

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Inside: DC Fair entertainment section

Grand jury indicts retired Beacon officer on second-degree murder charge

By Kristine Coulter

A Dutchess County Grand Jury returned a charge of Indictment on a retired City of Beacon police officer. Beacon resident, Edison Irizarry, 52, is accused of causing the death of Casey Cuddy by shooting him multiple times with a 9-millimeter semi-automatic Glock pistol, according to the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office.

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi said, "Today (Aug. 5), the defendant was arraigned on a charge of murder. The allegations are both troubling and disappointing, particularly given the fact that the defendant is a former member of law enforcement."

The Indictment charges Irizarry with second-degree murder, a Class A-I felony, according to the DA's office.

"My thoughts are with the victim's family as they endure an incredibly painful time. While the defendant is presumed innocent under the law, we will pursue this case with the utmost diligence, fairness and integrity. Our responsibility is to the truth, to due process, and to securing justice for the victim and the community," said Parisi in a statement.

The incident charged in the Indictment occurred on July 21, at approximately 9 p.m. on Rombout Avenue in Beacon, a residence where Irizarry and Cuddy both lived, according to law enforcement.

Irizarry's attorney, Susan Mratz Mungavin, a public defender, previously told Beacon Free Press she does not comment on her cases and "[a]ll individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law."

City of Beacon Police Department officers arrived on the scene first, but then, according to accounts, immediately handed the incident over to the New York State Police who investigated the case.

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Butterflies and hayrides at Stony Kill Farm

By Kristine Coulter

The Stony Kill Foundation, 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls, will hold its Butterflies & Blooms programs through Saturday, Aug. 16. The first day of the annual event this year was Aug. 9.

Stacey Lynch Adnams, executive director of Stony Kill, noted most programs have a minimal fee and some are free. For the program schedule and to register, visit stonykill.org/butterflies. Among some of the programs still to take place are Storytime and Butterfly Craft, Community Science, Evening Moth Walk and Beginner Bird Walk.

The Finale is set for the evening of Aug. 16 at the Manor House, on the front lawn.

"Attendees can enjoy a relaxing ride through our scenic hay fields and pastures on the Butterfly Hay Wagon from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Throughout the event, visitors can check out the migration game in our nearby perennial garden, enjoy delicious food at several food trucks, make crafts with several vendors, get their face painted like a swallowtail butterfly, visit the butterfly tent and see adult Monarch butterflies up close or visit the Monarch cage to view the life stages of our favorite fluttering insect," said Lynch Adnams.

For two hours, beginning at 5:30 p.m., attendees can set up blankets and chairs. Then, they can listen to the performance of Bees in the Barn, a bluegrass band.

"Parking is always free and a suggested donation of \$5 at the Welcome Booth is greatly appreciated and helps support our



Enjoy Stony Kill Farm's scenic hay fields and pastures by taking a ride on the Butterfly Hay Wagon, that will be offered during the "Butterflies & Blooms" event. The finale is set for Aug. 16.

-Courtesy photo Stony Kill Foundation

community programming and stewardship of Stony Kill Farm and our heritage livestock," she said.

Why has this become one of Stony Kill's most popular events?

Lynch Adnams replied, "Butterflies & Blooms has been a long-standing tradition as a summer festival in the Hudson Valley. Over the years, with the addition

of week-long education programs, it has become an opportunity for families, out-of-town visitors and locals to enjoy and experience Stony Kill Farm. Generations of families have been coming to this event, and over the years, it has never lost its warm, hometown sense of community."

Ribbon-cutting ceremony highlights improvements, renovations at South Ave. Park

By Kristine Coulter

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at South Ave. Park on Friday, Aug. 8. Among the renovations made in the almost \$900,000 improvements were resurfacing and restriping of the existing basketball and tennis courts, and replacement of deteriorated fencing. There was also relandscaping to remove failing retaining walls and regrading areas adjacent to the courts, it was stated.

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson secured \$150,000 in State funding for the project, which contains the first ever permanent public restrooms at the Park.

"Welcome to the new South Ave. Park," said Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who went on to thank Jacobson, members of the Council and the Recreation Department and other City staff.

It is because "we have the fiscal discipline" that projects like this get done, said the mayor.

Mark Price, the City of Beacon Recreation Director, said, "I'm so excited it's done," about the renovations and improvements. "I'm so excited with how it turned out."

Price explained, "One of the reasons this is important to me, is this [park] has a summer basketball league." He also noted there is a "very vibrant pickleball league community," too.

Continued on page 16



Mayor Lee Kyriacou, fourth from left, and Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, third from left, attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at South Ave. Park, along with other members of the Beacon City Council, vendors who worked on the project, artist Joe Pimentel and community members on Aug. 8.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Serino taps Beale to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Response

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced her selection of William H. Beale to serve as the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Response (DER). Mr. Beale has served as the Department's Acting Commissioner since January, his latest role since joining the Department as County Fire Investigator in 2003.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Bill truly understands the vital role emergency response plays in keeping our residents safe. With more than two decades of experience in this field, he has shown exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to public safety. Under his guidance and leadership, Dutchess County will continue to raise the bar for preparedness, response, and recovery."

Since serving as the Acting Commissioner for DER, Beale has overseen several groundbreaking initiatives, including:

- Dutchess County's accreditation through New York State's Local Emergency Management Accreditation Program in February, making Dutchess the first county between New York City and Albany to achieve this milestone;
- Leading efforts to sustain the County's emergency medical services (EMS) capacity

through its supplemental ambulance coverage program and regional collaboration, which responded to over 700 medical calls in early 2025; and

- Expanding the County's successful "EMS Matters" public education campaign to help residents better understand the role EMS plays and when and how to seek emergency care.
- Beale brings a wide array of skills and expertise to his new role, having gained experience in a broad range of posts in the public sector.

Following his initial role in DER, Beale was promoted to Deputy Fire Coordinator for Fire Investigation in 2012. Named Dutchess County's Emergency Management Coordinator in 2014, Mr. Beale trained more than 3,000 residents in disaster preparedness and managed countywide personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoted to Director of Emergency Management in 2022, Beale oversaw an innovated public health integrated emergency management model, the first of its kind in New York State. In January 2025, Serino appointed Beale as Acting DER Commissioner, supervising emergency management, public health preparedness,



William H. Beale
-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't

fire coordination, EMS and the County's 911 Communications Center.

A former fire chief, and a member since 1992, of the Hughsonville Fire Department,

most recently serving as a chief officer, he currently serves as a chief officer and emergency medical technician, Beale has served as an elected councilman and former Deputy Town Supervisor in the Town of Wappinger since 2007.

Beale holds an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Dutchess Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Marist University in Organizational Leadership & Communication, and a Master of Public Administration from Marist.

Beale said, "It's a privilege to earn the County Executive's confidence to lead this team of skilled and talented public safety professionals within the Department of Emergency Response. In this new role, I remain committed to ensuring Dutchess County continues to be recognized as a leader through innovation and unique approaches to collaboration."

Serino has forwarded a resolution confirming her appointment to the Dutchess County Legislature for consideration and approval at its Sept. 8 board meeting.

Additional information about the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response is available at dutchessny.gov/Departments/Emergency-Response/Emergency-Response.htm.

Comptroller completes regular audit report of jail commissary accounts

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has completed its audit report of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Jail Inmate Commissary, Commissary Profit, & Inmate Welfare Fund Bank Accounts for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Periodic auditing of these accounts is required under New York State Law 9 CRR-NY 7016.1 and is subject to review by the New York State Commission of Correction. The last audit performed by the Comptroller's Office was for the period March 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020, and was released in December 2021.

While the recent report found that all cash and funds were handled appropriately, the Comptroller's Office continues to recommend that the DCSO implement comprehensive, written policies and procedures for each commissary-related account, with policies that clearly define roles, responsibilities, and internal controls. An administrative financial staffing shortage continues to account for an improper segregation of duties, as well as timely completions of bank account reconciliations and required submissions to the Department of Finance.

"Sheriff Kirk Imperati is building up a strong staff to manage the accounts of the

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. Implementing the recommendations of our audit report will further strengthen the Sheriff's financial operations," said Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair. "Our report recommends, among other things, drafting policies and procedures for handling commissary accounts and segregating duties within financial processes."

"The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office is committed to transparency, sound fiscal management, and full compliance with New York State Regulations," said Sheriff Kirk Imperati. "We appreciate the audit

team's work and will continue to build upon these recommendations to strengthen our operational practices and ensure accountability moving forward."

The Comptroller's Office also identified \$86,642 in unclaimed inmate funds held in the County's Jail Trust and Agency account. According to Opinion 88-14 issued by the New York State Comptroller, counties are expected to either transfer long-unclaimed funds to the General Fund or submit these funds to the OSC Office of Unclaimed Funds. Following this finding, the Department of Finance transferred \$48,375 to the County's General Fund account.

'ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday' returns to the Dutchess County Fair on Aug. 21

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Dutchess County Fairgrounds President Andy Imperati invite individuals and families with physical and developmental disabilities to enjoy "ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday" at the Dutchess County Fair on Aug. 21. Attendees can enjoy the fair before the crowds arrive, with a special early gate opening at 9 a.m. and sensory-sensitive hours on the carnival midway from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Additionally, inclusive events will be available throughout the entire week of the fair.

Serino said, "We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Dutchess County Agricultural Society and support our county's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, mak-

ing the Dutchess County Fair even more accessible to all, regardless of ability.

Every year, 'ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday' highlights our shared commitment to access and inclusion, providing a joy-filled, respectful experience for attendees of all abilities. We encourage residents and visitors with disabilities to take advantage of this great opportunity to ease into the Fair day with a sensory-friendly atmosphere."

On "ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday," individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and their families can enter the Fair an hour early, before the official 10 a.m. opening. They can explore the animal barns on Livestock Hill and the Cornell

Cooperative Extension Dutchess County 4-H Exhibit Hall ahead of the crowds. While not all attractions and exhibits will be open at 9 a.m., this soft opening allows families to start their day at the fair in a calm and quiet environment.

The Powers Great American Midway area will open with limited rides, at 9:30 a.m. and will be sensory-sensitive until noon. Flashing lights, music and other sounds and noises will be lowered or turned off throughout the morning, giving guests the opportunity to enjoy rides without the distractions that lights and sounds can cause. The early midway opening means shorter wait times for rides, making it easier for those who need extra time or have difficulties with crowds.

Additional happenings on "Think DIFFERENTLY Thursday" include:

- ThinkDIFFERENTLY & 4-H's Flourishing Farmers Showcase at 4-H Livestock Showing at 9 a.m.; and
- ThinkDIFFERENTLY & Hidden Hollow Farms All Abilities English Horse Showcase at the Horse Show Arena, exhibiting horses and their riders with disabilities, at noon.

All week long, fairgoers are encouraged to

check out ThinkDIFFERENTLY exhibits and projects submitted by individuals of all ages with disabilities, including GrowDIFFERENTLY, a recycled garden art exhibit in the Horticulture building.

Imperati said, "Since its inception in 2016, 'ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday' has grown into a beloved tradition during Fair week, eagerly awaited by many. We are thrilled to continue our Think DIFFERENTLY partnership and make the Fair a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all."

ThinkDIFFERENTLY staff and ambassadors will also host a sensory-friendly quiet space throughout Fair week for those who may need a quiet space to get away and regroup. This space, located on Livestock Hill in the Cornell Cooperative Extension tent, will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visitors needing sensory assistance can visit the Fair information booth, across from the Fair souvenir booth, or visit the ThinkDIFFERENTLY/4-H tent on Livestock Hill.

For more information and a full schedule of the Dutchess County Fair's events, see dutchessfair.com/the-fair.

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Elks take part in National Night Out



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recently participated in the 2025 National Night Out in the Town of Fishkill. More than 750 people attended this opportunity to meet the first responders of the community, which was sponsored by the Town of Fishkill PBA. Pictured Beacon Elks Lodge member Dean DiRubbio.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Sports Museum of Dutchess County announces 2025 Hall of Fame inductees

By Morgan E. Maier

The Sports Museum of Dutchess County (SMDC) has announced the induction of its 44th Hall of Fame class to take place on Oct. 5 at The Chapel at Carnwath Farms, 72 Carnwath Farms Lane in the Town of Wappinger. The event includes a buffet-style catered meal and cocktail hour beginning at 12 noon with ceremonies to begin promptly at 1 p.m.

Reservations are encouraged, as seats are limited. Contact SMDC Treasurer Barbara Ponte at (845) 473-0903 to confirm a reservation.

The 2025 induction class includes nationally-recognized soccer coach Gary Montalto; dominant runner Marisa Sutera Strange, and decorated swimmer Robert Rogan.

Rogan set swimming records at John Jay High School, including a 100m Butterfly record that stood for several years. As an adult, he earned awards at the state and national levels. Robert is a dedicated advocate for swim safety, from his early days as a Sylvan Lake lifeguard to teaching community members swimming lessons.

Under Montalto's leadership for a combined 42 seasons, the Arlington boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams compiled impressive records, including a 25-0 boys' season in 2006. At the time of his induction to the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame, Gary was a top-five-winningest coach in New York State soccer history.

Sutera Strange, a champion runner at Roy C. Ketcham High School, was a two-time All-American at Ithaca College for Cross Country and Track. She won 20 consecutive Dutchess

County 5K Classic races and earned 42 National Masters titles. Marisa was twice named the Masters Cross Country Runner of the Year.

Also being honored with a posthumous induction is Johnny "Long John" Cottrill, a standout Poughkeepsie High School basketball player. Drafted in his high school years, his career was continued as an active by a basketball championship in the U.S. Naval Olympics, held in occupied Tokyo during World War II. His community cheered Johnny through multiple MVP seasons at Ryder College (now Ryder University), then a career at the semi-professional level. As an adult and father of six, Johnny continued giving his time to the YMCA, teaching basketball fundamentals and discipline to the young athletes of his hometown.

Since 1977, SMDC has honored persons who have made a significant impact on athletics across all corners of Dutchess County. The upcoming class represents athletics lesser represented in the museum's exhibits. "This year, we have elected four people in sports that are usually not considered main sports: high school basketball, swimming, track and field, and soccer," said SMDC president Bill Ponte.

The Sports Museum of Dutchess County is open to the public from 1 - 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, offering an immersive experience for visitors of all ages. Whether exploring the inspiring stories of female athletes, learning about the county's sports history, there is something for everyone. For more information on Hall of Fame criteria, or to nominate a legend of Dutchess County sports, visit the SMDC website.

Presentation on Gen. Montgomery leads REV250 slate for DCHS

By Morgan E. Maier

The legacy of Major General Richard Montgomery travels beyond a town in Orange County, a fort on the Vermont border, a Maryland high school, or streets of Georgia and New Jersey. All bear the name of the Rhinebeck resident who became a symbol of American liberation at his last breath.

The Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) and Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will present "The Brave Montgomery: Major General Richard Montgomery and the Road to Quebec: 1775" on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. The presentation will be free to the public and held at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park. Registration is required. This event kicks off a multi-year programming slate for the DCHS for Dutchess County's REV250 campaign.

Military historian Dr. Michael Boden will discuss the events leading up to the Battle of Quebec, and its pivotal role early in the American Revolution. This engaging lecture by Dr. Boden, also a history professor at Dutchess Community College, will review Montgomery's role in the invasion of Canada, showcasing national history at the local level. His army met British forces in the Battle of Quebec, where the revered general lost his life in combat. After Montgomery led troops through Montreal they met British forces in the Battle of Quebec, where the revered general lost his life on December 31, 1775. As Montgomery became a

national symbol of Patriot efforts, the Rhinebeck community mourned its local hero. "People finally realized the impact of losing somebody so important within the local community," said DCHS Chair of Collections and programming committee member Melodye Moore. "This gives us the opportunity to really showcase him at the very beginning."

DAR operates in the heart of Rhinebeck, meeting at the home of General Montgomery and Janet (Livingston) Montgomery. It is claimed to be the village's oldest standing building. In collaboration with the American Battlefield Trust, DAR has another treat for the Wallace Center. Titled "The American Revolution Experience," this traveling storyteller features 11 bright, informative banners to illustrate the war's key elements. This exhibit's interactive displays are sure to share new knowledge, or refresh old lessons. Those touring the Historic Site at the Roosevelt Manor can get an extra helping of history in an accessible manner. This traveling exhibit is in town Aug. 8 - Sept. 1.

Organizations must work together to provide such programming for the local community, especially those rife with learning like Dutchess County. This lecture kicks off a year of collaboration ahead for groups committed to learning and preserving history. "No organization can do everything they want to do by themselves," said Moore. "When you can form partnerships with other groups it just broadens your audience, it broadens your ability to deliver your message, and to fulfill your mission."

Now showing at HCC



Now showing: The Lattimore Studio Exhibition at Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. There are 33 artists participating, and one can purchase most of these works. The show runs most weekends through Sept. 7. It's free.

-Courtesy photo HCC

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get growing!

by mark adams



Upland rice – The next big thing?

Exploring new opportunities for struggling New York farmers

Remember switchgrass? Hops? Hemp? How about Ostriches? These are all Cornell University-inspired agricultural crops that were supposed to bail out struggling New York farmers. Even marijuana is turning out to be a bust. But wait! Maybe Upland rice will be the next big thing.

Last Tuesday, Cornell’s Harvest N.Y. Program and Scenic Hudson hosted a Rice Field Day at Home Farm in Clermont, N.Y. to discuss rice production and lessons learned from this season’s upland rice trial.

Seven hundred million tons of rice are produced annually worldwide, with seven million tons coming from the U.S., in California, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. Most of the U.S. crop is grown in vast paddies, where the fields are flooded, to control weeds and support seed distribution. Here in the Hudson Valley, we can’t find fields big enough to utilize airplanes to distribute seeds; and anyway, our growing season is too short for direct sowing. We need to start the seedlings ahead of time in greenhouses and transplant them into the fields after the last frost date, like we do with tomatoes. This makes it

hard to compete on price alone.

Yet, farmers are doing it! Eric Andrus has been growing rice in Vermont for 16 years. After a visit to Hokkaido, in northern Japan, where the climate is similar to ours and rice is a staple crop, he figured we should be able to do it here. It turns out that our climate and terrain is suited to “upland” rice, which can tolerate wet conditions but will grow on dry land. Eric addressed our group, seriously trying to talk the 35 participants at the field day into starting rice farms. Eric has just begun as a Cornell adviser, participating in rice trials in Freeville, N.Y., east of Ithaca. On his farm, Eric harvests \$15,000 of rice per acre, selling it locally and through his website at Boundbrook Farm, for \$10 per pound.

Jon Kasza is the owner/operator of Home Farm, where he set out 10 varieties of upland rice, grown with a variety of planting dates, to see if this “new” 5,000-year-old crop is suitable for Hudson Valley production. The project is funded via a U.S.D.A. sustainable agriculture research and development (SARE) grant. Trial manager Molly Heit shepherded our group



Molly Heit with Upland rice.
-Photo by Mark Adams

through the fields, where we could check out the varieties that will hope-

fully lead to a new dawn for Hudson Valley agriculture. The variety “yuki-akari” is Molly’s favorite, with a sweet flavor and good production. “Estrella” gave the best yield. Jon found out that 22-day-old seedlings, set out in the field on May 26, worked the best.

The trial is yielding promising results, with harvest a few weeks away. Yet challenges remain. Rice blast is a fungus that attacks the leaves, eventually almost killing the plant. Hard to control organically, and the crop must be grown “organic” if you’re going to charge \$10 a pound. Another problem is birds. (But I thought the reason people don’t throw rice at weddings anymore is because it causes birds to explode if they eat it.) Also, since rice takes a long time to mature, an early frost can ruin the harvest. Nevertheless, some of the participants at the trial are planning to try rice.

But not me. Sue and I are doing just fine growing flowers, thank you.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

Free Homebuyer Seminar set for Aug. 20

Are you looking for the home of your dreams and don’t know where to start? Ulster Savings Bank invites all to a free homebuyer seminar on Wednesday, Aug. 20, starting at 5:30 p.m. Ulster Savings Bank is hosting this event along with PathStone, to help one understand the critical steps to owning one’s own home. This seminar will be offered in person at the Kingston location at 180 Schwenk Drive, as well as a live Zoom meeting. Seating in-person is limited and for adults only. Reserve a spot ASAP.

They will discuss:

- How to qualify for a mortgage
- Key facts about your credit score

- Low down payment options and financial assistance
- Everything you need to know about the homebuying process.

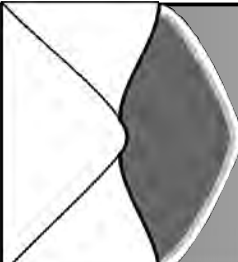
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with any other offers or discounts unless otherwise noted. This offer expires December 31, 2027. Limit one per loan transaction. Certain conditions apply. Ulster Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender & Member FDIC. NMLS# 619306.



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.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to a holiday press schedule for Labor Day, there will be an early deadline for the Sept. 3 issue of the Beacon Free Press. Editorial deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at noon. Advertising deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at 5 p.m.

Contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

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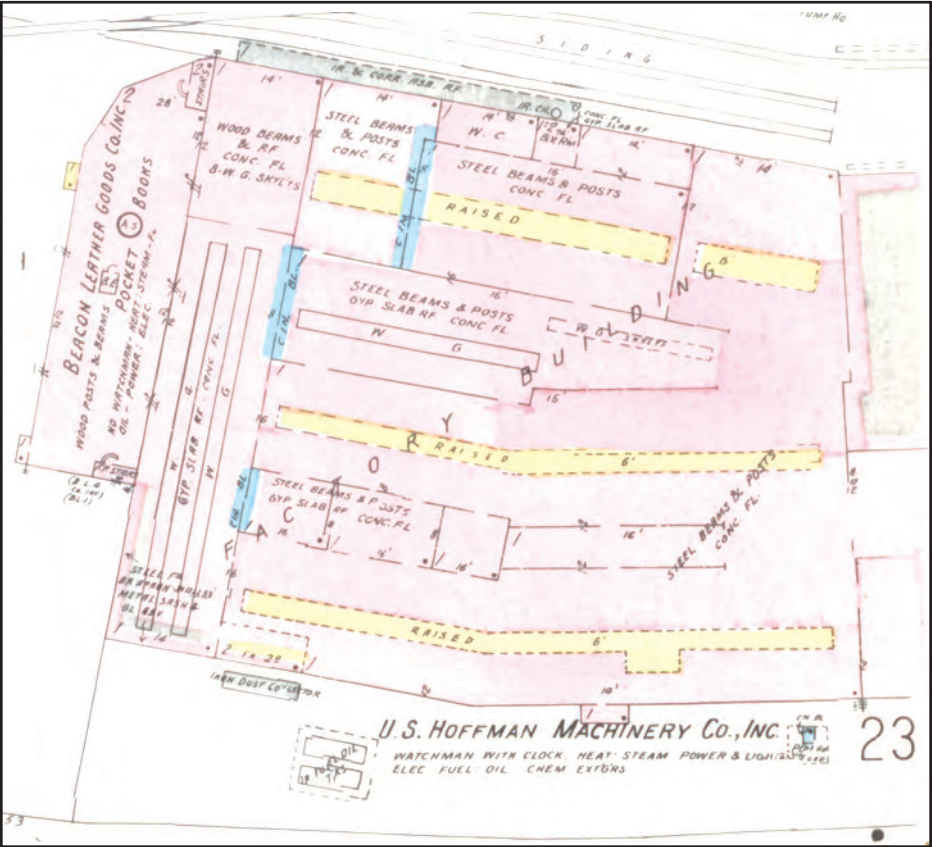
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DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

DCHS

Dutchess County Historical Society



Sandbourne Map (1950) showing the “Moline Plant” on South Water St., Poughkeepsie.

-Image courtesy of DCHS Archives and Special Collections



“Let’s keep it flying” Army-Navy E Award promotional poster.
-Courtesy of the National Archives

By Miles Jenkins
DCHS Intern

“We must be the great arsenal of democracy. For us this is an emergency as serious as war itself,” declared President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Hyde Park native, during his December 29, 1940 fireside chat. FDR gave these national radio broadcasts, known as “Fireside Chats,” throughout his tenure as president. They were considered revolutionary as no president had been able to speak to the people so personally and widely until then. In this broadcast he made a plea to the industrial powerhouses of the United States, to forge weapons in preparation of a war which had not yet reached our shores. These war weapons would help to aid her friends across the Atlantic currently locked in the struggle against fascism and Nazism.

Poughkeepsie answered the President’s plea, with the U.S. Hoffman Machinery Corporation plant located on Violet Avenue in Poughkeepsie converting to war work after receiving a contract from the Navy in August of 1942. U.S Hoffman had succeeded the former Hoffman Pressing Machine Company. As the narrative revealed in the Dutchess County Historical Society’s newspaper collection, the company went on to become an integral part of the Poughkeepsie economy during the Second World War and into the early Cold War.

The Army-Navy E Award was an award given to individual plants which “have achieved outstanding performance on war production.” The honor combined three existing awards: the Navy E, the Army A, and the Army-Navy Star. The Army A award was created in May of 1942 to award plants for excellence fulfilling contracts. The Army Navy Star was created in May of 1942 to be

awarded to plants for excellence in making machine tools and accessories. Conversely, the Navy E awarded excellence in gunnery, dates to 1906. It was then expanded to include excellence in engineering and communications, until August of 1942 when it was merged with Army A and Army Navy Star to become the Army Navy E award. This merger is important because it shows a shift in philosophy in how wars are fought.

Not only does this show how the advancement of technology changes how wars are fought, but it also brought them into the everyday life of citizens in a way previous wars had not. Prior to the world wars, conflicts were primarily fought on the battlefield. With the advent of industrialization allowing for the scale of the conflict to be proportional with the nation’s industrialization, the home front became increasingly important. It became necessary to motivate workers to continue to work to the best of their ability, as it was their work that the success of the Army, Navy, or Marines hinged on. As well as mass communication technologies like radio, letting individuals express their displeasure with the war effort, the government needed a way to recognize the war workers of the country. Recognition ensured workers felt less like they were just cogs in a machine which would impact their effort at work, subsequently impacting the war effort abroad.

Plants were nominated by the branch of service that had the greatest interest in the plant. So dedicated to making parts for planes, it was up to the technical services of the Army Air Force to nominate them. Industrial facilities were then selected based on several criteria, primarily quality and quantity. Other criteria were overcoming

production obstacles, avoiding stoppages and the maintenance of fair labor standards. Throughout the war 4,283 of the awards were given to plants across the country, comprising between 3% and 5% of all eligible plants in the country.

U.S Hoffman, which succeeded the Hoffman Pressing Machine Company in 1904, was a laundry and dry-cleaning machinery manufacturer. The corporation was primarily based in Syracuse but had plants in Louisville and Toronto alongside the Poughkeepsie plant. Before the war, the company as a whole produced laundry and dry cleaning machinery and was one of the largest producers of such equipment in the country. Prior to US entry into the war the plant, located at 18 Violet Avenue in Poughkeepsie, produced equipment for the industrial and garment industries while also doubling as a repair workshop.

However, during the war U.S. Hoffman switched from making laundry equipment to making ammunition. This came in the form of the 40 mm anti-aircraft shell, bullets that would be fired from the BOFORS 40 mm anti-aircraft gun, a weapon utilized by both US and British naval and land forces during the war. The BOFORS 40 mm was used throughout WWII as it was the primary anti-aircraft weapon used by the Allies. This work brought not just national recognition for Poughkeepsie but also jobs with 220 individuals employed at the plant during its World War II contract. It was among these employees that two were chosen to speak at the award ceremony, Catherine Todd and Rocco Veronesi, alongside the plant’s “works manager” Peter H. Prenting. The two employees were given sample speeches by the government, which were heavily militaristic in nature. This is a line from the sample speech given to Rocco Veronesi. “But if we can’t fight our way to victory, we’ll work our way to it. We’ll keep those 40 mm. projectiles coming just as fast as our boys can feed ‘em.”

Along with the Violet Avenue plant, U.S. Hoffman operated a second plant at 150 South Water Street. Commonly known as the “Moline Plant,” it was owned by the City

of Poughkeepsie and had sat vacant for many years until 1945. The original plan was to lease part of the plant to U.S. Hoffman for the production of artillery shells. This plan fell through as U.S. Hoffman would have had to conduct extensive renovations on the property. Despite opening late in the war, these shells were still desperately needed to strike down a battered Nazi Germany and a lingering Imperial Japan. As the production of these shells were a matter of national security, the Government invoked the Second War Powers Act and seized the land while giving the shell contract to U.S. Hoffman.

Both the South Water Street plant and the Violet Avenue plant would continue production until the end of the war. After the war the Violet Avenue plant returned to peacetime work until 1947, when U.S. Hoffman consolidated its laundry manufacturing in Syracuse. The South Water Street plant closed at the end of the war on November 2, 1945; it was then reopened in the fall of 1950 shortly after the beginning of the Korean War, producing 5-inch shells for the Navy, before closing again in late 1954. It then briefly reopened in 1957 before shuttering its doors for the last time in 1960 due to the fact that the shells being produced were considered obsolete.

The Army-Navy E award was the highest honor an industrial plant could receive during the Second World War. While U.S Hoffman was not unique in being a prominent manufacturer in the area, it was the only one whose employees made an effort so monumental that the federal government, with all its many worries during the Second World War, made sure they were recognized for their indispensable work. Doing their part to help our fighting men in the country’s struggle, Poughkeepsie was able to play a positive role in the War.

Miles Jenkins is an intern at the Dutchess County Historical Society. He is currently a student at the University of Albany, where he is majoring in history and political science with a minor in cybersecurity.

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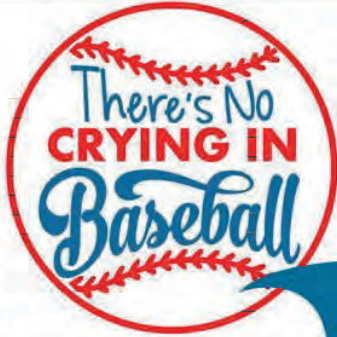


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Catcher Cristino shines on both offense & defense

By Morgan E. Maier

Baseball fans know this familiar sight after a milestone hit. Players along the dugout fence display in unison an imaginary baseball. For professional players, perfecting such a gesture is imperative. Not quite a shaking fist, but a half-open palm twisting to signal the field, “Toss that ball over here, please.”

As was the case on July 22, when the debuting John Cristino notched his first professional hit with a line drive to left field. Cristino’s Renegades tenure was in its early days then, promoted three days earlier from the Florida Complex League (FCL). The home dugout promptly scooped up the souvenir for the New Jersey native whose professional baseball path hardly began in the Hudson Valley.

The only Hudson Valley Renegade to appear with the Trenton Thunder of the MLB Draft League, Cristino played four collegiate seasons across three programs. In each stop on the way to High-A, Cristino’s defensive skills and power-hitting proclivities have put him at the top of team leaderboards.

He earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American honors at the Division-III Rowan College of South Jersey, winning a national championship in 2021.



John Cristino had a successful series against the Wilmington Blue Rocks to begin August, becoming the first Renegade catcher to appear in both games of a doubleheader in 20 years. He recorded a hit in each game, including his first High-A home run.

Photo by Dave Janosz

In his final collegiate season as a Towson Tiger, he received All-Coastal Athletic Association Second Team honors and led the team in home runs (14).

Cristino is known for making his pres-

ence felt at the dish, from erasing base-runners to tallying booming extra base hits. His senior campaign at Towson University put him on the Frontier League radar, following his college career with

yet another impressive season in independent ball. He was the 2024 All-Star Home Run Derby champion and the starting catcher in the All-Star Game, becoming the first such honoree in New England Knockouts (now the Brockton Rox) history. As a member of New England’s inaugural team, Cristino is the team’s first weekly award winner. He led the team in RBI (72) while delivering a league-best 26 home runs.

Cristino had a successful series against the Wilmington Blue Rocks to begin August, becoming the first Renegade catcher to appear in both games of a doubleheader in twenty years. He recorded a hit in each game, including his first High-A home run. As of August 5, Cristino has a 1.000 fielding percentage in 15 games, including 10 assists. In his Renegades catching debut on July 23, Cristino threw out two baserunners and even stole one, bringing his season total to seven.

Cristino is the first of Hudson Valley’s two options behind the plate, the thinnest the position has been this season. While Cristino’s commitment to reaching this position is clear, his dedication to his team’s success is equally evident, as he has experience at first base and on the mound, if just for 0.1 innings with FCL-Yankees. And of course, the hard-swinging righty takes quality rips as designated hitter.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	31	11	.738	-	7-3	L1
Hudson Valley NYY	27	14	.659	3.5	6-4	L1
Jersey Shore PHI	24	17	.585	6.5	8-2	W1
Aberdeen BAL	20	21	.488	10.5	6-4	L1
Wilmington WSH	17	25	.405	14.0	4-6	W1
Brooklyn NYM *	16	26	.381	15.0	3-7	W1

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	23	19	.548	-	5-5	W2
Greenville BOS	22	20	.524	1.0	6-4	W2
Hub City TEX	22	20	.524	1.0	3-7	L1
Winston-Salem CWS	17	24	.415	5.5	5-5	L2
Asheville HOU	15	26	.366	7.5	3-7	W1
Rome ATL	15	26	.366	7.5	4-6	L2



Home Schedule

August			
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
September			
09/02/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	First Day Of School Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
09/03/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Football Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
09/04/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Hudson Valley Big Apples Presented By Apples From New York Big Apples Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
09/05/25	vs. Greensboro	07:05 PM	Copa De La Diversión: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Presented By Cafe Con Leche Fireworks Friday Presented By D. Rohde Home Services
09/06/25	vs. Greensboro	05:05 PM	Rascal & Rosie's Anniversary Party Rascal & Rosie Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By WRWD
09/07/25	vs. Greensboro	02:05 PM	Fan Appreciation Day Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!



Renegades lose key performers in Yankees’ deadline trades

By Morgan E. Maier

A week has passed since the Major League Baseball trade deadline, and the New York Yankees might be feeling both seller’s regret and buyer’s remorse down the stretch. The Yanks got a desperately-needed defensive relief and bullpen pitching, at the expense of Hudson Valley Renegades present and past. Though the Yanks filled a lot of their gaps, the team has already lost two of its deadline acquisitions.

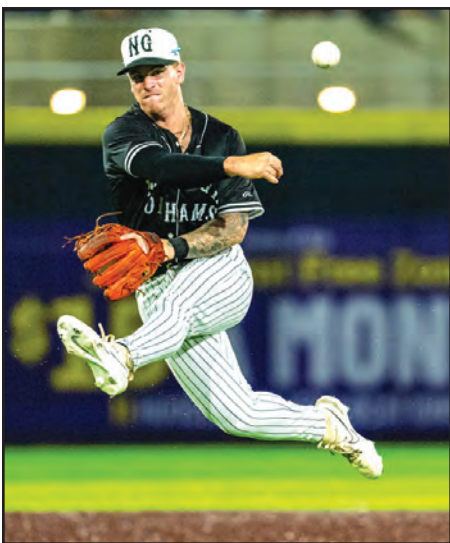
So, let’s take a look happened to the Renegades players who were involved in the trades.

IN: 3B Ryan McMahon
OUT: RHP Josh Grosz, LHP Griffin Herring
Grade: A-

For Hudson Valley Renegades fans, this one hurt. Griffin Herring was supposed to get the start the day he was traded, along with Josh Grosz, to the Rocky Mountains. One of the strong Renegades starters, Herring pitched to a 2.22 ERA in eight appearances before joining the High-A Spokane Indians. Grosz had 94 strikeouts in 16 Hudson Valley appearances. Ryan McMahon, a four-time Gold Glove finalist, is known to be a wall at third with a respectable bat. Could this be the first sighting of a reliable pinstriped third baseman in the Bronx since Alex Rodriguez?

IN: RHP Jake Bird
OUT: INF Roc Riggio (No. 10), LHP Ben Shields (No. 18)
Grade: D

It’s unfortunate for the Yankees, but the writing was all there. Jake Bird was struggling in July after a fantastic start to the season, and MLB buyers everywhere had opted to look outside the Colorado Rockies for their relief needs. On August 6, the Yankees announced that Bird would be optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. With a 27.00 ERA in just two innings as a Yankee, Bird’s 26.3% strikeout rate feels hardly worth the Top-20 prospects who joined Griffin and Grosz in the Colorado organization.



Former Renegades players Roc Riggio, left and Gage Ziehl are off playing for other organizations after being involved in trades by the New York Yankees.

-Courtesy photos

IN: RHP David Bednar **OUT: C Rafael Flores (Yankees’ No. 8 prospect), C/1B Edgleen Perez (Yankees’ No. 14)**
OF Brian Sanchez
Grade: N/A

This one remains to be seen. While the Yankees have developed a solid core of catchers – including No. 8 prospect Flores – the Pittsburgh Pirates have searched far and wide for an answer to their catcher struggles. In their quest to deal out “The Bednar Bandit”, the Pittsburgh Pirates seem to have robbed the Yankees. Perhaps these former Yankees prospects are the key to the Pirates’ quest for run support.

IN: RHP Camilo Doval
OUT: C Jesus Rodriguez (No. 23 prospect), RHP Trystan Vrieling (No. 17), INF Parks Harber and LHP Carlos De La Rosa
Grade: B+

With seconds ticking on the deadline clock, the Yankees had a decision. Are four prospects worth an extra body in an already-suffering bullpen? The answer is yes,

because that man is the flame-throwing Camilo Doval, who in 2023 was tied with new teammate Bednar for the National League’s most saves. When in control, Doval is dominant and versatile. He can serve an early relief, extra inning, or save opportunity. If he finds success as part of the Yankees’ revolving closer platoon, the loss of the top prospects in Rodriguez and Vreiling, plus hard-hitting Parks Harber, will weigh less on the organization.

IN: SS/OF José Caballero
Out: OF Everson Pereira, Cash Consideration or PTBNL
Grade: S for the Spectacle

This trade is the most unusual, in circumstance alone, because José Caballero was already at Yankee Stadium. Clairvoyance? Taking in a game in the beautiful Bronx? No. Caballero was merely a stone’s throw away from his new teammates, in the visitor’s dugout with the Tampa Bay Rays. The league leader in stolen bases, Caballero adds urgency to the basepaths that this Yankees lineup was

missing. Nice pick up.

IN: INF Amed Rosario
OUT: RHP Clayton Beeter, OF Brown Martinez
Grade: A+

One of the better hauls, infielder Amed Rosario, comes from the Washington Nationals with experience at second base, third base, outfield, and infrequently, shortstop. Infield depth came for pennies here, as the addition of Rosario adds a righty bat with versatile defense. Beeter was called up a pinch, a healthy arm in a sea of downed Yankees. Washington sees Beeter’s fastball/slider combination in its bullpen for the rest of the way. This one is a win for the Yankees.

IN: OF Wilberson De Peña & Int’l Money
OUT: Oswald Peraza
Grade: A

Former Renegade Oswald Peraza was the odd man out with the arrival of McMahon and Rosario. Peraza showed up defensively when the Yankees needed him early on, but his bat was too quiet to justify keeping him around. In the lone Yankee move that seemed future-forward, 18-year-old Wilberson De Peña and international cash considerations came to the Yankees. De Peña has appeared at all three outfield positions over two seasons in the Angels’ minor league system.

IN: OF Austin Slater
OUT: RHP Gage Ziehl
Grade: C

Another promising pitcher was pushed from the organization. The arrival of veteran Austin Slater came in the wake of rumors that 35-year-old Giancarlo Stanton could return to the outfield in Aaron Judge’s absence after a three-season hiatus. The Slater era was halted as quickly as it arose. A strained hamstring saw Slater’s exit just an inning into his first Yankee start.

While the Yankees’ struggles continue, top untradable prospects Cam Schlittler, Spencer Jones, and George Lombard Jr. continue to dazzle - a sign of things to come for the reigning American League champions?

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades use 4 wins to close in on Greensboro

By Morgan E. Maier

The first half of a two-week homestand brought 13 brand-new names to the Hudson Valley Renegades (65-40) 2025 lineup. A familiar foe joined them in the Hudson Valley, as the Brooklyn Cyclones (62-46) were in town.

Say hello to Xavier Rivas, Connor McGinnis, Kaeden Kent, Engelth Urena, Juan Matheus, Core Jackson, Cam Troyer, Owen Cobb, Joe Delossantos, Brandon Decker, Robbie Burnett, and Tyler Wilson. And welcome back, Owen Cobb! The jaunty show tunes of baseball’s first in-game musical kept the crowd engaged on August 6. And the Renegades enjoyed the sounds of victory as they took four of six from Brooklyn.

Home run harmony - A pair of hard knocks proved to be the difference in the opening matchup. Dillon Lewis and Josh Moylan produced two runs apiece on the

long ball after Brooklyn jumped to an early 2-0 lead. Lewis drove in the sixth-inning equalizer. Moylan launched the winning blow in the following frame. Ocean Gabonia held the late lead, as Hudson Valley handed Brooklyn its first series loss.

Show must go on - On August 6, Alex Vargas traded solo home runs with Brooklyn’s Colin Houck to tie the game at one. The Renegades blew it open in the fifth. Defensive blunders by Brooklyn sent the home team ahead by two, as Vargas laced in another run with an RBI single. Though they tagged newcomer Brandon Decker for 7 runs over 5.2 innings, his first High-A start was the longest of his career. The Cyclones clawed back with four runs in the fifth, and seven hits off Decker in his final two innings of work. Eli Serrano III, Brooklyn’s designated hitter of the evening, finished 3-4 with an RBI and a stolen base. After the series’ lone loss, the

Renegades’ pitching rebounded quickly, allowing just one run over the next three games.

Hello, Dillon! - Dillon Lewis was marvelous in the leadoff slot this week, showing a one-man offensive show worthy of a curtain call. A stolen base on Sunday, extra bases on Thursday. He knocked in seven runs with eight hits, including a 3-5, 3 RBI night on August 7. His bases-clearing triple propelled Hudson Valley to a 7-1 win, their first of three consecutive victories. In the series finale, he was 3-5, elevating to a .246 batting average after starting the week hitting .234.

First act - Third round draft pick and shortstop Kaeden Kent reached a milestone on August 8, and it arrived in grand fashion. Held to just two hits all game, the Renegades were deadlocked with Brooklyn at zero in the eighth inning. A double by Tyler Wilson set up dual walks by Cam Troyer and Lewis. Kent drove in

the two lead runners with a hard line drive single. His first High-A hit and RBIs sealed the Renegades series win, as Cyclones were stagnant in the 1-2-3 ninth. Newcomer Juan Matheus notched his first High-A home run on August 10, a three-run shot to give the Renegades a 4-1 lead. Though the Renegades ultimately lost 8-4 in the finale, the third baseman finished with a three-hit day.

The new-look Renegades enter another slate at home in the rearview mirror of the second-half leading Greensboro Grasshoppers (76-31). They look to continue the hot streak - and creep toward a playoff berth - against the fourth-place Aberdeen Ironbirds (44-62), fresh off a series win over the Wilmington Blue Rocks. BTW, fans should keep an eye on Alex Vargas, Jackson Castillo, Ben Hess, and Coby Morales, all who were promoted to AA-Somerset this week.

179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

From rescue dogs to entertainers, PawStars promises lots of excitement

By Curtis Schmidt

What began as an avid search for exercise and activities for dogs has blossomed into one of the most popular attractions at the Dutchess County Fair.

Kara and Erich Steffensen started “PawStars” about 20 years ago as a canine disc performance and now they and their dogs entertain large crowds three times each day of the Fair.

If you enjoy watching and marveling at the athletic talents of dogs and fast-paced action, you don’t want to miss the “PawStars.” Stars of the show like “Jellybean,” “Crouton” and “Tater Tot” will have you cheering during the entire performance.

Kara and Erich currently have 13 dogs and 12 are rescues. They promote adoption and fostering as much as possible and have fostered over 80 dogs!

Kara says their journey began with a search for fulfilling activities for their dogs. “Neither of us started out with ‘dogs in sports’ experience. We had dogs that we wanted to be well rounded and fulfilled. We started taking lots of classes and seminars,” said Kara. “We started taking some sport classes with our dogs and, after trying different sports, we fell in love with the sport of canine disc.”

She said training for each dog is different. “We start very simply with rolling a

disc on its edge to see how much drive the dog has for it and we go from there. Some dogs are catching within hours, some weeks or months, and some never have the drive to play and prefer doing other things for exercise.”

The performances began at the Fair. “About 25 years ago, we were invited to play a sport called ‘flyball’ at the Fair,” said Kara. “We did that for several years with a team of people and dogs. The Fair was looking for something a bit different to add and we started playing canine disc. Eventually, we started ‘PawStars’ about 20 years ago.”

Neither of them started in jobs with dogs/ animals, but they both loved it so much that their careers have both revolved around animals. Kara is the Animal Agent for All Creatures Great & Small and Erich is director of shelter operations at the Animal Farm Foundation.

Both Kara and Erich work full-time, so performing at the Fair provides a “luxury break” for them in their busy schedules.

“We also enjoy showing other people that they can get out and have fun with their dogs too,” said Kara.

PawStars’ performances take place near the Salute to Agriculture tent at 12 noon, 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. every day at the Fair.



Erich Steffensen and “Crouton” practice their canine disc performance for the Dutchess County Fair.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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New sanitary upgrades added for 50th year of ‘The Fair Shake’

By Curtis Schmidt

The members of the Dutchess County Dairy Committee are celebrating the 50th year of providing their famous milkshakes at the Dutchess County Fair.

Now called “The Fair Shake,” everyone’s favorite Fair treat has the main goal of raising funds to provide scholarships to local youngsters wanting to further their education in the field of agriculture.

This year’s scholarship winners are Gretah Kilmer and Jackson Crisp.

For 2025, The Fair Shake booth has been renovated with a variety of sanitary upgrades. Fair CEO Andy Imperati noted that new ceilings and walls have been installed, which can be easily sanitized each day. New water supply lines have also been installed, along with new milkshake blenders.

Malted Milkshakes will again join the regular flavors of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry.

All members of the Dairy Committee are Dutchess County Dairy Farmers. The current members are Harry Baldwin, Stephen Van Tassell, Tim Marshall, Jim McCarthy, Sam Simon, Jennifer Deforest, Amos Coon, Brian Donovan, John Jackson and Isaac Angell.

Baldwin noted that the Dairy Committee of today and the famed milkshake booth are outgrowths of the late Dave Teter’s Cornell Cooperative Extension Program Advisory Committee.

“Dave started as the Agricultural Agent in Dutchess County in 1973. Somewhere in the mid ’70s, Dave came up with the idea of serving milkshakes at the Dutchess County Fair as a way to promote the Cooperative Extension here in Dutchess County,” said Baldwin. “That first year we served them in a tent out back of the current 4-H building. Possibly the next year, it moved into the north end of the 4-H Snack Bar. In those early years, dairy farmers and family members manned the booth.”



Dutchess County Dairy Committee member Harry Baldwin sports a shirt commemorating the 50th anniversary of “The Fair Shake” at the Dutchess County Fair.

-Courtesy photo

The original directors of the Dairy Committee included Vern Jackson, Albert Soukup, Timothy Marshall, Robert Perotti, plus Baldwin, Van Tassell and Teter.

179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Grange exhibits, Family Snack Bar at Fair support community service and scholarships



Stanford Grange members are pictured at the Family Snack Bar at the Dutchess County Fair, which supports scholarships, sending our younger members to youth leadership conferences and sending delegates to the state Grange convention. The Grange also has competitive exhibits at the Fair. This year the theme is Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity.

-Courtesy photo

By Alexander Tsahalis

The Dutchess County Fair has animals and displays from all sorts of individuals and groups. Many are also members of their local chapter of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange.

The Grange movement began in 1867. The goal was to unite and help farmers after the Civil War tore them apart. The Grange was often a key part of the local agricultural community. With the increase in urbanization things have changed.

“Since farms are disappearing and most people are not employed in some sort of agricultural field, the Grange has shifted its focus from farming to community service and how we can make our communities better places to live,” says Ryan Orton, a member of the Stanford Grange #808 and the New York State Grange secretary. The Stanford Grange is active in community service, including sponsoring and hosting town Community Day, a food bank, a clothing bank and funding scholarships at Stissing Mountain High School.

One of the ways the Grange funds their programs is through their snack

bar at the Fair. “The snack bar is run by the Dutchess County Grange and all of the county Grange chapters help out” says Orton. “The money we raise goes toward the scholarships, sending our younger members to youth leadership conferences and sending delegates to the state Grange convention.”

Traditional Grange favorites will be back from juicy hamburgers and hot dogs, salads and sandwiches made fresh daily, and our famous pies and cakes for dessert.

“We’re thrilled to be at the Fair to raise money for many of the Grange’s community service projects,” said Orton. “We offer great food and great prices that are affordable for the entire family. Hence our name: The Grange FAMILY Snack Bar!”

Near the snack bar you’ll find displays from the local Granges. The tradition of Grange displays at the Fair goes all the back to 1900, making this the 125 year anniversary of these displays.

“We just started a couple of years ago with the county Grange coming up with a theme that all the granges have to follow instead of each Grange picking whatever they want to do” says Orton. This year the theme is Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity.



Artist Brian Zickafoose is all smiles after his mural, “Seeds of Connection,” was unveiled at the Dutchess County Fair Visitor’s Center on Aug. 7.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Welcome Center mural bridges roots of agriculture, community

By Curtis Schmidt

The inspiration grew from a desire to bridge agriculture, families and traditions handed down through generations. The result is a 6’8” x 15’6” color mural that will greet thousands of visitors to this year’s Dutchess County Fair set Aug. 19-24.

Located on the upper wall of the main entrance to the Fairgrounds in the Welcome Center, artist Brian Zickafoose’s creation “Seeds of Connection” is a bright and inspirational work of art that illustrates the combination of families and agriculture.

“I wanted the mural to bridge those roots with the creativity that’s shaping our future. Agriculture feeds the body, art feeds the soul - and when you bring them together, you grow something even bigger: community,” said Zickafoose, who grew up on a farm in West Virginia and now calls Wappingers Falls home.

The mural was unveiled during a special ribbon-cutting event at the Fairgrounds on Thursday, Aug. 7, with members from the DCAS and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce attending.

The mural is the result of a collaboration between the Fair, Arts Mid-Hudson and Destination Dutchess.

“When the idea for this project came about, the Fairgrounds was the perfect partner for the theme of how agriculture unites us. Andy, Vicki, and the whole team (at the Fair) were just as excited as we were to collaborate. Brian’s work embodies not only how agriculture unites us, but also is a testament to the power of collaboration. It reminds us of the endless possibilities that arise when we unite our talents, visions and passions,” said Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, executive director

of Arts Mid-Hudson.

Melaine Rottkamp, CEO and President of Destination Dutchess, said, “Brian is a wonderful new collaborator and his immense talent brought us this gorgeous mural that hundreds of thousands of people will get to enjoy for years to come. For residents, the mural and its imagery will become something they look for year in and year out. For tourists, it will be that first great photo-op that will always remind them of the fantastic visit they had to the Fairgrounds, whether it’s for the County Fair or another big event during the year.”

To Zickafoose, the mural “celebrates community, tradition and forward thinking, all from the heart of the Fairgrounds.”

He spent roughly a hundred hours of hands-on work, which included the conceptual phase - refining ideas, researching imagery and designing compositions - through to the rendering of the painting itself. “Every choice was deliberate, from color palettes to brush textures, to make sure the mural would feel alive from across the field, but still reward close-up viewing,” said Zickafoose.

And the mural is built to last. It’s painted on Belgian linen, one of the finest and most durable surfaces in the world, according to the artist.

“With proper care, it’s the kind of material that can endure for a century or more without losing its vibrancy. This isn’t just art for today - it’s an investment in the future of the Fairgrounds,” he said.

On vision and legacy, Zickafoose said, “Every mural is a seed. This one is planted right in the heart of Dutchess County, and I hope it grows into a vision of what’s possible when tradition and imagination work side by side.”

Grand jury indicts retired Beacon officer on second-degree murder charge

Continued from cover

Unit Chief Anthony DeFazio and Deputy Unit Chief Brittney Kessel are prosecuting the case, stated Parisi. Judge Jessica Segal is presiding over the case. The defendant was remanded without bail and his next court date is set for September 24th, according to the D.A.’s office.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely accusations, and Irizarry is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, stated Parisi.



Edison Irizarry

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County D.A.’s Office

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Obituaries

Jerry Novesky



Jerry Novesky, 76, died on Monday, July 28, 2025, at his home in Newburgh, NY, his wife Janet Crawshaw at his side. He grew up in Middletown, NY, an outstanding student and athlete (swimming, soccer), earned a Master's Degree in Creative Writing at Ohio University, where he co-edited the influential poetry magazine, *Stump*, and later founded Draba Press, a letterpress print shop, in Goshen, NY. He taught writing and journalism at Orange County Community College (where he met his wife), St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont. Returning to New York, he worked for several nonprofits, including Catskill Center for Conservation & Development (Arkville, NY) and Catskill Fly Fishing Center (Livingston

Manor, NY). A man of many talents: editor, writer, poet, photographer, book designer and type-setter, his work appeared in magazines ranging from *American Craft* to *Zahir*. He edited or designed more than two dozen books on outdoor recreation, fishing, natural history and the history of the Hudson Valley. In 1998, after an eight-month, cross-country road trip, he and his wife founded *The Valley Table*, Beacon, the ground-breaking regional magazine at the forefront of the farm-to-table movement. As its creative director and editor, Jerry supported local writers, artists and photographers and gave voice to the region's farmers and chefs. Peppered with his signature wit, his editorials were profound and penetrating. The company launched Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, the highly successful, biannual event that amplified the region's culinary reputation. In 2018, Jerry and Janet received the Louis V. Mills Conservation Leadership Award from Orange County Land Trust in recognition of their impact on the Hudson Valley's agricultural renaissance. In 2019, the company was acquired by Today Media. Never one to rest in retirement and despite a decades-long struggle with Parkinson's disease, he continued his creative endeavors, producing limited edition broadsides. His photographs were the focus of several solo shows, including at Grit Gallery in Newburgh and Amity Gallery in Warwick, NY. Throughout his life, Jerry exhibited strength, resilience, curiosity and a sense of humor. A brilliant, beautiful man, he portrayed a sense of wonder in the objects of everyday existence; a tinkerer, who could repair just about anything; a self-taught boat builder, avid birder, animal lover and lifelong flyfisher, who called the Esopus Creek home. He enjoyed many road trips with his wife of 48 years, but also found beauty and peace close to home, basking by the pool, swimming and listening to music. Their care and devotion to each other were an inspiration. Jerry is predeceased by his father and mother, Rudolph and Jane Novesky, and step mother Ruth Novesky. In addition to his wife, Jerry is survived by a brother, Neil Novesky (wife Elizabeth) of Cornwall, a sister, Christine Barnum, beloved sisters-and-brothers-in-law, 20 nieces and nephews, 22 grand nieces and nephews, and many dear friends. To honor Jerry and in keeping with his passion for nature, music, art and education, consider a contribution to The Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY. A celebration of Jerry's life will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are under the care of White, Venuto and Morrill, 188 N. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Kathryn Morgan



Kathryn Morgan, a longtime resident of Beacon and Fishkill, entered into rest on August 2, 2025. She was 87 years old. Kathryn was born on August 16, 1937 in Glens Falls, NY the daughter of the late Joseph and Margaret Iannone Schettino. On May 4, 1957 at St. Joachim Church in Beacon, she married Raymond Morgan of Poughkeepsie. She was a retired hairdresser from Craig House Hospital in Beacon and was the co-owner of DUSO World Travel in Poughkeepsie and Beacon. Kathryn was involved locally with the Cursillo Movement and also the Kairos Prison Ministry, where she made several lifelong friends and ministered to many women there. She was a parish-

ioner of St. Joachim-St. John, the St. Lawrence Friary, and the Carmelite Monastery at Hiddenbrook, all in Beacon. She loved traveling, golf and satisfying her sweet tooth...jelly donuts were her favorite! Kathryn is survived by her sons, Jeffrey Morgan and his life partner, Patricia Williams; Gregory Morgan and his fiancé Jenna O'Jea; and Shawn Morgan and his wife, Lisa; her sister-in-law, Anna Schettino; several nieces and nephews and many dear friends. More than anything else, she adored her grandchildren: Lukas, Benjamin, EmmaLee and Jack, and looked forward to singing the Birthday Song for them every year. She was very grateful for the in-home helpers in her life as well, especially Alyson and Ana; and her sons who made sure everything ran smoothly as her needs increased. She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond; son, Brian Morgan; her daughter-in-law, Donna (Haas) Morgan; and her brothers, Bernard M. and James Schettino. Family and friends gathered on Wednesday, August 6 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home. Burial followed at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorial donations may be made to any of the following: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hudson Valley Hospice, or The Alzheimer's Association of Albany County. To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Michael J. VanVoorhis



Michael John VanVoorhis, lovingly known to many as "Mikey V," passed away on August 7, 2025, at Hudson Valley Hospital, surrounded by those who loved him most. He was 66 years old. Born on June 30, 1959, Michael was the son of the late John "Jack" and Virginia Hoyt VanVoorhis, and the beloved stepson of Dorothy "Dot" Hughes VanVoorhis, who held a special place in his heart. He was a cherished brother to John (Gloria), Robert (Linda), Karen, Lynn (Tom), Raymond (Janice), and Patrick (Martha). A proud lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, Michael graduated from Roy C. Ketcham High School and treas-

ured his memories of growing up in the Village—playing football, basketball, baseball, and skating on the frozen creek to play hockey with friends. Michael began his career as a Corrections Officer with the NYS Department of Corrections, but his hands-on spirit and tireless work ethic led him into construction, eventually owning his own business as a self-employed contractor. There truly wasn't anything he couldn't fix—or at least try to—with a confident, "I got this." Known for both his skill and his generous heart, Michael could never say "no" when someone needed help. He was a proud and devoted member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1646, where he poured his heart into countless events—especially those involving food. Cooking for others brought him joy, and it was through the Knights that he found a true sense of community. Michael held the esteemed role of Grand Knight and also served as President of the Columbus Club—positions that reflected his leadership, generosity, and deep care for others. In 2022, he was honored at the K of C Golf Tournament for his years of dedicated service and heartfelt commitment. His brother Knights, along with the Ladies Auxiliary, became a second family to him. Michael had a one-of-a-kind personality. A diehard Yankees and Giants fan, he was so passionate that you might've needed to duck if they were losing. He had a booming laugh, a knack for giving everyone a nickname, and a mischievous talent for making ridiculous animal sounds just to make you smile. His storytelling, off-key singing, playful jokes, and ability to light up any room made him truly unforgettable. He was deeply loved by his daughters, Dianna VanVoorhis (partner John Battista) and Nicole Gopel (husband Corey Gopel), who will forever carry his humor, strength, and spirit with them. He was the adoring and deeply adored "Grumpa" to his grandchildren: Darion Michael Martin, Leianna Marie Martin, and Oliver Michael Gopel—who were the light of his life. Michael also leaves behind his partner of 15 years, Patricia Costello McNamee, whose love and dedication brought him comfort and joy. He embraced her children—Ryan McNamee, Kate McNamee, and Kelly McNamee Baccomo (husband Dennis Baccomo)—as his own, and was a proud grandfather to Riana McNamee, Gwyneth, Jacob, and Natalie Baccomo, and great-grandfather to Jaxon Caetano. Michael's absence leaves an ache in the hearts of so many, including his extended family of cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless friends. His legacy—of laughter, generosity, loyalty, and love—will live on in the stories we share, the jokes we retell, and the memories we hold dear. May we always hear his voice in our laughter, see his heart in our kindness, and feel his spirit in every warm, funny, and heartfelt moment. His Family will gather with Friends to celebrate and honor his life on Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York; where a Prayer Service will be offered at 12:00 Noon. Interment will be private at the discretion of his family. In lieu of flowers the family wishes for memorial donations to be made to the Knight of Columbus Wappinger Council 1646; 2660 E. Main St, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Perrino



Elizabeth "Betty" Perrino, 84, an area resident for 30 years and formerly of the Bronx, passed away on August 5, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Born in the Bronx on June 22, 1941, she was the daughter of the late Patsy and Mary (Rotundo) Perrino. Betty had been employed as the Cobra Coordinator for the NYC District Council Carpenters' Union. Betty was a devoted member of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Lagrangeville where she served as a catechist and cenacle, and with the prison ministry. She was also a life member and past president of the St. Denis/St. Columba/St. Kateri Altar

Rosary Society and volunteered with Relay for Life and hospitality. She was a caring, loving, faithful friend known for her cooking and always making everyone laugh and leaving a lasting impression on everyone's heart. Betty also loved traveling, and enjoyed Hawaii, many trips to Italy, and any cruise opportunity that came her way. As Frank Sinatra said, "she lived a life that's full, and traveled each and every highway." Betty is survived by her sister, Marie Lettieri; her nieces and nephews, Ralph Lettieri, Mary Rose Cleary, Sarah Williams, Beach Burlingame, Douglas Burlingame, Julianne Burlingame and Patrick Burlingame; and many other extended family members. She was predeceased by her niece, Denise Burlingame. Calling hours will be held on Sunday from 2-6pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Monday at 10am at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Special Olympics.

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6. Water glider
9. Opposite of eve
13. Artfully shyly
14. X
15. Move a plant
16. Saintly glows
17. Industrious insect
18. Inundated
19. *"An American Tragedy" author Theodore _____
21. *Ignatius J. Reilly, "A Confederacy of Dunces" protagonist
23. Neither's partner
24. Flipside of pros
25. What hernias do
28. Snowman's corn cob
30. 1970s dancing venues
35. Home to China
37. Biceps exercise
39. W.E.B Du Bois's org.
40. Clays or mucks
41. Quetzalcoatl worshiper
43. Viracocha worshiper
44. Muse of love poetry
46. The Hippocratic one
47. High in decibels
48. Orthopedic device
50. Egyptian goddess of fertility
52. Before, before
53. Kitten's plaything
55. Between Cancer and Virgo
57. *Beatrice Belden's nickname
60. *American Library Association's medal for children's literature
64. C in CSI
65. To boot
67. #61 Down plus E
68. Altar's location, pl.
69. Fled
70. Indian cuisine dip
71. Give an impression
72. Mining product
73. See-through

DOWN

1. Common tropical marine fish
2. Part of BYO
3. Orpheus' instrument
4. *Patricia MacLachlan's "Sarah, _____ and Tall"
5. Medicinal herb
6. _____ anise, chai tea spice
7. *_____ Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
8. Foreword
9. Whimper
10. Milky-white gem
11. Like certain people's glasses
12. Greatest possible
15. Ex grape
20. **"Fear of Flying" author _____ Jong
22. Finish line, e.g.
24. Not doubting
25. *Percival Everett's reimagining of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
26. Steal a throne
27. Type of wave
29. **"The Godfather" author Mario _____
31. Go yachting
32. Birch bark vessel
33. Come to pass
34. *Dashiell Hammett's hardboiled detective Sam _____
36. _____ Spumante
38. Classic game show "_____ Make a Deal"
42. Argentina's western neighbor
45. December birthstone, pl.
49. "Mai" follower
51. Paris' underground tourist attraction
54. Yesteryear style
56. West African religious practice
57. Genealogical plant
58. Winter window design
59. Allah's cleric
60. Opposite of all
61. Huron's neighbor
62. Baptism or shiva, e.g.
63. 2025, e.g.
64. "The Young and the Restless" network, acr.
66. Boat propeller

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		29			30		31	32	33
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
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D-style "\$25" is displayed, with a small tag that says "SWITCH & GET" attached to the top left of the "25". To the right of the "\$25", there is a dark speech bubble containing the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, a white speech bubble contains the "Consumer Cellular" logo. At the bottom, a dark banner features the text "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR" followed by the large number "888-804-0913". A small copyright notice is at the very bottom.

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\$25

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony highlights improvements, renovations at South Ave. Park



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the finished renovations at South Ave. Park was held on Friday, Aug. 8 in Beacon. Clockwise, from top left, a mural was painted by local artist Joe Pimentel and community members. Mayor Lee Kyriacou, left, makes remarks while Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson listens. City of Beacon Recreation Director Mark Price explains the renovations and improvements that were done at the park.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

“I appreciate everyone who was involved in the project,” Price said. Community members were able to paint a mural with local artist Joe Pimentel. The mural, it was explained, resembles the ones painted at Green St. Park and the other at Memorial Park. For two days locals were able to paint in the outlines for the mural made by Pimentel. “This marks the third mural collaboration I’ve had the honor of creating in Beacon — each one shaped by the incredible energy of community volunteers and participants. This project was made possible through the support of City of Beacon Recreation thank you for making it happen!” stated Pimentel in a Facebook post. Jacobson mentioned that the ground-breaking at the park was held in May.

“Any time you get money back (from the State) it’s a great thing for taxpayers,” he added. Council members Amber Grant, George Mansfield and Molly Rhodes were in attendance, along with some of the vendors who worked on the project, and community members. “Every time I come here the park is always full,” said the Jacobson. “It is truly a neighborhood park,” said Price. Thanks was offered to the City Engineer, John Russo (of Lanc & Tully) and project engineers, Daniel Biggs and Mikala Kortright (of Weston & Sampson) for the design and oversight of the project, contractors Consorti Brothers, WBE Fence, Scape-Tech Technologies, Musco Lighting, and the Public Restroom Company.

A ‘corny’ festival in Beacon



The Beacon Sloop Club held its annual Corn Festival on Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. Corn was the highlight of the day. There were also sails on the Hudson River for attendees to enjoy. One could peruse environmental displays about the Hudson River or visit the vendors who sold their wares. There were also two solar-powered stages where one could hear live music. The final of the three festivals held by the Sloop Club in Beacon will be the Pumpkin Festival, scheduled for October.

-Courtesy photos by Alan Thomas

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