

BEACON FREE PRESS

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*Town of Wappinger
watch party
cheers on Tyler
Adams, Team USA*



Linda Russo, grandmother of U.S. Men's National Team member Tyler Adams, cheers during a watch party at the Martz Field pavilion in the Town of Wappinger on June 19. The event was held to cheer on Adams and the U.S. World Cup team, which defeated Australia, 2-0.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

By Matthew Fetzer

For Linda Russo, it was “actually surreal and amazing.” She was talking about the support for her grandson, Tyler Adams, during a watch party for the U.S. Men’s National Team in its’ FIFA World Cup game against Australia last Friday afternoon at Martz Field in the Town of Wappinger.

“The support that Tyler has had from the community is something that I can’t even explain. It’s just amazing. He’s had so much support and so many people cheering for him. It’s really a great feeling. I’m so proud of him,” said Russo, smiling as she was wearing her grandson’s No. 4 jersey.

The U.S. team extended its World Cup record to 2-0 with a 2-0 win over Australia, much to the delight of the crowd of residents who were gathered under the Martz Field pavilion. Adams has now played for two Team USA World Cup squads, even captaining the team in 2022.

The watch party on June 19 was hosted by Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini and the Wappinger Town Board.

“It’s true hometown pride in the town of Wappinger today,” said Cavaccini. “Tyler, first of all, is one of the most humble and caring people that I know. He’s been very generous with the things that he’s done for the town, so it is only fitting that our community comes out to return the favor to him and root him on.”

Martz Field is also home to the Tyler Adams Soccer Pitch, which was renamed in July 2025. This was made possible through a partnership between Adams and the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

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Lady Gray Bridal of Beacon: Honoring a 60-year legacy

Tina Pomarico gives farewell

By Morgan E. Maier

For more than 70 years, one family has been a true cornerstone of the Beacon community.

It began with Rocky’s Deli, a neighborhood business built on hard work, personal relationships, and a commitment to the community. Over time, that family business evolved into the Lady Gray Dress Shop and eventually Lady Gray Bridal 60 years ago, becoming a destination for generations of brides.

For the past 45 years, Tina Pomarico has been the heart of that business.

As she announces her retirement, Tina is not looking back at thousands of gowns sold or countless alterations completed. Instead, she is reflecting on the relationships that have defined her career and the trust that so many families placed in her during some of the most important moments of their lives.

“That trust means everything,” Tina says. “When someone chooses you to be part of such a special time in their life, that’s something you never take for granted.”

Over four and a half decades, Tina built Lady Gray Bridal into one of the Hudson Valley’s most respected bridal salons. Brides who once stood in front of their mirror searching for the perfect gown returned years later as mothers of the bride and groom. Flower girls became brides themselves. Families came back generation after generation, not just because of the dresses, but because they knew they would be treated with honesty,



Tina Pomarico of Lady Gray Bridal in Beacon is surrounded by bridal gowns at her salon. She is holding a wedding photo of her parents, Grace and Rocco Garbellano.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

kindness and genuine care.

While Lady Gray Bridal was founded by her parents, Grace and Rocco Garbellano, Tina’s own legacy is one she built through dedication, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to her customers. There were long days, busy

weekends, and years when the business came before almost everything else. Through it all, she remained focused on creating an experience that made every bride feel important, heard, and beautiful.

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Annual Reading of the Declaration set for July 4th

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Fourth of July Declaration Reading Committee is gearing up for a celebration to celebrate 250 years of America. The annual event will be held on July 4th at noon at the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza, in Beacon.

Dennis Pavelock is the chair of the committee.

Anne Thomas, who is a Daughters of the American Revolution member and who has generations of family members that have served in the military, is the vice chair. Thomas remarked, “I hope people realize what a rough start [the country] had.” She noted “there were some rifts between families” and that they “fought so hard to become a country.”

Sharon Forbes is a volunteer who assists with the event. “It’s such a big anniversary for the United States of America. I wanted to be a part of it,” she explained.

Committee member Joanne Buck said, “I enjoyed coming last year and meeting everybody. It’s a nice atmosphere.”

Committee member Lynda Kamerling remarked she hopes people come to “celebrate our country and to celebrate our forefathers who made our country what it is.”



The annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place at City Hall in Beacon on Saturday, July 4 at noon. Pictured are the committee members and volunteers, from left Anne Thomas, vice chair of the committee, volunteer Sharon Forbes, committee members Joanne Buck and Lynda Kamerling and Dennis Pavelock, chair of the committee.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued on page 4

New Live Fire Training Building honors Hyde Park's Ray Nichols



Above: County Executive Sue Serino is pictured with Dutchess County Emergency Response Commissioner William Beale as he "burns" through the ribbon for Dutchess County's new Live Fire Training Building. Top right: Firefighters, first responders and local dignitaries are pictured at the opening of the new facility. Right: Ray Nichols - past Chief of the Roosevelt Fire Department and longtime Dutchess County Deputy Fire Coordinator was honored with a special dedication of the Fire Training Grounds.

-Courtesy photos



Joined by firefighters and other first responders, elected officials and residents from across the county, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response officially opened the County's new, state-of-the-art Live Fire Training Building at the County's Emergency Response campus at 392 Creek Road in Hyde Park last week.

The modular fire training structure will provide local firefighters with the opportunity to train in a variety of live burn scenarios.

As part of the celebration, the County dedicated the Dutchess County Fire Training Grounds in honor of Ray Nichols, who has served as Deputy Fire Coordinator for Dutchess County for nearly 40 years.

Serino said, "This new fire training building is an exciting step forward for firefighter training in Dutchess County. Live burn training is essential, and our firefighters now have a top-tier facility to sharpen their skills safely

and effectively. Every day our community counts on the dedication and expertise of volunteer and career firefighters, and we're proud to give these brave men and women the tools they need to protect lives and property."

Dutchess County Emergency Response Commissioner William H. Beale said, "This new training building is a game-changer for firefighter readiness. It provides cutting-edge, scenario-driven training that meets modern standards and elevates firefighters' skills. We are grateful to the local departments for their continued support of our Fire Training Grounds and look forward to continuing to elevate training opportunities for the brave men and women of fire service, ensuring they will be even more prepared to keep our communities safe."

Live burn exercises allow firefighters to train in real-time fire conditions within a controlled structure, helping them better understand fire behavior, strengthen coordi-

nation, and make critical decisions safely and effectively.

The County's new three-story modular burn building is constructed using reinforced shipping containers and features movable wall partitions that can be reconfigured to simulate realistic interior environments such as hallways and rooms. This flexibility enables firefighters to train for a broad range of emergency situations with the highest level of authenticity.

Additional components—including a rappelling tower, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) maze, rebar cutting prop, pitched roof prop, forced-entry door, stand-pipe connections and more—support training in confined space operations, hose configurations, forcible entry, search and rescue, and high-angle rope rescues.

Each year, thousands of volunteer and career fire professionals train at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Fire

Training Grounds - thanks in large part to the leadership and commitment of Ray Nichols. Nichols, a Hyde Park resident, has served as Dutchess County Deputy Fire Coordinator since 1988 and has been foundational in the development and expansion of the County's training facilities. A longtime member of the Roosevelt Fire Department, he served as Chief in the 1980s, leading the department through many significant emergency response events. He also played a key role in the creation of the Hyde Park Training Association.

"The new Live Fire Training building is part of Dutchess County's longstanding commitment to excellence in fire services and Ray Nichols has been at the forefront of that commitment, so it is only fitting to honor Ray for all he has done to advance fire training with today's dedication. It was truly an honor to celebrate him and express our gratitude," said Serino.

Fire chief: Porch fire on Main St. under investigation

On June 22,, at approximately 12:54 a.m., the City of Beacon Police Department was notified of a reported porch fire at 215 Main Street. The City of Beacon Fire Department, along with the Castle Point Fire Department, was dispatched to the location for a reported structure fire, according to City of Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi in a press release.

Beacon Fire Department units arrived on scene within approximately two minutes and found fire involving all three levels of an exterior rear wooden porch, it was stated by

Lucchesi. A second alarm was transmitted.

The Village of Fishkill Fire Department responded with a ladder truck, and the Glenham Fire Department provided standby coverage for the City of Beacon. City of Beacon Medic 1 and Beacon Volunteer Ambulance also responded to the scene, it was noted.

Firefighters worked quickly to bring the fire under control and prevent further extension. No injuries were reported, said Lucchesi.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, said the fire chief.

Tentative hydrant flushing schedule announced

The City of Beacon Water Department will be performing annual maintenance of water mains by flushing fire hydrants. The process will begin on June 29th and continue for an approximate period of four weeks. All flushing will be conducted during the work week (Monday - Friday).

While this work is ongoing, residents in impacted areas may experience periods of discolored water and should refrain from doing laundry until the water runs clear. If your water is discolored, run the cold-water taps until the water runs clear. If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 845-831-3136.

Officials thank everyone for one's patience while this infrastructure maintenance is completed. The tentative schedule of work is as follows:

Week 1 (June 29): Alice Street, Anderson Street, Annan Street, Birch Lane, DePuyster Avenue, East Main Street, Exeter Circle, Helen Court, Green Street, Jackson Street, Linden Drive, Louisa Street, Mountain Lane, Overlook Avenue, Petticoat Lane, Phillips Street, Roundtree Court, Robin Lane,

Spring Valley Street, Spruce Street, Summit Street, Westley Avenue, William Street, Wilson Street, and Vail Avenue.

Week 2 (July 6): Barrett Place, Deerfield Place, Delevan Avenue, Dutchess Terrace, Fishkill Avenue, Verplanck Avenue, Kent Street, Lincoln Avenue, Mackin Avenue, Memorial Park, Rt. 9D near VanNess, and Townsend Street.

Week 3 (July 13): Beskin Place, Coffey Avenue, Ellen Drive, Grandview Avenue, High Goal Lane, John Street, Miller Street, Newlin Mills Road, Paye Street, Rombout Avenue, Simmons Lane, Slocum Road, Sycamore Drive, Wodenethe Drive, Van Dyke Avenue, and Victor Road.

Week 4 (July 20): Bayview Avenue, Belford Lane, Branch Street, Dennings Avenue, Fishkill Landing, Main Street, Willow Street, North Cedar Street, Long Dock Road, Monell Place, Riverfront Park, Tompkins Avenue, West Main Street, North Brett Street, Dewindt Street, and Cross Street.

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'Honor-A-Veteran' ceremony commemorates Navy Veteran from Pawling

SM3 Philip A. Bauer Sr. left legacy of compassion, dedication & selflessness

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County's Office of Veterans Affairs today commemorated the life and service of U.S. Navy Signalman Third Class (SM3) Philip A. Bauer, Sr., a former Town of Pawling resident, at the County's most recent "Honor-A-Veteran" observance, held at the Beekman Community Center in Poughquag.

Born in Poughkeepsie in 1925 and raised in Pawling, Philip A. Bauer Sr. dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17 during World War II. After returning home, built a life with his wife, Dorothy, and their family while working as a steamfitter and later as a school district courier. A tireless volunteer, he helped found Pawling Little League and Pony League Basketball; served as Commander of the local American Legion Post; and supported numerous civic organizations, including the Pawling Fire Department, Knights of Columbus and VFW. Remembered for his kindness, loyalty and willingness to help

others, SM3 Bauer passed away in 1999.

Serino said, "Philip Bauer lived a life of service. He answered the call to serve his country during World War II, and when he came home, he never stopped giving back. Through his work, his volunteer efforts and his commitment to his neighbors, he helped make the Pawling community stronger. His kindness, loyalty and dedication touched countless lives, and his legacy, which we are proud to share through Dutchess County's 'Honor-A-Veteran' initiative, will continue to inspire us."

Dutchess County invites nominations for its monthly "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremonies, held April through November, to pay tribute to deceased U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served in wartime or peacetime. Community members can submit nominations and required military documentation for consideration through the County's Office of Veterans Affairs, with the next ceremony scheduled for July 16. Learn more and download applications at dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche and other community leaders honored the life and legacy of deceased Signalman Third Class Philip A. Bauer Sr. during the most recent "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremony, held at the Beekman Community Center in Poughquag.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

HV Volunteer Firefighters attend annual convention



Clockwise from top left: Slater Chemical Company won honors for Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform 41 & Over in Line at the annual Convention. New officers of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association are pictured at the swearing in ceremony. The Hughsonville Fire Department won honors for the Best Rescue squad at the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention in Lake George.

-Photos by Vinny Galvin



The Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association held their 137th Annual Convention and Parade in Lake George on June 11, 12 and 13.

The Membership elected a new president in Robert Fritsche from the Ossining Fire department, John O'Brien from the New Hamburg Fire Department, Ed Buttler from the Brewster Fire Department, Jesica McKinney as Secretary and Brenda Gausby, Kyle Pottenburgh from the New Hackensack

Fire Department.

The highlights of the Dress Parade were Hughsonville Fire Department for the Best Rescue and the Slater Chemical Company Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform 41 & Over in Line. Congratulations to all the Dutchess County Firefighters who were elected to office and Hughsonville Fire Department and Slater Chemical Fire Department for bringing home trophies.

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Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

Remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice as we approach America's 250th birthday

To the Editor:

As we approach our nation's 250th birthday. We cannot forget the sacrifices of those who made it possible. This year, after the town hosted its annual Memorial Day service, a citizen approached me and asked me if I knew a particular name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I told him yes and I asked why. He told me he was a student in one of the elementary schools in Fishkill. When news came that this soldier died during combat, he remembers the teachers crying for this young man.

His name was US Army Lieutenant Robert Bruce and he was killed in a fire fight. I believe he was the only son of the Bruce family. He returned to Fishkill and his memorial was at Trinity Church, and he is buried at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. A few years ago, the town and county dedicated Red Schoolhouse Road in his honor. He turned 25 a week before he was killed.

Also killed in Vietnam was US Marine Private Michael Garlo. He was killed in a grenade attack. I believe his family emigrated from Canada and he was also an only son. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The town and county dedicated Osborne Hill Road after him. He lived on Charlotte Road just off Osbourne. He was 20 years old.

A third citizen from Fishkill was also killed in Vietnam. US Marine Corporal Richard Smith. He was killed when his tank hit a mine. Of the 3 honored we were only able to find his brother and invited him to the ceremony. Baxtertown Road was dedicated to him. His brother told me that his father would travel Baxtertown on his way to Castle Point. He was only 20 years and is buried in Fishkill Rural Cemetery next to his father, a WWII combat Marine.

As we all celebrate the 250th, remember those that made this happen.

Ozzy Albra

Supervisor, Town of Fishkill

Veteran encourages all to support Veterans March

To the Editor:

This concerns the Veterans March in Philadelphia on July 4th. We want the (current presidential) administration to know that there are so many Military veterans who are against this Iran-Israel-US War.

Your fellow Hudson Valley Veteran, Brian McElroy of Wappingers Falls (USMC 1981-87) is letting you know of this event, if you like myself do not support this immoral War. There are many Veterans action organizations involved like "About Face" and "50501 Vets," and sponsorship from the Womens March. The event organization site is <https://www.vetsagainstfascism.org/july4>.

I will be going. Any Vet who is interested can contact me at this email address for up-to-date info (brianextra@trm-truthhurts.org).

Brian McElroy
Wappingers Falls

Congratulations to BHS Class of 2026!

The following is the list of graduates in the Beacon High School Class of 2026, as announced by the school administration.

Oscar McKible- Valedictorian
Samiha Golden - Salutatorian
Madison Abrahamson, Nadeen Ahmed, Macy Alencastro, Alianna Alijaj, Farhana Antora, Jeralizz Araujo, Eduardo Arellano, Kevin Asencio, Ashland Assael, Emanuele Bagala, Mira Bagriyanik, Jahcier Ballard, Acacia Simone Barker, Amari Battle, Vincent Bergerson III, Logan Blum, Jayden Bostick, James Bouchard III, Ella Brill, Keyon Brown, Alexander Browning, Piper Bruno, Aiden Buggs, Serenity Bunn, Louis Burgos Jr., Zayah Bush, Samuel Callan, Mackenzie Campbell, Allen Canada, Parker Capawana, Mirianjelis Chavez, Lola Ciccone, Skylar Clair, Christian Clay, Christian Clemons-Simmons, Peter Cohen, Misleidy Cruz Cruz, Alistair Cunningham, Kiera D'Ippolito, Aadriyah Dabbs, Parthib Das, Grace De La Hoz, Mylee Decoteau, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Emi Dickinson Case Leal, Victor Hugo Duarte Salguero, Kayden Durkin, Tye Elias, Jonah Sebastian Espinosa, Teo Fairbanks, Samiria Ferrer, Alejandro Flores Urzua, Isabella Galbo, Marisah George, Jhanea Gibson-Bocus, Ayden Gilleo, Lily Gines, Gabriel Godbee, Chloe Goessl, Sophie Goessl, Samiha Golden, Jazmine Gonzalez, Brianna Green, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Kayla Hammond, Jeremiah Hardwell Jr, Zenia Haris, Natalie Hayden, Christina Hernandez, Dylan Hetrick, Grace Hockler, Ayden Hooten, Tyler Horton, Ruby Hotchkiss, Grace Hudson, Chance Hunter, Essence Ifill, Milo Isabell, Vincent Joao Jr., Gabriel Jones,

Jaden Jones, Michael Jones, Everly Jordan, Alina Joseph, Cameron Just, Shay Kane, Oren Kelleher, Taylor Kelliher, Gabrielle Khalil, Griffin Kitzrow, Maceo Koerner, Mia Koller, Eric Kruze, Kiran Kumar, Savana Kush, Alex Labodin, Anajah Lamb, Carlos Lampon III, Ryan Landisi, Prince Yhsir Langford-Jones, Isabella Lee, Aron Li, Josiah Lind, Tania Lindsay, Mary Lopez, Lauren Maggio, Erin Maignan, Brayden Manning, Nora Marshall, Alma Mart, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Aril McKee, Oscar McKible, Robert Merino Rivera, Jayden Mihalachik, Mira Miller, Aiden Montleon, John Morocho Llivipuma, Jalen Morton, Silena Negron, Eli Netboy, Jaiere Newton, Khiana Nicholson, Aiden Nieves, Annabelle Notarthomas, Brea O'Flaherty, Nolan O'Malley, Adrien Okoye, Richie Omira, Amaya Paulin, Caleb Pftzing, Roman Profit, Luis Ramos, Michael Ramos, Savannah Ray, Olivia Reynolds, Jonathan Richards, Jalani Ricketts, Jaiden Rivera, Aryzeli Rosado, Elijah Rupp, Liliana Rybak, Julian Sala, Julius Sala, Mikaela Sanchez, Anthony Sarchilli Jr., Dominic Sceppaquercia, Annabelle Scher, Zachary Schetter, Kayla Selander, Thomas Senior, Anna Sevastianova, Kira Sheehan, Wilmer Sinchi Jimbo, Katrina Skorewicz, Desirae Smith, Kyla Smith, Anibal Soto III, Noah Spiak, Aiden Spiecker, Gannon Statini-Perez, Chelsea Stephens, Clive Stewart, Rihanna Taylor, Michai Thompson, Jonathan Trentacosta, Matthew Tumidaj, Juan Tutasi Jr, Amaya Vazquez, Marcos Velasco, George Walker, Ri'Kya White, Troy Wilkins, Zachari Wood, Mya Wright, Alexander Young.

Annual reading of the Declaration set for July 4th

Continued from cover

Pavelock noted that for those who attend this special event, they will "receive some history - that you may not know or be aware of."

Along with the reading of the Declaration of Independence, which will be read by Pavelock and City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou, there will be raffles and gift cards. There will be a candy challenge, which one should arrive early for, according to Pavelock. He added, "We have a face painter coming this year."

"We have a dedicated committee who is focused on bringing a different kind of event to Beacon," said Pavelock. He recalled not knowing if this event would last three or five years when it was first held.

"I can't believe we're in our 16th year!" he said.

Attendees from previous years, according to Pavelock, say it is "a great event" and "to keep doing this."

"This isn't a festival or carnival. They come to get history," noted Pavelock, who has dressed up as numerous political figures for the event throughout the years.

In 2019, there were more than 100 people in attendance said the committee members. Pavelock recalled two people from Iowa were traveling the area and saw a sign announcing the event on Route 52 and stopped by City Hall one year.

Pavelock said this event, although held in City Hall, is not a city-sponsored event and relies on donations. He noted he wants to continue to "serve the community with history and knowledge."

Town of Wappinger watch party cheers on Tyler Adams, Team USA

Continued from cover

"Tyler was able to direct a significant investment from Scotts to revitalize the soccer pitch here for our community," Cavaccini added. "He's made many other sizable investments throughout the community and we continue to have a strong relationship with him. Again, first and foremost, he has never forgotten his roots. He's never forgotten

where he comes from."

Community members watched the game from lawn chairs, as the live broadcast was shown on a large projector. As the United States squad continues to play, local residents will have additional opportunities to spectate as World Cup watch parties are popping up all over Dutchess County.

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

BY FRANCINE WIZNER



Nature's special club of 'velvety fruits': One grows here, another is trying

Have you ever tasted mamey sapote, durian, or cherimoya fruits? Depending on your heritage, travel, or culinary adventures, you may have experienced their smooth texture. Even if you haven't tried any of those fruits, I'll bet that you have eaten the star of guacamole and a favorite toast-topper: The avocado.

Avocados, and a unique group of others, evolved to invest their metabolic energy in micro-emulsions of dense, buttery plant lipids, rather than sweet, water-soluble carbohydrates, like most other fruits. The members of the "Velvety Fruits Club" once used their healthy fats to entice prehistoric giant mammals to be transport mechanisms. Nearly all of the trees that grow fat-rich fruits require frost-free regions.

They like it Hot, Hot, Hot

Bananas, olives, and coconuts are unique fruits that grow in warm climates. Yet, they are excluded from the Velvety Fruits Society. Nature's special club members are defined by a whipped, oil-in-water suspension, that produces a silky puree.

Bananas' soft texture comes from starch and water, not plant fats. Olives are not custard-like; they become succulent only after curing and fermenting. Coconuts do have dense plant lipids; however, they are excluded from this elite group because of their evolutionary survival strategy. Rather than relying upon animal digestion to spread their seeds, coconuts use their buoyant husks to wash ashore and sprout on distant tropical beaches.

Members of the Velvety Fruits Society are botanical anomalies that grow across select continents. Central and South America produce buttery avocados, sweet-potato/apricot-flavored mamey sapote, chocolate-pudding-like black sapote, cheesecake-like canistel, pear-custard cherimoya, creamy-peach keule, fruity-cheese-like pequi, and uxi's herbal-butter flavor found in the Amazonian basin. The African Continent contributes safou, which cooks into a lemon-butter paste, and marula, which has mango-citrus flesh and a rich, nutty kernel. Southeast Asia's tropical climate provides the correct conditions for the vanilla-almond-custard-like durian and the cream-cheese-like dabai. *

There has been one outlier. That is the banana-mango-custard flavored North American Pawpaw. They can survive sub-zero New York winters. In fact, there are a dozen (baby) pawpaw trees growing in the field outside my house. But, today, I am reporting on a second outlier.

Persevering pits

My compost is a monument to a household that consumes far too much guacamole. Peeking through the decay-



Avocado sprouting in compost
-Photos by Francine Wizner



Cherimoya, Mamey Sapote, Avocados

ing layers of autumn leaves and vegetable peels I have found avocado pits with thick roots aggressively tunneling downward and vibrant, glossy leaves yearning skyward. Against all geographical logic, discarded store-bought Hass pits have cracked open in Dutchess County dirt and sprouted into healthy, tiny trees.

We are in Zone 6. Of course, I would not let my accidental botanical infants succumb to the elements. A couple of Augusts ago, I dug them out of the pile, potted them up in fresh soil, and moved them indoors. I gifted most of them, but I remain the guardian of one persevering domestic avocado tree.

Avocado attributes

This oversized, single-seeded berry likely relied on ancient elephants, rhinos, and giant armadillos to swallow it whole, passing the massive pit intact through their digestive tracts to disperse its seeds. Those megafaunas were immune to persin, the antifungal toxin



Avocados



Not velvety fruits.

found in parts of the plant. Smaller animals, incapable of carrying the avocado embryo long distances, are repelled by persin**. When the prehistoric giants went extinct, the avocado could have followed them into oblivion.

But early Mesoamericans began cultivating the fruit. It provided a dense source of calories and vital nutrients. Even more importantly, avocados, with their monounsaturated fats, allowed the absorption of fat-soluble Vitamins A, D,

E, and K found in squash and corn, staples of the ancient Mesoamerican diet. Without dietary fat, the body will excrete those vitamins, ultimately leading to malnutrition.

Beyond the plant's toxin, and its nutrient reward, Avocado's survival strategies include uniquely timed flowering phases and delayed fruit ripening. Differing tree varieties have flowers that alternate between female and male openings over a two-day cycle to encourage cross-pollination. The trees release a hormone which inhibits fruit ripening while attached to the tree (unlike apples and peaches, which will decay quickly).

Living in NY, The Avocado Way

Nearer the equator, an avocado tree can soar to forty feet. A potted ornamental will require aggressive pruning. It's unlikely my little tree will ever produce a fruit for a batch of Dutchess County guacamole. That would be cool, but I didn't set out to be an avocado farmer. I just like that, even in the unlikeliest of places (like a NY compost pile), life finds a way to survive. My velvety avocado tree is like a defiant tropical Frank Sinatra living its best New York Life ... singing "My Way."

*(Keule, pequi, uxi, safou, marula, and dabai fruits cannot be bought fresh in the US, but may be obtained online or in specialty markets via altered formats, such as jars, jams, or freeze-dried. Regional ethnic grocery stores such as Tropical Fresh, Casa Latina, and Market Fresh in Poughkeepsie may carry mamey sapote, cherimoya, durian and black sapote seasonally.)

**Persin is non-toxic to humans.

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>.

Donations made to Castle Point



A donation was made to the Castle Point VA Medical Center by the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 144 Auxiliary Unit Castle Point.

-Courtesy photos

Beacon Players seeks 'Young Anna,' 'Young Elsa' for November production of 'Frozen'

Calling all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the Beacon City School District! Get ready for an incredible opportunity to be part of something magical. The Beacon Players are on the lookout for talented students to portray Young Anna and Young Elsa in our spectacular November production of Disney's "Frozen."

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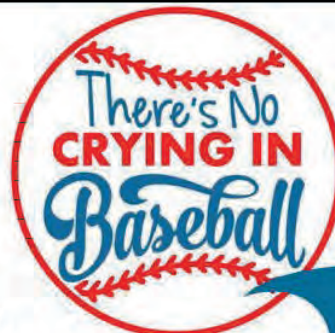
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RENEGADES FEATURE

Versatile fielder Kyle West develops into key RBI machine for Renegades

By Morgan E. Maier

Infielder Kyle West had the first of the Hudson Valley Renegades' seven-home run onslaught on June 16, but the 23-year-old 2025 draft pick is no stranger to starting a rally or ending a game with his power hitting in his first High-A season.

A West Virginia native, West spent his college years as a Mountaineer, propelling West Virginia University to a few strong seasons in the Big 12. West's improvements at the plate underscored this power hitter's draft stock. A decreased strikeout rate for the lefty hitter in his final collegiate season – 32.7% to 22.4%, according to On3.com – highlighted extra patience at the plate and extended at-bats in a milestone season that saw him hit .339 with 25 home runs.

One of a few Renegades adjusting to new positions since joining a professional roster, the Yankees converted West to an infielder. Where he spent time in the outfield and at third base in college, West has played exclusively at first base between the Tampa Tarpons and Hudson Valley.

He's liable to spray the field at varying degrees of power – and Kyle West has long since proved to be a power-hitting first baseman, a la Mark Texeira. In the offensive onslaught against the Rome Emperors, West was one of four Renegades with multiple hits. West's three-run home run in the first inning – his fourth first-inning shot of the season – welcomed the eventual 12-5 Hudson Valley win. The Emperors' pitching bowed again to West on June 20, a two-run shot, for the final slug of the 3-2 Renegades win.

This season, West has batted in 10 first-inning runs via the long ball. He has knocked in 12 more with extra base hits, fielder's choices, and sacrifice groundouts in the first frame. This consistent cleanup bat melds nicely with the front of the order's tendency to snatch early bases.

From walkoff to clutch ties and timely hitting, Kyle West continues his development – and South Atlantic League pitching, from first to ninth frame, has watched the proof glide many times over an outfield fence.



Kyle West has batted in 10 first-inning runs via the long ball. He has knocked in 12 more with extra base hits, fielder's choices and sacrifice groundouts in the first frame.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Wilmington WSH	3	0	1.000	-	3-0	W3
Frederick BAL *	2	1	.667	1.0	2-1	W1
Greensboro PIT	2	1	.667	1.0	2-1	L1
Hudson Valley NYY	2	1	.667	1.0	2-1	W2
Jersey Shore PHI	1	2	.333	2.0	1-2	W1
Brooklyn NYM	0	3	.000	3.0	0-3	L3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	2	1	.667	-	2-1	W2
Greenville BOS	2	1	.667	-	2-1	L1
Asheville HOU	1	2	.333	1.0	1-2	L2
Hub City TEX	1	2	.333	1.0	1-2	L1
Rome ATL	1	2	.333	1.0	1-2	L2
Winston-Salem CWS	1	2	.333	1.0	1-2	W1



July			
07/01/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	Celebration of Baseball WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/02/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	America 250 Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/03/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	America 250 Celebration WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/04/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	Independence Day; Happy 250th Birthday, USA! presented by Central Hudson Gas & Electric WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/05/26	vs. Wilmington	02:05 PM	Unicorn Day WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/07/26	vs. Rome	06:35 PM	90s Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/08/26	vs. Rome	06:35 PM	Jewish Heritage Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/09/26	vs. Rome	06:35 PM	Harry Potter Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/10/26	vs. Rome	07:05 PM	Renegades: The Musical! WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/11/26	vs. Rome	05:05 PM	Christmas in July WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
07/12/26	vs. Rome	01:05 PM	Princes & Princesses Day WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!



RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades rack up hits, homers to take series win over Emperors

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades went down to Georgia and took a blazing chariot to victory over the South Division rival Emperors of Rome. An onslaught of home runs, an eye-catching catcher's performance, and a rubber match comeback highlighted the three Hudson Valley victories of the five-game series.

Rome Run - Six different Renegades hit a season-best seven home runs in the series opener. Five left the park with two strikes. Kyle West kick-started it with three runs in one first-inning swing. Roderick Arias followed with his own strike three innings later. Josh Moylan, having worked ahead in two at-bats, sailed his 12th and team-leading 13th of the season. Core Jackson saw seven pitches before launching his seventh of the season, and Wilson Rodriguez continued his solid hitting with a solo shot. Cam Troyer put Hudson Valley up by 10 with his own one-way trip around the bases, as the Renegades went on to win 14-5.

In the series-deciding finale, Rome's John Gil put up three runs with a shot into the left field bullpen. Gil's teammate snagged the ball in jubilation, and the Emperor offense left the inning up by five runs. But Hudson Valley would also hit the Rome bullpen hard, scoring in frames 5, 6, and 7. With 4 RBI on the day, Kaeden Kent put the Renegades within one on a two-run single. Troyer scored Enmanuel Tejada on a single to tie the finale at six. Troyer's next at-bat saw the big knock, a two-out RBI to take the Renegades' 7-6 lead. After the first two Emperors reached base,

Franyer Herrera (6.0 innings, 4 H, 0 ER, 6 K, 2 BB) retired the next two to complete his relief outing. Luis Velasquez retired the final Emperor to complete the 7-6 Renegades victory.

Et tu, Eric? - Eric Genter was a knife in the Emperors' side as the Renegades broke the two-game slide on June 20. Genter was 5-for-5 with a pair of doubles and three singles. After going hitless in the series' first three games, Genter would contribute half of the 11 total Hudson Valley hits in the 3-2 win. A first-inning Core Jackson homer caught an early lead, but Rome jumped in front in the 4th. Kyle West got the 'Gades in front in the next, and scored Genter on a two-strike homer to right-center. Rory Fox was the winning pitcher, allowing no Rome runs outside of a two-run home run and striking out six in 5.2 innings.

I, in III - The teams traded four one-run decisions after the lopsided series opener; Rome took the first two in walkoff fashion. Luis Serna was back to his strong starting ways on June 18, a four-hit, 7 inning performance. Enmanuel Tejada's RBI single marked the Renegades' only run in a combined three-hit night. Tejada added a stolen base; Wilson Rodriguez also reached twice.

Five Emperors reached base with two outs to spare the following night, blowing a two-run Renegade lead in the bottom of the ninth inning. A wild pitch tied it, and a sharp single won it for the Emperors, 5-4, as Hudson Valley lost the game they'd led since the first inning. Rome held Hudson Valley



Catcher Eric Genter is pictured talking to Yankees starter Carlos Rodon earlier this season. After going hitless in the first three games of last week's series vs. Rome, Genter contributed half of the 11 total Hudson Valley hits in a 3-2 win.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

scoreless from the third inning; Roderick Arias went 2-for-4 with 3 RBI, including his sixth home run of the season.

The Renegades continue on the road with a bout in Bowling Green to face

the first-half champions of the South Atlantic League South. The Hot Rods have lost just seven games at home this season. Hudson Valley looks to continue its season turnaround before returning home to end the month.

RENEGADES EXTRA



Roderick Arias continued his strong hitting as he went 2-for-4 with 3 RBI, including his sixth home run of the season in a 5-4 lost to Rome last week.



Pitcher Luis Serna was back to his strong starting ways in a victory over the Rome Emperors on June 18. Serna turned in a four-hit, seven inning performance.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

Lady Gray Bridal of Beacon: Honoring a 60-year legacy



Clockwise from above left, Thank You cards line the counters at Lady Gray Bridal in Beacon. Tina Pomarico stands in front of the signature sign at Lady Gray Bridal. A historic photo from 1967 shows Rocco and Grace Garbellano standing with children Tina Marie and Rocco Garbellano III at the opening of the dress shop in Beacon. Danielle Grace Pomarico is pictured with her grandmother Grace Garbellano.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt and courtesy photos



Continued from cover

The success of Lady Gray Bridal was never about selling dresses. It was about helping women celebrate one of life's most meaningful milestones.

Tina is quick to credit the people who helped make the journey possible. She is grateful to her husband, Mike, for his decades of support and understanding, and to her children, Mike and Danielle, for their sacrifice along with her staff who were her "Lady Gray Girls", Jamie, Danielle, Ginny, Kristen and Erin. She is especially thankful to the Beacon community, whose loyalty allowed the business to thrive for generations.

As she closes this chapter, Tina does so with a full heart and a deep sense of gratitude.

"I've been blessed to do something I truly loved for 45 years," she says. "I have met incredible people, built lifelong friendships, and been part of so many special moments. For that, I will always be grateful."

Retirement will bring more time with family, especially her grandsons, Mikey and Cole and the opportunity to enjoy a slower pace after decades of caring for everyone else.

But while the doors of Lady Gray Bridal will close, the legacy remains!

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TUESDAY, JULY 14—10:00am-1:00pm—Wappingers Town Hall, Wappingers Falls, NY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15—11:30am-1:00pm—DC OFA Picnic, Pine Plains, NY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22—11:30am-1:00pm—DC OFA Picnic, Wappingers Falls, NY

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'Billie and Banter' at Howland Cultural Center on June 28

By Kristine Coulter

"Billie and Banter," about Billie Holiday, will take place at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., at 4 p.m. on June 28 in Beacon. The lead performer is Mala Waldron, Holiday's goddaughter whose father, Mal, was Holiday's piano player. Also performing will be the "I'll be Seeing You" singer's bass player. The event is produced by Writing Out of Bounds (WOOB).

"Writing Out of Bounds aims to connect and cross territories by combining artistic genres or disciplines, in this case presenting music with words, Billie Holiday's iconic songs performed by singer/pianist Mala Waldron and accompanied by bassist, Christopher Dean Sullivan," explained Eva Salzman, founder/director of Writing Out of Bounds.

Paul Alexander will read from his book on Holiday, "Bitter Crop: The Heartache and Triumph of Billie Holiday's Last Year," and then interview Waldron.

"Billie and Banter," said Salzman, will present "Holiday in the context of the Harlem Renaissance, perhaps unfamiliar to some, and also giving us a rare personal look at a world-renowned jazz singer about whom we may know less than we think."

Waldron stated via email, "I had barely turned 1 year old when she passed away, so unfortunately all my memories are secondhand, told to me by my parents. One funny memory is of a time my father was rehearsing with Billie and the band for an upcoming

performance. They were rehearsing one of the tunes that was a blues. Billie was telling Dad she wanted a different feel on the piano than what he was playing. Afterward she teased, saying she "never knew a Black man who couldn't play the blues," and they had a good laugh about it."

Salzman noted, "Hearing Billie Holiday stories firsthand, Ms. Waldron can offer glimpses of what it was like to grow up in a musical household attached to a legend, this shaping her own future as a singer (like Holiday) and pianist (like her father)."

Waldron said, "People honestly seem to be blown away to hear it," that the "God Bless the Child" singer is her godmother. "They often tell me how much they've always been a fan of her music. They always want to know how I came to be Billie's goddaughter? And, some joke that I don't seem old enough for this to have been true, I assure them I am, and it is!" Billie Holiday was born Eleanora Fagan in Philadelphia on April 7, 1915. She died at the age of 45 on July 17, 1959, in New York City.

What is Salzman looking forward to during the event? "What is there NOT to look forward to?! A chapter in our musical history. A legendary voice and legendary time. Unlikely pairings and stories," she answered. "This unique line-up will give us a deeper understanding of the Harlem Renaissance and bring us closer to Billie Holiday's music and world, offering more details of both woman and singer, and perhaps correcting some misconceptions that can follow in the wake of famous peo-



"Billie and Banter," about Billie Holiday, will take place at the Howland Cultural Center on June 28 in Beacon.

-Courtesy image

ple, whose work lives through the ages but whose complicated lives may not be accurately presented by those who never knew her."

Over the years it takes to write their books, biographers and memoir writers become intimate with their subject, remarked Salzman. "Paul Alexander's discoveries will augment an interview with Ms. Waldron which is sure to interest and surprise."

Asked what she would like people to

know about the "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" singer, Waldron responded, "I would like people to realize what an incredibly strong and resilient woman Billie was. I would like people to recognize all she was able to accomplish and defy, despite the extreme hardships she endured in her childhood and throughout her life."

Tickets, \$20 online or \$25 at the door, are available now at bit.ly/BILLIE-HCC.

Obituaries

David John Secor



David John Secor, 68, of Staatsburg, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

Born on May 15, 1958, in Poughkeepsie, David was the son of the late William J. Secor and Jean "Chucker" O'Halloran.

A lifelong builder and craftsman, David began working alongside his father in the construction industry at a young age and spent more than fifty years building, restoring, and improving properties throughout the Hudson Valley. He was most recently employed by Elijah Bender and his family in Rhinebeck, where he dedicated the last 12 years of his career working on properties including Foster's Coach House Tavern. Over the course of his career he also built many homes from Texas to New York, a career that spans for as long as he was able to

hold a hammer. At one point he owned a family business and built homes with his children. His talents also extended beyond construction, as he restored and rehabilitated numerous commercial and residential properties and took great pride in preserving local history. One of his most cherished accomplishments was restoring the historic Old Stone Church in Rhinebeck.

David was a Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council #6111 and a proud member of the Local Model T Club. He found great joy behind the wheel of his beloved 1921 Model T, "Miss Lizzy," often taking leisurely Sunday drives through the countryside with his wife Linda.

An avid gardener blessed with a true green thumb, David appreciated the simple pleasures of life. He enjoyed picnics along the Hudson River, climbing mountains in his younger years, performing magic tricks, sharing jokes, and bringing laughter to those around him with his quick wit and sense of humor. He loved celebrating holidays and treasured the traditions that brought family together.

Above all else, David loved his family. They were his life; he was a perfectionist and was always striving to help them build a better tomorrow than they were the day before. He cherished time spent with his grandchildren and relished in being able to build them playgrounds using spare parts, and found his greatest happiness in the quiet moments shared with his wife, Linda.

David is survived by his loving wife, Linda Secor; his daughter, Deseree Rubertone and her husband, Michael; his grandchildren, Alaina, Anna, Aaron, David John Secor III, and Hunter; his siblings Jean, Patty, Billy Marie, Sandy, Timmy, and Kim; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

David was predeceased by his beloved son, David John "DJ" Secor Jr., who passed away on July 31, 2022 his grandson, Anthony, and his brother Woody.

He will also be sorely missed by Elijah Bender and his wife, Christiane, the entire Bender family, and all of those who worked with him.

Calling hours will be from 5 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at Sweet's Funeral Home, 4365 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538. A prayer service will be held at 7 PM during the visitation.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, New York.

John Stella



On June 19, 2026 John entered into eternal rest with his loved ones by his side.

Born in Beacon, NY on October 19, 1941, John was the only child of John and Susanna (Pavone) Stella. John graduated from Beacon High School Class of 1959 and attended Dutchess Community College. On April 11, 1964 he married the love of his life Margaret (Peggy) Congdon at St Mary's Church in Poughkeepsie NY. She survives at home. Together they had two beautiful daughters, Cynthia (Cindy) Rizzo and her husband Erick, and Michelle whose life was cut short in 2011- a death that broke his heart.

In 1993 at the age of 51, he retired

from IBM after 31 years as a Senior Financial Planner. John worked as short order cook (bucket list item) and as a realtor. He was a charter member of the Beacon Pop Warner Youth Football League where he coached young men. A time in his life that he really enjoyed. To this day he is still addressed as Coach by his former players. John also officiated and coached high school football.

John was a parishioner of St Joachim - St John Church, where he attended daily mass until he needed major surgery in 2024. He survived and with Peggy's love, support and care, she was able to prolong his life.

He was blessed by three wonderful grandchildren Elizabeth Jerolimo (James), Samantha Rizzo and Lucas Liguori and a great granddaughter Lucia Michelle.

He was a life member of W.H. Mase Hook and Ladder Co., a life member of St Rocco Society, a member of the Elks BOPE #1943, past member of the City of Beacon Board of Education, past Chairman of City of Beacon Traffic Safety Board, and past Chairman of the City of Beacon Board of Assessment Review.

John loved the game of golf especially playing with his friends Andy and Tim. He was an avid New York Mets and New York Giants fan and watched them as often as he could.

Along with his parents and beloved daughter, he was predeceased by his grandparents and his many cousins and friends, most recently Bobby Palisi.

The family would like to thank the amazing doctors and nurses in the Vassar Brothers ICU, especially Dr. Abdulaziz Ahmed and Dr. Sean Lee who took their time to explain everything.

Family and friends gathered on Tuesday, June 23 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 31 Willow Street, Beacon, on Wednesday, June 24 at 10 a.m., followed by burial at St Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

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

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

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Due to a July 4th Press Schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:

July 8th Issue Deadline is as follows:
July 8th deadline: July 2nd before noon.

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Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496

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AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-318-7982

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-516-1160 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

201 Home Improvement

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In-Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-916-5473

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204 Health

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-877-468-3979

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-536-0251

219 Attorney Legal

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-877-315-0990. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

226 Travel Services

SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS! Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for FREE! Call: 877 988 7277

300 Real Estate

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-704-5670

401 Apartments for Rent

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC- WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

TWO (2) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$2,150.00 per month and one month security deposit. Tenant is responsible for electric, cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE II SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,507.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,575.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

DIMARCO PLACE I, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,768.00 per month and a one month security deposit. Rent includes electric for lights, cooking, air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided), heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. All household members must be 55 years or older or disabled. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, One (1) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,247.00 per month and Two (2) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,561.00. One month security deposit required. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is electric, heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE FAMILY COMPLEX, Beacon, NY

THREE (3) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,764.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,540.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.



516 Misc. Merchandise

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682

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Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-782-4069



• Southern Dutchess News
• Beacon Free Press
• Northern Dutchess News

Classified

SDN Subscriber ads

100 Help Wanted

Wanted: Cleaning lady for one bedroom apartment, Poughkeepsie. 3-4 hours. 845-242-7623

107 Situations Wanted

Residential and Commercial Clean outs. Disposal of unwanted items
Carpentry work
Interior and Exterior Painting. Property Management Call Craig 845-891-8930



401 Apartments for Rent

Victorian, BEACON 9D / mins. RR - 70 NYC Hwy, Spectacular Hudson Views, Rest. Antiques, Hiking, biking, Mountains, 2BD + Den, DW / WD, Split - Level, \$2,800. Suitable 1 - 3. 914-960-0069 or 914-584-7137

500 Musical Merchandise

Wurlitzer Juke box, Plays 48, 45RPM records. Coin operated. Needs some restoration, lights up \$500 OBO. Call: 845-454-4446

Tor-1950's Tube AM,FM & Record Player, \$250 OBO. 845-831-8698



503 Furniture

Queen Mattress & Box spring. Hardly used, Sealy Brand, \$75 or best offer. Call: 845-797-9724

4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

Patio set, glass top with four chairs with cushions. 9 foot umbrella with stand. Used once, \$350. Call 845-297-4741

503 Furniture

Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105

Day Bed Frame Twin white Decorative Head and Side Frame. Excellent condition, \$100. 845-226-8896

516 Misc. Merchandise

AC Portable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069

Compressor - Cambell Hausfeld Model Century - A.C. Motor, 120V 240W - 125 PSI Max, 20 gal tank, Price \$150. Call 845-226-7409 leave message.

Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626

Appalachia Stainless Steel Fire Pit. Used once with Propane tank, New Condition, \$200. 845-226-6242

516 Misc. Merchandise

Magnisium Alum Alloy 16' extension ladder, 8' glass reinforced step ladder, Make offer. 845-297-6369

Four Kenwood KL777 100W speakers, wood cabinet, exc. cond., \$225. 845-337-6509

Off set Patio Umbrella, 10 ft, Beige, \$50 or Best Offer. 845-896-5197

801 Trailers

2 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath Trailer minutes from Ocean, Edgewater, Fla. Fully furnished, new beds, TV etc. Screened Porch, W/D, \$17K neg. Call 386-847-4397

904 Auto Parts and Tires

Tires, All Weather P205/65 R16. Hardly used, cost: New \$800 Asking \$400 - 4 Tires. 845-453-5261



PETS

Pets For Adoption **ARF, Beacon, NY** 845-831-5161 54 Simmons Lane PO Box 1129 Beacon, NY 12508

GREYHOUNDS Save A Life. Adopt a loving, gentle, quiet ex-racer. Low maintenance and easily trained. Docile personalities make them great for children and seniors. Visit our website www.greyhoundrescueehab.org 914-763-2221

BABY KITTENS: ALL COLORS; GIVE US A CALL OR CHECK OUR WEBSITE. WWW.PANT.ORG 845-486-7075

Taffy: Somestic Short Hair Cat. Adult 3-8 yrs, Female, Medium 7-11 lbs. Color, Black. She's Gentle, Curious, Quiet, Shy and Playful. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

Champ, Dachshund & Terrier Mix. Adult 3-8 yrs, Male, Small 0-25 lbs, Medium coat, color, White/Cream, Red/Chestnut/Orange. He's Friendly, Loyal, Loves kisses, Protective and Affectionate. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon NY

Hello, my name is Cupcake! I am a 8 week old boxer/hound mix looking for my forever home! I am super sweet and playful and love everyone I meet. I am fully vetted up to what is age appropriate and I can't wait to find my new family. If you would like to adopt me please go to www.incrediblepupspetrescue.com and submit an adoption application.

Gabby: Domestic Short Hair Cat. Senior 8+ yrs, Female, small 6 lbs, color: Tortoiseshell, Calico. She's Curious, Friendly, Playful, Athletic, Smart and Funny. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

150 Announcements

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:
DUE TO A HOLIDAY PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THE JULY 8TH ISSUE.
THE SOUTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & THE BEACON FREE PRESS WILL HAVE AN EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 8TH ISSUE.
ALL ADVERTISING MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY July 1ST BEFORE NOON.
CALL: 845-297-3723 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Yes, send me the Southern Dutchess News for the next 52 weeks for just \$10. Call to ask about our 2 & 3 yr. prices!!!

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Ads must be received by 12 noon the Friday prior to publication. We cannot acknowledge receipt of ads. Free ads run "space available." We do not guarantee placement.
Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: sdnadvertising@aol.com
Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad).
If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.
Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810
Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.
We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.
Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Elks present Student of the Month certificates at WJHS



On Wednesday, June 3, the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 presented the May Student of the Month certificates at Wappingers Junior High School. The students were chosen for their commitment to learning English, helping their fellow classmates and kindness. Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments.

Beacon Elks thanks Giacomo's Pizza Cafe for sponsoring this event with them. Pictured from left: Cathy Oken, Lodge Member; Catherine Perri, teacher; Noah Ferreras, 8th Grade; Brianna Guananga Torres, 7th Grade; Jeanine McAuley, Past Exalted Ruler; and Viviana Podhaiski, teacher.

-Courtesy photo

Award certificates handed out at Rombout Middle School



On Wednesday, June 3, Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, presented the May Student of the Month Certificates at Rombout Middle School. The students were chosen their strong work ethic, kindness, respectfulness, positive attitude, resilience and determination. Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments.

Beacon Elks thanks Glazed Over Donuts for sponsoring this event with them. Pictured from left: Cathy Oken, Lodge Member; Anjali Arya, 6th Grade; Samuel Mack, 7th Grade; Evelyn Barretto Llivipuma, 8th Grade; and Jeanine McAuley, Past Exalted Ruler.

-Courtesy photo

The BonfireWORKS Foundation to present 'REV250 Illuminated'

The BonfireWORKS Foundation presents "Rev250 Illuminated," a series of projections celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on municipal buildings and other iconic locations in Beacon, from 9-11 p.m. The projections will take place on June 26 & 27, July 3, 4 and 5.

For more information, please visit www.bonfireworksfoundation.org.

this week's puzzle solutions

1	3	2	9	4	6	7	8	5
9	6	5	7	8	3	4	2	1
7	4	8	5	1	2	6	9	3
2	8	7	4	6	1	3	5	9
3	9	6	2	7	5	8	1	4
5	1	4	8	3	9	2	7	6
4	2	1	6	9	7	5	3	8
6	5	3	1	2	8	9	4	7
8	7	9	3	5	4	1	6	2

This week's answer
SUDOKU

Y	E	N	S	S	O	S	N	E	R	O		
O	D	I	U	M	G	R	O	G	E	G	A	D
R	O	U	S	E	O	R	E	O	P	R	O	D
B	R	I	T	F	U	L	L	H	O	U	S	E
S	O	L	B	O	I	S	E					
E	N	T	I	T	L	E						
L	O	C	H	I	S	S	U	E	R			
P	E	A	T	Y	O	E	R					
P	R	E	M	Y	R	H	S					
A	F	R	A	M	E							
L	U	L	L	S	L	E	K					
H	A	P	P	Y	D	A	Y	S				
T	R	I	O	E	R	A	S					
E	U	R	O	M	U	L	E					
B	L	O	G									

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

Suguru solution

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices																																																																																												
<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that requests have been filed with the Dutchess County Legislature, pursuant to New York State Agriculture and Markets law Section 303-b for inclusion of predominantly viable agricultural land within Agricultural District 21 which have received a favorable recommendation as set forth below:</p> <p>SUMMARY OF PARCELS RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Landowner</th> <th>Municipality</th> <th>Swis</th> <th>Print Key</th> <th>Acreage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Diamond Horse Developers Inc</td><td>Beekman</td><td>132200</td><td>6758-00-590688-0000</td><td>18.25</td></tr> <tr><td>Gregory S DeCesare</td><td>Hyde Park</td><td>133200</td><td>6165-02-845770-0000</td><td>26.8</td></tr> <tr><td>Megan Deichler</td><td>La Grange</td><td>133400</td><td>6562-02-999628-0000</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Sweet Showers Hill LLC</td><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>135089</td><td>6371-00-809539-0000</td><td>40.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Edward A Russell</td><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>135089</td><td>6371-00-423606-0000</td><td>5.93</td></tr> <tr><td>Aurora North Meadows LLC</td><td>Union Vale</td><td>135400</td><td>6762-00-067068-0000</td><td>15.31</td></tr> <tr><td>Three Sprouts Valley LLC</td><td>Wappinger</td><td>135689</td><td>6057-04-964107-0000</td><td>62.09</td></tr> <tr><td>Thomas Drummond</td><td>Wappinger</td><td>135689</td><td>6158-02-915594-0000</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Melandie L Williamson</td><td>Wappinger</td><td>135689</td><td>6359-03-383254-0000</td><td>2.8</td></tr> <tr><td>Ray A Alexander</td><td>Wappinger</td><td>135689</td><td>6359-03-441218-0000</td><td>13.8</td></tr> <tr><td>James Glorioso Jr</td><td>Wappinger</td><td>135689</td><td>6157-02-877760-0000</td><td>6.72</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the parcels listed below were rejected for inclusion in the Agricultural Districts:</p> <p>SUMMARY OF PARCELS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Landowner</th> <th>Municipality</th> <th>Swis</th> <th>Print Key</th> <th>Acreage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Deborah Evans</td><td>Pawling</td><td>134089</td><td>7057-00-210557-0000</td><td>9.53</td></tr> <tr><td>Megan L Calogero</td><td>Union Vale</td><td>135400</td><td>6660-00-728564-0000</td><td>30.1</td></tr> <tr><td>Attis Health LLC</td><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>135089</td><td>6269-00-035395-0000</td><td>3.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Attis Health LLC</td><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>135089</td><td>6169-00-866590-0000</td><td>4.24</td></tr> <tr><td>Kerrie Abela</td><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>135089</td><td>6371-00-600224-0000</td><td>50.55</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>And that the Dutchess County Legislature has received the report of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board with respect thereto, which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature where it may be inspected during regular office hours, and the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess shall conduct a public hearing on the 13th day of July 2026 at 6:30pm in the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, to consider the requests and recommendations of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board with respect thereto at which time all interested persons or parties will be heard.</p> <p>JULIE SHIROISHI Clerk Dutchess County Legislature</p>			Landowner	Municipality	Swis	Print Key	Acreage	Diamond Horse Developers Inc	Beekman	132200	6758-00-590688-0000	18.25	Gregory S DeCesare	Hyde Park	133200	6165-02-845770-0000	26.8	Megan Deichler	La Grange	133400	6562-02-999628-0000	14	Sweet Showers Hill LLC	Rhinebeck	135089	6371-00-809539-0000	40.5	Edward A Russell	Rhinebeck	135089	6371-00-423606-0000	5.93	Aurora North Meadows LLC	Union Vale	135400	6762-00-067068-0000	15.31	Three Sprouts Valley LLC	Wappinger	135689	6057-04-964107-0000	62.09	Thomas Drummond	Wappinger	135689	6158-02-915594-0000	10	Melandie L Williamson	Wappinger	135689	6359-03-383254-0000	2.8	Ray A Alexander	Wappinger	135689	6359-03-441218-0000	13.8	James Glorioso Jr	Wappinger	135689	6157-02-877760-0000	6.72	Landowner	Municipality	Swis	Print Key	Acreage	Deborah Evans	Pawling	134089	7057-00-210557-0000	9.53	Megan L Calogero	Union Vale	135400	6660-00-728564-0000	30.1	Attis Health LLC	Rhinebeck	135089	6269-00-035395-0000	3.15	Attis Health LLC	Rhinebeck	135089	6169-00-866590-0000	4.24	Kerrie Abela	Rhinebeck	135089	6371-00-600224-0000	50.55	<p>TOWN OF FISHKILL PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 400 WESTAGE</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 150-97B of the Code of the Town of Fishkill, the Town of Fishkill Planning Board (Planning Board) will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible in the Francois R. Cross Meeting Room located in the lobby of the Town of Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524 for the proposal known as 400 Westage - Site Development Plan Amendment, identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 6155-00-955561 located at 400 Westage Business Center Drive, consisting of 7.62 ± acres in the PSC (Planned Shopping Center) Zoning District for the following approval:</p> <p>Site Development</p>		<p>Plan Approval</p> <p>(Town Code Chapter 150-97B.) - Applicant seeks to amend the existing Site Development Plan Approval for 400 Westage to construct a four-story, 24,000 SF building addition, paved loading area, porte-cochère, curbed island, and to realign the main entrance and subsurface stormwater detention at the existing medical facility located at 400 Westage Business Center Drive.</p> <p>All interested persons will be heard by the Planning Board of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing to be held as aforesaid. For any persons unable to attend the public hearing, email comments may be submitted in advance to dcolonna@fishkill-ny.gov.</p> <p>BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FISHKILL, NEW YORK</p> <p>Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary</p>		<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess will meet in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor Poughkeepsie, New York at 6:30 PM on the 13th day of July 2026, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of Dutchess Community College for the period of September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027.</p> <p>FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the copies of said Budget are available at the Office of the Clerk of the County Legislature, County Office Building, Poughkeepsie, New York, where it may be examined by interested parties during regular business hours.</p> <p>JULIE SHIROISHI Clerk Dutchess County Legislature</p>	
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8				5				
	5		1				4	7
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

	2				2	
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4						

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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: TV DADS

ACROSS

1. Calculus, e.g.
5. Emerald ____ borer
8. Web journal
12. Eurozone money
13. Ginger beer cocktail
14. Overabundance, pl.
15. *Mike Brady's sons in "The Brady Bunch"
16. Taylor Swift's sixth tour, with The
17. Bob Marley, spiritually speaking
18. *Howard Cunningham's TV show
20. Answer from a tunnel
21. Calms
22. Albanian currency
23. House that's mostly gable
26. Smallest
30. Ante-
31. Magi's gift, pl.
34. Of a particular kind
35. Like Scotch whisky, flavor-wise
37. "____ the land of the free..."
38. *Fred MacMurray in "My ____ Sons"
39. Nessie's hangout
40. Passport-giving organization, e.g.
42. A Beatle bride
43. Give right or privilege
45. 3.26 light-years
47. Sun, in Spain
48. The Gem State capital
50. London native, e.g.
52. *Danny Tanner's show
56. Make awake
57. Popular sandwich cookie
58. Elephant trainer's poker
59. Loathing
60. Hot rum drink
61. Goodness gracious!
62. Yearnings
63. Letters of distress
64. Infamous Roman Emperor

DOWN

1. Crystal in the street
2. Atmosphere
3. Acid "journey"
4. Commotion
5. Pertaining to ear
6. Kills a dragon
7. Hitler's deputy
8. *Dre Johnson's show
9. Verdant
10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
11. General Services Administration
13. Assortment
14. *Dr. Leonard ____ of "Friends"
19. Delectable
22. Fleur-de-____
23. Granny Smith, e.g.
24. Banned aerosol propellant
25. Strike back, e.g.
26. Through, for short
27. #12 Across, pl.
28. Part of an act
29. *Sandy Cohen's show
32. *Johnny ____ of "Schitt's Creek"
33. High-____ image
36. *Jack Pearson's show
38. Spam destination
40. Not in good health
41. Final words
44. Native American emblem
46. Resume business
48. Old West pack animal
49. Bread spreads
50. Foretell
51. Today's Colosseum, e.g.
52. Driving hazard, pl.
53. Desire
54. Fly like an eagle
55. Taro plant
56. *Logan ____ of "Succession"

CROSSWORD

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RevCon kicks off 250th celebrations in Dutchess County

By Will Tatum

Visitors to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park on June 13th enjoyed a rare experience of local history three years in the making that kicked off the 250th Anniversary of the United States for Dutchess County. The event, "RevCon: Dutchess County in the Revolution," was the third in a series of 250th-themed offerings at the site, which began in 2024, representing a multi-year collaboration between the federal National Archives and Records Administration that operates the Library, Dutchess County Government, and Destination Dutchess, the destination marketing organization for Dutchess. Drawing on the experience of past years, the event team delivered a varied program that included livestock demonstrations, cannon and musket firing, a hands-on history fair, and scholarly presentations that combined for an outstanding day of local history.

The day kicked off with a welcome from Library Executive Director William Harris and a ceremony to honor the recipients of the 2026 Dutchess County Rev250 Programming Grant. Last year, Dutchess County Government took the unprecedented step of offering competitive funding to the county's 20 historical societies to make up for the absence of federal or state support for local programming. The 2025 grant program funded 22 projects, ranging from dramatic productions to exhibits to a multi-town driving tour.

This year's grant program awarded funding to nine projects representing work by 10 historical societies across Dutchess County. These projects range from a special augmented reality experience enabling children to engage with exhibits and historical sites—the Sergeant Chirp Dispatch—to two dramatic productions. The multi-town Quaker Meeting House Tour has also returned for a second year, focusing on the stories of individual Quaker residents of Dutchess County.

The grant program, managed by the Department of History, represents a multi-department collaboration within Dutchess County Government, engaging the County Clerk's Office, the County Executive's Office, and the County Legislature. Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature Yvette

Valdes-Smith was joined by Legislators Brendan Lawler, Kevin M. Giles, and Alex Winsby during the presentation of awards.

"It was an honor to take part in Dutchess County's Rev250 Programming Grant Award ceremony," said Chair Valdes-Smith, "Our County Historian, Will Tatum, has been instrumental in not only preserving and sharing the Revolutionary War stories that define Dutchess County, but his support has elevated the work of our historical societies and ensured these narratives remain accessible and celebrated. I was joined by Dutchess County Legislators Alix Winsby, Brendan Lawler, and Kevin Giles to present legislative certificates honoring each of the county historical societies and organizations awarded grants for Rev250 programming. The Legislature and I are proud to champion and support programs like RevCon and the many Rev250 events taking place across Dutchess County this summer, all of which help bring our shared history to life and strengthen our community's connection to it."

Following the grant ceremony, the Hands-On History Fair opened to visitors. The Dutchess County Historical Society, Town of Dover Historical Society, Fishkill Historical Society, East Fishkill Historical Society, Pawling Historical Society, Quaker Meeting House Tour Group, Dutchess County Genealogical Society, Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the 5th New York Regiment of the Continental Line, and the FDR archives staff presented a variety of engaging activities for the public. From colonial toys to displays of reproduction Revolutionary War equipment to making butter, visitors enjoyed a rare opportunity to engage with topics that are most often addressed behind glass display cases. A steady flow of visitors circulated through the multi-purpose rooms of the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center all day.

Outside, visitors enjoyed a rare opportunity to interact with Revolutionary War reenactors and, for the first time at this event, livestock that would have been a common sight during the Revolutionary era. John and



Christopher and Michelle Numssen (left) discuss indigenous material culture with visitors at RevCon.

-Photo courtesy Historic Red Hook

Danny Blumberg from Rock Hill Farm in Pawling, brought a team of draft horses, Jim and Jake, and two young oxen, Chip and Dale, to the event. Prior to the invention of railroads and automobiles, draft horses and oxen provided the power to move cargo overland. Jim and Jake powered a series of wagon rides for visitors throughout the day, while the Blumbergs demonstrated how Chip and Dale are training to obey the commands necessary to guide them in pulling sleds and wagons. Both pairs of animals were a huge hit.

Nearby, reenactors portraying the British Royal Artillery, the 2nd New York Regiment, the 5th New York Regiment, and Butler's Rangers offered ongoing interpretation to the public along with two sets of firing demonstrations. The boom of the canon and crackle of musketry offered visitors a small window into the brutal realities of the American struggle for independence. Interpreters Christopher and Michelle Numssen displayed indigenous equipment and tools, sharing the native perspective on the Revolution with visitors.

Two academic scholars completed the line up of offerings for RevCon. Dr. Michael P. Gabriel, Professor of History at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, delivered a presentation exploring how General Richard Montgomery of Rhinebeck, who died during an assault on Quebec City in December 1775 as part of the American invasion of Canada, became immortalized as martyr to the revolutionary cause. For eighty years after his death, Montgomery enjoyed a reputation on par with George Washington,

before fading into relative obscurity. Gabriel's authoritative biography of Montgomery is now in its second edition. Sara Evenson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at SUNY-Albany, drew upon her 20 years of experience in colonial open hearth cooking and exhaustive research into Hudson Valley foodways to discuss the realities of colonial kitchens. Her presentation illuminated how, while many elements of cooking have changed over the centuries, there are still details of continuity in design and purpose that link all kitchens together over time.

According to NARA officials, the event attracted an official count of 2,133 visitors over the course of the day, an extraordinary turn out that more than doubled attendance at the previous events. Coordinated through the Dutchess County Department of History, the RevCon series represented a massive investment of time, resources, and effort among federal, county, and a multitude of volunteer organizations. Ultimately, this effort resulted in an outstanding showing for Dutchess County in an event that ranks well among the other offerings within New York state for the 250th. Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall, who has long championed local history in Dutchess and attended the event, remarked:

"RevCon 2026 is a model of effective countywide collaboration. By leveraging partnerships with cultural institutions, historical organizations, volunteers, and municipal stakeholders, Dutchess County was able to deliver a high-quality public program that expanded access to local history, supported Revolutionary War commemoration efforts, and strengthened relationships throughout our community. The success of this event demonstrates the value of coordinated planning and long-term investment in public engagement."

Commemorative activities for the 250th will continue throughout the year. If you enjoyed RevCon, or were sorry to miss out on the fun, consider joining Destination Dutchess and the Department of History at "Revolutionary Cider Celebration" at Fishkill Farms in East Fishkill on Saturday, June 27. For information on this event and other offerings in 2026, visit www.destinationdutchess.com/rev250.

Will Tatum has served as the Dutchess County Historian since 2012. He resides in Red Hook.

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Knicks' NBA title parade unites NYC

By Morgan E. Maier

Expectations are not always reality.

A team down 29 points in a playoff game will not come back to win. The second-round draft pick will not thrive as a big market team's first option. And a bus that drops its rides blocks away from the optimal parade spot is not worth a ride.

These things are true anywhere but New York.

The New York Knicks, sports media's beloved punching bag of decades, have shown us this in 2026. The reigning NBA champions caused a shift in the city the day they received their keys to the city and a parade audience that stretched miles high and wide. The energy remained long after the floats were out of sight, palpable as confetti strewn on sidewalks.

And when one expects to see said championship parade and misses the entire thing, they will find the day holds much more than floats and Walt "Clyde" Frazier and his classic car.

A city divided by five boroughs became united by basketball. Community is synonymous with the world's greatest sport, as it is Larry O'Brien and Jalen Brunson. Each person perched on streetlights and balconies represented a goal achieved, a milestone that millions were a part of. Businesses and bars and bodegas were booming, as clusters perched on balconies for a closer look – or a once-in-53-years camera shot. Thousands of courts exist in New York City, each beginning to fill as the string of summer days lengthens – few (if any) were empty on this day that confetti and beer poured through boroughs.

These moments are bigger than basketball, bounds taller than the Knicks, and the 7-foot-4 San Antonio Spur they slew to reach this moment. An NBA title, a key to the city, a nationwide calling of New York Knicks fans who fill seats in 29 arenas not named Madison Square Garden. Each was felt in the city on parade day, from the earliest moments of dawn to the



New York Knicks fans gather to watch the NBA championship parade on June 18.

-Courtesy photo

late-night shenanigans at pubs. Strangers and friends traded crossovers where closed-down streets made for the best 1-v-1 basketball.

Indeed, New York's first Big 4 sports title since 2012 was well worth the wait.

NYPD patrolled as bagpipers played a tune or two, one for each Corona traded to place in their kilt. Artists who have restored the feeling of sports and cities with custom cards or prints, clothes, and media brands. Kids who will never know what it felt like to watch a 17-win Knicks team fumble the draft lottery, or playoff hopes dashed in the Eastern Conference finals. The feeling is alive in the sorrow that Pat Ewing never got a ring himself, or that Willis Reed was not here to witness this history.

The past and present swish around this revelry, because on this day, everyone is a New York fan, no matter how long we've watched or listened to games.

I can't say if another day like this will come around next year. Even until the next lifetime. But New York will be there in droves for the next, remembering the feeling of a city buzzing in orange and blue, and united for one improbable play-off run.