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**Pleasant Valley
 Community Gardens
 plans fund-raiser**

By Paulette Thomas

Well into its second summer, Pleasant Valley Community Gardens is living its slogan of “growing food and community” - and hoping to expand, if resources permit.

Last year the all-volunteer garden operation donated approximately 1,500 pounds of fresh, organic produce to the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry, which serves between 80-100 families a month.

“This year, we want to do more,” said Janice Novet, co-president of the group, who is also a master gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County.

That includes raising money for a permanent new fence to replace its makeshift wire enclosure. A new fence will expand production capacity, said Novet, while doing a better job of deterring rabbits and woodchucks, who are regular garden visitors. A new fence will also establish the garden as a permanent place for educating gardeners and feeding neighbors in need for years to come, she adds.

Fundraising is a challenge for the small volunteer group. Estimates for the new fence have topped \$10,000 and more. But local businesses and individuals who support the mission have begun kicking in. Early supporters include Peckham Materials, Brookside Meadows, Hudson Valley Skin Care, Stewart's Shops, Kirchoff Companies and Up In Smoke.

“We are so grateful for the outpouring of support for our garden from community members and many of our local businesses,” said Novet.

As part of this effort, PVEG is planning a corn hole tournament for Sunday, Sept. 15, at Plan Bee Farm Brewery in Poughkeepsie “to continue the fundraising and fun-raising.”

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**Fun & games with agriculture
 to shine at Dutchess County Fair**



By Curtis Schmidt

Are you smarter than a 5th grader? Do you have fast hands? Do you know anything about agriculture? Are you feeling lucky?

Or, how about a game of miniature golf – with an agriculture theme?

With agriculture being the “heart of the Dutchess County Fair,” officials are constantly exploring creative opportunities to educate fair-goers about the benefits of agriculture and where our food comes from.

They are ready to welcome a pair of interactive games for kids and adults to be featured at the 178th Dutchess County Fair, Aug. 20-25 – Wheels of Agriculture and Agri-Golf.

Wheels of Agriculture

This fast-paced, exciting TV-style game show will have contestants of all

ages playing, laughing and learning. It’s 100 percent audience participation. You might be a contestant, a wheel spinner, or a lifeline in the audience when our contestants are stumped.

The best part? Prizes are awarded and everyone learns something about agriculture!

Between shows, the mobile game show “The Trivia Tractor” will bring fun, education and excitement all over the Fairgrounds. You’ll never know where it will pop up next.

The main attraction is an interactive game show which takes place on a stage.

The format is trivia-based game play in which the person who can answer a randomly selected question gains points. The questions are primarily agricultural-based and include topics such as - Local Agriculture, Animals, Plants, Food Groups, Farm and Barnyard, Music and



The Dutchess County Fair will welcome two agriculture-related games at this year's Fair set Aug. 20-25 - Wheels of Agriculture, a fast-paced, exciting TV-style game show and Agri-Golf, a 9-hole miniature golf course themed for New York's agriculture. Courtesy images

other sounds.

Agri-Golf

Agri-Golf is the only LED 9-hole miniature golf course themed for New York's agriculture. The holes of Agri-Golf feature agriculture facts about the state of New York and the importance its agriculture plays across the U.S. It is a unique and entertaining way to learn about agriculture and farming while having fun at the Fair.

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**Fair ‘ambassador’ Veeder-Shave
 named Volunteer of the Year**

By Kaeleigh Banda



Dutchess County Fair President/CEO Andy Imperati presents the Volunteer of the Year award to Meegan Veeder-Shave at the organization's summer dinner meeting on July 24. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

On June 24, Meegan Veeder-Shave was named Dutchess County Fair Volunteer of the Year. Veeder-Shave has lived in Dutchess County her whole life and has been involved in 4-H programs since she was nine. She is a sewing teacher at Wappingers Junior High School and a mother of two daughters.

“I’ve never missed a Dutchess County Fair,” Veeder-Shave said. “My parents have pictures of me in a backpack carrier with a little pink raincoat and rain coming off my nose, because we went rain or shine.”

Veeder-Shave joined a 4-H club as soon as she was old enough. She was originally interested in the food and cooking aspects of 4-H. However, she got an injury playing soccer and her leg was in a cast for about a year. Veeder-

Shave said even though the injury was heartbreaking at the time, it led her down the path she is on now.

“During that time, this teacher in high school took me under her wing and told me that I could be a really good seamstress, but I had to slow down and I had to pay attention to things,” Veeder-Shave said. “That year that I was in a cast, all of my sewing skills took off and I was voraciously sewing and tailoring.”

While she was injured, she made a sheepskin coat and competed in the National 4-H competition where she was awarded the New York State award for clothing construction. She got a free trip to Chicago and met some of the people from Simplicity and other popular sewing machine companies.

Veeder-Shave has continued to use

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Fire ravages Kemmerer Centennial Farm in Stanford; help with GoFundMe drive



Emily Hay and John Kemmerer. *Courtesy photo*

Area residents are being asked to help John Kemmerer and his family, who experienced a devastating fire last week at their Kemmerer Centennial Farm in the Town of Stanford.

The members of the Stanford Fire Department answered the call, but the fire ravaged two barns and off of the farming equipment - trucks, tractors, everything.

Town Supervisor Wendy Burton commented, "When I first started attending Town Board meetings about 17 years ago, there was one memorable evening where someone got up and spoke passionately about how we in Stanfordville take care of each other. Neighbors help neighbors here. So I'm asking each and every one of us to reach into your pockets and donate whatever you can to the GoFundMe drives that have been set up to benefit the Kemmerers."

She added that two accounts have been merged. Both were formed

simultaneously with the same exact interest - to attempt to make the Kemmerers whole again. Stanford residents Courtney Haire, Julia Descoteaux and Burton are all working together to spread the word.

Burton said, "John Kemmerer and his family have been woven into the foundational fabric of our community for decades. For over 100 years, the Kemmerers have worked their 100 acre farm, a bedrock of our agricultural heritage here in Stanford and the surrounding communities. Emily Hay, John's daughter, formed the Centennial Farm Foundation to help save other centennial farms, who had suffered through the hardships and challenges of farming these days. On July 18th, everything changed for the Kemmerer family."

To donate, go to gofundme.com and search for "Help Kemmerer Farm After the Devastating Fire."

Pleasant Valley Community Gardens plans fundraiser

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PV Gardeners Bill Fischer and Janice Novet head to the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry with cabbages and other produce from the community garden. *Courtesy photo*

said Novet. Funds from the tournament, a 50-50 raffle, and bake sale will benefit the garden and the fence project. To mix new players with corn hole regulars, the teams will be formed by "random draw," and the tournament will be double elimination. Participation is \$30 per person. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., with the play beginning at 1 p.m.

"We'd love to get as many people as we can to the tournament," said Novet, "players and cheerleaders alike."

The 80-by-90-foot garden, located at Helen Aldrich Park on Route 113 in Salt Point, was created by determined volunteers rounding up support starting early last year.

The Town of Pleasant Valley donated a new shed along with some used picnic tables. Mill House Brewing Company and Plan Bee Farm Brewery contributed

barrels and tanks used for irrigation. Town highway workers and firefighters have filled the water tanks, and hauled chips harvested from downed trees to the garden for mulch. Murphy's Auto lent a tractor on short notice to clear a section of ground for the watering system. Volunteers plant, pull weeds, water and transport the harvest weekly to the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry.

As of mid-July, Pleasant Valley Community Gardens has donated about 300 pounds of vegetables to the Food Pantry, and is aiming to top last year's totals.

For more information, see its website, <https://pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com/> or its Facebook page.

"We are always looking for volunteers," said Novet. "We are having fun doing this!"

Roy C Ketcham Class of 1974 50th Reunion

Date:

September 21, 2024 • 7pm - 11pm Local Time

Location:

Mahoney's Irish Pub & Steakhouse
35 Main Street, Poughkeepsie

Details:

FRIDAY 9/20: 7pm Kicking things off at Industrial Arts Brewing Company, 511 Fishkill Ave., Beacon. It is the newest scene in music entertainment in the Hudson Valley.

SATURDAY 9/21: 7-11pm Dinner \$65 pp (cash bar) at Mahoney's Steakhouse, 35 Main Street, Poughkeepsie. 1974 Classmates + 1 guest (Checks or money order only, payable to Sue Theiss & mailed to her at 14 Marco Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) due by 8/15/24

SUNDAY 9/22: 11am Walkway Over The Hudson State Historic Park / Meet at 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie. With good weather, this will be awesome!

A block of 20 Double/King rooms has been reserved 9/20-9/22 at Hampton Inn, 2360 South Road, Poughkeepsie at \$219/night. Reservations must be confirmed by August 20. (833) 604-7020.

Dutchess County in top 10 for best technology practices for 22nd year

Dutchess County is again in the nation's top ten for the best technology practices. The 2024 Digital Counties Survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), ranked Dutchess County 6th in the nation among mid-size county governments for efforts to enhance cybersecurity, streamline delivery of services and apply innovative technologies to county priorities. This work is led by the County's Office of Central and Information Services' (OCIS). Often a "behind-the-scenes" department, OCIS's preparedness and training was on full display last week when the CrowdStrike-

related technology outage affected millions of Microsoft Windows users, including many in Dutchess County Government. OCIS helped ensure a quick recovery within hours, with little to no disruption of County operations and services for residents.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "We proudly congratulate our OCIS team for this much-deserved recognition. Team members know the importance of staying aware of and planning for cyber-attacks and other threats to our systems. Their diligence helps ensure County data remains secure, preventing potentially costly interruptions to our daily operations and helping ensure we maintain the

trust of residents and visitors alike."

While the recent CrowdStrike shutdown was not a cyber-attack, malicious actors capitalized on the incident, attempting to obtain login credentials from employees to gain access to systems. This highlights the importance of cybersecurity, as the cost of recovering from such breaches continues to increase. Such incidents can cost public sector entities millions of dollars in repairs, ransom payments and legal fees.

OCIS Acting Commissioner Stephen Oscarlece said, "Dutchess County OCIS continues to implement and update a wide array of technology services to be as secure, accessible and effective as possible. The recent technology outage, while not a direct cyber threat, was still a good reminder of how important it is for our team to be prepared to respond quickly and efficiently to ensure our ability to provide essential services to fellow employees and residents alike. We are grateful for the continued recognition of our commitment and hard work."

Dutchess County conducts cybersecurity tabletop exercises and employee trainings each year to increase cybersecurity awareness and preparedness. OCIS also works to help increase local municipalities preparedness with its' annual Cyber Security Summit, held this past June at Marist College. The event included a panel discussion on artificial intelli-

gence (AI) technology best practices and how cybercriminals are using the technology to target agencies and residents alike. OCIS also recently implemented trainings on the ethical use of generative artificial intelligence to enhance work processes and equipping staff to better support other agencies exploring AI options.

Dutchess County OCIS is not only a leader in cybersecurity, but also continues to provide innovative technology services, such as:

- New Online Zoning Map for the Department of Planning & Development, which enables users to select any of the County's 30 municipalities and view an interactive version of each community's zoning map or select a county-wide version that shows a big-picture view of permitted land uses; and
- Upgrades to the GIS Open Data Portal providing free and open access to numerous GIS datasets.

"The Digital Counties Survey illustrates how counties are on the cutting-edge, pursuing innovative approaches to serve our residents," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "Counties are thoughtfully adopting technologies like artificial intelligence and data platforms to enhance civic engagement, increase efficiency, and strengthen our communities today and for the future."

Fun & games with agriculture to shine at DC Fair

continued from cover



Above, the format of Wheels of Agriculture is a trivia-based game in which persons gain points for answering randomly selected questions. The questions are primarily agricultural-based and include topics such as - Local Agriculture, Animals, Plants, Food Groups, Farm and Barnyard, Music and other sounds. Below, Agri-Golf highlights agricultural themes in miniature golf. *Courtesy photos*

Agri-Golf is the brainchild of Lee and Rebecca Andrews, a dynamic duo passionate about fairs and agriculture education. They have combined their passion for agriculture education and family fun to create a unique adventure for all fair goers.

Now in his 28th year of performing, Lee has quite literally been a performer his whole life. When Lee created his clown character, Lew-E, at the age of three, he had no idea that it would turn into his career. In 2004, at the age of 12, Lee was hired to perform at his first state fair as Lew-E the Clown. He has since that time spent every second on every fairground he has worked, learning ways

to make his show one of the most enjoyable experiences a fairgoer will have at their fair.

After 4,000 performances, Lee is one of the most sought-after entertainers in the country. He has a true love and dedication for performing. His No. 1 goal is to create an experience that families will share and talk about for many years to come. Combining their dedication to the fair market and their love for miniature golf made Agri-Golf a no brainer for Lee and Rebecca.

Educating children while they're having fun and not realizing they are learning in the process is the ultimate compliment Agri-Golf receives.



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Saturday, August 31 • 10pm

**Actual model and colors may vary.*



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988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.

- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Campaigning needs revision

To the editor:

As usual, presidential hopeful Donald Trump couldn't refrain from disparaging comments about President Biden during final night of the RNC, promising not to. An inflated image of himself and a mouth that works before he speaks, goofed again.

Not long ago, one hundred fifteen college professors voted former President Trump the worst president we ever had. Someone should send him this vote after stating President Biden the worst president ever.

Having conducted tours at the home of former President Franklin Roosevelt years ago, I admired him even more after years of study. FDR, as he was referred to, would say to his public relations team, "When you get out there do not mention my opponent for good or ill; just mention what I have done for the country and will continue to after I am elected." If only both sides would follow his example.

Campaigning has become extremely volatile, negative, and outrageously expensive. In England it's a matter of a few months or weeks and it's over. The money spent seems a crime when our citizens, veterans, and homeless are hungry in addition to the monumental improvements needed.

Wouldn't it be nobler if Mr. Trump had offered, "We have President Biden who entered the highest office in the land where he has served the American people faithfully with invaluable experience in foreign relations. However, there are areas that have worsened and that is why I am running, to take on these issues greatly ignored by the Biden team." Any president, regardless of policy, deserves respect.

There is a book, *The Wisdom of Native Americans*, compiled and edited by Kent Nerburn. The speeches of great chiefs contained along with comments on other topics. Read that and you would only wish our politicians spoke with such eloquence.

Joyce Benedict
Hyde Park

Supporting Trump and his policies

To the editor:

The letter titled "Trump's MAGA matches Hitler's 'Master Race'" published in your July 24-30, 2024 issue is in my opinion one the worst personal attack letters I have ever read and in my opinion should never have been published as it's solely a personal attack on President Trump and all who support him.

I know people have a right to their opinion, but saying that MAGA is a "Master Race" group is wrong. I support President Trump for re-election solely because I have compared his record to the record of the current administration led by President Biden and Vice President Harris. Below I detail why I decided to vote for President Trump in November.

- Inflation – In Trump's first term it ended at about 2% - Under Biden/Harris is well over 15%

- Immigration – Under Trump, Stay in Mexico Policy and an almost complete secure border wall which if elected will be completed. Under Biden/Harris, open borders, millions of people have entered our country illegally plus a massive amount of drugs have poured into our country.

- Cost of Gas and Oil – Under Trump--his drilling policies kept prices down to under \$2.00 a gallon or less. Under Biden/Harris-- prices today are over \$3.50 a gallon.

- Foreign Policy – Under Trump-- we were respected and feared by our allies and enemies, and when needed, took actions that kept the world safer, no wars, and the Abraham accords which was making the Middle East a safer place for all, mutual respect from both friend and foe. Under Biden/Harris (the Border Czar) massive illegal immigration on our southern border and letting far too many people from who knows where into our country. War in Europe (Ukraine) – Terrorist attacking our allies in Israel, and the Red Sea, to mention a few.

This is why I support President Trump and believe he will bring down inflation, secure our border and get us back to immigration policies that are good for our country. He will declare war on the drug traffickers, and end conflicts abroad.

I don't have to call the Biden/Harris administration names or compare them to anyone, but I could, as the letter in question does and which goes against your policy that "letters that include personal attacks will not be published." The letter in question compares President Trump and his followers to some of the most hateful and cruel people that ever walked on the face of this earth. How sad.

May God Bless America!

Arthur Kascsak
Millbrook

Editor's note: Our policy of not allowing personal attacks refers to local individuals. National political candidates and their supporters from both sides attack/criticize each other in various forms of media on a consistent basis.

Loving the Hudson Valley; and let's slow down and save animals

To the editor:

I am a recent transplant to the Hudson Valley. I had been living in Pacific Palisades, California, for the past 25 years. I lived about one mile from the ocean to the West and one mile from the mountains to the North. When I left the Palisades, I believed that I would never find a place in the U.S. that would be as beautiful, and be populated with folks I would want to be around. Fortunately, I was wrong.

I have been amazed by the majesty of this hidden gem. Though only a car ride to NYC, it feels like I imagine Eden must have felt. The trees, the ponds and lakes, the Hudson River, the history.

I wake up every day with a smile and I'm grateful that my partner introduced me to this area over six years ago. I am totally in awe of not only the Hudson Valley, but also the people. Though they may be diverse in terms of economics or politics, I have only met people of the highest character. I joke that there are really wealthy and really not wealthy people here, but the one thing they have in common is that they all drive Subarus. That was one of my first purchases shortly after our arrival in April 2024.

Unfortunately, there is one daily occurrence that does sadden me, namely, dead animals on the road. I can understand and accept that many animals dart into traffic. I get it. But most of them are just sitting ducks, to reference an animal phrase. Opossums, raccoons, snakes, toads, buzzards, and the slowest of all, turtles, do not dart. Of these, the most difficult to avoid is probably the snake because of its closeness to the road. However, there is no excuse for hitting the other animals other than impatience.

In Judaism, there is the concept of tikkun olam, which means "repair the world." We all can do something to make the world a better place. Slow down, smell the roses, or better yet, save a turtle. Not only are they cool to look at but they are part of the ecosystem. We need them more than they need us. Make a difference. Be a champion of nature. Our animal neighbors are much more appealing in their natural state than as road kill.

Thank you for welcoming me and my family into the Hudson Valley.

Howard Kern
Staatsburg

Fair 'ambassador' Veeder-Shave named Volunteer of the Year

continued from cover

her love of sewing and wool to educate others and give back to her community. She owns sheep that she brings to the Fair every year. One of her goals is to promote the beauty and durability of wool. Most of the items she sews or knits are made from wool including her quilts that made it to the Houston Quilt Show and the Chicago Quilt Show. Veeder-Shave said the fair is a great way for her to share her craft with others.

"I consider myself an ambassador for promoting the Fair," Veeder-Shave said. "I would also like to pass off some of the knowledge I have to somebody who might want to learn how to crochet or knit and draw people in to try something new."

The day before last year's Fair, Veeder-Shave cut off the end of her finger when she was loading the sheep to take them to the Fair. Even through the stitches and pain, she fulfilled all of her duties at the Fair. Veeder-Shave said she was grateful that she had her family to help her.

"4-H has been a big part of our family all along, and part of that's because my dad (Gary Veeder) back in '72 became a member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society and he would just love to see his family join and help out as well," Veeder-Shave said. "I am grateful for my father for bringing me into the fair and I'm grateful for my family because

this is truly a family affair."

Veeder-Shave's contributions to the Fair and its preparation no matter the circumstances led her to receive the Dutchess County Fair Volunteer of the Year award. Veeder-Shave said she plans to continue to work with the fair and 4-H for a long time.

"4-H is a fantastic program because you're working with kids for about 10 years so you get to see them grow, develop, get different skills and go on different paths," Veeder-Shave said. "I mean, I know that it really influenced what I did, I saw how much it influenced my kids and I see how much it influences other kids."

DC Agricultural Society awards scholarships

Dutchess County Fair President/CEO Andy Imperati announced the youths who were awarded scholarships by the Dutchess County Agricultural Society Scholarship committee. These students are seeking higher education at an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the Fall of 2024. The recipients were recognized on Wednesday, July 24 during the annual Agricultural Society's dinner meeting.

"The \$10,000 scholarship award was presented to Evan Boice. Several other awards were given out to students who work hard and have a vested interest in the Fair. We continue to support our youth who choose to pursue a career in agriculture, or a career related to agriculture or horticulture," stated Andy Imperati, President/CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society (Dutchess County Fairgrounds). He continued with, "This year, in addition to the scholarships already in place, a new \$1000 scholarship was given to a Rhinebeck High School Student who shows Good Citizenship not only in their personal life, but in their school and community."

Scholarship applicants were evaluated

in a variety of areas including Dutchess County Fair participation, grade point average, community involvement and leadership roles.

The scholarships are funded through the generosity of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Evan Boice of Lagrangeville, was selected to receive the \$10,000 scholarship plus a one-time additional \$7,500 award.

The following students were selected to receive a one-time Achievement Award:

Ashley Keck of Poughkeepsie
Katelyn Marshall of Clinton Corners
Lauryn Menz of Red Hook
Kathryn Tibbetts of Hyde Park
DCAS Inc. Rhinebeck High School
Good Citizenship Award:

Jerriemy Chilson of Rhinebeck
The 178th annual Dutchess County Fair will be held August 20 - 25 in Rhinebeck. For more information about this year's Fair, visit www.dutchessfair.com. Follow the Dutchess County Fair on Facebook or call (845) 876-4000.



Dutchess County Agricultural Society Scholarship winners are, from left, Kathryn Tibbetts, Katelyn Marshall, Ashley Keck, Jerriemy Chilson, and Evan Boice. At left is scholarship winner Lauryn Menz. *Courtesy photos*



Take survey on future of Schatz property in Poughkeepsie

'Pop-up' event
set for August 6

Dutchess County is seeking community input regarding development of the former Schatz Federal Bearings Company property, a 20-acre site on Fairview Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The County and its partners have established a "Revitalize Schatz" website, revitalizeschatz.com, where residents can learn about and take a survey regarding potential projects, including the housing, commercial, and amenity options for the site. There will also be a "pop-up" event on August 6 on the Marcus J. Molinaro Northside Line in Poughkeepsie from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., where project coordinators will be available to talk about the project and hear ideas and comments.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Dutchess County and our partners have a unique opportunity to transform the long-vacant Schatz property into an asset that can benefit its surrounding communities. We urge residents to engage with Dutchess County and our partners – either in person or online – to help guide the future of the site and make this project one in which we can all take pride."

The development of the site is part of a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Nomination Study the County and its partners – including RUPCO, a nonprofit

organization focused on providing affordable housing and community development services in the Hudson Valley, and Kearney Realty Co. – have launched. Under this New York State program, BOAs examine options for the reuse and redevelopment of a site with historical environmental contamination.

The former Schatz Federal Bearings Company produced bearings for the automotive industry for a large part of the 20th century, though the Fairview Avenue site was contaminated years ago and has long sat vacant. BOA participants receive state grant funding for a variety of planning work, including a site survey, building structural analysis, market analysis, environmental reports and community vision for the future of the site. The former Schatz site lies between Parker Avenue to the south, Cedar Avenue to the north and the MJM Northside Line to the west. Public outreach will continue in the coming months to gather community input to help inform decisions regarding the types of housing, commercial and amenity options to pursue, as well as linkages to adjacent resources, such as MidHudson Regional Hospital, Marist College, the Walkway Over the Hudson, the MJM Northside Line Rail Trail and other developments underway, like Hudson Heritage and Scenic Hudson's Parker Avenue campus. Additional information is available on the "Get Engaged" section of the "Revitalize Schatz" website.

USB to host free Homebuyer Seminar on Aug. 15

Ulster Savings Bank, along with Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, will host a free homebuyer seminar on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be offered in-person as well as a live Zoom meeting. Seating in-person is for adults only. Reserve a spot ASAP.

Discussion will include:

- Steps in getting pre-qualified
- Credit scores and why they are important

- Documentation needed to apply
- Low down payment options
- Choosing the right lender
- What to expect during the buying process.

One may be eligible for a \$750 Home Buyer Credit* just for attending!

Sign up at https://www.ulstersavings.com/why-us/seminars/#section_HomebuyerSeminars

PLEASANT VALLEY CAR SHOW SET AUG. 4

The 15th annual Pleasant Valley Car Show is set for Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall on Route 44.

Registration for cars begins at 9:30 a.m. at \$20 per vehicle and all are welcome. Sponsorships are available.

The show is free to spectators and food and refreshments will be available. It will include a 50-50 raffle and door prizes.

Awards will be presented beginning at 2 p.m. to the top 35 vehicles.

ROOSEVELT CINEMAS
Rte. 9 Hyde Park 229-2000

LYCEUM CINEMAS
Rte. 9 Red Hook 758-3311

--STARTS THURSDAY--

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League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	*	18	12	.600	-	3-7	L3
Aberdeen BAL		16	14	.533	2.0	5-5	W2
Jersey Shore PHI		16	14	.533	2.0	6-4	L2
Wilmington WSH		15	14	.517	2.5	6-4	L1
Hudson Valley NYY		13	16	.448	4.5	4-6	W1
Brooklyn NYM		12	18	.400	6.0	6-4	W1

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB		19	10	.655	-	7-3	W4
Greenville BOS		18	12	.600	1.5	7-3	L1
Hickory TEX		15	15	.500	4.5	5-5	W1
Asheville HOU		13	16	.448	6.0	4-6	W3
Winston-Salem CWS		13	17	.433	6.5	4-6	L4
Rome ATL	*	10	20	.333	9.5	3-7	L1

Renegades lose top prospect Serna in Yankees' trade for Chisholm

by Rich Thomaselli

Hudson Valley Renegades home run hitting machine Jared Serna was part of the trade made by the New York Yankees to bring Jazz Chisholm to the team from the Florida Marlins.

The Yankees are the parent club of Hudson Valley. The big league club is in second place in the American League East Division and was bolstering its line-

up with the move.

Serna was hitting .253 for the Renegades this season with 13 homers and 58 Runs Batted In and 11 stolen bases.

Chisholm is an infielder and outfielder. At age 26, has hit .249/.323/.407 (101 OPS+) with 13 home runs and 22 stolen bases over the course of 101 games. He's mostly played center field, though lately he has received time at second base -- his main position as recently as 2022. The Yankees figure to deploy him all over the place. Chisholm is under team control through the 2026 season.

"We hate to see Jared go, but we have no control over the baseball aspect of things," Renegades General Manager Zach Betkowski said. "We appreciate everything that he has done, and we wish him well."

Serna hit three dingers in one game last month.

Jared Serna was hitting .253 for the Renegades with 13 homers and 58 Runs Batted In and 11 stolen bases.

Photo by Dave Janosz



Players Statistics																	
PLAYER	TEAM	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
1 JaredSerna SS	HV	88	340	51	86	26	0	13	58	40	60	11	8	0.253	0.341	0.444	0.785
2 OmarMartinez C	HV	77	264	37	61	10	1	11	34	55	73	0	0	0.231	0.365	0.402	0.767
3 JaceAvina CF	HV	78	300	39	75	22	0	8	41	31	93	4	1	0.25	0.33	0.403	0.733
4 GarrettMartin RF	HV	55	179	29	35	10	2	7	25	20	62	9	1	0.196	0.304	0.391	0.695
4 RocRiggio 2B	HV	74	278	53	63	17	4	7	28	50	60	17	5	0.227	0.357	0.392	0.749
6 RafaelFlores 1B	HV	57	193	27	55	17	0	6	35	38	55	2	1	0.285	0.403	0.466	0.869
6 JoshMoylan 1B	HV	73	244	36	59	9	1	6	26	41	72	2	3	0.242	0.36	0.361	0.721
8 JesusRodriguez C	HV	56	211	39	70	14	4	5	33	29	30	7	3	0.332	0.412	0.507	0.919
8 KikoRomero 1B	HV	53	163	21	37	10	0	5	18	29	65	9	1	0.227	0.36	0.38	0.74
10 ChristopherFamilia LF	HV	25	86	9	15	3	0	2	12	7	28	0	0	0.174	0.258	0.279	0.537
10 AntonioGomez C	HV	19	68	4	10	3	0	2	7	5	22	0	0	0.147	0.213	0.279	0.492
12 KyleBattle LF	HV	21	46	14	8	1	1	1	5	9	23	5	0	0.174	0.316	0.304	0.62
12 TylerHardman DH	HV	16	59	8	14	3	0	1	7	5	26	1	0	0.237	0.292	0.339	0.631
14 BeauBrewer 3B	HV	33	92	8	21	6	0	0	10	8	19	0	0	0.228	0.29	0.293	0.583
14 JuanCrisp P	HV	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 BrennyEscanio 3B	HV	23	67	5	16	6	0	0	9	7	21	4	2	0.239	0.307	0.328	0.635
14 ColeGabrielson RF	HV	62	182	25	37	11	1	0	15	25	54	10	3	0.203	0.333	0.275	0.608
14 AnthonyHall RF	HV	15	48	4	5	1	1	0	2	9	18	1	0	0.104	0.246	0.167	0.413
14 DJLeMahieu 3B	HV	2	7	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.286	0.286	0.429	0.715
14 NelsonMedina CF	HV	49	156	12	18	3	1	0	14	13	74	8	0	0.115	0.187	0.147	0.334
14 OscarSilverio X	HV	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 AlexanderVargas SS	HV	5	15	1	3	1	1	0	5	3	1	1	1	0.2	0.316	0.4	0.716
14 JorbitVivas 2B	HV	4	16	4	5	1	0	0	5	2	3	0	0	0.313	0.389	0.375	0.764

Pitcher Statistics																				
PLAYER	TEAM	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WHIP	AVG
1 CamSchlitter	HV	5	4	2.64	16	16	0	0	0	0	81.2	54	33	24	7	3	37	99	1.11	0.185
2 BenShields	HV	3	2	2.75	14	7	0	0	0	1	52.1	35	19	16	5	4	10	71	0.86	0.185
3 TrentSellers	HV	6	2	2.75	24	2	0	0	1	4	55.2	32	25	17	2	2	29	67	1.1	0.163
4 BaronStuart	HV	5	3	3.93	15	15	0	0	0	0	75.2	69	34	33	4	5	28	66	1.28	0.248
5 ColeAyers	HV	3	4	3.27	34	0	0	0	3	7	52.1	45	23	19	5	3	19	64	1.22	0.227
5 KyleCarr	HV	0	6	5.75	17	17	0	0	0	0	72	73	55	46	5	2	44	64	1.63	0.268
5 MattKeating	HV	3	3	4.64	30	0	0	0	2	3	54.1	40	31	28	8	1	23	64	1.16	0.2
8 SebastianKeane	HV	6	7	5.05	16	15	0	0	0	0	67.2	64	39	38	6	7	34	62	1.45	0.256
9 JoelValdez	HV	1	2	3.02	26	0	0	0	3	5	44.2	29	19	15	2	4	21	53	1.12	0.185
10 MasonVinyard	HV	3	2	3.9	22	0	0	0	2	4	32.1	27	20	14	2	1	20	46	1.45	0.22
11 JacksonFristoe	HV	1	3	3.79	12	12	0	0	0	0	38	27	18	16	2	1	28	40	1.45	0.201
12 LuisArejula	HV	3	4	2.97	22	0	0	0	1	4	39.1	33	18	13	2	2	21	37	1.37	0.228
12 HuestonMorrill	HV	2	2	3.78	25	0	0	0	2	3	33.1	32	19	14	6	3	10	37	1.26	0.25
14 BlaneAbeyta	HV	1	2	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	27	22	12	6	2	3	18	0.93	0.22	
15 EricReyzelman	HV	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	9.2	2	0	0	0	1	4	17	0.62	0.065
16 YorlinCalderon	HV	0	0	1.46	7	0	0	0	1	1	12.1	8	3	2	0	1	5	16	1.05	0.174
17 BrianHendry	HV	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	11	5	2	0	0	0	6	15	1	0.125
17 LeonardoPestana	HV	1	0	1.86	6	0	0	0	0	1	9.2	1	2	2	0	0	5	15	0.62	0.036
19 GeoffreyGilbert	HV	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	0.43	0.043
20 StevenFulgencio	HV	1	1	4.15	8	0	0	0	0	1	8.2	7	7	4	0	2	6	7	1.5	0.219
21 McKinleyMoore	HV	0	0	7.36	4	0	0	0	1	1	3.2	2	3	3	0	1	2	6	1.09	0.154
22 HarrisonCohen	HV	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	2	1	0	0	0	4	0.86	0.222	
22 JuanCrisp C	HV	1	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	4	4	2	0	4	4	2	0.182
24 SeanBoyle	HV	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
25 IndigoDiaz	HV	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0.167
25 BryceWarrecker	HV	0	0	3.86	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.1	3	1	1	0	0	2	2	2.14	0.333
27 JoshGrosz	HV	0	1	13.5	1	1	0	0	0	0	3.1	6	7	5	2	0	6	1	3.6	0.429



Renegades Extra!



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**TOMPKINS COMMUNITY BANK
INVESTS IN THE COMMUNITY**



**See story,
page 8**



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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades hope to rebound after tough week in Wilmington

By Rich Thomaselli

The difficult start to the second half of the minor league baseball season continued for the Hudson Valley Renegades in last week's series at Wilmington.

The Renegades are now 13-16 in the second half of the season and in fifth place, 4.5 games behind league-leading Greensboro. They are at home this week for six games against Jersey Shore at Heritage Financial Park.

The Wilmington Blue Rocks used a three-run eighth inning to earn a come-from-behind victory over the Renegades 5-4 last Tuesday night at Frawley Stadium.

The Renegades took the lead early in the top of the first when Roc Riggio led off the game with a single against Riley Cornelio. Recently traded Jared Serna then ripped a home run to left to give Hudson Valley a 2-0 lead. It was his fifth long ball of the season at Frawley Stadium and sixth against the Blue Rocks. Serna finished 2-for-4 with a run scored, a double, his team-leading 13th home run and three RBI.

Baron Stuart had a strong start in his first appearance after the All-Star Break, throwing five shutout innings with five strikeouts and no walks issued. The right-hander allowed just three total baserunners after the first inning. Josh Moylan hit a solo homer in the fourth to extend the Renegades lead to 3-0,

his fourth long ball of the season. But it was not to last. The Blue Rocks got on the board in the sixth against Hueson Morrill. A Phillip Glasser single, Jared McKenzie walk and Murphy Steely hit by pitch loaded the bases with no outs. Maxwell Romero drove home Glasser and McKenzie with a single to cut the lead to 3-2. In the bottom of the eighth, Wilmington took the lead with three runs off Cole Ayers (2-4). Joe Naranjo hit a solo home run to cut the lead to 4-3. After a single by Romero, T.J. White put Wilmington in front 5-4 with a two-run homer.

Hudson Valley dropped a 4-1 decision last Wednesday before bouncing back to win 5-2 on Thursday. Kyle Carr put together another strong start for Hudson Valley, allowing just one run on three hits in five innings while striking out six. Including his five no-hit innings last Friday, the southpaw has thrown 10 innings of one-run ball with only three hits against him in his last two starts.

After the first two Wilmington batters of the game recorded hits, Carr retired 14 of the last 16 batters he faced. Yorlin Calderon struck out the side in a 1-2-3 ninth inning to earn his first Renegades save.

But it was back to the losing side on Friday night as the Renegades fell, 5-2. Jace Avina led off the game with a single and Jared Serna doubled to put runners at second and third. Two batters later, Antonio Gomez drove in Avina with an RBI single to give the Renegades a 1-



Southpaw Kyle Carr, left, has thrown 10 innings of one-run ball with only three hits against him in his last two starts. Right, Cam Schlittler threw a career-high seven innings, allowing two runs, while inducing nine groundball outs in a 2-1 loss to Wilmington on Saturday. Photos by Dave Janosz

0 lead. Wilmington answered with three runs in the bottom of the first against Blane Abeyta. Phillip Glasser led off with a double and came home to score after a throwing error on a Jared McKenzie sacrifice bunt attempt. A two-run homer by Maxwell Romero later in the inning made it 3-1 Blue Rocks. Murphy Stehly hit a solo home run in the third to push the Wilmington advantage to 4-1.

Saturday wasn't any better, with a 2-1 loss.

But Cam Schlittler was stellar for Hudson Valley, recording his fourth quality start of the season and second in his last three starts. The right-hander threw a career-high seven innings, allowing two runs (one earned) while inducing nine groundball outs.

The offense did come alive for the Renegades on Sunday in the series finale, as they notched nine hits in a 5-4 victory over Wilmington.

GENERAL MANAGER Q & A

Looking at realignment and understanding entertainment

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

As the general manager, you probably knew this long before we did. But what is your reaction to the realignment for next year?

The only thing that we saw is that Greensboro also moved to the South Division. Now, the divisions will be unbalanced with seven teams and five teams, respectively. But as far as opponents go, it doesn't seem to me

that they're really taking into account the divisional opponents as a priority.

Do you and the staff set any goals, such as X number of fans in the seats or amount of merchandise sold? And have you achieved those?

Yeah, we do. We have revenue goals. We also have customer service goals. Like, for example, we survey our fans at every game, and we try to strive for a certain score for each category that's surveyed. And last year, I am proud to say we far exceeded that customer service goal, and certainly on pace to do the same this year as well. We not only

have revenue goals, but we also have expense goals. We want to be a successful business.

After 30 years, why do you think people continue to embrace this franchise?

I think because our mission has stayed the same. Since Day One, we have tried to provide affordable family fun. I don't think at any point we've taken ourselves too seriously. We have always looked at the baseball as never being our priority. It's always been kind of secondary to the fun things we do for the fans when they come to a game. I think that most people would agree that their memory come from not baseball, but from the entertainment.



Tompkins Community Bank invests in community, encourages all employees to volunteer locally



From left are Jeffery Warminsky, Michael Ziminsky, Allen Margolius, Larry Gore, Kim Arco, and Alison Romano, volunteering at The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. *Courtesy photo*

Tompkins Community Bank's (Tompkins) Acorn Community Alliance is banking on community spirit as employees volunteer across the Hudson Valley. The Acorn Community Alliance program, which encourages employees to volunteer within the communities serviced by the financial institution, has contributed 180 hours of volunteer work so far this year.

From packaging and distributing food to reading to children at specialized education schools, the Acorn Community Alliance will continue to support a variety of Hudson Valley organizations

throughout the remainder of 2024, including Habitat for Humanity, Paws Crossed, and United for the Troops. Tompkins' team members have spent approximately 2,200 hours serving the community since 2018.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is central to our mission as a community bank," said David DeMilia, president of Tompkins' Hudson Valley locations. "It has been so rewarding for myself and our team to invest in the well-being of the Hudson Valley and the people who call this area home."

ThinkDIFFERENTLY/Disability, Dream & Do BaseballCamp returns to Heritage Financial Park on Aug. 3

Dutchess County will again sponsor the annual ThinkDIFFERENTLY/Disability, Dream & Do (D3Day) Baseball Camp at Heritage Financial Park in Fishkill on Saturday, August 3, providing a day of baseball fun and learning for children and young adults with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities. The free camp is a collaboration with the Hudson Valley Renegades and Disability Dream & Do (D3Day) and will be held from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is free and can be completed online at hudson-valley.d3day.fun/home. Spots are limited, and they fill quickly. There are also volunteer opportunities for residents interested in helping during the camp.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Dutchess County's Think DIFFERENTLY initiative has always been about creating a supportive, inclusive and accessible environment for individuals with disabilities. It is another great example of our community coming together to support one another and create lasting memories. I am excited for residents of all abilities to join the fun at this annual baseball camp – as a participant or as a volunteer!"

Participants get to enjoy an action-packed morning filled with various baseball activities, including hitting, fielding, throwing and base-running exercises with Renegades players and coaches providing instruction and encouragement. Each participant will receive a free camp T-shirt and lunch, as well as tickets to the Renegades' August 4th game, compliments of the team.

Renegades General Manager Zach Betkowski said, "While our team plays at Heritage Financial Park from April

through September, Dutchess County is our home year-round, and we're proud to give back to the local community through efforts like this annual event. The joy and enthusiasm we see from the participants and their families each year is truly inspiring, and we look forward to another successful camp."

Volunteers are essential to the success of this camp, and residents are encouraged to share their time and skills to provide a memorable morning of baseball fun. Local individuals, teams, businesses and organizations are invited to sign up to volunteer at d3day.com/register-volunteer.

Community members are also urged to nominate a Dutchess County resident who routinely advocates for individuals of all abilities for the annual "Pulling Each Other Along" Award, given at the end of each D3Day camp, which recognizes the significant contributions of those who have selflessly supported others in the disability community. Residents can submit "Pulling Each Other Along" Award nominees at d3day.com/peoa-award.

Doug Cornfield, executive director of Disability, Dream & Do (D3Day), said, "We are proud to once again collaborate with Dutchess County Government, the Hudson Valley Renegades and other local organizations to inspire children of all abilities to pursue their dreams and passions. Many in Dutchess County share this vision, and we encourage residents to go online and nominate individuals for the 'Pulling Each Other Along' Award, so we can honor those in the local community who continually support residents of every ability."

FAMILY MEET AND PLAY AT COPAKE GRANGE ON AUGUST 4

Copake parents and toddlers are invited to a Family Meet and Play at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Sunday, August 4 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Join other local young families for an afternoon of introductions, playtime, crafts and conversation—a way to meet families with children in town and build lasting friendships.

The Grange sponsors this event to bring young families together. Parents and little ones of all ages are welcome. This event is free. Donations are appreciated.

Contact 973-768-7313 or sylviaeckerprivatechef@gmail.com for more information.

August brings football for local HS squads

The dog days of July heading into August can only mean one thing.

We are that much closer to high school football season.

Section 1 football begins official practice on Saturday, Aug. 24. Most high schools have already competed in scrimmages and lineman challenges and passing skills – not to mention weightlifting

sessions – since the end of last season.

Section 9, which includes Our Lady of Lourdes, Spackenkill and many of the northern Dutchess County schools such as Red Hook, Roosevelt and Pine Plains, will begin on Monday, August 19. OLL has appeared in consecutive sectional title games, winning once.

Public invited to recognize neighbors in area for People for People awards

People for People Fund – a not-for-profit dedicated to providing temporary financial assistance to Orange, Ulster and Sullivan County residents who experience unexpected financial setbacks – has announced that nominations for its "Positive People Award" are open now through Wednesday, August 7.

For the first time, People for People Fund is asking community members across the Hudson Valley to nominate outstanding individuals and companies that exemplify the spirit of its mission – those that positively contribute to the community and, ultimately, help others.

Nominees must live, work or volunteer in Orange, Ulster or Sullivan County; self-nominations are accepted. For more information about the awards, or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://rb.gy/9jbiew>.

"People for People Fund would not exist without the support of our community," said Nolly Climes, president, People for People Fund. "These awards will let us thank those who share our vision of 'neighbors helping neighbors'. Whether nominees are familiar with our work or not, we hope that the public will help us recognize those who share our passion for giving back."

Honorees will be notified by Thursday, August 29. Awards will be presented at the Fund's second annual Recognition Breakfast at Wallkill Golf Club on Thursday, September 26. The public is welcome to join People for People Fund for the free event, though advance registration is required. To attend, please email RSVP@peopleforpeoplefund.org by Monday, September 16.

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GENERAC

Dutchess County given Wheel the World's Verified Destination certification

Wheel the World, a leader in travel solutions for people with disabilities, designated New York's Dutchess County with a Verified Destination certification, giving travelers access to accurate accessibility information for county hotels, activities and restaurants. On Thursday, July 25, at an event held at Heritage Financial Park, home of the Hudson Valley Renegades baseball team, Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) recognized the 50 county hotels, restaurants, and attractions that were assessed by Wheel the World, leading to the accessibility seal of approval. DTI is one of 17 in the U.S., and the only New York State destination organization, with the Verified Destination designation. The milestone is part of their broader Accessible Dutchess initiative, which aims to evaluate, develop, and promote accessible travel experiences within the county.

"Ahead of the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and during Disability Pride Month, DTI reaffirms its commitment to strive for greater accessibility for all travelers," said Melaine Rottkamp, president and CEO of Dutchess Tourism, Inc. "While we aren't claiming perfect accessibility for everyone in Dutchess, we are proud to share the progress we've made and celebrate the collective effort between tourism partners and county government in order to inspire other destinations to begin their journey. Even the smallest changes can make a big impact."

"Tourism done right happens by design, not default. Dutchess Tourism is once again setting a new best practice standard for 'tourism done right.' Their collaboration with Wheel the World and local hospitality businesses has earned them the 2024 New York State Tourism Excellence in Equity and Inclusion Award for fostering a more welcoming experience for diverse audiences including customers, visitors, employees and guests," said Bob Provost, president & CEO, New York State Tourism Industry Association.

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "Dutchess Tourism's efforts complement I LOVE NY's Accessible Tourism initiative, and we applaud their work to promote experiences available to all travelers."

With funding support from Dutchess County Government, as part of the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, which has expanded with County Executive Sue Serino's ThinkAccessible initiative, DTI contracted Wheel the World, a travel solution for people with disabilities, to provide on-site assessments highlighting positive areas of accessibility standards as well as actionable insights for improvement. Online training through

Wheel the World Academy was also provided to teach partners how to offer the best inclusive service for guests with diverse disabilities and accessibility needs. There were no costs for businesses to participate.

Attractions and restaurants were evaluated on more than 100, and hotels on over 200 accessibility features, ranging from obstacle-free areas to bed heights to signage, in order to better accommodate guests with mobility, vision, hearing, sensory, and other needs. Travelers can build a personal profile on Wheel the World's website (<https://wheeltheworld.com/accessible-travel/usa/new-york/dutchess-county>), matching them up with the assessed accommodations and attractions that meet their needs.

Wheel the World COO & Co-Founder Camilo Navarro stated, "Dutchess is a world-class example of a Wheel the World Destination Verified Partner. Their commitment to closing the gap in accessibility is spectacular. Not only have we worked with 50 of their local partners to raise accessibility information and make it available for those with accessibility needs, but they have also provided grants for those partners to take action to improve the accessibility of their infrastructure. If every organization would do that, we would have a more accessible world."

Through a competitive process, DTI awarded eight microgrants of nearly \$19,000 to help make improvements identified in their assessments. These sites included the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, Curry Estate, the Fisher Center at Bard College, Fishkill Farms, the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, Trevor Zoo, and the Walkway Over the Hudson. From assisted-listening devices to wheelchairs and accessible picnic tables to emergency pull-cord systems and grab bars, local attractions have made strides in making accessibility and safety a priority.

Enhancing the travel experience for all visitors, including individuals with disabilities, has been a priority for DTI, aligning with the county government's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, launched in 2015. "Ensuring accessibility is about more than just compliance — it's about innovation and empathy," said Serino. "We are proud that Dutchess County is the first in New York State to earn the "Wheel the World" designation verification, and we will continue to encourage local municipalities and businesses to think outside the box in making creative and meaningful improvements for those with disabilities, creating a more inclusive community where everyone can thrive."

According to MMGY Global's



Wheel the World, a leader in travel solutions for people with disabilities, designated New York's Dutchess County with a Verified Destination certification. A presentation was held at Heritage Stadium in Fishkill on July 25. Below: NYS Senator Rob Rollison speaks with one of the attendees. *Courtesy photos*

"Portraits of Travelers with Disabilities: Mobility and Accessibility" report, travelers with mobility disabilities spend \$58.2 billion annually on travel and take leisure trips as frequently as those without mobility issues. The study also found that 81% of respondents emphasized the importance of promoting accessibility and lodging options to attract visitors with mobility disabilities. To better reach this underserved market and provide a valuable resource, DTI created a hub and reoccurring blog series on their website (<https://dutchesstourism.com/accessible-travel>) highlighting Accessible Travel attractions and events.

Accessible Dutchess | Wheel the World Participating Sites

- Bardavon 1869 Opera House
- Best Western Inn at the Falls
- Comfort Suites Fishkill
- Curry Estate (Inn and Restaurant Six)
- Dassai Blue Sake Brewery
- Dia Beacon
- Dutchess County Fairgrounds
- Dutchess County Rail Trail
- Eastdale Village Town Center
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum
- Fisher Center at Bard
- Fishkill Farms
- Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
- Hampton Inn & Suites Poughkeepsie

- Harlem Valley Rail Trail
- Heritage Financial Park
- Hilton Garden Inn Fishkill
- Holiday Inn Express Poughkeepsie
- Homewood Suites Poughkeepsie
- Hyatt House Fishkill
- Industrial Arts Brewing Company
- King's Court Brewing Company
- Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum
- MJN Convention Center
- Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome
- Quality Inn & Suites Fishkill
- Quality Inn & Suites Hyde Park
- Residence Inn Fishkill
- Residence Inn Poughkeepsie
- Shadows on the Hudson
- Spins Bowl Poughkeepsie
- Spins Bowl Wappingers
- SpringHill Suites Fishkill
- Staatsburgh State Historic Site
- The Beatrix Farrand Garden
- The Dutchess Inn & Spa
- The Factory at Sloop Brewing
- The Grandview
- The Inn at Bellefield
- The Millbrook Inn
- The Roundhouse (Inn and Restaurant)
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Mount Gulian to offer tours of historic garden Aug. 3-4

Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon invites visitors to explore its garden and unique horticultural history. Tours of the historic garden will be given on Saturday, Aug. 3 and Sunday, Aug. 4 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Visitors will learn about the garden's origins, evolution, and notable gardeners, including Mary Anna Verplanck, who as a precocious 11-year-old, designed the original 1804 garden; and James F. Brown, an enslaved man who fled Maryland and worked as Mount Gulian's master gardener. Visitors will receive a complimentary copy of the garden's 1912 map, and a short film about Mr. Brown, "Cultivating Freedom: From Slave to Citizen," will be shown.

Today, notable plantings in the garden include antique peonies, roses and yuccas

that were returned to Mount Gulian in 1995 by a Verplanck descendant who removed them from the site in the 1960s. After carefully tending to them for 30 years at her home's garden, she learned of the site's plans to restore the garden and happily brought them home.

Admission to this special tour is \$14 adults, \$12 seniors, \$8 youngsters (6-18 years). Children under 6 and Mount Gulian members are free. Membership is open to the public.

Reservations are preferred, but walk-ins will be accepted if space allows. For reservations, call (845) 831-8172 or email at info@mountgulian.org. Payment may be made on the day of visit.

For further information, see <https://dutchess tourism.com/spotlights/gr eat-estates-garden-landscape-tour>



Mount Gulian in Beacon will offer garden tours this weekend. *Courtesy photo*

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 19 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

THE GREATEST DOT-TO-DOT! BOOKS!

Sets
Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.
 □ • 1 thru 2
 □ ▲ 3 thru 7
 □ ■ 8 thru 13
 □ ◆ 14 thru 26
 □ ● 27 thru 40
 □ ▲ 41 thru 71

By David Kalvitis © 2003 Monkeying Around

Discover modern wellness: The Benefits of CBD

At Sunmed | Your CBD Store in Wappingers Falls and White Plains, our mission is to empower our community to make informed decisions about their health.

Drawing on three years of experience as a local wellness expert, we have observed firsthand how plant-based remedies such as CBD can provide a natural, safe, and effective approach to everyday well-being. Before we delve into our transformative products, let's first take a moment to understand what CBD is and how it interacts with our bodies to support long-term health and wellness.

CBD, short for cannabidiol, is one of over 100 cannabinoids found in the hemp plant. Unlike THC, CBD is non-psychoactive, meaning it doesn't produce an intoxicating "high."

Since its federal legalization in the 2018 Farm Bill, CBD has been extensively studied, revealing its impressive therapeutic potential. Research suggests that CBD can help with a variety of issues such as anxiety, chronic pain, and sleep problems. It has also been found to have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. When consumed, CBD interacts with a crucial system in our bodies: the endocannabinoid system (ECS).

Discovered in the early '90s, the endocannabinoid system (ECS) is an intricate network of receptors located primarily in the central nervous system, organs, and immune cells. CBD helps modulate these receptors, promoting relief, alleviating daily stress, and offering many other benefits. Despite its growing popularity, there's still a lot of confusion and misinformation. That's where your local wellness experts come in.

Yvette and Jose Sanchez, Owners and Wellness Experts at Sunmed | Your CBD Store. *Courtesy photo*



At Sunmed | Your CBD Store in Wappingers Falls and White Plains, our dedicated team provides in-store education and personalized guidance to help you find the perfect CBD products for your needs. Whether you're seeking better sleep, relief, relaxation, weight loss, or even pet care, we're here to answer your questions and support you every step of the way.

Our premium, third-party tested wellness products include clinically proven

sleep gummies, award-winning relief creams, USDA-organic oil tinctures, live resin gummies, and more. Visit us at 1582 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls and 365 Mamaroneck Ave. White Plains.

Come discover how our non-pharmaceutical products can transform your daily routine and lead you toward a healthier, more balanced life. We look forward to welcoming you and helping you achieve your wellness goals.

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

Suguru

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

THEME: SUMMER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

- Delhi dress
- *Individual Neutral Athlete at 2024 Olympics, acr.
- Mother in #48 Down
- Joie de vivre
- Fodder holder
- External
- ___ Grey tea
- Gulf V.I.P.
- Edible cannabis substance
- *Famous Olympics basketball team (2 words)
- 90 degrees on compass
- Like Al Yankovic
- Popular deciduous tree
- College treasurer
- Balaclava (2 words)
- Compass point between E and NE
- Nullify
- Diva's delivery
- Smart ones?
- Two halves
- That is, in Latin
- First queen of Carthage
- What ivy does
- ___ chi
- Hindered
- Alternative form of a gene
- Band aid
- Diet inspired by prehistory
- European erupter
- *Michael Phelps predecessor
- "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ___
- Black and white killer?
- U.S. lake
- From then on
- Bank claim
- Decomposes
- Against, prefix
- a.k.a. acid
- State of vexation

DOWN

- Bird feeder morsel
- a.k.a. Daminozide
- Hard to find
- Family addition, pl.
- *Archer or shooter, e.g.
- Homer's classic
- Accepted behavior
- *a.k.a. Cassius, 1960 gold medal winner
- Greek H's
- Landlord's due
- Heat unit
- Certain style of humor
- Obelus, pl.
- "The end justifies the ___"
- ___ out, as in a win
- Mardi Gras souvenir
- Dark
- Full of cattails
- Petals holder
- Rocky ridge
- Like certain rug
- *Swimmer Ledecky
- *Like 23 out of Michael Phelps' 28
- "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
- *Nadia of perfect 10 fame
- Archipelago
- Large edible mushroom
- *Like Bosnia and Herzegovina or Bulgaria
- Mental portrait
- Trotters
- *2024 Olympics host city
- Formed a curve
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Windshield option
- Gangster's gal
- *Xander Schauffele club option
- South American monkey
- Gusto
- Geological Society of America

CROSSWORD

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



A Thousand Miles of Gardens

Three gardens in three states in three days

So many gardens. So little time. Sue and I had three days to visit three gardens in three different states. The idea was to look at new flowers for 2025, check out a historic garden and stop at a display garden and a trial garden.

First stop – Sonnenburg Gardens in Canandaigua, N.Y. As president of New York State Flower Industries, Sue set up a tour to go along with her annual meeting. Executive Director David Hutchings led us through the nine garden “rooms” covering 50 acres, and the 1887 mansion. Mary Clark Thompson and her husband Frederick Thompson, whose family founded Citibank in 1863, built their summer retreat in the beautiful city of Canandaigua on the north shore of Seneca Lake. Like many of the mansions and gardens from the late 18th century – think of Vanderbilt Mansion’s Italian garden– the property fell into disrepair until a group of dedicated volunteers started a restoration in the 1970s. The restoration is ongoing, and director Hutchings admitted that a lot of work still needs to be done. To my eyes, the garden was not worth the trip unless you happen to be touring the Finger Lakes. Better to visit the New York Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, or even the fully restored Vanderbilt Italian garden. The mansion may have been well worth the trip, but – hey- it’s not a garden.

Second stop – a six-hour drive south to Monroeville, N.J., off exit 2 of the turnpike. Lucas Greenhouse is one of the biggest commercial growers in the world – 45 acres under cover. George and Louise Lucas supply independent garden centers all over the Northeast with pots and hanging baskets of flowers, hardy chrysanthemums and poinsettias. The Lucas operation is ten times the size of my greenhouse here in Poughkeepsie. I once asked Louise how they ended up so big and successful. “The good Lord,” she told me. Sue and I had come to see Lucas’ display garden of hundreds of

annual flowers – petunias, geraniums, million bells, coleus – many new varieties for 2025. We were looking for a red angelonia, but it hasn’t been invented yet. It takes a dozen or more years to breed a new flower. Exciting new varieties for 2025 include a multi-blossomed sunflower and a black angelonia. At one point I raved about “Petunia Supercal Premium Caramel Yellow” and told Sue we should try it out. “We’ve been growing it for years,” she told me.

Third stop – Penn State trial garden in Lancaster, PA. As opposed to the display garden at Lucas Greenhouse, Penn State University runs a trial garden, where different varieties of the same flower are grown side by side for comparison. You might see 20 red petunias, from several flower breeders. Sue is always looking for a true red, not a “scarlet” or a raspberry red. You can’t tell the true color from a catalog, you have to see it for real, which we do. We look for coleus that doesn’t bloom (the flowers are usually ugly) and verbena that does bloom in the heat of late July. Nemesia is notorious for fading away in the summer, but nemesia “scen-topia” was still in bloom, plus it has a delightful fragrance. Sue was searching for inspiration for her combination hanging baskets (we grow 30,000). Petunia “Tiara Blue,” and Salvia “Unplugged Red,” both new from Proven Winners, look good.

Evaluating hundreds of flowers is exciting but exhausting. The 1,000-mile round trip makes for a challenging three days. When we got back to work on Friday morning, everyone asked, “How was your vacation?” The following Wednesday, Sue and I take off to look at more new flowers, this time at Pleasant View Gardens in Concord, New Hampshire.

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



Sue at the Penn State trial garden. Below: The mansion at Sonnenberg Gardens. Photos by Mark Adams



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**FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT,
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The Rhinebeck Legion Band will offer a free outdoor concert and ice cream social at the Quitman House on Saturday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. at 7015 Route 9, in Rhinebeck. Rain at time of concert, cancels concert. Please bring one’s own chair. For more information, visit www.RhinebeckLegionBand.org.

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A fresh summer supper

Caprese chicken and no-bake yogurt pie for hot days

Here we are, midway through summer already. I know it isn't always fun cooking in hot weather, believe me. My kitchen is not a joy to be in this time of year. I like the challenge of meal planning but there have been plenty of days lately that I really struggled to come up with something different or that at least I hadn't already made in a while AND that wasn't heavy or heated up the kitchen. So I get it – the struggle is real, but we can do this! We've still got plenty of summer to get through, after all.

Yes, I was in a bit of a menu rut last week, feeling like I'd already exhausted my summer meal repertoire. Silly me! I was just hot and a little hangry. A big glass of iced tea, a sandwich and a good, long look at my grocery haul that week brought me back to my senses and soon I had a new idea to try out. Usually, I plan out my weekly menus as I look through the supermarket flyers, but even that wasn't inspiring me, so I bought what looked good and figured I'd just come up with something. Sure enough, once I looked at what I had and started prepping, I was quickly on a roll and, based on what I had to work with, I made something fresh and tasty. But as I said, I was on a roll and before I knew it, I made dessert too! When all was said and done it turned out to be a perfect summer dinner.

The inspiration came in stages. For me, inspiration is often one part practicality and two parts creativity, as was the case here. First, I had chicken breasts I needed to use. I also had fresh mozzarella and basil because I had a craving and bought them without a plan. Last, but not at all least, I had my new favorite: on-the-vine cherry tomatoes from Aldi that I've been loving. They are so sweet and delicious with just-from-garden-like flavor. I can't get enough! I'd been tossing them in all kinds of salads and just snacking on

them, but there they sat as I puzzled over what to make and it all came together in a flash!

I'm not sure what to call it – it's part caprese (after the classic salad) and bruschetta (because of the tomato topping) – but whatever you call it, it's delightful. As the components suggest, it's fresh and light, some of my favorite flavors of summer playing together in that beautiful way they have. To keep things light and in season, I served it simply with corn on the cob and called it a night, which was definitely the way to go, especially since there was dessert to save room for. So, if you're ready, here it is.

CAPRESE CHICKEN

Yup, that's what I went with because of the classic combination of tomato, basil and fresh mozzarella. I had some of the tomato topping left over, which I happily ate with a spoon, but you could serve it over toasted bread for that bruschetta I alluded to earlier. Marinating the chicken may not be necessary, but that's what I did because I was grilling it and I wouldn't change a thing, even if cooked in a skillet. I served it with sweet corn and some garlic bread, which was just right.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 - 4-5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 - Juice from 1 lemon, divided
 - Salt and pepper (freshly ground is best), to taste
 - 1 teaspoon dried oregano
 - About 2 cups diced fresh, ripe tomatoes
 - 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
 - Fresh chopped basil (I used 8-10 good-sized leaves)
 - Fresh mozzarella, sliced (enough for the 4 chicken breasts)
 - Freshly grated Parmesan
- METHOD**
Place chicken breasts between two

pieces of plastic wrap and pound just to even out their thickness. (You can skip this step if you're using thin-sliced breasts.) Place in a large bowl or zip-top bag and set aside.

Make the marinade: In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, half of the lemon juice, salt, pepper and oregano. Add to the chicken, toss and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, combine tomatoes, garlic, basil and remaining lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper, stir and set aside.

Remove chicken from the bag or bowl and place on a preheated grill over medium-high heat. Discard any leftover marinade. Grill until internal temperature is 155 degrees, 5-7 minutes per side. NOTE: you'll know when it's time to flip when it doesn't stick to the grill.

Before removing from the grill, top each chicken breast with mozzarella and close the grill lid to melt the cheese, 2-3 minutes.

Transfer to plates and top with the fresh tomato mixture. Sprinkle with Parmesan and serve immediately.

But what about dessert, you may be asking? I whipped up a no-bake pie! It's a family favorite my mother makes that's cool and easy and comes together quickly because of the shortcut ingredients. It just needs time to set up in the freezer before serving so plan to make it at least 2 hours ahead.



A delicious Caprese chicken dinner. Below: No-bake yogurt pie ready to slice and serve. Photos by Vicki Frank Day

shame in using a pre-made version, as I did here to speed things up. You can mix fresh fruit into it, garnish the top with berries or whipped cream or just leave it plain. Remember, you'll need to give it time in the freezer to set but then keep it to the fridge.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 small containers fruit yogurt (I used Chobani 5.3oz Strawberry Greek yogurt)
- 1 container whipped topping (like Cool Whip)
- 1 graham cracker pie shell (premade is just fine)
- Fresh berries for garnish (optional)

METHOD

In a medium bowl, whisk together yogurt and whipped topping. Pour into pie shell and freeze 2-4 hours to set.

Remove from freezer, garnish with berries and serve. (You may want to let it sit out 15 minutes or so). Place any leftovers in the fridge.

And that, my friends, is one summery supper! From beginning to end it's fresh, light and flavorful. It's kind of a little celebration of what summer's all about and keeps the livin' easy as it should be this time of year. Enjoy!



NO-BAKE YOGURT PIE

You may think it's cheating to use whipped topping but with results this good you might forgive me. I have made it with homemade whipped cream but it doesn't set up as well. I've made my own graham cracker crust but there's no

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

SUMMER CONCERT SATURDAY

A summer concert will be held on Saturday, August 3, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1576 Main Street, Pleasant Valley. Caroline Dolfi and Joe Murray will entertain in the air-conditioned sanctuary. There will be a free will offering taken.



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The cast of "Guys and Dolls." Performances, by Up In One Productions are through August 11 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. *Courtesy photos*



The Tony-award winning production "Guys and Dolls" tells a captivating tale of love and fortune under the bright Broadway lights. Up In One Productions will present the production through August 11. Times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$29.

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world of dice-playing rascals, dazzling showgirls, and intense romances. Journey from Times Square's pulsating center to the aromatic cafes of Havana, and into New York's gritty underbelly.

"Guys And Dolls" is a timeless classic, echoing with iconic songs like "Luck Be a Lady," "If I Were A Bell," and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

Visit the website, www.centerforperformingarts.org or call (845) 876-3080 for tickets and more information.

Bard Music Festival explores life and times of French Romantic composer in 'Berlioz and His World'

On Friday, August 9, the Bard Music Festival returns with an intensive two-week exploration of "Berlioz and His World." In 11 themed concert programs, the festival's 34th season examines Hector Berlioz, the visionary French composer who helped redefine musical Romanticism, first by contextualizing him within an age of "Revolutionary Spectacle and Romantic Passion" (Weekend One: August 9–11), and then investigating his crucial role in uniting "Music and the Literary Imagination" (Weekend Two: August 15–18).

Aside from Program Six, presented in nearby Rhinebeck, all concerts take place in the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center for the Performing Arts and other venues on Bard College's campus in Annadale-on-Hudson. Six programs will also stream live to home audiences worldwide on Upstreaming, the Fisher Center's virtual stage.

"One of the most remarkable figures in the worlds of arts and culture" (NYC Arts, THIRTEEN/WNET), festival founder and co-artistic director Leon Botstein is music director of both the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and Bard's unique graduate training orchestra, The Orchestra Now (TON). In a concert with commentary by Botstein himself, he and TON open the festival with a pairing of Berlioz's most famous work – the revolutionary, semi-autobiographical "Symphonie fantastique" – with its seldom-programmed sequel – "Lélio, ou Le retour à la vie" – for which they will be joined by British-American tenor Joshua Blue, bass-baritone Alfred Walker, and the Bard Festival Chorale (Program 1).

Botstein, TON, and the choir also give live-streamed accounts of Berlioz's choral setting of the "Te Deum" hymn and of excerpts from his grand opera "Les Troyens," featuring vocal soloists Megan Moore and Blue (Program 3). With the ASO, Botstein conducts two substantive Romantic rarities, both overdue for restoration to the canon: Louise Farrenc's masterly Third Symphony and Joseph Joachim Raff's programmatic Tenth, "In Autumn" (Program 9).

To conclude the festival, Botstein and the ASO join forces with the Bard Festival Chorale for "La damnation de Faust," Berlioz's epic setting of Goethe's tragedy, starring Blue as Faust, Walker as Méphistophélès, Stefan Egerstrom as the student Brander, and two-time Grammy-winner Sasha Cooke as Marguerite (Program 11). All four orchestral concerts will be live-streamed.

As in previous seasons, the festival also presents a wide range of vocal and

chamber music. "Le dernier sorcier" – a little-known two-act chamber opera by Berlioz's colorful contemporary Pauline Viardot – will be heard in her original salon arrangement for voices and piano, in a semi-staged, live-streamed production by Sharyn Pirtle (Program 5). Soprano Jana McIntyre, mezzo-soprano Rebecca Ringle Kamarei, tenor Maximillian Jansen, and baritone Tyler Duncan explore the rich variety of songs heard in the Parisian salon, in a concert with commentary by musicologist Byron Adams (Program 4). Ringle Kamarei and Duncan later join tenor Noah Stewart for Berlioz's "Les nuits d'été," a jewel of the art song repertoire, which they perform in its first incarnation, with each song sung to piano accompaniment by a different vocalist (Program 8).

Tokyo International Viola Competition laureate Luosha Fang gives a complete, live-streamed account of Berlioz's "Harold en Italie," in Franz Liszt's arrangement for piano accompaniment (Program 7). The Cleveland Quartet Award-winning Balourdet Quartet performs the underrated C-minor String Quartet by Berlioz's Czech-born teacher, Anton Reicha (Program 2) and joins Fang for the posthumously published Second String Quintet of Felix Mendelssohn (Program 8).

Among other chamber highlights, Noël Wan, the first Taiwanese harpist to take first prize at the USA International Harp Competition, plays the "Introduction and Variations on Themes from Bellini's 'Norma'" by Elias Parish Alvars, whom Berlioz considered "the Liszt of the harp" (Program 2); festival favorite Anna Polonsky interprets piano music by Clara Schumann (Program 5); and the New Hudson Saxophone Quartet plays Berlioz's "Chant sacré," in a reconstruction of the lost version for instruments developed by Adolphe Sax, on a program that also presents the "Six Bagatelles" by Hungarian modernist György Ligeti, and a performance of Edgard Varèse's "Density 21.5" by flutist Alex Sopp (Program 10). "One of New York's finest organists" (New York Times), Renée Anne Louprette plays works by Alfred Lefébure-Wély, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Olivier Messiaen on the newly renovated organ of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in nearby Rhinebeck (Program 6).

Tickets for mainstage events start at \$25 and live-streams are \$20. Panel discussions are free of charge and open to the public. For complete information regarding tickets, series discounts, and more, visit fishercenter.bard.edu or call Bard's box office at (845) 758-7900.

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'WHERE DO THE BUTTERFLIES GO AT NIGHT?' AUGUST 8 AT MORTON LIBRARY

"Where do the Butterflies go at Night" and other Pollinator Ponderings" will take place at Morton Memorial Library on Thursday, August 8 at 5 p.m. All ages are welcome. Morton Memorial Library is at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff.
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AT YOUR LIBRARY

Special programs at Pleasant Valley Library in August

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.

Escape From Blackbeard's Cove - Friday, August 2, 6:45-7:15 p.m. or 7:30-8 p.m.

Come to our "Escape Room," where teams will work together to crack the codes and cyphers, find buried treasure, and unlock the secrets to escape from Blackbeard's Cove - and win a prize! For families and friend teams of 3-5 players, ages 8 and up. (All teams must have at least one player age 15 or older.)

Interactive Movie Night: Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark - Friday, August 9, 6-8 p.m.

Don't just watch the movie - be a part of it, at our after-library hours audience-participation event! Journey with archeologist Indiana Jones on his first adventure, to search for the powerful Ark of the Covenant. Dressing in costume is encouraged. We will provide the props, prompt sheets, & snacks!

** Please note: this movie is rated PG by 1981 standards. This program is for age 10 and up, and children under the age of 13 must have an adult with them.

Teen "Amazing Race" - Saturday, August 10, Noon-2 p.m.

Teens ages 12-18 can "travel the world" Amazing Race-style! Teams will face challenges like solving puzzles and making creative projects, while trying to be the first to finish and win a prize!

End of Summer Party - Friday, August 16, 3-5 p.m.

Celebrate the end of another great summer of reading! BeeBee the Clown will be here to show us balloon animal twisting, have fresh cotton candy, and summer reading participants can pick up a NYS Summer Reading Certificate! No registration required.

Stanford Free Library Upcoming Events

The following are library events at Stanford Free Library, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville. Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please email stanfordlibrary@optonline.net or call 845-1341

Sewing for Teens and Tweens Let's make pajama pants

Ages 10 & up
Tuesday, July 23rd - August 13th 6pm-8pm

Bring your own pre-washed & ironed fabric (cotton, flannel, or cotton blend, no fleece) 2 1/4 - 2 3/4 yards should be enough

SUMMER STORY TIMES

Babies—Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
Session 2 July 30th and August 6th

Toddlers—Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Session 2 August 1st, 6th and 8th

Preschool & Kindergarten—Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:00am

Session 2 July 31, August 5, and 7

Grades 1-3—Mondays at 11 a.m.

Session 2 August 5

Cookbook Club with Lenny?

Wednesday August 13, 6-7 p.m.

Choose a recipe from Penty: Vibrant Vegetable Recipes or Plenty More: Vibrant Vegetable Cooking by Yotam Ottolenghi. Copies of the books are available through the MHLS. Order online with your library card or contact the library for help.

Prepare the recipe and share it at the meeting. No need to register - just come with your cuisine and enjoy!

Meditation Class

August 21, 10 a.m. In person or via Zoom

Susan Olin-Dabrowski will lead this one-hour monthly meditation program. First timers and experienced meditators are welcome! Headset or earbuds recommended. Link sent upon registration.

Music in the Library
Saturday, August 24 11 a.m. - Noon
Local Musician Walt Otto will play much-loved standards, early pop tunes, and classic country songs for us!

Ongoing Events

Yoga with Mia

Saturdays 10 - 11 a.m.

Please note there is no Yoga July 6th
Registration Required Each Week

Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners

Mondays 6 - 8 p.m.

All levels welcome.

Knitting

First, Third and Fifth Thursday of the month 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Come for knitting, tea and conversation.

All levels welcome. Advanced knitters will teach beginners.

Brain Games

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Calling all seniors! Join in the fun and laughter of brain games! Fun, stimulating, invigorating word games, board games, card games, conversation and laughter!

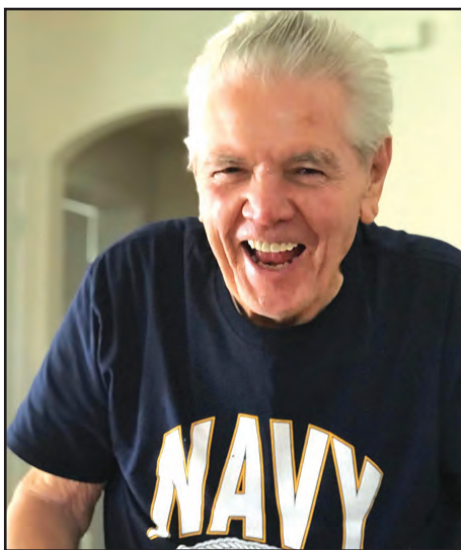
Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Fridays 10 a.m. - noon

Come and play Mahjong with this fun, friendly group.

OBITUARIES

Michael Laffey



PLEASANT VALLEY - Michael Laffey, 88, of Pleasant Valley, died peacefully on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 surrounded by his family.

Michael was born in Queens, son of the late Peter Joseph and Catherine (McNamara) Laffey. In 1958, he married the love of his life, Mary Joan (Lima) Laffey. August 2nd would mark their 66th wedding anniversary.

He was a United States Navy veteran, receiving the National Defense Service Medal and Navy Occupation Service Medal in his almost 4 years of service. He proudly participated in an Honor Flight to Washington DC in November of 2015.

Michael was an avid reader of historical novels and enjoyed discussing the intricacies of naval ships. He loved recreational boating and being near the ocean. He spent many wonderful summers in Rhode Island and was looking forward to moving there to be closer to his daughter.

He was a professional welder and welding instructor, having worked in numerous places but most notably at IBM for over 30 years, before retiring.

He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, Hudson Valley Gun Club,

and the Elks Club.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Katherine (Laffey) Ruggiero, son-in-law Thomas William Ruggiero, and their three children, Karena (Ruggiero) Mothershed, Thomas Michael Ruggiero, and Bridget Edna Ruggiero. He was also the proud and loving great-grandfather to Ethan Michael Mothershed, son of Karena and spouse Robert James Mothershed. Michael cherished every moment with his family, particularly spending time with his grandchildren and watching them grow.

Michael is predeceased by his sister Katherine "Kay" (Laffey) DeGiralamo, sister-in-law Anne (Schutta) Laffey, and brother-in-law James "Jimmy" Lima, and survived by his siblings and their spouses Angelo DeGiralamo, Peter and Chloe Laffey, Mary (Laffey) and Jimmy McInerney, and Anne (Laffey) and John McDonough.

He is survived by many nieces and nephews: Nancy and Dwayne; Peter and Angela; Jane and Leon; Ryan and Kate; Michael; Anne Marie; Joanne; John and Karen; Christine and Bob; John; Brian and Teri; Kelly; Patricia and Chris; Stephen and Jean; Kimann; and Teresa; and predeceased by nephews Joseph Lima, James "Jimmy" Lima, Cullum McDonough, and James "Jimmy" McInerney.

Michael was the proud uncle to 28 great nieces and nephews, and 5 great-great nieces and nephews.

A wake will be held on Sunday July 28th, 2024 from 3-7pm at Allen Funeral Home, 1605 Main St, Pleasant Valley NY.

His funeral service will be held on Monday, July 29th, at 10:00am at Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church, 1590 Main St, Pleasant Valley NY.

Burial with Military Honors will follow at Saint Peters Cemetery, 171 Salt Point Turnpike, Poughkeepsie NY.

Flowers are welcome, or in lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To leave an online condolence visit www.HudsonValleyFuneralHomes.com.

Sharon Kay Northcutt Ostrofsky



On Saturday, July 20, 2024, Sharon Kay (Northcutt) Ostrofsky passed away at 75.

Born in Sentinel, Oklahoma, Sharon grew up in San Diego, CA as devotedly Pentecostal, and then in her teenage years in the 60s turned to drag racing muscle cars, wearing miniskirts and false eyelashes, and working as a secretary for the U.S. Naval Underwater Research Center in Miramar, CA.

She met her husband of 52 years, Tom Ostrofsky, moved to New York State where they had their daughter, and worked as a bus driver for the Hyde Park Central School District for more than 20 years. She was a resident of Hyde Park for over 40 years.

Known for her silliness, big smile and a sparkle of mischief in her eyes, Sharon befriended everyone she met. Anywhere she was, you could find her with students, nurses, waiters or passing strangers who felt compelled to sit and tell her what was on their heart.

She is survived by her husband, Tom, her daughter, Lauree (Damon Ely), and her step-grandkids Caroline and Alice. She's preceded by her parents, Clyde and Mary Northcutt, sister Gloria Gullard and nephew Michael Gullard.

A memorial in her honor will take place on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 2pm at Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church in Staatsburg, NY. Any flowers sent will be shared with the Abloom flower recovery

program in Red Hook, NY to pass along the beauty to senior centers and shelters.

Jean M. Symolon

HYDE PARK - Jean M. Symolon, 82, a lifelong resident of Hyde Park, died on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Regional Hospice of Danbury, Connecticut.

Born, June 12, 1942, in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late Oliver and Lois Crum.

On December 17th, 1961, in Hyde Park she married John Symolon. Mr. Symolon predeceased her on December 26th, 2002.

Jean loved taking care of those around her and being involved with her children, becoming a lunch monitor in the schools as they were growing up.

Later in life she enjoyed gardening, watching birds of all kinds, whether in person or on live cameras around the country. She also enjoyed the companionship of many cats she had throughout her lifetime.

She is survived by her three children, Laurie Foerschler and husband Michael, Nancy Richardson and husband Robert and Thomas Symolon and partner Kristen; two grandchildren that she adored, Jonathan Foerschler and Sarah Stroffolino, and her beloved cat Trixie.

She is also survived by her sister Vicki Nord and brother Larry Crum and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were on Friday, July 26, 2024, at Sweet's Funeral Home, 4365 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY.

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

Jean's family respectfully requests memorial donations to Regional Hospice of Danbury Attn: Philanthropy Department 30 Milestone Rd. Danbury, CT 06810 (www.regionalhospicect.com) or Alzheimer's Association 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl.17, Chicago, IL 60601 (www.alz.org).

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Rte. 9, Hyde Park.

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

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-47-24 Road and Treated Salt (Crushed & Solar)
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the

Legal Notices

13th day of August 2024 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 Opportuni-

Legal Notices

ties". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

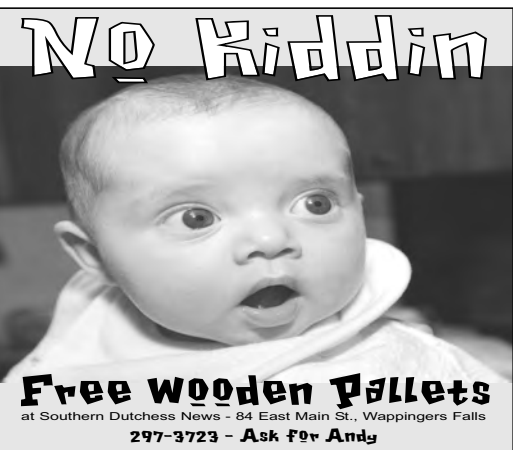
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-40-24

Legal Notices

Transitional Housing Program
Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 21st day of August 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal 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.

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gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices**Legal Notices**

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.

GOLDEN LIVING

TO BEAT A SCAMMER, THINK LIKE A SCAMMER

When it comes to protecting ourselves against scammers, we don't get to rest for long before it's time to update our scam-defense playbook once again.

Before we get into reminders of how to protect yourself, try to walk in the shoes of a scammer. Imagine that stealing from people halfway around the world is just another job – only worse. The people we hear on our end of an attempted phone scam are often themselves victims of human trafficking, forced to work in scam-call centers.

A skillful scammer's job is to go undetected, and thus unreported to law enforcement. For as long as they're undetected, their scams can continue.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that Americans lost \$10 billion to scammers in 2023, up from \$9 billion the year before. The FTC also reports that only 5% of fraud losses are reported, which makes the true amount lost to scammers last year closer to \$200 billion.

And that amount is also a lowball figure because it doesn't include losses from fraud targeting Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

SCAMMERS GET SOPHISTICATED, USING AI

The most successful criminal operations are becoming more sophisticated. As security measures improve, scammers devise new ways to evade the security measures. We've heard from many near victims of phone scams lately, reporting scam attempts that appear far more realistic than the broken English and poor grammar we tend to think of in a phone scam. Instead, these scammers are using artificial intelligence (AI) to generate scam calls that sound remarkably like the kind of fraud warnings you might get from your financial institution. Still, the scammers' goal is the same: to trigger your emotional reaction with false urgency.

STAY COOL

The voice on the phone may claim to know your name, age, address, employer, Social Security number, kids' names, hair color, or favorite brand of breakfast cereal. They can find all that, through means both legal and otherwise. Remember that they're trying to mess with you, and don't be manipulated into parting with money or personal information. Stay cool.

Your financial institution can help. When they call to warn about suspicious activity in your account, they're aware you might think their warning call is itself a scam. You won't hurt anybody's feelings if you hang up, then call them back after double-checking that you're calling the institution's confirmed phone number. It's what you're supposed to do to stay safe. On the other hand, if the caller tries to keep you on the line or wants you to call the bogus number they're feeding you, that's even more reason to be suspicious and hang up.

SHOULD I REPORT THE SCAM ATTEMPT?

Absolutely. You noticed a crime in progress. The scammer is no longer undetected. For a moment, the good guys have the upper hand – if you act. Investigators connect your information with that of thousands of other scam reports, which helps them build a case against the perpetrators. The website dutchessny.gov/scamprevention has a handy list of scam prevention resources. It's printable, for you to share with offline friends.

REMAINING SCHEDULE OF OFA SUMMER PICNIC SCHEDULE

The Office for the Aging welcomes OFA Summer Picnic volunteers, without whose help events like the picnics would be far more difficult to execute.

Join us to help at picnic sites setting up and breaking down picnic tables and chairs, and bringing food and drinks to picnic guests with mobility challenges.

It's a great way to help our older adults while getting plenty of outdoor exercise. If that sounds like something you're up

for, and you're available during any of the hours of roughly 10 am – 2 pm on Wednesdays, email OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at bjones@dutchessny.gov.

The remaining schedule:
Wednesday 8/14 – City of Poughkeepsie picnic at Stitzel Field
Wednesday 8/21 – East Fishkill picnic at Hopewell Rec Park
Wednesday 8/28 – Beekman/LaGrange picnic at Freedom Park, LaGrange

Many thanks to The Pines at Poughkeepsie, AccentCare, and Central Hudson for their support of the picnic program.

UPCOMING 'FRIENDLY CALLS' ORIENTATIONS

If you'd like to learn more about the Friendly Calls program where volunteers are connected with older adults in Dutchess County who are at risk of social isolation, you can use this link: www.dutchessny.gov/friendlycalls, AND you can sign up as a volunteer to take part in one of the upcoming Friendly Calls orientations here at OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie (114 Delafield St.):
Monday, August 5th – 3:00 pm
Tuesday, August 13th – 10:00 am
Monday, August 19th – 3:00 pm
For details, contact OFA Friendly Calls Outreach Coordinator Linda Edgar at ledgar@dutchessny.gov or call OFA at 845-486-2555.

UPCOMING OFA EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, September 21st – 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - Annual Golden Gathering (FREE, registration not required)
Arlington High School, 1157 NY 55, LaGrangeville
Hosted by the Office for the Aging with County Executive Sue Serino and State Senator Rob Rolison. A one-stop shop for aging resources for older adults and caregivers throughout Dutchess County and the 39th New York State Senate district.

Monday, October 21st – 12 noon - 4 pm – OFA Senior Prom
Villa Borghese, 70 Widmer Rd., Wappinger

This year's theme is "Hooray for Hollywood," where you can, if you'd like, dress as your favorite movie character or movie star. Registration opens in late August/early September. Details coming soon!

ALSO COMING SOON...ANOTHER 'INTRO TO PICKLEBALL' CLASS

No class dates to announce yet, but those are coming within a few weeks. Classes will be taking place in September and/or October.

"Introduction to Pickleball" classes are typically held once a week for two hours each week, in conjunction with Dutchess County Parks.

Parks' courts are at Quiet Cove Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie. For a look at play calendars, visit www.playtimescheduler.com.

'REBUILDING TOGETHER' APPLICATION SEASON - NOW THROUGH 9/30

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (www.rthudsonvalley.org, 845-454-7310) is accepting applications for the upcoming Rebuilding Day critical home repair and accessibility modification program, provided at no cost to qualified homeowners in Dutchess or Ulster County.

Visit the Rebuilding Together website or call RTHV for more information, email info@rthudsonvalley.org, or stop by their table this summer at any OFA Picnic you're attending. (www.dutchessny.gov/ofapicnics for the picnic info)

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

FROM THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Man arrested for violating order of protection while in jail

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Nykiem McLean, 27 of Rhinebeck, in connection with an investigation at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center. McLean was incarcerated at the time of the incident and remains there at the time of this writing.

According to the Sheriff's Office, McLean is accused of violating an Order

of Protection by contacting a protected party. He was arrested on July 22 and has been charged with Aggravated Family Offense (felony) and Criminal Contempt 2nd degree (misdemeanor). McLean is scheduled to appear before the City of Poughkeepsie Court for arraignment on August 26.

As with any criminal case the charges described above are merely accusations, and Mr. McLean is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Poughkeepsie man accused of assault on another incarcerated individual

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Joseph R. Gourd, age 43 of Poughkeepsie, in connection with an investigation at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center. Gourd was incarcerated at the time of the incident and remains there at the time of this writing.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Gourd is accused of assaulting another

incarcerated individual in the facility causing injury to that person. He was arrested on July 22 and has been charged with Assault 2nd (felony). Gourd is scheduled to appear before the City of Poughkeepsie Court for arraignment on August 26.

As with any criminal case the charges described above are merely accusations, and Gourd is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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

Suguru solution

3	2	5	2	3	4
1	4	1	4	1	2
5	3	2	5	3	5
2	4	1	4	1	4
5	3	5	3	2	3
2	1	4	1	5	1

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

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

- 1 thru 2
- 3 thru 7
- 8 thru 13
- 14 thru 26
- 27 thru 40
- 41 thru 71

By David Kalvitis © 2003 Monkeying Around

LAND Gallery in Pawling to host artist reception for 'Ways of Water' Aug. 3

LAND Gallery in Pawling and the Sherman Artists Association announce a new show "Ways of Water," watercolors by Charlene Leichter. With water as the focal point, Leichter's paintings capture nature's colors, moods and beauty. The opening reception is Saturday, August 3, 3-5 p.m. The show is from August 1 - 31. For more information, visit www.landgalleryonline.com or www.ShermanArtists.org.

"When I look at a finished painting, I want to feel peace and comfort, then I know it's ready to provide the same to others. I want my work to make someone feel calm, peace and happiness in their heart," said Leichter.

In 2022, post-surgery, needing to find a diversion from the pain and discomfort, she turned to her past love of watercolor painting and began to teach herself how to paint. Not having done any drawing or painting since high school, she started watching YouTube videos of drawing, perspective and watercolor tutorials for hours on end. Luckily, in her house there were art supplies in storage containers that she opened and dusted off. Followed by practice, practice, practice! Trying and testing different techniques and eventually finding her own style. Through this came a love of landscapes, especially with water as a focal point. She

grew up on Long Island's great South Bay and was no stranger to the ways of water and how peaceful yet powerful it can be.

A native New Yorker, Leichter now resides in Sherman CT. She has a BA in Economics from Stony Brook and a career in Information Technology as a developer and database administrator. She had taught herself database and IT technology, just as she taught herself watercolors. Currently she is working part time, being fully retired at the end of the year. Leichter is Vice President of the Sherman Artists Association.

The Sherman Artists Association is sponsoring the Featured Artist Shows at LAND Gallery which includes the work of some of the most highly regarded photographers and painters in the local area. There is also a curated artisanal gift shop that sells a selection of locally handmade fine art and gifts. The Gallery is located in the heart of the Village of Pawling and does photography workshops, walks and other artistic events. Find us at: 30 Charles Colman Blvd, Pawling.

For more information about the Sherman Artists Association, visit www.ShermanArtists.org. For more information about LAND Gallery, visit www.landgalleryonline.com or Facebook: LANDGalleryinPawling.



There will be an opening reception of "Ways of Water" by Charlene Leichter on August 3 at LAND Gallery in Pawling. Pictured: "Tree Landing." Photo courtesy of the artist

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