



## Pine Plains survives senior day with walk-off win over New Paltz

SPORTS, 5B

# Poughkeepsie Journal

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People participate in a protest, organized by the Writers Guild of America East, against ABC's decision to suspend Jimmy Kimmel from his late night show on September 19, 2025 in New York City. ABC suspended Kimmel over comments he made about Charlie Kirk's shooting. STEPHANIE KEITH, GETTY IMAGES

## War talks on shaky ground

### Discussions uncertain after U.S. seizes Iranian ship

Kathryn Palmer, Adrianna Rodriguez and Francesca Chambers USA TODAY

Iran is considering attending peace talks with the United States in Pakistan, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on April 20, following moves by Islamabad to end a U.S. blockade of Iran's ports, a major hurdle for Iran to rejoin peace efforts. However, the official stressed that no decision had been made.

With a two-week ceasefire set to expire on April 22, a senior Iranian official said Tehran was "positively reviewing" its participation but no final decision had been made. The comments conveyed a clear change of tone from earlier statements ruling out attendance and pledging to retaliate for U.S. aggression.

The Iranian official said mediator Pakistan was making positive efforts to end the U.S. blockade and ensure Iran's participation.

The ceasefire had appeared in jeopardy after the United States said it had seized an Iranian cargo ship on April 19 that tried to evade its blockade in the Strait of Hormuz and Tehran vowed to retaliate.

The U.S. military said it had fired on the Iranian-flagged cargo ship headed toward Iran's Bandar Abbas port after a six-hour standoff, disabling its engines. U.S. Central Command released video showing Marines descending on ropes from helicopters onto the vessel.

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People walk near an anti-U.S. billboard in Tehran, Iran, on April 20. A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran is set to expire on April 22.

MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

## ONLINE CONDUCT

### How New York police departments handle officers who post racist content on social media

Julia Boehning, Kiran Hubbard, Natalia Davidson, Meredith Taylor, Dylan Van Breda and Xinxin Cui USA TODAY NETWORK

As the historic social justice movement gripped the nation in 2020, Sgt. Ferdinando "Fred" Pacicca III and his fellow Rome police officers were dispatched to a Black Lives Matter protest in a small city in upstate New York.

It wasn't long before demonstrators found Pacicca's public Facebook posts and read them over a loudspeaker, inflaming tensions as some in the crowd called him a "racist" and "pig," records show.

After an internal investigation, the police department identified one of Pacicca's posts on his personal Facebook account as racist. It involved him describing a Middle Eastern gas station employee as "Mr. Camel Man," making fun of his accent while referencing the phrase "Allahu Akbar" and joking about placing a Post-it note to the worker on a "Scud missile."

At the social justice rally, Pacicca had also inadvertently told a man — described by protesters as a known white supremacist — about future rallies and police department staffing levels, investigators noted, citing a social media livestream of their exchange.

Pacicca ultimately lost five vacation days and was required to attend sensitivity training as a result of the probe — a disciplinary outcome only fully coming to light now as part of a yearslong joint USA TODAY Network-Syracuse University investigation of police misconduct records.

A reporter reached Pacicca, who remains on the force today.

"There's a lot more to the story than what was out there," he said before declining to answer any further questions.

Rome Police Department's current leadership didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

#### NY police face limited discipline for social media misconduct

Pacicca's case, however, is not an anomaly. Through analyzing almost 150 pages of misconduct records and 50 pages of internal social media policies at New York police departments, journalists found that officers generally face minimal discipline for social media misconduct.

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## Cultivating interests and knowledge

### Kids get lessons on planting, science at Modena farm



MIDDLE: Gia Geyer, 2, of New Windsor looks up as she learns that a piece of popcorn she is holding is a seed. RIGHT: From left, Matthew Cusa, 5, of Highland, Bronson Tatum, 5, of Walkkill, and Hudson Hurd, 4, look at a worm under a microscope during the spring planting kids class at Hurds Family Farm in Modena on April 19. This is the fourth year that Hurds Family Farm offers free classes for families on farm activities, learning about planting, apple growing and animals. PHOTOS BY KELLY MARSH/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES HERALD-RECORD

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