

180th Dutchess County Fair



Fair Review

pages 2-4, 11-14

Public forum on Flock Technology set Sept 23 in PV

Dutchess County Legislator and Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Eric Alexander (D-25), has announced a public forum on Flock technology with District Attorney Anthony Parisi and Sheriff Kirk Imperati at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall on Wednesday, September 23rd at 5 p.m.

“This event will allow our Sheriff and District Attorney to continue their efforts to inform our communities about their use of Flock technology and will provide our residents with a forum to ask questions and express concerns,” said Legislator Alexander. “We share the goal of providing transparency and engaging proactively with our communities.”

Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, Yvette Valdés Smith, stated: “The legislature is proud to support and partner with our law enforcement officials to make sure that our communities are safe. We have had many constituents share concerns over the use of Flock and this forum will provide real information and clarity.”

Parisi said, “Sheriff Imperati and I have a responsibility to protect the people of Dutchess County, and we will not hesitate to use effective, lawful technology that helps us identify dangerous offenders, solve crimes, and prevent further victimization. At the same time, we understand that public confidence must be earned.

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Up, up and away! Hot-Air Balloon Festival returns to Tymor Park Labor Day weekend

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation Inc. will present the 35th Annual JPMorganChase Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival at Tymor Park in the Town of Union Vale from Sept. 4 to 6. This community gathering, backed by event sponsors Bottini Fuel and Q92.1 FM, guarantees an exciting Labor Day weekend packed with thrilling activities and memorable experiences for the whole family.

Revel in the magic of over 100 scheduled hot-air balloon flights throughout the weekend, showcasing a stunning array of colors and designs against the scenic Hudson Valley backdrop. Embark on a full hot-air balloon ride or savor the views from a tethered flight. Activities will proceed rain or shine, with hot-air balloon launches contingent upon wind and weather conditions for the safety of all participants.

Don't miss the mesmerizing hot-air balloon illumination moon glows and fireworks displays after sunset. Witness the wonder of the Two by Two Animal Haven sponsored by Arbor Capital



Colorful hot-air balloons will dot the sky this weekend as the 35th Annual JPMorganChase Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival takes place Sept. 4-6 at Tymor Park in the Town of Union Vale. *Courtesy photo*

Wealth Advisors, a traveling animal program to educate the public about animals, their welfare and conservation, captivating audiences throughout the day. And, attend informative pilot presentations titled “All About Ballooning,” offering insights into the art and science of hot-air

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Town of Stanford marks 9/11 25th anniversary



By Jim Donick

The 25th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy that cost the lives of nearly 3,000 individuals in the attack on the World Trade Center in New York will be marked in a special way this year in the Town of Stanford. As they have done over the past six years, the hill in front of the town hall will be decorated with nearly 3,000 flags. Additionally, the children of the Pine Plains School District are creating name cards for each of the victims and those cards will be attached to ribbons and displayed on the fence. At night, the sky will be lit up with two searchlights pointing straight up as a reminder of the two towers that are no more. More details to follow in next week's Northern Dutchess News. *Courtesy photo*

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Agriculture Scholarships at DC Fair



The Mike Leary Scholarship awards are presented annually to assist youth with their livestock projects. The 2026 honors were presented just prior to the Youth Livestock Sale at the Dutchess County Fair. Winners receiving checks included, from left, Lyris Pennock, Tavin Pennock, Siena Chorney, Wyatt Wager and Brayden Wager. Presenting the awards is Autumn Prezzano. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



The 2026 4-H Livestock Sale Scholarships were presented to Natalie Shultz, left and Laurn Menz. At the right is Debbie Scannell of the 4-H Livestock Sale Committee. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



The 2026 Ronald Miller Scholarships were awarded to, from left, Nathan Prezzano, Faith Burfeindt and Hope Miller. The presenters include, from left, Edward Hackett of Hackett Farm Supply, George Whalen of the Bank of Millbrook and Bob Beckmann of Matt's Auto Body. *Courtesy photo*



Layryn Menz and Nathan Prezzano were selected as recipients of the Joe Rossi Scholarship. At right is presenter Nick Rossi. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

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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@sduchessnews.com for more information.



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Youth in Agriculture at the 2026 DC Fair



Sienna Carpentieri, center behind chair, won the Master Showmanship honor at the 2026 Dutchess County Fair in the competition on Sunday, Aug. 30. She was the winner of the Showmanship honor in the Dairy Goat division. From left are winners in their respective divisions: Meridyth McGhee – Dairy Cattle, Bobby Coon – Hogs, Carpentieri, Jane Carroll – Beef Cattle and Katie Drum – Lambs. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



Emily Coon of Red Hook works with her Black Angus Steer. Emily had the Grand Champion Steer in the youth competition at the 2026 Fair. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



Andrew Stanley won Supreme Fleece honors in the Youth Lamb Show at the 2026 Fair. *Courtesy photo*



Katie Drum had the Supreme Champion Ram and Ewe in the Youth Lamb Show at the 2026 Fair. *Courtesy photo*



Delaney Fell, center, won the award for the Best Doe in the Youth Dairy Goat Show. *Courtesy photo*



Siena Chorney had the Grand Champion Hog in the Youth Show at the 2026 Fair. *Courtesy photo*



Hailey Brennan, right, won honors with the Grand Champion Rabbit and Cassidy Brennan won honors with the Reserve Champion Rabbit in the Youth Show at the 2026 Fair. *Courtesy photo*

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NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS
& Creative Living

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Two of the competitors in the Little Britches competition at the 2026 Fair included Wade Beckmann with his father Phillip, left, and Bryce Nelson of Vail Farm. Courtesy photos

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noon the week before
publication

Calendar runs
Thursday to Wednesday



Members of the Elmendorph Handspinners Guild of Red Hook took top honors in the Fleece to Shawl competition at the 2026 Fair. The team was named "America the Beautiful." Team members above are, from left, Lydia Leete, Roseanne Ashby, Theresa Ryan, Ute Delaney and Hetty Guderund. Courtesy photo

Public forum on Flock Technology
set Sept 23 in PV

continued from cover

That is why we have approached the ARTCIC initiative proactively and transparently from the outset, with clear safeguards, meaningful oversight, and repeated opportunities for public engagement.

"We are prepared to answer difficult questions, address legitimate concerns, and correct misinformation where it exists. What we will not do is allow fear or misunderstanding of technology to prevent law enforcement from using responsible tools that make our communities safer. Public safety and civil liberties are both fundamental obligations, and our commitment is to protect both."

Imperati said, "I, along with District Attorney Parisi, am committed to provid-

ing the utmost in public safety to the people of Dutchess County and will use all legal resources at my disposal to accomplish that goal. That being said, we have taken numerous steps to ensure that these tools are used in ways that meet legal guidelines balanced with accountability, and it would be my pleasure to provide more information and answer questions to help ease the concerns that have been raised."

Valdés Smith added, "The Dutchess County Legislature is committed to providing oversight, transparency, and responsiveness to all of our citizens and is looking forward to a candid and robust conversation at this forum."

what's happening? creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com



Resumes:
gm@wkze.com

Hot Air Balloon Festival returns to Tymor Park Labor Day weekend

continued from cover



Fireworks light up the night at a previous Hot Air Balloon Festival. *Courtesy photo*

ballooning.

Enjoy a diverse selection of food trucks offering local flavors, browse Hudson Valley artisanal crafts, and explore retail vendors offering unique keepsakes. Enjoy local craft beverages in the Millbrook Vineyards & Winery Beer and Wine Tent, where you can dance and delight in live music performances from Everything Else, Generation Next, and Iron Cobra.

Also included with your admission, have fun with games in the Children's Zone and Family Activities area brought to you by Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. Here, you can participate in rodeo roping, giant Jenga, corn hole, giant chess, table tennis, Drone Zone Obstacle Course, and much more. Additionally, enjoy the return of the popular Bubble Zone and Ride On Car Rentals, perfect for kids ages 3 to 8, letting the little ones hop behind the wheel of their own electric mini-vehicle and cruise around a fun, designated course.

Start your day with morning yoga with the balloons courtesy of Pellegrino Healing Center on September 5 and September 6. Free with admission, you can watch the sunrise, relax during the yoga class, and enjoy the view of the hot-

air balloons taking flight in the backdrop.

Admission into the festival requires an advance reservation. The afternoon/evening admission is \$26.95 per person; morning admission is \$13.95 per person; a weekend all-access pass is \$39.95 per person; and admission is free for children under 3. New this year is a VIP Experience admission for \$175 per person. This includes VIP parking, VIP line admission, access to the VIP section of the Beer & Wine Tent, a VIP bathroom trailer, and entry to the VIP Elevated Experience - a private picnic-style area overlooking the balloon launch field.

Tickets are available exclusively online at balloonfesthv.com, and no tickets will be sold at the gate. Free parking is offered for all attendees. You must have a reservation to enter the parking areas.

For questions, visit the FAQ page at balloonfesthv.com or call the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation Balloon Festival Hotline at (845) 454-1701.

Founded in 1907, the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce supports local businesses of all sizes, fostering economic growth and community development. For more information, visit DCRCOC.org.

Dutchess County ranks in top 10 in nation for technology use

From County reports

Dutchess County has once again been ranked among the nation's top ten counties for best technology practices, marking the 23rd consecutive year it has earned this distinction. The 2026 Digital Counties Survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), ranked Dutchess County 9th in the nation among mid-size counties for its work to strengthen cybersecurity, streamline service delivery, and responsibly apply innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). These ongoing efforts are led by the County's Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS), which continues its long tradition of providing secure, innovative tools to support County employees, residents, and businesses.

GIS Tools and Innovation

Among the county's most highly used resources are the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) applications, including the renowned ParcelAccess application, which offers detailed property information for more than 110,000 parcels through a user-friendly, web-based interface. ParcelAccess attracts more than 775,000 unique IP addresses each year, viewing nearly 26 million pages.

A recently added GIS tool, the Agricultural District Viewer, enhances and streamlines the application process and expands transparency for application review. Combined, the County's GIS applications and open data portal received more than 107 million webpage hits over the past year.

Accessibility Improvements

OCIS remains committed to ensuring all online information and services are

accessible to people of all abilities. Over the past year, the OCIS web team reviewed and updated digital documents on www.DutchessNY.gov to meet new ADA accessibility standards, well ahead of the federal 2027 compliance deadline.

Responsible Use of AI

The County is also focused on the ethical and secure implementation of AI technology to improve efficiency and support limited staff resources. One example is the AI-powered call assistance tool, EVA, currently being piloted by the Department of Community & Family Services to help manage call volume and expedite SNAP application processing. To ensure responsible use of emerging technologies, County Executive Serino's AI Task Force has developed comprehensive policy guidelines addressing privacy, ethics, transparency, and risk management.

Cybersecurity Leadership

As technology evolves, so do the methods used by bad actors to attack organizations. Cybersecurity readiness remains a top priority for Dutchess County, helping mitigate the potentially exponential costs of cyber incidents. OCIS conducts ongoing security assessments and has recently implemented improvements for advanced threat detection, stronger routing, and redundant connectivity.

Shared Service Collaboration

OCIS also supports local organizations and municipalities by partnering with Marist University to host annual technology-focused summits. This year's Hudson Valley AI Summit, held in June, highlighted best practices for AI integration, workforce benefits, and ethical considerations.



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DOWN THE WIRE WITH THE RENEGADES

Taking a look at playoff possibilities going into the final week of SAL play

By Morgan E. Maier

Fans of the Hudson Valley Renegades in recent seasons surely remember the runner-up campaign in 2023 and the “almost-had-It” of 2025. This year, the Renegades don’t need to finish first to become championship contenders, thanks to the half-and-half Minor League Baseball season format.

In the South Atlantic League, the first- and second-half winners of the North and South divisions receive the postseason’s bids (four total).

The Renegades seemed quite far from the 79-win team of last season, but a rapid offensive turnaround — and hot streak at the peak of summer — found Hudson Valley back in the running this time, and just two games out of the picture. The Greensboro Grasshoppers remain the winged, chirping obstacle to the Renegades’ playoff position. With the Frederick Keys still in first place and six games remaining, Hudson Valley must finish either second to Frederick or first

overall to earn their bid.

Last season came down to a final game, Hudson Valley having a watchful eye on the Greensboro Grasshoppers. In 2025, Hudson Valley lost its season finale after splitting the second-to-last bout against Brooklyn. The Renegades won the final series, but couldn’t overcome the second-half deficit. They finished the Brooklyn series one game out of playoff position, fighting the perennial nuisance Greensboro Grasshoppers.

Here’s how the South Atlantic League North Division leaders are shaking up in the regular season finales.

1. Frederick Keys vs. Brooklyn Cyclones

Key Factor: Sammy Stafura

Division-leading Frederick goes toe-to-toe with the Cyclones, who are still smarting from an at-times clobbering in their previous series with Hudson Valley. Stafura was critical to Greensboro’s trouncing of the Renegades last season. A recently

minted New York Mets prospect after being traded from the Pittsburgh Pirates, Stafura arrives at the Cyclones’ final spin with a SAL postseason resume and much to be glad about — such as fifth-place Brooklyn faring far better this year than the parent club in Queens.

2. Greensboro Grasshoppers vs. Asheville Tourists

Key Factor: HomeTrust Park

Take it from the name of the Tourists’ turf: Asheville needs to trust its home field advantage. The Grasshoppers are 22-8 on the road this season. Half of those losses occurred at HomeTrust in back-to-back-to-back-to-back fashion, back in June.

3. Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Wilmington Blue Rocks

Key Factor: The 2026 Schedule

Hudson Valley last faced Wilmington just three weeks before their final scheduled meeting. If the Renegades remember, four out of six is not hard to reach. At that last meet-

ing, in the second week of August, the Renegades were acclimating to the roster changes.

The squad is mostly new from last season’s disappointment. Nearly complete with their climb up the North Division standings, Hudson Valley leads Wilmington by just one game. They’ll need to gain at least three on Greensboro to secure second place, so long as Frederick keeps its hold on the top spot.

The nature of the league proves the postseason is any team’s game — and at this stage in the season, the Renegades could make a case for the division’s most surprising playoff candidate. Stay tuned!

To advertise on the
Renegades pages,
contact [cschmidt@
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League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Frederick BAL *	36	22	.621	-	6-4	W1
Greensboro PIT	36	24	.600	1.0	7-3	W2
Hudson Valley NYY	34	26	.567	3.0	7-3	L1
Wilmington WSH	33	27	.550	4.0	7-3	W1
Brooklyn NYM	31	28	.525	5.5	6-4	W1
Jersey Shore PHI	19	40	.322	17.5	2-8	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	32	27	.542	-	4-6	W1
Winston-Salem CWS	31	28	.525	1.0	6-4	L1
Greenville BOS	30	30	.500	2.5	5-5	W1
Rome ATL	26	33	.441	6.0	4-6	L1
Asheville HOU	25	34	.424	7.0	2-8	L1
Hub City TEX	23	37	.383	9.5	4-6	L2



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See story,
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CFHV to Celebrate Philanthropy at 30th Garden Party; 2026 Honorees Named



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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades split series vs. Cyclones to stay in hunt for playoff spot

By Morgan E. Maier

A playoff push blipped the Hudson Valley Renegades' radar this week, and the Brooklyn Cyclones breezed out of Heritage Financial Park with a series split. The home team's winning streak rose to nine games, as bullpens influenced results for better or worse. Hudson Valley has six more games to make the playoffs; thanks to offensive rebounding in the last week of August, Hudson Valley ascends the South Atlantic League standings.

Blown in 8th - Brooklyn broke up the Renegades' win streak on August 26, putting up seven runs in the 10th inning. David McCann had three runs batted in (RBI) in the 11-5 loss. Brooklyn stole 4 bases in the game. Hudson Valley left 14 runners on base. It was an outing most forgettable for the Renegades bullpen, but it would bounce back collectively later in the week.

Redemption Park - The Renegades were back for the next two, evening the series by Friday, and earning the split on Saturday. In the 5-2 win on August 28,

five different Renegades swiped a base on Brooklyn: Jackson Lovich, Enmanuel Tejeda, Eric Genter, Bryce Martin-Grudzielanek, and Willy Montero. Winning pitcher Allen Facundo went 6.0 innings, picked off a runner, and struck out five. Brian Landry and High-A newcomer Jose Ledesma combined for a shutout relief outing, combining for three hits and three walks the rest of the way.

The 7-3 Renegades win the next night came from the usual sources. Kyle West scored Jackson Lovich with another first-at-bat RBI, evening the game at one after one inning. Lovich scored a solo home run. West later scored on a McCann home run, and Camden Troyer got across on a Brooklyn wild pitch. Dean Toigo and Hans Montero had fifth-inning RBIs to cap the scoring, adding a respective double and single to the Renegades' lead. Brooklyn had an opposite response to their baserunners, stranding eight, before failing to reach base after the sixth inning.

Hello, Hans - Hans Montero introduced himself quickly to the New York Mets' High-A affiliate, with three multi-



Kyle West, above, and Willy Montero played key offensive roles as the Renegades split their series vs. the Brooklyn Cyclones last week. Photos by Dave Janosz



hit performances in his first three career matchups against Brooklyn. The 22-year-old infielder added a stolen base and a walk on August 27, a 5-2 loss for the Renegades. Montero was 6-for-10 on the series, adding a double to five singles.

The Renegades are emerging on their

final stop of the season, keeping a close eye on Greensboro and their playoff window closing with each day. The regular season stand rests in Delaware, where the Wilmington Blue Rocks are looking to make their own end-of-season push.

Martin-Grudzielanek knows all about end-of-season competition and heroics

By Morgan E. Maier

Bryce Martin-Grudzielanek has been at the core of the Hudson Valley Renegades recent resurgence. Promoted to High-A exactly a year after making his professional debut, the former University of Southern California (USC) Trojan is adjusting well to his new end-of-season digs.

He lands in the Hudson Valley in his second professional season, but baseball has driven Martin-Grudzielanek to various corners of the country.

The sport is in his blood, after all, with a father who played 15 MLB seasons, and a mother who played for the prestigious softball program at UCLA.

After spending one season at UCLA,

Martin-Grudzielanek transferred cross-town to USC, where he played for three years. Though the Toronto Blue Jays selected the Trojan in the 20th round, Martin-Grudzielanek returned once more to Los Angeles at summer's end.

Martin-Grudzielanek's final collegiate season saw a .294/.364/.433 in 60 games, including a 5-RBI day against top rival Minnesota on April 26. He notched 71 hits, scored 44 runs, and knocked in 41, among the team leaders in the latter two categories.

He helped the program break a six-year playoff drought, and caught headlines with a 12-run rout of a ranked Texas Christian University team in their first contest of the 2025 NCAA Tournament.

Another American League East team

again called Martin-Grudzielanek's name on the final day of the draft, as the New York Yankees made him the 614th pick of the player draft. As a pinstriped prospect, Martin-Grudzielanek has played third base, shortstop, and second base, with the most appearances as a Renegade (13) coming at third base.

Martin-Grudzielanek has offered three separate five-game hit streaks in August. His most recent (snapped on August 30) stretched back to the previous Jersey Shore series. In five games against the Brooklyn Cyclones, Martin-Grudzielanek was 4-for-16 (.250) with four runs batted in. Martin-Grudzielanek's two-run home run on August 24, his first in High-A, got Hudson Valley ahead for good in an eventual 4-1 decision.



Bryce Martin-Grudzielanek

CFHV to celebrate philanthropy at 30th Garden Party; 2026 honorees named

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) will celebrate the power of philanthropy and recognize community leaders from across the region at its 30th Garden Party on Sept. 27 from 2–5 p.m. at Hutton Brickyards in Kingston.

- The 2026 honorees are:
- James Hoover and John Aubry (Ulster County)
 - Jean and Ken Kearney (Putnam County)
 - Michelle and Daniel Lepore (Dutchess County)

A tradition since 1994, the Garden Party is CFHV’s signature fundraising event, bringing together donors, nonprofit partners, leaders, business professionals and community members to celebrate those who help strengthen the Hudson Valley.

“This event celebrates those whose generosity and leadership make the Hudson Valley a stronger, more vibrant place to live,” said Laura Washington, president and CEO of CFHV. “For more than 30 years, the Garden Party has brought people together to honor those who give so much of themselves while raising critical resources that help local nonprofits thrive.”

Proceeds from the event support CFHV’s Community Grants and capacity-building programs, which have invested more than \$3 million in nonprofit organizations throughout Ulster, Putnam

and Dutchess counties since 2000 and awarded nonprofit organizations over \$542,000 alone in 2025 alone.

During the event, CFHV will recognize its 2026 honorees from each of the counties it serves, whose dedication to service, philanthropy and community leadership reflects the organization’s mission of inspiring and growing philanthropy throughout the Hudson Valley.

James Hoover and John Aubry are Ulster County residents whose lifelong dedication to conservation, education and public service has left a lasting mark on the region. Through decades of volunteer leadership with organizations including the Mohonk Preserve, Stone Ridge Library and Mid-Hudson Library System, they have helped preserve natural resources, expand access to knowledge and enrich countless lives.

Jean and Ken Kearney of Putnam County have leveraged decades of leadership in real estate development to help expand affordable, workforce, senior, veteran and artist housing across the Hudson Valley. Beyond their professional accomplishments, the Kearneys have demonstrated a deep commitment to charitable giving, nonprofit leadership and creating opportunities that strengthen the place they call home.

In Dutchess County, the entrepreneurial success of Michelle and Daniel Lepore and family has been matched by an unwavering commitment to giving

back. Through charitable investments and the establishment of a donor-advised fund, the Lepore family continues to create new opportunities for organizations working to improve the quality of life throughout the Hudson Valley.

Tickets, sponsorship opportunities and more information are available at www.communityfoundationshv.org/events/garden-party-2026, ensuring CFHV can continue investing in nonprofits and initiatives that create lasting impact across the Hudson Valley.



Clockwise from top right: The Lepore Family, James Hoover and John Aubry and Jean and Ken Kearney. *Courtesy photos*



what’s happening? — creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Dutchess County to target impaired driving thru 9/7

Labor Day Weekend crackdown in effect

From County reports

As residents prepare to celebrate Labor Day, a holiday dedicated to honoring the hard work, contributions, and resilience of the American workforce, law enforcement across Dutchess County will be stepping up efforts to keep communities safe. Throughout Labor Day weekend, officers will increase patrols to discourage impaired driving as part of a statewide STOP-DWI campaign running through Monday, Sept. 7, with officers focused on removing intoxicated motorists from local roads.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Labor Day is a time to celebrate our workforce and enjoy time with family and friends. Let’s celebrate safely and look out for one another. If you drink, please plan for a safe ride home. One smart choice can save a life.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 511 people

died nationwide in traffic crashes during the 2023 Labor Day holiday period. Alcohol was a factor in more than one-third of those deaths, and nearly two-thirds involved drivers with blood-alcohol levels close to twice the legal limit.

The Labor Day enforcement campaign is supported by the New York State STOP-DWI Association and funded by the STOP-DWI Foundation through a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. Similar high-visibility enforcement efforts take place throughout the year during major holiday periods.

While impaired driving deaths have declined over the years, they remain preventable. Increased enforcement and public awareness help reduce crashes and encourage drivers to make safe choices.

Motorists are encouraged to be prepared for their celebrations by choosing a sober driver, using public transportation, or arranging a ride through a friend or rideshare service before celebrating. The free “Have a Plan” app helps people find a safe ride home and is available through the STOP-DWI website at stopdwi.org.

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County commemorates Rhinebeck Army Corporal Howard A. Traudt at ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ ceremony

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs recognized the service and lasting impact of U.S. Army Corporal (Cpl.) Howard A. Traudt, a cornerstone of the Rhinebeck community, at this month’s “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony, held at American Legion Post 429 in Rhinebeck.

Serino said, “Howard Traudt lived a remarkable life of service, hard work and devotion to his loved ones and community. He proudly served his country in the Army, honored the memory of his fellow veterans when he returned home and gave so much to Dutchess County and his beloved hometown of Rhinebeck. Above all, he was devoted to his family, who continue to honor him today. Howard leaves behind a lasting legacy, and Dutchess County is privileged to share his story and those of his fellow local heroes through our ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ program to inspire generations to come.”

Born in Rhinebeck on Nov. 1, 1933, Howard A. Traudt was drafted into the U.S. Army on July 9, 1953. He served during the early Cold War with the 7th

Field Artillery Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany, participating in readiness drills near the East German border.

Upon completion of his military service in 1955, Cpl. Traudt met Madelon “Lonnie” Napoli on a blind date in 1956; they married on Jan. 8, 1956, beginning a lifelong partnership. Deeply shaped by the loss of his brother Roland, who was killed in action during World War II, Cpl. Traudt devoted much of his life to honoring veterans through the VFW, American Legion Montgomery Post 429, a local WWII veterans’ dinner, a school-district scholarship and the Roland Traudt Little League Trophy. A fixture in Rhinebeck, Cpl. Traudt coached Little League for two decades while building a 39-year career with the U.S. Post Office and running a painting and wallpapering business, as well as Howie’s Lawn Service, continuing to mow lawns at the age of 85. Remembered as quiet, caring, patriotic and exceptionally hardworking, Cpl. Traudt passed away on Feb. 24, 2024, leaving a legacy of devotion to family, seen in his four sons, 15 grandchildren



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino (center) joined the family of U.S. Army Cpl. Howard A. Traudt in celebrating his life at the recent “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony in Rhinebeck. Courtesy photo

and 17 great-grandchildren.

Dutchess County invites nominations for its monthly “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremonies, held April through November, to pay tribute to deceased U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served in wartime or peacetime. Community members can

submit nominations and required military documentation for consideration through the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs, with the next ceremony scheduled for Sept. 17. Additional information and downloadable applications are available at dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran.

In Flight, inc. announces 5th annual Cornhole for a Cause & Community Festival

In Flight, Inc. has announced the return of its 5th Annual Cornhole for a Cause, presented by Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, on Saturday, Sept. 26 from noon-8 p.m., at Dutchman’s Landing Park in Catskill. Now in its fifth year, this free event has become a full community festival, drawing hundreds of families, friends, and supporters for a day of fun while raising essential funds to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Hudson Valley.

This year’s celebration is surrounded in magic as the community is invited to

step into a world of wizardry. With walk-about magician Sean Doolan, enchanting wares from local vendors, food trucks with their very own potions, and more spellbinding activities, every aspect is tailored to transport you into a world of magic. Closing out the evening with a dazzling, sensory-friendly drone show featuring magical characters above the Hudson River, the show promises to be an unforgettable finale for guests of all ages and abilities.

“Cornhole for a Cause has grown far beyond what we ever imagined when we created it in 2021. What started as a small

fundraising tournament has become a free community festival that brings hundreds of people together for a day of fun, inclusion and connection,” said Jill Rodriguez, In Flight’s Director of Philanthropy and External Affairs. “While the event is designed to be an incredible experience for the entire community, at its heart is our mission and purpose to raise critical funds that support local individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are incredibly grateful to the businesses, sponsors, volunteers and community members who have helped us grow this event and make it possible.”

Additional activities include a pay-to-play cornhole tournament, live music by Big Empty, face painting, a magical appearance by the Witches Along the Hudson, live chainsaw cutting demonstrations by the Catskill Carver, and photobooth by Test Tone AV. Silent auction, raffles and a 50/50 drawing will also be

held throughout the day, giving guests plenty of chances to win prizes while supporting a meaningful cause.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors. In Flight is proud to recognize, for the third year in a row, Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy as the Presenting “Grand Sorcerer” Sponsor as well as Enchanter Sponsors MVP Health Care, for the fourth year in a row, and The Bank of Greene County for the third year in a row. Their commitment helps make Cornhole for a Cause a success and ensures that funds raised directly benefit the individuals and families In Flight serves.

Funds raised support In Flight’s mission to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their highest level of independence through residential services, job training, day habilitation, and community integration programs across Greene, Columbia, Ulster, and Dutchess counties.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

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A maker mindset: Creativity in nature, teaching, and life

In the woodlands of Dutchess County, nature’s builders are busy constructing “albeit without the required permits from local municipalities. Beavers at Tivoli Bays and Lake Walton weave massive hardwood dams, remodeling local hydrology into thriving marshy real estate. High in the canopy, paper wasps mix wood fibers with saliva to engineer geometric nesting cells. Along the banks of the Wappinger Creek, jewelweed grows spring-loaded seed pods storing kinetic energy until a mere touch explodes the next generation into the world. Nature proves that the drive to build is hardwired.

Practicality and fulfillment

Members of the plant and animal kingdoms are makers of necessity – their survival depends upon shelter or reproduction. Humans create out of more than just necessity. Maslow’s Framework proposes that humans are driven by a spectrum of requirements, ranging from basic survival to connection, esteem, and fulfillment. It makes sense to prioritize a secure roof or a steady paycheck. Yet, even in moments of chaos, humans value aesthetics. Like the beavers and jewelweed, we are innate makers driven to learn, appreciate beauty, and create a meaningful legacy.

Teaching

I found producing unique instructional materials the most rewarding aspect of teaching. Making discoveries while devising new ways to present information is fun. It provides the perfect excuse to dive deeply into niche science topics. I

become happily lost investigating these curiosities – and teaching something improves your understanding of it, as well.

Find your inner-maker

There are many ways to integrate creativity into your daily routine. Aside from art for beauty’s sake, useful crafts include textiles, pottery, and woodworking. You can beautify your home with photography, murals, or handmade accents, or explore edible pursuits like cooking with local ingredients, artisanal baking, and brewing craft beverages. An informal sampling of our area’s handy-crafters reveals how these disciplines fill hours of entertainment both indoors and out.

Beauty for home and family

June K. and Rebecca Smith Paul, both from Pleasant Valley, enhance their homes with creativity. June created a ceramic koi and alligator to decorate her pond, designing with glazes to pay homage to her living fish. She loves seeing the bursts of color after the pieces are fired in the kiln.

Meanwhile, Rebecca focuses on photography to reflect genuine moments. Capturing her daughter running down a dirt road, Rebecca used a zoom lens and a low stance to adopt the child’s perspective. This technique created leading lines into the distance, conveying a feeling of being wild, young, and free.

“If you just slightly switch your perspective, the moment you capture can be one-of-a-kind,” she explains.

Repurposed items

Sometimes new life can be breathed into old items. Andy Layden and Jessica



June K and Rebecca Smith Paul of Pleasant Valley enhance their homes with creativity. Left: June created a ceramic koi and alligator to decorate her pond. Right: Rebecca focuses on photography to reflect genuine moments. *Courtesy photos*

Williams make use of what others might call cast-offs. Andy beautifies the packaging of previously used products, while Jessica uses things found in nature.

Andy explains, “My Mom is the artist in the family and my inspiration. I enjoy mandala dot art, [which uses repeating patterns that grow out from a center point]. When I retired, I wanted to work with my hands. I collect bottles and cigar boxes to transform.”

Jessica teaches workshops on eco-friendly floristry to encourage decorating with real plants rather than synthetics. At first, participants may be unsure, but Jessica notes, “at the end of class, they astonish themselves with the beauty of what they’ve created! Connecting people with their innate creativity is immensely satisfying.”

Libraries teeming with makers

Dutchess County libraries host introductory workshops that encourage lifelong learning and make artistic experiences accessible.

The Hyde Park Library hosts a Knit and Crochet program. Director Lisa Palmer says the activity “encapsulates the benefits of creativity and socialization. Knitting lowers stress, but a group setting combats loneliness.”

Paint Night at the LaGrange Association Library is another popular offering alongside take-home crafts, paper quilling, fiber arts, and jewelry making. Grace Wright, the Adult Services Coordinator, notes that these programs are “a great way to foster community and creativity in an accessible way.”

At the Pleasant Valley Library, Grace Burns teaches paper quilling and crafts, using the workshops to bring people together. To ensure all abilities participate, she adapts the activities for arthritis or eyesight concerns.

“The joy on participants’ faces when they show each other their finished artwork is priceless,” says Burns.

Your unique mark

From the hardworking beavers at Tivoli Bays to the community workshops inside our local libraries, Dutchess County is alive with creative energy. Building and creating are essential pathways to human joy, deeper learning, and meaningful connection. By observing the natural building habits in our local wetlands, we unlock a deeper understanding of our own creative drives. Whether producing unique instructional materials, framing a photograph, or learning a new craft alongside neighbors, engaging our inner maker allows us to appreciate the world’s beauty while actively leaving our own unique mark upon it.

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



Above: Andy Layden and Jessica Williams make use of what others might call cast-offs. At right are Andy’s repurposed bottles and boxes. At left is Jessica’s eco-friendly floristry. *Courtesy photos.* Left: Dutchess County libraries host introductory workshops that encourage lifelong learning and make artistic experiences accessible. Top: The LaGrange Association Library offers Adult Paint Night as one of its many activities. *Photo by Grace Wright.* Bottom: Participants display their works at Pleasant Valley Library’s Paper Quilling workshop. *Photo by Grace Burns.* Right: Nature proves that the drive to build is hardwired. Right: Wasps build nests. Left: Jewelweed grows seedpods. *Photos by Francine Wizner*



Views of the 2026 Dutchess County Fair

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, Lexi Cade, left, and Caitlyn Clay of the Dutchess County Dairy Committee prepare the famous Fair treat in the "Fair Shake" booth. Jeremiah Jones of Pine Plains won a blue ribbon with his fruit pie. Dock Dog Kermit takes a flying leap. Fairgoers enjoy the Genesis ride at Powers Great American Midways. Volunteer Bruce Barrett of Rhinebeck illustrates weaving techniques in the Century Museum.

continued on page 12

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS

continued on page 12



Ryder Fitzpatrick had the Grand Champion Game Bird and the buyers were Jon and Autumn Prezzano representing Friends of the Mike Leary Livestock Scholarship Fund.



Ryder Fitzpatrick had the Reserve Champion Game Bird and the buyers were The Syndicate of Halton Construction, Hackett Farm Supply and Matt's Auto Body.



Gunther Marshall had the Grand Champion Water Fowl and the buyer was Rhinebeck Sport and Spine.



Ryder Fitzpatrick had the Reserve Champion Water Fowl and the buyer was Taconic Welding.



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Views of the 2026 Dutchess County Fair

continued from page 11

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, the Salsa Steel Drum Band performs for the crowds near the "Fair Shake" booth. Frisbee dog Bruce Wayne and Eric perform for the Pawstars. Dutchess County Sheriffs Department Youth Academy members include, from left, Tiffany Loo, Damien Hague, Jacob Hernandez and Alexander Kodnia. Dennis DeSario of Wappingers Falls won a blue ribbon with his green peppers. Suzanne Rajczi of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society interviews Bill Moore of the Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club for a Fair podcast production.



continued on page 13

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 11



Adelle Kilmer had the Grand Champion Roaster and the buyer was Ed Kreuscher of Kreuscher Acres.



Gunther Marshall had the Reserve Champion Roaster and the buyer was Anthony Cidras.



Hailey Brennan had the Grand Champion Rabbit and the buyer was Sartorini Construction.



Cassidy Brennan had the Reserve Champion Rabbit and the buyer was Heroic Food Inc. and Cotter Landscaping.

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FFA and 4-H youth
at the
2026 Dutchess
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Views of the 2026 Dutchess County Fair

continued from page 12

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, Bot the Robot visits with a young fairgoer. Off Axis Stunt Show performers thrill the crowd. Mackenzie and Ryleigh O'Dowd of Millbrook visit with Sweet Treat the Calf. Stilt Circus performers dazzle the crowds near the food court. Michelle Ross of Red Hook won a blue ribbon with her Hydrangea.

continued on page 14

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 12



Grace Marra had the Grand Champion Pen of Rabbits and the buyer was the Ross Family.



Katie Drum had the Grand Champion Meat Goat and the buyer was Air Masters Northeast.



Owen Clum had the Reserve Champion Meat Goat and the buyer was Superior Sanitation.



Katie Drum had the Grand Champion Lamb and the buyer was Hidden Meadows Farm.



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Clockwise from top left, Sharon Whiteley, Rhinebeck Chamber Board President, presents a bouquet of flowers to Barbara Gray-Black in celebration of her 35 years of volunteerism. John Neilson of Red Hook won a blue ribbon with his pepper display. Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy entertains the crowd on his unicycle. Robin Maynard Seaver illustrates the art of making linen from flax. Ezra from LaGrange pulls the bell at the Dutchess County Firefighters Museum display. Handlers work with newborn calf “Dolly” in the Salute to Agriculture tent under the watchful eye of Mom “Adelaide.”

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 13



Emily Coon had the Grand Champion Steer and the buyer was the Ross Family.

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 13



Cooper Randall had the Reserve Champion Lamb and the buyer was an anonymous online buyer.



Siena Chorney had the Grand Champion Hog and the buyer was Foster's Coach House.



Livia Underhill had the Reserve Champion Hog and the buyers were Matt's Auto Body and Halton Construction.



Lucas Preciado had the Reserve Champion Steer and the buyer was Air Masters Northeast.



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					4	7	5	
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2								
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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

	1	3				4
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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: FICTIONAL DETECTIVES

ACROSS

1. Invitation request, acr.

5. Workout unit

8. Prohibit

11. Affirmative response

12. Type of lure, pl.

13. Small silvery fish

15. Seed covering

16. Gumbo vegetable

17. Like Siberian winters

18. *"Murder, She Wrote" amateur sleuth

20. Descartes's "therefore"

21. *Apparition investigated in a Scooby-Doo cartoon

22. ____ Air in L.A.

23. *Arthur Conan Doyle's detective

26. Deposit, in Paris

30. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase (2 words)

31. Always, in Rome

34. "She ____ blue velvet..."

35. From then on

37. Am is to I as ____ is to we

38. Prison-related

39. International Civil Aviation Organization

40. Window-shop

42. "He ____ and drank the precious words..."

43. Announce

45. *Agatha Christie's Hercule

47. Ryder Cup participant

48. Fern leaf

50. Charitable contribution

52. *"The Pink Panther" Inspector

55. Diver's breathing device

56. Vietnam neighbor

57. Bald eagle's home

59. Bother

60. Highland tongue

61. Get checkmated

62. Cribbage piece

63. Like certain nurse

64. Ginger cookie

DOWN

1. Shag rug

2. Lord's worker

3. Colorado skiing destination

4. Mucus in lungs

5. Adherents of Sikhism

6. Wading bird

7. Russia's 1917 abdicator

8. Titanic's inanimate foe

9. "The Sun is ____ a Star"

10. Unknown power

12. Humorous

13. Blind followers

14. *Raymond Chandler's hardboiled detective

19. Not those

22. Quilting gathering

23. Orthodox Judaism adherent

24. Chilled (2 words)

25. Cancer-treating machine, acr.

26. *Carolyn Keene's amateur sleuth

27. Navigational aid

28. Inspiration for poets and musicians

29. Get a new tenant

32. Stud's companion

33. Trained instructor at a country club

36. *Peter Falk's Lieutenant

38. Lowly workers

40. Lingerie item

41. *Nick to Nora in The Thin Man series

44. Analyze

46. Paragons

48. Bell-bottoms bottom

49. Fowl perch

50. Skin problem

51. Miner's black one

52. Ball of yarn

53. Same as eon

54. Major one in the sky

55. Tree juice

58. Casual affirmative

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7				8	9	10
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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 20

September 2-8, 2026 - NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living 15



‘In case I need it.’

The supplies in Luigi’s pickup truck create an incident for his son Marcanthony.

I remember when my son Marcanthony first started to drive to high school. My pickup truck was for work and gardening. Plants, shrubs, and gardening supplies for home; supplies, produce and plowing for work. As such, I kept certain things in the truck to help me with both. For the restaurant, I always kept a knife in the glove box as well as box of latex gloves and a rubber apron. For gardening, I always kept a machete and a shovel in the back of the truck, you know, “in case I need it.”

The kids in the neighborhood would see the machete and the shovel and ask my sons Marcanthony and Claudio why their father would have those in the back of the truck. Their answer was my answer. “In case we need it.”

The next-door neighbor would ask why I had a machete and a shovel in the back of the truck and my answer was “In case I need it.”

My wife Lisa’s relatives would see the machete and shovel in the back of the truck and would ask why I kept them in the back of the truck and my answer was always “In case I need it.”

I would be at the grocery store and people would see the shovel and machete in the back of the truck, and they would ask

why I kept them in the back of the truck, and my answer was always “In case I need it.”

One day, Marcanthony drove my pickup to school, and our town police officer looked in the back of the truck and saw the machete and the shovel. He asked Marcanthony why there was a shovel and machete in the back of the truck and he answered, “In case I need it.”

So Officer Robert Benson called me at the restaurant and asked if I knew that there was a machete and a shovel in the back of the truck. I said yes, of course. He then asked me why I had the machete and the shovel in the back of the truck. And I said, “In case I need it.”

Now, I have known Bobby for years. He is a friend and he has watched my children grow up. He knows how I am and he knows I do a lot of gardening. He knows I’m always trimming trees and always working. He then asked me if there was anything else in the truck. I said, yeah, sure, there is a knife in the glove box with latex gloves and a rubber apron. He said why do I keep those things in the truck. And I answered (wait for it) “In case I need it.”

I could hear him slapping his forehead.

After a long pause, he told me I had to take them out of the truck. I said, why? He said machete, shovel and knife on school grounds was not allowed. I remember being a little confused until it hit me.

All the kids, the neighbors, strangers, Lisa’s relatives, all the times I was asked why I had a shovel and a machete. All the looks of horror when I answered “In case I need them.” It all hit me and I immediately understood it all.

I apologized and said I would take them out as soon as Marcanthony got home. Bobby laughed, because he knew I wouldn’t use my tools for anything other than I had intended them. You know, “In case I need them.”

Method:
Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F and heat a grill pan.
Brush the eggplant and tomato slices with olive oil and season lightly with salt. Grill the eggplant until softened and lightly charred, about 4 minutes.
Grill the tomatoes, turning once, until lightly charred but still intact, about 2 minutes.
Lay the eggplant on the bottom of a pan. Add a thin layer of sauce then another layer of eggplant, then a layer of grilled tomatoes and, finally, a layer of mozzarella.
Bake in the center of the oven for about 15 minutes, until bubbling and golden. Let stand for 10 minutes. Serve with crusty bread.

GRILLED EGGPLANT PARMAGIANA
Ingredients
1 large eggplant peeled and sliced lengthwise approximately 1/4” thick
1 jar Coppola’s Roasted Garlic sauce
4 plum tomatoes, sliced
extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing
salt
6 ounces mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
crusty bread, for serving

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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RHINECLIFF CHILI COOK-OFF, PIE-BAKING CONTEST & FIELD GAME DAY SET SEPT. 12

Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. & Rescue Squad will present the annual Chili Cook-Off, Pie-Baking Contest and Field Game Day on Saturday, Sept. 12 (Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 13), from 4 to 7 p.m., at Firemen's Field on the corner of Valley Way Road and Loftus, next to the Old Schoolhouse Condos in Rhinecliff.

Cornhole and kids games start at 4 p.m. All ages welcome. All Chili entries must be registered and on the table by 4:50 p.m. Amateur cooks and bakers only, please. Bring a hot pot of chili for a chance to win \$100, a dish to pass or just your appetite to share among friends and family. Free hot dogs and beverages for everyone. 1st Place Prize for Best Chili: \$100. Pie Baking Contest – any fruit pie –1st Place \$100.

At 6 p.m., the 3rd Annual Tug-o-War between North and South Rhinecliff will take place. Call (845) 876-5738 for more information.

Arts Mid-Hudson presents Leading with Artivism on Sept. 23

Arts Mid-Hudson presents Leading with Artivism: an interview with Ayo Nish, led by Poet Gold. This live stream and in-person event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. at Arts Mid-Hudson’s Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie, and will also be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event.

RSVP at: <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/leading-with-artivism>

Leading with Artivism is a live quarterly interview series, created and curated by Poet Gold in collaboration with Arts Mid-Hudson, featuring a diverse mix of Artists (Artist Activists) who have taken up the charge through their art to highlight social issues. Each episode gives viewers an inside look at the hearts

and minds of these courageous creatives.

To watch all previous episodes of Leading with Artivism: <https://www.youtube.com/@ArtsMidHudson>

Poet Gold is a rare talent who grabs you by the heart and says “Recognize” – Poet, author, performer, songwriter, community “Artist” and speaker, Bettina “Poet Gold” Wilkerson is pushing the boundaries of poetry and the spoken word. Living with a chronic illness since childhood, Poet Gold, or as she is affectionately known as “Gold”, brings a soul-searching insight about the human existence, love, dreams, challenges, and triumph.

Ayo Nish! is an artist and cultural architect whose work lives at the intersection of music, storytelling, and community. Her creative practice centers authenticity, joy, and intention — designing moments that connect people to themselves and to each other.

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A & E CALENDAR

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

Sept. 3: PV Rec Summer Concert, Cady Field, 1558 Main St., Pleasant Valley. Music by Still Wind Band, 5-8 p.m. Food by OG Burgers and Fries; Ice Cream by Twisted Sister Ice Cream. www.pvrec.com

Sept. 4: Artist Talk, Tivoli Free Library’s outdoor gazebo, 86 Broadway, Tivoli. Tivoli Free Library & Kaatsbaan present Laura Curry’s artist talk, “Bike Date,” an engaging, hands-on discussion on bike care and the joy of cycling, 5-6 p.m. All welcome, free; registration is required via library

website. Page includes details on what to expect and what to bring: <https://bit.ly/TivoliFreeLibrary-Kaatsbaan-BikeEvent>

Sept. 4: 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: Hurley Mtn. Highway Band. Bring a chair or blanket, some food and enjoy an evening of local bands performing live. Lineup subject to change.

Sept. 4-6: 35th Annual JPMorganChase Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival, Tymor Park, Town of Union Vale. The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation, Inc. present an exciting Labor Day weekend packed with thrilling activities and memorable experiences for the whole family. Experience the magic of over 100 scheduled hot-air balloon flights throughout the weekend. Embark on a full hot-air balloon ride or savor the views from a tethered flight. Activities will proceed rain or shine, with hot-air balloon launches contingent upon wind and weather conditions for the safety of all participants. Also family-friendly activities, food trucks & more. Admission into the festival requires an advance reservation. The afternoon/evening admission is \$26.95 per person; morning admission is \$13.95 per person; a weekend all-access pass is \$39.95 per person; and admission is free for children under 3. balloonfesthv.com

Sept. 5: Author Event, Black Rabbit Dispensary, 32 Main St., Millerton. Author Janice Erlbaum and Black Rabbit Farms celebrate their collaboration, a cannabis strain called “Girlbomb,” in honor of Erlbaum’s first book, “GIRLBOMB: A Halfway Homeless Memoir,” with a short reading, 7:30 p.m. Also live-streamed on Instagram. www.blackmarketcanna.co

Sept. 5: Primal Disco with Michael Vadacchino! + Live Visuals by BA Miale, Opus 40, Saugerties. A fiery, dance-focused, consent-based, body / spirit / freedom fest for those who defy conformity and love each other for no reason, 6-10 p.m. Leave the ego at the gate, bring your whole self, respect every body + let the music of DJ Michael V move you under the stars. Tickets \$22-\$120. opus40.org

Sept. 5-6: Art Studio Views, Northern Dutchess & Southern Columbia counties. The 19th annual Art Studio Views tour offers an opportunity to meet artists while visiting their private studios during this self-guided tour, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Media includes: painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Free of charge and open to the public. No pets allowed. For information about the artists, sponsors and to download the map, visit artstudioviews.com

Sept. 5-6: Famous Garlic Jam Festival, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Jam and Sample with the best garlic vendors, pickle vendors, farm vendors, artisan vendors, and craft vendors with amazing chefs and Food

Trucks in the Hudson Valley, noon. Tickets & more info at www.MJNCenter.org

Sept. 5-6 & 11-12: Annual Festival, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Activities and arts performances. See www.kaatsbaan.org for complete schedule.

Sept. 6: Cocoon Theatre’s Soiree Series, Church-Hill Barn Theater, 283 Lapla Rd., Kingston. Cocoon’s soirees feature local and out-of-town artists bringing original work in a relaxed environment. This month: Local musician SetField will present an afternoon of original sound and visual textures, as well as readings by Nathan Aronson from his new work, 4-6 p.m. Each performance is followed by open discussion and a potluck inviting artists and audience to bring a dish/dessert ready to serve and share. The barn is neither heated nor cooled so all are asked to dress for the weather, with a \$20 suggested donation, by cash only (no wifi available). Parking is limited, carpooling encouraged. www.cocoontheatre.org or (845) 758-0695

Sept. 6: Lenape History Talk on the Hudson, Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston. Experience a talk aboard the 100% solar boat Solaris on Indigenous Life on the Mahicannituck (Hudson River), 11 a.m. Explore the local Esopus-Lenape people, their ancestors, descendants and history. Speaker Harv Hilowitz is an HRMM Contributing Scholar. To Register: <https://www.hrmm.org/solaris-cruises.html>

EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through Sept. 27:** “Tensions & Triumph: Art Born from Resilience and Renewal,” a group exhibition featuring the work of Arts Mid-Hudson member artists exploring themes of resilience, transformation, and hope through a diverse collection of artistic perspectives. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Oct. 30:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be painter and illustrator Liliana Washburn. **Through Oct. 20:** At 12 Vassar St. there will be a group exhibition curated by artist Barbara Todd on sustainability entitled “What Comes Back: Renewal and Resilience” in the Reception and Hancock Galleries. The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery are open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but visitors should stop by 9 Vassar St. first or call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar St. Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. More info about the artists at cunneen-hackett.org.

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Sept. 20:** “A Living Legacy: Gifts from Lynn Gross Straus.” The exhibition celebrates the life and generosity of Lynn Gross Straus (1925–2023), Vassar Class of 1946, a philanthropist, adventurer, avid art collector, and champion of early childhood education. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through Dec. 6:** Special exhibition, “Declaring the Revolution: America’s Printed Path to Independence -- Historical Works

from the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection.” Between 1765 and 1783, the 13 American colonies, once separate possessions of Great Britain, strove to become a self-governing, democratic alliance with a shared identity and destiny. This struggle is known as the American Revolution. In the process, 18th-century Americans defended their liberties as citizens, protested their second-class political status, organized economic boycotts, established fighting forces and shadow governments, and affirmed their legal bonds with one another. This was all done through “declarations” of various kinds, which were all expressed through the dominant medium of the time: print. The supreme example of printed democratic aspirations is the Declaration of Independence. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

Hessel Museum of Art, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College (CCS Bard), Annandale-on-Hudson. **Through Nov. 29:** “Uman: In Between,” a solo exhibition exploring over two decades of creative practice by the painter Uman, marking the pathbreaking artist’s most comprehensive survey to date. Featuring more than 100 works, the exhibition will trace the evolution of Uman’s prolific painting practice from the intimate portraits she made in the 2000s to the commanding images she creates today, including two new murals developed for the exhibition. <https://ccs.bard.edu/>

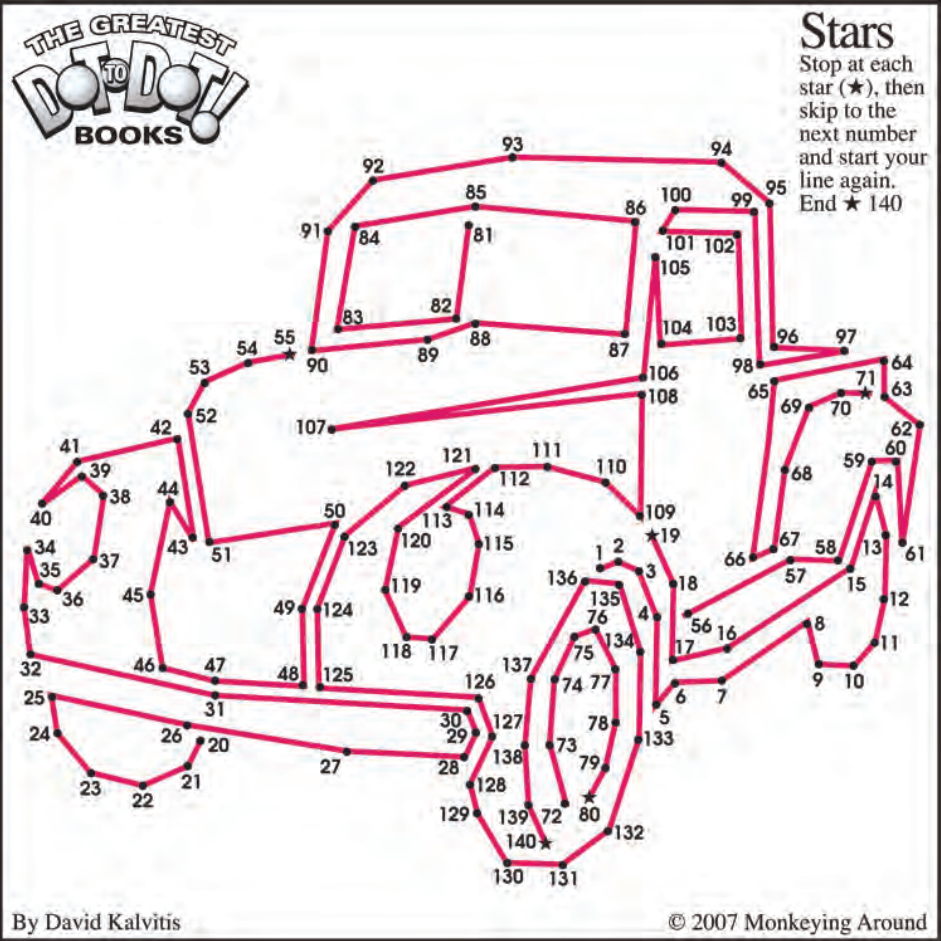
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through Oct. 17:** “The State We’re In,” exhibition by Brian Cirmo, June Glasson, Jeff Wigman & Yu Yan. www.millbrooklibrary.org

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

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through Sept. 18:** Artwork by local resident Tatiana Rhinevault. She works in several mediums, including watercolor, acrylic and oil, utilizing rich, dark colors in combination with diffused window light to create images that are simultaneously calming and magnetic to the eye. Learn more at www.TatianaRhinevault.com.

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **Through December:** “Circles of Influence: Thomas Cole and the American Landscape Movement,” In Thomas Cole’s Library Gallery. New exhibition explores the rapid influence that Thomas Cole and his work had on other 19th-century artists, including Susie M. Barstow, Albert Bierstadt, Ralph Albert Blakelock, Frederic Edwin Church, Mary B. Cole, Thomas Cole, Sarah Cole, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Asher B. Durand, John Frederick Kensett, Mary Josephine Walters, and Worthington Whittredge. **Through December:** “Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES” presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. The spotlight exhibition juxtaposes more than 30 works of painted porcelain and works on paper by Emily Cole (1843–1913) with a mixed-media installation by Hegarty. The work by Valerie Hegarty was made specifically for the Thomas Cole Site in 2025 and explores the connection between Thomas Cole and Emily Cole and their fascination with cycles of life, while considering Hegarty’s own relationship with her mother. www.thomascole.org

Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)



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Ralph R. Smith Elementary welcomes new principal

The Hyde Park Central School District will be starting the 2026-27 school year with a new principal for Ralph R. Smith Elementary School. Nancy Harris, a seasoned educator with a wealth of experience, will join the district and is ready to welcome students back on the first day of school, Sept. 8.

"Ms. Harris brings over 25 years of exceptional educational experience and a proven track record of effective, dedicated leadership as an elementary principal in the New York City Department of Education," said Hyde Park Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman. "Her commitment to academic excellence and nurturing supportive learning environments for all students makes her an ideal fit for our district."

Harris most recently served as the principal of the Spruce Street School, a public PK-8 school in lower Manhattan.

"Serving as principal for 17 years allowed me to cultivate a joyful learning environment centered on the student experience and anchored by authenticity," explained Harris. "Working alongside students, staff, families and the broader community, I hope to build on the many successes at Ralph R. Smith."

Harris, who has split her time between



Nancy Harris

the Hudson Valley and New York City for years, is looking forward to working in a place where she has put down deep roots.

"I am passionate about public education and the role it plays in the local community," Harris shared. "From skyscrapers to rolling hills, I am ready to translate my experience and expertise."

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region host 'successful' back-to school supply drive

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) successfully hosted a School Supply Distribution Day on Wednesday, Aug. 12. United Way believes that every child deserves to succeed regardless of their family's income is why United Way launched their Back-to-School Supply Drive. This year's event provided school supplies to 21 agencies in Dutchess and Orange County so they may distribute supplies to the families they are assisting.

Rebecca Lull, Vice President of Community Impact from United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, said: "Today's event shows the power of community coming together to support students and families. We're proud to partner with local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and schools to distribute supplies and strengthen the network of support helping our neighbors thrive."

The organizations thanked for their contributions are: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp, Dutchess County Government, Hannaford - New Windsor, Hannaford - Pawling, Howland Public Library, Hudson Valley Credit Union, Hyde Park Library, LaGrange

Association Library, Lutheran Care Center, Millbrook Library, Newburgh Free Library, Pleasant Valley Free Library, Shoprite of North Rd & Winslow, Target Monroe, Club Pilates (Poughkeepsie), PKF O'Connor, XPO, Rhinebeck Bank, AMD, and James L. Taylor Manufacturing Co. United Way would also like to thank Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp for volunteering their time and helping during its School Supply Distribution Day.

Along with school supplies, the non-profit organizations were given the opportunity to shop in United Way's Essential Supply Hub located at its Poughkeepsie office. Items included in this hub are personal care items, children and adult clothing, household items, and children's toys. All items are donated from our retail partners and other charitable members of the community.

Beyond the school supply drive, United Way continues to hold Days of Sharing events throughout the year for non-profits to help the clients they serve. To volunteer or learn more about United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region visit <https://www.uwdor.org/>

Poughkeepsie church holds service to remember life of Dolly Parton



A community service was held at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, Aug. 30, which offered thanks for the life and witness of singer, songwriter, actress and philanthropist Dolly Parton. Parton died last week at the age of 80.

The service included Parton's music,

readings and prayers, and a collection of new children's books in honor of her commitment to childhood literacy. Following the service, a celebration continued two blocks away at Goodnight Kenny, which will become "Goodnight Dolly."

- Courtesy photo

Dutchess County Parks announces fall programming schedule

Dutchess County Parks has announced its popular fall programming schedule. Registration for both programs will be available online at www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

Weekend Public Archery sessions begin Saturday, Sept. 12 at Bowdoin Park. The program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots offered. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for children, ages 8 and up, and adults with any level of archery experience. Basic hands-on archery skills will be taught, as well as bow and arrow safety. Cost is \$70 per person and includes all five classes and equipment. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Days offered (all Saturdays): Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Oct. 31.

Time Slots: 8:30-9:30 a.m., 10-11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., • 2-3 p.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Park Palette Art Series for Adults will be held in October and November at Bowdoin Park from 6-7:30 p.m. in Pavilion 5. These workshops are a step-by-step class where participants will create nature-themed paintings. The cost is \$12 per person and includes all supplies. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10

Days (all Thursdays): Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 19.

Updates on all fall events and programs will be posted on the Dutchess County Parks and Dutchess County Government social media pages. For more information, call Dutchess County Parks at 845-298-4600.

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Note: The Office for the Aging, along with Dutchess County Government offices, is closed on Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.

September is packed with activities for Dutchess County's older adults and caregivers. The biggest one is coming up on Saturday the 26th from 10am to 1pm: the annual Golden Gathering, presented by County Executive Sue Serino in partnership with OFA and State Senators Rob Rolison and Michelle Hinchey, with support from the James J. McCann Charitable Trust.

Once again, the Golden Gathering will be held at Arlington High School, 1157 NY 55 in LaGrangeville. Car-pooling is strongly suggested.

Dozens of exhibitors from various local organizations and service providers will offer information on topics ranging from health care and financial services to housing options, legal advice and more. Representatives from OFA and other Dutchess County Government and New York State departments and divisions will also be on hand to inform residents about how they serve the community every day.

It's a big event. And if you want to collect as much information about aging services as you can, at one event, this is the one you'll want to be at.

Flu shots will be available while supplies last, so bring your insurance/Medicare card if you need your shot. We'll see you at the Golden Gathering! And...if you're interested in volunteering at the Golden Gathering, reach out to us at ofa@dutchessny.gov.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON...LINT?

The Office for the Aging's archive of weekly and quarterly newsletters goes back to at least 1993; and in all those years, we haven't written a single word about lint. This week, all that changes. And there's no time like the present to tackle a household issue that can be addressed before a hazard emerges. Lint is flammable, especially when allowed to accumulate where we see it most often, in dryer filters and ducts.

Lint-Related Fire Statistics

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports over 15,000 clothes dryer fires every year. The National Fire Protection Association reports that 27% of dryer fires are caused by excessive lint accumulation in filters and ductwork. That's the leading cause of dryer fires. Other common causes of dryer fires include the use of plastic ductwork instead of the recommended solid metal ducting; placing inappropriate or flammable items in the dryer; improper venting; and overloaded dryers.

Preventing Dryer Fires

Recommendations from the National Park Service:

- Do not leave a dryer running when you are not home;
- Do not dry any items made of foam, rubber, or plastic, all of which can melt and cause a fire;
- Do not overload a dryer with wet clothes;
- Keep the area around the dryer clean and free of clutter;
- Install rigid or flexible metal venting from the dryer to the wall outlet;
- Always use the appropriate electrical outlet for dryers; and
- Do not place clothes or fabric soiled with a flammable substance, such as

gasoline, cooking oils, grease, or oil, in a dryer.

Additional Important Precautions

- Always clean the lint screen before or after each load of clothes; and
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically to prevent lint buildup. Having a "shop vac" handy will help remove accumulated lint from ductwork.

Another Successful

OFA Picnic Season in the Books

On 12 days every summer, ever since the early 1990s, the Office for the Aging becomes something you might not expect from a government agency: a huge, traveling lunch party for hundreds of Dutchess County's older adults.

What holds our Summer Picnic seasons together, year after year, is an idea that is starting to take hold with the wider public. It's not just lunch for hundreds every week. It's not just the music and dancing, and it's not just the information from dozens of service providers all in one place.

It's the measurable, positive value of human connectedness on healthy, happy aging.

Let's keep it rolling.

Whether or not you made it to your community's picnic, or if you're new to Dutchess County, or if an older adult near you is looking for ways to stay mentally, socially and physically active, don't be shy about learning more about OFA and sharing what you've learned.

A recap of the picnic season is available at www.dutchessny.gov/ofapicnics.

You can follow OFA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA. You can visit our website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

You can email us at ofa@dutchessny.gov; call us at 845-486-2555; or stop in with questions during business hours (9a-5p weekdays) at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Office for the Aging to Host
FREE "Swingin' into Fall" Concert
September 30th for Older Adults

Registration Opens Thursday, September 3rd

Tony T. and The Rat Pack band are back, with new star "Marilyn," singing hits from Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, as Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Office for the Aging host a FREE "Swingin' into Fall" concert on Wednesday, September 30that The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. Registration opens Thursday, September 3rd for all Dutchess

County older adults aged 60 and over and is required by calling 845-486-2555, during regular business hours. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "We are thrilled to bring this popular concert back this year for our older adults to dance and jive the afternoon away. These concerts help bring friends and neighbors together to connect and be active while remembering the fun of The Rat Pack's hey-day. I hope to see you there, dolled up and ready for an afternoon of live music and fun!"

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. and the concert will start at 1 p.m., featuring performers bringing back the sights, sounds, and feelings of yesteryear, recreating the "Rat Pack" era. Attendees are invited to bring their dancing shoes to dance along to the popular tunes.

Prom Registration Announcement –
Coming Soon (update)

With registration for our fall concert (see above) starting on September 3rd, we'll be opening OFA Senior Prom registration...soon after that.

Watch your email inbox and the OFA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA) for the latest info.

OFA Public Comment
Forums in September

Our two annual Public Comment Forums offer a unique opportunity for older adults and caregivers to speak directly to OFA leaders and members of the OFA Advisory Board, about issues that matter the most to you, whether it's housing, transportation, OFA services or another concern on your mind.

Tuesday, September 22nd, 10:30am
OFA Friendship Center - Poughkeepsie

114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie
Thursday, September 24th, 10:30am
OFA Friendship Center - East Fishkill
890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction

If you are unable to attend a Public Comment Forum, you can email your comments to ofa@dutchessny.gov, or mail written comments to the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

All Public Comment Forum locations are handicapped accessible. Persons requiring special accommodation to take part in a Public Comment Forum should contact OFA during business hours by close of business Monday, September 14th.

'Friendly Calls' Orientations

Interested in becoming an OFA "Friendly Calls" volunteer caller? We have a volunteer orientation opportunity available at the OFA main office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie:

Monday, September 14th – 10am
To reserve your seat, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

Upcoming OFA Events
To register for any of the events below, contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 unless noted otherwise.

September:
(Wednesday) 9th – Navigating Medicare, Starr Library, Rhinebeck, 4 pm
(Wednesday) 16th – Navigating Medicare, Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room, 10 am
(Wednesday) 16th – Scam Prevention with "SilverShield," Stanford Library, 6035 NY 82, Stanfordville, 2 pm – call

845-868-1341

(Monday) 22nd – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Town of Wappinger Senior Center, 20 Middlebush Rd., 1-4 pm

(Wednesday) 23rd- OFA Mobile Office Hours, Hyde Park Library, 2 Main St., 11 am-1 pm

(Thursday) 24th - Scam Prevention with OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones, Tivoli Library, 86 Broadway, 5 pm (registration not required)

(Monday) 28th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center, 14 Abe's Way, 9 am-1 pm

October:
(Wednesday) 14th – Navigating Medicare, Starr Library, Rhinebeck, 4:00pm

(Wednesday) 21st – Navigating Medicare, Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room, 10:00am

Contractor/RFP Sought: OFA Senior
Exercise Program (apply by Sept. 3)

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 this Friday, September 3rd.

Your regular Bad Joke will be back next week. We're letting the late great Dolly Parton take the stage this week with some of her own comic material. (source)

"People always ask me how long it takes to do my hair. I don't know, I'm never there."

"People say, 'You always look so happy.' I say, 'That's because of the Botox.'"

"I'm a self-made woman and I have the doctor's bills to prove it."

Suguru solution					
4	1	3	1	3	4
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Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 15)

SUDOKU												
This week's answer												
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8	7	9	4	6	5	1	3	2				

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Legal Notices TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ACCEPTING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York on September 9, 2026 at 7:05PM o'clock, p.m., on Local Law D of 2026, “ACCEPTING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS.” TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the afore-	said proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary. Dated: August 19, 2026 Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk	TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW C OF THE	Legal Notices YEAR 2026 “AMENDING SECTION 6-3 OF CHAPTER 6, CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN CODE” PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York on September 9, 2026 at 7:10PM o'clock, p.m., on Local Law C of 2026, “NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW C OF THE YEAR 2026 “AMENDING SECTION 6-3 OF CHAPTER 6, CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN CODE.” TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through	Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary. Dated: August 19, 2026 Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk	Legal Notices tion in the rear lobby of the Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York on the 30th day of September, 2026 at 3:30 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Red Hook, County of Dutchess and State of New York. Premises known as 300 W. Market Street, Red Hook, NY 12571. (Section: 6172, Block: 00, Lot: 682869) Approximate amount of lien \$567,071.79 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 2024-52999. Mark A. Siesel, Esq., Referee. Stein, Wiener & Roth LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 1400 Old Country Road, Suite 315 Westbury, NY 11590 Tel. 516-742-1212 WEIGEL-81219 Dated: July 27, 2026	Legal Notices During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale. Auction Locations are subject to change.	Legal Notices REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-78-26 Guide Rail and Accessories, Sign, Delineator, and Fence Posts Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 15th	Legal Notices 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. REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-99-26 Dump Body Replacement on 2013 Ford F550 Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 22nd 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.
The deadline for Legals is every Friday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Thursday at noon.								

OBITUARIES

Cono Vincent DeGruccio

RED HOOK – It is with great sorrow, yet with heaven’s perpetual joy, that our beloved, Cono Vincent “Vinny” DeGruccio, 96, of Red Hook, has passed into eternal rest on August 19, 2026.

Vinny’s story began on June 18, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York, born to Cono and Frances (Scaturico) DeGruccio and lovingly nicknamed “Sonny-Boy.” As a young man, Vinny proudly served his country in the United States Navy on the USS Sunbird ASR-15 before returning home to begin a life dedicated to service. He went on to become a proud member of the New York City Fire Department in the East NY section of Brooklyn, retiring after 32 years as an acting lieutenant. His career reflected his deep sense of duty and commitment to others.

Vinny’s life was forever changed when he married the love of his life, Eleanor Mary Dolan, on January 8, 1966, at St. Raphael’s Catholic Church in Manhattan. Their wedding reception was held at the exclusive New York Athletic Club, beginning a marriage that would span nearly six decades and eventually take them to Dutchess County in 1972, where they would call it home for the next 54 years.

Surrounded by their loving families, they shared an adventurous life of travel. They became active members of the community they so dearly loved and formed countless friendships through the local chapters of the Elks Club and the VFW, and everywhere they went. Vinny was proud to be an exceptional bowler and an avid hobby photographer, noted for his many photo albums filled with countless memories of their life well lived. He was an immensely devoted fan of the New York Yankees, proudly following his beloved team throughout his lifespan. Whether discussing the latest game, recalling the great Yankees of years past, or simply cheering them on, his love for the team was always a part of who he was.

Vinny was predeceased by his loving wife, Eleanor, who passed away in August of 2025; his parents, Cono and Frances DeGruccio; and all of his siblings: Susan, Rosario “Sal” & (Sara), Florance, Michael & (Alice) & Marion DeGruccio. After a year apart, there is comfort in knowing that he has now been reunited with his cherished Ellie. He leaves behind his beloved cousin Mary Jane Mancini and nephew Michael DeGruccio Jr., as well as

numerous nieces & nephews whom he loved and with whom he shared many beautiful memories.

Vinny died peacefully at home with his devoted grandniece, Denise Dolan, and the most compassionate caregiver, Anne Banez, by his side. All was made possible with the support of Hudson Valley Hospice.

As the Frank Sinatra song goes, he did it, “My Way,” which was his plan all along, and in the words of Billie Holiday, “I’ll Be Seeing You.”

Memorial donations may be made in Vinny’s memory to Hudson Valley Hospice.

Friends and family may call on Tuesday, September 1 from 4 to 7PM at Burnett & White Funeral Home, Red Hook.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 2 at 11AM at St. Christopher’s Church, Red Hook. Burial with military honors will immediately follow at St. Paul’s Lutheran Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook, 7461 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571.

Margaret Farmer

VERBANK – Margaret A. Farmer, of Verbank, NY, 87, passed away August 21, 2026. She was the daughter of William and Eleanor Deforest born April 24, 1939. Margaret graduated Arlington High School. She was a member of Beekman Fire Company-Auxiliary and that is how she met her husband John “Jack” Farmer, Jr. at a Millbrook Fire Company Carnival. She and Jack married on April 23, 1960 and made their home in Verbank and had 4 children. Margaret became a member of Union Vale Fire Company and became a Life Member. Margaret worked at Morona’s Market in Millbrook for many decades. While her kids were in St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic School and they didn’t have a Gym Teacher, Margaret volunteered to teach gym. She bypassed the Red Tape and just showed up and did what had to be done; she taught gym class.

Margaret was the second mother figure to all of the community’s kids. The Baby Boomers loved her. She kept things simple. She had a reputation for making the BEST Roast Beef dinner, mashed potatoes and a vegetable depending on the season. Also, she always offered to make her famous baked

beans with her special secretive ingredients for picnics. For decades, she made homemade pizza, even the pizza dough, every Sunday. When her son Michael would say “It was edible!”, she knew it was delicious. Margaret and Jack became snowbirds enjoyed the heat and sun in their Boynton Beach, FL home for 30 years. She loved making her traditional comfort dinners for the senior community events. They were also very well known for their Verbank vegetable and flower gardens. Their tomatoes and onions were the size of softballs and the garden was lined with Zinnias and Cana Lillies. They also started a wood working business “J & M Crafts.” Jack would carve out the wooden yard figurines and Margaret painted them and put the final shellack on them. A lot of folks in the community still have them and display them in their yards.

She loved Flea Markets. Always looking for additions to her Waterford Christmas ornaments collection. She had 2 Christmas trees, one for traditional ornaments and a smaller one for her Waterford ornaments. She was also a Breast Cancer survivor. She never wanted her diagnosis or treatments to take attention away from the more important things in her life.

Margaret is survived by sons John (Terri) and Michael and 2 grandchildren Kaelin Roth (Austin) and Andrew Datoush. And 2 great grandchildren Zachary and Vincent. She is also survived by siblings and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years Jack Farmer, son William “Billy” and a daughter Theresa.

Visitation was held on Monday, August 31 at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, September 1 from St. Joseph’s Church, Millbrook. Interment followed in Verbank Cemetery. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Margaret’s name please consider the Union Vale Fire Company, P.O. Box 6, Verbank, NY 12585. For directions and condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

David P. Melville

HYDE PARK – David Pardee Melville, 84, a longtime Hyde Park resident, died on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at his home, with his family by his side.

Born on July 24, 1942, in Manhattan, he

was the son of the late John Moncur Melville and Kate Clark Melville. Although born in New York City, David was raised in Hyde Park and spent nearly his entire life there, deeply rooted in the land and community he loved.

David was a former member of the Pleasant Valley Lions Club and a proud member of the Hibernia Canoe and Kayak Association. He loved flying, earning his pilot’s license and owning his own plane, and he found joy in skeet shooting, target practice, and caring for his guns. He was also known for his dry sense of humor.

In his younger years, David delighted in playing hockey on the pond at the farm with his son Mark’s friends, a memory his son recalls with great fondness. Above all, David was immensely proud of being a farmer. He cherished his land, his animals, and the work itself. He would never have retired if his health had allowed; farming was not just his livelihood, but his identity.

On April 18, 1965, at St. James’ Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, David married the former Mary E. Miller. Mrs. Melville survives at home.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children: Jane Elizabeth Melville of Nantucket, MA; Kate Mary Whitman and her husband, David, of Bonita Springs, FL; and Mark Jonathan Melville of Red Hook. He is also survived by three grandchildren – Kate Schuyler Freed, Samantha Mary Freed, and Elizabeth Jane Freed; a great-granddaughter, Carter Jane Hourhian; sister, Sheila Melville of Hyde Park; sister, Michelle Melville of California; brother, Scott Melville of California; nieces, Leith Halliday, Ashlyn Barton and Lorna Dreher; and several great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, David was predeceased by his brother, John William “Jock” Melville.

Funeral services and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

David’s family respectfully requests memorial donations to The Lewy Body Dementia Research Center Of Excellence at Stanford University, P.O. Box 20466, Stanford CA, 94309. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet’s Funeral Home, Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit David’s obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

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Sept. 9th Issue Deadline is as follows:
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County seeks applications for 2027 Youth Team Sports Program Funding

Grant workshops set for Sept. 3

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services' Division of Youth Services invite nonprofits to apply for Youth Team Sports (YTS) funding for the program year Jan. 1, 2027, to Sept. 30, 2027. This

opportunity aims to expand sports opportunities for young people across our communities, helping youth develop essential life skills such as teamwork and discipline while supporting their physical and mental well-being.

YTS funding will help strengthen local team sports programs in communities where opportunities may be limited or under-resourced. These investments support Dutchess County's "Path to

Promise" domains of: Learning, Material Basics, Safety, Family/Relationships, Mental Health and Physical Health.

Nonprofit organizations that offer free team sport opportunities to youth under age 18 are encouraged to apply for reimbursable grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000. A total of \$128,105 is available through the New York State Children and Families Services Youth Teams Sports Reimbursable Grant. For this opportunity, "team sport" is defined as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals.

Eligible applicants should be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a federal identification number, operate in Dutchess County and have the ability to meet the county's insurance requirements.

Organizations that received 2026-2027 Youth Development Programming (YDP) or Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF) awards are not eligible to apply for 2027 funding for the same program.

Funding can be used for operational support to help organizations efficiently

allocate resources for quality programming, including educational instruction necessary to prepare youth to participate in team sports.

The application period for the Youth Team Sports grant opens Thursday, September 3 and closes on Thursday, September 17, 2026.

To assist applicants, the Division of Youth Services will host two grant workshops on Thursday September 3rd at 9am and 12:30 pm, at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Sessions will last two hours and help participants understand the requirements, process of applying and answer any questions.

To register, contact Juliana Corbett at 845-486-3024 or Juliana.corbett@dfa.state.ny.us.

Applications are due to the Division of Youth Services through the County's online grant portal by 1pm on Sept. 17.

Visit the Division's NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding for more information regarding the program and how to apply.



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