

180TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Red carpet meet-and-greet
set with ‘Sweet Treat’ the calf

By Francesca Oliva

“Sweet Treat” the calf, known for her part in the Dutchess County Agricultural Society’s Adopt-a-Calf program will be making a special appearance at the Dutchess County Fair this year in a red-carpet meet-and-greet. Visitors can stop by to meet the calf and learn more about the Adopt-a-Calf program.

“Sweet Treat” will be located in Barn 30 at the Dutchess County Fair for those looking to meet her and learn more about the Adopt-a-Calf program.

The meet-and-greet comes after the immense success of the Adopt-a-Calf program, which launched earlier this year to connect students in local classrooms with dairy farming. The DeForest/Lawrence family, the 2025 Farm Family of the Year, raised the Brown Swiss calf at their farm, Stormfield Swiss in the Town of Wappinger.

Each month, students followed Sweet Treat’s growth through videos, photos and educational activities. At the end of the year, students were able to meet Sweet Treat during classroom visits.

“For a lot of them, it was the first time they got to be that up close and personal with a live farm animal,” said Cassie

Messina-Rainbolt, agricultural educator for the Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

The fair will be an opportunity for many students to reunite with Sweet Treat and show their families the calf they had been learning about in school.

“They’re definitely going to be kids who make their parents come to the fair to go meet Sweet Treat again,” said Messina-Rainbolt. “Throughout the entire year, they were looking forward to the end of the year when they would meet her for the first time.”

By bringing Sweet Treat to the fair, Messina-Rainbolt hopes that more people will be able to learn about the program and explore the fair’s agricultural exhibits. The program exceeded expectations this year, initially planning to reach 20 classrooms and quickly expanding to presentations in more than 100 classrooms across Dutchess County.

Due to the success of the program, the



“Sweet Treat” will be located in Barn 30 at the Dutchess County Fair for those looking to meet her and learn more about the Adopt-a-Calf program. *Courtesy photo*

Dutchess County Agricultural Society is already planning its next chapter. Messina-Rainbolt said they are discussing expanding the program to include more species, with more details expected to be announced this fall.

Flour Power - celebrating
scratch-made kitchen literacy

By Francine Wizner

In late August, the final preparations are under way for a beloved cornerstone of our regional heritage – the 180th Dutchess County Fair. While thousands of fairgoers anticipate rides, music, vendors, and livestock showcases, amateur

bakers are hard at work refining recipes for the home-arts exhibit.

The Fair holds a culinary competition to celebrate traditional home cooking and baking. Participants must create dishes entirely from scratch without using any commercial mixes. Contestants may enter a variety of categories—including home-

made pies, cookies, jams, jellies and marmalades. Expert judges evaluate the entries and provide written feedback to help the cooks refine their recipes. Debby Payne, Co-Chair of the Culinary Department for the Fair, shared some insight into the process of preparing for and judging this local competition.

Blue Ribbon Baking - The first step to a blue-ribbon bake is to follow the entry rules. Minor technical oversights—such as incorrect entry sizes or missing ingredient lists—are the most common culprits for disqualification. Even when an entry violates a rule, judges still write constructive critiques on the display card so the amateur baker can learn.

Next, contestants need to be aware of logistics. Because baked goods are perishable, timing is everything—bakers must strategically plan when to turn on the oven based on what they are making. Entries must be dropped off on Saturday,

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The Fair holds a culinary competition to celebrate traditional home cooking and baking. Participants must create dishes entirely from scratch without using any commercial mixes. *Courtesy photo*

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Your ‘go-to’ guide to the
Dutchess County Fair

Stilt Circus
seeks to inspire,
bring joy to all

By Francesca Oliva

Stilt Circus will return to the Dutchess County Fair for its fifth year, bringing colorful costumes and towering performances to fairgoers of all ages. This year is especially significant for the company, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Founded in 2006, the award-winning Stilt Circus has performed across the United States, dazzling audiences with their elaborate costume designs and stilt work. Starchild, Stilt Circus’ President and Creative Director, designs each of the company’s more than 350 handcrafted costumes with the help of partner Richard Dalton.

“The Dutchess County Fair has become one of our favorite annual traditions,” Starchild said, “The fair has such a wonderful community atmosphere, and we always look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces while creating new memories with first-time visitors.”

Throughout the fair, performers stroll the grounds, interacting with

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Flour power – scratch-made kitchen literacy

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August 22, with the evaluations occurring the very next morning. That’s when the judges focus on appearance, execution quality, and scratch-made flavor profiles.

“When you eat, you eat with your eyes first, then taste, then texture,” explains Debby. “So, in terms of criteria for judging, presentation is first, then the taste.”

Crumb-believable: Separating the Sweet from the Savory - How do you taste your way through more than 80 food categories without losing your mind—or your palate? It requires a highly systematic approach. Payne divides the workload among four pairs of judges. For heavily populated classes—such as the adult King Arthur Recipe competition, which mandates strict adherence to a single recipe—initial pairs perform a preliminary weeding out. The remaining standout entries are then jointly scored by the broader committee.

Other entries mirror the seasonal bounty of our local agriculture. Submissions frequently include ingredients harvested directly from home gardens or local farm stands, ranging from apples and peaches to summer squash. Shifting dietary needs have also expanded the traditional roster. For example, the rise of the Celiac diagnoses prompted Payne to introduce gluten-free categories, which are evaluated by judges specifically trained to score alternative flour textures.

Some local bakers submit innovative recipes that yield surprising results. Payne recalls a remarkably accurate whiskey sour jelly and a rhubarb-flavored vinegar, demonstrating that the familiar garden stalk isn’t just for sweet pies and jam. These unconventional submissions blur the line between sweet and savory. Local bakers rise to the challenge and push the boundaries of traditional tastes.

Soggy Situations Salvaged - For all of their ingenuity in the kitchen, culinary contestants are further challenged by our regional humidity, which can play havoc with delicate doughs. To maximize freshness, many experienced exhibitors bake before dawn on drop-off morning. The afternoon deadline can introduce last-minute panic. Payne has witnessed frantic contestants making emergency phone calls or driving home to retrieve a forgotten recipe or fetch extra cookies to satisfy rigid quantity requirements.

In high-stakes moments, resourcefulness shines. Bakers have been known to wield cake-decorating tubes like caulking guns to patch cracked frosting at the eleventh hour. Some even transport a backup pie to safeguard against transit damage along winding roads.

A Celebration of Community Craft - Once judging wraps up, the remaining portions are prepared for display. On opening day, thousands of fairgoers can admire the entries alongside their winning ribbons. The top recipes are compiled into a booklet sold to cover copying costs, passing proven local recipes on to future generations.

Because professional bakers are prohibited from entering, the tournament remains a celebration of community craft. For Payne, the true legacy goes beyond the prize ribbons; it is about preserving essential home-baking skills. She strongly encourages parents to get children involved in the under-18 categories to build foundational kitchen literacy.

“We always hope that when the items are displayed, people realize that it’s all home-baked, not boxed, and it can be done,” Payne emphasizes. “Whether you win a ribbon or not, you receive constructive advice from the judges to improve.

It’s just fun to come to the fair and see your entry on display. You just never know if you will win or not, but you can’t win if you don’t enter.”



Dave Murray and Debby Payne co-chair the Culinary Department at the Fair. *Courtesy photo*

Stilt Circus seeks to inspire, bring joy to all

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Founded in 2006, the award-winning Stilt Circus has performed across the United States, dazzling audiences with their elaborate costume designs and stilt work. *Courtesy photo*

guests through playful gestures and posing for photo ops. Joining the fair this year are performer Rob Crites, who combines juggling and stilt acrobatics, and Hannah Lemke, a new performer known for her outgoing and welcoming personality. Starchild hopes that both Crites and Lemke will create a fun and immersive experience for fairgoers.

Visitors can also expect to see brand-new Stars & Stripes costumes, created to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary. The patriotic costumes were designed by Starchild, with Dalton helping select the fabrics and materials used to make the designs.

A stilt performer for over 27 years, Starchild says that seeing the impact the company has on children is one of the best parts of coming to the fair. At the

California State Fair, a young boy named Mac met the stilt performers and told his mother he wanted to perform on stilts someday. She built him his first pair of stilts, and years later he auditioned for Stilt Circus. Now, at 14 years old, he performs as a member of the company.

“Stories like his remind us that a single moment of inspiration can truly change someone’s life,” Starchild said.

As Stilt Circus celebrates its 20th anniversary, Starchild hopes fairgoers leave the fair smiling and with happy memories.

“If we can brighten someone’s day, inspire a child’s imagination or remind someone to embrace joy and wonder, then we’ve accomplished our mission,” said Starchild.

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Giving back through life-changing experiences!

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

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County Legislature passes ban on concentrated, synthetic kratom

From County reports

The Dutchess County Legislature voted unanimously at a recent Legislative Board meeting to ban the sale and distribution of concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products, the potent, lab-enhanced kratom derivatives increasingly sold in gas stations, convenience stores, and smoke shops, often in candy-like packaging. The measure targets the dangerous concentrates and lab-made analogs while preserving the right of adults to access natural kratom leaf for its traditional uses. The ban will go into effect once it's filed with the Secretary of State, which will happen in the coming weeks once it is signed by the County Executive following a public hearing.

The law prohibits products that exceed a defined 7-OH concentration threshold, and it separately bans the named synthetic derivatives (MGM-15, MGM-16, and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl) along with any future structural analogue designed to skirt the rules. It carries strict liability and escalating, per-sale civil penalties, and it reaches out-of-county and online sellers who ship these products to a Dutchess County address.

According to a press release, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's proposal would have banned all kratom outright, including the natural leaf that many adults use responsibly. The Legislature's Resolution, by contrast, draws a sharp, defensible line between the traditional plant and the predatory, high-potency concentrates driving dependence and overdose and then hits those concentrates harder than the CE proposed. Rather than a flat fine, the new proposed law adds strict liability, escalating penalties for repeat offenders, a separate violation for every unit sold, and jurisdiction over online sellers shipping into the County. It is a scalpel where the first attempt was a sledgehammer, more likely to survive legal challenges and far more effective at getting the genuinely dangerous products off local shelves.

County Executive Sue Serino said in a statement, "Last night, I urged the

Legislature to act now and enact the full Kratom ban I proposed, because we must do everything possible to protect our neighbors. Too many lives have already been lost. A synthetic Kratom ban simply does not go far enough. It leaves dangerous, unregulated natural Kratom products on store shelves — products the FDA warns consumers not to use and that have been linked to severe health effects, including addiction, liver damage, respiratory failure, and even death. "We've heard directly from families who have lost loved ones, including my friend Sandy Wilson, who bravely addressed the Legislature about the death of her adult son. Their stories are heartbreaking, and they underscore a painful reality: Kratom is unpredictable, unregulated, and unsafe." Serino continued, "Other counties in New York — along with municipalities and states across the country, including Connecticut and Vermont — have already enacted full bans to safeguard their residents. While the ban adopted last night is an important step, we cannot settle for a partial measure that still leaves the door open to further tragedy. I will continue pushing for a full ban that truly protects the health and safety of our community."

"For too long, chemically supercharged kratom has hidden behind a 'natural' label while acting like an opioid. We are banning the dangerous concentrates and the lab-made analogs, not criminalizing the responsible adult who chooses the natural leaf. That is the difference between a slogan and a law that actually works," said Assistant Majority Leader Kristofer Munn (Red Hook), author of the Local Law.

"Our responsibility is to respond to emerging public health threats before they become larger crises. This focuses on the most dangerous concentrated and synthetic kratom products and gives our County Health Department the tools to enforce those protections. I believe this strikes the right regulatory approach," said Legislator Trevor Redl (Poughkeepsie).

"This law takes a meaningful step in the right direction by expanding on exist-

ing state law, which currently applies only to individuals under 21. Eliminating the sale and distribution of products with high concentrations of 7-hydroxymitragynine — levels typically found in synthetic kratom products — is necessary to ensure the safety of our residents. I am proud to sponsor this resolution because it addresses serious warnings from healthcare professionals, protects our residents, and allows for responsible access to the natural kratom leaf," said Legislator Lisa Kaul (Poughkeepsie).

Background: Kratom and the 7-OH Problem

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree in the coffee family, native to Southeast Asia, whose leaves have been chewed or brewed for centuries for energy and pain relief. Its leaves contain two compounds of note, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), that act on the brain's opioid receptors. In the natural leaf, 7-OH occurs only in trace amounts. The current danger is a different product entirely. Manufacturers now chemically concentrate or synthesize 7-OH to potencies far beyond anything found in the plant, then sell it as shots, gummies, tablets, and pressed pills — products nicknamed "gas station heroin." Because they are marketed as "plant-based" and sold openly, many consumers believe they are taking something mild. In reality, concentrated 7-OH produces opioid-like effects and can cause tolerance, physical dependence, withdrawal, respiratory depression, and overdose.

Poison-center calls and adverse-event reports involving these products have climbed sharply. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved no drug containing kratom and warns that it is not safe for use as a dietary supplement, citing risks including liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder.

The DEA has recognized the threat. On July 1, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced its intent to temporarily place concentrated 7-OH (above a specified threshold), together with three synthetic derivatives, mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15, and MGM-16, into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, the same category as heroin and LSD, describing them as an emerging threat to public safety. Notably, that federal action is aimed at the concentrated and synthetic products; it does not target low-7-OH botanical kratom leaf.

Protecting Responsible Adult Access
Consistent with the federal approach, the new proposed law is aimed squarely at the concentrated and synthetic products, not at the plant. Responsible adults should retain the right to access natural kratom leaf for its traditional uses, including energy, focus, and pain management. The Legislature's proposed law rejects the idea that protecting the public requires prohibiting a botanical that adults have long used responsibly; the goal is to remove the predatory, high-potency derivatives from the shelf, not to police personal choice.



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Contractor/RFP sought for OFA Senior Exercise Program

The Office for the Aging is seeking a qualified contractor to coordinate and deliver senior exercise and health-promotion programming. We're looking for a provider who can deliver engaging, safe, evidence-based exercise and wellness programming for older adults, including:

- A balance focused program, similar to "A Matter of Balance"
- Tai Chi programming
- Optional additional physical health programming that supports mobility,

strength, independence, and overall wellness.

Some travel within Dutchess County is required. Scheduling is flexible.

The full Request for Proposals (RFP) is available only through BidNet Direct at this link. Questions regarding this opportunity and RFP can be sent to Sarah Andrews at sandrews@dutchessny.gov, or by calling 845-486-3670.

RFPs will be accepted through Friday, September 3rd.

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County to award \$1.2 Million in CDBG and HOME Funding

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced \$1.2 million to be awarded for 14 projects through the County's 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). This investment will remove barriers to accessibility for seniors and those with special needs, address critical infrastructure needs, and expand affordable housing options throughout Dutchess County.

Serino said, "These investments help people right here in Dutchess County, supporting our neighbors who need extra help. We fix sidewalks so students and families can travel safely. We expand affordable housing for families. These projects make a real difference, and I'm thankful for our local partners who help us turn these funds into real results for our Dutchess County neighbors."

CDBG and HOME program funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address locally identified community development and housing needs. CDBG funds support community development projects and activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people, neighborhoods, and communities; the HOME Investment program creates affordable housing options for low-income households.

CDBG Municipal Projects - Totaling \$611,510 include the following:

- City of Beacon, \$189,210 - Sidewalk Replacement Along South Avenue Elementary School – Project involves a sidewalk replacement on South Avenue by the elementary school. Approximately 450 linear feet of sidewalk and curb, matching the existing widths of 5 feet and 5.5 feet. The project would include new ADA curb ramps, including at the entrances to the elementary school circular driveway.

- Town of LaGrange, \$125,000 - Accessible Bathroom Project – A new ADA compliant bathroom building to replace the current structure at LaGrange Park.

- Town of Poughkeepsie, \$197,800 - Habitat for Humanity Infrastructure Installation Project – The Town will construct a new town road for the five-lot Habitat for Humanity subdivision off Sunset Avenue. To ensure the site has

adequate access to local roadways and utilities, the Town project will cover the cost of installing the road foundation course, binder, and top course asphalt for the new road.

- Village of Pawling, \$99,500 - Village Hall Ground Floor ADA Accessibility Improvements – ADA accessibility improvements on the first floor of Village Hall, including upgrades to the entryway as well as construction of an ADA-compliant restroom.

CDBG Public Service Projects – Totaling \$223,552 include the following:

- Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess, Inc., \$25,000 - Homeless Prevention Case Management Program – Emergency rental assistance and limited utility assistance for low-income Dutchess County residents to help stabilize housing and prevent utility shut offs. Case management services will assist clients in independently sustaining their household needs.

- Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess, Inc., \$25,000 - Senior Medical Transportation and Support Services – Provide Dutchess County residents age 60+ with basic support services, including transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, grocery shopping, visiting services, telephone reassurance, as well as respite for primary caregivers.

- Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, \$27,805 - Wraparound Senior Support Services – Program provides for the continued delivery of individualized, one-on-one assistance in obtaining integrated financial stability, benefits, and food access services for seniors at Family Resource Centers in Dover Plains, Red Hook, and Wappingers Falls.

- Fareground Community Kitchen, Inc., \$29,997 - Grocery Home Delivery for Seniors – Provide monthly delivery of groceries to food insecure and accessibility-challenged seniors in southern Dutchess County.

- Hudson River Housing, Inc., \$30,000 - River Haven Transitional Living Community – Provide runaway, homeless and those at-risk of homelessness young adults, ages 18–24, with up to 24 months of transitional housing and support services, including 24-hour crisis intervention, counseling, and case management, which will aid in transitioning

them towards self-sufficiency.

- Hudson River Housing, Inc., \$30,000 - Support Services at Hillcrest House – Provide case management services, under the Housing First Program, to help high-risk, vulnerable homeless adults secure and maintain stable housing.

- Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Inc., \$25,750 - Permanent Supportive Housing Program – A comprehensive continuum of services offering affordable, permanent housing to individuals and families in recovery from substance use disorders, including counseling, case management, life skills training, and vocational development services, which will assist participants in becoming self-sufficient, strengthen their recovery, reunite with their families, and strive to reach their full potential.

- North East Community Center, Inc., \$30,000 - Youth Development Programs: CPSB and Teen Programs – Community Partnership with Schools and Business (CPSB) offers workforce development training and paid, mentored internships with local businesses and organizations for socioeconomically disadvantaged youth, ages 14-20. Teen Programs is a peer-driven group that provides educational, recreational and community service opportunities for socioeconomically disadvantaged youth, ages 14-18.

HOME Projects – Totaling \$384,000 include the following:

- Depot Hill, Town of Amenia, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, \$185,000 - Single-family new construction for income-qualified buyer. Homeowner will make at or below 80% of AMI.

- Cascade Creek, Town of Amenia, Hudson River Housing, \$199,000 - HOME-assisted new construction of four single-family homes within a 26-lot subdivision for homeownership, with households making at or below 80% AMI.

CDBG Municipal and HOME applications are accepted annually by the Department of Planning & Development. CDBG Public Service applications are accepted biennially. Applications are reviewed by the Community Development Advisory Committee with recommendations forwarded to the County Executive for final approval.

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
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- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Northern Dutchess News will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the Labor Day holiday on Sept. 7, the Sept. 9 issue of the Northern Dutchess News will have an early deadline. All ads and editorial must be received by Thursday, Sept. 3. Contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

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Vietnam veterans and their families eligible for benefits related to Agent Orange exposure



Did you know that August 10th is Agent Orange Awareness Day? This month serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our Vietnam veterans and the enduring impact of their service on their health and well-being.

Veterans of the Vietnam War era, along with their families, have not only earned our nation's deepest respect but also the full spectrum of benefits that their courageous service entitles them to. At the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, we are honored to guide our heroes and their loved ones through the array of benefits available to them, ensuring they receive the support they deserve.

One significant aspect of these benefits pertains to their military service in Vietnam, especially regarding the exposure to a powerful chemical used during that conflict. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes certain illnesses as "presumptive conditions." This means that veterans are not required to prove that a medical condition was caused by their service; instead, if they meet specific service criteria, the VA presumes that connection exists.

Why this matters to Vietnam Veterans

The exposure to herbicides, including Agent Orange, has been linked to various

serious health conditions such as specific cancers, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, diabetes and others. For Vietnam veterans who returned home only to face these challenges, understanding their rights and benefits is crucial.

If you or a loved one are a Vietnam veteran who has developed a presumptive condition, don't hesitate to connect with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in our office, at 845-486-2060. A VSO can help determine eligibility for disability compensation and assist in the claims process.

Support for families

Another vital benefit for families of Vietnam veterans is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This benefit offers financial support to surviving spouses, parents and children of veterans who have passed away from service-related conditions. If a veteran's passing was linked to an illness connected to their service, the surviving spouse may qualify for DIC. In many cases, the VA presumes this connection exists for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure.

It's important to remember that it's never too late for surviving spouses to explore their eligibility for DIC. If your loved one served in Vietnam and has passed due to a condition associated with

Agent Orange, please consult with one of our VSOs to discuss potential benefits.

Blue Water Navy Veterans

Additionally, veterans who served offshore during the Vietnam War can access benefits under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. This law recognizes the sacrifices of those who served within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnamese shoreline between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. These veterans do not need to prove they went ashore to be eligible for benefits linked to herbicide exposure; the VA presumes their ailments are connected to their service.

Surviving family members of these veterans may also qualify for DIC if their loved one passed from an exposure-related condition.

We're here to help

The most important message for veterans and their families is this: Just ask. If any of this information is new to you or you believe your family may qualify for benefits, please reach out to the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060, email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov, or visit us at 1335 Route 44, Suite No. 2, in Pleasant Valley during normal business hours.

Many veterans and their families are

unaware of their eligibility for benefits or may feel that the application process is too overwhelming. Some may even feel hesitant to seek help.

No veteran should ever feel ashamed to ask for assistance, especially after all they have sacrificed for our nation. We are here to support you, sitting down with our heroes and their families to explore the benefits they may qualify for and guide them through the application process.

Whether you served on the mainland of Vietnam or in the waters around it, please reach out to our office. If you are a surviving spouse of a Vietnam veteran, I encourage you to contact us as well. We want to ensure you fully understand the benefits specific to veterans of that era and how we can assist you in preparing a claim, if you qualify.

Regardless of the era, our veterans have served our nation with unwavering dedication to protect us from harm. Dutchess County is proud to ensure that these brave men and women — and their families — receive the respect, care, and support they deserve.

To all our Vietnam veterans, Dutchess County says, "Welcome home."

Red Hook VFW Post 7765 announces major facility upgrades, thanks to Sen. Hinchey's support

Red Hook VFW Post 7765, located at 30 Elizabeth St., recently announced the successful installation of a new air conditioning system and a state-of-the-art solar energy system, made possible by a generous \$111,500 grant provided by Sen. Michelle Hinchey.

Commander Rick Christensen expressed his deep gratitude, stating:

"Honorable Senator Michelle Hinchey recently provided a \$111,500 Grant to our Red Hook VFW Post 7765 for the installation of a new air conditioning system that enables us to engage in many community events and provides continued support for our Veterans. Additionally, this Grant allowed us to install a state-of-the-art solar energy system, that now provides more power than we use.

"Senator Hinchey visited our Post on July 24, 2026 and received a warm welcome and a tour of our facility, showcasing our new solar system and our beautiful banquet hall with our new air conditioning system. When meeting Senator Hinchey, it became immediately clear that she is a strong supporter of Veterans, the American people, and our surrounding communities. Senator Hinchey exhibited a genuine and true patriotic spirit for our great Nation, the defenders of our freedoms and liberties and for all Americans. It was refreshing to meet a representative of the people with such impeccable character. Our Post holds Senator Hinchey in the highest regards and we are grateful for her efforts.

"This Grant was a blessing for us to be able to install a new air conditioning system in our banquet Hall as the old one could no longer be repaired. This would

have put us out of business and unable to meet our obligations to serve Veterans and our community. Additionally, the Grant was earmarked for our new solar system, that when it became active, just a few short weeks ago, it was putting out more energy than we use. Another blessing for our Post. The Senator and her staff have been outstanding in helping this VFW Post, which extends far into the community. It is very difficult to find words suitable enough for our gratitude and thankfulness to Senator Hinchey."

Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "I'm proud to deliver funding to Red Hook VFW Post 7765 for new rooftop solar and an air conditioning system that will help lower energy costs and ensure the Post remains a welcoming hub for veterans and the community for years to come. The members of VFW Post 7765 exemplify the very best of public service, and have each carried their commitment to doing good in the world well beyond their military service. Our local VFWs are incredible places of camaraderie, support, and service because our veterans are among the most dedicated volunteers and community leaders you'll find anywhere. The capital improvements made possible by our grant will help VFW Post 9965 spend less on utility bills and more on its mission, and I'm grateful to play a part in strengthening this important local institution."

The Red Hook VFW Post 7765 extends its heartfelt thanks to Sen. Hinchey and her staff for their unwavering support of veterans and the local community.



Red Hook VFW Post 7765 recently installed a new air conditioning system and state-of-the-art solar energy system, thanks to a generous grant provided by Sen. Michelle Hinchey. In the photo, from left, are: William Moore, Sr. Vice Commander; Rick Christensen, Commander; Sen. Hinchey; Troy Haley, Quartermaster; and Lori Juskiewicz, Auxiliary President. *Courtesy photo*



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RENEGADES FEATURE

Maika Niu off to hot start with late-inning home runs

By Morgan E. Maier

Maika Niu took no time to make his name known through Heritage Financial Park via a walk-off home run in his Hudson Valley Renegades debut.

After finishing his collegiate career at Arizona, Niu went undrafted in the 2026 MLB Player Draft. It did not take long for New York to call. Niu signed with the Yankees on July 14, and was already impacting the team come August 4.

A three-hit game on August 15, including a home run, highlighted Niu's first homestand in the Hudson Valley. He was hit a walk-off winner in his High-A debut, leading off the ninth inning for Hudson Valley.

Maika Niu is pictured with family members while playing for the Falmouth Commodores of the Cape Cod League. He received MVP honors in the Summer League with 23 RBIs and 15 stolen bases over 35 games. *Courtesy photo*

Just eight games into his professional career (stats as of August 16), Niu has launched three home runs. And he's already used to giving his team some timely hitting theatrics — they've all come in the ninth inning or later.

Niu was revered in prospect spotlights for his pop and speed, an outfielder with attention-grabbing athleticism, and experience in the NCAA Tournament. He played for the Falmouth Commodores of the Cape Cod League before his transfer season at Arkansas.

There, Niu's strong summer showing received MVP honors: 23 RBIs and 15 stolen bases over 35 games also earned him an All-Star nod.



League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Frederick BAL *	28	17	.622	-	9-1	W3
Greensboro PIT	27	21	.563	2.5	5-5	L1
Wilmington WSH	25	22	.532	4.0	4-6	L2
Hudson Valley NYY	25	23	.521	4.5	7-3	W2
Brooklyn NYM	24	23	.511	5.0	5-5	L1
Jersey Shore PHI	17	30	.362	12.0	3-7	W1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	28	19	.596	-	3-7	L3
Winston-Salem CWS	24	23	.511	4.0	6-4	W1
Greenville BOS	24	24	.500	4.5	4-6	W1
Asheville HOU	22	25	.468	6.0	5-5	W1
Rome ATL	20	26	.435	7.5	4-6	L1
Hub City TEX	18	29	.383	10.0	5-5	L1



August

08/25/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	An Ode to Cream Cheese WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/26/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Welcome Back College Students WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/27/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Copa de la Diversión™ presented by Café Con Leche: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/28/26	vs. Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Fan Appreciation Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/29/26	vs. Brooklyn	05:05 PM	Dino Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/30/26	vs. Brooklyn	02:05 PM	WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!



IMPACT

PR & Communications

**Westchester Library System Awarded \$500,000;
Grant to Expand Digital Navigators Program
Across 9 Counties**

See story,
page 8



Digital Navigators
of The Hudson Valley

IMPACT

PR & Communications

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades roar back with wild wins to take four games from Wilmington

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades got the spark they had been searching for against the Wilmington Blue Rocks, to the tune of five straight wins dating back to the series against Greenville. Wild walk-offs wins, strong career starts and exciting offense were highlights in the series win over Wilmington last week.

The Renegades now own a 25-23 record in second-half play – good for fourth place in the Northern Division of the South Atlantic League (SAL). Hudson Valley is 4.5 games behind Frederick, Md.

Hudson Valley took the first two from Wilmington, starting with Maika Niu's first career walk-off game-winner. Leading off the ninth inning, Niu turned a 3-1 count into a 3-2 win with a home run to left field.

MLB rehabber Luis Gil pitched the first inning, then Franyer Herrera allowed two runs over the next six innings. Thomas Balboni Jr. got the win out of the bullpen, pitching a perfect 2.0 innings of relief with three strikeouts. Balboni would offer another scoreless outing on the Blue Rocks later in the week, stretching a 3.2 inning scoreless streak.

A historic, edge-of-your-seat comeback marked another wild walk-off win for the Renegades on August 15. In true 'Baby Bomber' fashion, Hudson Valley launched three ninth inning home runs. Four extra base hits, including a three-run game winner by Jackson Lovich (2-for-5,

2 HR, 4 RBI, 2 R, 2 K) capped the Renegades seven-run ninth inning, and the 8-5 win.

Hudson Valley has produced such a comeback twice since 2005, most recently against the Greensboro Grasshoppers on July 19, 2022. Then, Hudson Valley scored seven 11th-inning runs to prevail 16-10 over the SAL foe.

In the series finale, another massive inning proved the difference for the Renegades. Five runs in the second resulted in the home team's 5-2 win. Wilmington strung up two runs across later innings, but could not overcome starter Allen Facundo (7.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER, 6 K, 3 BB).

Another big day for Lovich had another 3-RBI day, a two out, bases-clearing triple which closed out Hudson Valley's game-winning inning.

Hudson Valley next travels down to ShoreTown to face the BlueClaws. Back in the winning direction after taking four of six from Wilmington, the Renegades' new-look roster is looking sharp, and hints at a future brighter than Jersey Shore sunshine.

They return home to begin the final homestand of the year on Tuesday, Aug. 25 to host the Brooklyn Cyclones for an Ode to Cream Cheese, the staple which was invented here in the Hudson Valley. It is also the final Tuesday for Baseball Bingo presented by Partner Rentals and Silver Gades Tuesday of the season. For tickets and more information, visit hvreneades.com/tickets.



Jackson Lovich hit a three-run home run to cap a seven-run comeback in the 9th inning for an 8-5 victory over Wilmington on Aug. 15. Photo by Dave Janosz

RENEGADES EXTRA

Pitcher Allen Facundo led the Renegades to a 5-2 victory over Wilmington in Sunday's series finale. He gave up only two runs on six hits in seven innings and struck out six batters. Photo by Dave Janosz



Westchester Library System awarded \$500,000; grant to expand Digital Navigators Program across 9 counties

Westchester Library System (WLS) has been awarded \$500,000 through Empire State Development's ConnectALL Office to expand the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley (DNHV) program, bringing free technology assistance to more residents throughout nine counties in the Hudson Valley Region. The project, known as Hudson Valley Connected, will recruit, train, and deploy Digital Navigators, or tech help, in libraries and organizations throughout nine counties. The program will also offer digital literacy workshops and information sessions, expand outreach efforts, and connect individuals with free and reduced-cost technology through their local libraries and community-based organizations.

As the project's lead financial partner and grant administrator, WLS will collaborate with Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (Southeastern), which leads the DNHV initiative, along with the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) and Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), allowing the initiative to reach public libraries and communities across Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.

Through participating libraries and community organizations, Digital Navigators provide free, personalized technology assistance to those in need. Services include basic computer skills and assistance searching for affordable internet service, applying for a job online, accessing telehealth, navigating government websites or troubleshooting a device. Trained Digital Navigators provide one-on-one guidance that helps individuals build confidence and maintain independence using technology.

"The Westchester Library System is honored to steward this important investment in digital equity," said Terry Kirchner, executive director of WLS. "This project exemplifies the power of regional collaboration, and by working alongside our partner library systems, we can expand Digital Navigator services, strengthen digital literacy across the Hudson Valley and ensure libraries continue to thrive."

Since launching in 2022, the DNHV initiative, spearheaded by Southeastern, has trained more than 178 Digital Navigators serving 94 public libraries and nonprofit organizations throughout the Hudson Valley. Together, they have provided more than 2,000 one-on-one technology assistance sessions, helping

residents access affordable internet, use digital devices, complete online job applications, connect to healthcare services, navigate government resources and stay safe online.

"Libraries have always been trusted places for learning, and today that includes helping people navigate an ever-evolving digital world," said Carolyn Bennett Glauda of Southeastern and the Digital Navigator Ambassador for Hudson Valley Connected. "Whether someone needs help applying for a job, accessing healthcare online, or simply learning how to use the settings on a device that doesn't come with a manual, our Digital Navigators provide patient, personalized guidance. This funding will allow us to expand those services so even more Hudson Valley residents can access the technology skills and support they need to succeed."

Building on New York State's continued investment as one of the only in the nation to expand digital equity following the loss of comparable federal funding, the expansion of the DNHV service aims to support low-income households and older adults in overcoming key barriers identified in the New York State Digital Equity Plan:

- Assisting the 29% of New Yorkers

who need professional device support because they cannot fix a device or do not have family or friends to help them.

- Supporting New Yorkers with low confidence in digital literacy, including 23% of older adults and 20% of low-income households.
- Supporting the 87% of New Yorkers who are concerned about online safety.

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "Access to technology is essential, but true digital equity also means ensuring New Yorkers have the skills and support to use it confidently. Through this \$500,000 ConnectALL investment, trusted libraries and community organizations will help more Hudson Valley residents access vital services, pursue employment opportunities and fully participate in today's digital economy."

As the lead financial partner, WLS is also coordinating the local investments needed to support the project alongside the ConnectALL grant, working with regional philanthropic partners to help ensure Hudson Valley Connected reaches all communities throughout the region.

To learn more about the Digital Navigator program or find a library near you offering these services, visit <https://hvconnected.org/>.

FARMERS MARKETS

- Arlington:** Vassar College Alumnae Lawn, Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., through Oct. 29. arlingtonhasit.org/farmers-market
- Beacon:** 223 Main St. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Year-round, rain or shine. beaconfarmersmarket.org
- Eastdale Village:** 10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie. Every first & third Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through October. www.eastdalevillage.com/farmers-market
- East Fishkill:** 2670 Rte. 52, Hopewell Junction. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Elizaville:** Roosters Roadside Creamery & Grill Farm & Flea Market, 669 County Rte. 2. Saturdays through end of September, noon-4 p.m. (845) 756-2400, roosters.roadside669@gmail.com, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574957068800>
- Hyde Park:** 4390 Rte. 9. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., through October. thehydeparkfarmersmarket@gmail.com or (845) 337-9349
- Millbrook:** 3263 Franklin Ave. Parking Lot. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through Oct. 10. www.millbrookfarmersandmakersmarket.com
- Millerton:** 6 Dutchess Ave. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Nov. 28. www.neccmillerton.org/farmers-market
- Pawling:** 5 Charles Colman Blvd. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through Sept. 26. www.pawlingfarmersmarket.org
- Rhinebeck:** Municipal Parking Lot, 61 E. Market St. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Dec. 26. www.rhinebeckfarmersmarket.com
- Todd Hill Outdoor Market:** 4640 Taconic State Parkway North, Poughkeepsie. Fridays-Sundays, noon-4 p.m., through Nov. 1. (845) 849-0247 or tastenytotdhill.com/pages/outdoor-market

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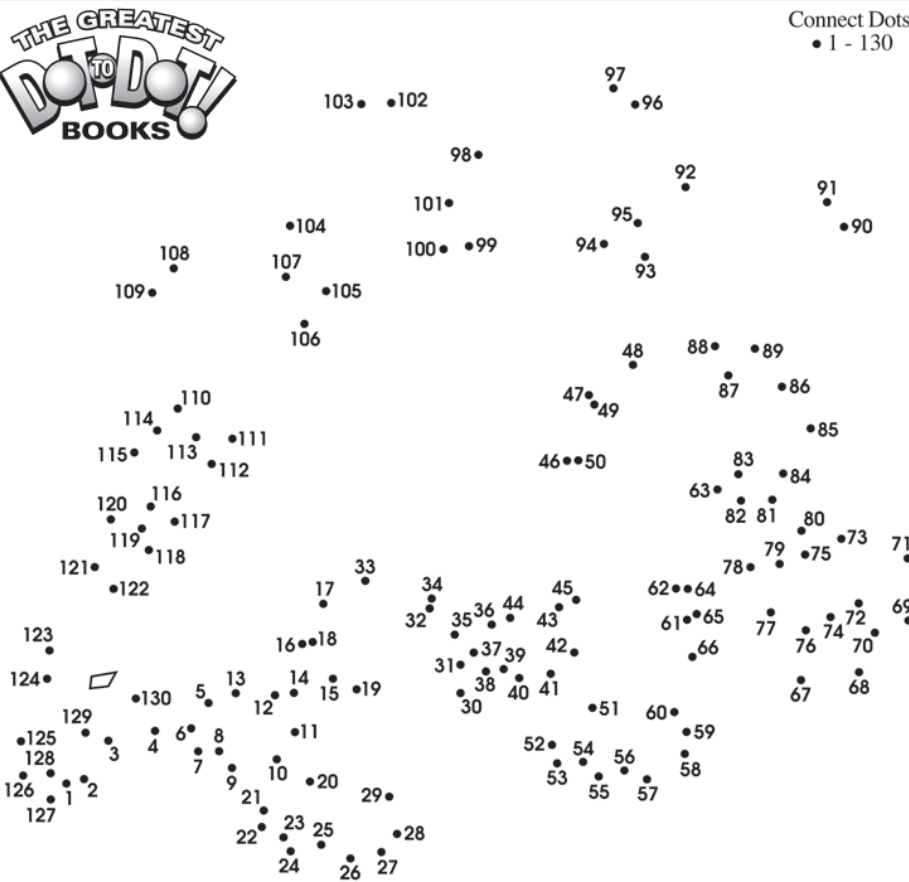
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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Open House set Aug. 22 at Gen. Montgomery House Museum

On Saturday, Aug. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., The General Richard Montgomery House Museum-Chancellor Livingston DAR Chapter House will be open at 77 Livingston Street. The house belongs to the chapter and is an accredited museum on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Rhinebeck Village Historic District. Admission is free; donations welcomed. Open also by appointment. (845) 871-1777, or email darrhinebeck@gmail.com or Facebook

Grace Church Golf & Dinner benefit
set Sept. 14 at Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club
On Monday, Sept. 14, Grace Episcopal Church in

Millbrook will host its annual golf tournament and dinner benefit. Each year, two noteworthy individuals are honored for their outstanding service to Grace Church (Pillar of Grace) and the community at large (Pillar of the Community). This year's honorees are Cathy Shanks and Skip Ciferri.

The event, which takes place at the Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club in Millbrook, includes 18 holes of golf, with tee times at either 8 a.m. or 1 p.m. Golf includes breakfast and lunch, on-course refreshments, golf cart, raffle, a 50/50 cash drawing, and valuable prizes. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour, silent auction, and an excellent meal.

Registration is now open for sponsorships, golf, and dinner. Attendance costs \$175 for golf, \$175 for din-

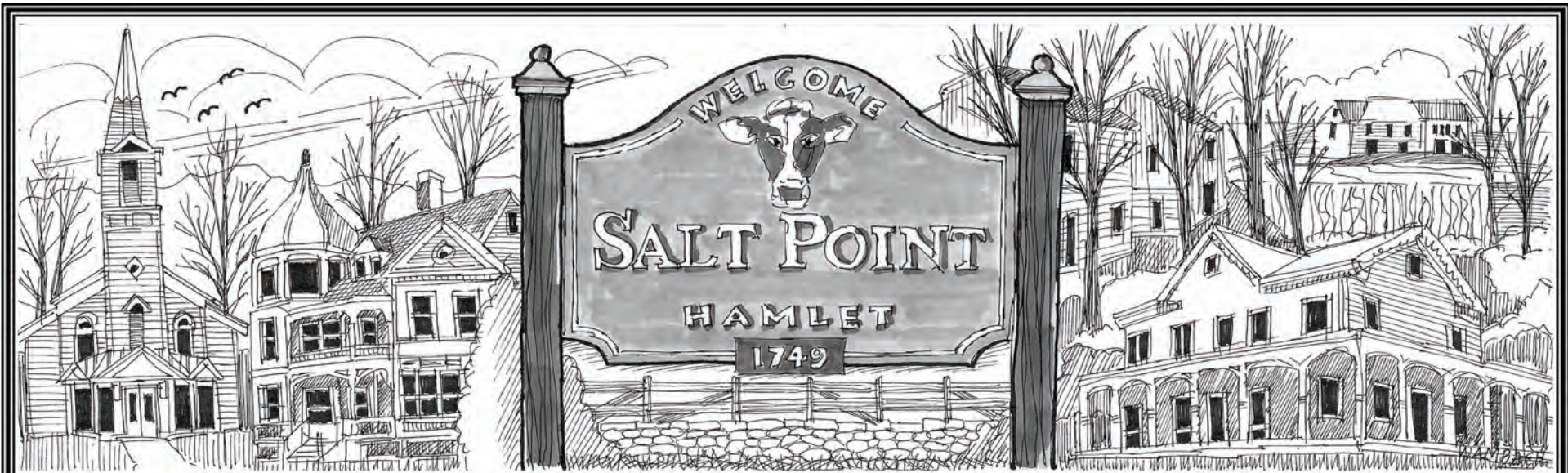
ner, and \$250 for golf and all meals. To register, contact the church office (845) 677-3064 or office@gracemillbrook.org or co-chair James Prudden (914-482-3525 or james.prudden@gmail.com). Registration can also be completed online at www.gracemillbrook.org. Registrations required by August 31.

Golf outing to support
Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley
Chip In To Rebuild will be held on Oct. 2 at the Apple Greens Golf Course in Highland. The 34th annual outing will benefit Rebuilding Together. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. A day of fun, fundraising, and friendly competition. One's participation helps to ensure safe and healthy homes for people in need.

For more information, visit <https://rthudsonvalley.org/event/>.

Bowl for Community Action Partnership in October

Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County will hold a fundraising event at Spins Bowl, at 1677 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls in October and wants you to take part in the action. "Bowl for ACTION" will take place on Friday, October 9, and will feature team participants, raffle prizes, food and more. Check in for the event is 5:30 p.m. To find out more about sponsorship opportunities and to register for the event, go to www.BowlforACTION.org.



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This solo act is a seasonal trifecta: Bloom, blush, and bark

If you have ever been caught in traffic on Route 9 near the Mid-Hudson Bridge, or hunted for parking in Rhinebeck on a chaotic Saturday, you know Hudson Valley life isn't always bucolic. Our Dutchess County has a quiet charm, but its busiest hubs can get overwhelmed. Tranquility lies a short drive away along less-traveled macadam – near orchards, split-rail fences, and pristine landscapes. “Going solo” is appealing. That is a lesson perfectly illustrated by the uniquely individual *Heptacodium miconioides*, the seven-son flower.

Adopting a sole survivor
The first plant purchase I made for my Pleasant Valley home was found four years ago on a discount rack. A bargain! When I bought it, I didn't realize I was adopting a botanical celebrity. The seven-son flower is monotypic, meaning there is only one species within the genus. While about 10% of plant genera share this lonely designation, the seven-son flower wears its isolation with confidence. It doesn't need a flock of close relations. I got two and planted them next to each other—because even a solo act appreciates harmony.



Heptacodium history
While the official botanical record claims the seven-son flower was “discovered” by Westerners in 1907, local people in China had known about this cliff-dweller for centuries. The early ecologists who took note of *Heptacodium* weren't looking to stock nurseries. Their goal was to take a small clipping, press it flat, and store it in a museum drawer.
For nearly a century, *Heptacodium* existed in the West only as a dead herbarium specimen. Following the Chinese Communist Revolution, closed borders paused cross-continental scientific exchange. This division lasted until the 1980 Sino-American Botanical Expedition – a historic, three-month trek that marked the first collaboration between Western and Chinese scientists since 1949. Looking at the shrub with modern eyes, they realized this museum curiosity could become a versatile landscape plant.

Coming to America
The seeds were brought to the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts, which subsequently distributed seedlings throughout North America. Nearly all garden specimens today share that original lineage, including my two adoptees. However, conservationists continue to brave treacherous cliff terrain, gathering rare seeds from the few remaining wild populations to introduce vital genetic diversity.

What's so special?
“Meh,” you might be thinking, “What makes this shrub so special?” After all, in this space I've written about the trumpet-shaped blooms of *Weigela*, the reproductive details of winterberries, and regaled you with a variety of other scientific fascinations. What makes this shrub noteworthy are its unconventional displays.
In late August, most greenery is sun-bleached and readying for a winter nap. But *Heptacodium* is ready to party. It erupts with fragrant, white flowers. The blossoms appear in clusters containing two opposite rows of three, encircling a central bud. This central bud mimics an additional



Immature *Heptacodium* or Seven-Son Flower, buds (above) and foliage (right). Photos by Francine Wizner. Below: *Heptacodium*'s white blooms turn a blush color in the fall. Photos courtesy of Ptelea, Creative Commons, Wikimedia. Below, left: Peeling bark of the *heptacodium*. Photo courtesy of Flobbado, Creative Commons, Wikipedia



bloom to create the visual illusion of a “seventh son,” hence its common name. Butterflies and bees flock to the blooms like commuters rushing to Metro-North.
The prefix hepta- is Greek for seven, combined with kodia, meaning “head” – a nod to its seven-parted appearance. The specific epithet, *miconioides*, alludes to the plant's boldly veined leaves, which closely resemble plants in the tropical *Miconia* genus. I remember learning about *Miconia* from the National Geographic series, “Strange Days on Planet Earth.” The episode “Invaders” explained that *Miconia* became a highly destructive invader on tropical islands like Hawaii because it lacks limiting factors, such as competition or predators, to prevent its overgrowth.
Fortunately, the three prominent veins running from the base to the tip of *Heptacodium*'s leaves are simply a case of convergent evolution – a biological phenomenon where unrelated species independently develop analogous traits to adapt to similar environments. Despite the physical resemblance, *Heptacodium* is entirely unrelated to the tropical invader and behaves as a perfectly polite guest.
After its flowers fade, the underlying

sepals expand and “blush” in varying shades of red as autumn progresses. This is a dramatic show that lasts through October. When November arrives and the leaves drop, *Heptacodium* reveals its winter wardrobe. Its bark exfoliates in shaggy, tan strips, providing visual interest against a backdrop of snow.
Heptacodium is a conversation starter that survived a century of obscurity. It supports Hudson Valley pollinators during the late-summer nectar drought, making it well worth the garden real estate. Its fall and winter show is proof that you don't need a crowd of close relations to make a major impact. Sometimes being a solo act is the best way to stand out in the crowd.
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.youtube.com/@PVMAppleLodge.

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LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.

10 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - August 19-25, 2026

Beatrix Farrand Garden Association to offer arts events on Aug. 29

Azkana Trio to perform early evening concert in garden

Beatrix Farrand Garden in Hyde Park will present a chamber concert in the historic walled garden featuring the Azkana Trio on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 6:30 p.m. The outdoor concert at the late summer golden hour will be an unforgettable evening of chamber music.

The Azkana Trio was formed in 2026 and has quickly become an in-demand touring chamber ensemble. Individually, the Trio's members have performed around the globe, served as educators and curators, and are known to bring a wealth of experience and a shared passion for connecting with audiences through music. Patrons will be dazzled by Amadi Azikiwe, violinist, violist, and conductor; cellist Amy Kang; and pianist Jasmine Nagano.

The program at The Beatrix Farrand Garden will include works by Florence Price, Astor Piazzolla, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Camille Saint-Saëns.

A special feature will be a pre-concert "kids-up-front" mini-concert at 5:45 p.m. by the Azkana Trio, curated to share the sounds, instruments, and tunes that will fascinate kids of all ages. Families can come early and enjoy this fun show, sure

to turn kids into music lovers! At 6:30, families can move to a comfortable location in the garden so the whole family can continue listening to extraordinary classical pieces in a relaxed garden setting.

Visitors often bring picnics, lawn chairs, friends and children for memorable performances inside the walled garden. A quantity of folding chairs will be available for guests.

Chamber music is often described as the most intimate form of classical performance, bringing together small ensembles whose musicians share equal artistic roles in creating a rich and engaging musical experience. Performed in the garden's unique walled setting, this concert offers audiences the opportunity to experience world-class musicians up close in a beautiful, relaxed and inspiring outdoor environment.

One can learn more details about the Azkana Trio Concert at the BFG Website www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org. Reservations are encouraged, and donations to the nonprofit Beatrix Farrand Garden Association are welcome. This concert is produced with the support of Arts Mid-Hudson, Destination Dutchess, and Dutchess County.



A painting by Mira Fink shows a portion of the Beatrix Farrand Garden. *Courtesy image*

'Artists in the Garden' project celebrates nature's uplifting power

On Saturday, August 29, the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association (BFGA) will offer two free events that will bring the power and beauty of art into the garden.

BFGA will present a free Artists in the Garden juried exhibition from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring artwork created in or inspired by the Beatrix Farrand Garden, celebrating the beauty, complexity, and restorative value of gardens and nature. The juried exhibition will be at the Wallace Center, adjacent to the Beatrix Farrand Garden. Works in the exhibit will include oil, acrylic, watercolor paintings, drawings, photography, papier mache, and mixed media. Subjects will include scenes from gardens to national parks, wildlife, and botanical art. Twenty-five local, highly talented artists will be featured, as well as a few budding young artists.

Visitors can also enjoy stroll through the garden and watch multiple local

artists giving live demonstrations of their various artistic talents: painting, sketching, photography, and more. Garden visitors, both adults and children, can observe the artists, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ask questions, learn and enjoy – and are welcome to bring their own supplies and try their hand. Several artists will offer hands-on demonstrations.

The "Artists in the Garden" project is supported in part by Arts MidHudson, Destination Dutchess, Dutchess County, and in part by select, generous donors.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden is located on the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, attached to the yellow Bellefield Mansion, 4097 Albany Post Road in Hyde Park. Free and accessible parking, café, and restrooms are available at the Wallace Visitor Center. Although free, visitors are encouraged to make a reservation at the BFGA website: www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org.



The Azkana Trio (from left) Jasmine Nagano, Amadi Azikiwe and Amy Kang) will perform on Saturday, Aug. 29, in the Beatrix Farrand Garden in Hyde Park. *Courtesy photo*

what's happening? —————
————— creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

Vassar Temple announces High Holy Day Services

Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie, invites the community to worship on the upcoming High Holy Days. Rosh Hashana begins the evening of Sept. 11, and Yom Kippur begins the evening of Sept. 20. The congregation's clergy Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann will officiate. Most of the High Holy Day programming will be hybrid (available both in person and on Zoom,) and there will be professional security present.

Please visit the website www.vassartemple.org for the complete service schedule. No fee is involved, but every-

one wishing to attend must contact the Temple and register in advance, and donations to help defray our expenses are appreciated. The congregation is also accepting donations of nonperishable foods for its annual Yom Kippur Food Drive to benefit a local food pantry. Vassar Temple is a welcoming, inclusive congregation located in Poughkeepsie and is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.

For further information, and to sign up to attend, please contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

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9								1
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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: HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ACROSS

1. Thanksgiving tubers

5. _____ Patrol

8. Boo hoos

12. Burn soothing plant

13. "Frat Pack" member Wilson

14. _____ ligation

15. Sound an alarm

16. Marvin, Majors and Greenwood

17. O. Henry's specialty

18. *Marilyn Monroe: "Happy Birthday, Mr. _____"

20. Sporting sword

21. Blue pencil marks

22. Knight's title

23. *One for every year

26. Custodian

30. Be in debt

31. Stay clear of

34. Accompanies relief

35. #1 Down, pl.

37. Owned

38. Subway in Paris

39. Shore extension

40. Per _____

42. Even, poetic

43. City in Netherlands

45. Like voice during laryngitis

47. Barents or Laptev, e.g.

48. Noah's passengers

50. Type of code

52. *Astrological sign for those born on New Year's Eve

56. Black one and white one, for Tchaikovsky

57. Crematorium jars

58. "The Odyssey," e.g.

59. Make this, not waste

60. Let it stand, to proofreader

61. Governmental space agency, acr.

62. The windows to the soul

63. Money in Myanmar

64. Theodora or Dorothea

DOWN

1. Bark or yelp

2. Relating to armpit

3. *"...and many _____"

4. Detected

5. *Like 16

6. Hiking sandals of a certain brand

7. Of the present month

8. *Greeting to the birthday honoree, sometimes

9. Bassoon cousin

10. Misery cause

11. Canny

13. Dated tunes

14. Make a logical connection (2 words)

19. Runs without moving

22. Lumberjack's tool

23. Another word for nutria

24. Look forward to

25. Not as old

26. George Lucas' warrior-monk

27. Concentration of a solution lab test

28. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.

29. Cotes du _____, wine region

32. Online room

33. As opposed to mishap

36. *"We want your presence, not your _____"

38. New Zealandian minority

40. Cuban dance syllable

41. *Quench it with punch

44. Precedes desist

46. Antonym of descent

48. *Traditional birthday celebration

49. Sleeper's woe

50. Up, up and there

51. Level a building

52. Crescent point

53. Colorful fish

54. Greet the judge, e.g.

55. March Madness org.

56. Pronoun

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11
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59						60					61			
62						63					64			

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The solutions to both the Sudoko & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 19

12 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - August 19-25, 2026



Pop goes into ‘Uber’ drive

Luigi marvels at his father’s questionable knowledge of app-based transportation.

The thing about my father being 93 is ... well ... he’s 93. We don’t let him drive anymore. Not that he was exactly Mario Andretti before, but at least back then he had the confidence of a man who believed stop signs were “suggestions” and turn signals were “for people who don’t know where they’re going.”

Anyway, on a recent holiday weekend the restaurant was a madhouse. Wall-to-wall people. You couldn’t even squeeze a breadstick between the tables. We were so busy we couldn’t break away to go pick him up.

So I called him.
Me: “Pop, listen, we’re swamped. We can’t get out to come get you.”
Pop: “Ok. So justa call me the Uber.”

I froze. Like ... what?

Me: “What are you talking about?”
Pop: “You know... the Uber. Youa call. Theya come. Theya pick up. Theya take-a me.”

He said it like he was explaining gravity. Like I was the one who didn’t understand how the universe worked. Now we’re going back and forth — half English, half Italian, half yelling, half confusion, all chaos.

Me: “Pop, you don’t even know how to use Uber!”
Pop: “I don’t gotta know! YOUA call the Uber! Youa push-a the button!”
Me: “What button?”
Pop: “The buttone ona the phone! The one thata says ‘Bring-a me the car!’”

At this point he’s describing Uber like it’s a pizza delivery service. Then he starts negotiating like he’s at a fish market.

Pop: “How much it cost? Five dollar? Ten dollar? I give you the money when I get there.”
Me: “Pop, it’s not about the money.”
Pop: “Ohhh, so it’s free? Even better!”

Now I’m rubbing my forehead like I’m trying to erase the conversation from my skull.

Meanwhile he’s getting louder, because in his mind volume = clarity.

Pop: “JUSTA CALL ME THE UBER! I WAIT OUTSIDE!”
Me: “Pop, no. No Uber. No waiting outside. No standing in the driveway like a lost tourist.”

Finally, after ten minutes of this international summit meeting, we decide it’s best if he just stays home.

Pop: “OK ... but next time ... you call-a me the Uber.”

Like it’s settled law. Like it’s going in the Constitution. I hung up the phone and just stared at the wall for a minute, wondering how a man who still yells into his cellphone like he’s calling Naples in 1974 thinks he’s ready for app-based transportation.

But that’s Pop. Confident. Determined. And absolutely convinced Uber is a magical button that summons a chauffeur.

So after Pop and I finish our ten-round

heavyweight match about Uber, I hang up thinking the situation is over. It was not over. Because ten minutes later, my other brother calls me.

He’s already laughing — that exhausted, defeated laugh of a man who has just survived a phone call with Pop.

Brother: “Did you tell him he’s not coming?”
Me: “Yeah. Why?”
Brother: “Because he just called me. Screaming about a car.”

Now I’m rubbing my temples again.

Me: “What did he say?”
Brother: “He says — and I quote — ‘LUIGI NO WANNA CALLA ME THE UBER. YOU CALLA ME THE UBER.’”

I can hear Pop’s voice in my head, like a ghost haunting the family group chat.

Me: “Oh no...”
Brother: “Oh yes. He’s pacing around the house like he’s waiting for a limo. He told me, ‘I’m-a dressed. I’m-a ready. I’m-a stand outside.’”
Me: “Did you tell him no?”
Brother: “I TRIED. But he kept yelling, ‘YOU PUSH-A THE BUTTON! YOU GOTTA THE BUTTON!’”

Now my brother starts imitating Pop — badly — but with full commitment.

Brother: (as Pop): “You open-a the phone! You find-a the Uber! You send-a the car! BEEP! BEEP! They come get me!”

I’m dying laughing, because this is exactly how Pop thinks Uber works: like a magical taxi fairy that appears when you yell loud enough.

Me: “So what did you tell him?”
Brother: “I told him the Uber is ... uh ... closed.”
Me: “Closed?”
Brother: “Yeah. I panicked. I said it’s a holiday, so the Uber people are home with their families.”
I’m silent.
He’s silent.
We both know Pop is absolutely going to repeat this to someone as a fact.

Brother: “And then he goes, ‘OH. OK. THATA MAKE-A THE SENSE.’”

Of course it does. To Pop, this is perfectly logical. Banks close. Stores close. Why wouldn’t Uber close for the holiday.

Me: “So he’s staying home?”
Brother: “Yeah. He said he’s gonna make roasted pepper pasta and watch the Mass on TV. But he told me to tell you...”

And here my brother switches back into full Pop mode:

Brother: (as Pop) “Next time ... YOU CALLA ME THE UBER EARLY. BEFORE THEY CLOSE.”

I hang up the phone and just stare into space.

Some families worry about big things. We worry about Pop trying to summon Uber like he’s casting a spell.

ROASTED PEPPER PASTA
Ingredients
4 large red bell peppers
1 lb. bucatini pasta
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
4–5 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 cup vegetable broth
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1 tbsp tomato paste
1/2 tsp red pepper flakes (optional)
1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
salt, to taste
black pepper, to taste

Method:
Roasting the peppers: Preheat the oven: Set the oven to 400°F (200°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment.
Prep the peppers: Wash the peppers, cut them in half lengthwise, and remove stems, seeds, and membranes.
Oil & season: Place peppers cut-side down on the sheet. Drizzle with 1/4 cup olive oil, season lightly with salt and pepper, and coat evenly.
Roast: Bake 30-40 minutes, until skins are blistered and charred in spots and the peppers are very soft.
Transfer hot peppers to a bowl and cover tightly (or place in a paper bag). Steam 10–15 minutes to loosen the skins.
Peel & chop: Peel off the skins, discard them, and roughly chop the pepper flesh. Save any juices.

Making the sauce
Heat the remaining olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and cook 5-7 minutes until soft.
Stir in the minced garlic and optional

red pepper flakes. Cook 1–2 minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook 1 minute more.

Add the chopped peppers and any collected juices. Cook 2–3 minutes.

Blend the sauce. Transfer to a blender (or use an immersion blender). Add 1/4 cup broth and blend until smooth. Add more broth as needed to reach a pourable, creamy consistency.

Stir in the heavy cream (or coconut cream) and Parmesan. Simmer gently 5-7 minutes, without boiling hard.

Season & finish: Adjust salt and pepper. Stir in the chopped basil. Add a small squeeze of lemon if you want extra brightness. Keep warm on low heat.

Cooking the pasta & combining
Cook the pasta: Boil pasta in salted water until al dente. About 7-8 minutes.

Reserve pasta water: Before draining, save 1 cup of the starchy water.

Add drained pasta to the warm sauce and toss well. Add splashes of pasta water as needed to loosen and help the sauce cling.

Serve: Plate immediately. Top with extra Parmesan, basil, olive oil, or red pepper flakes. Serve with crusty Italian bread and a nice glass of Pinot Grigio.

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

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Amenia Historical Society to present new historical drama Aug. 21-23

The Amenia Historical Society will present a new play by Amenia resident George Bistransin, “Amenia’s Spycatcher,” a story of espionage, intrigue and romance set in Amenia during the American Revolution. Performances are set Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 23, at 2 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater, 4988 Route 22, Amenia. Admission is free. Reservations are recommended at <https://AmeniaSpycatcher.eventbrite.com>.

The historical society secured a \$15,000 Dutchess County Rev250 Grant to produce “Amenia’s Spycatcher,” an adventure, full of intrigue, that weaves historical facts from many different sources into a fictional historical drama. The play retells generally unknown but remarkable events that happened to Amenia residents Ephraim and Mary Paine between 1777 and 1785.

Ephraim Paine held many offices, including being Dutchess County Judge and delegate to Continental Congress. The play takes inspiration from “Grandmother’s Spy” by Paine’s descendant Martha Bockee Flint, which tells how Mary Paine caught a man who she believed was a British Spy.

The Second Act uses material from the Journal of Baroness Von Riedesel, wife of a German General who came through Amenia in 1778.

The Third Act takes place shortly before Ephraim Paine’s death on August 10, 1785 and uses details from his will. The play includes anecdotes from Newton Reed’s “Early History of Amenia” and information about Ephraim Paine from “Letters of Members of the Continental Congress,” including his own letters. Wherever possible Paine’s actual words have been used.

George Bistransin wrote the script and will direct the play. Bistransin credits learning the playwriting craft from translating and directing the plays of Plautus and Moliere. He directed these plays for Theater Ludicrum from 1986 to 2007 for high school students in Massachusetts and the New York City area. From 2014 to 2019 he led the Village Playwrights and produced three theater festivals yearly. In 1996 he received an NEH award to attend “The Art of Ancient Spectacle” at the American Academy in Rome. His

children’s musical “Curse on Summit Hill” was produced in Central Park and in the Midtown Festival. Bistransin raises goats in Amenia and is the United States representative of the Harness Goat Society.

Dover Plains resident Gary Petagine will play the part of Amenia’s Revolutionary War politician Ephraim Paine, who held many offices, including Amenia Supervisor, State Senator, Dutchess County Judge and delegate to Continental Congress. Petagine has gained fame in the Tri-State area portraying Major General Benedict Arnold in a play he co-wrote called Rendezvous With Treason: The Andre/Arnold Conspiracy in 2009. Other notable portrayals are: Nathaniel Pendleton, John Laurance, Benjamin Tallmadge, General William Howe, Richard Montgomery and John Lamb.

Mary Paine, Ephraim’s wife and spycatcher, will be played by Sadie Whitlow, a graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London, who recently moved to Pawling, splitting her time between acting in the city and working with horses upstate and furthering her stunt training. Her recent credits include voice over for the Washington Post, Murderous by Neil LaBute, Reimagined by Mateo Messina and Kandahar by Ric Roman Waugh.

Margaret O’Brien from Amenia will portray Baroness Frederika von Riedesel who passed through Amenia in 1778 as a prisoner. O’Brien taught voice and piano at the Kent School, after singing classical music professionally in New York City. She has performed with Crescendo, the Kent Singers and at St. Andrew’s Church in Kent, Conn.

The part of Lionel Lincoln will be played by Nicholas Scott, who was born and raised in Pleasant Valley. Scott landed the leading role of Willard Hewitt in the high school production of “Footloose” in 2017 and went on to star in high school musicals like “Heathers,” “Bring It On,” and “Mama.” After graduating from SUNY New Paltz University, Scott secured roles in the feature films “Stoner Horror Comedy Ditch Boys,” “Catfish Christmas” and “America Gone Viral” and a lead role in the drama “Broken People” directed by Trevor Ketzak.

Ephraim and Mary’s daughter

Elizabeth will be played by Eugene Brooks Intermediate School student Fiona Crow. Before moving to the Amenia three years ago, she appeared in several productions, including “The Wizard of Oz.” Fiona is a member of her school chorus, band, and serves as class president. She recently had the lead role in her school’s production of “Back to the 80’s,” and is a member of the Wassaic Project Art Club, where her artwork has been featured in numerous exhibitions.

Thatcher Meili of Sharon will play the part of the American soldier Ezra Smith. Thatcher has been in four main stage productions at Hotchkiss School and five shows at Indian Mountain School. Notable roles include the Baker in “Into the Woods” and Capulet in “Romeo and Juliet.”

“Amenia Spycatcher” will be presented in the Amenia Town Hall, a former school built in 1929 located at the center of the Amenia Hamlet. In recent years, the Town has expanded programming in the historic Town Hall Theater, including monthly open mic nights and music and performance events. The Amenia Historical Society received a \$2,500 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to make lighting improvements in the Town Hall Theater.

The main characters of the play, Ephraim and Mary Paine, have grave-stones in the historic Amenia Burying Ground on Mygatt Road. The Amenia Historical Society is presently raising money to restore fallen, broken and



Gary Petagine of Dover Plains will play Ephraim Paine in “Amenia’s Spycatcher,” produced by the Amenia Historical Society. *Courtesy photo*

slanted gravestone in this Burying Ground, including Mary Paine’s gravestone which has fallen over. For more information about this restoration campaign go to Amenia Burying Ground Restoration.

For more information contact George Bistransin at 937-708-9717.

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Through Aug. 23: “Comedy of Errors,” Churchtown Dairy, 357 Cty. Rte. 12, Hudson. The Columbia County Players presents “The Comedy of Errors” at the Churchtown Dairy “Globe” at the round barn. Written around 1594, the play explores themes of displacement, identity, separation, and belonging that remain strikingly relevant today. As contemporary audiences witness the challenges faced by immigrants and displaced people around the world, Shakespeare’s comedy reminds us that beneath its mistaken identities and farcical humor lies a deeply human story of families searching for one another and for a place to call home. Performances: Fri.-Sun., 7:30 p.m. Free. ColumbiaCountyPlayers.org

Through Sept. 6: “Groundhog Day The Musical,” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Productions presents the critically acclaimed musical inspired by the hilarious film starring Bill Murray, and features a book by original co-screenwriter Danny Rubin and a sharp, witty score by Tony Award nominee, Tim Minchin (Matilda the Musical). The cheery townsfolk of Puxatawny, PA are ready for their favorite Groundhog to predict an early spring. After disdainfully covering the rodent’s negative forecast, Phil Connors, a seasoned, big-city weatherman, awakens the next day only to discover it’s February 2nd again. And again. And again. Will Phil accept that he is doomed to repeat the same day over and over? Or will he find the courage to change himself and his fate? Parental discretion advised (age 13+). Performances: Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Aug. 20: Third Thursday Outdoor Evening, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Join a special showing of the 2003 classic, “Holes,” presented in collaboration with The Olana Partnership, Story Screen, and Hudson Area Library. This fantasy-adventure film is based on the 1998 novel, fun for the whole family, and perfect for a movie night under the stars (showtime at 8 p.m.) Includes free popcorn and water bottles/juice boxes while supplies last. Presented in English with Spanish subtitles. A shuttle will be available from the Hudson Area Library as part of Olana’s Third Thursday/Tercer Jueves from 6-10 p.m. Free. www.olana.org

Aug. 21: Brad Cole & Bossa Blue, The Pearl Moon, 52 Mill Hill Rd., Woodstock. Dinner show, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tickets \$10. (845) 684-5537

Aug. 21: Guided Landscape Walk, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. “What You See and What You Don’t See,” a guided walk through the estate’s grounds that explores how the

landscape was designed to reflect the luxurious lifestyle of Staatsburgh’s owners, while deliberately hiding the turn-of-the-century technology and labor that made the estate run, 10 a.m. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 21: Open Mic, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. A welcoming evening for music, spoken word, comedy, and every kind of self-expression. Artists of all ages & experience levels are invited to share, 7:30 p.m. Come perform, listen, and cheer on friends and neighbors as creativity, courage, and community meet on one stage together. Interested in performing? Limited slots available; email info@thestissingcenter.org. Tickets \$10. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Aug. 21 Red Hook Summer Lawn Concert Series at “Eat-N-Go,” 7509 N. Broadway, Red Hook. Free live summer concert series at Eat-N-Go every Friday night, 6-8 p.m. This week: The Crew. Bring a chair or blanket, some food and enjoy an evening of local bands performing live. Lineup may be subject to change.

Aug. 21: Walkway at Night, Walkway Over the Hudson. Experience the Walkway when the sun sets and the Hudson Valley begins to glow, 8-9:30 p.m. From 212 feet above the river, take in breathtaking views as the moon rises overhead. Tickets \$5 in advance or at the gate. Children 12 and under are free. Advance registration is encouraged to shorten your wait at the gate. Reserve your ticket for entry at walkway.org/walkwayatnight

Aug. 21: Walkway at Night Concert Series, Walkway Over the Hudson, Ulster Welcome Center Plaza, 87 Haviland Rd., Highland. Lara Hope Band, roots rock ‘n’ roll & twang, 6-8 p.m. Free. www.walkway.org

Aug. 21: Walkway Connections (For Kids): Forests and Boatbuilding, Walkway Over the Hudson, East Gate Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Caitlin Chung of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater will make it easy for kids to connect forest ecology and the growth patterns of various trees to the properties of their woods. She’ll then talk about how shipwrights utilize these different woods for different purposes when building wooden boats, drawing examples from the construction and ongoing maintenance of the Sloop Clearwater, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Appropriate for all ages. www.walkway.org

Aug. 21-22: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Aug. 21: Cliff Eberhardt and Vance Gilbert, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Aug. 22: The Weeklings – The Music of The Beatles & More, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$35

Advance / \$40 Door (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Aug. 22: A Revolutionary Garden Party, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. The Friends of Clermont’s annual fundraiser will look a little different this year, in honor of our country’s 250th birthday, 4-6 p.m. Toast this momentous occasion on a Founding Father’s lawn. Delight in summery sips, nibble on savory sandwiches and sweet confections, sway to live music, and revel in the beauty of our blooming ornamental gardens. Clermont showcases games popular during the Revolutionary War. This annual fundraiser raises money to support Friends of Clermont’s ongoing garden restoration work. Cost \$75. Children 12 & under: Free. www.friendsofclermont.org

Aug. 22: Artmaking in the Afternoon, Wagon House Education Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Participate in free, drop-in artmaking in the from 1-4 p.m. and learn more about Frederic Church’s artist-designed home and studio on the Hudson. This drop-in artmaking program is open to all ages and skill levels; all materials provided. FREE. No advanced registration required. www.olana.org

Aug. 22: Euphonia: A Balkan & Brass Music Festival, Opus 40, Saugerties. A raucous celebration of global brass music, with blazing horns and driving rhythms, this is music that’s loud, joyful, spontaneous and made for dancing, 4-8 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$65. opus40.org

Aug. 22: Free Family Tour, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Experience learning, looking closely, and conversation as a family during this series of special museum gallery program at Olana, 1-2 p.m. Designed for families with children ages 3 and up. Free. Advanced registration required. www.olana.org

Aug. 22: Get the Led Out, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, Get The Led Out have captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage, 7:30 p.m. Tickets & more info at www.MJNCenter.org

Aug. 22: Monster Intelligence, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Filled with colorful characters and original songs spanning rock, jazz, pop, and Broadway, this family-friendly musical celebrates different ways of learning and encourages kids to discover their own “monster intelligence,” 10 a.m. Free or pay-what-you-can. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Aug. 22: Staatsburg Village Walking Tour. Staatsburgh State Historic Site offers

a 2-hour walk in the village of Staatsburg, exploring the estate’s close relationship with the nearby village and its connection to the Mills family, 10 a.m. A guide will discuss historic buildings and highlight hidden locations in the village that demonstrate Staatsburg’s vibrant past and the lasting legacy of Ruth and Ogden Mills beyond the estate walls. Free, but reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 22: Windborne, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Known for music rooted in social justice traditions, Windborne weaves together songs of struggle, resilience, and hope with selections from cultures around the world, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Aug. 23 & 30: Guided Hike: History Hidden in the Woods, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Have you ever wondered what some of the ruins within Mills and Norrie State Parks might be? The beautiful park land was once the setting for grand Hudson Riverfront estates. This 2-hour guided hike will lead visitors through the park, exploring the history of three historic estates: from Staatsburgh’s founding as a gentleman’s farm in the 1700s to the development of The Point and Stonehurst estates in the 19th century. 10 a.m. The hike is approximately 1.5 miles of uneven terrain, requiring study footwear. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 25-30: Dutchess County Fair, 6636 US-9, Rhinebeck. Exhibits, music, food, a variety of vendors and much more. Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. www.dutchessfair.com

Aug. 25: Theory of a Deadman & Sevendust: The Dead/Seven Tour, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. 7 p.m. Tickets & more info at www.MJNCenter.org

Aug. 26: Twilight Music in the Park, Walkway Over the Hudson’s Ulster Welcome Center, Highland. Featuring free acoustic music performances by local musicians from the Hudson Valley, 6-7 p.m. This week: Dorraine Scofield, country rock covers. www.walkway.org

Aug. 27: Harmonies on the Hudson Concert: Nancy Donnelly, Clermont State Historic Site, Aryl Lawn, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Nancy Donnelly, a Crane School of Music Alumni, is a classically trained jazz and soul vocalist. Her captivating voice effortlessly blends classic jazz and contemporary soul, creating an unforgettable experience for her listeners. 6 p.m. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org

Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 8)

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Music, community to highlight Poughkeepsie PorchFest on Aug. 23



The Southside Historic District will host the 7th annual Poughkeepsie PorchFest from noon - 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23. This family-friendly, free event features musicians from a wide variety of genres. More than 25 porches in Poughkeepsie's Academy Street & Garfield Place Historic District neighborhood will host musicians performing everything from jazz and spoken word, to pop, country and rock. The event draws up-and-coming performers as well as seasoned professionals from the region.

This celebration of live music and community also includes children's activ-

ities, food vendors and more. Visitors are invited to stroll through the historic neighborhood, which features houses in a variety of 19th and early 20th century styles. The tree-lined streets offer shady spots to stand and watch performers. A schedule will be available, and a map of porches and performers will be posted throughout the neighborhood. Parking is available on side streets or nearby municipal lots. The event takes place rain or shine, within reason. Follow Poughkeepsie PorchFest on FaceBook and Instagram (@poughkeepsie_porch_fest) for details and updates.



Top left: Brad Shur, founder of Paper Heart Puppets, strolls through Poughkeepsie PorchFest with a friend. *Courtesy photo by Mary Reynolds.* Bottom left: Crowds line Academy Street to listen to musicians. *Courtesy photo by Julie Okoniewski.* Above: Desmond Teague Band performs at PorchFest 2025. *Courtesy photo by Taj Edward Majors.*

Applications for 2026 Empowered Artist Award open through Sept. 15

Arts Mid-Hudson is now accepting applications for the 2026 Empowered Artist Award, an annual unrestricted grant program that will award three \$3,000 grants to individual artists living and working in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 11:59 p.m.

The Empowered Artist Award recognizes that one of the most critical needs for artists is access to unrestricted funds, allowing them to continue their practice, advance their careers, and increase their visibility within their community. These funds will enable artists to create new work, purchase necessary equipment, access educational opportunities, and pay for living expenses.

The Empowered Artist Award was established in 2022 by Linda Marston-Reid, former Executive Director of Arts Mid-Hudson, who used her retirement after ten years of service to the arts community to create a fund that provides unrestricted support for local artists.

Comprehensive Technical Assistance Available

To assist applicants, Arts Mid-Hudson will offer a free virtual Information Session and a series of Zoom Q&A

sessions throughout the application period. RSVPs are required for the Information Session and all Q&A sessions in order to receive the Zoom link. To RSVP, please visit the Arts Mid-Hudson website: <https://www.artsmid-hudson.org/empowered-artist-award>

Information Session: Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 3 p.m.

Zoom Q&A Sessions:

- Monday, Aug. 24 at Noon
- Friday, Aug. 28 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3 at 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 14 at 11a.m.

A recording of the Information Session will be made available on Arts Mid-Hudson's YouTube channel following the presentation.

Arts Mid-Hudson also offers free one-on-one application assistance throughout the grant cycle. Prospective applicants are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Grants team To make an appointment visit: <https://artsmidhudson.youcanbook.me/>.

For additional information, contact the Arts Mid-Hudson Grants Team at Grants@artsmidhudson.org or 845-454-3222 ext. 11.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-68-26 Uniform Rental and	Facility Services for Dutchess County Public Transit Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 10th day of September 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York	12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.	LEGAL NOTICE Resolution 2026136 August 11, 2026 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the County Attorney of Dutchess County in the County Office Building, County At-	torney's Conference Room, 5th Floor, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 25th day of August 2026 at 10:00 AM , on the following local law: A LOCAL LAW PROHIBITING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONCEN-	TRATED AND SYNTHETIC 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (7-OH) KRATOM PRODUCTS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY-RESOLUTION 2026136. At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard. Dated:	August 11, 2026 Susan Serino Poughkeepsie, New York Dutchess County Executive

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.**

Hyde Park resident William Sleight Jr. honored for service during Korean War era

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs honored U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) William “Bill” Sleight Jr., a respected Hyde Park resident who served during the Korean War era, at the County’s most recent “Veteran of Distinction” ceremony, held at The Community at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck on Aug. 11.

Serino said, “I’ve been honored to know Bill Sleight for years, often visiting him at Brookmeade, and he is a wonderful example of what it means to serve. He proudly wore our nation’s uniform, has worked hard, loved his family deeply and always found ways to give back to his community. His kindness, dedication and devotion have touched so many lives. We are incredibly grateful for his service, proud to call him one of our neighbors and honored to recognize him as a ‘Dutchess County Veteran of Distinction.’”

William “Bill” J. Sleight Jr. proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War era as an Aviation Electrician aboard the USS Coral Sea, supporting naval operations with the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, earning the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and an Honorable Discharge. After his military service, AE Sleight built a career in the electrical

trade and retired as a Maintenance Supervisor. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he has also remained active in his community as a lifelong member of American Legion John Livingston Post 1466 and a Life Member of the Moose Lodge in Hyde Park.

Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche said, “Aviation Electrician Sleight served his nation, returned home to Dutchess County and continued to serve his hometown as a member of the American Legion and Moose Lodge. Through his military service, career, family and community involvement, PO2 Sleight personifies the dedication and commitment the Dutchess County ‘Veteran of Distinction’ program honors.”

Monthly “Veteran of Distinction” ceremonies take place on the second Tuesday of each month from April through November, hosted in the community where the honored veteran resides.

Nomination Requirements

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current Dutchess County resident
- Have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and received an honorable discharge
- Have served during wartime or peacetime; there are no restrictions on



William “Bill” Sleight Jr. was honored during the recent “Veterans of Distinction” ceremony on Aug. 11 in Hyde Park. Pictured with Sleight Jr., center, are members of his family, Deputy County Executive Gregg Pulver, left, and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche, right. *Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov’t*

service dates or duration

How to Nominate

Applications may be submitted:

- Online: dutchessny.gov/veteranofdistinction
- In person: Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, 1335 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
- By email: veterans@dutchessny.gov

All applications must include appropriate military separation documents (DD 214, WD AGO 53 55, NGB 22, or casualty report).

For more information, contact the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060.

Law enforcement investigating ‘door kick challenge’

Dangerous social-media trend ‘not a joke’ or ‘harmless teenage behavior’

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office, Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, New York State Police and Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department are investigating multiple incidents in the Town of Beekman, Town of Poughkeepsie and Town of Lagrange involving the dangerous social-media trend commonly known as the “door kick challenge.”

District Attorney Anthony Parisi warned that violently kicking the door of an occupied home, especially while masked and during the overnight hours, is not a joke, a prank or harmless teenage behavior. To the family inside, it may appear that individuals are attempting to force their way into the home, which can

be terrifying to the adults and children who are occupying the home.

Let there be no misunderstanding: this is dangerous criminal conduct that could get someone killed, stated a press release from the D.A.’s Office.

Someone who violently attacks the door of an occupied home cannot know how the occupants will respond. A frightened resident may reasonably believe that a home invasion is underway and may be armed or take immediate defensive action. What participants intend to record as a few seconds of social-media content could end with someone being shot, seriously injured or killed, it was stated in the press release.

The District Attorney’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, New York State Police and Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department are working together to identify every person involved. This includes not only those who kicked or struck the doors, but also anyone who drove them to the locations, recorded the incidents,

acted as a lookout or otherwise assisted or encouraged the conduct.

Those responsible should expect to be identified, arrested and held accountable, stated the release. The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office will prosecute these matters to the fullest extent permitted by law. A claim that the conduct was “just a prank” or part of an online challenge will not excuse it.

Parents and guardians are urged to speak with their children and teenagers about the dangers of this criminal behavior. Participating in this conduct can result in arrest, prosecution, financial liability for property damage, serious physical injury or death. No social media post is worth criminal prosecution or a preventable tragedy, stated the D.A.’s Office.

Residents who experience this conduct should do the following, according to Parisi’s office:

- Call 911 immediately and remain inside in a secure location.
- Do not pursue or confront the individuals.
- Preserve all surveillance, doorbell camera and cellphone footage.
- Record descriptions of individuals, vehicles, license plates and direction of travel.
- Provide original footage to law enforcement before editing or posting it publicly.

Anyone with information, video footage or knowledge of those involved should contact the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office immediately at 845-486-3800.

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U	T	R	E	C	H	T					H	O	A	R
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S	W	A	N	S			U	R	N	S		E	P	I
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(puzzles on page 12)

OBITUARIES

Donald H. Briggs

MILLBROOK – Donald H. Briggs passed away on August 10th 2026, surrounded by those he loved most.

Born and raised in Millbrook, NY, on Hillaire Farm, Don’s roots in the community ran deep. He graduated from Millbrook High School and Cobleskill College, and went on to build a successful career in sales and animal nutrition, a natural path for someone who had grown up surrounded by farming and agriculture.

Don met the love of his life, Mary, soon after she arrived in New York from Ireland. He remained extremely close to his extended Irish family throughout his life and shared many happy memories visiting there.

Don believed deeply in service and in giving back to the community that had given him so much. Over the years, he served as Mayor of Millbrook, President of the Millbrook Board of Education, President of the Lions Club, and was a devoted CCD teacher, among his many other civic and community roles. He cared deeply about people and believed in showing up for his community.

But the titles and accomplishments tell only a small part of who Don was.

Above all, Don was an extraordinary father, grandfather, brother, husband and friend. He had an infectious sense of humor and a remarkably quick wit. He loved practical jokes, could find humor in almost any situation, and had a way of making everyone around him laugh. People gravitated toward him because he made them feel comfortable and welcome. Whether you had known Don for decades or had just met him, he had a way of making you feel special.

Don was an avid reader, a gifted writer and an endlessly curious person who never stopped wanting to learn. He had a particular love of history and would spend hours reading. He was a deep thinker and someone people naturally turned to for advice. He listened, he connected with people, and he was always willing to help.

He was also an incredible cook and loved nothing more than preparing a meal for family and friends and gathering the people he loved around a table.

Later in life, Don loved living by the water and cherished his years in Connecticut and South Carolina. He loved the marsh views and the beauty and tranquility of the water, but most of all, he loved the life he built there, filled with wonderful friendships and many happy memories. From his childhood home on Hillaire Farm to the places he later called home, Don had a gift for building a life around the things that mattered most to him, friendship, family and community.

Don was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary, and his parents, Ted and Betty Briggs. He is survived by his children, Ted (Chrissy) Briggs, Shannon (Matt) Manning and Moire (David) Purcell; his grandchildren, Matthew, Emma, Jack, Caspar and Lila; and his sisters, Melanie Farrington, Laura Briggs, Marnie Christopher and Katie Briggs.

His grandchildren brought him tremendous pride and joy, and he shared a special and rare bond with each of them that they will carry with them always.

In his final months, Don’s life came full circle as he returned to Tower Hill Rd, where he was born and raised, surrounded by the love, care and comfort of his sisters and brother in law, Guy, with whom he shared a special bond. Their devotion to him meant more than words can express.

Don leaves behind a lifetime of friendships and countless people whose lives are better because they knew him. In the last decade of his life especially, helping others became an important and deeply meaningful part of his life. He formed extraordinary connections with people, offering friendship, wisdom and support while receiving just as much in return. For many, knowing Don truly changed their lives.

Those of us lucky enough to have known and loved him will miss his guidance, his cooking, his practical jokes, his unmistakable wit and, most of all, simply being in his company. He was funny, wise, generous and deeply loving. He left an impression wherever he went. He was truly one of a kind.

We will miss him beyond words, and we will love him always.

Calling hours wERE held at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook, NY on Friday August 14th.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Joseph's Church in Millbrook, NY on Saturday, August 15th.

Those wishing to honor Don's memory may make a donation in his name to Cardinal Hayes School for Special Children to support the building of a new playground. Donations may be sent to the Development Office, PO Box CH Millbrook, NY 12545.

Ruth Mildred Ackert Queen



RED HOOK – Ruth Mildred Ackert Queen departed this life on August 10, 2026, age 91, at home in Red Hook, NY. Ruth was born on February 25, 1935 in Rhinebeck, NY, the daughter of Russell E. Ackert and Mabel M. Bustard. Ruth married David F. Queen on June 27, 1954 in the Dutch Reformed Church at Rhinebeck. To Ruth and David were born six children for whom she was Mom or Ma- Lynnette E.,

Diane A. (deceased), Denise A. Queen-Beneway twin sister of Diane, Suzanne M. (Richard Montross), David B., and James R. (Stephanie Hapeman-Queen). Ruth was predeceased by her sister Rose Ellen. She leaves behind seven grandchildren; Justin Beneway, Gabriel Beneway, Jeffrey Queen (deceased), Gregory Queen, Camille Queen, Katherine Queen, and Ava Queen. Ruth also leaves three great grandchildren: Xander L. Queen, Marshall J. Beneway, and Hudson R. Beneway.

Ruth graduated from Rhinebeck High School in 1952 where she played violin and brass instruments in the band, followed by attendance at NYS University Cobleskill, receiving her Nursery Education Degree in May 1954. After marriage and starting a family, Ruth continued her education at Marist College where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree on May 20, 1972 and was inducted into the Pi Alpha Theta honor society. Ruth then attended State University at New Paltz and received her Master’s Degree in Education on May 27, 1979, while raising her family and with many late nights studying. Ruth went to work in the Rhinebeck School System as a high school Social Studies teacher until her retirement in 1995. She enjoyed when her former students brought their children to her house on Halloween and greeted her for many years when they met in public.

Ruth was active in a number of civic activities: President and volunteer with Rhinebeck Caregivers taking people to their health appointments, Treasurer of the Rhinebeck High School Alumni Association, an AARP officer, Secretary for St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rhinebeck Grange and garden club. She also enjoyed camping with her children and travels that included a long 1964 trip to Alaska to visit David’s brother Richard who was homesteading, and his brother Bill who was in the State of Washington. There were trips in this country to the Grand Canyon, the California Sequoia forest; Atlantic Ocean at Plymouth, Michigan Mackinac Island where the movie “Somewhere in Time” was filmed. She also took Canadian trips to see the Rockies, Lake Louise, and Montreal Botanical garden; and overseas trips to Hawaii, Ireland, Scotland, and England.

Erika G. Steubesand

RHINEBECK – Erika G. Steubesand, 85, passed away on August 12, 2026, at her home in Rhinebeck, NY, surrounded by her loving family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend whose life was marked by faith, kindness, and steadfast dedication to the people and causes she loved.

Erika was born on January 14, 1941, in Oceanside, NY, to the late Franz K. Feltkamp and Magdalena M. Riecken Feltkamp. She was also predeceased by her brother, Frank Feltkamp. Raised in East Rockaway, NY, and on a farm in Pennsylvania, Erika carried the values of hard work, grace, and service throughout her life. She married Ernest J. Steubesand, and together they shared 57 wonderful years of marriage. Ernie survives at

home in Rhinebeck.

Erika earned her associate degree at SUNY New Paltz and began her career as an X-ray technician at Nassau Hospital on Long Island. She worked at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie from 1963 to 1970, Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, and Dr. Richard Moscowitz and Urgent Care in Kingston.

A woman who remained active throughout her life, Erika was a longtime member of Third Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rhinebeck and while there, she organized and led the Lutheran Braille program, which provided Braille Bibles to countries around the world where access would otherwise have been limited. She was also an active member of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America and was honored at Mills Mansion for her dedication. In addition, Erika volunteered for decades at both Northern Dutchess Hospital and at Camp Ramapo in Rhinebeck. She was also an avid skier and gardener, and had a passion for birds. She loved her Caribbean blue water, never passing an opportunity to dip her toes in the sea.

She shared many adventures with her husband as a member of the Kingston Leftfooters Square Dancers, a group through which they traveled the world together with Overseas Adventure Travel. Her favorite trips included Africa, China, Tibet, Russia, Alaska, Australia and New Zealand. Erika was also a members of the Vintage Sports Car Club of America and could often be found at meets and races throughout the Northeast. She was also a Legacy Member of the USS Yorktown birthed in Charleston, South Carolina.

Erika is survived by her beloved husband, Ernest J. Steubesand; her son and daughter-in-law, Karl and his wife Kelly of Rhinebeck, NY; her daughter, Linda Steubesand of Rhinebeck, NY; her cherished granddaughter, Danielle Amidon of Center Point, TX; Jenna and Nico, and extended family and friends who will miss her dearly. Her family will remember her as a faith-filled and kind woman whose gentle spirit touched many lives.

Friends and family will be received on Thursday, August 20, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Burnett & White Funeral Home, 91 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. A funeral service will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Third Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rhinebeck, NY, with Pastor James Miller officiating. Burial will follow at Rhinebeck Cemetery in Rhinebeck, NY.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 91 E. Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Erika’s memory to Ramapo for Children, Rhinebeck, NY and the Third Lutheran Church in Rhinebeck, NY

Lorraine Turra

RHINEBECK – Lorraine Catherine Turra 92, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2026, at her home in Rhinebeck, NY, with her family by her side following a long battle with dementia.

She was born on July 12, 1934 in Ozone Park, Queens, NY, to Charles and Catherine Peterson and graduated from John Adams High School in 1952 where she began her professional life as a secretary at Western Electric. She later married Mario Nurena in 1957 and became the mother of her one and only daughter, Victoria.

In 1977, Lorraine met the love of her life, Harry Turra and in December of 1979, they were married at the Molly Pitcher Inn in NJ, eventually returning to their home on Old Post Road in Rhinebeck.

Lorraine and Harry were known throughout Rhinebeck and the surrounding communities as “Mr. & Mrs. Santa.” At Christmastime, it wasn’t unusual to see them in the traditional town parades, at the Chamber of Commerce booth waving to visitors in their Santa outfits, or at William’s Lumber helping children sit on Santa’s lap. Together they brought joy to countless children and families, creating memories that would become part of their legacy in the community they loved.

Along with her knowledge of shorthand, she continued her secretarial career and worked at Seaboard World Airlines, a law office in Katonah, the Eye Bank, the DeLamater Foundation, the Town of Rhinebeck, and the Astor Home.

After returning to the Hudson Valley, she secured a job as the Executive Assistant to the prior past President, Ferdinand Metz at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park and worked there from 1984-1999. She was also the Board Secretary, helped open the Napa Valley campus, and, of course, took the role of Mrs. Santa alongside of Santa at their annual Christmas parties. She eventually returned back to work part time at the Town of Hyde Park until officially retiring at the end of 2008.

Lorraine was a devoted member of the Church of the Messiah, held the position of the Vestry’s recording secretary, belonged to the Caregiver’s group and was a member of the choir, along with her husband and daughter.

She was under the care of hospice for the past 18 months and was able to remain in the comfort and familiarity of her home, surrounded by the people who loved her, through to the end of her earthly journey.

Lorraine leaves behind a family whose lives have been forever shaped by her love. She is survived by her daughter, Victoria Rivera (husband Eric); granddaughter Meghan Libby; grandson Tyler Figueroa, great-grandson Alex Nesel (wife Faith); great-grandsons Cody and Caleb; and her newest blessing, great-great-grandson, Ezekiel Alexander.

She is also survived by her sister Judy Davanzo, (husband, Ronnie); her sister Carol Munch; niece Jennifer Creter, (husband, Frank); niece and goddaughter Michele Niedermeier, (husband, Phil); niece Lisa Tieniber, (husband, Vinny); as well as her beloved great-nieces and great-nephews.

Lorraine was predeceased by her beloved husband, Harry and her fur baby Butchie; her parents, Charles and Catherine Peterson; her sister, Dorothy; her uncle, William Dischley, her nephew Michael Davanzo; and her brother-in-law, Gene, beloved husband of her sister Carol.

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, August 22nd at 11am at the Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck with a Celebration of Life and reception to follow in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Lorraine’s name to Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12538 or the Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

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