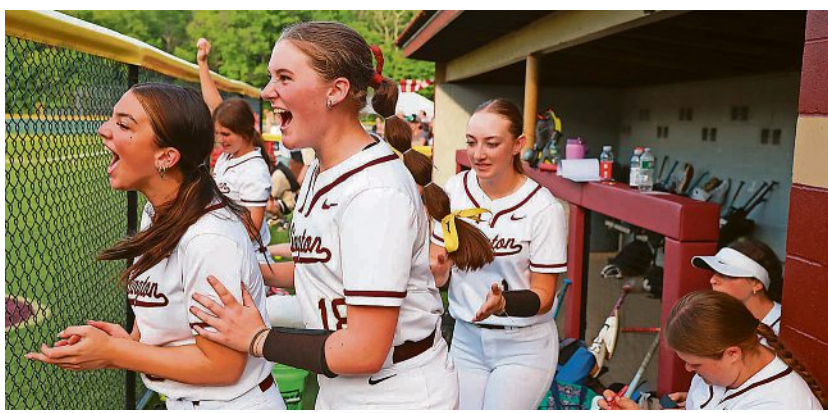


Admirals advance to S1 3A semifinals

SPORTS, 5B



Poughkeepsie Journal

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 | POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Millbrook Winery changing things up for the summer



Millbrook Winery general manager Ian Bearup talks about improvements made to the winery on May 13.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK OEHLER/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Outside food banned, picnics replaced with local farm market

Nickie Hayes

Poughkeepsie Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Change is on the horizon for Millbrook Winery.

Ian Bearup is two months into his dual role at the winery as head winemaker and general manager.

With Bearup as general manager, expect just as much focus on wine production as the front-of-house operations, which he believes are the place to showcase what Millbrook Winery does.

The 42-year-old is taking his 20 years of experience and working to keep things fresh by mixing up the wine tastings, creating new and updated spaces, while removing the park-style atmosphere at the winery, intensified by COVID-19.

"Any business that's been around as



Rows of grapevines outside Millbrook Winery.

long as Millbrook has to refresh every once in a while," Bearup said.

The winery isn't changing its whole identity — the Friday Night Food Trucks, which returned on May 22, and the winery's outdoor jazz concert series,

starting June 27, are still on — just check in on your next visit through the doors of the 125-year-old restored Dutch barn.

See WINERY, Page 6A

NY ferry service gets boost from IDA

Thomas C. Zambito

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The grassroots movement to restart the Beacon-Newburgh ferry picked up support recently when the Orange County Industrial Development Agency agreed to kick in \$100,000 for a weekend ferry pilot program.

But that's still about \$100,000 shy of what's needed to run regular weekend trips across the Hudson River between Dutchess and Orange counties, according to Carson Carter, one of the leaders of the Save the Ferry Coalition.

The coalition, which counts 1,500 members and dozens of businesses, has already lined up a ferry operator and are trying to generate funding from public and private interests on both sides of the river with the goal of offering weekend ferry service in June.

"It's a really big step in the right direction and a real vote of confidence that we're grateful for," Carter said of the IDA funding.

The IDA's CEO, Bill Fioravanti, views the pilot as a way to deliver foot traffic to Newburgh's growing slate of downtown restaurants and businesses, either visitors from across the river or those traveling on Metro-North Railroad.

"There's no question that the opportunity to cross the mighty Hudson on the ferry is a much more romantic and scenic way to cross," Fioravanti said.

Bringing foot traffic to Newburgh

A trial, one-day ferry run for a Newburgh festival a few years ago convinced Fioravanti interest could be strong. "The opportunity to harness the market from across the river will only be a huge boost to the local economy in Newburgh," Fioravanti added.

The funding will come through the Orange County IDA's sister agency, the Orange County Funding Corp. And Fioravanti said he's working to enlist matching financial support from Dutchess County and other groups.

The funding will focus on generating more tourist dollars in the region.

But Carter sees it as a first step toward convincing the state and Metro-North of the need for weekday ferry service that connects Orange County commuters with Metro-North trains in Beacon.

See FERRY, Page 2A

Federal cuts put New York hospitals at risk

Emily Barnes

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Help appears on the way for New York's hospitals and nursing homes as more than \$1.5 billion has been promised in this year's state budget to aid struggling health systems in the aftermath of federal funding cuts.

The state funding comes as a total of 11 nursing homes across New York have

closed or announced closures over the past two years and nearly 80% of non-profit nursing homes are operating on negative margins statewide, according to LeadingAge New York.

At the same time, the passage of the Trump administration's "big, beautiful bill" by Republicans in Congress last year included a set of policy changes projected to cut federal funding for Medicaid and other health programs nationally by \$1 trillion over a decade,

leading to a new annual \$3 billion health care expense for New York.

On Wednesday, May 27, the state Assembly passed the health and mental hygiene bill, which includes funding to help avoid service cuts at hospitals and nursing homes across the state.

Here's what to know about the health budget bill.

See CUTS, Page 2A



Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco Oct. 15, 2025.

PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to poughkeepsiejournal.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



241st year, No. 216
Subscribe 877-424-4341
©2026 \$3.49

