be getting 7-9 hours at night.

There's more: Keep chronic health issues like high blood pressure and diabetes managed, and get treatment for age-related hearing and/or vision loss. Quit smoking if you smoke, and avoid other nicotine products. Be mindful of your diet. Choose foods that are nutritionally

dense, lower in animal fats, and high in vitamins and fiber. Contact OFA at ofa@dutchessny.gov or (845) 486-2555 to find out about nutrition consultations.

What about vitamins and supplements?

They're a solid maybe. Some clinical trials have shown that a daily multivitamin may improve memory and cognition in older adults; on the other hand, no vitamin or supplement is officially recommended for preventing Alzheimer's, dementia, or other forms of cognitive decline.

How about computer games?

Another maybe. Commercially-available computer based "brain games" have yet to demonstrate the same impact on cognitive abilities as certain meaningful non-tech-based physical and mental activities. Activities like music, theatre, dance, creative writing, quilting, digital photography have all shown promise not only in improving cognitive function, but higher self-esteem as well.

Jokes can save your life

Humor is a great way to give aging brains a workout. That's one reason we include a corny joke at the end of every weekly "OFA Aging News." Humor reduces stress by relaxing muscles, lowering blood pressure, and increasing blood oxygen levels. It's been proven in repeated studies to benefit hearthealth, improve learning ability and short term memory. Even a simple pun requires the brain to change perspective.

That's why OFA is bringing humorous motivational speaker Charles Marshall to Dutchess County for "Spring Into Happiness - Laughter Edition," on Wednesday, April 29, at 1 p.m., at the Wallace Center in Hyde Park (entrance at 4079 US 9). It's a free event for Dutchess County adults over 60.

Seating is limited, so registration is required. Sign up by calling OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept registration requests made by voice mail, email or text.

Utility Clinic at Dutchess BOCES (Thursday 4/16)

Struggling with high energy costs? Need help with your utility bill? A Utility Bill Clinic takes place on Thursday, April 16, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Dutchess BOCES (5 Boces Rd., Poughkeepsie, off Salt Point Turnpike). State Assemblymember Didi Barrett, the Public Utility Law Project and other partners will be at the clinic to help customers ensure they're getting any assistance for which they qualify. OFA representatives will be onsite as well.

Please bring:

- Your utility bill
- A form of identification
- A copy of your benefits award letter from HEAP, SNAP, SSI or other public assistance, if you have one.

You can also reach PULP at info@utilityproject.org or (877) 669-2572.

OFA Spring Mobile Office Hours

OFA Ambassador Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County. It's a chance to get your age-related questions answered in person, with considerably less travel on your part.

Here's the schedule:

Tuesday, April 21, 1-4 p.m., Town of Wappinger Senior Center Town Hall Senior Center, 20 Middlebush Rd.

Appointments are 30 minutes long at each Mobile Office Hours event. Appointments can be made for either session by calling (845) 486-2555 during business hours. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text.

We will be adding many more Mobile Office Hours events throughout the county.

If your Dutchess County civic organization wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email ofa@dutchessny.gov or call (845) 486-2555 during business hours.

At OFA, we're also available for presentations to groups on OFA Services, successful aging, scam prevention, home safety, caregiving, and much more. Contact us to find out more.

Hearing Loss / Cochlear Implant Event (Thursday 4/21)

The April meeting of the Mid-Hudson chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America features "The Bionic Ear: Understanding the Magic of Cochlear Implants" with Allison Leasure, Engagement Manager for Cochlear

Americas, and Brian Nicholas, MD, FACS, ENT/Otolaryngology at White Plains Hospital Physician Associates. It takes place on Thursday, April 21, 5:15-6:30 p.m., at Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz (93 Main St.), also available via Zoom. Visit hearingloss-midhudson.org for more information.

OFA At Annual Conference on Caregiving in Hyde Park (Thursday, 5/7)

The annual Conference on Caregiving takes place on Thursday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Wallace Center on the grounds of the FDR Historic Site on Route 9 in Hyde Park. This year's theme is "20/20 Vision - Planning for a Bright Future." Topics in support of caregivers will include estate and financial planning; caregiving and grief support; end-of-life doula services; and Tai Chi/wellness. OFA staff will be at the conference to answer guests' questions about aging services in Dutchess County.

Registration takes place through the Alzheimer's Association. Call their helpline to save yourself a seat: (800) 272-3900. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

The Caregiver Conference is organized by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging with the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, Parkinson's Disease Support Group of the Mid-Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley Hospice, and community members Cathy Regan, RN; Falisia Cotten-Swain, LCSW-R; and Eileen Hendriksen, LMSW.

AARP Shredder Events in April

One of the tricks used by identity thieves involves rummaging through our recycling for personally identifiable information. Protect yourself at an AARP Fraud Watch document-shredding event; there are two coming up in Dutchess County. Click the relevant links for registration info, including details on what sort of materials are and aren't accepted for shredding.

Friday, April 24, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie;

Thursday, April 30, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Hopewell Recreation Park, 392 NY 376, Hopewell Junction

Bad Joke of the Week: Here's a Bad Joke you can try out any time you're in a mildly difficult situation, to defuse any tension:

"It's times like this I wish I had listened to what my mom said."

"What did she say?"

"I don't know. I wasn't listening."

NEW MEMBER OFFER

Paradise Trip

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FREE round-trip flight for two, four complimentary night stays, and resort credit!





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NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

Roof • Windows • Siding • Bathrooms • Heating & More

Is your home telling you it's time?

- ✓ Roof showing age, leaks, or storm damage
- ✓ Old, drafty windows driving up energy bills
- ✓ Outdated bathrooms or exterior issues
- ✓ Projects you "planned" to do-but put off because of cost

You may qualify for special home improvement funding programs not available to the general public.

- ✓ Lower out-of-pocket costs
- ✓ Spread payments over time
- ✓ Move forward without delaying needed work

Even homeowners who could pay cash are encouraged to check eligibility.

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