

# Southern Dutchess News

Vol. 72, #49 75 cents

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

December 6-12, 2023

## Robots take center stage at John Jay FIRST Tech Challenge



The RoboRaiders, the team from Red Hook Central Schools, participated in the NY Excelsior John Jay FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifier for robotics in East Fishkill on December 2. With the team members is head referee Steve Kocik (left).

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

The NY Excelsior John Jay FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifier for robotics was held in the Wappingers Central School District on December 2. The tournament brought together high school teams from across the state to compete in the 2023-2024 season game, "Centerstage," presented by RTX. The event took place at John Jay Senior High School, in East Fishkill. The opening ceremony began at 10 a.m. The awards ceremony was held in the evening. There were 22 teams that were registered. FIRST, which is a non-profit organization, stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." FIRST was founded by Dean Kamen (also the inventor of the segway) in 1989. The participants learn valuable STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) skills as well as the social skills

that are developed working in teams to accomplish goals," stated James Amodio, Conceptual Physics, Regents Physics and Project Lead The Way: Principles of Engineering teacher. Teams at the competition were focused on both winning their matches and judging well in the areas of robot design, community outreach, it was stated.

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## Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony set December 7

By Kristine Coulter

On December 7th, inside the Veterans Memorial Building at 413 Main St. in Beacon, at 11 a.m. a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony will take place.

Harold Delamater, commander of the VFW Post 666 in Beacon, said, "a date which will live in infamy" per Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

"Eighty-two years ago, our Nation was attacked without provocation which led us into WWII. As a result, millions of people were killed," said Delamater.

According to the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov, "On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The U.S.S. Arizona was completely destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized. A total of twelve ships sank or were beached in the attack and nine additional vessels were damaged. More than 160 aircraft were destroyed and more than 150 others damaged."

The information on the site about Pearl Harbor continues: "A hurried dispatch from the ranking United States naval officer in Pearl Harbor, Admiral Husband Edward Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, to all major navy commands and fleet units provided the first official word of the attack at the ill-prepared Pearl Harbor base. It said simply: AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL."

The Library of Congress also contains part of an interview from a woman who lived in California but was in Texas visiting relatives on Dec. 9, 1941. She stated: "My first thought was what a great pity that... another nation should be added to those aggressors who strove to limit our freedom. I find myself at the age of eighty, an old woman, hanging on to the tail of the world, trying to keep up. I do not want the driver's seat. But the eternal verities—there are certain things that I wish to express: one thing that I am very sure of is that hatred is death, but love is light. I want to contribute to the civilization of the world but...when I look at the holocaust that is going on in the world today, I'm almost ready to let go..."

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## Hopewell Reformed Church to present Living Nativity on December 9-10

By Kristine Coulter

The Hopewell Reformed Church, 143 Beekman Road, in East Fishkill will be having a "Living Nativity" display from 4:30- 7 p.m. on December 9 and December 10. It is a free and fun way to "remember the reason for the season," according to organizers.

"I got the idea in December of 2020, during COVID. So many people were still sheltering in place at that time and I wanted our church to offer a way for the community to experience the spirit of Christmas. About 60 members of the church and I developed the concept of a drive-thru nativity, so that people could get out of their homes and experience the joy of Christmas without leaving their cars. After COVID, many people were asking if we would keep the concept going. The event has grown each year. We had over 1,400 visitors two years ago and nearly 2,000 visitors last year," said Doug Leonard, pastor for the Hopewell Reformed Church.

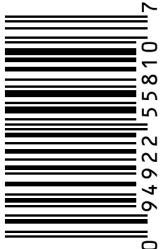


A Living Nativity will be held at Hopewell Reformed Church on Dec. 9 and 10 in East Fishkill.

-Courtesy photo

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# Robots take center stage at John Jay



John Jay Jaybots team member Kate, a senior at John Jay Senior High School, was one of the hosts for the qualifier. The Jaybots team hosted the event and did not participate in this year's tournament.



The robot which was entered into the competition by the Red Hook Central Schools RoboRaiders team.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



James Amodio, a John Jay Senior High School teacher, makes remarks during the qualifying tournament on December 2 in East Fishkill.

-Courtesy photo

Continued from cover

### A John Jay robotics team hosts tournament

The assistant tournament director for this event was John Jay student Anish. The senior has been a member of the robotics team since his freshman year.

"This is the second year we're running it (the tournament)," explained Anish, who is the president of the John Jay robotics team, The Jaybots.

"I think these tournaments are a great way to learn we're interested in engineering and a great way to find out about engineering," he said.

The John Jay Jaybots team did not compete in this specific tournament this year due to the fact they were hosting the event.

However, John Jay's B Team, "Phoenix Robotics," came in 17th place.

Kate, who is in her senior high school year, is another member of the Jaybots at John Jay.

"I've learned a lot of organizational skills. And to constantly work better," said Kate, who was the lead queue.

It is not just about a robot, Kate explained. "It's also about your mentality. And to have a positive mentality, you'll have that wonderful experience as a team," she remarked.

### RoboRaiders from Red Hook participate

The Red Hook RoboRaiders from Red Hook Central Schools participated in the day's event.

"We have never seen this much [interest] in robotics," said Wade, the team captain for RoboRaiders. Next school year, he said they are going to begin a junior varsity team.

"We'll impart what we learn this year and put it into next year," said Wade.

As for the day's tournament, Wade exuded confidence in his team. "Today, I think we're going to do great," he said.

RoboRaiders team member Quinn stated, "Everybody is here and it's great to have a common interest."

Red Hook team member Rosie

remarked a friend from soccer said that robotics was fun, which is how she decided to join the team.

"Once I got into the building aspect, I said 'really cool,'" remarked Rosie.

Ben Hoen is one of the coaches and a mentor for the RoboRaiders. He noted that at 7 o'clock the night before, the team's robot "had a few problems" and they resolved them.

"I think they're going to do great," said Hoen. He said the tournament "is spreading the word about robotics."

Head Referee Steve Kocik said, "the judges will look for a well-rounded team,"

### Dutchess Day School students get involved with STEM

Amada Ruhe was with the Dutchess Day School team and is the head coach of the team. They were participating in the FIRST LEGO League.

The students on this team were in grades 5-8. They were part of Masterpiece which takes arts and technology and puts

them together, she said.

The teams learn about coding, engineering and core values such as inclusion, teamwork and have fun, she said. They were presenting in the high school lobby.

Throughout the day, spectators were able to view robot matches and meet teams in the pits.

The SharkBots from Mamaroneck, in Westchester County, came in first place. Robo Raiders from Scarsdale, Westchester County, came in second while the RoBovines from Ballston Spa in Saratoga County were in third at this tournament.

Red Hook's RoboRaiders move on due to winning the INSPIRE Award, and the RoBovines move forward for winning 2nd place INSPIRE. The SharkBots move forward based on winning the matches in the Tournament.

For further information, go to <https://sites.google.com/wcsdny.org/john-jay-high-school-robotics2/home>.

## Jacobson applauds proposed EPA rule requiring replacement of lead water lines

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) commended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal requiring all lead service lines be replaced. While the EPA has water standards regarding lead, this is the first time that the agency would require all lead-contaminated lines to be eliminated.

Among its many risks, lead poisoning impedes brain and bone development in children, and contributes to cardiovascu-

lar and fertility issues in adults.

"There is no safe level of lead. The EPA's proposed rule will ensure that all children grow up lead-free," said Jacobson.

Jacobson has been a strong advocate of removing lead from drinking water. He led the fight in Albany to increase funding for New York's Lead Service Line Replacement program and co-sponsored the Lead Pipe Right to Know Act, requiring municipalities to identify any lead

contamination in their water systems.

In August, Jacobson joined a meeting arranged by Congressman Pat Ryan with officials from the EPA, the Department of Health, and the City of Poughkeepsie to discuss additional funding from the Federal Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction acts. He then followed up with the Cities of Newburgh and Poughkeepsie to ensure that they successfully applied for the funds.

"Given the current state and federal funding available, I expect that all lead-contaminated lines in the Cities of Newburgh and Poughkeepsie will be replaced well ahead of the EPA's proposed 10-year deadline," said Jacobson.

One may learn more or register for public information sessions at: [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-lead-and-copper-rule-improvements](https://epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-lead-and-copper-rule-improvements).

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*The Ridge School*

[www.ridgeschool.org](http://www.ridgeschool.org)





# Home Depot volunteers team up with local veterans on school project



*Students and staff from James S. Evans Elementary School in the Wappingers Central School District received a grant from The Home Depot to beautify the school playground with benches and to build a new picnic area complete with four new tables. The Home Depot volunteers partnered with local veterans from VFW Post 5913 for the installation.*

-Courtesy photo



 A black and white artistic photograph of a woman's face. Her eyes are replaced by two circular speedometer gauges, similar to those found in a car's instrument cluster. The gauges have numbers ranging from 0 to 180. The woman has a neutral expression.
 

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