

County program recognizes first female veteran posthumously

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 Sue Serino welcomed those 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, a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, 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.

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

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

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 August 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. 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 the balloon launches and tethered rides commence. “I’m not a heights person,” says 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



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

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.”

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 its 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,” says Castella. “The balloons are very colorful and when

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Germania’s Oktoberfest features German food, dancing & culture



Germania’s Oktoberfest will feature lots of dancing, plus German foods, beverages and culture on Sept. 5, 6 and 7. Courtesy photo

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

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County program recognizes first female veteran posthumously

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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 her 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 hand-made quilt from Mental Health America

of Dutchess County’s Veterans Programs’ Quilts2Honor, 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,” Cavaccini said to Kinsell’s relatives.

A representative from NYS Senator Michele 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.”

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

“Taps” was played by local resident 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.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and members of Sgt. Michele Kinsell's family, the County's Honor-A-Veteran Committee and elected officials attend the most recent Honor-A-Veterans Program ceremony on Aug. 19 in Wappingers Falls. *Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't.* Below: A quilt was presented to Sgt. Michele Kinsell's family during the ceremony on Aug. 19 in Wappingers Falls. *Photo by Kristine Coulter*



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Germania's Oktoberfest features German food, dancing & culture

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Above, bartenders from Germania offer a toast to the annual Oktoberfest set Sept. 5, 6 and 7. Right, one of the popular dishes includes German sausage, spaetzle, sauerkraut, beer and dessert. Courtesy photos



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 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," says 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" says Reuter. 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!

Rolison, Murray urge NYS Board of Parole to reject proposed rule change

Senator Rob Rolison and Senator Dean Murray, Republican members of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee sent a letter to Daryl Towns, Chairman of the NYS Board of Parole, urging the rejection of a proposed rule change that would drastically alter the way the Board considers parole in the case of violent offenders that committed crimes when they were minors, further eroding public safety in communities throughout New York State.

Under the proposed rule, the Board would be required to place more consideration on the age and "brain development" of the offender rather than the danger the offender poses to the community, the nature of the crime committed, or the impact on the victims. The rule would apply to offenders who are serving a life sentence for a crime committed while under the age of eighteen. Life sentences are reserved for the most heinous felonies, including murder and sexual assault, making those who would qualify for this new consideration among the most violent offenders in the prison system.

The proposed rule comes amid reports that an increasing number of teens are the victims and perpetrators of violent crimes in the wake of New York's Raise the Age legislation.

"During my time as a police officer in the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, I saw firsthand the lifelong scars left on victims and families by crimes so violent and heinous that a life sentence is the only just outcome. The Parole Board's duty is to protect the public and stand with victims—not to create a path for offenders who have already proven they are capable of unimaginable harm. Public safety must be the top priority for government, never an

afterthought. This proposal tips the scales toward the offender at the expense of the community. I stand with victims, and with Senator Murray, in urging the Board to reject it outright," said Senator Rob Rolison, Ranking Member of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee.

"The number one responsibility of the NYS Parole Board should be to ensure the public's safety. This rule change flies in the face of that responsibility. I am also extremely concerned that this rule change very much mirrors changes included in legislation, (S.159) "Fair and Timely Parole", that was introduced, but did not pass, the NYS Senate earlier this year. Rather than going through the body that represents the people of New York, the state legislature, the parole board decided to bypass and ignore the legislature and adopt this controversial change, on their own, through a rule change. I fear this will have deadly consequences," said Senator Dean Murray, Member of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee.

"Now is not the time to adopt a policy which seeks to negate criminal culpability for violent offenders who have already demonstrated a willingness to endanger their communities and inflict serious harm on others. The Parole Board must instead prioritize public safety and ensure that dangerous criminals, regardless of age, are not released back into the community," the letter reads.

The proposed rule change is currently in the public comment period, which will expire on October 12. The Senators urged residents to express their opposition to this dangerous proposal during the open comment period. Public comments can be submitted by email to: rules@doccs.ny.gov.

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Balloon rides top annual festival in Union Vale

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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!

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Questioning ‘common sense’ campaign

To the editor:
I become concerned about the quality of our campaigning whenever I see “common sense” road and yard signs. The slogan seems to suggest everything, while saying nothing.
Last year in my Town of Stanford the “common sense” campaigners told us next to nothing about what they wished to do for our town with their common sense. At our “Meet the Candidates” night, those who managed to show up had almost nothing to say concerning intended leadership.
And then in late October, they mailed to each and all of us a liberal serving of mud in the form of a political flyer featuring a young opposing candidate named Teddy Secor who was blamed for failure to own a house here. Never mind that he has been engaged constructively in much of our public life for years!
Using our common sense, we elected him to our town council to fill out an unexpired term. He has been a fine member of a very successful governing board.
Yes, let’s use our common sense this November to elect Teddy, Julia Descoteau, Charlie Cunningham, Jim Myers, Rita Bell and Dennis Smith in Stanford along with all our other worthy Democratic candidates in Dutchess County.
Michael Shafer
Town of Stanford

Opposing eminent domain in Town of Red Hook

To the editor:
The Dutchess County Association of REALTORS® (DCAR) strongly opposes the Town of Red Hook’s attempt to seize private property in Barrytown through eminent domain for the creation of a public park.
Private property rights are a cornerstone of our communities and a fundamental principle we are committed to protecting. Eminent domain has historically been reserved for true public necessity when no reasonable alternatives exist. In this case, the Town has not demonstrated such a necessity. Residents of Red Hook already have access to the Hudson River through the Village of Tivoli, the Tivoli Bays managed by New York State Parks, and nearby communities including Rhinebeck and Germantown. The taking of a long-standing, privately maintained boat club, established in the 1940s and improved over generations by its members, is not a matter of “need” but rather government overreach.
Further, concerns have been raised regarding the timing of

recent zoning changes that devalued the property prior to the Town Board’s 3-2 vote to pursue eminent domain. This raises serious questions of fairness and transparency. Additionally, no comprehensive plan has been presented regarding how the Town would fund, maintain, or bring the property into compliance with state requirements should the taking proceed.
The Dutchess County Association of REALTORS® stands with the many residents, local leaders, and organizations who have voiced opposition to this action. We urge the Town of Red Hook to respect private property rights and to pursue alternative avenues for expanding public access that do not involve seizing land from responsible private owners. Protecting property rights is not only essential to our industry but also to the stability, fairness, and trust that communities like Red Hook depend upon.
John T. Greenan
Dutchess County Association of REALTORS®

OUR 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
- 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 Northern Dutchess News 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 Northern Dutchess News.

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 Northern Dutchess News. Editorial deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at noon. Advertising deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at 5 p.m. Contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

NYS Parks completes infrastructure improvements at Mills-Norrie State Park

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) recently announced the completion of a more than \$3 million upgrade to the infrastructure at Mills-Norrie State Park’s campground facilities in Staatsburg. OPRHP notes the wastewater project is part of an ongoing reinvestment in New York’s State Park system and will have a positive impact on the Hudson River quality.
New York State Parks Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons said, “Vital, back-to-basics infrastructure improvements, like the new wastewater facilities at the Mills-Norrie campground, are essential for park operations. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of State Parks staff, these critical projects are continuously underway, often behind the scenes. Whether you’re kayaking, hiking, or camping, every New Yorker deserves a clean, comfortable, and enjoyable experience in our state parks. This project not only enhances the visitor experience at Mills-Norrie but also reflects our commitment to being mindful stewards of the nearby Hudson River.”
This infrastructure project consists of a complete wastewater facility upgrade, including the construction of a new septic absorption field to replace two existing outdated absorption fields. New sanitary and effluent sewer mains have been constructed with new pump stations to safely convey wastewater from cabins, restrooms, and a shower building to the new absorption field – all with the capacity to

potentially tie-in future projects. The campground’s recreational vehicle dump station has also been modernized and expanded to allow for more convenient access. The project is supported by New York State Parks capital funding.
Mills-Norrie State Park is made up of two adjoining parks, Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park and Ogden and Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Parks, connected on the west by the Hudson River. Together, they comprise more than 1,000 acres. A serene, wooded area with glimpses of the Hudson River provides an ideal location for 44 tent sites and 10 cabins available for rental at the park’s campground. Campers have convenient access to attractions within the park, including its signature river trail, Gilded Age mansion tours at Staatsburgh State Historic Site, a DEC environmental center, a 145-slip marina, and the Dinsmore golf course -- one of the oldest golf courses in the country.
Mills-Norrie also offers a full menu of recreational opportunities and activities for visitors of all ages. The numerous trails that thread through the grounds of both Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park and Ogden and Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Parks are ideal for walking, jogging, hiking, and cycling - treating visitors to fabulous views of the Hudson River which extends approximately two miles directly along the parks’ western boundaries along the River Trail, providing a unique experience with direct access to the shoreline.

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Rhinebeck Garden Club sets annual sale Sept. 27



On Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Rhinebeck Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant and Bake Sale at Cordes Hall, Rhinebeck Reformed Church, 6368 Mill Street. Perennials, herbs, and houseplants will be available; selection is always varied and pricing is competitive. Bake sale to include muffins, quick breads, cakes, pies, and cookies. Proceeds enable the Club to remain a viable organization to educate community members interested in gardening, foster an appreciation of gardening, and maintain selected civic sites in Rhinebeck. To donate plants to sell, obtain more information about the sale, or become a member, call Sue at (845) 797-3226, or Hannah at (914) 263-5298. *Courtesy photo from the 2024 Plant Sale*

send us your news —————
————— cschmidt@sduchessnews.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hyde Park Library continues ‘Know Your Local Government’ speaker series
The Hyde Park Library is presenting a speaker series entitled “Know Your Local Government.” If one would like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of one’s elected officials, don’t miss these sessions. Guests will include:
• Sept. 1 - County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt and County Legislator Brendan Lawler
• Sept. 8 - Hyde Park Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani
Registration is required; visit hydeparklibrary.org/events to sign up.

Rhinecliff community event set Sept. 6
The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company will present its annual Chili Cook-Off, Pie-Baking Contest and Field Game Day on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. (Rain date: Sept. 7). All ages welcome. The event will take place at Firemen’s Field on the corner of Valley Way Road and Loftus, next to the Old Schoolhouse Condos in Rhinecliff.

Game starts at 4 p.m. All Chili entries must be registered and on the table by 4:50 p.m. Bring a hot pot of chili for a chance to win \$100, a dish to pass or just your appetite to share among friends and family. Free hot dogs and beverages for everyone.

In addition to the \$100 first-place prize for Best Chili, the winner of the Pie Baking Contest (any fruit pie) will also win \$100.
Call (845) 876-5738 for information.

Hyde Park Repair Cafe & Recycling Event set Sept. 6
Hyde Park’s Climate Smart Committee will hold a Repair Cafe & Recycling Event on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The United Methodist Church, 1 Church St., Hyde Park. Bring in your beloved but broken items for free repairs and advice. Now includes recycling of batteries, A/C units and mini-refrigerators. For more information: www.ClimateSmartHydePark.org

Scrabble tourney on Sept. 6 at Bangallworks
Bangallworks, at 97 Hunns Lake Road in Stanfordville, will host a Scrabble Tourney on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. sharp to mid-afternoon. Entry fee is \$15, and registration is required by Sept. 5. BBQ lunch included. Email info@bangallworks.com or call (917) 929-9221 for an entry form.

Poughkeepsie Elks Flea Market set Sept. 7
The Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge will hold their yearly Flea Market on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 29 Overocker Road in Poughkeepsie. There will be 27 vendors on hand. Breakfast and lunch will be available at reasonable prices. Call (845) 454-6660 for more information.

Stanford Supper Club to meet Sept. 10 at library
The Stanford Supper Club will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Stanford Free Library, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville. The theme is “brought to you by the Letter C”; bring a potluck dish to share that starts with “C,” or one that uses an ingredient starting with “C.” Recipe sharing and families welcome. Beverages, paper plates, paper bowls, plastic ware, name tags and food signage provided.

Free Rabies Vaccine Clinic Sept. 13
The Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) will once again partner with the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARS) to offer a free rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction. The event is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Advance registration is required; registration opens Wednesday, Aug. 20 at hvvars.org.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents and \$15 per pet for non-residents. All dogs must be on a leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years with proof of prior vaccination. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year. Microchipping will also be available at a cost of \$45 per pet, and a one-year distemper vaccine for \$25 per pet.

Historic Red Hook Cemetery Crawl Sept. 20
Historic Red Hook’s Cemetery Crawl returns for its fifth season this fall! Part scavenger hunt, part self-guided tour, the Crawl takes you through six Red Hook cemeteries to uncover the stories of fascinating local residents and their memorials. With just your smartphone in hand, you can enjoy a crisp fall day exploring history in an engaging, family-friendly way.

Launch Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Launch Location: Village of Red Hook, Historic Red Hook table in front of Bliss Juice

End Date & Awards: Sunday, October 26, 2025, 3:00 PM at the Elmendorph Inn. Every participant receives a prize, with four grand prize baskets awarded.

More Info: www.historicredhook.org/cemeterycrawl

Surf and Turf Dinner set Sept. 25 at East Clinton Firehouse

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department will hold its 44th Annual Surf and Turf Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the East Clinton Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners. Sit down 5 & 7 p.m. Take-out 6 p.m. only. Cost: \$22 regular or \$32 super-size. Reservations required; call (845) 266-5485.

Vassar Temple announces High Holy Days services

Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie, invites the community to worship on the upcoming High Holy Days. Rosh Hashana begins the evening of Sept. 22, and Yom Kippur begins the evening of Oct.1. The congregation’s clergy Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann will officiate. Most of the High Holy Day programming will be hybrid (available both in person and on Zoom,) and there will be professional security present. Please visit the website www.vassartemple.org for the complete service schedule. No fee is involved, but

everyone wishing to attend must contact the Temple and register in advance, and donations to help defray our expenses are appreciated.

The congregation is accepting donations of nonperishable foods for its annual Yom Kippur Food Drive to benefit a local food pantry. Vassar Temple is a welcoming, inclusive congregation in Poughkeepsie, and is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.

For further information, and to sign up to attend, contact office@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570.

Registration for archery classes at Bowdoin Park open on Sept. 2

Registration for the next round of Dutchess County Parks’ popular weekend archery classes at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie will open Sept. 2 at 9 a.m. Sessions begin on Sept. 13 and will take place at Bowdoin Park’s archery range, located near Pavilion 4. The program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots to accommodate more students. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for children ages 8 and up, and adults with any level of archery experience. Spots are limited, so be sure to register early at www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation.

The first session will cover basic archery safety and skills for new participants. Most of the sessions will be spent practicing with the bows, allowing participants to learn through experience. All equipment is provided. The total cost for the program is \$70 per person and includes all five classes and equipment.

Dates and times for the archery sessions are:

- Saturday, Sept. 13
- Saturday, Sept. 27
- Saturday, Oct. 11
- Saturday, Nov. 1
- Saturday, Nov. 15

Time Slots

- 8:30-9:30am
- 10-11 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 2-3 p.m.
- 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Other naturalist programming, including group weekday Archery, Junior Survival, Scout Programs and School Field Trips are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling the Parks office at 845-298-4602.

For registration and programming information, visit DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

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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 Keane’s pesky breaking ball. In August, opponents are hitting just .125, including 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 shortstop 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



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

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.



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



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 blooped a two-run single to get the Bennygages 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, holding 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 Cunnningham 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 oppos-

ing 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?

RENEGADES FEATURE

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.

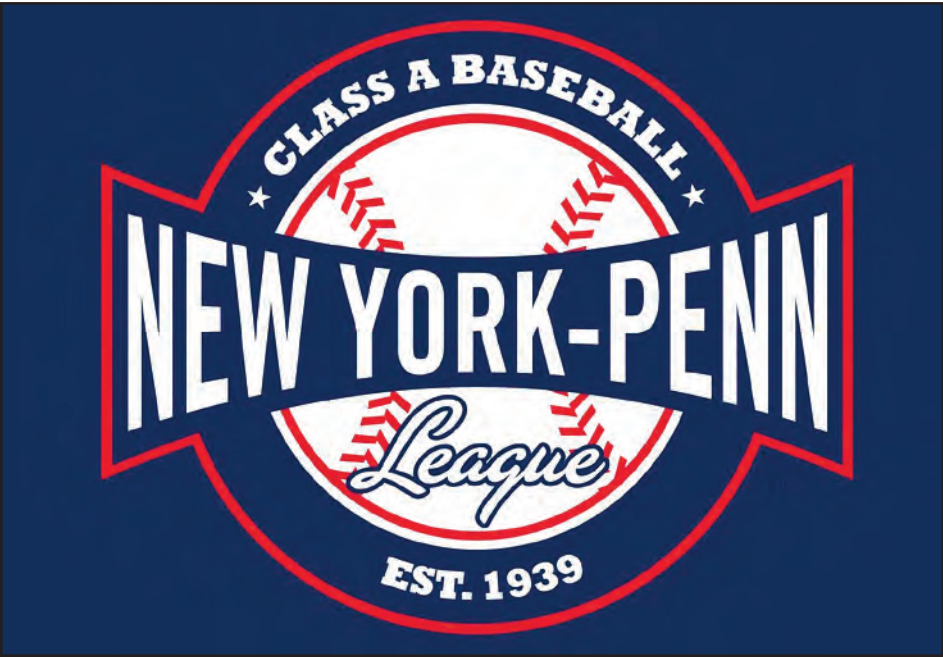
Four became part of the introductory MLB Draft League, as will become of

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 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



The Renegades played their first 26 seasons as part of the New York-Penn League. Courtesy image

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?”



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‘Cultivating Dutchess’ and SUNY Cobleskill presentation highlight 10th Agricultural Forum at Dutchess County Fair

The 10th Annual Dutchess County Agricultural Forum was held last week Thursday at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck, spotlighting the County’s flourishing agricultural sector, which generates over \$45 million annually for the local economy. Held in partnership with the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, the annual events brings together local farmers, agri-business representatives, agricultural and land conservancy organizations, as well as State, County and local leaders and community members to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the agricultural industry.

Dutchess County is one of New York State’s leaders in agritourism, with its farm tours, pick-your-own operations, wineries, equine activities and other on-farm events. With total agricultural sales of \$45 million, Dutchess County is the center of diversified and specialty agriculture. Between its crops, livestock, specialty products and value-added products, Dutchess County has one of the most balanced agricultural profiles in the state.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Farms fuel our economy, provide fresh food, preserve open space, and welcome visitors from near and far. Most importantly, they reflect the hard work and resilience of our farmers. With Cultivating Dutchess, we’re making it easier for farmers to find the resources and support they need so they can continue to do what they do best, Farming has always been a part of our story here in Dutchess, and we’re committed to making sure it remains part of our future.”

Serino introduced Amanda Bergin, the



Local leaders, farmers, and representatives from agricultural and land conservancy organizations gathered at the Dutchess County Fair for the 10th annual Dutchess County Agricultural Forum last week Thursday. *Courtesy photo*

County’s new Agricultural Navigator, and plans for a new online hub, “Cultivating Dutchess,” which will consolidate resources for farmers – everything from information about the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and agricultural districts, to the County’s Agricultural Directory, Partnership for Manageable Growth, “Farming in Dutchess” virtual series and more – into one convenient webpage, with the goals of:

- Centralizing resources to make them easy to find;
- Strengthening agriculture education and careers;
- Improving agricultural literacy

among decision-makers;

- Supporting farm-friendly policies; and
- Building collaboration between farms, schools, towns and organizations.

When it launches, “Cultivating Dutchess” will make agricultural programs and resources easier for farmers to find; highlight the importance of farming to the local economy; help towns make informed, farm-friendly decisions; promote agricultural careers for young people; and build stronger partnerships across the County.

The forum also included presentations by Dr. Marion A. Terenzio, President of SUNY College of Agriculture and

Technology at Cobleskill, who offered a broad look at agriculture in New York and what the future holds. Dr. Scott Ferguson, Executive Director of the Institute of Rural Vitality at SUNY Cobleskill, shared insights into the impactful work of the Institute for Rural Vitality, including how its initiatives have supported the successful launch of small businesses entering the agricultural marketplace over the past five years.

After the forum, participants from the ThinkDIFFERENTLY 4-H program, which includes children of all abilities, exhibited their animals at the annual Fair Flourishing Farmer’s Showcase.

County opens Agency Partner Grant applications

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced the application process is now open for the 2026 Dutchess County Agency Partner Grant (APG) Program. The APG program provides two-year grant funding to local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations who provide outcome-based programs to address identified community needs. The APG Program provides vital support to strengthen local communities by funding youth development, homeless prevention, workforce development, senior transportation, nutrition assistance, mental health and wellness, and literacy programs, among other critical needs.

Serino said, “Dutchess County is fortunate to have so many incredible non-

profit organizations embedded in our communities, helping to improve the quality of life for our neighbors. Through our Agency Partner Grant program, we are proud to partner with them to maximize resources and tackle the challenges our communities face to make a real difference in people’s lives.”

An application workshop and Q & A session will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. All interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend.

The APG program is a competitive grant process administered through the Department of Planning & Development.

All applications are reviewed and evaluated by the County’s volunteer Community Development Advisory Committee, who provide final recommendations to the County Executive for approval.

Additional information about the 2026 APG Program is available at www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Agency-Partner-Grant-Program.htm, including the specific Application Instructions and Guidance. Applications

will be accepted via an online portal through Sept. 30 at 3 p.m.; awards are expected to be announced in late December 2025, following the adoption of the 2026 Dutchess County Budget.

Organizations that have questions or would like additional information about the grant program should contact the Department of Planning & Development at communitygrants@dutchessny.gov or (845) 486-3600.

County to participate in Labor Day Weekend impaired driving enforcement effort

Impaired driving crackdown runs through Sept. 1st

Law enforcement agencies throughout Dutchess County are gearing up for a special enforcement initiative aimed at curbing impaired driving during the Labor Day weekend. This effort will run through the end of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 1. Police departments across the state will join forces in this coordinated effort to decrease the number of alcohol-related injuries and fatalities during this period.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that during the 2023 Labor Day holiday, there were 511 traffic fatalities, of which 36 percent involved a drunk driver, and 62 percent of those impaired crashes involved drivers with a blood-alcohol content (BAC) nearly twice the legal limit.

The Labor Day Weekend Engagement Campaign is one of several statewide enforcement initiatives supported by the

New York State STOP-DWI Association, with additional funding from the STOP-DWI Foundation through a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. Other statewide STOP-DWI campaigns target events such as Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick’s Day, Memorial Day weekend, July 4th weekend, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the December holiday season.

Despite significant reductions in alcohol- and drug-related fatalities due to STOP-DWI efforts across New York, too many lives are still lost to crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers. Highly visible and well publicized initiatives, like the STOP-DWI High Visibility Community Engagement Campaign, aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving.

Drivers can contribute to these efforts by planning ahead for a sober ride. Motorists can download the “Have a Plan” mobile app to find a safe ride home. For more information, visit stopdwi.org/mobileapp.



Studio Views

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AGRICULTURE AT THE FAIR



MIKE LEARY
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The members of the Mike Leary Scholarship Fund handed out 10 awards to youth at the 2025 Dutchess County Fair. Youth honored included Cassidy and Hailey Brennan, Mackenzie Phillips, Lyris Pennock, Cooper Randall, Addison Stapf, Siena Chorney, Owen Clum, Jillian Roush and Mia Serino. The purpose of the scholarship is to benefit youth with a passion for raising project animals. The scholarship committee includes founder Ben Prentice, Annette and Jon Prezzano and Matt Leary. A total of \$2,500 in scholarships were awarded prior to the Youth Livestock Sale on Saturday, Aug. 23. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



4-H scholarship winner Lauryn Menz, right, is pictured with Scholarship Committee Chair Debbie Scannell on Saturday at the Dutchess County Fair. Also receiving scholarships, but not pictured were Jackson Crisp and Gretah Kilmer. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



George Whalen, right, presents Ronald Miller Scholarship awards to Riley Mahaffey and Katelyn Marshall. Not pictured is scholarship winner Jamison Fountain. *Photo by Morgan E. Meier*

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--HELD OVER--
Weapons (R) Freakier Friday (PG)
The Naked Gun (PG13)
Eden (R) The Bad Guys 2 (PG)
Superman (PG13)

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AGRICULTURE AT THE FAIR



Top beef cattle winners at the 2025 Dutchess County Fair are pictured above. From left are Lucas Preciado (Grand Champion), Riley Mahaffey (Reserve Champion) and Henry Skuza (third place overall). *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



Emily Coon, seated, won the Champion Showmanship honors at the 2025 Dutchess County Fair. She was also the winner in the hog category. Pictured from left are, Katie Drum (lambs), Riley Mahaffey (beef), Emily Coon, Emma Alford (dairy cattle) and Elianna Fell (dairy goat). *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



Youth competing in the Little Britches competition are pictured above. Top finishers from right are Jacob Angell with daughter Kate, Phillip Beckmann with son Wade and Ed Hackett IV with daughter Riley. *Courtesy photo*



Roger Loughran III had the Grand Champion Market Meat Goat at the 2025 Dutchess County Fair. Pictured above are Judge Bryan Beaver, Cristel Clum, Roger Loughran Sr., Lisa Loughran, Roger Loughran III and Mike Clum. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

JUNIOR FAIR BOARD MEMBERS SHINE AT 179TH DC FAIR



Members of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society Junior Fair Board provided assistance to a variety of events at the 179th Dutchess County Fair. Members include, from left, James Hicks (vice president), Autumn Prezzano (treasurer), Nathan Prezzano, Ashley Keck, Annette Prezzano (President), Faith Schultz (Secretary), Jackson Crisp, Paige Tegtmeier, Jenna Lawrence and Hope Miller. Not pictured are member Brendan Scoralick and advisor Mariel Mustello. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

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Views of the 2025 Dutchess County Fair

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, Elizabeth Dill is framed in her work - the art of chair caning in the Century Museum Village. Colleen Hackett shows her dairy calf outside the Hackett Holstein barn. Visitors admire historic artifacts in the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Museum. Priya Kala of Poughkeepsie won a blue ribbon for her three-stemmed Celosia.

continued on page 12

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS

continued on page 12



Adelle Kilmer had the Grand Champion Poultry and the buyer was Steve Hobson of Hobson Windows.



Mackenzie Phillips had the Reserve Champion Poultry and the buyer was Anthony Cidras.



Mackenzie Phillips had the Grand Champion Game Bird and the buyer was Kreuscher Acres.



Lyriss Pennock had the Reserve Champion Game Bird and the buyer was Rhinebeck Sport and Spine.

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Views of the 2025 Dutchess County Fair

continued from page 11

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, baby calf Beau is pictured with his mom in the Salute to Agriculture tent. A total of 8 calves were born at the Fair this year. Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy balances a cap on his nose. Stilt Circus performers are adorned in patriotic costumes. Leopold Pflaum and Juliet Hagan of the Red Hook High School Roboraiders perform with a robot. Bethany Prater of Lagrangeville won the Chairmen's Choice award with this huge squash.

continued on page 13



YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 11



Lyriss Pennock had the Grand Champion Water Fowl and the buyer was Dr. Richard Ross of Rhinebeck Dental Care.



Jasper Mashburn had the Reserve Champion Water Fowl and the buyer was Hicks Cattle.



Katie Drum had the Grand Champion Lamb and the buyer was Heroic Food, Inc.



Katie Drum had the Reserve Champion Lamb and the buyer was Hidden Meadow Farm.



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Views of the 2025 Dutchess County Fair

continued from page 12

All photos by Curtis Schmidt



Clockwise from top left, Elizabeth Zick works with her calf in the Spring Dairy show. Shelly, a 25-year-old Sulcata Tortoise native to Africa attracts a young visitor. The tortoise was shown by the Two By Two Zoo of Pleasant Valley. Future 4-H'ers include Riley Hackett, Wade Beckmann and Emma Self. Kate Cahill of Wappingers Falls won a blue ribbon with her multi-colored Dahlia. Erich Steffensen performs with Mason, one of PawStar dogs.

continued on page 14

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 12



Roger Loughran III had the Grand Champion Meat Goat and the buyer was Air Masters Northeast.



Natalie Shultz had the Reserve Champion Meat Goat and the buyer was EAS Excavation LLC.



Lucas Preciado had the Grand Champion Steer and the buyer was Air Masters Northeast.



Riley Mahaffey had the Reserve Champion Steer and the buyer was Air Masters Northeast.



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Fair!





Clockwise from top left, a performer with the Off Axis Stunt Show flies high on his bike. Little Britches winners included, from right, Jacob Angell with his daughter Kate, Phillip Beckmann with his son Wade and Ed Hackett IV with his daughter Riley. Betsy Sarles of Rhinebeck baked these winning brownies.



Tessa Mashburn had the Reserve Champion Rabbit and the buyer was Foster's Coach House Restaurant.

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE RESULTS continued from page 13



Livia Underhill had the Grand Champion Hog and the buyer was JD von der Leith and Sons.



Bobby Coon had the Reserve Champion Hog and the buyer was the Salt Point Syndicate with Bob Beckmann, Barbara Hackett and Jacob Angell.



Hailey Brennan had the Grand Champion Rabbit and the buyer was Heroic Food Inc.



Zoe Biniaris had the Grand Champion Rabbit of three pen and the buyer was Friends of Mike Leary.



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Congratulations to all exhibitors, FFA and 4-H youth at the 2025 Dutchess County Fair!

Creative Living

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Discover artistic inspiration at open studios Labor Day weekend

Art enthusiasts and cultural explorers are invited to immerse themselves in a weekend of creativity during Art Studio Views this Labor Day weekend. From Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, 30 artists will open their doors to the public, offering a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the craftsmanship and vision behind some of the region's most acclaimed artworks.

Located in five Hudson Valley communities – Hyde Park, Germantown, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Tivoli – Art Studio Views (ASV) has been a cornerstone of the local art scene for 18 years. It is renowned for its promotion of local talents and bringing people together to appreciate their work.

“We are thrilled to welcome visitors to Art Studios Views over Labor Day weekend,” said Joanna Hess, director of ASV. “This event is not only a celebration of art but also a chance for our community to come together and experience the power of creativity. This event promises to be a highlight of the holiday weekend, blending cultural enrichment with the joy of artistic discovery.”

Regardless of what type of art one is interested in, Hess said, “the tour has something for you – painters working in oils, acrylics, watercolors and inks; collage & mixed media makers working with found objects; printmakers; photographers; and ceramic artists whose work ranges from functional with a bit of funk thrown in for good measure. It’s all here

for you to discover.”

Throughout the weekend, guests can anticipate intimate guided tours led by the artists, and some demonstrations, providing insights into their creative processes and inspirations.

Hess noted that ASV exhibits are on view throughout August at The Betsy Jacaruso Gallery, located in the Courtyard in Rhinebeck, and the Red Hook branch of the Ulster Savings Bank (on Route 9). The exhibits are opportunities to preview the artwork of the participating artists.

Open studio tours create a vibrant culture in the community. Follow the bright yellow Art Studio Views signs along the route to find these private studios.

Attendees are urged to plan their personal tour in advance by visiting the ASV website, artstudioviews.com, where more information on each artist and sponsor can be found. Maps are available at ASV Headquarters: The Artists’ Collective of Hyde Park (artistscollectiveofhydepark.com); Art Gallery 71 (artgallery71.com); the Betsy Jacaruso Studio & Gallery (bestsyjacaruso.com); Equis Art Gallery (equisart.com); and Tivoli Artist Gallery (tivoliartistsgallery.com).

Admission to the studios is free, but please leave your pets at home.

For more information to plan your visit, about ASV artists, sponsors, and spots to stop for a meal, visit artstudioviews.com.



Participants in this year's Art Studio Views tour include painters (from top left) Russell Bogdan of Germantown, Gwen Bardon of Rhinebeck and Rhinebeck painter Henry Nuhn. *Courtesy photos*

THE ASV CLASS OF 2025

(**indicates studios are also open Monday, Labor Day*)

Germantown/Clermont: Dea Archbold: painting on glass; *Russ Bogdan: painter; Marie Cole: painter/printmaker; *Ramah Commanday: wood-fired ceramics; Grace Gunning: metal arts; Susan Kotulak: fiber arts; *Agam Neiman: painter

Red Hook/Tivoli: Sean Bowen: painter; *Yoram Gelman: photographer; John Hopkins: painter; Louise Kalin: printmaker; Kevin Palfreyman: painter; Linda Palfreyman: painter; Kathy Schmidt: painter

Rhinebeck/Rhinecliff: *Gwen Bardon: painter; *Elisabeth Barnett: painter; *Melissa K. Braggins: printmaker/ceramics; *Ted Braggins: printmaker/works on paper; Joanne Gelb: mixed media/printmaker; *Mark Hopkins: painter; *Vera Kaplan: painter; *Linda Lavin: alcohol ink painter; *Nansi Lent: painter; *Adrianne Lobel: painter; Jean-Marie Martin: painter; Wendy Miller: painter; Ann Moring: painter/sculptor; *Henry Nuhn: painter; Ann Rhinehart: painter; Alix Travis: painter; *Dean Vallas: painter

Hyde Park: *Tatiana Rhinevault: painter

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 21 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

Odd/Even
Connect Dots:
odd numbers only
▲ 1 - 115
even numbers only
■ 2 - 118

By David Kalvitis

© 2005 Monkeying Around



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 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



Amy Parrella at the trial garden at Bard College. Right: Celosia Red Velvet Cake. Photos by Mark Adams



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.

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Mac Attack Crunch Wraps

Re-imagining a 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) 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



Photos by Vicki Frank Day

- 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 a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.



Fold the tortilla around the fillings and tostada. Photos by Vicki Frank Day

Morton Library seeks fiber art for October exhibition

Morton Memorial Library, at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff, has issued a Call for Art for its Homage to Fiber Creators, an exhibition that will open on Oct. 10, the week before the Sheep and Wool Festival at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds (taking place Oct. 18-19).

Morton is asking textile artists: knitters, quilters, rug hookers, embroiderers, crocheters, weavers, spinners, etc. to

share their creations with the Morton community. Creations ranging from freshly carded wool, to colored skeins of yarn, to quilts, rugs, handbags, scarves, embroidery, and beyond are welcomed.

The exhibition is open to all ages. Submission deadline is Oct. 4.

Contact Sandy at (845) 876-2903 for more information.



www.DCHSNY.org/ddp



Dutchess County
Historical Society

Detail and Humanity: The animals of Caroline Morgan Clowes

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 landscape 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 prac-

ticed 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. 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)." While "Evensong" depicts a group of reclining



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. Images courtesy of DCHS



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

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.dchsn.org/e-award"



Ukulele wiz Jake Shimabukuro will play at the Towne Crier in Beacon Friday, Aug. 29. Photo by Sienna Morales

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 effortlessly between genres, sometimes in the same song.

After being taught the instrument by his mother at age 4, Shimabukuro became

a local phenom, performing on his own and in a local group Pure Heart. Early in his solo career he became a YouTube sensation when his cover of George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" went viral. Since then, Shimabukuro has gone on to play the world's most venerable venues, from The Hollywood Bowl to Lincoln Center to the Sydney Opera House and The N.O. Jazz Fests and collaborated with some of the world's greatest musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, Bela Fleck and The Flecktones,

Jimmy Buffett, Jack Johnson, Bette Midler, Ziggy Marley, Sonny Landreth, Billy Strings, Lukas & Willie Nelson and Warren Haynes.

The Honolulu, Hawaii-born Shimabukuro has also won his share of awards and, just a few years ago, he was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as a Member for the National Council on the Arts.

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

Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE
BIDS SOUGHT**
The Town of Milan is seeking bids for the following highway materials for the year 2026.
1. Abrasive Sand for snow and ice control, which must meet, item

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D-1402: Processed or natural material sand specifications of Dutchess County-price per ton, FOB and delivered
2. Item 4 Gravel – price per ton, FOB and delivered
3. Bank Run Gravel – price per ton, FOB and

Legal Notices

delivered
4. Bituminous Concrete – all types, price per ton, FOB
5. Washed Crushed Stone–size#1 and#1A, price per ton, FOB and delivered
6. Crushed Stone Fill – various sizes, price per ton, FOB and delivered

Legal Notices

7. Crusher Run – price per ton, FOB and delivered
For specifications, contact the Superintendent of Highways at (845) 758-5164.
Sealed bids will be received by the Town Clerk on or before 2:00 p.m. 9/12/2025. Bids will

Legal Notices

be publicly opened at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571 at 7:00 p.m. 9/15/2025.
All bids must be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked “BID”.
A non-collusion bidding certificate must accompany all bids. The Town

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Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Awarded FOB materials shall be available for purchase by other political subdivisions of New York State as allowed per New York State Municipal Law.
By Order of the Town Board

Legal Notices

Catherine Gill,
Town Clerk

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

A & E CALENDAR

Through Sept. 7: Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents “Annie.” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Performances: Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3 p.m. Evening show on Sat., Aug. 30, 8 p.m. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org
Through Sept. 26: Red Hook Eat & Go Free Summer Lawn Concert Series, Baright Associates, 7509 North Broadway, Red Hook. Concerts take place Fridays, 6-8 p.m. This week: The Deadbeats, playing Grateful Dead in the Hudson Valley & Capital District for 33 years. More info on the Facebook event page.

Aug. 29: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, “From Bach to Marsalis,” Stissing Center for Arts and Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Broadway musicians Rachel Handman (violin) and Keve Wilson (oboe) join the a show-stopping performance featuring music that spans centuries and genres, from the timeless works of Bach to the contemporary rhythms of Wynton Marsalis, 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 to \$55. www.ndsorchestra.org or (845) 445-9606
Aug. 30-31: 2025 Annual Festival, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Week One of the annual festival features Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company

performing a preview of the first remounting of “Another Another History of Collage” in over 20 years. Performances: Sat., 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets \$45 GA, \$25 students w/ID. Also: Art Walk in the Lobby Gallery and on the Grounds, 4 p.m. Free admission to art walk, RSVP welcome. www.kaatsbaan.org
Sept. 3: Spinning Fiber for Fine Embroidery, Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville.

Elmendorph Hand Spinners Guild will present a demonstration with several wheels spinning with wool, flax and silk. Mami Robbins Strong (EGA Member) is the President of the Pine Plains Guild. Along with her team welcomes us to view how our specialty embroidery floss is created. Skyllkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer’s Guild of America (EGA), presents this program beginning at 12:30pm. More info: www.facebook.com/SkylkillEGA or xEGASkylkill@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

Betty J. (Kelch) 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.
Doris M. Higgins
Doris M. Higgins, 89, a longtime resident of Wassaic, NY passed away on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT. Mrs. Higgins was a registered nurse at the Taconic DDSO for 33 years retiring in 1995.
Born on May 20, 1936 in Cadyville, NY she was the daughter of the late Gerald and Doris (Burlesan) Sprague. Mrs. Higgins was a graduate of Dutchess Community College Nursing Program class of 1979. Her husband, George Higgins predeceased her on June 19, 2008. Mrs. Higgins was a member of the South Amenia Presbyterian Church in Amenia, NY.
Mrs. Higgins is survived by a son, Kevin Higgins of LaGrange, GA; a daughter, Kathleen K. Higgins-Thorsland and her husband, Christopher, of Pine Mountain Valley, GA and a step son, Frank Higgins and his wife, Mabel, of Sarnia, Ontario. She is also survived by two sisters, Jean Martin of Plattsburgh, NY and Margaret Watson of Byron, GA; a son-in-law, Steven Ortmann of Hogansville, GA; five grandchildren, Hunter Quinn W. Higgins of Cataula, GA; Kyla C. Crissman of Columbus, GA; Darcy Higgins; Emily Fortney-Blunt, and her husband, Paul, of Sarnia, Ontario and Eric Higgins, and his wife, Bonnie, of London, Ontario. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren, Jonathon Crissman of Columbus, GA; Keenan Higgins of London, Ontario; Christopher Higgins of London, Ontario, Stuart Blunt of Sarnia, Ontario and Simon Blunt of Sarnia, Ontario.
In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Higgins was predeceased by a son, Terry Higgins in 2019 and a daughter, Maureen Higgins Ortmann in 2024.
Graveside services and burial took place on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at South Dover Rural Cemetery, Wingdale, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the South Amenia Presbyterian Church 229 S. Amenia Rd., Wassaic, NY 12592. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com

Suguru solution

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

Answers to this week’s diversions

(puzzles on page 15)

CARD COP HIRE
WHIR OHIO RACER
MESA FALL ELATE
MCGUFFEY PLOD
OSIER NAP
PRUNUS LOYALTY
OAR RHESUS SIRE
PIGGY GIG ASCUS
USER PASSED ICE
PEDALED QUOTES
DOG SCULP
GAUD EQUATION
GULAG CURT UTAH
SLATE HIVE MISO
APSE ODE SCAT

SUDOKU
This week’s answer

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

Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 15)

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Innisfree Garden to host Community Day for northeastern towns

Innisfree Garden in Millbrook will hold a Late Summer Community Day on Saturday, Aug. 30. The event will begin with the sunrise and run through 5 p.m. Arrive early to see the skies brighten above the lake and to watch the garden wake up for the day. Later visitors can enjoy a variety of wellness, creative, and educational activities, including:

- nature-themed scavenger hunts for

kids that double as photography challenges for adults;

- a poetry station that will inspire you to express how Innisfree makes you feel in verse;

- a fascinating curator's tour with Innisfree's landscape curator Kate Kerin; and

- a restorative Qigong/acupressure session with exercise/movement therapist

Cris Caivano.

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Northeast Dutchess Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Innisfree will offer free admission to the garden and discounted event tickets to residents of these Northeast Dutchess County communities and their hamlets on Aug. 30: Amenia, Clinton Corners, Dover Plains,

Millbrook, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, Washington, Wassaic and Wingdale. Proof of residency upon arrival is required. Advance reservations are requested.

Visit www.innisfreegarden.org for more information.

Note: the Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers are closed for Labor Day (national holiday) on Monday, Sept. 1.

The endlessly quotable NFL Hall-of-Famer, former New York Yankee, and current University of Colorado football coach Deion Sanders has been going through more than the usual aging-related health challenges, including a blood clotting issue that cost him two toes in 2021. More recently, doctors removed his bladder this past spring after discovering a cancerous tumor during a routine check-up. “Coach Prime” chose surgery rather than a potential years-long course of treatment; it was his 14th surgery since 2021. Were you in the same situation, you might pick other available treatment options. Still, he offers some valuable advice for anyone facing health challenges as they age:

“The initial thing you do is what we all do, we Google it. That’s the wrong thing to do because they tell you, ‘You gonna die, dog.’”

We agree with the coach’s advice: Skip “Dr. Google” and get in touch with your real-life doctor instead. Sanders had one other thing to say at his press conference that we could all take to heart:

“Get checked out. Because it could have been a whole ‘nother gathering if I didn’t.”

Communicating with your doctor(s)

Where to start? The days of doctors making regular house calls are long gone, as are the days when your doctor was available without need for an appointment. The “new normal” is a doctor who only has 15-20 minutes to meet with you, so it’s important to focus on the quality of the time you have. Before the visit, plan what you and your caregiver want to ask. It need not be complicated. Be honest, and frank. You’re speaking to the one person who can offer trained, confidential, professional opinions on your unique situation, even the parts you might think are embarrassing. The one question you’ll regret most is the one you don’t ask.

Ask questions. Remember this phrase, in case your doctor is using too much jargon and you’re finding it hard to follow:

“Sorry, I’m just not following you. Can you explain that in another way?”

When you think you’ve grasped what your doctor is getting at, it may help to repeat it back to them so that everybody’s on the same page.

Bring a buddy or family member, if needed. Your companion may or may not be a regular caregiver, but they can help if there are language or cultural differences between you and your doctor. If you feel unsure about a topic, the other person can help you describe your feelings or ask questions on your behalf.

It helps to have someone else’s perspective. Your friend may think of questions or raise concerns that you hadn’t considered.

Here are a few more brief tips, courtesy of the National Institutes of Health (nih.gov):

- Take notes about what the doctor or health care provider says, or ask a friend or family member to take notes for you;
- Learn how to access your medical records, so you can keep track of test results, diagnoses, treatments plans, and medications and prepare for your next appointment;
- Ask for the doctor’s or health care provider’s contact information and their preferred method of communication;
- Remember that nurses and pharmacists are also good sources of information.

OFA EXERCISE CLASS
STARTING SOON IN LaGRANGE

Looking to join an Office for the Aging Senior Exercise class? We have a session beginning next month in LaGrange. Contact OFA at ofa@dutchessny.gov or 845-486-2555 for registration information.

We’re always looking for volunteer exercise and “A Matter of Balance” instructors – we provide all training. Contact OFA to learn more.

For general information about OFA Senior Exercise, visit www.dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise.

GOLDEN GATHERING
RETURNS SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

The scenario: you’ve got one day to gather as much information as you can about aging services in Dutchess County. That one day is coming up on Saturday, September 27th, from 10 am to 1 pm. It’s the annual Golden Gathering for older adults, and it’s happening at Arlington High School at 1157 NY 55 in LaGrangeville. No RSVP is required.

It’s presented by County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, along with New York State Senators Michelle Hinchey and Rob Rolison, with support from the James J. McCann Charitable Trust.

The Golden Gathering is the single largest annual event of its kind in Dutchess County, and it’s continuing to grow. More than 70 exhibitors from various organizations and service providers will offer information on topics ranging from health care and financial services to housing options, legal advice and more.

Representatives from OFA and other Dutchess County Government and New York State departments and divisions will also be on hand to inform residents about how they serve the community every day.

The Golden Gathering includes health screenings, entertainment, refreshments, door prizes and dozens of informational tables geared toward the interests and needs of area older adults, their families and caregivers.

Flu shots will be available at the

Golden Gathering while supplies last. If you plan on getting a flu shot, bring your insurance card.

‘FRANK AND DEAN’ RETURN
FOR ANOTHER FREE SHOW

Reserved seats are going fast for the sounds of “Frank and Dean” with the Tony T Orchestra. It’s our annual free end-of-summer concert at the Grandview (176 Rinaldi Blvd., Poughkeepsie), on Monday, September 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

This time the band is playing Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin’s hits, complete with stage banter, and adding popular dance classics from the ’60s, ’70s, ’80s and beyond with their vocalist Sandra.

Registration is required for the event, which is open to all Dutchess County residents over the age of 60. Reserve your seat while they last, by calling the Office for the Aging during business hours at 845-486-2555. We cannot accept reservations requested by voice mail, email or text message.

WHEN’S THE SENIOR PROM?
(REGISTRATION OPENS SEPT. 5TH)

Dutchess County seniors haven’t missed the chance to sign up for the Annual OFA Senior Prom coming up on Monday, October 20th. We’ll open the event for reservations on Friday, September 5th (new date). A reservation form will be emailed to you as part of that week’s Aging News email.

We can tell you that this year’s theme is “Masquerade Ball,” the prom date is Monday, October 20th from noon to 4 p.m., and the music will again be provided by the full Bob Martinson Band. Many thanks to the Pines at Poughkeepsie for their support.

Wait, what’s a masquerade ball?
I wanted to dress up.

All you really need for this “ball” is some kind of mask for your face, anything from a plain Lone Ranger mask to an elaborate disguise – and as always, dressing up for the prom is optional. Go with business casual if you don’t feel like going in costume.

OFA AT SEPT. 10 ALZHEIMER’S
CONFERENCE IN MILLBROOK

Join the Office for the Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association for a free mini-conference and listening session on Wednesday, September 10th, from 10 am to 1 pm, at the Millbrook Library (3 Friendly Lane).

Participants can hear about “Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body,” recent research updates, brief overviews by community partners: The Millbrook Library (host), Dutchess County Office for the Aging (DC OFA), Sun River Health and Catholic Charities while enjoying light refreshments and drinks. We look forward to you sharing your experience with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia and discuss how we can best serve your community.

To register, call the Alzheimer’s Association by Friday, September 5th at 800-272-3900.

REBUILDING TOGETHER HUDSON VALLEY
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH SEPT. 30

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (RTHV) continues to accept applications for its Rebuilding Day home repair and accessibility modification program. These services are provided at no cost to income qualified homeowners in Dutchess and Ulster Counties and focus on ensuring that individuals can live independently in a safe, warm, dry, and healthy home.

The deadline for applications to be considered for the 2026 Rebuilding Day program is Sept. 30. Income-qualified Dutchess and Ulster County homeowners are encouraged to apply.

The Rebuilding Day program takes a whole-house approach. Typical repairs can include replacing a roof or windows, addressing electrical or plumbing issues, fixing a porch, installing a ramp, bathroom accessibility modifications, and much more. “We know there are residents out there silently struggling with critical home repairs for their safety and this is our chance to reach them,” said Darcy McCourt, Executive Director of RTHV. “But time is limited – we urge anyone who might qualify, or who knows someone in need, to apply before the September 30 deadline. In performing these types of repairs, RTHV helps ensure that homeowners can live in a safe and healthy home for as long as they choose to stay there.”

To request an application or inquire about RTHV programs, call (845) 454-7310. The application and further details can also be found at RTHudsonvalley.org.

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