

## Living up to its name

BY FRANK RIZZO

**I**f we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction."  
— Martin Kornfeld

That quote defines the mission statement of A Dose of Kindness, a recently formed

non-profit whose origins lie in a kind of "Christmas miracle."

Last holiday season, Erinn Gilmore of Woodridge and Carlos Torres of Monticello, with lots of community help, organized a holiday dinner for close to 1,000 people at the Ted Stroebele Recreation Center in Monticello.

It was meant to serve the hungry and those in need, and included gifts for children of the underprivileged with an appearance by Santa.

The success of that event, which came together late, spurred the pair to crank up their community involvement.

In a statement, Torres noted that A Dose of Kindness was "focused on giving back to the community while attempting to provide positive influences for the children of Sullivan county. ... A Dose of Kindness is not faith- or politically-based. We are a team of volunteers who donate our time



Live entertainment, including a dance team, kept the crowds cheering on Broadway in Monticello.



Spiderman and ShopRite's Scrunchy the Bear were on hand to liven up the festivities!



to attempt to do some good in our community." On the last Sunday in August, the organization held its big fundraising event on Broadway in Monticello, sponsored by WSUL/WVOS and Party Master. According to Torres, "Our goal was to bring the community together and provide our children with a safe, fun day of entertainment regardless of their parents' financial situation. All the entertainment - including games, rides, bouncy houses, rock wall, face painting, live entertainment and so much more - were all completely free! All the proceeds for this event will kick off our funds for our second annual holiday dinner and to provide some of the county's underprivileged with a Christmas."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A Dose of Kindness went a long way, thanks to these participants: (front row from the left) Kristin Simmons, Carlos Torres, Christine Hemmer-Torres, Devon Spagnoli, Michelle Orrego and Jamie Lake; and (back row from the left) Chris Harte, Barry Cargill, George Nikolados, David Sager, Heather Walsh and Ashley Baker.

## Local Harley dealership earns respect and gratitude

BY SHARON MACGREGOR

**O**n just an ordinary day in 2002, Eric Kellogg was riding his '96 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail from his job at Stewart

Air Force Base in Newburgh when his chain slipped off near O'Toole's Harley Davidson dealership in Wurtsboro.

The kindness and professionalism O'Toole's showed that day in fixing his bike

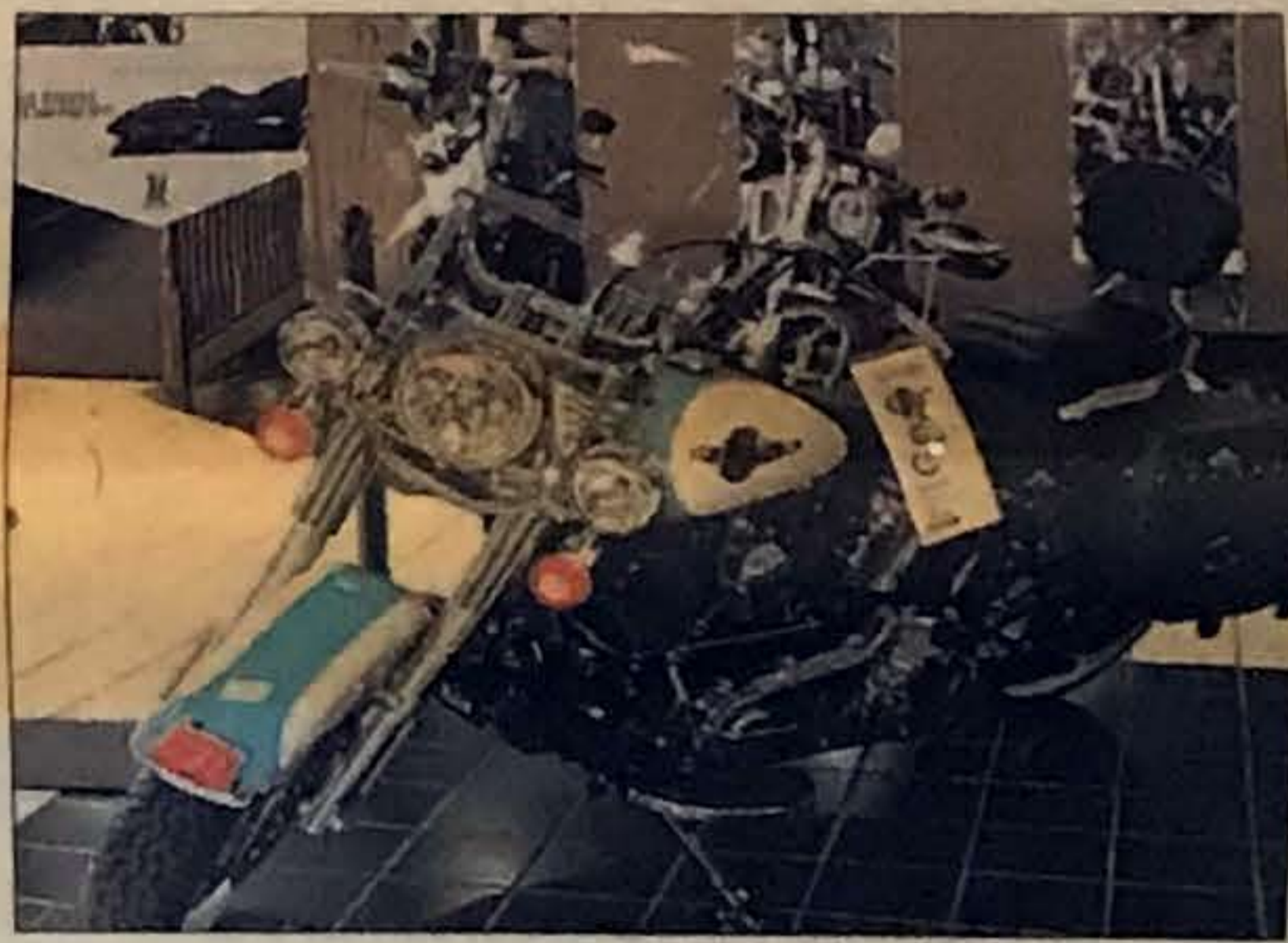
started a bond. Kellogg, also known affectionately as "Special K," would not quickly forget the assistance he received from O'Toole's owner, John O'Toole, and the entire dealership team.

O'Toole was known for his community spirit and generosity, and that tradition has continued with Dan Tandy and Tom Verdiglione, who bought the dealership in 2008.

Kellogg is a 17-year member of the Air Force, currently an Air Crew Survival instructor, or AFE, as well as the vice president of the Green Knights riding club. He has repeatedly shown his appreciation for O'Toole's, not only as a business, but as a group of people, comrades, who are strong supporters of the country's military.

With clearance and permission by air crews, Kellogg had an American flag flown in honor of O'Toole's Harley Davidson, and on two missions the flag was attached to refueling aircraft. On July 4 of this year, in addition to flying the flag, a sticker in honor of O'Toole's was placed on a bomb that was dropped on an ISIS military target.

On Saturday, August 29, a presentation was made to Tandy and Verdiglione at O'Toole's which included the actual American flag from the missions and certificates recognizing these events. In combination with the unveiling of the 2016 Harley Davidsons on the showroom floor, a framed shadowbox was on display featuring Kellogg's commemorative donations.



The Harley Davidson Heritage Softail in new colors - Crushed Ice & Frosted Teal Pearl

Upon conclusion of the 2016 model reveal, Verdiglione shared, "We are able to bring a lot of people together. A number of motorcycle groups, including the Wurtsboro HOGs [Harley Owners Group], are very focused on charity work, and we strongly support our mil-

itary." Past charitable actions include Poker Runs benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Toys for Tots and Sullivan County Head Start.

"I really appreciate everything they have done and continue to do," said Kellogg. "They are always taking care of the military, especially in the Hudson Valley. My bike was stored here while I was deployed, and it was ready to ride when I returned."

A recipient of over 20 commendations, medals, and honors, Kellogg displays his Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal in the form of a medallion on his 1996 Harley Davidson Softail Heritage's timing cover.

Pinned to his Green Knight's vest is his Air Force commendation pin, for saving four lives here at home this past winter.

Typically modest and closed-mouthed - he had to answer "that's classified" to several questions - Kellogg let his deeds do the talking.



SHARON MACGREGOR | DEMOCRAT

Eric Kellogg, center, made a presentation to O'Toole's Harley Davidson owners Tom Verdiglione, left, and Dan Tandy on August 29.



Kellogg on his 1996 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail in Patriot Red (of course!)



SANDY SCHRAEDER | DEMOCRAT

### Labor Day fun in Livingston Manor

Livingston Manor hosted a Labor Day street fair and 5K to mark the end of the summer season. Above, The Sullivan County Red Cross Disaster Action Team hosted a booth, handing out brochures and disaster prep bags complete with ponchos, glow sticks, thermal blankets and more. At right, Wolfgang, 12-year Matilde and mom Melissa Lewis of Lew Beach show off their medals following the 5K. Wolfgang, a Weimaraner, stole Matilde's medal.

