



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Adam Roche, director of the county's Office of Veterans Affairs, speak during an "Honor-A-Vet" ceremony on May 21 to honor deceased Army Sgt. Jacob Baker. The memorial was held at American Legion Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie. Photos by Jim Donick

Sheriff's Office conducts annual memorial service

By Curtis Schmidt

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati led a poignant ceremony on Thursday, May 21, to honor local law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty and Sheriff's Office members who passed away during the past year.

Sheriff Imperati said he is "proud and continually impressed" with the work of the men and women in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department and all of the law enforcement departments and agencies in the county.

He also spoke of the nature of the service for law enforcement personnel - knowing that they are putting their lives on the line each and every day. "We leave home, not knowing if we will return," he said.

Sheriff's Office members who died in the line of duty and were recognized include the following:

- Deputy Sheriff Charles H. Scott
- Deputy Sheriff Thomas Noone
- Sergeant William Herman
- Deputy Sheriff T. Z. Tuczynski
- Deputy Sheriff Erik R. Renninger

Sheriff's Office members who passed away in the past year include the following:

- Retired Deputy Sheriff Gerald Kuttles

- Tactical Deputy Sheriff Louis Murasso
- Retired Corrections Captain Edward Burns
- Retired Corrections Sergeant Timothy Sullivan
- Retired Corrections Officer Robert Sofka
- Retired Corrections Officer Randall Bose



Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati speaks at the annual memorial service held at the Law Enforcement Center on May 21. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

County remembers Pok Army vet at 'Honor-A-Veteran' ceremony

By Jim Donick

The Memorial Day weekend began with Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino hosting a memorial to one of the county's youngest soldiers to die in service. Sgt. Jacob Baker was only 23 years old when his life was tragically cut short on July 21, 2023.

Serino and the County's Office of Veterans Affairs used the occasion of the latest in their ongoing "Honor-A-Veteran" program to memorialize this very brave young man.

Meeting at American Legion Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie, the gathering to remember Baker included the entire Honor-A-Veteran team, led by County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche, representatives of many local elected officials, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Color Guard, Officers of American Legion Post 1302, nearly the entire current track team of Ketcham High School, and the family and friends of Sgt. Baker.

Sgt. Baker is remembered by family and friends for his intelligence, humor, compassion and drive to constantly challenge himself and inspire others.

Baker was born in Poughkeepsie on

March 31, 2000 and managed to pack what might have been several life times of accomplishment into his short life. He was lauded as a gifted athlete, talented artist, natural leader and dedicated soldier. His life was remembered as being defined by service, determination and creativity.

A graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School, he excelled academically and athletically, earning recognition as a top-ranked pole vaulter, a National

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Blessing of the Animals welcomes pets and their human companions on May 30 in Rhinebeck

By Cynthia Baer

The fourth Annual Blessing of the Animals Event will take place on Saturday, May 30, from noon to 4 p.m., on the great lawn of Third Lutheran Church in the heart of Rhinebeck Village. Pets of all kinds are invited to attend, accompanied by their human chaperone.

"The Blessing" is a free, outdoor, non-denominational event. People can bring their pets for an individual, hands-on

Eurasian Eagle owl Lazarus poses with Dr. Laura. Laz is truly a must see at The Blessing of the Animals, set Saturday, May 30, on the lawn of Third Lutheran Church in the Village of Rhinebeck. *Courtesy photo*

blessing by Pastor Jim Miller. The blessing will be accompanied by harp music courtesy of Holly Mentzer, a board-certified music therapist from Hudson Valley Hospice. A dozen or more animal-related charities will be stationed around the lawn for visitors to explore. Members of the 4-H Club, The Southlands Foundation, P.A.N.T., and Two by Two Animal Haven, Inc. will all be available to chat with. Many booths will have a friendly 'animal ambassador' among them for a meet and greet, as well.

Says Rosemary Joyce, curator of the event, "Raptor Ambassador Lazarus always provides the 'WOW' factor. Hope Farm Animal Rescue, Inc. brings a trailer filled with animals that kids can interact

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Sheriff's Office conducts annual memorial service

continued from cover



- Retired Corrections Officer Edward Bush
- Retired Corrections Officer Nancy Pape
- Former Corrections Officer Nigel Barnett

Sheriff Imperati was joined by County Executive Sue Serino during the event and Under Sheriff Jason Mark placed a wreath as flags were lowered to half staff and Taps was sounded. Members of both the Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions were in full dress uniform for the ceremony.

The National Anthem was sung by Christine Marinaro. The invocation was given by Rev. Luanne Panarotti, and the closing prayer was given by Rabbi Hanoch Hecht.

Members of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office salute during the the annual memorial service held on May 21. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

County remembers Pok Army vet at 'Honor-A-Veteran' ceremony

continued from cover

Honor Society member and a leader in the Civil Air Patrol. After briefly attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on a full ROTC scholarship, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2019 and proudly served with the fabled 10th Mountain Division. He was deployed to Afghanistan and earned a number of decorations during his service career.

He was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino concluded the event, noting that "Sgt. Baker's life, though cut far too short, touched so many around him in a positive way. His vibrant, spirited personality will live on in all who met him, and Dutchess County is proud to honor his service to our country through our 'Honor-A-Veteran' program."

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche joined the family of deceased Army Sgt. Jacob Baker at the May 21 "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremony, held at American Legion Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*



Oakwood students take part in 2 Ethics Bowl events

Oakwood students participated in two Ethics Bowl events this year - the regional competition at Hofstra University sponsored by The National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB) and the Harvard College High School Ethics Bowl hosted by the Harvard Undergraduate Ethics Society.

Co-founded in 2012 by the University of North Carolina's Parr Center for Ethics and the Squire Family Foundation, NHSEB promotes respectful, supportive, and in-depth discussion of ethics among high school students nationwide.

According to NHSEB, Ethics Bowl matches feature two teams meeting head-to-head to discuss and evaluate case studies which involve complex moral questions or dilemmas. These cases come from one of their annually released Case Sets with matches having three judges and one moderator. The Harvard event is structured similarly. Sample NHSEB case topics/questions included: What is the moral distinction between an AI-generated cover song and a human-generated cover song? Should medical institutions

accept ethically imperfect partnerships if they lead to more care and potential medical breakthroughs? Are governments morally obligated to honor past government promises (e.g. Social Security benefits) to older citizens if declining population makes keeping the promises increasingly challenging?

Oakwood fielded 10 students on two teams at Hofstra University and 11 students on two teams at the invitation-only Harvard College event. Both teams won rounds at Hofstra, placing 6th in the event while one team at Harvard received support from seven of a possible nine judges in three rounds, also placing 6th.

Philosophy & History Teacher and Humanities Department Chair Stephen Kekoa Miller, who serves as the faculty advisor for the Ethics Bowl teams, was impressed with the students' depth of thought at both events, saying, "Our students delivered high level arguments in a team setting, working well together, analyzing complex moral dilemmas and answering challenging judge's questions."

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The Southern Dutchess News
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Voters reject Pine Plains budget, Red Hook bus garage prop

Compiled By Kate Goldsmith

On May 19, school districts across the state held budget votes and school board elections. With one exception, voters in the Northern Dutchess News readership area approved their budgets. Only Pine Plains' budget was rejected; it required a 60-percent approval because the proposed tax levy increase exceeded the mandated cap. Information about the district's next steps is located below.

Nearly all other propositions passed, with the exception of one in the Red Hook district to renovate and expand the district's bus garage.

The tax levy increases listed for each district represent an average. The actual tax impact will vary from town to town, based on assessed values, STAR values and equalization rates that will be finalized in August. In addition, residents should know that there is no direct correlation between the tax levy increase and the amount of the increase in their individual tax bills.

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Arlington District's \$278,650,000 budget was approved 1,438 to 585. It carries a budget-to-budget increase of 3.96% and a tax-levy increase of 3.51% over the current year.

A \$3.4 million bus proposition was approved 1,434 to 586; and a proposition to create a Buildings and Facilities Improvement Reserve Fund passed 1,496 to 522.

Current Board of Education trustees Linda Gaines, Ed.D.; Jeff Haight; and Eileen Snook were all re-elected to three-year terms. Snook received 1,709 votes; Jeff Haight received 1,700 votes; and Gaines received 1,677.

More information is available at www.arlingtonschools.org.

DOVER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dover voters approved the district's \$46,620,208 budget, 208 to 83. The budget carries a 3.45% increase over the current year. The tax levy of \$17,585,473 reflects a 1.7% increase.

Incumbent Board of Education members Natasha Merritt and Samantha Masterson were re-elected with 188 and 219 votes, respectively.

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hyde Park's \$131,150,274 budget passed, 966 to 610. The budget carries a 4.10% year-to-year increase. The tax levy of \$74,366,172 represents a 2.92% increase.

A transportation proposition passed, 1,022 to 548.

Two seats on the Board of Education were won by Cheryl Frazier-Woods with 925 votes and incumbent trustee Ed Spence with 754 votes. Current Board Member Michael Tibbets received 708 votes and Kelly Marshall received 6 votes.

Visit www.hpcsd.org for more information.

MILLBROOK CENTRAL S CHOOL DISTRICT

Millbrook's \$37,992,751 budget passed, 391 to 221. The budget carries a year-to-year increase of 10.3%. The tax levy is \$29,733,237 a year-to-year increase of \$1,951,101 or 7.02%.

Incumbent Board of Education members Howard Shapiro and Chris Rosenbergen were re-elected. Shapiro received 429 votes; Rosenbergen received 438.

Visit www.millbrookcsd.org for more information.

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pine Plains' proposed \$40,778,791 budget was rejected by voters by a count of 458 to 432. Because the proposed tax levy (4.43%) exceeded the mandated cap (3.4%), passage required a super majority (60% or more voting yes). The percentage of "yes" votes was 51.5%.

A transportation proposition, which didn't require a super majority, passed 489 to 403.

Two seats on the Board of Education will be filled by incumbent James Griffin, who received 541 votes, and Amie Buehler, who received 516 votes. Brooke Brown received 460 votes.

When a budget fails, districts have two options: put up a second budget or go straight to a contingency budget. If the second budget is defeated, the districts must go to contingency, which carries a zero-percent levy-to-levy increase.

At the Board of Elections' May 19 meeting, immediately following the budget vote, the Board decided to offer district voters a budget that will meet the cap, which will require reductions of \$290,569. The Board was expected to approve that budget at its meeting on Tuesday, May 26 (after this paper went to press). A public hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, June 9, and the vote will be held on Tuesday, June 16.

If the second budget fails, a contingency budget would require major cuts totaling almost \$1 million.

For more information, contact District Clerk Julia W. Tomaine at (518) 398-7181, ext. 1408, or j.tomaine@ppcsd.org.

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Hook's \$67,376,076 budget was approved, 1,108 to 619. It carries an increase of \$2,377,920 or 3.66%. The tax levy is \$42,761,251, an increase of 3.61%.

The budget includes funding to launch the Winners Circle Project, an innovative set of classes in which Red Hook High School students will take on the role of an auto racing team, with real-world technical, marketing and business applications.

The high school will also move forward with a new welding career and technical education pathway program after a proposition for technology classroom upgrades was approved by roughly two-thirds of voters, 1,130 to 575.

The proposition to renovate and expand the bus garage failed 1,058 to 671

The proposition to purchase vehicles passed 997 to 729.

Voters approved the budgets of the Red Hook Library (1,222-519) and Tivoli Library (1,215-524).

Voters also elected Paul Byrne and Robert Tynes to the available seats on the Board of Education. Byrne received 1,092 votes and Robert Tynes received 721 votes. Troy Haley (677 votes) and David Mergendahl (601 votes) came in third and fourth.

Visit www.redhookcentralschools.org for more information.

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rhinebeck's proposed \$42,308,013 budget was approved, 379 to 85. It reflects a year-to-year increase of 2.01%. The tax levy carries a 2.69% increase over the current year.

In the Board of Education election, incumbents Rose Ann Serpico and Benjamin Moffat were elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Education effective July 1. Serpico received 390 votes and Moffat received 388 votes.

Visit www.rhinebeckcsd.org for more information.

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Webutuck's \$29,941,252 budget passed, 128 to 70. It carries a year-to-year increase of 4.45%. The tax levy is \$19,665,251, a budget-to-budget increase of 1.35%.

A transportation proposition passed 133 to 64.

Three candidates were re-elected to their seats on the Board of Education: Judy Moran, Jerry Heiser and Aimee Wesley.

Visit www.webutuckschools.org for more information.

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DC BOARD OF ETHICS TO MEET MAY 29

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Friday, May 29, from 10 to 11 a.m. The public has the right to attend at the Dutchess County Attorney's Conference Room, 22 Market Street, 5th floor, Poughkeepsie.

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

This meeting of the Board of Ethics shall be for the purpose of reviewing complaints received, if any, by the Dutchess County Board of Ethics.



Resumes:
gm@wkze.com

Blessing of the Animals welcomes pets and their human companions on May 30 in Rhinebeck

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with. Their Ambassador, Rosie the 200-lb. potbelly pig is always a hit."

The State Police Canine Unit will also be on-site with demonstrations.

"All of the exhibitors work with our community to make it a safe, healthy, and more humane place," Joyce says.

The event was initiated in 2013 with a goal to bring the community together to honor "Be Kind to Animals Week," a celebration founded 111 years ago with a mission to "ensure the safety, welfare and well-being of all animals." This year, the event has a theme of "The Year of the Humane Child" to honor the work and life of the renowned animal behaviorist, Dr. Jane Goodall, globally recognized as the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees. She passed away in October 2025. Her six decades of research transformed the way the world views human-animal connections; to see animals not as

mere subjects of study, but as fellow beings. Reflectively, the afternoon's activities are meant "to educate, build stewardship and compassion for all living creatures," said Joyce.

The "Pet Remembrance Tree" will be available again this year for owners to give tribute to pets that are no longer with them. Owners can bring items to place directly on the tree to mark their loss and celebrate the time shared with their pet. Leashes, chewed slippers, and photos are just a few of the items that have been placed on the tree over the past three years.

So why do people attend a Blessing Event?

Joyce said, "Some come to pay tribute to a beloved family member by adding a tribute to 'The Pet Remembrance Tree.' Some come because their pet is ill. Some come to mingle with like-minded people

in their community who wish to grow compassion and kindness towards all Earthlings. Some are supporters of the animal charities that are exhibiting. And some just bring their families and pets for a free, fun, family day.

"Whatever the reason, no one leaves the same," she said. "No pet? No problem! Many folks come just to experience this feel-good, outdoor afternoon."

"The Blessing" has a rain date of Sunday, May 31, 1-5 p.m. A suggested arrival time for the blessing is 11:30 a.m.

Third Lutheran Church is located at 31 Livingston St. in Rhinebeck. To ensure the safety of all, all pets must be properly leashed, contained or harnessed. Owners should be prepared to observe "pooper scooper" laws and pick up after their pets. Pick up bags will be available.

For more information, call (845) 478-2452.



Many organizations will have a friendly "animal ambassador" with them ready to meet and greet the public. P.A.N.T. is a Dutchess County non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of feral and stray cats. *Courtesy photo*

Hyde Park Chamber members welcome K. Fortuna Realty



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce applaud as Kevin Fortuna of K. Fortuna Realty cuts the ribbon at the May 13 event. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

Supervisor Al Torreggiani, County Executive Sue Serino and the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed K. Fortuna Realty, Inc. to the community on May 13 with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony at the firm's new location.

The new office, situated at 4315 Albany Post Road, marks a strategic expansion for the real estate agency. Kevin Fortuna, President and CEO of K. Fortuna Realty, Inc., expressed his

enthusiasm for joining the local landscape. "Hyde Park is rich in history, culture, tourism, and the culinary arts," said Fortuna. "It remains an affordable place to buy and sell a home, and we are eager to be a part of that experience."

Supervisor Torreggiani reinforced the town's commitment to economic growth, stating, "Hyde Park is a business-friendly town, and we are thrilled to welcome K. Fortuna Realty, Inc. to our community."

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region welcomes new board member

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is proud to welcome Stewart Petrovits from the community as their newest Board Member.

Stewart Petrovits has been President of Blacktop Maintenance Corp since 2016. In his current leadership position, he leverages decades of management expertise to lead regional operations. Stewart is a lifelong resident of LaGrange, New York, with a deep-rooted commitment to the local community and its economic development.

A graduate of the Trinity-Pawling School ('87), Stewart went on to earn a B.A. in Management from Gettysburg College in 1991. His professional success is mirrored by his extensive philanthropic efforts and civic leadership. Stewart is the President of the LaGrange Rural Cemetery and has previously served on the boards of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation (HVEDC), helping to shape the business landscape of the Hudson Valley.

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange



Stewart Petrovits

Region thanks all of the Board members for their impeccable service to the community and welcomes Stewart as their newest member.

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High-A newcomers Serna, Liñan shine on pitcher's mound for HV

By Morgan E. Maier

Two Hudson Valley Renegades starters have earned nods from the South Atlantic League in their debut High-A seasons. Righthanders revered for their changeups, Luis Serna and Sean Paul Liñan are the first Renegades to garner weekly awards, and the league's second pair of teammates to earn "Pitcher of the Week."

New York has been waiting to see what Serna can do. After just four appearances for Tampa in 2025 due to injury, Serna was promoted to High-A at the end of March. He's been rolling for the Renegades since, amassing a 2-1 record and a 2.79 earned run average in seven starts. Serna has notched 46 strikeouts to lead Hudson Valley, including 22 across his first three starts in May.

Most can be attributed to the most lethal of Serna's four-pitch arsenal: his changeup. His first of the season, Serna's High-A debut, caught immediate attention, as the 21-year-old hurled 7.0 innings on a very economical 85 pitches. He would be crowned the season's first Pitcher of the Week, and the first Hudson Valley player to



Hudson Valley righthanders Luis Serna (left) and Sean Paul Liñan have both won "Pitcher of the Week" honors recently. Serna has amassed a 2-1 record and a 2.79 earned run average in seven starts. The 21-year-old Liñan had one of the season's strongest starts with six no-hit innings on May 9 vs. Winston-Salem. *Photos by Dave Janosz*

receive a weekly honor.

Serna shone against Brooklyn on May 20 despite the mark in the loss column. Where he had allowed just seven earned runs in his previous starts combined, the Cyclones tagged Serna for five. But Serna still stuck to his game, fanning seven Cyclones while walking none. Outside Brooklyn's three-run third inning, Serna scattered just one baserunner across the first four frames, including a wasted leadoff double that kept

Brooklyn off the board. Serna stood strong in the sweltering Brooklyn heat, throwing 67% (57-85) of pitches for strikes across 5.2 innings.

Liñan debuts as a pinstriped prospect in 2026, dealt by the Washington Nationals in the waning weeks of preseason. And though Liñan wears number 0, he adds several strong points to the Renegades rotation. The 21-year-old had one of the season's strongest starts against Winston-Salem on May 9, securing

his own Pitcher of the Week honors with 6.0 no-hit innings. It was Liñan's first clean outing since his season debut. Liñan matched a season-high in strikeouts (seven) while keeping the Dash in the dugout and off the bases until the fifth inning.

MLB Pipeline ranks the righty 22nd in the Yankees organization; his changeup, like Serna's, is one of the best in the business – just ask their league opponents and MiLB pundits.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Frederick BAL	26	14	.650	-	8-2	W1
	Greensboro PIT	25	16	.610	1.5	6-4	L2
	Wilmington WSH	21	19	.525	5.0	4-6	W2
	Hudson Valley NYG	21	21	.500	6.0	3-7	W2
	Jersey Shore PHI	17	23	.425	9.0	3-7	L3
	Brooklyn NYM	11	31	.262	16.0	3-7	L2
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Bowling Green TB	30	12	.714	-	9-1	W3
	Winston-Salem CWS	25	16	.610	4.5	7-3	W6
	Hub City TEX	23	18	.561	6.5	7-3	W1
	Rome ATL	23	19	.548	7.0	6-4	L1
	Greenville BOS	16	25	.390	13.5	2-8	L1
	Asheville HOU	9	33	.214	21.0	1-9	L5



May		
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05/28/26	vs. Bowling Green	06:35 PM Beach Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/29/26	vs. Bowling Green	07:05 PM Star Wars Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/30/26	vs. Bowling Green	05:05 PM 2026 Renegades Team Card Set presented by Dutchess Tire Center WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/31/26	vs. Bowling Green	02:05 PM Halloween in May WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
June		
06/09/26	vs. Jersey Shore	06:35 PM Petting Zoo Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/10/26	vs. Jersey Shore	06:35 PM Pride Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/11/26	vs. Jersey Shore	06:35 PM Soccer Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/12/26	vs. Jersey Shore	07:05 PM Superhero & Villains Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/13/26	vs. Jersey Shore	05:05 PM Seinfeld Night: A Game About Nothing WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/14/26	vs. Jersey Shore	02:05 PM Copa de la Diversión™ presented by Cafe Con Leche: Puerto Rican Day Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
06/30/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM Celebration of Internet Culture WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!



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Millbrook Vineyards & Winery to Unveil Elevated Guest Experiences This Summer



See story, page 8



IMPACT
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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades rebound with strong hitting, pitching vs. Brooklyn

Editor's note: Due to early Memorial Day deadlines, this roundup covers only the first three games of the Renegades series vs. the Brooklyn Cyclones.

By Morgan E. Maier

A grand slam and gallant stints on the mound highlighted the Renegades masterful rebound to start their series against the Brooklyn Cyclones last week. Three wins in the first four, including a doubleheader sweep, highlighted Hudson Valley's performance.

Double Duty - The Renegades May 21 doubleheader was a sweep via dominant performances on the mound. The Renegades supported their starters with seven in both games, ending the day with 7-3 and 7-0 wins. Allen Facundo matched a Renegades record with 13 strikeouts in his outing, Rory Fox had his own ferocity later in the evening. Fox went seven innings strong, allowing just two hits while striking out 8. Fox was stellar on

the way to a 7-0 Renegades win.

Baby Bombers - Eric Genter got it rolling for Hudson Valley in the opener, with five runs batted in, including a clobbered grand slam to secure a 7-3 Renegades win. Josue Gonzalez launched a pair of homers in two of the Hudson Valley wins. Genter added a two-out, two-run shot on May 21 to support the Fox win. Camden Troyer also showcased his power, notching a two-out blast of his own earlier in the game.

Strike the Record - Renegades pitchers fanned 14 batters in a win on May 19, followed by 9 in the next day's 5-0 loss. Alongside Facundo's record-tying offering two days later, Tony Rossi (1) and Thomas Balboni Jr. (2) added to the Renegades gleaming season count.

Following the series in Brooklyn, Hudson Valley returns home against the South Division's Bowling Green Hot Rods. Highlighting the series is the summer staple Beach Night (May 28), and Star Wars Night (May 29).



Right: Hudson Valley Renegades catcher Eric Genter dives head-first into third base. Genter also knocked in five runs in a doubleheader win over Brooklyn last week - with four coming on a grand slam. Below: Genter walks off the field and shares a happy moment with pitcher Luis Serna. Photos by Dave Janosz



To advertise on the Renegades pages, contact cschmidt@sutchessnews.com

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery to unveil elevated guest experiences this summer

On the heels of new leadership, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, the Hudson Valley's flagship winery, will debut a series of thoughtful enhancements to its operations beginning in June. Designed to elevate the guest experience, while honoring its 40-year legacy, scenic setting and award-winning wines, these updates reflect a refreshed vision for how guests enjoy all that the winery has to offer.

"This next chapter is about refining what guests already love about Millbrook Winery," said General Manager and Head Winemaker Ian Bearup. "We've always believed Millbrook Winery is more than a place to enjoy exceptional wine, it's an experience shaped by the landscape, people and moments shared here. These enhancements will only make each visit more intentional, comfortable and enjoyable for every guest who enters the property."

Among the most notable changes are aesthetic improvements and newly expanded seating areas across the property. Millbrook's traditional outdoor seating in the vineyard lawn, winery patio, and vineyard tent will remain and be available with no table fee. For guests seeking a more elevated experience, the winery is introducing a new adults-only area featuring Adirondack chairs, private tables with umbrellas and pondside sofa seating – an experience available for a small table fee. To complement the new seating options and ensure a cohesive guest experience that preserves the surrounding landscape, outside lawn furniture will no longer be permitted on the property. For added convenience and to make visits more enjoyable, guests will have the option to make table reservations, creating a more relaxed pace, ded-



Millbrook Vineyards & Winery will debut a series of thoughtful enhancements to its operations beginning in June. Among the most notable changes are aesthetic improvements and newly expanded seating areas across the property. *Courtesy photo*

icated seating and a consistent high-quality experience for all. Optional seating reservations can be booked in advance on the website or by phone, and walk-ins will be accommodated, based on availability.

Additionally, Millbrook is expanding the ways guests can experience its wines. While the winery's casual bar tasting remains in the downstairs tasting room, Millbrook is introducing a new premium guided tasting featuring estate and New York-grown wines that can be paired with small bites. The new experience will be hosted in The Overlook and The Overlook Terrace, formerly the Tap Room, with refreshed interiors and sweeping views of the vineyards and Catskill Mountains. A selection of tables

in the new space will also be available for guests who simply want to enjoy a glass or bottle at their leisure.

The winery will expand its curated food offerings in partnership with local Hudson Valley purveyors and caterers for an on-site market in the winery featuring Hudson Valley and New York-grown and made products. Offerings will include charcuterie items, local cheeses, prepared items such as salads, sandwiches and fresh local breads, along with other ready-to-enjoy items to pair with guests' favorite Millbrook wines. A selection of non-alcoholic beverages will also be available in the market in order for wine lovers and their non-drinking friends and family to enjoy the property together. With a robust selection of options offered

on-site, outside food and beverages will no longer be permitted on the property.

Millbrook Winery remains a welcoming destination for friends, families, groups and pets to enjoy time together, and its beloved seasonal programming will remain an important part of the Millbrook experience. Friday Night Food Trucks will return beginning May 29, offering guests the opportunity to enjoy live music, local food and vineyard views, and many new wine releases. Jazz in the Vineyard, the winery's outdoor jazz concert series, will kick off on June 27.

For a full overview of what's changing at Millbrook Winery this season, visit our FAQ page. Optional table reservations will be available for booking at the end of May.

Marshall+Sterling, Guardian Revival expand Impact+ Effort to support local veterans through Boots & Paws Partnership



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Marshall+Sterling, in partnership with Guardian Revival's Boots & Paws program, recently supported the awarding of a companion dog to a local veteran and first responder, marking the program's fourth placement this year and reflecting Marshall+Sterling's broader Impact+ commitment to strengthening health and well-being across the communities it serves.

The event brought together members of the Hudson Valley community - including guardians, donors, friends, and family - to celebrate the placement of Bella, a nine-week-old chocolate Labrador, with Alex, a U.S. Navy veteran and FDNY first responder, and his family. Hosted at Marshall+Sterling's Poughkeepsie headquarters, the moment recognized Alex's service and resilience while providing an opportunity for connection and healing through companionship.

This initiative is part of Marshall+Sterling's Impact+ program, which focuses on enhancing the well-being of the communities where we work and live while supporting causes that help create a future that's safer and more secure. In 2025 alone, the program supported more than 50 communities, reinforcing the firm's belief that stronger communities reduce risk at its source. Through Impact+, Marshall+Sterling prioritizes investments in education, health, social impact initiatives, veteran support, and environmental sustainability, areas that directly influence long-term community resilience.

That focus is increasingly important as mental health challenges continue to rise, particularly among veterans and first responders. These challenges are creating real and measurable impacts across individuals, families, workplaces, and communities.

Programs like Boots & Paws play a

critical role. Companion animals have been shown to improve emotional stability, reduce stress, and strengthen daily routines — outcomes that directly contribute to long-term resilience and reduced downstream risk.

"Over the years at Boots & Paws, we've had the privilege of seeing firsthand how these companion dogs have a profound effect on the lives of our guardians by providing them with unconditional support," said Rachel Hill, executive director of the Boots & Paws program. "Each awarding reminds us of the incredible connections that can be forged between guardians and companion dogs in just a matter of minutes."

"Risk doesn't always show up as a claim — it shows up in people's lives," said Eric Diamond, President and CEO of Marshall+Sterling and a U.S. Army veteran. "From my time in service, I've seen how resilience is built long before a crisis. When we help clients predict, prepare for and preempt risk, that includes supporting the mental health and stability of the communities they depend on. Partnerships like Guardian Revival are one way we put that into action."

As Guardian Revival continues to grow across the Hudson Valley, moments like this are a reminder that no guardian has to walk alone. These life-changing programs are only made possible through the generosity of partners like Marshall+Sterling. To learn more, visit <https://www.guardianrevival.org>.

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Smithfield Chamber Orchestra to salute American composers at May 30 Pops Concert

Matt Finley 'passes the baton' to new Music Director Michelle Demko.

By Kate Goldsmith

This Saturday, May 30, the Smithfield Chamber Orchestra will perform its sixth annual Spring Pops Concert at the Smithfield Church in Amenia. In a nod to the American Semiquincentennial (a.k.a. our country's 250th anniversary), the orchestra will highlight some of the nation's legendary composers. The audience will recognize pieces such as Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," "Hoedown" by Aaron Copland, "Our Love is Here to Stay" by George Gershwin, "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham, "Send in the Clowns" by Stephen Sondheim, and a medley from Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story."

It's part of the Bang Family Concert Series at the beautiful Greek Revival church, which was erected in 1847-48 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The concert will begin at 3 p.m. A suggested donation of \$20 at the door will help fund future concerts at the church. Children are invited for free. Concertgoers are invited to stay for refreshments following the performance.

Aside from its special theme, this year's concert marks a "passing of the baton" from longtime Music Director Matt Finley to Michelle Demko, a flutist and former music educator who first performed at the church in 2016, for the annual Christmas Concert & Tea.

"Michelle was an original member of the orchestra formed in 2021, which is no surprise because it was regional musicians who had volunteered to perform at each Smithfield Christmas Concert & Tea," said Finley.

"I happily accepted Matt's invitation to play [in the orchestra]," Demko recalled recently.

Finley said, "From the first concert, I wanted Michelle seated next to me. She

has outstanding qualities of musicianship with enthusiasm, along with the professional skills to give me advice I knew I needed in this adventure far from what I had done my entire jazz-oriented career."

Noting the high caliber of talent he has gathered for the Smithfield Chamber Orchestra, Finley added, "I only hired the best, not only musically, but with the right attitude to support what my wife [Choir Director] Denise [Jordan Finley] and I were doing in this tiny but highly supportive church. Now we are all friends, as well, as the group grows with remarkably little turnover."

Working together for a smooth transition
Finley and Demko meet on a weekly basis to ensure a seamless progression.

Demko said, "A few things we have worked on together are hiring musicians, developing programs, arranging music (along with pianist Larry Ham), putting folders together, discussing flow of program ... the list goes on and on."

The two also selected this year's Pop Concert program.

"I must give credit where credit is due, though, and tell you that the Semiquincentennial idea was Larry Ham's," Demko said.

Asked what makes this program quintessentially "American," she said, "These compositions all celebrate a distinct musical identity, one that reflects the cultural changes that were happening over the past 250 years. Most embrace jazz as America's most foundational original art form. And all celebrate the American sound as it moved from smoky clubs to the symphony hall to the Broadway stage."

"I'm continuing to help with the organizational aspects so Michelle can fully concentrate on the duties of music director, and I can compose and arrange," said Finley. "Our new collaboration has worked perfectly."

Demko said, "Matt is truly a Renaissance man, possessing a wide variety of skills that he uses to create the synergy necessary for a varied group of musicians to play together."



The historic Smithfield Church in Amenia will host its sixth annual Pops Concert this Saturday. Courtesy photo

As a recently retired music educator, Demko has led innumerable choral and instrumental ensembles, as well as operetta pit orchestras. Asked what qualities and skills a good music director should possess, she includes "the ability to create an environment that is safe, cooperative and committed to excellence; patience; organization; the ability to communicate with a varied constituency (in this case performers, church members and committee members); the ability to delegate; the ability to help people feel confident about what they already do well so that they will have enough self-regard to be open to constructive criticism and not fear change; and the ability to listen."

Demko grew up in a small town in Ohio, "so working and playing at the Smithfield Church feels in many ways like the experiences I had growing up. It feels good to come home." She adds, "I feel so lucky to be learning so much from Matt. I hope to honor all his work by doing all that I can to keep our wonderful little group moving forward and making

beautiful music for many years to come." "Something I enjoy in life is the challenge of starting something new, getting it to the point [where] it's working well, then passing it to someone else who will take it further," Finley said. "I know the Smithfield Chamber Orchestra is in amazing hands for the future. Come and enjoy our shows."

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83) in Amenia. For more information, visit <https://thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts>.

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra
Alex Aitkin - drums; Walter Barrett - trombone; Lisa Bellino - clarinet; Jeff Campa - guitar; Michelle Demko - conductor, flute, director; Matt Finley - trumpet, arranger; Charles Gray - clarinet, sax; Larry Ham - piano, arranger; Piotr Kargul - viola; Milt Lee - conductor, trumpet; Rob Murphy - violin; Lou Pappas - double bass; Laura Thompson - flute; and Jean Vilkelis - cello.

Full performer biographies are available at www.thesmithfieldchurch.org/orchestra

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EXHIBITIONS

Artists' Collective Gallery of Hyde Park (ACHP), 4338 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park. **Through May:** "Ernesto Pedrosa: Convergence," a series of abstract paintings exploring the nature of Afro-Cuban religious imagery where the blending of African markings, Catholic and Santería symbolism converge with earthly forms into a single circular field of meaning. (845) 366-6856, artistscollectiveofhydepark.com

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through June 12:** Dutchess Handmade Spring Pop-Up Shop, seasonal marketplace showcases the work of more than 60 talented artists and makers from across the Hudson Valley, including glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, woodwork, prints, paintings, home décor, and more. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through June:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be photographer Joel Mason. At 12 Vassar St., Julian Allen will present his paintings in the Reception Gallery and Monika Kalra will display her multi-media work in the Hancock Gallery. The Victorian Gallery is open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery are open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but visitors should stop by 9 Vassar St. first or call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar Street Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. More info about the artists at cunneen-hackett.org.

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

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

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through June 28:** "UN-REAL," works by Fern Apfel, Monica Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk & Daniel Walworth. **Upstate Arts Weekend Reception:** Sat., June 27, 5-7 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, 26 Wing Rd., Millbrook. **Through Nov. 15:** Arts Mid-Hudson and Millbrook Vineyards & Winery Present 2026 Art in the Loft, a juried exhibition and sale of fine art featuring 16 AMH member artists. Wine Label Competition: Visitors are invited to vote for their favorite piece to be featured on an exclusive wine label. www.artsmidhudson.org/art-in-the-loft

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through May:** The 20th Annual Rhinebeck Central School District Art Show. Students from grades K through 12 will present a body of 2-D and 3-D work containing a variety of media used in their academic classes. The show highlights the work of art by students studying with Fawn Johnson (CLS), Jennifer Famiglietti (BMS), and Kathryn Giles and Shannon Harris (RHS). (845) 876-4030 or www.starlibrary.org

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **Through December:** "Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES" presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. The spotlight exhibition juxtaposes more than 30 works of painted porcelain and works on paper by Emily Cole (1843-1913) with a mixed-media installation by Hegarty. The work by Valerie Hegarty was made specifically for the Thomas Cole Site in 2025 and explores the connection between Thomas Cole and Emily Cole and their fascination with cycles of life, while considering Hegarty's own relationship with her mother. www.thomascole.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **May 29-June 28:** "A Moment in Time: Inflection Points," exhibition centered on the idea of something that happened at a particular and specific time. The artists in the exhibit were encouraged to consider before and after periods in time when important change occurred, and to clarify them in visual terms. **Artists reception:** Sat., May 30, 5-7 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

Pictured: Ted Braggins, "Suncoast 3," monotype, 20 x 29 in. Courtesy image



WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through June 28:** "Version/Vision," a national group exhibition celebrating LGBTQ artists. **Artists' Talk:** Sun., June 14, 1-3 p.m. www.womenswork.art

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Spadices of distinction

Are you hosting a beetle party, or are you just happy to see me?

There is a rare plant, native to the Sumatran rainforest, that one could call The King of the Plant Jungle. The species, *Amorphophallus titanum*, blooms infrequently. When it does flower, it puts on quite a spectacle!

Once it emerges from its underground corm, it looks like a football-sized bud sitting on the soil. After a couple of weeks, it begins growing skyward. It may take up to a month and a half for the spadix of Titan arum to reach its full height, 6-8 feet. During that time the spadix grows beyond its protective spathe. The “show” begins as the spathe unfurls.

The spadix emits a scent that literally attracts blow flies and carrion beetles — it is enveloping. The insects are numerous enough that you may hear them buzzing or rustling about while they investigate the bloom. The massive spathe unfurls within about four hours; there may be faint creaking as the plant tissue expands. The yellow-green of the upstretched spadix contrasts with the protective spathe, which is green outside and maroon within. While the spathe is opening, the tall spadix heats up to spread scent molecules and attract more pollinators.

After about 24 hours, the spadix cools down and the smell dissipates. The entire structure collapses within the next two days, after which the plant enters a dormant phase, or prepares to grow its fruit, if it was successfully pollinated.

Titan arum contributes to the biodiversity of the tropical rainforest. But, due to habitat loss from timber harvesting and palm oil plantations, there may be fewer than 1,000 mature individuals left in their native environment.

Despite its vulnerability, the plant’s unusual attributes do give it power for drawing global attention to the need for rainforest conservation. Its qualities make it important for scientific research on the evolution of thermogenesis, how evolutionary pressures affect species, and how plants use chemicals to communicate with insects. Titan arum is one attraction that drives ecotourism in Indonesia and helps to incentivize the protection of natural habitats. Even more fortunately, you can see *A. titanum* closer to home if you visit Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG) or New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG)!



Some *Amorphophallus* plants “behind the scenes” at Brooklyn Botanical Garden are currently in their vegetative stage gathering energy. They have one speckled, mottled stalk with a massive compound leaf. Here they are leafing out amid other types of plants. *Photo courtesy of Peter Slattery/Brooklyn Botanic Garden.* Below: “Cousins” of these plants that are often seen as houseplants include, from left) Calla Lilies and Peace Lilies - which, by the way, aren’t lilies; they’re Araceae. *Photos by Francine Wizner*

Spadix and spathe

The spadix and spathe of Titan arum are distinctive. In plants within the same family, a spathe is a protective shield for developing flowers and a lure to attract pollinators to the spadix. Spadices of plants within the same family are single spikes of tiny flowers, which are often organized in specialized reproductive zones.

Amorphophallus kin

Dear King Phillip Came Over For Good Spaghetti is the mnemonic I mentally repeat to recall the taxonomic rankings, in order from broadest to most specific: Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species. When

I learn the Latin name of an organism (like *Amorphophallus titanum*), I look up its family because I want to know who its relations are. Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Swamp (Skunk) Cabbage, and Duckweed are plants that grow locally that are members of the Araceae family.

Both BBG and NYBG have several cousins of *A. titanum* of varying sizes. You probably wouldn’t want any of them as houseplants, though, because of their stature and/or their fragrance. They’re commonly called corpse flowers because their bouquet attracts carrion-seeking insects.

continued on page 17



STISSING CENTER

Friday, June 5 in The Grace Note
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Saturday, June 6 in Banning Hall
ROUNDTOP BURLESQUE REVUE
THEATER 7:30PM \$30-40

Friday, June 12 in The Grace Note
HELPFUL NEIGHBORS BY ROBERT LYONS
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Saturday, June 13 in Banning Hall
2ND ANNUAL ART AUCTION
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Friday, June 19 in The Grace Note
GAIL ANN DORSEY
SINGER/SONGWRITER 7:30PM \$25

Saturday, June 20 in Banning Hall
SOPHIA ZHOU & FRIENDS PLAY GERSHWIN
CLASSICAL/JAZZ 7:30PM \$30-40

Friday, June 26 in The Grace Note
SUSAN WERNER
SINGER/SONGWRITER 7:30PM \$25

Saturday, June 27 in Banning Hall
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14 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - May 27-June 2, 2026

Music in the Parks kicks off June 3

Hyde Park Recreation continues its Music in the Parks concert series starting Wednesday, June 3. The outdoor performances take place on Wednesday evenings through Aug. 12 at two historic sites: Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park and Staatsburgh State Historic Site (Mills Mansion) in Staatsburg.

Here's the schedule:

- 6/3 - Hyde Park Central School District Band, Vanderbilt
- 6/10 - The Band Everything Else, Mills
- 6/17 - Thunder Ridge, Vanderbilt
- 6/24 - The Crew, Mills
- 7/1 - That Guy Larry 5 p.m.; 4 Guys in Disguise 7 p.m., Mills
- 7/8 - Southern Dutchess Concert

Band, Vanderbilt

- 7/15 - Bosco & The Storm, Mills
- 7/22 - Matt Jordan, Vanderbilt
- 7/29 - Flirtin' With Disaster, Mills
- 8/5 - Way Behind The Sun, Mills
- 8/12 - West Point Military Band, Vanderbilt

Concerts in June and July begin at 7 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m. in August.

This year's rain location will be the Taconic Reginal OFC-NY Parks, located at 9 Old Post Road, Staatsburg, except West Point Military Band, who will have a rain date of Aug. 13.

For any cancellations or changes, check the Hyde Park Recreation Facebook page.

Hudson Valley's Women of Mystery at Pleasant Valley Library

On Saturday, May 30, at noon, Pleasant Valley Library will present Hudson Valley's Women of Mystery, a panel of three authors – Julie Doar (author of "The Gallagher Place"), Jodé Millman (author of the "Queen City" Mystery series) and Jennifer Sadara (author of "I Know She Was There") – whose lives and books are connected to the Hudson Valley. This interactive program will celebrate May's Mystery Month.

Each author will read excerpts from their books, and will share their perspec-

tives on the Hudson Valley as a fitting place for mystery/crime/suspense/thriller stories; the appeal of this genre to women creators and readers (and why men should read them too); and inspiration for writing their novels. They'll welcome questions from the audience, and will sign copies of their books for purchase, with a portion of the sales donated to Pleasant Valley Library.

Pleasant Valley Library is at 1584 Main St., Pleasant Valley. The event is free, but registration is required at pleasantvalleylibrary.org.

Raise funds for education during LegoPalooza! on May 31

The Poughkeepsie Public Schools Foundation (PPSF) announced LegoPalooza!, a family-friendly community event dedicated to creativity, collaboration, and supporting local students. Organizers hope the event will become an annual tradition for the community. Taking place on Sunday, May 31, from noon to 4 p.m. at Dutchess Community College's Falcon Hall Gym, LegoPalooza! invites participants of all

ages to engage in hands-on LEGO® building challenges, and friendly competition among corporate sponsors—all while raising critical funds for educational enrichment.

Community members are encouraged to attend, participate, and support the event through sponsorship. To learn more about LegoPalooza! and explore sponsorship opportunities, visit PPSF's website at ppsfonline.org.

A & E CALENDAR

May 29: Be Like Blippi Tour, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Designed especially for children ages 2-7, this all-new show brings Blippi and his best friend Meekah to life on stage for an unforgettable, high-energy adventure filled with music, dancing, and curiosity. Tickets: (845) 454-5800, ext 1201, or MJNCenter.org

May 29: High Horse, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. A raucous night of music, weaving together Celtic and Bluegrass threads with the energy of alternative rock, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 29-31: Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. May 29: Feast of Friends - Doors Tribute, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. May 30: Muscle Shoals – Allman Brothers Tribute, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

May 30: The Bang Group, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. New York City's The Bang Group, directed by choreographer David Parker and dancer Jeffrey Kazin, returns to Stissing Center with "A Mouthful of Shoes," a dynamic suite of rhythm-driven dances, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339.

May 30: Bingo Loco, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. The world's craziest Bingo Party, 7:30 p.m., with comedian hosts, DJs playing the biggest tracks of the 1980s-2000s, mountains of confetti showers, dance-offs and lip sync battles. www.MJNCenter.org

May 30: The Chain Gang, Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center's VBI Theater, 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Special fundraising performance of The Chain Gang's electrifying classic Billy Joel Tribute concert, 7 p.m. Tickets \$40. Purchased online in advance through Eventbrite. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door to purchase in cash. This concert is open seating. www.cunneen-hackett.org

May 30: Concert: Cello, Bach to Rock, Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. 2:30 p.m. No registration required. www.poklib.org

May 30: "The REAL Gilded Age: America's Elite in the Downton Abbey Era," Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. This tour highlights the real-life characters and themes at Staatsburgh that parallel Downton Abbey and HBO's The Gilded Age, 2 p.m. Led by a costumed interpreter, the tour shows how the Mills family and their servants conducted a busy weekend of high society entertaining, comparing Staatsburgh to what viewers saw on TV. Cost: \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 30: The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra's Spring Pops Concert, The

Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. (Rte. 83), Amenia. The Bang Family Concert Series hosts 6th Annual Spring Pops Concert featuring The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Michelle Demko, 3 p.m. In a special nod to the American Semiquincentennial, the orchestra will highlight the works of legendary composers such as Ellington, Sousa, Joplin, and Gershwin. Suggested donation: \$20; children invited free. Refreshments to follow. Donations at the door go toward producing future concerts at The Smithfield Church. <https://thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts>

May 30-31: Play Lab, Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Rte. 7, Ancram. "Clarence, in a Pause: A Listening Party," by Heather Christian & Taylor Mac. Performances: Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., May 31, at 4 p.m. Free, but reservation required. www.ancramcenter.org

May 30-31: Tour, "A Life in Service," Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. It took a small army to run a Gilded Age estate. See the Mills family residence through the eyes of the domestic servants, providing exemplary service in the mansion, as they rose before dawn and toiled until after midnight. The tour, led by a costumed guide, will include visiting the servants' wing, a striking artifact of servant life and work that features the newly retiled and partially restored kitchen, and other rooms for servant use. Tours: May 30, 11 a.m. May 31, 2 p.m. Cost: \$12/adults, \$10/seniors & students, children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 31: Eric Person Trio, Reason & Ruckus, 305 Main St., Poughkeepsie. Featuring Neil "Nail" Alexander on keyboards and Peter O'Brien on drums. Opening set at 7:30 p.m. with 2Horns&What, with Phil Haynes on drums, Peyton Pleninger on tenor and C-melody saxophones and Adam Siegel on alto saxophone. Admission \$20 at the door.

May 31: "Tales of the Titanic: Themed Mansion Tour, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Mark the 114th anniversary of the sinking by touring the home of Titanic ticket holders, Ogden and Ruth Mills, 11 a.m. This 90-minute themed mansion tour, led by a costumed guide, focuses on the legacy of the Titanic, offering tales of bravery and tragedy in a setting remarkably similar to first class on the Titanic. Cost: \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

June 3: Music in the Parks, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. Outdoor concert series launches this week with the Hyde Park Central School District Band, 7 p.m. Rain location: Taconic Reginal OFC-NY Parks, 9 Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. For any cancellations or changes, check the Hyde Park Recreation Facebook page.

Creative Living

is the arts and entertainment section of

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 20 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis

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

Suguru

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

THEME: MOUNTAINS

ACROSS

- Ill-considered
- Mate
- "I didn't get the ____"
- Biblical preposition
- Down in the dumps
- Rodgers of NFL fame
- Proofreader's mark
- Get bacon?
- *Any mountain over 3,000 feet, in Scotland
- *Mount Everest mountain range
- Research facil.
- Itsy-bitsy bits
- Forensic evidence, acr.
- Relating to sacrum
- What Cupid did (2 words)
- Amazement interjection
- Not victory
- Eurozone money
- Whisky measure, pl.
- Dot-com address
- Birth-related
- Auricular
- Volcanic ash, e.g.
- Pro baseball's "Master Melvin"
- Borat's swimsuit
- Cruel treatments
- It would
- Munchausen's title
- Supernatural life force
- *Mountain inspiration for a pen name (2 words)
- You will
- Icelandic epic
- Double reed woodwind instrument
- Like a good singer (2 words)
- Not quite an adult
- *Matterhorn site
- Like a busybody
- Commercial break contents
- Coloring substances

DOWN

- *Mount ____ more, South Dakota
- A in ABS
- Opposite of stern
- Balloon filler (2 words)
- "Vamos a la ____"
- Saintly glows
- Carl Zeiss' product
- *Tallest mountain from base to peak (2 words)
- European sea eagles
- Dead, in France
- Yoko of music fame
- #11 Down's late husband, e.g.
- Kind of acid
- Dump truck quantities
- Email period
- Bible's wicked city
- Blood circulation artery
- ____ gang
- Baby powder ingredient
- Sting Rays and Mustangs
- Angry
- Sheds skin, as in snake
- *World's most climbed mountain
- Before, poetically
- *Denali, 1917-2015
- British East India Company millionaire
- Fairy tale's last word
- Scottish clan identity
- *Vesuvius location
- Take care of cargo
- Foreshadowed
- *World's longest mountain range
- As opposed to stereo
- Puffins and guillemots
- Facebook's parent company
- Competently
- Uh-uh
- British tax
- Old-fashioned "far"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 21



Gardening

Marcanthony's sports mishap reminds Luigi of a 'Pop' story.

The other day, my son Marcanthony called me up. Now, Marcanthony isn't a daredevil anymore — no, no, he's evolved. He's a workout hero. The kind of guy who wakes up at dawn, drinks water like it's a competitive sport, and goes for runs so long you start checking the weather in different time zones.

So when the phone rang, I already knew this wasn't going to be a call about how peaceful and relaxing his morning was.

He tells me he went out for one of his "easy" long runs — which, in his world, means something between a half-marathon and a spiritual journey — and somewhere around mile eight or nine, his foot caught a rock. Next thing you know, he's doing a full-body interpretive dance down the trail. Didn't break anything, but he scraped himself up enough to make his life miserable for a day or two.

And as he's telling me this, I suddenly remembered a conversation I had with my father years ago — not after skiing, but after I hurt myself working in the garden.

I had just arrived at work. Pop always beat me there, so it was early. He took one look at me limping through the door and immediately went into full Italian parent emergency mode.

Pop: Whats a matter for you. Why you walking zoppicare (with a limp)

Me: I hurt myself in the garden.
Pop: Youa stupid. Now how you gonna work, eh?

Me: ...
Pop: Every time when you was a little, you fall down and getta hurt. Always. Like a baby goat.

Me: Yeah, but—
Pop: I knew it. You no can do that. You no built for this.

Me: I'm OK, just a—
Pop: You no OK. You now gotta go to the hospital.

Me: No, Pop. It's just a little—
Pop: You gonna go to the emergency room?

Me: No it's—
Pop: You gonna get stuck there for 3, 4 hours. Maybe 5. They keep you there. They no let you out.

Me: What? I—
Pop: I tella Mom. Maybe she go with a you.

Me: No Pop...
Pop: Whatsa matter. You think you too old for Momma? She carry you nine months. Now you too fancy?

Me: No it's—
Pop: OK, then you call her and tell her you hurt.

Me: No, I'm—
Pop: Yeah. She gonna maka you feel bad. She cry. She say, "Why you do this to me?" You know how she do.

Me: I'm o—

Pop: I told you you somana gun. You no cana take-a chances. One minute you gardening, next minute you dead.

Me: POP!!!!
Pop: Why you yelling?
Me: I'M OK! IT'S JUST A LITTLE SORE! I CAN WORK!

Pop: OK ... Youa hungry? You want a little cookie with some café.

And that was that. Needless to say, I never gardened the same way again. I wore gloves, knee pads, elbow pads — I practically needed a helmet to prune the basil.

So I told this whole story to Marcanthony, and he was cracking up — because he realized the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. He's out there running like he's training for the Olympics, and I'm lecturing him like Pop lectured me. Tradition.

Anyway, enjoy this recipe for traditional Italian breakfast cookies. Ciao!

TRADITIONAL LEMON RICOTTA COOKIE

Ingredients
Cookies
2½ cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp kosher salt
8 tbsp unsalted butter, softened (1 stick)
2 cups granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 (15 oz) container whole-milk ricotta cheese
zest of 1 lemon
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice (from 1-2 lemons)
Glaze
1½ cups confectioners sugar
zest of 1 lemon
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice (from 1-2 lemons)

For the Cookies
Preheat the Oven: Set the oven to

375°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper so the cookies don't stick.

Mix the Dry Ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together 2½ cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp baking powder, and 1 tsp kosher salt. Set aside.

Cream the Butter and Sugar: In a large bowl, beat 8 tbsp softened unsalted butter with 2 cups granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes.

Add Eggs and Ricotta: Beat in the 2 large eggs one at a time. Add the 15-oz container of whole-milk ricotta, the zest of 1 lemon, and 3 tbsp fresh lemon juice. Mix until smooth.

Combine Wet and Dry: Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, stirring until a soft dough forms. Scoop about 2 tablespoons of dough per cookie and place onto the prepared baking sheets.

Bake and Cool: Bake for about 15 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheets for 20 minutes before glazing.

For the Lemon Glaze

Make the Glaze: In a small bowl, whisk together 1½ cups confectioners' sugar, the zest of 1 lemon, and 3 tbsp fresh lemon juice until smooth and pourable.

Glaze the Cookies: Spoon about ½ teaspoon of glaze onto each cooled cookie and gently spread it toward the edges. Allow the glaze to set for about 2 hours.

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.

Hudson Valley Naturalist

continued from page 14

But you may own, or have observed, some other Titan arum cousins growing inside homes or businesses. Examples include Calla Lilies and Peace Lilies. They aren't Lilies; They're Araceae. Occasions may be commemorated with them; they're presented as gifts.

Other relatives of Titan arum include some houseplants that are well-loved because they are low maintenance. They include: Pothos (a waxy-leaved vine), Dieffenbachia (a prominently veined upright-grower), Monstera (a dramatically-holed plant with large-leaves), Caladium (a tuber with dramatically colored heart-shaped leaves), and Philodendron (an upright or vined plant with matte-finished leaves). Oh, and there is one other worth mentioning...

An exotic first job

I wasn't a snake venom milker or an odor sniffer for deodorants. I was fourteen, with freshly inked working papers. The German Alps Festival was the place to go for summer employment in Hunter, NY.

I was hired as a "pitch girl" to sell "Little Boy Flowers." It was the era of the Ginsu, the Buttoneer, and the Chia-Pet.

The booth-owners gave us a script to learn. We whipped up a crowd and sold three roots for \$5, or a bargain-basement price of seven for \$10.

I had never seen Little Boy Flowers before. But, I've since learned that they hit their peak as cut flowers, and by the mid-1980s they transitioned to being sold as potted plants. Today, they are commercially grown in the Netherlands and Florida and are known by the less provocative moniker, "Flamingo Flowers." In 1980 I would not have believed that forty-six years later I would be writing about their smelly relatives.

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

LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK
IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



Is your municipality, community or nonprofit organization hosting an event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence? Let us know about it!

Email listings to creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

Marker notes first Arlington school

On April 30 a historic marker was unveiled at The College Ave School, near Vassar. It was the first school called, unofficially, the Arlington school as it opened in 1878 and that neighborhood became known as Arlington in 1882, when a new post office opened there. The Arlington High School students in the photo are (L to R) Kristian Williams, Aidan Milillo, Joe Gallow, and Sophia Moustakas. Zavier Durandisse was part of the group, but not at the unveiling. Thanks to the Pomeroy Foundation for the funding for the marker and the Town of Poughkeepsie Highway Department for installing it. *Photos by Sam Falk*



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Bingo in Rhinecliff May 27

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company will host Bingo on Wednesday, May 27, at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, 17 Shatzell Avenue, Rhinecliff. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., with Bingo from 6 to 8:30 p.m. To benefit the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Company

Eight games, top prize \$250. Single card \$5, 3 pack \$10, 8 pack \$25. Limit 75 people. No admission without purchase. Must be 18+ to play.

Concessions will be available for purchase. No outside food. Arrive early to find parking. For more information, call (646) 537-5968.

'Wellbeing after Cancer' program starts May 30 at Clinton Library

The Clinton Community Library is partnering with educator and author Adriana Cascala to host a four-week Spring Wellbeing Series beginning Saturday, May 30, from 11:30 a.m. Each session introduces different, powerful techniques, alongside an exclusive "Wellbeing after Cancer" discussion group for those impacted by the disease. Registration is free and open to the public.

Stanford Rec Day set May 30

Stanford Rec Day, a collaborative event hosted by Stanford Recreation and the Stanford Recreation Campaign, will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Stanford Rec Park, 40 Creamery Road. Fundraising for the next phase of park improvements will kick off at the event.

Activities will include the Kids Fun Run, game stations hosted by local businesses and organizations, food, music and more.

The Kids Fun Run is for ages 2-12. It includes a 100-yard dash, 0.3 mile lap and 0.6 mile lap. The course will be set within Rec Park. Check-in begins at

12:45 p.m. Registration is required at stanfordny.myrec.com.

Brookmeade Golf Classic set June 1

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

Rev250 Summer Open House set June 6 at Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook will host a Rev250 Summer Open House on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway, Red Hook (rain date June 7). Mark America's 250th anniversary and explore an exhibit about the Revolutionary War's impact on Dutchess County, enjoy ice cream on the lawn, play lawn games, try family art activities, and explore the inside of the historic tavern building. Learn more at www.historicredhook.org/rev250

Stanford Lions Club Flea Market set June 6

The Stanford Lions Club is sponsoring a Flea Market on Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 82 on the Town Hall Lawn. Rain date: Sunday, June 7. Free admission and parking. For more information, call (845) 868-1988 or (845) 868-1387.

Celebrate Stanford Pride on June 6

Celebrate Stanford Pride with music, food and community on Saturday, June 6, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Bangallworks, 97 Hunns Lake Road, Bangall. Visit

stanfordnypride.com for more information.

Help A Horse Day set June 6 in Clinton Corners

13 Hands Equine Rescue will hold Help A Horse Day fundraiser on Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Meet the animals and enjoy a fun-filled day for the whole family, including live music, food trucks, demos, local artisans and vendors, NYS Trooper demos, kids activities and more. Admission is a \$20 donation; free for age 10 and younger. 13 Hands Equine Rescue is at 50 Tuscan Way, Clinton Corners. Visit www.13handsequine.org or email events@13handsequine.org to purchase tickets and for more information.

Film screening in Kingston on June 7

On Sunday, June 7, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, there will be a screening of "Samidoun," a film about the strength and resilience of Palestinian women living under military occupation and patriarchy. Free admission and community reflection/discussion after the film. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org, African Roots Community Center, Columbia County for Palestine, JVP Hudson Valley, Mid Hudson Valley DSA, Muslims4Muslims International, New Paltz Quaker Meeting, Peace Education Center, Rally Middletown, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845 876-7906

Hyde Park Chamber's Breakfast set June 11

The next Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast is set Thursday, June 11, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Eveready Diner, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. The speaker will be the Hyde Park Police Chief Bob Benson. The cost is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member. For tickets and more information, visit www.hydeparkchamber.org.

Stanford Fire Company golf tourney set June 12

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

Stanford Fire Company to host Blood Drive June 17

The Stanford Fire Company will hold a Blood

Drive on Wednesday, June 17, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Fire House is at 6096 Route 82, Stanfordville. For an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins welcome.

'Hyde Park in Bloom' Garden Tour set June 20

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee will hold its bi-annual "Hyde Park in Bloom" Garden Tour, taking place on Saturday, June 20, rain or shine. This event invites residents and visitors to explore a stunning array of local gardens, each showcasing the unique creativity and dedication of community neighbors. From vibrant pollinator-friendly native plantings and a scenic meadow on a former farm, to tranquil oases nestled within residential neighborhoods, every garden reflects the passion and hard work of its proud owners.

The event kicks off with check-in from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Regina Coeli Church, Albany Post Road, Hyde Park. Self-guided garden tours will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or by mailing payment to Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, P.O. Box 125, Hyde Park, NY. For more information and ticket purchase options, visit www.hydeparkvec.org or send email to hpvecboard@gmail.com.

Rev250 July 4th celebration set in Stanford

Stanford will celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence with an event organized by the Stanford Fire Company, in coordination with the Town of Stanford and Stanford Grange #808. The celebration will take place at the Stanford Recreation Center (40 Creamery Road). The Festivity Tent opens at 5 p.m. with a reading of the Declaration of Independence by Stanford Grange #808 Secretary Ryan Orton. A Chicken BBQ Dinner (includes half chicken, salads, and dessert) begins at 6 p.m. There will be fireworks at dusk (approximately 8-8:30 p.m.).

Prices for the BBQ Dinner are \$12 for adults, \$8 kids (ages 6-16) and free for children under 5.

Tickets must be purchased by Monday, June 22. A limited number of tickets will be available the day of for \$15. Tickets available by calling (845) 868-7320 (Kathie) or (914) 456-9846 (Doreen) or by asking a Fire Company member you may know.

Please note: As this event is held on Town property, alcohol will not be permitted.

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

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

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FreedomWalk2026 retraces the Underground Railroad

Between Wednesday, May 27 and Sunday, May 31, there will be a series of events in Poughkeepsie in conjunction with a historic walk. #FreedomWalk2026 is a modern-day retracing of the Underground Railroad to Canada, on the 250th anniversary of America's independence. The 750-mile pilgrimage, following 19th-century routes to freedom, will commemorate the brave self-liberators, the abolitionists, and their secret networks. More information can be found at <https://www.menare.org/freedomwalk2026-about>.

The group's leader is Anthony Michael Cohen, a historian, author, and founder and president of The Menare Foundation, Inc., a national nonprofit organization dedicated to "Preserving the Legacy of the Underground Railroad." The group arrives in Poughkeepsie on Tuesday, May 26 and will stay at the Oakwood Friends School. The events taking place during the group's sojourn in Poughkeepsie include:

May 27, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Local Walk #1: The Role of Local Churches in the Anti-Slavery Movement

Gather at the Family Partnership Center parking lot, 29 North Hamilton St. This walk will highlight the places of worship and people that were influential in the anti-slavery movement, including Smith Metropolitan AME Zion Church, First Congregational Church, and Second

Baptist Church.

May 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Oakwood Friends School, 22 Spackenkill Rd., Poughkeepsie
A Bonfire Gathering with Historian Anthony Michael Cohen

Please join us for moments of silence, song, and a sharing from Tony Cohen about his journey - what it was like in the past, what it is like today, and what it stands for now, in this particular day and time.

May 29, gather at 3:45 p.m., program starts promptly at 4 p.m.

Local Walk #2: River Trail to Freedom and Walkway Over the Hudson

Please join us at the Celebrating the African Spirit memorial in Waryas Park, then walk to Upper Landing Park, across the Walkway Over the Hudson, and end at the Sojourner Truth statue to highlight the history of the anti-slavery movement and influential leaders in our area.

May 31, noon to 3 p.m.
Community Celebration
Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie

The community is invited to celebrate this historic journey with Tony Cohen and his team. This event will honor the courage, hope, faith and unity that shaped this pivotal chapter in American history with a blessing, music, reflections, remarks from Tony Cohen, and refreshments.

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County celebrates Karen Hochhauser as NYS 'Woman of Distinction'

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County announces that Executive Director Karen Hochhauser has been named the 2026 Woman of Distinction for the 39th New York State Senate District.

On Tuesday, May 5, New York State Senator Rob Rolison honored Karen at the Albany State Capitol, recognizing her as an outstanding leader whose contributions have profoundly strengthened our community. Senator Rolison noted that Karen "embodies the very spirit of service, leadership, and compassion."

While many know Karen for her professional expertise, those of us at the Federation see the heart she pours into every project. A lifelong resident of Dutchess County, Karen returned to her roots after nearly 20 years in Asia. Beyond her role as a powerhouse leader and certified executive coach, she is most importantly a proud mom to three boys, whom she raised during her time abroad.

At the Federation, Karen has transformed our "people-first" approach. Whether she is expanding access to critical resources or simply bringing neighbors together, her work is driven by the Hebrew concept of Tikkun Olam—the call to repair the world.



NYS Senator Rob Rolison with 2026 Woman of Distinction Karen Hochhauser. *Courtesy photo*

"My family's roots in the Hudson Valley go back 85 years," Karen shared during the ceremony. "I stand here today because of the maternal role models who came before me—my mother, grandmother, and aunt—who instilled in me that our collective strength is found in individual acts of service."

Dutchess-Orange United Way announces internship opportunities

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR), a premier nonprofit dedicated to community growth, is now accepting applications for its Summer Internship Program. Local students are invited to gain hands-on, professional experience in the nonprofit sector while making a tangible impact on the health, education, and financial stability of the Hudson Valley.

UWDOR is seeking motivated individuals to join its collaborative team in two primary areas: Resource Development (Fundraising), and Community Impact.

While these positions are unpaid, they offer a unique "behind-the-scenes" look at community leadership. Interns will play a vital role in executing signature

events, managing donor relations, and facilitating large-scale outreach efforts.

Available Internship Tracks
1. Resource Development (Fundraising & Logistics)

Ideal for students interested in business development and relationship management.

- Key Tasks: Coordinate logistics for signature events, manage donor databases, conduct research, and assist with Leadership Society outreach.

- Requirements: Attention to detail, proficiency in Microsoft Office.

2. Community Impact (Advocacy & Outreach)

Perfect for those passionate about grassroots community work and volunteer management.

- Key Tasks: Support "Days of Caring" volunteer events and "Days of Sharing" in-kind donation programs; assist with administrative advocacy and data entry.

- Requirements: Strong communication skills and an interest in local nonprofit operations.

"Our interns are encouraged to share their ideas and help us find new ways to

support our community," said Rebecca Lull, Vice President of Community Impact. "This is an opportunity to be a catalyst for change while building a professional network."

Interested applicants should submit a resume and portfolio (if applicable) via email to Rebecca Lull at rlull@uwdor.org

June bike ride to benefit national EMS memorial service

The first Yo-Pough-Yo Charity Bike Ride will be held on Saturday, June 13, starting at 8 a.m. at both the Empress EMS North headquarters at 10 S. White Street in Poughkeepsie, and the Empress EMS South headquarters at 722 Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers.

Participants from each location will ride toward each other and meet at Castle Park at 92-198 Pumphouse Road in Brewster for lunch between noon and 1 p.m. The ride is open to the public, but RSVPs are required; go to <https://empressems.com/news/> and click on the event link. All riders must wear helmets.

Ride support volunteers are also needed, including people to drive the two fly cars provided by Empress that will be equipped with hydration and bike racks to pick up riders who encounter issues and cannot complete the ride. Volunteers can sign-up via the website.

The International Association of EMTs and Paramedics Union Local 20 is providing breakfast for cyclists and volunteers on both sides of the route. Empress will provide lunch at the park.

Paramedic Bill Rothschild is the creative visionary behind the event.

"This is my crazy idea," Rothschild said. "I had to do some union work out of the Empress station in Poughkeepsie. I finished a shift at 7 a.m., and the meeting wasn't until 10 a.m., and I thought I would bring my bike and go for a ride on the Dutchess Trail. It's less than a mile

from the Empress base, and it's fairly flat, and a fairly easy ride."

He realized the Empress headquarters in Yonkers was also near a bike trail, and that sparked an idea.

"It's an 80-mile bike ride from Yonkers to Poughkeepsie. I started to think, 'What if people want to start in Poughkeepsie and go to Yonkers?' That's where the Yo-Pough-Yo name came from, is that it starts in both places."

"Brewster is more or less in the middle between the two," he continued. "It's a good-sized park that is a good place to have lunch. The idea just grew over time about having the groups starting at either side and meeting in the middle. Then they can either go back to their starting points or continue to the other station," he said.

He said it's a straight shot except for a short section in Brewster where riders have to go on the road briefly to get to the rest of the trail.

As the planning took shape, he realized he needed sponsors and an organization to benefit from it and decided on The National EMS Memorial Service, which is held every summer in Washington, D.C., to honor EMS staff who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Every rider who donates \$25 to participate will be matched three times by Empress EMS, the IAEP (International Association of EMTs and Paramedics) nationally and the Local 20. So each participant will ultimately bring \$100 to the cause.

Cary Institute June events: Lecture on resilient food systems, springtime bird walks

MILLBROOK – This June, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies is hosting three free public events. Registration is required. For more information and to register, visit caryinstitute.org/events.

Cultivating Resilient Food Systems in a Changing Climate

On Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m. ET, Cary Institute will host the 2026 Ned Ames Honorary Lecture, Cultivating Resilient Food Systems in a Changing Climate, featuring Dr. Cary Fowler, former US Special Envoy for Global Food Security. Fowler will discuss how feeding a growing global population by 2050 depends on getting the fundamentals right: maintaining fertile soils, ensuring reliable water supplies, and developing productive crops adapted to a changing climate. He will also highlight the critical role of seed banks and climate- and biodiversity-informed agricultural research.

Attend in person at our Millbrook campus or watch via livestream. Before the lecture, in-person registrants are invited

to attend a reception from 6 to 6:40 p.m. ET. Light refreshments will be served.

Springtime Bird Walks

On Saturday, June 6, Cary Institute will host two guided bird walks at its Millbrook campus: a beginner walk for ages 13+ and a walk for young learners ages 12 and under.

8 a.m. – Beginner Bird Walk: Join Cary Institute wildlife biologist Mike Fargione to learn the principles of birding. Participants will learn how to use field guides and mobile apps, use binoculars effectively, and identify local birds by sight and sound. This walk is open to guests ages 13 and up.

10 a.m. – Children's Bird Walk: Led by Cary educator Ashley Alred, this walk is tailored for children ages 12 and under and their families. Participants will practice using binoculars, learn to identify birds, and apply observation skills to notice bird behaviors across meadow, forest, and stream ecosystems.

Transportation Council adopts countywide Transportation Safety Action Plan

From County reports

POUGHKEEPSIE – The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) recently adopted a Safety Action Plan to improve transportation safety, with goals to eliminate traffic fatalities and cut serious injuries in half by 2050. The Safety Action Plan was adopted by the Council at its meeting last month.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Traffic safety is a top priority for Dutchess County. This plan outlines future actions for County, State, and local agencies and partners. We all have a role to play in keeping people safe on our roads. We urge our neighbors throughout Dutchess County to help us reduce fatal crashes in our community.”

Dutchess County had 114 fatal traffic crashes and 1,041 serious injury crashes between 2019-2023. To help counter these impacts, the DCTC and its consultant team used an analysis of data, a public survey, and stakeholder and public outreach to develop priority improvement locations and a toolkit of safety countermeasures. The plan is organized around the Safe System Approach, which provides a crash-prevention framework for Safer People, Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles, Safer Speeds, and Post-Crash Care.

The plan’s recommendations include strengthening transportation safety by updating key policies, supporting local speed management efforts, enhancing project selection criteria using the Safe System Approach and taking advantage

of additional funding opportunities, among others. The DCTC also recommends integrating the Safety Action Plan into long-term planning to ensure that safety remains a top priority.

Serino said, “This plan lays out a blueprint for road, sidewalk and other infrastructure improvements, and also addresses speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, and other threats. As always, I thank our dedicated law-enforcement officers who work to protect our neighbors across the County. We also intend to build on our ‘EMS Matters’ campaign to ensure that crash victims receive timely medical care.”

EMS Matters is Serino’s multi-pronged initiative to ensure that emergency medical services are available when residents need them most.

Throughout 2026, the DCTC will engage local elected officials, police departments, and highway superintendents to show how they can use the plan’s tools to improve safety in their communities. This builds on the County’s efforts to improve safety, such as planned intersection projects in Dover (Cricket Hill Road) and Rhinebeck (Mt. Rutsen Road), Traffic Safety Board events such as bike rodeos, STOP-DWI enforcement campaigns, and the Watch Out For Me safety awareness campaign.

The Safety Action Plan, supporting materials, and information about its development are available at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/SafetyActionPlan>.

VA Hudson Valley HCS receives funding for continued infrastructure improvements

VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System received funding for non-recurring maintenance projects in the second quarter of fiscal year 2026.

The funding is part of a record \$4.8 billion in nationwide VA spending to modernize, repair, and improve health care facilities in FY2026 via the Veterans Health Administration’s Non-recurring Maintenance program.

Funding projects for Castle Point and Montrose in the second quarter of FY2026 are:

- Repave Parking Lot G at Montrose
- Replace Fan Coils in Building 18 at Castle Point
- Replace Mission Critical Roofs Phase II at Montrose
- Correct Water Tower Deficiencies at Montrose

“This funding allows Montrose and Castle Point to continue modernizing and improving, so our facilities remain safe, efficient, and equipped to provide high-quality care for our Veterans in Montrose and Castle Point,” said Gary C. Poole, acting Medical Center Director.

Of the \$4.8 billion committed for fiscal year 2026, VA has obligated \$1.064 billion. Obligation of funds includes:

- \$795 million to repair and upgrade

outdated infrastructure systems in medical facilities.

- \$255 million for maintenance and modernization of facility infrastructure to support future electronic health record system updates.

- \$13 million for major building upgrades like elevators, electrical systems, and boiler plants.

For example, VA has:

- Enrolled more than 100,000 new Veterans in VA health care in 2026.

- Opened 34 new VA health care facilities since Jan. 20, 2025. Opening 34 new VA health care facilities, expanding health care access for Veterans around the country.

- Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by 67% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% during the Biden Administration.

- Completed 82,083,918 direct care appointments in FY2025, up 4.1% from FY2024.

- Offered Veterans more than 2.3 million appointments outside of normal operating hours, giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.

- Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY2025, the highest total in seven years.

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United Way’s ‘Pull the Tank’ returns June 20

POUGHKEEPSIE & MONTGOMERY, NY — Get ready to test your strength for a cause that matters. United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is thrilled to announce the return of Pull the Tank on Saturday, June 20, at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Orange County, NY.

Teams will go head-to-head to see who can pull a massive 120,000 lb. WWII Sherman Tank (flatbed included) across the finish line in the fastest time. Beyond the competition, the day is a community-wide tribute to the 32,000+ veterans liv-

ing in our region. Under the leadership of President & CEO Jeannie Montano, all proceeds will benefit Mission United, supporting local veterans and military families.

“Last year was an absolute blast, and we can’t wait to do it again! We’re hoping to see all our returning friends—and plenty of new faces, too,” said Montano. “There’s nothing better than seeing families enjoy a day out together while giving back to the community. The more people we have pulling for our veterans, the bigger the impact we can make.”

Despite a few raindrops last year, the weather couldn’t dampen the competitive spirit as over 230 participants across 12 teams stepped up to the challenge. The 2025 title went to Hannaford Supermarket, who clocked a blistering pull time of just 18.12 seconds. (spoiler alert: Hannaford has already signed up their team for this year)

An event of this scale is only possible thanks to the 50+ dedicated volunteers

who managed everything from registration and raffle sales to the children’s corner. United Way is currently seeking volunteers to help make this year even better; sign up to join the crew at uwdor.org/ptt26.

Advance registration is required. Register as an individual or as part of a team. Secure your spot at www.uwdor.org/ptt26.

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Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 15)

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Connect Dots: 1 - 113

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Legal Notices
WORKSHOP MEETING NOTICE EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commis-

Legal Notices
 sioners will hold a Workshop Meeting to review bids for the new Facility Project on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6 PM. The meeting will be held at the East Clinton Fire District Firehouse, 9 Firehouse

Legal Notices
 Lane, Clinton Corners, NY. Dated: May 19, 2026
REQUEST FOR

Legal Notices
BIDS NOTICE
 The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFP-DCP-63-26

Legal Notices
 Compliance Inspection, Record Management, and Training Services for Petroleum Product Tanks
 Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 9th day of June 2026 at the Dutchess

Legal Notices
 County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchess>

Legal Notices
 ny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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.

OBITUARIES

Gail Roberta Shneyer Nussbaum



Gail Roberta Shneyer Nussbaum died peacefully on May 18, 2026 in Jacksonville, Florida. Daughter of Jean Albert and Seymour Shneyer, she is remembered as big sister to Howie Shneyer, wife to Abraham Nussbaum, mother to Tara Nussbaum (Alan Greene) and Joshua Nussbaum (Marie Legene), aunt to Elliott and Geoffrey Shneyer, Jessica Kapps, and Daniel and Jeremy Rubinstein, and grandmother to Luella Legene, Evelyn Legene, Gretchen Greene, and Knox Nussbaum.

Gail was born in Unity Hospital, Brooklyn on May 27, 1952. She lived in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Washington Heights, Manhattan before moving to Little Neck, Queens in 1955. She was in the gifted track throughout elementary school and graduated from Francis Lewis High School. At Queens College, Gail earned her Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in Psychology, cum laude.

Gail and Abe met on a blind date in their teens, married in 1972 when Gail had just turned 20 and Abe was 21, and moved to Albany, NY, where she taught 5th grade in an under-resourced school while earning her Master's degree in Developmental Reading

from SUNY Albany. She supported Abe through medical school and residency.

Gail never hesitated to speak her mind and encouraged all those around her to do the same, especially when they didn't have the same courage or comfort in making themselves heard. She was a tireless advocate for children, first as a teacher in Albany and later as a PTA member, substitute teacher, pediatric office administrator, and community voice in Red Hook, NY. Gail fought for educational opportunities for students at both ends of the intellectual spectrum. She opened her home to all of Tara and Josh's friends, offering plentiful cookies and chocolates as well as a listening ear and great advice. As a vigilant mentor, she taught her students, her children, and their friends to advocate and stand up for justice and fairness.

In her free time, Gail could usually be found at Marshall's pursuing her dual love of fashion and bargains, which she inherited from her mother. Her look was never complete without nails painted, makeup perfect with a signature red lip, and chunky jewelry. Abe and Gail traveled the world extensively and Gail combed the world's shops for unusual costume jewelry. When pregnant with Tara, she crawled to the driver's seat from the back of a 1970s station wagon just to make it to a haircut - iced key locks were not going to stop Gail!

Gail's love for antiques began as a teenager and never ended. Her home was decorated in an eclectic fashion: the furniture, walls, and contents of her kitchen cupboards reflected a love of beauty from all generations. Her eclectic decorating extended to the garage. When Abe wanted to purchase a classic sports car in white, Gail announced that they had too many white cars and he should bid on the black convertible instead!

Before Alzheimer's took so much from her, Gail developed deep connections with her four grandchildren. She encouraged their love of reading, listened raptly to all of their stories and patiently coaxed more details out of them—adding new words to their vocabulary with every conversation—and bought them way too many gifts, ice cream, and chocolates.

She will be deeply missed.

Mary B. Setaro

MILLBROOK – Mary B. Setaro, 94, of Millbrook, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at her daughter's home with her daughter by her side. She was born on June 11, 1931 in Poughkeepsie to the late Fred and Helen (Linzer) Barger.

She was a lifelong resident of Millbrook and parishioner of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Millbrook. On April 8, 1951 she married Robert L. Setaro in St. Joseph's Church. Mr. Setaro predeceased her in 1999. Together with her husband, she owned and operated Setaro's Restaurant in Millbrook for many years.

Mary is survived by her son, Robert and his wife, Marcia Setaro; daughter, Cheryl and her husband, George DeChamp; sister, Janice O'Dell of Savanna, Georgia; grandchildren, Amanda and her husband, Aaron Hanley and Brian Setaro; great grandchildren, Evan and Connor Setaro; step grandchildren, Shane DeChamp and his significant other, Lisa Vincent; step great grandchildren, Colton and Gage DeChamp along with several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers, Richard, Billy, Tommy and Fred Jr.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 from St. Joseph's Cemetery, North Ave., Millbrook.

Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice at hvospice.org

To leave an online condolence and for directions please visit www.HudsonValleyFuneralHomes.com

Patricia J. Smith

STAATSBURG – Patricia (Patti) J. Smith of New York's Town of Clinton passed away on April 28, 2026 after a courageous battle with NSCLC cancer. Born in Orange, New Jersey on July 26, 1948 to the late Catherine H and Nelson C. Smith, Patti was a 1966 graduate of Mountain Lakes High School in New Jersey. She attended Bucks County community college and graduated from Columbia University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Environmental Science.

Patti spent time living and working in New York City as a Professional Photographer, Dental Studio Office Manager, and Hand Model. She married and moved to Pleasant Valley, NY in 1980 where she raised three children and many farm animals, including horses and goats. At its peak, her farm had over 100 animals. She was the beloved leader of the Got Goat Milk! 4-H goat club for over 20 years. Patti volunteered with Lighthouse, going around to local elementary schools to do vision screening. One time, when there weren't enough volunteers to complete the

assignment, she recruited her parents to help with the screenings.

2005 found Patti employed by The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, coordinating the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. She welcomed, guided, and supported ecology students during their summers at Cary. In that role she touched the lives of many young people on their way to determining whether they might wish to pursue careers in ecology or other science disciplines. She retired in 2015.

After retiring from Cary, Patti had time to jump into theatre with both feet. After acting in just one play, Oliver!, she quickly transitioned to backstage work. She served as Stage Manager for various productions at the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck and other local venues. Some shows she stage managed include Lend Me a Tenor, The Play's the Thing, Billy Elliot, The Secret Garden, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Mary Poppins, and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. She also served on the board of the Rhinebeck Theatre Society.

In all of this, Patti's big love for people, animals, and the earth shines through. She could always be found with her signature metal water bottle with its macrame holder slung over her shoulder. As a 30-year survivor of breast cancer, Patti generously shared her experience, humor, wisdom, and care with people who walked the cancer road. She was never happier than when in the middle of a hubbub of people doing good things, whether it was ecological research, animal care, or theatre. She was welcoming, funny, bold, loyal. She tolerated no nonsense, and fearlessly advocated for the vulnerable.

She is survived by: Paul Strieby (the love of her life) who taught her that love can be fun and funny; Drew Hill, a friend and confidant since the first grade; her three children Christy, Leslie, and Michael; and an unknown number of grandchildren. She will be remembered by theater friends as well as so many 4-H parent and child goat farmers, some of whom are presently still in that business. If desired, contributions in Patti's memory may be made to the following organizations: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.; Heifer Project International, Inc.; Cary Institute Ecosystem Studies, Inc.; Dutchess County 4-H program of Cornell Cooperative Extension; Rhinebeck Theatre Society; The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck.

Visitation will take place at Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home; 51 W. Market Street Rhinebeck, NY 12572

send us your news
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988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.
- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

Suguru solution

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

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N	O	S	Y			A	D	S			D	Y	E	S

SUDOKU

This week's answer

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

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Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press

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A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

100 Help Wanted	201 Home Improvement	401 Apartments for Rent	509 Office Equipment	720 Vendors Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity	202 Cleaning Services	402 Rooms for Rent	510 Firewood	721 Wanted to Buy
106 Business Opportunity	203 Lawn Services	403 Furnished Rooms	511 Lawn & Garden Equip.	722 Bazaar
107 Situations Wanted	221 Professional Services	404 Furnished Apartments	512 Winter Merchandise	723 Consignments
120 Schools	222 Tax Experts	405 Wanted to Rent	516 Misc. Merchandise	724 Farmers Market
121 Special Instruction	223 Beauty Services	406 Garages for Rent	700 Pets & Supplies	725 Collectibles
122 Musical Instruction	225 Business Services	407 Vacation Rentals	701 Free Pets	750 Events
140 Nursery Schools	226 Travel & Services	408 Houses for Rent	702 Lost & Found Pets	800 Boats
141 Child Care	227 Bridal Services	420 Commercial Rentals	703 Pets for Adoption	801 Campers & Trailers
142 Day Care	295 Financial	500 Musical Merchandise	710 Garage & Yard Sale	802 Motor Homes
143 Baby-sitting	296 Mortgages	501 Kid Stuff	711 Tag Sale	803 Recreational Vehicles
145 Adult Care	300 Real Estate	502 Clothing	712 Moving sale	900 Autos for Sale
150 Announcements	301 Townhouses & Condos	503 Furniture	713 Rummage Sale	901 Vans/SUV's
151 Adoption	302 Commercial Property	504 Appliances	714 Flea Market	902 Trucks
152 Novenas	304 Mobile Homes	505 Free Items	715 Craft Corner	903 Motorcycles
154 Lost & Found	305 Lots & Acreage	506 Computers	716 Barn Sale	904 Auto Parts & Tires
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DCC students present original research at 2026 SUNY conference

Five students from Dutchess Community College's (DCC) Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) recently presented original research at the 2026 SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) at SUNY Upstate Medical University. DCC was one of 33 SUNY colleges to participate.

Jennalayah Waddell's project, "Analyzing Alterations in Landscapes Using Satellite Imagery and Geographic Information Systems," explored the use of Quantum GIS (QGIS) software to generate landscape maps and analyze changes in terrain, demonstrating the application of geospatial technology to real-world environmental questions.

Breanna Torres and Jordane Gordon presented "Aperture Photometry of an Unstudied Variable Star Using Multi-Filter Observations," documenting the light output of a variable star using photometric measurements. Their findings were uploaded to the AAVSO international database, contributing to the global astronomical community.

Iliana Soto's work, "The Global Impact of U.S. Health Policy," examined the impacts of cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). "If these mod-

ern public health agendas persist," Soto concluded, "the consequences for future global health security may be severe and irreversible."

Brianna Vivace's study, "Survivorship of Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms Under Extreme Environmental Conditions" examined how high-stress freezing conditions affect endemic cyanobacterial populations and their toxicity.

The students were joined by faculty mentor Dr. Samantha Langton and Mabel Almanzar, coordinator of CSTEP.

At DCC, CSTEP supports students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through academic enrichment, mentoring and access to opportunities such as undergraduate research and conference participation. In addition to research presentations, the conference featured professional development workshops and a career fair connecting students with graduate study options and future career pathways.

Participation in SURC reflects DCC's commitment to hands-on learning beyond the classroom, helping students strengthen key academic and professional skills and engage with peers from across the SUNY system.



From left: Dr. Samantha Langton, Breanna Torres, Brianna Vivace, Jordane Gordon, Jennalayah Waddell and Mabel Almanzar. Not pictured: Iliana Soto. *Courtesy photo*

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After being closed for an important restoration project in 2025, Senate House will re-open with the debut of two brand-new permanent exhibits, as well as a day of community celebration!

Join us for:

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m.
- Open-house style tours of Senate House
- Food trucks
- Colonial music from Carla and Keyes
- Reenactors from the 1st and 3rd Ulster Militias
- Take-home crafts
- *Revisit the Revolution* traveling exhibit

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Senate House State Historic Site
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Scan the QR code to learn more and save the event to your calendar



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