

Southern Dutchess News

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Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

May 18-24, 2022

New performances, stories await visitors to Bannerman's Island



New performances and stories await visitors to Bannerman's Island. Public tours are given through October.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

Seeking some entertainment with a bit of history thrown in? Take the Estuary Steward Tour Boat Bannerman's Island and Castle, also known as Pollepel Island, situated right in the Hudson River.

A recent press tour was given of the island.

"Francis Bannerman VI came to the

United States as a kid," explained Tom Johnson. Johnson is part of the Bannerman Castle Trust, which works on renovating and upkeep of the island.

Bannerman, whose family settled in Brooklyn, at a young age, became the breadwinner for his family, Johnson said.

In 1884, the first Bannerman catalog is issued. "Basically, an Army Navy store,"

said Johnson.

There are two versions of the story of how Bannerman came to discover the island that he would own.

"He and his wife Helen were returning from the Catskills," said Johnson, and he saw the island and said that the island is his solution for his company.

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COVID-19 update

Local cases rise, DBCH urges use of mitigation steps

By Kate Goldsmith

In the course of a few weeks, Dutchess County has gone from having a low risk of COVID-19 transmission to a high risk. The combination of highly transmissible variants and a pandemic-weary public has yielded jumps in active cases and hospitalizations. As of May 15, confirmed active cases were at 844, up from 739 the previous week; on May 1 the count was 495, and on March 27 it was 125.

"About a little more than a month ago, Vassar Brothers did not have one patient in the hospital who had COVID," said Dr. William Begg, the vice president of medical affairs at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, "and now our numbers have crept up in the past few weeks."

On the county's COVID-19 Dashboard, hospitalizations are sub-categorized as those admitted due to complications from COVID, and those who were admitted for another issue but tested positive for COVID-19 (labeled "with COVID"). The latest statistics show hospitalizations due to COVID were at 21 on May 15, up significantly from 3 on March 27. Hospitalizations with COVID are at 12, up from 5 on March 27.

One of the challenges going forward, Dr. Begg said, is not every patient who comes into the emergency room is tested for COVID, so exact numbers are not known.

He added, "The CDC numbers locally are less than valid, and it's not because they're not doing a good job. It's that our community has the ability to do home tests. Many, many people have tested positive on home tests and not reported [the results]."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) measures risk using the following metrics:

- Total number of new admissions of patients with confirmed COVID-19 in the past seven days divided by the total population in the Health Service Area, multiplied by 100,000 (high risk is 20 or greater). On Monday morning, Dutchess County's community transmission rate was 60.26.

- New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total; high risk is 10 or greater). Dutchess' count is 11.6.

- Percentage (7-day average) of staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19 within the entire Health Service Area (high risk is 15 percent or greater). This number is currently not problematic at 4.3 percent.

- Percent of staffed inpatient beds in use by COVID-19 patients (7-day average; high risk is 10 percent or greater). Again, at 3.8 percent, this number is not in the high range.

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Fourth graders visit Wappingers Falls court

By Kristine Coulter

Raymond Chases, Village of Wappingers Falls judge, had a full courtroom on May 13. Students and teachers from two fourth grade classes at Brinckerhoff Elementary School, in the Wappingers Central School District, were in attendance. Chase, whose grandson Connor assisted, gave a presentation to the classes on the court system.

Chase started off the presentation with saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

"We're trying to teach them about the community. They're learning about the branches of government," said teacher Julia Veteri. She said the students were "very excited" about attending the day's presentation. Veteri was with fellow teachers and assistant Kim Leone, Megan Calimano and Brianna Bruno.

Sgt. Devin Ludwig said to the students, "My job is to help people. Keep people safe." He explained equipment used by officers.

"In court we have to make sure we have the right people," remarked Chase, who was assisted by Wappingers Falls Judge Richard Fiorile.

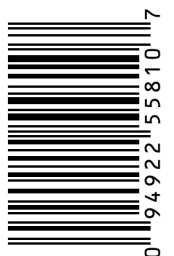
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Wappingers Falls judges Richard Fiorile, left, Raymond Chase, right, and Chase's grandson, Connor, say the Pledge of Allegiance.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Southern Dutchess News
Your News



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Kids ready for debut of 'Littlest Farmers Market'

By Curtis Schmidt

It started three years ago with a question, a hopeful look on the face of a child and a farmer/business owner who loves to help kids.

The result of all of that will culminate in the first edition of the "Littlest Farmers Market," scheduled Sunday, May 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Hackett Farm Supply at 2297 Salt Point Turnpike (just off the Taconic Parkway, Exit 58).

And yes, everyone is invited to attend.

Founder Scott Davis terms the market "a kid's lemonade stand on steroids." It's basically a farmers market for kids with three simple rules 1. You have to be 12 years old or younger. 2. You have to have grown, picked, created or crafted what you're selling, and 3. You want to have a great time with other kids.

He is expecting about 25 kids with booths and a 4-H education booth.

"There won't be any livestock for sale," Davis said with a chuckle, "But there's sure to be farm animals for the families to enjoy."

"And bunnies and chicks," his daughter, Siena, said with a smile. "I'll be selling homemade popsicles made from fresh juices and herbs."

Kids will be selling farm fresh eggs, soap, popsicles, bracelets, art, jewelry, baked goods, flowers, you name it. Davis said, "I have a feeling if we do more markets throughout the summer, which is our intent, there will be more produce and garden vegetables."

The real beginning

The idea for all of this came to Davis just before the pandemic hit. Siena had asked him to talk to local businesses to see if she could set up her lemonade stand in their parking lot.

"My third attempt landed me at the cash register of Hackett Farm Supply," he said. "I could barely get two words out when (owner) Ed Hackett interrupted me after spotting my daughter out of the corner of his eye. 'Absolutely!' he said. I'd rather see a kid outside in the sunshine working and having a good time, than sitting on a couch on their iPad."

After three weekends selling lemonade at Hackett's, a light bulb went off in Davis' head. "Why not have a farmers market run by kids?"

The delay caused by COVID-19 gave Davis and his daughter and the team at Hackett time to plan and bring the idea to fruition.

"Support and an open mind were the most important ingredients of all," Davis said of team at Hackett.

Colleen Hackett is handling logistics with sponsors for tables and canopies. Williams Lumber and Home Centers has donated two canopies and Land of Oz and Crown Energy are helping out with cash donations. In addition, Chancellor Livingston Elementary School in Rhinebeck and Dutchess Day School have both featured the "Littlest Farmers Market" in their newsletters.

"We really want it to be an entire



Ready for the inaugural "Littlest Farmers Market" at Hackett Farm Store are, from left, Raya Rubenstein, Siena Blue Davis, Kora Rubenstein and Oden Gild.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt and Scott Davis

community-involved event," said Davis. "Our vision is to create a safe, free, welcoming environment for children to run their own small businesses. The goal is to keep things simple and fun. No matter what items the kids dream up, 'Littlest Farmers Market' is there to empower them to bring their ideas to market."

They are also working on a "suggested donation" of non-profit organizations so the kids can learn to give back to the community.

And they want to "grow the market," so all children 12-and-under are encouraged to sign up at the website littlestfarmersmarket.com

Classes learn about court system



Wappingers Falls Judge Raymond Chase, along with his grandson, recognize Brinckerhoff Elementary School teachers Kim Leone, left, and Megan Calimano, second from left.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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The judge showed the students an image of the FedEx logo. He asked who could see the arrow in the logo.

"At this time, I'm going to make it a little more difficult," said Chase.

The judge went around the room asking the students and teachers what the picture was. Some said a partial footprint, other said a map. It was a cow.

"That was a case of animal cruelty," explained Chase.

The students were asked by Chase who wants to be a judge. One student said she wants to be a judge so she could say "order in the court."

The judge showed another one of the responsibilities he has, which is marrying people.

Nine-year-old Frankie said he liked "learning about how this works and what it's like to be a judge and some of the

cases that can be presented." He said Chase was "very nice and considerate."

Chase reminded the student, "When you go to school always remember they (teacher) share with you their knowledge."

Lori Jiava, who works for the Village, told the students about a new program which records drivers who pass stopped school buses.

Jasmine, 10, said she would tell Chase, "Thank you for having us (students)."

Nine-year-old Brooklyn said, "I learned about the laws and what happens in the courts."

Chase, who previously worked for IBM, said he has "the privilege of representing Wappingers Falls." He said young people "have fresh ideas."

Chase told the students to "follow their dreams, whatever they may be."

Each student received a certificate, pin and pen, which were donated by the local American Legion.

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Transportation Council study recommends roundabouts for Rt. 9 – Arterial interchange



The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) announced the completion of Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 study.

-Courtesy image

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) has announced the completion of Poughkeepsie 9.44.55, its detailed study of how to redesign the Route 9 interchange and Route 44/55 arterials in Poughkeepsie to make them safer, more reliable, and better integrated with nearby neighborhoods.

A cooperative effort of the DCTC, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), Dutchess County, and the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 was funded by the Federal Highway and Transit Administration through the DCTC's planning program.

The 9.44.55 study was split into two phases - the first looking at redesign options for the Route 9 interchange near the Mid-Hudson Bridge, the second looking at redesign options for the Route 44/55 Arterials in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie.

For the interchange, the study recommends replacing the existing "bow-tie" configuration with roundabouts, increasing the length of on- and off-ramps, and removing some of the awkward left-side merging movements. For the arterials, the study recommends a pilot project to test a redesign that reduces each Arterial from three to two lanes of one-way traf-

fic. At this point, no funding or schedule for actual construction has been identified by NYSDOT, who would be the project sponsor.

The study team developed the recommendations based on a detailed traffic simulation analysis and comprehensive public outreach process, knowing that people experience these facilities in different ways. The traffic simulation also provided insight into where bottlenecks might occur under several scenarios, including two-way traffic on the arterials and various levels of traffic. The DCTC considers the conclusion of Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 as the beginning of an ongoing conversation with the city, town, county, and state, and more importantly, with the many residents and visitors who use the Interchange and Arterials every day.

The results of the study will inform ongoing coordination efforts and be used to leverage future funding opportunities. The study documents, including an Executive Summary, are available on the project website at poughkeepsie94455.com/library.

For more information, visit the DCTC website at dutchessny.gov/dctc or contact by email at dctc@dutchessny.gov or phone at 845-486-3600.

Festival of Arts highlights WCSD students' talents



Clockwise from top left, Roy C. Ketcham Teacher Amanda Reardon stands in front of ceramics projects created by her students. The Festival of the Arts was held in Mesier Park in the Village of Wappingers Falls on May 14. Artwork by students in elementary, junior high and high schools in the Wappingers Central School District was highlighted. This was the 72nd annual Festival.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

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The Great HV Scavenger Hunt to begin May 23

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce has announced for the second year, The Great Hudson Valley Scavenger Hunt will begin Monday, May 23, and will run until Sunday, June 5. Teams will compete for their chance to win cash and prizes, including the Grand Prize of \$2,022 in cash. This event is open to the public and there is no cost to participate.

Teams can consist of one or more people and must be registered at www.HVScavengerHunt.com to qualify for any of the event's prizes and promotions. Teams will be directed to visit participating businesses or organizations, find a prominently placed poster with a QR code that needs to be scanned with a smart phone, and enter the "Key" word

when prompted. Many locations will have special promotions for contest participants, but purchase is not required. Each location is worth at least two points, and teams must earn at least 22 points throughout the two-week event to qualify for the Grand Prize drawing, which will take place after the contest period.

Teams can also listen each morning to Annie with Ryan on Q92 in the 8 a.m. hour for that day's special clue, which leads to a featured member of the day. By visiting that location on that day, not only will you get extra points, but you can qualify for a special prize.

For complete rules, to register your team, and to see the participating locations, visit www.HVScavengerHunt.com.

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