

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Fishkill woman to be honored during annual March On for Brain Injury Walk on Sept. 13

By Kristine Coulter

Fishkill resident Sheila Durkin was eight years old when she was riding her bike and was hit by a car. As a result, Durkin, a traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivor, had to work to regain her ability to walk and talk, it was stated.

Durkin will be honored during The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) March On for Brain Injury Walk Hudson Valley on Saturday, Sept. 13. Durkin will make remarks about how her brain injury has affected her life. Registration and festivities start at 10 a.m. The Walk begins at noon on the Highland side of the Walkway Over the Hudson.

How did Durkin get involved with the Walk?

"About a year ago I was asked by BIANYS to be the Hudson Valley Honoree for the walk," said Durkin in an email to Beacon Free Press.

"The Brain Injury Association of New York State is proud to recognize Sheila as the 2025 March On for Brain Injury Hudson Valley Honoree, celebrating her kindness, spirit, warmth, and remarkable courage," said Eileen Reardon, executive director of BIANYS.

As for the steps in the process that took her to get to where she is today, Durkin said, "Ohh, there is so much. I was injured at 8 years old. I was in a coma for two months. I had to learn to walk, to talk, I was in the hospital for nearly two years. I went back to school and finished my education. I continue to move forward. I had to leave the house I grew up in so I can now live in my own apartment."

Durkin credits her strength and perseverance, supported by the unwavering love of her parents and the many people who have stood by her, have brought her to where she is today, it was stated. She is also thankful for the support of the Advocate Homecare team who assists her.

As for Durkin's health today? She said her health is "[r]eally very good. I can do practically anything except drive. I can sky dive!"

The accident occurred in 1970, 55 years ago.

"Being named the March On for Brain Injury honoree has made me feel like I'm on top of the world," said Durkin. "BIANYS is an amazing organization that helped me feel like I am not alone."

Why should people support the Walk?

"Because it's helpful for people like me who have had a brain injury to know we are not alone. To let people know about brain injury so maybe they can get more help and support," replied Durkin.

Durkin added, "I am very grateful to so many people most of all my family who have and continue to support me and be there when I need them."

The March On for Brain Injury Walk occurs in Hudson Valley, Long Island, Rochester.

For more information, visit <https://bianys.org/2025-march-on/>.

'We're still here, because you're still here'

Celebrating 20 years of Beacon Natural Market

By Kristine Coulter

"What we'd like to say to our customers - 'After 20 years on Main Street, we're still here, because you're still here,'" said Kitty Sherpa, who owns Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main St., with her husband, L.T. The Sherpas will celebrate two decades of their store opening in Beacon. The celebration take place Friday, Sept. 12 - Sunday, Sept. 14.

On a recent weekday afternoon, a continuous flow of customers purchasing goods went in and out of Beacon Natural Market. Kitty recently recalled looking for a storefront in Beacon with L.T. two decades ago.

"We were looking all over the Hudson Valley, looking for a place that needed a health food store," said Kitty. She said the location at 348 Main St. was not for sale when she and L.T. began looking for a location. When the location came up, "it was about the space," she said. The retail space is 4,000 square feet and then there is an additional 1,500 square feet in the back, said Kitty.

Some of the first customers 20 years ago were Beacon Sloop Club members, said Kitty, and the folk singer and activist Pete Seeger and his wife, Toshi, both of whom have passed away.



Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main St., in Beacon is celebrating 20 years on Main St. in Beacon from September 12-14. Pictured is Beacon Natural Market employee Caleb Herrera at the register last week.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued on page 2

Two Beacon City School District Board of Education members resign

By Kristine Coulter

Beacon City School District Board members Kristan Flynn and Anthony White resigned recently. The BOE had on the agenda to discuss the vacancies at its first meeting this month, Sept. 8.

White, who is employed by the Wallkill Central School District, will be succeeding that District's current superintendent, Kevin Castle, who is retiring next month, according to that District.

"There are changes professionally [and I'm] trying to be flexible with my schedule," explained Flynn, who added, "I really wanted to finish my term."

Flynn stated she was "sad" to be leaving and "proud" of the work that the Board has done.

"Thank you all very much. It's a real honor to serve," said Flynn.

Flynn said she was appointed in her first term and then went through an election process.

"There's a benefit of going out to the public and getting signatures," she noted. Flynn's current term began in July 2023 and was set to end June 30, 2026.

Flora Stadler, president of the BOE, said Flynn made "this District better. That's just a fact."

"I've been on the board for 12 years. It is with a heavy heart that I leave this position," said White.

He remarked, "I was always taught volunteerism gives back more than you give to it."

White advised, "It's hard work [but] enjoy it." He noted, "My word of advice



Beacon City School District Board of Education members Kristan Flynn, and Anthony White recently resigned from the board due to work obligations.

-File photos

- stay in your lane. Let the administrators do their jobs."

White reminded his fellow board members, "Always keep the kids in the forefront."

"You were the president (of the BOE) when I came," said BCSD Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl to White. He noted

he was thankful for everything White did for him.

Landahl said to Flynn, "Just [a] huge thanks, for the word that comes to mind, is the thoughtfulness you bring."

Landahl thanked White and Flynn for being part of the Board that took a chance on him more than eight years ago.

'We're still here, because you're still here'



Continued from cover

Since August 2005, Beacon Natural Market has continued to offer fresh produce, meats and deli foods. There are numerous supplements one can find in the store – and also expert advice.

During the celebration weekend, there will be demos and “a lot of free samples,” said Kitty. Baskets, personal training sessions, a bicycle, will be among some of the items in the raffles. Collection of the raffle tickets began on Sept. 8 and will be collected all week. Attendees can listen to live music during the celebration.

There will also be free samples and discounts. Kitty pointed out the new frozen vegan pizza, Trixie’s Pizza.

“For me it’s a mission. For me it’s not a business. It is a calling,” said Kitty, who previously worked for Greenpeace.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was panic buying, but Beacon Natural Market never ran out of stocks of toilet paper and other necessities because they deal with many local and small businesses, she explained.

“It’s really about providing people things that are safe and healthy for them



and good for the planet,” said Kitty.

There is a “sense of community.” People who know each other meet in the store. Some of the long-time customers are even featured on the celebration weekend advertisement, said Kitty. Seniors receive a 10% discount every day. “We do offer a lot of things on sale,” said Kitty.

One employee said, “I’m proud to be working some place that’s been around for so long. It’s an important part of the community.”

Caitlin Hennen is the buyer for groceries. When asked how the decision to



Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main St., in Beacon is celebrating 20 years on Main St. in Beacon from September 12-14.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter, Courtesy photo

order products is made and when to try new items, she replied, “If we think the customers will like it” and that they order “things that are new and exciting.” They also keep items that are staples in the store.

Asked about Beacon Natural Market celebrating 20 years in Beacon, Hennen said, “I’m not surprised. I think it’s a testament to what it means to the community, that it’s still here, and when so much has changed, that it’s still here.”

For more information, visit beaconnaturalmarket.com or on Instagram.

Go Red Luncheon has new chair

Brenda Swatek has seen a major shift in how people think about wellness in recent years – and she’s leaning into that momentum.

As a member of the Executive Leadership Team of the 2024 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon, Swatek saw firsthand how the American Heart Association, a glob-

al force for a world of longer, healthier lives, empowers local communities to live healthier lives.

This year, she’s chairing the 2025 event, set for Thursday, Dec. 4, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Poughkeepsie, 40 Civic Center Plaza, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“One stat that really hit me was that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, and it claims more lives than the top eight cancers combined,” Swatek said. “That’s something we need to talk about more.”

For Swatek, heart health is personal.

“My dad had heart disease,” she said. “It doesn’t just affect the individual; it affects the whole family.”

What also stuck with her from last year’s Luncheon? The energy. The support. The celebration.

“I loved how uplifting it was,” she said. “It was about celebrating life and lifting each other up. This year, I want to bring in younger voices who may not know about the Go Red for Women movement yet. I’d love to see more women-owned businesses at the Festival of Red before the luncheon, and, of course, hit our fundraising goal.”

In her role as vice president of human resources at IBM, Swatek supports global teams across the employee lifecycle and champions leadership development, innovation and skill growth.

“We’re focused on building talent strategies that work at the business unit level,” she explained. “That means attracting great people, keeping them engaged, and creating a culture where innovation and risk-taking are safe. We want leaders who inspire, and employees who are ‘learn-it-alls,’ not ‘know-it-alls.’”

A Green Bay native and first-generation college graduate, Swatek earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin. After stints in Raleigh, N.C. and Rochester, Minn., she now lives in LaGrange with her husband of 30 years, Brian, and their two children, Alex, 21, and Isabella, 17.

IBM’s support of the Go Red movement is no coincidence.

“It’s about education and health – two things IBM cares deeply about,” Swatek said. “The fact that we’re a sponsor shows how much we value the Association’s mission.”

So, why should you attend the Luncheon?

“Why wouldn’t you?” Swatek said. “It’s a celebration of a powerful cause. You’ll learn, connect, and walk away reminded of the incredible support system we have in this community.”

To be part of the Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon, visit www.heart.org/GoRedHV.

State Police: Flagger struck in Fishkill

State Police from the Wappinger barracks responded to Route 9D in the Town of Fishkill, for a report of a flag person struck by a vehicle on Sept. 3.

According to state police, the investigation determined that a flagger was directing traffic in a construction zone when a vehicle bypassed two cars stopped at a temporary traffic signal. Despite repeated verbal commands from the flagger to stop, the operator, later identified as Rrezarta Bajramaj, 33, of Wappinger, continued driving southbound toward the flagger, according to state police.

The vehicle advanced twice, making contact with the flagger’s legs, before reversing and leaving the scene, stated law enforcement.

Troopers subsequently located Bajramaj at her residence in the Town of Wappinger, where she was taken into custody without incident. She was charged with Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree (Class A misdemeanor) and issued an appearance ticket returnable to the Town of Fishkill Court on October 27.

The victim did not report serious injuries at the time of the incident, noted state police.

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Doctors perform first robotic cardiac procedure at Westchester Medical Center

Westchester Medical Center has taken a groundbreaking step in cardiac care with the successful completion of its first-ever robotic cardiac surgery. The procedure, led by Makoto Hibino, MD, Director of the Robotic Cardiac Surgery Program, in collaboration with David Spielvogel, MD, marks the start of a new era in advanced, minimally invasive heart surgery for patients across the Hudson Valley and beyond.

In mid-July, Dr. Hibino and Dr. Spielvogel removed a mass from the left atrium of a patient's heart using robotic-assisted technology. Traditionally, such surgery would require cutting through the breastbone and making a 15-20-centimeter incision in the center of the chest. Instead, the team performed the operation through a 5-centimeter incision on the right side of the chest – small enough to remain hidden even in summer clothing. This minimally invasive approach offers multiple benefits: faster recovery by keeping the chest structure intact, lower complication risks, and the elimination of the need for prolonged ventilator support after surgery. The patient has made a full recovery without necessitating ventilator

support after surgery and is now doing well, said Dr. Hibino.

“This was the first cardiac operation of its kind at Westchester Medical Center, but it’s built on decades of surgical expertise, as well as the latest advancements in robotic technology,” said Dr. Hibino.

“We’ve long been a leader in the fields of both cardiology and robotic surgery, and now we’re ushering in a new era of advanced cardiac care for our patients,” said David Lubarsky, MD, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer of WMCHHealth. “Westchester Medical Center is able to offer patients in the Hudson Valley the absolute best standard of care when it comes to heart health.”

Westchester Medical Center serves as a critical referral center for patients from across the Hudson Valley and beyond, including those transferred by helicopter from other hospitals. Unlike many major New York City hospitals, Westchester Medical Center features an on-site heliport, enabling rapid patient transport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Westchester Medical Center and Maria



Dr. Makoto Hibino

-Courtesy photo

Fareri Children’s Hospital continue to be the only ACS-verified Level I trauma care programs in eastern New York State north of New York City, and west to Syracuse, mak-

ing the hospital fully equipped to handle any cardiac emergency and any related trauma. The hospital is also ready to handle any follow-up care.

“Cardiac surgery isn’t just a one-time operation — it’s a commitment to ongoing, specialized follow-up,” Dr. Hibino explained. “When patients undergo surgery here, we can ensure consistency of care, safety, and access to the team that knows their case best.” Robotic cardiac surgery is one of many cardiac care surgical solutions offered by WMCHHealth’s Heart and Vascular Institute. The institute recently expanded its services with the addition of a Robotic Cardiac Surgery Program, led by Dr. Hibino, who is also part of the transcatheter valve team. The Robotic Cardiac Surgery Program at WMCHHealth treats degenerative and infective heart valve diseases, coronary artery disease, and atrial fibrillation. Physicians or families seeking consultations with WMCHHealth’s Heart and Vascular Institute should call 914-493-8793, option number 4, to schedule an appointment or visit WMCHHealth.org.

Serino, Dept. of Mental Health to host Town Hall series

To strengthen outreach to residents and families impacted by intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health and substance use challenges, and to gather their feedback on local services and programs, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) will host a series of Mental Health Town Halls across Dutchess County. Residents are invited to come and be a part of a conversation to learn about available services and resources, as well as share their feedback about needed resources or service changes. Four town halls will be held through September and October, with simultaneous Spanish interpretation offered at each event. Local community partners will also be present with information tables about available resources.

Serino said, “When it comes to mental health, every story matters. These town halls are about listening to our neighbors – hearing their struggles, their hopes, and their ideas – so we can make sure no one feels alone in trying to find help. We want to shine a light on the array of services that already exist, but just as importantly, we want to learn from you about what’s missing and where we can do better. By coming together and sharing openly, we can make sure our services truly reflect the needs of our neighbors.”

Mental Health Town Halls Schedule:
For all events, doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the event program will begin at 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Department of Mental Health, 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie;

Tuesday, Oct. 7 - Red Hook Community Center, 59 Fisk St., Red Hook;
Wednesday, Oct. 15 - Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia;
Thursday, Oct. 16 - Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls.

Each town hall will offer residents the opportunity to share their experiences and provide input to DMH about the services available and needed for:

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities;
- Alcohol/ Substance Use Addiction and Recovery;
- Mental Health Needs for Youth and Adults.

All mental health topics are welcome, and every comment, question, and story help guide how DMH evolves to meet community needs. All input will help the DMH shape its 2026 Local Services Plan, aligning long-term goals with statewide priorities.

Residents are invited to speak up, share experiences, and help shape the future of mental health services in Dutchess County. These forums are not just about sharing information, they’re about listening, learning, and improving together.

DMH Commissioner Jean-Marie Niebuhr said, “These town halls give us the chance to highlight available services and just as importantly, to hear directly from local residents about what’s working and where improvements are needed. With four events throughout the county, made possible by the generosity of our municipalities and community partners,

we are happy to meet people where they are and have them be part of this important conversation. The feedback we receive plays a vital role in shaping future programs and priorities.”

Residents planning to attend who may need to request accommodations, including American Sign Language interpreters, are asked to provide at least seven days’ notice, by emailing edentrone@dutchessny.gov or calling (845) 486-2885.

For those unable to attend, DMH welcomes individuals to submit comments online at dutchessny.gov/townhallcomments, fax comments to 845-486-2829, or mail them to: Mental Health Town Hall Comments; 230 North Road; Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. A moderator will follow up with a response and share the comment during the town hall, ensuring others with similar questions or concerns can benefit from the discussion.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT.

BULLSHOT CRUMMOND

BY RON HOUSE, DIZ WHITE, ALAN SHEARMAN, JOHN NEVILLE-ANDREWS, AND DEREK CUNNINGHAM

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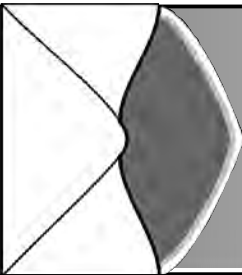
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Viewpoints



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.

‘Faith in humanity has been restored’

To the Editor:

My faith in humanity has been restored.
My 24-year-old grandson went to the gas station the other evening. When he returned home, he realized he did not have his wallet. You can imagine how upset he was as we now carry so much in our wallets and it's so difficult to replace it all.
We started a search of the car, then we went back to the parking lot at the gas station and went inside the gas station to check there. No luck at all.
We came home and it was around 10:30 p.m. We were on the phone trying to cancel some cards when there was a knock on the door. A very nice couple returned his wallet -- they had found it on the road. In the excitement of getting his wallet back, he forgot to ask their names before they slipped away.
Of course, we would have loved to have been able to do something nice for them for their trouble. Perhaps a gift card for dinner or something. Unfortunately, as we were unable to get their names, that was not possible.
So, I hope they see this and understand how very kind it was of them to bring his wallet back. Many people would not have done that. It's wonderful to know that there are still good people around.
A very grateful Grandma and Grandson in Wappinger.

Patty Glynn
Wappinger

Elks to host car wash Saturday

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 Veterans Committee is hosting a Car Wash Saturday, Sept. 13 at the lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The donations received will be used

to provide monthly free lunches for veterans and their loved ones and gifts for the holiday season for our veterans in local nursing homes, hospitals and assisted living.

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Mountain Stream Budo Martial Arts sets grand opening event in Beacon



Mountain Stream Budo Martial Arts offers traditional Okinawan karate, kobudo (traditional weaponry), Japanese jujitsu, and battodo (Japanese swordsmanship) as four fully separate programs.

After decades of service in Westchester and Putnam counties, Mountain Stream Budo Martial Arts will be opening its new Beacon location at 340 Main Street. The grand opening is set Saturday, Sept. 20 from 2- 6 p.m.
Mountain Stream Budo Martial Arts offers traditional Okinawan karate, kobudo (traditional weaponry), Japanese jujitsu, and battodo (Japanese swordsmanship) as four fully separate programs.
Owner and chief instructor Noah Mitchell

has 42 years of experience, teaches seminars and workshops across North America and travels to Okinawa, Japan every few years to further his own training.
The traditional karate program is divided into three age groups: Li'l Dragons Karate, ages 4-6; Youth Karate, ages 7-12, and Teen/Adult Karate, ages 13+.
Kobudo (Okinawan weaponry) is open to anyone 8 and over. Both Japanese jujitsu and iaido (swordsmanship) classes are for teens (13+) and adults only.

Back 2 School Block Party organizers thankful to all who made event a success

I Am Beacon, in partnership with Key Food, hosted the 10th Annual Back 2 School Block Party, a beloved community tradition that serves as both an annual school supply drive and a fundraiser for the Class in a Bag program. Through this initiative, I Am Beacon works directly with the Beacon City School District to ensure students are prepared for their very first day of school.
This year, thanks to the generosity of the community, I Am Beacon provided 45 fully stocked backpacks through Class in a Bag, serving students in both Beacon and New Windsor. At the Block Party itself, more than 130 drawstring bags with starter supply kits were distributed, ensuring even more children started the school year ready and confident.
Class in a Bag Coordinator, Kenya Gadsden, expressed her gratitude: “Thank you for the personalized backpacks, water bottles, and headphones. It shows the thoughtfulness of our community—treating the children of Beacon with the same care as their own.”
I Am Beacon also proudly collaborated with Fareground, donating supplies for their School Supply Giveaway on August 28th. As Executive Director, Reuben Simmons, shared: “Collaborating is part of our mission, and we believe in working together to maximize impact.”
The Block Party was made possible

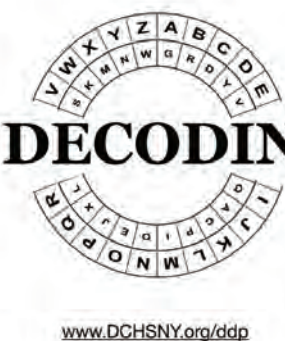
thanks to the generous support of event sponsors: Staples (Wappingers Falls), Mountainview Dental, Beacon Teachers Association, Stewart’s Shops, Salem Tabernacle Church, Fidelis, The Roundhouse, Joker Inc., Beacon Dental, Yanarella School of Dance, and State Farm (Catlin McVicker).
Special thanks also go to our community partners who helped collect supplies leading up to the event: Key Food Marketplace, Fareground, and the Howland Public Library. A heartfelt thank you to Christ Church United Methodist for their generosity and contributions to the drive.
On the day of the Block Party, community organizations came together to engage and uplift attendees, including: Fareground, Compass Arts, Fidelis, Little Preparatory, Mountainview Dental, Beacon Dental, GEMMS, State Farm, Girl Scouts, Conservation Advisory Committee, Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club, Rise Up, St. Andrew/St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Astor, South Avenue Elementary, Beacon City School District Nurse’s Unit, and the Beacon City School District Transportation Department.
A special shoutout goes to *A Little Beacon Blog* and the Beacon Teachers Association for their incredible face painting, and to the Newburgh and Albany teams for joining our Beacon Hoops All-Stars on the court.

Howland Library closed for painting week of Sept. 15

The Howland Public Library in Beacon will be closed during the week of Sept. 15 for painting and some exciting improvements. While closed, they will also be making a few changes to the library layout that they hope will make future visits even more enjoyable!
The plan is to reopen on Saturday, Sept. 20. Please check the library website, beaconlibrary.org, for updates about the reopening.

Dance at the Elks Lodge on Sept. 13

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m., located at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Attire is whatever suits your mood - from blue jeans to sparkles. These dances are informal and even if you come alone, one can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor. Admission is \$15 and includes complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available.
For more information, call 845-765-0667 or rhodaja@optonline.net.



DECODING DUTCHESS PAST



Dutchess County
Historical Society



The 150th NY Historical Association demonstration will include a look at camp life (left) and demonstrations of tactics and weapons.
-Photo courtesy of the 150th NY Historical Association.

Re-enactment and exhibition bring Civil War to life



Exhibition of items from Dutchess County and Rhinebeck Historical Societies will allow a close up look at items from the battlefield and homefront. Clockwise from top-right: explanatory panel will put the war in the context of the 1776 American Revolution; a medical kit used on the field and in military hospitals (inset shows detail), a draft wheel used in Poughkeepsie in 1863 as relying on volunteers was not meeting needs, photo of a 150th reunion at Gettysburg.

-Photo courtesy of DCHS

By Bill Jeffway

On Sunday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., the public will have an opportunity to witness a demonstration of military drills, weapons and camp life through re-enactors who authentically portray the life of a soldier during the US Civil War. The demonstration will take place in the field adjacent to the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) library and archives at 6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck.

The demonstrations will be conducted by the highly regarded 150th New York State Volunteer Infantry Regiment Historical Association (hereafter the 150th NY HA), a tax-exempt educational organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. The group preserves, promotes,

and educates the public on the topic of the Civil War by authentically representing the Union Infantry Regiment that was recruited in Dutchess County in 1862, known formally as the 150th New York Voluntary Infantry Regiment (hereafter the 150th Volunteers).

During the same hours, DCHS will hold an open-house in partnership with Rhinebeck Historical Society (RHS), with contributions from the Museum of Rhinebeck History (MRH) that focus on Civil War Collections. This gives visitors a chance to see items up-close and better understand life “at home.” Dutchess County saw no battles within her borders as the terrible experience of the battlefield was geographically far away. But as let-

ters, photographs and newspaper accounts reveal, the cruelty and brutality of the war was in immediate proximity emotionally. The Civil War remains the US’s deadliest war with the deaths of 2% of the population, the equivalent of seven million people today.

Exhibited items will include RHS’s collection of letters from Robert Hevenor, who enlisted as a private when the call first went out for volunteers early in the war and who ended the war as an officer leading one of the companies. On exhibit from DCHS will be the draft wheel from which names were pulled in 1863 in Poughkeepsie in a fundamental shift in how the war was fought. Visitors will find many “momentos” that persons at the time specifically left for future generations, like us, to see.

A long, increasingly difficult war - In November of 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President. The following month, South Carolina seceded from the U.S. forming the Confederacy. In April 1861, the Confederacy launched a strike at U.S.’s Fort Sumpter and Lincoln issued the first order to mobilize militiamen. Local men started to volunteer right away. Colonel John H. Ketcham received authority to form the 150th, largely from Dutchess County, in August of 1862.

By 1863, the US had to move away from volunteer infantry like the 150th to a forced draft or conscription of men in 1863. Support for the war was not unanimous.

The outcome of the 1860 U.S. Presidential election shows that Dutchess County residents, like most of the US north, were divided. Abraham Lincoln ran on a platform that would disallow the expansion of slavery in new territories. Lincoln won the 1860 Presidential election without winning any southern state. And while he won all northern states, except New Jersey, Dutchess County election results show the division locally. Lincoln carried the county overall, but he lost in the towns of East Fishkill, Fishkill (Beacon), Hyde Park, LaGrange, Red Hook, and the Town of Poughkeepsie. Lincoln won the national electoral college with only 39% of the popular vote. In 1864, the success of the Atlanta campaigns, which the 150th was very much involved in, helped Lincoln win the national election. However, locally, things got slightly worse for Lincoln. He lost in all the same towns as 1860, with the addition of the Town of Dover.

About the 150th NY HA - Living histories by the 150th NY HA, such as the one on September 14, involve setting up

camp for a day or a weekend, locally or away. The annual highlight involves a weekend program run by the National Park Service in October on the battlefield at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Battle reenactments involve creating an authentic 19th century camp and a battle scenario as it would have been fought at the time. The 150th NY HA participated in the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville. These were battles in which the original 150th had an important role during the war.

The 150th NY HA offers indoor and outdoor interactive Civil War programs to schools in Dutchess, Ulster, and Putnam counties. One to four members use authentic artifacts to provide a real-life experience with “Q&A” and discussion, aligned with New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies. The group also makes presentations to local historical groups and organizations.

The 150th NY HA features prominently in parades such as Memorial Day in Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, Stanfordville, and Millbrook as well as the New York City St. Patrick’s Day parade and halftime at West Point. The group has solemnly rededicated the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Poughkeepsie, dedicated the Civil War Monument in Stanfordville, and marked soldiers’ graves.

Documenting the original regiment’s history involves the transcription of letters and diaries of 150th members, archival research and digitization of photographs and other related documents. The 150th NY HA also locates and records gravesites of the original members of the regiment.

September 14 - The work of the 150th NY HA and represented historical organizations on September 14th wish to honor and preserve the stories of those who served our country on the battlefield and through sacrifice at the home. This is a rare coming together offering a wide range of experiences, at no charge to the public.

Members of the public are invited to bring any Civil War era or related item they may have for review by any number of experts onsite on Sept. 14th.



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

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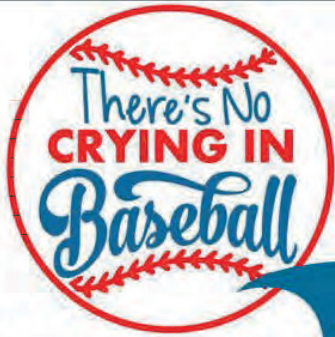


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Special memories come alive at the ballpark

By Morgan E. Maier

What is the most important thing to bring to the last day of baseball?

The answer isn't a glove, or your furry friend decked out in Retrievers gear. Nor a leisurely read, a scoring book. And it definitely isn't that lucky unwashed jersey. Your handful of bills can stay in the piggy bank, but sunglasses will certainly be useful.

The things fans take home from the stadium matter more than what comes in with them. A stitched souvenir — or three — for groups of tweens gathered on the concourse, gloved hands stretching towards every foul ball (even the most unreachable ones). An errant popcorn kernel in between sneaker treads, or lasting friendships.

Baseball gives us parking lot tailgates and a catch to kill time before the gates open. America's pastime does not hold the key to life's deepest mysteries. It is, however, near-perfection disguised as a parking lot party.

Some questions are easier than others, like why the Renegades have massive holes in their jersey design and "eau de cider donut" wafts in the air. Peanuts or pretzels, Cracker Jacks or Dippin' Dots?

Like ketchup on a hot dog, the feeling of connection comes standard with every stadium purchase.

For four fans-turned-friends of Josh Moylan, the loss of a father at the beginning of the season opened the door to a dark place. Father's



Fans Sarah, Dani, James and Dave are pictured with Josh Moylan of the Renegades.

-Courtesy photo

Day, birthdays spent at the stadium made the darkness a little brighter.

"We actually just told Josh last week how happy he's made us going through all this," said Sarah Athanas, a first year season ticket holder but a lifetime fan of the Renegades infielder.

In the wake of tragedy, of difficulties, life can be difficult. But for 9 innings, problems can be forgotten. The joys inside ballparks are for all to share, whether the jersey says New York, Boston, or Greensboro. Win or lose, it's been another year of baseball in the Hudson Valley to

look back on fondly.

As reliever Tony Rossi said to the 3,993 fans in-house ahead of the Renegades' final showdown, "Thank you all for making my first professional season memorable."

This writer echoes the sentiment.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT #	43	23	.652	-	4-6	W1
Hudson Valley NYY	41	24	.631	1.5	7-3	L1
Jersey Shore PHI	37	27	.578	5.0	7-3	L1
Aberdeen BAL	33	31	.516	9.0	6-4	W3
Brooklyn NYM *	26	39	.400	16.5	3-7	W1
Wilmington WSH	24	41	.369	18.5	3-7	L3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	35	31	.530	-	7-3	W1
Hub City TEX #	34	32	.515	1.0	5-5	W1
Greenville BOS	33	33	.500	2.0	5-5	W1
Winston-Salem CWS	31	34	.477	3.5	5-5	L1
Rome ATL	29	34	.460	4.5	6-4	L1
Asheville HOU	23	40	.365	10.5	2-8	L1





Renegades Extra!





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**See story,
page 8**

Southpaw Rivas gains Pitcher of Month award

By Morgan E. Maier

Xavier Rivas is new to High-A play. In fact, he doesn't have an official portrait on the Renegades' roster. The starting southpaw emerged on August 8, buckling batters and offering a longevity that the Renegades staff has needed.

Rivas's prowess has echoed through the South Atlantic League, earning him the league's Pitcher of the Month title in less than a month aboard. Rivas and Kyle Carr, who captured the award for July, are Hudson Valley's first back-to-back winners since Ben Shields and Trent Sellers (June-July 2024).

In 24 innings pitched over four starts, Rivas struck out over a third of batters faced (36.95%). He allowed just eight hits and 10 walks, as opponents hit .103 across his four starts. His second and third appearances saw a combined 22 strikeouts – the fourth Renegades pitcher to hurl double-digit strikeouts in consecutive starts. Hudson Valley Hall of Famer Wade Davis was the first in 2005. He was then a Tampa Bay farmhand, accelerating towards a storied 12-year MLB career.

Rivas was drafted in 2024, a 16th-



In 24 innings pitched over four starts, lefthander Xavier Rivas has struck out over a third of batters faced (36.95%).

-Photo by Dave Janosz

rounder out of Mississippi. This year marks his first professional season. Rivas captured Florida Complex League Pitcher of the Month honors, allowing just two hits over four appearances for the Yankees' rookie league

team. That's all the front office needed to see, and Rivas packed up to the Tampa Tarpons.

The lefty brought his 1.50 earned run average (ERA) to a must-win game against the Greensboro Grasshoppers on Sept 4. Until a downpour shortened his outing, the lefty delivered in a big way. Renegades' playoff hopes were kept alive by yet another stellar Rivas start, his fifth and final of the season.

Rivas was rolling in the sixth inning, pitch count nearing his season high. With 10 strikeouts and 5.1 innings on Rivas's day, the downpour called for an early exit in his final outing of the regular season. His one-hit performance backed by a 6-0 Renegades' lead, Rivas improved to 3-1 in High-A. He also lowered his Renegades ERA to 1.23.

The walks can be mitigated, his command honed to a devastating point. The pitch mix can get deeper, even more incalculable to hitters. Hudson Valley is a place to grow and develop, to build the future of the Yankees organization. Rivas brought his skill set to High-A in resounding fashion. With the offseason on the horizon, Hudson Valley's first look at the lefty's April form will be highly anticipated.

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Down to the final game – Renegades come close, but fall short in playoff run

By Morgan E. Maier

Facing the Greensboro Grasshoppers for the first time all season, the Hudson Valley Renegades' playoff push was decided by one game. The final game on both teams' schedules on September 7 decided which team would meet the Brooklyn Cyclones, who saw a drastic slide down the South Atlantic League North Division standings, in the playoffs. Although the Renegades fell short in the season finale 4-1, their last homestand was packed with memorable moments, including a series win. Hudson Valley allowed just one run over its four victories. Here's how they did it:

1. Starting pitching

The Renegades' starting pitching was magnificent this week, capturing four wins. Each winning pitcher went five or more innings, with Brandon Decker (1-1) contributing 10 innings over two starts. On September 6, Cade Smith went six innings on the way to a 1-0 win. Hudson Valley captured the series win and a third consecutive victory. Smith, Ocean Gabonia, and Brady Kirtner combined for 10 strikeouts. The team also set a single-season record with the 20th shutout of the season. Xavier Rivas, the league's final Pitcher of the Month for 2025, offered another stellar outing en route to his fourth High-A win.

2. Big hits

Camden Troyer made the difference on September 5, with two RBI singles to propel the Renegades' 3-1 win. Juan Matheus was a force in the leadoff slot over the series, contributing the Renegades' lone run on September 6. Matheus finished the week with 11 hits and five RBI, including a 3-4 performance on September 4.

3. Josh Moylan

Josh Moylan was an undeniable strength of Hudson Valley at the turn of the season. His three-hit performance - including two doubles and a pair of runs scored - was instrumental in the dominant 10-0 win on September 4. All series long, Moylan's proclivity for

reaching base set his teammates up to send him home. Four runs scored on seven total bases, plus three walks.

The Renegades entered the series 3.5 games behind the Grasshoppers. They finished the season a game behind, and two schedule postponements that were never made up. For what it's worth, Hudson Valley has a winning record over the two division winners. Could those extra games against Jersey Shore have made a difference? Maybe. But what Renegades fans saw in the season's waning week can tide them over until the baseball defrosts in April. Another great baseball season in the Hudson Valley books. Truly, nothing better.

Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP partners honored for excellence in 32nd edition of the Best Lawyers in America®



Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP partners include, from left, Robert R. Sappe, Bain R. Loucks, Kathryn C. Collins and Jeffrey M. Feldman.

-Courtesy photo

Hudson Valley law firm Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP (FKC&S) announced that partners Jeffrey M. Feldman, Robert R. Sappe and Kathryn C. Collins have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 32nd Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®.

All three are being recognized in the area of Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants in Fishkill, NY, and Feldman is also being honored in the category of Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants in Fishkill, NY. First published in 1983, Best Lawyers recognitions are compiled based on an exhaustive Purely Peer Review® evaluation.

"This recognition speaks to the strength of our team and the values we bring to every case," said Feldman. "I'm proud of the reputation we've built together at FKC&S and the outstanding results we deliver for our clients."

Established in 1986 by Feldman and Paul S. Kleidman, FKC&S's team has earned numerous accolades, including consistent recognition by Best Law Firms® since the publication's inaugural edition in 2010. In the 31st Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®, he was named 2025 Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants "Lawyer of the Year" in White Plains, NY - the fourth time receiving that distinction. An active member of the New York State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Dutchess County Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, American Association for Justice and the New York Medical Defense Bar Association, Feldman has been designated as a New York State "Super Lawyer" every year since 2008 and has achieved an AV® rating with Martindale-Hubbell since 1992, placing him in the top three

percent of attorneys nationwide. He resides in LaGrange, NY with his wife and has three grown children, as well as two grandchildren.

A member of the Dutchess County Bar Association and the New York Medical Defense Bar Association, Sappe joined the FKC&S team in 1995. Earlier in his career, he worked with the New York State Organized Crime Task Force and established a private practice in the Hudson Valley, litigating cases in New York State and federal courts. Sappe has represented healthcare professionals across numerous specialties, including cardiology, obstetrics, otolaryngology, gastroenterology and orthopedic surgery. His experience also includes representing clients in personal injury matters involving product liability, motor vehicle accidents and legal malpractice. A lifelong Dutchess County resident, Sappe lives in East Fishkill with his wife.

Collins, who joined FKC&S in 2016 and became its first female partner in 2019, focuses on medical malpractice, professional liability and general liability litigation. She has extensive experience defending and advising healthcare professionals and institutions, and in 2022 earned the AV Preeminent® Peer Rated Attorney designation from Martindale-Hubbell. Last year, The Chamber Foundation Inc. and the Women's Leadership Alliance of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce honored Collins with the ATHENA Award for her professional excellence, community service and mentorship of women leaders. A member of the New York State Bar Association, the New York Medical Defense Bar Association, Collins lives in Hopewell Junction, NY, with her husband and three children.

Rethinking the Fit: Why private school may be the best path for your child

By Karin Shultz

With the 2025-2026 school season upon us, many families are reflecting on past experiences, evaluating what went best and looking ahead, wondering whether their child's current learning environment is truly setting them up to reach their highest potential. Across the Hudson Valley, more and more parents are asking this question each year, and rightfully so; all parents want the best for their child. The traditional "one-size-fits-all" model of many public schools oftentimes struggles to meet the individual needs of each student.

The conversation is wider than public vs. private schools – it's about considering the environment where children can grow. In the past, choosing a private school might have been seen as a status decision. However, today, it's often about something much deeper: a desire for a school that truly sees children as individuals.

A More Personalized Approach to Learning - When schools prioritize the student-teacher ratio, the impact is undeniable. Students are less likely to fall through the cracks, more likely to form meaningful connections, and are better able to engage in the classroom in ways that actually stick.

The "one-size-fits-all" classroom is increasingly incompatible with what we know about how children learn. Some schools have responded by integrating adaptive tools – like AI platforms or using evidence-based programs like Orton-Gillingham to support students with learning differences. When these tools are paired with educators who have decades of experience personalizing instruction, the result is an environment where kids can thrive, not just fit the mold.

Leading With Values - More families are seeking schools where academic rigor goes hand in hand with character education. In today's world, it's not enough to just be smart. Our society demands empathy, adaptability and ethical thinking. Schools that intentionally weave experiential values – like honesty, humility, unity, freedom, respect and love directly into the curriculum, rather than treating them as a separate lesson or assembly



Karin Shultz

topic, are helping raise capable and confident students, and also self-aware future adults prepared to navigate their futures.

Take honesty, for example: in a classroom where truth-telling is encouraged, students learn that mistakes are not failures but opportunities for growth. Humility teaches students to listen intently before speaking. Respect fosters inclusion, collaboration and empathy –seeing others as beyond themselves and considering different experiences and perspectives. The result? Young adults who are emotionally intelligent, socially conscious and capable of navigating relationships in the workplace and the community with confidence and integrity.

As psychologist and author Angela Duckworth puts it, "Character is not just about doing the right thing; it's about doing the right thing consistently. Grit, self-control, and curiosity aren't just traits—they're teachable skills." When these values are part of a school's culture, students aren't just learning about character but living it every day.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

John Jay, Beacon score impressive football wins

By Morgan E. Maier

While holding Pine Bush to just 8 points, the Patriots put up an impressive 41-spot. Forcing fumbles and causing havoc downfield, John Jay earned each of its 5 touchdowns. Four players contributed a sack, as the Patriots smothered the Bushmen offense down the stretch. Logan Lawrence was 8/10 with 3 touchdown passes and 131 yards. Cruz Calcagni was all over Pine Bush, scoring on two of his 8 carries.

Epps leads Beacon - Elijah Epps scored 2 touchdowns and completed a two-yard pass. He finished with 71 rushing yards (80 total) in Beacon's win over Highland. Epps was masterful on both sides of the ball, the only Bulldog with double-digit tackles. Jah'Real Witted recovered two fumbles to gain 64 yards. Highland scored its final touchdown as time nearly expired. Beacon staved off their comeback effort, improving to 1-0

on the season.

The boys soccer team were charred by the Cornwall Dragons in an overtime thriller. After a scoreless first half, the Bulldogs fell 2-1.

Ketcham kicks Suffern on the road - Roy C. Ketcham opened girls' soccer play with a statement win over Suffern. Three first-half goals proved the difference in the 5-2 final score. Rylin Dorsman and Delilah Antonini with two goals, Kelsey Bollen made 15 saves, while Kaylee Hartford recorded two assists, while Ali Kaminski and Morgan LaCasse each contributed one. Grace Hotle also had a goal. The Storm opened their football season on September 5, improving to 1-0 against the FDR Presidents.

Beacon swimmers – The Beacon High School swimming team finished 14th in the 2025 Hudson Valley Classic, held at Newburgh Free Academy.

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A celebration of arts and community!

Cunneen-Hackett's Autumn Artistry set Sept. 14

By Morgan E. Maier

With the arrival of September, crisp air and shorter days welcome celebrations of community and local artistry. The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center (CHAC) awaits its annual Autumn Artistry festivities, to be held rain or shine on Sunday, Sept. 14. Friends of Poughkeepsie's art scene are sure to "fall" for this vibrant event on Vassar Street.

These collaborations of blues, brass and crafts will have something for all patrons from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Swirling notes of jazz complement the edible curations and eye-pleasing creations that will line the way between 9 and 12 Vassar Street. The live music bill includes members of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild, Dave Henningson, Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble and Ray Watkins.

Myriad creative media will headline the craft vendor booths, including – but hardly limited to – soaps, woodworking, pottery, leather, and edible curations. Crazy over ART on tour, Carrie Decker's mobile art van, will be in attendance to showcase the youngest artists' creative spirits.

This annual event, presented by the Vassar Brothers Institute, invites all to join together in celebration of arts and community, according to CHAC executive director J. Andrew Burgreen. "It's going to be a fun, social event," said Burgreen. "It helps people to get together and see what artists can do."

At the intersection of history, community, and the creative spirit stands the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center. It provides a space to perform, to commune with neighbors and collaborators. A community resource for showcasing creativity and exploring the arts, CHAC is constantly aflutter with performances, installations, and the opportunity to connect via creating something new.

Autumn Artistry began as a fall fundraiser for the preservation and maintenance of the two buildings that comprise CHAC, which houses various performance studios, theaters, galleries, and meeting rooms. Over 140 years old, Cunneen-Hackett's foundation lies within each brick of the twin Victorian structures. They were built with the city in mind, a space to benefit the greater community without profit. During Autumn Artistry, visitors can tour the building with Burgreen, so they may see the inner workings of Poughkeepsie's creative nuclei.

From acrylic paint to sculpting to photography, the artistry of CHAC comes in many forms. The city's art crawl, Poughkeepsie Open Studios, will conclude on September 14, but Autumn Artistry attendees will have the opportunity to view art installations at CHAC. Displayed in various studios at 9 Vassar Street will be the work of Onaje Benjamin, Vanessa Jean Falgoust, Lauren Hollick, Shirley Parker-Benjamin, Laura Polirer, and Carolyn Schlam.



Right: The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center and theatre will be decked out in color and will welcome a variety of music and arts vendors for the annual Autumn Artistry festivities on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9-12 Vassar Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Artwork by Lisa Weinblatt.

-Courtesy images Cunneen-Hackett

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Obituaries

Alan Charles Thomas



Alan Charles Thomas, 69, passed away on August 23, 2025. He grew up in Burnt Hills, New York, alongside his sister Sue and their late parents, Charles and Shirley Thomas. During his years there, he formed lifelong friendships.

After graduating with high honors from Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School in 1974, he completed a BS from Clarkson and later an MS from RPI. During a very distinguished career at IBM, Alan had 33 patents, 37 publications, multiple Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards, and retired with 43 years of dedicated service.

While his career was very important, he was happiest spending time with his family, friends, and numerous volunteer organizations. He spent much of his time

with the Beacon Sloop Club and Clearwater. Many remember him for his work on the Sloop Club's Broadside periodical, managing memberships, sailing, and festival chili. As many will attest, however, he would happily jump in to help in any way he could (but not without adding his own two cents). His love of the arts and literature brought him to The County Players at the Falls Theater where he could often be found building sets for various productions, and to the Poughkeepsie Public Library Friends Bookstore where he was responsible for the science section. This dedication won Alan a President's Lifetime Achievement Award from the Corporation for National Community Service under President Barack Obama in 2014. He was a lifelong Sierra Club member.

Alan was a wonderful husband and father. He took great joy in his family, friends, and community involvement. He leaves so very many happy memories. Somehow, he made everything possible. He was a softie. He saved every single thing his son or daughter ever made.

As a brother, Alan put up with much pestering from his annoying little sister (not always with good grace) and was always on the go—whiffle ball in the street, Little League, bowling league, tennis, collecting rocks for the museum in the basement, and melting a sizeable hole in his desktop with his chemistry set. As adults, he and Sue became good friends, with shared interests in folk music, the outdoors, literature, photography and hiking, and swapped many books on Polar exploration. They texted photos of their adventures daily, along with obscure Monty Python references and news of the kids. His passing leaves a hole in the family that can't be filled.

On paper he checked off all the father-son boxes: he would put the worm on the hook when fishing in the Adirondacks, he hung a wiffleball from a tree in the backyard to work on the perfect T-ball swing, coached little league fall ball (and let Rob play whatever position he wanted, regardless of skill), brought an eager 11-year-old to his first rock concert, attended endless school concerts, the list goes on and on.

However, many of the best memories came from the in-between. Driving around listening to Car Talk and Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me! on Sundays, insisting on making smoothies healthy for family movie nights, celebrating extremely average basketball stats, playing hooky to bring Rob to receive an Environmental Protection Agency award, or excitedly trying every new recipe learned in home ec class that week. His influence has led Rob to a life of loving nature, baseball, sailing on old wooden boats, digital and film photography, kitchen "experiments," and occasional stubbornness when he has a specific plan envisioned in his head. Thirteen year old Rob would shiver at the thought of growing up to be exactly like his father, but as he's gotten older he's come to cherish the similarities.

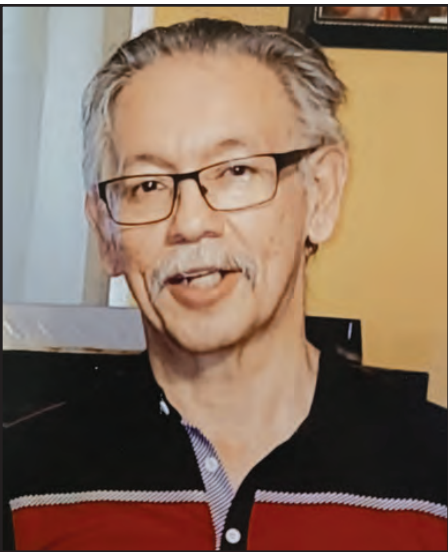
As a father he showed his love through both the smallest gestures and the greatest sacrifices. He was the man who always let his daughter, Katherine, choose the family dog—even when he wasn't sure he wanted one. Josie, the dog they have today, is a reminder of how her happiness was always among his first priorities.

Some of the most cherished memories come from the simplest routines: Wednesday night dinners during college, just the two of them catching up. That tradition became their special time together. There were also evenings spent watching the Yankees—sometimes celebrating, sometimes commiserating. He was the dad who almost always said "yes," or at least gave a grumbled "okay," whether it was another shopping trip or a new adventure. He just wanted his loved ones to enjoy life.

Above all, he was a provider who gave freely of himself and never asked for anything in return. His steady presence, generosity, and quiet kindness will be deeply missed. The love he gave will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family might consider a donation in Alan's name to one of the following organizations: The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, The Beacon Sloop Club.

Moises Galarza



Moises Galarza, a resident of Newburgh, passed away on September 3, 2025 in Kingston. He was 66 years old.

Moises was born on November 14, 1958 in Willimantic, Connecticut, the son of the late Luis Padua and Leonides Colon. He enjoyed old fashioned cars and wanted to be at any car show he could be at. He also enjoyed gardening when he could.

Moises is survived by his two daughters Elizabeth Romero and Jelitza Galarza. Moises is also survived by many brothers and sisters; Luis A. Galarza and his wife Valerie, Angel Galarza and his wife Athina, Benny Galarza and his wife Rose, Luis Galarza and his wife Bonnie, Abraham Galarza and his wife Wendy, Albert Soto and his wife Larina, Daniel

Padua and his wife Daisy, Nelly Galarza Timons and her husband Jeremy, Maribel Galarza Perez and her husband Hector, Nancy Galarza Hallock and her husband Dennis, Judy Galarza Jimenes and her husband Jorge, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Aurelia Galarza and his little sister Daizy Galarza.

Family and friends gathered on Monday, September 8 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon with a funeral service. Burial was held on September 9 at Fairview Cemetery.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.
Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

James Joseph Smith



James Joseph Smith of Wappingers Falls entered into rest Sunday, August 31, 2025 at home. He was 32.

Beloved son of Maria Galeotafiore Smith and Jim Smith, he was born December 31, 1992 in Brooklyn. Upon his move to Wappingers Falls, he attended and graduated from Wappingers Junior High School and Roy C. Ketcham High School, Class of 2010. He went on to graduate from Dutchess Community College and attended Stony Brook University. While there, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma; he fought a fierce battle with the disease for 13 years.

Jimmy's favorite team was the Philadelphia Eagles. His oncologist, Dr. Jason Rubin, reached out to the team on

his behalf and they sent him a personalized letter and memorabilia. It was such a gift and an amazing moment for Jimmy.

In addition to his parents, Jimmy leaves behind his grandparents, Jean and John Galeotafiore; Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle John; Uncle Michael and Jennifer; cousins, Josephine, John, Nicholas, Caroline and Michael; and his special friends, Brian Stewart and Nick Fornells.

Family received their friends on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, September 5, 2025 at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street in Wappingers Falls. Entombment will follow in Fishkill Rural Cemetery, Route 9 in Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jimmy's name to Hudson Valley Hospice, www.hvhospice.org.

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

Jacobson, Hinchey back two utility reform bills

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) and Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41) passed two major utility reform bills to bring more transparency in rate hike requests and restrict estimated billing.

The first bill (A2736/S8213) requires that any capital expenses included in a utility's request for a rate increase are fully and publicly explained. This would include the purpose and cost of the capital project, as well as any benefits to ratepayers. Because utilities receive a greater rate of return on capital expenditures, it is critical that these costs be disclosed to regulators in a transparent and complete manner.

The second bill (A5969/S2182) requires utilities to bill customers based on actual

monthly meter readings, rather than estimates, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances like extreme weather. It also directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a standard estimation formula for all New York utility providers.

"Central Hudson rates are high enough. Since utilities receive a greater return on capital expenses than on other expenses, transparency is essential for the PSC to make a proper determination on a rate increase request. The public and the PSC deserve to know," said Jacobson. "Customers deserve timely and accurate billing. Our previous legislation, which is now law, eliminated late billing. Now, we want to eliminate estimated billing."

"Our legislation addresses two of the biggest questions we hear from Hudson Valley residents: Why did my bill go up, and does it actually reflect what I owe?" said Hinchey. "Utilities are a public service, and the costs they pass on to ratepayers must be transparent, reasonable, and connected to serving their customers. These bills bring commonsense oversight into capital expenditures proposed by utilities and their billing practices, and we hope the Governor will sign both into law to help us protect ratepayers."

Both bills are another step in Jacobson and Hinchey's fight against Central Hudson's never-ending rate increase requests and controversial billing practices. The disastrous

rollout of a new billing and customer service system in 2021 led to a cascade of customer issues, including wildly inaccurate and missing bills, it was noted by Jacobson.

These problems didn't stop Central Hudson from making repeated requests for rate increases, including a 25% increase request in 2024. The PSC instead approved a 5% increase that went into effect in July 2024. Soon after this was approved, Central Hudson proposed another increase. In August, the PSC approved an increase of more than 10% for electricity and more than 20% for gas over a three-year period.

The bills are awaiting the Governor's signature to become law.

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151 Adoption

152 Novenas

154 Lost & Found

155 Personal Services

200 Services

201 Home Improvement

202 Cleaning Services

203 Lawn Services

221 Professional Services

222 Tax Experts

223 Beauty Services

225 Business Services

226 Travel & Services

227 Bridal Services

295 Financial

296 Mortgages

300 Real Estate

301 Townhouses & Condos

302 Commercial Property

304 Mobile Homes

305 Lots & Acreage

400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

401 Apartments for Rent

402 Rooms for Rent

403 Furnished Rooms

404 Furnished Apartments

405 Wanted to Rent

406 Garages for Rent

407 Vacation Rentals

408 Houses for Rent

420 Commercial Rentals

500 Musical Merchandise

501 Kid Stuff

502 Clothing

503 Furniture

504 Appliances

505 Free Items

506 Computers

507 Sports Equipment

508 Exercise Equipment

509 Office Equipment

510 Firewood

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512 Winter Merchandise

516 Misc. Merchandise

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711 Tag Sale

712 Moving sale

713 Rummage Sale

714 Flea Market

715 Craft Corner

716 Barn Sale

717 Estate Sale

718 Auctions

719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted

721 Wanted to Buy

722 Bazaar

723 Consignments

724 Farmers Market

725 Collectibles

750 Events

800 Boats

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Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: **sdnadvertising@aol.com**

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

If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. **Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810**

Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.

We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.

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

Coupon must accompany payment

PPLD sets Boats, Books and a Changing Climate on Sept. 13 at Waryas Park

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) is partnering with the Schooner Apollonia to host Boats, Books, and a Changing Climate on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Waryas Park from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. along with the Schooner Apollonia and the Hudson

River Clearwater Sloop. This is a great opportunity for kids to sail on the Hudson River and learn about the environment. To learn more about the Schooner Apollonia, visit the website at www.schoonerapollonia.com.

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puzzle
solutions**

8	6	5		9	7	1	4	2	3
4	3	9	2	8	6	5	7	1	
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STUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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York, hereby invites the
submission of sealed
bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-
37-25
**Event Equipment for
Veterans Affairs**
Bids will be received
until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th
day of September 2025
at the Dutchess County
Division of Central Ser-
vices, 378 Violet Ave-
nue, Suite 2, Pough-
keepsie, New York
12601. Specifications
and bid forms may be ob-
tained by visiting our
website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting
"Government", then se-
lecting "Bidding and
RFP Opportunities". For
additional information,
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NOTICE**
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for: Bid #RFP-DCP-35-

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Architectural
Services
Proposals must be sub-
mitted electronically
through the Empire
State Purchasing
Group's Regional Bid
Notification System
(BidNet Direct) Portal on
or before 2:00 p.m., Oc-
tober 1, 2025. Specifica-
tions, proposal forms
and submittal instruc-
tions may be obtained by
visiting our website
<http://www.dutchessny.gov>,
selecting "Government",
then selecting "Bidding and
RFP Opportunities". For
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NOTICE**
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York, hereby invites the
submission of sealed
bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-
41-25
Crushed Road Salt and
Treated Road Salt
Bids will be received un-
til 2:00 p.m. on the 17th
day of September 2025

Legal Notices

at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our [web site](http://www.dutchessny.gov) <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

**REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE**
The Purchasing Agent,
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Poughkeepsie, New
York, hereby invites the
submission of sealed
bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-
42-25
Specialty Paper
Bids will be received un-
til 2:00 p.m. on the 15th
day of September 2025
at the Dutchess County
Division of Central Ser-
vices, 378 Violet
Avenue, Suite 2, Pough-
keepsie, New York
12601. Specifications
and bid forms may be ob-
tained by visiting our
w e b s i t e

Legal Notices

<http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
- Suite One
Beacon, New York
12508
Phone (845) 838-
5002
September 3, 2025
SUBJECT:
Variance Application
Applicant:
Dean Vandemark
Address: 4
Fowler Street
Tax Grid No.:
30-5954-44-951663-
00
Zoning Classification:
R1-5
Dear Neighboring
Property Owner:
Dean Vandemark, 4
Fowler Street, has
applied to the Zoning
Board of Appeals for

Legal Notices

relief from Section 223-17 D. to allow for the construction of a rear deck, which requires relief from the following:

1. Section 223-17.D. to allow for a 3 ft 7 in side yard setback (10 ft required)

The full application is available online at: <https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/page/enda-s-minutes/>

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than

Legal Notices

4:00 PM on September 16, 2025, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov
Mercedes Perez
Zoning Board
Secretary

**REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE**

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-32-25

Scanning of Annual Tax Rolls and Other Document Imaging Projects

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of September 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government" then se-

Legal Notices

lecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-38-25

Overnight Respite Services

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., October 8, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

THEME: MEET ME IN...

ACROSS

1. Manual calculator, pl.

6. Beach Boys: " ____ Only Knows"

9. Army beds

13. Pressed ham and cheese sand-wich

14. Part of spch

15. Popular Latin dance

16. Influencer's creation

17. Hula dancer's flowers

18. Birdlike

19. *Meet me here, under the arch

21. *Meet me at the Top of the Rock

23. Comic book expression for alarm

24. Press backward arrow key

25. "Hand" with claws

28. Spreadsheet software command

30. Day off, backwards

35. Bug-eyed

37. "Cheers" regular

39. Coupe alternative

40. Be dependent

41. Damage one's reputation

43. Slightly (2 words)

44. Prefix for below

46. Shade of beige

47. Java neighbor

48. War mounts

50. Rope fiber

52. " ____ Now or Never"

53. Leave at the altar

55. Flapper's feathers

57. *Meet me at the London Bridge

61. *The Black Eyed Peas: "Meet Me ____"

65. *Meet me in ____ Mara, Kenya

66. Undergarment

68. *Meet me in Australia to see this bear

69. Done to printer cartridge

70. Corn unit

71. Poet W. H. ____ of "Funeral Blues" fame

72. Infamous Nazi villain

73. Strong solution of sodium

74. Like gelled hair

DOWN

1. Parts of a play

2. Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"

3. Cain's victim

4. Paddler's vessel

5. Endows or empowers

6. "Buffalo ____ , won't you come out tonight..."

7. Keats' poem

8. Jinn or genie

9. Guinea pig or capybara

10. Mixture

11. Russian monarch

12. What Titanic did

15. Went to bid farewell (2 words)

20. *Meet me in Orthodox church to see these

22. *Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968

24. *Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands

25. *Meet me under the Eiffel Tower

26. Real estate broker, e.g.

27. "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom ____

29. *Meet me by the Trevi Fountain

31. Adipose tissue

32. *Meet me at the Burj Khalifa

33. Like the Tower of Pisa

34. Bigfoot's cousins

36. Swirling vortex

38. Filly's mother

42. Popular Cuban dance

45. Be next to, as in rooms

49. Fall from grace

51. The Kenosha Kickers' songs

54. Sticker on a jar

56. Run ____ of the law

57. Same as ayah

58. Respiratory rattling

59. Osiris' sister and wife

60. Opposite of zigs

61. Tortoise's opponent

62. Do like fly fishermen

63. Sheltered, nautically

64. Pull

67. Everybody loved him on TV

Suguru

	3				
				5	
	3				
				2	
					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.

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
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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

love to cook

by vicki frank day



Fall preview

One of autumn’s signature fruits gets the sweet treatment.

Finally! Cooler days and nights are here to let us know fall is on its way. And if you know me, you know fall is my favorite! From now until Halloween I’ll be writing about all things fall, so buckle up! The best place to start? Apples, naturally!

As I sit on my front porch every morning sipping my coffee with my dachshund (who is in equal measure cranky and sweet), the direct view from my vantage point is my apple tree. I’m looking at it now, in fact, its laden branches swaying in the brisk breeze, calling to my desire to start filling the house with the aroma of warm baking spices.

My little tree is a wonder, especially when you consider that I leave it alone to do its thing. Last year it suffered a blight that greatly reduced the yield; and although I see remnants of it again this year, it’s produced its little heart out. All I do is prune it when needed and water it occasionally when the weather is particularly hot and dry, and it does the rest. It’s full of Fuji apples of all shapes and sizes, and I think the dry summer has made for sweeter fruit. I filled a bucket with more than enough for a pie or three and there’s plenty more where that came from. Today, though, I think we’ll make cookies.

For that I drew inspiration from some of my other cookie recipes as well as the

tried-and-true Betty Crocker cookbook. The batter is adaptable in that you can add what you like: nuts, pears, even shredded carrots or zucchini. I added about 1 tablespoon of applesauce (a.k.a. apple shredded with a microplane) to up the moistness and subtly boost the apple flavor, although this step isn’t necessary.

OLD-FASHIONED APPLE COOKIES

If you start with room temperature butter, this comes together quickly. I recommend peeling the apples before cutting them into ¼-inch pieces (a little bigger is fine) for better texture. One apple may not seem like enough, but it is, although feel free to add more. Use any apple variety you like, add nuts or shredded carrots ... make it your own! I baked one batch on greased baking sheets, the other on parchment. Both were equally good with moist centers and slightly crisp edges.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large egg (preferably room temperature)
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon applesauce (optional)



Old-Fashioned Apple Cookies.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

1 medium-large apple, peeled and chopped (about 1 cup)

METHOD

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease baking sheets (or line with parchment) and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat together egg and brown sugar. When blended, add brown sugar and beat until well mixed and smooth.

In a separate bowl sift or whisk together flour, cinnamon, baking soda and nutmeg. Stir in salt and add, one half at a time, to the batter, mixing well. Stir in apples.

Drop heaping teaspoons of dough onto prepared baking sheets, about 2 inches apart (they will spread as they bake). Bake until light brown, 8-10 minutes. Transfer to a cooling rack.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

If, like me, you love fall, the flavors in these cookies may be the perfect way to

start enjoying it. They may even, dare I say (oh yes, I dare!) rival pumpkin spice. They will certainly satisfy any craving you have for soft, slightly chewy cookies warmed with cinnamon and nutmeg and there’s apples, so I guess they’re good for you? Well, they’re good for your soul, to be sure! AND they get the grumpy dachshund seal of approval (although he gets more apple than cookie), so you’ll probably want to make a double batch. 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.

Look back at origins of Mesier and Brower

The Wappingers Historical Society is hosting a talk entitled “Brower v. Mesier and Mesier v. Brower: Assault, Slavery, and Court Crisis between Two Founders of Wappinger in 1793,” presented by Dutchess County Historian William P. Tatum III, Ph.D. Explore these local Colonial-era court dramas, which will include a look back to the origins of both Brower and Mesier, along with the roles they played in Revolutionary Dutchess.

The Brower and Mesier families are connected by modern Wappinger’s most prominent colonial landmark and home of the Wappingers Historical Society - the Mesier Homestead. Mesier purchased the homestead from Brower in 1777 through an intermediary, potentially sowing the seeds of dislike that boiled over into violence and court drama in the 1790s. Join

Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum for a deep dive into the 1793 lawsuit in which Nicholas Brower brought suit against Peter Mesier, Matthew Mesier, and their enslaved man Jack in the Dutchess County Court of General Sessions (the county’s criminal court) for assault, and the counter charges Mesier brought against Brower.

This presentation will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls. Wappingers Historical Society members and the general public are invited to attend. Suggested donation of \$5 for non-WHS members. For more information, please call 845-632-1281 or email info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org.

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