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PANDA TV
 returns to
Spectrum cable

Spectrum cable TV subscribers in Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Tivoli can once again view PANDA public access television, but on a different channel than in the past. PANDA can now be seen on channel 1303.

PANDA (Public Access Northern Dutchess Area Inc.) is local TV for Northern Dutchess. As a public access station, any resident may create a program to be seen on PANDA. PANDA produces and airs videos of all town board and village trustee meetings, and broadcasts those of other boards that choose to have them recorded. In addition, PANDA produces shows on community events, festivals, candidate forums and history talks.

PANDA had been off cable for more than two years due to a technical failure of its broadcast system. Although PANDA's programs have always been available to view on YouTube and, for the past year, the PANDANOW streaming app, the cable channel was missed by many viewers.

PANDA acquired updated technology last year, but Spectrum needed to run a high-speed connection to PANDA's new location in the Red Hook Community Center and update its own equipment.

Now there are more ways than ever to watch PANDA:

- Spectrum cable TV subscribers can watch Channel 1303.
- Both the traditional channel and on-demand viewing of PANDA programs are available on the free PANDANOW app—available for Roku, AppleTV, FireTV, Android and iPhone/iPad.
- Viewers who do not use those platforms can see PANDA programs on demand with YouTube, by searching for PANDANOW. YouTube is available on all smart TVs, computers and mobile devices.

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Union Vale Middle School musicians share holiday joy with senior citizens

By Jim Donick

At the holiday time, many people in homes for the aging, rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, and similar locations are very welcoming of Christmas cheer being brought to their clients. The Dutchess County Office of the Aging's Senior Friendship facility on Delafield Street in Poughkeepsie is no exception. One of their leading carriers of Christmas joy is Joe Torres.

This year marked Torres' fourth year as "Santa Joe." He had worked for the Office for the Aging. A few years ago he was asked if he knew anyone who could play Santa for a visit to the retirement home.

"I asked around for either a Santa or somebody who had a Santa suit," Torres said. "There were no takers on being Santa, but a lady reached out to me and said I could have the Santa suit that had belonged to her late husband."

The suit was acquired, mended in a place or two, and adjusted to fit. The



Students and staff from Union Vale Middle School gather in the parking lot of the Dutchess County Office for the Aging in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, Dec. 18 prior to presenting a concert for senior residents. *Photo by Jim Donick*

result was "Santa Joe."

Torres began his visit four years ago, partly to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his healing from a non-cancerous brain tumor. He talks about how many older adults who frequent the Senior Friendship Center are among society's most

vulnerable.

"I'm a school bus driver," he notes. "Many of those kids are also among the most vulnerable. The thought that struck me was that maybe these two vulnerable

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Christmas Bird Count runs through Jan. 5



Tufted Titmouse. *Photo by Michele Black/Great Backyard Bird Count, from National Audubon Society website*

By Kate Goldsmith

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is taking place through Jan. 5. The nation's longest-running community science bird project fuels Audubon's work throughout the year.

Prominent ornithologist and conservationist Frank Chapman is credited with the concept of the CBC, initiating the count along with more than two dozen other conservationists on Christmas Day in 1900. The idea was to promote conservation by counting, rather than hunting, birds.

This early-winter bird census is conducted by thousands of volunteers

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Millbrook Rotary honors longtime member Bunch

On Sunday, Dec. 1, the Millbrook Rotary Club honored member Bryan Bunch at the Distinguished Rotarians Reception presented by the Poughkeepsie Arlington Rotary Club at the Doubletree Hotel in Poughkeepsie.

Bryan Bunch joined Rotary Club of Millbrook in July 2004, looking to contribute to the community after his retirement. Bryan exemplifies the Rotary standard of Service Above Self. He quickly learned about the work of the Rotary Foundation and took on roles supporting it early in his Rotary experience. He remains committed to the vision of Rotary Foundation.

Bryan was recognized for his 20 years of service as follows:

- Served as the chairman of our Foundation Committee for many years (2009-2025)
- Served at the district level on the Foundation Committee for ten years overseeing district and global grants

- Champion of the Polio Plus program which works to eradicate Polio throughout the world

- Paul Harris Fellow, Member of Paul Harris Society and a Major Donor

Bryan has also participated in various roles in Radio Rotary since its beginning. He is currently a director.

In addition to his work with Rotary, Bryan is a MARC Foundation Board Member. He has served in this capacity for many years, seeking to help people with mental health issues and addictions. He works with the foundation to give grants to expand and improve sober housing which creates an environment for recovery.

In a statement, the Millbrook Rotary said: "All of the above contributions take tremendous commitment and time. Bryan shows up, helps, encourages and empowers others. The Millbrook Rotary Club was proud to see our member Bryan Bunch presented with this honor."

The Millbrook Rotary Club recently honored longtime member Bryan Bunch at a reception presented by the Arlington Rotary Club. Bunch was recognized for his 20 years of service. *Courtesy photos*



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Hudson River Housing to market Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn for sale

In 2018, Hudson River Housing acquired the historic Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn. The building, entrusted to Hudson River Housing by its previous owner, was envisioned as a redeveloped space for arts-related purposes. Since then, Hudson River Housing has secured various government and private funding sources, investing approximately \$1.7 million to stabilize the property and prepare it for dynamic use, as realized by The Art Effect. Despite these efforts and nearly five years of collaboration, the funding needed to fully achieve the expansive vision for the space remains out of reach.

"Hudson River Housing was thrilled when The Art Effect chose to center its activities and operations at the Trolley Barn," said Christa Hines, Chief

Executive Officer of Hudson River Housing. "This was a milestone in the economic revitalization of Poughkeepsie's Middle Main neighborhood, an effort we've participated in for nearly 15 years. We deeply respect The Art Effect's work to empower young people in Poughkeepsie and across Dutchess County, as well as the organization's significant contribution to the downtown community."

However, after extensive financial analysis, rising maintenance costs and the inability to secure the remaining redevelopment funding, Hudson River Housing was forced to make the difficult decision to put the building up for sale.

"This decision was not made lightly," Hines continued. "We are profoundly saddened that the vision of the Trolley

Barn as a vibrant hub for youth and community activity could not be fully realized. Recognizing the significant impact on The Art Effect and the broader community, we made this decision with deep empathy and a firm belief in its necessity

given the circumstances."

Hudson River Housing remains committed to the revitalization of Poughkeepsie and hopes that the future of the Trolley Barn will bring new possibilities for its use as a community asset.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to holiday press schedules for the Jan. 1, 2025 issue, the Northern Dutchess News has an early deadline. Editorial submissions must be received by Monday, Dec. 23. Advertising is due by Thursday, Dec. 26. Please contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

PANDA TV returns to Spectrum cable

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- On the PANDA website, www.pandatv.org, the latest programs are featured on the home page. The traditional channel and links to YouTube playlists are on the "Watch" page.

Operational funding for PANDA comes from the two towns and three villages of Tivoli, Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

Christmas Bird Count runs through Jan. 5


continued from cover

across the U.S., Canada (where Audubon partners with Birds Canada) and many countries in the Western Hemisphere, who go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

Visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to learn how to participate in this year's CBC.

Audubon Society has preserved bird habitats, conducted scientific research, influenced policymakers to enact commonsense conservation laws, and engaged communities across the hemisphere to protect the natural resources upon which birds – and humans – depend. Visit <https://www.audubon.org> to learn more.

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See story, page 8



Union Vale Middle School musicians share holiday joy with senior citizens

continued from cover

groups could find some common ground with each other and share the joy of the season.”

The result two years ago was to propose to bring the music students from Union Vale Middle School to perform and to interact with the older adults at the Senior Friendship Center.

“It’s amazing,” he said. “The kids get to see that you never have to outgrow a dream of Santa Claus or the spirit of Christmas. The two groups share the joy. After the performance I’ve seen the kids sitting with some of the residents and showing them how to play their instruments. It’s a great thing for everybody.”

On December 18th, the Arlington Middle School String Ensemble, led enthusiastically by Ms. Kristina Rizzo, visited the Dutchess Office of the Aging’s Senior Friendship Center on Delafield Street. The twenty-plus musicians arrived by school bus piloted by “Santa Joe” Torres. Torres simply exuded energy and joy for this opportunity.

They were met by 38 clients of the center as well as Dutchess County Office of the Aging Director Todd Tancredi and by Ms. Cindy Lefebvre, the site manager.

County Executive Sue Serino had hoped join in welcoming the students, as well. Scheduling required she send her greetings via a representative.

“Our Office for the Aging staff and volunteers do an amazing job ensuring opportunities for Dutchess County’s older adults year round,” said Serino. “Those efforts shine even brighter during the holiday season. When ‘Santa Joe’ and the students from the Arlington Central School District share their gift of song with our seniors, you see the joy in their faces and voices. We thank ‘Santa Joe,’ these talented young musicians along with their teachers and administrators for

making this unforgettable day possible.”

“This is a great event,” said Tancredi. “We are always happy to bring in partners from the community, especially at this time of year. The senior citizens are always looking for the same sorts of things the rest of us are. They would like some friendship, some entertainment, and some variety in their lives. This event provides all three. They love interacting with the young people, so we try to integrate community groups into our programs as often as we can.”

Ms. Lefebvre said, “We offer a variety of activities here. The senior citizens want to be entertained and even challenged. They enjoy new experiences. We’ve got 38 here today. The number has grown since COVID, and that makes me feel like our approach is working.”

Ms. Rizzo, the students’ music director, wrapped the event from the point of view of someone completely connected to her students.

“This is community service for them,” she noted, “but more than that, it’s a wonderful experience, and the kids have been looking forward to it for weeks.”

At the end of the program, Ms. Giselle Garibello of Senator Rob Rolison’s staff conveyed the Senator’s wish to have been with the kids, but he was not available. Garibello did, though, deliver certificates marking the occasion to each of the students who had taken part.

“It was a great event,” she said. Throughout the session, “Santa Joe” Torres bounced from table to table exchanging hugs and wishes of the holiday season.

“The truth is,” he said, “people may not believe it, but I get more out of this personally than anybody else.”

And so it would appear.



Above and below, students with the Union Vale Middle School String Ensemble perform holiday songs for senior residents at the Dutchess County Office for the Aging in Poughkeepsie. Bottom left, “Santa Joe” Arlington Central School District bus driver Joe Torres arrives in costume to lead the event. Photos by Jim Donick



DC Parks announces winter programming

Registration opens Jan. 2

Residents of all ages looking for fun and educational things to do this winter can look forward to Dutchess County Parks’ lineup of naturalist programming. Popular sessions will return this year, including indoor archery and painting classes for adults. Registration for all programs opens Thursday, Jan. 2 and will be available at Dutchessny.gov/parks.

Winter Naturalist Program Schedule

Weekend Public Archery sessions begin Saturday, Jan. 11, at Bowdoin Park inside the community auditorium. The program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots offered. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for individuals ages 9 and up with any level of archery experience. Basic hands-on archery skills are taught, as well as bow and arrow safety. Cost is \$70 per person and includes all five classes and equipment. Limited to 12 participants per time slot. Register at www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

Dates: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 and March 8

Time Slots: 8:30-9:30 a.m.; 10-11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3 p.m.; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Adult Park Palette Art Series is a learn-to-paint series for adults of all skill levels. Sessions will be held at Bowdoin Park’s Maple Knoll Lodge from 6-7:30 p.m. and cost \$12 per class, which includes supplies. Limited to 12 participants per class and registration is required.

Dates: Tuesday, Jan. 21; Tuesday, Feb. 18; Monday, March 3;

Weekday Archery and Junior Survival sessions are also available by appointment; call (845) 298-4602 for reservations. Updates on winter sledding at Bowdoin Park will be shared on the Dutchess County Parks hotline, (845) 298-2607, and Facebook page.

To learn more about Dutchess County Parks, visit www.DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

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

**Stanford Lions thank everyone
who helped with Holiday of Lights**

To the editor:
The Stanford Lions Club would like to thank all of the people and organizations that contributed to the success of the Holiday of Lights event!
The Stanford Fire Company provided floats, traffic safety and a monetary donation to the event. The Stanford Highway Department contributed three decorated trucks and the festive decorations for our Town.
The Stanford Grange donated cookies and volunteers for serving the treats at the Town Hall.
The Lions Club provided the children's gifts, the cookies, coffee and cocoa and the Town Hall decorations.
A special thank you to all who marched or participated in the parade!
We appreciate your support and involvement in our holiday event.
We also want to thank everyone who viewed the parade and enjoyed the treats, and hope that a wonderful start to the holiday season was enjoyed by all!

The Stanford Lions Club
Stanfordville

Do we really want Prop. 1?

To the editor:
Proposition 1 was passed by the voters this past November. But how many people know what they "bought"? Although it is titled the Equal Rights Amendment, it is something else. Proponents primarily used abortion rights to market and draw voters to the booth and did not speak to the multitude of other categories delineated. Broad, generic terms were used in the ballot summary, and the amendment will be available for judges to interpret to their liking should cases reference it. What is "pregnancy outcome" or "autonomy" supposed to mean?

What did the voters buy with this amendment? It has been referred to as the Parent Replacement Act. Who is responsible for the care of children? It is parents who are responsible for the care and upbringing of children. They are the ones who should be making decisions for their children. It is not for the government to attempt to wrest control from parents. However, the amendment opens the door for the state to step between parents and children. In one specific area, there is concern when it comes to receiving transgender treatment that a child will do so without parental consent or knowledge. The mindset of the current legislature and government agencies, including educational entities, on this subject is not friendly to parents. Or, consider, do you want your daughter to earn an athletic scholarship or award? The amendment opens the door for biological males to compete against girls. Even the UN acknowledged the inequality in a report, "Violence Against Women and Girls in Sports", in which it was stated women or girls lost almost 900 sports medals worldwide to biological males.

While there is concern as mentioned above, the ballot summary available to the voter was flawed in that reference to a whole paragraph of the amendment was omitted. That paragraph secrecy is a concern because it contains the door to implement reverse discrimination. There will be more surprises as interpretations are made.

Prop 1 is a pig in a poke. Promotion of loss of abortion rights was a misdirection and never was in danger with the current legislative make-up, including the barbaric third-trimester abortion. Further, without going into the details, the legislature did not follow constitutional requirements when it advanced this proposal to amend the constitution. It is disappointing the legislators who facilitated the constitutional violation were returned to office to continue their misguided ways. We need better.


Rex S. Bridges
Rhinebeck

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

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

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County awards \$57,868 in Composting grants to Red Hook, Wappinger

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced two grants, totaling \$57,868, have been awarded to the Town of Wappinger and the Village of Red Hook as part of the County's Composting Grant program. The goal of the grant program is to promote composting and the diversion of organic waste out of the waste stream, and further the County's sustainability and waste-reduction initiatives.

Serino said, "Protecting the environment for our children and future generations is a top priority. Dutchess County was proud to establish the Composting Grant Program to encourage composting and reduce food waste. I thank the leadership in the Town of Wappinger and the Village of Red Hook for taking advantage of this County grant opportunity and for joining us in recognizing the importance of preserving our planet."

Announced earlier this year, the grant program offered local municipalities and school districts a 50-percent County match of municipalities' funds to install and operate an in-vessel aerobic composter for residents' use or up to \$20,000 to institute a communitywide food waste drop-off program.

The Village of Red Hook will receive \$7,868 to cover start-up costs to set up and implement a food waste drop-off program to promote community engagement in composting, offering residents a convenient drop-off site, centrally located in the Village center and accessible 24 hours a day. The program is estimated to be available for residents by spring 2025, and the Village's Climate Smart Communities task force will oversee delivery of finished compost.

The Town of Wappinger has been awarded \$50,000 to purchase and install an in-vessel composting machine at the Town's recycle center and transfer station, making it easy for residents to

access it as they drop off bulk materials, brush, recyclables or garbage. This advanced system will allow for efficient and large-scale composting of organic materials, significantly reducing the town's carbon footprint while producing nutrient-rich compost to benefit local agriculture and landscaping projects. Site preparation is aimed to begin in early 2025.

As per grant requirements, both projects must be completed and operational by Dec. 31, 2026.

Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Solid Waste Management Kerry Russell said, "Food waste comprises between 20 to 30 percent of all municipal waste. By composting, we divert waste out of the waste stream, reduce greenhouse gases, produce nutrient rich soil and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. The Division of Solid Waste Management is excited to partner with the Village of Red Hook and the Town of Wappinger to advance food waste diversion programming in our local communities."

To learn more about composting, including taking advantage of purchasing a discounted composting bin for home use, visit the Division of Solid Waste Management's composting webpage via www.dutchessny.gov.

The Composting Grant Program is one of the several County initiatives in its continuing efforts to preserve a vibrant environment for future generations. In September, for example, Dutchess County earned New York State's highest Climate Smart Community distinction, Silver Certification, for the County's continued climate action and environmental efforts. Learn more about Dutchess County's ongoing environmental initiatives on the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development's website: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Department/s/Planning/environment.htm>.

Village of Rhinebeck to celebrate launch of compost program Jan. 12

The Village of Rhinebeck will launch its compost program on Jan. 1. To celebrate, the Village will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m. Mayor Gary Bassett will use the oversized scissors and cut the ribbon tied around the food scraps collection container in the municipal parking lot.

Members of the public and local leaders are invited to attend. Village Compost's registered participants are encouraged to bring their food scraps buckets and ceremoniously dump them into the large, green compost collection container.

"I'm so excited to see everyone dump in their food scraps! I'll be there dancing a little jig!" said Trustee Vanessa Bertozzi, who, along with a team of volunteers, Mayor Bassett and the Village Board, has been planning the program for years. Michael DeCola, owner of Ellerslie Stables and subcontractor for the program, will also attend.

Village residents can register for the Village Compost program at

www.rhinebeckcompost.org. Approved registrations are notified via email on Thursdays. The program is free, and participants can choose to receive a share of the finished compost each spring.

The collection container is the central drop-off site for the program and will be located in the municipal lot behind Aroi and by the Rhinebeck Farmers Market shed. Participants can drop their food scraps any time they like, year-round. The food scraps container will be securely locked to prevent illegal dumping and to protect it from critters. Ellerslie Stables will pick up the collection container on Monday mornings, incorporate the food scraps into the composting operation at the farm, and return the container to the municipal parking lot.

The program is funded by a \$200,000 DEC grant, with a term of seven years, with an option to continue the municipal-farm contract.

For more information, contact Village Trustee Vanessa Bertozzi at trusteebertozzi@villageofrhinebeckny.gov.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

cschmidt@sutchessnews.com

Greener Home Improvements Act signed into law

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) and Senator Nathalia Fernandez (D Bronx/Westchester) announced that their bill, the Greener Home Improvements Act, has been signed into law (Chapter 590 of 2024). This new law will allow municipalities to create a property tax exemption for capital improvements to residential buildings that reduce carbon emissions.

"As we continue to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet our climate goals, it is crucial that we provide New Yorkers across the state with the resources and pathways to be part of the clean energy transition. This legislation does just that while also empowering local governments," said Barrett. "I thank Governor Hochul and Senator Fernandez for their partnership in getting the Greener Home Improvements Act over the finish line."

Senator Fernandez said, "This legisla-

tion is a significant step toward achieving the greenhouse gas reduction goals outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. By offering tax exemptions for energy-efficient home improvements, we're empowering homeowners to contribute to a greener New York. This is how we build a sustainable future—one home at a time."

The Greener Home Improvements Act establishes a 20-year tax exemption for carbon-reducing capital improvements on residential buildings, a 100% exemption on the increased assessed value of the home for the first 10 years and decreasing by 10% each year thereafter. Municipalities may opt into the property tax exemption by enacting a local law or resolution. Eligible improvements range from energy retrofits like replacing or installing insulation to the installation of solar panels and heat pumps.

Upcoming at Stanford Free Library

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Saturday, January 4 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Classical Guitarist Andrew Baffi will sit and strum for us!
No need to register, just drop in and enjoy the music

January Book Club
Join us Monday, January 13 at 1:00 pm
January's Selection is "All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto" by George M. Johnson
Please register via email: Stanfordlibrary@optonline.net

Read to Therapy Dog Jambo
Tuesday, January 14
from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
He's a gentle giant who loves to make new friends. People of all ages are welcome to come and visit with him. Sign up for a 15 minute slot with Jambo.

Sign up for a 15 minute slot with Jambo by contacting the library at stanfordlibrary@optonline.net or 845-868-1341

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Babies (Birth – 18 months)
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First, Third and Fifth Thursday of the month
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Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 2024 at 4:00PM
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Cary scientists study spongy moth impacts on disease-carrying ticks

In June, Cary Institute's hardwood forest – stripped of its foliage by hordes of invasive spongy moth caterpillars – more closely resembled a savanna. Standing in a grassy area doused in sunlight, Kelly Oggenfuss pointed out, "This spot would normally be a lot shadier, and the ground would be covered in leaf litter."

Oggenfuss has been collecting data at this site for 25 years as part of Cary's long-term project studying the ecology of tick-borne diseases, and she had never seen it like this before.

Cary's campus in Millbrook was hit hard by the invasive spongy moth this past spring and summer. Defoliation of oak trees – the pest's favorite food – reached nearly 100%, and other species, including evergreens, suffered significant damage. Cary was not alone; the caterpillars denuded much of the Mid-Hudson Valley region before they died or retreated into cocoons, allowing the trees to unfold new leaves.

Because Oggenfuss and the tick ecology team – led by Cary disease ecologists Richard Ostfeld and Shannon LaDeau – had already been studying how heat and moisture at the ground level shapes tick survival, the team realized the sudden increase in light due to defoliation might have serious implications for ticks and the diseases they spread to humans. So they applied for, and quickly won, a RAPID grant from the National Science Foundation. RAPID grants are fast-tracked to allow scientists to study unanticipated and fast-changing conditions.

With an award of \$179,544, the team sprang into action, scaling up the experiments they had already started. The one-year project is assessing how spongy moth defoliation shapes the survival of blacklegged ticks, the main vectors of the pathogens that cause Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis.

"We know from our previous research that if it's very warm and dry, that's really bad for some life stages of ticks," said Ostfeld. "So if this defoliation by the spongy moths is changing temperature and humidity conditions on the ground, it

could influence their survival, and as a consequence, our risk of getting sick from tick-borne disease."

To examine the impacts on ticks, the team set up 144 mesh enclosures. The enclosures are bags made of white organza, the same material often used in wedding party favors. However, the contents are definitely not suitable for a party. Each bag contains a small cylinder of the natural layer of soil and leaf litter, two data loggers the size of watch batteries that record temperature and humidity, and a certain number of blacklegged ticks. The crew ties each bag, trapping the ticks inside, then comes back in a few weeks to count how many survived.

Under the RAPID grant, the tick enclosures are evenly deployed in three kinds of conditions: heavily defoliated areas, areas with lower defoliation, and in defoliated locations under a shade cloth to simulate an intact canopy. The team will measure tick survival under each condition, and with each tick life stage. They started with larvae in September. They deployed adults in November, and will deploy nymphs in May 2025, matching their natural seasonal patterns.

Ostfeld and LaDeau hypothesize that ticks in the most defoliated areas will experience warmer and drier conditions, and therefore higher mortality rates. However, ecological responses to change are notoriously complex and unpredictable, and the team is prepared for nature to throw a curveball. For example, the scientists have already observed that more light coming through to the forest floor has allowed under-story plants to thrive in areas where they're normally not found.

"The crew was blown away by the degree to which grasses and forbs [a herbaceous flowering plant other than a grass] underwent this amazing flush of growth in the understory," said Ostfeld. "So in terms of the impact on ticks, it could go either way. It could be that the loss of leaves from the trees makes it hotter and drier and kills a lot of ticks. Or it could be that the loss of leaves from the

trees makes conditions just lovely for ticks, because of all this flush of greenery."

In another interesting dynamic, the flush of ground-level plants seems to have welcomed large numbers of meadow voles into the study sites, where they're not commonly found. This influx could mean that many ticks will feed on voles instead of mice and chipmunks. Voles are less likely to pass pathogens to the ticks, and may be more likely to kill the ticks that bite them, and therefore could influence tick survival and disease risk.

Cary scientists are uniquely poised to keep a finger on the pulse of these dynamics, as they've been studying interactions like these for almost 35 years.

The long-term project has revealed connections between acorn production, rodent population size, and ticks that carry Lyme disease bacteria. When oak trees drop a lot of acorns in the fall, for example, the all-you-can-eat acorn buffet can lead to surges in populations of white-footed mice and other rodents the following year. Ticks are then more likely to feed on these rodents, which happen to be very good at sharing the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. Hence, more ticks are then capable of spreading Lyme disease if they bite a human the following year.

Over the years, the team has investigated many other ecological dynamics surrounding these interactions. Predators such as foxes and bobcats can lower Lyme disease risk, they learned, possibly by killing and eating rodents, and/or serving as an alternate food source for ticks. The team also discovered that years with high numbers of mice and chipmunks can be devastating for birds that nest on the ground, as the rodents are more likely to

eat their eggs and young.

This isn't the first time spongy moths have been included in the long-term experiment. Many years ago, the project revealed that when mice are abundant, they have some capacity to regulate spongy moth populations by eating the moth's cocoons.

"Now we're coming at it from a new angle," said Ostfeld. "It's the same players, but different interactions."

As part of the long-term project, the team had already deployed soil cores and were tracking microhabitat data when the spongy moth infestation exploded. Those data will no doubt prove useful in understanding how defoliation affects tick survival, but the RAPID grant allowed the team to rapidly scale up their efforts.

"The level of defoliation this summer was a surprise to all of us," said LaDeau. "It's pretty remarkable that we were able to respond and get funding and start studying it as quickly as we did. And a lot of that wouldn't have happened without the longer-term project in place."

The new study will clarify how dramatic ecological changes – from spongy moth infestations to the hotter and drier conditions projected in some locations – influence tick survival, and what that means for people. LaDeau and Ostfeld are eager to plug their findings into a custom model they've been developing with collaborators to generate real-time forecasts of tick populations and local risk of Lyme disease.

Finding out whether the ticks thrive or "take it on the chin," in Ostfeld's words, may turn out to be key to understanding that risk over the next few years.

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New name for Marist in 2025

By Kate Goldsmith

Marist College recently announced it will change its name to Marist University at the end of January. In a press release on the institution's website it stated the name change would "better reflect the comprehensive, global institution of higher education it has become..."

The change will be effective Jan. 29, 2025.

"Marist has achieved remarkable success over the past several decades, transforming from a small regional college into a nationally and internationally renowned leader in higher education," President Dr. Kevin C. Weinman said. "Marist University better describes the breadth of opportunities we offer to students today and the vision we have for Marist's next century."

According to the release, this transition signals Marist's continued momentum as it nears its centennial in 2029 and follows a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees in support and subsequent approval of university designation from the New York State Board of Regents.

Marist has long combined the resources of a large university with the personal attention of a small college, creating a unique and rich residential learning experience. The institution expects that the name change will help introduce Marist to an even wider audience and further enhance the learning environment.

"Our founding values and distinctive strengths will continue to shape our future as we define what university means to us, one aspiring to new heights while preserving the intimate, student-focused elements of a college," Dr. Weinman said.

The power of a university

Since its founding in 1929, Marist has grown into an expansive global institution, now educating more than 5,000 undergraduates and nearly 1,000 graduate students across its main campus in Poughkeepsie, branch campus in Florence, Italy, and through a variety of online graduate programs.

This has powered Marist's signature educational approach, which is grounded in the principle of "and, not or." For example:

- Students explore a wide-ranging curriculum, blending liberal arts and strong pre-professional programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

- With 23 Division I athletic teams, Marist student-athletes hold the most all-time conference titles and have led in academic honor roll selections for 23 consecutive years in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

- Students benefit from extensive research and experiential learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, such as the nationally ranked Marist Poll, the Center for Sports Communication, and the IBM Joint Study Program.

- Marist's study abroad programs are ranked No. 1 among peer institutions by a 2024 U.S. Department of State-sponsored report, reflecting a commitment to bring Marist to the world and the world to Marist.

"I'm inspired about our future because Marist University will continue to dream big, while always feeling small," said Dr. Weinman. "This has long been one of Marist's greatest strengths, occupying a sweet spot exemplified by small classes taught by faculty who are both mentors and educators, and a community that thrives on mutual care and respect."

Attracting international, graduate, and faculty talent

The shift to Marist University also will enhance the institution's global appeal, clearly articulating Marist's identity to international students and student-athletes, and strengthening its ability to attract top faculty from around the world.

"As we expand our global reach, the name Marist University provides important clarity to prospective international students, who typically associate the word 'college' with secondary education, while also highlighting the strength of our graduate programs," said Dr. Catherine Gunther Kodat, Provost and Dean of Faculty. "University designation will ensure every person fully appreciates the range of our degree and certificate programs, along with the rich array of academic and co-curricular experiences we offer our students."

January transition

The decision comes after an extensive assessment of insights and input from Marist's entire community - students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Trustees - as well as prospective students and their families, and secondary school counselors worldwide.

Tony Lorello '86, President of the Marist Alumni Association, ex officio member of the Board of Trustees, and a proud Marist parent, described the university transition as an exciting time for the institution.

"To me, becoming Marist University gives us the best of both worlds: preserving the personal attention of the college we all grew up with over the last 95 years while signaling the depth of opportunities and leadership role Marist can play as a global university," he said.

A community-wide celebration and unveiling of a new storytelling campaign to reflect Marist's elevated profile is planned for Jan. 29 when students return for the spring semester, at which time Marist will officially become Marist University.

State Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) commented on the name change.

"This is exciting news for the Marist community, Poughkeepsie, and our greater Hudson Valley region," he said. "As a former student and current state senator who is committed to empowering New Yorkers through learning and higher education, I am thrilled to see Marist's designation evolve, reflecting the school's range of course offerings and its leading position within the global marketplace of ideas. I am eager to join the university at events for its official name change on January 29, and I look forward to continuing our collaboration and partnership with Marist faculty and students for years to come."

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Mill House Brewing Company continues to bring the heat, announces Embers by Mill House

On the heels of Mill House Brewing Company's recent announcement around its new restaurant venture, The Ridge by Mill House, co-owners, Daniel Crocco and Jamie Bishop, have announced the acquisition of Embers Wood-Fired Oven, a full-service mobile catering business, to be rebranded as Embers by Mill House. The elevated food truck, which will serve Dutchess County and the surrounding areas, is now accepting bookings for spring 2025 for private events.

"I've always dreamed of owning and operating a food truck, so Embers by Mill House marks a really exciting new chapter for us," said Crocco. "When we met and spoke with John and Jen, the former owners of Embers, and experienced the charm of the vintage truck, it sealed the deal. We're excited to introduce elevated catering options for every type of celebration, making each event more memorable."

The refurbished 1963 Boyertown GMC Step-Van, which boasts a custom-built Forza Forni wood-fired pizza oven, enables Mill House Brewing Company to

take its pizza, pints and top-notch experience on the road, effectively bringing 'Mill House to Your House'. With a vintage charm and modern appeal, the truck will seamlessly fit into any event with new offerings that build upon the existing business's wood-fired eats, such as hand-crafted sausages, beer-steamed mussels, wood-fired paella and pasta, and more. Truly a one-stop shop, Embers will also offer a full bar with an array of Mill House beers and cocktails, eliminating the need for patrons to obtain a temporary liquor license, purchase alcohol themselves or hire an additional catering service.

"This mobile catering truck enables us to bring a new level of creativity and convenience to guests for special occasions," said Bishop. "You can expect to see Embers pop up at our new restaurant, The Ridge, when it opens next year, and anticipate that this is just the beginning of our food truck endeavors. We're excited about the possibilities and have no plans of slowing down anytime soon."

"We've worked hard to build a community around Embers for the last five



Restaurant partners Daniel Crocco and Jamie Bishop have acquired Embers Wood-Fired Oven Truck and are expanding mobile catering offerings with new packages. *Courtesy photo*

seasons and have always known that we would need to pass it on to people with the same mission and love of food," said Jen Mac Kay, the former partner of Embers, who will continue to serve as the events coordinator for Embers by Mill House. "I can't think of a better team to

lead Embers into its next chapter."

To learn more about Embers by Mill House, or to reserve it for an event, visit www.millhousebrewing.com/embers. For updates on the truck's offerings and availability, follow @EmbersbyMillHouse on Facebook and Instagram.

Programs at the Hyde Park Library this week

HYDE PARK LIBRARY

2 Main St., Hyde Park
(845) 229-7791
hydeparklibrary.org

ADULT PROGRAMS

Dec 26
10:00 am
Hyde Park Crafters

Dec 26
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Woolsevelts Knitting Circle

Jan 2
10:00 am
Hyde Park Crafters

Jan 2
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Woolsevelts Knitting Circle

Jan 2
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Go Club

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Dec 30
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
New Year's Pajama Party Story Hour with Mrs.B

Jan 2
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Go Club

Jan 6
9:30 am
Mother Goose Story Time followed by
Story and Play

Jan 7
10:30 am
3s and 4s Storytime

Upcoming events at Starr Library

STARR LIBRARY

68 West Market St., Rhinebeck
(845) 876-4030
www.starrlibrary.org

LIBRARY CLOSED: Christmas Day

Mahjong
Upstairs Children's Wing
Thursday, Dec. 26, 1-2:30pm
Come by and play with a group of friendly gamers. This is an adult group.

Chair Yoga
Community Room
Friday, Dec. 27, 10:15-11:15am
Join yoga teacher Barbara Eichin for this gentle and relaxing program designed for seniors and those who are recovering from injury or have restricted movement. Suggested donation : \$10.00.

Brain Games
Mary Frazer Room
Friday, Dec. 27, 1-2:30pm
Join the fun and stretch your mind. This is a gathering for adults.

Mahjong
Upstairs Children's Wing
Monday, Dec. 30, 1-2:30pm
Come by and play with a group of friendly gamers. This is an adult group.

EARLY CLOSURE: New Year's Eve
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 10am-3pm
The library will close at 3pm today. We re-open again on Thursday, January 2nd at 10am.

Mahjong
Upstairs Children's Wing
Thursday, Jan. 2, 1-2:30pm
Come by and play with a group of friendly gamers. This is an adult group.

Chair Yoga
Community Room
Friday, Jan. 3, 10:15-11:15am
Join yoga teacher Barbara Eichin for this gentle and relaxing program designed for seniors and those who are recovering from injury or have restricted movement. Suggested donation : \$10.00.

Brain Games

Mary Frazer Room

Friday, Jan. 3, 1-2:30pm
Join the fun and stretch your mind. This is a gathering for adults.

Friends Book Donation Dropoff Hours
Community Room
Sunday, Jan. 5, 10am-12pm
For more information about hours, our next book sale, or accepted donations, please visit the Friends of the Library webpage. Sponsored by Friends of Starr Library.

Classical Guitar with Andrew Baffi
Starr Library
Sunday, Jan. 5, 2-3pm
Come by and enjoy an afternoon of classical guitar with Andrew Baffi. Browse, read a magazine or a newspaper, or just chill with gentle music in the background.

Starr Stitches
Mary Frazer Room
Monday, Jan. 6, 10am to 1pm
Starr Stitches meet at the Starr Library the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month from 10 am to 1 pm. A stitcher is anyone who does any or many types of embroidery and needlework, from beginner to advanced. Welcome all stitchers!

Connect & Play at Starr Library
Community Room
Monday, Jan. 6, 10:30am-11:30am
Join Jane Korn and other parents, caregivers, and children (ages 3 mo-4 yrs) for a child play group at the library! This is an opportunity for parents to connect and share ideas while their young ones interact, play and grow. Space is limited. Registration is required each week through our online calendar.

If you can no longer attend, please call the library at 845-876-4030 or email info@starrlibrary.org to let us know so we can admit someone from the waitlist. If you are on the waitlist, you may check in upstairs to see if space opens up.

Mahjong
Upstairs Children's Wing
Monday, Jan. 6, 1-2:30pm
Come by and play with a group of friendly gamers. This is an adult group.

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Donations of blood or platelets needed

As holiday celebrations continue, the American Red Cross encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood or platelets this month. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks.

Bring joy to someone facing a medical emergency; give something that means something with a blood or platelet donation. Schedule an appointment this December by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Those who come to give through Jan. 3, 2025, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on the offer, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities

COLUMBIA

Canaan: 12/27/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Canaan Fire Company, 2126 Route 295
Claverack: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Claverack Library, 629 NY-23B,

DUTCHESS

Hyde Park: 12/27/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd.
Poughkeepsie: 12/31/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road
Tivoli: 12/26/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Masonic Lodge in Tivoli, 7 N Rd

GREENE

Athens: 12/26/2024: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sleepy hollow Lake, 102 Lisa Ln
Coxsackie: 12/27/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Gospel Community Church, 121 Mansion Street
Greenville: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 5830 State Route 81

ORANGE

Goshen: 1/3/2025: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Goshen Christian Reformed Church, 2448 NY-17A
Monroe: 12/30/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd.
New Windsor: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., New Windsor Fire Department, 275 Walsh Ave.
Port Jervis: 12/31/2024: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 31 W Main St

ULSTER

Highland: 12/30/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Highland Hose Company 1, 25 Milton Ave
Kingston: 12/27/2024: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Health Alliance Hospital, 75 Mary's Ave
Wallkill: 12/27/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Shawangunk Town Hall, 14 Central Ave

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. 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.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Dec. 24: A Service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight, Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, 2 Fiddlers Bridge Rd., Staatsburg. All are welcome to attend, 7 p.m. (845) 889-4019

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. 7 p.m. All are welcome. (845) 876-6923, (845) 876-2122 or fdcirone@aol.com

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, Gallatin Community Church, 234 Columbia County Route 7, Gallatin. Come join us in our historic church for a joyous CANDLELIGHT service of LESSONS & CAROLS, 4 p.m. (518) 398-9462



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Pleasant Valley Community Gardens kicks off 2025 season

It's dark days of winter outside, but Pleasant Valley Community Gardens is already planning for its next season. The organization will meet on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Community Library. No experience necessary. PV Community Gardens is a committed group of volunteers learning as they grow vegetables and flowers in their garden in Helen Aldrich Park on Route 115. Everything grown is to benefit Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry. Meet your neighbors, learn about the seeding planting and more while you help feed your community! See our Facebook page and web site at www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com.

Repair Cafe set Jan. 11 in Hyde Park

The Hyde Park Repair Café will take place on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The United Methodist Church, 1 Church St., Hyde Park. Bring your beloved but broken items in for free repairs and advice. For more information, go to www.ClimateSmartHydePark.org or see the Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/share/15VdWivFPL/>

Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe set Jan. 11

The Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe will kick off the new year, Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Town Hall, Route 44, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The kick off will feature a Learn to Knit Class at 12:30 p.m. and a Sharpening Class from 1 to 2 p.m. Bring whatever needs sharpening, (knives, scissors, tools). Both classes will have a limit of 10, so arrive 15 minutes early.

A skilled team of "fixers" have much experience working on antique lamps and clocks, but it takes time, so come early and be patient. Computers, vacuums, clothing, moth-eaten sweaters, electronics, video games and cell phones are just a few of what can be repaired. The cafe features fresh coffee, tea, muffins, cookies and fruit. Everything is free, but donations are appreciated, as they help feed the staff and buy parts for repairs.

Pancake Breakfasts set at Rhinecliff Firehouse

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host Winter Pancake Breakfasts from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on the following Sundays: Jan.

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

Winter Soup Sales to benefit Rhinebeck Grange

It's time for Winter Soup Sales in Rhinebeck, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your calendar for the following Thursdays: Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 20. The cost is \$10 per quart (two pint-size containers). Take-out only. Pick up at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard Drive, Rhinecliff, at the side door on Orchard Drive, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New: Pick up also available at Morton Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

Proceeds support the Rhinebeck Grange. For more information, contact Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488, JoBaer2@gmail.com.

ONGOING

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

The New to You Thrift Shop at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop is open Thursdays and Saturdays at 30 Benner Road in Red Hook by St. Christopher's School.

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

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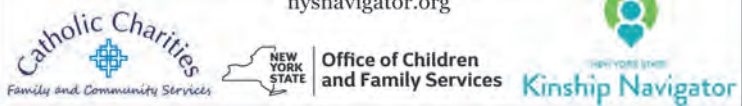
NYS Kinship Navigator provides information, referral and assistance with financial needs, legal options, school enrollment, kinship law and other resources.



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Mid-Hudson Library System Board receives 2024 Velma K. Moore Award

The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Board has been awarded the 2024 Velma K. Moore Award from the New York Library Association (NYLA). This fifteen-member board, made up of volunteers from around the Hudson Valley, was chosen for the award due to their leadership in supporting MHLS to become the first public library system in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Initiative's Sustainable Library Certification Program.

The board's work to achieve this certification included creating new policies, procedures, and facility plans to ensure the organization is making strong decisions for the future that respect not only the finances of the organization but also

result in strong environmental stewardship and respect for social equity and public health.

"It is wonderful to see our board, a group of committed, diligent, and good-humored trustees, recognized for setting a wonderful model for the 6,000+ trustees of the state, and thousands of library trustees across the country" said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director.

Actions taken as part of the certification resulted in the development of The Library of Local program with a new partner, the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley. This program funded community resilience hubs at fifteen member libraries which feature specialized collections on climate solutions with



The Mid-Hudson Library System Board of Trustees and staff. The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Board was awarded the 2024 Velma K. Moore Award. *Courtesy photo*

a special emphasis on food security; seed libraries; tool lending libraries; and targeted programs designed to help bring community members together to solve issues in their communities that are exacerbated by climate change.

The Board also engaged in facility operational decisions related to purchasing, hospitality, landscaping, renewable energy, and material management. Each has been optimized to ensure the organization is prioritizing human health and the responsible use of natural resources in decision making while ensuring funds are spent wisely on behalf of our stakeholders. The most recent example of this effort is the new solar panel system on the MHLS office building which will generate 75% of electrical needs from the sun

thanks to a subsidy from Central Hudson leveraged with funds from the State Aid for Library Construction Program.

This award was established to honor the memory of Velma Moore, one of the charter members of The New York State Association of Library Boards (NYSALB), now the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of NYLA. Mrs. Moore worked actively for the improvement of library services in New York State from 1947 until her death in 1961. She served two terms as president and was a member of the NYSALB Board from its establishment and, for 33 years, she was also a Trustee of the Kenmore Public Library near Buffalo, New York. The Award was originally

continued on page 14

COMING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

DRIVE-THRU LIGHT SHOW

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

THE GREATEST DOT-TO-DOT BOOKS

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 110

By David Kalvitis © 2004 Monkeying Around



The flavor of the holidays, a mighty molecule: Vanillin

I use holiday gatherings as opportunities to try new dishes, and one thing I've found is that vanilla flavoring is used in a myriad of recipes. Certainly the spice is present in baked goods. But vanilla flavoring goes beyond confections. You might be surprised by its applications.

Vanilla is a component of drugs that treat bipolar disorder, intestinal gas, motion sickness, and vertigo; the perfume Lancôme Idôle; and savory foods in cream sauces! Due to its bouquet, it can be used as a masking agent to cover bitter or harsh notes. As one of the most universally liked scents, it is associated with positive emotions and comfort. Vanilla's aromatic compounds are long-lasting, and a hallmark of luxury perfumes.

Vanilla flavoring heightens our perception of sweetness in desserts, which makes for a warmer mouth sensation. It's easy to taste in sugary goodies. But, much like salt brings out the best of umami deliciousness, vanilla flavor can also enhance meats and balance the acidity of fruits.

Vanilla orchids

Vanillin is the molecule that gives vanilla its distinct smell and taste. However, there are hundreds of other compounds which contribute to the

natural flavor of the pure extract. That complexity is unique to the origin of the *Vanilla planifolia* plant, the soil in which it grows, and how its pods (incorrectly called beans) are harvested.

Though a tapestry of tastes on your tongue is delish, there are many complications to obtaining pure vanilla. The flowers require a pollinator, since the male and female parts of *Vanilla planifolia* are separated by a membrane. There is only a 1% chance of natural pollination because the only known pollinator is endangered.

The vining orchid is commercially grown in Madagascar, Reunion Island, the Comoro Islands, Indonesia, and Mexico. But the farmed plants lack of genetic diversity due to clonal propagation. They are vulnerable to pests, disease, and climate change. Vanilla orchids are sensitive to temperature and light, and, therefore require delicate care. The flowers last but one day, requiring precise timing of human pollination to fruit.

Once the pods reach maturity, in about nine months, they require hand-picking. Then they are cured for several months, after which, they may be ground up as vanilla powder or paste, or soaked in alcohol to form extract. To become



Left: Coke & Lancôme Idôle Eau de Parfum both have Vanilla-1. Right: DIY vanilla extract. Below: Store DIY vanilla extract in a cool, dark, dry place for 6-12 months. Photos by Francine Wizner

flavorful, extracts need months to age. Those processes all contribute to the high prices of *Vanilla planifolia* products, as evidenced by a gallon of pure extract selling for \$258 on Amazon! As an alternative, vanillin has been synthetically produced since 1858.

All roads lead to the same Vanillin molecule

Synthetic vanillin is made using by-products of the paper industry, which are also molecules that are naturally occurring in trees and other plants. The

continued on page 14



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			1		2			
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

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	3				2
5				3	
			5		

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

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

- Cerberus' domain
- Chop
- Mama's husband
- Unsuitable
- Adam's partner
- Echo sounder
- Sunny prefix
- Armed conflict
- In a heated manner
- *Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical
- *Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words)
- "____ and the City"
- Not exciting
- Accident
- Rani's dress
- Talking points
- Aflame
- Spanish sparkling wine
- Slang for money
- Velum, pl.
- *November 5th 2024 winner
- Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words)
- Met's offering
- River in Bohemia
- Queen of Hearts' pastry
- *Super Bowl winners in 2024
- Visi____ or Ostro____
- The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the ____"
- ____ of passage
- *Milton's center
- *Miley Cyrus' Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024
- *2024 Summer Olympic Games host
- Cat's nine
- Lowest or highest card
- Accustom
- E-wallet content
- Backstabber
- N in RN
- Whipping mark
- R&R spot
- Support person

DOWN

- "Say what?"
- All over again
- *MV _____, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse
- Long stories
- Tends a fire
- Obscene
- Spermatozoa counterpart
- Lost, in Paris
- *Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court"
- Dead against
- Explore by touch
- Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character
- Hello, in Haifa
- Dead-on
- Last month
- Disclose
- Wrecked state
- Bet's predecessor
- Pileus, pl.
- Like steak order
- Maya Angelou, e.g.
- Itsy-bitsy bits
- *Caitlin of college basketball
- Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. ____ dog
- Scarlet O'Hara's home
- Speaking platform
- Dinklage or Townshend, e.g.
- Again but differently
- Elton John's title
- Shenzi of "The Lion King"
- Russian rulers, pre-1917
- Tedium
- "One ____ Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Classroom pests
- Elliptical
- Sunset location
- Sheep's milk cheese
- Little Miss Muffet's morsel
- Gaelic tongue
- Upper limit
- Poetic "always"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 17



Mom's Bread

A simple recipe with a message of love

Mom had a drawer next to the sink on the right-hand side of the kitchen. It was between the sink and the washing machine and it was right by the kitchen door. In that drawer she would store plastic bags from the grocery store that she would reuse, matches and hard-crust bread that she would bake every week. I know it sounds funny that bread, plastic bags, and matches were in the same drawer, but for some reason it made sense. Invariably that bread would sometimes turn a little stale, but because it was so crusty it would be fine for the week.

I can remember coming home from school, hopping off the school bus with my brother Vinny and running up the driveway and into the house through the kitchen door like a maniac, starving of course, because well, school lunches were school lunches. Mom would tell us to change out of our school clothes and put our things away. While we did that she would take out a piece of the hard crusty bread from her drawer next to the sink and washing machine. A hunk for each of us. She would then run it under hot, hot water, to soften the crust, drizzle some olive oil over the top and sprinkle a little salt and pepper. We'd come out our room, and on the kitchen table would sit these bowls with our steaming bread in them. That would be our after-school snack.

That week-old bread was the best. Vinny and I ate it like we hadn't eaten in weeks. The memory of that flavor and the smell of warm olive oil lingers to this day. You see, Mom had a knack of taking things and making them into something awesome. She was Mom and that's what Mom did.

That's how it was with her five boys. Mom was so very proud of us boys. Especially when we would go to church. All five of us, from the oldest to the youngest, lined up in the church pew. Mom would look down the pew at us, the proud mother hen looking at her chicks; or, rather, the proud baker looking at her loaves of bread.

Mom baked a mean loaf of bread. She mixed and kneaded her dough. She would let it rise and then she would knead it again. She would bake it till it was crusty and only take it out of the oven when it was perfect. You see, Mom baked 5 loaves of bread. Even though we were a little crusty and stale, she still made us into something special. She made us into men.

Thank you, Mom.

MOM'S BREAD

Ingredients

3.25 cups all-purpose flour, plus a little bit more for dusting
1 tsp sea salt

1 1/2 cups warm water
2 tsp active dry yeast

Instructions

In a large mixing bowl or a counter mixer, add the flour, salt and yeast. Use a spatula or the paddle attachment and mix to combine well.

Pour in the warm water and keep mixing until everything is incorporated, and a soft dough has formed. It will still stick to the bottom of the bowl and that is OK.

Cover the bowl with some plastic wrap, loosely, and a tea towel. Allow the dough to rise at room temperature for 2 to 3 hours until doubled in size.

Sprinkle some flour on your kitchen counter and dump the bread dough on it. Flour your hands to help it out of the bowl, as it will be sticky.

With floured hands, fold the dough onto itself, forming it into a round ball. Do not knead it, do not handle it anymore than you need to. Use a sharp knife and lightly carve an X in the top of the loaf or just make a few cuts across.

Place the bread dough on top of a lightly floured parchment paper pan and

allow it to rest while your oven is heating up.

Preheat your oven to 450 degrees F. Fill an oven-proof bowl with 2 inches of water and place it on the bottom rack. This will create the steam that will cause the crust to become crispy as it bakes.

Once your oven is heated to temperature, place the bread in the oven. Bake the bread for about 30 to 45 minutes until golden brown all over and cooked through.

Turn off the oven, open the oven door slightly and allow the bread to cool. This will allow the crust to get a little thicker.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Adam Ezra Group to perform at Towne Crier Dec. 27



Adam Ezra Group. Courtesy photo

Adam Ezra Group, led by Boston native Adam Ezra, is celebrating a groundbreaking year filled with musical achievements, philanthropic impact, and exciting collaborations with a tour which comes to the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Friday, Dec. 27, at 8 p.m.

Known for their grassroots approach and a unique blend of music and activism, the band is carving a path as one of the most dynamic independent folk bands in the country.

At the heart of their mission is Ezra's nonprofit organization, RallySound, which empowers communities through music. This year, RallySound hosted its annual festival, The Ramble, raising over \$151,000 for homeless veterans in New England. Ezra was also recognized for his commitment to veterans, receiving the Outstanding Service to Veterans Award

from the New England Center and Home for Veterans, joining a distinguished list of past honorees including Governor Charlie Baker and former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald.

Musically, the band continues to break new ground, recently collaborating with Rock and Roll Hall of Famer John Oates. Together, they released a live acoustic duet of their co-written song, "Juna Please." This follows the release of another Ezra-Oates co-write, "Hold Each Other Now," performed by the band and produced by Oates.

Joined on Dec. 27 by their friends Sirsy as the opening act, the band promises an unforgettable night of music and community spirit.

For tickets and information, visit www.townecrier.com. Towne Crier Cafe is located at 379 Main St., Beacon.

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A & E CALENDAR

Through Dec. 29: Holiday Tours, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Festive yuletide decor by florists and other local businesses will be featured through the mansion. This guided tour includes the landscape, exterior of the mansion, first and second floors, and video. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased upon arrival. Arrive about 15 minutes early, as space on each tour is limited. Tours on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at noon, 1, 2 & 3 p.m. (845) 876-4818 or <https://wilderstein.org/>

Through Dec. 29: The Wonderland of Lights, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. A holiday attraction for the entire family. Immerse yourself in holiday cheer as you drive through hundreds of expertly crafted lights displays accompanied by festive sounds of the season. Hours: 5-9 p.m. (open until 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays). <https://www.thewonderlandoflights.com/>

Dec. 26-31: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Dec. 26: Latin Dance with Beacon Dance Beat, 7 p.m. All seats \$10. Dec. 27: Adam Ezra Group; special guest Sirsy, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. Dec. 28: The Big Takeover, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Dec. 29: Chihoe Hahn & Los Chinese, featuring Patrick Stanfield Jones, Craig Sheppard, Andy Stack, with special guests, 6:30 p.m. No admission charge. \$15 minimum for food and beverage per person. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebration featuring Chris O'Leary Band, Robert Hill Band feat. Rae Simone, & Marc Von Em, 9:30 p.m. Dinner, show and the champagne toast is \$150 per person, tax, service and gratuity included. Show and champagne toast is \$60 advance, \$65 door if available. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Dec. 28: Winter Holiday Concert, Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St. (Rte. 44), Pleasant Valley. Join Katie DeFiglio, a "Soprano and Her Ukulele," for an afternoon of fun holiday songs, including a sing-along, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Katie, originally from Poughkeepsie, is dedicated to creating well-being and joy through her

singing, music, and teaching (at Keystone State Music Theater Academy near Pittsburgh, PA). With a versatile style that includes pop, jazz, folk, classical, opera, and musical theatre, she has performed in the Hudson Valley and throughout the US and Europe for over 25 years. Free, but registration required at (845) 635-8460 or <https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>.

Dec. 31: Ars Choralis New Year's Eve Concert, Old Dutch Church, Kingston. "Together We Rise," a concert of love designed to uplift the spirit with words and music, recognizing the beauty and wonder of our common humanity, 6 p.m. Free. <https://arschoralis.org/>

Dec. 31: New Year's at Noon, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, 75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie. A festive way to celebrate New Year's Eve as a family and ring in the New Year, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. New Year's @ Noon features music provided by Lutz Entertainment, special activities for kids of all ages, refreshments, and of course, noisemakers, as we count down to noon. Tickets \$16. <https://mhdm.org/event/new-years-noon-2/>

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Millbrook, Lyall Community Church and Grace Church, Village of Millbrook. Gather with friends, family and neighbors for an evening of live performances, family fun and community spirit, 4-7 p.m. Performers include The Larry Ham Quartet (jazz), classical composer Philippe Treuille, jazz combo After Five, and the Grumbling Gryphons Theater presenting "Trickster Coyote: How Coyote Brought Fire to the Plains Indians!" Plus family-friendly activities including face painting, a talented balloon twister, and The Bubble Bus. Refreshments will be provided by the VFW and other local favorites. Admission buttons (tickets) available for a suggested donation of \$5 at Reardon Briggs, Merritt Bookstore and Village Wine & Spirits in the Village of Millbrook. If you don't get your buttons early, you can purchase them at the check-in table outside of the Thorne Center on the night of the event. More info: Instagram @newyearsevemillbrook or millbrookrotary.org

EXHIBITIONS

Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Jan. 5:** "American Landscapes," a collection of works by this month's guest featured artist, Bennet Harris Horowitz. Horowitz explores the pictorial tension between flat geometry and the illusion of space in his large, colorful landscape paintings. www.artgallery71.com

Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through January 2025:** "The True Story of Bannerman's Island," Bannerman Castle Trust's 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. www.bannermancastle.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 27:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be Lala Montoya, and at 12 Vassar St., John McGiff will showcase his work in the Hancock Gallery and Logan Lapointe will be featured in the Reception Gallery. **Jan. 3-31:** New art installations featuring Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St., and Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries at 12 Vassar St. **Free public art opening receptions** will be held on Fri., Jan. 3, 5-7 p.m. for Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries; and Fri., Jan. 10, 5-7 p.m. for Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

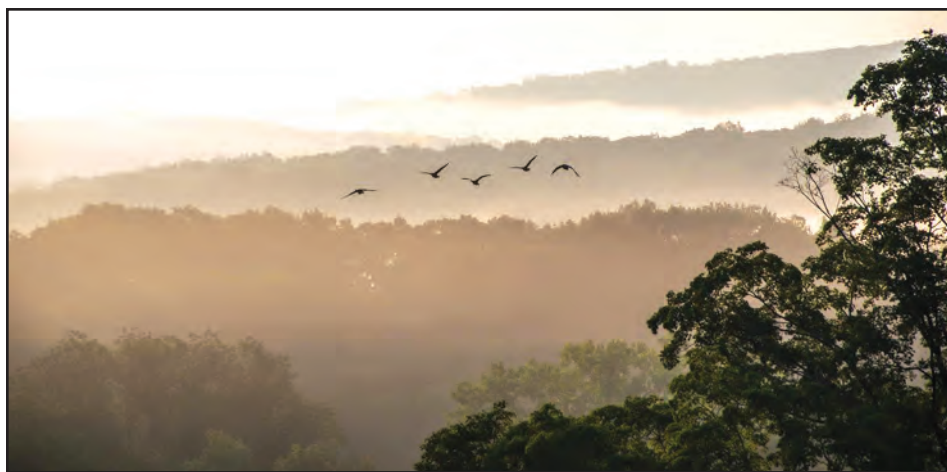
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 2, 2025:** "Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency," an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through December:** 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

Hyde Park Library Annex, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through December:** Wildlife Photography by Daniel Schoonmaker from September to December. Proceeds from the sale of the photos will benefit the library's accessibility project. (845) 229-7791

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 30:** Holiday Show, new photographs by Jane Haslam, Phyllis Chadwick, Linda T. Hubbard and Rebecca Tocci, as well as handcrafted woodwork by Ed Bryan, handmade soap by Genevieve St Louis Jan, jewelry by Karen Ostrom and pottery by Ann Heywood. www.landgalleryonline.com

Pictured: "South Kent Sunrise" by Rebecca Tocci.



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

Hudson Valley Naturalist

continued from page 11

raw materials undergo laboratory processes involving chemical reactions and changes in pH. The final product, vanillin, is a safe food additive approved by the FDA. A gallon of imitation vanilla sells for \$20 on Amazon.

Vanillin can also be derived using natural chemical reactions. Ferulic acid is a substance found in many plants, including grains. Specific microbes "eat" the ferulic acid and produce vanillin as a byproduct. Produced in this way, vanillin can be labeled "natural" because it results from a natural chemical reaction – fermentation. I have only seen this product available as an ingredient in commercial food production. It is more expensive than synthetic vanillin, but the price point is less than pure vanilla extract.

A much-beloved spice, vanilla flavor was popularized by Queen Elizabeth. Experts agree that it is among the natural flavors in Coca-Cola's trade-secreted recipe. But how we satisfy our desire for this mighty molecule needs to be countered against confounding factors like the diminishing natural habitat of Vanilla planifolia. The demand for vanillin far exceeds the supply that can be obtained from vanilla orchids. A sustainable

solution will allow me to enjoy my Kris Kringle Creamy Cookies with my Hanukkah Hot Chocolate.

Chemically, there is no difference between vanillin derived from vanilla plants and vanillin prepared through synthetic or fermentation methods. It is true, however, that pure vanilla extract may possess a more complex flavor and is made up of just three ingredients. I made some, but I'll need to wait till December 2025 to try it. If you are interested in a kitchen, chemistry, or holiday deep-dive into vanilla, check out Vanillin: A Mighty Molecule at <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Vanillin-A-Mighty-Molecule-Enrichment-Cross-Curricular-Ecology-Genetics-12631665>

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleyapplelodging.com/>

MHLS Board receives...

continued from page 10

established in 1962 with a gift from the Moore family and carries a \$1,500 prize.

While MHLS was the first public library system certified, they are not the last! Both the Suffolk Cooperative Library System and the Ramapo Catskill Library System have followed suit and become certified, and three others are pursuing certification: Clinton-Essex

Franklin Library System, North Country Library System, and the Southern Tier Library System. There are more than 200 public, academic and school libraries across North America now involved in this certification program with 45 having completed the program including the Highland Public Library and Kinderhook Memorial Library in the Hudson Valley.



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14th annual First Day Hikes announced

Governor Kathy Hochul encouraged New Yorkers to spend time outdoors this holiday season and celebrate the New Year at State Parks, historic sites, natural areas, environmental education centers, canal trails, and public lands across the Empire State on January 1, 2025. The 14th annual First Day Hikes program is offering varied hike options for people at nearly 100 locations across the state to enjoy.

Governor Hochul waived parking fees at all State Parks to increase access to these events on New Year's Day. Admission to State Park grounds is always free.

"There's no better way to kick off the New Year than with family and friends at a First Day Hike to experience and enjoy the winter beauty of New York's amazing scenic landscapes," Hochul said.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Canal Corporation are partnering to host the many walks and hikes taking place throughout the state as part of the First Day Hikes program.

New York State Parks Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons said, "First Day Hikes are a family-friendly tradition that offer a great way to embrace the outdoors this winter season and allow us to take a break and understand the impor-

tance of the connection nature and outdoor recreation has to our physical and mental wellness. On New Year's Day, I encourage you to connect with your community and visit a familiar or new destination to create new memories, treat your wellness and experience our state's natural treasures year-round."

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said, "DEC is proud to continue the tradition of hosting hikes with our partners at State Parks for the popular First Day Hike program. For 14 years, we've successfully encouraged New Yorkers of all ages and abilities to find ideal outdoor places to visit with family and friends on New Year's Day. DEC's environmental education centers, State forests, wildlife management areas, and fire towers offer some of the best views and opportunities to experience scenic wonders across the state—the perfect places to celebrate the start of a new year."

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "New York has countless awe-inspiring settings for enjoying nature and the great outdoors, making a First Day Hike the perfect opportunity to start the new year. I LOVE NY encourages residents and visitors alike to extend day trips into getaways with an overnight stay at a cozy hotel, inn

or lodge, paired with shopping, dining, history and arts experiences. With so many ways to pair renewal and rejuvenation with personal enrichment, it's so easy to love New York."

Most walks and hikes are family-friendly, and typically range from one to five miles depending on the location and conditions. More than 120 individual hikes are being offered at state parks, historic sites, canal trails, and DEC natural areas and environmental education centers.

A list of New York State First Day Hikes, location details, format, advance-registration requirements and additional information can be found online at <https://parks.ny.gov/events/first-day-hikes.aspx>. Interested participants are encouraged to check the details of their preferred host site and register where required.

Starting in Massachusetts in 1992, First Day Hikes are now a national event taking place in all 50 states. While the following locations are offering organized activities, most of New York's public lands are accessible on this day and throughout the winter season.

List of First Day Hikes in the Hudson Valley/Catskills region:

Bear Mountain State Park, Bear Mountain; ryan.gerberhy@parks.ny.gov

Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, Yorktown; (914) 245-4434

Little Stony Point/Hudson Highlands State Park, Cold Spring; (917) 658-4526

Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Peter's Kill, Kerhonkson; (845) 255-0752

Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Sam's Point, Cragmoor; (845) 647-7989

North-South Lake, DEC's Kaaterskill Wild Forest, Haines Falls; (518) 303-6050

Staatsburgh State Historic Site/Mills Norrie State Park, Staatsburg;

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center, DEC's Friends Support Group, Wappingers Falls; (845) 831-3800

Taconic State Park - Copake Falls, Copake Falls; (518) 912-7387

Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, Poughkeepsie; (845) 392-7800

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, which saw a record 84 million visits in 2023. For more information on any of these recreation areas, visit parks.ny.gov, download the free NY State Parks Explorer app or call (518) 474-0456.

Upcoming children's programming in the Poughkeepsie Public Library District

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
(845) 485-3445
www.poklib.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Winter Break Drop-In Craft (K-6)
Thursday, January 2 and Friday,
January 3, 2-3 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
No registration required.

Sphero Bot Free Play! (K-5)
Monday, January 6, 3:30 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Kids Chess Club (up to grade 6)
Tuesdays in January, 6 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
No registration required.

Kids Retro Gaming Club (up to 11

years old)
Thursdays, January 9, 23, and
February 6, 4 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Bilingual Family Morning Story Time
(ages 1-5)
Friday, January 10, 10:30 a.m.
Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots
Branch Library
No registration required.

LEGO and More: Brick Building
(ages 5+)
Monday, January 13, 4 p.m.
Boardman Road Branch Library
No registration required.

Kids' Open Art Studio (grades 3-6)
Tuesday, January 14, 4 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Discovery Science (grades 1-5)
Thursday, January 16, 3:30 p.m.
Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots
Branch Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Six Sided Snowflakes (grades 1-6)
Thursday, January 16, 4 p.m.
Boardman Road Branch Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Art & Stuff (PreK-grade 2)
Tuesday, January 21, 4 p.m.

Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required at
www.poklib.org

Cardboard Party! (up 11 years old)
Wednesday, January 29, 1:30 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
No registration required.

The Library District will be closed on:
Wednesday, January 1
Monday, January 20
View the full calendar of events in
January and February at www.poklib.org.

ATTENTION ART GALLERIES

E-mail exhibition listings to:
[creativeliving@
sutchessnews.com](mailto:creativeliving@sutchessnews.com)

Happy Holidays
from all of us at
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News Group**

*Northern Dutchess News
Southern Dutchess News
Beacon Free Press*

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OBITUARIES

Frederick Calderon

Frederick Calderon, 86, an area resident since 1975 and formerly of Manhattan and the Bronx, died on December 13, 2024 at The Paramount at Somers.

Born in Manhattan on February 4, 1938, he was the son of the late Alberto and Anna (Lopez) Calderon. Frederick attended PS 149 in Brooklyn and proudly served our country in the US Navy and Merchant Marines. He had been employed as a Mechanic A with Con Edison in New York City for 35 years until his retirement in 1997. He also had worked for Norcross Card Company. He enjoyed music, reading, drawing, coloring, walking, swimming, socializing, bicycling, gardening and bird watching.

On June 28, 1958 at St. Augustine's Chapel in New York City, Frederick married Rosemarie Paris who survives at home. He is also survived by his children and their spouses, Frederick J. and Mae Calderon, Richard Glenn and Rosemary Calderon, Linda Marie and Jay Bloomer; his grandchildren, Nadine and Jared Larson, Michael Calderon and Paul Calderon; his great-grandchildren, Julian, Emmett and Finley Larson; his nephew, Philip Caban; his niece, Anna Calderon; and his family pets, Rebecca, Mika B., Zeus, Petey and Baby. In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his siblings, Albert, Esias, Enes and Nancy Calderon.

The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Fishkill.

John Francis Jasmin

John Francis Jasmin, 85, of Pine Plains, NY, passed away peacefully on November 26, 2024, at Vassar Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on February 23, 1939, John was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and uncle, whose kindness and generosity left a lasting impact on all who knew him. He spent his professional career as an electrical engineer for the New York State Office of General Services, where he was admired for his expertise, hard work, and commitment to excellence. After his retirement, John remained active renovating houses, fixing cars, anything mechanical and enjoyed several cold ones.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia Jasmin, and his four children: Helen Lott of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina; John C. Jasmin of Copake Falls, New York; Susan Foreman of New Bern, North Carolina; and Steven Jasmin of Salt Point, New York. He was the proud grandfather of six grandchildren: Michelle Christian, Aimee Dunn,

Jeremy Rose, Courtney Jordon, Kelly Greenland, and Jaclyn Jasmin, and seven great-grandchildren. John also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and dear friends who will never forget him. He is also predeceased by his son, Frank Jasmin.

John's family remembers him as a man of strength, and a source of wisdom. He enjoyed problem-solving, sharing stories, and spending time with his Wife, who brought him great joy. His legacy of integrity, compassion, and hard work will endure in the hearts of those who knew him.

John's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Vassar Hospital for their compassionate care.

May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

Arrangements under the direction of Horn & Thomes, Inc Funeral Home, Pawling, NY.

Nancy Knapp

Nancy Ann Szmurlo Knapp of Bolivia, North Carolina and formerly of Hyde Park, NY, passed away on December 14th, 2024. She bravely lived and survived with breast cancer for 18 years.

She was born in Rome, NY on June 18th, 1946, daughter of the late Frank and Charlotte Szmurlo. In her early adulthood, Nancy worked at General Electric in Syracuse, NY, where she met her late husband, Gary Knapp. Together, they built a home and raised their family in Hyde Park, NY. There, Nancy worked at Regina Coeli Church and Dutchess County BOCES before retiring to North Carolina in 2005.

Nancy will best be remembered for her love of family and friends and contagious laugh. A naturally gifted potter, Nancy took classes for many years and sold her work at Franklin Square Gallery in Southport. She enjoyed reading, spending time with her community of friends, and caring for her beloved cat Cleo.

Nancy is survived by her son, Shane, of Berkeley, California, daughter Tracey of San Leandro, CA, and her brothers, Charles and Frances Szmurlo of Rome, New York.

A service was held in her honor on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the Peacock-Newnam & White Funeral Home Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Franklin Square Gallery at <https://www.franklinsquaregallery.com/> donate. Online condolences may be made at www.peacocknewnamwhite.com Peacock-Newnam & White Funeral and Cremation in Southport is serving the family of Mrs. Knapp.

Guy Michael Shockley

Guy Michael Shockley, 72, passed away at home on December 14, 2024, after his battle with cancer. Born August 3, 1952 at United States Air Force Hospital, Tachikawa, Japan; Son of Charles Roe and Mary Elizabeth Shockley. He is survived by his 33-year partner, Ellen Girdlestone and her family, brother James A. Shockley and his family, cousins, friends, and fellow veterans.

He preferred to be called "Mike". Mike was all about duty, honor, and country; he served in the US Navy from March 16, 1970 to March 15, 1976; 3½ years overseas in Vietnam, and then 2 years Naval Reserve. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon. He experienced Vietnam Combat Service from October 1971 to July 1972 as a radioman and earned AM "A" School, "Beep" School, and was later on the Skylab 3 Pickup in 1973. He was a member of VFW Post 170, American Legion 1302, and Elks Lodge. He found solace with his "band of brothers", joining the Color Guard to participate in Graveyard services and Marching in Parades. He contributed to Wreaths Across America and sending care packages to active-duty soldiers.

He found his "niche" in the computer electronics industry and held several Certifications in ISO Computer Technology. He worked at Automatic System Developers (ASD) from 1979 to 1989 as Test Technician, Operator, Supervisor of Test and Quality Control, and Department Supervisor. He was a Manufacturing Engineer at Cyberchron Corporation in Cold Spring, NY from 1989 to 1992, and then returned to ASD as Electrical Designer in 1992. In January 2000 he went to cim-tech and then Weber Screwdriving Systems in June 2003 as Electrical Designer, the job he truly most enjoyed was Electrical Designer! In 2008 he returned to the Computer Test Industry at IBM and continued to work well beyond "retirement" age, finally "called it quits" at age 70.

Early in his life, he loved playing baseball and news articles showed he was a very good amateur pitcher. He loved fishing on the banks of local streams and renting a rowboat on Wappinger Creek to fish with his beloved Ellie. He was an avid Jets and Mets fan, he would say, hey, not everyone can do it! He also loved NHRA fuel cars, he had to be in the front seats so he could "smell" the fuel as the cars roared down the speedway, my how he loved that!

He is already deeply missed, and his kind, caring, and giving personality will be forever remembered.

Visitation time for family and friends took place on December 19, 2024 at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Pine Plains. A funeral service was held during the visitation. Burial with military funeral honors immediately followed in Friends Upton Lake Cemetery, Clinton Corners, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to Wreaths Across America, or to a charity of your choice. For directions or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.peckandpeck.net.

Elizabeth C. Simmons

Elizabeth C. Simmons, 96, passed away on December 15, 2024 at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY.

Born on April 29, 1928 in New Britain, CT to the late Frank and Mary (Bradley) Chase. Elizabeth married Richard "Deacon" Simmons on May 1, 1947 in New Britain, CT. Together they moved to Tivoli, NY where they would create a beautiful life, a home filled with love and many cherished memories with their family and friends.

Elizabeth was a homemaker to her family, she enjoyed baking and gardening around her home. She was an avid reader and a great supporter of the Tivoli Library. She was a past active member of the Methodist Church in Tivoli. Above all, spending time with her grandchildren brought her the utmost joy.

She is survived by her sons, Paul Simmons (Annemarie Dempsey) of Tivoli, NY, James (Lara) Simmons of Tivoli, NY, and Richard (Grace) Simmons of Marlboro, NY; her grandchildren, Caitlin Simmons, Emma Simmons, Jessica (Dayton) Harper, Lisa (Mike) Coppersmith, Amanda Simmons, James (Emily) Simmons, Maddie Ames, Grace Ames, Richard (Nancy) Simmons Jr.,

Eric Simmons, Mark (Jessica) Simmons, and Angela Simmons (Michael Kavulich); her sixteen great grandchildren; her one great great grandchild; in addition to her extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband, Richard that predeceased her in 2011, Elizabeth is predeceased by her son, Craig Simmons.

Friends and family called at Burnett & White Funeral Homes on Sunday, December 22, 2024. A memorial service was held during visitation. Burial will be private.

Memorials may be made in Elizabeth's memory to The Tivoli Library or The Alzheimer's Association.

Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook, NY.

Vernon Storms

Vernon Storms passed away at the age of 95 in Rhinebeck, NY, on Saturday December 7, 2024.

Vernon was born on November 23, 1929 in Greenport, NY to parents John and Bertha Storms. He grew up on a farm and would continue that passion and profession into his adult life.

Vernon attended Catskill College majoring in agricultural sciences before enlisting into the US Army, deploying to Korea just shy of graduating. In Korea he was proudly serving as an engineer, helping to build roads and airstrips. Once home, he met the love of his life, Barbara Place, and were married in the spring of 1955. They spent nearly 69 years of marriage together, creating a beautiful life for their family of 5.

Vernon was predeceased by Barbara 9 months before his own passing, and he expressed every day how much he wanted to be with her again. Vernon is also predeceased by his parents John and Bertha Storms, his brothers Claude and Lloyd Storms, his sister Bertha Storms. He is survived by his children, Kathleen Storms, Sharon Storms, and Mark Storms, his grandchildren, Erin Vollmer, Alfred Kyle Longest, Lucas Longest, Sarah Perry, Melissa Caul, Stephanie Caul, Samantha Paraszti, Steven Corrado, Thomas Hudock Armstrong, Mallory Storms, and Nola Storms. Even more, he is survived by nieces and nephews and 16 great grandchildren.

Services for Vernon took place on Saturday, December 21, at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook. In the spring there will be having a memorial service graveside for both Vernon and Barbara. In lieu of flowers please donate to your local Future Farmers of America chapter. For directions and condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

Malvina Taschler

Malvina Grace Taschler passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. A Bronx native, she was 99 years old. A longtime resident of Hopewell Junction, NY, Malvina and her husband, Edward John Taschler married on December 9, 1951. Edward passed away on June 8, 1998.

Malvina gave birth to three daughters: Jennifer Morton and husband Robert of LaGrange, Joanne Gonnella and husband Harry of Somers and Claudia King and husband John of Pleasant Valley, NY. Malvina also has five very loved grandchildren; Christopher Williams, Rebecca Strauss, Bryan Williams, Maxwell Gonnella and Sam Gonnella. Malvina is also the great-grandmother to Lukas and Eli Strauss!

Malvina was the quintessential homemaker. She loved her home. She loved to garden, to cook and sew. She was an expert at quilting, knitting and crocheting. She made sure she passed on these talents to her daughters. She loved her hikes and trips to the beach with her family. She was an avid reader and lover of books.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to "In Flight": INFLIGHTINC.ORG, PO Box 326, Red Hook NY 12571-0326. "IN FLIGHT, INC. provides services to empower people with developmental disabilities to achieve their life goals and aspirations in order to lead richer and fuller lives."

Private inurnment will take place at the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.



Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Milan Town Board will hold their Reorganization meeting on January 1, 2025 at 1:00 pm. Said meeting will take place at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY. By order of Milan Town Board
Catherine Gill,
Town Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE – NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TEST WELL AT HOWE PARK TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Town of Pleasant Valley until January 10, 2025 at 12:00p.m. local time at the Office of the Town Clerk, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569, at which time and place said sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud For "Test Well at Howe Park".

Legal Notices

No bids will be received or considered after the date/time stated above. The purpose of this Town of Pleasant Valley project is to confirm the quality and quantity of the groundwater at Howe Park by drilling a test well, which could serve as a future production well for the new water district. A Pre-Bid conference will not be held. Bidding contractors are strongly encouraged to visit the project site before submitting bids. The Request for Proposal (RFP) may be procured at the Office of the Town Clerk, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 beginning on December 18, 2024 during regular business hours. Digital copies of the RFP may be obtained online as a download for a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) from the website: https://de.biddyhq.com/under_public_projects/. Bids may not be

Legal Notices

withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the closing date/time for receipt of all bids. All requests for clarifications must be submitted no later than January 7, 2025 at 4:00p.m. All proposals must be submitted by hard copy in a sealed envelope clearly marked:
(SEALED PROPOSAL)
Test Well at Howe Park
The Board of Trustees of the Town of Pleasant Valley reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any informalities at its discretion, and to make such bid award that it deems is in the best interest of the Town of Pleasant Valley even if such award is to other than the lowest bidder.
/s/ Mary Albrecht
Mary Albrecht
Town Supervisor
Town of Pleasant Valley
Dated:
December 18, 2024
AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING
I, Mary Beth Muir,

Legal Notices

duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York hereby certify that a notice regarding a **PUBLIC HEARING** pertaining to: "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 98 TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS TO SEVEN" to be held on the **6TH** day of **JANUARY, 2025** at **7:05PM** was posted on the sign board at the entrance to my office on the **19th** day of **DECEMBER 2024**: and also at the Post Office in Pleasant Valley, the Post Office in Salt Point, and on the bulletin board in the Pleasant Valley Firehouse. Further, due notice has been published in the Town's official newspaper, the Northern Dutchess News on the **25TH** day of **DECEMBER 2024** & **1ST DAY OF JANUARY 2025**.
Mary Beth Muir,
Town Clerk

Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW OF 2024
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 98 TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS TO SEVEN
BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley as follows:
SECTION 1. This Local Law shall be entitled "A Local Law Amending Chapter 98 to Change the Number of Zoning Board of Appeals Members to Seven".
SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT. The Town Board finds that the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals has functioned well with seven members and two alternates. After further consideration, the Town Board wishes to continue with a seven-member ZBA and not transition to a five-member ZBA as contemplated by a previous local law.
SECTION 3.

Legal Notices

AUTHORITY. This law is enacted pursuant to Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.
SECTION 4. AMENDMENT TO THE CODE. Subsection 98-95(A)(2) is hereby repealed and replaced as follows: The Zoning Board of Appeals shall consist of seven members selected and appointed by the Town Board. Member terms shall be seven years with one term ending each year. One member shall be designated the Chairperson by the Town Board and shall serve as Chairperson at the pleasure of the Town Board. The Town Board shall appoint a Secretary and shall prescribe rules for the conduct of the Zoning Board of Appeals' affairs. The Board shall consist of seven members regardless of the number of members prescribed by Town Law § 267.
SECTION 5. SUPERSESSION. It is the intent

Legal Notices

of the Town Board to supersede any provisions of the New York State Law to the extent that they may be inconsistent with the provisions of this local law, pursuant to the Town's supersession authority under Municipal Home Rule Law § 10. The Town Board acknowledges that the number of board members established herein differs from the number prescribed by § 267, and the Town Board exercises its authority to supersede that provision.
SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this local law is held invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this local law.
SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon its filing in the Office of the New York State Department of State.

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

Drug Task Force: Alleged drug dealer arrested for sale of controlled substance, intent to sell

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force received reports of narcotic and dangerous drug dealing in the area of South Cherry Street on the south side of Poughkeepsie. Drug Task Force Agents identified Bernard Diggs, a new City of Poughkeepsie resident, as a narcotic and dangerous drug dealer operating in that area. Drug Task Force Agents were able to make multiple purchases of narcotics from Diggs over the course of this ongoing investigation.

In the late afternoon of Dec. 17, the Drug Task Force Agents located Diggs in the area of Cherry Street while he was in the process of conducting a hand-to-hand exchange of narcotics with an unidentified female. Drug Task Agents approached and arrested Diggs related to the ongoing investigation. At the time of his arrest Diggs was found to be in possession of Fentanyl packaged for sale. Diggs was charged with the following offenses:

One Count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, a class B Felony.
One Count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, intent to sell, a class B Felony.
Diggs was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and remanded to DCJ on 50k Cash Bail/150K Partially Secured Bond/300k Secured Bond.
It was noted by the D.A.'s office that additional charges are pending against Diggs as a result of this investigation.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by sending an email to the following web address: DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com.
As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Suguru solution

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

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

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 110

By David Kalvitis © 2004 Monkeying Around

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Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press

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A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

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105 Employment Opportunity
106 Business Opportunity
107 Situations Wanted
120 Schools
121 Special Instruction
122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
141 Child Care
142 Day Care
143 Baby-sitting
145 Adult Care
150 Announcements
151 Adoption
152 Novenas
154 Lost & Found
155 Personal
200 Services

201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
226 Travel & Services
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722 Bazaar
723 Consignments
724 Farmers Market
725 Collectibles
750 Events
800 Boats
801 Campers & Trailers
802 Motor Homes
803 Recreational Vehicles
900 Autos for Sale
901 Vans/SUV's
902 Trucks
903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

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holiday greetings

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Due to the Holiday schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:
January 1st issue: Deadline: December 25th.
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GOLDEN LIVING

*News for Older Adults,
Their Families and Caregivers*
Todd N. Tancredi, Director
Dutchess County
Office for the Aging

OFA offices and Friendship Centers will be closed on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th; and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1st. All offices and Friendship Centers are open regular weekday hours otherwise.

OFA'S GOALS FOR 2025 – AND YOURS

The Dutchess County budget for 2025 is a promising one, when it comes to services for Dutchess County's older adults and caregivers. Visit dutchessny.gov/budget2025 to look at the whole package.

Some key improvements for Dutchess County's older adults:

- Mobile OFA office hours, to bring a wide range of in-person OFA services closer to older adults in their home towns;
- Enhancing OFA Friendship Centers for expanded activities and engagement;
- Influenza and/or COVID vaccinations for homebound older adults, now under way through Friday, January 31st. Email ofa@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555 during business hours to learn more.

- Expansion of OFA's successful "GoGo Grandparent" program. (More in OFA Director Todd Tancredi's message, below.)

Until then, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2025!

A MESSAGE FROM OFA DIRECTOR TODD TANCREDI

This time a year ago, we were just getting our pilot "GoGoGrandparent" transportation program off the ground, to address the growing need for non-emer-

gency medical transportation for older adults in Dutchess County who don't qualify for such transportation via Medicaid, and have no other means of transportation.

We expected plenty of demand for GoGo, and we got it. Our county legislature and County Executive Sue Serino took notice, and saw to it that GoGo funding was expanded for 2025.

If this is the first time you're reading about GoGo, let's review.

GoGo operates anywhere Uber or Lyft drivers operate in Dutchess County. For users who register with GoGo through OFA, a limited number of free rides are available, within Dutchess County to:

- non-emergency medical appointments, for older adults who don't qualify for Medicaid; and
- trips to visit loved ones in hospitals, hospice, or nursing homes, regardless of Medicaid status.

As your next appointment approaches, contact OFA to register for GoGo, to ensure the availability of a driver and a free ride at the time and date you need. There may be additional transportation options that also meet your needs; contact OFA to find out about those as well.

(Registering with OFA is a MUST for any free rides to take place.)

'FRIENDLY CALLS' DECEMBER/JANUARY VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

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

least 18 years of age.

Those who wish to receive calls must be Dutchess County residents at least 60 years of age.

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

- Monday 12/30, 1:30pm
- Tuesday 1/7/25, 10:00am
- Monday 1/13/25, 1:30pm
- Tuesday 1/21/25, 10:00am
- Monday 1/27/25, 1:30pm

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

OFA HOMEBOUND VACCINATION PROGRAM - NOW THROUGH JAN. 31

Are you a homebound older Dutchess County resident, or the caregiver for one? If the homebound individual in question is unable to get a COVID booster

and/or influenza vaccine through traditional channels due to their condition, OFA can help. Our staff can arrange for in-home vaccinations, while supplies last, through Friday, January 31st, 2025.

Contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov to find out more.

For the purposes of this program, "homebound" is defined as an individual who is unable to leave home due to physical limitations, cognitive impairment, other chronic conditions, a lack of transportation, visual impairments, and without caregivers available to get the individual in question to a vaccination provider in person.

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



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