

15 injured as explosion, fire destroy building in Wappingers Falls

By Kristine Coulter

They are tired and just happy to be survivors.

That was the prevailing outlook of neighbors in the Brick Row area of Wappingers Falls last week on Friday - one day after a ruptured gas line caused a massive explosion and fire that destroyed the apartment building at 4 Brick Row.

The explosion, which occurred at approximately 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, injured 15 individuals, including five first responders. Eight adults and two children, who were in the apartments at the time of the explosion, were rescued and airlifted to the burn unit at Westchester Medical Center.

"The injuries to the first responders were minor and smoke inhalation," said Wappingers Falls Police Commissioner Paul Italiano.

“Central Hudson crews arrived at the scene of a building explosion today (Nov. 2) in Wappingers Falls shortly after reports of the incident, to secure the area and turn off natural gas and electricity in the immediate vicinity. Our thoughts are with those who were affected by this – including those who were injured as well as the contractors and first responders at the scene,” said a statement posted to Central Hudson’s Facebook page on Nov. 2.

Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber stated in a release, "We can confirm that there are serious injuries among our residents, and they are receiving the best possible medical care. Families affected by the explosion have been evacuated and are being provided with shelter, food, and necessities. The Knights of Columbus provided a relief center for the



A pile of debris was all that was left of the building at 4 Brick Row in the Village of Wappingers Falls on Friday after an explosion and fire destroyed the structure on Thursday, Nov. 2. Ten individuals who were in the apartments at the time of the explosion were rescued and taken to the Burn Unit at Westchester Medical Center. Right, first responders work at the scene on Thursday. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt and courtesy photo*



community while the Red Cross remained on location and assisted the families with temporary shelter and provisions.”

Governor Kathy Hochul stated, "I have been briefed on the building collapse in Dutchess County and have deployed State emergency services personnel to assist in response efforts. As the

situation develops, I urge all New Yorkers to follow the direction of law enforcement and other first responders working to keep the community safe. I join all New Yorkers in praying for the Village of Wappingers Falls.”

On Nov. 3, two residents, who asked for anonymity, who were affected were removing some items from their home.

"I was here (when the explosion happened)," one of the residents said the day after the occurrence. "There was rubble and a lot of smoke." They stayed with family that Thursday night.

Both stated they were “grateful for the response. A lot of people were pitching in to help. We’re very thankful.”

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Millbrook Middle School Veterans Breakfast
presents important learning opportunities

By Jim Donick

Veterans Day has always been about honoring the men and women who have served their country in the military service. Once upon a time, nearly every family had a veteran or, often more than one, a father, a mother, a grandfather, or an uncle or cousin. Older members of the Baby Boom generation often had a dad or mom who served in World War II or, maybe Korea.

The numbers of citizens serving in the armed forces has been a lot lower over the last 40-50 years. This truth came home to Millbrook Middle School teacher Joseph Carbone just over 17 years ago.

"We were having a segment in

what we call ‘home base,’ that’s what older folks might recall as home room. The subject was patriotism and the topic we were discussing that day was 9-11. I realized that a lot of these kids didn’t really understand the sacrifices people have made for love of their country over the years,” he said.

Further interaction with students cemented Carbone's realization that students needed a window into the types of things veterans had experienced in the service and their motivations. Fewer of them now had a chance to hear it from a parent or grandparent. From this the idea of a Veterans Breakfast with students

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Bruce Boisse, who has been featured in PBS special "Scramble the Seawolves," speaks to students at last year's Veterans Breakfast at Millbrook Middle School. *Courtesy photo*

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Millbrook Middle School Veterans Breakfast presents important learning opportunities

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Above, Veteran Darren Freer is pictured with his son Colin. Right, Millbrook Middle School teacher Joseph Carbone receives a VFW's Citizenship Medal from VFW Post 9008 Commander Jeff Moseman. Courtesy photos

began to take shape. This year's event is set for Thursday, Nov. 9, at 8 a.m. in the Millbrook Middle School Cafeteria. The first Veterans Breakfast took place in 2006. Participation was then, and is also today, voluntary for the students. Carbone invited veterans to come into the school and have breakfast with the kids. The students could ask questions, they could simply listen, and they would be able to move from table to table. It worked. The veterans were delighted to share their thoughts and the students were fascinated by what they heard and by the honesty of the people telling them. Some years later, one of Carbone's now graduated students told him just how much the experience had meant to her grandfather. The affair has grown significantly over the years. "These days," Carbone said, "none of the students were even born when 9-11 happened, but their interest in the stories of the veterans is still there." From a simple breakfast 17 years ago, the event has grown considerably. Now it begins early with the breakfast, and 80 or 90 students will come into school early to eat with the veterans and to listen to them and ask questions. They get about five to eight minutes at each table and then rotate to another veteran's table and continue the process. After breakfast, there is a school-wide assembly where the veterans are honored and some of them will say a few words to roughly 200 Millbrook Middle School Students. Joseph Carbone has managed to make an important national holiday more than simply a chance to honor veterans but to bring the message of their personal lives and sacrifices home to a new generation. Recently, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9008, began participation in the VFW's Citizenship Medal program. The program honors citizens who have made outstanding contributions to their community, particularly in their exceptional commitment to teaching and demonstrating by their own lives civic values and patriotism and promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and love of country. Joseph Carbone's award was presented by the Post's Commander, Jeff Moseman. Carbone is the first teacher to be honored by Post 9008. "It is a great honor," he said.



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Guest Speaker
Pastor Corey Kennard,
MACM, CPXP

Pastor Corey Kennard, is a National Leader in Advance Care Planning Education & Outreach and serves as an activist in the field of healthcare. He is the Pastor of Amplify Christian Church and Director of Patient Experience at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

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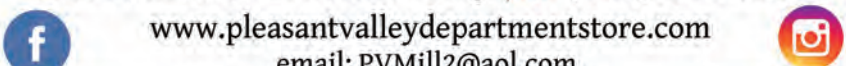


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15 injured as explosion, fire destroy building in Wappingers Falls

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Village of Wappingers Falls Police Commissioner Paul Italiano answers questions from the media on Nov. 3. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

State Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) issued a statement after the explosion and fire.

“A number of first responders suffered non-life-threatening injuries while attempting to save lives,” said Rolison, who joined local, county, and state first responders at the scene shortly after the incident occurred.

“While on the scene today I observed once again the selfless courage of our brave first responders as they worked to save lives and comfort victims. Thank you from the bottom of my heart; please continue to keep the victims in your prayers,” noted Rolison’s comments, in part.

“We are committed to supporting those involved in any way we can. Gas service, as well as impacted electric service, has been restored to nearly all customers in the vicinity. We will continue to work with authorities during the ongoing investigation of this incident,” said Central Hudson’s statement last week.

Kevin Van Tassel Jr. stated his mother-in-law was at his apartment at the time of the explosion.

“The door blew in. All my windows got blown in,” said Van Tassel. The Red Cross got a hotel for him and his family, Van Tassel said.

Wappingers Falls Fire Chief Fire Chief Jason Enson, who was in command on the scene, said during a news conference, “I’ve never seen anything like this.”

He remarked the firefighters did a remarkable job.

Rescuers respond and help injured
“Responding officers from the

Wappingers Falls Police Department reported a large explosion at 12:16 p.m. and arrived on scene at 12:17 p.m.,” said Italiano in a press release on Nov. 3. “Upon arrival initial responding officer encountered two children and a mother with severe blast injuries and burns. Additional victims who were working at the location were located in the immediate area.”

Italiano stated, “In total ten victims suffered blast and burn injuries from the scene. Additionally, five first responders were treated and released from area hospitals. One firefighter suffered a hand injury, one officer suffered a minor burn and smoke inhalation, two additional officers suffered smoke inhalation and one suffered a dog bite while rescuing a dog.”

According to Italiano, the victims are as follows:

- 9 Males ages 8-59 years old;
- 1 Female age 35;

A male, age 46, a female, age 35, and her two male children aged 8 and 11 are residents of Brick Row and as of press time were at Westchester Medical Center.

Italiano stated: “A landing zone was established at Veterans Field a few blocks from the scene,” said Italiano.

Out of the 15 victims, seven had been treated and released, said Italiano. On Nov. 3, eight were still at Westchester Medical Center.

Italiano told Southern Dutchess News on Nov. 3 “the structure is fine” on the row of apartments across from the blast. The residents had no gas heat, he noted, that is why they were taking items out of



One of the injured is assisted by first responders after an explosion on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls on November 2. Courtesy photo

the residences that day.

The incident was contained to 1-7 Brick Row. A multiple unit dwelling, according to the commissioner.

“Although there is no reason to believe there is any criminal aspect to this case, the Wappingers Falls Police Department Detective Division is conducting the investigation with the assistance of the New York State Police BCI and the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Department Drone Unit,” he said. here is no danger to the public, he added.

Central Hudson investigates

Joseph Jenkins, a spokesperson for Central Hudson, said, “This is under investigation. No root cause has been determined.” He said what was known is that a contractor employed by Central Hudson appears to have struck a 3/4 service line. “Striking this [seems] to be the

cause, but it is still under investigation,” said Jenkins.

Generally speaking, the pipes that are being replaced, said Jenkins, are from the early to mid-1900s.

“I think the most important thing we can inform our customers is Central Hudson employees and all subcontract employees are all trained to standards to work,” said Jenkins.

Officials noted that displaced residents have been housed at hotels by Central Hudson.

“At this time, we’ll provide hotels as long as they’re needed,” said Jenkins.

Italiano noted the Wappingers Falls Police and Fire departments were assisted at the scene by 10 additional police agencies and 15 fire departments and EMS Units.

Curtis Schmidt contributed to this report.

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Publisher
Albert Osten

Executive Editor/
General Manager
Curtis Schmidt
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Editorial/Creative Director
Kate Goldsmith

Reporters
Kristine Coulter
Rich Thomaselli

Contributing Writers
Jim Donick
Stacey vanden Thoorn

Advertising Representative
Richard Wambach
845-417-5377
richardlw47@gmail.com

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cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com
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84 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845-297-3723

Addressing the immigration problem

To the editor:
The USA, like individual property owner, has to define their boundary, physically mark it, and have the means to enforce allowing a determination of who will reside within and what will cross the boundary. Our nation is made up of immigrants and descendants, all humans in the eyes of what ever god you choose.
Our nation aspires to be welcoming in the words on the Statue of liberty "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." It is impossible to take in all those who desire to come to this country for permanent residence. In 2022, apart from legal immigration, U.S. border authorities encountered more than 2 million undocumented migrants (Forbes mag.). We set quota an annual limit 675,000 for legal immigrants.
The Mexican-American boundary of concrete and steel slats is not functioning adequately. Possibly a rapid response system for continuous observation of the entire 1,954-mile Mexican border using a buried coaxial cable is needed. Another idea could be a barrier consisting of bollards along the boundary; each containing motion sensors and CCTV cameras, siren, flood light, and a recorded message. This network could be connected to a continuous viewing and response station at each 9 CBP patrol sectors. A motion sensor interruption would automatically trigger an alarm at the viewing station; sending a view of the incident from the number identified bollard while setting off the siren, flood light, and recorded message something like "Warning you have been detected in the United States boundary area - for legal entrance go to (closest location). If you proceed further you will be apprehended, held for deportation, and not allowed to apply for legal entrance to the United States in the future."
We can do better: Raise Quota-Aging population, 43 states have less than 400 people per square mile. The 675,000 quota would add 5 per square mile.

David F. Queen
Red Hook

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- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

Hyde Park woman celebrates 100th birthday

By Kate Goldsmith

On Sept. 18, Kathleen Rappleyea O'Leary became one of Dutchess County's centenarians. She celebrated this impressive milestone with her family in Hyde Park.
Daughter Aileen Rohr (former Hyde Park Town Supervisor) said her mother "grew up on Marian Avenue in Poughkeepsie, the oldest daughter in the Rappleyea family. Her family goes back to the earliest settlers of New York."

Rappleyea O'Leary has lived in Hyde Park since the mid-1950s, Rohr said.
"Both she and my Dad taught in Staatsburg, prior to its incorporation in the Hyde Park Central School District," said the proud daughter. "She loves to read, still lives independently, and continues to be a most amazing person."
Rohr provided photos of her mother as a young woman and from her birthday party in September.
"She looks - and, is - pretty darn good; [she] still enjoys the world, is a good reader and a good debater," Rohr said. "How blessed my brothers and sister [and I] are to have her."

Kathleen Rappleyea O'Leary of Hyde Park, who recently turned 100, is pictured at top as a young woman and, right, in the present, attending her birthday party in September. Courtesy photos



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Veterans Day has special meaning to those who have served

Veterans Day is rapidly approaching and as we prepare, it brings to mind questions I hear from people wondering why there are so many patriotic holidays. They often say they understand July 4th – some will even call it Independence Day. Memorial Day they understand because, “Freedom isn’t Free,” but when it comes to Flag Day, Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day, etc., their interest starts to wane or there is at least some confusion as to what each holiday stands for. Don’t get me wrong: I know the American public genuinely supports our veterans and will generously give their time and money to promote causes that recognize and assist the veteran community.

To those who have served in the United States Military, however, each day of recognition has a special meaning. In fact, that’s exactly what the Veterans Day holiday is all about. Veterans Day honors all American troops who served honorably—whether they did so during wartime or peacetime. The holiday was created to honor the nearly 40 million men and women who have served in the military regardless of whether they have fought in battle or not.

That may seem like a large number, but the latest research from the Defense Manpower Center shows that only about 1.4 million people, or about 0.4 percent of the American population, are presently serving in the U.S. military, and only about 7 percent of all living Americans have ever served in the armed forces.

National Guard Military Historian and Engineer, Captain Sean Daily, who has served in many humanitarian missions and was once assigned to lead a platoon of 33 combat engineers into Afghanistan with the primary focus of sweeping roadways for improvised explosive devices

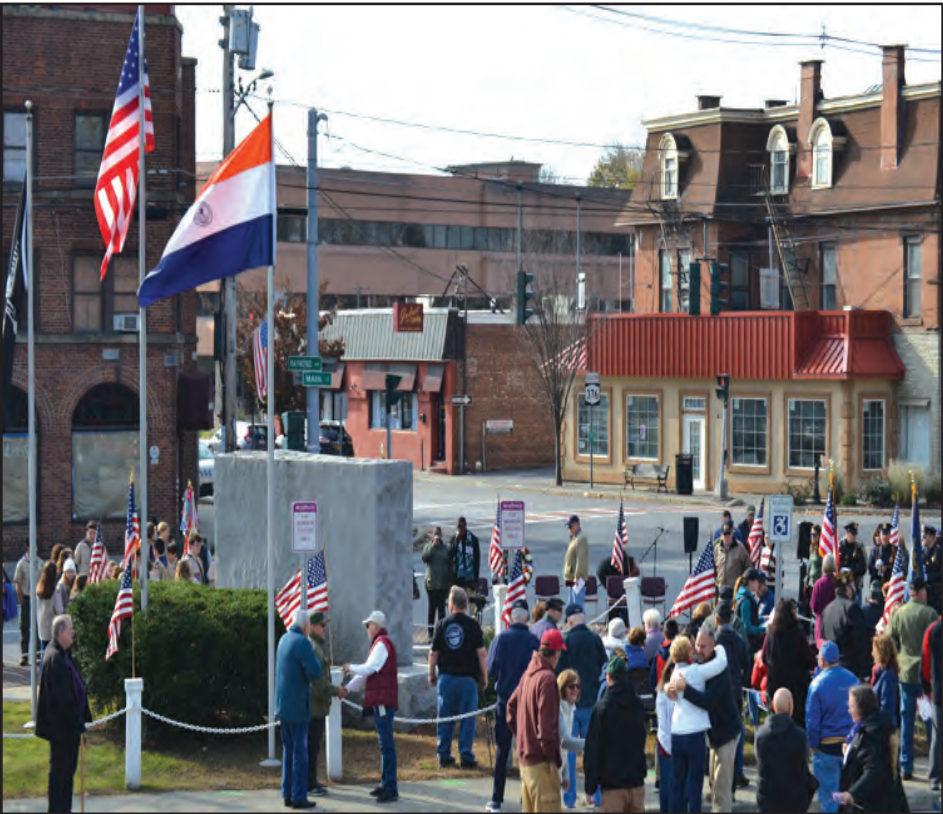
(IED’s), which have reportedly killed more American warriors than any other military action, summed it up this way:

“In my opinion, a Veteran is someone who has served our nation and represents the less than one percent of the population who have chosen to put on a uniform to serve and protect. It’s not just the front-line troops who are out there making it happen, it’s all the support troops behind them who also get the job done.”

This speaks to why every holiday is important to the veteran community. We are a relatively small group of people who choose to do our part to make sure the freedoms we have, which have been protected through great loss and struggle, are not ever taken away.

Just a little background for those who may be unaware: The peace agreement with Germany that officially ended World War I took place on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918. Hence, Veterans Day was first observed on November 11, 1919, the anniversary of the signing of the treaty that ended the war and was originally called Armistice Day. The name of the holiday was officially changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 by Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower to recognize and account for all veterans in all American wars.

Even over a half-century before the end of WWI, Pres. Abraham Lincoln, during his second inaugural address, called upon Americans “to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for the widow, and his orphan.” It’s a theme that has run through history, and I hope with the utmost humility, that we try to emulate this every day in our work at the Dutchess County Division of Veterans’ Services.



Each Veterans Day, Dutchess County holds a ceremony at the War Memorial in Poughkeepsie. Pictured is an event from a previous year. *Courtesy photo*

As Veterans Day approaches, I have listed some suggestions below that veteran’s groups identify as a way to thank those who have served.

- Write a personal note to a vet.
- Send a care package.
- Treat a veteran to a meal.
- Offer to help with household chores.
- Make a commitment to volunteer.
- Donate to a cause that supports veterans.
- Invite a veteran to speak at your child’s school.
- Support veteran-owned companies.
- Fly a Flag - Correctly.
- Ask Someone About Their Service.
- We are here to serve the veterans of

Dutchess County so, as I say every month, please contact us the Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services at (845) 486-2060 or visit www.dutchess-ny.gov/Veterans.

Finally, Dutchess County Executive and Army veteran, William F.X. O’Neil and I invite all residents to join us at the Dutchess County War Memorial, at the intersection of Main Street and Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie, on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. for the County’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony. We hope to you can attend this or one of the many Veterans Day ceremonies across the county as we honor our veterans. (See page 6 for list of local events.)

SNOW ORDINANCE IN VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK STARTS NOV. 15

The Rhinebeck Village Police would like to make the public aware that Village’s Snow Ordinance will take effect on Nov. 15. The ordinance prohibits overnight parking (which includes all vehicles, trailers, storage containers, dumpsters, etc.) on Rhinebeck Village streets between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 15, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Offenders will be issued a ticket.

Contact Village Clerk Martina McClinton at mmcclinton@villageofrhinebeckny.gov with questions or concerns.

HISTORIC MARKER RECOGNIZING AMERICAN REVOLUTION PATRIOTS BURIAL PLACE TO BE DEDICATED ON NOV. 12

Through collaboration with the William Pomeroy Foundation and the Sons of the American Revolution, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg in Rhinebeck has received distinction as the final resting place of veterans of the American Revolution. As such, a historic marker identifying the churchyard as a Patriot Burial site is being placed along Wurtemberg Road and will be unveiled and dedicated on November 12 at noon. The public is invited to the dedication and reception that follows.

The St. Paul’s Lutheran Church at Wurtemberg congregation dates to 1760 and the current church building was constructed in 1802. Extensive research through 18th and early 19th century primary records and archives verified the Revolutionary War veterans and their final resting places.

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2023 Veterans Day Community Observances

(Based on information provided by municipalities and community organizations.)
Listed by date, then alphabetically by municipality.

AMENIA/DOVER PLAINS
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Fountain Square, intersection of 343, 44 and 22, Amenia
Hosted by: VFW Post #5444 and Dover Plains
Point of Contact: Vicki Doyle @ 845-489-7826

BEACON
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Veteran’s Memorial Hall, 413 Main St., Beacon
Hosted by: VFW Post # 666
Point of Contact: Harold Delamater @ 845-337-6509

TOWN OF FISHKILL
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Town of Fishkill War Memorial, 801 Rte. 52
Hosted by: Town of Fishkill Veteran’s Committee
Point of Contact: Virgil Capollari @ 845-394-3115

VILLAGE OF FISHKILL
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Village Hall, 1095 Main St.
Hosted by: Village of Fishkill

Point of Contact: Pam Ruyack @ 845-897-4430
HOPEWELL JUNCTION
Wednesday, Nov. 8 @ 8:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: John Jay High School, 2012 Route 52
Hosted by: American Legion Post 1758

HOPEWELL JUNCTION
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 7:00 AM
Flag Display
Location: 799 Rte 82, Hopewell Junction
Hosted by: American Legion Post 1758
Point of Contact: Jim Reynolds @ 845-221-7273

HYDE PARK
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 10:45 AM
Ceremony
Location: Hyde Park Town Hall & Hyde Park War Memorial
Hosted by: American Legion Post # 1303
Point of Contact: Michael Athanas @ 845-233-5999

TOWN OF MILAN
Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Milan Town Hall
Hosted by: Milan Veterans’ Committee
Point of Contact: Supervisor @ 845-758-5133 Ext. 2

MILLBROOK



The county’s Veterans Day ceremony will take place at the Dutchess County War Memorial on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The Dutchess County War Memorial is located at John K. Rinaldi Memorial Park at the intersection of Raymond Avenue and Main Street in the Town of Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*

Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Veterans Green
Hosted by: Millbrook VFW Post # 9008
Point of Contact: Jeff Moseman @ (845) 505-4336

MILLERTON
Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Veterans Park, at the intersection of Main Street and Dutchess Ave
Hosted by: Millerton American Legion Post #178
Point of Contact: Sean M. Klay @ 518-929-3624

PINE PLAINS
Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: 9 North Main Street
Hosted by: AL Post #426 and VFW Post #5519
Point of Contact: Robert Clinch @ 518-821-7450

TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony & Laying of Wreath
Location: Dutchess County War Memorial, Raymond Ave & Main Street
Hosted by: Dutchess County Veterans’ Services
Point of Contact: Paige Walag @ 845-486-2060

RED HOOK
Saturday, Nov.11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Red Hook Veterans Memorial Park, North Broadway, Red Hook
Hosted by: VFW Post #7765
Point of Contact: William Moore @ 845-758-6212

RHINEBECK
Thursday, Nov. 9 @ 8:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Bulkeley Middle School
Hosted by: Bulkeley Middle School, 45 N. Park Road
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

RHINEBECK
Friday, Nov. 10 @ 9:30 AM
Color Guard
Location: Northern Dutchess Hospital
Hosted by: Northern Dutchess Hospital

Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

RHINEBECK
Friday, Nov. 10 @ 1:00 PM
Ceremony
Location: Baptist Home, 46 Brookmeade Drive
Hosted by: Baptist Home
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

RHINEBECK
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Rhinebeck Cemetery, corner of Route 9 South and Mill Road
Hosted by: Women’s Auxiliary & Montgomery American Legion Post #429
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

RHINEBECK
Sunday, Nov. 12 @ 12:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 371 Wurtemburg Road
Hosted by: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

VILLAGE OF TIVOLI
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Legion Post #524, 88 Broadway, Tivoli
Hosted by: Harris Smith American Legion Post #524
Point of Contact: Harold Ramsey @ 845-453-7403

TOWN OF WAPPINGER
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 1:00 PM
Ceremony
Location: Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger Falls
Hosted by: Town of Wappinger Recreation Department
Point of Contact: Jessica Fulton @ 845-297-3670

VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS
Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 11:00 AM
Ceremony
Location: Major Joseph McDonald MIA/POW Park, East Main St., Wappingers Falls
Hosted by: American Legion Post #427 & VFW Post #5913
Point of Contact: John M. Karge @ 845-489-5899

Cornell Cooperative Extension sets annual meeting on Nov. 16

The 110th annual meeting of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) will be held Thursday, Nov. 16, at 8 a.m., with a hot breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m., at the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center at 2715 Route 44 in Millbrook.

CCEDC will welcome new Executive Director, Mary Lou Carolan, who sill speak to the event message, “Impact of Extension.”

The public, community members, stakeholders and donors are welcome to review the success of CCEDC’s pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being throughout its service area. The extension also looks forward to organizations and businesses eager to collaborate and support these efforts in any way.

Eligible Dutchess County residents will be voting on the Program Advisory Committee and Board of Directors nominees and appointees, among other items. You will be asked to confirm your resi-

dential status as a part of the voting process. Details of this will be sent to meeting registrants.

This annual event will celebrate and recognize the association and individuals who continue to give their best to the mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. CCEDC is proud to be recognizing the efforts of SUNY Dutchess and Master Gardener Matt Shayly’s project; partnered with CCEDC and local food pantries of Dutchess Outreach and the Dutchess Community College Pantry to directly provide fresh produce through urban gardening projects during the 2023 growing season.

Personal impact stories from Tomasine Oliphant, MSW, SUNY Dutchess Human Services Program, FCE PAC Member, and former CCEDC Board Member and CCEDC Green Teen Program Manager, Samantha Brittan are also part of this event.To register or for additional information, visit ccedutchess.org or call (845) 677-8223.

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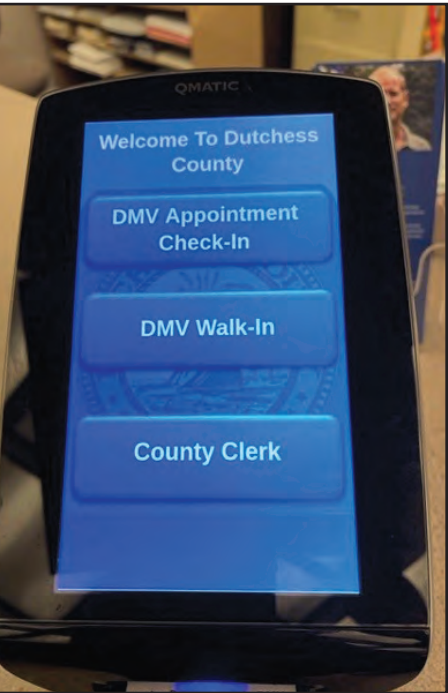
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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

County Clerk’s office announces upgrades to appointment system in Dutchess’ DMV



Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall recently announced upgrades to the DMV Appointment systems for satellite offices in Beacon and Millbrook will be complete by Dec. 1. The system also allows for walk-in transactions but prioritizes those customers who have made appointments. *Courtesy photos*

we’re on the web!
www.sdutchessnews.com

Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall announced upgrades to the DMV Appointment systems for satellite offices in Beacon and Millbrook will be complete by December 1, 2023. In late 2022, Clerk Kendall installed the Q-Matic appointment system in Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls DMV offices. These systems fully integrate appointments made online at www.dutchessny.gov/countyclerk or www.dutchessny.gov/dmv. The system also allows for walk-in transactions but prioritizes those customers who have made appointments. The expansion of the Q-Matic system to Millbrook and Beacon will provide a seamless experience to all our customers

in Dutchess County. “The introduction of the Q-Matic queueing system has significantly decreased wait times at Dutchess County DMV locations and improved the customer experience. We look forward to providing this same experience at all our locations,” said Kendall. Customers with existing appointments at Beacon and Millbrook will be automatically transferred to the new appointment system when it is operational. All CDL, Car and Motorcycle permits require appointments. Walk-in customers will be accommodated but appointments are strongly recommended.

SEND US YOUR NEWS:
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Barrett, Heastie announce \$3M in funding for affordable housing

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Columbia/Dutchess) and New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie announced \$3 million in funding to support the construction of affordable housing in Columbia and Dutchess counties. \$1.5 million in funding was allocated to Columbia County Habitat for Humanity to create more affordable homes for first-time homeowner; and the other \$1.5 million was allocated to Dutchess County-based Hudson River Housing for the development of affordable rental units. Both of these organizations have committed to investing significant funds for affordable housing – ownership and rental – in the City of Hudson, which continues to face a profound housing crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. “I want to thank Speaker Heastie for his generous support of my district and for recognizing the particular obstacles we face in the rural Hudson Valley region that make the development of new affordable housing challenging, including the smaller scale of our communities, local zoning restrictions, inadequate water and sewer infrastructure, workforce shortages and the rising cost of construction,” said Barrett. “We all know that housing is a statewide crisis and we tried in the last budget to start to address this. But it is clear to me that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.” “The Assembly Majority remains committed to supporting our local com-

munities in making housing fair and equitable for all,” said Heastie. “This funding will ensure our rural communities are not left on the sidelines on our mission to make housing affordable for New Yorkers all across the state.” “Hudson River Housing is deeply honored and grateful to receive this monumental award from Assemblymember Didi Barrett. We recognize this award as a significant milestone for our organization that will further propel us in our mission and commitment to create the housing opportunities that our communities so desperately need and deserve. It stands as a testament to our remarkable staff and the valued partners we have at Hudson River Housing,” said Hudson River Housing Executive Director Christa Hines. “Most importantly, it is a responsibility that we are privileged to take on with the utmost dedication and vigilance.” “We are profoundly grateful to the Speaker and Assemblymember Barrett for their continued support. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary and our new plan to build more homes more often, these funds will enable us to accelerate our program and serve more average wage and lower income families in our community,” said Columbia County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Al Bellenchia. “We are truly building the future together. One that’s affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient.”

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O'Neil releases 2024 Executive Budget Plan

Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil has released his 2024 Executive Budget plan, cutting the County's property tax rate by 10.6 percent while maintaining and enhancing the County's high-quality services and programs.

The balanced spending plan, which reduces the property tax levy for the 10th consecutive year, includes \$599.9 million in appropriations to deliver the multitude of County programs and services residents rely on. Among the highlights of the 2024 Executive plan are resources to enhance public safety and emergency response, address homelessness, mental health and addiction, and create affordable housing, while augmenting long-standing support of children, families, older adults and veterans.

The Executive Budget plan reduces the County property tax levy to \$99.4 million, the lowest levy in 15 years. The lower property tax levy, combined with Dutchess County's growing tax base, reduces the property tax rate from \$2.49 to \$2.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This will be the 11th consecutive year that property owners will see a reduction in the County tax rate on their tax bill.

O'Neil said, "For years, Dutchess County has compiled a proven track record of fiscal responsibility and conser-

vative fiscal stewardship. Many factors outside of our control are driving up costs for 2024, including national inflation and Albany's reckless spending and continued cost shifting. This budget plan attempts to cushion these impacts and continues Dutchess County's careful watch of each tax dollar collected while investing in the areas our community has prioritized. We remain vigilant in serving our residents in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, while providing exemplary service and property tax relief for our residents."

To ensure recurring revenue is available to fund critical programs and services, the 2024 Executive Budget calls for the County sales tax rate to increase from 3.75 percent to 4 percent, effective June 2024 with County and State legislative approval. Dutchess is currently one of just six counties in the state with a sales tax rate under 4 percent. With County and State legislative approval, this change will generate an additional \$8.3 million in County sales tax revenue in 2024 and annually \$17.1 million.

The sales tax rate adjustment will also provide added support to local municipalities, as Dutchess County shares its sales tax revenue with municipalities. Additional revenue to local municipalities is forecasted to be \$1.7 million in

2024, then nearly \$3 million annually.

Sales tax revenue is also generated through Dutchess County's tourism industry, with 18 percent of sales tax revenue coming from visitors. Dutchess Tourism recently reported visitor spending reached record levels in 2022, with \$706 million generated through travel-related expenses from lodging, food, beverages, transportation and retail.

Capitalizing on the strong visitor interest, the Executive Budget increases the County's hotel tax from 4 percent to 5 percent, a move estimated to bring \$4.8 million in revenue in 2024.

Dutchess County will continue its exemption on clothing and footwear items under \$110 in its 2024 budget, remaining one of the few counties to ensure these needed items are tax-free for families.

Fund balance and reserve fund appropriations total \$20 million in 2024, keeping Dutchess County's fund balance well within the County's policy of maintaining one to two months of general fund operating expenditures in unrestricted general fund balance.

Among a few of the highlights of the 2024 Executive Budget:

- Enhanced public safety with the addition of two new Deputy Sheriffs specially trained as Community Resource

Officers to enhance safety and policing services in the City of Poughkeepsie; continued funding for the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, continued trainings for law enforcement officers, including implicit bias and crisis intervention; as well as a full year of the ECHO mental health program supporting the well-being of law enforcement officers.

- The new Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center, operational in 2024, will generate significant savings while expanding the County's innovative programming to reduce recidivism. The 2024 budget plan reflects more than \$1.8 million in overtime savings and \$5.5 million gained by staffing efficiencies and policies adopted by Sheriff Kirk Imperati.

- Addressing homelessness with a multi-faceted plan that includes eight new positions, including Shelter Director, case managers and program specialists to provide necessary wrap-around services as the County works toward establishing a permanent Emergency Housing Facility for single individuals.

Funding is also included for an additional Housing Navigator position through Hudson River Housing (HRH) to help residents facing housing instability as well as funding for a vehicle to enhance HRH's street outreach to homeless individuals.

Red Cross: Donation appointments critical in coming weeks

The American Red Cross, Eastern New York Region, urges blood and platelet donors to make and keep donation appointments now to help hospitals restock blood products for patients ahead of the holiday season. Donors of all blood types are needed, especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets to help recover from a significant shortfall in donations throughout late summer and fall.

Patients are counting on lifesaving care now and all season long. Those

ready to help can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the film "Elf" and create holiday cheer, all who come to give Nov. 10-30 will receive an exclusive pair of Elf + Red Cross socks, while supplies last. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Elf for details.

A blood donor card or driver's license

or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red

Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, contact Volunteer Services at joinen@redcross.org or (518) 387-9441 or visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

VFW AUXILIARY 7765

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VETERAN'S DAY

Pancake Breakfast

Adults \$15

Kids under 10 \$10

Hosted by VFW Auxiliary 7765

Sunday Nov 12

8:30-11:30

There will be Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, home fries, biscuits with sausage gravy, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice. Mimosas and Bloody Mary's at the bar!!!

Coloring books for the kids!!!!

Hinchey delivers grant to PV Fire District for utility terrain vehicle

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey recently announced that she has secured a \$50,000 state grant to allow the Pleasant Valley Fire District (PVFD) to purchase a utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The new land rescue vehicle will allow members of the PVFD to fight fires and conduct rescues in wooded areas, on farmlands, and on trails inaccessible to firetrucks, including the 917-acre Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area — one of the largest state forests in Dutchess County.

Hinchey has secured more than \$1 million in grant funding for Senate District 41 firehouses in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, and Ulster counties this year alone.

Hinchey visited the Pleasant Valley Fire District on Oct. 25 alongside PVFD Board Chairman Jim Albrecht, District Chief Mike Cosenza, 1st Assistant Chief Ray Broas, 2nd Assistant Chief John Cronk, Commissioner Bill Geerlings, UTV Committee Bob McRitchie, UTV Committee Wayne Gruntler, UTV Committee John Hopper, ESS Captain Trevor Simoni Career Firefighter and Training Officer, Tom Murph, and Director of Purchasing John Harmuth.

“The brave members of the Pleasant Valley Fire District navigate challenging terrain to rescue people in our remote rural areas, sometimes forced to cover long distances on foot – and at great personal risk to themselves – due to the lack of essential equipment, such as a UTV,”

said Hinchey. “I was incredibly proud to deliver a \$50,000 state grant to ensure the Pleasant Valley Fire District could add a UTV to its arsenal of emergency response equipment, which will directly lead to shorter response times, making us all safer. It’s a privilege to support the people who put their lives on the line each day to protect ours, and I’m glad to deliver this funding for the Pleasant Valley Fire District.”

James Albrecht, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Pleasant Valley Fire District, said, “Funds for substantial rescue equipment are limited, underscoring the vital importance of grants like the one sponsored by New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey. The Pleasant Valley Fire District (PVFD) has, in the past, faced challenges, resorting to walking for rescues in remote terrains due to the limitations of 4x4 vehicles, resulting in response time delays. With a growing number of emergency calls involving injured hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders in remote areas, the need for a UTV to expedite access in these situations and enhance our wildland firefighting capabilities became urgent. PVFD is profoundly grateful for Senator Hinchey’s support, as it fulfills this critical need for a UTV that other funding sources, including FEMA, couldn’t entirely cover.”

The grant funding was secured by Hinchey through the State and Municipal



Sen. Michelle Hinchey with PVFD Board Chairman Jim Albrecht, District Chief Mike Cosenza, 1st Assistant Chief Ray Broas, 2nd Assistant Chief John Cronk, Commissioner Bill Geerlings, UTV Committee Bob McRitchie, UTV Committee Wayne Gruntler, UTV Committee John Hopper, ESS Captain Trevor Simoni Career Firefighter and Training Officer, Tom Murph, and Director of Purchasing John Harmuth. *Courtesy photo*

Facilities Capital (SAM) grant program administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to support community and economic development.

Hinchey is also responsible for securing \$25 million in the FY’24 State Budget to create the first-ever Volunteer Fire Services Capital Fund – a resource to

help New York’s volunteer departments pay for needed equipment and building upgrades, which will launch later this fall. Hinchey also championed \$750,000 in the FY’24 budget to support the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, which will aid professional fire departments.

17TH ANNUAL ATHENA AWARD HONOREES ANNOUNCED

The Chamber Foundation, Inc.—the leadership and community advancement organization of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce— has announced this year’s honorees for the ATHENA Award. Bestowed annually, the ATHENA Award is given to a member of the community who best embodies the ATHENA Leadership Model. The Model is unique in that it focuses on personal traits of strong, successful leaders. It captures the spirit and collaborative leadership style often exemplified in women leaders, while also recognizing the importance of traits such as courageous acts and fierce advocacy in the pursuit of excellence.

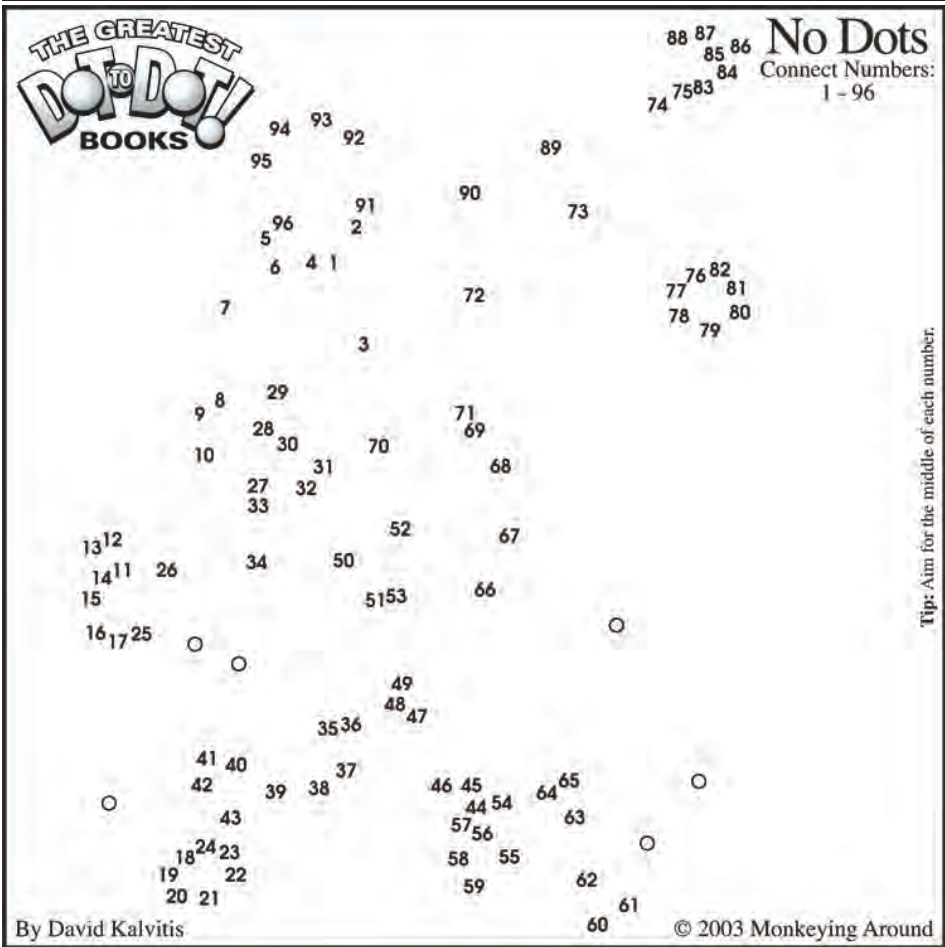
The 2023 ATHENA honorees are: Maria Boonie, of IBM Corporation, Jill Brodsky, MD, MBA of Optum, Jo Ann Brown of NAMI Mid-Hudson, Inc., Anne Constantinople, PhD, of Vassar College, Leah Feldman of Family Services, Inc., Dr. Faezeh Gholi of IBM Corporation, Rachel Johnson of The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Christie VanHorne, M.Ed, MPH of CVH Consulting LLC and Nicole Wong, LMSW of Teamer Counseling.

The ATHENA Award recognizes those, regardless of gender, who strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment by excelling in their chosen profession, devoting time and energy to their community in meaningful ways, and actively guiding or mentoring women to become great leaders.

This year, the award recipients will be recognized at a ceremony which will be held on November 29 at Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Visit the Chamber’s website for further event information at drcroc.org.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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The Anti-Bucket List

Sue Adams submits her “to-don’t” list.

“I want to have an adventure every month this year,” our friend Sarah announced at her 40th birthday party. I want to do something exciting.”

“I can tell you what not to do,” Sue blurted out:

- “Don’t go on a six-hour camel ride.” Mark and I stayed in Egypt a few days after our tour ended to finally do something exciting. Mark set up a guided journey from the step pyramid in Saqqara, to the great pyramid in Giza, 20 miles to the north. On camels! It must take some getting used to, because I found out later that first timers should limit their ride to 30 minutes.
- Ouch! Nowadays, Egyptians get around on dune buggies!
- “Don’t climb the Villarica Volcano.” After a luxurious (yes!) overnight bus ride from Santiago, we arrived in Pucón, the “adventure capital of Chile.” Uh, oh. People were walking around in crampons, wearing gas masks. Then I looked up. A 9,000 foot active volcano loomed overhead. Of course Mark signed up for a guided trek. The guide handed each of us an ice ax, which we were supposed to expertly stab into the ice wall if we started to slip. “I lived to tell the tale,” I told Sarah.
- “Don’t look for vampire bats.” In Guanacaste, the dry northwest region of Costa Rica, vampire bats sleep in deep caverns. That’s enough to get Mark excited. So off we went to climb down a 200-foot skinny chain ladder – the kind you keep in your bedroom as an emergency fire escape – into a cave full of vampire bats. I got so panicked that I took off my hard hat and threw it down into the hole. Unfortunately it hit the guide who started shaking the ladder. Mark had to tackle him. When we eventually got to the bats, they were asleep and looked just like any other bats.
- “Don’t go to Tegucigalpa.” When the first words in the Lonely Planet guidebook say, “If you have the bad luck to be stuck overnight in this city...” It started when the plane landed and the passengers burst into frenzied applause. Turns out the capital of Honduras has the shortest airport runway in the world. And the customs agent takes a three-hour lunch break. And there’s no hot water. And strange men follow you round. You get the picture.
- “Don’t go to Sidney on New Year’s Eve without a hotel reservation.” We rarely make reservations. That adds to our sense of adventure. But Sydney is world famous for its New Year’s Eve fireworks (mainly because they take place at 8 a.m. New York time, so they’re shown on T.V. All day). I didn’t figure how many hills there are that we had to drag our luggage up and down. We finally ended up staying in a hostel that turned out to be very nice, except that we had to check out of our room every morning and

hope somebody would cancel for the following night (they always did). It’s a lot of fun to watch hotel clerks laugh hysterically when you ask if they have an available room. In Bermuda we got arrested for not having a hotel reservation, but that’s a different story.

- “Don’t go to Antarctica.” It’s the ultimate bucket list destination, but Antarctica is also the most boring place in the world. You get there on a boring cruise ship, with no swimming pool and a hokey floor show with the crew dancing around in grass skirts. Icebergs and penguins (they all look alike). The only excitement happened when a skua bird robbed a baby penguin from its nest and dropped the bloody carcass into the middle of a gaggle of tourists. Go to Alaska instead.
- “Don’t take a zip line ride in Dubai.” I love zip lines, but this one is terrifying. Instead of lovely trees and wildflowers, you’re flying over the city, around towering skyscrapers and only inches above the bustling traffic. A warning sign said not to get on if you are scared of heights, but they forgot to ask me.
- “Don’t walk down Nigeria Street in Addis Ababa.” Wherever we go, people advise us not to walk somewhere in their city. Naturally Mark immediately heads to that spot. On Nigeria Street in Ethiopia, three guys grabbed Mark and went for his wallet. Were they ever surprised when I clobbered one of them in the head, and they all went running.
- “So, Sarah, aside from these few adventures, create your own and have a great 40th year. I lived through mine.”

Sue Adams is Vice-president of Mark Adams Greenhouses and author of “What Do Your Flowers Say Today?”



Among the adventures Sue Adams does NOT recommend are venturing into Vampire Bat cave in Costa Rica (photo credited to their patient guide); and taking a six-hour camel ride in Egypt. *Courtesy photo*



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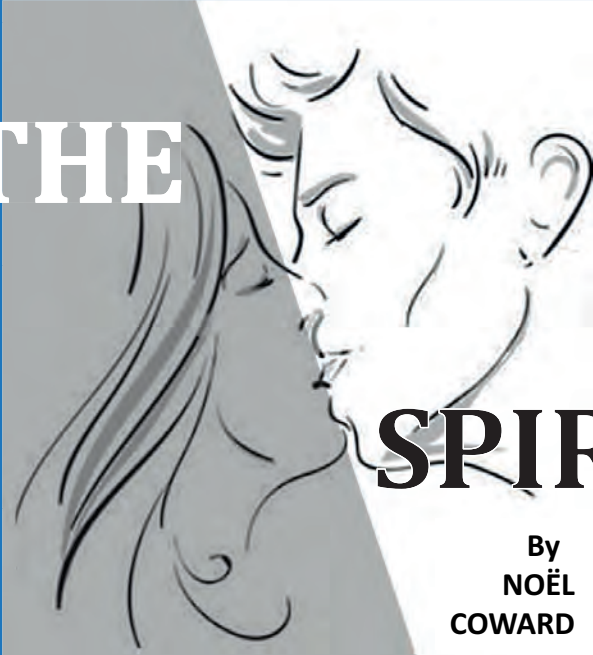
Nov 17th, 18th 7:30pm

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ACROSS

1. Sylvester Stallone's "____ King"
6. And so forth, abbr.
9. Mongolian desert
13. Uniate church member
14. Additionally
15. Modified "will"
16. Heart surgery prop
17. Remains container
18. Follow
19. *Thor Heyerdahl's raft
21. *Jackie Robinson's new team, 1947
23. *Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., born in 1942
24. Animal prod
25. Give a nickname
28. Dwarf buffalo
30. Edible corn part
35. Functions
37. *____ Strip on Mediterranean Sea, 1948
39. Roman goddess, patroness of hunters
40. *Moscow ____ cocktail, created in 1940s
41. Beach souvenir
43. Inspiring horror
44. Not long
46. Home to Bryce Canyon
47. Smoothie bowl flavor
48. Become available (2 words)
50. Links hazard
52. Mozart's "L'____ del Cairo"
53. Back of the neck
55. Transgression
57. *Carmen of "The Gang's All Here"
61. *United ____, established 1945
65. Popeye's sweetie
66. *The BAA and NBL merged, forming this ball org., 1949
68. Battle royal
69. Denigrating statement
70. What divots and divas have in common
71. Audience's approval
72. Lad's counterpart
73. Number on a birthday cake
74. Not o'er

DOWN

1. Poacher's trophy
2. "Do ____ others..."
3. Bank claim
4. *1947's "Here Comes ____ Claus"
5. King of the Huns
6. Purse for the red carpet
7. High craggy hill
8. Type of dwelling
9. "The ____ Show" (1976-1980)
10. Yorkshire river
11. Hangover memory?
12. 15th of March
15. Tied the knot
20. *Leopold III of Belgium and Christian X of Denmark, e.g.
22. Acorn producer
24. Common newspaper name
25. **"When I See an Elephant Fly" elephant, 1941
26. Steal a throne
27. Misrepresent
29. *Pearl Harbor location
31. Capital of Latvia
32. Narcotics agent
33. *Considered first general-purpose computer, acr.
34. a.k.a. vampire
36. Espied
38. a.k.a. Daminozide
42. ____ Apso
45. Tornado visual
49. Helicopter landing
51. Coal miners
54. Bear of bamboo forest
56. Brother's daughter
57. Gangster's gal
58. Hip bones
59. Barbecued anatomy
60. Birds
61. Part of cathedral
62. Cantina cooker
63. Sans mixers
64. Comedian Meyers
67. **"The ____ Sleep," 1946

	2				
		3			
				5	
1					
	4				
					3

- 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.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
34													
35			36		37			38		39			
40						41			42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63
64													
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D, metallic-looking "\$25" is displayed. Above it, a speech bubble contains the text "SWITCH & GET". To the right, a black speech bubble contains the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, the "Consumer Cellular" logo is shown in a white speech bubble. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913". A small copyright notice is at the very bottom: "© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913".

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

A&E Calendar

arts and entertainment happenings

Through Nov. 18: “The Humans,” County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. County Players presents the Tony Award-winning comedy by Stephen Karam. Directed by Andrew Karl. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 12, 2 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 18, 2 p.m. Tickets at www.countyplayers.org

Through Nov. 19: The Big Read, various locations. This year’s selection is “The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel James Brown, the true story of the rowing crew that represented the United States at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, under the dual historical contexts of the Great Depression and the rise of Nazism. Schools across the region will study the Big Read through author visits. Younger readers can join the Big Read with “The Boys in the Boat: Young Readers’ Adaptation” by Gregory Mone and “River” by Elisha Cooper, both available at partici-

pating libraries. Copies of the book will be available in local school districts. For a complete schedule of events, call (845) 485-3445, ext. 3707, or visit <https://poklib.org/big-read/>.

Nov. 9: “Sunset Sensations” Wine and Food Tasting, Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$35/person; tickets at www.lgny.org/calendar. (845) 454-4500

Nov. 9-11: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Nov. 9: Robin & Linda Williams, 7 p.m. No Depression magazine praises Robin and Linda Williams for creating “music that is both comfortable and thoughtful – a rare combination that explains why and how the Williamses are able to keep on an even keel while musical trends come and go. They don’t play at being country – they are country.” Tickets \$25 advance / \$30 door. Nov. 10: Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan &

Bruce Foley of Cherish the Ladies, 8 p.m. Enjoy an intimate evening of Celtic music with three members of the world-renowned Cherish the Ladies! Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Nov. 11: A Blues Blowout Anniversary featuring The Billy Price Band and Kevin Burt, 8 p.m. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser go toward Blues in the Schools Programming and helping to defray travel expenses for the HVBS Blues Challenge winners headed to Memphis in January 2024. Tickets: \$50 advance, \$55 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Nov. 10-12 & 17-19: “Blithe Spirit,” Copake Grange Theater, 628 Empire Road, Copake. The Two Of Us Productions presents Noël Coward’s comedic thriller. Socialite and novelist Charles Condomine invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant Madame Arcati to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. Charles’ scheme backfires when the séance inadvertently attracts the ghost of his deceased wife Elvira. Only Charles can see or hear Elvira; his new wife, Ruth, does not believe that she exists. The ghostly Elvira makes continued and increasingly desperate efforts to disrupt Charles’ current marriage, finally deciding to kill Charles in order to make him hers forever. Elvira’s plot backfires in a quite unexpected way, leading Charles and Madame Arcati to try again and again to return Elvira to her “eternal rest.” Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors. www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org or (518) 758-1648.

Nov. 11-12: Tangent Theatre Play Reading, Village Hall, 3rd Floor, 86

Broadway, Tivoli. Tangent Theatre Company presents a reading of Sam Shepard’s “True West,” with the two main characters switching roles on nights 1 & 2. 6 p.m. reading; doors open at 5 p.m. Free; RSVP required. info@tangent-arts.org

Nov. 12: Howland Chamber Music Circle, The Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. Violinist Arnaud Sussmann and pianist Michael Stephen Brown will present their program, Jewish Voices, 4 p.m. The five works in this repertoire were composed by Jews who either perished in or fled from the Holocaust. This program pays homage to and was inspired by Sussmann’s grandfather, who survived the Holocaust. Tickets and more info at www.howlandmusic.org

Nov. 12: Just Jim Dale, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308 Rhinebeck. Experience a night of unique storytelling with one of America’s greatest raconteurs, Jim Dale, 8 p.m. This fundraiser for The CENTER, a 75-minute one-man performance followed by a 15-minute Q&A, features true stories from Dale’s 80-year career, spanning from his early days in British Music Hall to narrating all seven Harry Potter books and everything in between. Tickets \$27. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Nov. 15: Author Event with Marty Baron, Merritt Bookstore, 57 Front St., Millbrook. Book signing and conversation with Marty Baron about his new book, “Collision of Power: Trump, Bezos, and The Washington Post,” a riveting inside account of a momentous time for journalism and democracy, 6 p.m. RSVP required. (845) 677-5857 or www.merrittbooks.com

EXHIBITIONS

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 29:** Three new art exhibitions in their Visual Art Galleries. Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is painter Arlene Seymour; and at 12 Vassar St. is photographer Lijah Friedman in the Reception Gallery and painter Rachel Williams in the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Jan. 28, 2024:** “Silver Linings: Celebrating the Spelman Art Collection,” the inaugural show in a five-stop, nationwide tour, made possible through the Art Bridges Foundation. Through the work of nearly 40 artists, Silver Linings uplifts the legacy of artists of African descent spanning the 20th Century through the contemporary moment, many of whom have been overlooked by mainstream art museums. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through Dec. 2024:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, “Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962” centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and who pushed for progress. Within this context, the exhibit examines the political evolution of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt regarding racial justice. www.fdrlibrary.org

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through Nov. 26:** “Sound of Ocean,” paintings by Tatiana Rhinevault. Art purchases and donations for the library are welcome. (845) 876-2903

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through Nov. 17:** “Teen Visions,” works by students in The Art Effect’s 2023 summer programs. <https://thearteffect.org/>

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Nov. 12:** “Surrealism, Fantasy & Abstraction,” the artist’s creative imagination reigns supreme in this highly anticipated event. Surrealism, Fantasy & Abstraction overlap in this exciting exhibit exploring the artist’s play with reality and the subconscious. (845) 757-2667 or <https://tivoliartistsgallery.com/>

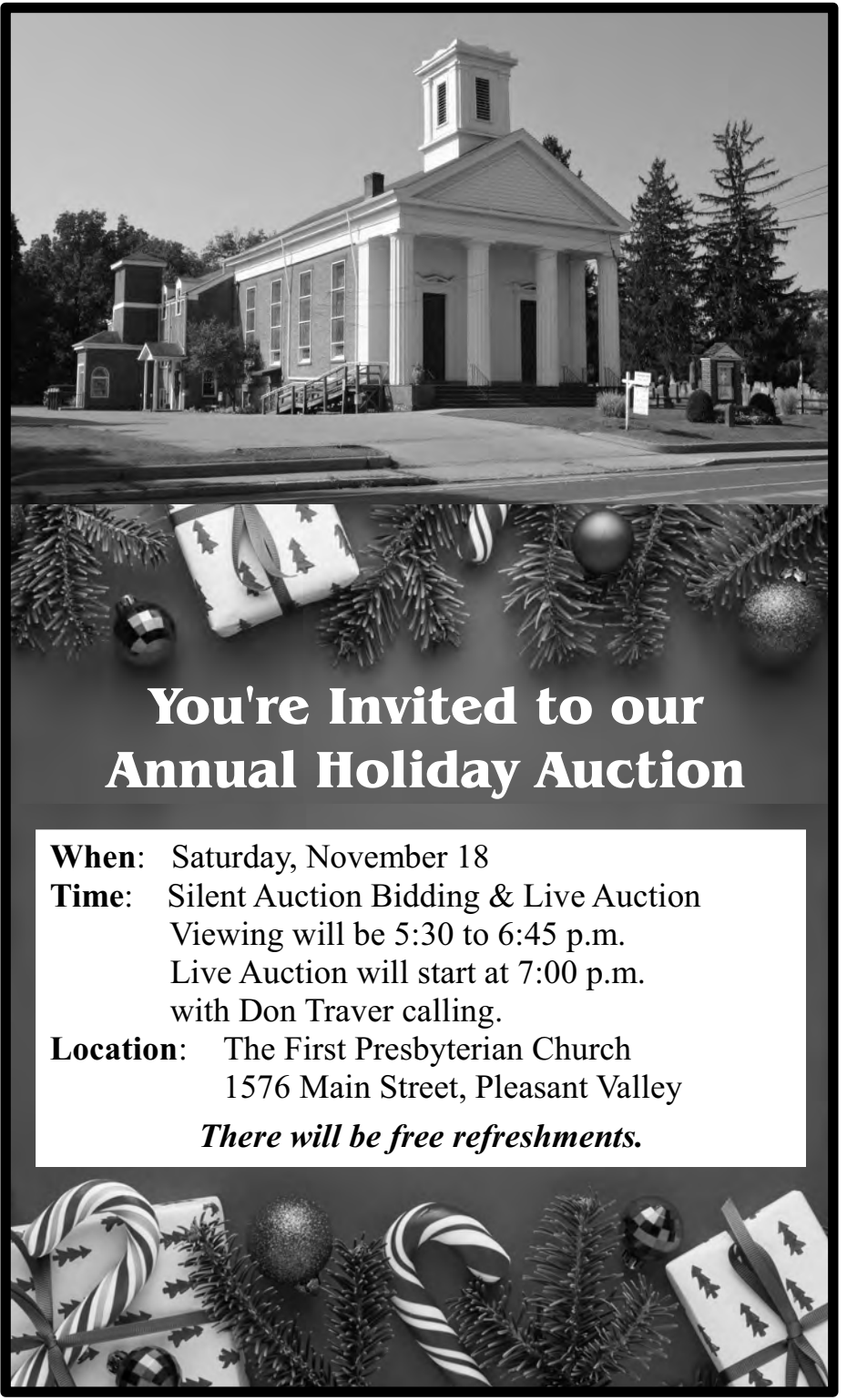
WomensWork.art, 4 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Nov. 18:** “Divina Diosa.” www.womenswork.art



Why should I get vaccinated?
Protecting yourself also helps protect the people around you.

[GetVaccineAnswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org)

ad COUNCIL



You're Invited to our Annual Holiday Auction

When: Saturday, November 18
Time: Silent Auction Bidding & Live Auction
Viewing will be 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
Live Auction will start at 7:00 p.m. with Don Traver calling.
Location: The First Presbyterian Church
1576 Main Street, Pleasant Valley
There will be free refreshments.

November schedule advisory: The Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd (Thanksgiving Day). OFA offices will be open on Friday, November 24th but OFA Friendship Centers will be closed on the 24th.

IS YOUR HOME AGING-READY?

Study upon study has found that older adults want to live for as long as they can in their own homes and communities. That’s the Office for the Aging’s goal as well, but with a word of caution. Senior-friendly housing construction has not kept pace with the unprecedented growth in households whose members are 65 and older, especially in New York State where housing stock is the nation’s oldest.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, the median age of an owner-occupied home in New York is 62 years; in other words, built in 1961. Homes in urban areas and villages tend to be even older. Older homes are less energy-efficient than new construction, and most will require remodeling and renovation to be truly aging-ready.

Here’s an experiment you can try in your current home: Imagine you’re in a wheelchair. Any stairway becomes a no-go zone. As for what remains, could you maneuver the wheelchair through doorways and down halls, and into a bathroom? If you’re in a typical early-60s raised ranch, probably not. If you rent rather than own a home, you may not be able to control home modifications for accessibility.

At its simplest, the Census Bureau defines aging-ready as a home with a step-free entryway, and a bedroom and bathroom on the entry level. As of 2019, that description applied to only 40% of all homes in the country, and fewer in areas with older homes – like Dutchess.

WE NEED MORE SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

It’s one thing for an older homeowner to conclude that making their home aging-ready is beyond their skills and budget, and another thing entirely to locate a more suitable, affordable home in Dutchess County. This leaves them with no option other than aging-in-place, often in a home where maintenance of major systems like roofs, furnaces, plumbing, electrical and more has been put off.

If this sounds like your situation, there are a variety of options available. The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development offers qualifying homeowners age 62 and older a Senior Citizen Owner-Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program, for properties that contain one or more substandard conditions that do not meet federal, state or local health, safety and fire codes. The program applies in any municipality in Dutchess other than the City of Poughkeepsie, which operates a similar program. For guidelines and

applications, call 845-486-3637 or email communitygrants@dutchessny.gov. For information on the City’s program, call the City Development Department at 845-451-4007.

Additionally, both Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County (habitat-dutchess.org; 845-297-0806) and Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org; 845-454-7310) offer aging-in-place improvement programs.

Whether you’re aging in place or thinking about finding a new place as you age, the Office for the Aging can help connect you with senior housing resources. Call 845-486-2555 during business hours to get started, or email ofa@dutchessny.gov. Given the high demand for affordable housing for older adults, you may want to start your search sooner rather than later and get to know us before you need us.

FOR DUTCHESS SENIORS, SOME GET-UP-AND-GOGO

Imagine that your 88-year-old mom in Beacon has been glad to adapt to the world of mobile technology, but she finds ride-sharing apps to be less than user-friendly. Or your 77-year-old dad in Red Hook has heard of Uber and Lyft and is interested but prefers his old reliable landline to a smartphone. They’ve got appointments to get to but can’t always do it on their own.

The scenarios described above might also be your own situation. The Office for the Aging is connecting Dutchess County’s older adults with the non-emergency medical transportation they need, with help from “GoGoGrandparent,” (www.gogograndparent.com), a startup on-demand ride-sharing service that’s been expanding nationwide, including in Dutchess County. The service is aimed at Dutchess County seniors who are not eligible for transportation via Medicaid.

During the pilot phase of this program, OFA and GoGo are providing a limited number of free non-emergency medical trips for Dutchess County seniors, wherever local Uber and Lyft drivers are available. To register for GoGo, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

NEW SCAM: THE FAKE HEALTH INSURANCE CALL

How it works: you get a message about a request for insurance information, from a caller claiming to be a local health care provider. You don’t remember using this provider, so why are they calling? Because they’re looking for your Medicare ID and/or insurance ID. With your info, they can file fraudulent insurance claims. They’re hoping you’ll call back with the information without first checking to see if they’re a legitimate caller.

Criminals use stolen or fraudulently obtained credentials to pose as health care providers. They then use your information to file the fake claims.

UPCOMING ‘FRIENDLY CALLS’ VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

There’s no time like the present to join the Office for the Aging’s ‘Friendly Calls’ program as a volunteer caller. You’ll brighten the day of an older adult right here in Dutchess County, and help keep them socially connected during a time of year when staying in touch is more important than ever. It’s easy to volunteer. All it takes is 20 to 30 minutes of your time, once a week. Make an appointment for a Friendly Calls orientation session at OFA, and we can answer your questions and get you connected with an older Dutchess County resident who’s participating in the program. You can make weekly calls to your older friend from anywhere - your own home, your job during a break, or even from vacation. We have Friendly Calls orientations available on Wednesday, November 8th, 12 noon; and Thursday, November 9th, 1:30 pm. Space at orientations is limited. To make an appointment, email bjones@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555. If you are unable to come to Poughkeepsie for an orientation, contact OFA and we’ll work with your schedule as best we can.

OFA also offers onsite orientations for Dutchess County workplaces with group volunteering programs. Contact OFA to find out more!

FRANK SINATRA’S ‘FRIENDLY CALLS’ STORY

We’ve seen a story bouncing around social media recently that meshes nicely with OFA’s “Friendly Calls” program and have traced it back to the autobiography of Frank Sinatra’s fourth and last wife, Barbara Sinatra (1927-2017). In her autobiography “Lady Blue Eyes: My Life with Frank” is the following story:

Barbara Sinatra: “We were at a dinner party one night with Bennett Cerf and Betty Bacall when Frank wandered into a guest room to collect a pack of cigarettes from his overcoat. There he found the producer Arthur Hornblow finishing up a telephone call to a woman. ‘I hope she’s pretty,’ Frank said softly. Arthur replied that she was; it was his mother, Susie, who was in poor health in Florida but still excited about the latest Yankee scores.

‘What I wouldn’t give for one more telephone call with my mom,’ Frank told him wistfully.

“At his suggestion, they called Arthur’s mother back and put Frank on the line. ‘Is this really Frank Sinatra?’ she asked. ‘You sound too much like him not to be. I love your voice.’

‘Well, I love your voice too, Susie,’ Frank said. ‘Tell you what—I’m going to call you every Saturday night at six o’clock, and we’ll chew over the Yankees’ performance, okay?’ He kept his promise and never missed a Saturday evening call to Susie Hornblow until the day she died. For good measure, he sent flowers to her on Mother’s Day and to other widowed mothers in the same hospital.

“Frank added her name to his list of lonely women he’d call on a regular basis. They included a relative of Freeman Gosden’s and several single mothers. Few believed them when they claimed that Ol’ Blue Eyes was a frequent caller, but they knew the truth and that was all that mattered.”

What would Frank do? Sign up to volunteer for OFA Friendly Calls, that’s what he’d do. Ring-a-ding-ding OFA for details.

OFA SENIOR LEGAL CLASS IN EAST FISHKILL (Wed 11/15)

When’s the right time for a senior and their family and caregivers to plan for the legal issues that could face them in later life? Any time is good, and the sooner the better. You can start on Wednesday, November 15th, at OFA’s “Senior Legal Class” event, at the East Fishkill OFA Friendship Center, 890 NY 82 in Hopewell Junction, from 1 to 2 p.m. Space is limited, so sign up in advance by calling OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

VACCINATION CLINIC AT LaGRANGE TOWN HALL (Wed 11/8)

A vaccine clinic is being held on Wednesday, November 8th from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at LaGrange Town Hall (120 Stringham Rd.), with vaccines provided by Beekman Pharmacy and The Medicine Shoppe. Vaccines to be provided while supplies last include:

- o Influenza, including high dose vaccine for those 65 and over;
- o COVID-19, as available;
- o RSV for those 60 and older;
- o Shingles for those 50 and older;
- o Pneumonia.

To register, call 845-724-3200. Walk-ins are welcome. Please bring your ID, Medicare/insurance cards and COVID vaccine card.

JANE COLE GEISLER, 1923-2023

2017 OFA Senior Citizen of the Year Jane Cole Geisler of Verbank passed away peacefully on October 25th at age 100. She was a regular participant at OFA’s annual Public Comment Forums, continually reminding us of the unique needs of rural older adults in the county. Thanks to Jane’s urging, when OFA moved to our City of Poughkeepsie location at 114 Delafield St. in 2019, we made sure to publicize that the new location was both easy to find and easy to reach from Route 9 and included a detailed map of the location in our newsletter.

As she put it in a typewritten letter to us, “Us old timers have had to go through many roadway changes over the last 70 years.”

A celebration of Jane’s life was held on Saturday, Nov. 4 at Tymor Park in the Town of Union Vale.

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

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cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

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.

14 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - November 8-14, 2023

Rhinebeck HS Drama Club To present ‘Myth Adventures’

The Rhinebeck High School Drama Club will present “Myth Adventures: Five Greek Classics,” a drama/comedy written by Eric Coble, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-18 in the Joseph A. Phelan Auditorium, 45 North Park Road, Rhinebeck.

In a whirlwind of thrills and comedy, the audience is taken on a journey into the ancient world of Greek mythology.

Do you dare to shake hands with King Midas (Trayse Kasnia-Herman)? Or find yourself, like poor Echo (Genevieve Oleszewski), in the middle of the ultimate marriage battle between the king and queen of the gods? And why can’t Narcissus (Eamon Erdman) pull himself away from that pool of water?

Follow musician, Orpheus (Elliot VanSteenburg), on his quest for the one thing his music can’t do— bring back his dead love Euridice (Claire Frischknecht). Can his art save him in his journey to the Underworld where he’ll face Charon (Sarah Coggeshall), the undead boatman, Cerberus (Mackenzie Massarone, Anna Quattrone, Annika Haile), the three-

headed hound, and Hades (Nina Smith), the twisted King of the Dead?

And when you’re the son of the most famous inventor in history, how do you make a name for yourself? Icarus (Sarah Coggeshall) only has minutes to figure it out once he’s locked in a tower with his absent-minded father, Daedalus (Mackenzie Massarone). Just how high can you fly before you fall? Then it’s time to follow Theseus (Trayse Kasnia-Herman) as he tracks down the horrifying minotaur in the labyrinth. He’s determined to be a true hero, but will he survive long enough for the world to even remember his name?

Join these actors and more for a fresh look at classic legends directed by Cynthia Baer, with production manager & lighting director, Joe Baer, and a hard-working student Stage and Tech Crew.

Tickets for reserved seating may be purchased online at <https://our.show/rhinebeck-hs-drama-club/73659>. Tickets are 10 for adults, 8 for seniors and students. Credit card payments will be accepted online only.

Red Hook volleyball team keeps rolling, sweeps Dover

By Rich Thomaselli

The Red Hook High School volleyball team continues to roll on right into the section 9 playoffs.

The Raiders swept Dover 25-11, 29-27, 25-11 in a Section Nine, Class B quarterfinal matchup.

For Red Hook, Sandhya Rifenburg

had a brilliant all-around game. She totaled 18 assist, nine digs, two aces and a kill.

Teammate Mia Merino had six kills, five aces, three digs and a block.

Cami Palumbo tallied four kills, three blocks, two aces, and two digs in the victory.

Arlington football team faces Carmel for Section 1 crown

By Rich Thomaselli

Just as it should be.

Arlington High School football, undefeated and state-ranked, will play Carmel on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. for the Section 1, Class AA championship.

The two programs have quite the history.

Two-time defending sectional champion Carmel ran roughshod over Arlington for the past two seasons, until running into a buzzsaw earlier this season in a regular season game. The Admirals won 55-18.

Arlington got to the finals by beating John Jay, 42-21, while Carmel advanced with a 35-6 win over Suffern.

The Arlington game was much closer than the final score indicated as the Patriots were within one score with 10 minutes still to play. But the Admirals rushed aside their toughest challenge of the season to advance to the finals. Arlington’s high-powered offense scored

twice more in the fourth quarter to provide the final margin.

Arlington advanced to the sectional championship game for the first time since 2021, where it lost two Carmel as the Rams went undefeated and won the state championship that season.

Quarterback Mike Rescigno was brilliant for Arlington with three rushing touchdowns and two passing scores. The key has been Arlington’s mammoth and dominating offensive line, which has opened huge holes for the running game and provided plenty of time for the passing game.

But the win over Jay wasn’t without its tenuous moments for the Admirals.

A pair of touchdown runs by Brady Feliciotto sandwiched around and onsidies kick recovery brought the Patriots to within striking distance with more than 10 minutes still to play.

But Arlington held firm and was able to close it out.

North East Historical Society offers exhibit on understanding local history through maps

Go into any historical society’s archives and you will find many ways to document the story of your community — news clippings, books, diaries, business records, and photographs. But one of the best ways is through maps. They show not just the geography but also reflect the businesses, transportation networks and families that settled in a particular location.

The North East Historical Society is offering an exhibit through the month of November, titled, “Understanding Local History Through Maps,” at the NorthEast-Millerton Library. Representations of a dozen different maps will outline the story of the development of the Town of North East from colonial times into the 21st century.

The maps include important Sanborn

fire insurance maps from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which show specific businesses in Millerton and reflect how the village grew over time.

Other maps show where indigenous people lived, where the first land patents were awarded by New York’s colonial British governor, and how the first geopolitical borders of precincts — the predecessors of townships — developed.

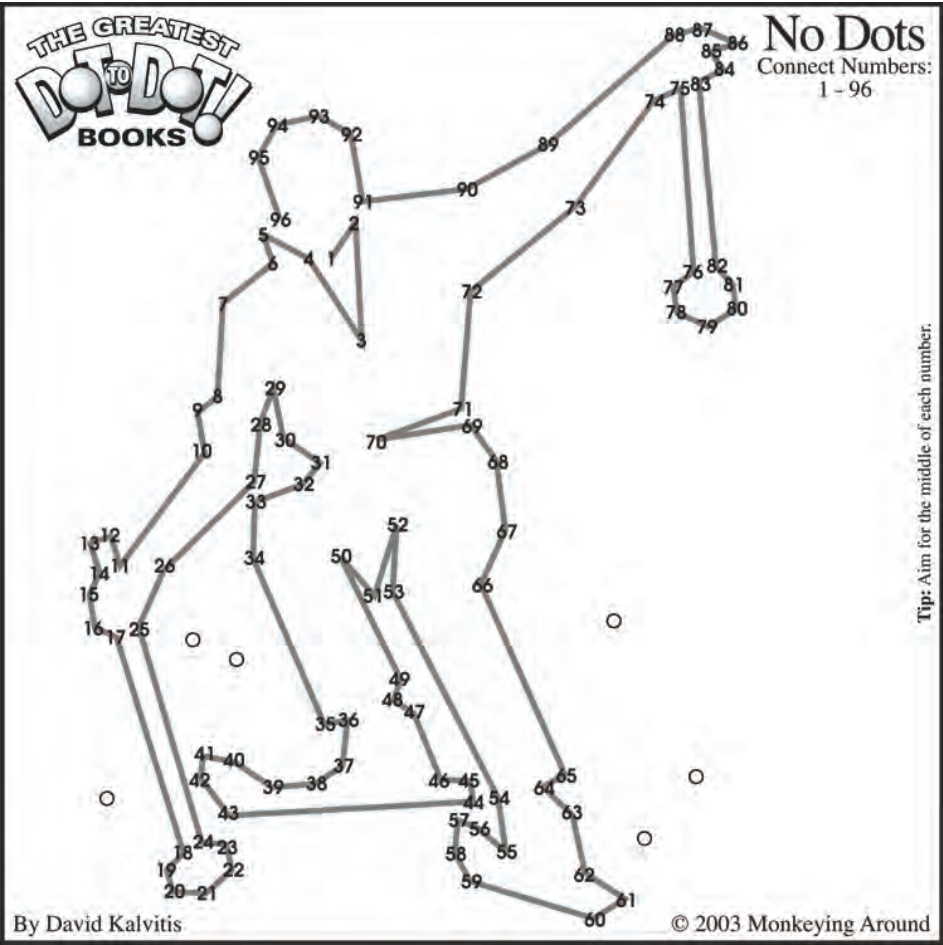
And after the Town of North East was created as a separate entity in 1788, later 19th-century maps show the impact of the railroads on commerce and the development of the Village of Millerton and the town’s numerous hamlets. Other maps show the terrain and agricultural soils so key to the town’s ability to sustain its agricultural heritage.

In addition, two modern maps show off the town’s two historic districts that are on the National Register of Historic Places as well as on New York’s registry.

The exhibit is open during library hours from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The library, which is located at 75 Main Street, is closed Sunday and Monday.

(For more information, contact Meg Downey, secretary, North East Historical Society, 615-289-1447.)

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



Answers to this week’s diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

Suguru solution

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

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

SUDOKU
This week’s answer

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

ATTENTION ART
GALLERIES

E-mail exhibition listings to:
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

HVADC opens applications for Dairy Funding Accelerator Program

HUDSON, NY – The Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation (HVADC) has opened applications for its upcoming Northeast Dairy Funding Accelerator (DFA) program. The 20-month intensive training curriculum will combine virtual and in-person sessions, as well as group and personalized Business Technical Assistance (BTA) training to help each participant meet their individualized needs. Funding for the program is being provided by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC). Applications are being accepted until December 1, 2023.

Five dairy farmers (cow, sheep, goat) will be accepted from New York, western Connecticut, western Massachusetts, southern Vermont, eastern New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania. Applicants must be established business looking to expand production and having their farm and the majority of their labor force in one of the designated states. Special consideration will be

given to those with herd size of 100 or less, and those working with small ruminants. In addition, they must be able to make a commitment to the time and resources required of the training program, and also be able to commit the same to future DFA participants as a peer or mentor. Training will commence in January 2024, and conclude in May 2025.

“Dairy farms are an integral part of the food system in the Northeast, with New York and Pennsylvania being two of the largest producing states. And while most people are aware of the large herd cow farms in the region, we really see an opportunity to help farmers running smaller herds and working with the full variety of dairy livestock,” said Mary Ann Johnson, Deputy Director, HVADC.

Each of five NDFA participating farms will initially receive consultation to determine what aspects of business strategies will best help them to meet their desired outcomes, such as business

plan development, financial planning, business coaching, workforce management, marketing, management structures, succession planning, and communications. Individualized curriculums for the one-on-one training will be developed to accommodate each participant’s business plan, farm type/size, herd type/size, assistance they may require to learn about grant applications, and their aspirations and expectations. Group training will provide overarching business acumen topics such as business plan development, human resource management, the fundamentals of accessing capital, financials and management, marketing techniques, distribution strategies, and pitch development.

By conclusion of the program, participants will be prepared to present their project to potential funders and grant programs such as those provided through NE-DBIC.

“Throughout the region, dairy farmers are under tremendous pressure and farms are clos-

ing; with some of the factors attributed to market conditions, inflation, increased costs of feed and production and supply chain issues. Small and mid-sized milk farms have been facing significant financial challenges. By providing BTA to help these farms position their expansion plans and access capital, we can help to bolster their viability and success,” Johnson said.

The DFA program expands HVADC’s reach outside of the Hudson Valley. In partnership with its affiliate organizations, The Farm and Food Growth Fund (FFGF) and The Agricultural Viability Alliance (the Alliance), it is able to enlarge its geography throughout the Northeast.

Applications will be accepted to December 1, 2023. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://www.hvadc.org/dairy-funding-accelerator-program>.

Questions about the program may be directed to Duane Stanton at 518-432-5360 x. 402 or DStanton@hvadc.org.

OBITUARIES

Salvatore A. Cioffi

HYDE PARK - Salvatore A. Cioffi, 88, died in the comfort of his home in Hyde Park, surrounded by family on October 28, 2023.

Salvatore was born on December 4, 1934, in Manhattan, NY to the late Pasquale and Mary (Lombardi) Cioffi. His family moved upstate and built their home in Beacon. After high school, his interest in chemistry led him to pursue a degree in pharmacy. He graduated from St John’s University

In 1956. During college, he met Rita Hyland while marching in the St. Patrick’s Day parade and in 1957, they married at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Brooklyn.

Sal & Rita spent two years in Manhattan, KS where he proudly served in the US Army and their first child was born. They returned to Brooklyn where Sal worked as a retail pharmacist before settling in Hyde Park to raise a family of five.

He owned and worked at Violet Avenue Pharmacy in Poughkeepsie for many years. After selling his business, he continued to work at Molloy Pharmacy in Hyde Park until his retirement. He took great pride in his work and was dedicated to his profession. He enjoyed serving many loyal customers in the community over the years.

He was proud of his heritage and enjoyed large Italian meals with family. He found great pleasure in summer vacations, barbecuing, and relaxing in his yard. He often spent time at Quiet Cove admiring the picturesque views of the Hudson River. His enthusiasm for music included listening to jazz and big band. Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett were among his favorite artists. He enjoyed sports and was an avid Giants fan.

He was a communicant of Regina Coeli Church. His devotion to and faith in God gave him strength and comfort throughout his life.

Sal will be remembered for his warm and welcoming smile. He had a great sense of humor and loved making other people laugh. Sal will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Thank you to all the special caregivers in recent years who helped him live comfortably in his own home.

Sal is survived by his children Marie & Steve Mangiarelli of Lake Katrine, NY Salvatore & Susan Cioffi of Woodbourne, NY, Lorraine & Michael Adams of Pougkeepsie, NY, Maureen & Andrew Ho of Naples, FL and Jeanmarie Myslinski of Plantation, FL. He will also be remembered by his adoring grandchildren Dan Mangiareli, Laura Mangiarelli and fiancé David Pelech, Sarah & Joe Bertola, Rachel Cioffi, Ryan Myslinski and one great grandchild Dominic Bertola. He is also survived by his siblings Ann & Peter Furey of Tillson, NY, John & Sharon Cioffi of Newport News, VA, Dolores Latchford of Boca Raton, FL, James & Mary Cioffi of Bellerose, NY, Arlene & George Post of Ulster Park, NY and several nieces and nephews.

Sal was preceded in death by his wife,

Rita, on April 17, 2023.

Friends and family are invited to calling hours on Monday, November 6th from 4 to 7pm at Sweet’s Funeral Home in Hyde Park, 4365 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park, NY 12538.

A Mass of Christian burial took place at Regina Coeli Church on November 7 with Fr. Michael Morris, 2 Harvey St. Hyde Park, NY 12538. Burial followed at St Peter’s Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Sal’s memory to Regina Coeli Church, 2 Harvey St. Hyde Park, NY 12538 or Hudson Valley Hospice, 80 Washington St. Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet’s Funeral Home. To send an online condolence or for directions please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Craig Steven Gordon

(March 09, 1960 - November 01, 2023)

Craig Steven Gordon, a native of the Bronx, found his childhood roots in the tranquility of suburban Monsey, New York. His journey came to a close on November 1st, 2023, leaving behind a legacy built upon love for family, friends, music, and the art of photography.

In the 1970s, Craig’s passion for music led him to immerse himself in the pulsating energy of rock and roll, where he witnessed legendary performances by some of the era’s most iconic artists. Music became inseparable from his identity, a timeless love that endured through the decades.

Craig’s pursuit of knowledge took him from the Green Meadow Waldorf School to the Germain School of Photography, where he honed his artistic talents. He melded his interests in politics, art, and gastronomy into the publication “Real News,” a unique blend of topics that mirrored his eclectic passions. In the 1980s, Craig’s commitment to healthy living led him into the restaurant industry, where he became a co-owner of “The Grainery” restaurant in Deerfield Beach, Florida sharing his love for wholesome, nourishing foods. He later went on to create the on-line “Now Age Press” engaging political commentary and health through interviews and blog posts. His presence radiated warmth and compassion. Craig’s passing reminds us of the importance of living with passion and purpose. He pursued his interests with boundless enthusiasm. In doing so, he showed us that life should be lived to the fullest, with an unwavering commitment to what brings us joy.

Craig is survived by his wife, The Rev. Heather Sisk, daughter Rachel Gordon, his mother Elaine; his brother Neil, his nephew Maximilian, his sister June, his nephew Ruben, his niece Sophie Michael (Danny), his great nephew and niece Simon and Aurora Michael.

In lieu of Flowers please send donations to Doctors without Borders providing independent, impartial medical humanitarian assistance to the people who need it most. From

Palestine and Israel to Sudan and Ukraine, civilians and hospitals should never be a target of war.

Funeral services were held Nov. 3rd from Allen Funeral Home, 1605 Main Street (Rt 44), Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Burial immediately followed in Rosendale Natural Cemetery, 793 Springtown Road, Tillson, NY 12486. Shiva condolence gathering (all invited) immediately following the burial in Pleasant Valley, NY. A 2nd Shiva condolence gathering took place on November 5th.



Oliver Kita

Long time Hudson Valley chocolatier, chef, caterer, and restaurateur Oliver Kita, 66, died at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla on Saturday, October 28. The owner of Oliver Kita Fine Confections for 27 years, formerly in Rhinebeck and until recently on Route 28 in Kingston, Kita was known as a perfectionist with an all-encompassing passion for his work and its artistic presentation, incorporating perfumes, herbs, flowers, and exotic fruits and spices into his artisan creations. He had been hospitalized since the beginning of October. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, Kita opened Heaven Café in Woodstock in 1996, which he operated for 10 years before concluding he had done all he wanted to in the restaurant business and turning his attention to chocolate, according to his CIA alumni biography. Kita then studied at L'École Lenôtre and L'École du Grand Chocolat Valrhona in France, and the Académie du Chocolat Barry-Callebaut in Montreal, and was mentored by the famous French chocolatier Michel Cluizel, according to the CIA. He also received training in 2004 at the Beringer Vineyard School of Culinary Arts in Napa Valley. An avid reader and gardener, Kita often said that he got many of his ideas from those pursuits, creating a delicate violet chocolate that left a hint of violets in its wake, and chocolates with an Asian flavor

that were inspired by a Pearl Buck novel he had read, according to the CIA. A firm believer in the health benefits of chocolate, Kita trademarked the tagline "Mind-Body-Chocolate Every Day" for his confections. His custom line of "Handmade in the Hudson Valley Estate Chocolates" were sold at the great estates along the Hudson, including Vandermint at the Vanderbuilt Estate, Fala's Peanut Butter Bon-Bon at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt home and library in Hyde Park, and Mills Pistachio Marzipan at the Mills Mansion. His "Spiritual" line featured chocolate Buddhas of various sizes, vegan chocolate Buddhas in "The Eight-Fold Path of Chocolate Awareness," and chocolate-dipped matzah. In 2007, Kita told Chronogram Magazine that by tasting a finely crafted piece of chocolate, "you can understand where you are and appreciate what you have, right now, today. It's focused attention through pleasure." Adds Kevin Kraft, his husband of 36 years, "He had the capacity to bring love and beauty to all he came in contact with. He walked in beauty." In 2017, Kita was awarded a Gold Medal by International Chocolate Awards â€” The America's, the world's largest craft chocolate competition worldwide. In 2016, he was named a "Top Ten Chocolatier" in the United States by Dessert Professional magazine, and voted "Best Chocolatier" in the Hudson Valley in 2011 and 2007 by Hudson Valley Magazine. Oliver Kita Fine Catering, which operated its catering kitchen from the historic Beekman Arms Hotel in Rhinebeck, was established in 1996 and included artistic wedding cakes and European-style pastries in addition to personalized, off-premise catering at private and historic locations throughout the Hudson Valley. Born in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1957 to the late Leon and Evelyn Kita, Kita graduated from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan with a B.A. degree in microbiology. He graduated from the CIA in 1990. Kita is survived by his husband, Kevin Kraft; and sisters Susan Kriegbaum and Patricia (Eric) Heffner; brothers-in-law Peter (Lori) Kraft, Ed Ullmann, Richard (Suzanne) Kraft, and Joseph Chambers; sister-in-law Ann Marie (Robert) Bender; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Margaret Chambers, brother-in-law Dave Kriegbaum, and sister-in-law Patty Ullmann; and mother-in-law Anne Shorr. A funeral service for Kita will be held on Friday, November 3 at 10 a.m. at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Woodstock, NY. Because Kita was forced to close his business suddenly and medical expenses are expected to extend well beyond his insurance coverage, friends in the local community have created a Go Fund Me campaign to crowd fund these costs and ensure expenditures covering the unanticipated business closing and staff compensation are covered. Donations can be made at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/medical-fundraiser-for-oliver-kita/donate>. <https://www.lastingmemories.com/oliver-kita>

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New York State Police embarks on new recruitment campaign

The New York State Police recently announced that they have embarked on a new recruitment campaign. Applications for the New York State Trooper Entrance Exam opened on October 23, 2023, and will be accepted through March 4, 2024. The last day to take the Trooper Entrance Examination is March 17, 2024.

During its most recent recruitment campaign which ended on October 1, 2023, 12,691 individuals applied to take the exam. The New York State Police saw a significant increase in applications within the 29- to 34-year-old age range since Governor Kathy Hochul approved a request from the State Police to raise the maximum age to apply to become a New York State Trooper from 29 to 34. Almost 3,000 individuals between those ages have taken advantage of this change and

applied. Military applicants may be eligible to apply up until the age of 42.

In addition to raising the age requirement, the State Police has also revised its tattoo policy. Tattoos on the chest, back, or arms must be covered by wearing a properly fitted uniform shirt or business attire, with no portion of the tattoo showing. If any portion of the tattoo, brand, and/or body art is visible when wearing the short-sleeve summer uniform, the member must wear the long-sleeve uniform shirt, with a tie.

The New York State Police remains committed to reaching a diverse pool of candidates and has also taken the 30X30 pledge to increase its percentage of female recruits to 30 percent by 2030.

Learn more about becoming a New York State Trooper and sign up to take the

exam at [JoinStatePolice.ny.gov](https://joinstatepolice.ny.gov).

The New York State Police has contracted with Pearson VUE, which will offer the exam at 60 authorized testing centers in New York State, more than 390 locations in the United States, and 101 military locations around the world. Applicants can choose where and when they take the exam. The computer-based testing process makes it more convenient and accessible for anyone interested in becoming a Trooper.

Visit <https://joinstatepolice.ny.gov/> for a study guide for the exam and more information.

MINIMUM EXAM QUALIFICATIONS:

- US Citizen
- 20-34 years of age (The maximum

age may be extended one year for each year of full-time active military duty - up to a maximum of 7 years)

- High school diploma or equivalent

To be hired, additional requirements are necessary and can be found at the website listed above.

SALARY & BENEFITS:

- Starting salary upon appointment to the academy: \$59,612
- Minimum total compensation after one year of service is \$98,300
- Full benefits & retirement

Individuals are invited to speak with a New York State Police Recruiter by emailing recruit@troopers.ny.gov or calling (518) 485-0855.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Clinton Community Library

1215 Centre Rd., Rhinebeck

For more specific information about any library programs, or to register, please call (845) 495-0655 or email larnold@clitoncommunitylibrary.org

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Color Hour- NoZENber!

Saturday November 11 at 10:30 AM

As the busy Holiday season approaches, it's important to take some time to relax and unwind. Come spend an hour at the library with meditative coloring sheets to help calm your mind, chat with friends, and enjoy the peace and quiet of the library!

Crafts & Coffee

Monday November 20 at 1:30 PM (in-person)

Join us for a lovely afternoon of coffee, crafts (and conversation!) For November we will meet on the Third Monday of the month at 1:30, Diane will guide you as you create a project covering a wide range of techniques, from card making to book crafts to stitchery and more

Millbrook Library

3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook

(845) 677-3611 • millbrooklibrary.org

Wednesday, November 8, 10-11 AM. The Walking Club will be walking the trails at the Dover Stone Church. We will be taking the Blue Trail (1.5 mi.). Please register for this event.

Estate Planning with The Legacy Firm, Wednesday, November 8, 6-7:30 p.m. The Legacy Firm provides compassionate estate planning services to our neighbors throughout the Hudson Valley. During this one-hour session, attorney Edward Lent will provide information about the steps you can take for quality estate planning. He will be available to answer questions at the end of the presentation. This event is free.

Estate Tour: Vanderbilt Mansion, Thursday, Nov. 9, 10-11 a.m. Explore the historic Hudson Valley by visiting the Vanderbilt Mansion! Located in Hyde Park, the Vanderbilt Mansion

was one of several homes owned by Frederick William Vanderbilt and his wife, Louise Holmes Anthony. This tour will include a walk around the grounds as well as the notable rooms inside the mansion. This event is free. You must register for this event to be able to attend.

Morton Memorial Library

82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff

(845) 876-2903

Gender Adventurers

Thursday, November 9 @ 5:30 pm

Join us for this collaboration from Beck Hook Pride and Morton. Fun and conversation with a group of youth and their families who honor the full spectrum of gender identity. Free and open to youth and their adults.

Rhinecliff Climate Conversation

Tuesday November 14 @ 6:00 pm

At this meeting Nick Sussillo will follow up on his presentation on Rhinecliff and how climate change affects the hamlet and its residents. This is a way to get involved and to help make the hamlet more resilient in times of weather events that are becoming more frequent. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pleasant Valley Library

1584 Main St., Pleasant Valley

All programs are free. Please visit pleasantvalleylibrary.org to register and for more information.

Special Programs:

Rubik's Cube and How To Solve It with Craig R. Dickson

Friday, November 10 4:00-6:00pm

In this family program (from ages 7 to adult) learn all about the science, mathematics and magic of Rubik's Cube - the iconic 3D sequential move puzzle! Cube expert and magician Craig R. Dickson (of Wizard Craft Magic) will tell the history of Rubik's Cube and its inventor, Erno Rubik; give the basics of algorithms; and show the approaches to solving. Everyone who attends will get a cube, basics guide and "cheat sheets," to become a Cube Solver!

Candle Making Class with Sonia Reynoso
Monday, November 20 6:00-8:00pm

Sonia the Candle Lady, from Ye Olde Candle Shop will guide us through making a beautiful autumn holiday scented soy candle. All supplies will be provided. Open to ages 15 and up.

Red Hook Library

7444 S Broadway, Red Hook

See our calendar or call us for more information on programs including dates, times, and registration.

For Families:

Tunes and Tales begins on Monday, November 13th. Come join Miss Sonia and Mr. Alex in the Children's Library for stories & songs! For children birth- 24 months.

Two more opportunities to Join Bard Student Gabe each Saturday from 11 - 12 for new Creative Writing for Kids activities. Unleash your imagination and get inspired!

For Adults:

Questions about Health Insurance? Join the Maternal Infant Services Network every other Tuesday at 11, starting November 7, to learn about and apply for affordable health insurance through the NY State of Health Marketplace.

Meet with members of Senator Hinchey's team to help resolve state-related issues, including unemployment, utility support, E-ZPass & DMV issues, food resources, heating assistance, and/or healthcare on Tuesday, Nov 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This month's book club selection is the Glass Universe by Dava Sobel. Pick up your copy at the Library and then join the discussion on Monday, November 20.

All Abilities

All-Abilities Adults and Teens are back in September. All Abilities Adults and All Abilities Teens are an hour of social fun in the Community Room for adults and teens, respectively, with intellectual, cognitive and/or

developmental disabilities. Our activities range from seasonal crafting to games, but friendship and community are constant. The program meets in-person - there are limited spots available and registration is required. To register, please email allabilities@redhooklibrary.org. Paid for in part by Dutchess County.

Starr Library

68 West Market St., Rhinebeck

(845) 876-4030

www.starrlibrary.org

For more information and to register for events, call the library or access the online calendar.

ADULTS

Thursday, November 9th, 4-5:15pm via Zoom - The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History: A Conversation in collaboration with Bard LLI, the Center for Indigenous Studies at Bard College & Oblong Books

Saturday, November 11th, 11am-1pm - Monoprinting Workshop with Artist & Curator Gina Palmer

Saturday, November 11th, 1:30pm-2pm - Blook Talk with the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Preservation Librarian, Mindell Dubansky

Tuesdays, November 14th & 28th, 11:30am-12:30pm - Beginner's Knitting with Debbie Hecht

Tuesday, November 14th, 1:15pm -2:15pm - All Abilities Story & Craft Program with the Anderson Center

Tuesday, November 14th, 6:30-8pm - Memoir Writing Workshop

BOOK CLUBS

Tuesday, November 14th, 4pm - Mysteries Around the World Book Club: The Drowning by Camilla Läckberg

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