

BEACON FREE PRESS

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2 Cornell webinars to focus on HPAI, poultry health

In light of the resurgence of infections from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, Bird Flu), Cornell Cooperative Extension's Livestock Program Work Team is responding by hosting two webinars that will interest small flock owners. The two webinars focus on providing research-based information about the state of HPAI and avian disease in small flocks and how to get started raising laying hens.

The first webinar is titled, "Raising Laying Hens for Eggs: Is it all it's cracked up to be?" Owning a home flock can be rewarding but with it comes responsibilities. This webinar takes attendees through everything from local regulations of chicken ownership through the process of raising chicks. It also will cover the costs of raising a flock and requirements and best management practices of selling eggs. This webinar will be presented Tuesday March 11 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Register to receive the Zoom link, <https://tinyurl.com/GettingStartedLayingHens>.

The second webinar is titled, "Avian Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – the latest updates and what it means for poultry health." Dr. Chad Wall from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets shares, "The avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak that began in February of 2022 is the largest animal disease event ever for the United States. Minimizing risk of infection through strong biosecurity efforts remains the best way to ensure a healthy flock." This webinar will cover updates about the HPAI outbreak, symptoms of HPAI, common small flock diseases, and keeping your poultry safe. It will be held Tuesday, March 18 from 6:30-8p.m. via Zoom with the registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/HPAI2025>.

Both webinars will provide an opportunity to ask questions and are free of charge. They will be recorded, with recordings sent to registrants.

**See advice about
Bird Flu from
DC Health Dept.
on page 3**

Celebrate 10 years of the Parade of Green on March 8

By Kristine Coulter

What started out as 'let's have a parade,' one day between friends and acquaintances will now be a celebration of 10 years. Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green will be held on Saturday, March 8. The parade will step off at noon, at 9D (near Polhill Park) and march down Main St. to the dummy light.

The 2025 Grand Marshal is the man who started organizing this family-friendly event a decade ago, former owner of Max's on Main, Rich Kaplan.

"I was looking back – to the first [parade]," Kaplan said. "We had no idea what to expect. We just looked at it ... we're going to do this."

The parade committee members are called the "Green Team."

Etha Grogan, a member of the Green Team, remarked, "Rich is such a big part of the community, and we wanted to make sure he knew how important what he provides the community is."

Green Team member Kimberlee Markarian, an associate real-estate broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley, said her favorite part over the last 10 years has been getting to really know the other members of the committee. "I love every one of them," said Markarian.

"I think it's great we're going to honor Rich Kaplan," said Rick Brownell, a Green Team member.

Ten years ago, Kaplan explained, the group wanted to throw a parade to get rid



The committee that organizes Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green, known as the Green Team, (and one honorary young member), gathered outside the Beacon Welcome Center last month. This year the parade will be held on March 8 on Main St. in Beacon.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

of negativity and bring a family-friendly event to the Beacon community.

The group did not know how they would go about throwing a parade – but were committed to the idea and the event.

"The important part of it was to make sure it was family-friendly," said Kaplan. Little by little it started to come together.

The first year the weather was beautiful, said Markarian. In other years they had to march in the rain, snow and cold temperatures.

"We meet people from out of town saying 'this is the greatest,'" said Grogan. Markarian added, "You meet your neighbors."

Continued on page 3

Marist basketball teams earn top seeds at MAAC tournaments

By Morgan E. Maier

Marist University's 2024-25 athletic accolades could easily fill some news pages on their own. To the delight of Red Foxes basketball fans, the men's and women's teams have set program records and milestones all season long. At the close of the regular season, history is still in the making. Each Marist squad has earned a spot in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship and could clinch an automatic bid to the 2025 NCAA Tournament.

Single-game tickets are now on sale for the MAAC championships, and Marist's chance at a double strike of history. From March 11-15, Atlantic City's Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall will host the Foxes' hunt for its first March Madness ticket since 2021. Each team is guaranteed a first-round bye for owning a top-six conference record.

The NCAA awards one automatic tournament bid to every conference tournament winner. Smaller market conferences like MAAC provide little opportunity for a team to build a season resumé worth an at-large bid. As a result, Marist basketball's March ticket always comes from conference tournament wins.

Continued on page 2



Lexie Tarud of the Marist University women's basketball team drives the ball upcourt during a recent game. The Marist women begin play in the MAAC tournament next week.

-Courtesy photo

Marist basketball teams earn top seeds at MAAC tournaments

Continued from cover

The Foxes' surge up the standings came from each team's red hot February. The men earned five straight wins at the tail end of the month. The women have proved to be a formidable MAAC foe in the waning weeks of the regular season, having won four straight.

The Marist men will be a top-three seed in their first MAAC tournament appearance since 2023. That year, the team made a run to the championship game as an 11-seed seeking to complete a miracle run over the No. 1 Iona Gaels. An NCAA Tournament appearance would be the team's first since 1987, its most successful squad to date that was led by Rik Smits.

This year's team offers a full rotation of players, bringing the first 20-win season to McCann since 2006-07. Last season, guard Josh Pascarelli earned a MAAC All-Rookie selection. This season the sophomore became the program's first 30-point scorer since 2023, earning two different Player of the Week honors. Some fans haven't seen a team this fun since the Smits days. Hovering just behind Quinnipiac for the MAAC season title, Marist looks to make history in the last week of the regular season.

Marist women, led by top scorers in Lexie

Tarul and Morgan Lee, clinched a first conference tournament berth since 2021. Among various milestones, this team found its momentum, improving to 11-7 and clinching a first round bye of their own. Marist clinched a MAAC tournament berth with a decisive February 22 victory over Niagara.

Behind 20 points from Rookie of the Week Danielle Williamsen and Jackie Piddock's 9-point, 7-assist performance, the Red Foxes also completed the season sweep of the Purple Eagles.

Junior center Lee made her records last month, tying a Marist program-high with seven blocks against Canisius. She then dropped her fifth double-double of the season with the decisive February 27 win over Sacred Heart.

Tarul opened that game's scoring with a layup assisted by Piddock. Tarul finished the night as Marist's leading scorer, knocking down a career-high 23 points on 50% shooting.

On March 1, Marist clinched another first-round tournament bye when Tarul's buzzer-beating layup downed Saint Peter's, 63-61.

The program has reached a conference-record 11 NCAA Tournaments since joining



Julia Corsentino of the Marist University women's basketball team moves the ball against her opponents during a recent game.

-Courtesy photo

the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. As New York State's sole March Madness rep-

resentative, the Red Foxes earned the conference's first-ever Sweet 16 appearance, which remains Marist's highest tournament finish in any season, men's or women's.

The 2006-07 season was one of 23 that head coach Erin Doughty has spent with the program, first a student-athlete, then an assistant and associate coach. That 13-seed Marist team notched a few NCAA tournament upsets (most notably, over #4 ranked Georgia) on its way to becoming the first MAAC team to reach the Sweet 16.

Doughty's squad seeks a first MAAC title in four years, showing now a familiar dominance that Marist women's basketball is known for. Fans and program veterans like Doughty remember the dynasty days of 2004 - 2015, when the team reached 11 NCAA Tournaments in 12 seasons.

Ten years removed, Marist is catching fire in the regular season's twilight days. Approaching the MAAC tournament, this team will take each round as it comes.

"We want to continue to stack good days and build momentum as we go into the end of the season here," Doughty said after the Feb. 27 win over Sacred Heart.

Top-seeded DCC Men's team set for National Tournament

By Morgan E. Maier

The nation's best National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division-III men's basketball team is not slowing down. The success of Dutchess Community College's Falcons has stretched through seasons, beginning in autumn's October and rolling through the beginning of spring. After steamrolling to the Region XV District Championship, DCC clinched its spot in the National Championship, set to begin March 12 at Herkimer College.

The Bronx was the backdrop of DCC's second Region XV title in three years

under Coach Robert Piano. With a heap of fans cheering them on, Dutchess took a commanding 11-point halftime lead at, and clinched its second regional title in three years.

DCC finished the regular season 17-0 against conference opponents. As the No. 1 seed in the Regional Tournament the Falcons were favored, but not guaranteed champions. The second time a team faces an opponent, Coach Piano sees a bit of an advantage. When the third meeting comes around in the form of a single-elimination playoff game, there is a clean slate. In three regional tour-

nament games, Dutchess outscored their familiar foes by 69 points, including 31-point barrage over tournament host Kingsborough CC.

Region 15 of the NJCAA covers junior colleges in lower New York State. And with an entire roster of New York natives, DCC locked up opponents all tournament, led by All-Region honorees Allijah England and Amadou Diallo. A deep bench of transfers, sophomores and rookies supported the tournament sweep. Like it has all season, DCC can call on any of its guys on a given night, picking up right

where the starting five left off.

"We're able to go nine deep without a lot of drop off, which is important," said Piano.

Although named the Region XV coach of the year for the second consecutive season, Piano recognizes his relationship with players extends far past the sidelines. A head coach just 33 of age, he is able to apply a philosophy that is bigger than the sport itself.

"Being able to relate to them in a way they can comprehend, understand and apply today," Piano said, "not just in basketball, but in life."

By Jen Silverman

witch

utterly spellbinding.

"If you've seen the bumper sticker 'well-behaved women don't make history,' you'll have a sense of what Silverman is shrewdly exploring: If your unsold soul is so disrespected by your community, then why not give some handsome devil a try?" CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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By Matt Schatz

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Mill House Brewing Soars To New Heights With Planned Opening Of The Ridge By Mill House



See story,
page 8



Guidance about Bird Flu from the County Health Department

Influenza H5N1, more commonly known as bird or avian flu, has been making national news in recent months, and there have been questions from local residents concerned about risk. The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) reminds and reassures residents that avian flu remains classified as a "low" public health risk by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). There have been no confirmed cases of bird flu in humans anywhere in New York State.

"With the popularity of backyard flocks and our diverse wildlife habitats, residents have asked about the risk of bird flu. Fortunately, the public health risk of bird flu remains low," said DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado. "Staying vigilant about animal exposures and following some simple steps is the best protection against bird flu."

DOH suggests residents visit CDC's Bird Flu update page for the latest information and follow these easy steps to stay healthy and safe:

- Avoid direct contact with wild birds, livestock and other animals infected with bird flu
- Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat or eggs
- Avoid handling sick wild or domestic birds including chickens and ducks
- Avoid consuming raw (unpasteurized) milk or dairy products
- Wash hands well and often

If you see sick or deceased birds, do not touch them. Anyone concerned after finding a single deceased bird or poultry can report it through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) report page. If you see a group of dead birds or if several of your poultry flock are sick or have died, please contact the local DEC office directly at 845-256-3000. For more guidance on reporting, visit Reporting Dead Wildlife - NYSDEC.

For more information about the Dutchess County Department of Health, including clinical services and public health information, visit dutchessny.gov/health.



The Dutchess County Health Dept. offers guidance regarding Bird Flu.

-Courtesy image

Serino announces funds to support five nonprofit youth team sports programs

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino today announced \$121,198 in grant awards has been awarded to five nonprofit youth team sports programs for underserved children under the age of 18 through New York State's Youth Team Sports (YTS) grant program. These grants will support opportunities for underprivileged young people to participate in sports activities that enhance their physical, mental, emotional and social well-being; reduce stress, anxiety and depression; strengthen social skills and teamwork; and lower the likelihood of substance abuse and other risky behaviors.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Every child deserves the chance to fully develop themselves – physically, mentally and emotionally. These grants will offer young people throughout Dutchess County access to programs that will help them strengthen their bodies and minds, setting them on a course toward future success. We're proud to partner with the awarded organizations and look forward to seeing the successes that will come from these grants."

Projects funded through the 2025 Youth Team Sports Program include:

Boys and Girls Club, City of Poughkeepsie—\$38,364 to offer the "Triple

Play" basketball program, which will allow young people to participate in a competitive team sports program that includes instruction and training, physical fitness, nutrition education and tournament play. Funds will be used for salaries, authorized travel, supplies and tournament fees.

Dover Little League, Dover Plains—\$33,000 to provide "Everyone Swinging for the Fences," a competitive baseball and softball program dedicated to creating enriching learning opportunities for all players, regardless of their background. Funds will be used for contractual services, sports equipment purchases, supplies, staff training and uniforms.

Mid-Hudson Aquatics, Town of Poughkeepsie—\$5,016 for selected graduates of Community Matters 2's "Swim with a Friend program" and children from the community to participate with Mid-Hudson Heatwaves competitive swim team. Funds will be used for swim meet fees and sports supplies/equipment.

Northern Dutchess Aquatics Club, Red Hook—\$12,731 to provide two free six-week, new swimmers programs for young swimmers aged 5-9, allowing these

young swimmers to experience the joy of swimming while learning the four competitive strokes. Funds will be used for coaches' salaries, sports supplies/equipment and pool rental.

YMCA of Kingston and Ulster, Kingston—\$32,087 to allow 96 Dutchess County young people, ages 7 to 15, to participate in a free 6-week basketball league at Red Oaks Mill Park in Poughkeepsie, consisting of both practices and competitive games against other teams in the league. Funds will be used for coaches' salaries, contractual fees, sports equipment purchase, supplies and court/park rental.

Applications for the Youth Team Sports grant program were reviewed by the Dutchess County Youth Board and Coordinating Council, as well as the Department of Community and Family Services Commissioner, with recommendations made to the County Executive for final approval.

Applications for the 2026 YTS program are expected to be available in September, subject to New York State funding availability. More information about DCFS grant funding opportunities is available at dutchessny.gov/Departments/Youth-Services/NYS-Office-of-Children-and-Family-Services-Grant-Funding.htm.

Celebrate 10 years of the Parade of Green on March 8

Continued from cover

The children love it when the fire engines come down the parade route, Kaplan remarked.

People are watching from their apartment windows on Main St., noted Markarian.

"Our Main St. is terrific. It's one of our advantages," said Kaplan. Why is Main

St. an advantage? "Because it's flat," said Kaplan, which makes it easier for those in the parade to march the route.

In 2024, there were almost 5,000 spectators and 1,000 parade participants, according to Kaplan.

Grogan said the Green Team holds the parade with the cooperation of the City of Beacon.

"We couldn't do it without them," said Kaplan.

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Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response recognized for 'high-quality' emergency management program, disaster recovery plan

Dutchess County's Department of Emergency Response (DCER) has been recognized for its high-quality emergency management program and disaster recovery planning, earning accreditation through New York State's Local

Emergency Management Accreditation Program by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Dutchess County Emergency Response is the first county between New York City and Albany to earn this

notable accreditation.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Dutchess County's commitment to emergency preparedness continues to be one of our highest priorities, and we are always working to ensure our residents' health and safety is protected. This New York State accreditation recognizes our Department of Emergency Response's dedication and expertise in preparedness planning efforts. Our residents can take pride in knowing that the professional team at Emergency Response is working every day to continue to exceed the highest standards for emergency preparedness. We are truly grateful to every member of our DCER team and congratulate them on this well-deserved achievement."

The accreditation process is an arduous one. DCER was evaluated on variety of emergency management standards based on several factors including national Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards, relevant State laws, and emergency management best practices. DCER also engaged community stakeholders, including governmental and

non-government partners, regarding emergency planning efforts, such as the County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Access & Functional Needs Registry. Dutchess is now among the more than 20 counties across the state to achieve accreditation since the program was launched in 2017.

Dutchess County's Acting Commissioner of Emergency Response William H. Beale said, "I am incredibly proud of my team of emergency management and public health emergency preparedness professionals, who spent hundreds of hours on this project over a period of 18 months. It is an honor to be the first county in the Hudson Valley region, between New York City and Albany, to reach this standard of excellence."

The accreditation is valid for five years, followed by a reaccreditation process.

To learn more about the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, visit www.dutchessny.gov/emergency. Be prepared and stay informed by downloading the "Ready Dutchess" mobile app, available on the App Store and Google Play.

Left: Dutchess County Emergency Response (DCER) was recognized for its emergency management proficiency and planning and became an accredited agency by New York State Emergency Management. DCER received formal recognition of the accreditation last week at the New York State Emergency Management Association conference in Syracuse. Pictured, from left to right: Matt Franklin, Director, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management; William Beale, Acting Commissioner, Dutchess County Emergency Response; Patricia DePaolo Munk, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dutchess County Emergency Response/Health; Chris Baker, President, New York State Emergency Management Association (NYSEMA) and Nadine Macura, Regional Coordinator, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Emergency Management – Region 2.

-Courtesy photo from DC Gov't



'Shotgun Scientist' Dr. Angelica Patterson to speak at Cary Institute

On Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m., Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host a public lecture featuring Dr. Angelica Patterson, a plant ecophysicist and science communicator from Mount Holyoke College. She has been dubbed the "Shotgun Scientist" for a method she uses to collect leaves from trees to study how they respond to climate change. Guests can attend the presentation in-person at Cary's auditorium in Millbrook, or via live stream. For more information and to register, visit caryinstitute.org/events.

As northeastern forests recover from a

history of agriculture and timber harvesting, they have become one of the world's fastest-growing carbon sinks. By locking carbon in their wood, the trees that make up these forests are allies in the fight against climate change. But warming temperatures are leading to shifts in the tree species that make up these forests, as some slowly migrate northward in search of cooler conditions.

Patterson will discuss her research on how different tree species are responding to warming temperatures, which are most tolerant, the role of other stressors, and what

this means for future carbon storage. Her work has revealed that resident trees (such as Northern red oak and red maple) may have a physiological disadvantage compared with their migrant counterparts (such as pignut hickory and American sycamore), and are at risk of being replaced due to this and other ecological factors.

This event is free and open to all. There will be time for audience Q&A following the presentation. Registration is required; There are separate signups for in-person seating in our Millbrook, NY auditorium and virtual access via

live stream.

Patterson is the Curator of Education and Outreach for Mount Holyoke College's Miller Worley Center for the Environment. Patterson received her bachelor's from Cornell University and her master's and doctorate degrees from Columbia University. She is an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the environmental sciences.

For more information about Dr. Patterson and her work, visit her at theshotgunscientist.com or on X @ColorfulSciGirl.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon. Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie - tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification and 300 words or less.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

OP-ED

The importance of community and building relationships

Op-Eds are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press management or staff.

By David Hambleton

I want to talk about something near and dear to my heart - community. At Sisters Hill Farm in Stanfordville, our mission statement reflects its importance: "Our mission is to grow healthy food that nurtures bodies, spirits, communities and the earth."

The trendy thing for Community Supported Agriculture Farms (CSAs) now is to offer customers a platform where they can order exactly what they want and have it delivered to their door. Obviously it's not just a trend in the CSA world but in every aspect of our lives, from groceries, to restaurants to used automobiles. You no longer have to leave your house to live a productive life. Your interactions with other humans can be, and increasingly are, transactional.

But many of us are asking ourselves, what are we losing due to the transactional nature of our modern lives? According to a 2023 report put out by Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, Americans are experiencing an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. This is due to a combination of changes over the last century leading to fewer opportunities to engage with our neighbors. We used to cross paths at bowling alleys, social clubs, unions, churches, volunteer fire departments and the like. When we rarely see our neighbors or the struggles they face, we find it difficult to empathize with them. Simple disagreements and misunderstandings can become confrontational quickly.

Community engagement in clubs and activities is one thing, but perhaps what's escalated our isolation epidemic above all else is our addiction to our phones and devices. To my eye, a dominant driver of the world's problems and our subsequent inability as a culture to resolve them is the ever-present battle for our attention. In the interest of retaining our attention, corporations are giving us more of what we seek. Catering our news feeds with information that is increasingly outrageous and inflammatory - all the better to draw us in, supplying us with a constant surge of dopamine that leaves us always craving more. The end result is that we become more fearful and passive.

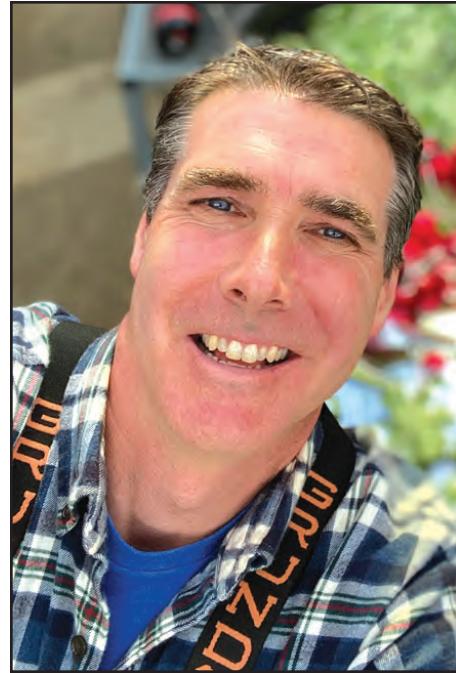
A viable solution

But there is a better way, an alternate path. We have to safeguard our minds and our attention. We have to prevent the modern world and the breakneck pace of change from breaking us. We need to be conscious of the damage that unfettered access to these powerful algorithms designed with keen psychological insight can have on us. Leaving us diminished, lonely, isolated, fearful and at the same time fiercely independent.

How do we protect our humanity in a time of unprecedented change? Am I advocating quitting all social media, becoming Luddites and leaving the modern world and all of the amazing and terrible things it has made possible? Of course not. As with nearly everything in life, it's not so black and white, the solution is usually some shade of grey.

There are mountains of data on how to live a long, happy, and healthy life. Once our basic physical needs are met, healthy food, clean water, and adequate shelter; there are just a few things that are fundamental to human health and happiness. The first and most important is to cultivate good relationships. These relationships are what help bolster our psyches and build healthy communities. Another tenet is to have a sense of purpose. A third is to exercise and manage stress (spending time in nature and visiting a beautiful farm are great for that).

So many members over the years have



David Hambleton

-Courtesy photo

told me that arriving at the farm to pick up their vegetables is the highlight of their week - that they feel a sense of peace and calm wash over them when they step out of their car. Others have told me how much they enjoy seeing children out picking flowers or herbs with their parents, creating lifelong memories. Some have said that they love to connect and catch up with their friends and neighbors. A member who was overwhelmed with caring for her disabled husband said that coming to one of our work parties, laughing and sharing stories with her friends, "literally saved my life."

For my part, I would have moved on from farming long ago if I didn't get the chance to connect with you all on a weekly basis. There wouldn't be enough joy and meaning in it to overcome the stress of the workload, coupled with the uncertainty of climate change. It's my connection with farm members that keeps me going through the tough times. My ability to imagine and visualize all of you sharing delicious meals with your families and friends, and seeing the joy and gratitude on your faces when you pick up your vegetables - that's what drives me to approach each day with passion despite the challenges inherent in farming.

I'm aware that joining a CSA is not nearly as easy as ordering your groceries online. It takes work from you, it takes time, it takes care to prepare home-cooked meals from scratch. But on balance, it is more than worth it - in fact it's essential. Sharing wholesome food with those you love is elemental to our humanity.

A personal mantra of mine is "Anything worth doing takes time. Don't waste time in pursuits that are not in alignment with your deepest values." Easy is not the solution to a happy life. Money, fame, glory, a fancy car do not bring true happiness. Think about what you're most proud of, something that gives you a sense of joy and self-worth. I'd be willing to bet it didn't come easy, most likely it took a great deal of effort and involved working in concert with others. You might think it was an independent task, but in all likelihood, you were bolstered in your efforts, emotionally, physically or psychologically by someone who loves you. Like a farmer, you can choose to cultivate those relationships and watch your life blossom. That's what real community is all about.

"Farmer Dave"
David Hambleton
Director and Farmer
Sisters Hill Farm

Elks donate to first responders



The Beacon Elks Lodge recently honored seven First Responders from our community for their years of service, commitment to our community, development of a centralized City of Beacon Fire Department and development of Jr. 1st Responders Programs. The Elks were also able to make a \$200 donation to local volunteer fire departments.

Pictured, from left, is Carl Oken, 1st Responders Committee Chair; Lecturing Knight and Commissioner of Glenham Fire Department Debbie DiRubbio; Brendan Barry, Elks Lodge member and Chief of Dutchess Junction Fire Department; Jeff Marino, Rombout Fire Company Chief and Michael Zanzarella, Exalted Ruler.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Wine educator Kevin Zraly to appear at Uncorked for a Cause in Poughkeepsie on March 13

Premier Cares Foundation announced its highly anticipated fundraising event, Uncorked for a Cause, being held from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, March 13. This evening will feature world-renowned wine expert and educator Kevin Zraly, offering guests an unforgettable experience in support of a worthwhile local charity.

Uncorked for a Cause will take place at the historic Vassar College Alumnae House bringing together wine enthusiasts, and community leaders for a memorable evening of fine wine, gourmet food, and inspiring conversation. The evening's highlight will be a tasting of the most famous 6 wines from around the world led by Kevin Zraly. He will share his expertise and passion for wine, offering attendees a unique opportunity to expand their knowledge while supporting a meaningful cause.

With over 40 years of experience in the world of wine, Kevin Zraly is one of the

most celebrated wine educators globally, having taught thousands of people through his acclaimed Kevin Zraly Wine School and numerous bestselling books. His masterful ability to make wine accessible and enjoyable for everyone has earned him an unparalleled reputation in the industry. At Uncorked for a Cause, Zraly will guide guests through a curated selection of 6 wines, paired with delectable dishes that complement the unique flavors of each bottle.

Through this event, Premier Cares Foundation is raising crucial funds to provide vital support to patients in need, including healthcare services, educational opportunities, awareness, and financial support while in treatment.

The Vassar College Alumnae House is at 161 College Avenue in Poughkeepsie.

Tickets are \$200 per person available in advance at www.premiercaresfoundation.org.

Ukrainian Women's League sets 100th anniversary reception March 7

The Poughkeepsie/Kerhonkson Branch 95 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the national organization all during 2025.

An opening reception of the Ukrainian Connections Exhibit is set for Friday, March 7 from 5-7 p.m. at the Cuneen Hackett Art Center at 9 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie. The event is open to the public.

The exhibit highlights the work of four Ukrainian Artists connected by their deep ethnic roots. They include Vitalia

Deriabina, a resident artist from Kyiv, Ukraine and Ulana Salewycz, Marianna Crans and Cathy Gorham all of whom are Ukrainian American artists from the Hudson Valley.

This exhibit is also a tribute in memory of Ukrainian sister, Cathy Gorham.

The Victorian Gallery weekday hours are Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. This exhibit will run through March and April and is one of many events set during 2025.

For more information, call 845-486-4571.

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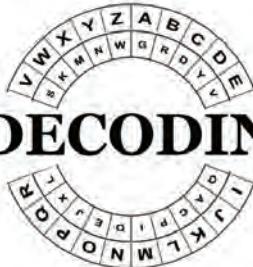
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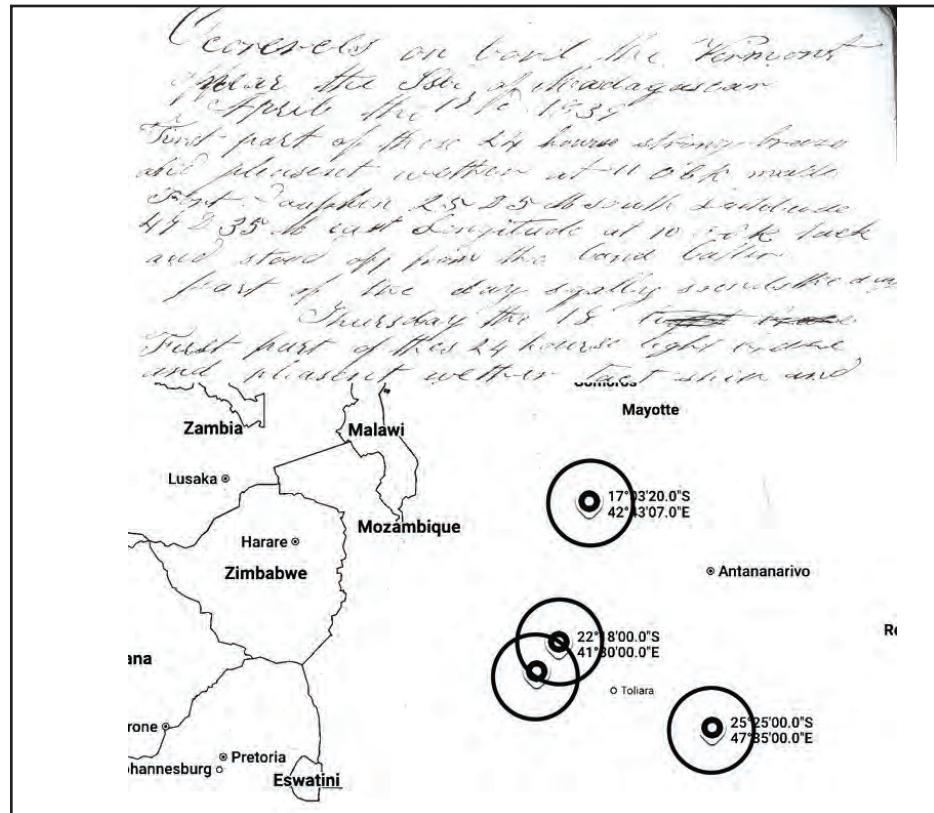
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Scribbles in an old ship log reveal history of whaling in Dutchess



The persistent, daily record (through good days and bad) create a vivid picture of the scale and risk of the work at sea. St. John's recording of latitude and longitude allow us to plot the precise path of the ship, in this instance around the island of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa.

-DCHS Collections, Google Maps.

By Bill Jeffway

The Dutchess County Historical Society recently acquired a 36-page ship log covering the dates of February 10, 1839 to March 7, 1840. The thirteen months reflect only a portion of the "Barque Vermont's" journey as a whaling ship, out of Poughkeepsie. The first pages document having left Poughkeepsie at least a month prior. The last pages document their leaving New Zealand. A barque (sometimes bark) is a type of sailing vessel with three or more masts of which the fore and mainmast have square sails.

Many are surprised that inland Poughkeepsie (not to mention the city of Hudson, further north) could be a whaling port. But voyages could take up to three years, so an inland port could be as easily used as one seaside, like New Bedford.

Among a dozen or so major initiatives from the self-declared *Improvement Party* in the 1830s, including investor Matthew Vassar, was the formation of what came to be two whaling companies. The "Vermont" was Poughkeepsie's first whaling ship, bought and launched on its first voyage in 1832 by the Poughkeepsie Whaling Company. The severe 1837 national financial crisis put an end to that company and the "Vermont" was purchased by Dutchess Whaling Company just prior to the 1839 voyage.

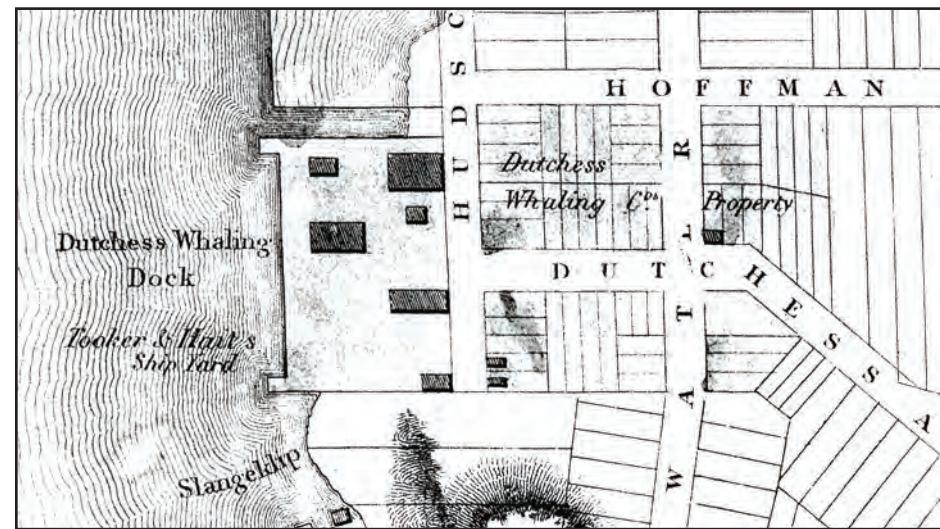
Even considering the financial crisis, the golden age of the American whaling industry is sometimes referred to as 1840 to 1861.

Although the author always signed his name on each page, on Sunday, January 19, 1840 he mentioned his hometown which has allowed us to confirm his identity. He signed off, "James Harrison St. John of Ridgefield (CT), Barque Vermont, Indian Ocean."

James H. St. John was a blacksmith. Ship log entries show that he put that trade to good use in helping damaged ships they encountered, or for trading with "natives" for food and water. He records creating iron "spikes" and iron tools.

A good deal of the record is about the weather, and actions taken with the many sails. What follows are some excerpts that relate to the more dramatic parts of the adventure, which give us an insight into the risk and massive scale of the undertaking. We find justice meted out by the captain using lashes. We see the small boats involved in the chase completely destroyed by a whale and the occupants rescued from the water. In addition to quick stops at tiny islands, the writer describes "natives" onshore in Africa, Madagascar and New Zealand Mowries.

The key to knowing the "Vermont" sailed from Poughkeepsie (in addition to its clearly documented ownership) is an entry of Wednesday, the 4th of September, "...killed a hog, the last one that we had brought from Poughkeepsie." And he signs off on Friday the 27th December adding "Barque Vermont from Poughkeepsie." Because the author records position in latitude and longitude, we can see that the ship travels around 250



Above: 1834 map of Poughkeepsie showing the location of the Dutchess Whaling Company's dock at the end of Dutchess Avenue near Upper Landing.

-DCHS Collections

miles each day.

FEB 28, 1839: First part of these 24 hours calm and foggy with a light shower. At daylight [are] in sight of the Island called Tristan...and the Nightingale Island. At 10 o'clock we [were] within about 3 miles of Tristan. We lowered down a boat and went ashore to purchase potatoes for the crew. At 3 o'clock, lowered another boat to get some fish. This island is inhabited by shipwrecked sailors and women from the Isle of France. They have about fifty persons. They have been provided with farming utensils and stock from ships so as to enable them to obtain a living. At 8:00 went ashore, the governor standing from the island...

MAR 8: All hands engaged in cleaning muskets and swords.

APR 3: At 2 o'clock have in sight the island of Madagascar. Were close in to land, tacked ship and stood off. Saw a large ship standing, proved to be the Royal William of St John's, New Brunswick. Four months out, she tact and kept company with us. Very sharp lightning over the land.

APR 4: At 10 o'clock they [barque Royal William] lowered their boats and came upon board. The R. Wm, she was bound into Augustine Bay. She proved to be in a leaky condition. At 5 o'clock [they] came on board, [we] hoisted our lights, to keep company with us through the night.

APR 5: At about 6 o'clock we were ... obliged to lower the boats and tow the ship [Royal William]. We had about 35 boats helping us which came from other ships which were at anchor in the bay, there were seven [ships] in number. We came to anchor about 9 o'clock.

APR 6: In the bay of St. Augustine [Madagascar]. Our deck was crowded with natives. They are about the size of our North American Indians and as black as cold tar, they have milk to sell, lemons, cattle, sheep, etc.

APR 10: Most of the men gone on shore. I was to work for the Royal William in making [iron] spikes of which I made about 500 for her.

JUL 13: At Dalrymple Bay, New Holland [Australia]. While the men were on shore the cook was displeased because he could not go there and went and hid the harpoons. When the [men] went to turn into their hammocks they saw the irons gone and the cook owned it and the captain gave him seventeen lashes.

DEC 18: The whale ran about 2 miles to the leeward then ... At about 4 o'clock he ran his head against the waste boat and knocked the second mate overboard...at 5 o'clock the third mate lowered another boat and came to our assistance.

Got a second lance at [the whale] but as

would have it he sounded and took with him two lines, 4 irons, 4 lances, and stove [damaged] 4 boats. Stoved [damaged] 2 of the boats by the whale and two by running against one another.

DEC 21: One of them [one of two whales] went right over the bow boat and stove her all to pieces the crew was picked up by the larboard boat one of the crew by the name of Moses Hatch was badly injured in one of his legs and is now confined to his berth. The boat was so badly damaged as to not be worth picking up.

DEC 25: At 5 o'clock lowered the boats for two whales to the leeward...at 6 o'clock had him alongside and commenced cutting. On board the Vermont off the Island of New Holland [Australia]. And so ends Christmas Day in the year of our Lord 1839.

DEC 29: They soon gave him [the whale] several good lances but he run his head right through the bow boat and stove her all to pieces, the waste boat picked the crew up, theft had but just time to get them into the boat before the larboard boat was stove then they picked them and started for the ship with 18 men in one boat.

DEC 31: The latter part of the day commenced blowing quite hard. All hands employed in stowing down, stowed 43 barrels at 10 o'clock it began blowing so hard that we had to [stop].

JAN 1, 1840: The wind still continues to blow very hard. At 2 o'clock all hands were called to secure the waste boat, it being most of the time under water. At 4 o'clock we took in the waste boat, it being stove very badly. The middle part of the day it continued to blow a severe gale it being the hardest we have had.

Every roll that she [the ship] makes she rolls her lee rail [side of the boat opposite the direction of the wind] all under. The water keeps constantly flowing across our decks so that the water is above three feet deep sometimes and more...later part of the day the wind abated some.

FEB 1, 1840: Home sweet Home there is no place like Home. Too true to write.

FEB 5: We are now bound for New Zealand.

See more at www.dchsn.org/vermont.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsn.org or 845-293-7711.

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love to cook



by vicki frank day

Hot Milk Cake

This sweet treat hearkens back to another time

Bitter cold days always bring out my nesting instinct and I get sentimental and nostalgic, especially when I start looking through old photos, ephemera and recipes, each one a memory and part of my story. It's good to go through my binders, books and boxes of recipes, remembering where each one came from, who inspired them and the times I made them for those I love.

But of all the ones I have come up with and collected, the ones that strike the strongest chord are those in my vintage recipe boxes. I have two sweet metal ones filled mostly with favorites and go-tos on handwritten cards – my own, my mother's and some from friends – but I didn't just buy them for the charming boxes themselves. They hold special treasures, as well. The boxes were picked up at yard sales on different occasions, both owned by women whose names and faces I'll never know; and yet I can picture them, sitting at the kitchen table with their coffee, clipping from newspapers and magazines those recipes they wanted to try. I see them donning their aprons, getting their ingredients all in a row and setting to work making something scrumptious for their families. If the recipe was a keeper, they'd tuck it inside their boxes alongside their own recipes to pull out another day. It's these recipes that came with the boxes – often with hand-scrawled notes in the margins – that really get to me, and so I had to leave them where they were so carefully put. They just bring such vivid pictures to mind, and I wish I could reach back through time and give those women a hug, then sit with them over coffee in their kitchen and maybe sample their latest cake, warm from the oven, as we chat about recipes to try.

Who even does that today? (I swear I was born in the wrong era!) Now most people look online for recipes and nobody visits anymore. I have fond memories of our neighbor, Mrs. Dickenson, walking to our house to have coffee with my mother on many a morning. I don't know if they talked about recipes, but I know she could cook and shared some of her recipes with us. Thinking about it now, I realize she

contributed to my love of cooking, and I wish I could tell her that. She would have been tickled to hear it.

As for clipping recipes, that, too, may be a thing of the past. As a writer, I guess I hope it isn't, and that just maybe some of my recipes are out there, tucked away in some book or box, handwritten comments in the margins. It's bold to hope that I could be part of that kind of legacy, but that would be the highest compliment, and I'd consider myself in excellent company if I were among the many women in their communities, names lost to time, who helped keep their neighbors informed and well fed.

But for all my appreciation of recipes past, there's one I've been hoping to find a clipping of, and I'm ever on the search for it. While doing extensive research on vintage recipes many years ago, Hot Milk Cake kept popping up, and I was intrigued. I don't remember it from my childhood, but many out there seem to. It was clearly a staple for housewives across America once, and I'd love someone's original copy of the recipe to add to my collection. It seems like one that's handed down through families, homey and comforting and practical, being made with ingredients everyone had on hand. Until I find one, this version is now handwritten on a card in my box. It's taken from several I found online.

Hot Milk Cake

As the name implies, hot (scalded) milk is a key ingredient, adding flavor and moist texture, helping the cake rise and complementing the other flavors. The ingredients aren't anything special (you probably have them already), but the way they're put together is, so don't be tempted to follow the order of other cake recipes. Don't worry – it's just about the easiest cake you'll ever make. For the perfect airy, melt-in-your-mouth texture, use room temperature eggs and whip them up well until they're thick and fluffy. No need to frost this buttery cake (though you can if you want to) – just dust with con-



Hot milk cake is a sweet treat during the winter months,

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

fectioner's sugar or serve with a dollop of whipped cream and fresh berries.

Ingredients

- 1 cup whole milk
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Confectioner's sugar (for dusting)

Method

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9x13 baking pan and set aside.

Scald the milk: Place milk and butter in a saucepan over medium heat, cooking until edges start to bubble, about 8-9 minutes. Don't let it come to a full boil. Remove from heat, add vanilla and stir until mixed and butter is completely melted. (Don't worry if the butter separates a bit as it sits).

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar together until pale yellow, thick and fluffy, and about doubled in volume, about 3 minutes. Sift flour and baking powder (I added it half at a time) into the egg mixture. Add salt and beat just to combine, scraping down the sides of the bowl. Batter will be thick.

Slowly add hot milk a little at a time to the batter, mixing as you do, just until combined and smooth. Batter will be quite loose at this point.

Pour into prepared pan and bake until golden on top and a toothpick inserted in

the center comes out clean, 40-45 minutes (check after 40). Place pan on a wire rack to cool.

Dust top with confectioner's sugar (or use your favorite frosting or whipped cream). Cut into squares and serve.

Sure, cooking shows and the internet are valuable sources for recipes, but I will always want a physical copy of special ones to hold and refer to. Maybe someday I'll find an authentic copy of Hot Milk Cake to add to my collection, one I can brush flour off and carefully wipe away the vanilla I spilled before I put it back in its place. For now, the one I wrote up will do just fine, nestled in among my other favorites. Give me a good, old-fashioned recipe box filled with love and promise any day! It's more than a collection of recipes – it's a time capsule, a memory album, the story of a life. Or many lives. I can only hope that some of my recipes survive and will one day be found by someone who will use and cherish them, adding them to their stories. That's a tradition worth passing on and a dream to treasure!

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

Renegades announce 2025 theme nights, to be first-ever MiLB team to stage an original musical during game

The Hudson Valley Renegades will make history in 2025 as they become the first team in baseball to stage an original musical which will be performed in between innings. The still to be named Renegades Musical will be performed on August 6 when the Renegades host the Brooklyn Cyclones at 6:35 p.m. as part of a jam-packed Renegades promotional schedule for 2025.

The musical will be written for the Renegades by Duane Joseph Olson, a theatrical creator from Highland.

"We are so excited to roll out our Theme Night schedule for the 2025 season which continues to elevate our legendary game entertainment in new ways," said Tom Denlinger, General Manager of the Renegades. "With over half of our home games featuring a premium giveaway or a fireworks show, we invite the Hudson Valley to Find Your Fun this season at Heritage Financial Park."

In addition to the musical, the Renegades' 66-game home schedule features another loaded slate of promotional nights, with a unique theme at every home game. The Renegades once again have 22 giveaways and several special appearances planned for the season.

A popular addition in the 2024 season, the Renegades will once again give away a

unique item at each Saturday home game throughout the season. Additionally, the Renegades are proud to announce a new weekly giveaway – Jersey Thursdays presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union, with the first 1,000 fans each Thursday home game receiving a different Renegades replica jersey.

Returning for 2025 are the alternate identities the Cider Donuts, Fenómenos Enmascarados del Valle de Hudson and Newburgh Gorhams. Debuted in the 2023 season, the Cider Donuts was a finalist for Minor League Baseball alternate identity of the year in 2023 after its wildly successful first season. The Fenómenos Enmascarados was launched in 2021 as part of the Copa de la Diversión program. The Gorhams pay tribute to the pioneering all-Black baseball team of the 19th century and debuted in 2024 as part of the Renegades' participation in MiLB's The Nine program. The Renegades will once again play three games as the Cider Donuts, four as the Fenómenos Enmascarados in 2025, while suiting up as the Gorhams once.

They are joined this season by two new alternate identities, the Big Apples and the Retrievers. Each of the two new alternate identities will be worn for three games during the season.

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Mill House Brewing soars to new heights with planned opening of The Ridge by Mill House

Excitement is brewing as The Ridge by Mill House (The Ridge)'s owners, Executive Chef Daniel Crocco and Brewmaster Jamie Bishop, announced that the new restaurant will open its doors on Wednesday, March 26.

Located at 387 South Street in Highland, the mountain-top eatery marks Mill House Brewing Company's first expansion into Ulster County.

"We've poured our hearts into every detail of The Ridge over the last several months of construction and preparation, working to perfect it from the ground up," said Crocco. "From carefully curated wallpaper to locally sourced fixtures and a menu we're especially proud of, every aspect of The Ridge is intentional. We cannot wait to welcome you to this corner of our world and to raise a glass with friends we know -- and the new ones we'll make."

While The Ridge will have an ever-changing menu, patrons can expect to see dishes such as a Swordfish Skewer, Brown Butter Squash and "Chicken & Dumplings" Gnocchi, alongside casual bites such as The Ridge Burger and Pad Thai Kale Salad during the restaurant's first few months of operation. Beyond the main menu, the restaurant will also offer Sunday brunch, a raw bar and an in-house dry-aged steak for two – served on hand-crafted cutting boards from Hudson

Valley artisan, Living Edge Designs, that double as a statement art piece in the dining room. Additionally, the cabin-esque property will serve a variety of Mill House Brewing Company's award-winning craft beers on tap, including a new signature ale dubbed Haus Hefeweizen, thoughtfully crafted for The Ridge.

The Ridge aims to be a place where locals and visitors can celebrate special moments, both big and small, or enjoy a date night with one of its decadent desserts, like their Ricotta Cannoli Crepes or Peach Brown Sugar Strudel, which will pair perfectly with one of the soon-to-open restaurant's handcrafted cocktails, such as the Desperado, The Ridge's take on the locally famous Mill House Brewing Co.'s Shinebox, or an indulgent after-dinner drink such as the S'mores Coffee.

"We've worked hard to create a space that feels both fresh and familiar," said Bishop, who grew up in Clintondale. "While we've put our own spin on things, we wanted to honor the charm and character that made this place special to so many before us. Every decision was made with our future guests and neighbors in mind, and we can't wait to unveil it to our community."

The Ridge's opening marks a momentous occasion for Crocco and Bishop as they continue to expand Mill House



The Ridge by Mill House at 387 South Street in Highland, a mountain-top eatery, will open on March 26.

-Courtesy photo

Brewing Company's presence throughout the Hudson Valley. Most recently, the dynamic duo announced they were hitting the road with a full-service catering business, Embers by Mill House. With both of these new ventures, Mill House aims to bring its signature flavors and esteemed

hospitality to a wider audience.

For more information on The Ridge by Mill House, including updates around reservations – which will go live on March 12 – and hours of operation, follow The Ridge on Facebook (@The Ridge by Mill House) and Instagram (@theridgebymillhouse).

HCMC, East Fishkill library Spring Concert Series starts on March 7

By Kristine Coulter

Spring is in the air. To celebrate, Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will present Spring Concert Series. The Town of East Fishkill is sponsoring the series, which will be held in the rotunda of the East Fishkill Community Library. The three-month series will offer performances by musicians at the East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376.

"The performers are selected by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. HCMC connects people through music with its free community concert series, presented in non-traditional places, where everyone can enjoy music in a casual atmosphere," explained Lu Ann Kaldor, the adult programming assistant for the library.

Trombone player Ed Neumeister, along with his jazz quartet, will perform at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7.

Neumeister said The Ed Neumeister Quartet will perform works from his last few albums, including the most recent, critically acclaimed, "Covers" with jazzed-up iconic Beatles and Led Zeppelin songs, original chamber jazz pieces and some selected gems from the jazz canon. Performing with Neumeister will be Bruce Arnold on guitar, Cameron Brown on bass and Harvey Sorgen on drums.

"I enjoy performing for appreciative, listening, attentive audiences in general,

but playing for fellow community members and neighbors is "icing on the cake." And the commute is...delightful," said Neumeister.

Kaldor remarked, "This year's series is a musical timeline - from early music to jazz to pop, this series has something for everyone."

Vocalist and violinist Jennifer Justice will perform in April. Stop by the library at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4 to hear her.

Then in May, Richard Kolb, a guitarist and lutist, will entertain those in attendance. His show is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 12.

Kathleen Bosman, with the HCMC, is a violist (a viola player) and violinist.

Bosman and Brad Hubbard, board members of the HCMC, said via email, "The performers for the East Fishkill Community Library series were chosen because they are local musicians in our community." They added, "One of the missions that we want to promote is community. It is very lovely to go see a concert where you don't know any of the performers. But this is an opportunity to see your neighbors perform." Bosman and Hubbard noted all of the performers live in Beacon.

"All three of these performers are world-class performers. We are blessed to have such high-quality artists living



Ed Neumeister and the Ed Neumeister Quartet will perform in the rotunda of the East Fishkill Community Library on March 7.

-Courtesy photo by Katharina Gossow

among us. Also, all three of these artists are proponents of the concept of an interactive concert experience. Again, it is about community," remarked Bosman and Hubbard. "If you are hanging out with your friends and neighbors you can share experiences and ask questions. There is a real exchange that flows more than one way; that is what these concerts are designed to do."

There will also be what Kaldor

described as "the informative post-performance question and answer sessions."

Bosman and Hubbard said, "The thing we are looking forward to the most is sharing good music with other people. The comments and thoughts from the audience are always interesting and enlightening. Music is on some levels an abstract form and can mean many things to many people. Sharing these ideas in the community bonds us together."

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hudson valley naturalist



by francine wizner

Exploring the scientific blarney of optical illusions for St. Patrick's Day

March is the month for Irish music, Celtic Knot designs, and cartoon leprechauns. In these final days of winter, you may also imagine that legendary pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Since the icons of St. Patrick's Day include imaginary little people and four-leaf clovers, which occur with a frequency of 5,000 to 1 compared to the three-leaf variety, let's add our own bit of scientific blarney in the form of optical illusions.

A reflection can be considered a type of optical illusion if it creates the perception that we see something that differs from reality. The things we see are the result of interactions between light, our eyes and brain. Light hitting our eyes is converted into electrical signals, which are then transmitted to the brain. The brain interprets (or misinterprets) those signals as a visual image. Misinterpretations might happen as the result of the viewing angle, the type of mirror, or our own expectations.

Mirrors

All objects absorb, reflect and transmit the light falling on them, depending on the materials they're made from. Things we call "mirrors" are a special class of objects that reflect an unusual amount of that light.

When you look at a flat mirror, rays of light shoot through the glass and hit the coating behind it. Light reflects off of the mirror in an orderly way. What you see in the glass is a reasonable approximation of what is there, except that the image is laterally inverted. Concave mirrors are great for shaving and plucking eyebrows, because close images are magnified. From far away, objects in concave mirrors seem upside down. If you look taller and thinner than you actually are, you might be seeing yourself in a convex mirror. Your rear- and side-view mirrors on your car are convex.

Architectural designing with reflections

Stephen Whalen, of Whalen Architecture PLLC in Lagrangeville, knows how to design a home to harmoniously exist in its environment, as well as be energy efficient. Owners of a home in Pawling were interested in making their house "disappear" within the landscaping and surrounding trees. To accomplish this, a mirror finish was applied to the upper windows near the gabled roof.

Those glazing panels give the illusion that the house merges with the woods.



Whalen Architecture designed this Pawling home with reflective windows, making it seem to disappear into the woods.

-Photo by Stephen Whalen

The reflective glass also gives the occupants a lot of privacy, though it is possible to see inside the home when standing very close. The windows are reflective, but they are not actually mirrors.

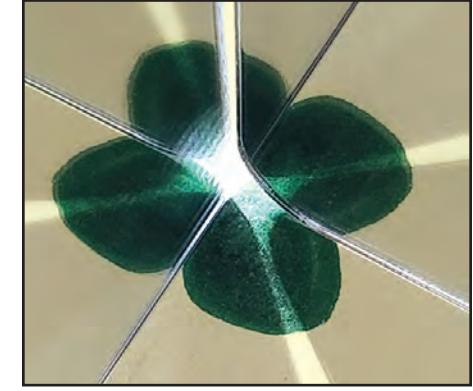
Besides a reflective film, the windows were tinted to reduce the sun glare and heat gain on the interior of the residence, making the house more energy-efficient during the cooling season. A house seeming to disappear within the surrounding woodland could be considered an optical illusion, because it creates the perception of a seamless continuation of the forested landscape. From certain vantage points, it's difficult to distinguish where the reflective surface ends and the actual forest begins. Psychologically, mirrors in a natural setting are unexpected.

Am I Looking over a four- or five-leaf clover?

Rest assured that you can explore reflections this St. Patrick's Day without trying to make your house disappear! Gather some paper, two small mirrors, colored pencils, clay and a protractor. Draw a green circle and use clay to prop the two mirrors at an angle so that they reflect two circles and then four circles. Keep adjusting the angle and placement of the mirrors to see how many leaves you can make your clover. Measure the different angles of the mirrors with a protractor and compare that to the number of leaves. Do any patterns emerge?

Continue the exploration by drawing rainbows and symmetrical shapes or letters to see how many designs can be made using the mirrors. Photograph the reflections to document your discoveries. Here is a video of this activity: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/rahdLZgt7Gc>. Here is an organized lesson plan for this activity: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/ST-PATRICKS-DAY-EXPLORING-REFLECTIONS-ENRICHMENT-ACTIVITY-7603380>.

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



Clockwise from top: Experiments with mirrors give the illusion of reflected rainbows, a four-leaf clover and a five-leaf clover.

-Photos by Francine Wizner

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Dance at Elks set for March 7

Dance at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Friday, March 7 at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Lose oneself to a vibrant mix music played by DJ Rhoda. Song requests are welcome. Attire is whatever suits one's mood – from blue jeans to dazzling sparkles. These dances are infor-

mal and even if one comes alone, one can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor.

Admission is \$15 and includes a variety of complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available.

For more information, call 845-765-0667 or rhodaja@optonline.net.

Obituaries

Daniel J. Yanarella



Daniel J. Yanarella, a 24-year resident of New Windsor and formerly of Central Valley, passed away peacefully at home on February 22, 2025. He was 78 years old.

He was born on December 11, 1946 in Beacon, the son of the late Ernest D. and Margaret Kochay Yanarella. He graduated from Beacon High School. Dan proudly served in the US Marine Corps from 1966 until his honorable discharge in 1968. He was a Vietnam Veteran, serving overseas as a Sergeant. Dan worked as a carpenter for New York State Palisades Park until his retirement in 2002. He also worked as a real estate agent in Monroe.

He is survived by his son, Christopher

Yanarella; his sisters, Tina Kearney and Jean Noack; his brothers, Ernest Yanarella and Paul Yanarella; his many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sisters, Peg Hosky and Linda Olivo.

Funeral arrangements will be private for the family. Dan will be laid to rest with his parents at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

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

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

Sharon A. Plattner



Sharon A. Plattner, 51 year resident of Beacon and formerly of Rye, entered into rest surrounded by her family at home on March 2, 2025. She was 78 years old.

She was born on July 18, 1946 in Rye, the daughter of the late John Skelly and Rita Hansen. On December 24, 1972 in Rye, she married Morton Plattner. After raising her daughters, Lauren and Alison, returned to work as a bank teller at several local area banks until her retirement. She enjoyed the theatre and traveling with Morty.

Sharon is survived by her devoted husband, Morty Plattner; her daughter, Lauren D'Onofrio and her husband,

John and their daughter, Amanda of Wappingers Falls; her daughter, Alison Polidore and her husband, BJ and their children, Haley and Hudson of Wappingers Falls; and her sister-in-law, Randy Plattner Krengel of Nyack.

Family and friends will gather on Friday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home at 12 p.m. Burial will follow at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

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

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

Lucrezia S. Chiero



Lucrezia S. Chiero, 95, an area resident for 20 years, died on February 25, 2025 at the Taconic at Hopewell. She previously lived in Yorktown.

Born in Mount Kisco on December 23, 1929, Lucrezia was the daughter of the late Francesco and Rose (Taylor) Servello. She was employed as a clerk at Reader's Digest for over 25 years until her retirement. She was a parishioner at St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill and enjoyed playing Bingo at the Fishkill Senior Center.

Lucrezia is survived by her daughter, Sandra Rivera and her husband Domingo; her son, Dominick Chiero; her grandchildren, Nicole and Chris, Johnny and

Michelle, Mark, Samantha and Sean, and Jayley; her great-grandchildren, Matthew, Savannah, Elise, Skylar, M.J., and Sebastian; and her brother, Francesco Servello, Jr.

In addition to her parents, Lucrezia was also predeceased by her loving husband, Dominick Chiero in 2003; and her daughter, Pauline Torrisi.

Calling hours were held on Friday, February 28 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, March 1 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill followed by burial at St. Francis Cemetery in Mount Kisco.

Donations may be made in memory of Lucrezia to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulnfuneralhome.com.

Conrad Zigmund Mayeski



Conrad Zigmund Mayeski, ("Connie") 78, passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center surrounded by family.

He was born in Lake Ariel, PA to the late Conrad Z. and Annastasia (Okupniarek) Mayeski. After graduating from North Pocono High School and working on the Mayeski family farm in PA, Conrad served his country in the United States Air Force from 1966-1970 and was deployed overseas in Europe which he really enjoyed. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the AFM, NDSM and AOM. Afterwards, Connie worked a career as a truck driver and was a passionate member of the Teamsters Union. He absolutely loved to drive a truck and in a career that covered millions of miles, he drove for Consolidated Freightways, UPS and other companies in addition to driving independently and as an owner/operator.

Connie had a great love for heavy machinery, farming and construction equipment, and of course semi-trucks and the nation's roads and highways. In his spare time, he loved to go RVing, traveling, and golfing. He also loved a good lite beer and hanging out with friends and family, particularly during the Christmas season. He really enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren to Disney World, tinkering in the garage with tractors, tools and model trains, and getting back to the family farm whenever he could. Connie had a gregarious personality and truly enjoyed socializing with everyone he met.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 26 years, Patricia L. Mayeski, his children, Ullrich C. Mayeski and his wife Kavonne of Nashville, TN, Carsten R. Mayeski and his wife Christine Connolly of Sharon, Lisa M. Kubik and her husband Tony of Westfield and Steven M. Sands of West Springfield, his grandchildren, Landrie Mayeski, Marin Mayeski, Decker Mayeski, Axel Mayeski, Edith Mayeski, Lulu Mayeski, Samuel Kubik and Jules Kubik. Additionally, he leaves his three brothers, Marty Mayeski of Beacon, NY, Donald Mayeski of Norfolk, VA and Michael Mayeski of Blakesley, PA and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Conrad's Liturgy of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at St. Mary's Church, 30 Bartlett St. Westfield. Burial with Military Honors followed in the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St. Agawam. Visiting hours were held in the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. Westfield, MA.

To send a personal condolence, please visit www.firtionadams.com.

Nicholas Joseph Maiolo



Nicholas Joseph Maiolo passed away on February 22, 2025 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He was 39. Nicholas was born on March 28, 1985 in Poughkeepsie, NY to Dominic Maiolo and Brenda (Pirtle) McClusky.

Nicholas was a caring person, a true gentleman who was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He had a big heart and always had a big smile on his face. He was a very hard worker and would always be there for anyone who needed him. In his spare time, he loved going to the Orange County Speedway to watch the races his uncle was in. He loved all animals, especially his dog Chevy who he shared an incredible bond with.

Nicholas was a brave and strong person who fought a valiant 39 year battle with congenital heart disease but he never let it slow him down or get in the way of doing what he liked to do. He recently received a new heart and liver where he continued that

valiant and brave pursuit of life and happiness.

Nicholas is survived by his father Dominic Maiolo, his mother Brenda McClusky, his stepfather Steven McClusky, his sister Christine Maiolo, his faithful companion Chevy, and many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandparents Dominic and Frances Maiolo, and Glen and Velma Pirtle.

Calling hours were held on Friday February 28th, 2025 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, 1089 Main St. Fishkill. A funeral service was held and followed by burial at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Please consider a donation in memory of Nicholas to the American Heart Association.

Lisa M. Simmons



Lisa M. Simmons, a resident of Fishkill, NY for the past 57 years passed away on February 20, 2025, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She was 60 years old.

Lisa was born on December 29, 1964, the daughter of the late Jerry and Jean (Colozzi) Simmons.

She was a long-time parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill, NY.

She worked in retail for a good part of her life and last worked at J.C. Penny in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Lisa loved her family fiercely and truly loved being an aunt and Great-Aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She loved the holidays and a good meal with family and friends.

Lisa is survived by her loving sister:

Linda and her husband Richard Johnson and her loving brother: Glenn and his wife Jennifer Simmons. She is also survived by 6 adoring nieces and nephews and 15 great nieces and great nephews.

Calling hours were Monday, February 24, 2025, at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc. 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated immediately following at St. Mary, Mother of the Church 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY.

Memorial donations can be made in Lisa's name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

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716 Barn Sale

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725 Collectibles

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Registration opens for Weekend Archery Classes at Bowdoin Park

Registration for the next round of Dutchess County Parks' popular weekend archery classes at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie will open March 12th at 9 a.m. Sessions begin on March 22nd and will take place at Bowdoin Park's archery range, located near Pavilion 4. The program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots to accommodate more students. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for

children ages 8 and up, and adults with any level of archery experience. Space is limited, so be sure to register early at www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

The first session will cover basic archery safety and skills for new participants. Most of the sessions will be spent practicing with the bows, allowing participants to learn through experience. All equipment is provided. The total cost for the program is \$70 per person and

includes all five classes and equipment. Dates and times for the archery sessions are:

Saturday, March 22
Saturday, April 12
Saturday, April 19
Saturday, May 17
Saturday, June 7

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.

Other naturalist programming, including group weekday Archery, Junior Survival, Scout Programs and School Field Trips are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling the Parks office at 845-298-4602.

For registration and programming information, visit DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

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Brother Laser Printer H-L L2395DW Print copy scan new cond. Asking \$75. Leave message. Contact Roseanne, 845-897-5812

**516
Misc.
Merchandise**

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Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105

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**900
Autos For
Sale**

2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084

2012 Jeep Wrangler 83,000 miles. Fantastic shape. Must see to appreciate. Many accessories including cover and tow package. Text 845-401-6648.

**903
Motorcycles**


1993 Harley Davidson FLHTC 1340cc, Black/Chrome, \$5,000 OBO. CALL: 845-554-6317

**904
Tires**

Hitch receiver for bike rack. Will fit any Prius. Excellent condition. New \$265, Now \$135. 845-896-5197

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BHS honor students for quarter 2 announced

The following students in Beacon High School have been announced as honor roll students for the 2nd quarter of the 2024-25 school year by the administration. The students are:

9th Grade Principal's Honor Roll

Owen Allee, Breannah Brace, Sarah Camara, Skylar Carr, Claire Cumming, Evelyn DePalma, Maysie Doyle, Saoirse Fehilly, Henry Gute, Maximilian Kong, Heidi Maeng, Justin Mann, Louise Mauks, Desmond McGrath, Uswah Mohammed Murtada, Zora Nicholls, James Reyes, Evangeline Santise, Hazel Schein, Violet Schilling, Shane Signorelli, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Caellum Tripaldi, Eliza Verdichizzi, Owen Youatt

9th Grade High Honor Roll

Kaylyn Adusei, Loreimi Alcantara, Abigail Atkins, Kiersten Barber, Madison Beltran, Lily Berry, Gavin Bruno, Noa Buckland, Hawah Camara, Lia Cosenitino, Jake DeLuise, Joseline Duran, Abilena Eriksmoen, Kyle Fairbanks, Christa George, McKenna Griffin, Jonah Hanby, Troi Harvey Semple, Jose Hernandez Caneo, Alejandro Herrera, Drew Kelly, Ruby Martin, Gabriel Montleon, Elise Moran, Claire Morgan, Emily Nivicela Jarama, Payton O'Connell, Oscar Pages, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Austin Ricketts, Maeve Rinaldi, Khloe Roci, Giana Rodriguez, Thalia Rodriguez, Isabella Ruffy, Nathaniel Salvati, Benjamin Seaman, Shea Tanaka, Derek Waltke, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Jude Williams, Hayden Wilson, Luna Yawman

9th Grade Honor Roll

Femmie Akinwunmi, Jacqueline Albra, Kiann Allen, Caden Balfour, Jayla Bunch, Anthony Castano, Amari Clarke, Zahara Cone, Eleanor Culler, Isabella Davila, Zoey Dreding, Andrea Delgado, Ramon Dewey-Brink, Ryan DiNobile, Kaileigh Edie, Leah Fahlman, SaRiah Faust, Tania Griffin, Anastacia Guzman, Zoe Hammond, Jayden Harrison, Brianna Hunt, Leon Kalijani, Bethlee Manzano Cabello, Josue Martell, Victoria Maruggi, Shayne Maxaner, Oliver Meyer, Stephen Miller, Braelyn Milligan, Jessica Moroch Llivipuma, Henry Mulligan, Ismael Munoz, Catherine Musorofiti, Brandon O'Dell, Thyler Patino Albarracin, Luca Ragone, Caleb Ramirez, Stephanie Ramon, Charelle Ritter-Hazel, Bowie Roy, Hunter Smith, Jaliyah Soto, Olivia Viola, Julie Vogrincic, Cayden Williams, Trey Zapencki, Josefina Zezza

10th Grade Principal's Honor Roll

Mikayla Acevedo, Maayan Alon, Atlas Baltz, Charlotte Bowen, Myasia Burch, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Theodore Concepcion, Caroline Diaz, Travis Dickston, Elijah Epps, Fionn Fehilly, Khloe Franklin, Kayla Gerades, Emilio Guerra, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Miguel Herrera, Shaun Jabar, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Lily Mack, Ash Marcus, Ethan Maxaner, Victoria McKay, Isaac McKible, Lily Murr, Levi Partlow, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Finn Simons, Elias Smith, Declan Sprague, Januario Stageman, Elliott Thorne, Isaac Tschang, Jesse Vermeulen, Parker White, Julie Whittemore

10th Grade High Honor Roll

Lauren Antonucci, Molly-Rose Archer, Emma Bellis, Tamirnesh Bernstein, Savannah Brace, Casey Brandstrom, Aniyah Brown, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Zamaya Cone, Mateo Cruz, Angeleah Decker, Naim Dika, Ka'Dera Elliott, Khordae Facey, Adriana Fazioli, Lily Figlia, William Flynn, Maliah Graham, Julian Hannah, Abigail Haydt, Ryan Huynh, Mary Lopez, Molly Lyons, Kaycee Matos, Shyanne McNair, Gianna Mercer, Joseph Pallone, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Stella Reinke, Olivia Reynolds, Julian Rivers, Abdul-Rahman Sayibu, Katherine Sendelbach, Caleb Smith, Tabitha Smith-White, Harper Strang, Gavin Troiano, Farrah VanCott, Connor Varricchio, Nolan Varricchio, Rudolph Vergolina, Fabiola Vogrincic, Aslynn Way, Lila Welsh, Aine Woods, Ny'el Woods

10th Grade Honor Roll

Savannah Acuti, Cecilia Allee, Giovanna Bottiglieri, Juniper Breault, Hartley Brickman, Jayden Concepcion, Misleidy Cruz Cruz, Akeelah Curry, Magdalena del Puerto-Vitti, Ethan Diaz, Victoria Diaz, Abigail Durkin, Daniel Echevarria, Hailey Fish, Hudson Fontaine, Brandon Fremer, Ayham Ghazzawi, August Hayes, Cole Heath, Elidonya Hudson, Yianniz Male, Adriana Manzano Cabello, Ryan Mowen, Lakota Newman, Octavian Paulin, Madelyn

Pellerin, Brady Philipbar, Amari Powell, Bella Ridore, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Sebastian Roquel, Za'layni Shand, Jamir Spence, Kiarra Tice, Brevin Timm, Piper Yewchuck

11th Grade Principal's Honor Roll

Madison Abrahamson, Nadeen Ahmed, Alianna Aljaj, Farhana Antora, Alexander Browning, Skylar Clair, Christian Clay, Peter Cohen, Tye Elias, Jonah Espinosa, Marisha George, Samiha Golden, Zenia Haris, Alina Joseph, Oren Kelleher, Gabrielle Khalil, Savana Kush, Aril McKee, Oscar McKible, Mira Miller, Annabelle Notarthomas, Liliana Rybak, Anna Sevastianova

11th Grade High Honor Roll

Emanuele Bagala, Logan Blum, James Bouchard III, Ella Brill, Parker Capawana, Lola Ciccone, Teo Fairbanks, Gabriel Godbee, Jeremiah Hardwell Jr., Dylan Hetrick, Ruby Hotchkiss, Milo Isabell, Vincent Joao Jr., Griffin Kitzrow, Kiran Kumar, Carlos Lampoon III, Aron Li, Brayden Manning, Nora Marshall, Alma Mart, Nolan O'Malley, Adrien Okoye, Caleb Pfetzing, Julius Sala, Zachary Schetter, Kayla Selander, Thomas Senior, Wilmer Sinchi Jimbo, Jonathan Trentacosta, Alexander Young

11th Grade Honor Roll

Macy Alencastro, Eduardo Arellano, Ashland Assael, Mira Bagriyanik, Lacianna Brown, Serenity Bunn, Mackenzie Campbell, Alistair Cunningham, Alejandro Flores Urza, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Grace Hockler, Ayden Hooten, Jaden Jones, Everly Jordan, Taylor Kelliher, Maceo Koerner, Prince Langford-Jones, Tania Lindsay, Aiden Montleon, Brea O'Flaherty, Roman Proft, Julian Sala, Katrina Skorewicz, Desirae Smith, Aiden Specker, Gannon Statini-Perez, Clive Stewart, Ri'Kya White

12th Grade Principal's Honor Roll

Beckett Anderson, Anabelle Arginsky, Taryn Beardsley, Isabel Bunker, Tayler Finley, Willa Freedman, Messiah Gardner, Mackenzie Harman, Jeannae Jean Francois, Lani Lopez, Josephine Mallon, Addison Miller, Bethany Rudolph, Gabriel Salcedo, Anastasia Santise, Serena Stampleman, Ava Zeoli, Francis Zezza

12th Grade High Honor Roll

Kendall Alston, Sally Betterbid, Daniel Bridges, Lila Burke, Christine Chen, Avery Davis, Evelina Dieboll, Amir Figueiroa, Lucas Foret, Ja'mes Gorden, Arianna Gowie, Fallon Groza, Bailey Hernandez, Sarah Jaafar, Karma Jones, Charlie Klein, Allen McKay, Jada Medley, Emma Merola, Genan Mohammed Murtada, Ronan Moran, Nathan Richardson, Daveya Rodriguez, Breanna Rudolph, Katherine Ruffy, Chloe Sheffield, Jacob Signorelli, Jax Spodek, Natalia Sulsona, Amya Thompson, Sortia Tripaldi, Sharod Tuggle, Sevana West, Joseph Williams

12th Grade Honor Roll

Riley Adnams, Mason Alencastro, Matthew Apostolou Jr., Isabella Baffuto, Kevin Beal, Jude Betancourt, Devin Byrne, Jaidyn Caccamo, Sofia Diaz, Justin Gerard, AvaMaria Gianna, X-Havier Gonzalez, Autumn Hoppe, Lee Humphreys, Samuel Hutchison, Jalen Jackson, Brady Juhn, Vincent Komer, Rory LaDue, Reilly Landisi, Rowan Lane, Ariana Maldonado, Mark McCabe, Paige McCredo, Ryann Meyer, Madison Mianti, Annalea Miller, Darryl Montgomery Jr., Rory Mowen,

Amelia Padilla, Lindsay Pedersen, Geordan Penn, Josue Pintado, Albion Qelaj, Shilo Reynolds, Mehr Sagri, Jenna Serino, Kayli Shand, Makhi Smith, Serenity Smith, Emma Soltish, Jayla Soto, Mika-Gisselle Tates, Rayana Taylor, Roque Vianna, Holly Whittemore, Malcolm Wilson, Charles Zellinger

Boces CTI Honor Roll

Jeremiah Hardwell, Aiden Montleon,

Aiden Nieves, Savannah Ray, Nathan Richardson, Julius Sala, Anibal Soto, Sevana West, Joseph Williams

Boces CTI High Honor Roll

Aiden Buggs, Ahmaria Bunn, Serenity Bunn, Amaya Hernandez, Darryl Montgomery Jr., Julia McGuire-Soellner, Brianna Perez-Sample, Michael Ramos, Codie Reinoehl, Thomas Senior, Makhi Smith, Rihanna Taylor, Matthew Tumidaj.

Beacon Elks acknowledge RMS students' achievements



Members of Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognized the Rombout Middle School Students of the Month for December 2024 and January 2025 during a certificate ceremony held on Feb. 12.

Pictured are Sharon Haviland, Esteemed Loyal Knight; December students Jose Santiago (6th Grade), Kevin Vogrincic (7th Grade), Paris Roman (8th Grade); and January students Vincent Pulcastro (6th Grade), Asa Partlow (7th Grade), Callie Winther (8th Grade), Jeanine McAuley, Esteemed Leading Knight, and Cathy Oken, Youth Activities Chair.

Students that are recognized as Elks Students of the Month are nominated by their teacher(s) based on their commitment, participation, kindness, initiative, and being supportive, and for their focus, effort, leadership, and willingness to learn.

"Our Student of the Month program recognizes hard work and dedication by the student, with the overall goal of encouraging students to continue their great work," said Michael Zanzarella, Exalted Ruler, Beacon Elks Lodge #1493.

Student of the Month recipients receive a Certificate of Achievement and a gift certificate to a local business. Beacon Elks thank Glazed Over Donuts for sponsoring this month's students of the month.

-Courtesy photo by Beacon Elks

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The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-13-25 Bus Shelter Advertising Services for Dutchess County Public Transit

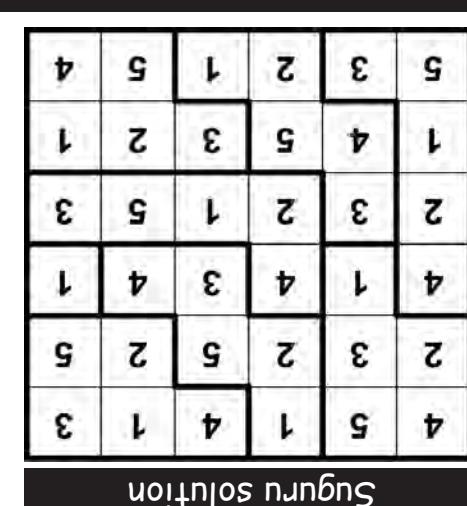
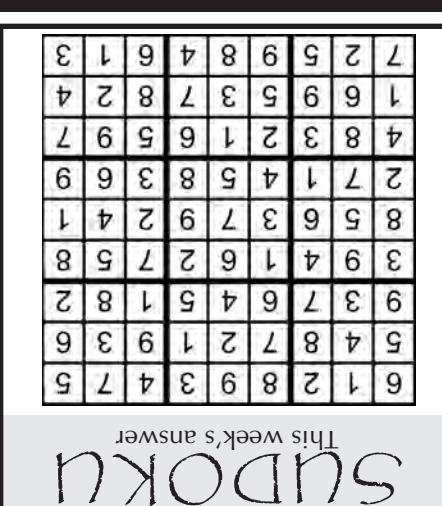
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Legal Notices

Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., March 27, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions 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 Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.

this week's puzzle solutions



Diversions

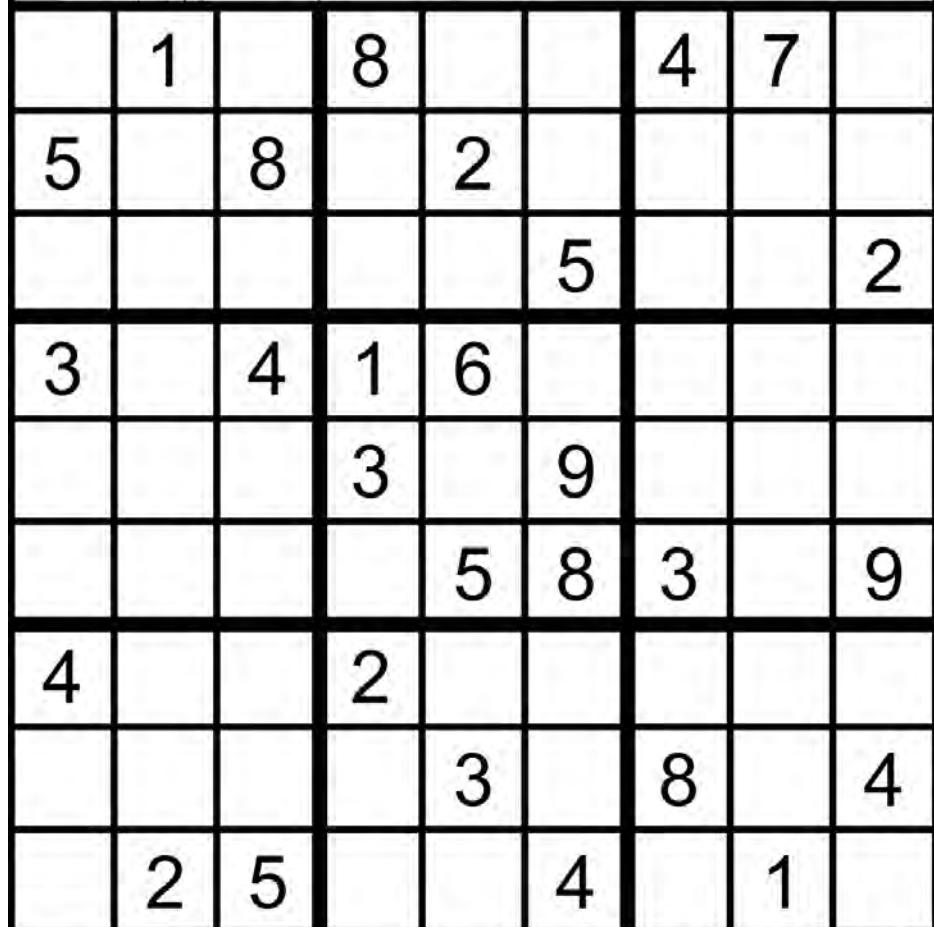
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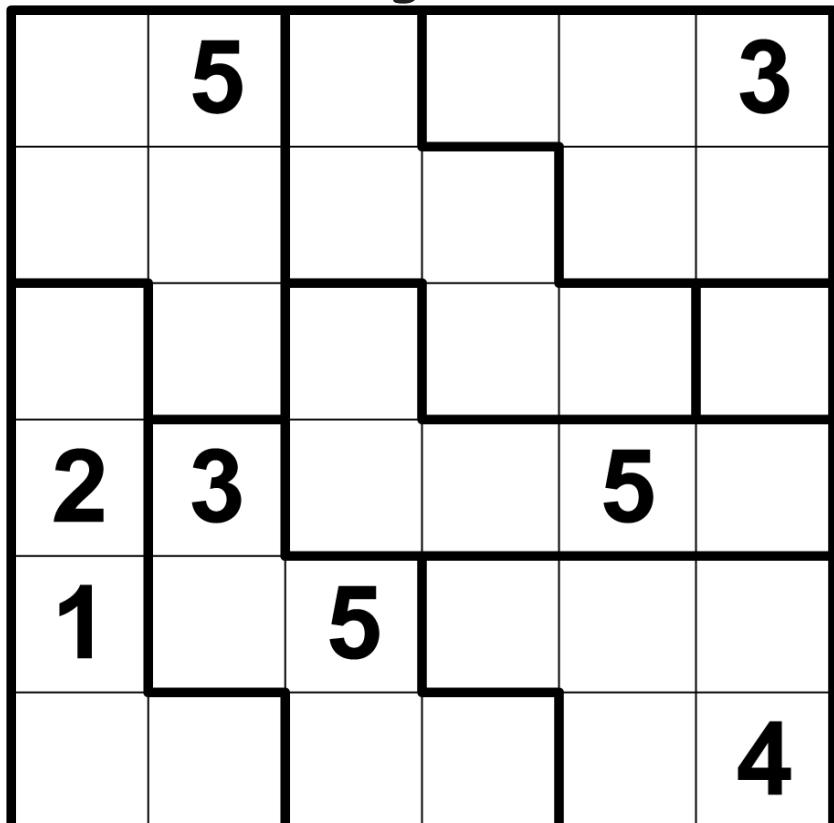
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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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: THE OSCARS

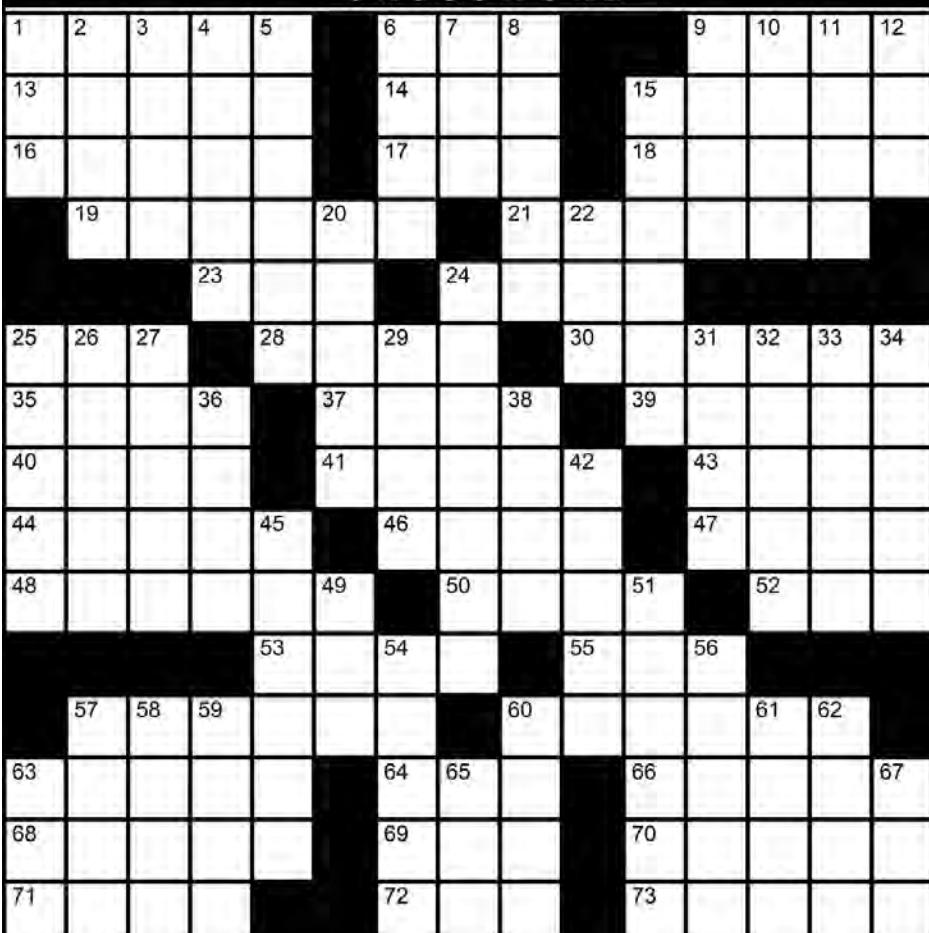
ACROSS

- 1/10
- European tourist tax, acr.
- "Germinal" author Émile
- Bye, in Paris
- Bigheadedness
- Relating to wine, arch.
- Tabletop mountains
- H+, e.g.
- Large key on the right
- ** Boys"
- Emilia Pérez" leading actress
- H in HMS, sometimes
- Kids' get-away
- Like certain Four
- Queen of Carthage
- Razzed
- Scary fairytale creature
- Soft drink
- Like certain egg order
- Sir Mix- -
- Sean Baker's original screen-play
- Loyal, arch.
- Caldecott award
- Ascus, pl.
- AI's learning material
- Harry ___, once of One Direction
- Wearing footgear
- *At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just ___"
- Sushi restaurant libation
- Unit of length of yarn
- This year's Academy Awards host
- Elphaba and Galinda story
- Antique shop item
- Metal-bearing rock
- Mountain nymph
- Southeast Asian org.
- Lavatory, abbr.
- * Theatre
- Whimper
- Sodium hydroxide
- Follow

DOWN

- Scottish cap
- Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
- Not yet final, at law
- Mold a mind
- Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
- Bride's cover
- Opposite of hence
- Polynesian kingdom
- Zn
- "I'm ___ you!"
- Property right
- Acronym, abbr.
- Evening worship
- "All My Children" vixen
- Invoice qty.
- Colossus, pl.
- Fizzes
- End of a shoelace
- *The Brutalist" leading actor
- Spanish lady
- Old, in Scottish
- Go stealthily
- Related on mother's side
- *Chalamet's role
- Et alibi, abbr.
- St. Louis' Gateway
- Garlicky mayonnaise
- Acne, technically
- Famous frat house
- Crack
- Grassy mound
- Ohio metropolis
- Yorkshire river
- Tea or beer
- Iranian money
- We have
- Mature elvers
- Dabu-___, chili pepper condiment
- Operator's equip.
- *Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
- Yellow #5, e.g.

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

30th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade held in Wappingers Falls



Spectators watch the 30th annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade that was held on March 1 in Wappingers Falls.

One of the dogs in attendance at the parade.

Bagpipers from the Hudson Valley Regional Police play their musical instruments.

The Police Emerald Society of the Hudson Valley participates in the annual event.

Firefighters from Wappingers Falls Fire Department converse with paradegoers.

A member of the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band from Cold Spring in Putnam County entertains the crowd.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Color Guard carries the colors.

The incorporation of the Town of Wappinger 150 years ago was celebrated with a "cake" float and a display of clothes worn throughout the decades.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

get growing!

by mark adams



Pleasant Valley Community Gardens

Boundless enthusiasm and hopes for another bountiful year

"There is nothing more exciting than watching seeds germinate." When Janice Novet, co-president with Sandra Larkin of Pleasant Valley Community Gardens (PVCG) told me this, I wasn't sure whether to feel sorry for her, or to admire her boundless enthusiasm. After all we were at the PVCG monthly meeting. Janice really is one of the most enthusiastic people I've ever met.

Pleasant Valley Community Gardens is in its third season at the Helen Aldrich Park in Salt Point. In its first two years, the all-volunteer garden team (currently 20 active members) donated 3,300 pounds of vegetables to local food banks, including the Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry.

The February 11 meeting at the Pleasant Valley Library included a tutorial on seed starting by member Bill Fischer, which no doubt precipitated Janice's burst of enthusiasm. Bill brought his equipment and a supply of seeds to pass out to the group, all of whom are real gardeners, priding themselves on raising the garden plants directly from seed.

Here's how Bill does it:

1. Fill a shallow tray with potting mix. Pro-mix or Miracle Gro, for example.

2. Make depressions only where seed

will go.

3. Plant the seeds and label. Note – lettuce seed should be sown on top, since it needs light to germinate.

4. Water until moist.

5. Place a clear plastic humidity dome over the tray.

6. Remove the dome after seeds have come up.

7. Keep the seedlings well-lighted and don't allow them to dry out.

8. Fertilize after they have grown with water soluble fertilizer.

Bill recommends moving the trays of seedlings outside for a few hours on warm days, to toughen them up, until it's time to plant them in the garden. Someone asked about heat mats that are made for starting seeds. The consensus among the members was that they are not absolutely necessary, except maybe for peppers, which need extra warmth to germinate.

The garden covers 8,300 square feet (approximately 80 x 100), fenced in for protection from deer. Irrigation is a challenge, since there is no well or electricity on site. The town provides water that is pumped into a collection of big tubs scattered around the garden. Volunteer Dave Talbot has engineered a drip system to siphon the water to each individual plant.



At a recent meeting of the Pleasant Valley Community Gardens, Bill Fischer demonstrates how to start seeds.

-Photo by Mark Adams



A volunteer works in the gardens, which last year donated 3,300 pounds of vegetables to local food banks.

-Courtesy photo

Not a perfect solution, because there's not much pressure, but it is ingenious.

More volunteers are always welcome. The PVCG website <https://pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com/> invites potential volunteers or interested visitors to attend the Wednesday or Saturday morning activities at the garden starting, probably, in late March, weather permitting. Or stop in at the organizational meetings the first Thursday of the month at the Pleasant Valley Library.

Don't miss the PVCG winter gala, 7-9 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley. Music by Bob Arthurs and Steve LaMattina. \$15 admission gets you some light refreshments and permission to bring your own wine.

Speaking of Galas, save the date for the 17th annual Beatrix Farrand Garden Bellefield Design Lecture, Sunday, June 1, at 2 p.m., at the Wallace Center, FDR National Historic Site in Hyde Park. This year's speaker is Jonathan Kavalier, director of Gardens and Grounds at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C.

I will give out more details in a separate article closer to the date. Stay tuned.

And speaking of wine, I was a member of a three-person team that visited legislators in Albany last week to advocate for farmer-friendly legislation. The other members were fruit grower Jim Bittner and Sam Filler, the executive director of the N.Y. Wine and Grape Foundation. We understand that international trade is a federal, not a state issue, but nevertheless, Filler was dismayed at the prospect of a trade war with Canada. In 2024, \$700 million of U.S. Wine went to Canada, including a big chunk of New York's production. According to Filler, a wildcat boycott is already under way, with the same Canadians who are booing our national anthem refusing to buy our wine. At the very least, our state legislators, along with N.Y. Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball, need to make their voices heard in Washington.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

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