

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mandate extended,
 new metric for
 transmission

by Kate Goldsmith

With COVID-19 case rates decreasing over the past week or so, the state is taking proactive measures to help ensure the trend continues. On Friday, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the “mask-or-vax” mandate will continue through at least Feb. 1.

In addition, SUNY and CUNY students and faculty will be required to receive a booster vaccination when eligible. Those who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccination are eligible for a booster at least five months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Those who received Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccination are eligible for a booster at least two months after receiving their J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination.

Hochul also reiterated her goal of keeping children in school by continuing “test to stay” practices to minimize absenteeism and learning loss which can occur during traditional quarantine at home. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro has promoted the program locally, and recently wrote a letter to Hochul requesting its state-wide implementation.

For the week ending Jan. 14, the CDC reported cases in Dutchess County decreased by nearly 3 percent. The total deaths, however, numbered 14 in that time frame, an increase of more than 50 percent. Hospitalizations and deaths are lagging indicators, because of the time frame between infection and the point at which an individual might need to be hospitalized or die. The testing rate was up by more than 45 percent over that seven-day period.

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Slow demolition under way
 at former Bennett College

by Rich Thomaselli

Slowly – and for many, emotionally – the pieces of a legendary part of the Village of Millbrook are starting to come apart and disappear.

Demolition is now taking place in earnest at the former Bennett College campus, which has been abandoned for more than a generation. The site has always been beloved, but has turned into something of an eyesore – and a spooky one at that – at what is generally regarded as the main entrance into the Village on Franklin Avenue.

For longtime businessman and Millbrook resident Oakleigh Thorne, it is a case of progress meeting history.

As a member of one of Millbrook’s great families, he shares the strong feelings of watching what used to be grand structures and a point of pride in the Village slowly disappearing. But Thorne is also the President of the Millbrook Community Partnership (MCP), a non-profit which is spearheading the vision of creating a 32-acre park on the Bennett site as a green gateway to the Village.

In addition, within the Village itself is one of his family’s namesakes, the Thorne Memorial School Building, which is being refurbished and renovated into a vibrant community center.



Work crews use excavators to take down the walls of a building on the former Bennett College site in the Village of Millbrook. The eventual goal of the Millbrook Community Partnership is to create a 32-acre park on the Bennett site as a green gateway to the Village. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

“To be honest the site has been in such poor shape that it’s not as emotional to see it come down, sadly,” Thorne told the Northern Dutchess News in one of his first interviews since the project was announced last year. “I obviously have an affinity for it. Our family used to live very

close to Bennett. I grew up looking at it every day as a kid. But it’s time.”

Asbestos abatement that began in the fall is now complete in all buildings in which it was allowed, including demolishing the dance center, the science

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Hudson Link to offer higher
 education program at Green Haven

by Kristine Coulter



Hudson Link for Higher Education has announced that Green Haven Correctional Facility will be the sixth site for its Higher Education in Prison program, a college-in-prison program that will start in the Spring 2022 semester. The new program will offer the 1,300 incarcerated people in the maximum-security prison a chance to earn an Associate Degree in Individual Studies. The program is a partnership between Hudson Link for Higher Education,

Columbia-Greene Community College (C-GCC) and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Students will be enrolled as C-GCC students and take classes at Green Haven four days a week during the evenings.

“The original request for the expansion of programming came from the Department of Corrections, who wanted to partner to expand opportunities for people inside Green Haven Correctional Facility,” said

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Program Director Joel Jimenez and Rachel Boehr, Academic Coordinator, prepare supplies for Green Haven students. Courtesy photo

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Local superintendents comment on Hochul’s plan for bus driver shortages

by Kristine Coulter

A plan to address the shortage of bus drivers and truck drivers was announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul last week. The proposed plan would expand the availability of road tests for Commercial Driver License (CDOL) applicants.

A public hearing, which will be held by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, has been set for Wednesday, Jan. 26. The hearing will take place from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via WebEx. Members of the public can make comments or submit written comments from Jan. 18 to Feb. 4 at CDLThirdPartyTesting@dmv.ny.gov.

“This seems like a good plan to start; however, new drivers still need time to be trained. In addition, we do not have a pool of candidates. There needs to be a focus on recruitment,” stated Janet Warden, Superintendent Red Hook Central School District.

“As we continue to fight this pandemic, we remain committed to expanding opportunities for New Yorkers, supporting our schools, and doing all we can to

address the supply-chain issues that have affected many businesses throughout our state and country,” Hochul said. “By enabling third parties to give the road test for truck and bus drivers, we will create new avenues for New Yorkers to begin exciting careers, for our children to get to school, and to ensure that vital goods get where they need to be.”

“We are pleased that the CDL process can now be expedited,” commented Aviva Kafka, Superintendent of the Hyde Park Central School District.

“It continues to be a daily challenge to cover all of our 390 bus routes. The proposal by Governor Hochul is a step in the right direction to begin to address this issue,” said Wappingers Central School District (W.C.S.D.) Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk. Bus drivers, he said, “have a very challenging job, as they are responsible for the health, welfare, and safety of our students to and from school.”

The W.C.S.D. have and will continue “to advertise for Bus Driver positions as well as instituting a driver training program for our candidates which has been helpful in recruitment,” said the

superintendent.

“Governor Hochul’s quick and decisive action will increase the number of school bus driver testing sites across the state and help to alleviate New York’s school bus driver shortage problem,” said New York Association for Pupil Transportation executive director David Christophe in a statement.

The proposal can be heard during the Jan. 26 public hearing. According to the Governor’s Office, the “proposal that calls for a phased roll out of this initiative that would initially allow other state agencies and authorities that have large fleets of commercial vehicles to begin conducting CDL road tests. The second phase would include qualified private entities. The DMV will establish a rigorous monitoring system to ensure that qualified CDL trainers safely administer the road tests in compliance with state and federal regulations. The DMV will use the feedback gathered during the public hearing to evaluate and develop an implementation plan.”

As part of the effort to assist with the school bus driver shortages, it is proposed

that the DMV expedite the process for obtaining a CDL by removing the 14-day waiting period between the permit test and the road tests. The state also increased capacity to administer road tests and, through cooperation with county-operated DMV offices, to increase testing capacity for written exams, according to the Governor’s Office.

DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said in a press release, “We at DMV know how important it is to have qualified truck and bus drivers on the road, and we are committed to doing what we can to address the need. We look forward to gathering public input at this hearing and then acting to enable qualified third parties to offer CDL road tests to give New Yorkers greater opportunity to take the test and to get good jobs driving these essential vehicles.”

Those interested in obtaining a Commercial Driver License can find more information at <https://dmv.ny.gov/commercial-drivers>.

For more information about DMV, visit dmv.ny.gov, or follow DMV on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Appointments available during National Blood Donor Month

This National Blood Donor Month, New York Blood Center (NYBC) continues to call for more donors as the blood shortage extends into the new year. The region’s blood supply continues to be threatened by low donor turnout and blood drive cancellations due to surging levels of Omicron cases. Schools that had begun to reinstate student blood drives are once again canceling, perpetuating the dramatic decline in youth and first-time donors. Prior to the pandemic, 50,000 annual blood donations were made at high schools, but the threat of a

return to remote learning is making it nearly impossible for them to commit to hosting blood drives.

This is always a challenging time of year for the blood supply, as holiday plans and travel make donating blood less of a priority and winter weather can lead to blood drive cancellations. This year, those seasonal challenges are coinciding with a new wave of the pandemic. Blood centers across the country are and have been suffering from shortages since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020.

“A strong blood supply is essential

and can be threatened at any time with emergencies such as inclement weather, which we are currently seeing with the snowstorm to our south, and the surge of Omicron cases that we are seeing nationwide,” said Andrea Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director at New York Blood Center (NYBC). “National Blood Donor Month is a great time to sign up to donate blood and start the year by giving back, especially now as we continue to experience this blood shortage.”

Donating blood is safe and only takes

one hour. We are taking extra precautions to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19. All NYBC staff are vaccinated. As always, people are not eligible to donate if they’re experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms. People can donate blood regardless of vaccination status. Additional information on donor eligibility and COVID-19 precautions is available. Donors can schedule appointments by calling 1-800-933-2566 or visiting www.nybc.org.

COVID-19 Update: Mandate extended, new metric for transmission

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A new metric replaces positivity rate

Last week, the Dutchess County COVID-19 Community Impact Dashboard stopped reporting the positivity rate, which had ceased to be an accurate indicator of transmission; with the expansion of at-home testing, no negative results from those tests are being report-

ed, so the data became skewed and showed artificially high percentages of positive cases. (Recall that the positivity rate is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests by the number of total tests on any given day.)

Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, the county’s health commissioner, introduced

the new metric in a video last week: new daily positive cases per 100,000 county residents, as reported to the New York State Department of Health, which provides a more accurate picture of positive cases in the community.

As of Jan. 14, Dutchess had 4,348 active cases (down from 5,683 on Jan. 7), 176 hospitalizations (up from 155 on Jan. 7) and a total of 565 deaths (up from 547 on Jan. 7). The community transmission rate remains high - 216.87 per 100,000 residents.

Reminder: Testing, vaccination expanded at county site

Last week, Molinaro has announced expanded opportunities for residents to get tested for COVID-19, with both PCR testing options, as well as get vaccinated against the virus at its site at the former JCPenney store at the Poughkeepsie Galleria.

Testing will be offered at the site Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Testing results turnaround time for PCR testing is up to 48 hours from receipt of testing, though the time frame can vary based on demand. There is no out-of-pocket cost to residents for either of these testing options.

COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster shots, are now available on the lower level of the JCPenney site on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., in addition to

the previously scheduled days, expanding access to vaccine on the following days and times:

- Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

Dr. Santiago-Rosado said, “Since COVID-19 vaccines were first available a year ago, we’ve seen the impact they’ve made – lessening the severity of cases and reducing hospitalizations and deaths. With omicron now the dominant variant across the nation, we urge residents more than ever to get fully vaccinated and receive their booster, when eligible. We are expanding access to these life-saving vaccines, knowing the importance they make on our community, and we are hopeful even more residents will choose to get vaccinated.”

New York State Department of Health is supporting the expansion of testing and vaccination opportunities, providing additional vaccinators and test administrators to support the county’s JCPenney site.

Molinaro said, “We are grateful to the NYS DOH for these additional resources and encourage residents to take advantage of our testing and vaccination opportunities to protect themselves and their families.”

For more information on COVID-19, including testing, vaccinations, booster shots, current guidance and much more, visit www.DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus.



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Maloney, Delgado announce \$450,000 aviation grant for DCC

Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) and Antonio Delgado (NY-19) have announced \$450,000 in grant funding for Dutchess Community College from the Federal Aviation Administration to support students pursuing careers in aviation maintenance.

“Aviation maintenance is critical to our national security and function of the entire transportation industry. With this grant, DCC will help students start suc-

cessful careers in this essential trade,” said Rep. Maloney.

“Empowering young folks to take on an education and career in the aviation industry will support and maintain our country’s transportation system for years to come,” said Rep. Delgado. “I am proud to join Rep. Maloney in announcing this funding that will help prepare New York students to pursue aviation maintenance careers. I will keep fighting for programs

that support trade students as they enter the workforce.”

“Dutchess Community College already has a reputation for being one of New York State’s leading aviation education providers,” said DCC President Peter Grant Jordan. “This funding in support of our new aviation maintenance technician programs allows us to be a driving force in meeting the workforce needs of the

aviation industry. We owe a special thanks to U.S Representatives Maloney and Delgado as well as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and their teams for their vision and commitment to this important grant program, which provides us with the support we need to broaden our role as Dutchess County’s foremost hub of learning.”



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NY Public school retiree pensions set new record

ALBANY, NY — Average pension benefits for newly retired public educators outside New York City reached a record high of \$73,552 last year, according to data posted last week at SeeThroughNY.net.

The figures are from the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), which covers school professionals across most of the state.

The 2,685 members of NYSTRS who retired during the 2020-21 school year with at least 30 years of credited service time are eligible for a maximum pension benefit averaging \$73,552, up from \$71,074 for the 2019-20 retiree cohort.

More than 10 percent of these new retirees (289) are eligible for six-figure pensions, the highest being the \$271,275 maximum benefit earned by former Locust Valley School District Superintendent, Dr. Anna Hunderfund.

Reflecting regional salary differences, average pensions among the new retirees are highest among those retiring from New York City suburban districts. The Long Island region had the highest average pension at \$94,108, as shown in the table below. The top five individual pensions also belong to retirees from schools in either Nassau or Westchester counties.

AVERAGE ELIGIBLE BENEFIT FOR 2020-21 NYSTRS RETIREES WITH OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Region	Number	Avg. Benefit
Capital	271	\$63,592
Central NY	224	\$56,670
Finger Lakes	263	\$61,754
Long Island	713	\$94,108
Mid-Hudson	520	\$83,668
Mohawk Valley	118	\$57,785
North Country	108	\$54,946
Southern Tier	196	\$55,148
Western NY	272	\$63,060
Total	2,685	\$73,553

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CORRECTION

In a letter to the editor in the Jan. 12 edition of the Northern Dutchess News, an internet link was partially deleted. The full link to information on Alix Mayer in the letter from Frank Stoppenbach is <https://www.bitchute.com/video/Npxld717Uxd2/>

The average maximum pension for the entire cohort of 5,461 newly retired NYSTRS members is \$55,017. That broader average includes both part- and full-time public school teachers, many of whom attained only a minimum five-year vesting requirement before leaving the system.

Among all NYSTRS members earning benefits in 2020-21 (both new retirees and earlier ones), 4,061 are eligible for six-figure pension benefits. Other six-figure pensioners included 50 retirees eligible for benefits of \$200,000 to \$300,000, and four eligible for pensions exceeding \$300,000.

These data are made public thanks to the Empire Center's successful court challenges against efforts by public agencies to conceal information from taxpayers. The Center remains involved in litigation to protect and expand the public's ability to examine public pensions and spending.

Poughkeepsie resident promoted in Army National Guard

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Brandon Clemente from Poughkeepsie and assigned to the Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of staff sergeant on November 1, 2021.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

These promotions additionally recognize the best qualified Soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber Citizen Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard. For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com.

STATE OF RHINEBECK TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY JAN. 27

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will present The State of Rhinebeck via Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hear about updates on the business community and the community at large from local officials and tourism. Learn what's ahead for 2022.

Special guests include Village of Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Bassett, Rhinebeck Town Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia, Rhinebeck Central School District Superintendent Albert Cousins, and Dutchess Tourism President & CEO Melaine Rottkamp.

This event will feature a Q&A session.

This is a free event and registration is required; visit <https://business.rhinebeckchamber.com/> to sign up.

Slow demolition under way at Bennett College

continued from cover

building, the arts center and Carroll Hall.

But Thorne said the revered Halcyon Hall is so decrepit that asbestos abatement was not possible and demo crews could not enter the structure.

"That has to be handled differently," Thorne said. "A lot of special rules are in place about how to take that down. There needs to be a constant mist of water, and let it implode on itself. Then you need to wrap the pieces in heavy plastic and go off to an asbestos site."

That will run through April, Thorne estimated. When that happens, the project can really begin.

"After that, we will level the campus and start getting some trails put in during the summer," he said.

Asbestos removal at the Thorne Building, a grand Beaux Arts structure at the head of Franklin Avenue, has also begun. The abatement represents the first phase of renovation of the 125-year-old building, which will ultimately be converted to a Community Center that will house a performing arts center, technology center, gallery space and culinary arts center, among other offerings.

"We're still in a fundraising phase there," Thorne said. "We have not gone public yet; we're working on some major donors. But we're making good progress."



Asbestos removal at the Thorne Building has also begun. The abatement is the first phase of renovation of the 125-year-old building, which will ultimately be converted to a Community Center. Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt

The Thorne Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The MCP estimates that the demolition,

abatement, renovations and park construction will cost approximately \$20 million.

Serino, Molinaro tour Harlem Valley Homestead - recipient of \$500K REDC grant

NYS Sen. Sue Serino and Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro toured Wingdale’s Harlem Valley Homestead on Friday, Jan. 14, and congratulated its team for being awarded \$500,000 from the Empire State Development Grant Program through the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council to begin their hospitality expansion.

The Harlem Valley Homestead was awarded the largest grant in Dutchess County through that competitive grant process and was assisted in the process by letters of support from the Serino and Molinaro.

“The Harlem Valley Homestead is a true Hudson Valley gem,” said Serino. “With agri-tourism on the rise, this working farm takes a unique approach to preserve farmland, engage visitors and help them form a direct connection with the land, and it was something truly special to see in action. This major grant will enable the Homestead to become a premier tourist destination, and to inspire countless others to develop an appreciation for our natural environment and a respect for the tremendous amount of

work that goes into operating a farm and homestead. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to support their expansion proposal and am looking forward to seeing their unique vision become a reality.”

Molinaro said, “Since Dutchess County’s founding, agriculture has played an integral role in our community’s heritage, and agriculture continues to contribute to our local economy to this day – employing our friends and neighbors while feeding an untold number of residents, both with our county and outside our borders. This grant will allow the Harlem Valley Homestead to both maintain its vital part in Dutchess County’s agrarian legacy and expand its operations to welcome even more visitors – from around the corner and around the world – who will enjoy the splendor of this magnificent farm.”

“Today, our farm feeds more than 150 families in Dover and the region. But we are excited to become so much more. This grant will help us to create an enduring institution, a place that brings people to the region so that they can connect to the land and the story behind their food,” said Josh Viertel, Co-Founder of Harlem



Pictured above are, from left, NYS Sen. Sue Serino, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro with Harlem Valley Homestead representatives, Managing Director Lynn Martin and co-founders Josh Viertel and Michael Armilio. *Courtesy photo*

Valley Homestead. “If we are going to keep farmland in this region, it is vital that farms survive; farmstays, educational programs, and sharing great local food and drink are all key to creating the conservation-based economic development that our community deserves, and our farms need.”

The grant will enable the Harlem Valley Homestead to fund their hospitality expansion, which will add lodging and increase programming and event capacity, furthering their efforts to upgrade infrastructure, repurpose existing farm structures and undertake new construc-

tion with the goal of transforming their facility into a premier agritourism destination. In addition to attracting visitors from outside the Hudson Valley, the grant will also allow them to increase their hiring capacity and provide more local employment opportunities.

The Harlem Valley Homestead is currently a 250-acre working farm that employs eight full-time staff members. Currently, the homestead is known for its pasture-raised beef, pork, vegetables, flowers, mushrooms, raw honey and more.

Hudson Link to offer higher education program at Green Haven

continued from cover

Sara Alpert, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Higher Link. Alpert said Program Director Joel Jimenez was thrilled about the opportunity to start a new program at Green Haven.

Jimenez stated, “Green Haven holds an important place in my heart. I spent eight years there, and it is where my life began to change for the better.” Jimenez added, “I want to afford that to other people behind the wall. I want them to know that life does not end behind these walls and bars and that Hudson Link can help to prepare them every step of the way to return home as contributing members to their community.”

According to a press release from Hudson Link, Jimenez spent twenty-two and half years incarcerated. He graduated as the 2010 valedictorian for Hudson Link’s program with Mercy College at Sing Sing.

There have been more than 120 applications for the program at Green Haven, according to Alpert. The new session will begin with a group of 35 for the first semester who will be taking introductory college classes such as English, Mathematics, and History, said Alpert. The remaining students will be placed on a waitlist and start in future semesters.

One of the professors scheduled to work at Green Haven in the spring is Jillian McRae. McRae is a full-time English teacher at Ossining High School in Westchester County and is a Columbia-Greene Community College adjunct professor.

“I am an educator at heart. For the majority of my teaching career (20 years) I have been in the high school classroom, but I have always loved adult education (whether that was working with pre-service teachers, or with my colleagues as an instructional coach). I think now, I am shifting more toward adult education. Teaching high school students has always had its challenges, but adults typically want to be there. There is an earnestness of engagement and interest. I’m looking forward to a setting of few(er) distractions and a community who has a willingness and desire to learn,” commented McRae, via email.

McRae will be teaching SL 110 (Cultural Diversity).

“I am excited about this course in light of our current socio-, political, and economic context. There is crisis and trauma all around us, and the course will aim to uncover and analyze the systemic and systematic underpinnings of injustice, marginalization, power, privilege, and vulnerability that is ingrained in our society,” said McRae.

Rachel Boehr will be employed by Hudson Link as a full-time Academic Coordinator at the facility playing. Boehr will be supporting students through their academic journey and facilitating the logistics of running a college program inside a prison.

Boehr said in the release, “Everybody from the college to the correctional staff has been supportive, and the students are motivated to succeed. We’re just happy to be facilitating that.”

One prospective student shared in the release, “given the opportunity to obtain higher education through this program would be a dream come true and allow me to enhance the skills I have been learning while participating in [other] programs.”

Another prospective student remarked, “I have been in Green Haven for a little over ten years and have taken great strides in self-improvement, responsibility, community development, personal development, and most importantly, the resurgence of my character inside and outside of the prison system. I will be honored to enroll in Hudson Link’s prison degree program to have the chance to educate the younger generation, especially at-risk youth.”

McRae noted, “I hope students can frame themselves not only as scholars but as people who can bring about change (and/or shifts in thinking) in their own spheres of influence. There are so many ways to view the world and the issues within. I hope to create an environment where perspectives can be shared, challenged, acknowledged, and supported.”

Since 1998, Hudson has partnered with nine colleges to award more than 750 degrees across program sites. As the program develops, Hudson Link plans to establish a bachelor’s degree pathway at the facility, according to the release.

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Organizations to receive funding for workforce development

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that 42 organizations across the state have been awarded \$7 million as part of the Workforce Development Initiative. This series of awards is the first group made under the second round of funding, which began in August, and makes \$48 million available to support strategic regional efforts that help New Yorkers prepare for and find quality, well-paying jobs, meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, expand apprenticeships, and address the long-term needs of growing industries. Applications continue to be accepted through the rolling Consolidated Funding Application Process.

Funding and incentives provided in this round of awards by Department of Labor, SUNY and CUNY will support critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for more than 2,550 New Yorkers across the State.

New York's Regional Economic Development Councils have a key role in recommending applications for funding, based on regional economic needs and opportunities. Mid-Hudson businesses and organizations receiving Workforce Development awards include Nicholas Center, Williams Lumber, ShopRite and Dutchess Community College.

The Workforce Development Initiative

began in 2019 with a mission to invest \$175 million throughout New York State for innovative, creative, and regionally customized workforce development projects. Awards under this Consolidated Funding Application support strategic regional efforts that meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, address long-term industry needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance flexibility and adaptability of local workforce entities, and expand workplace learning opportunities.

In the first round of WDI funding, over \$70 million was awarded to 225 organizations to support regionally significant

industries in emerging fields with growing demands for jobs — including clean energy, life sciences, computer science, and advanced technologies — as well as efforts to improve the economic security of women, young workers, and other populations that face significant barriers to career advancement. Funding supports critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for over 51,000 New Yorkers across the State.

More information about the Workforce Development Initiative and the awards announced to date can be found at workforcedevelopment.ny.gov.



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Working together, we can end veteran homelessness

When we created the VetZero project in 2019, our mission was in the name: Our goal was zero veteran suicides and zero veteran homelessness in our community, and some day, in our country. That goal might sound naïve to some, but we believe anything’s possible if we all work together.

We’ve long assumed the ongoing COVID pandemic would have a negative impact on the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America, but there has been no hard data to support that assumption, until now. Recently the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, known as HUD, released its annual report on homelessness, and the number of veterans experiencing homelessness is going back up again, after a long period of decline.

Over the previous decade, the number of homeless veterans in America was basically cut in half, from about 75,000 in 2009 to a low of around 40,000 in 2020. That was due to a growth of both public awareness and also government funding of programs that support our veterans. But now, according to that recent HUD report, that downward trend has been halted over these past two years of the pandemic.

Even before I walked across America, I

knew what it feels like to be a homeless veteran. When I got my discharge from the Navy back in 1997, I found myself in a strange city with no friends or family, no real support, and no real plan as to what I was going to do next. I was lost. All my friends were on the ship I had called home for years. I had no home of my own and very little money in the bank, even though I found work at a local hardware store. Luckily, after a few months I managed to enroll in a graduate program with the help of the G.I. Bill, but I will always remember the fear and depression I experienced during that time.

Oftentimes we can get jaded when we think about the mounting problems facing our veterans. After all, we see the same issues day in and day out, and sometimes we just figure those issues will never get better. At least, not in our lifetimes. But that’s simply not true. Think about it: between 2009 and 2020 we basically halved the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America. That’s amazing. And now it’s our mission to keep that downward trend going after the COVID pandemic ends. We shouldn’t stop until that number reaches zero.

Did you know there are 82 communities across America that have indeed



Liberty Station in Poughkeepsie is operated by Hudson River Housing and is Dutchess County's only dedicated veteran shelter. *Courtesy photo*

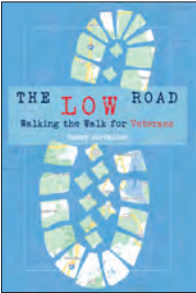
reached “zero” for homeless veterans? Places like Houston and New Orleans have declared an end to veteran homelessness. Now, I’m sure those numbers won’t stay at zero every single day, but it shows these communities are taking a stand. It shows they are being proactive with supporting our veterans in need. And that’s a comforting thought.

Many of our veterans experiencing homelessness will be invisible to the untrained eye. Most homeless veterans do not fit that tired stereotype of a ragged old vet sitting on the side of the road with a cardboard sign. No, most homeless veterans have jobs, and they have the same problems and responsibilities we all have in life. As we have said before, veterans

do not ask for help, especially when they need it. But that goal of zero veteran homelessness is within our reach, if we all work together.

Thanks for listening! See you next time!

A Navy veteran, Tom Zurhellen has been Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Poughkeepsie for the past three years. In the summer of 2019, he walked across America from Portland, Oregon, to Poughkeepsie to raise awareness on veteran suicide and veteran homelessness in our country. He continues to work with local veterans in need through the VetZero Project, in partnership with Hudson River Housing.



TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND BUY 'THE LOW ROAD'!

Tom Zurhellen chronicles his 2019 VetZero Walk Across America in his new book, “The Low Road: Walking the Walk for Veterans.” The Walk raised awareness of the plight of many veterans in our country, and called attention to the fact that, every day, 22 veterans take their own lives. Proceeds from “The Low Road” will go directly to help local veterans in need through the VetZero Project at Hudson River Housing. The book costs \$22 and can only be purchased at www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

VETERANS CORNER: NEWS YOU CAN USE

Top sites for veterans resources

A recent blog post by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) listed the Top 10 most popular veteran resources from 2021. Every week, VA sends a weekly newsletter called #VetResources that is filled with valuable content – including free resources, important updates and discounts for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

While VA makes no endorsements of the privately offered resources, the agency shares them to generate awareness of all that is available to the Veteran community.

1. Veteran discounts available year-round <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

A comprehensive list of Veteran and military discounts (last verified October 2021) that are good all year round and are

updated based on additional awareness.

2. Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to National Parks, Refuges, other public lands <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/80547/veterans-gold-star-families-get-free-entrance-national-parks-refuges-public-lands/>

Entrance fees for National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sites, as well as standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations, are waived for current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

3. Guitars for Vets offers lessons, guitar for Veterans <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/87182/guitars-vets-offers-lessons-guitar-veterans/>

Guitars for Vets (G4V) presents an

instruction program designed for Veterans working through physical injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and other forms of emotional distress to help improve communication, coordination and interpersonal skills.

4. Free tax preparation, electronic filing services <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/16726/free-tax-return-preparation-for-veterans-military-members-and-their-families/>

A list of links to free tax preparation and electronic tax filing services for current and former members of the military.

5. RallyPoint provides networking, and access to counseling, job, mentorship services <https://www.rallypoint.com/registrations/step1>

A social network by, for and about service members and Veterans, RallyPoint provides such services as mentorship, job placement and access to counseling.

6. Free Veteran training for Microsoft Software and Systems Academy <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85748/free-veteran-training-microsoft-software-systems-academy/>

The Microsoft Software and Systems Academy offers free, formal training in some of technology’s most in-demand roles to the military and Veteran community.

7. Register your SNAP EBT card on Amazon for exclusive benefits, discounts <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/85034/register-snap-ebt-card-amazon-exclusive-benefits-discounts/>

Amazon offers SNAP EBT accept-

ance, competitive prices, wide selection and free shipping options to improve the grocery shopping experience, including free access to Amazon Fresh and exclusive discounts on essential items.

8. Experience live events through Vet Tix <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/96328/experience-live-events-through-vet-tix-with-friends-and-family/>

Vet Tix provides free tickets to Veterans and service members for a wide variety of events, including professional and collegiate sports, concerts, rodeos, festivals and more.

9. Together We Served launches new “Veteran Finder” app <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/97038/together-we-served-launches-new-veteran-finder-app-for-veterans-day/>

Together We Served recently launched a free “Veteran Finder” app to find and connect with the network’s 2.1 million Veteran members.

10. Find your next job with help from an American Corporate Partners mentor <https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/87333/find-next-great-job-help-acp-mentor/>

American Corporate Partners (ACP) works with post-9/11 Veterans to help them find meaningful employment after military service.

If you do not receive the #VetResources weekly newsletter, sign up today at www.VA.gov/VetResources. Past newsletters can be found here, and all #VetResources blog posts are online at <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/category/vets-experience/vetresources/>.

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by vicki frank day



Bread pudding

Savory or sweet, it's pure comfort on a cold day.

Happy New Year! Let's get cookin'! And what are we making? Only the best thing since sliced bread! When I first started writing these articles, I shared my recipe for savory bread pudding, but since it's one of my favorite things I decided to share another version. And for those of you craving a sweet indulgence I've added one of those, too. With a delectable caramel cream sauce, no less! You're sure welcome!

Before we dive in, though, a few words about the joys and importance of comfort food. Bread pudding sits high on the top of my list, be it sweet or savory. It combines some of my favorite things, is a great excuse to use up leftovers and never fails to satisfy, heart and soul! And who couldn't use that on a chilly winter's day?

SAVORY BREAD PUDDING

Making this the day (or night) before is ideal, not only because it's easier on you, but also because it gives the bread time to really soak up the egg and cream, giving you deliciously puffed up results. Bread

pudding is also a great way to use up any leftover bread. This makes for a luscious breakfast or brunch but is also pretty perfect for dinner on a cozy night in.

INGREDIENTS

- Baguette, Italian or other firm bread, cut into 1" cubes (about 3 cups)
- 2 cups grated Gruyere, cheddar and/or Swiss cheese
- 1.5 cups sliced mushrooms
- 6 eggs
- 1.5 cups heavy cream
- Fresh chopped thyme, rosemary and/or oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

Place bread cubes and cheese in an ovenproof baking dish or bowl; toss and set aside.

In a large skillet, saute mushrooms until soft and slightly brown, about 10 minutes. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, cream and seasonings. Add mushrooms. Pour over bread and cheese, stir to

combine, then cover and chill for 2 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, uncover and bake in a preheated 400 degree oven for about 30 minutes. Cover with foil and return to oven to bake until liquid is set and edges start to brown.

PLEASE NOTE: Baking times depend on the size and depth of your baking dish and so are approximate. Check after 30 minutes for doneness by seeing if eggs are set and most of the liquid is gone. Continue to cook as needed, checking frequently.

About 4 servings.

ALSO NOTE: You can add whatever you like: sauteed onions, peppers, spinach, broccoli, ham bacon ... It's a delicious way to use up odds and ends!

BREAD PUDDING with CARMEL SAUCE

If you're feeling particularly indulgent, you could serve this for breakfast or brunch. Otherwise, think of it as a rich, custardy dessert. I've added boozy raisins to the mix, but this is just as good without them. Especially with that sauce! Oh my!

INGREDIENTS FOR PUDDING

- Butter or cooking spray to grease pan
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup Irish whiskey
- 1 loaf (unseeded) French or Italian bread (preferably day-old)
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon each nutmeg and cinnamon

METHOD FOR PUDDING

Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish and set aside.

Soak raisins in whiskey for at least 30 minutes.

Cut bread into 1 inch cubes and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs, then add cream, milk, sugar, vanilla and spices. Stir in raisins (undrained) into egg mixture, then add bread, stirring to coat very

well. Let soak for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread bread mixture evenly into prepared baking dish (it will pretty much be in one layer, just covering the bottom). Bake until set, about 35 minutes. Serve with warm caramel sauce.

INGREDIENTS FOR CARMEL SAUCE

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 2 ounces (about 1/4 cup) cream cheese
- 1/4 cup cream or milk

METHOD FOR SAUCE

Combine sugar and water in a small, heavy saucepan and cook over medium-high heat until sugar dissolves, stirring constantly. Continue to cook without stirring until golden (about 15 minutes). Remove from heat and carefully add butter and cream cheese, stirring constantly with a whisk. It will be very hot and will bubble vigorously. Cool slightly before stirring in cream (or milk). Drizzle over warm bread pudding and serve.

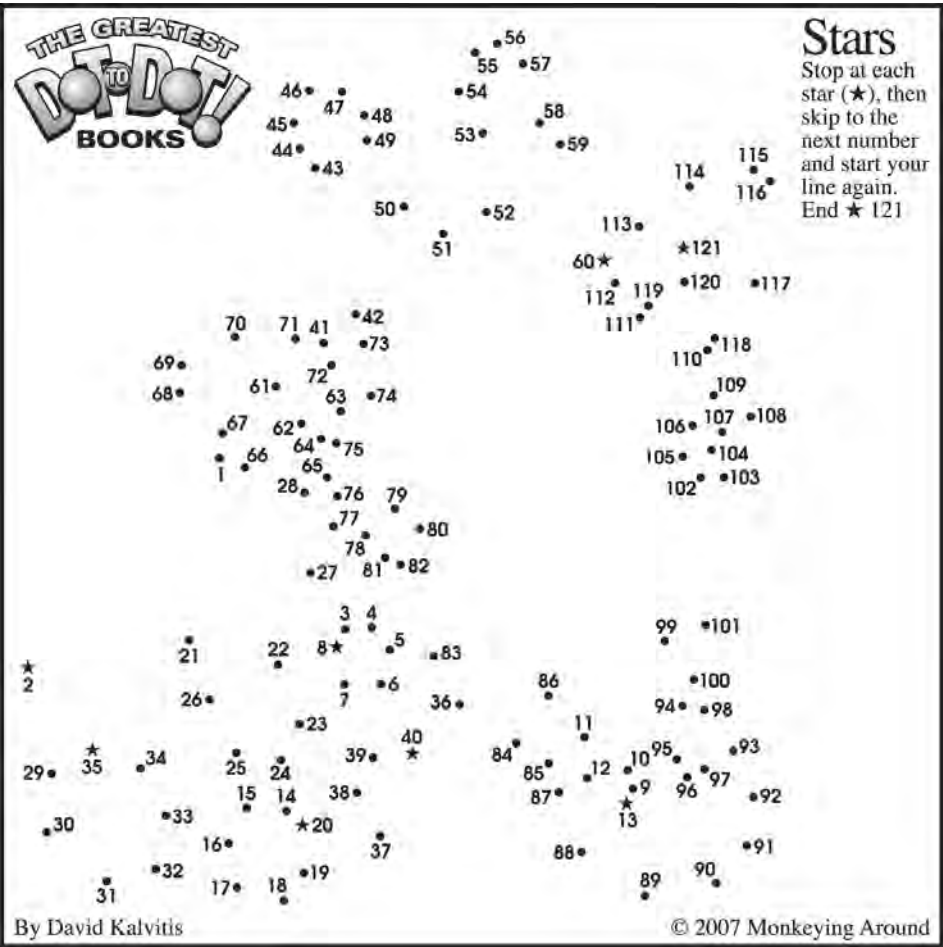
Serves about 6.

I know we're supposed to start the new year off healthier and that many of us have committed to eating better, but if you're able to, please make some bread pudding! A little indulgence once in a while can't be all that bad, can it? Especially if it brings you comfort on a cold day, makes you happy, tastes really good and helps clean out the fridge. Who's with me? If you are, then enjoy!

Vicki Frank Day is a graphic artist with more than two decades of experience in different aspects of the food service industry. She is the Content Marketing Specialist for Adams Fairacre Farms where she has worked for 25 years, with in-depth food research being an integral part of her marketing position. She believes that cooking is for everyone and should be a pleasurable journey, that food should be experienced, not merely eaten, and that special occasions can be an everyday celebration. E-mail her at vfrankday@adamsfarms.com.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



MORTON TO HOST ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAN. 21

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show will present its monthly concert on Friday, Jan. 21, from 8 to 10:30 p.m., at the Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. The lineup will feature Kingston Kane, SEM, Larry Silver & Inyo, and Walter Ensor.

Donations suggested; call (845) 876-7007 for more information.

County Players to hold CP2 Readers Theatre Series auditions

County Players will hold open auditions on Sunday, Jan. 23, for two shows being offered during the CP2 Readers Theatre Series. Auditions will be held at their County Players Falls Theatre at 2681 West Main St. in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

The October Mini-Festival #3:

Reading #1: "Grand Concourse", by Heidi Schreck, directed by Dorothy Luongo. Auditions are 1 – 3 p.m. Characters: 4 - Shelley-late 30s; Emma-19; Oscar-late 20s-30s. Latino; Frog-50s-60s. Specifically seeking a diverse cast for this production. Actors of all ethnic and racial backgrounds are encouraged to attend.

Reading #2: "Uncanny Valley", by

Thomas Gibbons, directed by Kristin Battersby. Auditions are 3 – 5 p.m. Characters: 2 Claire – a neuroscientist, 60s-70s; Julian – an artificial human, mid 30s.

Actors of all ages, genders, and ethnicities are encouraged. Audition information including performance dates, CP audition Form, character breakdowns, any sides, and forms are available online, visit countyplayers.org/cp2-auditions/ COVID protocol

At this time all actors, crew must be fully vaccinated. Please wear a mask and be prepared to show proof of vaccination upon arrival. The stage manager will provide the audition form (or you may download it from this page, print, fill it

out, and bring it with you to the audition.) Once inside the theatre you may be unmasked (if fully vaccinated) and/or to read for the audition.

SCHEDULE: Be prepared to list all possible conflicts. Rehearsal schedule will be respectful of performers' time and conflicts. Please note, due to COVID restrictions, fully vaccinated actors planning to audition are asked to carefully

consider travel out of state during rehearsals or performances. County Players will follow current CDC guidelines for domestic and international travel restrictions for Fully vaccinated individuals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Note: There are separate sections for both domestic and international travel which are updated as Covid-19 levels fluctuate.

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The Biobay

Vacation ends on a glowing note.

Staggering along a four-mile stretch of Avenida Isla Verde in San Juan, Puerto Rico, I was on a mission to find a bottle of real champagne for our New Year’s Eve celebration. Liquor is sold in every store in Puerto Rico – gas stations, souvenir shops, drug stores. But the closest they come to champagne is sparkling wine, Cold Duck or Persecco. Where was the Veuve Clicquot, the Tattengier and the Mumm Cordon Rouge? It was beginning to feel like “The Lost Weekend.” Then I was given a tip to try to the giant Publix supermarket. After a circuitous detour, there it was – a chilled liter of Moet & Chandon Brut Imperial!

Next morning, recovering from a less than memorable New Year’s Eve celebration in the lobby of the Holiday Inn, I began to realize that I would need some kind of activity to make this trip memorable. More than a bike ride or a walk in the national park. In the hot tub back at the Hotel El Convento, some tourists had been raving about the “biobay,” supposedly one of the seven wonders of the natural world.

So, after renting a car, Sue and I were off on our latest adventure.

Bioluminescence is the production and

emission of light by a living organism (think fireflies). Dinoflagellates, single-celled algae, are responsible for a blue glow in the Mosquito Bay on the Island of Viques, Puerto Rico. Mosquito Bay, a national natural landmark, is considered to be the best example of bioluminescence in the Caribbean, if not in the world.

I signed up for a biobay kayak tour with an outfit called Malayas Tours. Now we had to get to Viques, an island off the east coast of mainland Puerto Rico. Not as easy as it sounds. The 1 p.m. ferry was sold out, so after parking the rental car in the desolate town of Ceiba, we sat on metal folding chairs at the terminal waiting for the 5:30 ferry, then hired a taxi to rush to Lazy Jack’s Bar and Grill, where we met our guide. As usual in Puerto Rico, our COVID vaccine certificates were scrutinized before we could buy a diet coke (Sue) or a Budweiser (me).

We were in luck. By 7 p.m., the night was pitch black, thanks to the new moon, after a brilliant sunny day – perfect conditions for a bioluminescent show. A short van ride took our group of six tourists down a muddy track to the edge



Great Blue Heron. Photo by Sue Adams

continued on page 13

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Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.

The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

Suguru

2					3
		4			
				4	
		3			
5				5	

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.

ACROSS

1. Role on "Cheers"
6. Remnant
11. Pronoun
14. Opera songs
15. Forfeit
16. Layer
17. Substitute player
19. New Testament bk.
20. French article
21. Coin
22. In an impolite way
24. Fluid accumulations
26. Used the other end of a pencil
28. Preposition
30. Kampala resident
33. Trims
36. Uncooperative one
38. Part of the psyche
39. Inert gas
40. Parts of fishhooks
41. HST, JFK or LBJ
42. ___ du Diable
43. Mother-of-pearl
44. Adjective for a brat
45. Process liquor
47. Completely absorbed
49. Played "Taps"
51. In conclusion
55. Dead to the world
57. Mr. Stravinsky
59. Charlotte ___
60. Crushing reptile
61. Old cars, sometimes
64. Olive Oyl's hairdo
65. Steaming
66. Licoricelike flavoring
67. Antlered animal
68. City in Ohio
69. Men's nicknames

DOWN

1. Word with car or TV
2. As slender as ___
3. Dishwasher cycle
4. Resinous substance
5. Trash receptacles
6. Graceful waterbird
7. A la ___
8. Border
9. Means
10. Thorough reading
11. Cheese crumblers
12. Despicable person or part of his foot
13. Covetousness
18. Adam or Mae
23. Group of scouts
25. Bearing
27. Hose material
29. Seer's revelation
31. Grows gray
32. Too inquisitive
33. City in Oklahoma
34. Place to buy salami
35. Forgets one's answer
37. Have reason to say "Oops!"
40. Game site
41. Buchanan and Nixon
43. Cameroon's neighbor
44. No-frills
46. Part of every wk.
48. African succulent
50. "Same for me!"
52. Quality
53. Slip of the memory
54. Affirmatives
55. Priestly title: Fr.
56. Type of music
58. Secluded valley
62. Paver's goo
63. Ribonucleic acid, familiarly

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	53	54
55	56					57	58					59		
60				61		62					63			
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 15

Get Growing!

continued from page 11



White Pelicans. Photo by Sue Adams

of the bay, where loads of glass bottomed kayaks were filling up with adventurers from various tour groups. Sue and I hopped into our tandem kayak and shoved off into the bay.

Tiny blue stars speckled the underside of our craft, and every stroke of the paddle turned up hundreds of thousands of bright blue dinoflagellates. Run a hand through the water and you catch hundreds in your palm. Our guide pointed out the constellations in the pitch black sky above.

Two hours later we were back at Lazy Jack's for our only meal of the day. By the time we finished, no taxis were running, so we got a ride from "Moses," one of the hopefully not too drunk bar patrons, to a hotel near the ferry terminal.

A couple of days later, friends we were visiting in Rock Ledge, Florida, suggested we take the two hour "ecotour" of the Indian River Lagoon Estuary System. We boarded a little pontoon boat with Capt. CJ Enneking and his wife Jane, cruising along the shores of the 177,000-acre Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. The former NASA Kennedy Space Center was

sited on the wildlife refuge (how was that allowed?), abandoned and then revitalized as a launch site by Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Richard Branson, all competing to put a man on Mars.

We saw lots of Lagoon Bottlenose Dolphins, a subspecies only six feet long. A flock of 500 roseate spoonbills winged overhead. White pelicans roosted on the shore, twice the size of the common brown pelican. Bald eagles, herons, ospreys and of course alligators abounded. But manatees are scarce, and getting scarcer, as their only food, aquatic sawgrass, disappears from the bay, for various reasons.

All in all, the lagoon is home to 42,000 species of plants and animals, including 400 different fish. We even saw bioluminescent jellyfish, but they weren't glowing in the daylight.

Now it's back to our greatest adventure of all – growing flowers!

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

EXHIBITIONS

Barrett Art Center, 55 Noxon St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Jan. 30:** "Body Beautiful III," focusing on life drawing, to bring attention, more study and practitioners to the regular practice of representing the human figure, clothed or nude, in the variety of media. Curated by Penny Dell. info@barrettartcenter.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 25:** Featured in the Hallway Art Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be Jim Bennett; and at 12 Vassar St. will be Ada Monica Sperling in the Reception Gallery and Brett Gehrke in the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access to galleries. Visit cunneen-hackett.org for hours and to review the Visitation Safety Protocols.

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Feb. 6:** "Winter Works," TAG member /artists reflect on process, practice and new work with regard to the specificity of a season. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

Trolley Barn Gallery, 489 Main St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 24:** The Art Effect hosts the youth-curated, international juried exhibition, "Double Take," featuring 43 works of art and unconventional uses of media including: distortions, optical illusions, drawings, double exposure, sculptural installations and more. **Opening reception:** Friday, Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m. **Virtual artist talk:** Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7-8 p.m., moderated by the Youth Curatorial Team and three featured artists. feelthearteffect.org

LOOK FOR THAT'S ITALIAN!
IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Luigi Coppola shares stories and recipes.



Howland Chamber Music Circle presents pianist Roman Rabinovich

Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will present a live performance by pianist Roman Rabinovich on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://howlandmusic.org/Tickets.html>.

With this concert, HCMC returns to the Howland Cultural Center with live performances for its audiences. In order to ensure the safety of its patrons, HCMC is following all CDC and local COVID guidelines. Concerts will be held at half capacity to enable social distancing, and a proof of vaccination is required prior to entry. (The wearing of masks will be determined by the prevailing CDC and local government mandates and guidelines.) As guidelines may change, HCMC thanks its patrons for their flexibility and cooperation.

For more information on this performance and on the entire 2021-2022 HCMC season, visit howlandmusic.org.

Rabinovich has been highly lauded by The New York Times, BBC Music Magazine, the San Francisco Classical Voice and others. He has performed throughout Europe and the United States, in many major concert halls as both a soloist and a featured artist with world-renowned symphony orchestras. Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Rabinovich immigrated to Israel with his family in 1994, beginning his piano studies there; he went on to graduate from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and earned his Master's Degree at the Juilliard School in New York City.

A true polymath, Rabinovich is an accomplished composer, as well as a visual artist. During the pandemic he and violinist Diana Cohen have played free weekly concerts in their front yard.

Rabinovich will play an eclectic program at the Howland Cultural Center: 6 selections from 18th-century composer Jean-Philippe Rameau's Suite in g-minor; 3 Impromptus by 19th-century composer Franz Schubert; a Sonata by the 20th-century's George Walker; and 12 Etudes by the 19th-century's Frederic Chopin.

Creative Living

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Local theater luminary passes

by Kate Goldsmith

Community theater has lost one of its most beloved family members. Kevin Archambault, an actor, singer, choreographer, director and teacher who was the Artistic Director for The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, died on Jan. 10 at age 44. In October 2020, Kevin had been diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer, which had spread to his liver and lungs.

Kevin's obituary stated, "He remained positive to the end as he forged his last battle."

By all accounts, Kevin was universally admired in the local theater community.

"Kevin's true gift was the love he gave and the love that came back to him," said Lou Trapani, Managing Director at The Center. "There is not a person here who did not adore him. He entered a room and all was right with the world. He chirruped and tweeted and made everyone feel like the special chick in the nest. He can be replaced as Artistic Director and I suppose there is someone out there, somewhere, who can approximate his abilities as an actor, a director, a singer, and a choreographer; but there is no replacement, no substitute, no 'just as good' a friend, mentor, and confidant."

According to his obituary, Kevin graduated from the Denver School of the Arts (drama) in 1995. He attended St. Edwards University in Austin Texas where he majored in Theater and Drama. Kevin graduated Cum Laude and was awarded the Deacon Crain award recognizing him as the outstanding theater student in 1999. After graduation he worked for several years for the Austin Musical Theater Company acting and teaching. During these years he worked on over 60 productions, mostly as an actor.

In 2001 he moved to New York and then to the Hudson Valley area. He auditioned for a play at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck ... and the rest, as they say, is history. During his tenure, Kevin did 34 productions, serving in various capacities: acting, directing and choreographing, and teaching at the theater. He also performed in other productions in the area.

"I catch myself thinking of him as the son my old self never had," said Trapani. "Kevin always called me 'Daddy Lou' and I shall miss my dear boy. More than I can say."

Ellen Honig, director of many productions at The Center and for Rhinebeck Theatre Society, said, "Kevin was a beautiful young man - who was multi talented, sensitive and kind, a lover of The Center



Kevin Archambault was beloved by the theater community in the Mid-Hudson Valley and beyond. He was an actor, singer, teacher, director, choreographer and more. *Photos by Caleb Loccoco (above and top left) and Jen Kiaba (middle and bottom photos, left)*

and the people who play and work together there. He raised the level of the shows we did at The Center when he directed or performed. I admired him."

Honig added, "Kevin had many friends at The Center who truly loved him, and we are very, very sad today."

In a poignant video Kevin made to be played after his death (see <https://www.facebook.com/CENTER12572/videos/477013437157078>),

one of his final requests was to have those watching make a donation to The Center: go to www.centerforperformingarts.org/donate.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial for Kevin in Denver, CO at a future date. A celebration of his life is planned for the spring/summer.

Read Kevin's full obituary at <https://www.keyserfuneralservice.com/obituary/630132/Kevin-Archambault/>.

News from Morton Memorial Library

Open Call for Mural Artists

Our goal is for a mural (along the wall adjacent to the library) that captures the essence of the Rhinecliff community, and, if possible, invite residents to help create it in some way—be it through direct participation, collecting materials, or other forms of working with you. If that sounds interesting, we'd love to receive your proposal.

Submissions due by March 1.

Include: Timeline, budget and portfolio as well as a few sentences sharing your conceptual narrative plus an informal sketch of your vision.

Send your proposal to: sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org.

The winning submission will be chosen by the Morton Memorial Library and announced by April 15. The mural should be completed by Oct. 15.

Needlework Club

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 3 p.m.

Join with your crocheting, knitting, or hand sewing. Feel free to bring your own materials if you are an experienced crocheter maven. We will have yarn and hooks for beginners. This group will meet biweekly from 3 to 4. Call the library for more information. All are welcome.

Virtual Seed Swap

Saturday, Jan. 29, beginning at noon

Because things are as they are, there won't be an in-person Seed Swap this year, but the Morton Seed Library will be honoring National Seed Swap Day, nonetheless. It'll work like this:

Those of you with seeds to donate to the swap can pop them into packets (use your best judgment as to how many a gardener will need) with your name and the name of the seeds, along with the year

they were harvested. Stop by or drop the packets in the book drop. We'll add them to our illustrious stash and inventory.

Those of you wanting seeds: A database of all the seeds we have on hand will be made available on the Morton Library website on Saturday, Jan. 29, at noon. Make your selections (five packets max) and your seed packets will be pulled from the collection and we will let you know when we have them available for pickup. (We can also mail to you if you aren't local.)

We are also offering a chance to win a basket of gardening goodies hand curated by Vicki Haak, by purchasing a "Hedge Fund, Horticultural Savings" coin bank for \$10.

5th Annual Rhinecliff Winter Bonfire

Rhinecliff Firemen's Field

Saturday, Jan. 29, 4 p.m.

Rhinebeck Grange #896 in partnership with the Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. and Morton Memorial Library will host The 5th Annual Rhinecliff Winter Bonfire at Rhinecliff Firemen's Field. Dress warmly and join us to celebrate Winter around a bonfire made from local holiday trees.

Drop off your tree at Firemen's Field by the parking area. Trees must be cleared of decorations. Holiday trees from the Rhinecliff Protective Fire District can be picked up from your home from 8 a.m. to noon. Call Joe at (845) 489-0835 to arrange for your tree pick up and set it at the end of your driveway on Saturday morning.

Morton Board Meetings

Held on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome.

MORTON LIBRARY REQUESTS SUBMISSIONS FOR TALENT SHOW

Morton Memorial Library & Community House will hold its annual Talent Show virtually again this year, on Friday, March 4, starting at 7 p.m. They've sent out a call to the community to share their talents.

An evening of jokes, bands, storytelling, guitar playing, dance and more is in store. Use your imaginations and share your immense variety of talents with our community. This show and our community are all about enjoyment and camaraderie — never judgment. Richard Kopyscianski has agreed to MC.

This year, participants will need to record their performance and send it in.

Contact Sandy by Feb. 1 if you are interested in participating, and in what capacity; send email to sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org.

Art show to stay up through March

"Morton's Dual Style Talent Show Art Opening" will take place on Friday, Feb. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The library hopes to have its art opening virtual and in-person for the visual component of the Talent Show a week before the performance component. The art will remain up and online for the month of March.

Contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org by Feb. 5 if you are interested in participating. Bring in your piece and send a jpg or pdf of your visual art to the library by Saturday, Feb. 19.

Morton Memorial Library & Community House is at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff. Call (845) 876-2903 for more information.

TIME TO DECLUTTER

Imagine, for a minute, being a pharaoh in ancient Egypt, planning for a journey into the afterlife. What would you bring into the tomb for the trip? Keep in mind that even a pharaoh won't have unlimited storage space. King Tutankhamun himself was interred with 50 garments, and that was his wardrobe for all eternity. For somebody laid to rest in a solid gold coffin, his tomb took up a lot less space than you'd think he could afford, about the same as a small three-bedroom house.

In the 3,300 years since King Tut's day, we've learned that we can't take it with us, but too often we forget that as our homes fill up with a little of everything: many things we need, but far more things we don't need. We've all done it: We're at the supermarket, can't remember whether we needed mustard, so we buy another jar just in case. A decade or two goes by, and now we have 14 jars of mustard.

We don't fit the definition of a hoarder, which involves a mental health diagnosis, but still ... why did we do this? Why did we accumulate so many things we'll never need? Fear is sometimes a factor, as anybody who stocked up on toilet paper and pasta during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic would remember. There's another kind of fear: You'll throw something away but find out you need it. This almost never happens, but that "almost" is enough for people to

keep that 50-year-old strand of Christmas lights.

A desire to hold on to the past is another factor, and seniors have the most past to hold on to, even if it's things they haven't used in decades.

Winter is a great time to declutter. Think of the good things that'll result. You'll be able to find your important paperwork without having to dig through accumulated junk mail. With fewer things lying around, you'll reduce the risk of injury in a fall. You might even sleep better; a 2015 study by St. Lawrence University found that people who slept in cluttered bedrooms experienced less restful sleep.

If you haven't decluttered in a while, you might think the task is too much, so break it down into smaller pieces. Set up a decluttering plan that works for you. If you can only manage to declutter one room, one shelf, or even one drawer, that's still progress. If you can only sort out the clothing you need from the clothing you don't, that's still a plus.

Clutter is going to fall into four main categories: recyclables, hazardous materials, things that can be donated, and things that need to be thrown away. Your town, city, or village government will know more about what can and can't be recycled, and Dutchess County hosts several Hazardous Household Waste and Electronics Recycling events throughout the year.

We'll have more decluttering tips next week. Until then, think twice before buying more mustard.

2021 SETS ANOTHER DRUG TAKEBACK RECORD

Dutchess County STOP-DWI reports another record year for 2021 for the collection of outdated, unneeded, and unwanted medications in Dutchess County. 411.6 pounds of medications were collected at 2021 OFA Senior Picnics, up about four pounds from last year's figure. STOP-DWI also collected 3269.6 pounds of medications at 11 participating drop-boxes throughout the county, as well as at other events through the year. Including collections received via New York State Police Troop K, a record total of 3787.6 pounds of medications was collected in 2021.

Since the collection program began in 2013, over 11 tons of medications have been collected for safe disposal. These collections keep medications out of the wrong hands, as well as out of the water supply. If you have medications that need disposal, click here for the list of 11 par-

ticipating drop boxes and their operating hours.

OFA SEEKS VOLUNTEER EXERCISE LEADERS IN HYDE PARK, LaGRANGE, POUGHKEEPSIE, RED HOOK

The Office for the Aging's Senior Exercise Program is looking for volunteer class leaders at venues throughout Dutchess County. Several classes in the Poughkeepsie area are looking for volunteer leaders, as are OFA classes in Hyde Park, LaGrange, and Upper Red Hook. (Many thanks to the volunteers who stepped up this week to fill vacancies in Pawling!) Training is provided, and all current COVID-19 safety protocols are followed. We'll work with your availability, whatever it may be, as best we can. For more information, contact OFA at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

HV Alzheimer's Association chapter offers helpline, Alzheimer's warning signs

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley chapter has a variety of programs and services available for the general public and for families living with dementia. Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, most of these are currently being provided virtually or by phone.

The Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 is always available to answer any questions and concerns. Typically, during and after the holidays, the number of calls increase when people who recently visited friends and family that they haven't seen in a while notice changes in their loved ones. The Helpline is an ideal place to find answers and resources for additional assistance.

"Helpline calls often lead to local referrals to our chapter for additional resources, such as free education programs and personalized family care consultations," said Meg Boyce, Vice President of Programs and Services for the Hudson Valley Chapter.

"As our loved ones age, we often attribute memory loss to a normal aging, although some behaviors or signs of cognitive decline may result from something more severe. Boyce noted it can be tempting to remain in denial about such changes in a loved one's behavior, but that putting off a diagnosis can add to difficulties down the road.

"Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging. It is a progressive disease, in which the symptoms gradually worsen over time," she said. "Ignoring signs of cognitive impairment out of fear or denial can lead to greater heartache and

the possible worsening of the situation."

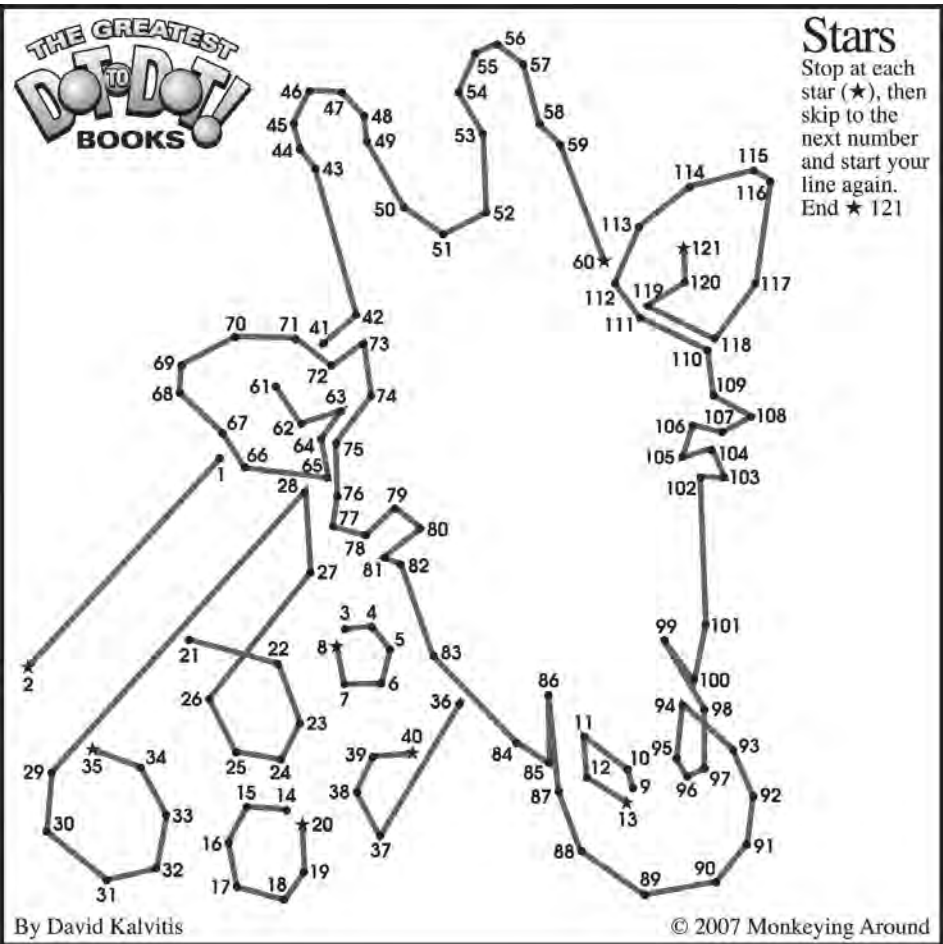
The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter encourages families to keep the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's in mind:

- Memory changes that disrupts daily life, such as forgetting important events
- Challenges in planning or solving problems, such as keeping track of monthly bills
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks, such as driving to routine places
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps, such as putting keys in the freezer
- Decreased or poor judgment, such as giving large sums of money to telemarketers
- Withdrawal from work or social activities, and forgetting how to work on a favorite hobby
- Changes in mood and personality, such as becoming angry or fearful for seemingly no reason

"If you notice someone struggling with a familiar task, it's important to reach out to their healthcare providers," Boyce said. "Early diagnosis is crucial, as it gives the person living with the disease and their family more time to plan for the future, as well as the opportunity take advantage of some drugs that can help manage symptoms in the early stage."

The association offers free educational programs for the general public with advice on recognizing warning signs, how to live a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of developing dementia, information on legal and financial planning and more. Educational programs for those directly affected include advice on managing care throughout the disease, common dementia-related behaviors and how communication changes as the disease progresses. Live programs via Zoom or phone can be found by searching by zip code at alz.org/crf. Pre-recorded educational programs are available anytime at: alz.org/help-support/resources/care-training-resources.

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



Answers to this week's diversions (puzzles on page 12)

Suguru solution					
2	3	1	2	1	3
1	5	4	5	4	5
4	2	3	2	1	3
1	5	1	5	4	2
3	4	3	2	3	1
5	2	1	4	5	4

C	A	R	L	A		S	C	R	A	P		S	H	E			
C	A	R	I	A	S		W	A	I	V	E		H	E	N		
B	E	N	C	H	W	A	R	M	E	R			R	E	V		
L	E	S			C	E	N	T			R	U	D	E	L	Y	
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A	S	L	E	E	P			I	G	O	R		R	A	E		
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E	L	K			A	K	R	O	N				N	A	T	E	S

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

American Red Cross aids four after Hyde Park fire

Volunteers from the Northeastern New York Chapter of the American Red Cross provided immediate emergency aid to four people after a fire on Tuesday evening on Roosevelt Road in Hyde Park (Dutchess County).

The Red Cross provided health services and financial assistance for necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing to one adult and three youths, ages 14, 15 and 17. Volunteers also offered emotional support. In the coming days, Red Cross staff and volunteers will remain available to help those affected by the

fire as they navigate the road to recovery.

HOW TO HELP

The Red Cross relies on the generosity of local donors to help families prepare, respond and recover from disasters in Northeastern New York. Please visit red-cross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to donate to Disaster Relief and help people affected by disasters big and small.

You can also help by volunteering to respond to home fires and other disasters in your community. Browse current Red Cross volunteer opportunities at red-cross.org/volunteer.

DC Democratic Committee elects Julie Shiroishi as new county chair

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee elected Julie Shiroishi as the Committee’s new Chairperson. Running unopposed, Shiroishi succeeds longtime Chairperson, Elisa Sumner, who announced in early October that she would step down after serving for more than twelve years.

Shiroishi said, “As a lifelong Democrat, I will be guided by our party’s core values of tolerance, respect, and pluralism. Whether it’s building a resilient economy and creating good-paying jobs or striving toward a more just and equitable society, Democrats are committed to making a positive difference in our communities and our lives.

“I am grateful to Elisa Sumner for her

years of dedicated service and honored to be elected by my fellow Democrats to succeed her. Under Elisa’s leadership, our Committee has opened up new opportunities for Democrats in Dutchess County. This year alone, Democrats won a second term for County Comptroller Robin Lois, a new Democratic State Supreme Court Justice from Dutchess County, and numerous municipal seats.

Shiroishi is a resident of Beacon, where she has lived with her family for the past 15 years. She was State Senate candidate Karen Smythe’s 2020 campaign manager and is a member of the Beacon Democratic Committee. She currently serves as Chief of Staff for Assembly-member Jonathan Jacobson (D-104).

OBITUARIES

Patricia M. Daly
RHINEBECK – Patricia M. Daly, 85, of Rhinebeck, passed away at her home on December 18, 2021. Born on December 8, 1936, she was the daughter of the late George and Kathryn (Lennon) Daly and sister of the late James Daly as well as the niece of the late Jane and Hugh O’Rourke of Rhinebeck, NY. She graduated from Holy Name Hospital of Teaneck, NJ as an Registered nurse. She worked at several hospitals in New Jersey before relocating to the Rhinebeck area where she continued working at Northern Dutchess Hospital and Archcare at Ferncliff Nursing Home. Patricia is survived by close friends in the Rhinebeck area. Memorial services and burial will be announced at a later date. Arrangements under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, Rhinebeck, NY, www.dapsonchestney.com.

Kathleen Fraleigh
LAGRANGEVILLE – Kathleen E. Fraleigh, 83, of LaGrangeville and previously of Sharon, CT, peacefully died on January 7, 2022, at White Plains Hospital. Born on May 19, 1938, in Sharon, CT, Kathleen was the daughter of Robert W. and Euleata (Kochanski) Egan. Kathleen was a graduate of Housatonic Valley High School in CT and she graduated from Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie. She began work as Schatz Federal Bearing Co. in Poughkeepsie where she met her one true love Richard Bruce Fraleigh. They wed on October 6, 1962, at St. Bernard Church in Sharon, CT. Kathleen was predeceased by her husband Richard Fraleigh on December 24, 2019, after 57 years of marriage. Kathleen loved spending time with her grandchildren, taking care of her husband, taking long drives with her children, and watching sunsets. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, and shopping. She is survived by her children, Brian Fraleigh of Poughkeepsie, Jeff Fraleigh and his wife Michelle of Pleasant Valley, Sandra Tanner and her husband Michael of Lagrangeville, and Sue Rea and her husband Joseph of Poughkeepsie; her grandchildren, Scott, Ryan and his wife Carlene, Corey, Whitney, Jarrett, Darien, Braden, Hayley, and Louis; 4 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral

Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The funeral service was held at the funeral home. Interment is in Freedom Plains Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in memory of Richard Fraleigh, and mailed to the Arlington Education Foundation, 144 Todd Hill Road, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Please visit Kathleen’s Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

John Vincent Haight
LAGRANGE – On January 9, 2022, John V. Haight, at age 79, departed this world, surrounded by his Family after a long and courageous battle with cancer. John was born on May 30, 1942, To the late Marion Brown Haight and Herbert Joseph Haight in Poughkeepsie, New York. John Vincent, as his mother called him, was the big brother to Tom, his wife Sue and Charlie, his wife Susan. As the family patriarch, John was a Big Brother, Uncle, Godfather and mentor to his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws. John, at times, was even the prideful substitute to walking his younger cousins down the aisle on their special wedding days. John was a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, Class of 1960, where he was one of the first members of the PHS Rowing Team. As a prelude to the rest of his life John was assigned the role of coxswain for his Crew responsible for leading and motivating his teammate, which he carried through his life. His love of Rowing on the Hudson is something that was passed down through generations of his family. It was at Poughkeepsie High School that John met his first love, Carol A. Cappillino, whom he married in June of 1964. Carol predeceased John in the Spring of 2002 after her own prolonged battle cancer. John and Carol are survived by their two loving sons: Kevin and his wife, Traci; and Jeffrey and his wife, Allison; and John’s “legacy,” his adoring grandchildren, Claudia, Delaney and Colin whom they affectionately called Grand Pa. After Carol’s death, John found love again and married Cheryl L. Hait in 2010. Cheryl joined him in his many travels and transformed those journeys into “their adventures”. Cheryl is so very grateful for the support and love they received since John’s diagnosis. John’s family also includes Cheryl’s two daughters, Jessica (Matt) and

Jennifer, and grandchildren, Donnie, Rebecca, Alan and Danny. John embraced Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County history during the totality of his life making it his hobby to know everything he could about the place he called home. As “Maple Street Johnny” he learned all he could about Poughkeepsie with fond memories of the “Sun Parlor” listening to stories from his Pop Brown. John, during his 31-year career at IBM was where he developed a coterie of cherished and lifelong friends. John was universally admired as a peer, respected as a manager, and cherished as an invaluable guide to those with equally long and successful careers of their own. John’s career(s) and life was highlighted by serving others, especially when they needed help the most but also when they never asked for it. In addition to his family and friends, one of John’s other passions was the outdoors. Whether it was in the woods hunting or on Upton Lake fishing, he inherently loved nature and all it has to offer. After retirement, he became “Farmer John”, devoting his time and efforts to the family sunflower farm in LaGrange and pursuing his affinity for the outdoors. Also appropriately called the “Mayor” by his friends; John could often be found sharing his anecdotes during breakfast at the Adams’ Cafe, enjoying coffee at the Millbrook Diner, spending hours at Marist College as a worker and fan at a Red Fox at sporting events, and meeting his boys after church or gathering at the family’s Hudson Valley Cold Pressed Oils sunflower fields. John brought joy and happiness wherever he went and while he was known for telling a joke he was also known for appreciating one. His contagious laughter infected everyone within earshot. Those of us who know John are now left with a distressing void, but gratefully we are filled with the knowledge that he is accompanied by Carol, his parents and countless Haight’s in heaven that are always cheered but never forgotten. We are comforted by happy thoughts, a fortunate life, saturated by riotous memories of the irreplaceable John. Vincent Haight, with the lucky few among us that were the victims of his pranks. Visitation was Sunday January 16 at Miller’s Funeral Home, 371 hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered Monday January 17 at Our Lady of Rosary Chapel of St. Peter’s Church, 185 Hudson View Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider making a donation to Sparrows Nest in John’s name. Donations can be made online at sparrowsnestcharity.org or by mail at Sparrows Nest, 946 Route 376, Suite 7, Wappinger Falls, NY 12590. If you wish to send an online condolence please visit our website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com.

Sarah ‘Sally’ McCarthy
POUGHQUAG – Sarah “Sally” Marie McCarthy, 89, an area resident for over 23 years, died peacefully at home after a long illness surrounded by her family on January 12, 2022. Previously she was a resident of Yorktown Heights where she raised her family. Born in Ossining on August 14, 1932, Sally was the daughter of the late Hugh and Marie (Hallinan) Goley. She had worked as a LPN at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Yonkers, Northern Westchester Hospital, Yorktown Pediatrics, the Atria, and various assisted living facilities. On January 23, 1954, she married John P McCarthy the love of her life who predeceased her on February 18, 1998. Sally

enjoyed crocheting, reading and gardening. Her passion was dancing and listening to music. Most of all, she loved her family and cherished the time she spent with them. She is survived by her children, Kathleen (John) Hufnagel of LaGrangeville, Glenn (Diane) McCarthy of Utica, John F. (Mary Beth) McCarthy of Greenwich, CT, Sally (Joe) Palumbo of Cape Cod, MA, Anne Marie McCarthy (Fiance Lee Carilli) of Brewster, and Mary Beth (Joe) Martorana of Poughquag; her grandchildren, Brian, Shanna (Anthony), Sean, Danielle (Justin), James, Denise (Charlie), Sarah (Paul), Jeremiah, Liam (Sabrina), Mariel (Joe), Sabrina, Olivia (Jason), Shane (Nicole), and Madelyn; her great-grandchildren, Gianna, Anthony, Leo, Sloane, Jack, Charlie, and Luke; and her special friend, John Terceira; Her only surviving sibling, Hugh (Patricia) Goley; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, Sally was also predeceased by her grandson, Kevin John; and her siblings, Helen Thomas and James Goley. The family would like to thank her live-in aide, Doris Assentawa, for her selfless love, care and dedication and for treating Sally like her own mom over the past 5 years. In addition, the family is grateful for the many compassionate aides she had over the last 10 years. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Wednesday at 10 am at St. Denis Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction followed by burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Donations may be made in Sally’s memory to Alzheimer’s Foundation of America, Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation (CBTF.org). or Allianceofhope.org. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Michael D. Vaczi
HYDE PARK – Michael D. Vaczi, 63, a long time Hyde Park resident, passed away peacefully at home on January 6, 2022, with his family by his side. Born March 20, 1958, in Newburgh, he was the son of Joseph and Maudean Young Vaczi. A graduate of Newburgh Free Academy and Pace University, Michael worked at IBM followed by GlobalFoundries for close to forty years, retiring in 2018. In March of 1983 in St. Mary’s Church, Wappingers Falls, he married the former Christina DiLecce. His wife survives at home. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his three daughters, Lauren Hover of Pleasant Valley, Olivia Rothfuss and husband, Evan, of Rhinebeck, Paige Vaczi and fiancé, Kyle Schlogl, of Los Angeles, CA; and grandson, Cole Hover. Also survived by his niece, Samantha Tibbetts; nephews, Michael and Matthew DiLecce; and godchildren, Matthew and Michael Seymour, and Kelly Johns. He also leaves behind his beloved English Lab, T. As well as many friends that have become family, including his “brother” Jim Turcotte. In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place. Out of concern for public health, funeral services will be private. Michael’s family respectfully requests memorial donations to the United Way, Dutchess – Orange Region, 75 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (www.uwdor.org) or the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. (www.hvhospice.org). To send an online condolence, please visit Michael’s obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

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Notice is hereby given that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pleasant Valley Fire District held their Re-organizational meeting on Sunday, January 2, 2022. The Board has scheduled their monthly meetings for 2022 to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Pleasant Valley Fire District Headquarters, 1619 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. Workshop meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month; except the month of November which the Workshop meeting will be the third Wednesday of the month. Workshop meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and they will be held at District Headquarters.

By order of the Pleasant Valley Board of Fire Commissioners:
Jennifer Broas
District Secretary

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Chelsea Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold its regular meeting for the year 2022 on the second Monday of each month. All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. on that day at the Chelsea Firehouse located at 15 Liberty Street, in the Town of Wappinger, and are open to the public. This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the

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Chelsea Fire District.
Claire Gibson
Fire District Secretary
Chelsea Fire District

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Chelsea Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold a special meeting on January 25, 2022. The meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Chelsea Fire District Office located at 15 Liberty Street, in the Town of Wappinger, and is open to the public.

This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Chelsea Fire District.
Claire Gibson
Fire District Secretary
Chelsea Fire District

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - RFB-DCH-2022-03 NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Bridge R-8 (BIN 3343780) Over Landsman Kill, Mill Road, Town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County; Project Description: Removal of an existing single-span multi-girder bridge superstructure and the partial removal of abutment substructure. The existing bridge will be replaced with a 65' single-span multi-girder bridge supported on cantilever abutments. The project also includes limited approach work such as paving, guide rail and roadside embankment. Beginning Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 8:00AM: Bid Documents may be obtained in person

Legal Notices

or by mail (provide your FedEx account number or SASE) at: Dutchess County DPW Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. The bid documents will be distributed on a USB Flash Drive. You must give the following information to obtain the flash drive: Company Name; Address; Contact Name; Phone Number; E-mail Address – All Addendums will be issued via E-mail. A refundable deposit of \$15.00 in the form of a check made payable to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance or cash will be required for each set of bid documents. The deposit is refundable in accordance with General Municipal Law Section 102 and will be made by the County upon receipt of a written request accompanied by said USB Flash Drive. Bids for the above project will be received by: Denise Spens-Gallagher, Contract Specialist Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Bids due on or before Thursday 11:00am February 10, 2022 and at that time opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Due to COVID-19, the bid opening for this solicitation will be conducted through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud will need to

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call into the phone number listed below, in-person attendance at a bid opening will not be allowed. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 414 589 785#. All Addenda will be issued to Plan Holders via E-mail, but also posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: ICatherine Gill, the undersigned Collector of Taxes for the Town of Milan, County of Dutchess, and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Milan for the year of 2022. I will be collecting taxes at the following place and time listed below:
MILAN TOWN HALL: Collection of taxes will be at the Milan Town Clerk's Office, 20 Wilcox Circle in the Town of Milan from today to February 28, 2022 – Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM or by mail anytime – excepting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
FURTHER NOTICE: The taxes may be paid on or before February 28, 2022 without charge or interest. All taxes received after

Legal Notices

(in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by 3pm on Wednesday February 2, 2022 and shall be emailed to dpwcontracts@dutchess-ny.gov, with the County's response published in Addenda by close of business Monday February 7,

Legal Notices

such date, there shall be added interest 2% interest if paid on or before March 31, 2022 and an additional 1% for each additional month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the county treasurer pursuant to law.
FURTHER NOTICE: that a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 15th, 2022. A fee of \$2.00 will be added to your tax bill during the full month of May.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Tax Roll of the Town of Milan will be returned to the Dutchess County Commission of Finance on the 1st of June 2022.
Dated: January 10, 2022
Catherine Gill
Milan Tax Collector

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2022. The anticipated start of construction is April 4, 2022, the anticipated substantial completion date is September 9, 2022, and the anticipated completion date of construction including all punch list work is October 14, 2022. Failure to meet these dates will result in liquidated damages and engineering charges in accordance with the NYSDOT specifications January 1, 2020. This project is subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2022000251. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals. Bidders shall promptly notify the County of any errors, omissions, conflicts, and/or ambiguity that they identify in the contract documents by emailing dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Hughsonville Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold its regular meeting for the year 2022 on the second Wednesday and the fourth Wednesday of each month. All meetings will commence at 7:00 p.m. on that day at the Hughsonville Firehouse located at 88 Old Hopewell Road, in the Town of Wappinger, and are open to the public. This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hughsonville Fire District.

Kim Flower
Fire District Secretary
Hughsonville Fire District

NOTICE OF 2022 TOWN AND COUNTY TAX COLLECTION
TOWN OF WAPPINGER, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Lee Anne Freno, the undersigned Receiver of Taxes for the Town of Wappinger, County

Legal Notices

of Dutchess and State of New York, have duly received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Wappinger for the year 2022.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, and that I will attend at 20 Middlebush Road, in the said Town of Wappinger from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sunday and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on said roll.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that taxes may be paid via drop box, in person, online or by mail. Check or money order is to be made out to Lee A. Freno, Receiver of Taxes. Payments made in person will be subject to the town's current COVID-19 protocol. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that payment may be made any time from the receipt of bill to February 28, 2022 without penalty. Payments made March 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022 incur a two percent (2%) penalty. Payments made from June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022 incur a four percent (4%) penalty. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Section 987 of the Real Property Tax Law provides that after the interest free period for payment of taxes elapses and taxes remain unpaid, the tax collecting officer is required to send a notice of unpaid taxes to the owner. The expense of this notice is a two dollar (\$2.00) charge which is added to the parcel. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of law, no payments will be accepted at this office after August 31, 2022. After August 31, 2022 the tax roll of the Town of Wappinger will be returned to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance. Information may be obtained by calling the tax office at (845) 297-4342 or by visiting the Town's website at townofwappingerny.gov.
Dated: January 14, 2022

Signed: Lee Anne Freno,
Receiver of Taxes, Town of Wappinger

Legal Notices

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Notice of Complete Application**

Date: 09/23/2021
Applicant: BROOKSIDE MEADOWS SEWAGE-WORKS CORP
199 WEST RD
PLEASANT VALLEY, NY 12569
Facility: BROOKSIDE MEADOWS SEWAGE-WORKS CORP
WIGSTEN RD
PLEASANT VALLEY, NY

Application ID: 3-1344-00164/00001
Permits(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 17 Titles 7 & 8 P/C/I SPDES - Surface Discharge
Project is located: in PLEASANT VALLEY in DUTCHESS COUNTY
Project Description: The Department has received an application to modify the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit (SPDES ID# NY0268119) for the Brookside Meadows facility, which authorizes a discharge of 65,280 gallons per day (GPD) of treated sanitary sewage to Great Spring Creek (DEC Waters Index# H-101-12-1-1). The proposed modification includes changes to the milestone dates within the Schedule of Compliance, changing the discharge class from 02 -PCI (Non-Significant Minor) to 09 -PCI (Significant Minor), and updated recording, reporting, and monitoring requirements; no other changes to the permit are proposed. The facility is located at West and Wigsten Roads, Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County. Requests for a legislative (public statement) hearing must be sent in writing to the DEC contact person below by the comment deadline. The Department assesses such requests pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 621.8. The draft permit and fact sheet may be viewed and printed from the Department website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6054.html>. Refer to this application by the application number listed above and by SPDES Number NY0268119.

Availability of Application Documents: Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination
Project is not subject to SEQR because it is a Type II action.

SEQR Lead Agency None Designated
State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination
The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The application type is exempt and/or the project involves the continuation of an existing operational activity.

DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29)

It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.
Availability For Public Comment
Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 10/29/2021 or 30 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later.

Contact Person
VICTORIA A LAWRENCE
NYSDEC
21 S Putt Corners Rd
New Paltz, NY 12561

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