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STENGER, GLASS, HAGSTROM, LINDARS & IUELE**





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'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' at Beacon High School Feb. 9, 10



"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" can be seen at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd., in Beacon on Feb. 9 and 10. Pictured is the cast during a recent rehearsal.

Continued from cover

The younger group works with the older students in the drama club in many different aspects of theater, explained Scarrone. "They actually started off by presenting "Thriller" at our coffeehouse fundraiser at Halloween," he stated.

According to Scarrone, "The biggest part of the project [was] that the students would have their own production and so we developed the group and decided to produce 'Charlie Brown.'"

He continued: "These young actors have worked extremely hard to perfect

their skills, they have worked on our art crew, our set crew, and now they are ready for [their] performance."

One of the members in the production is Hazel Balogh, who is a seventh-grade student.

"Last year I was encouraged to audition and got the role of young 'Cosette' for "Les Mis." The process was sometimes tiring but it was really exciting too! We had rehearsal many days every week and worked really hard for the production. This year they started a younger company that is not doing the high school production but has its own production for the middle school kids instead," Hazel stated in an email.



The cast of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

-Courtesy photos

Hazel described working on the production as magical.

"The stage itself is so spacious and easy to dance on and I feel really comfortable there because I've done many productions on that stage with BPAC (Beacon Performing Arts Center) and Beacon Players," Hazel said.

Hazel said she "look[s] forward to opening night, although closing night will

probably be the most memorable because all the work we've put towards making the production amazing has finally come to a close. After every show I've been in is over, it's always bittersweet."

"This has been an extremely enjoyable process, and we hope that this will be our premier production leading the way to many more as well as more theater element involvement for these younger students," Scarrone said.

Wappingers Central School District receives \$2.5 million grant from NYS for mental health services

Governor Kathy Hochul has awarded New York schools \$100 million to address pandemic learning loss and provide students with mental health support, via New York State Recover from COVID School Program Grants (RECOVS).

Wappingers Central School District

received a \$2.5 million Mental Health RECOVS Grant, which expands and supports practices that promote mental health and wellness and improves the ability of staff and students to identify mental health concerns and increase help-seeking behaviors.

WCSD School Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk shared his appreciation for the support. "The health, welfare, and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. In recent years, we have added staff and services to address mental health and foster a safe school environment: this includes additional social workers, psychologists, nurses, and local law enforcement. I am thankful to Governor Hochul and our local state delegation for supporting our efforts, and we will continue to seek competitive grants to secure more funding outside of the regular annual budget process. Clearly, all students deserve a safe and supportive environment where they can reach their highest academic, social, and emotional potential."

Hochul said. "This funding will help our teachers and school staff pinpoint where students have fallen behind and

provide students with the crucial mental health, especially after the pandemic." resources needed to support their

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GENERAC

New name, fresh vision: Top law firm rebrands as Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele, LLP

One of the most prominent law firms in the Hudson Valley announced that, effective January 1, it has begun operating under a new name: Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele, LLP.

Formerly Stenger, Diamond & Glass, LLP, this move reflects current leadership, new hires, and a diverse, well-rounded team. The firm has more than four decades of history serving the needs of the Hudson Valley community.

"This is the strongest group of partners we've had in my 40 years of being with the firm," stated Kenneth M. Stenger, partner at Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele. "We've added young, vibrant and talented attorneys with strong expertise across all practice areas of law and the ability to provide legal solutions and meet our client's needs, whatever they may be."

Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele has recognized the contributions of: Karen E. Hagstrom, from its litigation team; Ian C. Lindars, who specializes in personal injury, municipal, real estate, commercial litigation, and landlord-tenant law; and A.J. Iuele, from its family law and criminal law teams. All three have been named partners within the firm. Adding to its deep bench, it also brought on Kyle A. Steller, as of counsel, at the end of 2023, to help its clients with wills,

trusts, estates, elder law, long-term care and Medicaid planning.

Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele is currently one of the largest general practice firms in the region, with a roster of 10 attorneys who provide comprehensive representation to individuals, businesses, municipalities, and institutions. Practice areas include commercial litigation, land use and development, tax grievances, elder law, wills, trusts and estates, commercial and residential real estate, business law, hospitality and liquor licensing, matrimonial and family law, personal injury, criminal law, and more.

"The range of work that Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele does throughout the Hudson Valley is truly remarkable, as is the firm's commitment to giving back to the local community," said Frank Castella Jr., president and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. "They keep our region humming along. I never hesitate to recommend them for any legal issue and look forward to watching this respected business expand."

"We are excited about the future of our firm," added Stenger. "We will continue to grow our team of attorneys and support staff to meet the demands and needs of the individuals, municipalities, institutions and business we support and to build a culture we can be proud of."



The team of partners at Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele, LLP include, from left, Jessica J. Glass, A.J. Iuele, Kenneth M. Stenger, Ian C. Lindars and Karen E. Hagstrom.

-Courtesy photo

SPORTS REPORT

Renegades accepting applications to refurbish youth baseball fields

By Rich Thomaselli

If you want a youth baseball field refurbished, now is the time to ask.

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, said that applications for the Youth Field Betterment Program are now open. Applications will be accepted by the Renegades through March 8, with the recipient being announced during the week of March 25.

Last year, members of the Renegades and members of its main sponsor, Heritage Financial Credit Union, refurbished a field at Spratt Park in the city of Poughkeepsie.

"The Youth Field Betterment Program was one of our most popular new initiatives in 2023 as part of our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union," said Marcella

Costello, Senior Director of Marketing and Fan Experience for the Renegades. "We are really excited to bring the program back this year and continue to make an impact in our community."

The program sees the Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union award one little league organization with a refurbishment of a field used within their community for youth baseball.

The Youth Field Betterment Program was created to help local organizations positively impact their local community by creating a safe place for their youth to further develop themselves and their baseball skills. The program's goal is to aid local youth organizations that provide players of all abilities with an environment that combines inclusiveness with fair play.

John Jay cheerleading team wins national, community honors

The John Jay High School cheerleading team recently placed fifth in Nationals, but perhaps even more impressive was winning the equivalent of a community service award known as the "Go Be Great Award," honoring their charitable work, including fundraising for those with debilitating illnesses.

The Patriots were surpassed by no other squad in the country.

The award was presented by the National Cheerleaders Association.

John Jay is coached by Alice Granger. It was the second consecutive year that the Patriots finished 5th nationally in the event. John Jay finished less than five points behind the champion.

Cheerleading is a varsity sport in New York at the high school level, but only since 2022.

RCK girls breeze past Tappan Zee

By Rich Thomaselli

The Roy C. Ketcham High School girl's basketball team appears headed to another Section 1 championship berth.

RCK blew out what was supposed to be another vaunted non-league foe when it breezed past Tappan Zee, 67-40.

The Storm, Ketcham's new nickname to replace the Indians, stormed to a 17-2 lead and TZ never came closer than 10 points.

How impressive was the victory? The Dutchman were state finalist two years ago and reached the sectional semifinals last year.

Nia Rencher had 19 points and 16 rebounds for Ketcham, which is state-ranked and won for the 14th time in 15 games this season. Ally Kaminski added 15 points and nine rebounds. Jenny Nardelli also had 15 points, all on three-point shots.

Earth science topic of Beacon Sloop Club discussion on Feb. 15

The Beacon Sloop Club's 2024 Lecture Series Presents, "How Earth Scientists Learn About Climate Change" with Kirsten Menking, Ph.D., on February 15 at 7 p.m. Menking will be discussing the use of sediment cores from Lakes Minnewaska and Mohonk to reconstruct the climate history of the Shawangunk Ridge.

Menking and her students at Vassar College took sediment cores from the bottom of Lakes Minnewaska and Mohonk and analyzed them to reconstruct the climate history of the Shawangunk Ridge over the past 15,000 or so years. Using pollen, plant fossils, charcoal content and

other indicators, they determined what the landscape must have looked like at the time of the mastodons and also uncovered a nearly two millennia drought that occurred several thousand years ago.

The Beacon Sloop Club is at 2 Red Flynn Dr. in Beacon.

For more information, www.beacon-sloopclub.org, 845-463-4660 or 914-879-1082,

Kristen Menking is a Professor of Earth Science and Director of Environmental Studies on the Althea Ward Clark Chair at Vassar College. Menking will conduct a free lecture on climate change in Beacon on February 15.

Winners Circle racing team program involves students at RCK, John Jay



By Jim Donick

In an innovative effort, groups of students at Roy C. Ketcham High School, John Jay High School, both in the Wappingers Central School District, and Franklin D. Roosevelt High School (FDR) in Hyde Park, Hyde Park Central School District, are working with their hands and learning the satisfaction of building something truly exciting. They are building a racing style sports car from the ground up.

Beyond the building of the car, there are also teams of students learning that successful racing teams need more than simply a car. There is marketing of the team, communications programs, and all sorts of other pieces to field a racing team in the 21st century.

The program that facilitates this endeavor is called "Winners Circle." It's now a four-year-old project to bring this program to high schools. It's currently only in New York State, but continues to grow.

President and CEO of the Winners Circle Foundation, Pius Kayiira, himself an FDR High graduate, takes special pride in having the project at his alma mater. He notes that there are currently five high schools in the state taking part, the three in Dutchess plus Waverly and Owego on the Southern Tier. For next year, Kayiira expects a sixth school, also in Dutchess, when the program is introduced in Dover.

The Winners Circle Project (WCP) describes itself as "a nonprofit organization designed to inspire high-school students through STEAM programs embedded in the exciting world of car racing. Through our work science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) come alive for our students through, on, and beyond the race track!"

Kayiira said, "Our Mission is to inspire the next generation of innovators through project-based learning embedded into the world of racing. WCP students work collaboratively throughout the academic year building a cobra roadster, marketing the vehicle through visual communication and public relations. The culmination of the project comes together in a capstone event where the best overall team will be crowned at the Victory Lap championship in May."

The build program is based around a Factory Five Mk 4 Cobra Replica Kit. The manufacturer, Factory Five, provides a complete package, as well as technical assistance as needed, to assemble the kit into a finished car. Similar cars are eligible for NASA's Factory Five Challenge Series. The latter is a nationwide road racing series for amateur drivers.

The students don't expect to ever race the car. So, to give them some of the experience and the pleasure of driving it, the program includes a very high tech racing simulator, so the students can "race" with none of the physical or economic downsides to making a mistake. The program has now expanded to a virtual racing series for the students, making use of the simulator.

The Winners Circle Project at each school is made up of three teams – a build team, a marketing team and a communications team. Each team learns and practices the skills needed for that particular expertise, and they also learn the importance of integrating each skill set with the others into creating a successful team.

In addition to these race-related skills, they are also exposed to presentations and discussions on the broader skill sets necessary to a successful life and career. These include goal-setting, personal communications and working on a team.

The Winners Circle Foundation has also developed a partnership with Alfred University's race team program. When the student vehicle is completed, it is taken up to Alfred where members of the Mechanical Engineering Department check all of the construction and evaluate the finished car.

Local Dutchess County Motor Racing Celebrity and reigning TransAm series Champion, Chris Dyson, is a great enthusiast for the Winners Circle Program and has lent his expertise as well as providing inspiration for the students as they progress. He and a couple of other racing drivers will test the cars upon completion and give the students feedback on handling, braking and all the myriad elements that come together in vehicle dynamics to make a successful racing sports car.

Why do it? One might ask Bob Beckmann of Matt's Auto Body in Salt Point, who is also a crew coach at FDR.

With the engine installation nearly complete, activity around the "Winners Circle" project at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School has the entire team working on different details from front to rear in anticipation of firing the engine up and seeing the project's chassis move under its own power for the first time.

-Courtesy photos

He finds the program to be of enormous value.

"Cars are a part of our culture," he said. "Understanding how they work is actually important to being a safe driver, but also in just knowing what matters when thinking about taking care and maintaining them." He went on to say, "This project lets them build a car from A to Z. They see everything that goes into it and how the pieces come together." He takes his thoughts a step further, noting that "when they are working on cars and getting dirty, there's less time to get into other sorts of trouble. All of these skills will help later in life."

The final body preparation and painting of the FDR project car was donated by Matt's Auto Body, who finished the smoothing and sanding before painting the car in a deep shade that looks blue from some angles and green from others. It catches the eye.

Shawn Christensen, Technology Education Teacher at FDR, supervises and coaches the build team.

"This is just a super project," he said. "They are learning so much. We have a limited time during the day and so the team comes in and determines what new work to begin that day or what piece of

the project to continue. Our principal, Michael Ruella, has been extremely supportive of what we are doing and the project has been followed by the whole school."

Kayiira of Winners Circle has taken a special interest in the project in Hyde Park and can't say enough about the teams and particularly about the support from the Principal.

"Mike Ruella has been an inspiration," he said.

At the end of the school year, the cars from all five of the schools will be evaluated at Alfred University and a winning car will be named. Later, the cars will be auctioned off to provide funding for next year's project. The students will also be invited to Lime Rock Park Racing Circuit over the Memorial Day weekend to see and interact with professional racing teams up close.

Kayiira notes with pride that a graduate of this program's first year went on to study at Alfred University and has since gone on to a full time job with Dyson Racing.

The future for all of the students in the various sub teams of the Winners Circle Project appears very bright, indeed.

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