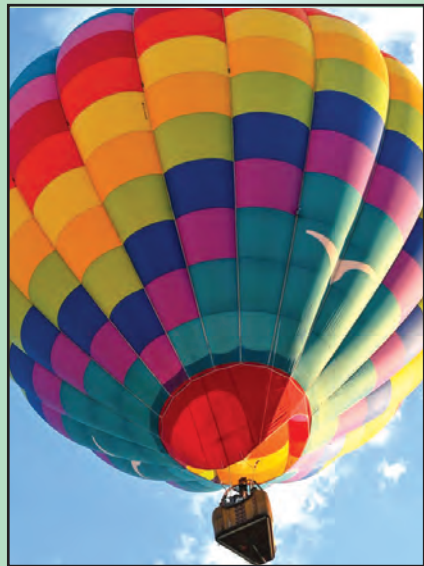


BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 74, Number 35 August 27, 2025

‘Nothing quite like it’ – balloon rides top annual Festival in Union Vale



The Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival offers a weekend full of family fun and activities that all revolve around the balloons.

By Alexander Tsahalis

Every year a peculiar flock takes off from Tymor Park in Union Vale. Slightly bulbous, and releasing jets of fire to control their journey, this flock is part of an event you won’t want to miss - the Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival.

The festival is hosted by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and is being held Aug. 29, 30, and 31.

If you’ve ever wanted to float along like a dandelion seed on the wind, or see the area from a birds-eye view, this festival is for you. Hot air balloon rides aren’t the only activity at the festival though. The event is a weekend full of family fun and there’s so much to do and all revolve around the balloons.

The event kicks off on Friday night with the gates opening at 2:30 p.m. There’s a pilot meet and greet, live music, a live pilot presentation called “all about ballooning,” a drone obstacle course for kids, Two by Two Animal Havens Wild World of Animals show, and more to keep you entertained until the main event.

At 5:30 p.m. the balloon launches and tethered rides commence. “I’m not a heights person,” said Frank Castella Jr, the president and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. “However, I do enjoy going up in a hot air balloon. There’s nothing quite like it. You feel as if you’re floating in the air, and you can turn around 360 degrees with your body, and it’s complete silence, and you can see a 360 degree view of the Hudson River Valley, and there’s nothing more majestic and beautiful than that.”

Continued on page 2

Take the ‘One Mile Challenge’ in September

By Kristine Coulter

Guardian Revival is kicking off the 4th annual One Mile Challenge (OMC) in September for Suicide Awareness Month. According to the nonprofit, based in Beacon, the idea is simple: “participants commit to walking, running, or rolling one mile each day for 30 days, helping raise awareness around mental health and funds for our free programs — including peer support, outdoor adventures, companion dogs, wellness events, and more.”

Guardian Revival, according to its website, “provides free mental health & well-being programs to military, veterans, first responders, and their families — locally in Dutchess, Putnam, Orange [counties,] and surrounding counties as well as virtually & across the country.” Programs that Guardian Revival offers are: Another Summit, Boots & Paws, Encore, Home Front, Peer Services and Rise.

What is the One Mile Challenge?

“When you join the One Mile Challenge, you commit to doing at least a mile a day for the month of September. You can walk, run, roll, bike...whatever gets you moving. OMC happens during Suicide Awareness Month as a way to shine a light on the mental health crisis facing our military, veterans, and first responders. It’s simple, and it’s something anyone can do. And along the way, you’re helping raise awareness and funds for programs that support those who’ve served,” explained Guardian Revival



Guardian Revival is kicking off its One Mile Challenge (OMC) in Sept. for Suicide Awareness Month. Pictured is from a hike earlier this year.

CEO Aaron Leonard. The Cold Spring (Putnam County) resident is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and firefighter.

Guardian Revival is there to make sure our guardians — military, veterans, and first responders — don’t have to face their challenges alone, said Leonard.

“That means free, confidential peer

support with people who’ve walked a similar path, access to programs that rebuild connection and purpose, and wellness resources that are easy to access. Everything we do is built around community, because connection is what saves lives,” he said.

Continued on page 2

‘Honor-A-Veteran’ program recognizes former Wappinger resident Kinsell

By Kristine Coulter

Michele AnneMarie Swarner Kinsell, a former resident of Wappinger, was the first woman honored as part of the Honor-A-Veteran program. Kinsell was posthumously honored during a ceremony held at S.W. Johnson Engine Company, No. 2, School St. in Wappingers Falls on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino welcomed those who were in attendance to the “meaningful” event.

“Michele’s journey was one of unwavering strength and boundless compassion. From breaking barriers in the Air Force to nurturing her family and passions, she lived a life of perseverance and love, leaving an example of warmth and resilience for us each to follow. Through our ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ program, Dutchess County is honored to share the legacies of local heroes like Michele to ensure they are always recognized and remembered,” stated Serino in her remarks.

Kinsell was a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, who became the first female Aerospace Ground Equipment Repairman at Beale Air Force Base in California, it was stated. Kinsell was born in Inglewood, CA in 1957. She died in 2015.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and members of Sgt. Michele Kinsell’s family, the County’s Honor-A-Veteran Committee and local elected officials attend the most recent Honor-A-Veterans Program ceremony on Aug. 19 in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov’t

Continued on page 3

‘Nothing quite like it’ – balloon rides top annual Festival in Union Vale



Every year the Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival takes off from Tymor Park in Union Vale. The festival is hosted by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and set for Aug. 29, 30, and 31.

-Courtesy photos

Continued from cover

Balloon rides last about 45 minutes and don’t follow a predetermined path. Instead, the balloons float on the wind and are followed by a chaser truck. The height of the balloon is controlled by heating the air inside the balloon to decrease it’s density in relation to the cooler outside air allowing it to float. Once the balloon lands, the chaser truck brings the balloon and its passengers back to Tymor Park for the final event of the

evening: the Illumination Moon Glow and fireworks show. “They inflate them the balloons in the night sky, and they light up like a light bulb,” said Castella. “The balloons are very colorful and when the fireworks start in the background, it’s absolutely beautiful.” For everyone remaining on the ground during the flights, there are still plenty of activities for you. If you were hesitant about a full flight, but still want to experience a balloon, try a tethered balloon ride. A tethered balloon

ride is a much shorter ride that lasts about five minutes. Unlike a regular ride the balloon is affixed to the ground by a 100-foot long rope and you slowly

descend back to the point you started at. There are also lawn games such as can jam, corn hole, and even a bubble zone for kids!

Take the ‘One Mile Challenge’ in Sept.



Guardian Revival is kicking off the 4th annual One Mile Challenge (OMC) in Sept. for Suicide Awareness Month. Pictured is from a hike earlier this year.

-Courtesy photo Guardian Revival

Continued from cover

What would Leonard tell people about taking part in the One Mile Challenge and the impact it can have?

“Every participant, every mile, every dollar matters. You’re getting some exercise and you’re sending a message: We see you, we’ve got your back, and you’re not alone. It’s amazing how a simple

commitment like this can spark conversations, break down stigma, and even save a life. Plus, every dollar raised goes straight into programs that make a real difference,” remarked Leonard.

For more information and to register, go to guardianrevival.org/blog/join-2025-one-mile-challenge.

For anyone in crisis and in need of immediate assistance, call or text 988.

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Drew Robison (Minister) and wife Sandy

‘Honor-A-Veteran’ program recognizes former Wappinger resident Kinsell



Michele AnneMarie Swarner Kinsell, a former resident of Wappinger, was the first woman honored as part of the Honor-A-Veteran program during a ceremony on Aug. 19 in Wappingers Falls.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

Kinsell had 2 children, Christina Cortes and Jonathan Kinsell.

Christina said her mother had “a strong will.”

Asked how her mother would feel about the event, Christina replied, “She would probably be overwhelmed.”

Christina said her mother was “courageous.”

NYS Senator Rob Rolison said those gathered were there to recognize “a special” person. He said Kinsell’s was “a life well lived” and said she had a “pioneering” career.

Serino gave the family a proclamation and an American flag that was flown in Dutchess County for 30 days in Kinsell’s memory, and Rolison offered the family the NYS Senate Liberty Medal.

Craig Marshall, Veterans Historian, read the biography of Kinsell whose father, John L. Swarner Sr., was a U.S. Marine and served in the Korean War. Her mother was Myrtle M. Scott.

Kinsell joined the military at 18 years old. She was stationed at Beale Air Force Base from May 1977 until October 1981, it was stated.

“Serving with the 9th Field Maintenance Squadron, 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, she made history as the first female Aerospace Ground Equipment Repairman at her base,” remarked Marshall.

Kinsell was appointed a

Noncommissioned Officer with the rank of Sergeant (E4).

Among the honors awarded to Kinsell were: Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

After leaving the military, Kinsell moved to the east coast. She worked various jobs such as bookkeeper, UPS worker, Mary Kay Cosmetics consultant and secretary. Kinsell spent time serving the community as a member of Columbiettes of St. Mary’s Council No. 4065.

The family was presented with a handmade quilt from Mental Health America of Dutchess County’s Veterans Programs’ Quilts2Honor, a memory box from Mental Health America of Dutchess County Vet2Vet and a Veterans Challenge Coin from Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee.

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini declared Aug. 19 as “Michele Kinsell Day,” in the Town of Wappinger.

“Thank you and your family for your sacrifices and support of her,” said Cavaccini to Kinsell’s relatives.

A representative from NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey’s office read a proclamation.

Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. remarked, “Even after she is gone, she is still breaking boundaries - being the first woman recognized here.”

County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt said he and his fellow legislators “honor the legacy and life of Michele.”

“Taps” was played by local resident



A quilt was presented to Sgt. Michele Kinsell’s family during the ceremony on Aug. 19 in Wappingers Falls.

Dani Masterson.

Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services Director Adam Roche said Kinsell “encouraged and taught her children to reach for the stars.”

“She showed them the value of perseverance and kindness,” said Roche, who added, there is “an incredible legacy of

love she leaves behind.”

Christina said, “Thank you. This means so much,” when asked what she would say to those gathered at the ceremony for her mother.

The Honor-A-Veteran ceremonies are held monthly. This program, to honor late veterans, launched in April.

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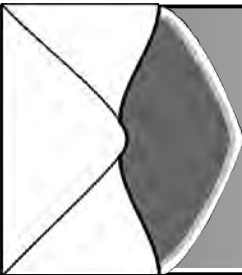
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Viewpoints



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.

Fishkill is a ‘generous’ town

To the Editor:
Recently the president was on FOX News and jokingly stated his goal was “to try and get to heaven if possible.” His thought process is normal when it comes to the rich and powerful. The “Captains of Industry” were about as ruthless as anyone that ever lived on this planet. Yet, when facing mortality, they did things like build museums, libraries, schools and hospitals. They tried to help the poor and their communities. It was their form of penance to get past Saint Peter.
As Supervisor of the Town of Fishkill for the last 6 years, one of my favorite things to do is to promote and support charitable events in our community. We are blessed to have such a generous town. If anyone wishes to promote a charitable event in the future, please contact me at supervisor@fishkill-ny.gov.

Ozzy Albra
Town of Fishkill Supervisor

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@s Dutchessnews.com for more information.

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A bright future at Mount Saint Mary College

To the Editor:
As we welcome the Class of 2029 to our Newburgh campus, I’d like to take a moment to highlight our accomplishments over the summer:
Our School of Business recently installed a dozen Bloomberg Terminals in the new Joseph F. Maloney Memorial Investment Lab, giving students access to the same technology used by leading financial professionals.
We launched our flexible Adult Degree Program, offering working adults more options to pursue their education and career goals.
We hosted the Summer Institute for Nursing Exploration, a free series of workshops that provided dozens of local high school students with hands-on experience in the nursing profession, helping to inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals in the Hudson Valley.
As a proud alumnus and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, I’m always filled with a sense of pride when I think about the vital role that Mount Saint Mary College plays in our community. Since my return to the Board of Trustees in the Spring of 2024, a lot has been accomplished. The work that began during Fr. Greg Fluet’s interim Presidency continues under the leadership of President Dr. Robert Gervasi, our strong Administrative Team, and our esteemed faculty and staff. We have improved our operating efficiencies and are focusing on what we do best: preparing students for rewarding careers in healthcare, business, education, communications, human services, and more.
With the values of the founding Dominican Sisters as our guide, the Mount has always provided an excellent education. We continue that tradition today, with many of our students being the first in their families to attend college. With strong and dedicated leadership, along with talented Board Members, we are addressing the challenges that colleges all across the country are facing.
The Mount was started by the Dominican Sisters 65 years ago, and with the assistance of the Newburgh Community and our dedicated alumni, we look forward to providing educational opportunities for the next 65 years.
See you all at the Gala at West Hills on October 16.

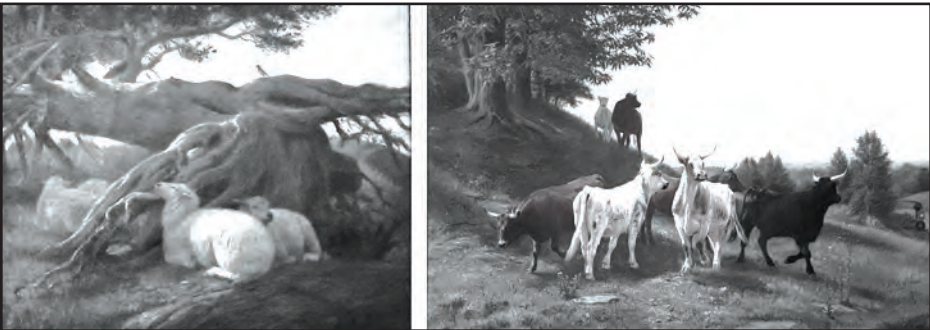
Lou Bach ’82
Chair, Mount Saint Mary College Board of Trustees

Community partners invited to be part of 2025 Golden Gathering

As preparations are underway for the 2025 Golden Gathering, the County’s premier annual event celebrating and supporting local older adults, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, New York State Sens. Rob Rolison and Michelle Hinchey and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) invite local businesses, non-profit organizations and service providers to sign up now to be part of this impactful and popular event. This year’s Golden Gathering will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arlington High School in LaGrange.
Rolison said, “The Golden Gathering is one of the most impactful and informative events we host for seniors across Dutchess County. We’re proud to connect our older residents with the resources, services and support they deserve — but we can’t do it alone. It takes a community to care for our seniors, and we’re grateful to everyone who helps make this event possible each year.”
Serino said, “The Golden Gathering is a cornerstone event for our older adults community. It’s also a great opportunity for local organizations to showcase the programs and services that make Dutchess County such a great place in which to age with grace and independence. Whether you run a local pharmacy, offer home repair services, provide transportation or support caregivers, this is the event to be part of. We want our older adults to know what’s available to them, and we can’t do that without our community partners.”
Hinchey said, “Our Golden Gathering event will make it easier for seniors across Dutchess County to connect with the services and support they deserve to live healthy, happy, and independent lives. If you’re a local business or nonprofit that offers a program or service that could help seniors in our community, we invite you to be part of this impactful day!”
The Golden Gathering welcomes hundreds of seniors and their families from across Dutchess County each autumn for a free, one-stop showcase of information, services, screenings and giveaways tailored to the unique needs of older adults. From health care and wellness to recreation, nutrition, housing, transportation and volunteer opportunities, the event connects older adults with resources that empower them to age safely, actively and independently. New this year, the event will also include organizations and businesses who have employment opportunities for older adults.
Businesses and organizations that participate in the Golden Gathering will have the opportunity to: connect face-to-face with hundreds of local seniors, their families and caregivers; distribute materials, samples or giveaways that highlight their services; offer health screenings or demonstrations; and promote employment opportunities for older adults.
Space for Golden Gathering vendors is limited and often fills up quickly. There is no fee to participate, but each organization must register in advance to secure a table. Businesses, non-profits, service providers and community groups interested in participating are urged to reserve their spot as soon as possible by contacting Giselle Garibello, Sen. Rolison’s Constituent Relations Coordinator, at garibell@nysenate.gov or 845-229-0106. Tables and chairs will be provided.

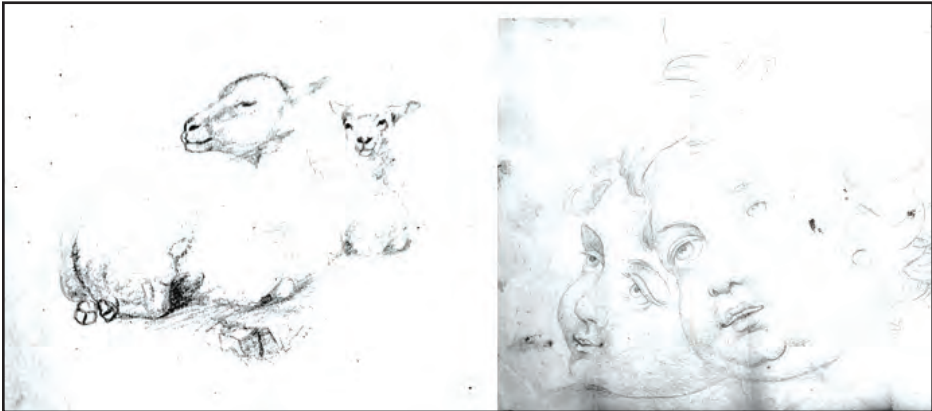
Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan achieves Road Master Level I status

The New York State LTAP Center – Cornell Local Roads Program recognized Carmine Istvan from the Town of Fishkill for achieving Road Master Level I status.
To earn this recognition, Istvan successfully completed six workshops through the NYS LTAP Center – Cornell Local Roads Program, covering a variety of essential highway and public works topics. These sessions provide in-depth, hands-on training in areas such as road maintenance, work zone safety, winter operations, and infrastructure management.
It was stated, by participating in these workshops, Istvan has not only expanded his technical skills, but has also demonstrated a strong commitment to professional growth and the continued improvement of his community’s roadway systems. It was also noted, this achievement reflects the Town of Fishkill’s dedication to ensuring its crews are equipped with the latest knowledge and best practices for maintaining safe, reliable, and efficient roads.
The Road Master Recognition Program encourages highway and public works professionals across New York State to further their education, stay current with industry standards, and enhance their service to the public.



Above left: Caroline Clowes, *Evensong*, No date, Oil on Canvas. Above right: Caroline Clowes, *The Alarm (The First Train Through)*, ca. 1871, Oil on Canvas.
-Images courtesy of DCHS

Detail and Humanity: The animals of Caroline Morgan Clowes



Above left: Caroline Morgan Clowes, *Sheep and Lamb*, No date, Pencil on Paper. Above right: Caroline Morgan Clowes, *Two Young Boys*, No date, Pencil on Paper.

By Charlotte Hampton

Last week, Rhinebeck and all of Dutchess County were marked by the presence of the 179th Dutchess County Fair, drawing in visitors with rides, food, historic buildings, horticulture, and more. But perhaps most interestingly, the fair provides visitors a special look at a variety of award-winning livestock, with tents and rings bustling with cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry. It is the county fair’s emphasis on agriculture, and livestock animals more specifically, that calls to mind the work of a remarkable yet understudied local artist, whose paintings and sketches also deeply embraced the livestock of the county: Caroline Morgan Clowes.

Caroline Clowes was born on March 3, 1838, in Hempstead, Long Island to an affluent family. In 1851 Caroline and her sister moved to LaGrange, New York, to live at ‘Heartsease’, the home of their mother’s brother. It was here that Clowes’ interest in drawing was nurtured and her artistic career began. Like many elite

women of her era, Clowes received an art education—first at the Poughkeepsie Female Academy and the Female Collegiate Institute, and later through private study with Frederick Rondel, a Hudson River School landscape painter. She was also mentored by Henry Van Ingen, head of the Art Department at the newly opened Vassar College.

Drawing inspiration from the farms and landscapes of Dutchess County, Clowes built a successful artistic career, exhibiting locally and at an international level at Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. She also completed painting commissions of prized livestock and other animals requested of her by the local elite. The financial success that she garnered from her work granted her the freedom to live an independent life, living outside the expectations of marriage and children. While scholarship on her is limited, examining her work reveals her remarkable ability to capture the spirit of animals and livestock, as well as the agricultural and artistic land-

scape of Dutchess County.

The Hart Hubbard Collection of The Dutchess County Historical Society includes hundreds of sketches and paintings done by Clowes, offering a unique perspective on her work and creative process, demonstrating which subjects interested her, as well as how she practiced and prepared for larger scale paintings. It is clear from this collection that for Clowes, animals, particularly cows, were a crucial part of her art, and likely a subject that she had a personal connection with. For example, of the 250 sketches and smaller paintings, two-thirds focus on cows, while humans appear in just under one in ten. She returns to cows repeatedly, sketching these animals from dozens of different angles, studying their anatomy and character with deep observation and care. This repository of sketches also demonstrates that within Clowes’ art, it is the animals that are the focus and subjects of her painting. These animals are not merely details added for visual interest, instead, they are truly the focus, with the surrounding backgrounds and landscapes serving to contextualize their presence.

Perhaps even more intriguing is the way in which Clowes renders and treats these animals through her art. Comparing two of her pencil sketches reveals her distinctive approach to portraying the animals that dominated her artistic career. Despite the distinct difference in their subjects, with one sketch of two young boys, and the other of two sheep, the treatment, characteristics, and composition of these two works are strikingly similar (Figure 1). In *Sheep and Lamb* we are presented with two sheep reclining comfortably, with one older sheep and one younger facing left away from the viewer. There is a sense of comfortability between these animals, with their bodies overlapping with one another, and their relaxed facial expressions.

The second sketch, *Two Young Boys* also presents two subjects that overlap with one another, in this case, the heads of two humans. These boys, like the sheep, project a tranquil emotion on their faces, and face leftwards away from the viewer. Even the rounded, soft textures of the two sketches are alike, with the curly hair and rounded chins of the boys and the curly wool of the sheep. By composing these two sketches similarly, Clowes invites a visual comparison between her human and animal subjects. In doing so, she not only portrays livestock as worthy artistic subjects, but also imbues them with a sense of intrinsic value, emotion, and even humanity.

Clowes’ ‘humanizing’ approach to animals is also evident in two of her other notable paintings: *Evensong* and *The Alarm (The First Train Through)* (Figure 2). While *Evensong* depicts a group of reclining sheep nestled within the roots of a fallen tree, the title itself, likely refers to the Anglican church service centered around evening prayers and songs. This is visually reflected in the gathering of sheep together in what appears to be an evening light. In reality, religion and prayer are inherently human qualities. By describing this grouping of sheep as a religious gathering, Clowes once again gives her animal subjects human qualities. *The Alarm* functions similarly, with its grouping of cows that are startled by the presence of a train that runs through the lower left corner of the otherwise pastoral scene. Potentially like their human contemporaries, these cows reflect the anxieties of a world facing the threat of industrialization.

Interestingly, it is during this period of the later nineteenth century that animal advocacy groups began to harness the power of visual artists, regardless of the artists’ original intention for their work, for their cause. Often the artists that were most valued by these groups were those that demonstrated that animals, like humans, were capable of intelligence, emotion, and meaningful relationships. English artist Sir Edwin Landseer, known for his dog paintings, and French artist Rosa Bonheur, another woman specializing in animal subjects, were two of the most reproduced artists by advocacy groups, praised for how they rendered their animals.

Today, Clowes’ work reveals a similar care and sensitivity in her animal subjects as one might expect for human ones. Though we can’t know exactly why she portrayed animals with such depth and personality, her many meticulous sketches and finished paintings make her attentiveness unmistakably clear. In doing so, she elevates animals as fully worthy subjects of artistic study.

Charlotte Hampton is an intern at the Dutchess County Historical Society and a recent graduate from Vassar College with a degree in Art History.

Note: “Our recent article on recipients of the Army/Navy E Award during World War One prompted readers to ask about other recipients we have added, as is our practice, of an ongoing, curated history at: www.dchsny.org/e-award.”

Fishkill board member Forman announces candidacy for County Legislature Dist. 16

John Forman, a member of the Fishkill Town Board, announced that he is a candidate to be a member of the Dutchess County Legislature in District 16. District 16 includes Ward 4 in the City of Beacon and Election Districts 2,3,9 and 10 in the Town of Fishkill.

Forman has 12 years of experience as a member of the County Legislature. He represented the City of Beacon and the Town of Fishkill during those 6 terms in the Legislature. He is currently finishing up a 4-year term on the Fishkill Town Board.

“I am confident I will be able to be a more hands-on legislator than our current representative. I will attend Beacon City Council meetings and Fishkill Town Board meetings to provide reports and updates regarding Dutchess County Government. This is a job I’ve done successfully for 12 years. I am asking the voters in District 16 to send me back to Poughkeepsie and I will deliver positive results for our district,” said Forman.



John Forman

-Courtesy photo

Forman is President of the Foman and Murray Insurance Agency, located in Hopewell Junction.

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Did the Subway Series save the Renegades?

By Morgan E. Maier

Major League Baseball brass is floating a geographical reassignment of MLB's divisions for travel-friendly, priority location schedules. Sticking the Mets and Yankees in one division reeks of impending organizational collapse and snoozy crosstown rivalry. The idea is reminiscent of the late, great New York-Penn League (NYPL), where the Hudson Valley Renegades operated for the first 26 years of team existence.

Starting next year, it will be one of two NYPL teams to survive the elimination of the Class A Short-Season. The Renegades and Brooklyn Cyclones may thank the Subway Series for such a development.

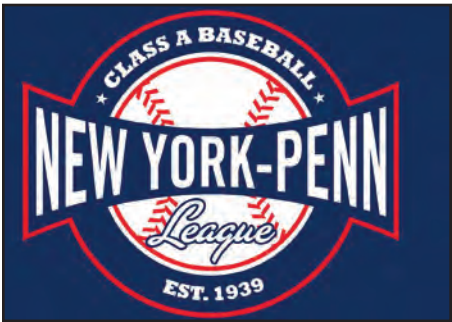
With the Aberdeen IronBirds' expulsion from Minor League Baseball, the Renegades and Brooklyn Cyclones remain the last of the NYPL. Among others in the league, MLB severed ties with the Tri-City Valley Cats, leaving them to join the likes of independent baseball.

The majority of former NYPL representatives have become an iteration of the league's original intent. In collegiate and draft leagues, player development is sandwiched between the MLB draft and school terms.

The MLB exodus that resulted from the canceled 2020 season affected many leagues, reducing teams' existence in the minor leagues to an invite-only status. It also hacked the draft from 40 to 20 rounds. Commissioner Rob Manfred, the uncanny Edward Scissorhands, sheared until dozens were left in professional purgatory, including seven of the NYPL's 14 teams.

Four became part of the introductory MLB Draft League, as will become of Aberdeen. In the IronBirds' defense, the city fell out of love with the game soon after Cal Ripken Jr. and family sold its majority stake earlier this year.

Keeping affiliates in a team's relative location is an exercise in loyalty, but it isn't enough to keep clubhouse lights on. Take the Lowell Spinners and Staten Island Yankees, the two members of the NYPL that were folded outright. Lowell, a Boston suburb, is an easy



The Hudson Valley Renegades were part of the New York-Penn League for their first 26 years.

-Courtesy image

commute from the parent club's green-walled headquarters. Despite ardently claimed intentions to keep baseball in Lowell, Boston sacked the Spinners in 2021. The Yankees met a similar end in the oft-forgotten fifth borough (though the Staten Island FerryHawks now operate as a member of the Atlantic League).

Since 2001, the Brooklyn Cyclones have represented Flushing's finest. On the business end of the Subway Series, Brooklyn beat out the Staten Island Yankees as NYC's resident minor league club.

Fans appreciate the chance to see their team's future for a fraction of the ticket cost. No timeline of years, planes, or charter buses can predict a baseball player's journey. A schedule can't predict a team's fate, either. The Renegades' path to the Yankees organization started with the Texas Rangers, then the Tampa Bay Rays. While these teams get credit for bringing the likes of Evan Longoria and Josh Hamilton to the Hudson Valley, there's an added adulation that comes with having a Yankees affiliate in New York. The efforts that made the Renegades' arrival possible in 1994 move on. Except these days, the team sells a full season's worth of tickets. Summers still become standing room only. The stakes have only become higher with the Yankee name attached. Whether the Red Sox or Mets lead fan rivalry, the Hudson Valley is, for now, safe from subsequent Minor League gerrymandering. The NY-Penn League is alive still, in the memories of folks who once asked, "What do the Tampa Bay Rays have to do with New York?"

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	37	17	.685	-	6-4	W2
Hudson Valley NYY	34	19	.642	2.5	6-4	L3
Jersey Shore PHI	30	23	.566	6.5	6-4	W3
Aberdeen BAL	26	27	.491	10.5	5-5	W2
Brooklyn NYM *	22	32	.407	15.0	5-5	L2
Wilmington WSH	21	33	.389	16.0	2-8	W1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Hub City TEX	28	26	.519	-	5-5	W2
Bowling Green TB *	27	27	.500	1.0	3-7	L2
Greenville BOS	27	27	.500	1.0	3-7	L2
Winston-Salem CWS	24	29	.453	3.5	6-4	L1
Rome ATL	23	28	.451	3.5	8-2	W1
Asheville HOU	20	31	.392	6.5	5-5	L1



Home Schedule

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!



Keane’s dominance leads Renegades’ bullpen

By Morgan E. Maier

Hudson Valley Renegades right-hander Sebastian Keane nearly wriggled out of the New York Yankees’ reach before the team truly saw his talent. But for an honored college commitment to Northeastern, he’d likely be a weapon of the Boston Red Sox, who selected him with the 347th pick in 2019. In his third season within the Yankees organization, Keane’s seven wins are the most without a loss among South Atlantic League (SAL) pitchers.

In 2025, Keane arrived in the Hudson Valley for his second straight High-A season. A starter and strikeout machine feared by SAL opponents last season, Keane has made just one start this season. His 6’ 3” frame still looms from the mound, his hidden delivery a hitter-proof defense. Yet Keane is a proven force in his third professional season, holding hitters to a .185 batting average across 22 relief appearances this season. Right-handers can forget about figuring out Keane’s bag. They’re hitting .156 against him.

Against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws on August 21, Keane recorded as good a relief appearance as any Renegade this year. Keane retired all he faced – one for each of his season wins – as he improved to 7-0 in a perfect 2.2 innings of work. Five came via the strikeout, as BlueClaws fell again and again for



Sebastian Keane is a proven force in his third professional season, holding hitters to a .185 batting average across 22 relief appearances this season. Right-handers can forget about figuring out Keane’s bag. They’re hitting .156 against him.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

Keane’s pesky breaking ball. In August, opponents are hitting just .125, includ-

ing two consecutive performances without a hit. Twelve of Keane’s 24 appearances have left opponents seeking contact.

On August 13, a near-perfect 2.2 innings of work for his longest outing on the season. The righty finished with one walk and 22 strikes on 37 pitches to continue the steady drop of his ERA. Following the latest dominant stretch, Keane is recording a sub-2.50 ERA for the first time since June 14.

Sebastian was a developing Yankee after the Red Sox made him an 11th-rounder, as he participated in the Area Code Games showcase alongside short-stop and Renegades alum Anthony Volpe. Keane’s performance as an Area Code Yankee, ironically, succeeded his flash on Boston’s frequencies. The Yanks won out over the Massachusetts native’s shifted loyalties; Keane boasts a 2.60 earned run average in 34.2 innings this season. Keane is deepening the arsenal that attracted the Yankees in the 2022 draft, with a dumbfounding low-90s fastball and slider combination that’s drawn 165 strikeouts in his young career.

Keane’s dominance began as a starter liable to hit double-digit strikeouts in one game, and it hasn’t faltered since assuming the role of a reliever. He is the foundation of this solid Renegade bullpen.

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Hopeful Renegades hit tough times at the shore

By Morgan E. Maier

This week marked another skid on the Hudson Valley Renegades’ schedule, as hurricane winds blew away the team’s momentum. The Renegades came to the Jersey Shore with burning grit and a four-game win streak, but left with a cold chill and a losing streak.

The bullpen’s loss of promoted Geoff Gilbert and Hueston Morrill was palpable, but a few young stars showed up when the lights were brightest. Former Renegade and South Atlantic League Player of the Week Jose Colmenares became the first player to appear this season for both the Renegades and a South Atlantic League rival, as the Renegades were able to keep his explosive offense at bay this week.

Double trouble - Another Bennys-Locals matchup to pay homage to the rivalry between beach towns and those pesky tourists. In true “Benny” fashion, Hudson Valley spoiled a game that the Locals seemed to have the upper hand, in the doubleheader’s nightcap. The BlueClaws were snapping for their second team hit all game, but it came too

late. The Renegades prevailed in their third of four straight wins, dating from last Sunday.

The bold pink numbers across the back of each Benny were bold. The seventh inning rally was resounding.

After being one-hit through six, the Reengades closed regulation with a two-out rally. Second and third for Luis Durango, who promptly bloomed a two-run single to get the Bennygades on the board. He proceeded to steal second and third base, because why not? Kyle Carr gave another quality start for the win (6.1 innings, 5 H, 7 K, 2 BB), keeping the Locals at bay until the Benny bats warmed up. For their fourth win in a row, the Renegades swept the first doubleheader.

Jersey Shore could barely buy a hit in Game 1 of the doubleheader as Hudson Valley prevailed with a wire-to-wire victory. Brandon Decker fanned 10 over five innings, earning his first High-A win. Kaeden Kent pulled through with a pair of first-frame RBI, as Decker gave up just three hits in his outing. Chris Kean rolled through another relief appearance, hold-

ing Jersey Shore hitless to set up Tony Rossi for his eighth save of the year, and four strikeouts over 2.0 innings. Propelled further by a seventh-inning Josh Moylan home run, the Renegades pinched the BlueClaws 5-2.

Leadoff is key - On Aug. 21, four lead-off hitters reached base over the first six innings. Dillon Lewis sparked a first-inning rally with a leadoff walk to give Bryce Cunningham a lead before he ever took a warmup pitch. Tyler Wilson followed with a double in the second inning and scored on a Connor McGinnis single. Dillon Lewis knocked in the final RBI of the game in the fourth, after Josh Moylan led off with a single, then scored on a Lewis single.

The Renegades controlled from the first at-bat, with Bryce Warracker securing the save (5) and the 4-1 victory. Jersey Shore leadoff man Devin Saltiban was the producer for Jersey Shore, knocking one of the team’s two hits. He scored the BlueClaws’ only run. In a second appearance since returning from injury, Cunningham exited after 2.2 innings, four strikeouts, and 37 pitches.

Debut in the dark - When the home

team is already up by five runs, an opposing pitcher might wish his debut had come sooner. Despite the 8-3 onslaught by Jersey Shore on August 23., a bright spot came in the form of righty rook Jack Cebert. The 15th round draft pick made his professional debut, and quickly proved to be a bright spot in an otherwise damaging loss. One of the bright spots in the August 23 8-3 onslaught was Cebert’s fastball, as he struck down four straight BlueClaws via the strikeout. In his first full frame of work, Cebert struck out the side. He allowed just Jersey Shore in a sturdy 1.2 innings.

Foul ending - After posting the league’s best record since the start of July, the Renegades froze on the shore. In back-to-back games, they allowed 8 or more runs, while scoring just five over the week’s final three games.

This week, the Renegades (72-45) travel to the city to drum up some action against the Brooklyn Cyclones (68-52). The ‘Gades are still gaining on the Greensboro Grasshoppers (82-37), but the second-half title is slipping out of reach. Maybe a spin on the rollercoaster will scare out those end-of-season jitters?

Germania’s Oktoberfest features German food, dancing & culture



Dancers take to the dance floor during a previous year’s Oktoberfest in Poughkeepsie. This year’s event will take place Sept. 5-7.

By Alexander Tsahalis

Have you ever wanted to learn about German culture? Are you a fan of German beer or food? Then head over to Germania in Poughkeepsie for their annual Oktoberfest celebration.

The event runs Friday, Sept. 5 from 5 – 10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6 from 1 – 10 p.m., and Sunday, Sept 7, from Noon – 5 p.m.

Germania is a non-profit organization devoted to the celebration of German culture. It was first founded 175 years ago by Adolph Kuehn. Kuehn founded Germania after fleeing Germany in the aftermath of the 1848 German revolution. The club was originally known as the Germania Singing Society.

“Over the years, the clubhouse became a place where people could have some food and speak German to each other,” says Sylvia Reuter, the President of Germania. The original clubhouse was located in Poughkeepsie on Church Street. Construction on a new clubhouse began in 2003, and in 2006 Germania moved into their present home at 51 Old Degarmo road. Germania offers a number of programs for their community including beginner German language lessons, and the Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein, a traditional Bavarian dance group.

Germania’s Oktoberfest is a family

friendly festival that has been running for about 20 years. The event has something for everyone. Food, games, shows, you name it. Germania will be serving all kinds of traditional German foods including Jaegerschnitzel, bratwurst, Weisswurst, and their signature German desserts apfelstrudel and bienstich kuchen.

If you’re looking for something to drink, they have several types of German beer along with their feature beer. “We try and sell the beer that is made and brewed following German brewing purity laws and we bring in a local beer made in New York or New Jersey,” said Reuter. “This year, we will be carrying Ramstein’s award winning amber lager beer. It is a delicious beer. I don’t drink beer, but I think it is delicious.”

Beer drinking goes hand in hand with one of the most popular events at Oktoberfest: Steinholding - a German drinking game that’s easy to play. Participants are given a beer stein filled with liquid, and then they have to hold it out in front of them with a straight arm. The participant that manages to hold their stein the longest without spilling any of the liquid is the winner. The game originated in Bavaria.

“A lot of the winners like to come back the following year, to try and defend their title” said Reuter.



Some of the bartenders during a previous year’s event. -Courtesy photos Germania



A variety of German food will be sold during Germania’s Oktoberfest.

Germania has two steinholding competitions. One for men, and one for women. The winner gets to keep their stein. Other things to see at Oktoberfest include performances by the Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein, Germania’s singers, the Adlers Band, clowns for kids, and much more!

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by mark adams

New Trial Garden at Bard

Mark and Sue travel to Montgomery Place to check out some of Burpee’s experimental varieties.



The Burpee Seed Company, founded by W. Atlee Burpee in 1876, introduced some of the best new flowers and vegetables, revolutionizing agriculture and home gardening. Iceberg lettuce (1896), Golden Bantam Sweet Corn (1902), and Big Boy tomato (1949) are classic Burpee varieties. In 1991, George Ball Jr., scion of another famous seed breeding family (now Ball Horticulture), became chairperson of Burpee. George had attended our local Bard College and was for many years a Bard trustee. So, when Bard arboretum director Amy Parrella got the idea to expand the gardens at the recently acquired Montgomery Place campus, she contacted George Ball.

The Burpee Trial Garden opened on August 17, showcasing 45 varieties of flowers and vegetables, all developed by Burpee. It turns out that George Ball was thrilled to endow the gardens, which is designed to grow and test new and experimental flowers, vegetables and herbs, and to provide students with educational opportunities for hands on gardening and scientific evaluation. George visited the site during the planning stage, traveling from his home in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where he supervises Fordhook Farm, the original Burpee trial site. (Do any of my faithful readers remember the article I wrote about the 100th anniversary celebration of iceberg lettuce at Fordhook Farm back in 1996?) He chose several experimental varieties, alongside



Amy Parrella at the trial garden at Bard College.

Photos by Mark Adams

tried-and-true Burpee standards:

- Tomato “Sun Peach” – A quarter size cherry tomato, set up by the students for a taste test. Sue gave it a 10. I argued that “10” should be reserved for the world’s best-tasting tomato, “Sun Gold.” Then Amy pointed out that “Sun Gold” has a thicker skin than “Sun Peach,” and on second thought I have to agree. So this Burpee introduction could be a real winner.
- Marigold “Strawberry Blonde” – Unusual French-style marigold with blossoms that change color as the season progresses (OK, they fade), from strawberry to blonde. At one time, Burpee famously offered a \$10,000 prize to anyone who could grow a pure white marigold. After selling millions of off-white marigold seeds to hopeful gardeners, the prize was finally awarded to Alice Vonk in 1975.

- Zinnia “Forecast” – Grown alongside the staples “State Fair” and “Cut and Come Again” to test its resistance to mildew, which is a scourge on the foliage of older zinnia varieties. Maybe because of the dry August, I didn’t notice any mildew on any of the varieties on display, or in our home garden, where my granddaughter Priya won eight first-prize ribbons for zinnias at the Dutchess County Fair.
- Morning Glory IP20-03 – The Burpee catalog features five varieties of morning glory. This experimental one is a lighter shade of blue and flowers earlier than the heirloom Heavenly Blue. The blossoms were closed, since we visited in the afternoon. Also, not sure if the seeds are hallucinogenic. I’ll let you know.
- Celosia “Red Velvet Cake” – The blossoms are Brobdingnagian (I haven’t used that adjective in a while, but it fits). And velvety. The plant wasn’t staked, but it looked like it should have toppled over. Strong stems, I guess.
- Eggplant BR88 – I’m not sure why we need a new variety of eggplant, unless it’s resistant to woodchucks or maybe flea beetles.

The heirloom “classic” produces perfect eggplants, if given enough fertilizer.

Of course it’s all about the students. Since Bard acquired the Montgomery Place farm in 2016, the 3,000 undergraduates have been exposed to agriculture, which can be integrated with their mostly liberal arts education. Of the two students manning the trial garden open house, Max Frackman is a studio arts major and Violet di Biasio is studying environmental humanities, with an emphasis on food security. Bard students are a special breed – interested in just about everything. Max was blown away by the garden. Violet is planning to spend next summer as a “woofer” – working as an intern on an organic farm. And George Ball’s time as a Bard undergraduate led him to a career in plant breeding, and an interest in food security in the Middle East. When George was awarded a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Bard in 2023, he was recognized for “His ability to see beyond what others might see, making George Ball a visionary who continues to nurture innovation in the horticultural world.”

The grounds of Montgomery Place, and the Burpee Trial Garden, are open every day, dawn to dusk.

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

Labor Day Celebration at West Point on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1



The West Point Band will present its annual Labor Day Celebration with fireworks on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at West Point’s Trophy Point Amphitheater. In the event of inclement weather, this outdoor concert will move to Monday, Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. This annual favorite is free and open to all; for more information visit www.westpointband.com.

Celebrate the end of summer with world-class music, historic views, and the best fireworks show in the Hudson Valley. This concert features performances by the Concert Band, Hellcats, and Benny Havens Band, topped off with a performance of 1812 Overture with live cannon fire and a magnificent fireworks display. This ever-popular concert draws a large crowd, so be sure to arrive early to get a good spot on the hill.

-Courtesy photos West Point Band

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Obituaries

Gieri Albin



Gieri Albin, beloved husband, father and entrepreneur, passed away at his home in Cold Spring on August 15, 2025 at the age of 87.

Born in Rueun, Switzerland to the late Gieri and Mengia Albin, Gieri built a life marked by devotion, generosity, and an extraordinary work ethic. Gieri and his devoted wife worked together and created not only a loving home but a culinary institution. Plumbush was more than just a place to eat - it was a destination. Known for its warm atmosphere and exceptional cuisine, the restaurant drew guests from near and far, including celebrities and loyal customers who became like family.

Gieri was the heart of the restaurant, greeting guests with a smile, remembering their favorite dishes and treating

everyone with kindness and respect. His passion for hospitality and his commitment to excellence left a lasting impression on all who walked through the doors. Gieri and Pat spent 53 wonderful years together - a lifetime filled with love. Their bond was constant and their life together was rich and full.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his cherished daughter Monica, and his son-in-law Michael of Jacksonville, FL, his sister Silvia and family of Chur, Switzerland, Pat's loving family, and many friends both here and abroad. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

At his request, there will be no formal services. His family invites those who knew him to honor his memory in their own way-by raising a glass, sharing a story or enjoying a good meal surrounded by loved ones, just as he would have wanted.

His legacy lives on in the meals he served, the love he gave and the family he cherished.

Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill 1089 Main St. Fishkill, NY.

Betty J. Lasher



Mrs. Betty J. (Kelch) Lasher, of Elizaville, NY, died peacefully with family by her side on Friday, August 15, 2025. Betty was a native of Germantown, NY, and later moved to Elizaville with her husband John "Jack" Lasher. In October they would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

Betty valued education, and after graduating from Germantown High School, she worked as the secretary to the Dean of Students at Albany State Teacher's College (now SUNY Albany). Both academic and experiential learning were of value to her. She supported three generations in athletics and 4-H clubs, and mentored youth

through the Fresh Air Fund. Betty and Jack loved to travel and took extended camping trips all over the country, often with family and a knitting project in her lap. They regularly attended dinner dances and were well-regarded for their repertoire of dance moves. She excelled as a baker, quilter, seamstress, and gardener, consistently producing impressive quantities of food from her modest kitchen.

Betty's was a life devoted to family and community, guided by faith, and defined by selfless generosity. She and Jack were pillars of their community and exemplified the term love thy neighbor through acts of service, like organizing pancake breakfasts and chicken barbecues to help fund the Elizaville Fire Company, Elizaville Methodist Church, and Manorton Lutheran Church. She served on the town planning board and was the secretary at her church. For Betty, tragedy and loss meant an opportunity to give, and she did so through the values of kindness, perseverance, and strength.

Betty is preceded in death by her son David, and brothers, Herman (Edith S.), Raymond (Edith C.). She is survived by her husband Jack, daughters Sharon Odak (Tom), Leann Schroder (Marc), granddaughters Stephanie Harris (Dan), Jamie Colon, great-grandsons Brandon, Justin, Ricky, nieces, great nieces and nephew, and great-great-grand nieces. In lieu of flowers and cards, we respectfully ask that donations be made to your local volunteer fire department, church, or to St. Jude's. In accordance with Betty's wishes, no memorial service will be held. Instead, we invite you to honor her legacy of community service by contributing to your local food bank, participating in town government, supporting local athletics, and fostering acts of kindness within your community. We are eternally grateful for the compassionate care provided by the staff at the FASNY Fireman's Home.

Timothy James Mikulsky



Timothy James "Tim" Mikulsky, affectionately known as Timmy, passed away on August 17, 2025, in Wappingers Falls, New York, at the age of 23. Born on August 30, 2001, in Peekskill, New York, Timothy brought a unique light into the world-one marked by quiet strength, deep compassion, and unwavering faith.

From a young age, Timothy displayed a remarkable curiosity and creativity. As a child, he spent countless hours building intricate Lego sets or inventing his own designs. These early passions evolved into a love for technology; as an adult, his "Legos" became computer parts. He had a natural talent for building computers from scratch and was fluent in coding-so much so that he often taught others online. His sister would watch him in awe as he mentored others in programming languages she couldn't begin to understand.

Timothy's faith was the cornerstone of his life. At just five years old, he began his relationship with God -- a moment so profound that he immediately ran to the neighbor's house to share the good news. His enthusiasm was so intense that it startled his young friend and even prompted the friend's parent to send him home. That same passion endured throughout his life. As a teenager, Timothy once spent two heartfelt hours on the phone witnessing to his Uncle Eddie. Afterward, he called his grandmother in tears and said, "Grandma, I am so sorry. I really, really tried. But Uncle Eddie wouldn't listen." His sincerity and spiritual conviction left lasting impressions on those around him.

Timothy was deeply devoted to his family. He is lovingly remembered by his mother Delsie; father Walter; brother Andrew; sister Jenny; and grandmother Delsie. He held each of them close to his heart and showed his love through quiet acts of service and steadfast support. Though not always spontaneous by nature, if you needed help, Timothy would be there-no questions asked.

He admired and respected his brother Andrew and eagerly anticipated his visits during the holidays. To his sister Jenny, he was both protector and chauffeur - driving her not only to college but also on Dunkin' Donuts runs with a smile (or at least a resigned nod). When their mother returned to work evening shifts, Timothy stepped up as the family cook without hesitation. He also stood by her side through many difficult years with quiet resilience and care. And he always helped his father with projects around the house and helped him with his games. Especially when there was a difficult part to beat. And many a time, he drove to Grandma's house to get her TV going again because she hit the wrong button.

Animals held a special place in Timothy's heart-especially Mitzi, the family's rescued dog who had suffered abuse before finding her way into their home. With gentle patience and love, Timothy helped Mitzi grow comfortable with human touch again. He was always coming downstairs to hug, kiss, and play with the dogs-his affection for them as genuine as it was healing.

Timothy's legacy is one of quiet strength, deep faith, and unwavering love for those closest to him. His presence will be deeply missed but forever cherished by all who knew him.

His Family gathered with Friends on Friday, August 22 at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York; where a Celebration of His Life will be held at 6:30PM. His Family will gathered with Friends on Saturday, August 23 for a Graveside Service at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, New York.

May Timothy's memory bring comfort to those who knew him and may his spirit continue to inspire others.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Paul Daniel Lucas III



Paul Daniel Lucas III, 82, a longtime resident of Hopewell Junction, passed away peacefully at home on August 20, 2025, surrounded by his family. He previously lived in Bridgeport, CT.

Paul was born on November 8, 1942, to the late Paul and Grace (Deszo) Lucas Jr. in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He graduated from Black Rock High School and earned degrees from Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston), University of Bridgeport, and North Adams State College.

He had a successful career in the New York State education system. After his well-deserved retirement, Paul began his own business, Vivace Vocational Ventures, and was awarded over \$1,000,000 in grant funding to support

workforce opportunities for under-served youth.

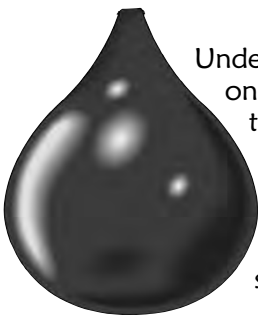
Paul was a dedicated member of Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church in Trumbull, CT. He enjoyed spending time with his loving family. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend to many, his quick wit and dry delivery often inspired bursts of laughter from those in his company. His grandchildren succumbed to numerous fits of giggles from his alter ego "The Tickle Monster". Ready with lollipops for the kids, a patient ear for those who sought it, an impromptu conversation with strangers, and two hands that he offered to anyone needing help; Paul was happiest when connecting with others. His family is grateful for the time he shared with them during his many years of well-lived life, 49 of which he spent married to his adored wife, Jane Lucas. In addition to her, he is survived by his daughter, Heidi Lucas and her husband, Bruce Tychinski; his son, Paul Lucas and his wife, Heather; his grandchildren, P. Graham Lucas, Gretchen Tychinski, Parker Lucas, Clara Tychinski, Peter Tychinski, Piper Lucas, and Penelope Lucas; his sister, Linda Andrews; his nieces, Laura Ruane and Hana Worku; and his nephew, Daniel Worku.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Trumbull, CT on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 at 3 pm.

Donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Cheryl R. Lindenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (Peekskill, NY), or to Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Please visit Paul's Book of Memories at www.McHoulFuneralHome.com.

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- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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

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Coupon must accompany payment

love to cook

by vicki frank day



Mac Attack Crunch Wraps

Re-imagining the fast-food classic with tortillas and tostadas

Another week has gone by and the challenge of thinking up dinner ideas continues. I don't mind it really, because even those times when I've felt like I was in a rut, doomed to repeat a favored handful of go-to recipes until they wear out their welcome, inspiration often comes along to breathe new life into my menus. That's what thankfully happened last week, and here's the story.

I was having a lovely chat with my neighbors on their front porch, sipping a cocktail and just enjoying the summer evening, when I realized I had lost track of time, which is kind of a lovely thing except that I had to get dinner made and had not come up with a plan before the visit. Usually, I not only have the week's menu planned, but have also shopped efficiently so I have just what I'll need. This particular week, though, was all topsy-turvy, filled with plans – some set, some not so much – and so I wasn't fully prepared when some of those plans fell through. That meant a bit of a scramble to come up with something, based on what I had on hand, a fact I shared with my neighbors.

We discussed it while we finished our drinks. It was a Tuesday, which for them meant taco night, and that's always a good idea, but one that felt a little played out to me since I'd made quesadillas not quite a week before. Plus, I didn't have most of the ingredients.

Then, on taking my empty glass to the kitchen, I noticed a Big Mac commercial on TV and there was a spark of ... something. Not sure exactly what, but the gears started turning. I must tell you I am not the biggest fan of fast food in general, but that is not to say that I am immune to the occasional craving. I might have a Big Mac attack once or twice a year, and that's more than enough (and usually something I regret). But seeing that ad didn't make me want to hop in the car

to get one. Rather, it made me wish my friends a good night and hurry home to get cooking.

As it happens, I had everything I needed to make a taco/burger mashup, and a quick look online gave me the method to make it work. So for dinner that night I had a Big Mac crunch wrap, and it was pretty delicious. Although not exactly healthy, it was certainly better for me than any fast food.

What's a crunch wrap, you ask? Just a pocket of goodness made by folding a flour tortilla around fillings on a crisp tostado (that's the crunch in crunch wrap), lightly fried to hold it all together in a most delightful way. Luckily, I had fillings that were similar to the famous burger and it did not disappoint!

MAC ATTACK CRUNCH WRAPS

Clearly, I was not the only one with this idea, because I found a recipe or two online when I looked up "How To Crunch Wrap." I only followed the assembling and frying methods, not the ingredients, which seemed pretty straightforward and came from what I had on hand. To that point, fill your crunch wrap with anything you like. But I do recommend trying this version at least once. It's fast and easy and craveably tasty.

NOTE: For the special sauce, I used purchased Thousand Island dressing as a base. If you don't have any, I recommend starting with a mix of mayonnaise and ketchup. I do not recommend subbing dill relish for the pickles, however, since there's too much liquid and not enough crunch.

ANOTHER NOTE: Because I was using what I had on hand, amounts are approximate. It's really about ratios and your personal taste anyway, so use this as a guideline and have fun!

INGREDIENTS for special sauce
Thousand Island dressing (about 1 cup)



Fold the tortilla around the fillings and tostada. Fry until golden brown and serve.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

OR ¾ cup Mayo + ¼ cup ketchup
Finely chopped dill pickles
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon dried mustard
½ teaspoon each garlic powder and onion powder
Salt to taste

INGREDIENTS for wraps
1lb ground beef
Vegetable oil for skillet
Salt and pepper, to taste
Special sauce (see recipe)
4 large flour tortillas (the bigger the better. I used 12-inch burrito tortillas)
4 tostada shells (these are crisp, fried 5-inch corn tortillas sold stacked in a bag)
Chopped dill pickles
Shredded lettuce
1 small sweet onion, finely chopped
Shredded cheddar cheese

METHOD
Make the sauce by mixing all ingredients together in a small bowl. Cover and chill at

least one hour.

Cook ground beef in a skillet with a little oil just until no longer pink (8-10 minutes), stirring to break it up. Season with salt and pepper. Drain off grease or use a slotted spoon to transfer cooked beef to a bowl.

In another skillet, heat about 1/4 -inch of oil over medium heat.

Lay tortillas out on a flat surface. Spoon ¼ of the beef in the center of each tortilla, about the size of the tostadas. Drizzle generously with special sauce. Layer on chopped pickles, lettuce, onion and cheddar. Top with a tostada.

Gently fold the flour tortilla around the fillings a little at a time to form pleats. The tostada will show in the center.

Carefully place wraps, folded side down, into the heated oil. They're big, so you'll do one at a time. Cook until just golden brown (only 2-3 minutes or they'll burn), then gently flip and repeat. Serve with a side of special sauce and call your craving satisfied.

I just love when the universe steps in to help out with dinner. It would be nice if the universe could also clean up afterwards, but I am grateful nonetheless. Besides, it's fun coming up with something as good as this, which now goes into the recipe box as a new go-to favorite, and one that means no more fast food runs when the craving hits. I can live with that, a little healthier, too. Enjoy!

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

Jake Shimabukuro at Towne Crier Friday

Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro will perform at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon this Friday, Aug. 29, at 8:30 p.m. Since gaining prominence in the early 2000s, Shimabukuro has mesmerized audiences with his innovative and dynamic style, taking the instrument to dizzying new heights. Over a dozen solo albums, Shimabukuro has shown a knack for moving between genres, sometimes in the same song.

For tickets, call 845-855-1300 or visit www.townecrier.com.

this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

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

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

Sudoku solution

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Resolution No. 2025121, that this Legislature shall conduct a public hearing on the 8th day of September 2025 at 6:30 P.M., in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York on the award of up to \$461,041 in matching grant funds through the Dutchess County Partnership for Manageable Growth Program, to partially fund

Legal Notices

the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement of approximately 201 +/- acres of Property, known as the Domin Farm, (Tax Grid Numbers 133400-6362-04-671168-0000 and 133400-6362-04-844138-0000), which is located on Freedom Road and Rombout Road in the Town of LaGrange, Dutchess County, New York, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and The Dutchess Land Conservancy to provide the balance of the funds.

Legal Notices

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that a copy of Resolution No. 2025121 is available at the Office of the Clerk of the County Legislature, County Office Building, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, where it may be examined by interested parties during regular business hours.

LEIGH WAGER
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature

Take Notice that the Dutchess County Office for the Aging will

Legal Notices

hold Public Hearings on the proposed 2026-27 ANNUAL UPDATE for services provided under the OLDER AMERICANS ACT, NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE CONGREGATE SERVICES INITIATIVE, NEW YORK STATE EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE WELLNESS IN NUTRITION PROGRAM, New York State AAA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, HEALTH INSUR-

Legal Notices

ANCE INFORMATION, COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, and NY CONNECTS LONG TERM CARE POINT OF ENTRY PROGRAM. Public Hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 10:30 AM
Wappinger Town Hall
20 Middlebush Road
Wappinger Falls, NY 12590

Thursday, October 9, 2025 10:30 AM
Poughkeepsie Senior Friendship Center
114 Delafield Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Legal Notices

The public is invited to attend the Public Hearings, and at the aforementioned dates, times, and places, all persons interested shall be heard.

An ABSTRACT of the ANNUAL UPDATE will be available for distribution at the Public Hearings as well as at Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 845-486-2555, after September 24, 2025.

All Public Hearing locations are handicapped accessible. Persons requiring special accommodations in order to take

Legal Notices

part in the Public Hearings should contact the Dutchess County Office for the Aging no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled event.

Parties unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to be included in the record of the Public Hearing. Written comments should be mailed by October 1, 2025 to: Director, Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601.

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

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

4			2		
	1	5			
				4	
		1			4

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

THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL

ACROSS

1. *Report _____
5. One on the beat
8. Put on the payroll
12. Fan sound
13. Buckeye State
14. Indy entrant
15. Table mountain
16. 2021 movie "The Harder They _____"
17. Carry away, in a way
18. * _____ Readers
20. Weary walk
21. Basketry stick
22. * _____ time for preschoolers
23. Plums and cherries genus
26. Allegiance
30. Crew propeller
31. Rh in Rh disease
34. Your majesty
35. Miss of the Muppets
37. Band event
38. Asci, sing.
39. Olympic castaway
40. *Didn't fail
42. Frozen H2O
43. Took a penny-farthing, e.g.
45. *Punctuation marks for famous words
47. Maltese or Havanese, e.g.
48. *Use Play-Doh
50. Cheap trinket
52. * $3+x=10$, e.g.
55. Soviet place of exile
56. Curtis, to friends
57. Beehive state
59. *Olden-day notebook
60. Honey-producing facility
61. Sushi restaurant soup
62. Location of altar
63. Type of poem
64. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald

DOWN

1. Mountain basin
2. Attention grabber
3. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
4. Hiccup's Toothless, e.g.,
5. Irritate by rubbing
6. Persian Gulf ship
7. Multi-
8. *"Get out of classroom" permit (2 words)
9. International Civil Aviation Organization
10. Retired, shortened
11. Bard's before
13. Lacking cordiality
14. Settle a debt
19. Unethical loaner's practice
22. Us, in Mexico
23. Temporary store
24. Reason to strike
25. Prodged
26. Totes or tugs
27. Permissible
28. Cease-fire
29. Many affirmatives
32. "Good grief!"
33. Bro's counterpart
36. *School alum
38. Next step for juvenile
40. Margaret, for short
41. Describe as similar
44. Elks' hangout
46. Poppy derivative, pl.
48. Marine cephalopod
49. *Grading arch
50. Big one at 7-Eleven
51. Regrettably, exclamation
52. Sound reflection
53. Auditory
54. U.S. space agency, acr.
55. Geological Society of America
58. *Van Halen's "_____ for Teacher"

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

Views from the 2025 Dutchess County Fair



Clockwise from top left, Colleen Hackett shows her dairy calf by the Hackett Holstein barn. Erich Steffenson and his dog, Mason, perform with PawStars. Elizabeth Zick shows her dairy calf a youth show. Beau the bull is pictured with his mom. Eight baby calves were born in the Salute to Agriculture tent this year. Baby pigs nurse with their mom. Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy balances a cap on his nose. Stilt Circus performers are shown in their patriotic costumes. Visitors view artifacts in the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Museum. An Off Axis Stunt Show performer does a high-flying act with his bike.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

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