

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

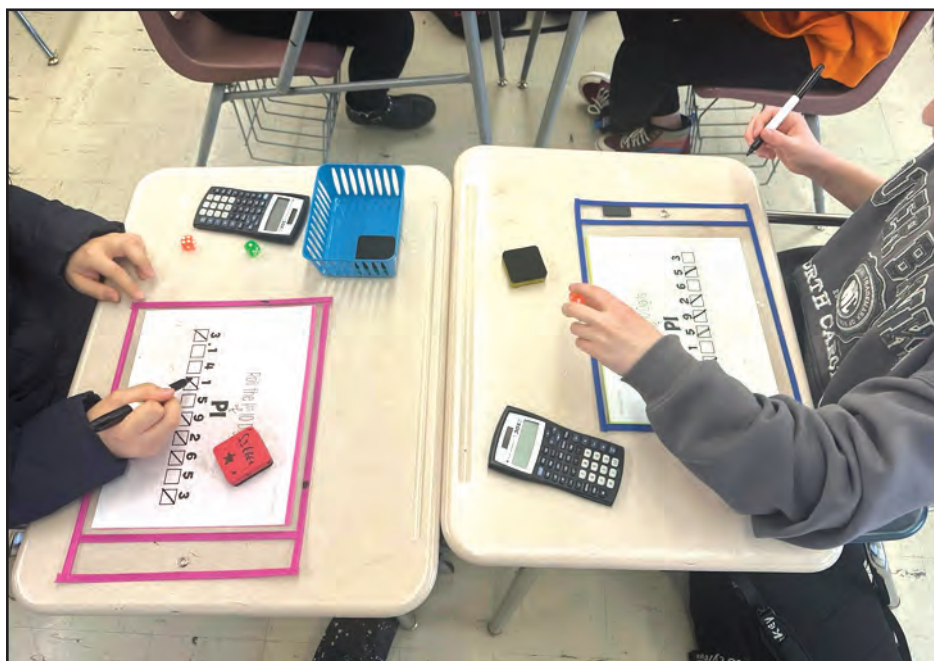
BEACON FREE PRESS

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May 8, 2024

SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HOLD ELECTIONS

BCSD voters to decide on budget, 3 propositions



Voters in the Beacon City School District will vote on the budget, candidates for the Board of Education and three propositions on May 21.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter

Beacon City School District voters will head to the polls regarding the 2024-25 budget on May 21. Polls are open from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Voters who live within the City of Beacon boundaries vote at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd., in Beacon. Registered voters who live within the towns of Fishkill and Wappinger boundaries will vote at Glenham Elementary School, 20 Chase Dr., in Fishkill.

“The proposed budget is \$83,855,000

and increase of 3.09%” from the 2023-24 budget, said Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl. There are no new hires in this budget and no layoffs either, he noted.

What can an average household expect to increase or decrease if the vote is passed?

“If the budget passes, a homeowner with a median valued home will pay an average of \$100 more per year,” according to the

Continued on page 3



Wappingers Central School District voters will have their say on the 2024-25 Budget on May 21.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Voters in WCSD to have say on finances

By Kristine Coulter

The registered voters of the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) will have a chance to vote on the 2024-25 Budget on Tuesday, May 21. Polls are open from 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. They will also choose Board of Education members and vote on the propositions on the ballot.

There are six poll sites in the WCSD:

- Vassar Road Elementary School
- Wappingers Junior High School
- Fishkill Elementary School
- Fishkill Plains Elementary School
- Gayhead Elementary School
- Myers Corners Elementary School

Continued on page 3

Verplanck Garden Club to host plant sale in time for Mother's Day

By Kristine Coulter

Moms are special people. Need a way to celebrate a mom in your life this year? Stop by the Verplanck Garden Club's annual Plant Sale. The sale, conveniently scheduled for May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, inside the Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, in Fishkill.

Members of the garden club will be selling some of the perennials from their own gardens. There will be annuals, flowering baskets, and herbs available for purchase.

The sale is co-chaired by Prudy Robisch and Deb McLiverty. “This year we will have more hanging baskets, more annuals and more perennials from the members' gardens,” Robisch and McLiverty stated to Beacon Free Press.



The Verplanck Garden Club will host its annual Plant Sale on May 11 at the Fishkill Town Hall. It is just in time for Mother's Day.

-Courtesy photo

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Plant Sale in Fishkill on May 11



Continued from cover

The number of garden club members “has grown in the past couple of years,” said Prudy Robisch. As for why people keep attending the annual plant sale year after year, Robisch replied, “Our plants are very well priced. And they’re very healthy.”

“People are very passionate about native plants and pollinators,” said McLiverty.

During the sale, there will also be other gifts for mom, or other special people in one’s life, for sale. There will be artwork to peruse. Attendees can take part in the raffles that will be taking place.

There will be a local master gardener at the sale to assist attendees with any of their questions or to offer ideas.

Suppliers from the local area will also be at the event.

For more information, visit The Verplanck Garden Club Facebook page.

Left, the Annual Plant Sale will be held by the Verplanck Garden Club on May 11 at the Fishkill Town Hall in the Town of Fishkill. Pictured are flowers from a previous year’s sale.

-Courtesy photos

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER’S DAY

For these ladies, maternal instincts are forever

By Rich Thomaselli

This Mother’s Day, this is for the moms who never stopped being a mom.

No matter how long their kids might be out of the house, no matter whether they started their own families, or if society now calls them empty nesters, moms never stop being a mom.

They care, and their natural tendency is to help.

“It the greatest job, and I use that term loosely, because I never looked at it as a job, that I’ll ever have,” says Kathy

Tomlinson of Poughkeepsie.

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 12.

“I have three children who have their own families, and I have three grandchildren now,” says Gina Moriarty of Hopewell Junction, “but I don’t think I will ever stop being a mom. Things have changed and evolved over the years, but you still have the same maternal instincts.”

“You never stop being a mother,” says Hyde Park’s Andrea Formicello.

To a person, moms say that they never

lose that responsibility. As one woman put it, it’s almost like attaining the rank of general. People are always going to refer to you as general and mothers are the same way. They are proud to have that designation and wear that title with honor.

They help with book reports, they drive back and forth to practices, and they volunteer. Let’s not even get started with picking up dirty clothes and doing laundry.

The responsibilities and extracurricu-

lars might change, but the roles remain the same.

“Unless you are a parent,” Tomlinson said, “you have no idea what it feels like to be called Mom or Dad.”

Mary D’Allesandro of Wappingers Falls said it is a quiet satisfaction to revel in the success and triumphs of her children and grandchildren.

“That,” she says, “is when you know you’ve done a great job as a mother and can take a sense of accomplishment.”

Happy Mother’s Day!

Master Gardener Volunteers

31st Annual

PLANT SALE

Rain or Shine!

Friday, May 17th, 2024 10am-4pm
Saturday, May 18th, 2024 9am-2pm

Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables & Herbs
 Loads of New Varieties!

Our volunteers grow and sell a wide variety of annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs. Some of these varieties are “tried and true” favorites, others are exciting new introductions.

This is our primary fundraiser and we count on your support!

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
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 For additional info visit:
<https://ccedutchess.org/gardening/ccedc-mgv-spring-plant-sale>
 or call (845)677-8223 x115

Voters in WCSD to have say on finances

Continued from cover

Find One's Polling Location

Check the address label affixed to the back page of the *Wappingers Budget Newsletter*, which is mailed to homes during the first week of May.

Enter your home address in the Voter Information Portal to find your location.

A voter must be: permanent resident of the district for at least 30 days immediately prior to the vote; 18 years of age or older; a U.S. citizen; and registered with the school district or the Dutchess/Putnam County Board of Elections (depending on county of residence)

"We are very pleased to present this budget to the taxpayers. Our community expects—and deserves—two things: a top-quality education and school system, and a school budget that is mindful of the burden on taxpayers. We are proud to offer both!" said WCSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dwight Bonk. "This student-centered budget allows ALL students to reach their highest academic, social, and emotional potential; it not only maintains services, but adds additional support in a variety of areas including school safety, student opportunities, career and technical education, academic intervention and enrichment programs, and the con-

tinued focus on the enhancement of the delivery of programs and services throughout our District in an effective and efficient manner."

Bonk explained, "It is my belief that this budget is fiscally responsible: through thoughtful and intentional planning, we have been able to continuously provide quality programs and services while staying below the tax cap. The 2024-2025 school district budget is \$305,851,033. This is a 3.26% levy-to-levy increase, which is 1.39% below the maximum allowable tax cap. This is the third year in a row that the District has been able to offer a budget below the tax cap by utilizing grants, savings from fund balance, and State Aid to offset the cost to the taxpayer."

After a careful review of programs and services, we are taking the initiative to spend \$7.9 M[illion] of our fund balance, to be responsive to the needs of the taxpayers while still maximizing services to students. The 2024-2025 general fund budget includes the addition of approximately 9 positions, including a school counselor, teachers, school security officers, and an athletic trainer," said Bonk. It was also noted by the superintendent, "There are no personnel reductions in the 2024-2025 budget."

If the budget fails, the Board of Education has three options:

- Adopt a contingency budget
- Revote the same budget
- Revote a revised budget

The date for a budget revote is June 18.

What a contingency budget would do:

A contingency budget removes all expenses that are not ordinary and contingent (i.e., equipment), said Bonk. This equates to a \$13,915,427 reduction from the current proposed budget.

Board of Education candidates

There are four candidates seeking three vacancies on the WCSD Board of Education.

The candidates are:

- Virgil Capollari
- Christopher Costabile
- Michael McFarland
- John S. Morgan

Current board member James Spencer is not seeking re-election, according to the WCSD Clerk.

Bus proposition on the ballot

"The voters will also get to vote on a bus purchase proposition in the amount of \$2,668,863. The proposal would include a replacement of 8 large buses and the purchase of 15 vans. The District uses 5-year revolving bond anticipation notes (BAN) to finance the purchase of school vehicles," said Bonk.

Adding a bus purchase proposition annu-

ally to the ballot allows for consistency in budgeting for the related bus BAN principle payments in the General Fund – as only the change in proposition amount is adjusted in the General Fund budget, he said.

The bus proposition expense is aidable annually.

The 2024-2025 bus purchase proposition would result in a net cost of approximately \$74,365 starting in the 2025-2026 school year – which is approximately \$3,276 more than 2023-2024 for Bus BAN payments.

One can see on YouTube: Budget Ballot Presentation Video

Additional information can be accessed at the following: www.wappingerschools.org for polling locations and other voter information on the 2024-2025 Budget page. One can also view presentations, see last year's budget, and more.

One may also find out about Absentee Ballots, Early Mail In Ballots and Military Ballots on the District's website.

A Community Forum is scheduled for Monday, May 13, at 5 p.m. at the Roy C. Ketcham High School Library, Myers Corners Rd., in Wappingers Falls. This is a State Mandated Public Hearing, according to Bonk.

For questions and comments, one may email: budget@wcsdny.org.

BCSD voters to decide on budget, propositions

Continued from cover

superintendent. If the budget fails, he said, "If the budget fails, the Board of Education can decide to have a revote in June or go to contingency."

Propositions on ballot

Voters will also vote on propositions on the ballot.

One of the propositions is regarding EV buses. "Last year we asked the taxpayers to vote to approve the purchase of an EV bus with a maximum cost of \$466,000, only if we receive a subsidy of \$250,000. The proposition passed but the cost of the EV bus increased to \$495,000," explained Landahl.

The proposition on the ballot this year will be asking the taxpayers to purchase two electric vehicle buses with a maximum cost of \$990,000 only if the BCSD receives a subsidy of \$400,000, stated Landahl. "The district did apply and was approved for a

subsidy of \$257,500 for two buses from the NY School Bus Incentive Voucher Program (NYSBIP)," he said.

The proposition reads as follows: "Shall the bond resolution authorizing the purchase of two zero-emission school buses at a maximum cost of \$990,000 (\$495,000 per bus), but only if the District receives subsidies of at least \$400,000 (\$200,000 per bus); authorizing the issuance of up to \$990,000 bonds (5 year maximum maturity) and, with respect to such bonds, providing for a tax levy therefor in annual installments; pledging the District's faith and credit for debt service; delegating powers with respect to bonds and notes; and providing for an estoppel procedure, be approved?"

There is another proposition to purchase three 72 passenger gas buses. Landahl said, "These buses will be financed over five years to be aligned with the transportation state aid we receive."

The proposition states the following: "Shall the bond resolution authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum cost of \$485,000; authorizing the issuance of up to \$485,000 bonds (5 year maximum maturity) and, with respect to such bonds, providing for a tax levy therefor in annual installments; pledging the District's faith and credit for debt service; delegating powers with respect to bonds and notes; and providing for an estoppel procedure, be approved?"

Voters will also decide on a \$49,950,000 Capital Project.

The following is what the proposition states: "Shall the bond resolution authorizing a School District Improvement Program at a maximum cost of \$49,950,000; authorizing the use of \$500,000 capital reserve funds, the issuance of up to \$49,450,000 bonds (30 year maximum maturity) and, with respect

to such bonds, providing for a tax levy therefor in annual installments; pledging the District's faith and credit for debt service; delegating powers with respect to bonds and notes; and providing for an estoppel procedure, be approved?"

Choose 3 of 4 candidates

Voters will choose three members to the Board of Education. Two of the terms commence July 1 and expire June 30, 2027. One term will begin right away, to finish the term of former board member John Galloway Jr.

The candidates are: LaVonne McNair, Flora Stadler, Megan Phillips and Christopher Lewine. Stadler is currently on the board. Stadler is the vice president of the BOE. Yunice Heath, a current board member, is not seeking re-election.

For more information, visit: <https://www.beaconk12.org>.

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Viewpoints

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
- 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.
- 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.

Grateful to Beacon schools, Key Food for supporting mental health awareness campaign

To the Editor:

I Am Beacon extends a heartfelt appreciation to Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, and Key Food for their support in NAMI's Mental Health Awareness Campaign. The participation of these institutions and business will be instrumental in raising awareness about mental health resources available through NAMI Mid-Hudson and fostering crucial conversations within our community.

The dedication and efforts of the Rombout Middle School Student Council and volunteers—Roberto, Zahara, Caellum, Davia, and Madison—are especially commendable. Over the course of 2 sessions, the students were able to build and place the ribbons for the campaign. Special thanks are also extended to Mrs. (Kimberly) Gonzalez, Ms. (Andonia) Karnavezos, and the entire school administration for their leadership and support.

Furthermore, I Am Beacon expresses deep gratitude to Key Food for their participation in the NAMI Mental Health Awareness Campaign. Key Food's commitment to displaying ribbons serves as a powerful testament to their dedication to promoting mental health awareness and fostering a supportive community environment.

The NAMI Mental Health Awareness Campaign aims to combat the stigma surrounding mental illness and highlight the resources available for individuals and families in need of support. The collective efforts of Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, and Key Food underscore the importance of community collaboration in addressing mental health challenges and promoting open dialogue around this critical issue.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support received from Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, and Key Food," stated Reuben Simmons, Executive Director at I Am Beacon. "Their involvement highlights the power of community solidarity in advocating for mental health awareness and support."

The campaign's impact extends far beyond symbolism, serving as a beacon of hope and solidarity for those navigating mental health struggles. By standing together and promoting inclusivity and support, we can create a more compassionate and resilient community for all.

I Am Beacon looks forward to continuing its partnership with Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, Key Food, and other community stakeholders to promote mental health awareness and advocate for vital resources.

Brooke M. Simmons
I Am Beacon, Board President

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Vote Capollari for Wappingers BOE

To the Editor:

Virgil Capollari is currently running for the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education. If elected, he will be a great contribution to the District and the community. Virgil is a decorated military veteran, who brings 25 years of noted public service.

Locally, he represents and serves other veterans as Chair of the Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Committee and an officer in the VFW Victor L. Bracone Post 5913, located in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Currently, Virgil volunteers on the following District Committees: Capital Improvement, Legislative Action and District-Wide Safety Committee. Being a member of those committees, I can say that his participation has shown to be invaluable, especially with regard to ensuring that our student's well-being and opportunity to succeed are at the epicenter of his thoughts and recommendations.

Virgil is a caring, practical and highly intelligent individual, who appreciates, always considers multiple perspectives and always collaborates accordingly. He has shown himself to be a man of high character for whom I have the most trust and confidence that Virgil will always do the right thing. Please note that I fully support Virgil's candidacy for a position on the Wappingers School Board of Education.

John Lumia
President, WCSD Board of Education

NYS Budget includes Jacobson's FAFSA bill

A bill sponsored by Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) to expand opportunity for high school students by helping them access scholarships and grants was included in the recently enacted State budget.

The new rule requires high school seniors to either complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or sign a waiver. Most colleges and universities require the FAFSA to qualify for financial aid.

"We shouldn't have another generation of students, or another year, leaving over \$200 million in financial aid on the table annually," said Jacobson. "It's very simple here — the biggest obstacle to attending college is the cost. The way to cut down the cost is to have grants and scholarships. The way you get grants and scholarships is to first fill out the FAFSA."

The bill sponsored by Jacobson (A8953) also proposed that high school seniors had to complete the FAFSA. The form unlocks access to money like

Federal Pell Grants, which can provide a student up to \$7,395 per year. But not all students are taking advantage.

"By completing the FAFSA, students will know how much money in grants and student aid is available, and many will realize that college is affordable," Jacobson said.

With this requirement in place, Jacobson will now work to ensure that school districts offer support to complete the form. "It isn't enough to make FAFSA a requirement — we also have a responsibility to help students and their families navigate the process," he said. "It should be manageable for all applicants."

This bill is one of several pieces of legislation sponsored by Jacobson related to helping expand opportunities for New York's students. Jacobson also proposed a bill requiring high school students to take a class in financial literacy before graduation (A2298) and a bill expanding the Excelsior Scholarship program to part-time students at colleges or BOCES (A946).

Assemblyman Anil Beephan opposes proposed OSHA regulations, says threat to volunteer firefighters

Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. submitted formal public comment on April 23rd opposing the proposed OSHA-2007-0073-0788 regulations, highlighting the potential detrimental effects they could have on volunteer firefighters in emergency services across the State of New York.

The Association of Fire Districts in conjunction with the Firefighters Association for New York (FASNY), has approached Beephan, he stated, expressing grave concerns about the adverse consequences that the proposed regulations may impose on volunteer firefighters who are already operating under strain.

If enacted, these additional obligations, ranging from heightened administrative costs to intensified training requirements, equipment inspections, and facility renovations, would place an unwarranted strain on already stretched resources, many of which need to grapple with resource deficiencies,

according to the assemblyman.

Drawing from his firsthand experience as a former volunteer firefighter, Beephan and his team have submitted a formal letter of opposition to OSHA, urging the agency to collaborate closely with local organizations to strike a balance between safety and the practicality of implementing new regulations.

Beephan emphasized, "Having served as a volunteer firefighter myself, I understand the challenges and sacrifices that these brave men and women make to keep our communities safe. It is imperative that any regulatory changes take into account the unique circumstances faced by volunteer firefighters and work in partnership with local organizations to develop solutions that prioritize both safety and operational feasibility."

A formal letter of opposition was submitted by Beephan's office, along with a letter addressed to members of the New York delegation of Congress.

'Power to the People' set for May 16 at Cunneen-Hackett in Poughkeepsie

"Power to the People!" will be held on Thursday, May 16, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Cunneen-Hackett Center in Poughkeepsie. This is a League of Women Voters Education & Networking Event. Light refreshments will be available.

The League of Women Voters, throughout New York State, is a partner with New Yorkers for Equal Rights, in educating the public about the upcoming New York State Constitutional Ballot Initiative to

ensure equal rights for everyone regardless of gender, age, disability status or cultural background.

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the New York State League of Women Voters will be the guest speaker to explain the ballot initiative and how others can spread the word to encourage people to get out and vote. Additional information can be found: <https://lwvny.org/nys-equal-rights-amendment/>.

Police: Investigating 20-year-old male shot, non-life-threatening wound

The Beacon Police Department responded to the area of South Avenue Park for a report of gunshots around 11 p.m. on May 2, according to a release from City of Beacon Police Det. Sgt. Jason Johnson. Upon arrival, officers located a 20-year-old male victim with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. The victim was transported to an area hospital via ambulance where he was treated and later released, according to Johnson. It was added that a crime scene was located in

South Davies Terrace.

The City of Beacon Police Department is continuing to investigate the shooting and due to the nature of the incident further details are not being released at this time, stated Johnson.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that would further the investigation is encouraged to contact the City of Beacon Police Department Detective Division by calling 845-831-4111.

Seven receive cars as part of 'Way to Work' program

Kiyon works each day to balance work and family. Due to his lack of reliable transportation, though, he often misses opportunities for advancement at his workplace. Just as importantly, having insufficient personal transportation has also limited his quality time with family.

Kiyon needed a hand up to improve his career progress at his job and spend more time with his children. He, and six other Dutchess County residents, got that hand up recently.

Kiyon was one of seven recipients who completed the "Way to Work" employment empowerment program – a partnership between Dutchess County's Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) that assists residents receiving, or eligible to receive, public assistance address their transportation challenges. The program participants earned a gently used vehicle to help them obtain and retain employment; acquire jobs with more hours or higher pay; gain access to higher education; increase their wage potential or take their children to and from school. In addition to Kiyon, today's recipients included several single mothers, as well as a local young woman about to age out of the foster care system.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, who presented each recipient with the keys to their vehicle, said, "For parents to be successful and raise healthy families, reliable transportation is key – whether it's to get to and from work, to take their children to medical appointments or to other school or family commitments. Each of today's seven recipients have earned the vehicle they'll drive away in. They have each invested time and effort to the commitment of making a better life for their families and themselves. Dutchess County is proud to give these families an opportunity to flourish."

Established in 2001, the program, formerly known as "Wheels to Work," is designed to help low-income Dutchess County residents get and keep a job, providing them reliable transportation to and from work. Qualified participants must come from a family that receives TANF or whose family income is less than 200 percent of the poverty level.

"Way to Work" is dedicated to empowering program participants with transportation solutions. Program recipients are chosen based on their work-related need for transportation, have a temporary need of assistance and other specific program guidelines. In addition, they must display the perseverance and the commitment necessary to take steps towards financial independence. The program offers various components, including connections to public transit options, financial literacy and car care literacy seminars, a financial bootcamp workshop, a credit score workshop, vehicle registration services and vehicle insurance services.

DCFS's approach to help transition residents to work and off TANF is a multifaceted one that includes work skills training, daycare subsidies for eligible families, and the "Way to Work" program provided under contract by the DCWIB. "Way to Work" provides vehicles from local used car dealers to eligible individuals and provides participants training – such as car care and defensive driving – as well as assistance in obtaining a learner's permit or driver's license.

The recipients who earned vehicles today were chosen based on specific program guidelines, including their work-related need for transportation. In addition, they have all displayed the perseverance and commitment necessary to continually move forward toward financial independence. For every family that earns a car and no longer needs temporary assistance, Dutchess County



DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka (left) and County Executive Sue Serino (right) congratulate seven successful "Way to Work" participants on completing the program and earning the vehicles they received on April 23 in Poughkeepsie. -Courtesy photo

saves \$1,614 a month. Within a year, that savings equals the cost of a used car. Since the program's inception, 90 percent of vehicle recipients have remained independent from temporary assistance.

DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said, "Dutchess County residents who are looking for a better life – and who commit to making it a reality – have found success through 'Way to Work' for more than 20 years. Our department is so proud of the program and the families it has empowered, as they're examples of the lives DFCS enhances each day."

The program has benefited more than 3,500 families since 2001, providing 927 cars, along with registration and car insurance deposits. Additionally, 318 County residents have gained their New York State learner's permit; 1,082 people participated in driving experience classes; 523 individuals completed the five-hour,

pre-licensing class; 497 passed their state road test and earned a driver's license; and 776 vehicle repairs were approved on behalf of program participants.

DCWIB Executive Director Louise McLoughlin said, "Building on more than two decades of success, 'Way to Work' continues to connect participants willing to commit to the program and take the steps necessary to become successful. The Workforce Investment Board is proud of our partnership with Dutchess County, providing reliable transportation to residents seeking self-sufficiency, and we're eager to see the program continue to make a real impact on so many lives."

An informational brochure about "Way to Work," including eligibility criteria and requirements for each component of the program, is available on the DCWIB website. Potential applicants can also email taylor@dcwib.org for more details.

Historical society to present 'The Chain that Saved the Colonies' on May 16 in Wappinger

The Wappingers Historical Society is hosting a talk entitled "The Chain that Saved the Colonies," presented by historian Donald "Doc" Bayne. Discover the forge in Sterling Forest, that made links for the Great Chain. Learn about the history of the iron industry there, starting in 1736, and how the Sterling Forge was used to create the Great Chain which was laid across the Hudson River.



"The Chain that Saved the Colonies" will be presented on May 16 by the Wappingers Historical Society at the Wappinger Town Hall. -Courtesy photo

This presentation will take place on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at Town of Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, in Wappinger. Wappingers Historical Society members and the public are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Suggested donation of \$5 for non-WHS members.

For more information, please call 845-632-1281 or email info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org.

The forests of the Hudson Valley still have ancient stories to reveal, and one of those stories relates to the Great Chain which was placed across the Hudson River at West Point. Former forest ranger and President of the Friends of Sterling Forest State Park, Donald "Doc" Bayne will present his discovery of the Sterling

Forge, one source of the links for the Great Chain. Doc will share the history of the iron industry that started in 1736 at Sterling Forest, and how he discovered one source of The Great Chain at the original location of Peter Townsend's iron works, kept hidden from the British deep in Sterling Forest. Learn how the Sterling Forge was used to create the Great Chain that was placed across the Hudson River at West Point.

A nonprofit organization in Poughkeepsie, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the installation of:

Impact Resistant Classroom Doors.

Additionally, we are seeking proposals for a Security Training Workshop. Selection criteria will be based on price, reputation /experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at: pokbids@gmail.com.

All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. Bids will be accepted until 12 pm on May 22, 2024.

Work is to commence by June 17, 2024 and completed by December 23, 2024. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply.

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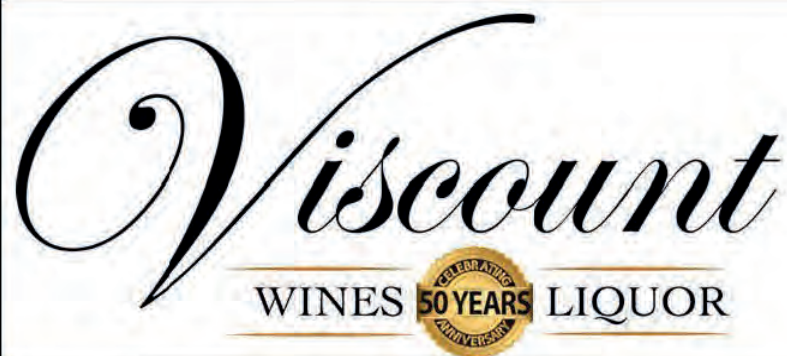
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Renegades Extra!



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League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	16	10	.615	-	7-3	W2
Wilmington WSH	15	10	.600	0.5	4-6	W2
Hudson Valley NYY	14	10	.583	1.0	5-5	L2
Brooklyn NYM	15	12	.556	1.5	6-4	W3
Jersey Shore PHI	14	13	.519	2.5	6-4	W5
Aberdeen BAL	13	14	.481	3.5	5-5	L3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Rome ATL	14	11	.560	-	6-4	W2
Bowling Green TB	13	14	.481	2.0	2-8	L5
Asheville HOU	11	15	.423	3.5	4-6	L1
Greenville BOS	11	16	.407	4.0	5-5	W1
Winston-Salem CWS	11	16	.407	4.0	4-6	L2
Hickory TEX	10	16	.385	4.5	4-6	L2



Roster changes point to 'big picture'

By Rich Thomaselli

Roster moves at the Class A level of minor league baseball are not uncommon.

But one month into the season, the Hudson Valley Renegades have already made nearly a dozen roster changes.

Or, should we say, the parent club New York Yankees have made the roster changes as they move players up and down on their farm teams. Renegades management is not responsible for promoting, demoting, or generally shuffling players around.

"I don't have that responsibility, nor do I want it," said general manager Zach Betkowski with a bit of a laugh.

"It sounds like a lot (of roster moves), but it really isn't," Renegades manager Nick Ortiz said. "You have to look at the big picture. And our main goal is to get players ready for the next level and eventually for the Major Leagues."

Hudson Valley does a good job of

that, with the most recent example being shortstop Anthony Volpe, who played with the Renegades four years ago and is now the starting shortstop for the New York Yankees.

"Of course, you're happy for the players who get promoted and move on," Ortiz said, "and balance out the pros and the cons and point out the things they have to work on for those who get sent down. The winds and the championships are nice, but at this level we are really here for the preparation."

Just this past week, in fact, the Renegades swapped right-handed pitchers. Leonardo Pestana was transferred to Double-A Somerset and Steven Fulgencio was promoted from the Single-A Tampa Tarpons.

"It's the nature of the game," Fulgencio said.

He then paused and laughed a little. "You just hope it's good news when that phone rings."

Players Statistics

PLAYER	TEAM	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
1 Jared Serna SS	HV	23	86	17	21	5	0	5	19	16	12	1	3	.244	.358	.477	.835
2 Omar Martinez DH	HV	21	77	8	19	1	1	4	10	16	20	0	0	.247	.383	.442	.825
3 Jesus Rodriguez C	HV	22	87	13	27	4	1	3	10	9	14	3	3	.310	.381	.483	.864
4 Jace Avina CF	HV	14	52	7	15	4	0	2	7	7	15	1	0	.288	.413	.481	.894
4 Rafael Flores 1B	HV	18	62	7	13	5	0	2	8	8	17	1	1	.210	.310	.387	.697
4 Kiko Romero 3B	HV	15	47	7	11	2	0	2	7	7	23	1	0	.234	.368	.404	.772
7 Kyle Battle LF	HV	9	19	6	4	1	0	1	3	3	10	1	0	.211	.333	.421	.754
7 Josh Moylan 1B	HV	19	65	10	15	2	1	1	5	12	18	0	0	.231	.354	.338	.692
7 Roc Riggio 2B	HV	15	54	10	11	3	1	1	7	15	11	3	1	.204	.371	.352	.723
10 Beau Brewer 2B	HV	10	29	2	8	1	0	0	2	2	8	0	0	.276	.323	.310	.633
10 Cole Gabrielson RF	HV	14	39	9	7	4	0	0	2	8	12	2	2	.179	.396	.282	.678
10 Anthony Hall RF	HV	11	33	3	3	0	0	0	1	9	13	1	0	.091	.286	.091	.377
10 Garrett Martin LF	HV	14	46	7	10	4	1	0	9	3	16	5	1	.217	.333	.348	.681
10 Nelson Medina CF	HV	16	53	5	8	1	0	0	6	4	26	3	0	.151	.224	.170	.394
10 Alexander Vargas SS	HV	5	15	1	3	1	1	0	5	3	1	1	1	.200	.316	.400	.716

Pitcher Statistics

PLAYER	TEAM	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WHIP	AVG
1 Cam Schlittler P	HV	3	0	1.29	4	4	0	0	0	0	21.0	8	7	3	3	1	9	26	0.81	.113
2 Sebastian Keane P	HV	1	3	6.20	5	5	0	0	0	0	20.1	24	14	14	1	3	13	23	1.82	.300





Renegades Extra!



**SBA Metro NY honors
Impact PR & Communications**



**See story,
page 8**



Renegades Roundup

Renegades win two, lose two; no movement in standings

By Rich Thomaselli

WILMINGTON, DE – Two teams battling for the South Atlantic League North Division first-half title ... got nowhere.

Heading into a Sunday doubleheader necessitated by a rain-out on Saturday, the Hudson Valley Renegades and Wilmington Blue Rocks were still tied for first place thanks to splitting the first four games of their series.

Meaning there was no movement in the standings.

The 'Gades won the first two games.

Wilmington is an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies and the Renegades, of course, are the High Class A farm team of the New York Yankees.

The opener was a 12-2 romp for the Renegades at Frawley Stadium. In an historic offensive performance in the seventh, the Renegades tallied nine runs on 10 hits to turn the game into a blowout. It was just the third time since 2005 that Hudson Valley had collected 10 hits in an inning, with the last occurrence coming on Sept. 5, 2021 at Greensboro. Jace Avina led the way for the Renegades, finishing 3-for-6 with a run scored, two doubles, a home run and two RBIs. His solo homer to center in the third off Bryan Caceres was his second of the season and proved to be the winning run in the blowout.

After Wilmington cut the deficit to 3-2



Renegades' Kiko Romero takes a swing.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

with a rally in the bottom of the fifth, the Hudson Valley offense broke out with its seventh-inning extravaganza. The Renegades sent 13 batters to the plate,

collecting 10 hits including seven extra-base hits, setting a new franchise record for most extra-base hits in an inning.

One night later it was still a slugfest, as

Hudson Valley posted a 13-10 victory.

Jared Serna starred at the plate, finishing 3-for-7 with three home runs, six RBIs and three runs scored.

Serna put the Renegades on the board in the top of the third with his first home run of the night. He sliced an opposite-field two-run home run down the right field line to give Hudson Valley a 2-0 lead. The blast came off Blue Rocks starter Luke Young, who had not allowed a run across his previous 14 innings pitched.

Wilmington answered with two runs in the bottom of the third against Jackson Fristoe, and took a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the fifth when T.J. White connected for a two-run home run off Trent Sellers and it was clear that both teams had their hitting shoes on.

The Renegades tied the game in the top of the sixth when Jesus Rodriguez and Omar Martinez clobbered back-to-back home runs to start the inning against Brendan Collins. It was the first time this season that the 'Gades hit back-to-back homers. They regained the lead on Serna's second two-run homer of the night in the top of the seventh.

Tied at 10-10 in the 11th inning, the Renegades struck for three runs. That included two runs that scored on bases loaded walks.

Manager Q&A

Customer experience is key goal

Editor's note: The Hudson Valley Renegades have a new general manager in Zach Betkowski. He sits down with reporter Rich Thomaselli every week to express his thoughts on the Renegades and on minor league baseball in general.

Did you see any issues from the first homestand that need to be addressed?

You know, I think for us, we're perfectionists. I think it's the mantra that we have across the staff is that we're obsessed with the customer experience.

So, while to the naked eye, maybe there's some things on the surface that fans didn't notice as much. We certainly did. So, we actually have in our office right now posted, it's called an improvements list; and there's probably, I don't know, 20 or so items that are, you know, mostly minor in stature, but our motivation is to make sure that those things are improved when we come back on May 14th.

Please talk about the numerous roster changes and let fans know that this

is the Yankees and not you making those calls.

Yeah, it's funny. It's one of the most common misconceptions about my job. I think a lot of fans will get angry when a player is called up or released or traded, and they think I have any sort of hand in that. I can't emphasize enough I have so little to do with that side of the business. Quite honestly, the only interaction I really have with it is just getting a courtesy copy email from the Yankees minor league development

staff, just letting us know what the transactions actually are, so that we can communicate it outwardly. I have literally zero say in those.

The team is again flirting with first place in the division. How much does that help?

It certainly doesn't hurt, but we're here for the entertainment. At the end of the day, we want people to leave not thinking about the final score, but thinking about how good a time they had.

SBA Metro NY names Impact PR & Communications 2024 women-owned Small Business of the Year

Receiving a prestigious designation, Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (IPR&C), a public relations and marketing firm based in New York's Hudson Valley region, has been named the Women-Owned Small Business of the Year for 2024 by the Metro New York District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

A New York State-certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), IPR&C will be lauded alongside the area's top entrepreneurs and small business advocates at an award ceremony on May 9 in celebration of the presidentially declared National Small Business Week 2024. The awards recognize companies that have demonstrated growth, success, job creation or retention and community involvement, as well as individuals who have mentored and/or championed small businesses.

In addition to the award IPR&C is receiving, and recognition of the 2024 Small Business Person of the Year, the SBA Metro New York categories include: Financial Service Champion;

Veteran Small Business; Minority Small Business; Women Business Champion; Home-Based Business and Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business.

Winners were nominated and selected from within the SBA's Metro New York district which includes New York City, Long Island and the downstate counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

"We invite elected officials, SBA Partners and members of the small business community to join us and honor our winners whose contributions have helped strengthen the U.S. economy," said SBA District Director John Mallano.

The ceremony will be held at the Microsoft Technology Center, 11 Times Square, 6th Floor, New York, NY, from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon on Thursday, May 9. The event is free and open to the public. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sba-metro-new-york-announce-its-2024-small-business-award-winners-tickets-887895227527?aff=2024SBWAwards>



The team of Impact PR & Communications will be lauded alongside the area's top entrepreneurs and small business advocates at an award ceremony on May 9.

-Courtesy photo

Ceremony.

"It's an honor for our team to be recognized in the company of other groundbreaking small businesses in

New York – and on the heels of our agency's 10th anniversary," said Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO, IPR&C.

A nonprofit organization in Poughkeepsie, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the of:

Blast/Shock Resistant Windows in a sanctuary.

Additionally, we are seeking proposals for a Security Training Workshop. Selection criteria will be based on price, Reputation /experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at pokbids@gmail.com

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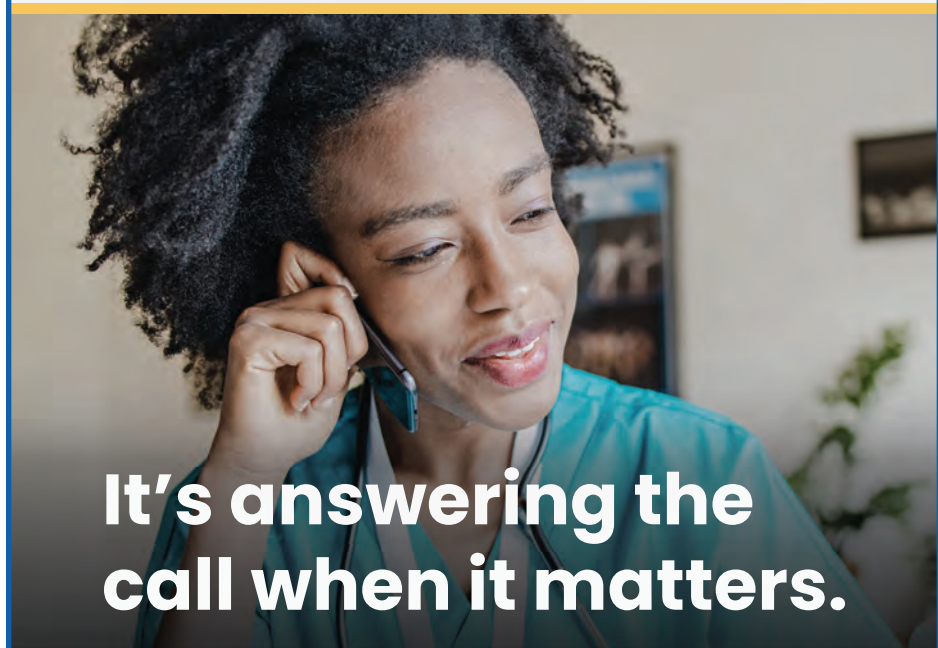
Dance Night at Elks set for May 11

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, May 11t at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Enjoy a vibrant mix of music and 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 partner on the dance floor. There is a \$15 admission, which includes a variety of complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available.

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

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Healey Brothers launches state-of-the-art Healey Hyundai Dealership in Fishkill



Cutting the ribbon on the new Healey Hyundai in Fishkill

-Courtesy photo

Healey Brothers, the Hudson Valley's largest automotive group with nine dealerships, celebrated the opening of the all-new Healey Hyundai on May 2, showcasing a spacious, top-tier location in Fishkill that represents a \$20 million investment to ensure an elite experience for customers.

"This is a momentous event in honor of an exceptional auto dealership in every way conceived to achieve the ultimate experience for each and every customer, whether buying, leasing or having an auto serviced," said Chief Marketing Officer Jason Healey. "One of Healey Brothers' foundational tenets includes ensuring a superb, luxurious

experience. We're proud that Healey Hyundai's sparkling new location is the culmination of that, on every level. This state-of-the-art dealership was meticulously designed and strategized to augment customer loyalty, confidence and trust, while surpassing even the highest expectations."

Customer convenience was a prime motivation in selecting Healey Hyundai's new location, said Executive General Manager John Koerner. "Our location at 794 Route 52 in Fishkill, N.Y., is approximately one mile closer to the Interstate 84 exit 44 intersection than the previous location on Route 52 in Beacon, N.Y.," he said.

"In addition, the layout of Healey Hyundai's campus was carefully designed to ensure exceptional navigation. On every level, the new Healey Hyundai will provide a rewarding, comfortable and efficient experience for our valued customers."

Healey Hyundai sells the most Hyundais in the Hudson Valley. The new 12-acre campus has been welcoming customers since its soft opening on Jan. 22, 2024. The construction created 125 jobs, and Healey Hyundai's dedicated team now surpasses 80 members. The main facility is 48,000 square feet, and the huge campus accommodates 500 new and 100 pre-owned vehicles.

This new dealership is the continuation of Healey Brothers' commitment to excellence in every aspect of sales and service. Top-flight amenities include a Service Department with 25 bays and all-new cutting-edge technology that includes a three-lane service drive-in area with an alignment and tire-tread reader. The warm, welcoming customer lounge covers every detail with television, coffee, food, beverages and WiFi. A 3,000-square-foot vehicle prep building is also on the campus, and a substantial Parts Department assists with every customer need. Plus, customers now can take ownership of their new Hyundai in an indoor delivery area.

Healey Hyundai's opening is the latest example of Healey Brothers' strategic investments and vision for local growth:

Healey Mitsubishi recently celebrated a grand opening after moving to a newly renovated facility and location at 243 Dolson Ave. in Middletown.

Healey Lincoln on Route 17M in Goshen had a grand opening last summer after construction of a new facility.

Healey Brothers prioritizes one-on-one service for customers built on trust, integrity and expertise, and its dedicated team special-

izes in matching customers to the right vehicle for every need. Healey Hyundai's quality lineup includes Tucson, Palisade, Elantra, Kona, Santa Fe, Sonata, Santa Cruz, Ioniq 5, Santa Fe Hybrid, Elantra Hybrid, Ioniq 6, Tucson Hybrid, Tucson Plug-In Hybrid, Venue, Sonata Hybrid and Kona Electric. The 2024 lineup is now available, as are manufacturer pricing incentives and Healey Hyundai discounts. Healey Hyundai's phone number is 845-360-9822.

All Healey Brothers' locations in Orange and Dutchess counties are close to home, no matter where in the Hudson Valley you live. Each location offers the most modern, convenient vehicle-shopping experiences, whether customers are buying their next vehicle or selling their current vehicle in person or online. The Healey Pre-Owned Network ensures that every vehicle undergoes a rigorous 125-point inspection process and is re-conditioned before being available for purchase. In addition, the Healey Pre-Owned Network uses technology to determine pricing and ensure customers will never overpay. Multiple financing options are available, and Healey's Guaranteed Credit Approval Program is fast and efficient. Learn more at HealeyBrothers.com.

Healey Brothers also has a strong track record of supporting civic and philanthropic organizations and causes. Healey Brothers' Driven to Give Foundation awards grants to Hudson Valley nonprofit organizations and scholarships to students pursuing automotive industry careers.

In addition, Healey Brothers recently was awarded the 2023 Community's Choice Award for Best Pre-Owned Dealer, verification of the quality and trust that the Hudson Valley places in Healey Brothers' pre-owned line of exceptional vehicles. The award is presented by Gannett Co., Inc.'s USA Today Network of newspapers and news websites.



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Obituaries

Anna Joan Magnarella



EAST FISHKILL - Our beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Anna Joan Magnarella, passed away at the Hospice House in Hyde Park, NY on Friday, April 26, 2024. She was 85 years old.

Daughter of the late Alexander and Fannie (Ranali) Rinaldi, she was born in Poughkeepsie, NY on July 27th, 1938. She graduated from Poughkeepsie High school and has lived in Hopewell Junction since 1965.

She married Patrick P. Magnarella (aka, Pop and FaFa) almost 65 years ago. He survives at home with family supporting him during this difficult time.

Anna was the heart of our home and family. Affectionately known as "MeMe" to all of us, she was always focused on her family and friends. Many of her sons' friends say that Anna was

like a second mother to them. She would give you the shirt off her back if it would help. When she wasn't with her family, she was with the Girls. They loved going to the casino. When they weren't at the casino, they were at the local churches and firehouses playing Bingo, or the local restaurants for their traditional lunchtime meet-ups. All else failed, they were on the phone. These moments, and so many more, gave her immense joy.

Anna worked as a lunch monitor for Wappingers Central School District for many years. She was also a secretary at IBM where her husband Patrick also worked.

Aside from her husband, Anna is also survived by her son Paul & his wife Lisa Magnarella of Poughkeepsie, NY; her son Patrick & his wife Christine of Cardiff by the Sea, California; her granddaughters Sarah & Pamela; her sister Theresa Mckenna; her nieces, Patricia (Patti) Doxsey and Lynn (Doxsey) Varuzzo; and her goddaughter Cheryl Swenson. Anna was predeceased by her brother Alexander Rinaldi; her stepfather Peter Weeks; her sister Patricia Doxsey; her niece Alison (Doxsey) Raymo; and her cousin Barbara Welsh.

Calling Hours were held on Wednesday May 1st at the McHoul Funeral Home Inc., 895 Rte. 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. A service took place in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, <https://www.hvhospice.org/>

For online tributes, please visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Angela DiGiacomo



EAST FISHKILL - Angela DiGiacomo, a Dutchess County resident for 40 years, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family members on April 29, 2024 after a long battle fighting Multiple Sclerosis. She had an infectious smile and a twinkle in her big brown eyes.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on April 6, 1956, she was the daughter of Giulio and Maria (Di Paolo) DiGiacomo. She married her husband Paul Wtulich on July 31, 1983 at St. Denis Church.

Angela, ever a student of life and academia, graduated from Marist College in 1977 in just 3 years with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. She was also Valedictorian and awarded the only Summa Cum Laude in her class for her incredible academic achievements. Always passionate about her career, Angela developed multiple patents and celebrated 25 years of employment at IBM as a Senior Software Development Engineer Manager. She was fluent in Italian,

loved to be surrounded by flowers, had great taste in music, and an affinity for traveling and dancing. She was a parishioner of St. Columba Church in Hopewell Junction, NY.

In addition to her devoted husband Paul of 41 years, Angela is survived by her beloved daughter Alexandra of Manhattan, NY; her sister Anna Marie Coffey and her husband Brendan Coffey of Rhinebeck, NY; her 4 nieces, and her father Giulio DiGiacomo of Hopewell Junction, NY. She is predeceased by her mother, Maria DiGiacomo.

The family asks for non-black attire for the services in celebration of Angela.

Calling hours will be held Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 2 - 4 p.m. & 6 - 8 p.m. at the McHoul Funeral Home Inc., located at 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024 at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. Entombment will follow at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

For directions and online tributes, please visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Patricia Mullane Meluson



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Patricia Mullane Meluson, 72 years old, of Wappingers Falls, died in peace on April 5, 2024 at Kindred Rehab in Passaic, NJ.

Patricia is survived by her daughter, Casie Konsol; her longtime partner, Rudy Meluson; her sister, Kim Whitted; and her brothers, Danny and Kevin O'Connor. She was predeceased by her twin sister, Liz Lewis.

Trish was born in New York Hospital, raised in Fishkill and was a graduate of the University of Florida. She was a practicing Dental Hygienist in both New York and Florida prior to her retirement, and one heck of a golfer.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 10am at St. Denis Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Beacon Elks Lodge to commemorate a Century of Service



Michael Zanzarella, 2024-2025 Exalted Leader B.P.O.E. Beacon Lodge #1493.

-Courtesy photo

Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 will celebrate a centennial of camaraderie and community service this summer, commemorating the founding of the local lodge on July 17, 1924. Since that time, more than 2,700 men and women have joined the Beacon-based fraternal organization that works across southern Dutchess County to complete various programs of service.

Lodge #1493 has provided an estimated \$6.2 million in donations and volunteer hours to the local community since its founding 100 years ago. Today, approximately 575 members remain devoted to its mission of supporting academic scholarships, veterans, drug-abuse awareness, patriotic endeavors and more.

"We are proud to continue a long legacy of service here in southern Dutchess County as active, engaged members of our community," said Beacon Lodge #1493 Exalted Ruler Michael Zanzarella. "In addition to our programs of service, we offer fellowship and a place where civic-minded citizens can enjoy the many benefits of membership."

"Our centennial year is a great time to join! In fact, the Lodge will sponsor a special commemorative installation ceremony on July 17, 2024 - one hundred years to the day after the first members

of the Beacon Lodge were welcomed into membership."

Those interested in joining should email elks1493@yahoo.com for more information. Descendants of past members are encouraged to join during the 100th anniversary year.

To celebrate its centennial, the Lodge will sponsor a parade in Beacon on July 13; those wishing to participate should email bomeek1960@gmail.com. The Lodge will also host a tented gala reception on the lawn of its historic headquarters at 900 Wolcott Avenue on July 20. Special events for members will occur all summer long.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which was founded in 1868, has more than 1.2 million members worldwide. Its mission is "To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share."

A nonprofit organization in Poughkeepsie, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements.

This project includes the of:

Blast/Shock Resistant Classroom Windows

Additionally, we are seeking proposals for a Security Training Workshop. Selection criteria will be based on price, Reputation /experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at: pokbids@gmail.com.

All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. Bids will be accepted until 12 pm on May 22, 2024. Work is to commence by June 17, 2024 and completed by December 23, 2024. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply.

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- Beacon Free Press
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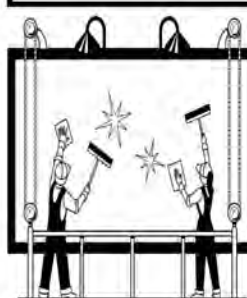
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	3	1						2
8			6		9			
7				2		5		
	4				3	9		
3	7						2	6
		5	2				8	
		3		4				7
			7		8			9
5						4	3	

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

Suguru

		1		3	
				4	
		2			
			4		
				3	
		2			

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

THEME: FICTIONAL MOTHERS

ACROSS

1. Bars
6. Escape or flee
9. Green gemstone or Heather Graham in "The Hangover"
13. Turning point
14. 34th U.S. Pres
15. Actress Sophia _____
16. Each and all
17. Lake, in France
18. Roof overhangs
19. *Lovable mother of seven in "Harry Potter" Mrs. _____
21. *Mother in "The Terminator," Sarah _____
23. Not safe, in baseball
24. "Hold on!"
25. Uno _____, in Mexico
28. Iranian monarch
30. Be a go-between
35. Kind of cuckoos
37. Passing mention
39. Dwelled
40. TV show "_____ 911!"
41. *"Beloved" mother
43. Like a tennis skirt
44. Scottish kinship groups
46. Spare in car
47. Email folder
48. Vertical dimension
50. Turf alternative
52. Morse Code dash
53. Hippocratic _____
55. Three, to Caesar
57. *Margaret White's telekinetic daughter
60. *Elizabeth Zott of "_____ in Chemistry"
64. Vernacular
65. R&R hot spot
67. Capital of Vietnam
68. Yours is as good as mine?
69. Tennis retry
70. Cause anxiety (2 words)
71. Bookie's quote
72. Well-kept secret, for some
73. Teatime treat

DOWN

1. Do like volcano
2. Honey home
3. Iris holder
4. Human trunk
5. iPad "pen"
6. *Matriarch, _____ Munster of "The Munsters"
7. *Nadezhda of "The Americans," _____ Elizabeth Jennings, acr.
8. Muhammad's birthplace
9. Melissa Rivers' mom
10. Australian slang for afternoon
11. Widely hunted ruminant
12. Follow ems
15. A particular legume
20. Not pathos
22. Second O in EVOO
24. Kinda white
25. *Mrs. _____, a.k.a. Marmee
26. Anoint
27. Red Sea peninsula
29. Drive a getaway car, e.g.
31. Goals
32. Like a Harvard building?
33. Plant-based laxative
34. * _____ Bunker, mom to Gloria in "All in the Family"
36. Dance partner
38. Drive-_____, for short
42. Like a haunted house
45. Daisy dukes, e.g.
49. _____ chi
51. Casts a line
54. Popular electric car
56. Newton's first name
57. Foul substance
58. Matured
59. Bob of "The Joy of Painting" fame
60. Better than never?
61. On top of
62. "High" time
63. Cosine's counterpart
64. In the past
66. *"Married... with Children" mom

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				



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

Advice on Spongy Moth: 'Let nature run its course'

By Kate Goldsmith

The Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) notes that Spongy Moth caterpillars recently emerged. The larvae of Spongy Moths (formerly known as the Gypsy Moth) are notorious for defoliating trees as they feed.

The Clinton CAC stated, "In 2023, the Town of Clinton and areas in adjacent towns experienced a severe outbreak of Spongy Moth caterpillars that defoliated (ate all the leaves on the trees) in early spring. In June, the trees looked as bare as winter, and if you took a walk in the woods the sound of caterpillars pooping sounded like rain."

What should homeowners do to prevent a repeat this year? Based on scientific research, the Clinton CAC says, "The short answer: while it may be hard to watch, the scientists suggest the best option is to let nature run its course. A naturally occurring virus is likely to knock back the population this year, so most homeowners don't need to spend the money on treatments that are generally not very effective and can have negative effects on other insects and our water supply."

The CAC added, "We are lucky to have the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies (IES) as our neighbor in the Town of Washington. Scientists from IES have been studying the Spongy Moth (formerly known as the Gypsy Moth), for decades."

In January, IES hosted a virtual webinar to discuss what's in store this year with the infestation and what to do about it in

your yard.

"Because the infestation is so large and the caterpillars drift through the air on web-like silky strings, the treatments that typically come to mind are not effective," according to the CAC. "Scraping the egg sacks off your trees, using sticky tape or burlap bands around the tree, and spraying trees with pesticides will not help in most situations. More caterpillars will just swoop in and start munching away."

Cary Institute scientist Clive Jones discusses some exceptions to this in his talk, but says the best (and most cost-effective) approach is to let nature run its course. A naturally occurring virus and fungus will likely kill the caterpillars and should bring the population back into balance either this year or next at the latest.

Jones explains, "So the best guess for Cary is that in 2024 we will have an NPV [virus]-induced collapse, plus or minus the fungus depending on the weather. Whether or not there'll be a lot or a little defoliation will really depend on how fast the virus moves through the population. If it moves slowly, there'll be complete defoliation. If it goes through fast, there'll be incomplete defoliation. And if that doesn't happen, and the density continues to rise or stays at the level it is, then a viral collapse in 2025 has a much higher probability, because by then food limitation and stress will be kicking in."

Watch the presentation on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IW-hdgp4f8&t=14s.



The Spongy Moth, formerly known as the Gypsy Moth, in caterpillar or larva form.

-Courtesy photo

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this week's puzzle solutions

This week's answer

SUDOKU

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

ODDS	AGEE	SCONE	NON	LET	EATON	SPAS	HANOI	LESSONS	ILII	OATH	HEIGHT	SURF	DAH	TIRE	SENT	MINI	SETH	LIVED	SHAH	LIAISE	WAIT	OUT	WEAS	LEY	CON	NOR	EVERY	LAC	EAVES	PIVOT	LIKE	LOREN	JADE	LAM	SHUTS
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3	5	2	1	4	1
1	4	3	5	3	2
2	5	1	4	1	4
1	3	2	3	2	3
4	5	4	5	4	5
1	2	1	2	1	3

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Alignable names Garofolo Business Person of the Year



Carl Garofolo Jr., center, is surrounded by family members after winning the Business Person of the Year honor from Alignable.

-Courtesy photo

Alignable, an online network for local business, recently recognized Carl Garofolo Jr. as the local Business Person of the Year and Community Supporter of business for Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County.

As an active on-line Alignable member for the past 3 years, Garofolo, has established nearly 700 business connections throughout the United States while receiving 79 highly recommended referrals, while receiving more than 7,000 views to his profile.

In addition, Garofolo, was named as the Business Person Meritorious by the Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce.

He has been an active member of several chambers of commerce for more than 20 years. His understanding and knowledge about the important work that chambers of commerce do in support of local businesses and communities, is reflected by his membership in 7 different chambers of commerce during his career. As an active member of the Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce for the past 10 years, Carl has served on various committees, as the Vice Chairman for 2 years, and he has been elected to the board of directors for three consecutive terms as he begins his ninth year as a member of the board.

In addition to the Award from the Chamber of Commerce, Garofolo was also presented with proclamations from Congressman Michael Lawler, New York State Assemblyman Matthew Slater, Putnam County Executive Kevin Byre, the Putnam County Legislature, and the Town of Carmel Town Board.

A Community Relations Specialist for the Marketing Department at Fidelis Care, Garofolo is widely recognized as the go to person of the organization in the Hudson Valley. His volunteer and community contributions over the years have included working with: the United Way, the American Heart Association, The XP Society and Camp Sundown, Special Olympics, and several different American Cancer Society organizations.

A voice-over actor, Master of Ceremonies, radio broadcaster, and motivational speaker. Carl is a proud member of the Poughkeepsie Elks B.P.O.E., and the Knights of Columbus, and in 2000, he was elected to the Dutchess County Sports Museum Hall of Fame for his contributions to sports and community.

Carl lives his motto of, "Don't be an armchair quarterback in the game of life. If you want to make a difference in your community, and in society then you've got to get off of the bench, and get in the game!"

BCSD Students Film Festival set for Friday, Saturday

The annual BCSD Student Film Festival is set for Friday, May 10, 6:30 p.m., Elementary Screening and Saturday, May 11, 6:30 p.m., Middle and High School Screening (mature content), at the

Beacon High School Seeger Theater, 101 Matteawan Rd., in Beacon.

For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival>.

Fishkill Rotarians to host Health & Wellness Expo May 18

The Fishkill Rotary will host the Health & Wellness Expo on Saturday, May 18, from noon – 4 p.m. The Expo will take place at Maurer Geering

Park, 1 Geering Way, in the town of Fishkill.

The rain date is May 19. Rotary Day of Service is May 18.

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