

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Marist women advance to College World Series



The Marist University women's softball team won the MAAC title last week and advanced to the NCAA Women's College World Series.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier

Following a Tuesday rainout, five straight days of postseason college softball kicked off in Poughkeepsie. Marist University hosted the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship from May 6-10, a week that saw two rainouts, a walkoff, and 10 Red Foxes runs to win the title.

With three straight wins, the Red Foxes eclipsed the previous record for single-season wins, going undefeated on home dirt for an automatic bid to the NCAA Women's College World Series.

Game 1: Marist 2 (42-7-1) - Siena College 0

Key Player: Kiley Myers

A complete game two-hitter by Myers kept the 1-seed happy at home. With her 22nd shutout win to set a MAAC record, the fifth-year graduate student held Siena to 11 scoreless innings over two games.

Game 2: Marist 1 (43-7-1) - Rider University 0

Key Player: Miah McDonald

After Rider's Anna-Marie Groskritz shut out Quinnipiac and no-hit Fairfield to start the tournament, she finished the tournament with zero earned runs and a loss against Marist. Miah McDonald was crucial for breaking a scoreless tie in the eighth inning, leading off with a double and scoring the unearned run on an infield error, as the Foxes walked it off to reach the championship game.

Game 3: Marist 10 (44-7-1) - Siena College 2

Key Player: The outfield fence

The Red Foxes mercy ruled Siena on Sunday, finishing the tournament - and the title run - early, with an 8-run, five inning victory. Four balls were launched out of Gartland Field, starting from the first inning by Maddie Pleasants. The Pleasants grand slam and Sam Rogers' multi-homer run masterpiece weren't all. Add in Maddie Gore's solo shot, and the Foxes finished with the long ball being the difference, with 10 total runs leading to a Marist victory.

Five-time MAAC Coach of the Year Joe Ausanio credits his deep pitching staff for the Foxes' success this season. Marist looks to keep the momentum in the College Station, TX Regional, facing Liberty University on May 16. First pitch is at 1 p.m., as the Red Foxes seek to advance past the round of 64.

Raise funds for ARF during annual 5K run, walk on May 18

By Kristine Coulter

The Animal Rescue Foundation, known as ARF, has become such an integral part of the local community. Now, one can give back by participating in the annual ARF 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 18 at Memorial Park, Robert Cahill Dr., in Beacon.

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of the 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs — a decade of coming together as a community to move with purpose and compassion," Marjorie Vales, the event director, stated via email. "What began as a small fundraiser has grown into a beloved tradition that unites animal lovers in support of ARF's mission to rescue and rehome cats and dogs in need. Each year, every step taken has helped give pets a second chance—a journey from rescue to rehoming, from uncertainty to unconditional love."

ARF is "a 100% volunteer-run, no-kill nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing and rehoming cats and dogs in need—giving them a second chance at life and love," said Vales.

ARF currently has just over 30 cats and approximately a dozen dogs (numbers fluctuate as hopefully animals have been adopted after press deadline).

Continued on page 2



Help raise funds for the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) during the 10th annual ARF 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs on Sunday, May 18 at Memorial Park in Beacon. Pictured is one of the dogs during a previous year's event.

-Courtesy photo ARF

Bannerman Castle opens another season

By Morgan E. Maier

Another season filled with summer day trips and night-time entertainment is on tap - and it's on an island in the Hudson River. Bannerman Castle Trust (BCT) continues to bring life to the Hudson Highlands State Park attraction at Bannerman Island, offering an incredible view of the Hudson River, plus a natural tour of the property where Francis "Frank" Bannerman VI's construction began in 1901.

Keep an eye out for turtles sunbathing as the ferry disembarks from Beacon to the island. It is a nautical ride to remember, so long as passenger hats don't stray overboard along the 20-30 minute ride. The experienced captains of the Bannerman ferry will keep you intrigued with stories of the not-so-high waters of the Hudson, the shallow east bay that the ferry rides along.

Continued on page 3



Tours to Bannerman Island, in the Hudson River, are now available. Numerous events are also planned on the Island during the next months.

-Courtesy photo BCT



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Raise funds for ARF during annual 5K run, walk on May 18

Continued from cover

“ARF has become a vital part of the local community through compassionate service, outreach, and unwavering commitment to animal welfare. While we rescue animals locally, we also partner with overcrowded shelters across the southern United States—coordinating safe transport and providing these animals with the opportunity to find loving homes,” explained Vales. “Every animal in our care receives the attention, support, and kindness they deserve. We work closely with an amazing Fear Free certified trainer to build confidence and prepare each pet for a successful adoption. Our mission is powered entirely by volunteers and sustained by the generosity of the community we proudly serve.”

Planning for the Run & Walk, said Vales, “truly begins the day the event ends, the prior year.” The event director continued, “As soon as the last participant crosses the finish line, I start collecting feedback—the highlights, the challenges, and everything in between—to begin brainstorming ways to elevate the experience for participants, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and the broader community.”

ARF is a 100% volunteer-run organization, so every dollar raised goes directly to the care and well-being of

our animals, explained Vales. “These funds support all aspects of adoption readiness—from veterinary care and training to nutritious food, cozy bedding, and essential supplies,” said the organizer.

Vales ensures neighborhood partners are informed in advanced and knows every detail – like kiddie pools at the end of the finish line for the dogs-counts, she said.

“Throughout the summer, I stay in touch with partners, and by fall, I begin implementing improvements—updating registration, refining sponsorship packages, and sharing those updates with our supporters.

“It’s a year-round labor of love, and that ongoing dedication is what helps the event grow stronger and more meaningful with each passing year,” stated Vales.

There have been recent updates to the New York State’s shelter guidelines, Vales noted, and “community support is more vital than ever to help us meet these standards and continue providing the safe, loving care every animal deserves.”

Vales said, “Here’s to ten incredible years of heart, hope, and helping paws—and to many more ahead. We’re deeply grateful to everyone who’s been part of this journey.”

For more information, visit <https://arfbeacon.org/events/>.



The 10th annual ARF 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs on Sunday, May 18 at Memorial Park in Beacon. Pictured are participants during a previous year’s event. -Courtesy photo ARF

Council vote bans drive-thru facilities

By Kristine Coulter
The Council voted to ban drive thrus at its May 5 meeting.

One commenter, who is with a local media site, stated to the council, area residents do show support for those types of facilities.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, “The reason one finds drive thrus incompatible is that they’re incompatible with areas with high pedestrian use.”

Kyriacou continued stating it is a “laudable goal,” and the Council needs to be “cautious about putting in the desired zoning.”

Kyriacou said, “If you put in the desired zoning today, it may actually backfire and have the opposite effect of maintaining the existing uses that are far longer than would otherwise be the case.” He added, “The area we’re dealing with on Route 52 has been, for many years, used for car dealerships. By far the easiest use would be another car dealership. My concern is that if we don’t permit some transitional uses - and I do think a drive thru would be a transitional use - we would end up with many more years of car dealerships, probably used car dealerships, instead of seeing the change that we want. I would advise the council to be cautious and to think through what is the gradual approach of zoning changes that will give us a Route 52 that will become more and more residential. I don’t think this is the first step.”

“I would disagree to that, because I did hear you, Lee, just even a year ago, saying there is no reason for a moratorium that [there] is nothing that is going to come to that area,” said Councilmember Pam Wetherbee, who represents Ward 3, the section in which the location being discussed is located. “We do have three new businesses looking at that area.”

Wetherbee mentioned the Fishkill Ave. Concept Committee studying drive thrus and she noted, “The only way I could see drive

thrus working is to have a turnaround.” She also added that she feels the proposed rail trial will happen sooner rather than later.

Councilmember George Mansfield said, “I agree with Pam. I also understand where you’re coming from Lee.” He said the council has to zone for what they ultimately want to see, and he added he thinks drive thrus encourage a lot of fast-food type businesses.

Council member Paloma Wake agreed with Mansfield and wants to see more accessibility for bikes, wheelchairs and pedestrians.

“I strongly believe this will be good for our city and residents,” said Wake, and environmental and climate concerns long term. “I am pretty clear this is the best long-term decision for Beacon.”

Kyriacou said “the one thing you said, Pam, I really do hope the rail trail comes” quickly.

“I’m not waiting for the rail trail. We need to set the tone for what we want,” said Councilmember Jeffrey Domanski.

“Let’s go for a vote,” said Kyriacou. The only member of the council to vote ‘No’ against the ban on drive-thrus citywide was Kyriacou.

The Beacon City Planning Board has been looking at plans for a Dunkin’ Donuts with a drive-thru but no word yet as to how this Council vote would impact that proposed project, which is on Route 52, on part of the the site of the former Healey car dealership. The Council will hold a public hearing on self-storage facilities permitted usage or special permit use, with the exception of Main St., Route 52, Beekman St., and Tioranda Ave.

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Bannerman Castle opens another season

Continued from cover

The tower of Bannerman Island, part of the original arsenal (the “castle”), collapsed last year but was reinforced through the work of BCT volunteers. Further, a stabilization study will be performed of the arsenal, from a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant. “They are going to point us in the right direction so that we know what the scope of the work is, and what the progression will be,” said BCT Executive Director Neil Caplan.

Aric Morgan and team have worked to restore the interior dining room and fireplace of the original Bannerman house, a study in woodworking and masonry that extends outside the building to benches and more. Inside sits a historic preservation that not only encapsulates visitors but puts them in the shoes of past Bannerman visitors and inhabitants, 19th century to now. Other dedicated volunteers will give not only tours, but a history of Bannerman and the island's history that can't be explained by pictures, or by seeing alone.

At the top of Bannerman's 2025 entertainment bill is the September 23-28 run of "Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker," directed by Christian Conn and starring television and Broadway actor Duane Bout  . An adaptation of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" waits too on the horizon, running from Sept. 11-13. The island's outdoor stage offers plenty of space for productions, concerts, live music, and an opportunity for a daylong getaway without the travel. And the upcoming farm-to-table dinner on

Voters to vote on BCSD budget, trustees May 20

The Beacon City School District will hold the vote on the proposed 2025-26 budget, propositions and trustees on Tuesday, May 20. Polls are open from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Polling locations are Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd. for those voters who live in the City of Beacon. Glenham Elementary School, 20 Chase Dr., in Fishkill is the polling place for voters who live in the towns of Fishkill or Wappinger.

There are three trustee seats on the ballot. The three candidates are Meredith Heuer (incumbent), Semra Ercin (incumbent) and Catherine Buscemi.

To find one's polling place and more information on what is on the ballot, go to <https://www.beaconk12.org/domain/702>.

Beacon City School District
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew
Landahl states that anyone with questions
on the budget, contact him at
landahl.m@beaconk12.org.

Tickets for the 'Secret Gardens of Beacon' tour set for June 15

The Tioronda Garden Club of Beacon will be presenting the 2nd annual “Secret Gardens of Beacon” tour on Saturday, June 15. The rain date is June 16. Gardens will be open from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. This is a self-guided tour of what are described as several unique and beautiful gardens throughout Beacon.

Tickets for this fundraising event are \$20 and may be purchased in advance by contacting Geri Fuller at fullergeri@yahoo.com or Gary Barrack at gbarrack1@gmail.com.

Tickets may be picked up at The Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main Street in Beacon on the day of the event from noon – 2 p.m. (Maps will be provided on the day of the event.)

September 7th features the culinary artistry of Noah Sheetz, with a five-course meal and tour combination that benefits Bannerman Trust, Inc.

Tours of Bannerman Island are not currently ADA accessible. Seventy-two steps up from the Bannerman dock lay the historic trail and event space where guides and volunteers give not just information, but life to the island. The gardens at Bannerman are celebrating 20 years in action, offering a monarch butterfly sanctuary and floral tributes to friends who have passed on. This summer will also see the first installment of an art installation, a series of sculptured butterflies to remind all visitors that humans thrive on sharing experiences, like the ones Bannerman Island offers to all setting foot on her docks.

For those who have only seen Bannerman through the window of a Metro-North train, now's the time to see the island in person. Neither pictures nor pamphlets do justice to this Hudson Valley landmark.

For more information, visit <https://bannermancastle.org>.



A pontoon boat delivers visitors to Bannerman Island.

-Courtesy photo BCT

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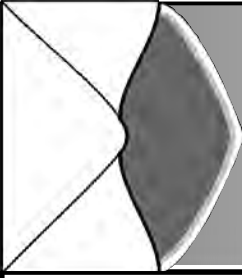
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Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. **Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.** Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase “Letter to the Editor” should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to a holiday press schedule for Memorial Day, the May 28 issue of Beacon Free Press will have early deadlines for all departments.
Editorial and calendar submissions must be received by Thursday, May 22, at noon.
Advertising must be received by Thursday, May 22, at 5 p.m.
Contact cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com for more information.

Late State Budget does some, but not enough, to address New York’s affordability crisis

To the Editor:

The New York State Legislature has finally passed a 2025-2026 state budget that takes some steps to address the affordability crisis, but does nowhere near enough to remedy New Yorkers’ economic pain. Because of Governor Hochul’s bad faith negotiating, this was the most overdue budget in 15 years. She managed to exclude critical clean energy legislation, even though we are in a climate crisis. She left out progressive revenue raisers, even though Trump and Musk are moving to cut federal funding. She neglected to fully address the statewide housing crisis, despite the rising rates of evictions and homelessness.

There will be some relief for working families in the form of free school meals for K-12 students, an expanded Empire State Child Tax Credit, and the launch of a pilot version of the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP). Although HAVP’s inclusion is a huge win that will help many people pay their rent, it is ridiculous that Governor Hochul refused to fully fund the program. We are sure to see many evictions avoided, and lives saved, because of HAVP. However, the program will only be as effective as it is sufficiently resourced. Governor Hochul and the Legislature must commit to fully funding a permanent rental assistance program to keep people in their homes.

It is unconscionable that the state failed to pass the NY HEAT Act for a third year in a row or take any meaningful climate action at all. Passing NY HEAT to cap utility bills at 6% of household income for all households would have provided exactly the sort of assistance Governor Hochul promised when she vowed to address cost of living in this budget. Instead of siding with working class New Yorkers, the Governor delayed and derailed the budget process by fighting to weaken criminal justice reforms to lock up more people. She has no plan to address federal funding cuts except to expand her own

executive authority. New York could protect our social safety net by raising taxes on the billionaires and corporations. Instead, Hochul would rather put more cops on the subway to try to defend herself against a primary threat she absolutely deserves.

This is why we must elect officials who care more about our communities than corporate donors. We should celebrate this year’s budget wins, but we must not forget how Governor Hochul wasted our time and overlooked our needs this budget cycle.

Daniel Atonna
Political Coordinator at For the Many
Candidate for City of Poughkeepsie Common Council (Ward 8).

New York State budget champions environmental protection

To the Editor:

Scenic Hudson commends Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature for passing a robust budget that sustains funding for vital environmental and climate resiliency initiatives. The FY 2025-26 budget boasts a historic level of funding for the Environmental Protection Fund and the largest investment in resiliency in New York’s history, demonstrating the strong commitment of our elected officials as stewards and protectors of our air, land, and water, now and for future generations.

Scenic Hudson expresses its strong support for these final state budget provisions:

- \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), including these programs.
- \$19.5 million for Climate Resilient Farms
- \$18 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- \$25 million for Farmland Protection
- \$42 million for Open Space and Land Conservation
- \$200 million for New York State Parks capital improvements
- \$500 million for clean water infrastructure
- The exemption of nonprofit conservation organizations from the payment of the “Mansion Tax,” a real estate transfer tax imposed by New York State on properties exceeding \$1 million
- \$289,000 to the City of Kingston and \$33,000 to the Town of Ulster to address decreased tax revenue to these host communities of Sojourner Truth State Park
- \$1 billion for the Sustainable Future Fund

These programs will guarantee that New Yorkers continue to benefit from access to nature, clean drinking water, and healthy, local food, even without current federal funding.

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said, “We commend Governor Hochul and the State Legislature for coming together to create a budget that puts environmental concerns front and center. Importantly, this year’s budget includes increased funding for farmland protection and open space conservation. We are thrilled that \$19.5 million has been allocated for the Climate Resilient Farming program within the Environmental Protection Fund. These resources will go directly to supporting farmers in their implementation of practices that benefit both soil health and farm viability, including improved water quality and increased food system resiliency. These budget augmentations will also empower land trusts across the state to expand conservation efforts to protect working farms and ecologically important lands. Increased funding, coupled with the exemption of nonprofit conservation organizations from the Mansion Tax, clearly demonstrates our state decisionmakers’ understanding of how these elements work together to secure a healthy and vibrant future for New York.”

Pete Lopez
Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy & Science at Scenic Hudson

Serino highlights Vietnam Nurses as Dutchess County recognized National Nurses Week

In recognition of National Nurses Week 2025, commemorated every year from May 6-12th, Dutchess County honored and celebrated the outstanding contributions of nurses across our community, with special gratitude to our own dedicated Public Health Nurses who serve residents through the County's Office for the Aging and Department of Health, as well as the Department of Mental Health's Community Public Health Nurses.

National Nurses Week is a time to reflect on the tireless work of nurses across the country and the vital role they play in every corner of our health care system. Dutchess County extends a heartfelt thank-you to nurses who serve with professionalism, empathy and skill. Their dedication has been especially vital in recent years and continues to guide our community through evolving public health challenges.

This year, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is shining a spotlight on nurses who served our nation during the Vietnam War. These individuals didn’t carry weapons, but they carried hope – working long hours in hospitals and mobile units to save lives, provide comfort, and show strength in the face of unimaginable hardship.

While there are no official records of the exact number of nurses who served in Vietnam – it is estimated approximately 9,000 numbers served. However, there is no national recognition day for them.

In honor of their courage and sacrifice, Serino proclaimed May 6, 2025 as Vietnam Nurses Day in Dutchess County.

Their bravery left a lasting legacy, and Dutchess County is proud to honor



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, left, and Adam Roche, Director of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, recently honored Edie Meeks, a resident of Beacon, who served in Vietnam. Serino proclaimed May 6, 2025 as Vietnam Nurses Day in Dutchess County.
-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov’t

their service.

Serino and Adam Roche, Director of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, recently honored one such nurse, who shared her personal tale of service to her country.

Beacon resident Edie Meeks served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Meeks discussed with the County Executive what motivated her to enlist and the profound impact her experience in Vietnam still carries. One can watch the discussion online at the Dutchess County Government’s Facebook page.

BCSD Student Film Fest set for May 16, 19

The 2025 Student Film Fest will be held on May 16 and May 19.

The Elementary Screening is set for Friday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Seeger Theater in Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd., in Beacon.

The Middle & High School screenings

are on Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at The Beacon Movie Theater, 445 Main St., in Beacon.

Tickets are on sale now.

For more information and tickets, go to <https://www.foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival>.

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Albert Osten, President

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Food, drink and local history make up DCHS Honors event

By Bill Jeffway

The Dutchess County Historical Society’s (DCHS) Annual Historic Preservation & Awards Celebration will take place on Sunday, June 1 at the historic home and carriage barn collection of Dick Lahey in Wappingers Falls. Sponsorships that allow us to celebrate best in class people and practices and ticket sales can be found here: dch-sny.org/2025june01. Simply Gourmet is providing food and drink.

Historic Preservation Award is given to Dick Lahey - Dick has been collecting carriages for over 50 years, curating his collection of original and restored carriages and is especially proud of the carriages that have their roots in the Hudson Valley, either through their original owners and/or their builders. His collection, housed in a century old barn, includes not only the carriages, but the riding gear, accoutrements, photographs, and historic prints. He makes his home in a house that dates to 1790, one of the hidden treasures in the town of Wappinger.

Lahey spent his early years in Hughsonville New York, where he became acquainted with farm life, horses and carriages, making his first horse purchase when he was 14.

After graduating from Wappinger’s schools, he attended Dutchess County Community College and SUNY New Paltz, where upon graduation he taught for 35 years in the Spackenkill School District, initially 5th and 6th graders and then developing and leading the district’s talented and gifted program. He also taught at Marist College for 15 years, mathematics and guiding/coaching new teachers as they built their skills.

Lahey is a founding member of the Mid-Hudson Driving Association and a board member of the Carriage Association of America. These responsibilities include judging and conducting demonstrations at many sites throughout the Hudson Valley, including at the Dutchess County Fair.

His interests go far beyond his carriage collection, his community contributions are many and include leading the Board at the Stony Kill Foundation, chairing the Hudson Valley Teacher’s center, a board member of the Putnam-Highlands Audubon Society, and holds long-time memberships with the Watermen Bird Club, the Wappingers Historical Society and Friends of Carnwath. He is very generous with his time, sharing his knowledge of the people, businesses, and stories of Hughsonville, Wappinger and Dutchess County formally and informally – and for that we are very grateful.

The Dutchess Award recognizes county residents who made exceptional contributions in areas of preservation, history, and/or education. Congratulations Rob & Sue Doyle!

Rob and Sue Doyle are community leaders with a dedication to the history of Dutchess County, to the preservation and



Above: Dick Lahey’s lifetime collection of horse and carriage related historical items are on display in the barn adjacent to his home, both of which will be open for the DCHS event.

-DCHS photos.

conservation of information and works of art, and to helping others. Over the past six years on the DCHS Board, including the past four as President, Rob has contributed countless hours to increasing the visibility of DCHS through his tireless networking, his programs on topics such as the history of New Hamburg and the importance of women artists in the 19th century, and his natural ability to see potential opportunities in any and every situation.

Together, Rob and Sue have transformed DCHS through their philanthropy and their shared vision for the annual auction, which began in 2021 and has since grown into the historical society’s largest annual fundraiser. Rob and Sue’s love of art was a major component in the success of the exhibition, “Fertile Ground: The Hudson Valley Animal Paintings of Caroline Clowes,” which was visited by over 1,000 people in Autumn 2022. Beyond DCHS, Rob and Sue have made significant contributions to a wide range of social causes including Hope on a Mission, the Animal Rescue Foundation, and the Fishkill Food Pantry, among countless others. Sue is active in the Rotary Club of Fishkill, and has been a supporter of Dutchess Community College where she previously served on their Foundation Board, including completing a term as Board President. Rob has served on many county-wide Boards including Dutchess Tourism, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce and Boy Scouts.

Retired Auctioneers, both Sue and Rob have been inducted into the National Auction Association’s Hall of Fame, the only husband and wife inducted in the NAA Hall of Fame’s 56-year history.

The Business of Historic Distinction Award is given to a long-standing business that demonstrates service and commitment to Dutchess County residents. Congratulations Legion Fireworks, Roberta Theiss accepting.

Legion Fireworks was founded in 1920 in Beacon by Joseph Chiarelli, moving to the town of Wappinger in 1924. The business has had only two families own and operate it in that time. In the 19th century, Italy was the leading European country to embrace fire-



Above clockwise from top left: DCHS 2025 award winners Dick Lahey (photo courtesy of Tony Musso for the Poughkeepsie Journal), Rob & Sue Doyle, Aidan Chisamore, Don Fraser, the late Frank Coluccio of Legion Fireworks.

-Courtesy photos DCHS

works, a Chinese invention. The large influx of Italians in the late 19th century saw a large influx of those skills. Many fireworks companies in the United States have roots of Italian heritage and history. Frank Coluccio, who started out as an employee of Chiarelli, took over the business in 1981 and took on every aspect of the business: the responsibility of book, managing, and literally creating each pyrotechnic. Coluccio spoke to the Poughkeepsie Journal in 2005 saying, “I’m a performer, I perform for an audience and I love to hear their cheers!” For pro-bono work as well as business and community-friendly approaches, Coluccio received the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Award in 2021. Coluccio passed away in 2024. The business continues in the family under the leadership of Frank’s life partner Roberta Theiss, her daughter Deanna Theiss, and Frank’s nephew Christopher Walsh.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Award is given to a person early in their career who has demonstrated great interest, scholarship, and enthusiasm for local history. Congratulations Aidan Chisamore!

After graduating from Vassar College in 2024 with a degree in History, Aidan has quickly become an integral member of the DCHS team. Utilizing his wide range of skills and unique aptitude for archiving, Aidan has taken the lead on assessing the DCHS collections, creating best in class searchable public access tools, and developing the foundation for a permanent infrastructure that has transformed the accessibility of the DCHS Archive.

In addition to his work with collections, Aidan has demonstrated initiative in learning and improving all aspects of our “society” including membership, development, and community engagement. As a de facto docent of the Historical Society, Aidan is often the first point of contact for visitors, and has guided countless inquirers as they have begun their Dutchess County history

exploration with courtesy.

The Eileen Mylod Hayden Award for Excellence in Education honors a Dutchess County educator who through innovation and creativity imparts a love and appreciation of local history to students. Congratulations Don Fraser!

Fraser began his career with New York State Parks and Historic Preservation as a Student Conservation Association intern at Staatsburgh State Historic Site (Mills Mansion) in 1999 and was responsible for developing educational environmental programs related to the property.

He went on to hold leadership positions at Fort Montgomery and Clermont State Historic Sites before returning to Staatsburgh as the Site Educator. In this position he has welcomed students from 2nd grade through college to the site and provided innovative and engaging educational programs. He is recognized as an outstanding historic house interpreter who imparts information about the mansion and its residents in a lively and engaging manner.

Fraser’s development of educational programs on topics such as Gilded Age Scandals and World War 1, as well as his focus on teaching untold histories that spotlight the less visible residents of Dutchess County, has resulted in a significant contribution to the understanding of how the Livingston-Mills family impacted Dutchess County.

DCHS is also pleased to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Town of Wappinger and offers this event as part of the festivities. Information at dchsnny.org/2025june01. Or simply mail a check (\$100 per person ticket price) to DCHS, 6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsnny.org or 845-293-7711.

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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades rock with 5 wins in Delaware

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley has (for now) had its last look at George Lombard, as he was promoted to the Double-A Somerset Patriots this week. Though Lombard's time was fun while it lasted, other new and familiar faces are keeping the Renegades on a wicked tear. This week, the team left Wilmington with a .5 game South Atlantic League lead and impressive performances from first pitch to extra innings. After dropping the opener in a 4-3 walkoff, Hudson Valley took 5 of 6 games from the Blue Rocks in Delaware.

Roc the Parks - Fan favorite infielder Roc Riggio wasted no time in his return from injury, with eight RBI in five games, including a three-run home run into the Renegades' bullpen in Sunday's 9-1 blowout. The second baseman also sealed a fourth straight Renegades victory on May 10, with an RBI double to break a 10th inning deadlock. While Riggio's heroics are known in the Valley, fans quickly learned about third baseman Parks Harbor. Harbor, a former University of North Carolina Tar Heel, has made a resounding entrance. Not just because of his emphatic fly ball calling, either. Since April 29, Harbor has hit .333/.396/.917, with 2 home runs and 9 runs batted in. He even had his own Saturday night heroics, following Riggio's clutch hit with a two-run double. He finished the 5-2 extra-inning win with 2 hits and 3 RBI.

Two-Out Rally - The Renegades were impressive with two outs this series, with 23 of 45 runs coming with two gone. Four runs crossed home via Josh

Moylan's patience at the plate, while Omar Martinez had a monster offensive performance (4-5, 5 RBI, 4 R) on May 7 as the Renegades scored all 12 runs with two outs. This week, 10 Renegades players produced two-out runs, with five coming from Martinez.

High (and Far) Five - Catcher and designated hitter Martinez came into this week with one home run under his belt, and left with five. Martinez launched four above the fences in the first three games, driving in a total of eight runs before the turn of the weekend. Coming into Sunday, Martinez hits a home run every 21 plate appearances and leads the team in long balls and runs batted in (20).

12-1 Odds - The Renegades' box score showed eerily similar numbers in back-to-back matchups on May 7 & 8. Both final scores were 12-1 in favor of the Renegades. Hudson Valley held Wilmington to just 2 hits, and in both games, the Blue Rocks' leadoff batter started the game with a hit and a run scored. Renegades starters Carlos Lagrange and Ben Hess each had nine strikeouts. And in a not-so-surprising twist, Brendan Jones stole a base in each game.

Starting Engines - Quality outings by Kyle Carr (0-1), Lagrange (3-1), and Hess (2-2) paved the way for a 2-1 Renegades series lead through the weekend. Each contributed over 5.0 innings, with Carr giving up two hits, and Lagrange and Hess each allowing one. Josh Grosz (2-1) offered 6.2 daz-



Carlos Lagrange, above, and Ben Hess each had nine strikeouts in games last week for the Renegades.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

zling innings on May 9, fanning 9 batters and giving up one run in a win. With Bryce Cunningham (1.98) and Elmer Cruz-Rodriguez (1.97) each in the top 10 for the league's lowest ERA, the Renegades' starting rotation continues rolling.

The Renegades (23-9) return home

this week to host the Aberdeen Ironbirds (13-20) for the first time this season. Headlining another full week of fun is the season's first Bobblehead Night on May 17, honoring Jace Avina's spectacular grab in '24. So, baseball fans, here's hoping for calm weather and clear skies ahead of this homestand.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Hudson Valley NYY	23	9	.719	-	7-3	W5
Greensboro PIT	23	10	.697	0.5	8-2	W4
Brooklyn NYM	20	12	.625	3.0	5-5	L1
Aberdeen BAL	13	20	.394	10.5	4-6	W1
Jersey Shore PHI	12	19	.387	10.5	5-5	L1
Wilmington WSH	10	23	.303	13.5	3-7	L5
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Rome ATL	19	14	.576	-	6-4	W2
Bowling Green TB	18	15	.545	1.0	6-4	L1
Hub City TEX	17	16	.515	2.0	4-6	L4
Asheville HOU	15	18	.455	4.0	6-4	W1
Greenville BOS	14	19	.424	5.0	3-7	L2
Winston-Salem CWS	12	21	.364	7.0	3-7	W1



Home Schedule

May			
05/16/25	vs. Aberdeen	07:05 PM	Disco Night Fireworks Friday
05/17/25	vs. Aberdeen	05:05 PM	Open Mic Night Jace Avina Bobblehead Giveaway
05/18/25	vs. Aberdeen	02:05 PM	No Place Like Home Sunday Family Funday
05/27/25	vs. Wilmington	06:05 PM	Fast Food Night Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
05/28/25	vs. Wilmington	11:05 AM	Education Day Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
05/29/25	vs. Wilmington	06:05 PM	FRIENDS Night FRIENDS Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
05/30/25	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	Fireworks Friday Baseball (Rosie's Version)
05/31/25	vs. Wilmington	05:05 PM	The Malmö Oat Milkers: Did Someone Say Dynasty? Faith And Family Night Presented By The Paramount at Somers
June			
06/01/25	vs. Wilmington	02:05 PM	Copa De La Diversión: National Puerto Rican Day Sunday Family Funday
06/10/25	vs. Greenville	06:35 PM	Everyone's Birthday Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
06/11/25	vs. Greenville	06:35 PM	Pride Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
06/12/25	vs. Greenville	06:35 PM	Rise Of The Cider Donuts Cider Donuts Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
06/13/25	vs. Greenville	07:05 PM	Dino Night Fireworks Friday
06/14/25	vs. Greenville	05:05 PM	Renegades Dating Show Roc Riggio Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By S.M.A.R.T. Local 38
06/15/25	vs. Greenville	02:05 PM	Father's Day Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!





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See story, page 8

Pitcher Carr shows significant improvement with Renegades



Kyle Carr’s name is etched in Renegades history. On July 19, 2024, Carr combined with bullpen talents of Hueston Morrill and Trent Sellers for the third no-hitter in Renegades history, and the first of two on the season.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

On May 6, Kyle Carr pitched a no decision on his 23rd birthday, the latest in a series of firsts for the lefty’s young career. Though Carr (0-1) still seeks his first win in 2025, this start was undoubtedly his strongest of the young Hudson Valley Renegades season, allowing just three baserunners (2 hits, 1 walk) over 5.0 innings.

Carr has shown significant improvement in his command and confidence throwing in the zone over the first month of his sophomore campaign. He earned the 2025 Opening Day starter job, but the Renegades couldn’t produce a run to cancel Carr’s single earned run in the opening loss.

Now in his second year with the Yankees organization, Carr’s name is etched in Renegades history. On July 19, 2024, Carr combined with bullpen talents of Hueston Morrill and Trent Sellers for the third no-hitter in Renegades history, and the first of two on the season.

Before he was the Yankees’ third round draft pick in 2023, Carr was a one-and-done star for the Palomar College Comets. Carr earned a 12-1 record in his sole season at Palomar, with 111 strikeouts in 78.0 innings.

And while he never made a birthday

start in college, Carr had a stellar outing on the eve of his 21st, going 7.0 strong innings with 10 K’s in a shutout win on May 5, 2023. He led the California Community College Athletic Association (Southern California) in wins and strikeouts. Carr also got a taste of two-way player stardom, with a .500 batting average in 42 plate appearances.

A California native, Carr was recognized by the American Baseball Coaches Association as the best pitcher in the Pacific Association Division, a conference comprised of junior colleges across California and the Pacific Northwest. Palomar College swept those awards in 2023, as teammate Quincy Scott was named the best position player. Scott signed with the Texas Rangers and currently plays in the South Atlantic League on the inaugural team of the High-A Hub City Spartanburgers.

Carr was named the top junior college prospect of the 2023 draft class, and was subsequently selected by the Yankees as pick No. 97. Alongside Carr, the Yankees selected current Renegade Roc Riggio (129th pick) and the recently promoted George Lombard (26th pick), and all three have been instrumental in the Renegades success over the last two seasons.

REMEMBER THAT RENEGADE? Rookie sensation Ramirez dazzles with Miami Marlins



Reid Ryan from the 1994 Renegades is still involved in baseball, as the CEO of Ryan-Sanders Baseball Inc., with ownership of the Texas Rangers AAA affiliate, and the Astros-affiliated Corpus Christi Hooks.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier

Agustín Ramírez (2023)

“How could the Yankees let him go?” bemoan fans across New York Yankees social media. Now a member of the Miami Marlins, catcher Agustín Ramírez made his MLB debut on April 21. In his debut, Ramírez caught a 14-strikeout game, and further began 7 for his first 10 at the plate appearances. He is making his case as one of the league’s top catching prospects, hitting .283 with four home runs in just under three weeks. As Marlins media calls Ramírez their rookie sensation, the Yankees may remember him as the one that got away.

Note: The first baserunner Ramírez caught stealing was reigning National League MVP Shohei Ohtani.

Oswald Peraza, 3B (2021) - The last time the Yankees third baseman wore number 18 it was magical, Bro. Now Renegades alum Oswald Peraza has earned his roster spot as part of New York’s third base platoon, plus a few reps in the middle infield. Once a back-to-back

South Atlantic League Player of the Month, Peraza hit his first home run of the season on Opening Day. And even though Peraza’s bat cooled down a little in May, he will likely stay on as a utility man when “Renegade for a Day” DJ LeMahieu debuts from his offseason injury.

Reid Ryan, P (1994) - From the “Ryan Express” to the Round Rock Express, Reid Ryan’s baseball career was considerably less illustrious than that of his father, Nolan. In the inaugural Renegades summer of 1994, Reid put up a 5-5 record and 2.90 earned run average that earned him a promotion to the Texas Rangers’ Class-A team. While his playing career ended after 1995, Reid made a different move up the MLB ranks. He became the president of the Houston Astros in 2013, a tenure that ended in the wake of the team’s sign-stealing scandal of 2019. Reid is still involved in baseball, as the CEO of Ryan-Sanders Baseball Inc., with ownership of the Texas Rangers AAA affiliate, and the Astros-affiliated Corpus Christi Hooks.

Dutchess Roots blazes trail with Dutchess Community College scholarship

Led by locals with deep roots in the Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Roots will open this spring at 2615 South Road (Route 9) within South Road Crossing. Co-founders Lisa and Scott Sweeney aim to elevate customers' experiences through approachable products, personalized services and comprehensive education — and as part of their commitment to the community, have partnered with the Dutchess Community College Foundation to establish the Dutchess Roots Entrepreneurial Scholarship.

Dutchess Roots' annual \$5,000 contribution to the College will fund two \$1,000 grants each year, with an ultimate goal of building an endowment. The award, which aims to recognize the entrepreneurial spirit of students in the College's Cannabis Retail Management program, will be gifted to Dutchess County-based students, enabling us to not only support economic growth in our backyard, but uplift the next generation of leaders in the cannabis industry.

“With Dutchess Roots, we’re planting something meaningful in our own backyard,” said Lisa Sweeney, who also serves as president of the woman-owned and woman-led dispensary. “Our intention is to not only to create an outstanding experience for our customers, but to grow meaningful roots right here in the Town of Poughkeepsie, where we live. We are committed to giving back and supporting our community whenever possible.”

Having an extensive background in hospitality and healthcare-related project management, Lisa Sweeney is uniquely positioned to lead the dispensary with a strong focus on fostering exceptional customer and employee experiences. She will co-lead with her husband, Scott Sweeney, chief operating officer, who brings complementary



Pictured from left are Diana Pollard, AVP of institutional advancement and executive director of the Dutchess Community College Foundation, Lisa Sweeney, co-founder and president of Dutchess Roots, and Scott Sweeney, co-founder and COO of Dutchess Roots.

-Courtesy photo Impact PR & Communications

expertise and business acumen in sales and finance to their shared vision for Dutchess Roots.

According to Lisa Sweeney, whether you're an experienced cannabis user or someone new to it and curious, Dutchess Roots will be there to offer a personalized experience. The dispensary will not just be about providing products; it will be dedicated to educating consumers every step of the way through on-site guidance and with partnerships like the one with Dutchess Community College.

More information on the Dutchess Roots Entrepreneurial Scholarship can be found at www.sunydutchess.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/ in the coming weeks. To stay up to date on Dutchess Roots, subscribe to its newsletter at www.dutchessroots.com and follow along on Facebook (@Dutchess Roots) and Instagram (@dutchess roots).

Northwell Health completes merger with Nuvance Health



Dr. John M. Murphy, president and CEO of Nuvance Health, left, is pictured with Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health.

-Courtesy photo

Northwell Health and Nuvance Health have announced that the two nonprofit health systems have officially joined together to form a new integrated regional health system that will enhance care for communities across greater New York and Connecticut, serving a population of more than 13 million.

The integrated system, with a combined \$22.6 billion operating budget, now encompasses over 104,000 employees, a diverse network of 22,000 nurses and 13,500 providers at 28 hospitals, more than 1,050 ambulatory care and 73 urgent care locations while tapping into the world-class expertise of the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, the visionary Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies.

“Today marks a commitment to the future of healthcare in the region. This partnership opens a new and exciting chapter for Northwell Health and Nuvance Health to take patient care and services to an even higher level,” said Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health. “We already had similar missions in providing high-quality care for patients in the communities we serve, and we look forward to building on the world class care that Nuvance Health’s staff members and providers deliver every day. We’re excited to move forward, united in our vision to transform health care and build a healthier future for the residents of Connecticut and New York.”

The New York State Department of Health and Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, along with the attorneys general of each state, approved plans for the integrated health system, which received final clearance after the board of trustees from both organizations voted to move forward. As part of the agreement, Northwell will invest at least \$1 billion in Nuvance hospitals.

"At NuVance Health, we have always been deeply committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate care to our communities," said Dr. John M. Murphy, president and CEO of NuVance Health. "Joining forces with Northwell Health strengthens our ability to meet the evolving needs of patients and ensures we can provide exceptional care for generations to come. This is a transformative moment for our patients, employees and the communities we serve."

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to build a more integrated, regionally connected health system across New York and Connecticut," said Margaret Crotty, chair of the Northwell Health Board of Trustees. "It is based on our aligned commitments to expanding access to excellent care, and to recruiting and retaining the best clinical talent. The Northwell board is confident this new partnership will bring great value to both organizations."

Both Northwell Health and Nuvance Health reaffirm their commitments to the goals and objectives of the new integrated health system:

- Deliver extraordinary clinical care to

patients - With increased capacity to invest in medical advancements and innovation, the integrated system will better serve patients in their respective markets and communities. With Nuvance Health joining Northwell

Health, patients will have enhanced access to coordinated care in their local communities at more than 1,050 sites across Connecticut, New York City, Long Island and the Hudson Valley. The care delivered in these sites will span the full range of ambulatory, hospital and post-acute services.

- Create healthier communities - Combining Nuvance Health with the resources of Northwell Health will enable the organizations to meet the evolving, varied needs of local communities more quickly, more efficiently and more effectively. Together, both organizations can make significant improvements to health outcomes and address health disparities across the communities they serve. As nonprofit organizations, Northwell and Nuvance Health will also continue to provide care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

- **Advance medical innovation** - By joining Northwell Health, NuVance Health will gain access to the clinical, operating and financial resources of one of the nation's most comprehensive and integrated health systems. Combining clinical and technical capabilities and expertise from both organizations will help drive even greater innovation, enhanced care and services offerings. Building on each organization's research, education and clinical care infrastructure, the combined entity will accelerate innovation in patient care and advance medical research that can help transform lives.

- **Recruit top talent** - An increased opportunity for NuVance Health to attract and retain top talent, including medical, surgical and research specialists as well as nurses, allied health and business professionals. By coming together, medical staff and team members will have professional growth opportunities, new career opportunities and the chance to work with some of the best in the industry. This could include academic pathways for health professionals to acquire additional degrees and for new graduates to fill high-demand positions.

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Poppies are potent posies

When my father brought pizza home from Bruno’s, an eatery in the Catskill Mountain Town of Hunter during my youth, an odd cohabitant rested inside the box, beside the Neapolitan classic. With the pizza, there was always a small, red, crepe-paper flower. My mother may have told me it was a poppy.

I still don’t know why they accompanied Bruno’s pizzas. Maybe he was an American Legionnaire. He could have been a veteran himself or simply supported veterans’ causes. I was in elementary school and had never set foot inside of Bruno’s, nor met the man. But my father occasionally brought home a pie, so opening the box and finding the crimson bloom may be the genesis of my life-long interest in the crinkly-petalled beauties.

The Common Poppies’ association with Veterans and Memorial Days originates from their mention in a poem written to mourn the loss of fallen soldiers. The wildflowers can lie dormant for up to 80 years and germinate in disturbed soil, such as when they grew prolifically in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium, particularly in the region of Flanders, after World War I.

Although Common Poppies are familiar because of their association with those days of remembrance, *Papaver rhoeas* is just one of the 70 to 100 species of the *Papaver* genus. Another noteworthy flower is *Papaver somniferum*, which may be called the breadseed poppy. It is those plants’ seeds that adorn some bagels and rolls in the US, as well as featured as a ground sweetened paste in European foods such as makovník (a pastry roll), mákos tézsta (a sweet noodle dish), and hamantashen (triangular cookies eaten during Purim, a Jewish festival that celebrates triumph over adversity).

Not all poppies are common

That same poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*, whose seeds provide a nutty crunch to your bagel, also produces a complex liquid (latex) which consists of substances that produce analgesic, hypnotic, antitussive, gastrointestinal, and cognitive effects. Opium is produced from the dried latex that is extracted from the unripened seed pods of *Papaver s.*, also called the Opium Poppy. Morphine, codeine, heroin, and oxycodone are all produced from opium.

Those narcotics are used therapeutically to treat pain, suppress cough, alleviate diarrhea, and induce anesthesia. However, they are some of the most addictive substances known to man. As misused drugs, they may be smoked, sniffed, or injected.

Opium is produced by scratching the plant’s immature seed pods to release the latex, which dries into a sticky residue. The residue is then scraped off and dehydrated.

Food and decoration

Live plants and seeds of the Opium/Bread Poppy are widely sold by seed companies and nurseries in most of the western world, including the United States. Poppy seed pods are also sold for dried flower arrangements. Though the Opium Poppy and poppy straw (the dried stalks, stem, and leaves) of the plants are controlled substances in the U.S., *P. somniferum* can be legally grown as a seed crop or ornamental flower. That’s good news if you enjoy poppy seeds on cake and rolls, or in your garden. The consumption of foods with poppy seeds isn’t intoxicating, but it can result in positive drug test results for opiates.

Poppy parallels

All poppies in the *Papaver* genus do contain some narcotic compounds, albeit at lower concentrations than *P. somniferum*. Both *Papaver r.* and *Papaver s.* are annuals, but they may self-sow and maintain their presence in the garden. Even better, Oriental Poppies (*Papaver orientale*) are perennials, so planting them will ensure that the blooms return. And, perhaps because they are all such potent posies, deer don’t typically snack on them.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County.

Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>



Poppy seeds are a traditional filling in hamantash, above, and, of course, a popular topping for rolls and bagels, right.

-Photos by Francine Wizner



Poppy in a Pizza Box, the way the author remembers it from childhood.

-Re-created with AI by Francine Wizner

Beacon Rising Spring Concert at BHS on May 18

Beacon Rising Choir 2025 Spring Concert and Community Event will take place on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. The doors open at 1 p.m. for event. The concert will take place at the Pete and Toshi Seeger Theater at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Rd, Beacon.

The Beacon Rising choir will perform both new songs, including “Water Fountain” by Tune-Yards and “Umbrella” by Rihanna, as well as fan favorites like Patti Smith’s “The People Have the Power” and “Quiet” by MILCK. They will be accompanied by a live band, including Andy Reinhardt on keyboards and percussion; Mark Marshall on drums and percussion; Michael Chambers on

guitar and percussion; Alex Rivers on bass; Emily Pullen on guitar; Betsy Mulyan and Amelia Gilmer on flute; and Laura Volpacchio on tap percussion.

The concert will feature a special appearance by the South Avenue Elementary Drama Club, one of the free after school arts programs that Compass Arts piloted in Beacon schools this past year. These third through fifth graders will perform a song from their spring musical, “Space Pirates!”

This event is generously sponsored by Beahive, Dr. Margaret Ready, FulBeing Collective, Gold Standard Tax & Accounting, Inc., and Vails Gate Cleaners / TRS.

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Obituaries

Kathleen Keenan



Kathleen Keenan, 86, passed away Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Born on September 5, 1938 in Cornwall, she was the daughter of David and Ethel (Twilliger) Babcock. Predeceased by her parents and 12 siblings. Most notably her sister and lifelong best friend, Joan Schnetzler.

She attended school in Cold Spring and then resided in Beacon in her adult life. She retired after 25 plus years, to enjoy her children and grandchildren.

Survived by her 4 children, Denise (Keenan) O'Herron of Greenfield Center, NY, William Keenan of Albany NY, Thomas Keenan (Dawn) of New Mexico and Kathleen (Keenan) Lombardo (Scott) of Hopewell Junction, NY. Her grandchildren, Siobhan (O'Herron) Dahl (David), Kasey O'Herron, Shannon (O'Herron)

Ladd (Dan), Joseph Keenan (Nicky), Brittney (Keenan) Mahoney (Brian), Nicole (Lombardo) Laino (Nick), Gina (Lombardo) McMorris (Collin), Leigh Pavone and Anthony Pavone; her great grandchildren, Colt Laino, Cash Mahoney and Stanton, MC Morris, Keely Dahl, Kenzie Dahl and Kendra LeClair. Along with Kimberly and Kevin Lennon and their beloved daughter, Autumn Rose.

She will be remembered as a devoted and loving mother who always supported her children in their life choices. Gardening gave her great pleasure. Especially her beautiful Roses.

Family.... She and Aunt Joan, left us that legacy.

Family and friends gathered on Thursday, May 8 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Christine Hajba



Christine (Antonio) Hajba of Poughkeepsie, passed away on May 3, 2025 in White Plains. She was 61 years old.

Born in Beacon to Alberta and Joseph Antonio Sr., she graduated from Beacon High School and went on to work in retail. She met her future husband, coworker Jozef Hajba, at Service Merchandise and they wed in 1990. Christine loved being a homemaker and raising their children at their home in Stone Ridge, where she enjoyed gardening and caring for her flock of chickens. She loved living in the country and being outdoors. Recently she worked at Goodwill and made many close friends there that she considered family. She was so proud of her children and made sure they knew it. She was strong, loving, fun, and hard working. Her family will miss

her humor, laugh, compliments, and hugs.

Christine is survived by son, Adam Hajba; daughter, Ashley (Hajba) Finnigan and her husband, Andrew; stepson, Shane Hajba and his daughter, Lauren ; sister, Annette Antonio; brother, Joseph Antonio Jr. and his wife, Sue; aunt, Janet Dyson and her husband, Robert; and nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents, Alberta Antonio and Joseph Antonio Sr., and her husband, Jozef Hajba.

As per her wishes, there will be no formal services and family will gather privately to celebrate her life.

Please consider making a donation in Christine's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

John Frank Aiello



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of John Frank Aiello, of Pompano Beach, FL, and previous long-time resident of Wappingers Falls, NY, on May 9, 2025 at the age of 93. John is survived by his, sons Joseph Aiello (Nancy) and Anthony Aiello (John), and daughter Lisa Aiello Nafe (Ben). His spirit continues through his grandchildren Christina, Jennifer, Lucas, Ann Marie and great granddaughter Maddie. He is survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews whom he loved so deeply. Visitation at the Delehanty Funeral Home 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY Wed. 4 – 8 PM. Funeral mass Thurs. at St. Mary's Church in Wappingers Falls. Entombment at Poughkeepsie

Rural Cemetery.

For full obituary please visit our website at delehantyfh.com.

Barbara Pauline Joyce



Barbara Pauline Joyce, a resident of Fishkill, NY since 1967, formerly of Yonkers and Brooklyn, passed away on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. She was 80.

Daughter of the late Robert Vincent and Edith (Walker) Dinsdale, she was born in Brooklyn on October 29, 1944. She was an active parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill and worked as manager, auditor, and bookkeeper in Dutchess County, retiring in 2006. An avid reader, Barbara's other hobbies included jigsaw puzzles, memory games, and crocheting.

On October 19, 1963, she married John P. Joyce, Sr. in Yonkers. John survives at home in Fishkill.

Additional survivors include her daughter, Doreen Joyce of Wallkill, NY; her son, Dean Joyce (Johanna Fuertes) of Glendale, AZ; her daughter, Denise Jazzo (Marcus Miree) of Jacksonville, FL; her son, John P. Joyce, Jr. (Carmelina Joyce) of Cookeville, TN; her grandson, John P. Joyce, III of Beacon, NY; her granddaughter, Amber Lynn Ilker (Jake Rand) of Poughkeepsie, NY; her niece, Diane Hammond (Richard Hammond) of Rifton, NY; as well as four step-grandchildren, eight step-great-grandchildren; and many other loving relatives.

Calling hours were held on Saturday, May 10 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Monday, May 12 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, 636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078 (www.christopherreeve.org) or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 (www.cancer.org).

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Christine E. Flavin



Christine (Chris) E. Flavin, 78, a long-time Fishkill resident, passed away peacefully at Hospice House, Hyde Park. Chris was raised in Poughkeepsie by her loving parents Raymond and Elizabeth Flavin.

While growing up in Spackenkill, she enjoyed fishing with her Dad on Bullfrog Pond and horseback riding with friends. She remained close to her childhood friends throughout her life. Chris was a proud graduate of Georgetown University. When recalling

her education, she often spoke about her year abroad studying in France. There too she gathered many friends who she cherished her lifetime. Most important to Chris was the annual September Georgetown friends reunion in Narragansett. One other highlight was meeting her friend Todd Karn up at Saratoga Racetrack every August to enjoy the horses.

Chris was an enthusiastic animal lover. For years she enjoyed her beautiful horse Drambuie (Buie) and riding up at Roseview Stable. She adopted two whippets, had parrots and received comfort over the last few months from her beloved cat GiGi.

Chris enjoyed a career in banking in mortgage origination. Her first bank position was at First Savings and Loan in Poughkeepsie. There she met Brian and Donna Medici, who were able to support her in the final few months of her life. Through the years she worked at other local banks.

Chris is predeceased by her parents. She is survived by caring friends who are like family, maybe even closer.

A graveside service will be held at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery on Friday May 16, 2025.

Sylvia L. Jones



Sylvia L. Jones, a resident of Poughkeepsie and formerly of Beacon, entered into rest on April 27, 2025. She was 86 years old.

Sylvia was born on July 9, 1938 in Beacon, the daughter of the late Cabey Galloway, Sr. and Golden Galloway. She married James Jones who predeceased her. Sylvia was an avid caretaker who worked in nursing throughout her life. She was a member of the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church. Her family will fondly remember her as the family cook and they will all miss her mac-n-cheese and sausage and peppers.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Alesha Jones and Julia Jones;

her sister Margaret Jones and brother-in-law, Robert Jones; a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was also predeceased by her daughter, Jacqueline Jones; her grandson, Shamel Price; her sisters, June Fleming and Joan Whitener; her brothers, Cabey Galloway, Jr., Johnny Galloway (3 years old) and Irving Jones.

A graveside service was held on Friday, May 9 at Fairview Cemetery, 375 Washington Avenue, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Southern Dutchess News
Beacon Free Press
Northern Dutchess News

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We are not responsible for typographical errors. A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

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Contact Us

Call: 845-297-3723

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E-Mail: sdnadvertising@aol.com

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100 Help Wanted

Creo Dent Hudson Valley, Inc. in Fishkill, NY seeks Visual Communication Designer. Undertake the Company's marketing efforts by creating designs and concepts for promotional/business materials. & website. Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design, Industrial Design or closely related, plus 1 yr of experience in Graphic Desing, Visual Communication or closely related field req'd. Salary: \$63,000/yr. Send resume: Jun Hwang 1769 NY-52, Fishkill, NY 12524

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

the Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press

have the following early deadlines for Classified Display ads:

May 28th 2025 Issue

Submit Classified ads by Noon on Wednesday, Wednesday May 21st.

Call (845) 297-3723 for more information.



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Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad).

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Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

Due to the **Memorial Day Holiday**,
the **Southern & Northern Dutchess**
News
and the **Beacon Free Press**
will have the following **early deadline**
for

Classified Display ads:

May 28th, 2025 issue:

Submit Classified ads by **NOON**
on Wednesday, May 21st.

Call (845) 297-3723 for more information.

Free 'Tackling Ticks on the Big Screen' returns May 21 at Overlook Drive-In

Their bravery left a lasting legacy, and Dutchess County is proud to honor



Meeks discussed with the County Executive what motivated her to enlist and the profound impact her experience in Vietnam still carries. One can watch the discussion online at the Dutchess County Government's Facebook page.

At the event, representatives from

To learn more about these services as well as what the department offers, visit dutchessny.gov/health.

Rabies vaccinations are required by New York State law for all cats, dogs, and domestic ferrets by four months of age. Pet owners

To learn more about rabies, visit dutchessny.gov/rabies or one may contact DCDOH at ehs@dutchessny.gov.

this week's puzzle solutions

1	2	1	3	2	4
4	3	5	1	4	2
3	1	2	4	3	5
5	4	3	2	1	4
2	3	1	5	2	3
1	4	3	2	1	4

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Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
NOTICE OF ADOPTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess at a meeting held on April 14, 2025, adopted a local law entitled: LOCAL LAW 2 of 2025, A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES The intent of this Local Law is to provide for installment payments on eligible delinquent	real property taxes. A copy of the local law is available at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature where it may be inspected during regular office hours. LEIGH WAGER Clerk Dutchess County Legislature Dated: May 5, 2025 City of Beacon One Municipal Plaza - Suite One Beacon, New York 12508 Phone	(845) 838-5002 May 9, 2025 SUBJECT: Variance Application Applicant: Lendita Mavraj Address: 6 Cliff Street Tax Grid No.: 30-5954-27-799935-00 Zoning Classification: T Dear Neighboring Property Owner: Lendita Mavraj, 6 Cliff Street, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from City Zoning Code	Section 223-17.D. to allow the primary building on the property to be converted from a one-family residence to a two-family residence, which requires relief from the following: 1. Section 223-17.D. to allow for a minimum lot area per dwelling unit of 1,641.5 sq ft (2,500 sq ft required) Additionally, the applicant is seeking relief from Section 223-17.D. to allow the construction of an addition and deck to the primary building, which	requires relief from the following: 2. Section 223-17.D. to allow for a 10.7 ft rear yard setback (20 ft required) Additionally, the applicant is seeking relief from Section 223-17 Schedule of Dimensional Regulations to allow the building coverage to exceed the maximum percentage permitted, which requires relief from the following: 3. Section 223-17 Schedule of Dimensional Regulations, to allow for 44.5% build-	ing coverage (40% maximum) The full application is available online at: https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/agenda-s-minutes/ The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objec-	tion to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on May 20, 2025, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov Mercedes Perez Zoning Board Secretary

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Germania of Poughkeepsie to sponsor Maifest on May 16-18



Germania of Poughkeepsie will sponsor its annual festive and authentic Maifest from May 16-18 in Poughkeepsie. Pictured are dancers and performers during a previous year's event.

-Courtesy photos Germania of Poughkeepsie

Germania of Poughkeepsie is sponsoring a fun, festive and authentic Maifest from May 16-18. The event features live German bands, German food, German Bier, home baked German desserts, children's entertainment, Bavarian folk dancers, and singers. Adult entry ticket \$5 daily, \$4 Veterans and Active Military with valid ID, children under 16 with parents, no charge (only service animals with valid ID please). The event will be held rain or shine or under tents. There is free parking.

Germania of Poughkeepsie, founded 1850, is a benevolent, 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to the education of German heritage and culture. Germania hosts various authentic cultural events throughout the year including an annual Maifest, Oktoberfest, Christkindlmarkt, Heritage Day Bake Sale, Biergartens, authentic German dinners, Stammtisch, and other events.

Over the past 175 years, Germania has hosted educational programs in music, sport, dance, and citizenship. Germania sponsors numerous "Sister Clubs" who also promote many educational and authentic cultural events. These include the Germania Singers, Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein, Steuben Society of

America Dr. Charles Gilbert Spross Unit #167, and the Germania Blue & White Soccer Club. Germania also sponsors German Language Classes, Ballroom Dancing Classes, and a Volkssport Club. Throughout the year Germania holds clothing, food, toy drives, as well as grants annual scholarships to BOCES CTI Culinary program graduates. Since the pandemic, Germania has donated over seven hundred German Take Out Dinners to area First Responders.

Germania supports the community by procuring goods and services through locally owned Hudson Valley businesses. The organization remains a 100% volunteer, private club, and is actively looking to increase membership, along with Club Sponsorship and Event Vendors. Membership is open to individuals of all faiths and backgrounds.

Hours are Friday, May 16 from 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, May 17 from 1-10 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 from noon to 5 p.m.

Please visit GermaniaFacebook, for details.

Contact Germania directly for further information, president@germaniaPok.com or call 845-471-0609.

Imani Winds performance set for May 18 in Beacon

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) closes its 2024-2025 chamber series with Imani Winds, at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complementary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Imani Winds is the 2024 GRAMMY® winner in the Classical Compendium category for Jeff Scott's "Passion for Bach and Coltrane." For more than a quarter of a century, this group has redefined the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have thrilled and inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds. This quintet has played frequently in great halls around the globe, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, and since 2021 they have been the first ever Faculty Wind Quintet at the Curtis Institute. One of Imani Winds' most humbling recognitions is a permanent presence in the classical music section of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC.

For this performance, Imani Winds will play works by Valerie Coleman (a founder of the quintet, no longer performing with them); Kalevi Aho (a contemporary Finnish composer); Paquito D'Rivera (composed for the quintet);



Imani Winds will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on May 18 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo Howland Chamber Music Circle

Stevie Wonder (arranged by a member of the quintet); Fazil Say (a contemporary from Turkey); and Simon Shaheen (a contemporary Palestinian-American, arranged by a former member of Imani Winds).

HCMC now offers tickets at prices to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.