

Wappingers Falls Airman positively identified 80 years after WWII mission

By Christian J. Malerba
Project Recover staff

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), in partnership with Project Recover and other experts in the field, has announced that they have positively identified the remains of Staff Sergeant Eugene J. Darrigan who had been Missing In Action since World War II.

The 26-year-old soldier from Wappingers Falls served as radio operator in a B-24 bomber named "Heaven Can Wait" that was shot down over a remote bay in Papua, New Guinea on March 11, 1944.

"Project Recover is honored to welcome Staff Sergeant Darrigan home to a grateful nation," said Project Recover CEO Derek

Abbey. "We honor his and his family's sacrifice and remain committed to continuing our search for his more than 80,000 comrades in arms who still remain missing in action. While it took eight decades to return him to his family, this solemn promise does not have an expiration date."

In 2017 the missing bomber was located underwater at a depth of over 200 feet by the partnership Project Recover, leading to a 2023 mission by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to recover crew remains from the wreck site. At the time, this was the deepest underwater MIA recovery effort ever undertaken by the U.S. government.

The 11-man crew of "Heaven Can Wait" was part of the 320th squadron of the "Jolly Rogers" 90th Bombardment Group and was

on a mission to bomb Japanese anti-aircraft batteries around Hansa Bay when their B-24 was shot down by enemy fire causing it to crash into the ocean.

Present-day Papua, New Guinea was the site of military action in the Pacific from January 1942 to the end of the war in August 1945, with significant losses of aircraft and servicemen.

Project Recover set its sights on finding "Heaven Can Wait" after being presented with four years of research on circumstances of the crash, compiled by family members of one the B-24 crew members seeking closure for their lost relative. These data included historical eyewitness narratives from official military reports, mission documents, and

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Staff Sgt. Eugene J. Darrigan

Ryan raises alarm on temporary closing of Poughkeepsie Social Security office

Congressman demands Social Security Administration take immediate action to ensure no reduction in services

Last week, Congressman Pat Ryan (NY-18) raised the alarm that the temporary closing of the Poughkeepsie Social Security Administration Office would cause significant disruptions for Hudson Valley seniors, and demanded the Social Security Administration take action to ensure there was absolutely no reduction in services. In a letter to Acting SSA Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin, Ryan also called for increased transparency, including a detailed timeline for the renovations, and a commitment to gathering community input to identify and implement measures that minimize disruption to those who rely on SSA services.

Last year, Ryan introduced the landmark "Protecting Social Security Act," which, among other things, would ensure every county in Congressional District 18 had its own SSA office. (Editor's note: This bill is still awaiting action in Congress. On Dec. 17, 2024, it was referred to the Subcommittee on Social

Security.) "Closing yet another Social Security office in the Hudson Valley is outrageous and totally unacceptable. And it isn't just an issue for seniors in Dutchess. How are folks supposed to get their benefits if there's no Social Security Offices open in either Ulster or Dutchess?" said Ryan. "I get the need for renovations, but the solution simply cannot be 'limited' in-person services or making people travel all the way to Middletown. We need answers ASAP to ensure not a single Hudson Valley senior goes without the benefits they have earned."

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Our residents, especially our senior citizens and the disabled, rely on the Social Security Administration's downtown Poughkeepsie office for a host of services from a name change so one can update a driver license or passport to apply for earned income or medical benefits. With the Social Security Administration requiring in-person visits for most transactions, our residents shouldn't be forced to travel out of the County for assistance."

Serino added: "I stand behind Congressman Ryan's demand for answers and full local services for our residents."

"Social Security is the financial life blood for many of our residents, and continued access to those services is essential. While I appreciate the administration making renovations and improvements to the facility, providing uninterrupted assistance during this time is paramount," said City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers. "Residents need clear guidelines to ensure they understand their options during construction and should be kept informed as to when

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Hochul unveils proposal to restrict smartphone use in schools



Governor Kathy Hochul recently launched her initiative to restrict smartphone use in elementary, middle and high schools. Courtesy photo NYS Governor's Office

Governor Kathy Hochul launched her push to restrict smartphone use in K-12 schools statewide last week. The launch of this new effort follows the introduction of this legislative proposal as part of Governor Hochul's FY 2026 Executive Budget Proposal. Additionally, Governor Hochul today released a new report with recommendations gathered from her statewide listening tour this past year with students, parents and teachers regarding excessive smartphone use in schools. This effort continues Governor Hochul's commitment to protecting youth mental health and promoting student success in the digital age, following her action last year to secure and sign a first-in-the-nation law to restrict addictive social media feeds for minors.

"From parents and teachers, to social justice and law enforcement leaders, New Yorkers agree that our young people succeed when they're learning and growing, not clicking and scrolling," Governor

Hochul said. "Using the insights from my statewide listening tour, this comprehensive proposal to restrict smartphone use in schools will ensure that New York's statewide standard for distraction-free learning delivers the best results for our kids and educators."

This new legislation covers requirements and details including:

- No unsanctioned use of smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices on school grounds in K-12 schools for the entire school day, including classroom time and other settings like lunch and study hall periods.
- Allows schools to develop their own plans for storing smartphones during the day — giving administrators and teachers the flexibility to do what works best for their buildings and students.
- Proposes \$13.5 million in funding to be made available for schools that need assistance in purchasing storage solutions

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Ryan raises alarm on temporary closing of Poughkeepsie Social Security office

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these renovations will be completed.”

“The Poughkeepsie Social Security Administration office and staff are a critical resource, and a disruption like this, temporary or not, causes real, tangible challenges for those who need timely access to support,” said State Senator Rob Rolison. The SSA must provide better planning and clear communication on how the SSA will continue to offer services to residents during the office closure, ensuring everyone has access to their hard-earned benefits. The well-being of so many in the Hudson Valley depends on it.”

“It’s absurd to think that people from Poughkeepsie will travel to Middletown for help with their Social Security payments or Medicare,” said Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson. “Many do not have transportation. The Social Security Administration could easily find space in the library or other public spaces in Poughkeepsie.”

Ryan’s letter to Acting Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank Bisignano included four demands:

- Immediate Establishment of a Temporary Full-Service Office: The SSA must open a fully staffed temporary office in Poughkeepsie or a nearby location to ensure that residents have full access to services during the renovation period. A small contact station is entirely insufficient.

- No Disruption in Service: I request assurances that there will not be a single

day of disruption in service for Dutchess County residents. The SSA must take whatever steps are necessary to guarantee uninterrupted access to critical services.

- Full Transparency: Please provide a detailed timeline for the renovations, including the projected reopening date of the Poughkeepsie office.

- Community Input: Commit to engaging with local stakeholders, including elected officials and community organizations, to identify and implement measures that minimize disruption to those who rely on SSA services.

In the Social Security Administrations email to Congressional offices informing them of the temporary closure, the SSA noted that:

“Beginning Thursday, January 30, 2025, the office located at 332 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, will be temporarily closed for renovations. During this time, individuals requiring in-person services may visit the Middletown office located at 85 Crystal Run Road Suite 100, Middletown, NY 10941.

“Starting Monday, February 17, 2025, the Poughkeepsie office will open a small contact station at its current location, 332 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, offering limited in-person services throughout the renovation period.”

A copy of Ryan’s letter to Acting Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank Bisignano is available at <https://patryan.house.gov/media>.

In Flight sets Sweetheart Silent Auction

This Valentine’s season, let your love make a lasting impact in your community. In Flight, Inc. invites you to participate in the Sweetheart Silent Auction, an online event running Feb. 3-7, where your bids can help transform lives. From romantic date night packages, to indulgent self-care sets and fun-filled activities, the auction offers something special for everyone – all while giving back.

More than just an opportunity to find the perfect Valentine’s Day gift, In Flight’s Sweetheart Silent Auction is a chance to strengthen our community. Proceeds directly support programs that empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, fostering independence, inclusion, and meaningful connections. Every bid brings us closer to a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

While shopping for your loved one, you can also extend the gift of love to your fellow community members utilizing In Flight’s programs. With a \$5 donation to In Flight’s Give A Carnation initiative, you can brighten the day of an individual supported by In Flight, making their Valentine’s Day even sweeter. These carnations are generously donated by Petals & Moss and Bella Fiori Floral Co., allowing you to spread love, acceptance, and inclusivity with this heartfelt gesture.

Proceeds from the Sweetheart Silent Auction directly support In Flight’s mission to empower individuals with

intellectual and developmental disabilities through transformative programs. Funds raised will enhance vocational training, equipping individuals with job-specific skills and professional habits to achieve meaningful employment. Life skills development programs help participants build independence by mastering essential tasks such as budgeting, cooking, and personal care. Community integration initiatives foster inclusion, creating opportunities for individuals to actively engage and thrive within their local communities. Your bid helps provide the resources and support needed to unlock potential and create lasting impact.

To stay updated on the auction details and be the first to know when bidding opens, be sure to follow In Flight, Inc. on Facebook or visit our website at inflightinc.org for more information. The auction runs from February 3rd to February 7th, and your bids will make a lasting impact on our community.

About In Flight, Inc.

In Flight, Inc. is a local nonprofit organization that empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, reach for their hopes and dreams, and support a meaningful quality of life. The organization has programming and services in Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, and Ulster Counties. For more information about In Flight, Inc, please contact Jill Rodriguez at (845) 835-6060 x190 or jrodriguez@inflightinc.org.

Wappingers Falls Airman positively identified 80 years after final mission

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Staff Sergeant Eugene J. Darrigan, second from right in the top row, is pictured with the crew of the B-24 bomber "Heaven Can Wait" that flew during World War II. *Courtesy photo*

diary entries from crew members on other aircraft in formation with the B-24 during its flight.

In October 2017, a team from Project Recover performed an archaeological survey of Hansa Bay using scanning sonars, high definition imagers, advanced diving, and unmanned aerial and underwater robotic technologies. After covering nearly 27 square kilometers of the sea floor over 11 days, Project Recover located the debris field of the B-24 bomber at a depth of 213 feet.

Project Recover formally communicated details of the crash site to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and based on that site survey the DPAA sent a Navy diving expedition back to Hansa Bay in 2018 to confirm that the site contained the likely wreck of the “Heaven Can Wait” bomber.

In 2019, DPAA leadership started planning for a mission to recover crew remains from the wreck site. That effort would be delayed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, but in early 2023 the DPAA

sent a mission team, including the Navy’s Experimental Diving Unit to Hansa Bay for a multi-week recovery operation. This was the deepest underwater MIA recovery operation the U.S. government had ever undertaken.

Staff Sergeant Darrigan is the second member of the “Heaven Can Wait” crew to be positively identified by the DPAA; identification of the remains for navigator 2nd Lt. Thomas V. Kelly, Jr. was announced by DPAA on Nov. 15, 2024.

For over 30 years, Project Recover has been the nation’s leading citizen-led, non-profit organization to search, locate, document, recover, and repatriate the over 81,500 American service members missing in action and to bring recognition and closure to the estimated 5,000,000 MIA Gold Star family members. Project Recover is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) with full vertical capabilities in the POW/MIA recovery space, which includes operational missions in both underwater and land environments.

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Construction proceeds at new Upton Lake Christian School building

The new school building at Upton Lake Christian School in Clinton Corners is beginning to take shape.

Following the April 2024 ground-breaking, final permits were obtained, over 8,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock were moved, and construction was underway. Fortunately, beneficial weather in the latter part of the summer and beginning of fall allowed the construction to proceed at a good pace. Foundations were excavated and poured and the stone base was put in place. As we moved into the winter time, construction continued and the concrete first floor was poured on New Year's Eve. First floor framing has been underway with a break during the current Arctic frigid blast.

The new building will provide classroom and lab space for 7th-12th graders, music and art spaces for K-12, and will accommodate approximately 90 students. It will be two stories, with about 12,000 square feet under roof. Additional work includes landscaping, parking lot paving, exterior lighting, and area drainage.



The first floor framing is in place at the new school building at Upton Lake Christian School in Clinton Corners. *Courtesy photo*

Principal Elisa DeWitt is looking forward to moving into the new facility. She thanks God for the many things that have come together to reach this point in the project. Current school board president Rich Evans has had the vision for the new building for over 20 years. He is excited

to see it coming to fruition. All who have been involved with the project look forward to having the new facility where a Christ-centered education will be provided. Students will be equipped to move in the direction of their career choices and equipped to spread the gospel of

Jesus Christ.

The project is being built by Bovee Construction of Pleasant Valley. Owner Brian Bovee is excited to see the progress of the project and is targeting, as are many others, to see the doors open for teaching for the 2025-2026 school year.

Local fire company picks up the tab

The Union Vale Fire Company began collecting aluminum soda tabs at the end of October and within two months, and thanks to the eagerness and enthusiasm of the public, close to 30 pounds of aluminum tabs were collected for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Recently, Public Information Officer Kathy Welsh of the Union Vale Fire District donated the first collection of tabs to members of the Eastern District Home Bureau of NYS Federation of Home Bureau Inc. which includes Home Bureau Eastern District Chairperson Alice Dickson, Dutchess County Home Bureau Chairperson Anne Christmas, and Eastern District/Dutchess County Home Bureau Community Service Chairperson Marie Elliott.

Local chapters of the Eastern District Home Bureau of NYS Federation of Home Bureau Inc. have been collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities for some time now. Welsh said, "When I heard the Home Bureau was collecting aluminum tabs for a worthy cause, I thought we could help out to collect even more aluminum tabs and invite the public for their support." And the public came through in flying colors! In just 10 weeks a little over 28 pounds of aluminum tabs were collected.

An individual from as far away as Monticello heard about our campaign through social media and donated several years' worth of tabs, noted Welsh. And

emails and phone calls have been received wanting to support the campaign.

"These tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany to help with their heating expenses. We are very grateful to Kathy Welsh, the fire department, and the entire community for partnering with us and helping to support this project," said Community Service Chairperson Marie Elliott.

Welsh said the fire company will be collecting aluminum tabs for an all-year campaign in 2025. As a courtesy, and for the public's convenience, there is a drop-off container at the Union Vale Town Hall, 249 Duncan Road, where the public can bring their aluminum tabs.

"We are very happy to help the Eastern District Home Bureau of NYS collect and give the tabs from our very first campaign to ultimately help Ronald McDonald House Charities," said Welsh.

Dutchess County Home Bureau, part of the New York State Federation of Home Bureaus, is a women's organization centered around crafting with a focus on community service, fellowship, and family life. Their local community service efforts focus on helping veterans, those in nursing care facilities, and babies born at Northern Dutchess Hospital and Albany Medical Center. To learn more about Dutchess County Home Bureau's Community Service efforts or to partner with them, contact Marie Elliott at marieelliott.facs89@gmail.com.



From left: Kathy Welsh, Public Information Union Vale Fire District, recently presented over 28 pounds of aluminum soda tabs to Home Bureau Eastern District Chairperson Alice Dickson, Dutchess County Home Bureau Chairperson Anne Christmas, and Eastern District/Dutchess County Home Bureau Community Service Chairperson Marie Elliott for Ronald McDonald House Charities. *Courtesy photo*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO CELEBRATE FDR'S BIRTHDAY JAN. 30

The National Park Service will host a Ceremony & Birthday Cake celebration to commemorate Franklin D. Roosevelt's Birthday on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 3 p.m., at the FDR Home & Library in Hyde Park. The event will begin at 3 p.m. with a Rose Garden Ceremony. Afterward the FDR Presidential Library invites attendees to return to the Wallace Center for birthday cake and refreshments.

This is a free public event. Registration is not required for in-person attendance. Visit www.fdrlibrary.org for more information.

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

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Questions claim of 'genocide' in Gaza

To the editor;
A letter in the January 8-14 edition of this paper was entitled "U.S. has turned from 'savior' to 'executioner.'" Its message was that, prior to the recent ceasefire, Israel was carrying out a "genocide" against the people of the Gaza strip. "Tens of thousands" of starving Palestinian children "bear witness" to Israel's cruelty.
Tens of thousands of starving Palestinian children ... is that true? Is the accusation of genocide true? Who is making those claims? Since Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group, is Israel's foe in Gaza, perhaps it is Hamas.
If that's so, can we believe their accusations against Israel when Palestinian children are subjected to antisemitic indoctrination and are still taught to seek the annihilation of Israel? This is seldom reported in the media and is a major reason for the lingering Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as Prime Minister Netanyahu writes on page 256 of his autobiography entitled "Bibi" (2022).
Mr. Netanyahu also says, in his UN address of September 27, 2024, that Hamas steals the food that aid agencies, supported by Israel, bring into Gaza. They sell the food at exorbitant prices to their own people, and "...fill their coffers with money they extort from their own people." He further says that "We help bring in 700,000 tons of food into Gaza. That's more than 3000 calories a day..." for every person there.
Mr. Netanyahu reminds us of what started the most recent conflict. On October 7, 2023, thousands of Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists burst into Israel and committed unimaginable atrocities.

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OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

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

HYDE PARK CHAMBER CONDUCTS INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS EVENT



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce attended their annual Installation of Officers event at the Inn at Historic Bellefield on Thursday, Jan. 23. Officers include, from left, Catherine Lane, Secretary, Board members Harvey Burns, Ron M. Lane, Bob Delarm, Jean Epting, Troy Adams, Dora Visbeck, Vice President, Board member Michael Evans, Phyllis Delarm, Treasurer, Board member Stu Davis, President Dot Chenevert and Board member Felicia Kirschner-Meyer. Not present are Board members Brian Lasher and Russell A. Haight Jr. *Courtesy photo*

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HV Renegades field, support staffs announced

The New York Yankees announced their minor league field and support staffs for the 2025 season on Friday. James Cooper will take over as the manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Yankees' High-A affiliate.

Cooper becomes the 20th manager in team history, and the fifth in five years during the Yankees era. He replaces Nick Ortiz, who guided the Renegades to a franchise record 73 wins and an appearance in the South Atlantic League Championship Series in 2024. Under his tutelage the Renegades had their 12th consecutive winning season, and 15th in the last 16 seasons. Since the beginning of the 2012 season, the Renegades have the best winning percentage (.573) in Minor League Baseball.

He is joined on the all-new field staff by Pitching Coach Demetre Kokoris (1st season), Hitting Coach Tom DeAngelis (1st season), Defensive Coaches Caleb Hamilton (1st season) and Teuris Olivares (1st season). The support staff features four returners in

Clubhouse Manager Ryan Shute (5th season), Athletic Trainer Adaric Kelly (2nd season), Strength & Conditioning Coach Dylan Lidge (2nd season), and Advance Scouting Analyst Devin Clementi (2nd season). Video & Tech Assistant Dominic Cox (1st season), joins the Renegades as the lone newcomer on the support staff.

"I'm honored to join the Renegades family and to lead this incredible team to a special season. The Renegades have a proud tradition of excellence and an amazing fan base," said Cooper. "I can't wait to get to work with our talented players and staff as we build a season to remember. I'm looking forward to developing our players and seeing all the fans go crazy as we make them proud at Heritage Financial Park."

Cooper, 42, begins his first season as the manager of the Renegades in 2025, and his third season overall as a minor league manager in the Yankees organization. He spent the 2024 season as the skipper for the Single-A Tampa Tarpons

of the Florida State League, and managed the FCL Yankees in 2023, where he was named Florida Complex League Manager of the Year. Under his guidance, the Tarpons led the FSL in Stolen Bases (242) ranked second in AVG (.239), Hits (982) and Doubles (204), and fourth in OPS (.701). That came on the heels of his FCL team pacing its league in runs, hits, triples, RBIs, AVG, OBP, SLG and OPS in 2023.

Before managing in the Yankees system he was a defensive coach for one season with the FCL Yankees, where he won the FCL Championship in 2022 as part of a coaching staff that featured 2023 Renegades manager Sergio Santos, current Yankees assistant pitching coach Preston Claiborne, and 2024 Renegades hitting coach Rick Guarno.

Before joining the Yankees, Cooper previously served as the head baseball coach at Grambling State University for 12 seasons from 2010 through 2021. He led the Tigers to the 2010 Southwestern Athletic Conference championship, and was named SWAC Head Coach of the

Year in 2010 and 2017. He led the team to the SWAC Tournament 10 of the 11 years it was held in his tenure, and finished in the top two teams in the SWAC West Division in each of his final five full seasons at the helm.

Cooper attended Grambling State as student and was a three-time All-SWAC performer, including First Team All-SWAC honors in his senior year. He was also involved as an assistant coach at USA Baseball's National Team Development Program from 2018 through 2021, coaching both the 16U and 18U teams.

The Houston Astros selected Cooper in the 33rd round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft and played 103 games over two minor league seasons for the organization. During his two years with the Tri-City ValleyCats in the New York-Penn League, Cooper batted .249/.342/.344 (79-for-317) with 3 HR and 43 RBIs. He also played a season with the Sussex Skyhawks of the Canadian American Association of Professional Baseball in 2006.

DAR Museum docent to speak about Masterpiece Quilts Feb. 9 on Zoom

On Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m., the Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CLC DAR) will hold their Monthly Meeting virtually via Zoom. Julie Maresco will speak about "Masterpiece Quilts in the DAR Museum."

Maresco is a Correspondent Docent with the DAR Museum in Washington DC. She works for the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation as a

Historic Preservation Analyst in the State Historic Preservation Office on Peebles Island. She will talk about the Masterpiece Quilts from the DAR Museum Collection which provides an overview of some of the masterpiece quilts held in the museum's collection and the women who created them. The quilt collection is focused on quilt techniques and designs from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The meeting is open to the public. To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6974831531?pwd=cGdUQWVlWHNpcWVvaZ3NMVVlXbnBUQT09&omn=82995164338>
Meeting ID: 697 483 1531
Passcode: 310471

Find your local number:
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For information for this meeting, or how to become a member, call (845) 871-1777 or visit <https://sites.google.com/view/clcdar>

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Hochul unveils proposal to restrict smartphone use in schools

continued from cover

to help them go distraction-free.

- Requires schools to give parents a way to contact their kids during the day if needed.

The Governor's proposal also clarifies that students would still be authorized to have access to simple cell phones without internet capability, as well as internet-enabled devices officially provided by their school for classroom instruction, such as laptops or tablets used as part of lesson plans.

Additionally, the Governor's proposal includes several exemptions to smartphone restrictions, including for students who require access to an internet-enabled device to manage a medical condition, where required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), or for other academic purposes, such as translation.

This new requirement would be in place starting in the 2025-26 School Year and would apply to all schools in public school districts, as well as charter schools and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Hochul's new report "More Learning, Less Scrolling: Creating Distraction-Free Schools" includes:

- Findings from the Governor's statewide listening tour, including:
- Smartphones distract students and inhibit learning and creativity
- Phone-free environments do not compromise student safety
- Phone-free environments support the mental health of students and teachers
- Recommendations for how schools can prepare to go distraction-free, including:
- Open communication and direct guidance for all stakeholders is key for successful implementation
- Schools must address any parent concerns about staying in contact with their children during the day
- An effective distraction-free policy must focus on the entire school day,

rather than solely on time in the classroom

- Schools can strengthen their distraction-free environment by connecting more students with in-person engagement like clubs, sports, arts and other programming

- An implementation guide for schools to consider throughout this process, with references to resources and best practices published by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Education Technology

Continues Governor's commitment to protecting youth mental health

In June 2024, Hochul signed the Safe for Kids Act after strongly advocating for and securing passage of the legislation. That law, the first of its kind to be signed in any state in the nation, requires social media companies to restrict addictive feeds on their platforms for users under 18. Unless parental consent is granted, users under 18 will not receive addictive feeds. Governor Hochul also signed the New York Child Data Protection act, which prohibits online sites and connected devices from collecting, using, sharing or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website.

As part of the Governor's \$1 billion investment in mental health statewide, Hochul has also significantly expanded access to mental health care and resources for students. Last year, the state made available \$20 million in start-up funding for more school-based mental health clinics and launched a rolling application, which made it easier for interested schools to establish these satellites than through the previously used state procurement process. Since that announcement in February 2024, the state has funded 71 new clinic satellites — including 40 in high-needs districts — adding to the more than 1,100 that now exist statewide.

Needlework presentation set Feb. 5

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 12:30 p.m., the Skyllkill chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America will present "Loose Ends" at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville. Jennifer Simonic and Masey Kaplan, the co-founders of Loose Ends, will share how the organization connects volunteer finishers to unfinished projects left behind by deceased or infirmed crafters.

Loose Ends is a registered nonprofit

established in May 2023. Come and learn more about this wide-reaching organization. Their motto speaks volumes: "Started with love by them, finished with care by us."

Join other needleworkers for fun and learning beginning at 10 a.m., or come for this program only beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/SkyllkillIEGA or email to EGASkyllkill@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HP Rotary fundraiser to benefit food pantry

Hyde Park Rotary Club is sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the Hyde Park Food Pantry on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at La Catrina Restaurant, 4076 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park. There will be appetizers, music and a community mixer. To RSVP, email Rotaryofhydepark@gmail.com or call (917) 359-5616.

Local history talk set Jan. 31 at Starr Library

The Rhinebeck Historical Society will host a program on Friday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m., in the Starr Library Local History Room (68 West Market St.; entrance in the rear of the building).

Mark Van De Carr will present "Good Things That Have Happened in Rhinebeck." A local resident who moved to Rhinebeck temporarily from Wappingers Falls 45 years ago and never left, he spends his spare time racing cars and enjoying serious music. He is best known as the owner of M&M Automotive and will share a little bit of local history.

For more information, email Historical Society President David Miller at dhmny@aol.com. To contact the library, visit www.starrlibrary.org or call (845) 876-4030.

Take-out Chicken BBQ Dinner set Feb. 1

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Take-out Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1, with pick-up from 4 to 6 p.m. The menu will include 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, roll and dessert. The cost is \$15. Pick up at the East Clinton Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners. For reservations, call Lynn at (845) 266-5485.

Pine Plains student club to hold take-out Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner Feb. 1

The Travel Club of Stissing Mountain Junior - Senior High School in Pine Plains will serve a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include Spaghetti, Meatballs, Side Salad, Italian Bread, and Dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Total proceeds will benefit the Travel Club's trip to Japan during the summer of 2025. For reservations, contact Stanford Grange Secretary and Travel Club Co-Advisor Ryan Orton at (518) 398-7181 Ext. 1144 or (845) 868-7869.

Seed Swap set Feb. 8 at Morton Library

Dirty Gaia and Morton Seed Library will present a Seed Swap on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Bring seeds, trade seeds, adopt seeds. Sow seeds in milk jugs you can leave outside. Call the library at (845) 876-2903 for more information.

Take-out Chicken & Biscuits Dinner Feb. 8

Stanford Grange #808 will serve a Chicken & Biscuits Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include Chicken with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Biscuits, Peas, Waldorf Salad, and Tomato Soup Spice Cake for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. For reservations, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Pancake Breakfasts set at Rhinecliff Firehouse

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host Winter Pancake Breakfasts from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on the following Sundays: Feb. 9 and March 9. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat so bring your appetite and your friends. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for children age 5 and younger. Breakfasts will be served at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard in Rhinecliff). Proceeds will support the Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. For more information, call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail: csaniewski1@gmail.com.

County to offer free rabies clinic Feb. 15

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with the Dutchess County SPCA (DCSPCA), will offer a free rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, Feb. 15, at the DCSPCA Adoptions and Education Center located at 636 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park from 8 a.m. to noon. This clinic is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older.

Advance registration is required; registration opens on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at DCSPCA.org or by calling the DCSPCA at (845) 452-7722, extension 425.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents; non-residents will be charged a fee of \$10 per pet vaccinated. All dogs must be on leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years for pets with proper proof of a prior immunization. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year.

Winter Soup Sales to benefit Rhinebeck Grange

It's time for Winter Soup Sales in Rhinecliff, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your calendar for the following Thursdays: Feb. 20 and March 20. The cost is \$10 per quart (two pint-size containers). Take-out only. Pick up at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard Drive, Rhinecliff), at the side door on Orchard Drive, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. New: Pick up also available at Morton Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to be sent the soup choices for each month and to pre-order online.

Proceeds support the Rhinebeck Grange.

For more information, contact Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488, JoBaer2@gmail.com.

PV Rec to host 'Beauty & The Beast' Movie Night Feb. 21

Pleasant Valley Recreation will present "Beauty & The Beast" Movie Night on Friday, Feb. 21. Come dressed as your favorite prince or princess and enjoy a classic movie that's sure to bring joy and wonder, along with a special visit from a real-life princess from 6 to 6:40 p.m., so be sure to come on time. Bring your tiaras, capes, and crowns, and let the enchantment begin!

This is a free event, but registration is required at pvrec.com. Email pvrecreation@pleasantvalley-nv.gov or call (845) 635-1111, ext. 203 for more information.

Rhinebeck Garden Club meeting set Feb. 26

The Rhinebeck Garden Club's next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. The program, "From Drab to Fab! How to Take your Grocery Bouquet or Flowers to the Next Level," will be presented by Jay Bell, a floral designer for 25 years in NYC and a member of the Rhinebeck Garden Club. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcomed.

Every year the Rhinebeck Garden Club puts together a series of meetings, field trips and events. Most meetings are open to the public, but visitors are asked to join after attending two meetings. For information, call Sue at (845) 797-3226 or logon to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

ONGOING

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be eighteen years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, visit www.vanderbiltgarden.org or call 845-229-6432.

Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

The New to You Thrift Shop at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop

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<https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>

All programs are free. Registration is required unless noted. Please visit pleasantvalleylibrary.org to register and for more information on these and also on our monthly occurring programs.

Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with us! Come explore all the Library has to offer! Children that stop by with their families will receive a special winter craft bag and a coupon for FREE BOOKS from our Friend's Book Sale. One per child. Available while supplies last. No registration required - just drop in!

Celebrate "Wicked!"

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2-5 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the beloved movie musical "Wicked!" at this special screening party! Follow the story of Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) and Galinda (Ariana Grande) years before they become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good. Their friendship starts as students at Shiv University, but is tested when they meet the Wizard of Oz (Jeff Goldblum). We'll have "Wicked" themed refreshments, and we encourage you to dress in costume and even sing along to the iconic songs! Open to ages 8 and up.*For children ages 10 and under, parents must remain in the building for the duration of the program.

An Afternoon of Spanish Music, Song, and Dance

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2-3 p.m.

Join us for this special after-hours event with classical guitarist Terry Champlin, dancer Kati Garcia-Renart, and dancer/vocalist Nicole Bernhardt. These renowned performers will present old Spanish music with dance and songs, based on music collected by Federico Garcia-Lorca.

Senior Movie Morning - "Tootsie"

Seniors (ages 50+) are invited to attend this special seniors-only movie matinee. Light refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring your own snack or lunch to enjoy! This month, we'll watch the 1982 comedy classic "Tootsie," starring Dustin Hoffman as out-of-work actor Michael Dorsey, who disguises himself as an actress - Dorothy Michaels - to audition for a soap opera. As Dorothy, he becomes a star, but complications develop when he falls for his co-star, played by Jessica Lange.

Gilded Age Love Stories - a Special Virtual Presentation

Thursday, Feb. 13 6-7 p.m.

Sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association, this special virtual program will be screened at the library, and will feature experts from Staatsburgh State Historic Site, who'll discuss some of the real stories and historical figures that inspired the relationships on HBO's "The Gilded Age" series.

Pre-Oscars Movie and Party: "Killers of the Flower Moon"

Saturday, Feb. 22, 1-4:30 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the Oscars with this special screening of "Killers of the Flower Moon," based on the best-selling book by David Grann, about the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI in the 1920s and nominated for 10 Oscars last year. We'll have mock champagne punch and other refreshments, and encourage you to dress up! Fill out our 2025 Oscars ballot with your picks for the winners of Best Picture, Best Actor and Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Original and Adapted Screenplay, and Best Director - the ballots with the winning picks will be entered in a drawing for a gift card to Roosevelt Theater in Hyde Park! (Note: This movie will not be released on DVD, so this is the only chance to watch it for free.)

Butterfly in the Sky - a Special Virtual Screening

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-7 p.m.

For National Library Lovers' Month, and sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association, this special virtual program will feature a screening of "Butterfly in the Sky," a heartwarming documentary celebrating the legacy of PBS's beloved Reading Rainbow series. "For 26 seasons, PBS's Reading Rainbow met young viewers in their living rooms, whisking them away on far-off adventures into the boundless world of books. With the help of celebrity narrators and nine-year-old book reviewers, the show's iconic host, LeVar Burton, brought real-life lessons and honest conversations to life in a way we had never before seen on screen. Despite ongoing funding hurdles and new public school testing standards, Burton and the show's creators held tight to their authentic, down-to-earth approach to fuel kids' lifelong love of reading. Inspiring and nostalgic, BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY tells the tale of a revolutionary reading movement. Reliving the show's legacy is a refreshing return to the written page. But you don't have to take our word for it." - Amy Brown

Rhinebeck Rotary announces 2025 Community Wellness Walks

Chairperson of the Rhinebeck Rotary Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Marybeth Cale, recently announced that the group will offer Community Wellness Walks from April through October, its second year of doing so.

The committee, which is comprised of members of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club, "is setting out to help, on a very small and local level, address the loneliness epidemic (according to a report by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy)," Cale explained. "Our hope is that these walks will continue to cultivate stronger social connections and feelings of overall well-being for people who live or work in Northern Dutchess County, just as they did last year when we launched this program."

She added: "The Rotary Wellness Walks will rotate locations - but all will take place on beautiful, scenic nature trails. Each excursion will last about 60-75 minutes, and will include a 5-10 minute 'mindfulness activity' led by one of our Mental Health and Wellness Committee members, which may include breathwork, meditation, tai chi, qigong, and/or other experiences designed to promote mindfulness."

The wellness walks are free of charge and open to anyone 18 years of age or older. All participants are required to sign a waiver form in advance (available at rhinebeckrotary.com).

"We hope this will encourage community members to get outdoors, enjoy some physical movement, decompress a bit in a restorative natural setting, learn a few mindfulness techniques, and enjoy building relationships with fellow walkers - ultimately supporting better mental

health and social fitness," said Cale, who is also a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach.

Walkers will meet in the parking lot of the respective location - and are encouraged to bring water/snacks, sunscreen, and tick spray.

2025 WELLNESS WALK SCHEDULE

*If the forecast calls for rain/snow/sleet/high winds/hail, please assume the event has been canceled for that date.

Mon., April 7th at 5pm: Hopeland Trail

Thurs., April 17th at 10am - Ferncliff Forest

Mon., May 5th at 5pm - Burger Hill

Thurs., May 15th at 10am - Thompson-Mazzarella Park

Mon., June 2nd at 5pm - Wilderstein

Thurs., June 19th at 10am - Poet's Walk

Mon., July 7th at 5pm - Hopeland Trail

Thurs., July 17th at 10am - Poet's Walk

Mon., Aug. 4th at 5pm - Burger Hill

Thurs., Aug. 21st at 10am - Thompson-Mazzarella Park

Mon., Sept. 1st at 5pm - Wilderstein

Thurs., Sept. 18th at 10am - Montgomery Place

Mon., Oct. 6th at 5pm - Burger Hill

Thurs., Oct. 16th at 10am - Sojourner Truth Park in Kingston - bring picnic lunch to continue the fellowship and celebrate the completion of our 2nd year of wellness walks!

The Rhinebeck Rotary Mental Health and Wellness Committee coordinates other initiatives designed to support well-being for community members, as well. Learn more at rhinebeckrotary.com.

Wishing all our Clients and Friends a Happy Valentine's Day!



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Hyde Park Rotary sets comedy fundraiser Feb. 28

Hyde Park Rotary will present a family-friendly Comedy Night on Friday, Feb. 28, at Coppola's of Hyde Park. Featured performers are Matt Pena (stand-up comedian, producer and storyteller) and Gabe Mollica (comedian, writer, and star of the Off-Broadway hit "Solo: A Show About Friendship," featured on "This American Life").

Dinner (cash bar) and show are at 6

p.m. Tickets are \$68 per person at the door. Checks should be made to Hyde Park Rotary Foundation, Inc.

Comedy Night is a fundraiser to benefit Rotary Projects including FDR Honors Dinner, Meals on Wheels, Literacy, Food Pantry, RYLA and SPCA.

Snow date is Saturday, March 1.

More information is available by emailing Hydeparkrotary@gmail.com.

Astor Services unveils Intensive Outpatient Clinic



Pictured above, from left are Dr. Michele Conner, Director, Mental Health Outpatient Treatment & Rehabilitative Services/Budget Performance Specialist at Astor Services; Dr. Todd Karlin, Astor's Chief Program Officer; City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers; Jim Raimo, Astor Board Member; Danielle Maiorano, Intensive Outpatient Program Director at Astor; and Megan York, Hudson Valley Regional Director of Outpatient Clinics at Astor. *Courtesy photo*

Astor Services officially unveiled its Intensive Outpatient Clinic in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, Jan 22 with a ribbon cutting and tour of the facility located at 46 Lincoln Avenue in Poughkeepsie.

The program provides a safe space for children 6-12 showing significant impairment in school or home to explore their emotions, thoughts and behaviors with a therapist, develop healthy coping mechanisms, and ideally to prevent residential treatment.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers was on hand to help mark the opening of this important program, designed to help youth who are at risk of out of home placement.

About Astor Services

For over 70 years, since 1953, Astor Services has provided essential supports, tools and high quality, comprehensive

behavioral health and educational services to engage, empower and strengthen children, adults and families in all communities. Astor serves more than 9,000 children and families annually in more than 70 locations in Hudson Valley and the Bronx.

Astor's range of services includes early childhood programs, community-based behavioral health and prevention services. Astor has also recently opened a new Trauma Recovery Center in its Bronx location.

To learn more about Astor's programs and services, visit, www.astorservices.org or follow Astor on Facebook and Instagram.

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www.sdutchessnews.com

Marist Women's Basketball to host Pink Game honoring Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation



At a previous Marist College Pink Game, Marist Athletics Department and Miles of Hope recognize breast cancer survivors with a special on-court ceremony at half time. This year's event on Saturday, Feb. 15, will continue this tradition. *Courtesy photo*

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the Marist College Athletics Department and Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation will present the 15th Annual Pink Game, celebrating breast cancer awareness and honoring those impacted by breast cancer right here in the Hudson Valley. The game will start at 4 p.m. at the McCann Arena, Marist College, Poughkeepsie. Come watch the Marist women's basketball team take on Merrimack.

Proceeds from a 50-50 raffle will support the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, and donations will be

accepted.

At halftime, the Marist Athletics Department and Miles of Hope will recognize breast cancer survivors with a special on-court ceremony. Survivors interested in taking part in the event should contact Assistant Athletics Director for External Affairs - Harrison Baker.

Fans are encouraged to wear pink to support the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation and to help raise awareness for breast cancer.

Visit www.milesofhope.org for more information.

Youth grant workshops set for March 11-13

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services' Division of Youth Services is requesting applications for free youth programming services from municipalities and non-profit, community-based organizations for the program year Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2026. Reimbursable grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded in the following categories:

- Youth Development Programs
- Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding
- Runaway and Homeless Youth

Eligible applicants should be either a Dutchess County municipality or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-based organization with a federal identification number and charity registration number. Programs will be required to have staff trained in Positive Youth Development. Agencies must also show how the program addresses one of Dutchess County's "Path to Promise" domains/value areas: Economic Security, Physical and Emotional Health, Education, Citizenship/Civic Engagement, Family and Community.

The Division of Youth Services has scheduled three grant workshops for non-profit agencies and municipalities interested in more information. The workshops are being held at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Tuesday, March 11; Wednesday, March 12; Thursday, March 13

Contact Juliana Corbett at 845-486-3354 or Juliana.Corbett@dfa.state.ny.us to register for a workshop. Youth

Services will review the step-by-step process of applying online through the Dutchess County Grant Portal and address any concerns or questions. Specific funding eligibility requirements are as follows:

Youth Development Programs (YDP): Grants will be awarded to programs for youth under 21 that provide free, direct services designed to improve youth and community outcomes.

Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF): Grants will be awarded to free programs that serve youth ages 6-17 and aim to foster educational connections and achievement; physical health and well-being; mental health and well-being; employment; and/or community cohesion.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY): RHY services are grounded in the Positive Youth Development framework and focus on supporting and developing healthy relationships to enhance youths' existing strengths and resiliency, while incorporating youth voice and leadership into programming.

Additional information about funding eligibility requirements and grant eligibility criteria is available on Youth Services' grant funding webpage. All 2025-2026 grant applications are due to the Division of Youth Services on or before Thursday, April 3, by 4 p.m. Funding is made available through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. In 2024-2025, 28 programs were awarded more than \$300,000 in funding. The amount of funding will be subject to the availability.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!



Three easy veggies

Growing tomatoes, peppers and onions in home gardens

These three vegetables are easy to grow in the garden or in containers:

Tomatoes – The most popular home garden vegetable. Tomato transplants should be set into the garden or container after the danger of frost has passed, around May 20 in the Hudson Valley. Frost happens on clear nights when the temperature dips to 32 degrees. Tender garden plants can be set out in early May if they are protected with covers on frosty nights.

Start tomatoes indoors from seed in late February. Be sure the young seedlings get plenty of light so they don't stretch. My favorite tomato variety is the hybrid "Big Beef." It's fairly early, disease-resistant and loaded with six-inch diameter fruit. "Jet Star" is another good one. Heirloom varieties like "Brandywine" and "Black Krim" are flavorful but don't produce much fruit. Since they are open-pollinated, passed down for generations, heirloom seed can be saved for the following year. "Sun Gold" is an incredibly delicious cherry tomato, easy to grow and super productive.

Plant tomato seedlings in the sunniest location possible, three feet apart in the garden or one plant per five-gallon bucket (with drainage holes). Tomatoes prefer slightly acidic soil, which is common in the Hudson Valley. Be sure to fertilize the growing plants, especially in containers. Use cages or stakes as the plants grow, to keep the fruit off the ground. The only pest I've seen on tomatoes is the horn worm, which is more of a curiosity than a serious pest. The fungus called blight is common around here, causing the bottom leaves to turn brown, and working its way up to the top. Fungicides with copper – some are organic – can prevent blight. I plant a second crop, setting out the transplants in late June, to have a healthy crop

just as the earlier plants are falling victim to blight.

Fresh local tomatoes, if you can find them at farmers markets, can cost \$5 dollars a pound. Grow your own, for a super fresh tasty treat all summer long.

Peppers – Not as easy to grow as tomatoes, but worthwhile, once you get the hang of it. Peppers work great in containers, since the plants are fairly compact. The best part of growing your own peppers is the incredible selection of available varieties, from bell shape (Ace, Lady Bell, Red Knight) to frying types (Cubanelle, Gypsy) to an array of hot peppers ("Pepper X" is this year's pick as the 'hottest, closely followed by "Trinidad Scorpion").

Like tomatoes, pepper transplants are set into the garden after the last frost, May 20. Unlike tomatoes, the seeds are harder to germinate. They take a long time to come up, especially when the temperature is below 75 degrees. Start them indoors in February.

In the garden, peppers need warm sunshine. Cool nights, even in July, can cause blind spots where the fruits were supposed to appear. This has to do with the variety, and should correct itself in August. Also, too much fertilizer can cause the plants to stay green, producing foliage instead of fruit. Use a low-nitrogen plant food. Pests and diseases are rarely an issue with peppers, although the fruits can get sun scald if exposed to direct sun in August. When Becky Adams won Grand Champion at the Dutchess County Fair, she had erected a shade canopy over her pepper patch in early August.

Onions – Although onions cost only a dollar per pound, they are essential to the home garden for one reason – onions stay fresh in the ground or container all summer and into the fall, saving you a trip to



Heirloom tomatoes Pineapple (left) and Brandywine. Photo by Mark Adams. Below: Hot Pepper in container. Photo by Sue Adams

the grocery store if you happen to need an onion for a particular recipe. And they're so easy to grow, from seed, transplants or "sets," which are tiny onions that cost about 5 cents each. Onions can tolerate cold temperatures, so plant them in April and are rarely bothered by pests or diseases. "Long day" varieties like Sweet Spanish and Walla Walla grow best in the Hudson Valley. The famous Vidalia sweet onion, a "short day" variety produced in Georgia or Texas, will grow here, but with smaller and later maturing bulbs.

These three veggies are easy to grow in the ground or in containers. I could add a dozen more, including lettuce, beets and potatoes, but where would it stop?



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

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

Sets
Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.

- • 1 thru 63
- ▲ 64 thru 130
- ■ 131 thru 162

THE GREATEST DOT-TO-DOT BOOKS

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By David Kalvitis

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Vassar MODfest returns Jan. 31-Feb. 9

“Discovering Uncertainty” is the theme of Vassar College’s 23rd annual MODfest, featuring music and dance that reflect elements of the quantum theory described by physicists in the early decades of the 20th century. View a complete schedule of events, all of which are free and open to the public, at <http://modfest2025.vassar.edu/>.

MODfest opens Saturday, Jan. 31, at 5:30 p.m., with a lecture in Taylor Hall titled “100 Years of Quantum Uncertainty” by Associate Professor of Physics José Perillán, and a choral presentation, *Stimmung*, by Karlheinz Stockhausen, a 70-minute work for six singers to be held at Skinner Hall of Music at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. in Skinner Hall, Dr. Daniel J. Levitin, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, McGill University, will deliver a lecture on how music has been used throughout history for medical purposes. Dr. Levitin will uncover the latest

findings in this rapidly developing field on how music can be used to treat injury and disease and promote wellness.

Students of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre will make their annual MODfest appearance on Friday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m., in the Frances Fergusson Dance Theater in Kenyon Hall. The program includes a special appearance by dancers from the Parul Shah Dance Company, whose work harnesses the expressive power of Indian classical dance to promote cultural understanding and explore questions around identity and humanity. This is a free but ticketed event; reservations for general seating are required and available online at <https://vassardance.tix.com>. For more information, email: dance@vassar.edu.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., there will be a screening of Fritz Lang’s celebrated silent film masterpiece of 1927, “Metropolis,” with a live soundtrack for piano and electronics recently composed by the ICEBERG Composers Collective. Assistant Professor of Film Fabio



Vassar MODfest performers include Iva Casian Lakos (Photo by Kate Sweeney), Parul Shah (Photo courtesy of the artist) and Dr. Daniel J. Levitin (Photo by David Livingston)

Andrade will introduce the film at 7 p.m. in Skinner Hall of Music. Pianist Po-Wei Ger and composer Drake Andersen will perform the ICEBERG soundtrack.

The festival will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 9, with the annual Honorary Adene and Richard Wilson Concert at 3:00 p.m. in Skinner Hall. This concert will feature the music of Professor Emeritus of Music Richard Wilson, as well as composers Unsuk Chin, Luciano Berio, and Terry Riley, whose minimalist classic *In C* will conclude the festival. Performers will include MODfest co-directors Drew Minter, Senior Lecturer in Music, and Thomas Sauer, Senior Adjunct Artist in Music.

“This year’s MODfest explores the loss of certainty that is the legacy of the scientific and artistic developments of the early 20th century,” Minter and Sauer said in a joint statement. “In the realm of physics, early investigations into the behavior of the electron found that it defied the laws of classical mechanics. The sub-atomic realm uncovered by quantum theorists was one of probability and contingency: of Uncertainty. At the same time, musicians, artists, and writers

of the European and American avant-garde were calling into question many of the artistic values that had held sway for generations: harmonic practice in music, the use of figure and representation in art, narrative structure and perspective in fiction. A new age sought new techniques; a creative uncertainty arose that has persisted to this day. MODfest 2025 highlights the presence of indeterminacy and digital technology in the music of the last 100 years and offers platforms for discussion of the widespread adoption throughout our society of technologies made possible by the discoveries of quantum theory.”

Vassar College is at 124 Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Vassar strives to make its events, performances, and facilities accessible to all. Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations must contact the Office of Campus Activities at least 48 hours in advance of an event, Mondays–Fridays, at (845) 437-5370. Without sufficient notice, appropriate space and/or assistance may not be available. Detailed information about accessibility to specific campus facilities can be found at vassar.edu.

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Taco Casserole

Tasty and easy to customize

Taco Tuesday is a thing for good reason. Who can resist the combination of fresh vegetables, spiced meat and cheese in a soft tortilla or crunchy corn shell? Not me, that's who! And heck yeah! I could eat them every week! I don't know anyone who doesn't love a good taco. Sure, you could order out, but they're easy to make and easily customizable. You can add them to your weekly lineup whenever you want to entice everyone to the table and set everything out so they can assemble their own. Or...

Because it's winter and I've been craving hot, cheesy, satisfying one-dish meals, you could be like me and make a taco casserole instead. I threw one together the other night (I do so pretty often) and it was just what I wanted. Big fat bonus: the leftovers were great warmed up and served over chips nacho-style! It's the kind of meal that would be perfect for a hungry crowd. Like one watching a game or something.

And just like tacos, it's easy to customize. You can use ground beef or turkey, or go meatless. You can use black beans, refried or kidney beans or just leave 'em out. Use nacho cheese flavored chips instead of plain and crumble some

on top as well as on the bottom. And use whatever cheese you like best (I went with sharp Cheddar and Colby Jack). You can set out a variety of toppings so your crowd can do it their way. Just bake up the casserole and set it on the table hot and bubbly with chopped jalapenos, scallions and onions, guacamole, chopped tomatoes, shaved lettuce (made tastier mixed with chopped cilantro and a squeeze of fresh lime juice), sliced black olives, lime wedges, sour cream and a big bowl of tortilla chips. It comes together quickly (about 40 minutes from prep to table), can easily be doubled for a crowd and can be assembled a day ahead and baked just when you want to serve it. It also freezes well. Just thaw in the fridge before popping in the oven.

TACO TUESDAY CASSEROLE

No, you don't have to save this for Tuesdays. It's just, like I said, "a thing." But, yes, you do have to try it. As in the notes above, it's easy to tailor it to your taste. This is just a starting point for you to play with and make your own. Sometimes I add corn (if using canned, be sure to drain it first) and chopped bell pepper; and once I tried it with a layer of sour cream under the cheesy topping. Do



Taco Casserole: It's not just for 'Taco Tuesdays.' Photos by Vicki Frank Day

what you want! It's your taco night!

INGREDIENTS

Tortilla chips (plain or nacho cheese)

Olive oil (about 1 tablespoon)

1/2 an onion, chopped

1lb ground beef (or turkey)

1 package taco seasoning OR 1 tablespoon chili powder and 1/2 teaspoon each garlic powder, salt and ground cumin)

1 (14.5oz) can black beans (drained and rinsed)

1 cup salsa

1 (14.5oz) can diced tomatoes (juice and all)

2 cups shredded cheese (Cheddar, Monterey Jack or a mix), divided

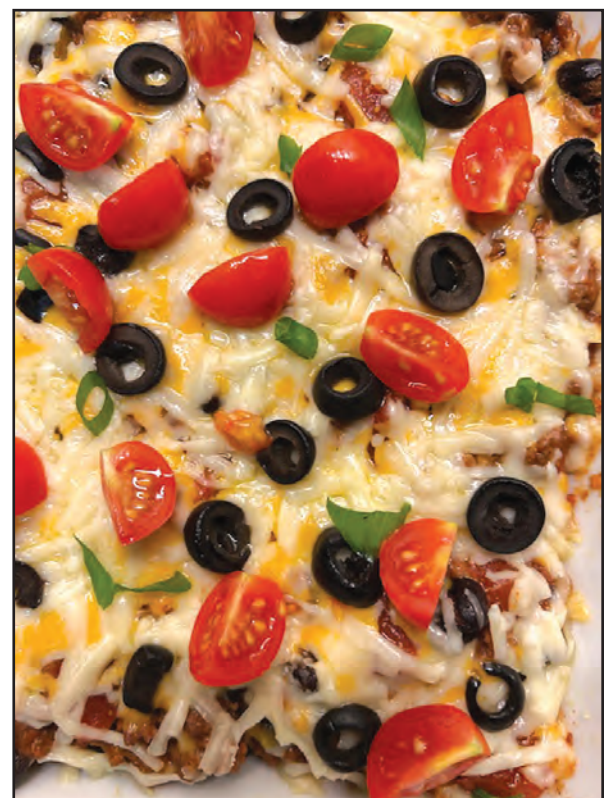
Toppings: chopped fresh tomatoes, scallions, jalapenos, onions and/or cilantro, sliced black olives, shredded lettuce, guacamole or sliced avocado, sour cream, tortilla chips

METHOD

Crumble enough tortilla chips into a greased 9x13 baking dish to cover the bottom. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees with rack in the middle position.

In a large skillet, heat olive oil. Add onion and cook over medium-high heat until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add meat and cook, stirring, until browned and crumbly, 8-10 minutes. Add seasoning, stir and continue cooking another 2-3 minutes. Spoon out excess fat.

Stir in beans, salsa, diced tomatoes and half of the cheese. Mix well. Spoon evenly over the tortilla chips and top with remaining cheese. (I sprinkled some sliced olives on top). Bake until bubbly and the cheese is melted, 25-30 minutes. Sprinkle with chopped scallions and



tomatoes. Serve with toppings on the side. Makes 8 servings.

I just love recipes I can go to anytime and change to suit my mood! But I also love the guilty pleasure of having a designated night for a favorite food, because it means one night I don't have to think up something to make for dinner. This casserole fits both categories and because you can change it up, it won't get old. So viva la taco night and enjoy!

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

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

Suguru

				3	
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			3		1
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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS

- 43,560 square feet
- Undergarment
- "She ____ a Yellow Ribbon"
- Ocean Spray ____-Apple juice
- #5 Across, pl.
- Concentration of solution, in chemistry
- CISC alternative
- Swearing-in words
- Goodwill branch
- *Artist with most Grammy nominations
- ALCS counterpart
- Winter Olympics participant
- IX minus II
- Drum roll sound
- Front of building, pl.
- Get it wrong
- Upholstery choice
- Reflect deeply
- Raccoon's cousin
- "____ the fields we go"
- Binary digits code
- Capital on a fjord
- Isaac of science fiction fame
- Consumed
- Within shortest distance
- *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
- Beer faucet
- Corpulent
- Self-satisfied
- *2025 Grammy nominated former band, with The
- Twist and distort
- Bank's provision
- Flock's response
- Ranee's wrap
- Elvers
- *2003 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient ____ Puente
- Like some wines
- ____ it or lose it
- Formerly, formerly

DOWN

- Acronym, abbr.
- Discarded cards in cribbage
- Tear down
- Enclose in a cyst
- Orthodontic appliance
- Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
- Certain tray content
- *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy ____
- Related to ear
- RPMs
- Before, in verse
- Predatory fish
- Gin's partner
- Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
- *1995 "Have I Told Your Lately That I Love You" winner ____ Morrison
- Scout's mission
- What phoenix did
- ____-____-la
- Non-negotiable
- Old European coin
- Last 8 in college basketball
- More than sly
- *Nominated artist Post Malone's actual last name
- Hula dancer's necklace
- *Taylor Swift's "The ____ Poets Department"
- Nautical "Stop!"
- Nile viper
- *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
- Top scout
- Make a connection
- Double-reed instruments
- Famous Memphis street
- Unforeseen obstacle
- Foal's mother
- Chieftain in Arabia
- Tennis amount
- General Services Administration
- Romanian money
- *Kendrick Lamar's "____ Like Us"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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

A & E CALENDAR

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Jan. 31: Cliff Eberhardt and Vance Gilbert, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Feb. 1: The Best of the 70s by DizzyFish & The Uptown Horns – Eric's Birthday Bash!, 8 p.m. Tickets \$45 advance, \$50 door. Feb. 2: Genticorum, 7 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Winter Hoot, Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Rd., Olivebridge. Celebration of music, food, nature, and community featuring exciting local and world-renowned performers along with activities for all ages. Tickets & more info: <http://hoot.love/>

Feb. 1: Concert: Souls United Choir, Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie. 2:30- 4:30 p.m. No registration required. www.poklib.org

Feb. 1: Hudson Valley Folk Guild Performance, Unitarian Fellowship, 320 Sawkill Rd., Kingston. The Kingston Chapter of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild presents featured performer Neil Okeson. The coffeehouse consists of an open mic and a feature performer. It starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9:45 p.m. Open Mic sign-up at 6:30 p.m. Admission \$7 (\$6 for Folk Guild members and senior citizens). Contact Andy Shapiro at (617) 529-2283 or email

HVFgKingston@hudsonvalleyfolkguild.org for more info.

Feb. 1: Play Reading, "The Zoo Story," Village Hall, 3rd Floor, 86 Broadway, Tivoli. Tangent Theatre Company presents a reading of Edward Albee's exploration of loneliness, the struggle to connect and the underlying tensions between social classes - as two unlikely New Yorkers meet on a Central Park bench, 5 p.m. Free; reservations required by email to info@tangent-arts.org.

Feb. 4: "Fala D. Roosevelt: Presidential Pooch," virtual event presented by Jeffrey Urbin of the FDR Presidential Library & Museum, 7 p.m. Fala was the President Franklin D. Roosevelt's faithful Scottish terrier, who brought much needed fun and distraction to the war-weary president. Free; registration required. <https://poklib.org/>

Feb. 4, Local Author Event, Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. Bradford Morrow will talk with Mary Caponegro about "The Forger's Requiem: A Novel," his new gripping literary thriller that brings readers inside the world of expert forgery, rivalrous fury, and generations of dark family secrets, with Mary Shelley's voice and life woven throughout, 6 p.m. Free. Registration required via www.oblongbooks.com. (845) 876-0500 or events@oblongbooks.com

Millbrook Library, Arts Group form new project, set inaugural exhibition

The Millbrook Library and the Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) have announced the formation of "Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space."

The Millbrook Library is a vital organization within the Town of Washington that has presented rotating art exhibitions for almost two decades. Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) has collaborated with the library for nearly as long. As an expansion of their partnership, MAG has contributed to the renovation of the Library Gallery and will provide funding for the curatorial oversight, exhibition design/production, and artist programming for an annual series of curated exhibitions.

The Library will host exhibitions in the newly named "Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space." This project is dedicated to offering exhibition opportunities to visual artists and enriching the experience of visual art in Millbrook and surrounding communities.

The inaugural project, a solo exhibition titled, "Ann Ledy: Circle + Square, an Exhibition in 2 + 3 Dimensions." The public is invited to an artist-led tour on February 1 at 4:30 p.m., and a reception at 6-7:30 p.m. at the Millbrook Library.

Ledy, an artist and educator, moved from New York City to Dutchess County before the COVID pandemic and was

instrumental in bringing together a new community of creatives. The majority of work on view was completed in her Millbrook Studio. Ledy's works on paper are held in the collections of seventeen museums. For more information, visit aledy.com.

Associates in the program include Jen McCreery, Millbrook Library Assistant Director/Adult Programs Coordinator and Gallery Manager, and Sharon Bates, Millbrook Arts Group Board Member, visual artist, Founding Director of the Albany International Airport Art & Culture Program and Gallery Curator. They will both serve on the artist selection committee along with Wayne Lempka, Art Collections Manager at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art; Erik Daniel White, visual artist and Geary Contemporary Gallery Associate; Emi Night, Millbrook Arts Group Board Member, visual artist, and singer-songwriter. The selection committee will review submitted artist materials and invite artists for solo, group, or thematic exhibitions annually.

For more information about "Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space" visit <https://millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project/>

EXHIBITIONS

Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Feb. 2:** To commemorate its five year anniversary, Art Gallery 71's January feature is a group exhibition of the seven artists that founded the cooperative: Alix Travis, Wendy Sheasby, Evelyn LaStella, Richard Chianella, Trevor Hunter, Mary Belliveau and Ted Braggins. www.artgallery71.com

Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through January:** "The True Story of Bannerman's Island," Bannerman Castle Trust's 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. www.bannermancastle.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through January:** New art installations featuring Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St., and Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries at 12 Vassar St. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 2:** "Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency," an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/thelob>

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through January:** "Objective Perception and Reclamation of Agency," new series of paintings and textile art pieces by Gina Malfetano. **Closing Party:** Sat., Jan. 31, 5-7 p.m. (845) 876-2903

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through January:** Artworks by Deztiny Di Meo on display. A Hyde Park resident, Di Meo utilizes a mix of different media to create her artwork, including acrylic paint, marker, pen, and paper clippings. Her artwork has been displayed at the Hyde Park Library, the Millbrook Library, and The Crafted Kup as part of WomensWork.Art Gallery. <https://deztinydimeo.com/art>

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Feb. 2:** "Artists Choice ~ Member Selected Work," TAG members will exhibit their imaginative works that challenge traditional notions of art with their unique artistic styles, diverse mediums and thought-provoking themes. They make free association between ideas, concepts, emotions, memories and symbols. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

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E-mail exhibition listings to:
creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

17th annual Cookie Walk set Feb. 8 in Poughkeepsie



The 17th annual Mid-Hudson Love INC Cookie Walk is set for Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church in Poughkeepsie. Pictured are a variety of cookie platters from 2023. *Courtesy photos by Patty & Arnie Ten*



The Annual Mid-Hudson Love INC Cookie Walk promises sweet treats and positive vibes. On Saturday, Feb. 8, cookie-lovers can select their favorites from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or as long as supplies last) at Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, 2381 New Hackensack Road (Route 376) in Poughkeepsie. Based on last year's offering of more than 900 dozen cookies, a wide variety of gourmet homemade cookies are expected, including gluten free.

This is the 17th year for the Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ Cookie Walk, which is always held the Saturday before Valentine's Day, and again this year falls the day before the Big Game. The event showcases the recipes and decorating skills of over 100 volunteer bakers who donate their best baked goods. Shoppers receive gloves and a bakery box and walk through the

cookie display selecting the items they want. The filled bakery boxes are weighed, and shoppers take their treats home for a suggested donation of \$10 per pound.

Proceeds benefit the ministry work of local churches through Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ. Mid-Hudson Love INC is a partnership of churches that helps local families experiencing poverty by providing personal attention, skill-building classes, mentoring, and tangible goods such as personal care items, linens, and furniture.

Pick up some treats for your sweetheart, your family, your Super Bowl party, a neighbor, or a friend, and know that your financial donation offers a helping hand to someone in need. For further information about Mid-Hudson Love INC, visit www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org or call 845-471-0102.

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GENERAC

'The Search for Power' at Fisher Center Feb. 1-23

The Fisher Center at Bard's Fisher Center LAB and the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College (CCS Bard) team up to present artist Tania El Khoury and scholar Ziad Abu-Rish's lecture performance and installation, "The Search for Power," at CCS Bard/Hessel Museum of Art. The installation will be on view from Feb. 1 to 23, with live performances Feb. 1-3 and 7-9.

On a night with a sudden electricity outage in their Beirut neighborhood, El Khoury and Abu-Rish discussed the history of power cuts in Lebanon. Born during the Lebanese Civil War, the artist had grown up with the understanding that the problem with electricity in Lebanon began during the war. The historian, however, recalled finding a government document dated 1952 that announced scheduled electricity outages across Beirut.

The two decided to research the history of power outages in Lebanon, delving into the intersection between public utilities infrastructure, people's relationship to the state, and various popular mobilizations to shape both. In time, they reach as far back as the introduction of electricity in Beirut before it was even possible to imagine a Lebanese state. In space, they collect documents across Lebanon and beyond its borders, visiting the archives of colonial powers: Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. What they find is a transnational story that locates electricity at the intersection of colonial legacies, the machinations of political and economic elites, and everyday acts of resistance, survival, and sabotage.

"The Search for Power" can be experienced as a ticketed lecture performance – an intimate gathering guided by the makers sharing their research journey – or as a free access open installation, in which the audience explores the work in their own time through sound and touch.

With "The Search for Power," the Fisher Center continues its holistic relationship with Tania El Khoury's artistry and vision, which engages audiences in close encounters with narratives drawn from political realities of borders, displacement, and state violence. She is a commissioned artist and guest co-curator at the Fisher Center: alongside Fisher Center Artistic Director and Chief Executive Gideon Lester, she co-curated the 2022–23 Fisher LAB Biennial, "Common Ground: An International Festival on the Politics of Land and Food"; and the 2019 Biennial, "Where No Wall Remains" (both of which featured commissions of El Khoury's work). El Khoury is also a Distinguished Artist in Residence of Theater and Performance at Bard, and the founding director of the OSUN Center for Human Rights and the Arts at Bard (CHRA).

"The Search for Power" was the first time El Khoury and Abu-Rish – director of the MA Program in Human Rights & the Arts and Associate Professor of Human Rights and Middle Eastern Studies at Bard College – joined their respective practices in cross-disciplinary performance. El Khoury writes in the intro to the book of "The Search for Power" (Tadween Publishing, 2020), "The border between our different prac-



"The Search for Power," a lecture performance/installation opening Feb. 1 at Bard College's Fisher Center. Photo by Elina Giounanli/Onassis Stegi

tices (history and live art) was being crossed, blurred, and erased without having to compromise on the integrity or quality of either of these practices."

Ziad Abu-Rish writes in his own intro to the book, "I began this foray into 'The Search for Power' believing it was primarily about opportunities to expand my research and spend more time with Tania. As I reflect on the experience and anticipate additional touring of the show, I have come to believe that this collaboration has been transformative in ways beyond those that were initially imagined."

Performance schedule and ticketing

Performances of "The Search for Power" take place in the Hessel Museum of Art at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1; Sunday, Feb. 2; Monday, Feb. 3; Friday, Feb. 7; Saturday, Feb. 8; and Sunday, Feb. 9.

On performance days, exhibit hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. On days when there are no performances, exhibit hours are Monday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The last admission for the open installation will be one hour before the museum's closing.

For tickets and more information, visit fishercenter.bard.edu or call the Fisher Center's box office at (845) 758-7900.

Morton sends out call for talent, visual art

Morton Memorial Library's annual Talent Show is set Friday, March 7,

starting at 6:30 p.m. Members of the community are encouraged to register to participate and share their special talent.

All kinds of talent are wanted: An evening of jokes, bands, storytelling, guitar playing, dance and more. This show and the Morton community are all about

enjoyment and camaraderie – never judgment.

Contact Sandy at sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org by Feb. 1 if you are interested in participating, and include your talent.

Those who aren't in Rhinecliff, but would like to share their talents, may record their performance and send it in.

Morton will create a video to share during the show.

Richard Kopyscianski has again agreed to emcee the event.

There is a separate call for the visual art component of the Talent Show. Morton invites the community to submit their artistic works, which will be on

view for the month of March. The Talent Show Art Opening will take place on Friday, Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. This is a week before the performance component of the show.

Contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org by Feb. 1 if you are interested. Bring in your piece to the library by Saturday, Feb. 22.

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

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OBITUARIES

Judith A. & Niles Crispell

Judith A. Crispell, 86, passed away on January 6, 2025, and her husband, Niles Crispell, 90, passed away twelve days later on January 18, 2025. Longtime Hyde Park residents, they both died at the Baptist Home in Rhinebeck.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial calling hours for both were held Friday, January 24th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park.

A joint Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 25th at the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park, corner of Church Street & Route 9. Pastor Kent Jackson officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

The full obituaries are below.

Judy Crispell

Judith A. Crispell, affectionately known as Judy to her friends and loved ones, passed away in her sleep on January 6, 2025, after a courageous battle with end-stage dementia. She was born on May 5, 1938, in Poughkeepsie, NY, the daughter of Kenneth Bishop and Beatrice Myers. Predeceased by her parents, her infant son Scott David Crispell, her stepfather Herbert Palmer Sr., her brother Herbert Palmer Jr. and his wife Susan Palmer. Judy's memory will live on through her family and the many nieces and nephews who adored their Aunt Judy.

Judy graduated from Poughkeepsie High School in 1956 and shortly thereafter, met the love of her life Niles Crispell. Their marriage was an example of dedication and giving, and together, they built a family that brought them both a great deal of pride and satisfaction. Judy was a generous, steadfast supporter of her children. Throughout her life, she maintained a close relationship with her son Todd and his wife Julie, and daughter Tracy and her husband Steve Mittermaier. She treasured her role as grandmother to Joshua and Amanda Mittermaier, especially looking forward to their yearly visits to her and Niles' condo in Naples, Florida.

Throughout her life, Judy kept herself busy with numerous skills and hobbies. She was skilled in cooking, sewing, crochet, and stained glass. She sewed women's clothing for herself and others close to her, and her family still enjoys many of the beautiful crocheted blankets she created. Her love for reading was insatiable, and she could often be found engrossed in a book or solving crossword puzzles. Judy also had a fondness for Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, during which she waged a shadow competition against the on-screen contestants, and enjoyed critiquing everyone's fashion choices.

Judy's creativity was matched by her boldly outgoing nature, and she was known for her tendency to find or make friends wherever she went. She created a welcoming home for these friends, family, and neighbors. She loved animals, and several dogs spent many good years enjoying her company. Todd and Tracy fondly remember the adventures and mishaps that came with years of camping trips to northern New York and visits to their cabin on Indian Lake. They often reminisce about how their friends were welcomed and "mothered" by Judy, several of whom also remember her as their Saturday morning coach for the bowling League at HoeBow.

In her final years, Judy faced the decline endured by those with end-stage dementia. In doing so, many of her gentler characteristics were stripped away, leaving her bolder traits on full display. It became harder to pull her from conversations with new friends at the grocery store, and colorful exclamations became a regular occurrence. Luckily, this usually included the retelling of a fond memory (a lesson taught by an admired 7th grade teacher), eager declarations of what she wanted to do (often a picnic at Quiet Cove), and comments about how pretty the clouds look. Through it all, she maintained her fierce rivalry with squirrels.

Judy's legacy is one of love, artistry, and an unquenchable zest for life. Her memory will be carried forward in the stories shared by those who knew her, the beautiful works she created, and the warm smiles she elicited from friends and strangers alike.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Niles Crispell

Niles Crispell, 90, of Hyde Park, NY, passed away on January 18, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, patience, and quiet strength. Born on May 2, 1934, in Kingston, NY, to Walter and Cora (Horn) Crispell, Niles lived a life rooted in service, dedication, and love for his family and community.

A man of few words but steady actions, Niles enlisted in the United States Army, but received an honorable discharge in September 1955 due to a medical disqualification. After returning to the Hudson Valley, he worked alongside his

father Walter at Crispell Hardware from 1953 to 1960. In 1960, Niles and his brother Walter took ownership of the family business, Crispell Hardware, where Niles earned a reputation for being the go-to person when something needed fixing. Whether it was a plumbing problem, an electrical issue, or just a neighbor in need of advice, Niles was always willing to lend a helping hand.

In 1958, Niles married Judith A. Bishop, and together they built a life filled with love and devotion. They had two children, Todd and Tracy, and Niles was a deeply caring father, always providing quiet guidance and unwavering support. Judy predeceased him on January 6, 2025. He was also deeply affected by the loss of his son Scott David in 1960, a grief that stayed with him throughout his life. Niles is also predeceased by his three brothers—Clifford, Kenneth, and Walter—but the memory of them lived on in the way Niles continued to care for those around him.

A lover of the outdoors, Niles was a member of several local clubs, including the Crum Elbow Sportsman Club, the Dutchess County Sportsman Club, and the Northern Dutchess Hunt Club, where he enjoyed peaceful days spent hunting and fishing. He was also a member of the Stone Church Fishing Club and the Beaver Meadow Club. Many summers were spent camping in northern New York and fishing at his and Judy's cabin on Indian Lake or enjoying time in the company of friends and family in the tranquil outdoors.

While Niles was not one for grand gestures or jokes, his love for his family was always clear. He took great joy in his role as a grandfather to Amanda and Joshua, spending many cherished moments with them, whether it was taking them fishing or simply sharing time together. Niles and his grandson Joshua had a special bond, particularly during their deep-sea fishing trips in Florida, which Niles looked forward to every year.

In addition to his outdoor hobbies, Niles was involved in his community in a quiet but meaningful way. He served as a member of Roosevelt Fire Co. #1 from 1956 to 1971 and was proud to receive his Fireman's Exemption Certificate in 1970. He was also involved in the Hyde Park Elks, the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club, and served on the board of Union Cemetery. Niles was a man who believed in helping where help was needed and was never one to seek attention for his efforts.

Niles was a man of routine and simplicity—he loved watching college basketball, especially the Duke Blue Devils, and enjoyed spending half the year in Naples, Florida, and the other half in Hyde Park, NY. His life may have been quiet, but it was full of purpose, and he was a constant presence to those who knew him. He was a man who didn't need to say much to make an impact, and his kindness and patience will be remembered by all who were fortunate to know him.

Niles is survived by his son Todd and daughter-in-law Julie, his daughter Tracy Mittermaier and son-in-law Steven, his grandchildren Amanda and Joshua, and many nieces and nephews. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, especially those who had the privilege of seeing the world through his patient and loving eyes.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Rose M. Funk

Rose Martha Funk, 89, a lifelong area resident, passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Our mother was born to Florence Wheeler & Harold Rifenburgh in the Great Depression of the 1930's in Rhinebeck, NY. You can imagine this was no easy entrance into our world, nor was it an easy task for her mother. Mom's childhood would start at the beginning of World War II during which time Franklin D. Roosevelt was the one and only president of the USA to serve four terms.

She learned at an early age that family came first, hard work and faith would provide for your needs, and love would make the world go round. Mom was so beautiful with her blue eyes, blonde hair, big heart and tender ways. But don't be fooled by a pretty face, because she was also strong, charismatic, and independent too.

Everyday was a blessing as she was growing up. Who knew that her best friend, John Henry Funk, who lived next door would become the man of her dreams and our father to be. He looked just like Elvis Presley whom all the girls were going crazy over in the 1950's. He had his car, black slick hair and dreamy brown eyes, a crooked smile and a cigarette pack rolled up in his t-shirt sleeve. And yes he could dance. Elvis was a big influence to their generation with his country rock n roll gospel music. How could she resist the guy who was already in love with her

for years.

But love couldn't stop history and another War would come and take John far away from her to fight in the Korean War. They were wed on March 28, 1953 at Christ Church in Red Hook NY just at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement across the United States.

While she stayed home, he was deployed to France when she got pregnant with their first child, a son, John V. Funk. They wrote love letters to each other during his entire tour. Mom even sent him a lock of Johnny's first hair curl in an envelope. He was almost 1 year old when Dad saw his son for the first time. Mom said he knew who is father was from the pictures Dad would send in the letters from his post. You could imagine how happy Dad was when Johnny walked into his arms for the first time. Their love continued and their family grew. Next came Brenda. I heard she wasn't easy and wanted out before the doctor came. She's still impatient today. David was #3. Spoiled rotten from the beginning because he was a middle child. And well, you all know I, Rhonda, was the baby in the family. The cutest, most adorable one of all.

They bought a big house in Red Hook on Elizabeth St. where their kids would grow up and call it home. They worked hard to put a roof over our head, food in our mouths, oil in our tank, clothes on our back, and presents under the Christmas Tree. My mother had a savings account that she put money in every paycheck to make sure they would have enough money at the end of the year to cover Santa's expense for her little cherubs' wish lists.

Always a working woman, in 1959, she worked at an electric plant called Control Method and was employed there for 9 years. In 1968 she went to work for Stamp, Inc. in Rhinebeck for 16 years. From there, until her retirement in June of 1999, she worked at Semi-Films in Kingston as an inspector. While working hard and taking care of the house, her family always came first.

Because of her, we all spend too much money today on Christmas, but we understand the value of a dollar. Dad made sure of that. And because of our parents, we also know the true meaning of love, hard work, sacrifice, and forgiveness. But this year was different. We all experienced devastating loss in our family. Each one of us processes pain and sorrow in our own way. It's a constant reminder of how much you love them and how much they loved you back.

Rose is survived by her children; Brenda (Guy) Magarelli of Elizaville, NY, Rhonda (Jean-Pierre) Baril of Fishkill, NY, David (Leanne) Funk Wappingers, NY; her daughter in law, Monica Kim Funk of Glasco, NY; her grandchildren, Maleda (Hugo) Herrera, Christal Funk, Amber Funk, Kerri Funk, Andrea (Fritz) Kielblock and Celynn Baril; her step grandchildren, Cherlisa Baril and Misty Baril and their families; her great grandchildren, Salvador, Fritz, Chloe, Scarlett and Landon; in addition to nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Together as a family they shared countless happy memories, of which they hold close with them each day, continuing on Rose's Legacy. Some of these memories can be found below.

In addition to her parents and husband, Rose is predeceased by her siblings, Anna Marie Wyant and William "Manny" Rifenburgh; her son, John V. Funk; her granddaughter, Amanda Funk; and great granddaughter, Abby Dingman.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rose's memory to the Ronald McDonald House or The Red Hook Fire Company.

Friends and family called on Friday, January 24th, 2025. A funeral service also took place. Interment will be private. Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY 12571.

Harry Thomas (Tom) Lint

Lint, Harry Thomas (Tom), 85, of Clinton Corners died on January 7, 2025.

Tom retired from the City of Poughkeepsie School District where he taught History and Psychology. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Mitchell Lint, at home.

Funeral services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements by Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Route 9, Hyde Park, NY. www.sweetsfuneralhome.com

Robert S. Mergendahl

Robert S. Mergendahl, Sr., 87, a lifelong area resident, passed away on January 18, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Bob was born on February 14, 1937 in Poughkeepsie, NY to the late Gordon Sr. and Nellie (Baldwin) Mergendahl. He married Marion Perz on April 5th, 1959 at St. Christopher's Church in Red Hook; through hard work and unwavering support for one another, they built a beautiful life together.

He proudly served in the United States Army

from 1954 - 1957. He went on to work as a Highway Foreman for many years with the NYS Department of Transportation out of Red Hook, NY.

Robert was a proud member of the local American Legion, where he forged lasting friendships and honored his dedication to service and community. In his free time, he found joy in the great outdoors, spending countless hours hunting and fishing, pursuits that brought him peace and fulfillment. Above all, Robert cherished the time spent with his family, creating memories that will be treasured forever.

In addition to his loving wife, Marion of Milan, Robert is survived by his daughter, Susan Lydon and her husband, Timothy Jr. of Elizaville, NY; his grandchildren, Zachary Lydon, Tyler Lydon, Jacob Lydon, Logan Lydon and Olivia Mergendahl; his great grandson, Graham Lydon; in addition to extended family and friends. Bob was predeceased by his son, Robert S. Mergendahl Jr. in 2015.

Friends and family called at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook on Saturday, January 25th, 2025. A Graveside Service with Military Honors immediately followed at Rock City Cemetery, Rhinebeck, NY. Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook, 7461 South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571.

Mary Ann Rose

Mary Ann Rose of Hyde Park, NY born April 9, 1941, died on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Taconic at Ulster Rehabilitation and Nursing in Highland, NY. She was the daughter of the late William Crusie and Mary Crusie (DiRocco).

Mary Ann grew up in Wappingers Falls, NY. After getting married and starting a family, she went back to school and graduated from Dutchess Community College. She passed the nursing boards and worked as a Registered Nurse for various health care institutions for many years before her retirement.

Mary Ann enjoyed hosting holiday celebrations for her family. She loved the beach and going to Seaside Heights, New Jersey, for annual summer vacations with her three children. Later in life Mary Ann enjoyed attending her grandsons' sporting events. She took many trips, local and overseas, with her partner and friend, Matthew. They took dance classes and continued skiing into their 70s.

She is survived by her daughter Lynne Morrell (Andrews) and husband Timothy Sr., her two grandchildren, Timothy Morrell Jr. and Daniel Morrell, and her son Brian Andrews. Her former husband is James J. Andrews. She is also survived by her brother Kenneth Crusie and wife Theresa, a nephew and niece; Gregory Crusie and Ashley Crusie.

Along with her parents she was predeceased by her son James M. Andrews, and her brother William Crusie Jr.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at Sweet's Funeral Home, 4365 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park. A Memorial Service took place at the funeral home. Interment will take place later at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Mary Ann's family respectfully requests memorial donations to Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. box 405, Lagrangeville, NY 12540 (www.miles-of-hope.org). Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com

Nancy A. Voetsch

Nancy A. Voetsch, 61 of Red Hook, passed away on January 17, 2025 at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 11, 1963 in Mount Kisco, NY to the late Theodore Arthur and Lois Anne (Hjorth) Voetsch. A devoted mother, Nancy spent much of her time her time caring for her children. Later on in life and as her children grew up, Nancy earned her Dental Assistant Certification and worked for a dental office in Kingston for a number of years.

Nancy is survived by her loving children; Theodore Blank, Cassidy Blank and Steven Blank; her siblings, Thomas Voetsch, Arthur Voetsch, and Mary Voetsch, along with extended family and friends..

In addition to her parents, Nancy is predeceased by her brother, David Voetsch, and her sister, Patricia Voetsch.

Friends and family were received at Burnett and White Funeral Homes in Red Hook, NY on Friday, January 24th, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Christopher's Church in Red Hook afterward. Burial followed at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Red Hook, NY.

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

Legal Notices

Wurtemberg Cemetery Association, Annual General Meeting at St. Paul's Wurtemberg Church, 371 Wurtemberg Road, Rhinebeck, N.Y. Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:00 pm. A review of 2024 events and plans for 2025 will be discussed. Members of plot-owning families are urged to attend and vote on issues concerning the future operation of the cemetery. Other interested people are welcome to attend, too. More information: 845-876-4653

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Pough-

Legal Notices

keepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-07-25
BUS INSPECTION SERVICES FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 19, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-01-25
Dutchess County Transportation Council
Public Engagement Services for Metropolitan Transportation Plan
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 13, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions

Legal Notices

may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-09-25
POLICY CONSULTANT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System

Legal Notices

(BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 13, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.
REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-03-25
Preventive Maintenance and As Needed Pest Control

Legal Notices

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 13th day of February 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the

Legal Notices

submission of responses for: #RFEODCP-04-25
Facility Operator for Camp Nootemung Town of Pleasant Valley, New York
Responses must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 6, 2025. Specifications, RFEOI forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

The deadline for Legals is every Friday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Thursday at noon.

COLLEGE NOTES

MANCHESTER, NH - Ryan Brogan of Hyde Park has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

MANCHESTER, NH - Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President's List: Luckner Bellevue of Staatsburg, Russell Reckhow of Salt Point, Shane Horboychuk of Red Hook, Jordan Pomarico of Hyde Park, Alexis Sullivan of Clinton Corners.

The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

POTSDAM, NY - The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 179 students who excelled academically in the Fall 2024 semester to the College's Dean's List. This semester's list included:

Sebastian Hughes of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Music Education;

Nicole Luciano of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Politics;

Rianna Ricci of Hyde Park, whose major is Dance;

Elizabeth Van Kleeck of Red Hook, whose major is Exploratory/Undeclared.

To achieve the honor of being on the SUNY Potsdam Dean's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of between 3.25 and 3.49 in the given semester.

LEWISBURG, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement dur-

ing the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. Local students included:

Josie Duggan of Millbrook, Class of 2026, International Relations;

Alexander Marks of Poughkeepsie, Class of 2027, Civil Engineering;

Julia Daly of Poughquag, Class of 2028, Undeclared;

Katie McAvoy of Poughquag, Class of 2027, Mathematics;

Spencer Firestone of Rhinebeck, Class of 2028, Undeclared;

Dana Nguyen of Stormville, Class of 2026, Economics.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

ONEONTA, NY - Two hundred fifty-eight SUNY Oneonta students earned Provost's List honors for the fall 2024 semester, including Maggie Amoruso of Poughquag, Delia Davidson of Lagrangeville, Madison LoMedico of Stormville, Catherine Wellington of Dover Plains, and Hannah Williams of Stormville.

To qualify for the Provost's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

ST. GEORGE, UT - Students at Utah Tech University in the Fall 2024 semester demonstrated remarkable academic prowess, with 1,049 students earning President's List honors.

William Duersch of Lagrangeville was among those honored.

To qualify, students had to attain a semester GPA of 3.9 or higher and complete at least 15 credits.

BRISTOL, RI - Select students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Local students include Sydney Fox of Poughquag, and Alyssa Lambert of Holmes.

Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

SYRACUSE, NY - Madyson Simmons, Sophomore Human Resource Management and Management and Leadership major from Red Hook, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall

2024 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

NEW PALTZ, NY - SUNY New Paltz announces its Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, a recognition for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

Local students on the list include Katelyn Ackley of Staatsburg, Olivia Babcock of Hyde Park, Kiersten Barkstrom of Red Hook, Ariana Bianchini of Pleasant Valley, Mara Blatz of Pleasant Valley, Sydney Bonelli of Hyde Park, Kevin Briccio of Salt Point, David Brown of Pleasant Valley, Danielle Bunn of Pleasant Valley, Olivia Burgevin Hallstein of Tivoli, Melody Burke of Salt Point, Abigail Canales Castrejon of Tivoli, Vanessa Coons of Red Hook, Logan Cooper of Hyde Park, Alyssa DiBartolo of Staatsburg, Brianna DiLoreto of Red Hook, Caroline Dockstader of Stanfordville, Colleen Doherty of Tivoli, Mackenzie Ean of Pleasant Valley, Rachel Fenwick of Staatsburg, John Forbes of Red Hook, Skyler Fountain of Millbrook, Gianna Geraci of Clinton Corners, Caleb Grey of Hyde Park, Allie Hammell of Pleasant Valley, Morgan Hammell of Pleasant Valley, Matthew Hoffman of Staatsburg, Julia Jacques of Hyde Park, Lyndsay Johnson of Millerton, Riley Kaan of Millbrook, Pavan Kang of Hyde Park, Madeline Kerzner of Red Hook, Gloria Losurdo of Red Hook, John Magnarella of Pine Plains, Mawazi Matende of Hyde Park, Sofie Morton of Wassaic, Libby Mosher of Rhinebeck, Aaron Munn of Red Hook, Eitan Neustadt of Rhinebeck, Michael Newport of Pleasant Valley, Dalia Ocampo-Rendon of Hyde Park, Ian O'Connor of Rhinebeck, Raphiel O'Connor of Red Hook, Julia Osterhoudt

of Staatsburg, Lacy Parsons of Red Hook, Marissa Scuderi of Pleasant Valley, Fiona Seabrook of Rhinebeck, Mia Socci of Millbrook, Sophia Stanton of Salt Point, AJ Stritt of Hyde Park, Paige Teixeira of Red Hook, Salimata Traore of Red Hook, Paris Tretola of Red Hook, Alan Wattoff of Hyde Park, Tania Wells of Stanfordville, Jake Wilber of Millbrook, Grace Youngquist of Rhinebeck.

BRISTOL, RI - Jack Tagliamonte, of Hyde Park has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

POTSDAM, NY - The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 774 students to the President's List, in recognition of their academic excellence in the Fall 2024 semester. The SUNY Potsdam students were honored for earning top marks by President Dr. Suzanne Smith.

This semester, the honorees included: Josh Buessem of Pleasant Valley, whose major is Music Education;

Ilse Kollmar of Millbrook, whose major is Biochemistry;

Mya Peek of Hyde Park, whose major is Mathematics;

Katie Pullaro of Red Hook, whose major is Music Education;

Ryan Shaw of Staatsburg, whose major is Music Education.

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



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Northern Dutchess News,
Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press

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A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

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106 Business Opportunity
107 Situations Wanted
120 Schools
121 Special Instruction
122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
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420 Commercial Rentals
500 Musical Merchandise
501 Kid Stuff
502 Clothing
503 Furniture
504 Appliances
505 Free Items
506 Computers
507 Sports Equipment
508 Exercise Equipment

509 Office Equipment
510 Firewood
511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
512 Winter Merchandise
516 Misc. Merchandise
700 Pets & Supplies
701 Free Pets
702 Lost & Found Pets
703 Pets for Adoption
710 Garage & Yard Sale
711 Tag Sale
712 Moving sale
713 Rummage Sale
714 Flea Market
715 Craft Corner
716 Barn Sale
717 Estate Sale
718 Auctions
719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted
721 Wanted to Buy
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4	1	5	2	3	1
5	3	4	1	5	4
1	2	5	2	3	1
4	3	4	1	5	2
2	1	2	3	4	1
3	5	4	5	2	3

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SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Answers to this week's diversions (puzzles on page 13)

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Feel the thrill of Hans Zimmer's iconic movie music, including themes from *Gladiator*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Man of Steel*, and *Interstellar*. Experience the grandeur, drama, and emotion of his legendary soundtracks performed live by the orchestra.

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GOLDEN LIVING

Could you walk to your nearest local grocery store? Only a few Dutchess County residents could even think about it - and even someone shopping only for themselves would find it a challenge to get their purchases back home on foot. There are mass transit options; but again, there might be challenge walking from home to the bus stop and back. Hiring taxis is an option, but they can be pricey and not always available.

For day-to-day essentials, we need reliable transportation. For most of our adult lives, that meant driving ourselves. Driving represents the ability to take care of our own practical needs. It represents freedom and independence, especially for older adults.

Measuring our driving skills as we age

Before we get anywhere near the conversation about giving up one's car keys, let's note some realities that work in favor of older drivers.

Statistics indicate that most older drivers are safe drivers. They drive fewer miles, obey motor vehicle laws, avoid rush-hour traffic, and are less likely to drive at night and during bad weather. Older drivers are also less likely to drive with in-car distractions like hand-held mobile devices, and are less likely to be ticketed for driving under the influence.

Now, the dreaded "on the other hand..."

It's hard to come to terms with a loss of skills, but we owe it to our loved ones and all the drivers who share the road with us to honestly evaluate our skills, and adapt as necessary. The same studies that point out positives for older drivers also indicated that drivers age 70 and older have higher crash rates per mile driven, compared to middle-aged drivers. Crash fatality rates increase significantly after age 85.

Each older driver's skill is closely connected to their ability to function in other activities of daily living. The more living skills they retain, the more likely they are to retain driving skills as well.

Whom would you trust to talk with you about your driving?

It's hard to predict. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab/The Hartford survey indicates that older male drivers tend to trust the judgment of a spouse more than older female drivers; in that same study, 15 percent of both older male and female drivers indicated that a spouse would be the last person they'd trust.

If you're looking for an evaluation perceived as freer from bias, consider that the MIT/Hartford survey shows that many older drivers trust the opinions of their doctors, and for good reason. A decline in driving skills may have a cause that can be addressed in conversation with doctors. For instance, a doctor can help you explore alternatives to taking a medication that has a sedative effect, which can make driving unsafe. A doctor may also refer an older driver to occupational therapy to help bolster skills like moving one's foot between the gas pedal and the brake. Having trouble with that particular skill is often a consequence of weak hip flexors.

Not having the conversations is not an option

Have a plan. You'll hear us repeat that point many times this year, and beyond. And it doesn't have to be a perfect, unchanging plan that lasts for the rest of your life; it need only be adaptable to the changes that come as you age. Consider your ability to drive right now, as well as in the months and years to come. Consider where you'll be living; will it be your current home, or another? If you're thinking of moving to a more aging-friendly home, walkability and proximity to transit will be factors to consider. If you must transition from driver to passenger, the ideal is to make that a gradual process.

Initiate those conversations with family, caregivers, and doctors, instead of being surprised and possibly upset on the day they initiate those conversations with you.

OFA and your transportation options

There are many transportation services that can accommodate older adults in

Dutchess County. Some are funded by County and local governments, while others are carried out by volunteers. Your local houses of worship may offer transportation options as well. An extensive list of transportation options is available at dutchessny.gov/ofatransportation or by calling OFA at 845-486-2555.

The newest OFA-supported option is called GoGoGrandparent, or GoGo for short. Wherever ride-sharing options like Uber or Lyft are available in Dutchess County, so is GoGo. It's an on-demand transportation option for older adults in Dutchess County who are not on Medicaid and have no other options for transportation, with limited free rides to non-emergency medical appointments within Dutchess County for GoGo clients who have registered with OFA. Call OFA at 845-486-2555 to register with GoGo and check availability of free non-emergency transportation. Registering in advance is a must!

GoGo is now also available for older adults in Dutchess County, regardless of Medicaid status, for the purpose of visits to loved ones in a hospital, nursing home or hospice within Dutchess County. Contact OFA for details.

POUGHKEEPSIE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE STARTS JAN. 30

Beginning Thursday, January 30, 2025, the U.S. Social Security office at 332 Main Street in Poughkeepsie will be temporarily closed for renovations.

Social Security officials note that many services are available either online at ssa.gov, or by phone at 800-772-1213.

During the renovations at the Poughkeepsie office, individuals requiring in-person services may visit the Social Security office in Middletown at 85 Crystal Run Road (Suite 100).

'FRIENDLY CALLS' UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

With OFA's "Friendly Calls" program, you can choose to make phone calls to older adults at risk of social isolation, or you can choose to receive calls - or you can do both. For those of you who haven't volunteered before and are exploring your possibilities, "Friendly Calls" can be ideal. A typical "Friendly Calls" series takes place once a week, for 20-30 minutes a call, for eight weeks. "Friendly Calls" volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Those who wish to receive calls must be Dutchess County residents at least 60 years of age.

Upcoming "Friendly Calls" orientations at OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 2/4/25, 10:00am
Monday, 2/10/25, 1:30pm
Tuesday, 2/18/25, 10:00am
Monday, 2/24/25, 1:30pm

To schedule your orientation - they last about an hour - here at our Poughkeepsie office, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ledgar@dutchessny.gov.

'DUTCHESS DEED WATCH' WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

Deed fraud is a crime in which thieves record a fraudulent document to try to take ownership of a home that isn't theirs. Deed fraud scams were first announced by the FBI in 2008, and the scams have remained stubbornly persistent since then, especially in areas with limited housing availability.

You may have seen infomercials and received mailers from companies wanting to sell you protection against deed fraud - but there's no need to buy any of that. The office of Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall this month rolled out a new Dutchess Deed Watch website that's free to use. Visit dutchessny.gov/countyclerk and scroll down to the Dutchess Deed Watch section.

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 Social media: www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA