

NORTHERN

DUTCHESS NEWS

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V BMC opens new Cardiac Cath Lab



Pictured in the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center are, from left, Angelo Demaria, Lead Cardiac Cath & EP Tech; Jennifer Lemister, lead cardiovascular tech; and Jesse Keese, manager, cath lab. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie has announced the opening of its new Cardiac Catheterization and Electrophysiology Laboratory on April 15, marking a significant advancement in cardiovascular care in the Hudson Valley.

This specialized facility comes equipped with large procedure rooms, semi-private recovery bays and advanced medical imaging technology to diagnose and treat various cardiovascular conditions, including heart attacks, coronary artery disease and structural heart defects.

This modernized "cath lab," as it is commonly referred, is located on the eighth floor of the Patient Pavilion, replacing the original lab that opened in 1993 in the legacy part of the hospital. The new suite offers sweeping views of the Hudson River.

"The new catheterization and electrophysiology labs will completely transform how cardiac care is delivered in this

community. These world-class procedural spaces at Vassar highlight our enduring commitment to patient safety, comfort and superb clinical results," said Dr. Mark Harrison, Chief of Cardiology at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. "Now more than ever, local residents can seek cardiovascular services that rival or exceed any other major medical center, right here at home."

In the cath lab, interventional cardiologists assess and treat cardiac issues affecting arteries and valves, using real-time imaging and tiny instruments to assess blood flow, fix blockages and

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Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and County Comptroller and farmer Gregg Pulver honor dairy farmer Harry Baldwin on his 90th birthday at the County Agriculture Breakfast on Thursday, April 11. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Agriculture community honors Harry Baldwin on 90th birthday

By Curtis Schmidt

Hundreds of members of the local agriculture community were on hand to honor Dutchess County farmers at the 2024 Ag Day Breakfast on Thursday, April 11.

The event, sponsored annually by Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), was held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds.

Taking the spotlight at the event on the occasion of his 90th birthday was dairy farmer Harry Baldwin, one of the founding members of the Dutchess County Dairy Committee and member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

Baldwin praised the work of the Dairy

Committee, noting that the organization has raised over \$500,000 over the years – all aimed at providing scholarship funds for local students in agriculture-related fields.

"All of the funds we raise stay in the county and are raised from sales of Milk Shakes at the Dutchess County Fair," said Baldwin. "We're proud to support our youth in agriculture in 4-H and FFA organizations."

Guest speaker County Executive Sue Serino praised the efforts of farmers at 620 farms in the county.

Our farmers are faced with many challenges, such as the loss of land to suburban growth and this is not unique

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DC Republican legislators pass resolution to challenge election law over Democrats' objections

Members of the Dutchess County Legislature voted 14-7 to pass a resolution at their April 8 meeting authorizing the Dutchess County Department of Law to challenge New York State's law to move local elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

The bill in question, S.3505B/A.A.4282, was signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul in December. This law moves local office elections to even-numbered years. Supporters of the law pointed to cost savings over time and

higher voter turnout in even-numbered years. The bill was passed over the objection of numerous local leaders and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC).

"I made it clear the day I became chairman that we would fight this unconstitutional power grab with any available measure," said Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt. "Every member of the legislature swore an oath at our Organizational Meeting in January to uphold the county charter. We simply

cannot sit idly by as the state attempts to circumvent the very charter that we all swore to uphold."

He added, "I am very proud of my colleagues who stood by our pledge and oath that we swore to uphold and defend the Dutchess County Charter. It could not be any more clear that Kathy Hochul and her politically motivated colleagues in Albany have blatantly overstepped their authority by shredding up our local election process that Dutchess County voters

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County launches composting grant for municipalities, schools

As Earth Day events such as Dutchess County's raise awareness of reducing waste in the community, the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management has launched a new grant program for municipalities to purchase and install composting equipment to provide local and convenient composting opportunities to residents. The County is offering matching grant funds, up to \$50,000 per project, to partner with towns, villages and cities – as well as public schools – that are looking to reduce food and organic waste through composting.

The new grant program will enable local municipalities to purchase and install "in-vessel aerobic composters" that will allow people to conveniently dispose of organic residuals, potentially including food scraps, close to home. The composting machines provide a controlled decomposition process to turn the organic materials into beneficial composted material, which residents can then take home for use as rich soil additive or mulch for gardening and landscaping.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "We are excited to partner with local towns, cities, villages and schools through this new Composting Grant program – to get food scraps and other organics out of the garbage and put them to good use as compost – as part of our continuing efforts to protect our environment for generations to come."

Increasing organic composting opportunities is one of the goals of Dutchess County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan. With the support of the Dutchess County Legislature, the 2024 County Budget included \$200,000 to support the 2024 Composting Grant to empower local communities to take action against food waste and promote waste reduction.

Individual grant awards are available up to \$50,000, which would include the purchase of the in-vessel composting system; and the ancillary installation costs such as piping, electrical work, concrete slab and roofing material. All funds will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to funding the local 50 percent match of total eligible project costs, within 12 months of being awarded. Organizations awarded funding will be required to submit quarterly progress reports, and projects must be completed

and operational by September 1, 2026.

Local schools are also eligible to apply for grant funding to install composting vessels. These systems would be for materials created by the school district's cafeterias, etc. and would not be for public use.

The Commissioner of Dutchess County Planning & Development and Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Solid Waste Management will review applications based on the quality of the work plan, and then make recommendations to the County Executive for final review and approval.

The Composting Grant Program is Dutchess County's latest initiative in ongoing efforts to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment. Dutchess County is Bronze Certified under New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, a statewide network of communities with common environmental goals, including increased energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The County will be applying for Silver Certification this year, having completed, or in the process of completing, multiple steps to earn this elite designation. Only four New York counties have earned Silver-level CSC certification.

Planning & Development Commissioner Eoin Wrafter said, "By investing in community-based composting initiatives, Dutchess County can enhance local soil and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable local food system. Dutchess County is eager to partner with local communities and schools that share our commitment to environmental conservation and food waste reduction."

The 2024 Composting Grant application instructions and guidance are now available on the County's Division of Solid Waste Management website. For inquiries or assistance with the application process, applicants can contact the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management at 845-463-6020 or solidwastemgmt@dutchessny.gov.

For residents interested in backyard composting, the Division of Solid Waste Management continues to offer backyard compost bins for purchase at reduced cost to residents. More information about purchasing a backyard compost bin is available online.

Stanford Grange members set Open House on April 23

Members of the Stanford Grange will hold an Open House at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. The community is invited to attend. The Grange will show off the many ways members have been rooted, resilient, and united in our community over its 128 years since its organization in 1896.

Several Stanford Grange members will be honored with membership awards. Grange Secretary Ryan Orton will be recognized for 25 years of Grange membership.

"I can't believe it's been 25 years since I officially joined the Grange," said Orton. "I've been going to Grange events my entire life. I grew up in the Grange with my parents and grandparents. Time has certainly flown by!"

Gary Cooper, Jean Genovese Jicha, Irene Genovese Mortensen, and Diane McKeever Mueller will all be recognized for 50 years of Grange membership, and John Boadle will be recognized for an amazing 70 years of Grange membership.

Town of Stanford Supervisor Wendy Burton will present the Annual Grange Month Proclamation from the Town Board. Members of Pleasant Valley Grange #838

also plan to join the celebration.

Orton said the Open House allows those who are not members to come in and have a more casual interaction to learn more about the organization. However, Orton said, if you are unable to attend the open house, Stanford Grange meetings are open to all. Meetings are held each on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Stanford Grange Hall.

"Meetings are more formal – we work to get business done like planning for our next community service event and discussing issues that we feel are important – and they have some ceremonial elements where we prepare to work for the good of the community and remind ourselves that we strive to do well in all we do with our guiding principles of faith, hope, charity and fidelity," Orton said. "Once you see a meeting in action, I think people will realize how each element goes into helping us become more rooted, resilient, and united by working for the benefit of our neighbors and our community."

For more information about Stanford Grange, people are encouraged to visit Stanford Grange's Facebook Page or contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Ground broken for new building at Upton Lake Christian School

By Curtis Schmidt

A groundbreaking event for a new middle and high school building at Upton Lake Christian School in Clinton Corners was held on Friday, April 12.

Principal Elisa DeWitt, School Board President Rich Evans, Clinton Corners Evangelical Free Church Pastor Jeff Silvius and master of ceremonies Rex Bridges joined students, staff and community families.

Construction is set to begin at the end of April on the approximately 12,000 square foot, two story structure. Bovee Construction is the contractor and Brian Bovee was also on hand to greet everyone at the groundbreaking.

Minor site work, such as moving a pavilion and drilling a well, has already been completed. The estimated construction time is one year.

DeWitt addressed those in attendance and said, "Most importantly I want to thank God for providing for this school

for over 40 years. God has been urging Rich Evans to pursue this project for many years. Rich would say it is not about him, though it is all about the gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching that to these precious children who can then go spread the Good News."

She also announced there are two donors willing to match any donation for the month of April. One is up to \$12,000 and the other is unlimited.

DeWitt gave a special recognition to Lynda Lee, legendary kindergarten teacher and Board member, who was here for the first groundbreaking and now this one.

The new facility will house classroom for 7th-12th grades - teaching math, science, English, history, and other subjects and will accommodate approximately 90 students.

Additional work will include landscaping, paving the parking lot, exterior lighting, drainage and razing the existing high school building.



Taking the lead at the groundbreaking in the rain at Upton Lake Christian School on Friday, April 12, are from left, Brian Bovee of Bovee Construction, School Principal Elisa DeWitt and Clinton Corners Evangelical Free Church Pastor Jeff Silvius. In back is master of ceremonies Rex Bridges. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Planning Committee to meet on April 24

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will meet virtually on Wednesday, April 24, at 10 a.m. on Microsoft Teams.

There will be a short presentation on the Columbus Drive Redesign Study (Creighton Manning Engineering), followed by updates on recent funding

opportunities and several planning efforts, including the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study.

See the agenda at www.dutchessny.gov for more information, including a meeting link and call-in number. Please visit the calendar for meeting materials.

Clinton considers rejoining CCA electricity supply program

Town Hall info session April 24

The Town of Clinton is planning to participate in an upcoming bid to consider an electricity supply contract through Town of Clinton Community Power. Town of Clinton Community Power is a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) electricity supply program.

CCA programs can provide eligible residents and small businesses with access to renewable electricity supply options at competitive rates, with no individual contracts for consumers. Benefits

include support for renewable energy, competitive rates, and strong consumer protections.

The program can have a measurable positive environmental impact by giving each of us a way to reduce our carbon footprint.

Learn more about the Town program on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 1215 Center Road, Rhinebeck. You can also find more information at <https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com>; or call the helpline at (888) 985-2211 or email solutions@joulecommunitypower.com.

Creating enriching experiences for students

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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.

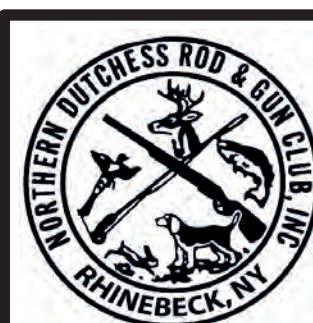
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The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org

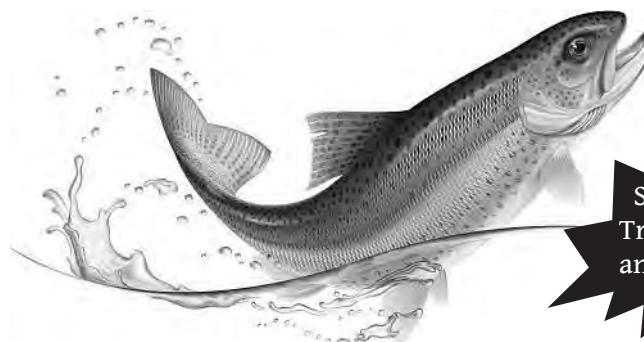
TOWN OF POK CONDUCTING FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING PROGRAM SURVEY

The Town of Poughkeepsie Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) is conducting a survey to poll residents about interest in a pilot program for food scrap recycling in the town. To find out more and to complete the survey, visit <https://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/371/Food-Scraps-Recycling-Program-Survey>.



Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club's Annual Trout Derby

140 Enterprise Road, Rhinebeck, NY



Stocked Pond!
Trophy Rainbow
and Brook Trout

Registration Information:

Registration Starts @ 6:30 am
Fishing Time: 7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Cash Prizes

1st Place Adult.....\$250
2nd Place Adult.....\$125
3rd Place Adult\$75

Entry Fees:

Adult (13 and up)\$30
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Bait and Tackle

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All other Golden Trout.... \$15

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Breakfast, Lunch, and Refreshments for Sale

Rules: Worms and Lures Only (no bait fish) - Keep What You Catch - Trout Limit: 5 Fish

Sunday, April 21, 2024

"Rain or shine, as fishing should be!"

For questions, please contact Eric at: NDRGCTroutderby@gmail.com

**NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS**
& Creative Living

(Published weekly)

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Dutchess County to host Earth Day event April 20

Public invited to day of family fun, educational opportunities in Poughkeepsie

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste and the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns will host its annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Vassar Barns, 50 Vassar Farm Lane in Poughkeepsie. This free event, open to the public, will offer environmental education, interactive activities and community engagement.

Dutchess County's annual Earth Day event brings attention to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. Residents of all ages are invited to participate and learn about ways to reduce waste, conserve resources and protect the environment for future generations.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Our children will inherit the environment we leave them, and Dutchess County's annual Earth Day event is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to learn how to preserve our planet. I encourage all to attend this important event and help make our community more environmentally

friendly, keeping Dutchess County green for future generations."

Attendees will enjoy a variety of activities and attractions, including:

- Fun, family-centric activities for children, including how to create a bird feeder and plant seeds;
- Interactive presentations about composting, recycling and waste-reduction techniques;
- Educational exhibits showcasing innovative environmental initiatives and local sustainability efforts, including organics, electric vehicles, natural resources and watersheds;
- Ecosystem education, including information about pollinators, invasive species, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife;
- Demonstrations highlighting gardening best practices and seed giveaways;
- Informational presenters from local environmental organizations, businesses and government agencies.

A full list of Earth Day event participants is available online.

Kerry Russell, Deputy Commissioner for the County's Division of Solid Waste Management, said, "In Dutchess County, we believe by coming together as a community, we can make a significant impact on the health and well-being of our plan-

et. Our yearly Earth Day event serves as a reminder of the importance of individual and collective actions in preserving and protecting our environment."

As part of her 2024 State of the County Address earlier this month, Serino reiterated Dutchess County's commitment to the environment, ensuring local children grow up with clean air and clean water. Last month, the County unveiled its Natural Resources Inventory website and Environmental Mapper application to help guide land-use decisions and natural resource protection.

Dutchess County will apply later this year for Silver Certification under New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, a statewide network of communities with common environmental goals, including increased energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Dutchess County is one of 11 counties to have already earned its Bronze CSC certification.

Additional information about Dutchess County's environmental and sustainability efforts is available on the Division of Solid Waste Management's webpage, accessible via www.dutchessny.gov.

Poughkeepsie sets events for Earth Month Town-Wide Clean-up

Town of Poughkeepsie residents are invited to join with the Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC), Town government, and volunteers to clean up the Town of Poughkeepsie during the month of April. Below are the clean-up events currently have scheduled that you can join in as a volunteer. Just bring work gloves.

There is also still time to plan your own clean-up event for a stretch of road of your choosing; just email Pam Kingsley, chair of the CAC, at pamkingsley9cac@gmail.com. She will supply you with contractor bags and arrange for garbage pick-up the following week. All you need to do is pick a day in April and get your volunteers together.

April 20
Hamlet of New Hamburg, 9 a.m.
Meet-up is at the train station on the

west side of the tracks. Organized by New Hamburg Neighborhood Association.

Salt Point Turnpike, 10 a.m.-noon
Meet-up is at Morgan Lake rail trail parking lot. Organized by Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards.

Dutchess Turnpike, 10 a.m.
Meet-up is at Stewart's parking lot at 1200 Dutchess Turnpike. Organized by Ward 3 councilperson Anne Burger.

April 21
Vassar Road from Hampton Road to Hillis Terrace, 9 a.m.-noon
Meet-up is at Vassar Road and Hampton, parking on Hampton Road. Organized by Ward 2 councilperson Barbara Laird and county legislator Lisa Kaul.

Channingville Road, 11 a.m.
Meet-up is at the Greenway Trail sign next to Channingville/Jay's Deli. Organized by residents of Riverview.

April 28
West Main Street/Route 9D in the village of Wappingers Falls, 9 a.m.
Starting point is at stoplight intersection of Delavergne Avenue and West Main Street. Organized by local residents.

Raymond Avenue from Hooker Avenue to Haight, Collegeview, Davis, and Lagrange, 2-4 p.m.
Meet-up is at the garden space next to the Crafted Cup. Organized by county legislator Lisa Kaul and Vassar Office of Sustainability.



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V BMC opens new Cardiac Cath Lab

continued from cover



Above, Dr. David Steckman, electrophysiologist, is at the controls in the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Below: Pictured in one of the bays of the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center are, from left, Dr. David Steckman, electrophysiologist; Cathy Ilardi, Director of the Cath Lab; RNs Angelica Gorrez and Leigha Wallace; and Jennifer Spreer, CRNA. Photos by Curtis Schmidt



implant devices that improve heart function.

In the Electrophysiology (EP) lab, electrophysiologists address issues affecting the heart's electrical system. They perform procedures to correct unhealthy rhythms and implant advanced monitoring devices.

"The opening of our Cath Lab represents our dedication to providing the highest quality cardiac care to our patients," said Dr. Mark Warshofsky, senior vice president and chair of the Nuvance Health Heart and Vascular Institute. "It is a significant investment in the health and well-being of our community, and we are confident it will have a positive impact on the lives of countless patients for years to come."

The opening of the cath lab underscores Vassar Brothers Medical Center's ongoing allegiance to innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery. The facility will enhance the hospital's ability

to provide timely and comprehensive cardiac care to patients throughout the region.

"We are thrilled to officially open our new Cardiac Catheterization Lab, marking a significant milestone in the healthcare landscape of the Hudson Valley. This expansion not only enhances our capacity to deliver exceptional cardiac care but also reflects our continued efforts in redefining healthcare excellence," said Vassar Brothers Medical Center President Susan Browning. "I extend my deepest gratitude to all who supported the development of the cath lab, including our dedicated clinical team, whose skill, talent and unwavering dedication continue to save lives and make a profound impact on our community."

To learn more about the cath lab, visit <https://bit.ly/4aswV8u>.

To learn more about Nuvance Health's Heart and Vascular Institute, visit <https://bit.ly/3xJrE8I>.

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Geeks OnSite

Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club sets annual Trout Derby for April 21

The Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club will hold its annual Trout Derby on Sunday, April 21 at the club pond at 140 Enterprise Road in Rhinebeck. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and fishing time runs from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cash prizes will be awarded, starting at \$250. Rules: Worms and lures Only (no bait fish) - Keep What You Catch -

Trout Limit: 5 Fish.

Bait and tackle will be available for purchase, as well as breakfast, lunch and refreshments.

The trout derby will be "Rain or shine as fishing should be!"

Adult and junior memberships are available. Please visit NDRGC.com.

Bringing Science and Spirituality Together: A conference for clergy and religious educators

The Peace Education Center of the Hudson Valley (PECHV) and co-sponsors, the Vassar College Education Department, GreenFaith, Rivers and Mountains GreenFaith Circle, and Third Act will host a free day-long teaching for Clergy and Religious Educators who are committed to learning more about climate change and environmental racism. The event will be held at Vassar College's Pratt House on Thursday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The event will be interactive and dialogical with teachings from Vassar College faculty and students. Talks, workshops, and dialogue groups are rooted in the science of climate change, environmental injustice and racism,

teaching and preaching about climate chaos, and taking local and global actions.

The program is free for clergy and active religious educators and includes breakfast and lunch. Space is limited and registration is required. Please register at www.pechv.org/religious/

The Peace Education Center of the Hudson Valley was founded by The Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, a member of the Vassar faculty and a Unitarian Universalist minister, who has 25+ years of experience as a peace, science, and environmental educator. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ardizzone, thepechv@gmail.com, (845) 481-3141.



CELEBRATE OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY

HUDSON VALLEY HEART WALK

Saturday, April 27

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Stanford seeks volunteers for park rebuild

The Town of Stanford seeks volunteers to help rebuild its SPARC Park in Stanfordville. Work on the SPARC (Stanford Parks and Recreation Committee) Park Playground rebuild will commence on April 18. Volunteers of all ability are needed. This is especially true for the beginning of the rebuild in mid-April. Please use this link to sign up: <https://shorturl.at/gkzAZ>

Pleasant Valley to hold month-long cleanup

In celebration of Earth Month, the Town of Pleasant Valley has pronounced April as Clean-up Month. The town encourages residents to help clean up local roadsides, parks and neighborhoods. Orange bags and gloves will be provided. Leave bags and miscellaneous items on roadsides to be picked up – don't bring them to the Transfer Station. All participants must sign a Volunteer Waiver form. Stop by the Town Clerk's office for bags and instructions. Call (845) 635-1111, ext. 201, for more information.

Skilled Trades Fair set April 18 at Ketcham

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

Grace Church Millbrook hosts

Annual Great Whale of a Sale Rummage Sale

On Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Grace Church will host the Great Whale of a Weekend Rummage Sale. Items will include clean clothing, children's toys, books, puzzles, games, household items, glassware, sports gear, furniture, jewelry, linens, bedding, and collectibles. All items must go. \$5 bag sale on Sunday. Handicap accessible.

Funds raised by the rummage sale will be used to further Grace Church community outreach programs. The Grace Church Parish Hall is located at 3328 Franklin Street, Millbrook, NY (opposite the Millbrook Bandshell). For more information call the office at (845) 677-3064, visit the website at www.gracemillbrook.org.

Walk/Run, Car Show to

raise funds for Angels of Light

Angels of Light is holding a pair of fundraisers on Saturday, April 20. From 9 a.m. to noon, the Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club (MHRRC) will sponsor the 2024 Barri Donnellan Memorial (5k Run, 2 mile Walk / Kids Fun Run) through the Village of Millbrook. The race will start at 28 Front St. Registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 on race day. There is no fee for the Kids' Half-Mile Fun Run.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Car Show at 21 St. Josephs Drive in Millbrook. Registration for the Car Show is \$15; spectators are free, but donations will be appreciated.

Both events will benefit local student athlete Damian Martinez, who is paralyzed from the waist down due to a swimming accident.

Visit www.angelsoflighthv.org to register and for more information.

Stanford Grange take-out dinner set April 20

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Chicken/Rice/Broccoli/Cheese Casserole Dinner on Saturday, April 20, at 5 p.m. at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. The menu will consist of Chicken/Rice/Broccoli/Cheese Casserole, Carrot Salad, and Lemon Poke Cake 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.

Blood Drive in Clinton Corners on April 20

The East Clinton Fire District will hold a Blood Drive on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 9 Firehouse Lane in Clinton Corners. Schedule to donate at RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code ECFD.

Holy Cow annual St. Jude Fundraiser set April 20

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

Spring Sale set April 20-21 in Millbrook

In honor of Earth Day, residents in the Village of Millbrook are planning Spring Sale with the mission of "Recycle, Upcycle and Donate" Building on the huge success of last year's Millbrook Neighborhood sale, the second annual Millbrook New York Neighborhood Spring Sale is taking place in April 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Millbrook will be bustling with fun activities and hunting for treasures.

Environmental presentation set April 21 in Poughkeepsie

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is hosting an Earth Day Celebration with a featured slide presentation, "Trash the Incinerator--Clean Air for Dutchess County!" by Mothers Out Front Dutchess. Tabling by Food and Water Watch, Riverkeeper, Dayenu Dutchess, Tomillary, NYPIRG, UU Fellowship, Mothers Out Front Dutchess. This is a family-friendly event, with children's art activities, refreshments will be provided. The event will take place at 67 S. Randolph Rd, Poughkeepsie on Sunday, April 21, 1-4 p.m. with a Slideshow at 1:30 p.m.

Anyone with questions may contact sjc@upok.com. Additional information can be found at the Mothers Out Front - Dutchess County Facebook page Facebook event.

Rhinebeck Garden Club to meet April 24

The Rhinebeck Garden Club's next meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24, starting at 10 a.m., at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. Presenter Donna Croshier, Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Dutchess County will offer a program, "Think Outside the Window Box! Adding texture, year round interest and surprise in your gardens." Visitors are welcomed.

Refreshments will be served.

Every year the Rhinebeck Garden Club puts together a series of meetings, field trips and events which are mostly open to the public. For information, call Hannah at (914) 263-5298 or logon to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

Watercolor workshop set April 25 in Clinton Corners

Let's Watercolor for beginners to more experienced will be held on Thursday, April 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Local artist Donna Rutlin will teach you how to paint beautiful flowers and plants using watercolor techniques. You will take home a selection of personalized greeting cards. \$20. Registration required. www.rubyhillfarm.com/events. Madi's Way Schoolhouse, Ruby Hill Farm, 2325 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners.

Hudson Valley Heart Walk set April 27

The Hudson Valley Heart Walk combines the Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk and the Tri-County Heart Walk into one event, set for Saturday, April

27, on the Walkway Over the Hudson. Participants can start on either side of the bridge. Register at <https://www.heart.org/hudsonvalley-heartwalk>.

Family fun at Spring Fling

Families can dive into spring together at the New Beginnings Spring Fling Festival on Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 4 pm. This water-themed festival is free and offers games, crafts, snacks, and more. The festival happens rain or shine; the events just move inside the big gym. New Beginnings is at 35 DeGarmo Road in Poughkeepsie. All are welcome. www.newbeginningscma.org

Taste of Rhinebeck set May 1

Taste of Rhinebeck is back on Wednesday, May 1, presented by the Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce. The event is a tantalizing showcase of Rhinebeck's finest flavors, offering specially created treats along the way at our award-winning restaurants, spirit shops and specialty food purveyors. Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased online in advance. With options for both time slots available on our website, there's no excuse to miss out. Reserve your tickets now: <https://bit.ly/49UPdys>

Spring Rummage Sale at Salt Point Church May 3-4

Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 1872 Salt Point Turnpike in Salt Point, will be holding their spring rummage sale on Friday, May 3, from 3 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a \$3 per bag final sale May 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. Features will include children, women and men's spring & summer clothing, linens, household goods, CD's, books, pocketbooks, backpacks, children's toys, games, puzzles, shoes, small electronics, 2 large rugs and matching runners, a variety of perennial plants and much more at very reasonable prices. Bake sale on both days with lunch available on Saturday only. For information or directions, call

Diana at 845-656-9959. (Note: The church will not be holding a fall rummage sale this year.)

Miles of Hope Spring Brunch set May 5

Miles of Hope will celebrate its 20th anniversary at this year's Spring Brunch, set Sunday, May 5, at The Grandview Tent, 176 Rinaldi Boulevard, Poughkeepsie. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. and the program starts at 11 a.m. Register at <https://milesophope.org/>.

Community Wellness Walks to start May 16

Rhinebeck Rotary's Mental Health and Wellness Committee will launch its Community Wellness Walks on May 16. These Wellness Walks are a first step to cultivating stronger social connections and feelings of overall well-being for people who live or work in Northern Dutchess County. The walks will be open to the public, and will rotate locations on the 2nd Thursdays of each month at 11 a.m., and the 4th Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. from May through October. The wellness walks are free of charge and open to anyone 18 years of age or older. All participants must sign a waiver form in advance (available at rhinebeckrotary.org).

Aerodrome Gala set May 18

The Spirit of the Aerodrome Gala will take place on Saturday, May 18, at 5 p.m. The fundraising event will feature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and fun. The Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome counts on the financial support of fans, friends and enthusiasts to keep its vintage planes flying. They do 38 airshows each season, like no other aviation venue in the country. Visit www.oldrhinebeck.org for tickets, sponsorship opportunities and more information.

ONGOING

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association seeks volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed. For further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call 845-229-6432.

DC Republicans pass resolution to challenge election law over Democrats' objections

continued from cover

enacted when our Charter was adopted in 1967 to form our County Government. To my colleagues who opposed defending our County Charter, I ask them: at what point would they be willing to stand up to their party bosses in Albany and put Dutchess County residents first?"

Yvette Valdés Smith, Minority Leader of the Legislature, said, "Here is another example of a blatant waste of our hard-earned tax dollars by County Republicans. Our communities simply do not have money to squander when we have real needs that must be addressed, from housing to affordability, to expanding services and programs. This is a law that has already been passed and signed by the Governor. I oppose such an expenditure on a lawsuit that cannot and will not be won in a court of law."

Majority Leader Deirdre Houston (R-Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley, Village of Millbrook) said "The charter, which was enacted by the residents of the county, specifically states that elections for county offices are to be held in odd-numbered years.

"There is a process in place to amend the charter, a change as monumental as this would have required the approval of the voters. New York State decided to unilaterally change the mode of our elections without so much as consulting the voters of Dutchess County. In my view, this represents a blatant disregard for the people of Dutchess County and their desire for local control."

Legislator, Brennan Kearney (D-Rhinebeck) countered, "To be clear, the state law supersedes County charters - thus making this proposed lawsuit a waste of Dutchess County tax payer dollars. I want to challenge the County Executive to show that she wishes to empower voters to have the best access to elections AND that she will act as a careful steward of our County Funds and veto this money-wasting Resolution."

Assistant Majority Leader Michael Polasek (R-LaGrange) said, "The County Charter is the foundational document of Dutchess County Government. The

charter has been in place, at the voters' behest, since 1967 and has guided generations of county leaders. This episode serves as a frightening harbinger of state government that blatantly disregards local control. If the state feels empowered to strike down one of the main pillars of our very foundational document, they will feel empowered to usurp local voters at every turn. The people of Dutchess County do not favor a more intrusive state government. It is for this reason that I believe it is incumbent upon us to fight back against this overreaching action."

Legislator, Chris Drago (D-Stanford), said, "The County budget is extremely tight due to years of budget mismanagement, and there are more important needs in our community that must be addressed first before spending \$100k on a lawsuit. That money could go to EMS, mental health services, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Board of Elections, public transposition - the list goes on and on."

Legislator, Brendan Lawler (D-Hyde Park), agreed and stated, "We have veterans who need homes and potholes that need to be filled but, once again, Republicans have determined that wasting our tax money is their highest priority. Our priorities should be housing veterans, filling potholes, and improving the lives of county residents rather than wasting taxpayers hard earned money on a doomed lawsuit."

Truitt said several other Counties have already committed to taking legal action, including Onondaga County and Nassau County. "I am not certain the exact number of Counties considering this legal action, but per my discussion with leaders from other Counties up at the NYSAC Annual Conference in Albany, most charter counties in the State of New York are very, very unhappy with this move by New York State. Even Albany County Executive Dan McCoy (a staunch Democrat), President of the New York State Association of Counties, opposed this measure and urged Kathy Hochul to not sign the bill into law last year."

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Agriculture community honors Harry Baldwin on 90th birthday

continued from cover



County Executive Sue Serino joins members of Future Farmers of America chapters at the annual Agriculture Breakfast at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds on April 11. Courtesy photo

to Dutchess," she said. "At the county level, we are working to think outside the box and help our farmers."

She recognized the Food Security Council, Dutchess County Agriculture Advisory Committee, the Dutchess County Agriculture Education Board and said she is "continually amazed at the energy" of students in the 4-H and Future Farmers of America chapters.

Receiving 2024 Tractor Awards from the CCEDC were Stephanie Rhoades, Pine Plains Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor, Sarah Chase of Chaseholm Farm, Michelle Hicks of the DC Agricultural Society and Jennifer Fimbel, Agriculture Navigator/CCE Dutchess Agriculture Educator.



Receiving 2024 Tractor Awards from the CCEDC at the Agriculture Breakfast on April 11 were (clockwise from top left) Stephanie Rhoades, Pine Plains Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor; Sarah Chase of Chaseholm Farm; Michelle Hicks of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society; and Jennifer Fimbel, Agriculture Navigator/CCE Dutchess Agriculture Educator. Presenters included Fimbel, Brian Scoralick of the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District, Stephen Van Tassell with the Dutchess County Dairy Committee and Andy Imperati of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. Photos by Curtis Schmidt

Farmer Harry Baldwin at 90: Living through history

By Curtis Schmidt

Dutchess County dairy farmer Harry Baldwin turned 90 last week and took time to look back on some incredible memories.

From viewing World War II as a child to experiencing all of the advancements in agriculture, Harry has lived through some amazing times.

"Living thru history, that's a nice part of growing old. You realize you have lived history," he said.

So, sit back for a few minutes and think about these historic happenings.

• Rationing during the War (WWII), food - especially sugar and meat, plus gasoline and tires etc. No pleasure driving. Silk stockings were unavailable – as silk was reserved for parachutes.

• Listening to Lowell Thomas reporting General Patton's death with the comment "He would have preferred dying with his head sticking out of a tank." Also hearing Thomas famous closure "Till Tomorrow."

• 1943 at age 10, the war had been the biggest part of my life and I remember

thinking "is this war ever going to end?" My only recollection of Hiroshima was "the War" is over. But 14 years later, I stood on ground zero and felt the somber feeling and fear of the Japanese people. "Never again." The same year I was riding on a Navy bus, passing through small towns in the Philippines seeing young kids flashing the 2 finger "V" for Victory sign. General MacArthur had kept his promise.

• The Red Chinese takeover of China, driving the Nationalists to Formosa (Taiwan).

• Following the raft Kon Tiki as it floated followed ocean currents east to the Americas from Hawaii.

• Being at General MacArthur's ticker tape parade after Truman's ouster from the Korean war in 1951.

• Seeing many autos, 10 to 15 years old on the road.

• The space race beginning with Sputnik

The agriculture world

• 1954 on a farm in Vermont - 33 dairy cows, 500 chickens and the owner bought a new car every two years. Hay put up

loose – no bales.

• Artificial Insemination, fresh semen received via the postal service by the inseminator daily. No liquid nitrogen nor on-farm storage at that time. Watching new ideas on farming practices and the stages of growth.

• Farmers doing tractor repairs themselves. Hay balers without kickers,

sickle bar mowers. Tractor-mounted field cultivators.

• The development of Hybrid seed varieties. The stages of milking machine growth. The rapid spread of improved cattle genomics.

• Watching 4-H and FFA kids develop into adults and the leaders of today – and I will keep on watching the amazing kids.

PV Library to hold Book Sale this weekend

More than 20,000 books, CDs, and DVDs will be available for purchase at the Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main Street (Route 44), Pleasant Valley the weekend of April 19-21. The sale features almost 1,000 antique books donated by the estates of two local college professors and includes many first editions.

The sale begins on Friday, April 19, from noon to 6 p.m., and continues Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids' books and all CDs and DVDs are just 5 for \$1. All adult books are 6 for \$5. Sunday, April 21, is "Name Your Price Day" for all remaining items from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m., when you can take as many books as you want and you decide the price.

You'll find a coupon for a free Book on our Facebook page during the month of April: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePVLibrary>

Donations of books, CDs, DVDs, video games and puzzles are being accepted through Saturday, April 13. Donations are accepted on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If bringing more than two boxes, please call the library in advance at (845) 635-8460.

Vet2Vet program helps veterans reach goals



When I was first asked to write a monthly column in the Southern Dutchess News' family of publications, I took some time to introduce myself to the readers and share a portion of my life serving in the Marines and the work I felt compelled to do after being honorably discharged from the armed forces. This included leading the critical work at Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County's PFC Joseph Dwyer PTSD Veterans Support Program, known to many as Vet2Vet, which connects veterans returning home with the resources to successfully reacclimate into civilian life.

In fact, I have written in the past about the struggle many returning veterans have encountered while trying to successfully handle the reality of resuming day-to-day community living. I'm spending this month's column going deeper into the Vet2Vet program that the Division of Veterans Services partner, MHA of Dutchess County, offers right on the campus of our one-stop facility.

The main thrust of the Vet2Vet program is a peer-to-peer network that develops relationships with other veterans. This provides an environment of encouragement and camaraderie and helps veterans

create a roadmap to identify, set and accomplish individual and long-term goals.

I realize it's difficult to join something new and begin sharing your deepest feelings with people you have never met, especially if you feel they can't relate to what you have experienced. Not only have I been there, but I saw many of those who served and returned to civilian life around the same time as me genuinely struggle to find some common denominator with those they interacted with throughout the community.

That is why I started the Vet2Vet program during my time working at MHA, and that is why I am such an advocate for my brothers and sisters to get involved – not only because I have seen those who took the initial step to participate in the program find friendships, a richer social life and discover skills they never used before; but also because the veterans who run the peer support groups and the professionals at MHA are some of the most capable and compassionate people I have ever worked with.

For privacy reasons I cannot use the names of vets who presently participate in the Vet2Vet program; I can, however,

pass along some of the feelings those vets have shared about the program:

"Honestly, this organization has been an integral part in helping me keep pace with the speed things seem to move at since I left the armed forces. Not only through needed personal help, but also through the services I was seeking for some time that weren't available through other Veteran Organizations."

"I am immensely grateful and appreciative for the opportunity and welcome I received in the Vet2Vet program. All the services have afforded me guidance, peace, and a measure of prosperity."

"I've been with two other Veterans Programs over the years. I have to say, this is by far the best."

"Those in the program helped me out with a resume when I was struggling to get things down clearly. Thanks."

"Working with the Vet2Vet team over the past couple of years has changed my life. Especially the support and information I received from Alyssa Carrion (MHA Director of Veterans Programs), which allowed me to start dealing with, and healing from, the trauma I experienced while on active duty. It has given me the opportunity to meet other woman

veterans, which allows us to support each other. I would not be where I am today if I had not found the Vet2Vet office."

Built within the Vet2Vet initiative are confidential referral services addressing PTSD, suicide, suicide ideation, depression, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), case management advocacy and wide-ranging support to vets and their families.

If you ever have felt any inclination to investigate the Vet2Vet program – or if this article is the first time you have heard of it – I encourage you to take the first step and visit us at the MHA Veterans One Stop campus, located at 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley. The facility is bright, spacious, has game rooms, a gym, places to sit and relax, classes for personal edification and has ample parking and easy access to our building.

You can visit us at the Division of Veterans Services or contact us at (845) 486-2060, and we will walk you over and introduce you to the MHA staff. You can also contact the Veterans Peer Services program directly at (845) 473-2500, ext. 1365 or call MHA's main line at (845) 473-2500 and press 0.

We look forward to meeting you.

Central Hudson to host EV ride & drive event ahead of Earth Day

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. is offering residents the opportunity to learn more about and test drive a variety of electric vehicles at a ride and drive event to be held at the Ulster County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Transportation is a significant source of carbon emissions throughout the world and adoption of EVs can help us drasti-

cally reduce our carbon footprint," said Central Hudson CEO Christopher Capone. "Our Ride and Drive event is an excellent opportunity for our neighbors to test drive some of the most popular EV models available today and speak with experts to gain valuable insights."

Up to 150 attendees can make an appointment to test drive an EV from a range of different makes and models

including Tesla's new Cybertruck. Each registered attendee may drive 2 vehicles. Test drives are approximately 10 minutes long. Guests are welcome to ride along in the back seat and all drivers will be accompanied by an EV expert. Visit <https://evoptions.net/chge> to schedule an appointment.

Central Hudson will spend at least 10 percent of its annual vehicle capital budg-

et on fully electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles through 2025 and up to 50 percent by 2030. The utility also plans to reach 10 percent fleet electrification by 2025 and 50 percent by 2030. For more information on EV purchase incentives, residential and commercial charging incentives, free fleet assessments and more, visit www.cenhud.com/en/my-energy/electric-vehicles/.

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GENERAC

Renegades finish opening road trip with 5-3 mark; at home this week

By Rich Thomaselli

For the first time in the 30-year history of the franchise, the Hudson Valley Renegades had three consecutive games postponed by rain. Hudson Valley had games against the Rome Emperors washed out on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

It necessitated some severe changes to the schedule. A doubleheader, which the teams split, was scheduled for Friday and another doubleheader was penciled in for Sunday. One game will not be made up at all.

In the Friday night twinbill, the Emperors won the first game 3-2, while the Renegades came back with a 1-0 triumph in the second.

In a single game on Saturday, the Renegades posted a 3-0 victory.

On Sunday, the Emperors won the first game in a 5-4 extra-innings walk-off, and the Renegades took the night cap 6-3. The Renegades are now 5-3 on the young season and were scheduled to open their

home schedule on Tuesday against Aberdeen.

In the first contest of the doubleheader on Friday, the Renegades took the lead two batters into the top of the first when Roc Riggio lined a leadoff double down the right field line against Lucas Braun, and scored on a Jared Serna single to left. Hudson Valley tacked on another run on a bases loaded walk to Riggio to take a 2-0 lead.

In the doubleheader, Riggio starred by finishing 2-for-3 with a run scored, a double, an RBI and five walks.

Rome got a run in the bottom of the third after Kevin Kilpatrick doubled off Jackson Fristoe and scored two batters later on an Ethan Workinger RBI single to cut the deficit to 2-1. In his first start of the season, Fristoe lasted 2.1 innings, allowing one run on three hits, striking out four and not issuing a walk.

Ben Shields relieved Fristoe and despite allowing an inherited runner to score, fired 3.2 scoreless innings, striking out five and allowing just one hit

and no walks.

Leonardo Pestana walked the first two batters he faced, and a groundout by Carlos Arroyo plated the tying run in the bottom of the seventh inning. With one out Sabin Ceballos lifted an RBI single to center off Cole Ayers (0-1) to give the Emperors a 3-2 walk-off win.

Double headers in the minor leagues are played in seven-inning increments instead of the traditional nine innings.

In the second game, Brian Hendry made his professional debut and was brilliant. The right-hander tossed 5.0 shutout

innings, allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out eight.

Hudson Valley broke through with a run against reliever Rob Griswold in the top of the fourth. Rafael Flores led off with a double and scored on a hustle double by Alexander Vargas to give the Renegades a 1-0 lead. That was all the Renegades needed as Hendry (1-0) and Matt Keating combined to strike out 12 in a three-hit shutout of the Emperors in Game 2. Keating stranded three runners on base in the final two innings of the game to earn his first save of the season.



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Renegades open WMCHHealth Club Lounge

By Rich Thomaselli

The Hudson Valley Renegades and Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) have announced a multi-year Pinstripe Partnership extension, with WMCHHealth remaining as the Official Hospital Partner of the Hudson Valley Renegades.

As part of the renewed partnership, WMCHHealth has secured the naming rights to the brand-new WMCHHealth Club Lounge, located adjacent to left field.

"The WMCHHealth Club Lounge is the most transformative upgrade to Heritage Financial Park in our 30-year history, and we are incredibly proud to partner with WMCHHealth on this state-of-the-art events and premium seating area," said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "The WMCHHealth Club Lounge provides the best vantage point of Renegades baseball in left field, and also offers top-notch real estate for community members and business leaders to host their next corporate meeting or family event. WMCHHealth is a beacon of our community, and attaching their name to this beautiful facility is the perfect connection to this incredible community asset."

The WMCHHealth Club Lounge was set to open Tuesday, April 16, and provides guests with a luxurious and unique ballpark experience with exclusive access to seating in fair territory beyond the left field wall. The 2,300 square foot space is climate-controlled and contains a private bar with premium lounge seating throughout the room. The WMCHHealth Club Lounge also features an elevated all-you-can-eat culinary experience prepared by an executive chef featuring a rotating menu as well as ballpark favorites.

With space to accommodate approximately 200 guests for baseball games, premium membership to the WMCHHealth Club Lounge includes an assigned seat in the club seating area along with VIP parking.

"The Hudson Valley Renegades organization has been a tremendous partner for WMCHHealth. Through this alliance, we've been able to bring our messages of health and wellness directly to the team's fans, many of whom are our Hudson Valley neighbors," said Michael D. Israel, President, and Chief Executive Officer, WMCHHealth. "It has been particularly rewarding to see former patients enjoying once-in-a-lifetime opportunities on the field, truly embodying the vitality and resilience we strive to foster in our communities. We were thrilled to be given this opportunity to extend our partnership with the Hudson Valley Renegades and remain the Official Hospital Partner of the team."

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Sheep and Woolgrowers set free farm tours for April 20



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The Dutchess County Sheep and Woolgrowers Association is conducting free self-guided tours of area farms on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eight farms, one fiber mill, and the Stony Kill Education Center will participate. Farmers will give short tours and visitors will be able to have an up close and personal view of life on these farms.

In addition to various sheep breeds,

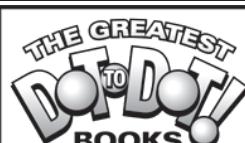
some of our farmers also raise alpaca, llama, goats, and other livestock. The Nobletown Fiber Works mill will show visitors how sheep fleece is turned into yarn or roving. Many of the participating farms also have farm stores where visitors can purchase their homegrown products, such as yarn, sheepskins, soap, socks, eggs, honey and other items. Visit dcsnga.org for more information.

Brent Zimmerman of Lime Kiln Farm in West Coxsackie holds two lambs. Below: Yarn is shown from Morehouse Farm in Milan. Photos by Claire Houlihan



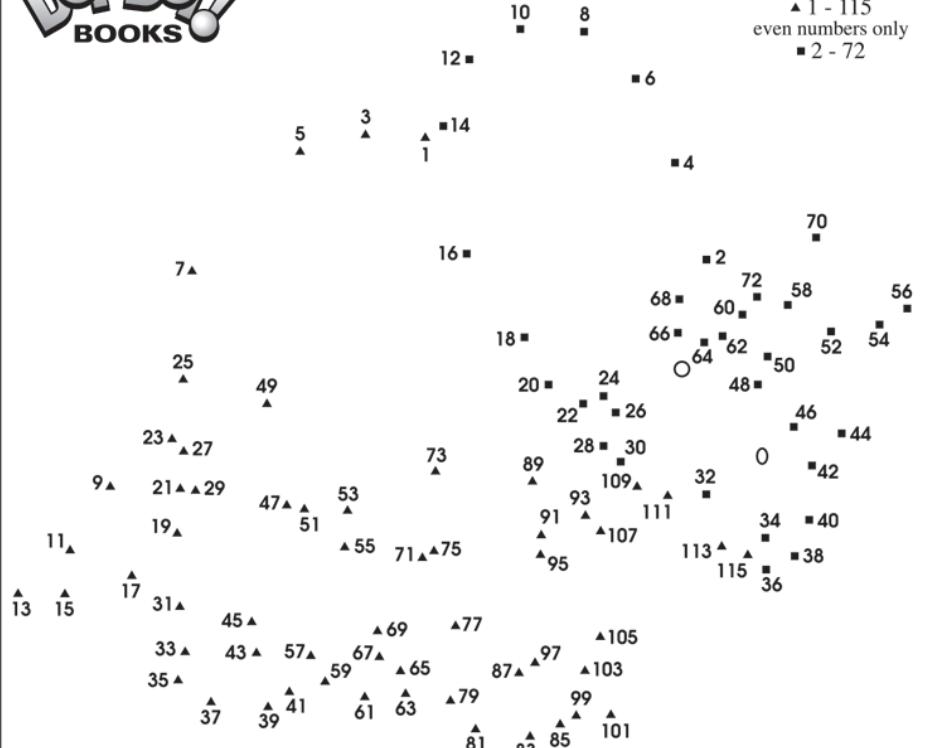
DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 21 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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Rediscover your Neighborhood National Park

by Anna de Cordova
National Park Service Horticulturist

The Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park are famous for the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Vanderbilt mansion, and the impressive and fascinating FDR Library. With a thousand acres of park land connecting these features, locals can enjoy many lesser known and free experiences that engage, entertain and educate. Here are some highlights as well as new community offerings for 2024.

Let's begin with the many free guided tours in the parks. The Beatrix Farrand Garden, next door to the Roosevelt home, and the Vanderbilt Mansion formal gardens offer guided tours on the third Sunday of the month from 1:00-3:30 pm from May through October. You can do both garden tours in one visit if you start with the 1:00 or 1:30 tours. In addition, The National Park Service Interpretive

Rangers will be scheduling free tours of the stunning Vanderbilt Mansion landscape and the Roosevelt Home Vegetable Garden. Check at the Wallace Visitor Center for free Ranger led landscape tour schedules this summer. Ranger led tours of Val-Kill, the Home of Eleanor Roosevelt, and an excellent exhibit in the Stone Cottage are free. Check the official website for the schedule: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/tour-val-kill-cottage.htm>

To get to know more about the park's many stories on your own time, tap into a wealth of audio tours that you can access on your phone and listen to at your own pace. Small signs throughout the parks mark tour stops with QR codes or a dial up phone number that tell you all about Top Cottage, Eleanor's Walk, Vanderbilt Riverfront Trails, Roosevelt Farm Lane, the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield, the Roosevelt home's vegetable garden and its Small Space Garden exhibit. All



A National Park Service Ranger offers a tour of the garden at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Courtesy photo

tours can be accessed by calling 845-475-3819 and following the prompts.

Arts and culture fans should also be sure to check out the Beatrix Farrand Garden's free arts programs and concerts throughout the summer. Don't miss the spectacular puppet show "Floral Arrangement" commissioned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this garden restoration on September 7 and 8. Visit Beatrix Farrand Garden Association (beatrixfarrandgardenhydepark.org) for the schedule of programs and events.

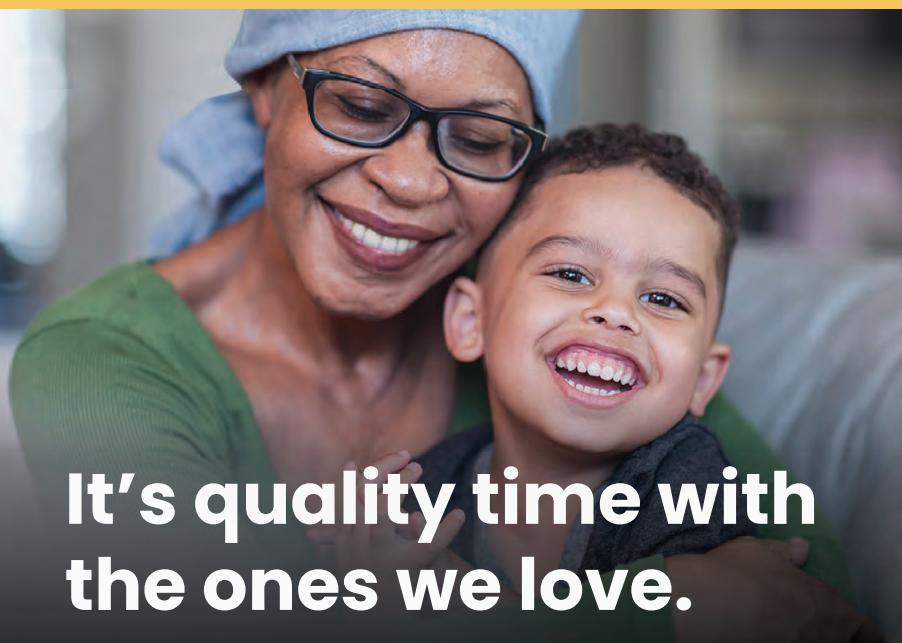
Val-Kill, the charming home of Eleanor Roosevelt, was known for picnics in the Roosevelt era. Visitors can experience the same fun by taking advantage of the lawns and patios for a picnic spot with history. Val Kill's tennis court (with court lines for badminton and tennis – bring your own racquets,

balls/birdies) swing set, historic swimming pool (no swimming allowed), cut flower gardens and babbling brook add to the fun of these picnic grounds where world leaders and political strategists shaped history in the great outdoors.

Two short walks at Val-Kill can extend your picnic. The trail to Top Cottage and "Eleanor's Loop" are both quick hikes – about two miles. The Top Cottage trail retraces portions of the historic lane that FDR famously zoomed up in his hand-controlled car to reach his hilltop retreat. "Eleanor's Loop" is a short circuit past a vernal pond that Mrs. Roosevelt walked daily to clear her head and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature that she so frequently mentions in her "My Day" columns. Another great short hike in the parks is the Bard Rock Road which leads

continued on page 19

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Making wine

Luigi regales his daughter with tales from his past.

The other night, my daughter Clara asked me about wines. She specifically wanted to know the various wine varieties and how their tastes were different. I told her some of the basics and encouraged her to get a notebook and taste the different wines and have a journal. She asked me how I knew so much about wines. I told her that I grew up drinking wine from a very early age. I told her that we even made wine in the fall. My brothers and I would go to school in the crisp mornings with our sweaters on and then we would run off the bus with our sweaters tied to our waist in the warm afternoons. Mom would always yell at us because the sleeves would get stretched out, then we would have to roll them up for it to fit right.

We would know it was almost time make wine, because my father would bring the old wooden barrels up from the basement, using the cellar stairs, to be soaked in the backyard. My father would fill the barrels with water in order to get the wooden slats that make up a barrel, to

expand and seal any cracks. He would then bring out a wooden mallet to position the metal bands that kept the wooden slats in place. It would usually take a week for the leaks to stop and it was the responsibility of us kids to keep filling the barrels with water until they stopped leaking.

Wine making was a great time of year at the Coppola house. Not only was it fun to grind the grapes and press them, but usually Pop would regale us with stories of growing up in Italy.

Naturally, I would pepper my father with questions.

Me: Paba?

Pop: Si?

Me: How many barrels of wine are we making this year?

Pop: Tree. Ona whita, ona reda, and ona rose

Me: Are we making rose because mom like it?

Pop: Si. Keepa grindinga the uva (grapes)

Me: Si Poba. How many cases of

grapes is that?

Pop: A lotta uva. Keep working. No talka so much.

Me: How come Vinny doesn't have to grinding the grapes?

Pop: Because hesa small. Keep working

Me: When is he going to be big enough? Next year?

Pop: Yeah nexta year. Listen. Youra mouth must be a tired. Let it resta a little ok?

Pause

Me: Paba?

Pop: Si?

Me: What are we having for dinner?

Pop: I donta know. Keep a working

Me: I wonder if mom is making polenta.

Pop: Listen. Ifa we donta finish these grapes tonight, we gonna have a problema. So don't talka so much. You remind me of my cousin when we worked ona the farm. He talkeda too much too.

Pause

Me: Paba?

Pop: Luigi. Do me a bigga favor. You no talk until you finish those grapes. Then when we havea dinner you cana talk all you want. OK?

This was a big deal to me, because I wasn't allowed to talk at the dinner table. So I quickly agreed. We worked hard and finished grinding all the grapes. Pop added sugar to the barrel to feed the yeast that formed on the grape skins, turned on the heater in the garage and we were done for the night.

Vinny and I washed up, put on our pajamas and got to the dinner table. I was all excited, because I was going to be allowed to talk at the dinner table. Once we all sat down and said our prayers, I began to talk. Pop took one look at me, said that I talked enough for a whole week, and that I shouldn't speak at the dinner table. I should have known.

As you enjoy one of my favorite polenta recipe, remember your parents are smarter than you because they have experienced more than you. Buon Appetito

continued on page 19

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This plant can melt snow

We sweat when we're hot and shiver when we're cold. Those functions that give us the ability to maintain a steady internal temperature, despite changes in external conditions, are called thermoregulation. Besides regulating body temperature, both mammals and birds can also generate their own heat through life processes and exercise. But that is not true for most plants.

Generally, plants maintain temperature homeostasis through transpiration and heat absorption. In desert climates, for example, some plants have silvery or whitish parts that reflect sunlight, keeping them cooler. In colder climates, adaptations for retaining heat include growing in the direction of the sun and having bowl-shaped petals to trap warmth. Some cold-climate plants even make antifreeze-like chemicals that prevent internal ice crystallization! But those protective mechanisms aren't the same as an internal regulation system.

Internal temperature regulation is possible among thermogenic plants, however. Like mammals and birds, thermogenic plants generate heat in their mitochondria. Scientists are trying to better understand how this process in plants works.

Eastern Swamp Cabbage can get HOT during its reproductive phase

The ability of Eastern Swamp Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) to melt through snow in early spring makes it one of the first ephemeral woodland flowers each year. Thermogenesis protects it against frost damage and allows it to germinate and sprout earlier than it otherwise could.

The plant stinks up bogs and wetlands as it blooms in freezing weather. While flowering, it maintains a temperature of 73 degrees F, day and night, for more than a week. Air temperatures may fluctuate, but little change is seen in the plant. After the female flowers bloom, the male flowers release pollen.

That's just in time. Certain flies and beetles are attracted to the smell. They enter the flower and help ensure future generations by transferring pollen from one plant to the next. The aroma of *Symplocarpus foetidus* spreads well with the help of the heat it produces.

Cousins

As a species, *Symplocarpus foetidus* is believed to have evolved its near-current state during the Cretaceous period. Its system has been working for at least 66 million years. As individual specimens, the plants are so deeply anchored that they can live for decades, or possibly even centuries.

With such a successful evolutionary strategy, it's not surprising to learn that Eastern Swamp Cabbage has a cousin. Both are members of the family Araceae. The eastern and western varieties have some commonalities. They both grow in forested, watery environments. Both flower for similar durations in the early spring. They are both pollinated by flying insects, have large leaves, a spathe, and a spadix with tiny flowers. And, of course, both Eastern and Western Swamp Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) stink!

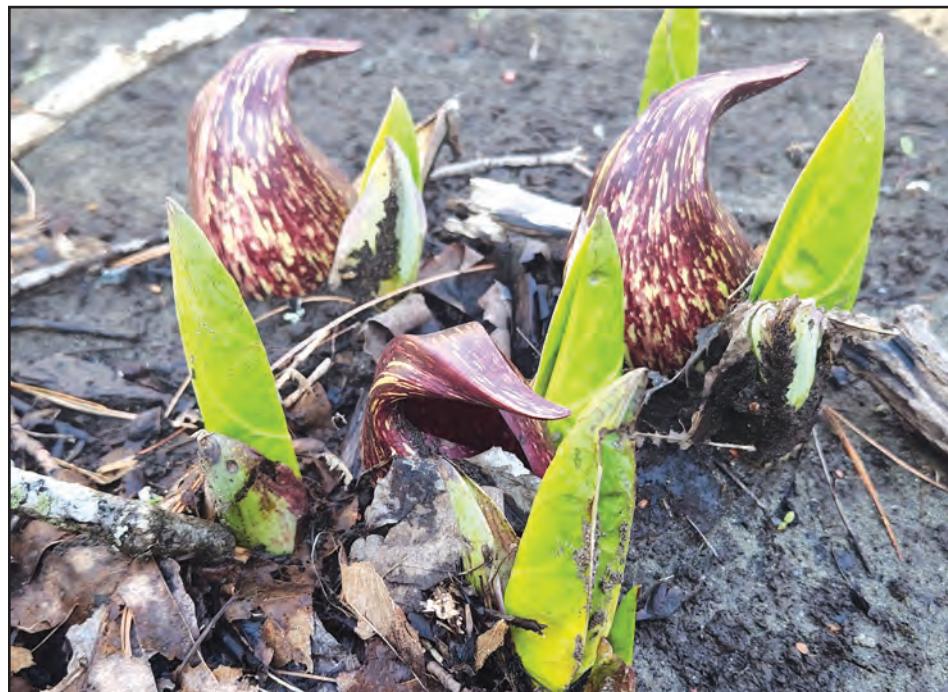
But these cousins are also quite different. While the Eastern Swamp Cabbage has a purple and yellow overarching spathe, with a rounded purple spadix, the Western Swamp Cabbage has an open yellow spathe and spadix, that is elongated. And, most importantly, Western Swamp Cabbages are not thermogenic.

This is an illustration of one problem of using common names (rather than scientific names) for living things. These two plants are both called Swamp Cabbage, but they are quite different. Researchers use scientific names to refer to the organisms they study so that there is no confusion. Not all swamp cabbages are created equally!

Scaffolding into Spring

Eastern Swamp Cabbage is a common, yet uncommon flower. It can present teachers with an opportunity to discuss varied scientific topics. It is a familiar plant which grows along many roadsides. The greenery of its leaves contrast against the previous year's dead foliage and marshy soil as winter comes to an end.

Once you notice something special in your environment that you never realized before, it becomes more intriguing. When children (and adults) recognize this native, but unique, organism, they can make connections to other, more difficult to understand concepts. Knowing about something in your environment helps



establish a framework for learning new things. Eastern Swamp Cabbage offers a way to make connections to concepts like homeostasis, pollination, evolution, and taxonomy.

I have a "garden" of these pungent and exquisitely unusual wildflowers ... these sultry snow melters of the vernal equinox. It is true that most people don't think of flowers smelling putrid. I find those that do particularly fascinating. The beautiful huge green leaves of Eastern Swamp Cabbage are a welcome harbinger of spring. The plant can "magically" chase away the frozen snow with its own internal "furnace."

Happy Spring, Everyone!!

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



The Eastern Swamp Cabbage is shown in different stages of development. From top: The "ball with spikes" in the first photo is the spadix, which is a type of inflorescence that has small flowers on a fleshy stem. The purple "hood" is the spathe, which protects the spadix. Some of the plants are just emerging in the middle picture, since the spathe has not yet opened to reveal the spadix. After the flowers have been pollinated, the spathe dies and bright green leaves resembling cabbage emerge. Photos by Francine Wizner

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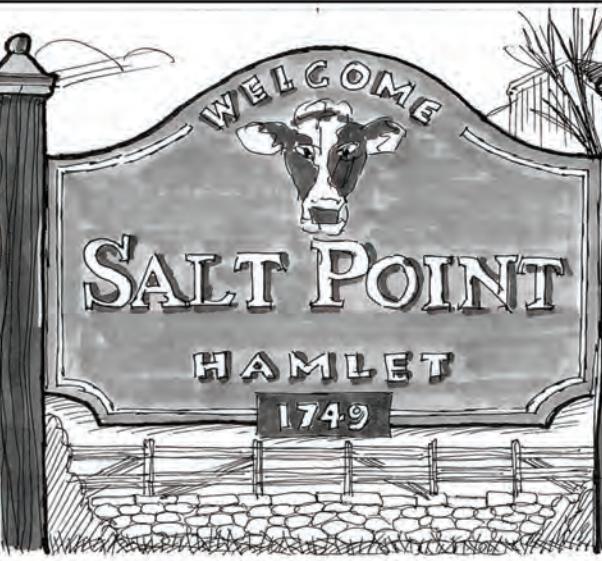
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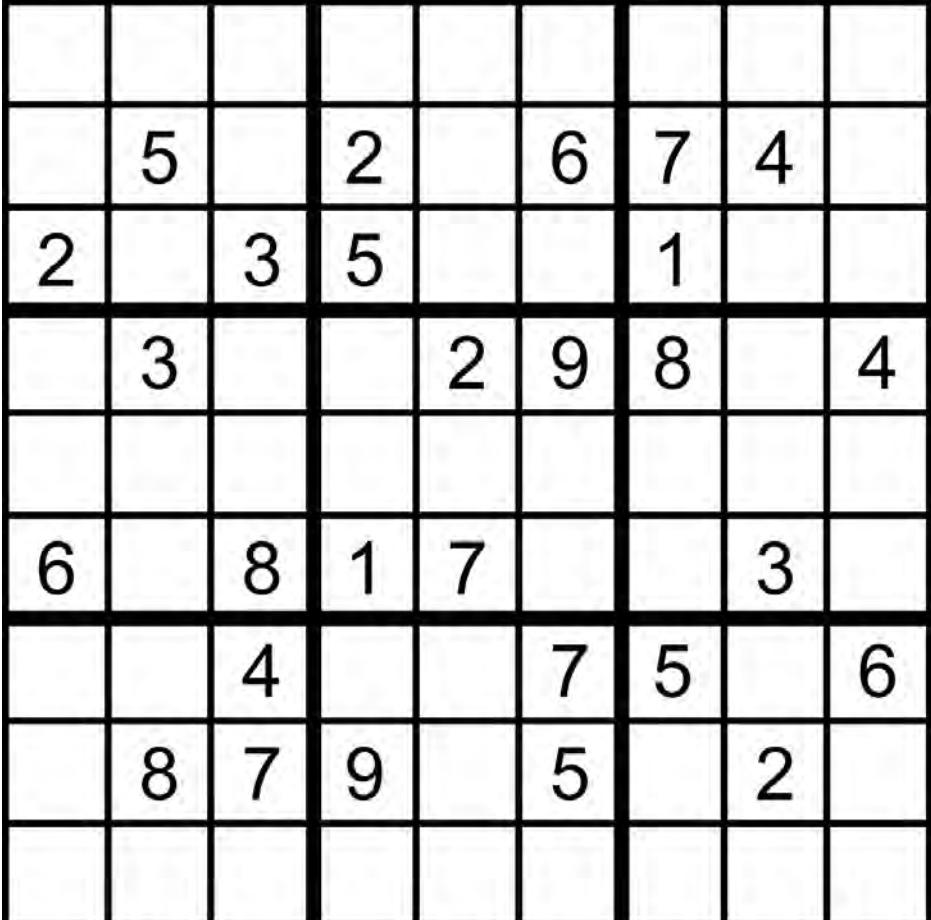
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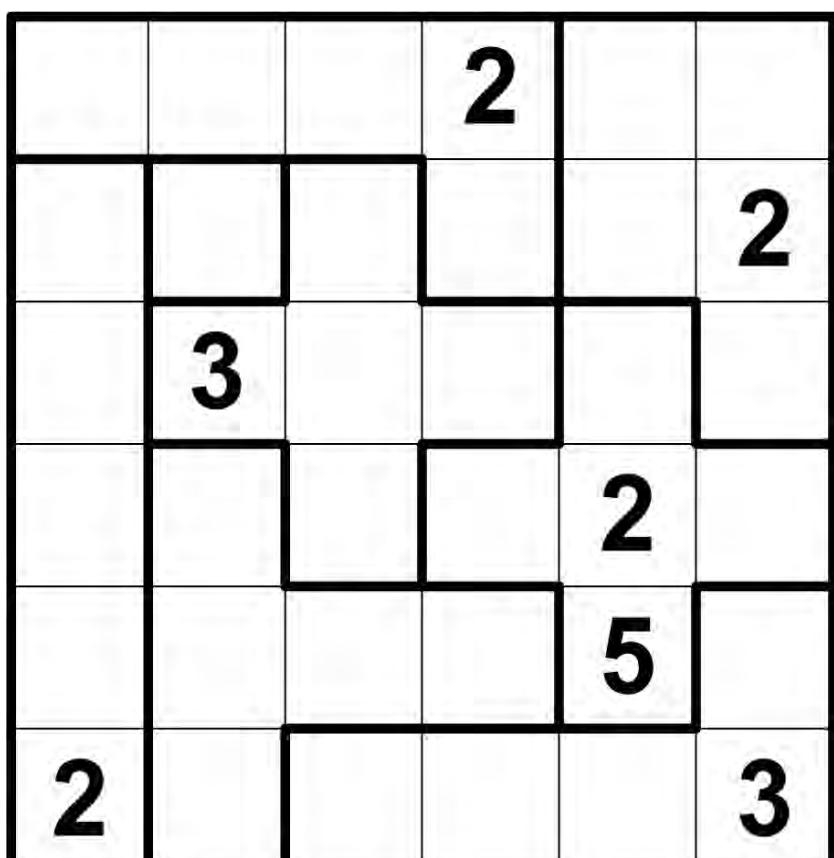
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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

THEME: EUROPEAN CAPITALS

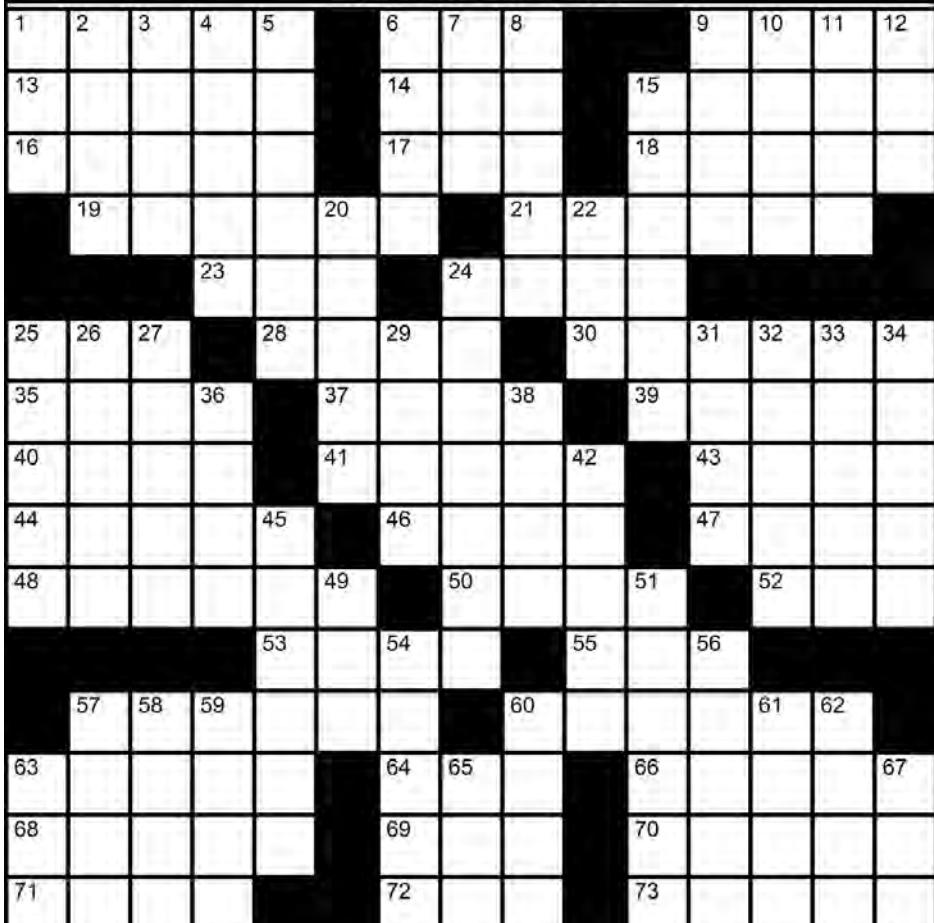
ACROSS

- Parting words
- Broadcasting acronym
- Taj Mahal city
- Ernest, to mommy
- "Fat chance!"
- Fits of shivering
- Rundown
- Historical period
- "___ its weight in gold"
- *Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
- **The City of a Hundred Spires"
- Financial assistance
- Bird's groomer
- Pod nugget
- Fountain order
- Duck dish a certain way
- Picture on a coat
- Feline vibration
- Stocking fiber
- Stink to high heaven
- Cocoyam, pl.
- Pelvic bones
- Frost over (2 words)
- Stew bean
- Sleeveless garment
- Predicament
- Snakelike fish
- Hi-___ monitor
- Toothy wheel
- *Street, in capital city in #38
- Down
- *On the Danube
- *On the Thames
- Virtue, in Italian
- *Street, in capital city in #25
- Down
- Dashboard instruments
- Beside, archaic
- Geological Society of America
- Type of heron
- Parks or Luxembourg
- Pecking mother
- Like oboe's sound

DOWN

- "___ the land of the free ..."
- Cold one
- Peruvian Empire
- Miss America topper
- Blood infection
- Prepare to swallow
- *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple ___".
- Parallelogram, e.g.
- All excited
- Spiritual leader
- Network of nerves
- Certain something in a tray
- Rouse
- Take puppy from a pound
- "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
- Great ___ Reef
- *On the Seine
- Not slouching
- Arabian chieftain
- Like Roman god Janus
- *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
- More ill
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ___"
- Annoying tiny biters
- Arctic jaeger
- *Located in boot-shaped country
- Sound of artillery
- Kind of hickory nut
- Jack's inferior
- Like a Grammy nominee
- Frustration, in print
- "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
- Source of veritas
- Wraths
- Volcano in Sicily
- Ground beef description
- Fairytale giant
- "All You ___ Is Love"
- Variable, abbr.
- Put to work
- Hog heaven

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 21

HV History Reading Festival set April 20 in Hyde Park

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District present the annual Hudson Valley History Reading Festival on Saturday, April 20. 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.

The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential

Library and Home in Hyde Park and streamed live to the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. This is a free public event, but registration is required for in-person attendance. Visit fdrlibrary.org to register.

Schedule:

10 a.m.

Robert and Johanna Titus

"The Hudson River Schools of Art and Their Ice Age Origins"

11 a.m.

Cheryl and Will Cass

"World War II – Letters Home (August 1942 - October 1945) Love, Jimmy"

Noon

Lunch Break (on your own)

1 p.m.

Michael Burgess

"Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in Albany: Governing New York"

2 p.m.

Susan Stessin-Cohn

"In Defiance: Runaways from Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley 1735–1831 (Second Edition)"

Contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 with questions about the event.

The library is at 4079 Albany Post Road (Route 9) in Hyde Park. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.org.



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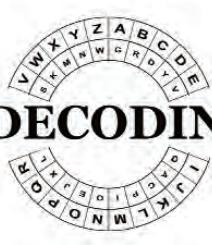
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DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

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By Melodye Moore

The Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) is launching a firefighting exhibition on Saturday, April 20, as an open house between 2 and 5:30 p.m. Between 4 and 4:15 DCHS will simultaneously hold its annual membership meeting. This will take place at DCHS headquarters, 6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck. DCHS wishes to thank the essential support and collaboration of the Rhinebeck Fire Department and the Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County.

The history of firefighting in America begins on January 7, 1608, when a fire leveled most of the Jamestown colony which was just barely a year old. Over the next three centuries fire has been a constant danger in the lives of the American citizenry.

As early as 1648 citizens of New Amsterdam were acting as fire wardens and in 1678 the first engine company went into service in Boston. The earliest efforts to combat fire in an organized fashion occurred in major population centers such as New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston.

In 1714 four hundred and forty-five people lived in Dutchess County and were equally spread among the first three settlements at Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, and Fishkill. Response to fire in these communities would have been limited to volunteer fire brigades relying on access to water from wells, cisterns filled with rainwater, streams, and nearby water bodies.

By 1788 the population of the county had grown and was expanding to recently established towns further east and inland. The greatest risk of uncontrolled fire however still existed in the ever growing, densely populated, hamlets along the river, and so it is not surprising that the first engine companies in the county are founded in Poughkeepsie in 1804, Rhinebeck in 1821 and Fishkill in 1829.

Over the next two centuries fire companies have been created in all the towns and cities of the county. The desire to form a local fire company often followed a catastrophic fire that inspired residents to take action to protect their

communities.

Among the areas of focus in the exhibition is apparatus. Firefighting has always been a community effort. What's changed over the centuries has been the apparatus used to combat fires.

The "bucket brigade" was formed when a group of neighbors created a chain and passed water-filled leather buckets hand to hand to extinguish a fire. This type of fire response lingered well into the late 19th century in Dutchess County. In January 1891 a hotel fire in Millerton was fought by a "bucket brigade" that stretched from the Webatuck Brook across the railroad tracks to the scene of the fire. Three years later in 1894 the Dinsmore Fire Company was organized as a fire brigade.

Hand-pulled hose carts were mainly used to transport water hoses to and from fire scenes. Manually operated, they required young, strong, able-bodied men to haul them to the scene of the fire. In 1892 Millerton paid \$48.50 to purchase a hose cart, complete with 500' of hose, 6 hose wrenches, 28 pails and 2 hose nozzles. They paid an additional \$3.95 for a bell.

Early fire "engines" were hand pumps equipped with a water box that was pulled to the scene of the fire by the firefighters. The capacity of the water box was limited and "bucket brigades" were often necessary to keep the water box full if there was not an available water source nearby. Once at the scene of the fire teams of firefighters pumped the brakes on either side of the hand pumper up and down to produce the stream of water. "Pocahontas" was purchased in 1859 by the old Rhinebeck Fire Dept. Engine Co. #2 from the Button Company of Waterford, N.Y. and continued in service until 1890 when it was replaced by a new steam pumper.

Hand pumpers were replaced by steam powered pumpers that could pump water at higher pressures and volume. A complicated mechanical device, it was comprised of a vertical water tube boiler that provided steam for a pumping engine to force water through hoses and onto the fire. It required a well-trained operator. For about 50 years, from the 1870s until

DCHS to present Firefighting Exhibit April 20



A white fire fighter's hat indicates a Fire Chief, in this case tied to Rhinebeck's Pocahontas Relief fire department, and an ornate horn or voice amplifying trumpet for ceremonial purposes that had origins in tools used for directing orders during a fire. Both from the Rhinebeck Fire Department. *DCHS images*

around 1920, it was a common occurrence to see horses pulling heavy steam-powered pumpers to a fire. The horses were so well trained that when the alarm was sounded, they knew to walk out and position themselves before the apparatus where they could be quickly harnessed. Fire horses needed to be strong, swift, obedient, fearless, and calm.

Horsepower was replaced by the internal-combustion engine early in the 20th century and the modern form of the firetruck was born. Equipped with a powerful pump, a large amount of hose and a water tank for use where there is no readily available source of water, these new fire trucks greatly increased the speed and efficiency of fire companies.

The post World War Two era saw the rapid growth of the suburbs and that led to new concepts in firefighting equipment and methods. Advancements in equipment included practical diesel powerplants, improved radio communications, metal aerials and elevated platforms.

During the last decades of the 20th century fire apparatus was bigger, more powerful, and more efficient than ever

before and design changes focused on safety and comfort. Today's fire engines come with elevating platforms, mobile data terminals, hydraulic rescue tools, floodlights, self-contained breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras.

When Millerton invested \$48.50 in 1892 to purchase their hose cart, they could never have imagined that the cost of a new engine today would be \$1 million, and the cost of a ladder truck would be \$1.8 million.

These are some of the themes that will be explored.

While fire remains a constant danger in the everyday lives of Dutchess County residents, the dedication, self-sacrifice and commitment of the men and women who serve in the 62 fire stations in the county deserve our recognition, gratitude, and support.

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



The firefighting exhibition at DCHS will feature explanations about apparatus, fire houses, and essentials like alarms and water supplies. These images clockwise from top left show: 1) image of a typical town pump that would have been used as a water source; 2) a depiction of the 1836 reservoir at Poughkeepsie's Reservoir Square, the first in the county it was designed to support fire hydrants; 3) the pumping station that was built at the Hudson River to pump water to be stored at the top of College Hill, a practice that remains in place today; 4) the 1872 Victorian outdoor reservoir at College Hill; 5) the 1920s underground reservoir; and 6) the recently constructed water storage tanks, all on College Hill. *DCHS images*

SPORTS MUSEUM TO HOLD OPENING DAY ON MAY 4

The opening day of the Sports Museum of Dutchess County will be held on May 4 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 72 Carnwath Farms Lane in Wappinger. There will be a program on "Early Hudson Valley Baseball" presented by Robert Mayer, a sports historian, at 1 p.m. There will also be games, snacks, tours, raffles and more.

For more information, call 845-473-0903 or visit www.sportsmuseumofdutchesscounty.org.

Rediscover your neighborhood national park

continued from page 12

from the Vanderbilt mansion downhill to the banks of the Hudson River. Look for the large iron hook where the Vanderbilt's moored their recreational boats for river excursions.

If these shorter hikes inspire you to explore more of the parks on foot, consider the Hyde Park Walkabout Challenge. By completing five trails in, or near, the parks, you can earn a handsome commemorative patch from Hyde Park Trails. This program has been running for over 30 years, so you may spot some hikers with impressive patch collections on the trail. This year's patch design will be unveiled on Earth Day which kicks off the Walkabout season. For more information, including a trail map and Walkabout "Scorecard", go to: Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout | Hyde Park, NY (hydeparkny.us)

Gardens are everywhere at the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. Most locals are familiar with the impressive formal gardens at Vanderbilt Mansion and the Rose Garden where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are buried. The parks are also home to the stunning walled garden designed by

America's first female landscape architect, Beatrix Farrand, at Bellefield, next door to the Roosevelt Home. This garden also features a brand-new undertaking – the establishment of a "Wild Garden" suggested by Farrand, but never fully realized. This season, visitors will see a layer of thousands of native perennial plants added to the native trees and shrubs that were planted last year. Ecological gardening concepts are also easy to see in action here.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had a special fondness for his family's vegetable garden, specifically including it in the deed for his home to be given to the public as part of a National Park. Within this large food production garden, there is also a living exhibit on growing food in smaller spaces, full of great ideas for busy people with more limited resources than the Roosevelt's grand Hudson River estate.

Whether you consider yourself a gardener or not, getting involved in a garden volunteer program in the parks is another great way to interact with the parks and your community. Caring for these gardens through a wide variety of flexible, fun and rewarding garden volunteer



Bard Rock at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Hyde Park. Courtesy photo

programs is easy and welcoming. To learn more about these opportunities, come to a Volunteer Information Meeting on either March 26 or April 23 at 10:00 am at the Wallace Visitor Center or click on the email link on the volunteer page of the park website under the "Get Involved" tab. Volunteer with Us - Home Of Franklin D Roosevelt National

Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)

The National Parks belong to you, so don't wait for a road trip west to find your park. Check out one or all of these opportunities in 2024, and take advantage of the free, daily access to history, recreation, nature, and education that lies in your own backyard.

A & E CALENDAR

April 18: Murray & Peter Present Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue, UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston. This show brings Miami's sassiest seniors to stages around the country for one more hurrah, 7:30 p.m. We find Sophia out on bail after being busted by the DEA for running a drug ring for retirees. Blanche and Rose have founded CreakN, a thriving sex app for seniors. And Dorothy is trying to hold it all together with help from a new (much) younger sex-crazed lover. *Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue* allows audiences to relive the heartfelt hilarity of the four ladies who never stopped being best friends. Tickets \$53, \$58, \$63, \$83. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org.

April 19: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library & Community House, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Women Singer/Songwriters, 8-10 p.m., featuring Lisa Dudley, Lynda Sales, Joann Chamberlain, Bjanette & Danele. Donations suggested. More info at (845) 876-7007

April 19-20: Murder Cafe Mysteries. Fri., April 19: "Murder at the Mic," Restaurant Six at Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction. Someone is killing the contestants at our Karaoke Klash. The contestants compete for the trophy and one of them dies trying. Whodunit and why? Ticket includes a three-course meal with entree selection, cash bar, prizes, and entertainment from Murder Cafe. Tickets at www.curryestate.com. Sat., April 20: "Murder at the Speakeasy," Olive Free Library, West Shokan. Dutch Schultz has opened a speakeasy to give his girlfriend LuLu a place to sing, but flapper Rosie isn't having it. You'll dance, dine and gulp the best hooch anywhere until tempers flare, bullets rain and the law shows up. A body will fall, and it doesn't look like the Charleston did it. Tickets at www.olivefreelibrary.org. More info at www.murdercafe.com

April 20: Movies With Spirit: "Living," Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. Poignant 2022 drama about a boring London bureaucrat who decides to turn his hollow life into something wonderful before it's too late, 7 p.m. Rodney Williams (Bill Nighy, pictured below) is a senior county Public Works functionary in 1953 London who spends his days, as he has for decades, shuffling papers that never seem to get where they're supposed to go. When he leaves work in his still-neatly tailored suit and bowler hat, Williams goes home and sits with his son, Michael (Barney Fishwick), and daughter-in-law, Fiona (Patsy Ferran), making polite, empty conversation. What finally pushes Williams, a widower, out of his deadening routine is the imminence of actual death. His doctor tells him he has six months to live. This bombshell barely causes a ripple on Williams's stiff upper lip. But he later decides he has been wasting his life and wants to reclaim something with whatever time he has left — if he only knew how. Run time: 1 hour 42 minutes. Rated PG-13. The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion. Refreshments will be served. Attendees over age 12 are asked to contribute \$10 a person. For more information call Gerry Harrington at 845-389-9201 or email gerryharrington@mindspring.com. Courtesy photo



April 20: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra Concert, Joseph L. Phelan Auditorium at Rhinebeck High School, 45 North Park Rd., Rhinebeck. The orchestra will present "Genji," a program featuring world-renowned guest koto player, Yoko Reikano Kimura, in a performance of Daron Hagen's spellbinding "Genji: A Concerto for Koto and Orchestra," 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$38 per person, with special discounts available for seniors and students. Pre-concert Talk with the composer at 6:45 p.m. www.ndsorchestra.org or (845) 635-0877

April 20: Storytelling Workshop, Ancram Center for the Arts, Grange Hall, Ancram. Free storytelling workshop designed to help participants craft and tell a compelling personal story, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The workshop is limited to 15. To register, email info@ancramcenter.org. The class will be led by Ancram Center's Paul Ricciardi, an award-winning educator who curates and directs the Center's REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES series. ancramcenter.org.

April 21: The Spark Speaker Series, Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling. Provocative and inspiring panel discussion moderated by Pawling's own Soledad O'Brien, nationally acclaimed documentarian, journalist and producer of "Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien." The two panelists are the humorist Eve Schaub whose latest book, "Year of No Garbage," unravels the mystery of 'Where does all our stuff go when we toss it into the recycling bin or trash can?'; and Meghan Olson, an innovator and spokesperson for Ecovative, the world's leading mycelium technology company. Ecovative is reshaping industries such as commercial packaging and others by replacing plastics and animal products with sustainable plant-based alternatives. Free.

April 25: Game Changers Film Series: "The Thin Blue Line," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Series presents films that revolutionized cinema, 7:30 p.m. Widely recognized as a monumental achievement in the documentary tradition, *The Thin Blue Line* (1988) is a seminal true-crime document. Formal and stylistic inventiveness pulse through director Errol Morris' film, which investigates the circumstances around the murder of Dallas police officer Robert Wood and the subsequent sentencing of two men for their alleged involvement. Free. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org

April 26: Author Talk with David Baldacci, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Best-selling novelist David Baldacci will discuss his latest work, "A Calamity of Souls," 7 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Free ticketed event. Limited tickets will be available at the check-out desks at Adriance Memorial Library and Boardman Road Branch Library. For more information, follow the Library District on Facebook, visit the web site at <https://poklib.org/events/david-baldacci/>, or call (845) 485-3445, ext. 3707.

That's Italian!

continued from page 13

4 CHEESE POLENTA

Ingredients

- 3 cups Low sodium Chicken broth
- 1 tspn. Black Pepper
- 2 cups quick cooking polenta or corn meal
- 1/2 cup Pecorino Romano
- 1/2 cup Shredded Mozzarella
- 1/2 cup Ricotta
- 1/2 cup Reggiano Parmigiana

Method

In a medium sized sauce pan (4qt.) bring 6 cups of water and chicken broth to a boil. Add in the pepper. Using a whisk, stir in the polenta in a slow steady stream. Once all the polenta is mixed in, lower the heat to medium-low and cook,

stirring with the whisk, until the polenta thickens. Continue to stir till you see it bubble like lava. Remove from the heat. Stir in the cheeses. Start with the Ricotta, then the Pecorino Romano, then the Reggiano Parmigiana and finish by stirring in the mozzarella.

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.

OBITUARIES

Vilma Bernardon Bruno

MILLERTON - Vilma Bernardon Bruno, 91, a thirty-one-year resident of Millerton, NY formerly of New Hyde Park, NY died peacefully on Monday, April 8, 2024 at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT. Beloved mother of John Bruno, William Bruno and Lisa Napolitano.

Calling hours took place on Friday, April 12, 2024 at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service was held on Friday, April 12, 2024 at the funeral home with Pastor William Mayhew. A committal service was offered on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, with Rev. Robert K. Wilson. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, a floral tribute to the service or to plant a tree in Vilma's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Agnes Mary Downes

HYDE PARK- Agnes Mary Downes, a longtime resident of Hyde Park, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2024, at Northern Dutchess Hospital with family at her side. She was 93.

Born August 30, 1930, in Rochester, NY, she was the daughter of Truman D. and Alice (Reddy) Bartlett. When asked her name on her first day of kindergarten, she emphatically replied, "Mary" and was known as such from then on. The Bartlett family moved to Hyde Park in the mid-'40s. Mary, a dark-haired, brown-eyed beauty, had many suitors as a student at Roosevelt High School (class of 1948), but it was a lanky local boy, David M. Downes, who captured her attention and her heart. She was married on June 27, 1953, in Regina Coeli Church in Hyde Park carrying a bouquet of white roses.

Very soon thereafter, her family grew (and grew). Mary lived her life for her family. She was a dedicated stay-at-home mom before there was an option for mothers to work outside the home. Mary considered her seven children, Peggy, Julie, Susan, Jane Ann, David, Sarah and Amy, her greatest accomplishment.

Though home life was hard for her, Mary always approached the burdens of a large family with enthusiasm. She would create an exciting meal out of ground beef and macaroni just by renaming it Hungarian Goulash; she would find a myriad of ways to bake with apples including apple crisp, apple kuchen, apple betty, and apple pie; and she would enthusiastically rally the kids with a cheery, "We're going to work all day today!" on any typical Saturday. Mary was selfless in her love and it goes without saying that she always put someone else's needs before her own.

From Mary, her children learned a love of crafting and continue the tradition of exchanging handmade gifts every Christmas. Her sewing machine was the home's background soundtrack and she enjoyed quilting, crocheting and cross-stitch. Mary was a 4H leader, teaching her daughters and others sewing and cooking. She was also a gym teacher with her best friend Jane Eckelman at Regina Coeli, the Catholic school her children attended. Despite not having any teaching background, Mary and Jane did have lots of experience with children and they were beloved for their Ethel and Lucy spirit.

Mary was an active volunteer in her community. She was a member and event chair of the Hyde Park Library Quilting Club and Skyllkill Embroidery Club member. She was an early member of the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden Association with over 1000 hours served. She was a longstanding volunteer for Meals on Wheels. In 2009, she was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by President Barack Obama.

Alone at home once her family had grown, Mary became a strong, confident, independent woman of these new times who finally learned to put herself first. She will be remembered by all for her sharp wit, keen sense of humor, kindness, and perseverance through personal and mental health challenges.

Mary is survived by her children: Maggie (Paul) Underwood of Westboro, Mass; Julie (Dave) Witko of Chandler, AZ; Susan Cochrane of Los Angeles, CA; Jane (Tom) Struzzieri of Saugerties, NY; David T. Downes of Highland, NY; Sarah (Steven) Miller of Rhinebeck, NY; and Amy Downes

(Jon) Drickel of Staatsburg; thirteen grandchildren: Adam and Quinn Underwood; Ryan Witko and Holly Ferguson; Joey Cochrane; Pia, Tommy, and Sammy Struzzieri; Taylor Papka and Kelly Downes; Agnes Tess Miller; and Kate and Erin Drickel; seven great-grandchildren: Ava and Logan Underwood; Oliver Witko; Quinn Cochrane; and Mary, Mitchell and Keira Ferguson. Mary also leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews on both the Bartlett and Downes sides.

Mary is predeceased by her sisters Dorothy Richard and Joyce Bartlett and brothers Kenneth Bartlett and Dick Bartlett. Her best buddy, Jane Eckelman, died in 2015.

The family wishes to thank the extraordinary caregivers who made it possible for Mary to live comfortably in her home until the end, particularly Jen Grant, Anne Trombetti, and Audrey Carson.

Calling hours were held on Friday, April 12th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Michael Morris on Saturday, April 13th at Regina Coeli Church, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. In keeping with her wishes, her ashes will be interred at a later date in Union Cemetery of Hyde Park.

In lieu of flowers, Mary's family respectfully asks that memorial donations be made to Meals on Wheels of Greater Hyde Park, 1 Church St., Hyde Park NY 12538 (www.mealsonwheelsofhfp.org).

To send an online condolence, please visit Mary's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Terrence G. Euell

RHINEBECK - On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 Terrence G. Euell quietly passed away after a difficult battle with cancer at home with his wife Patricia and family by his side.

Along with his wife Patricia, he is survived by his son Terrence and daughter-in-law Wendy of Rhinebeck NY, grandsons Jake Euell (Amanda) of Hyde Park NY, Ryan Euell (Mary) of Aspen CO. and his sister Brenda Hand of Hilton Head SC. as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother Andrew and sister Mina.

Born Saturday June 1, 1946 to George R. and Margaret (McLaughlin) in the Bronx, where he met his childhood sweetheart Pat while attending the same grammar school in the 6th grade. Their love continued through 56 years of blessed marriage.

Terry graduated from St. Helena's High School in the Bronx, Served 2 years in the US Army.

Terry was a business owner and entrepreneur most of his life.

He loved his family each and every day, and looked forward to watching his Yankees and NY Giants along with flying his plane, piloting on adventurous trips.

There is a great deal more to Terry's life which will be celebrated on April 20th at 11am, during a Mass at the Good Shepherd Church in Rhinebeck followed by a Celebration of Life at his favorite hangout, Foster's Coach House in Rhinebeck.

In lieu of flowers please offer contributions to Hudson Valley Hospice, Poughkeepsie, New York or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Arrangements under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, Rhinebeck.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.dapsonchestney.com

Thomas D. LaPierre

FORMERLY OF RHINEBECK - Thomas D. LaPierre, a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee and former resident of Rhinebeck, New York and a former resident of Danville, Indiana entered into rest on November 8, 2023 at his home. He was 73 years old.

Thomas was born on January 23, 1950 in Poughkeepsie, the son of the late Dolor Joseph and Doris Elain Tiger LaPierre. On July 3, 1976 at St. John the Evangelist Church he married the former Rosemarie Papesca. Rose survives at home.

Tom worked as a sheet metal worker for Local 38 based in Carmel and Brewster and Local 20 based in Indianapolis. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding his Triumph Trident motorcycle, traveling, and Nascar, his favorite drivers were Mark and Jimmy. Tom is survived by his wife, Rose LaPierre; his brother, Ronald LaPierre and wife, Donna; his sister, Linda LaPierre Sinclair; his nieces, Christina

Sinclair and Tonya Daniel and husband, Ben; his great niece, Logan; his brothers-in-law, the late Rick Papesca and wife, Joann and family; Michael Papesca and his late wife, Josie, Louis Papesca and wife, Mal Suk and family, his sisters-in-law, Donna Marsh and husband, Ed and family and Carol Pellerin and husband, Aaron and family.

In addition to his parents, Tom was predeceased by his nephews, Justin Sinclair, Jason, Michael, and Dominic Papesca.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon. Burial of Tom's ashes will follow at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Memorial donations in memory of Tom may be made to either Hudson Valley Hospice www.hvhospice.org or Chattanooga Hospice www.hospiceofchattanooga.org

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Sean McCarthy



STANFORDVILLE--Sean McCarthy, a well-loved pillar of our community, passed away on April 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

Sean dedicated his life to serving others and has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who knew him. His commitment to serving and protecting Stanfordville was unwavering, especially through his 35 years of involvement at the firehouse, his service on the Stanford Free Library Board of Trustees, and his time on the Town of Stanford Rec Commission when he helped to establish the Youth Soccer Program.

He graduated from FDR High School in 1978 and Albany College of Pharmacy in 1983. Professionally, Sean was a pharmacist, owning and operating the local pharmacy for many years. Through his dedication to the profession, he touched countless lives, offering comfort and care to those in need.

He had a knack for bringing laughter into every room he entered and his smile brought

joy to all who crossed his path. He was a true friend.

Outside of his community involvement, Sean found solace in the great outdoors, whether it was skiing out West, Tuesday night golf league at Dogwood Knolls, yearly fishing trips with the guys to Montauk, or working in his garden. He was a voracious reader and could often be found with his nose buried in a book. He loved a good cup of Yirgacheffe coffee and an ice cold Busch Light.

Though Sean battled cancer with unwavering strength, his spirit remained unbroken. His resilience, humor, and positive attitude inspired all who knew him. The family wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to the whole care team at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, as well as his health care providers at Hudson Valley Cancer Center, for their care and compassionate treatment.

Sean leaves behind a legacy of love and generosity. He was a cherished neighbor and a loyal friend. His absence will be deeply felt, but his memory will live on in the countless lives he touched.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Eileen; his children, Dan and Caitie (Tim); his siblings, Keith (Sharon) and Susan (Chris); and nephew and nieces, Seamus (Erica), Sinead (Sherif), and Sara (Daniel). He is predeceased by his mother, Mary Doris; his father, John "Skip"; and his brother, Kevin.

Visitation took place at Peck & Peck Funeral Home, Pine Plains, on Saturday April 13, followed by a gathering at Stamford Fire Company. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Stamford Fire Company, Stamford Free Library, or a charity of your choice.

We believe he is at peace and we ask that you listen to a favorite song and send him a smile.

Martha Miller

PUTNAM VALLEY - Martha (Sis) Miller of Putnam Valley, NY passed away on April 6, 2024. She was born June 3, 1927, in Yonkers, NY to Arthur Sowdon and Martha Blythe. Martha was predeceased by her brothers Arthur and Richard Sowdon and her daughter Holly Mackin. She is survived by her daughters Blythe Tolliver and Abby Miller, her granddaughters Rachel Johnson, Elizabeth Tolliver, Jessica and Jillian Mackin and great grandchildren Nathaniel, Alex, and Allison Johnson.

Martha was a graduate of Syracuse University and had a long career as a head nurse in the ER at Phelps Memorial Hospital. She was an accomplished artist who participated in many local and group art exhibitions. Enjoy her art at marthamillerartwork.com "Gallery of Original Artwork." Martha was truly beloved by her family and will be greatly missed.

Visitation for family and friends was held on Saturday April 13 at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home, Inc., 418 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. The funeral was held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Union Free Church of Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, NY. Burial followed at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Do you need a Roof, Windows, Siding and Help paying for it?

Any leaking, visible damage, or age, may *qualify you!

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Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may *qualify!

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for Bid#RFP-DCP-15-24
County-Wide Rescue Task Force and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training for Police, Fire and EMS
Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 13th day of May 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For

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additional information, call 845-486-3613.
NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2024-08.
NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Culvert M-15, County Road 54 Milan Hill Road, Town of Milan, Dutchess County, New York. Project Description: This project involves removal and replacement of Culvert M-15 on County Road 54 (Milan Hill Road) in the Town of Milan, Dutchess County, NY. The two existing 36 inch diameter reinforced concrete pipes will be replaced by one corrugated steel pipe arch, span 95 inches and rise 67 inches. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid

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Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/ county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential biddersto viewwallposted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/ county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contact-

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ing the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. On or before 11:00AM Friday, May 10, 2024, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All callers will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 922 776 020#. Each

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bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday May 3, 2024 and emailed

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to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is July 1, 2024; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 20, 2024. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2024004044. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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.

Hochul announces project to overhaul outdated DMV technology

As part of an ongoing effort to deliver best in class customer service to New Yorkers, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has launched a multi-year project to replace and modernize a significant portion of its aging technology systems. This initiative will provide DMV customers with more efficient, secure, and convenient services, and will enable the agency to implement future technology advancements more efficiently.

"As a former County Clerk, I know first-hand the importance of the DMV in providing critical services to New Yorkers," Hochul said. "These investments are a major step forward in the DMV's strategic modernization as we look to create a quicker, easier and more convenient experience for everyone."

The DMV has entered into a contract with world-class software company FAST Enterprises, LLC, which has successfully implemented similar systems in

more than 15 other states and will help DMV modernize its technology platforms and service delivery in two major stages over approximately the next four years.

Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "Throughout this project, we will be replacing a patchwork of outdated computer systems, software and databases that account for about 70 percent of DMV's business volume. This is a strategic investment and a huge undertaking, but we know the important role our agency plays in the lives of New Yorkers, and this project will help us serve them better, faster, and will make our customer's lives easier."

Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall said, "Under Commissioner Schroeder and Governor Hochul, the partnership between county-run DMV offices and NYSDMV has never been stronger. These improvements will complement the recent upgrades we have made to our reservation systems at all 4 Dutchess

County DMV offices. For your convenience, schedule your DMV reservations at www.dutchessny.gov/dmv."

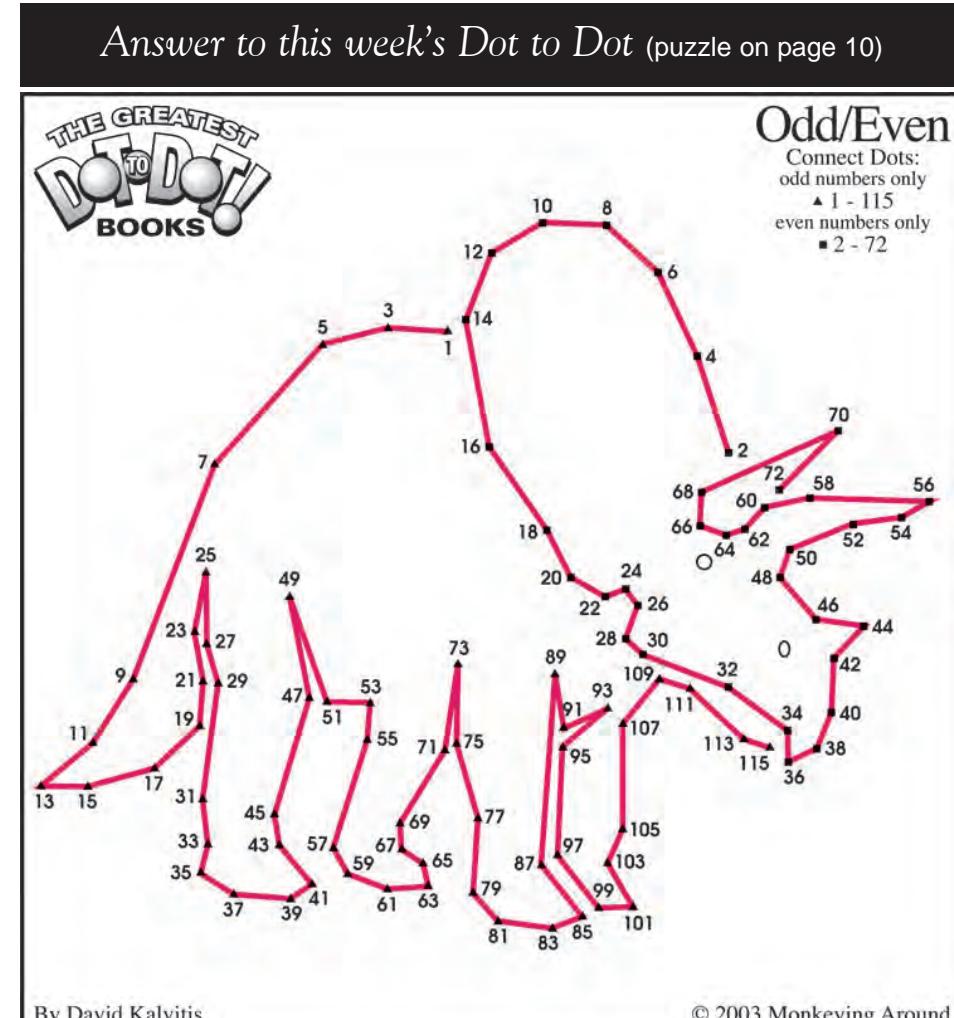
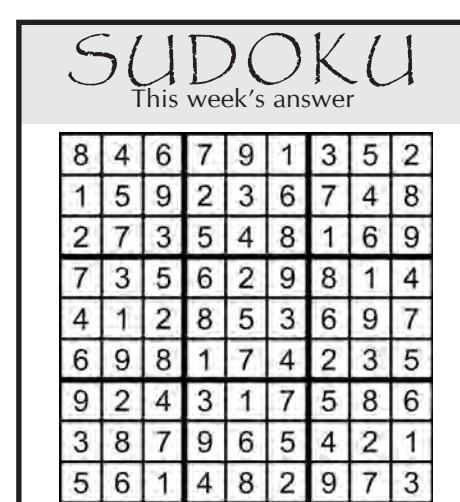
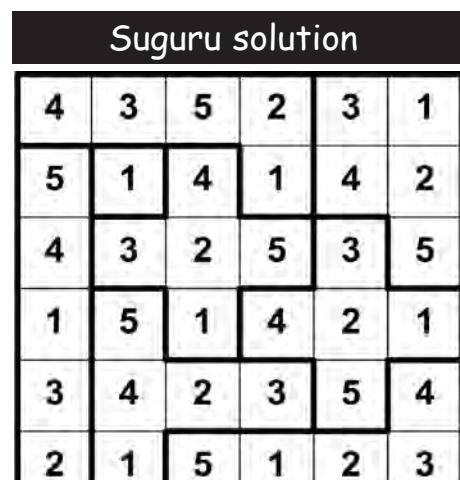
The new technology will replace and consolidate a significant portion of DMV's legacy technology footprint, some of which are over 50 years old, and will make DMV more secure, stable, and agile. Computer and system outages that have caused delays and long lines in DMV offices will become a thing of the past with the introduction of modern applications and proven successful solutions. Whether calling the DMV, going online or visiting an office in person, every customer will notice more reliable, responsive and faster service.

Through this project, DMV will introduce automation that will speed up processing times and eliminate paper forms wherever possible. It will also allow the DMV to offer more online and self-service options. The creation of comprehensive customer profiles will enable DMV

staff to see customers' information in one place, allowing them to provide a more personalized experience and proactively flag upcoming issues and expirations. This project will continue DMV's efforts to focus on the customer experience in order to deliver first class service for all New Yorkers.

This change is part of a broader initiative to re-imagine the way DMV does business, which has included dozens of improvements such as greatly expanding online live chat and enhancements to the DMV online transaction portal. DMV also introduced online pre-screening for some of the most complicated transactions like applying for a REAL ID or Enhanced ID and exchanging an out of state license and implemented a robust appointment scheduling system to significantly reduce the amount of time customers wait to be served in an office. The average wait time for a customer is now a record low of 15 minutes.

Answers to this week's diversions
(puzzles on page 16)



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 222 Tax Experts
 223 Beauty Services
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MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Tarts and Bread French/Belgian bakery to open April 27 in Amenia

Tarts and Bread, a new French/Belgian-style bakery, will open in Amenia on April 27.

Tarts and Bread will be giving away a choice of their Cinnamon Crumb or Almond Apricot "8" to the first 200 customers. They will open at 9:30 a.m. on opening day.

The bakery, led by Chef Christophe Raza, will feature flaky, buttery pastries, artisanal breads and rolls, and sweet and savory tarts. All are made daily on the premises and are easy on the gut; all

products are either lactose-free or low lactose and made with sourdough starters.

Le Cordon Bleu trained Chef Christophe is also passionate about bakeries being accessible for all, as they are in his native country, Belgium.

The bakery has ample seating to include lunch. They will serve savory tarts, quiches, and sandwiches made with house-made spreads and the best local ingredients.

Tarts and Bread will be open 7 days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PV Rec announces Tall & Small Family Ball

Pleasant Valley Recreation recently announced its inaugural Tall & Small Family Ball for the entire Pleasant Valley community. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 10, to bring your family for a fun night of dancing. This family-fun event will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room.

Tickets are free, but registration is required. PV Rec is limiting registration

to 50 children and their adult.

You can customize your participation to whatever fits your family best - daddy/daughter or son, mother/daughter or son, grandparent/grandchild, etc.

All children attending must be accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments will be served. Register at <https://pleasantvalleyny.myrec.com/>.

Troop K warns of latest scam

The New York State Police in Troop K has issued an alert warning residents of recent scammers pretending to be members of the State Police.

Law enforcement never calls or emails you about paying them money. The scammers might say you'll be arrested, fined, or deported if you don't pay taxes or some other debt right away. The goal is to scare you into paying. But real law enforcement agencies will not call and threaten you.

How scammers pose as law enforcement:

- Demanding payment for a missed court date, jury duty, or other legal matter;
- Claiming there is a warrant for your arrest;
- Threatening arrest unless you pay a fine;
- Directing you to buy a prepaid

money transfer card and provide the card number;

- Disguising the phone number so it appears valid on caller ID.

Protect yourself:

- Refuse to give the scammer any information.
- Do not send any payments.
- Hang up and do not trust that caller ID shows their real identity.
- Record their number and save any voicemails.
- Find the real number and call the law enforcement agency the scammer claimed to represent.

If you are the victim of a scam within Troop K, call (845) 677-7300. If you suspect a scam but have not fallen victim, report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission.

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