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JANUARY 13, 2017

Beacon Boys Must Forfeit Wins Player on football, basketball

teams ruled ineligible

By Jeff Simms

eacon High School has forfeited its 2016 varsity football victories and seven wins of the 2016-17 varsity boys' basketball season after determining that a player who was a member of both teams was ineligible.

The Bulldogs football team finished 4-4 and the basketball team was 7-3 at the time of the announcement. The football team will give up its four victories, giving it an 0-8 record, and the basketball team fell to 0-10.

Administrators reported the situation to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association "once we became aware of the status," said school board President Anthony White. He did not say what infraction caused the player, who was not named, to be ruled ineligible. But at a Jan. 9 school board meeting the district's interim superintendent. Ann Marie Quartironi, characterized it as an error by the high school and said that the student 'was in no way at fault."

"The district regrets the error and is working actively with Section 1 [officials] to ensure that any similar incidents are prevented in the future," she said. "The forfeitures are (Continued on Page 19)



For decades, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater has called for the closure of Indian Point Photo courtesy of A. Jones and Clearwater

Life Without Indian Point

Plan to close nuclear plant a relief for many but raises concerns about employees, tax base

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

overnment, corporate, and environmental officials on Jan. 9 confirmed that the aging Indian Point nuclear power plant will close by April 2021, when the second of its two working reactors is to cease operations.

The plant's other reactor will shut down by April 2020 under a plan worked out by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo; Entergy, which owns the plant; and Riverkeeper, representing environmental groups.



The Bulldogs celebrate their fourth victory on a foggy night in October.

Under the agreement, operations could continue until 2025 for reasons of war or a sudden increase in electrical demand or decrease in electric energy, but the state would have to approve the extension and Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson, another regional conservation group, could challenge the delay.

Indian Point critics saw the closure as a breakthrough for nature and public safety. Entergy portrayed it as an economic necessity.

Riverkeeper President Paul Gallay a Cold Spring resident, said the agreement would eliminate what he called the "biggest existential threat in the region." Critics have long cited nuclear accidents such as those at Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011) as a reason to close Indian Point, which is located on the Hudson River near Peekskill in a far more densely populated area.

By one estimate nearly 20 million people live within 50 miles of the plant, an area that includes Beacon, and about 300,000 people live within 10 miles, which includes most of Philipstown. In this 10-mile "Emergency Planning Zone," residents are supplied with evacuation guides and county health departments and schools typically maintain a supply of potassium iodide tablets to counteract radiation poisoning should a major leak occur at the plant.

Entergy has faced criticism from activists and elected officials after each report of faulty bolts on plates in nuclear fuel components, radioactive leaks, transformer explosions and other problems, and because of its river water consumption and its effect on wildlife. In March, an inspection of one reactor determined that (Continued on Page 8)



See Page 9

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Topping Off Women's Marches

Sewing store joins campaign to knit pink hats for Jan. 21 protesters By Brian PJ Cronin



Katy Hope in a pussyhat

Then five busloads of Highlands residents leave Beacon at 3 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, to attend the Women's March on Washington the day after the inauguration of Donald Trump as president - and many more descend on Dag Hammarskjold Plaza for the Women's March on NYC, a great number of them will be wearing knit pink hats.

Pink pussyhats, to be exact. They are part of a national campaign called The Pussyhat Project (pussyhatproject.com) that has been led locally by Katy Hope, owner of Beetle and Fred, a new retail store on the west end of Main Street in Beacon that provides "supplies for the modern sewist." The Pussyhat Project, initiated in November by two Los Angeles activists, has grown to the point where many craft stores are selling out of pink yarn.

As she speaks to a reporter, Hope transforms a jumble of pink yarn into a hat with two kitten ears poking out of the top. Because she must mind the store and can't attend either march. Hope says knitting hats and encouraging others to come by Beetle and Fred to do the same is her way of participating.

Knitting as a political statement is nothing new in Beacon - remember the great yarn bombing wave of 2015? - but "craftivism" (Continued on Page 14) as

Roots and Shoots Is It Spring Yet?

By Pamela Doan

mpatient in Philipstown asks: "I'm anxious to start gardening. What can I do now to prep for spring? When can I start sowing seeds indoors to transplant?"

For me, these swings in the weather make it hard not to think about an early planting season. On days when it's 55 degrees and sunny with no snow, it definitely brings up the urge. It's still January, though, and we're a long way from the last frost date on May 15. Winter can still happen.

Prep and maintenance can be done on balmier days when it's nice to get outside. If you haven't attended to mulching yet, do it now. We've had big temperature shifts and the cycle of freezing and thawing is tough on plant roots. When the water in the soil freezes and thaws, it contracts and expands. We've had both conditions — lots of precipitation and rapid temperature changes. Shallow rooted plants and perennials can get pushed above the ground, exposing the roots to freezing. The damage can kill the plant or keep a bulb from producing.

Mulch helps keep the soil warmer on bitter cold days and cooler on hot days, holding in water, as well. Check any new plantings, tree seedlings, shrubs and flower beds. If you see that telltale heaving disruption, covering the area with straw or other mulch will help. A 2- to 4-inch layer will make a warm blanket. Be sure to push it back from the base in spring for new growth to come through.

Compost is something else you can work on now to have a good supply by spring. Winter composting can be challenging but there's no reason to stop. A worm bin, also known as vermiculture, is one method that can be done inside during winter and results in a rich soil amendment in time for spring.

You can make a worm bin from a plastic tub or buy one made for the purpose. Order worms from online suppliers and let them start eating your vegetable and fruit scraps, paper, newspaper and plant trimmings. Worm poop makes good soil. Worms can't survive in a worm bin left outside in our winters but it won't smell and can be kept in a basement.

Another alternative is to maintain your compost pile during the winter, which is what I do. It freezes but as soon as conditions improve, it quickly breaks down. I have a three-bin system and in midwinter I'll stop adding to one and move to a new one. That way I've got compost moving at different stages for the growing season.

Pruning dormant trees and bushes can be done in mid- to late-February. Some trees that are affected by a pest or patho-



Blueberry bushes will thrive when pruned in late winter, as will bushes that flower in summer on new growth. The basic rule is to prune things that produce flowers or berries on new wood in winter and to prune things that produce on last season's growth right after it finishes blooming. To use two common landscape bushes, prune the butterfly bush in winter and the forsythia in late spring.

As for starting seeds indoors, it's still early for that. Depending on the type of plant (I'm assuming vegetables), you'll need to check germination times and days to transplant on the seed packet instructions. Some of the earliest vegetables that can be planted in spring are beets, broccoli, kale and peas. Most of these can be sown directly in the soil and don't need transplants.

To get a head start, plant seeds in a sterile medium inside four to six weeks ahead of when you think you can transplant them. Let the seedlings harden off for a week or two before moving outside to avoid damaging them. You don't want to undo all the work you did by shocking them. Hardening off means letting them adjust to a new location and temperature slowly, a gentler process than the term implies.

Finally, order some seed catalogs! Being impatient to get going isn't fun but planning the new garden may be enough fantasizing to get you through the next few months. Sketch and plan out this year's harvest. Dream big. Then look around for some classes. There are usually many offerings from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Stonecrop Gardens and the New York Botanical Garden, to name a few.







Investigation Concludes Beacon Student's Rights Violated

Former school board president alleged discrimination against son

By Jeff Simms

he Beacon City School District failed to provide a high school student

with a learning disability the "free appropriate public education" that is guaranteed by law, according to a federal investigation.

As a result, district officials have agreed to meet by Jan. 16 to discuss a settlement with the student's mother, former school board President Melissa Thompson, who filed a complaint last year with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), an arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Beacon school board voted to approve the agreement with OCR during its Dec. 12 meeting. The Current received the agreement through a Freedom of Information Law request.

Buying in Bulk

Public hearing set in Beacon on renewable energy proposal **By Jeff Simms**

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 17, on a proposal by Renewable Highlands, the brainchild of two Philipstown residents who are trying to create a vehicle that would allow municipalities to seek lower prices and renewable energy sources for thousands of households.

Jason Angell and Mike Rauch have approached officials in Philipstown, Cold Spring, Fishkill and Wappingers Falls, as well as Beacon, to organize a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) district that they say could give the municipalities better rates for electricity. CCAs are similar to the Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) that offer individuals the ability to choose an electric supplier for their homes.

CCAs pool utility accounts to gain bargaining power in negotiating energy supply agreements. All accounts within the designated CCA are automatically enrolled, although account holders can optout at any time. In the Highlands, Central Hudson would continue to provide delivery and billing services; CCAs only negotiate rates and sourcing.

"By collectively negotiating, we can get

The resolution directs the "It's a lack of district to convene "a group of caring. It's that people knowledgeable about mentality that the student," who graduated last year, to determine if he 'the special ed "requires any remedial and/ department will or compensatory services as a result of the district's failure help those kids to implement provisions" in a because I don't federally mandated learning teach special ed." plan known as a 504 during the 2015-16 school year. Any

remedial or compensatory services must be delivered by March 30, according to the agreement.

The district will comply with OCR's requirements, Beacon school board President Anthony White said.

A 504 is a plan designed to help students with learning and attention issues participate in the classroom. For Thompson's son, who has a nonverbal learning disability, it advised instructors to make sure he wrote down assignments and set a schedule for annual meetings between his parents and teachers.

In a series of complaints filed in May,



Melissa Thompson

Thompson – who served on the school board for nine years but did not run for re-election last spring alleged that Beacon High School teachers failed to acknowledge her son's 504 plan, in part because he is African-American.

"It's a lack of caring,"

she asserted on Jan. 11. "It's that mentality that 'the special ed department will help those kids because I don't teach special ed."

According to a letter summarizing the OCR findings, the district failed to convene the meeting between Thompson, her husband and an instructor who taught their son in college-level government and



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psychology courses in the fall of 2015. Additionally, OCR found that the teacher did not check the student's daily planner to make sure he wrote down his homework assignments, as required by the 504.

Poor grades in those classes led to the student's removal from the National Honor Society and may have cost him a chance at athletic scholarships, Thompson said. Her son has since accepted a scholarship offer to play baseball at Eastern Kentucky University where he will enroll this fall.

While Thompson's complaints alleged racial discrimination, OCR's findings only addressed issues related to her son's learning disability.

The OCR agreement also stipulates that

the Beacon school district must provide training by Feb. 15 to all principals, assistant principals, general and special education teachers and guidance counselors, as well as 504 and Individualized Education Program (IEP) case managers, to ensure the implementation of 504s and IEPs for Beacon High School students

with learning disabilities. Thompson called that component a "critical piece" of the agreement.

"I'm happy with the resolution in that it provides training for all staff," she said, "and I believe that the district has been tasked to provide real, concrete training."



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the type of deals that the big players get," Angell explained. "When you're an individual homeowner, you don't have the negotiating power of a hospital or Home Depot." Only about 25 percent of New Yorkers

have switched their electric supplier using ESCOs since the state deregulated the industry in the 1990s. By contrast, a CCA would pool thousands of accounts at once.

The public hearing will give residents the opportunity to provide feedback before the City Council considers joining the CCA. The Town of Fishkill is holding a similar hearing on Jan. 18 and officials in the other three municipalities are weighing the proposal.

New York State authorized the creation of CCAs in April after a pilot program launched in Westchester County. That program - which includes about 100,000 households and small businesses - has locked in electricity rates projected to save the 20 participating municipalities between \$4 million and \$5 million over the next three years, Angell said, with 14 of the municipalities also switching to 100 percent renewable sources.

"That's 70,000 houses and small businesses," he said. "When you're moving whole cities over to 100 percent renewable, it's massive."

If a Highlands CCA is created, it would be the second in the state.



File photo "I'm happy with the resolution in that it

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The HIGHLANDS

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.

161 Main St.,

Cold Spring NY 10516-2818

291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart

(1939 - 2014)

MANAGING EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.com

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.com

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Brian PJ Cronin

Joe Diznev

Pamela Doan

Mary Ann Ebner

Jeff Simms

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

ADVERTISING **D**IRECTOR

Michele Gedney

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OSHA fine

I am finding this article ("Mid Hudson Concrete Fined for Owner's Death," Jan. 6) extremely upsetting and cannot even imagine how his family must feel. I cannot believe this was on the front page of your paper. I can only shake my head in disbelief.

Cheryl Allen, Cold Spring

The Highlands Current

My brother Tony and I read this and we conclude that if you get a civil-service job and crash a subway train [such as happened with the Metro-North derailment in 2013], what happens? You keep your pension, and sue the agency for lack of treatment.

Say you start a business with your siblings, grow it to great success, work six days a week to support and provide for a great family - on a Sunday morning after a great day watching your nephew play at West Point and a great dinner Saturday evening, make an error in judgment and meet your demise at your own hands at the place your own hands built. Family and friends all help in some way to keep the operation going, and what hap-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

pens: OSHA fine, \$15,000, the government punishing the family of a man who made things and gave things. If you think government is good, ask anybody who ever had the pleasure of dealing in any way with Joe Giachinta and anybody in his family and you tell me.

Tino Yannitelli, Cold Spring

The point is that another person might have been the victim of this horrific and tragic accident. If the regulations had been followed, it's unlikely this good man's family would have had to suffer. OSHA isn't the bad guy. There is no bad guy. Tom Famighetti, Cold Spring

Rules, regulations, protocols, procedures, policies and laws in the name of workplace safety and for the purpose of reducing deaths, injuries and illnesses, developed by knowledgeable professionals in the field, are not in and of themselves, in principle, a bad thing.

What is wrong, and what is almost always hidden from the general public, is that the rules which purportedly apply to all types of businesses of all sizes in real-



ity apply only to the small family business or the individual operator. Where an accident or incident of any kind occurs in a large business, almost uniformly the person injured is a worker-employee, and often he or she is improperly trained and ill-informed of the nature of the risks of said employment.

Any penalty for those running the show, the management, and/or the owners or shareholders of "limited liability" corporations typically is not applied.

Frank Haggerty, Cold Spring

Legal trouble

Clem Van Ross has served the people of Putnam County well over his long tenure ("Putnam Legislature Fires Counsel," Jan. 6). He has advised the Legislature to respect the rule of law, and to provide public documents to the public, per the law. This is a chilling power grab by those legislators who find the law to be an inconvenience that they can ignore. Every citizen of this county, regardless of party affiliation, should be alarmed by this unwarranted act. Tom Maxson, Carmel

Van Ross should have been fired a long time ago. No one, no matter how qualified, should be allowed to feed at the public trough for three decades. Any public official who is in a powerful position such as counsel to the Legislature needs to be scrupulously vetted on a yearly basis, especially when there are any number of hungry young lawyers getting out of prestigious law schools who would do a great job for a lot less money. I find it astonishing that not only the good people of Cold Spring but also legislator Dini LoBue would object to getting rid of someone who for too many years was re-appointed unanimously by generations of politicians who had sworn allegiance to disgraced state Sen. Vinny Leibell. Maybe everyone has forgotten about that scandal.

Patty Villanova, Putnam Valley

(Continued on next page)

Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen



"I know a lot of young families are concerned about it being there. If the community and the state think it is the right thing, that's great." ~ Emma Corey, Beacon



"Nuclear plants are uneconomical without subsidies. So if we are trying to prevent climate change, energy efficiency and conservation are better for the environment and the economy." ~ Christopher Wasiutynski, Cold Spring



"I have long feared the potential for things to go wrong. I feel for those who will lose their jobs, but I hope they will receive training and help." ~ Maureen McGrath, Philipstown

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Remembering Nelsonville

I found your website by accident and was very interested to see it. I was a resident of Nelsonville from 1937 until 1943 and graduated from Haldane in 1940. I know that Nelsonville was named after Elijah Nelson, but I never knew why the village was separated from Cold Spring in the first place. There must be a good story there somewhere, but it is too late to ask Elijah! I am now 94, and someday my ashes will go to their final resting place in the family plot in the Cold Spring Cemetery, as I consider the area and its mountains my real hometown. I have many photos of the area during the years I lived there.

James Bushnell

Employed but struggling

My career in the Hudson Valley has been in serving in various positions in community and economic development, both public and private sector, and so I read with interest the United Way's AL-ICE Report for New York to assess financial hardships facing families living in several localities in the Hudson Valley ("Employed But Still Struggling?," Jan. 6). ALICE stands for asset-limited, incomeconstrained, employed — that is, households that don't earn enough to make ends meet, have little savings and are "one small emergency away from a major financial crisis," according to the report.

The Current shared the numbers from Putnam and Dutchess counties, but to bring it closer to home, I offer the following overview and stats for Philipstown, Nelsonville and Cold Spring extracted from the 311-page report, which is online at unitedwayalice.org. It shows that almost a third of our population is struggling.

I am a vice president of the Lions Club of Cold Spring, and we are studying the data to better understand the needs and stresses of folks living in our village and town and how best to serve those most stressed. The report should be required reading for educators, families and teenagers to understand how decisions about education will and can affect earning capacity. It also is an excellent tool for businesses to review as well as policy makers whose decisions affect every aspect of our lives locally and in the state.

Teri Waivada, Garrison

	Philipstown	Cold Spring	Nelsonville
Population	9,698	1,831	804
Households	3,681	891	253
% at poverty	5	8	1
% ALICE threshold	28	38	38
% with health ins.	95	93	94
30%+ to housing	36	37	54
30%+ to rent	43	44	44

KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Kindergarten registration process for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have a child who will be turning five on or before December 31, 2017 and you live in the Haldane Central School District, please call Carol Filmanski for a registration packet at 265-9254, ext. 122.

Parents are invited to attend the Kindergarten orientation meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 7 p.m., in the Haldane Music Room. A snow date is scheduled for Monday, February 6th.

Registration will take place on Wednesday, February 8th and Thursday, February 9th in the Elementary School Library from 1 to 4 p.m. A snow make-up date is scheduled for Friday, February 10th. Please enter the building through the Main Entrance and you will be directed to the Elementary Library. Parents who are registering incoming children must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, his/her immunization record which has been signed by a physician, and Proof of Residency indicating that the family resides in the Haldane School District.

Please call Mrs. Filmanski if you have any questions.



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What It Takes

According to the United Way's ALICE report, these bare-minimum budgets do not Aallow for savings and afford "only a very modest living in each community." Still, it notes, the budgets are far more than the U.S. poverty level of \$11,670 annually for a single adult and \$23,850 for a family of four.

Household Survival Budget, Dutchess County						
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT 1 PRESCHOOLER				
Housing	\$886	\$1,258				
Child Care	S	\$1,625				
Food	\$202	\$612				
Transportation	\$338	\$676				
Health Care	\$131	\$525				
Miscellaneous	\$193	\$555				
Taxes	\$370	\$850				
Monthly Total	\$2,120	\$6,101				
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$25,440	\$73,212				
Hourly Wage	\$12.72	\$36.61				

Household Survival Budget, Putnam County						
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 preschooler				
Housing	\$1,163	\$1,440				
Child Care	5-	\$2,188				
Food	\$202	\$612				
Transportation	\$108	\$173				
Health Care	\$131	\$525				
Miscellaneous	\$199	\$589				
Taxes	\$390	\$950				
Monthly Total	\$2,193	\$6,477				
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$26,316	\$77,724				
Hourly Wage	\$13.16	\$38.86				

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York on the 18th day of January 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening of that day upon the proposed abandonment pursuant to New York State Highway Law §205 of a portion of the right-of-way for Old Albany Post Road fronting on the property located at 848 Old Albany Post Road to Thomas Whyatt and Robin Whyatt.

All persons interested will be heard at the time, date and place specified above.

A copy of the request of Thomas Whyatt and Robin Whyatt for abandonment of the said portion of the right of way as well as a survey depicting the same is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, Town of Philipstown, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York where it may be examined during the Town Office Hours.

DATED: January 11, 2017

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Progressives See Glimmer of Hope, Despite Alarm Over Trump

Overflow crowd at Garrison forum urges resistance

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

ore than 100 restless Democrats and progressives filled the basement of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Jan. 8 to express concern over the presidency of Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress.

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney and state assembly member Sandy Galef, both Democrats, spoke for the first two hours of a three-hour session in which every chair was filled, forcing some participants to stand, while another 25 to 30 people remained upstairs.

The "Forum to Discuss the Potential Impact of the Trump Presidency" was organized by Eric Stark, a Garrison resident who curates the art collection at the New School in New York. Stark told *The Current* that he saw "the urgency in getting right to it" opposing Trump's agenda.

"When you see the storm coming, it's a good time to start filling sandbags," he said. "We need to be vigilant." Stark said he sought out Maloney and Galef because he wants to know their plans for countering Trump. "This is very much about what we can do," he told the gathering.

Maloney and Galef emphasized the difficulty of predicting Trump's actions.

"I don't think he knows" what he'll do be-

cause he doesn't have "any understanding" or "any interest" in policy-making, Maloney said. "Donald Trump is such a weirdo." "We don't know where this president is going," Galef added. "I've really no clue."

Maloney said he took solace in the fact that Trump "doesn't have any fixed ideology," which could hurt his relations with other Republicans and present opportunities for collaboration with Democrats on issues such as family leave and infrastructure revitalization.

But if Trump follows up on his "despicable" campaign tactics and "dark, negative energy," Maloney said, "I'm not going there."

If Charles Schumer, the new Democratic Senate minority leader "can keep Senate Democrats together," he can "essentially stop anything," Maloney said. "That's going to be a very important check on this new president."

The nation's angst affects him personally, he noted. "As a gay guy, with an interracial family, in a Trump district, I live this tension every day," he said. Although he won re-election for a third term, most voters in the 18th Congressional District backed Trump for president.

Health care

Audience members expressed concerns that Republicans will repeal the Affordable Care Act and abolish federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Maloney noted that Republican leaders have talked about terminating the Obama

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 Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney listens to a question during a Jan. 8 forum at the

 Desmond-Fish Library.

 Photo by L.S. Armstrong

health-care program for years. "The problem is they don't know what they want to do," he said. "That's going to slow them down" although they can still cause a lot of damage, he said. They probably will defund Planned Parenthood. "We might not be able to stop all this stuff."

Alyssa Miller, from the regional branch of Planned Parenthood, said that if her organization is defunded, the loss of money will "cause a national health crisis." Not only will women seeking abortions or other reproductive care lose access to services but women of all ages, children, and families will lose medical care, and abolishing the Affordable Care Act will compound the problem, she said.

The environment

Maloney said he had conferred with a Coast Guard admiral on killing a proposal to add anchorage spots for oil barges on the Hudson River. "We're going to whack that thing any way I know how," he said, expressing confidence that the idea is going nowhere.

Galef was less sanguine. "If you have a president kind of wrapped up in energy companies — oil companies and so on — I'm not sure it's such a done deal," she said. "Personally, I'm very nervous about it."

After Maloney and Galef departed, David Gelber, executive producer of the National Geographic TV series *Years of Living Dangerously*, advocated action on climate change, calling it "the single biggest problem facing us." It "affects everything we do. And it hasn't come up once" all afternoon, said Gelber, who lives in Garrison. "We have to hold them accountable," he said of Galef and Maloney.

Political accountability

Some audience members spoke in a similar vein about accountability. Nick Angell of Garrison asked Maloney sharply what he would do to stop Trump. "There's a lot of Democrats in this community who will be following you very closely," Angell told the congressman, who lives in Philipstown.

After Maloney had left, Stark said: "We need to stay on him. We need to demand" he push progressive legislation, report regularly to constituents in person, and identify Republican allies in Congress "so we can support them," too.

Earlier Maloney had encouraged such vigilance. "It's good democracy to have people like me on their toes," he said.

Join the club

Maloney asked attendees to push for electoral redistricting to reduce gerrymandering that benefits one party; campaign finance reform; creation of a national service program; and teaching civics. "I can't tell you how many kids I talk to who say, 'What's Congress?' " he said. He advised attendees to join organizations working on issues they care about, run for local office and do political organizing. "You're in a county I've never won," he said. "Start there!"

"Don't lose hope," Maloney said. "The shock absorbers built into American democracy are strong enough to contain even this guy."



Questions? Email delivery@highlandscurrent.com. We expect deliveries to begin in February.



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Fake News Has Landed — What Can You Do?

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How to "defrock" bogus information in digital media age

By Anita Peltonen

ost of us read things in the news that make us mad. Fire-poker, red-hot mad. Or the kind of mad that sparks a cool commitment to action.

Before you respond with an angry tweet or join a movement, check where the story came from. It's a lot of work, but the gatekeepers in the legacy media aren't present in all media. And gatekeepers make mistakes, too. If you prefer facts, hone your digital-literacy skills.

That was the takeaway from a forum at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Jan. 10 led by "cybrarian" Pam McCluskey and journalist Andrew Revkin. It was a timely discussion in a week where the president-elect was entrenched in a Twitter war about the role of Russia and hackers in the election.



Andrew Revkin holds *How to Fake a Moon* Landing, for which he wrote the introduction, at a "Real News/Fake News" forum at the Desmond-Flsh Library Photo by A. Peltonen



What's news?

The mixing of reporting, opinion and propaganda isn't new, but today we have a stealth tabloid press. Rather than screaming headlines, we see tags on news pages that lead to "sponsored" content. At worst, there are entirely fake news sites that exist solely to generate clicks and revenue.

How can anyone tell the difference? Scores of online stories are made up, exaggerated or positioned to generate ad revenue, damn the torpedoes. Eyeballs are easier to attract than subscriptions, McCluskey noted, and news aggregators such as Yahoo!, Hotmail, AOL and Google thrive on the ad dollars they make around people who have email accounts with them. They won't let go of a model that makes them billions. The same goes for news sites, too.

McCluskey said she teaches adults and children to identify and detoxify invasive stories and to stop contributing views to unwanted advertisers and fake-news content. You can't beat them, she said, but you can learn which tools to use to fight back. *(Continued on Page 13)*

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Life Without Indian Point (from Page 1)

at least 227 of 832 bolts were missing or weakened by radiation. Entergy acknowledged that the situation "significantly degrades plant safety."

Nonetheless, Leo Denault, Entergy's chief executive officer and chairperson, on Jan. 9 defended the company's safety record, saying that since it acquired Indian Point 15 years ago "we have invested more than \$1.3 billion in safety and reliability improvements" and "delivered hundreds of millions of megawatt hours of virtually emissions-free power to the Hudson Valley and New York City safely."

In November, the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest judicial authority, ruled that Indian Point is not exempt from state environmental review and certification that is crucial to federal relicensing of the two reactors, which is pending. The licenses for both reactors have expired, but they continue to function during the renewal process.

Agreement terms and reactions

Along with the shutdown schedule and emergency-delay provision, the agreement provides that:

- Entergy will move radioactive fuel rods from storage pools to dry-cask storage on site, which Riverkeeper called "a much safer solution."
- Riverkeeper can compel compliance with the closure agreement and both Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson can bring enforcement action should violations occur.
- · Entergy committed to safety inspections of reactor bolts.
- The state will conduct annual inspections, separate from federal inspections.
- The state will cooperate with Entergy in the company's pursuit of environmental certifications.
- Entergy will continue to seek federal relicensing of Indian Point for its remaining years of operation.
- Entergy will devote \$15 million to projects such as river restoration, wetlands protection and control of invasive species and community assistance.

As part of the shutdown, Entergy also said it will move its emergency operations center by mid-2018 to an office complex on Merritt Boulevard in Fishkill. In 2012, En-

Are You in the **Danger Zone?**

- The 2016-17 edition of the Putnam **County Indian Point Emergency** Guide can be downloaded at putnamcountyny.com/pcbes.
- Call the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services at 845-808-4000 to request free potassium iodide tablets that will block radioactive iodine from entering the thyroid gland in the event of a large release of radioactive material.
- If you don't have a car, you can catch a bus to evacuate at a number of stops along Route 9 and Route 9D, or in Cold Spring at Main Street and Kemble Avenue and other intersections. They are listed in the Emergency Guide.
- If you have children at school in Cold Spring or Garrison, evacuation officials may relocate them to Kent Elementary School. The "reception center" for Philipstown residents is Brewster High School.

school district, which relies for Entergy for about a third of its revenue.

She also recalled a visit to a decommissioned Connecticut nuclear plant where the level of security left her uneasy. "A lot of work will have to be done" in the shutdown and its aftermath, she said. She, too, raised the possibility of using at least part of the site for a non-nuclear energy facility.

Denault, the Entergy CEO, said the corporation is "committed to treating our employees fairly and will help those interested in other opportunities to relocate within the Entergy system." However, Entergy has closed or said it plans to close or sell nuclear plants in upstate New York on Lake Ontario, Vermont, Massachusetts and Michigan as it shifts its emphasis to nuclear operations in the South.

The Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, in June 2015 estimated that Indian Point provides 25 percent of the electricity used in Westchester County and New York City and prevents the release of 8.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, about the same as released by 1.6 million cars. (The Highlands does not get power from the plant.) It calculated that the plant provides \$1.32 billion in economic output to five local counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. Entergy says Indian Point has a \$140 million payroll, pays about \$30 million in taxes and donates \$1 million to charity each year.

The institute report claimed the cost to the regional economy from a plant closure could be as high as \$2.3 billion, with 5,300 jobs lost, including 1,000 people employed at the plant and 2,800 in surrounding counties. "Losses would reverberate for decades after the plant is shut down," it warned, "and host communities may never fully recover."

Cuomo promised the state would replace the 2,000 megawatts produced by Indian Point's two reactors annually with other sources such as hydroelectricity. wind and solar. He said that the closure "will have little or no effect on New Yorkers' electricity bills."



tergy presented plans for a 20,000-squarefoot center on Horsemen's Trail Road, off Route 9 in Philipstown. Although the project got as far as a public hearing, it never came to fruition.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, working with Cuomo, led the

state's shut-down effort. He called the closure "a major victory for the health and safety of millions of New Yorkers" that "will help kick-start the state's clean energy future." He promised to "vigorously monitor Entergy's compliance."

Gallay of Riverkeeper said

the agreement "provides what we've been fighting for, over decades" and is "a win for the safety of our communities, a win for the Hudson River and all the rich variety of life within it, and a win for a clean, sustainable energy future."

He said the agreement's stipulation that the closing could not be postponed, except in an emergency, was essential. "We wouldn't have become a party to this agreement without such safeguards," he said.

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan hailed the agreement as "a landmark victory." Clearwater's environmental action director, Manna Jo Greene, said it is "definitely a step in the right direction" although "it still leaves us in danger for three to four more years."

Entergy said its decision to close the plant reflected financial realities, including, according to Bill Mohl, president of Entergy Wholesale Commodities, consis-



The state attorney general called the planned closure "a major victory for the health and safety of millions of New Yorkers."

50 miles, including Philadelphia, which has three. The network calculated that about 4 million Americans live within 10 miles of a nuclear plant.

MSNBC also estimated, using Nuclear Regulatory Commission data, that Reactor No. 3 at Indian Point has the highest risk of earthquake damage of any reactor in the country, based on the chance of a quake and its design strength. It noted that the estimate of 1 in 10,000 annually was nearly enough to require "immediate concern regarding adequate protection" of the public under NRC guidelines. (Reactor No. 2 had a 1 in 30,303 chance of earthquake damage annually, which put it outside the top 10.)

Clearwater said closure plans "must protect workers." Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose U.S. House district includes Philipstown, Beacon, and other mid-Hudson areas, cautioned that the costs of the closure must not be "placed on the backs of hardworking folks." At a multi-issue forum at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Jan. 8, Maloney recommended the shutdown be handled in such a way as to "care about the economy of Buchanan [where the plant is located] and actually repurpose that part of the energy grid."

Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown and parts of Westchester County in the state Assembly, said at the same forum that she is "concerned about all the wonderful jobs" lost in a shutdown, about the tax base, and about the Hendrick Hudson

primarily to supply from the Marcellus Shale formation have driven down power prices by about 45 percent since 2006. Like others, Schneiderman and Cuomo have expressed concerns about the effect of a major

tently low energy prices that have reduced

revenues and increased operating costs.

He noted that record-low gas prices due

Indian Point radiation leak on New York City, about 40 miles to the south. But the city is not alone in that: a 2011 analysis by MSNBC found that among the 100 most populous U.S. cities, 26 have nuclear plants within

Concerns about repercussions

Environmentalists and elected officials tempered their satisfaction with the closure with concern about the effect on plant personnel, consumers and the tax base.

The Calendar

Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Community events planned in Beacon, Philipstown

By Alison Rooney

he legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. will be commemorated on Sunday and Monday, Jan. 15 and 16 in what are now traditions in Garrison and Beacon.

Conceived as a way to keep the holiday from becoming just another day off from work and school, Beacon's singing parade is in its fourth year and will be accompanied by breakfast, dinner and an essay contest focused on nonviolence.

The Beacon parade was founded by Pete Seeger shortly before his death on Jan. 27, 2014. According to organizer Bonnie Champion, who serves as coordinator with Sharlene Stout, it was Seeger's idea to have a singing parade that would double as a civil-rights march recognizing King as a "great man who changed the world. He felt that people were not paying attention to the real reason for the day.

"It was so important to Pete that he actually stayed alive for that parade," Champion said. "He was unable to participate because of his health but he was so very happy when he found out how successful it was. He died exactly one week after the parade."

The essay contest attracted more than 800 entries last year from elementary, middle- and high school students. Six winners this year will receive \$50 awards donated by Rhinebeck Bank. (The deadline for entries has passed.)

- The timetable for Beacon:
- 8 a.m. Free continental breakfast at Springfield Baptist Church at 8 Mattie Cooper Square, courtesv of the Southern Dutchess Coalition.
- 9:30 a.m. An opening ceremony at the church
- 10 a.m. The parade will begin outside the church. People are encouraged to carry U.S. flags, banners for their organizations and posters. Musicians along the route will lead the singing. Song sheets will be provided.
- 11 a.m. The essay contest awards ceremony and singing will take place at the church, along with a free dinner, again courtesy of the Southern **Dutchess Coalition.**
- 1 p.m. The Southern Dutchess Coalition will lead a celebration of King in the church featuring the Community Gospel Choir.

Philipstown

At the Desmond-Fish Library, Director Jen McCreery (Continued on Page 11)

Breaking into Beacon

Inspired by local art scene, high school students show talent **By Alison Rooney**



Interior, by Richard Kish

s befits a city where visual arts play such a prominent civic role, Beacon will celebrate the talent of its younger artists with an exhibit of works by

Beacon High School students that opens Jan. 14 at The Gallery at The Lofts. A reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will

feature studio art, ceramics, photography, digital art, drawings and paintings by students working under art teachers Claudine Farley, Mark Lyon and Sergio Perez, who each chose 15 to 20 pieces for the show. It will run through Feb. 25.

Molly Robinson, a sophomore, has two pieces in the exhibit. She says her advanced art class has been working on observational pieces and composition - "figuring out how different mediums work and how light and shadows work and how to create them in pieces." She says she only recently discov-



her work in a gallery is "uplifting," she says. "I feel grateful to Mr. Lyon for giving me the opportunity." Robinson feels Beacon High is a good place to be a

budding artist. "In this school a lot of people value art, especially with all the galleries on Main Street, and Dia, a lot of people are expressing themselves in Beacon."

The high school's digital art classes were introduced four years ago. "We have kids come in who have completed CAD (computer-assisted drawing) or done graphic design at BOCES and others who don't have a computer at home," says Perez, who teaches the courses and supervises independent study. Class projects include 3-D modeling, working with (Continued on Page 12)

Illustration by Nip Rogers (niprogers.com)

ered how much of a passion art is for her, and that the challenges have given her confidence to the point she plans to become an art teacher and is assembling a portfolio for her college submissions.

One of Robinson's works was a homework assignment: create a narrative and convey all or part of that narrative in art. "It was hard to get the point across, but it wound up being cool to see how the class interpreted it," she says. Seeing

FRIDAY, JAN. 13

Depot Docs: *Following Seas* (2015) with Q&A 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Calling All Poets 8 p.m. Center for Creative Education 464 Main St., Beacon 914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net Hudson Valley Poets Poetry Night 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

Beacon Second Saturday

Starlab Indoor Planetarium

10 & 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org Beacon Democrats Meet-up 10 a.m. Beahive

291 Main St., Beacon 845-264-4772 | beacondems@yahoo.com Emily Music for Kids! Family Music

Hootenanny

10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory 333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon 845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Basics of Bird Feeding

11 a.m. Hubbard Lodge 2920 Route 9, Cold Spring putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com. Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Dia:Beacon

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Community Free Day 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Walter De Maria Exhibit Opens 2:30 p.m. Jane McFadden on Walter De Maria 3 Beekman St., Beacon 845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org Hudson Valley Hate Free Zone Assembly 1 – 3 p.m. St. Luke's Church

850 Wolcott St., Beacon facebook.com/events/1842846969325431

Beacon High Winter Art Exhibit (Opening) 1 – 4 p.m. Lofts at Beacon Gallery

18 Front St., Beacon 845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com **Eddison Romeo:** *Colored Immersion* (**Opening**) 3 - 6 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery 137 Main St., Beacon

845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com
Dusklit (Dance Performance)

4 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 15 South Ave., Beacon 845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

"I'm Tired" Project/Rombout Middle School Exhibition

4 - 6 p.m. Center for Creative Education 464 Main St., Beacon | theimtiredproject.com



5 Grand Street City of Newburgh 845 561 5552 mon-thurs 10-6 fri 11-7 sat 10-6 sunday closed newburghartsupply.com

Rafael Quirindongo (Opening)

5 - 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com
Beacon Woodblock Relief (Opening)
6 - 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com
Bau Members Group Show (Opening)
6 - 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com
Zachary Skinner (Artist Reception)

6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery 436 Main St., Beacon 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Scott Wilkowski & Josh Kimberg (Opening) 6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon

212-255-2505 | cluttergallery.com Friends of the Library Holiday Party 6 - 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

SUNDAY, JAN. 15

Cause and Effect: The Contemporary Glass Compositions of Beth Lipman (Talk) 3 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org Pilates for Teen Girls (First Session) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga 75 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com Vomit Fist / Cadaveric Spasm (Music) 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center See details under Friday.

MONDAY, JAN. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day See story on Page 9.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17

Animals and Nature Together (First Session) 10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center 25 Boulevard, Cornwall 845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org Path to Entrepreneurship

5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134

New Moms & Infants Group 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

See details under Saturday.
Water-Base Monotypes and Monoprints

(First Session) 1 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison

845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org When We Were Kings (Documentary, 1996)

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Saturday.

Beacon City Council 7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom) 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon) 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Haldane School Board Workshop

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room) 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Nelsonville Board of Trustees

7:30 p.m. Nelsonville Village Hall

258 Main St., Nelsonville 845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

Softground & Spitbite Printing (First Session) 1 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Tuesday. Beacon vs. Hendrick Hudson (Boys' Basketball) 4:30 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon 845-838-6900 | beaconcityk12.org K of C Free-Throw Competition (ages 9-14) 6 - 8 p.m. Capuchin Ministries (Gvm) 781 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-265-3802 5:45 p.m. Registration begins Student/Faculty Volleyball Game 6 p.m. Haldane School See details under Tuesday Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins 7 p.m. St. Francis Convent, Graymoor 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison 845-424-3625 | graymoor.org **Garrison School Board** 7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Army vs. Holy Cross (Men's Basketball) 7 p.m. Cristl Arena, West Point 845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

We Have Brought Nightmare (Reading) 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

Haldane PTA

9 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | haldanepta.org

Chivalry & Martial Arts for Boys (grades 6-12) 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga See details under Sunday.

Haldane vs. Putnam Valley (Girls' Basketball) 6:15 p.m. Haldane School

See details under Tuesday.

Farm Dinner 6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring 845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Fermentation Lecture 6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library See details under Tuesday.

Dance Jam 7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, JAN. 20

Zine Club with Deb Lucke 3 p.m. Howland Public Library See details under Tuesday.

Beacon Bulldogs Wrestling Tournament 4 p.m. Beacon High School See details under Wednesday.

Mindcraft Mania (grades 3+) 6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library See details under Thursday.

Open-Mic Night 7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center See details under Jan. 13..

Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. (from Page 9)

calls its Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, now in its 21st year and sponsored by the Friends of the Desmond-Fish, a

"big part of our history — it's a tradition we want to uphold in the community." Last year the library organized a presentation on Islamophobia, and the year before that on police brutality.

This year, she said, a patron suggested a look at incarceration. That led to the Rehabilitation Through the Arts group, and to Katherine Vockins and Charles Moore, who will speak about their work with area prisons. James O'Barr will also provide a general presentation on incarceration trends in the U.S.

The potluck and adult program take place on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m.. A family celebration with stories and music for all ages will take place on Monday, Jan. 16, at 10:30 a.m.

The Sunday program will begin with supper, followed by a talk by Vockins and Moore. Their organization works in five maximum- and medium-security prisons in the Hudson Valley and uses theater, dance, music, voice, writing and visual arts as tools to develop life skills and change behavior. RTA has



This image of Martin Luther King Jr. was constructed by an anonymous artist with profile photos of people who had tweeted the words, "I'm not racist, but ..."



Gha'il Rhodes Benjamin

launched a program with its alumni to develop a play about the experience and challenges of coming home.

Moore has been involved with RTA since 2004, while Vockins co-produced *Dramatic Escape*, a documentary that followed RTA through its production cycle of *A Few Good Men* at Sing Sing.

The family celebration will have interactive storytelling with performer Gha'il Rhodes Benjamin that includes movement, poetry and songs from the

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events

Sunday, Jan. 15

Potluck and Speaker 6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Monday, Jan. 16

Beacon Community Events

8 a.m. Free breakfast 9:30 a.m. Opening ceremony 10 a.m. Parade 11 a.m. Essay awards, songs, presentations 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free lunch 1 p.m. Southern Dutchess Coalition Celebration with Gospel Choir Springfield Baptist Church 8 Mattie Cooper Square, Beacon *Meals courtesy Southern Dutchess Coalition*

Family Celebration

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Jan. 15.

Civil Rights era. Her collaboration with Jeff Haynes, *Pete Seeger: The Storm King*, was nominated for a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album.

Both programs are free. The library is located at 472 Route 403. For more information, visit desmondfishlibrary.org.



Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. brunch/dinner Mon. - Fri. 4 p.m., Closed Tuesday

> Fri., 1/13 8:30 p.m. Greg Brown

Sat., 1/14 7:00 p.m. Margaret McDuffie Saturday Salon - Free

Sat., 1/14 8:30 p.m. Brothers of the Road Band Allman Brothers Tribute

Sun., 1/15 11:30 a.m. Tony Garnier & Art Labriola Jazz Brunch

Sun., 1/15 6:00 p.m. Perry Robinson & Friends - Free "A gem ... They take their food seriously."~ *NY Times*

Sun., 1/15 7:30 p.m. Brother Sun guest Boxcar Lilies

Thurs., 1/19 7:00 p.m. **Dance Jam**

Fri., 1/20 8:30 p.m. Roosevelt Dime guest Tall County

Sat., 1/21 7:00 p.m. Boom Kat Saturday Salon - Free

Sat., 1/21 8:30 p.m. Livingston Taylor guest Marc Douglas Berardo

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Breaking into Beacon (from Page 9)

Adobe PhotoShop and projects like the one which generated the work being shown: students were asked to create pieces based on their response to music.

"It's easy to engage with that because all the input is there," Perez explains. "Later they create commercial posters, using text as the central component." Perez says

"I realized that art is not just important in and of itself, but it's a way of connecting with science. It builds your visual and spatial skills and also opens up the imagination."

the students are always happy to have their work displayed. "I try to keep a broad cross-section and that's why the music project works so well - it's a subjective subject matter and isn't always just about who's best at PhotoShop." First held at River-Winds Gallery on Main



Richard Kish and Molly Robinson



Self Portrait, by Kalina Brinas



Digital art teacher Sergio Perez in front of work made by students in his classroom at Beacon High School

Photo by A. Rooney



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Patriot's Day (R) FRI 2:15 5:15 8:15 SAT 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15 SUN, MON & TUE 1:15 4:15 7:15 WED & THU 7:15

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Artwork by Molly Robinson

Street, the show moved to The Lofts gallery five years ago, according to Claudine Farley, the Beacon school district's art coordinator. "It's not just of value to the students," she says. "The support we get from the arts community is phenomenal."

Farley says interest in the arts at the school ebbs and flows; the ceramics class has a new kiln, and there is discussion of reviving a textile design class. The high school has its own gallery in which exhibits are typically synced with performances at the theater across the corridor.

For senior Richard Kish, who plans to be an engineer, art was not a big part of his life

until he says he had an "Oh, wow!" moment. "I realized that art is not just important in and of itself, but it's a way of connecting with science," he says. "It builds your visual and spatial skills and also opens up the imagination."

Like Robinson, Kish has two works in the show. One is a portrait of his dining room in blue and orange. "It's one of my favorite spots to sit and I liked the fact that I could also include the view into the kitchen," he says. The other is a threepanel drawing of a sprinter taking off from the blocks. (Kish is a star on the Beacon team and was chosen on Dec. 23 as the Highlands Current Athlete of the Week.) Kish set up a tripod and took photos of himself in action, which he used as models for his drawings.

Studio art teacher Mark Lyon, taking a short break from supervising a classroom of students doing knife design work for a linoleum printing project, observes that "the exhibit is great because we take a piece of their art and have it out in the world. beyond the display cases at the school, beyond their folders, grades and credits, so that it becomes a part of the community." It's important, he says, for student work to be part of the art scene in Beacon.

The Gallery at the Lofts is usually open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located at 18 Front St. inside the management office for The Lofts. For more information, visit loftsatbeacon.com or call 845-202-7211.

The Howland Public Library will open an exhibition of student artwork from the Beacon School District's four elementary schools with a reception on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. (The snow date is Feb. 4.) The frames for the show, which will run through Feb. 18, were donated by the late Warren Hurley after he exhibited at the library in April. The Beacon Arts & Education Foundation and Friends of the Howland Library also contributed, and the frames will be used for all Beacon City School District exhibits at the library, which is located at 313 Main St.

More Student Shows



Art by Mia, a fifth grader at Sargent Elementary

Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring is displaying its fourth annual high school juried art exhibit through Jan. 29 with 23 artists from eight schools in six counties who interpreted the theme "Story Tellers, Fables and Fiction." The gallery, at 66 Main St., is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The Center for the Digital Arts in

Peekskill is holding its annual student show from Thursday, Jan. 19 through Feb. 18, with a reception scheduled for Feb. 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and a screening of multimedia work at 4 p.m. The show includes both traditional fine arts and digital illustration and animation. The center is located at 27 N. Division.

Fake News Has Landed — What Can You Do? (from Page 7)

Although online publishers hate them, free programs such as Adblock Plus can prevent you from seeing invasive promotions. She also suggests sleuthing out Web addresses — if they end in an odd domain such as .com.co, or if a news item is not reported anywhere else or by anyone reliable, beware.

"Your digital life is like driving safely," she said.

The cool factor

Longtime environmental reporter Andrew Revkin, who lives in Nelsonville and who recently moved to ProPublica after a long career at The New York Times, asked attendees to think about how to build a culture in which "veracity is cool."

Veracity is hard, he said, which is why the "legacy" (what some would call the "mainstream") media has a disadvantage in the digital age: real reporting takes time. Even photos must be vetted.

Revkin suggests making veracity cooler by framing it as group detective work. He said he challenges students in his onlinemedia class at Pace University to re-report published stories: to look at the information and photos and search for the original speaker and original photo. It's a chain-of-custody hunt, he said.

Misuse of studies and scientific reports and graphics and photos are hot potatoes, too. For instance, he cited a graph of seismic patterns under the Pacific captioned

lai



Pam McCluskey of the Desmond-Fish Library shows a chart dealing with digital "pollution" – a project of the infollutionZERO Foundation. Photo by A. Peltonen

The search for

out for bad content."

to make readers believe the patterns represented radiation streaming from the Fukushima reactor accident site toward the western U.S.

Also worth looking into,

Revkin said, is a free online course offered by the Stony Brook University School of Journalism's Center for News Literacy (centerfornewsliteracy.org).

Sleuthing through the ages

To help children and teenagers who are growing up in an era of fake news, teach them to sleuth out what's real. The search for "meaningful content is as important as looking out for bad content," Revkin

said. One technique is to have them keep and dis-"meaningful content is cuss a journal of items that provoke them, both good as important as looking and bad.

Meanwhile, what Revkin called "defrocking bogus information" is something you don't have

to do alone. Politifact has Truth-O-Meters and Snopes.com takes apart fake news, old and new. Local media is also important, he said, because if a herd of helicopters charges overhead, you won't find out the why on a national site.

Finally, Revkin assured the group that sometimes "it's OK to live in a bubble as long as you know the bubble is there."



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PHILIPSTOWN

We Have Brought Nightmares A Dialogues in Drama Play Reading By John Christian Plummer Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com • philipstowndepottheatre.org Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)





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Topping Off Women's Marches (from Page 1)

grows, Hope believes more makers will realize their creations aren't just for show.

"There's a tendency among makers that once you've made something you don't want to mess it up," she explained. "You don't want to cut it, you just want to keep it and pet it. But it's a resource. Let's use it, to welcome a baby, or make things

just the way you want them, or to make a statement."

Many stores and restaurants will have "soft openings," when they open the doors



A heart fills the center of a quilt-inprogress at Beetle and Fred.

"Sometimes you can feel so helpless, such utter dismay over the way the world is going, and you feel so small. So you ask yourself what you can do. Well, I can sit down and I can sew. And I can try and make something that might give someone comfort." only for friends and family to smooth out the kinks. As befits a store that sells fabric and knitting supplies, the soft opening for Beetle and Fred was particularly soft.

"A few days after Thanksgiving, I took the paper down from the windows and unlocked the door," said Hope while sinking into one

of the store's couches as she worked on her pink pussyhat. "And for a couple of weeks, that was it."

Beetle and Fred — the name comes from Cockney rhyming slang for "needle and thread" — has since had a grand opening. It was the end of the season for fabric, so Hope said she held off stocking the shelves. But now, she said, the product is flowing in, "more kinds of threads, embroidery clothes and different patterns because I can't help myself."

Also, there soon will be yarn.

"Everyday someone sticks their head in the store and yells 'Do you have yarn?' " Hope said. Since the former Clay, Wood, and Cotton a few doors down stopped carrying yarn, Beacon has been in a yarn gap. "It's coming, but I want to find one particular line of something special."

Hope says she was inspired to open a store in Beacon about three years ago.



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Katy Hope outside her store Beetle and Fred

Photos by B. Cronin

She was working as an editor but missed the time she spent working and shopping at fabric stores. Five years ago, finding a space would have been easy, but three years ago, not so much. "It's a good problem for a town to have, not having available storefronts," she said. "But of course five years ago I had a toddler and an eightmonth-old, so it probably wouldn't have happened at that point!"

Finding an ample, well-lit space was a priority because Hope knew that she wanted Beetle and Fred to be more than a storefront. In the back of her space are four sewing machines that can be rented by the hour, as well as large, communal tables for projects and classes. The initial classes will be in basic sewing and quilting, but Hope says customers have offered to teach quilting, embroidery, surface design and visible mending, "which is good, because God knows I can't teach everything myself."

The store will also be open late on Thursday nights for what Hope calls weekly Make Out groups in which crafters grab a seat, rent a sewing machine or bring their own, pop open a bottle of something or other, and create. Hope said she recently took a class with the quilter Chawne Kimber, who has drawn praise for her intricate quilts that address topics such as police brutality and violence against women. For Hope, Kimber's work is an example that while quilts and other crafts can produce items that are beautiful and useful, they also have the potential to make an artistic statement.

While explaining this, Hope points to a quilt hanging near the entrance. She began creating it months ago as part of a project to honor victims of the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. She set it aside while opening the store but says she still plans to donate or sell it for charity.

"Sometimes you can feel so helpless, such utter dismay over the way the world is going, and you feel so small," she says. "So you ask yourself what you can do. Well, I can sit down and I can sew. And I can try and make something that might give someone comfort."

Beetle and Fred, located at 171 Main St., is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Call 845-440-8867 for more information.



The Past is Present

Readings series at Depot hopes to provoke, not politicize

By Alison Rooney

heater reflects the world but also, at its best, pokes back. With that in mind, the Excellent Creature theater company, headed by Christine Brooks Bokhour and Greg Miller of Cold Spring, has launched a monthly series of readings and discussion. Called Dialogues with Drama, it will present its second offering, John Christian Plummer's We Have Brought Nightmare, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

"While good theater always provokes conversation and changes the way we see the world, with this series, the conversation is not secondary, it is the main event," explains Miller. "We have chosen culturally provocative plays and a format that focuses the evening on the conversation." He promises entertainment but says they hope the conversations continue long after the reading ends.

The first reading, in December, was Eugene Ionescu's Rhinoceros. Considered a political parable, an absurdist comedy or both, Rhinoceros describes the pressures on people to conform and the



Greg Miller in the Dialogues with Drama reading of *Rhinoceros*

mob mentality and morality that can result. We Have Brought Nightmare focuses on the Dutch settlements in the Hudson Valley and addresses, according to its author, "the struggle to unify with oneself, with others, with the environment. This is an eternal struggle, not unique to New Netherland of 1642 or the United States of America in 2017."

Miller adds: "Rhinoceros dealt with epidemic political movements. Nightmare explores racial divides and immigration from a perspective strangely close to home. Our next play, Ibsen's An Enemy of the People, deals with water pollution, but more important, the conflict between politics and science. We don't have to reinvent the wheel."

For Bokhour, there's a distinction between "provocative" and "politicizing," noting that Dialogues with Drama aims for the former. "We're talking about human issues, having conversations around these ideas," she says. "Looking at our lives and seeing, in terms of theater, where similar things have come up in the past so we can see that it's a longer, broader picture. In looking at the past, we tend to romanticize, thinking 'Oh, it may have been hard for them, but it was beautifully simple,' but in fact they still had greed, love triangles and hatred!"

We Have Brought Nightmare was written by Plummer as a submission to a

10-minute play competition sponsored in 2006 by the Beacon Institute for **Rivers and Estuaries** and TrueNorth Theatre and was inspired by a bad dream one of his sons had. He expanded the play into a full-length work that was presented as a staged reading in 2014 by Up Theater in New York.

The cast features Samia Finnerty, who



Karen Kapoor in the Dialogues with Drama reading of Rhinoceros





Ray Bokhour in the Dialogues with Drama reading of Rhinoceros

most recently appeared off-Broadway in The Wolves; Plummer's son, Charlie, who will next be seen in the film *The Dinner*; Tim Harbolic and Tiberio Saraceno, who both appeared in Plummer's Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival production of Our Town; Cole Rivers, a spoken-word artist from Peekskill; and two actors who will appear in the Depot's upcoming production of Company, Kullan Edberg and Mia Canter. Plummer will also appear in the show.

Dialogues with Drama usually takes place on the second Wednesday of each month. Admission is free, but reservations are suggested at brownpapertickets. com/event/2732877.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local History From Local Students

Contest winners will be named Jan. 23

Seventh-grade students from Haldane on local history for the Jean Saunders History Contest and the results will be on view at the Desmond-Fish Library through Jan. 22. The contest is in honor of the first curator of the Putnam History Museum, which sponsors the annual event.

The submissions from 40 students included essays, posters, models and audiovisual presentations. On Monday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. (snow date Jan. 24), the museum will host a reception and ceremony at the library announcing the contest winners.

Christian Prayer Week

Annual event begins Jan. 19 at Graymoor

The Friars and Sisters of Atonement invite those of all Christian faiths to join them in eight days of prayer services beginning Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Convent at Graymoor with the Rev. Agnes Campbell Saffoury of the United Methodist Church of Highland Falls. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity aims to bring people together at a time when the world is divided.

The remaining schedule is:

- Thursday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m., at St. Christopher's Inn with Rev. James Loughran
- Friday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m., at the St. Pius X Library at Graymoor with Rev. John Kiesling
- Saturday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., at the St. Pius X Library with Brother William Martyn
- Sunday, Jan. 22, 3 p.m., at Peekskill Presbyterian Church with Episcopal Bishop Andrew M. Dietsche, from the Diocese of New York.
- Monday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., at St. Pius X Library with the Rev. Gary Colter of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Peekskill
- Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., at St. Pius X Library with the Rev. Anthony Stephens, former pastor of Our Savior



The St. Francis Chapel at Graymoor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Croton
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., at St. Pius X Library with Father Alexis Vinogradov, priest at St. Gregory Orthodox Church in Wappingers Falls For more information, visit graymoor.org.

Students vs. Teachers

Volleyball game to raise money for senior trip

Haldane students will take on faculty members in a volleyball game on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. to raise money for the senior class trip to New Orleans in the spring to work with Habitat for Humanity. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Children age 5 and under are free.

Celebrate Winter Outdoors

Snow tubing, maple syrup and broomball

The Taconic Outdoor Education Center is hosting its annual Celebration of Winter on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. Activities include snow tubing and tastings of maple syrup poured over



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the Duck Pond, broomball and ice-fishing demonstrations. The suggested donation is \$3 per person and the center is located at 75 Mountain Laurel Lane in Philipstown, within Fahnestock State Park. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, call 845-265-3773.



Members of the West Point Marching Band

Free Concert by West Point Marching Band

Classics by John Philip Sousa and others

Come hear one of America's greatest marching bands do what it does best: play marches. You'll hear works by the march king, John Philip Sousa, as well as other favorites from around the world. The free concert takes place

at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at Eisenhower Hall Theatre, 655 Pitcher Road, West Point. The snow date is Jan. 22.

Beacon

Teen Zine Workshop

Illustrator to help with mini-comic

The newly formed Zine Club at the Howland Public Library is a place for



Deb Lucke

Army photo

teens to work with others to produce their own self-published magazines filled with art, short stories, photography or anything else they want to publish. It meets on the third Friday of every month during the school year and students are involved in every step of publishing.

On Friday, Jan. 20, the club is hosting a Mini-Comic Workshop with Cold Spring writer and illustrator Deb Lucke, best known for her *Lunch Witch* series. The free event runs from 3 to 5 p.m. Register by emailing communityart@bea-

conlibrary.org.

Hate-Free Zone

Group to hold community event on Jan. 14

On Saturday, Jan. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Hudson Valley Hate Free Zone Assembly will present a training and community-building event. The goal is to gather people who are willing to stand up for others and connect and support the many

organizing efforts in the area. The event takes place at St. Luke's Church, 850 Wolcott St. RSVP and get more information at facebook.com/events/1842846969325431.

Pianist to Play Howland Center on Jan. 22

Will perform Chopin, Mozart, Liszt

The Chinese pianist Fei-Fei Dong will perform at the Howland Cultural



Pianist Fei-Fei Dong

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Center on Jan. 22. As a chamber musician, Fei-Fei is a member of the Aletheia Piano Trio, which debuted at the Kennedy Center in 2014 as part of its Conservatory Project and performs across the U.S.

Fei-Fei will play *Rondo in Eb Major, Op. 1T6*, and *24 Preludes, Op. 28*, by Chopin; *Piano Sonata No. 18 in D Major, K.576*, by Mozart; and *Réminiscences de Don Juan, S.418*, by Liszt.

The concert will begin at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students) and can be reserved by calling 845-765-3012 or at howlandmusic.org.

Second Saturday

Exhibits and events on Jan. 14

The "I'm Tired" Project

In December, more than 600 students at Rombout Middle School participated in workshops organized by the I'm Tired Project, a social justice movement using art as a tool on social media to inspire dialogue around daily experiences of prejudice. Students were asked to write their own statement on their hands to be photographed.

The photos will be on view at the Center for Creative Education at 464 Main St., with an opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, visit theimtiredproject.com.



The "I'm Tired" project helps people understand the daily experience of prejudice.



Rafael Quirindongo Retrospective

R^{13th} anniversary with a grand reopening. For their first show in a redesigned space, curators are featuring Rafael Quirindongo's photography of New York City's architecture as landscape. The opening reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. and more information is available at riverwindsgallery.com.

Group Show at bau Gallery

Beacon Artist Union members were each given a 4-by-4 foot piece of plywood and invited to make art. This exhibition shares the results. The gallery's project space, the Beacon Room, will have work by Daniel Morowitz, *Young & Hung*, that explores queer identity and art history. The opening reception for both shows is from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit baugallery.com.





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Eddison Romeo Paintings

Catalyst Gallery opens the new year With *Colored Immersion*, an exhibition of abstract paintings by Eddison Romeo. A raffle during the February run benefits the Lupus Foundation of America. The reception runs from 3 to 9 p.m. and more information is available at catalystgallery.com.

Beacon Woodblock Relief

Work by Melissa Schlobohm, Justin Catania and Dylan Goldberger will be on display at Hudson Beach Glass with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Combining technique and craft, each artist's work explores ways the medium can be used. For more information, visit hudsonbeachglass.com.

Dia:Beacon

Putnam and Dutchess residents are invited to the Community Free Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please being proof of residency, such as a driver's license.

The institute is offering activities all day. At 11:30 a.m., families and children can explore artworks and the space around them in exercises with Jean-Marc Superville-Sovak. At 1 p.m., museum educator Charlotte Schulz will lead a tour of the works of Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin,



Sol LeWitt and Agnes Martin, focusing on grids. At 2:30 p.m., there will be a talk on artist Walter De Maria. For a full schedule, visit diaart.org.

Beacon High Winter Art Exhibit

The Lofts at Beacon are presenting an exhibition of art by Beacon High School students with an opening from 1 to 4 p.m. See story on Page 9.

More:

At Matteawan Gallery, Zachary Skinner's Geo-Co-Lab residency continues. The gallery is hosting a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. See matteawan.com.

At Clutter Gallery, an exhibit of work by Scott Wilkowski opens from 6 to 9 p.m. See cluttermagazine.com/gallery.

Share Your News With Our Readers

Share news and announcements With the readers of *The Highlands Current*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to:

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Catching Up With ... Fareground

Beacon community kitchen reboots with new board

By Alison Rooney

wo years ago *The Current* reported on Fareground Community Kitchen, a Beacon nonprofit dedicated to establishing a pay-what-you-can café offering locally sourced, mostly organic meals. It was "tricky because the model is so new," said co-founder and chef Margot Schulman at the time. "We're not a food pantry but we're not a for-profit restaurant either."



Plates alongside a menu welcoming Fareground guests

Fareground began in Beacon in 2012 as a series of pop-up cafés. Rather than relying on whatever food was donated, as a food pantry must do, it worked with farmers and others to provide "desired" meals. If a diner could not afford to pay in dollars, he or she could volunteer. Those who could pay were encouraged to contribute \$5 or \$10 extra to cover someone else's meal. And meals were served family style at large tables, to encourage interaction among neighbors and strangers.

"It's not a free meal," Schulman explained. "It's more about recognizing there are lots of different ways to pay for something. It's also about respecting the fact that most people don't want a hand-out. They want to be able to give something back and be appreciated for what they do have."

Fareground is still around, but Schulman has moved on and the other cofounder, social worker Kara Dean-Assael, decided it was time "to regroup, tear down, rebuild and develop a strong board."

"We began in 2012 as a social worker and a chef," Dean-Assael recalls. "We learned about pay-what-you-can cafés and, feeling Beacon had a need for one, got started. We had a few places we were trying to secure, to make it a regular space, but we quickly realized it was going to be more difficult than we envisioned. We didn't have our 501c3 [federal non-profit status], and we were instead operating under an umbrella from Common Ground Farm; there were a



Kara Dean-Assael (third from left) with diners during a Fareground meal in 2014

lot of moving parts."

With its own non-profit status now in hand (allowing it to accept tax-deductible contributions directly) and a six-member board, Fareground's aspirations are a variation on its original plan.

"We are hoping to participate in Beacon's new indoors farmers' market, and we are now focused on building a bridge between those in the community who don't have enough food and those who do by bringing some kind of food to the locations which need it, particularly the housing developments in Beacon," Dean-Assael said. "This may be in the form of bagged lunches — we are still developing these ideas."

As for Schulman's successor, "we want someone who has relationships within the community and with food suppliers," Dean-Assael says. "We're looking for passion."

A permanent space is also on the organization's wish list. "We're taking our time coming back to the community," Dean-Assael says. "We've been visiting other organizations, seeing how they work. I visited a food pantry in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, that was struggling with infrastructure. They closed down over the summer and rethought things, then re-opened. One thing we've learned is that we're not going to be able to operate independently in a brick-and-mortar space, so we're looking for a collaborator to share space."

For more information or to volunteer, visit fareground.org or email fareground@gmail.com. To contribute, send a check to P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508.





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Photos provided

Beacon Boys Must Forfeit Wins (from Page 1)

in no way a reflection of the hard work and sacrifices of the student-athletes in both the football and boys' basketball programs." Section 1 includes schools in the lower Hudson Valley from Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

The issue has been corrected and the student has rejoined the basketball team for practices, said White. He said the district is trying to determine "where the gaps were, because we don't want this to happen again."

After finishing 16-6 last year and reaching the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals, the Beacon basketball team was off to a somewhat surprising 7-3 start, which included winning the Duane Davis Tournament on Dec. 31 with a 76-64 victory over Spackenkill.

Reached on Jan. 10, Beacon basketball coach Scott Timpano said that his players

Forfeited Games

The Beacon Bulldogs forfeited four football and seven basketball victories dating back to Sept. 10.

Football

Beacon 20, Peekskill 9 Beacon 26, Byram Hills 21 Beacon 39, Lincoln 0 Beacon 14, Lakeland 12

Basketball

Beacon 64, Valley Central 57 Beacon 80, Peekskill 68 Beacon 62, Ramapo 53 Beacon 70, North Rockland 63 Beacon 83, John Jay East Fishkill 75 (OT) Beacon 72, FDR-Hyde Park 61 Beacon 76, Spackenkill 64



Missy Lisikatos (12)



At 6 a.m. on Jan. 10, the day after the announcement that the Beacon boys' basketball team would forfeit its seven wins, coach Tom Timpano posted on Twitter: "This is what dedication looks like."

were "devastated" by the news but recovered with a great practice that day as they prepared to play at Sleepy Hollow on Jan. 12.

Despite the setback, Timpano said he's upbeat about this team's prospects for the postseason. A Section 1 team needs 32 points to qualify for the state tournament, and it receives four points for each win as well as bonus points at the end of the season based on its victories against Section 1 opponents. Timpano said on Jan. 10 if the Bulldogs can win five of their 10 remaining games, (including a Jan. 10 game against Lourdes that was postponed), a postseason appearance is still possible. Beacon football coach Tom Truscello, in his first season with the team, did not respond to a request for comment.

Visit highlandscurrent.com *for news updates and latest information.*

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Missy Lisikatos, Haldane High School

Marissa "Missy" Lisikatos, a senior at Haldane, was named in early December to the first team All-State for Class C girls' soccer by the New York State Sportswriters Association for the third season in a row. It was the final accolade after an incredible five-year career at Haldane.

Lisikatos also was named to the Section 1 team four seasons in a row, received All-League honors for each of the five years she played on the varsity squad, and this year was voted by Section 1 coaches as Class C Player of the Year. Finally, Lisikatos was named as a Section 1 Elite 12 player, an academic honor given to 12 senior players.

A starter for the Blue Devils basketball team as well, Lisikatos will play soccer at LeMovne University in Syracuse in the fall.

Haldane Coach Gary Van Asselt knows he will have a tough time replacing his star. "Missy's control of the game dictates both her team and the opposing team's decision making," he said. "She started playing defense early in her career and moved to mid-field as a 10th and 11th grader. This year we moved her to an offensive role and the results were outstanding. She scored 16 goals to go along with 12 assists."

More All-State Honors

Haldane Girls' Soccer (Class C) Alexandra Cinquanta (senior), 2nd team Hannah Monteleone (senior), 2nd team

Haldane Football (Class D)

Brandon Twoguns (junior, quarterback), honorable mention Sam Giachinta (sophomore, running back), honorable mention

Haldane Boys' Cross Country (Class D)

Adam Silhavy (sophomore), 2nd team

For a list of Haldane and Beacon fall athletes named to All-Section and All-League teams, see highlandscurrent.com.

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Sports

High School Varsity Scoreboard

Long jump

Boys' Basketball North Salem 65, Haldane 55

Girls' Basketball Haldane 32, Beacon 31 Allison Cheira, Haldane (13 points); Lauren Schetter, Beacon (12) Haldane 44, Pleasantville 29

Girls' Bowling John Jay 7, Beacon 0

Boys' Swimming Beacon 53, Port Chester 35

First-place finishers: 200-meter relay Patino, Patino, Carmona, Cordero 2:13 200-meter freestyle Lucas O'Blaney 2:04.37 200-meter individual medley Kent Patino 2:28.90 50-meter freestyle Sean Landers 24.62

Indoor Track

Haldane at Hispanic Games, Rockland Community College Top finishers (girls): One-mile run 108. Claire Cassidy 6:09.33 Long jump 54. Paige Lee 12-4.25 Shot put 34. Catherine Parr 24-9 Mile steeple 6. Heather Winne 6:27.01 Top finishers (boys) One-mile run 38. Adam Silhavy 4:46.92 42. Conor Van Riper 4:47.59

32. Justin Gonzalez 15-7 Mile steeple 2. Nick Farrell 5:01.18 4. Joseph Abate 5:31.52 Beacon at Section 1 Dendy Invitational at RCC Top finishers (girls): 1,500-meter run 11. Rebecca Soto 11:36.20 200-meter run 11. Summer Roberts 30.74 11. Anna Manente 30.74 1,000-meter run 18. Katherine Stojakovic 4:11.20 High jump 4. Jessica Hockler 3-09 Pole vault 1. Anna Manente 6-06 Shotput 8. Xiomara Antongiorgi 24-01 Top finishers (boys): 200-meter run 20. Nyiem Brown 26.74 600-meter run 13. Nick Lepere 1:41.20 1,000-meter run 16. Noah Cory 3:13.70 1,600-meter run 34. Noah Cory 5:52.40 55-meter hurdles 6. Stevie Hulse 9.94 High jump 3. Xavier Collins 5-02 Long jump 4. Xavier Collins 17-07.75 Pole vault 10. Devin Bethards 7-00 Shotput 13. Joseph Sarcone 29-07.50

New Floor and Scoreboard at Rec Center

A new gymnasium floor was installed at the Philipstown Recreation Department in Garrison during the last two weeks in December. "We have done a lot of work on that gym over the past 10 years," said Director Amber Stickle. "When we first moved in we had garbage cans strategically placed to catch the water leaking from the roof, the floor was buckling and only





half the lights worked. It was a rough space with so much potential. Being able to see PRD on the floor was a huge goal of mine." The scoreboard at the Rec Center was also upgraded with a new sign. Photos provided

Coaches and Parents

We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos. Fmail

sports@highlandscurrent.com



Nick DiPalo (12) prepares to pass in a home victory over Edgemont on Dec. 8.

Photo by Sharon DiPalo

Can Haldane Boys Three-Peat at Final Four?

After two appearances, Blue Devils have tougher road

By Leigh Alan Klein

first was set in March as the Haldane boys' basketball team reached its first Class C state final. Although it was overwhelmed in the championship by Buffalo's Middle Early College, the run to Glens Falls was a natural progression for a program that has dominated Section 1 for eight seasons in a row. Four of the school's recent graduates are playing at Division III colleges.

The previous year the team had reached the state final four, so it was gratifying to not only return after losing its core players but to reach the finals, said Coach Joe Virgadamo, a Haldane grad who is now in his 11th year at the helm.

"Each year is different," he said. "With that comes the challenge. It's so much fun to adjust, learn and work with these guys on becoming better players and people."

Haldane relies heavily on multisport athletes. For a school that graduates about 75 students a year, it's essential to have athletes participate on two to three teams.

"I am a huge advocate of multisport play and have found athletes who play more than one sport avoid overuse injuries," Virgadamo said. "It also makes it fun to coach. We were turning the ball over so in practice we talked about taking the single and stop going for home-run passes. The baseball guys lit up. Then we addressed the defense and talked about angles of pursuit, which woke up the football guys."

Blaine Fitzgerald was the goalkeeper for the soccer team and now, at 6-feet-7, is averaging 18 points and 10 rebounds per game at center for the basketball team. Virgadamo believes he has the ability to play at the collegiate level in either sport. "Blaine is a true post player," says Virgadamo. "He runs well, rebounds and is good in the pivot. The ball has a way of finding him with his length."

Junior point guard Nick DiPalo is adjusting well to his first season of varsity. He has dedicated himself to basketball and also hopes to play in college. "He has great vision; he is a scoring point guard," said Virgadamo. "He handles the basketball well and is a confident shooter."

Junior guard Aidan Siegel is a doubledigit threat and "a slasher/penetrator who sparks the offense," the coach said.

Sophomore Kyle Sussmeyer has battled foot injuries as well as the effects of cystic fibrosis but Virgadamo thinks he could be a special player with college potential because of how well he can shoot.

Section 1 is competitive, as always. The challengers to Haldane's reign are lining up. Solomon Schecter has two wins already against Haldane, while Tuckahoe, Hamilton and North Salem (who the Blue Devils play at home on Jan. 27) are formidable. But Virgadamo remains optimistic about his 5-5 team. "If we can earn 32 points to get to the Section 1 playoff, there is no reason we can't get to the Westchester County Center" for regional competition.

5 Wins, 5 Losses

Solomon Schechter 55, Haldane 43 Haldane 78, Edgemont 75 Haldane 77, Hawthorne Cedar Knolls 68 Haldane 66, Hawthorne Cedar Knolls 53 Solomon Schechter 51, Haldane 30 Hastings 59, Haldane 28 Haldane 59, Children's Village 48 Chester 42, Haldane 32 Haldane 56, Clark Academy 48 North Salem 66, Haldane 55