

BEACON FREE PRESS

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MTA board approves developer for mixed-income housing development

By Kristine Coulter

The Jonathan Rose Companies has been approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board to be the developer to transform a parking lot adjacent to the Beacon Metro-North Train Station into a residential development. Governor Kathy Hochul announced the appointment last week. The development will have 265 units of mixed-income housing, according to the Governor's office.

"The key to making our state a more affordable place to live is simple: build more housing, especially right next door to frequent and reliable transit service," Hochul said in the announcement. "By creating new housing next to the Beacon Metro-North station, we are breathing new life into an underutilized site and giving more New Yorkers the opportunity to live in a vibrant community with an express train to New York City just next door. This project is a model for how thoughtful development can strengthen communities and make our state more affordable and livable."

In a press release, Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, "MTA's proposed Transit-Oriented Development project in the City of Beacon will provide increased and affordable housing opportunities to current and future residents."

Jonathan F.P. Rose, president of Jonathan Rose Companies, said, "This project represents a key goal of the firm to develop green, transit-oriented mixed-income and mixed-use projects that expand housing options and economic development for their host communities. And what an amazingly vital, creative community Beacon is."

The mayor noted the new development "will replace ugly impermeable blacktop with environmentally sustainable living — which helps Beacon both to support our Main Street, and also to do our part to help address the housing shortage in our region."

"This transit-oriented development project will transform a state-owned parking lot into its highest and best use while maintaining parking for commuters with an integrated parking structure and increasing much needed housing supply and affordable options for our residents," Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino stated in the release.

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson said, "The complex will also have its own parking garage for new residents and retail customers, with no reduction of available parking for commuters."

Funding will support the structured parking garage, which will replace an existing Metro-North commuter parking area with new housing units, which, according to the Governor's office, is possible by the Governor's Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites for Housing (RUSH) program. The RUSH program is an initiative spearheaded by Hochul; its mission is to repurpose existing state sites and properties for housing. The initiative, as stated in the release, builds on the Governor's Executive Order 30, which directed state agencies and authorities, including the MTA, to identify sites appropriate for housing development.

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, "Transit-oriented development is a double win for the region — creating lively, walkable communities while responding to Governor Hochul's commitment to new housing. We can't wait to get started on the Beacon project."

"We look forward to working with MTA to ensure that the project fits with the City's planning priorities and aesthetic character," remarked Kyriacou.

Corn Festival set for August 10 at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Sloop Club is hosting its annual Corn Festival at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park, near the Metro-North Railroad station, on Sunday, Aug. 10 from noon – 5 p.m. in Beacon. Attendees can learn about the history of the Hudson River. There will be environmental displays throughout the park.

"The Sloop Club festivals were started to support and raise money for Clearwater, to help Clearwater afford to maintain the sloop. They decided on 4 festivals to sell and highlight local Hudson Valley produce, supporting the local farmers and shad fisherman and telling the story of shad fishing on the Hudson," explained Tinya Seeger, daughter of the late activist, folk singer and local resident Pete Seeger and his wife, Toshi.

"My father had a soft spot for local farmers, he knew how hard it was to make a living as a farmer, as two of his close friends in Newburgh were farmers," stated Seeger. "His very first job had also been to support dairy strikers in upstate New York, in fact."

Continued on page 5



The Beacon Sloop Club will host its annual Corn Festival at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park on Sunday, Aug. 10. Pictured are volunteers from a previous year's festival serving corn to attendees.

-Photo by Alan Thomas

Residents rally again to try and save Newburgh-Beacon Ferry

By Kristine Coulter

A rally was held to try and save the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry on the evening of July 29 at the Beacon dock. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) announced plans to permanently discontinue the ferry earlier this summer and said bus service will continue this year and in 2026, to save the more than \$2 million that is spent on the ferry.

"Orange County pays over \$38 million to the MTA each year with little to show for it," said Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson (Assembly District 104). "Restoring the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry is not too much to ask."

Jacobson said, "One of the problems we have in getting the ferry going again is having a functioning dock on both sides of the Hudson. The MTA owned the floating dock in Beacon, and when it was damaged, they decided to remove it instead of repairing it. I told Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou that we're going to solve this problem, and the first step is to build a new dock that is owned by the City of Beacon, so it's not subject to the whims of the MTA. The Mayor agreed and will proceed with having engineers design a new dock. I will secure the full funding to build and install a new dock at no additional cost to the city."

Continued on page 2



A rally was held in Beacon on July 29 to save the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry. Last month, the MTA announced plans to permanently discontinue the ferry service between Newburgh and Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

Judge dismisses case entirely on Beacon Engine building

A state judge handed down her decision regarding Beacon Engine Company No. 1 against the City of Beacon on July 25. Dutchess County Supreme Court Judge Maria Rosa dismissed the case entirely.

Beacon Engine Company No. 1, an association of volunteer and/or former volunteer firefighters, brought this action earlier this year, regarding 57 E. Main St.

“As always, I am grateful for the century of service provided by all three of our volunteer fire companies. With the court ruling, I hope we can now all move forward,” Mayor Lee Kyriacou told Beacon Free Press.

According to a court document, Beacon Engine “allege[d] that the agreement gives [Beacon Engine] 2/3 ownership of the property and gives the City of Beacon ... 1/3 ownership.” The document states, “However, in its amended complaint, [Beacon Engine] does not assert a cause of action for breach of contract. Plaintiff asserts four causes of action; First, an action to quiet title; Second, adverse possession; Third, unjust enrichment; and Fourth, wrongful eviction.”

In January, the City of Beacon sent a Notice to Vacate by March 31. According to the court document, “[City of Beacon] has taken possession of the property, changed the locks and effectively evicted [Beacon Engine] from the property. [Beacon Engine] claims this was done without due process. However, these issues were partially litigated before this

Court when [Beacon Engine] sought a preliminary injunction to stop the City from evicting [Beacon Engine] and selling the property. The resulting Decision and Order dated March 31, 2025 denied the injunction holding that ...since [Beacon Engine] has provided no evidence of ownership, Petitioner’s request for a preliminary injunction must be denied”...thus concluding that action, reads the decision.

The first order to quiet title “must be, and is dismissed,” states the decision.

The decision continues that Beacon Engine’s “second cause of action for adverse possession is dismissed.”

The decision states that the third cause of action “for unjust enrichment must also be dismissed.”

Rosa partially states in her decision, “[Beacon Engine] has failed to establish that the City has been unjustly enriched by [Beacon Engine’s] use of the premises. [Beacon Engine] acknowledges only one active firefighter. The rest are members of what can only be described as a social club which was not the intended use of the property.”

The fourth cause of action, for wrongful eviction “must be denied,” said the judge.

“Without any proof of ownership, [Beacon Engine] has failed to assert a cognizable legal theory, and the Court has no choice but to order that this action is hereby dismissed in its entirety.”

The attorney for Beacon Engine did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Judge Maria Rosa dismissed the case entirely regarding the Beacon Engine building on East Main St. on July 25.

-Archive photo

Residents rally again to try and save Newburgh-Beacon Ferry

Continued from cover

Mayor Kyriacou told Beacon Free Press, “We are closely working with Assemblyman Jacobson, who is seeking State funds to restore the floating section of the municipal dock that was damaged during the winter. The City is looking to develop service options as well.”

Jacobson noted: “This will be a win for getting the ferry back, a win for Clearwater Sloop, for Bannerman Island tours, and for the region. This is the first step in the fight to get the ferry running again. It’s important to remember that the MTA has a budget of \$20 billion, and it only costs about \$2 million to operate this ferry. Here’s what that means: \$2 million of \$20 billion is 1/100th of 1% - in other words, it’s just one penny out of \$100. That’s how small this is in their budget. So I say,

‘Give us back our penny and save our ferry.’”

During the Metro-North meeting held on July 30, one 15-year-old Beaconite told the board members, he was “sad to see it’s being let go.” The ferry, he explained, is important to get to and from work.

Another public speaker said the schedule was in effect before the great financial crisis, the pandemic and “needs to reflect the modern era. “Congestion is a rising concern for Dutchess County residents,” added the commentator.

“Hundreds of Hudson Valley residents are making it loud and clear: the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry must be restored. This ferry is more than just a mode of transportation — its abrupt cancellation disrupts daily commutes, undercuts local businesses, harms

tourism, and removes a unique regional connection that has long linked our communities to opportunity,” said State Senator Rob Rolison (39th Senate District) in a press release, sent by Congressman Pat Ryan (18th Congressional District) along with comments from Dutchess County officials. “The MTA cannot continue to ask for more from our region while delivering less to Orange County and the greater Hudson Valley. We stand with the ferry. We stand with the community. And we will not stop advocating until this essential service is not only restored but strengthened to meet the needs of our growing region.”

“The closure of the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry is yet another example of our Hudson Valley community paying into a NYC-centric system and getting almost nothing in return,” said Ryan in the release. “The Hudson Valley is rightly outraged – the MTA should be adding more transit options and lowering costs, not taking away the limited options we do have. The MTA discontinuing this ferry service – and ignoring the impassioned, continuous pleas of our community – is a reckless abandonment of the people it’s supposed to serve, turning its back on the Hudson Valley yet again, while happily taking our tax dollars. Hudson Valley commuters deserve better than this betrayal of public trust and I’ll fight like hell with leaders across our entire com-

munity to get this service restored, whatever it takes.”

County leaders also made statements in the release.

“People across the Hudson Valley rely on and deserve to trust in consistent service from the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry – but this fight is about more than just that,” said Dutchess County Legislature Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith. “Members of our community have been left behind by the MTA for far too long. I am grateful for Congressman Ryan’s leadership in bringing us together on this important issue, because we have to make it clear that we’re not going to accept this treatment any longer.”

“After the people of Dutchess County were hit with an increase in their MTA sales tax, the first act of the MTA was to cancel our ferry to Newburgh. It’s no wonder people are feeling slighted,” said Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair. “I will also say, as a resident of Beacon, that taking away our beloved ferry is equivalent to taking away our other cultural treasures like the Howland Center or the Memorial Building. We thought the ferry was untouchable. Bring back the ferry, advertise it to increase ridership, and make it all-electric.”

According to the MTA website, the adult one-way ferry fare was \$1.75. Seniors (62 or older), people with disabilities, and Medicare recipients paid \$1 if they showed appropriate ID. Children 5 and under rode free, and a ticket cost for those age 6-11 was \$1.

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179th DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Antique broom-making will be focal point of Century Museum

By Curtis Schmidt

The broom has long been a common household tool, but have you ever wondered how brooms were constructed over a hundred years ago?

Visitors to the 179th Dutchess County Fair, set Aug. 19-24, will be able to learn those facts and many more from historians at the Century Museum Village.

And this year, the art of broom-making – circa 1890-1929 – will be the central focal point at the entrance of the main museum building.

Fred Widman, his wife, Molly, Diane Steubing, and Sophie Michaelis form the knowledgeable and hard-working team that will construct, demonstrate and sell approximately 65 antique brooms during the Fair.

But it's not about selling, it's all about the history of constructing of brooms using hand (and foot) operated machinery – no electricity.

Fred says he and his team are “carrying on a valuable tradition” that was started by broom squire Bill Smith Jr., who learned the art in the Pennsylvania Dutch area.

Fred and Molly have been involved in the broom-making shop for about nine years. Diane Steubing and Sophie Michaelis have been stitching brooms for approximately six years.

“I call it life before K-Mart,” Fred said of the demonstration process. “This is from the time period when people constructed most household items themselves.”

The broom-making process begins with corn straw and lots of it. “You have to soak the straw in a bucket of water for about a half-hour, so it becomes malleable,” he said. “Then you gather about four layers of the wet straw and wrap it around the broom handle. The chuck of the ‘broom kick winder’ holds the handle, and feeds wire with the use of a foot pedal. The wire is fastened around the straw and keeps it in place.”

Once the straw dries, it can be placed in a broom stitching vise. The vise allows the broom to be flattened and the broom to be sewn with a large needle. Hemp threading is used to stitch and hold the straw in place.

After the stitching process, each broom gets a flat cut – or “crew cut,” as Fred calls it.

He handles the first step of the broom-making process. Molly, Diane and Sophie do the stitching. “They make my work look great,” said Fred.

The team constructs about 15 brooms per day, depending on the number of volunteers.

They will be joined in the museum along with their friends - “storytellers” in costume who will take you back to a quieter, simpler time. Stroll past a printer's shop complete with a working 1900 printing press, marvel at a living room filled with Victorian furniture, view a rural kitchen and watch as repairs are done in a Model-T-era auto shop.

Take a step back in time and learn about life a hundred years ago.



Volunteer historian Fred Widman gathers corn straw around a broom stick in the first step of the antique broom-making process. This year, the art of broom-making – circa 1890-1929 – will be the central focal point at the entrance of the main building at the Century Museum Village at the Dutchess County Fair.

- Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Rooted in the Fair tradition: Every Wednesday is for fun



The “Every Wednesday night” group includes from left, Bob and Gina Beckmann, Barbara and Ed Hackett, Vicki and Andy Imperati and Andrea and Joe Kirchhoff.

-Courtesy photo

By Curtis Schmidt

They haven't missed a Wednesday night gathering in 20-plus years and chances are “awfully good” that you won't find a happier group.

They - and even previous generations of their families – have all been associated with the Dutchess County Fair in one way or another. And this friendship is all about sharing, caring – and most of all – laughing.

The group of eight includes Vicki and Andy Imperati, Andrea and Joe Kirchhoff, Barbara and Ed Hackett and

Gina and Bob Beckmann.

The theme of this year's Fair “Rooted in Tradition, United by Agriculture” is also a great fit for this group.

Andy Imperati's father, Andy Sr., served as a director, had a long history with the Fair and promoting “Livestock Hill” events and was great friends with Tom Kirchhoff, Joe's dad. Andy and Joe can trace their friendship back to their childhood days.

Vicki and Andy even met at the Fair and have been married for 32 years. “That's how many years most of these friendships

go back, if not longer,” said Joe.

“We've all had generations of our families' raising animals and showing them at the Fair,” said Andy. “The friendships just grew from living and working together – and seeing each other at the Fair.”

Andy has now been the President of Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) and Fair CEO since 2012. Vicki has been the Administrative Operations Manager since 2011. Bob Beckmann and Ed Hackett are both members of the DCAS Board of Directors. Joe Kirchhoff also served as a member of the Ag Society.

And the “every Wednesday night” dinners – yes, you guessed it, are also rooted in a Fair connection.

Vicki relates the story. “I was Entry Superintendent at the time and Barb (Hackett) forgot to enter one of the family's Brown Swiss cows that year. She panicked, thinking she missed the entry

deadline and came in-person to the Fair office. Everything worked out, but Barb and Ed decided they needed to take Andy and I out to dinner to say ‘thank you.’ ”

That turned into a weekly dinner for the four of them and soon the other two couples joined the gatherings. They don't miss a Wednesday night – even when someone can't make it.

Topics of conversation? “Nothing is sacred,” laughed Vicki. Ed chimed in - “We never run out of things to talk about and always end up laughing our butts off!”

The Wednesday gatherings have obviously led to many “epic parties” with their families. “Weddings, birthday parties, funerals, vacations, you name it, we do them all together,” said Andrea. “We share, we laugh, we cry.”

And like the song from the 1980s relates – “That's what friends are for.”

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County seeks proposals for 2026 Youth Team Sports Program Funding

Playing sports helps children develop important life skills like teamwork, discipline and perseverance while also supporting their physical health, boosting self-confidence and encouraging friendship and good sportsmanship. The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services’ Division of Youth Services is requesting applications for youth team sports (YTS) programming from local community-based organizations and nonprofits for the program year Jan. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2026.

Youth development through team sports aligns with Dutchess County’s “Path to Promise” domains: Learning, Material Basics, Safety, Family/Relationships, Mental Health and Physical Health.

Local youth-serving organizations that provide free team sports opportunities to youth under age 18 are encouraged to apply for grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. A total of \$129,716 is available through the New York State Children and Families Services Youth Teams Sports Reimbursable Grant*. This funding opportunity defines a “team sport” as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals.

Eligible applicants should be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other community-based organization with a federal identification number, operating in Dutchess County with the ability to meet the county’s insurance requirements. All funding requests must be for a program that provides free, direct services to all youth.

2025-2026 Youth Development Programming (YDP) or Youth Sports and

Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF) awardees are not eligible to apply for the same program for 2026 YTS funding.

Funding may provide general operating support to give agencies the flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming. This may include educational instruction necessary to prepare youth to participate in team sports.

The Division of Youth Services has scheduled grant workshops at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. Workshops are expected to last about two hours.

- Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m.

- Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 12:30 p.m.

They will review the requirements to apply, the step-by-step process of applying online, and address any concerns or questions. Please contact Doreen Clifford at 845-486-3663 or Doreen.Clifford@dfa.state.ny.us to register for a workshop.

The application period for the Youth Team Sports grant opens Tuesday, Aug. 26 and closes on Friday, Sept. 19.

All grants are due to the Division of Youth Services through the County’s online grant portal on or before Friday, Sept. 19, by 1 p.m. Please visit the Division’s NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding webpage for more comprehensive information regarding this program and how to apply.

* Total funding amount subject to change based on final allocation from New York State Children and Family Services.

Beacon Police Report

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

June 16: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Alfio D. Toscano, 53 of Beacon, was processed on a Warrant of Arrest.

June 16: Auto Accident-Hit & Run-Van Nydeck Avenue- Caller reported damage to his car as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

June 18: Traffic Stop-Fishkill Avenue-Ryan D. Korzekwinski, 29, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 2nd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

June 20: Suspicious Auto-Municipal Plaza- Alfredo L. Robles, 20, of Beacon, was charged with Assault 3, Act in Manner to Injure a Child & Criminal Contempt 2nd.

June 20: Suspicious Auto-Municipal Plaza-Malachi Cornwall, 19, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th, Criminal Possession of a Firearm & Criminal Possession of a Weapon.

June 20: Suspicious Auto-Municipal Plaza-Kiahron J. Thompson, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th, Criminal Possession of a Firearm & Criminal Possession of a Weapon.

June 21: Disturbance- Main Street-Amanda J. Shafer, 39, of Wallkill, was charged with Obstructing Government Administration 2nd, Resisting Arrest & Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd.

June 21: Unattended Death-Beacon-Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

June 21: Fraud- Municipal Plaza-Caller reported fraudulent activity has been occurring in her bank account. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

June 21: Fraud-Spring Valley Street- Caller reported a stolen laptop and then started receiving text messages from an unknown individual to pay to have laptop returned. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

June 26: Unattended Death- Beacon-Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

June 28: Warrant-South Davies Terrace-Yolanda M. Ramos, 36, of Wappingers Falls, was processed on an

open Bench Warrant.

June 30: Warrant -Municipal Plaza-Anisa K. Perry, 30 of Beacon, was charged with Act in Manner to injure a Child & Assault 3.

Number of Calls: 296

Auto Accidents: 12

Domestics: 6

July 2: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Jessica L. Schneider, 41, of Salt Point, was processed on an open Bench Warrant and charged with Bail Jumping 3rd.

July 2: Warrant- Municipal Plaza-Christopher J. Riley, 37, of Beacon, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

July 3: Suspicious Condition-Main Street-Caller reported that someone was stalking her. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 5: Auto Accident-Hit & Run - Caller reported his car was struck at an intersection. Report taken. Investigation conducted. Suspect vehicle located.

July 8: Unattended Death- Beacon – Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 8: Assist Other Agency-Colonial Road- Officers responded to Assist Fire Department. Report on file.

July 10: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Zariyah M. Edey, 23, of the Bronx, was processed on an open Bench Warrant and also charged with Bail Jumping 2nd.

July 10: Fight- Main Street- Caller reported being assaulted by two individuals known to her. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 11: City Code Violation- Main Street-Jonathan N. Amoroso, 52, of Beacon, was charged with Open Container.

July 11: Traffic Stop-Beekman Street-Sebastian D. Uribe, 25, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

July 13: Unattended Death-Beacon-Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 14: Unknown Problem- Colonial Road- Caller reported that her dog was drugged by a substance on the lawn of her apartment complex. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

U.S. News & World Report ranks VBMC No. 1 in Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Metro Area

U.S. News & World Report has named Vassar Brothers Medical Center (VBMC), part of Northwell Health, the No. 1 hospital in the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Metro Area for the second consecutive year and the No. 19 hospital in New York State.

VBMC, a premier regional hospital serving Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties and beyond, was also recognized as “High Performing” in Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and in 15 Common Adult Procedures and Conditions — up from 11 last year.

This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings, which are based entirely on objective measures of quality such as survival rates, patient experience and how successfully each hospital helps patients return home.

“We are proud to once again be recognized as the top hospital in our region and among the best in New York,” said Susan Browning, president of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. “This year’s expanded recognition across more specialties and procedures reflects our unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, innovation and compassionate care. It’s a tribute to

the extraordinary teamwork and dedication of our staff, who continue to raise the bar for healthcare in the Hudson Valley.”

For the 2025-2026 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,400 hospitals across 15 adult specialties and 22 procedures and conditions; only one third of them earned an award. To determine the Best Hospitals, U.S. News analyzed each hospital’s performance based on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from over 800 million records of patient care.

VBMC is a 349-bed facility that has served New York’s Mid-Hudson Valley since 1887. Located in Poughkeepsie, NY, VBMC features a Level II Trauma Center, a cardiothoracic surgery center, and the region’s only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In 2021, the hospital opened a state-of-the-art, 752,000-square-foot inpatient pavilion with 263 private medical/surgical rooms and 30 critical care rooms.

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Give Life Give Blood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Commemoration of 80th anniversary of WWII ending set for August 10



National Spirit of '45 Day will take place on Aug. 10 at the Wappingers VFW Post #5913 in Wappingers Falls to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Pictured in front is World War II veteran Al Hubner, 100 years old, along with veterans and community members.

By Kristine Coulter

Come together for the National Spirit of '45 Day on Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Wappingers Veterans of Foreign War Post (VFW) #5913, 8 School St., in Wappingers Falls. This year is the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Wappingers Falls resident Dani Masterson, of Spirit of '45, in collaboration with VFW Post #5913, is hosting the free event which will commence at 11 a.m.

"This event celebrates honors and celebrates the legacy of our World War II Veterans, who answered the call to duty and courageously served in foreign lands. From the beaches of Normandy to the jungles and islands of the Pacific, they endured intense fighting and extreme

hunger, disease, harsh weather, and the constant specter of death," said Virgil Capollari, VFW Post #5913 Sr. Vice Commander. "As our World War II veterans continue to decline as each day passes, it is incumbent upon us to ensure their names, their stories and their incredible sacrifices are not forgotten."

According to organizers, the event will commemorate the legacy, sacrifices and triumphs of the World War II Generation. Together, attendees will celebrate that generation's "resilience and unity" through remembrance ceremonies and special tributes, it was stated. Attendees can also bring photos of their loved ones who served in World War II.

"The Spirit of '45 commemorates the



Local Scouts hold photos of World War II heroes.

-Courtesy photos

World War II generation--and their sense of duty, accountability, unity and hope. They grew up in the Great Depression, and endured vast hardships for the greater good. On the home front, Americans mobilized in support of the war effort, enduring rationing and shortages. Women entered the workforce, taking on critical roles in factories and shipyards--embodying the spirit of "Rosie the Riveter." With the 80th Anniversary marking the end of World War II approaching, we want our World War II Veterans to know how much we appreciate them," said Masterson.

Legacy of the Spirit of '45 was inspired by the historic announcement of the end of the Second World War (August 14, 1945), its observance (recognized by

Congress in 2010), reminds us of the values that defined the World War II veterans and homefront heroes, such as personal responsibility, integrity, humility and perseverance, it was noted.

According to organizers, the program will include:

- An interactive wreath-laying ceremony
- A Nationwide Tribute to "Taps"
- Music by the Club Swing Band
- A flyby of the historic C-47 aircraft Placid Lassie from the D-Day Normandy landings.

There will also be a special raising of the American and military flags ceremony.

For more information, please access and follow the Event Post on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/national-spirit-of-45-day/1406727863866068/>.

Corn Festival set for August 10 at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park

Continued from cover

Seeger explained, "The festivals would showcase the local harvests, bring people to the river, give people a taste of the fruit, and of grilled shad and shad roe, show some traditional skills of the shad fishermen too." There were 4 festivals at that time, it was noted.

"My father loved fresh picked corn, the fresher the better, and strawberry shortcake and corn on the cob were two of his all-time favorite foods. I think he also wanted to share his enthusiasm and let people see for themselves how delicious and special it was just picked rather than days old from a supermarket," said Seeger.

Seeger, who said she was not exaggerating, stated her "father could easily put down twelve ears of corn one right after the other." She said that "he really, really loved fresh corn on the cob."

"So, it seemed natural that if he loved the beautiful sloops so much that he built one that he would also hold a festival to honor the important crop of corn."

Sloop Club member Rob May said, "There will be great music and delicious food, from our food tent and from our dedicated vendors. The Beacon Sloop Club's 19th century replica river ferry sloop will be available to the public for relaxing sails up and down the river." Sign up at the Beacon Sloop Club table starting at 11:30 a.m.

Seeger and May both mentioned the festivals (the Corn Festival, Strawberry Festival held in June and the Pumpkin Festival in October) are about bringing the community together.

"My father loved to learn and tell about history as well," said Seeger. "He had a lot of respect for Native Americans, so honoring a traditional food that was pretty essential and historically important on this continent was another reason to celebrate corn," said Seeger. There will also be chilled watermelon available and ice-cold lemonade, said organizers.

Organizers encourage attendees to bring blankets and/or chairs to listen and enjoy the entertainment on the two solar-powered stages. One stage will have performances geared towards children. The other stage will have performers singing throughout the event.

"We are expecting a large turnout. A lot of people will want a respite from the summer heat and enjoy the cool air by the river. Because the Corn Festival is such a long-standing tradition, people remember to put it on their summer calendar and look forward to participating every year. We usually draw a large number of local residents who combine with many people who come up to the park from the city by train," explained May.

Sloop Club member Joyce Hanson said, "Although, the Beacon Sloop Club continues to donate money to Clearwater every year, at present our festival's focus



Vendors will sell their wares during the annual Beacon Sloop Club Corn Festival on Aug. 10 at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. One can also sign up to sail on the sloop Woody Guthrie. Pictured is from the 2024 festival.

-Photo by Alan Thomas

is to support our Sloop Woody Guthrie free sailing program. There is never a charge to sail our Sloop, upkeep of our wooden sloop is expensive. We are all volunteers, admission is free and our festivals are a labor of love. We need the

community to come and volunteer to help with our festivals and the community to come and purchase the sweetest prepared corn in the Hudson Valley."

For more information, visit www.beaconsloopclub.org.



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Lefty Gilbert dazzles in Renegades' bullpen

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades got more Geoff Gilbert in June than they did in all of 2024. He pitched just 7.0 High-A innings before being shut down last year. Now in his third professional season, the bullpen's lone lefty is dazzling the Valley.

Ahead of the August 5-10 homestand, Gilbert held a remarkable 1.23 earned run average in 11 home appearances. He's struck out 24 in 14.2 innings of work at Heritage Financial Park, nabbing all three of his season wins on Hudson Valley home turf.

Gilbert drew the Yankees' attention in the Atlantic Coast Conference, spending three seasons at Clemson University. New York selected Gilbert with the 400th pick in 2022, one of 14 pitchers drafted that year. He and current AA-Somerset Patriot Will Brian were the class' only lefthanders.

He was twice on the watch list for the NCBWA Stopper-of-the-Year Award, awarded to the nation's best collegiate relief pitcher. In 2022, Gilbert made eight scoreless appearances, earning a 5-2 record over 19 outings. His career 10.76 strikeouts per nine innings pitched (K/9) is fifth all-time in Clemson program history.

In 2021, Gilbert's first full colle-



At the turn of August, left-handed reliever Geoff Gilbert is posting a 3-0 record with a 2.51 ERA.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

giate season, he earned a team-low 2.23 ERA among qualified pitchers (40+ innings). He was the most familiar sight emerging from the bullpen, with five

saves and 28 relief appearances to lead the team. He is well-prepared for the role of Hudson Valley's sole bullpen southpaw. It fits his style, too. Geoff won't shy from

being called on for a stretch - or a start. July 6 marked his first Renegades start, setting up his fellow relievers with a hitless 3.0 innings. Allowing just one walk and one hit batter, Gilbert's strong opening led to the eventual 2-1 Renegades victory.

Gilbert rebounded in June after a rocky May. In four appearances, the 6-foot-1 slinger allowed just two hits in 7.1 innings, allowing zero runs with 13 strikeouts. Opponents hit .156 against Gilbert in July. As of August 2, it is the lowest across the entire Renegades pitching staff, who boast a collective .189 opponent batting average. At the turn of August, Gilbert has yet to earn a loss, posting a 3-0 record with a 2.51 ERA.

In 2023, Gilbert was brought up from Single-A for the decisive game against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws in the North Division series. With the bases loaded at the top of the 8th, Gilbert came on for the five-out save. He struck out two straight BlueClaws on seven pitches to dissolve the threat. With a three-up, three-down ninth, Gilbert punches the Renegades' championship ticket.

As the Renegades push through the second half, he'll be ready for the big moments. After all, Gilbert thrives when the lights are brightest.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	26	10	.722	-	7-3	W1
Hudson Valley NYY	23	12	.657	2.5	8-2	W1
Jersey Shore PHI	19	16	.543	6.5	8-2	W3
Aberdeen BAL	16	19	.457	9.5	5-5	L1
Wilmington WSH	15	21	.417	11.0	3-7	L1
Brooklyn NYM	14	22	.389	12.0	2-8	L3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Hub City TEX	21	15	.583	-	6-4	W2
Bowling Green TB	20	16	.556	1.0	5-5	W1
Greenville BOS	18	17	.514	2.5	6-4	W2
Asheville HOU	14	21	.400	6.5	4-6	L2
Winston-Salem CWS	14	21	.400	6.5	4-6	L2
Rome ATL	12	22	.353	8.0	2-8	L1



Home Schedule

August			
08/06/25	vs Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Renegades Musical HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/07/25	vs Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Copa De La Diversión: Caribbean Night Presented By Cafe Con Leche HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/08/25	vs Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Make-A-Wish Night Presented By Mirabito Energy Fireworks Friday
08/09/25	vs Brooklyn	05:05 PM	Veterans Night HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/10/25	vs Brooklyn	02:05 PM	Halloween In August Kids Eat Free Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets
08/12/25	vs Aberdeen	06:35 PM	Autism Acceptance Night Presented By Greystone Programs Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
08/13/25	vs Aberdeen	06:35 PM	Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery We Care Wednesday Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network
08/14/25	vs Aberdeen	01:35 PM	Newburgh Gorhams Night Newburgh Gorhams Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
08/15/25	vs Aberdeen	07:05 PM	Hudson Valley Big Apples Country Night
08/16/25	vs Aberdeen	05:05 PM	Bhutan Night George Lombard Jr. Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By K104
08/17/25	vs Aberdeen	02:05 PM	Internet Culture Day Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!





Impact PR & Communications Named Agency of Record for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands



See story, page 8

Versatile Colmenares gains Player of the Week honors

By Morgan E. Maier

Before Opening Day, Jose Colmenares had appeared in just 46 games since 2019, sidelined by injury for two full seasons. Against the Rome Emperors on July 22-27, the second baseman had the best week of his career, capturing the South Atlantic League Player of the Week award.

Colmenares is the fourth Hudson Valley Renegade this year to receive a weekly award. His presence proved instrumental in the series win over Rome, as the Renegades' sole defeat came on the second baseman's rest day. Over the next four games, Colmenares showed why he was missed in mammoth fashion.

Colmenares was instrumental in the Renegades series win over Rome, including a three-run home run on July 25 that was the only scoring play of the game. Colmenares was responsible for eight of the 27 Renegades runs. With seven hits over five games, he notched 16 total bases, including an RBI double that he stretched to an inside-the-park home run on an error. With two home runs and three doubles, he posted a 1.365 on-base plus slugging percentage, the highest in the SAL during the stretch. Colmenares was perfect in stolen base attempts (2) on July 24, joining Kiko Romero as this week's



Jose Colmenares was responsible for eight of the 27 Renegades runs in the recent series victory over the Rome Emperors.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

only Renegades with multiple swipes in one game.

"Jose was very impressive this week at the plate," said Renegades hitting coach Tom DeAngelis. "He continues to improve week in and week out and his competitiveness continues to shine in big moments."

Colmenares has played second, third, and shortstop this season, spending nine games with AA-Somerset, in addition to 70 (and counting!) at the High-A level. At the plate, he's best with runners at the corners – in six games, he's hit .429 with runners at first and third, with three hits and four RBI.

Colmenares is hitting .225/.325/.387 as a Renegade this season. Early in the season's second half, his batting average is .257 from a .192 first-half average. If his strikeouts decrease as power and quality contact increase, Colmenares can stay hot as the calendar turns to August.

The Hudson Valley Renegades are one of two SAL teams to sweep the weekly awards this year. Jace Avina and Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz took the position player and pitching honors back in the fourth week of the season, then the Bowling Green Hot Rods swept the following week. Before Colmenares, shortstop Alexander Vargas was the Gades' most recent Player of the Week, earning the nod for June 23-29.

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades keep pace with series win over Blue Rocks

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades struck some streaky offense this week as they took a series win over the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Amid a roster shakeup stemming from the MLB trade deadline, Hudson Valley bookended the week's performance with two offensive masterpieces.

Overcoming shutouts on consecutive days, they scored 10 runs on Sunday to take four of six games from the Blue Rocks. Jose Colmenares continued his hot hitting, with his second consecutive series with six hits or more.

Every Hudson Valley player got a part of the action in the opener, a 13-6 rout to extend their winning streak to five. Hudson Valley scored nine straight before the Blue Rocks threatened to creep back. A three-run ninth inning all but sealed the victory with every starter contributing one hit or an RBI. Six Renegades finished with multi-hit games. Coby Morales and Dillon Lewis each connected for three hits and

three RBI apiece. Manuel Palencia finished his night 4-5 with two RBI, and the call from Somerset didn't take long to reach him. Palencia was promoted to AA before the Renegades left Wilmington.

In the series close, Josh Moylan got things started with a resounding shot to right, his fifth on the season. Colmenares reached on a seven-pitch walk, and led Moylan's trot home for the 2-0 advantage. Kiko Romero continued his production, extending the lead with a RBI single to score Alex Vargas, who had tripled in the previous at-bat. With no outs and three runs in, the Renegades were just heating up in the second inning. With a Dillon Lewis grand slam to cap the six-run sixth inning, Frawley Stadium was near silent the rest of the way. Wilmington got a run back to make it 10-1, but the solo shot hardly dented the dominant Renegades performance.

A pair of two-run shots from Morales and Lewis launched the Renegades to their sixth win in a row on July 30, the

final morning game of the season. Slotted in the second and third spots of the hitting order, respectively, the duo of Dillon and Coby adds a major spark to the front of this Renegades lineup. To complement the offensive burst, Hueston Morrill earned his sixth save of the year, lowering that minuscule earned run average to 0.24.

While the Renegades' winning streak ended at six, their scoring fizzled in the week's waning days. In three games from August 1-2, the Renegades scored just two runs. Hudson Valley split the doubleheader and faltered on Saturday's contest, twice shut out by the Blue Rocks.

Wilmington scored the first game' only run in the bottom of the first inning. In the second game, Hudson Valley also held Wilmington to just three hits and earned a 2-0 win. John Cristino hit his first home run of the season to get the seventh inning insurance run. Jackson Castillo opened the contest with a single to score Anthony Hall, his 45th RBI on the season.

Hudson Valley was victorious in the lat-

ter half of the August 1 doubleheader. In the first of two seven-inning contests, Wilmington scored the game's only run came in the opening inning, as Blue Rocks pitching allowed just three hits. In the second game, Hudson Valley also held Wilmington to just three hits, earning the 2-0 victory. Cristino hit his first home run of the season for the insurance run. Jackson Castillo opened the contest with a single to score Anthony Hall, his 45th RBI on the season.

The Renegades (23-12) return home for two straight series at Heritage Financial, holding the second-best record in the South Atlantic League. The Renegades need to make up ground against second-half division leaders Greensboro Grasshoppers (26-10). They will host a formidable, familiar foe in the Brooklyn Cyclones (14-22), who look to snap a three-game losing skid. In the last matchup between these teams, the Renegades took five of six from Brooklyn in a split home-and-away series.

Impact PR & Communications named Agency of Record for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (IPR&C), an award-winning public relations and marketing agency, today announced the addition of an exciting new client to its roster: Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI). The team is tasked with executing a strategic public relations campaign for the nonprofit, which is the largest charitable organization in the Virgin Islands, to support its mission of connecting people and resources with community needs. The announcement marks both IPR&C's first Caribbean-based account and its growing bench of nonprofit clients.

"We are thrilled to partner with Impact PR & Communications to share CFVI's story more broadly, beyond the Virgin Islands," said Dee Baecher-Brown, president of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. "We are excited to tap into their media relations acumen and creative approach to communications to highlight the meaningful impact our donors and partners have across the territory."

For more than 30 years, CFVI has connected donors with community causes to enhance the quality of life for

Virgin Islanders and protect the islands' unique cultural heritage. The nonprofit stewards and grows resources from a network of donors, makes grants and supports programs to improve the educational, physical, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the islands' residents. Recognized for its excellence in nonprofit administration, CFVI is a trusted advocate and supporter of sustainable community programs.

"We're passionate about the importance of telling CFVI's story through clear, consistent messaging -- and widening its media reach -- so that its incredible impact is felt far and wide," said Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO, Impact PR & Communications.

With more than a decade in business and a team with strong nonprofit expertise, IPR&C has proudly represented several clients within the nonprofit space over the last several years, spearheading award-winning campaigns for organizations such as: Abilities First, The Arc of Dutchess, Astor Services, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the Dutchess County SPCA, Dutchess Tourism (now Destination Dutchess), The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at



The team at Impact PR & Communications of the Hudson Valley is widening its media reach by becoming the Agency of Record for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

-Courtesy photo

Steepletop, The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Greystone Programs, Hudson River Housing, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Poughkeepsie Public Schools Foundation Think Dutchess and Vassar-Warner Home, among others.

For more information on IPR&C, including its current clients and capabilities, visit www.prwithimpact.com.

Impact PR & Communications welcomes Alli Long as account manager

Impact PR & Communications, Ltd., an award-winning strategic public relations and marketing agency, has announced the appointment of Alli Long to account manager.

Long rejoins the team after previously serving as an intern and senior account executive, during and following her time as a student at Marist College, respectively. In her new role at Impact, she will lead the development and execution of strategic campaigns for the agency's clients across several industries, including banking, nonprofit, real estate and hospitality/tourism.

Her previous experience includes professional services marketing, where she served on the corporate communications team of a nationally ranked accounting firm. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Marist College, and two master's degrees -- a Master of Arts in English and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing -- from Monmouth University.

"Welcoming Alli back to Impact PR, and in this elevated role, was a no-brainer," said Filomena Fanelli, CEO and founder of Impact PR & Communications. "Her combination of client service skills, writing and editing



Alli Long

-Courtesy photo Impact PR & Communications

expertise, media relations know-how, marketing and social media savvy, crisis management experience and undeniable embodiment of the values our agency holds dear, make her a perfect fit to help with our team's continued growth, not just in the tri-state region, but nationally."

Hudson Valley Hospice earns 'Superior Performer' Award

Michael Kaminski, President and CEO, announced that Hudson Valley Hospice has been recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Superior Performer" for achieving an overall caregiver and family experience score that ranked in the top 20% of all eligible SHP clients for the 2024 calendar year.

"The high scores given on this Medicare survey by the families of our patients is a tribute to our clinical and support staff's dedication to the hospice mission of providing comfort and freedom from pain and anxiety during a patients' final days," said Kaminski.

Karen Roberts, Vice President Mission Quality and Corporate Compliance Officer added "We are honored to be recognized as a Superior Performer by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) for our outstanding Hospice CAHPS scores. This award reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering compassionate, patient and family-centered care. It is a testament to the dedication and excellence of every member

of our team."

The annual SHPBest™ award program was created to acknowledge hospice providers that consistently provide high quality service to families and caregivers of patients receiving hospice care. The 2024 award recipients were determined by reviewing and ranking the overall CAHPS Hospice caregiver experience score for more than 1,800 hospice providers. With one of the largest CAHPS Hospice benchmarks in the nation, SHP is in a unique position to identify and recognize organizations that have made the family and caregiver experience a priority and have been rewarded for their efforts with high marks on the CAHPS Hospice survey.

"SHP recognizes how much hard work is involved in providing excellent patient care, and we are proud to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our top-performing customers through our annual SHPBest award program. These organizations care deeply about the patient experience and they never stop striving to improve every single year," said Kevin Vogel, President of SHP.

WCSD to hold safety plan public hearing on Aug. 13

The Wappingers Central School District Board of Education notifies the public of a public hearing for Wednesday, Aug. 13 at about 7:30 p.m. at Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Rd., Wappingers Falls. The public hearing will be live streamed at: WCSD MEDIA on YouTube. A recording will also be uploaded to the video library for viewing at a later date.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to seek input/feedback on the 2025-2026

District-wide School Safety Plan.

Information about the District-wide School Safety Plan may be obtained by visiting the website: www.wappingersschools.org. The public may continue to provide comments/feedback via email to: wcsd.comments@wcsdny.org, prior to the anticipated adoption by the Board of Education on Aug. 25. The Public Hearing will be immediately followed by the Board of Education Meeting.

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that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



What does ‘commission’ mean?

Young Luigi and Vinny don’t have the appetite for financial risk.

I remember when my brother Anthony went to college to study finance. He would come home and tell us that he was going to be a great investor. My brother Vinny and I had no idea what the word “investor” meant.

He would ask us if we were satisfied with how much money we were making at the bank. We didn’t know what the heck he was talking about. He would tell us that all we were getting was 2% interest and he could get us 5%. All that we knew was, that we had our little Poughkeepsie Savings Bank passbook and we would bring our quarters to the bank when we had some. It would print up how much money we had, and it would always go up when we put money in the bank.

After a few months, Anthony finally convinced us to invest in a mutual fund called American Capitol. He said the money we were saving for college would grow faster than it would in the bank. That we understood, so we jumped in with our entire life savings.

Vinny was 10 at the time and I was 13 and we were very excited that we would be “investing.” Anthony showed us where to look for the price quote in the paper so we could track the progress of our “investment.” I made up a little chart with a column for the date and the closing price of the day so I could watch my investment grow.

I imagined getting driven to school in a limousine because I was now an official investor. In my limousine there would be a phone so I could call my brother to buy or sell, depending on what the market was doing for the day.

When we got our first statement, Anthony had to explain what everything was. He showed us that after his commission what our mutual fund was worth. I followed his finger to the column and noticed that it was worth less than what we had given him to invest.

I stopped him and asked why it was worth less? I had been tracking the prices, and from what I saw it looked like it was going up. And what did that word “commission” mean? I was very confused. He then told me that commission was what I paid him to invest my money...

WHAT?! My 13-year-old mind exploded. I told him that I didn’t know I had to pay him. Vinny said the same thing. I told him I wanted to return my investment and get my money back.

I then had to listen to him tell us that he couldn’t do that, and that we would make so much money we wouldn’t care about the commission. So, after listening to his spiel, we did what any other red-blooded Italian American boy would do. We went to Mom.

After complaining, rather whining, to Mom about how Anthony tricked us, Mom convinced us to let things stay as they were for four months, and if we still didn’t like what was going on we could sell our “stock portfolio.”

Well, we weren’t exactly excited about it, but we listened to Mom.

I continued to track our mutual fund every day; and wouldn’t you know it, American Capital decided to take a plunge. Every day I would read the Poughkeepsie Journal, and every day it

would drop. I remember at one point it was half of what we bought it for.

Anthony decided to make sure he left early for school and got home after we went to bed to avoid us. Every day, Vinny would ask me what the paper said, and every day we plotted ways to get back at our brother. We were very creative. Itching powder in his shirt, Ben-gay in his underwear, and of course Tabasco on the toilet paper were all things that Vinny and I thought of to get back at Anthony.

But you know what happened? The price started to go up. The higher it went, the more we saw Anthony until eventually it rose above the original price. By the time four months passed, we had made back our commission.

One morning over a breakfast of spaghetti frittata, Mom asked us what we wanted to do. Vinny and I looked at each other and both said in unison “sell!”

I guess tycoons need to be older than 13 and 10. We just didn’t have the stomach to risk our life savings of ... \$45.

Spaghetti Frittata
Ingredients
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup green pepper, finely chopped
1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves
6 eggs
1/4 cup milk
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 cup cooked spaghetti

1 cup shredded mozzarella
1/2 cup diced tomato
1/4 cup cooked pancetta

Directions
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
In oven-safe heavy skillet over medium heat, heat olive oil.
Add green bell pepper, onion and garlic; cook over medium heat until tender.
Meanwhile, in large bowl, beat together eggs with milk, 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper, and oregano.
Add pasta to egg mixture and stir gently.
Add egg mixture to skillet.
Cook egg mixture over medium heat, lifting sides occasionally to let uncooked egg flow underneath. When egg mixture is almost set but still very moist, after about 5-8 minutes, top with diced tomatoes, pancetta, and mozzarella.
Place pan in the oven, and cook for 10-12 minutes until frittata is puffed, set, and beginning to turn golden brown. Remove from oven and let sit for 5 minutes.
Cut into wedges and serve.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Mural unveiling at Dutchess County Fairgrounds

Arts Mid-Hudson, Destination Dutchess and the Dutchess County Agricultural Society are excited to announce that Brian Zickafoose has been chosen to create a mural for the Dutchess County Fairgrounds Mural Project. The unveiling will take place at a public event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds Welcome Center August 7, at 4 p.m. WRWD’s Beth Christy broadcasting live from 4-6 p.m.

This collaborative project invited artists to share their vision through the theme “How does agriculture unite us?” Zickafoose was selected from among nine artists who submitted proposals for his design, which captures Dutchess County’s agritourism by highlighting family farms, orchards, wineries, breweries, arts and the area’s natural beauty.

Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Executive Director of Arts Mid-Hudson, added, “We are thrilled to unveil Brian’s mural at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, which beautifully illustrates how agriculture unites us all. This stunning artwork celebrates the harmonious relationship between art and agriculture, showcasing how together they enrich our community and culture.”

Based in New York’s Hudson Valley, Zickafoose is an acclaimed illustrator, muralist, and artist known for vibrant works blending nature and spirituality. “It’s an honor to collaborate with the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Destination Dutchess and Arts Mid-Hudson,” said Zickafoose. “This mural

celebrates the vibrant creative spirit of the Hudson Valley while honoring the region’s rich agricultural heritage. It’s designed to spark a sense of wonder and transformation in all who encounter it.”

Melaine Rottkamp, president & CEO of Destination Dutchess, expressed her enthusiasm. “Following our successful partnership with Arts Mid-Hudson on the mural project adjacent to our tourism brochure racks at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, we looked for another opportunity to collaborate,” said Rottkamp. “We felt that commissioning a stunning mural showcasing agritourism - a key component of our diverse tourism offerings - created the perfect opportunity to celebrate our farms and farmers.” She added, “Working with the Fairgrounds to place it in an accessible location has been exceptional. Now, hundreds of thousands of people who flock there annually to be immersed in our agricultural heritage will be able to enjoy the artwork.”

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Dutchess County’s farms and fairgrounds are at the heart of who we are, and this mural is a beautiful way to honor that legacy. We are so grateful to Brian Zickafoose for bringing his talent to this project and to our partners who helped bring it to fruition. This is a perfect example of how art and agriculture can come together to inspire everyone who visits the Fairgrounds and to celebrate all that makes Dutchess County special.”

Andy Imperati, President & CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, stat-

ed, “We take every opportunity to spread the word about the mission of the Dutchess Agricultural Society, which is to promote and educate people about agriculture. What better place to have this beautiful mural displayed than at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, where it can be viewed at one

of the largest Agritourism venues in the Hudson Valley.”

Anyone interested in attending the free event should RSVP at artsmidhudson.org/dc-fairground-mural. Fair cuisine will be provided by Maxwell Catering and What’s Poppin’ Kettle Corn.

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Obituaries

Marie A Forbes



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marie A Forbes on July 29, 2025, at the age of 70. She was born January 31, 1955, in Mohegan Lake, the daughter of the late James Forbes and Emily Serino Forbes.

Marie grew up in Mohegan Lake and graduated from Yorktown High School and Quinnipiac College with a degree in Hospital Administration. For the past 20 years she lived in Hartsdale and prior to that White Plains.

In 1981 she began a 40+ year career as a Probation Officer in Westchester County Probation. At the time of her retirement, she held the title of Supervisor.

Marie was known for her strong will,

unwavering determination and love and support for her family and community. For the past 20 years she served on the Community Association Board of her Condominium Complex. She committed herself to helping others and gave generously of herself and time.

She loved her nieces and nephews more than anything else. They were her pride and joy. She was always there to provide whatever support they needed.

Marie is survived by her brother, Scott Forbes and wife, Rosemary of South Salem; sister, Sharon Forbes and partner, Dave Simmonds of Fishkill; nieces Roseann (Amanda), Elizabeth (Matt), Margaret (Kevin), and her nephews Scotty (Michelle) and Brian (Ally); her great nephews Dietrich, Cole and great niece Fallon.

Family and friends gathered on Friday, August 1 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, August 2 at St. Mary Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill. Cremation followed and burial will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering at www.mskcc.org. To send personal condolences please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

Kenneth Henry Klauck



QUEENSBURY - Kenneth Henry Klauck, 91, passed away 26 July 2025.

Born on May 27, 1934, in Kiel, Wisconsin, he was the son of Raymond and Marie (Schwartz) Klauck.

Ken graduated from Kiel High School in 1952 and served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1956. He then went on to graduate from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1960.

Ken married Marion Jakel in 1959 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

He worked for IBM from 1960 to 1992. He also worked part time for Rock and River in Keene, New York and Placid Boat Works in Lake Placid.

Ken enjoyed canoeing, cross-country skiing, and woodworking. He was a proud member of the Knights of Colombus.

In addition to his parents, Ken was predeceased by his daughter, Theresa Klauck, and son, Stephen Klauck.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Marion Klauck of Queensbury; and children, Kathryn "Micka" (Pete Lewke) Klauck of Wisconsin, and James (Heather) Klauck of New Hampshire; and daughter-in-law, Carol Venezia of New Hampshire.

A memorial service will be held on 8 August 2025 at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 169 Hillcrest Ave, Lake Placid, NY 12946. A graveside ceremony with military honors will follow at St. Agnes Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent directly to Baker Funeral Home, 11 Lafayette St., Queensbury, NY 12804, or through www.bakerfuneralhome.com.

Dr. Michael A. Spitzer



Dr. Michael Aaron Spitzer, 83, passed away on July 11, 2025, in Mooresville, NC.

Born on June 23, 1942, Dr. Spitzer pursued a lifelong commitment to learning and service. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and continued his education at the City College of New York, Wagner College, and NYU College of Dentistry. A proud veteran, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves in 1968, serving aboard the L.Y. Spear in Norfolk, VA.

In 1974, he opened his dental practice in Rhinebeck, where he cared for generations of patients with compassion and skill until his retirement in 2018nearly 44 years later.

Beyond dentistry, Mike was deeply involved in his community. He was a Mason for over 50 years, a dedicated member and past president of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club,

and active in the Clinton Historical Society. He also held memberships in the 9th District Dental Society and the American Dental Association.

Mike's zest for life was contagious. Whether sailing or scuba diving, fixing up his home or riding his John Deere tractor, he embraced every moment. He loved social gatherings where he couldn't wait to share a corny joke, his morning coffee, beach trips to his Calabash vacation home, and cruising with the top down in his convertible on warm afternoons. His gin and tonics were legendary among friends.

Above all else, Mike cherished time with his family: his beloved wife Ann; daughter Johanna Banks and her husband Cale; sons Matteo and Adam; and his adored granddaughter Paisley Banks. His four-legged "crew" includes Stevie Ray, Frankie Roundbottom, and Penny Lane were at his side constantly.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 6, 2025, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion, 6361 Mill St., Rhinebeck, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Glioblastoma, a charitable organization aimed at Glioblastoma awareness and support for the families it affects. You can donate at <https://glioleo.com/donate>.

Mike often said, "We're all in this together!" May we honor him by living that truth each day.

James Anthony Mentzer



James Anthony Mentzer, a 15-year resident of Fishkill, NY and formerly of Mahopac, NY, passed away suddenly on Monday, July 28, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. He was 61.

He was born in San Francisco, CA on November 15, 1963. James owned and operated his own roofing company, Christopher James Construction. An avid outdoorsman, his hobbies included hiking, fishing, and camping. He also enjoyed traveling. One of his favorite life achievements was spending three years abroad in Guyana, where he gained a deep appreciation for the country's vibrant culture and formed lifelong relationships with family & friends.

More than anything else, James cherished spending time with those he loved. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his longtime partner, Lorna Jagroop, at home in Fishkill; his son, Christopher Mentzer; his son, Robin Jagroop & his wife Liz; his daughter, Melissa Jagroop; his grandchildren: Justin Dit, Alexander Jagroop, Elizabeth Dit, Joshua Dit, and Milani Jagroop; his mother, Lori Mentzer; his father, Leonard Mentzer; his brother, Daniel Mentzer & his wife Nicole; his sister Diane Moore & her husband Jeff; his sister, Gaby Conway & her husband Kieran; his sister, Jennifer Mentzer; his sister, Jasmin Mentzer; his nieces and nephews, Alexei Mentzer, Kobe Mentzer, Dylan Mentzer, Tom Moore, Sam Moore, William Moore, Leana Conway, Tim Conway, Jeremiah Conway, and Eli Mentzer; and his son-in-law, Rakesh Dit.

James was predeceased by his faithful dog and companion, Lucy, earlier this year.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, August 3 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY.

For online tributes, please visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Applications for next round of Fly Car Grant Program open through Aug. 26

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is launching a second round of the County's Fly Car Grant Program, providing up to \$100,000 to help local fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance corps to purchase life-saving equipment for their fly car vehicles. This initiative is part of Serino's ongoing efforts to help address the emergency medical services (EMS) crisis.

"When you're having a medical emergency, every second counts – and our first responders need every tool possible to save lives," said Dutchess County

Executive Sue Serino. "Last year's Fly Car Grant helped agencies get critical equipment out into our communities faster. By launching another round, we're doubling down on our commitment to support our local EMS providers, improve response times, and strengthen this vital safety net for residents."

This program is open to local fire departments, fire districts, and ambulance corps that serve Dutchess County. Agencies that received a Fly Car Grant last year are eligible to apply again, though preference will be given to those that did not receive funding in the first

round. Individual grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and will be provided on a reimbursement basis only. Funding can be used for equipment required under state regulations for emergency ambulance service vehicles other than an ambulance as well as items like AEDs or external chest compression systems that expand or enhance a fly car's life-saving capabilities.

As with last year's program, participating agencies will agree to install County-supplied standardized recruitment graphics on the rear of their fly cars, encouraging more residents to consider career and

volunteer opportunities in EMS – an important step toward strengthening the local workforce of the future.

Applications must be submitted electronically through the Dutchess County Grant Portal by 3 p.m. on Aug. 26. Awards are expected to be announced in October. Applicants must ensure compliance with Dutchess County's Procurement Policies and Procedures. Full instructions and guidance are available online.

For more information, please contact the Department of Emergency Response at 845-486-2080.

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Support Your Local Volunteer Fire Fighters

Historic exhibit 'Horseback to Horsepower' set Aug. 10 in PV



Among the antique autos on display will be a Ford Model T, that Bill Bryant has owned for 75 years. He is a founding member of the Mid-Hudson Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (MHRAACA).

-*Courtesy photos*

By Morgan E. Maier

Before the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and the ferry, transportation in Dutchess County meant using hooved and hooded carriages. Not to mention a much slower journey and transfer of information, of goods, of travelers than are seen today, in 204 years since Pleasant Valley's establishment. Such an operation made one real form of livelihood possible: Farming. New industries, interests, and freedoms rose with the arrival of automobiles. Thus began an awakening for rural communities, as the possibility of travel became reality.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will unveil "The Road Through Pleasant Valley: From Horseback to Horsepower" on August 10 from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Mill Site Museum at 1624 Main Street (Rt. 44).

The exhibit was born in conjunction with the REV250 campaign, a celebration

of the county's advancement from the moment the ink first dried on the Declaration of Independence. From the spread of technology and goods to increased diversity of labor, this free exhibit will showcase the impact that transportation developments have had in the past 250 years.

Historical Society President Suzanne Horn saw an opportunity for this exhibit to impact visitors across generations. From increased transportation of farm products to the journey of traveling musicians, this exhibit tells a tale of 200 years of growth.

Travel back in time to see the signs that lined Main Street, back when business ownership first began flourishing in Pleasant Valley. From hairdressers to inns and lodging, the advent of automotive bred new modes of livelihood.

The exhibit will feature a model P&E Railroad and artifacts that can be handled by the smallest of curious palms. Parts of the story will be told through photographs

A highly detailed model of a 1930s fire truck, painted in a vibrant red with white accents. The truck features a large, prominent front grille, round headlights, and a chrome bumper. A black ladder is mounted on the side of the cab, and various other details like wheels, mirrors, and equipment are visible, suggesting a high-quality collectible model.

Photos of miniature fire-fighting apparatus will be on display. They are courtesy of Sandy Williams of Williams Lumber & Home Centers.

and digital displays, including a presentation from David Turner, local collector of postcards. Turner's collection displays the impact that cars had in shifting the landscape in Dutchess County.

For automobile enthusiasts, antique and model cars will be on-site as well. Horn recognized Sandy Williams of Williams Lumber & Home Centers for allowing historians to photograph his collection of miniature firefighting apparatus.

Horn said members of the Mid Hudson Region Antique Automobile Club are bringing vintage autos to display. This is possible because the PV Fire Dept. is allowing the group to use their parking lot that fronts Main Street across from the museum.

The exhibit will be open rain or shine. Admission is free for all who wish to step back in time 200 years ago.

Next year commences America's semi-quincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the consequential Revolutionary War.

Pleasant Valley is just one of many communities preserving history — and our present — in Dutchess County's REV250 campaign.

"We can open a path to a wealth of future experiences, just as we have enjoyed the path from the past," said Horn.

Members of the Mid Hudson Region Antique Automobile Club are bringing vintage autos to display. This is possible because the PV Fire Dept. is allowing us to use their parking lot that fronts Main Street across from the museum.

Adult field trip to Silica Studios 845

Curious about pottery? Join Howland Public Library for a special field trip on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 6 p.m., to Silca Studio 845, Beacon's first large-scale public pottery space. During the visit, tour the studio, learn about their ceramic classes and creative process, and see how this community space supports artists and beginners alike. It is a great chance to explore the local ceramics scene and get inspired by the possibilities of working with clay. Registration is required.

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

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent,
County of Dutchess,
Poughkeepsie, New
York, hereby invites the
submission of sealed
bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-
23-25

Heavy-Duty Transit Buses for Dutchess County Public Transit
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 8th day of August 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

The deadline for Legals is every Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.

Howland Library to serve as Passport Acceptance Facility

As of Aug. 4, the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., will serve as an official Passport Acceptance Facility, offering a convenient new way for community members to apply for a U.S. passport.

Appointments are now available and can be scheduled through the website at beaconlibrary.org/passport. There one will find detailed information about what to bring and

how to prepare for one's visit.

Please note:

- Appointment availability will be limited at first as staff training continues.
- Plan to expand to more days and evening hours over time.

Walk-in service will be introduced in the future.

this week's puzzle solutions

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

STUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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

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

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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

					3
1		2			5
4					
	5				3

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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: IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

- Basilica feature
- Cameron, to friends
- _____ and flow
- One of the Bridges
- Have the blues
- Op-ed piece
- Blondie's hit "_____ Me"
- Certain something
- *Granny Smith
- *Broth-making container
- Big name in mapmaking
- Inexperienced
- *Group of dishes or pots
- Deprived of ovaries
- Medusae
- Got an Oscar, e.g.
- Kind of license
- Crescent
- Description for twins
- "_____ the season!"
- Orthodox Judaism adherent
- Class roster item
- Between lights and action
- Source of pork
- *Shredding devices
- Bear-like
- Florida key
- French farewell
- Physicist Niels _____
- *Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
- Holey confection
- Track event
- _____ of the trade, sing.
- 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Charlie Parker's nickname
- Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
- Word of compliance
- Actor Stallone
- *Spice _____ or pot _____

DOWN

- Beginning of the alphabet
- *Often go with carrots
- *NaCl
- Speech at a funeral
- *Flute alternative
- *Cook's garb
- *Veal or venison, e.g.
- Sport spectator's TV acronym
- Like white-headed eagle
- "Farewell" to Birdie
- Manage (2 words)
- Like cornstalks
- *Flat-edged utensil
- *Flapjack alternative
- Blink of an eye, abbr.
- Swing, _____, swung
- Like Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station location
- Carl Jung's inner self
- *_____ en place
- *Seaweed-wrapped dish
- Opposite of cation
- Swamp plant
- Estimated arrival times, acr.
- Timothy, to friends
- *Popular condiment
- Sheik's bevy
- Alan Paton's novel "_____, The Beloved Country"
- Broken, e.g.
- Third planet from the sun
- Bachelor on "The Bachelorette," e.g.
- Be of use
- Condemn
- Bantu language
- Change for a five
- Globes and eyeballs, e.g.
- "Animal House" garb
- Rigid necklace
- Calendar square
- Albanian money

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12					13	14	
15					16					17		
	18			19						20		
				21					22			
23	24	25					26				27	28
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37				38		
39					40				41			42
43				44					45		46	
				47			48	49				
	50	51				52					53	54
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Soda: A weighty, yet refreshing drink

August temperatures in the Hudson Valley can be in the eighties, which makes it the perfect time to enjoy a refreshing beverage. Of course, it's also important to stay hydrated for nutrient transport, temperature regulation, blood pressure, and many other bodily functions. Plain water is always the healthiest option for quenching thirst, but I have a fondness for carbonated water.

My motto: Don't be still. Sparkle! And Joseph Priestley, a Renaissance man of the Enlightenment, must've thought so, too. Priestley was active in the fields of chemistry, theology, education, and political philosophy. He was a grammarian who helped establish modern English. He advocated for equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of religious beliefs. He identified oxygen, nitrous oxide, ammonia, and carbon monoxide gases.

Priestley is also credited with the creation of carbonated water. He found that water infused with carbon dioxide was a pleasant drink. In 1772, Priestley published a paper entitled "Directions for Impregnating Water with Fixed Air."

Within a decade, innovators had arranged various apparatuses, based off of Priestley's idea, that made large quantities of carbonated water more quickly. One inventor you may recognize was Johann Jacob Schweppe. Other soda manufacturers of note included Dr. Pepper, Shasta, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi. Each added ingredients, such as lemon and ginger, and sweeteners, to concoct various flavored soft drinks.



Both 12oz & 16oz sugar-free soda cans float.

-Photos by Francine Wizner



A myriad of fizzy flavors

"Soft" drinks, as they began to be called in the late 19th century, were not "hard" alcoholic beverages. They were sugary, with flavors of lemon-lime, orange, cola, grape, cream, ginger ale, and root beer. The chilled fizz of carbon dioxide, with its slight acidity, creates the refreshing sensation that sodas provide.

Sinking (or floating) soda

Here is a visually interesting activity that is perfect to do in the heat of summer. The exercise demonstrates the concept of density. It also presents an opportunity to talk about healthy diet choices. And, the activity lends itself to future experimental variations.

You likely have all the necessary materials on hand: a large bucket or container, water, and a variety of unopened room temperature soda cans that are all the same size, volume, and shape. To start, have participants observe how the cans of soda are alike, as well as how they are different. Then have them predict which cans will sink and which will float.

Slowly place each can into the water one at a time, tipping each on its side first to be sure that no air is trapped at the bottom. Observe the cans once they are in the water. Notice what commonalities exist among the floating cans, as well as the cans that have sunk. Typically, the cans that float will be "diet" sodas and those that sink will

contain sugar. Although they may be similar, they have different densities.

Experimental variations and extensions

For older participants, this activity can be extended by using a formula to determine the density of each of the cans of soda. That will involve determining their masses with a scientific balance. The sugar in "regular" soda gives it the mass that causes the cans to sink in the container of water. The amount of artificial sweetener used in diet soda does not add much to its mass, enabling the can to float.

The over-consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks is associated with diseases, such as diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and cardiovascular risk factors, as well as dental decay.

A sugar packet contains about 4 grams of sugar and about 15 calories. A can containing 40 grams of sugar, that's 10 sugar packets, has 150 calories, and a greater density than "diet" soda.

Although artificial sweeteners do not add much density to soda, that does not mean that consumption of them is without risks. Artificial sweeteners have no nutritional value and have been linked to various health concerns, including weight gain, disrupted hunger signals, and potential risks to heart health.

By far, plain water is the healthiest option for quenching thirst. But it is still, and I like to sparkle. Curious folks can investigate if a bottle of fresh water will float in the container, and yes, it will likely be less dense than the surrounding water and, will therefore, be buoyant.

Exploratory learning and play

The hands-on nature of this exercise makes it engaging, regardless of the ages of the participants. It reinforces learning through direct observation and experimentation. The activity can be further enhanced by changing the temperature of the cans of soda or the water in the container, using salt water (which is denser than fresh water) in the container, or by comparing the sinking/floating behavior of other objects with varying densities. Even in the heat of summer, learning can be included as part of play. Sinking and floating soda lets everyone splash around while enjoying a fizzy, refreshing beverage. (Here is an organized version of the activity: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/SINKING-OR-FLOATING-SODA-BIOCHEMISTRY-GENERAL-SCIENCE-7520152>.)

Here is a video of the activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cM6mkEHfTtY>.)

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>, <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>.

'White Glove' tour coming to Mount Gulian in September

Mount Gulian Historic Site will offer its exclusive White Glove Tour every Sunday this September (Sept. 7, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28) at noon and 2 p.m. This special tour highlights items from the collection that are rarely on display. Following a tour of the house and grounds, visitors will have the opportunity to wear the trademark white gloves to examine artifacts up close and out from the collection storage rooms, giving a seldom found perspective of the past.

"We rarely offer our "White Glove" tour to the general public," said Elaine Hayes, Mount Gulian Historic Site Executive Director. "We hope out of town visitors, our neighbors, and local residents will stop by and avail themselves of this unique opportunity."

Visitors will have the opportunity to hold and examine artifacts representing

300 years of Mount Gulian's history, which spans from Native American times, through the Colonial Era, the American Revolution, and the Golden Age of the Hudson Valley. Items selected for this tour include family letters; documents and artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries; English and Dutch family bibles; women's and men's Victorian era clothing; military artifacts and more!

Admission for the "White Glove Tour" is \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$8 children; free for children under 6 and Mount Gulian members. Membership is open to the public and may be purchased day of the event. Registration is strongly suggested.

To register, please contact Mount Gulian at 845-831-8172 or info@mountgulian.org. For further information and directions visit www.mountgulian.org.

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