

The HIGHLANDS Current

FEBRUARY 10, 2017

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



Winter hiking tips
See Page 11

Major Crime in Beacon Falls to Five-Year Low

Police responded to 280 reports of serious offenses

By Jeff Simms

Newly compiled statistics show that reports of serious crimes in Beacon fell to their lowest level in five years, and are now 25 percent lower than in 2012.

Beacon officers in 2016 responded to 280 reports of what the department classifies as major offenses — rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft — compared to 300 calls in 2015 and 408 in 2012. For the most part, aside from a modest bump from 2014 to 2015, the numbers have been steadily trending down since Chief Douglas Solomon was hired in 2012.

The most recent state figures show that 4,515 major crimes were reported in Dutchess County in 2015, so Beacon — at just under 15,000 residents, or about 5 percent of the Dutchess population — accounted for about 7 percent of the crime in the county that year. In Putnam County, which had 99,220 residents in 2015, there were 589 major crimes reported in 2015.

Solomon noted that arrests were up in 2016, with 834 versus 761 in 2015, while reported crime is down. “That means the officers are being more proactive,” he said. “What you want to see are the numbers we have.”

Of the 280 major crimes reported in Beacon last year, the great majority were larcenies — the intentional but many times petty theft of an item belonging to another person. The number of robberies (the forcible taking of another’s property) and burglary (the unlawful entering of a dwelling) were far fewer and held steady from a year ago.

Automobile theft fell by half and aggravated assaults (an attempt to cause serious bodily harm) dropped significantly, as well. The number of reported rapes doubled, from two to four.

The investigation of Beacon’s lone 2016 homicide — the city’s first in nearly a decade — remains open. Solomon said that despite following up on several leads, no arrests have been made after a 25-year-old man visiting Beacon was shot to death in August at the (Continued on Page 8)



Raquel Ringgold, a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie, is shown after a donut run with her mother to Glazed Over in Beacon. Photo provided

Mmmmm ... Donuts

Made-to-order shop in Beacon is an instant hit

By Jeff Simms

A family effort, many years in the making, has brought more donuts to Beacon. And with all due respect to other sweet treats, these are not your average deep-fried rings of sugary dough.

Lisa Tompkins, who owns Glazed Over Donuts on Main Street with her husband, Ron, describes getting a snack on a beach trip with her family almost 20 years ago as the impetus for the shop, which opened last month.

“When our kids were young, we were at the shore and we stopped at a donut stand,” she says. “Everybody loved it and we said, ‘Someday we’re going to open a donut shop.’”

Fast forward to the summer of 2016, when Lisa and Ron, who is a mechanical maintenance superintendent at Indian Point and the wrestling coach at Beacon High School, saw a “for rent” sign in the

window at 315 Main. Lisa resigned as the athletics secretary at the high school — she’d been at the school for 17 years but longed to be more active — and the couple rolled up their sleeves.

“I knew if I didn’t do this now, I wouldn’t do it,” says Lisa, 52.

The couple refurbished the empty space on their own. Their oldest son and a friend set up social media to promote the shop. Their middle son provided the Hudson River panoramic photos that adorn the walls. Their youngest son made the tables from reclaimed wood, personalizing each on its underside.

“It’s definitely a community-based donut-making shop,” Tompkins said during a rare

(Continued on Page 15)

Nuclear Reaction

State wants to add \$2 to electric bills to keep upstate plants running

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

On the road to eco-friendly electricity aggregation programs, Highlands communities may be accompanied by an unexpected passenger — payments to the owners of three upstate nuclear power plants facing uncertain futures under New York State’s clean-energy plan.

Launched by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2016, the plan calls for 50 percent of the state’s energy to come from renewable sources, such as wind and solar, by 2030. While that goal is pursued, it calls for a \$2 surcharge on monthly electric bills to keep aging nuclear plants running — for now. The surcharge, approved last year by the state Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities, is expected to continue until at least 2029 and provide the owners of the upstate plants from \$7 to \$10 billion in subsidies. (The owner of Indian Point, which is scheduled to close in 2021, will not receive subsidies.)

Citing those costs and problems caused by nuclear energy, the Beacon-based Hudson River Sloop Clearwater organization in November filed a lawsuit in state court in Albany challenging the surcharge. It expanded the case in January when municipal and consumer interests joined in, including 52 individuals who already pay for 100 percent renewable energy.

The challenge to the subsidy comes as Highlands governments move toward participation in a Community Choice Aggregation district. CCAs allow municipalities to bargain on behalf of homeowners and small businesses for less expensive and/or more energy-efficient electricity, especially from renewable sources.

A citizens’ group, (Continued on Page 6)



The Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station in Scriba, New York, north of Syracuse, would be subsidized. Exelon photo

Roots and Shoots

Plant Sales? Now?

Order forms available to secure your seedlings

By Pamela Doan

Along with seed catalogs, I love poring over the order forms for plant sales. They are an affordable way to buy a lot of seedlings and I can walk around my yard later and recall the provenance of each of the plants.

A few of my favorite sources are the annual sales by the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWD), the Native Plant Sale in Valhalla, the Master Gardener Plant Sale in Brewster and the Garden Club sale in Cold Spring (I volunteer with both of the latter two).

Last year I planted about 70 seedlings, and this spring won't be any different. Since my vegetable garden became too shady, I've used it as a tree nursery with hydrangea, hazelnut, viburnum, witchhazel, river birch and paw paw seedlings waiting their turn to be transplanted to the yard. The garden fence protects them and they don't seem to mind the partial shade. I don't water them often,



Pagoda dogwood

but the soil is healthy.

The order forms distributed by the PCSWD and Native Plant Center make it easy to find the right plant for the right situation by including a lot of information about each one and its value in the landscape that goes beyond beauty. I do love a plant that is more than a pretty face.

The PCSWD provides all the growing requirements, growth stats and even a column for best uses. That category includes wetland, erosion control and edible food, as well as windbreak, Christmas trees and wildlife.

The NPC early order form is polished and showcases color photos of each selection. I tend to look up each of the plants anyway, just to make sure I know what I'm doing. It's also a way to learn about different plants. At this point in the winter, my mind is out of practice and I have to fall into the lingo of Latin names again.

The PCSWD has bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), a low-growing evergreen shrub with red berries that will tolerate the acidic soil in my yard. I've been considering it for slopes in my yard because it will spread and grow several feet across but stay less than a foot high. With evergreen leaves, it will look nice in winter, too, and the birds will enjoy the berries.

A pack of 10 is \$20 and I can plant some in different areas to see if it takes. I like it as a ground cover and it isn't invasive like pachysandra, which can take over and is hard to get remove. I have a large patch that was planted by previous owners and I may need a flamethrower to make it go away.

I'm tempted by a new addition to the PCSWD selection this year, the butternut tree. It's a native tree that I haven't seen growing anywhere in the woods. Nut trees are kind of a fantasy, though. It will take 7 to 10 years to produce so this is a planting for the future more than an expectation that I'll be roasting nuts that I've harvested in the side yard. There won't be any instant gratification.

The NPC catalogue has a spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*) that I can't resist. It's fragrant and is described as having "snapdragon-like yellow flowers spotted purple." The pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) has been tempting me for years and I might have to go for it. There's still space in my tree nursery.

I'm on the lookout for



Bearberry grows well as a groundcover.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

winterberry but neither sale has it and I might have to order online. It's a native shrub that has lovely, bright red berries in winter, as the name suggests. I need two to bear fruit and it hasn't been easy to find in nurseries. It's part of the holly *ilex* family. Even the thorniest holly won't make it in my yard because the deer will eat it but I think winterberry will make it. My cats just chased down a rodent that I thought was a mouse but discovered was a vole as I scooped it out the door. The threats to plants and shrubs in my yard are numerous.

The NPC deadline is Feb. 21 and the plants can be picked up at its sale on April 29. The PCSWD order deadline is March 29 and plants are available for pickup on April 21 and 22. You can download the forms at sunywcc.edu/about/npc and putnamcountynyny.com/keepputnamgreen.



Spotted bee balm

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School Districts Get Some Relief in Property Tax Cap

But still not enough to add programs without cuts

By Lily Gordon

The Haldane, Garrison and Beacon school districts will have a bit more breathing room in their 2017-18 budgets after the state announced the property tax cap will rise to 1.26 percent. It was 0.12 percent for the 2016-17 school year, a record low.

Under a state law that went into effect in 2012, the cap is used to calculate the maximum amount a district can increase the budget it presents to voters for approval in May. It is the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2 percent. To exceed the cap, at least 60 percent of district voters must approve a referendum.

Some groups, such as the New York State Association of School Business Officials, have suggested making the cap a straight 2 percent annually so that it doesn't jump up and down each year.

Both the Haldane and Garrison boards continue to shape their budgets in meetings and workshops, and even a more generous cap allows neither the luxury of adding programs without difficult discussions about cutting elsewhere.

The rate, announced each year by the New York State Comptroller, is based on the consumer price index and then plugged into a formula that determines the maximum levy for each district.

For Haldane, the percentage will be about 2.2, according to Board of Education President Jen Daly; in Garrison, it's about 1.5 percent, said Board of Education President Ray O'Rourke. Anthony White, president of the Beacon school board, referred questions to Interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi, who could not be reached.

"Our rollover budget — if we were to maintain the same programs and ser-

vices in 2017-18 — showed a 2.1 percent increase," said Daly at Haldane. "That's good news! We definitely don't have any fluff money coming, but we'll be able to keep things as they are."

While the cap is higher than last year's, O'Rourke said the Garrison district still faces a deficit.

"Our health-care expenses are going up by \$50,000 more than the total revenue increase," he explained.

"There's really no comfort in the change in the tax levy

cap." Health-care expenses in 2017-18 are expected to jump 8 percent, or about \$186,000, he said. The estimated increase created by the increase in the tax levy will be \$136,000.

"We're glad to have the incremental revenue, but it's only helpful if it's not offset by expenses," he said.

While it's still early to discuss the administrations' budget "wish list," Daly said

"We're glad to have the incremental revenue, but it's only helpful if it's not offset by expenses."

she doesn't foresee any "monumental" requests. Replacing the gym bleachers is on the table; however, buildings and grounds funding comes from capital reserves.

At its Jan. 18 meeting, Garrison board members said they hoped to hire a reading specialist, one of the factors contributing to an anticipated budget increase.

School Tax Caps

2012-13: 2 percent

2013-14: 2 percent

2014-15: 1.46 percent

2015-16: 1.62 percent

2016-17: 0.12 percent

2017-18: 1.26 percent

Source: Comptroller's office

Dems and GOP Set up 'Offense'

Republicans will focus on defeating Maloney

The National Republican Congressional Committee has created a list of 36 House districts held by Democrats it will target over the next two years in preparation for the 2018 midterm elections. The seats include New York District 18, which includes Philipstown and Beacon and is held by Sean Patrick Maloney.

The Republican group believes Maloney is vulnerable because Donald Trump won the presidential race in the district by 2 percentage points.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee released its list on Feb. 2 of 59 Republican-held seats it hopes to flip, including New York District 19, won by John Faso, which includes northern Dutchess County. The 59 districts include



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney

File photo

33 where Hillary Clinton won or narrowly lost the popular vote. Democrats need 24 seats to win control of the House.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Seed-Sowing at Stonecrop Gardens



Please join us for our first workshop of the season...

Part 1 - February 25, 9 am-1 pm (Snow date March 4)

Learn the basic principles of seed propagation and seed-sowing techniques to sow a variety of annuals.

Part 2 - April 8, 9 am-1 pm (Snow date April 15)

Learn how to prick out the germinated seedlings into larger rounds to take home and grow in your garden.

Space is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend both workshops. Registration and pre-payment required. \$50/\$40 for members.

To register, please call (845) 265-2000 or email us at garden@stonecrop.org

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Thomas and Henry Warner: Road to the Hudson Highlands

Saturday, February 11 at 3pm

Join PHM for a presentation by Bryan Dunlap. He will share key moments in the lives of Thomas and Henry Warner, the uncle and father of Anna and Susan Warner of Constitution Island. Dunlap will follow the brothers from their family's Columbia County farm, to Union College, to New York for further study, and then into their professional lives.

Note the special early lecture start time, and join us after the lecture for some light refreshments! You will also get a chance to explore PHM's new exhibit, *The World of Anna & Susan Warner*.

Admission is \$5 for the general public and is free for members. Please RSVP at 845-265-4010 or rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Stop by the PHM on Saturday February 11 from 11 am to 3pm for special winter hours! This is a rare opportunity for you to view the museum during our seasonal closure.

The Putnam History Museum is located at
63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring.
www.putnamhistorymuseum.org

The HIGHLANDS Current

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Solar power!

Want to perk yourself up during the gloomy days of this winter? Install solar on your house and become part of the solution.

In November 2015 our family installed a 3,500-watt system on our Avery Road home at a modest cost. It was a simple process, with Sunrun taking care of everything — town permits, installation, electrical inspections, hookups, etc.

We recently received an update on our net use of electricity from the grid for 2016. It was zero. I encourage those of you who have the right exposure to not only think about it but do it! It feels good. And while you're at it, encourage the Garrison School, in particular, as well as the numerous other public buildings that qualify, to get on board and go solar as we say good riddance to Indian Point.

Let the sunshine in.

John Benjamin, *Garrison*

Home sales

It seems a bit rude to publish how much people paid for their new house ("Recent Philipstown Home Sales," Jan. 27). I un-

derstand that home prices are a matter of public record, as they should be. However, it is much different for the prices with photos to be published in the newspaper for everyone to see as they do their daily scrolling. If I had recently moved to town it would be off-putting to see my financial dealings on Facebook.

Emily Duncan, *Cold Spring*

Preserving Valhalla

Land preservation in the Highlands is more a matter of teaching the wisdom of preservation within a kettle of conservation to an audience in reservation ("Scenic Hudson Deal Falls Apart," Feb. 3).

Tony Sarkis, *North Adams, Massachusetts*

Love thy neighbor

We are the leaders of congregations and communities of faith in Northern Westchester and Putnam counties. We are keenly aware that as a result of recent actions and statements by the federal government, there are communities and groups of our neighbors who are fearful of what may become of them and their families.



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

How did you meet your Valentine? Who made the first move?



Dorna Lange, New York City (on Beacon dock): "We met 10 years ago working for a nonprofit for kids in Brazil. I definitely made the first move."

Aljoscha* Bokle: "We hadn't seen each other for 8 years!"



"I met my boyfriend here at Dogwood when I was working. He gave me his hat, a brimmed one with a feather, and we started dancing."

~ Emily Drummond, Beacon

We are not political organizations, but we must practice what we preach! In keeping with our beliefs and traditions, it is our duty and our joy to stand with our neighbors who are experiencing distress and anxiety because of their religion, their race, their ethnicity or their immigration status. No matter someone's status, we believe we are all children of God. They are, therefore, all our brothers and sisters and we care what happens to them.

So long as vulnerable communities in our midst are singled out and threatened, we know that none of us are really safe. We, who have been blessed with the privilege of freedom and citizenship in this great land, recognize that these blessings come with the responsibility to fulfill the biblical commandment that we "love thy neighbor as thyself." Therefore, we have united together, in faith, to offer our support, assistance, love and respect to those in our community who need it now.

In keeping with our own deep-seated beliefs, we pledge to offer whatever lawful aid and assistance we can to our neighbors who are in distress. We will draw upon the talents and skills of our membership to provide support to them. We can do no less.

The Rev. Jessica Anschutz, *Open Doors Community Parish, Putnam Valley*

Editor's note: Seventeen other Christian, Jewish and Buddhist religious leaders also signed. Their names are online.

Read what your neighbors
are saying. Visit our
Comments
section online.

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Liam Henneberg, Poughkeepsie (on Beacon dock): "We met working at a restaurant in Rhinebeck. It was kind of mutual, but she held my hand first." Savannah Cosenza, Poughkeepsie: "A few days later, we were lying on the cliffs in Rhinecliff watching the stars and talking."

Village May Petition for Lower Speed Limit

Also, fire company asks for delayed funds

By Michael Turton

Recent confusion over whether the speed limit on Cold Spring streets should be 30 mph per state law has been resolved (it is), but reducing it to the 15 mph stated on a number of signs will take time.

"We all agree 30 mph is ridiculous and dangerous to pedestrians, children and drivers," but it is clearly mandated by state law, Mayor Dave Merandy said at a Jan. 31 public hearing to consider changes to the Vehicles and Traffic section of the village code.

Several residents submitted correspondence while others spoke against what they believed was a move by the village board to raise the speed limit from 15 to 30 mph. In reality, Merandy said, the board was proposing an update to align the limit with state law — a law for which no one in Cold Spring has expressed support.

Several 15 mph signs along village streets have compounded the confusion. Deputy Mayor Marie Early said that a previous village board amended the village code, with the blessing of the village attorney, to lower the speed limit to 15 mph. But state law takes precedence, so the lower speed limit cannot be enforced. School zones are one of few exceptions where the state-imposed 30 mph limit can be reduced by the village.

Trustee Fran Murphy said that previous boards had asked the state seven times to allow the village to lower the speed limit but received no response.

The board will seek assistance from state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and Senator Sue Serino to petition for a reduced speed limit. Merandy said the effort should include a street-by-street assessment. Some residents suggested Cold Spring join with nearby villages that face a similar situation.

The mayor said the village could erect yellow, diamond-shaped signs to "suggest" slower speeds. They are common on state highways, particularly on turns, although they are not enforceable. It was noted that the village can legally leave the 15 mph signs in place.

The public hearing was closed at the Feb. 7 meeting, after which the trustees approved a number of minor updates to the code related to parking.

Fire company concerns

President Matt Steltz and Chief Steve Smith were part of a delegation from the Cold Spring Fire Company that attended the Feb. 7 meeting to clarify issues that Steltz said may have been "lost in translation."

Money was at the heart the discussion. The village has been slow to pay \$17,039 it owes the fire company, Steltz said, which is needed for gear, fire hoses and air bottles. The CSFC president also noted that the company's 2017 request for village



funds was the same as last year.

The reason for the delay lies in part with Nelsonville, which purchases its fire protection from the village, which in turn passes on that revenue to the fire company minus administrative expenses. Last October, Cold Spring billed Nelsonville \$21,679.39 for 2017 fire protection as part of a contract that included the first rate increase since 2012. Nelsonville responded with a check for \$20,674.95 on Jan 23. As a result of the discrepancy between the amount billed and the amount paid, the check was not cashed right away.

"Nelsonville didn't budget for the increase," Deputy Mayor Marie Early explained, but that didn't sit well with the CSFC delegation. "The fact that you have a problem with Nelsonville is not our problem," said former Cold Spring mayor and current CSFC Vice President Ralph Falloon.

Early expressed doubt regarding the village's ability to pay the money owed immediately. But Merandy was emphatic, "We will pay it," he said. "I will take care of it tomorrow." In an email to *The Current* on Feb. 8, village clerk Mary Saari wrote that a check for \$17,039 would be sent to the fire company next week.

The poor condition of the firehouse prompted another discussion. Falloon said many problems identified in 2008 are still unresolved, including a badly decaying roof and the need for a new HVAC system. But Merandy questioned the wisdom of pouring money into the building, which is owned by the village, and encouraged CSFC to revisit plans for a new firehouse. He cautioned the company, however, to be "realistic" in coming up with a proposal that the community could support, that is, well below past estimates in the \$5 million to \$8 million range.

In other business (Jan. 31) ...

- Building Inspector Bill Bujarski met with trustees to discuss ongoing efforts to consolidate the Cold Spring

Praise or Protest

Village of Cold Spring

Mayor Dave Merandy
mayor@coldspringny.gov

Village of Nelsonville

Mayor Thomas Corless
tcorless@icloud.com

Town of Philipstown

Supervisor Richard Shea
supervisor@philipstown.com

City of Beacon

Mayor Randy Casale
mayor@cityofbeacon.org

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putcoleg@putnamcountyny.com

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Legislator John Forman
jforman@dutchessny.gov

Legislator Jerry Landisi

ptjl@optonline.net

New York Assembly

Sandy Galef (D) (Philipstown)
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

Frank Skartados (D) (Beacon)

nyassembly.gov/mem/Frank-Skartados

New York Senate

Sue Serino (R)

nysenate.gov/senators/sue-serino

U.S. Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney (D)
seanmaloney.house.gov

and Philipstown building departments.

- A public hearing was scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 at Village Hall to consider a law regarding the technology and fees related to the installation of cellular water meters throughout the village.
- A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 at Village Hall regarding Cold Spring's participation as part of a Community Choice Aggregate in conjunction with Renewable Highlands, a program which will enable the village to negotiate lower prices for electricity.
- Trustees voted to waive the fee to the Haldane school district for sewer and water hookup.

In other business (Feb. 7) ...

- Trustees approved the fireman's service award point listing for the Cold Spring Fire Company.
- The annual appreciation party for village employees and volunteers will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 25 at the American Legion Hall on Cedar Street.
- The board will hold an executive session at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 to discuss the employee benefit package.
- Putnam County agreed to collect \$44,778 in unpaid taxes on 18 properties on behalf of the village.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Philipstown Town Hall
238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Separate sealed bids for the **Avery Road Bridge Deck Replacement Project** will be received by the Town of Philipstown at the office of the **Town Clerk, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516** until 11 o'clock a.m. local prevailing time on **Friday, March 3, 2017** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10 a.m. local prevailing time on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at Philipstown Town Hall.**

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following location:

Office of the Town Clerk, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516

Copies may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk located at 238 Main Street upon payment of \$25.00 for each set. Any unsuccessful bidder or non-bidder shall be entitled to a refund of this payment in accordance with Section 102 of the General Municipal Law upon the return of such sets in good condition as determined by the Town.

Each bid shall be accompanied by acceptable form of Bid Guarantee in an amount equal to at least five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid payable to the Owner as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and Payment Bonds within ten (10) days after the award of the Contract.

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Town of Philipstown hereinafter called the OWNER, reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any informality or technicality in any Bid in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

Bidders on the Contracts are required to execute a non-collusion bidding certificate pursuant to Section 103d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

The Town of Philipstown hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract. Bidders are also required to comply with the provisions of Section 291-299 of the Executive Law of the State of New York.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Date: 2/8/2017

By: Tina Merando, Town Clerk

Nuclear Reaction *(from Page 1)*

Renewable Highlands, has presented the idea to five Highlands communities. Beacon agreed on Jan. 17 to join a CCA and the Town of Fishkill did likewise on Feb. 1. The Town of Philipstown board held a public hearing on Feb. 8 and was expected to vote at its next meeting.

"I don't see any downside" to joining, Supervisor Richard Shea said in opening the hearing, which drew a near-capacity audience.

Board member John Van Tassel noted that even if the town decides to join, "it doesn't affect anybody who doesn't want to be part of it," since individual residents can opt out.

No one expressed opposition to the idea. "If we all get together and support something that's this positive and makes a big difference in where we're getting our energy and in greenhouse gases, why not?" asked Eliza Starbuck, a resident of Cold Spring. Other supporters included three children.



Eliza Starbuck of Cold Spring endorsed CCA participation. *Photo by L.S. Armstrong*



A camera crew from *The Years Project*, a documentary television series, filmed the Philipstown public hearing on CCA participation. *Photo by L.S. Armstrong*

"Electricity should be cheap but also be helping the environment," said Aidan Sullivan-Hoch of Garrison, who is a sixth-grader at the Manitou School. He described the potential for climate change to inundate much of Florida. "If we could do something to stop that, it would be really good."

Jason Angell, a Renewable Highlands representative, cautioned that there's no guarantee that a CCA can save money while also providing energy from 100 percent renewable sources. In Westchester County towns that joined a CCA there found that electricity from renewable sources can cost more than "non-green" power.

And that's one reason the town of North Salem, in Westchester, joined the Clearwater suit. The town purchases 100 percent renewable energy for its facilities and 80 percent of residents also went that route, despite the higher cost. Under the surcharge, Clearwater argued, North Salem residents and small businesses would subsidize nuclear power when they already pay for all the energy they need.

Clearwater also pointed to state figures that estimate Ulster County, which uses 100 percent renewable energy in its facilities, would pay between \$36,000 and \$60,000 annually for the subsidy, or about \$500,000 by 2029.

The PSC said after North Salem joined the suit that it will consider not imposing the surcharge on municipalities and consumers that rely on renewable energy.

Manna Jo Greene, Clearwater's environmental director, said in a statement that the subsidy would take funds that could be spent on renewables and efficient

cy to reach the clean-energy plan's 2030 goal and instead devote them to the "bail-out of aging, unprofitable and dangerous nuclear plants, which will continue to

generate highly radioactive nuclear waste for which there is no safe storage."


In response, the PSC cited experts who argue that immediately shutting down the nuclear power plants in Oswego and Wayne counties would increase carbon emissions in the state by more than 31 million metric tons over two years and lead to public health and societal costs of at least \$1.4 billion because the state would need to rely on coal and oil or construct gas plants. The nuclear plants are also major upstate employers.

Following Philipstown's public hearing, Shea said he was not familiar with the details of the Clearwater lawsuit. But he suggested the surcharge might be worth saving jobs in the short-term while also protecting the environment in the long-term.

Court proceedings in the Clearwater case are scheduled to begin April 7.



The R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant in Wayne County, New York



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Garrison Man Charged with Attempted Burglary

A Garrison man was arrested Feb. 3 by police officers in Yorktown on suspicion of the attempted burglary of a Shrub Oak home.



An image of the suspect captured by a security camera

The incident, in which police say Paul Rivera, 28, encountered the homeowner while trying to pry open a lower rear door, caused three Lakeland school buildings to go into lockdown after the suspect fled and the homeowner called police.

Rivera, who was arrested at a residence in Shrub Oak, was charged with attempting to break into a home on Pine Court on Feb. 2 between 9 and 9:30 a.m.

According to police, Rivera attempted to enter the home through a rear sliding door, then used a shovel to pry at a lower rear door, triggering an alarm.

Rivera is also accused of attempting to break into another home in Shrub Oak and the theft of property from a parked car. He was charged with two felony counts of attempted burglary and a felony count of grand larceny.

Molloy Case Adjourned Until March

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Barney Molloy, who chairs the Putnam County Visitor's Bureau board, pleaded not guilty on Feb. 8 in Cold Spring Justice Court to accusations he stole newspapers from outside Cupoccino Café, a village coffee shop.

Judge Thomas Costello adjourned the case until March 8.

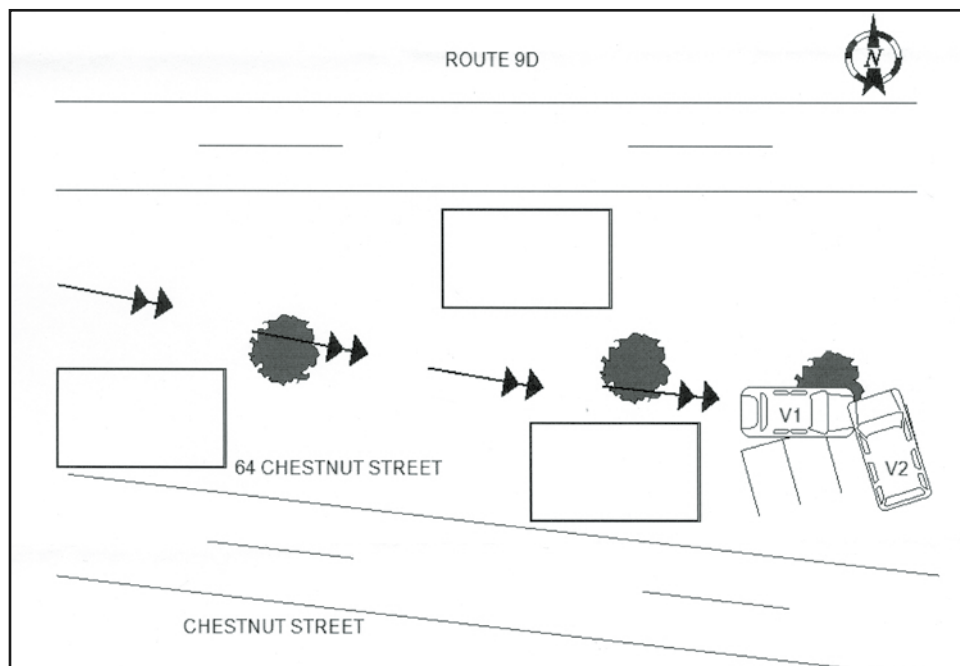
Molloy is accused of taking copies of *The New York Times* at about 6 a.m. on four occasions from bundles delivered to Cupoccino. Officer Thomas Ciero of the Cold Spring Police Department filed the charges on Jan. 25. The officer put the value of the paper at \$10, saying the alleged offense amounted to petit larceny.

Molloy said after the arraignment that he had no comment but on Jan. 30 told the *Putnam County News and Recorder* that he was a regular customer who settled his account every few days. "I was never made aware of any issue with the papers," he was quoted as saying.

The shop's proprietor has also declined comment.

In addition to his voluntary board post at the Visitor's Bureau, Molloy is on the board of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. He ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 2015 and for trustee in 2016.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



A diagram of the crash created by the sheriff's department

Beacon Man Charged After Chestnut Ridge Crash

Putnam County Sheriff's deputies arrested a Beacon man after he allegedly lost control of his vehicle at about 11:20 p.m. on Jan. 24 on Route 9D in Cold Spring, drove over shrubs and a flower box in Chestnut Ridge and collided with a parked Chevy Blazer. Police said he fled the scene on foot, leaving behind a trail of property damage and a 2007 Toyota.

Jaime A. Williams, 33, was arrested on Jan. 26 at the Garrison train station after officers contacted him by phone. Police said he told them he had lost control of the vehicle and left the scene because he

was scared. The landscape damage and vehicle were not discovered until the next morning, Jan. 25, by a property manager who reviewed security video to establish the time of the crash.

Williams was charged with unlicensed operation, a misdemeanor, and four infractions: moving unsafely from a lane, misuse of a dealer loaner vehicle, leaving the scene of a property-damage accident and having no driver's license. He was scheduled to appear in Cold Spring Village Court on Feb. 6.



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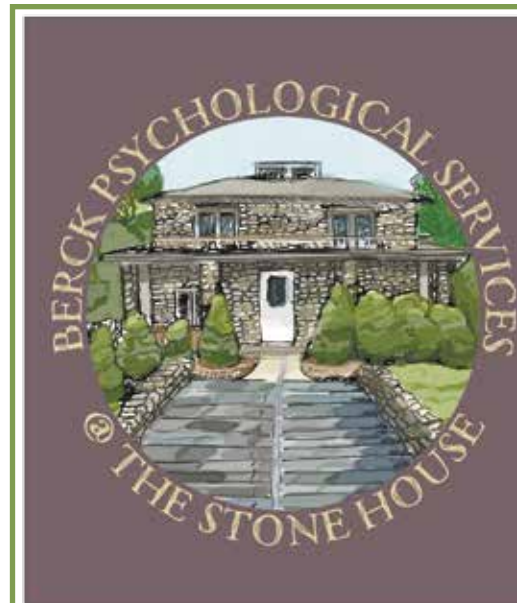
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Major Crime in Beacon Falls to Five-Year Low

(from Page 1)

Davies South Terrace apartment complex.

The 2016 figures, which will be published in the city's annual report in May, don't track calls involving illegal drugs, although Solomon acknowledged heroin and cocaine activity in Beacon. He said the addition of a Beacon officer to the Dutchess County Drug Task Force paid dividends within a few weeks with an arrest and the recovery of narcotics.

Solomon, who often says that police can

"I'm happy to say we have a handle on things. When you're deploying your resources more efficiently, that plays into it also."

only take credit for a drop in crime if they're willing to take the blame if it rises, said it was difficult to attribute the statistics to any single factor. He said he has been pleased with the department's move to sector policing, in which officers patrol within a certain section of the city, as well as increased foot patrols on Main Street.

"I'm happy to say we have a handle on things," he said. "When you're deploying your resources more efficiently, that plays into it also."

Major Crimes in Beacon (Reported)					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rape	1	0	1	2	4
Robbery	17	7	17	12	13
Assault	48	44	23	41	25
Burglary	80	72	38	23	23
Larceny	247	188	201	210	209
Auto theft	15	9	6	12	6
Total	408	320	286	300	280

Source: Beacon Police Department

Dr. Simon Peter Gottfried (1926 - 2017)

Holocaust survivor dreamed of being "country doctor"

Dr. Simon Peter Gottfried, 90, of Fishkill, died Feb. 4, 2017.

Born in Przemysl, Poland on Apr. 30, 1926, he was the only son of Morris and Claire (Alexandrowicz) Gottfried. He was a Holocaust survivor who lost most of his extended family. He fought in the Polish Underground Resistance as a teenager.

After surviving the war, he traveled throughout Europe, spending several years in Italy. Later, he joined his parents in the U.S. To save money for medical school, he worked several summers as the maître d' and a tennis instructor at the Stevensville Lake Hotel in the Catskills.

He attended medical school at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, where he met his wife, Gerda Flamme Gottfried, who died in 1999. They moved to the U.S. where Dr. Gottfried completed his medical residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

He was a proud American who cared for patients at multiple VA hospitals. It was an honor for him to give back to American veterans, especially those who rescued Europe during World War II.

After living in Riverdale and White

Plains, he moved north with his family to Dutchess County to fulfill his dream of becoming a "country doctor." He practiced anesthesiology at Highland Hospital for many years and general medicine until his retirement in 1998.

Dr. Gottfried was an avid reader who spoke five languages fluently. He was a lifelong student of history and politics. He loved vacationing in the Caribbean and exploring areas of the Hudson Valley that reminded him of places he'd loved in Europe. In retirement, he enjoyed sitting by the pool, watching his grandchildren swim. He also enjoyed taking his friends and family to lunch. He was a loyal baseball fan who cheered for both the Mets and Yankees.

He and his wife Gerda were longtime members of Beacon Hebrew Alliance. For the past five years, he was also a member of First Hebrew Congregation in Peekskill.

Dr. Gottfried leaves behind four children: Daniela Rosen, Deborah Bowen, Esther Gottfried and David Gottfried. He also is survived by 10 grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (jfr.org), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspc.org) or the First Hebrew Congregation (firsthebrew.org).

Putnam Approves Tax Break for Cold War Vets

Those who served between 1945 and 1991 get boost

By Holly Crocco

Putnam legislators on Feb. 7 unanimously approved a change to the county code that will quadruple a tax exemption for U.S. veterans who served during the Cold War.

Veterans who served between September 1945 and December 1991 may subtract as much as \$54,000 from the assessed value of their property (up from \$12,000), or \$180,000 if they are disabled (up from \$40,000). Practically, for a veteran who is not disabled, the annual savings will be about \$166, up from \$37.

About 360 non-disabled and 15 disabled Cold War veterans in the county are eligible for the exemption, said Lisa Johnson, director of real property, during a prior Au-

dit Committee meeting. Johnson said the change will result in a shift of about \$54,000 to the owners of the county's other 40,000 parcels, who collectively pay \$41 million in taxes, so the impact will be minimal.

Cold War veterans registered with the county will see the exemption in their next tax bill in January, according to Johnson. She said that she expected many municipalities and school districts in the county will adopt the same exemption.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation in September allowing school districts to offer a Cold War exemption, which is designed to raise benefits to veterans who did not serve during a period of conflict to the same level as those who did. While Vietnam veterans served during the period, many are already covered under another exemption for those who served during a conflict.



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The Calendar



Max Mueller

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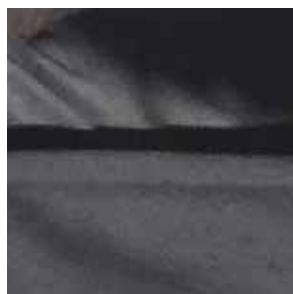
Zooming In with Max Mueller

Photographer finds Highlands landscapes in city scenes

By Alison Rooney

Like the Hudson River, every so often the Brooklyn-to-Highlands pipeline flows the other way. Max Mueller, a city resident who grew up in Cold Spring and graduated from Haldane High School in 2010, is among three photographers whose work will be displayed in *Earth, Water and Wood*, an exhibition at the Bannerman Island Gallery in Beacon that opens on Second Saturday, Feb. 11, with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m.

The terrain and beauty of the Highlands is the source of inspiration for all three artists — the others are wood sculptor Sheldon Stowe of Cornwall and photographer Brian Wolfe of New Windsor — but the familiar landscapes are not immediately visible in Mueller's work. The photographer, who frequently examined molecular and crystalline structures while studying neuroscience at Bard College, uses his camera like a microscope, revealing miniature landscapes that call to mind greater ones.



Late summer storm over river, late afternoon photo (from larger photo of a pedestrian in winter)

Mueller says he was on the subway when the technique came to him. By zooming in on a portion of an image he had taken, he could transform city scenes and inhabitants into vistas. While walking around New York, Mueller snaps photos with his iPhone, looking for inspiration. In one instance he focused his camera on a person passing the side of a building; in another it was the sleeve of a diner at a café.

Mueller studies each image, and, if he sees something pertinent, zooms in to create a new portrait. The titles of his photographs include a reference to the larger image to help viewers make a visual connection.

He says his work reflects an interest in evolutionary aesthetics, which he describes as “why we humans find certain forms of things attractive. Why is it that people find a particular mountain range or valley to be pleasing and, why, in terms of visual art, are so many people often drawn to landscapes?”

Mueller believes one reason is that the scenes reflect favorable conditions, such as a fertile valley with the clean water and bountiful food necessary for humans to thrive. These conditions may not be depicted in the painting, but subliminally they can influence perception and attraction.



Estuary View, taken from an image of a table at a French restaurant

“My understanding is that the omnipresence of mountain and river forms is due to the thermodynamic flow systems governing, well, everything, from landscapes to us to our made objects,” he explains. “It’s not a quantitative field, but it pushed me in the direction of what I wanted to study.”

Mueller’s thesis at Bard focused on the behavior of larval fish, or, as he puts it, “the study of small things.” What Mueller didn’t study much was art. The son of artists (his father is a screen printer and art teacher, his mother a painter and interior designer), he wanted to forge his own path. He pursued science and also music. It’s only in the past 18 months that he turned to photography.

“I’m a late bloomer, visually,” he says. “My only foray into visual art was the graphic design of logos, icons and user interfaces for the software I develop. Recently music and photo have mingled; I’ve been using some of these ‘zooms’ as album art.”

As a musician, Mueller has scored commercials for clients that include Google



Second level, Breakneck, taken from a photo of the floor at St. John the Divine Cathedral

Art photos by Max Mueller



Cold Spring Dock, taken from photo of jeans

and Vitamin Water. He has been posting his compositions online for years, and says they slowly have been discovered by record companies and agents. “I encourage people to keep putting stuff up — you never know who will listen to it,” he says.

While Mueller says he enjoys the city — he works there as a research manager for a media company — he much prefers the terrain of the Highlands. “In my own little way, I am working to restore the landscape of the place I would like to be in, in a place outside of it,” he says.

The Bannerman Island Gallery, located at 150 Main St. in Beacon, is open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and weekday afternoons by chance or by appointment (call 845-416-8342). *Earth, Water and Wood* continues through March 5.



Constitution Swim, taken from an image of a Zojirushi cooker

FRIDAY, FEB. 10

Haldane vs. Pawling (Boys' Basketball)
7:15 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.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, FEB. 11

Solo Wilderness First-Aid Course
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2920 Route 9, Cold Spring
Email info@primepaddlesports.com.

Teatown Hudson River Eaglefest
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

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

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
8454-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Garrison Art Center Workshops
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Simply Elegant Jewelry
1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Soy Candle Making
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Soul Stroll: A Shabbat Walk in the Woods
10 a.m. Little Stony Point (Railroad Bridge)
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Valentine's Day Pop-Up
11 a.m. – 9 p.m. A Little Beacon Space
291 Main St., Beacon
917-822-5391 | alittlebeaconblog.com

4th Annual Winter Carnival
1 – 5 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
4 – 8 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
philipstownwintercarnival.com

Local Love: Free Tasting Event
1 – 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-437 | fishkillfarms.com

The Met Live in HD: Saariaho: L'Amour de Loin
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Thomas and Henry Warner: Road to the Hudson Highlands (Talk)
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

An Evening with Times Square (Dinner/Dance)
6 – 9 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
Benefits Elk local charities.

Valentine's Day Dance/Buffer
6 – 10:30 p.m. St. Rocco's
26 S. Chestnut St., Beacon
For tickets, call 845-831-5411.

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED Training
6:30 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2920 Route 9, Cold Spring
Email info@primepaddlesports.com.

Cary Brown Trio & Guests (Jazz)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Open Blues Jam Session
4 – 7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St., Beacon
denningpointdistillery.com

Earth, Water and Wood (Opening)
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
250 Main St., Beacon
845-416-8342 | bannermancastle.org

David R. Clark: Fantasy Worlds (Opening)
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Chocolate: A Group Show (Opening)
5 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St., Beacon
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Jeff Schaller: Good Times (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery
506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Dia Staff Art Show (Closing)
6 – 9 p.m. Mattaewan Gallery
436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | mattaewan.com

Group Show: (In)Action Figures 5 (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

Soup for Greens Fundraiser
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Beacon Farmers' Market
413 Main St., Beacon
beaconfarmersmarket.org

Valentine's Day Pop-Up
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. A Little Beacon Space
See details under Saturday.

Valentine's Day Party
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday

Valentine's Massage Workshop for Couples
1 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar
398 Main St., Beacon | 914-227-5027

MONDAY, FEB. 13

Father John J. Keane: The Japanese Quest for Divinity (Talk)
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

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

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaoncityk12.org

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

 **Valentine's Day**
Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Knitting Club
11 a.m. Baby & Me Story Time (ages 0-24 mos.)
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

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

Tony Garnier / Joni Blondell / Art Labriola (Jazz)
6:30 & 8:30 p.m. The Hudson Room
23 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com
Benefits Hope's Door.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Intro to Life Coaching
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Battle of the Books Informational Meeting (grades 5-8)
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 16

Haldane PTA
3:30 p.m. Haldane School (Library)
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring | haldaneppta.org

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

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

Zine Club
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

Sha Na Na
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

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Winter Hiking: Fewer Ticks, Leaves, People

Also, an update on Breakneck congestion

By Alison Rooney

Even at age 8, when he first began hiking, Don Weise says he found walking through the woods transformational. “It showed me that people change on the trail; they get in the Zen moment and the complications of the world slip away,” explained the self-described “trail geek.”

Weise, director of development and membership for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference’s (NY-NJTC), spoke Feb. 2 at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on winter hiking, offering tips and safety advice. In addition, senior program coordinator Hank Osborn, who manages the Breakneck Ridge stewards, reviewed the 2016 season and measures NY-NJTC has taken to alleviate congestion and the number of rescues.

The nonprofit NY-NJTC, a coalition of outdoors clubs which build, protect and advocate for trail lands, coordinates thousands of volunteers who maintain 2,150 miles of trails along both sides of the Hudson from northern New Jersey to the Catskills, and from New York City to the Massachusetts state line on the east. This includes a large portion of the Appalachian Trail and more than 500 miles of trails in and near the Highlands. Its first project, in 1921, was the Tuxedo/Mt. Jones trail, followed by sections of the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain in 1923.

Weise, the author of *Circuit Hikes in Harriman: 35 Loop Hikes and Trail Runs in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks*, said he enjoys winter hiking because of its “wide-open views, ice formations and evergreens.” He also noted there were fewer snakes, ticks and bears.

After running through a list of safety tips [see Page 12], Weise shared his favorite destinations in Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks:

- Best rock climb: Lemon Squeezen
- Most amazing mine: Pine Swamp
- Coolest cave shelter: Stockbridge Mountain
- Toughest climb: Pyngyp Mountain
- Best historic remnant: the spiral railway and tunnels at Dunderberg Mountain

Breakneck Ridge

Much of Hank Osborn’s work with NY-NJTC is focused on the popular (and many would say overrun) Breakneck Ridge, which had more than 100,000 visitors last year. In 2013, in response to the increasing number of rescues, the Conference added stewards at the trailhead to offer advice, maps and water on weekends



Jonathan Gracey of Patterson hikes Breakneck in late January 2013.

Photo courtesy hctrails.com

during peak hiking months. Too many hikers arrive, Osborn said, “unprepared, with no water, incorrect footwear and no knowledge.”

The program was expanded in 2014 and again in 2015, and last year a third steward was added at Breakneck (the Conference employs eight stewards who rotate shifts). The season, which begins on Memorial Day weekend, was extended through the end of November

and the hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. because of the many distress calls received after dark despite prominent “Closed at Sunset” signs.

Osborn said part of reason for the increased number of novice hikers is that Metro-North has increased the number of trains that stop at Breakneck. In 2015, Metro-North increased its stops from two a day on Saturday and Sunday to three a day, and last year doubled the stops to six a day, he said.

In addition, trains that once departed Grand Central Station only in the morning now leave as late as 1 p.m., which increases the chances hikers will be stranded after dark. Social media has also contributed to the influx, he said, with hikers sharing photos of the breathtaking views.

The conditions at Breakneck grew so crowded last year that the stewards at times closed the trailhead. More than 700 people were turned away, Osborn said, with many directed to other trails or attractions in Philipstown and Beacon. In 2013, a busy day would bring 500 to 600 hikers, he said; today, it is 1,500 to 1,800. On more than 30 days last year, more than 1,000 hikers came to climb.

None of this will come as a surprise to anyone who has driven along Route 9D when it is clogged with cars and pedestrians near the trail entrance. In 2016, Os-

born said, 3,000 maps were distributed, 60 lost hikers rescued and 3,300 hikers directed to Cold Spring or Beacon.

Due to their proximity and fitness, the stewards, who are trained in Wilderness First Aid, are often first on the scene of rescues. To improve communication on the trail, the stewards provide hikers with business cards with a cell phone number. Hikers can call if they’re lost or need advice. New

(Continued on next page)

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Winter Hiking: Fewer Ticks, Leaves, People

(from Page 11)



Hiking Breakneck in snowshoes

Photo by Elizabeth Azze / Mountain Peak Fitness

York State provides a shed, portable toilets and garbage bins at the site.

To maintain the pristine qualities that make the trails so enticing, the NY-NJTC developed a Conservation Corps. Its Taconic crew consists of four crew leaders who oversee volunteers. The groups set out, over four-day periods, to tackle a specific task. Last year, more than 1,000 people vol-

unteered, said Osborn, and together they put in over 4,600 hours of labor across 94 work trips, completing assignments such as the placement of stepping stones, construction of stone stairs, building crib (retaining) walls and side hills and re-routing a waterfall. For more information, visit nynjtc.org or call 201-512-9348.

Don Weise's Winter Hiking Tips

Have a plan

Use a guidebook, trail map, assess your trail fitness and the fitness of the slowest person in your group. Remember that trail miles don't equal road miles. Anticipate elevation, steepness, weather conditions and water crossing. Most NY-NJTC trail maps are available via cell phone and GPS-enabled. This allows you to pinpoint your location and track your route.

Dress like an onion

That is, in layers, with a bottom (wicking) base topped with flannel or microfleece and a windproof and waterproof outer layer. Add a knit hat, insulated socks, neck gaiter, headband and waterproof mittens or gloves with liners.

Don't slip up

Micro spikes are an excellent accessory. They improve safety and speed; keep them sharp. Consider a traction aid such as crampons or an ice pick. Snowshoes are a necessity in deeper snow.

Don't sweat it

Manage moisture from within, maintaining a comfortably cool temperature. Pack an extra wicking base layer and at the top of the mountain swap out your clammy base layer. Strip off layers before you get sweaty. Take a well-stocked first-aid kit, a bivy sack (a small, lightweight, waterproof shelter), two or three emergency space blankets and a reliable fire starter kit with extra sticks.

Timing is everything

Know sunrise and sunset times, and carry a headlamp.

Nutrition

The longer the hike, the more important proper fueling becomes. Begin hydrating the day before the hike. Eat a sensible dinner the night before. On hike day eat some protein for breakfast, and have plenty of fluids. Don't have too much fiber, fat or simple sugars. Pack trail mix, dried fruits, nuts, seeds and tuna-salad pouches. Always take salt, an energy gel packet and fluids with electrolytes. If you experience muscle cramps, drink water and have a little salt. Cramps are usually due to low levels of salt, potassium, magnesium and calcium.

Stay warm

Remember to bring soups, hot cocoa, tea, chili and "last night's crock pot meal."

Expect winter wildlife and hunting

Know the hunting seasons, not just for deer but small game, some of which continue through April. Deer ticks remain active in winter and snakes sometimes come out on warmer days with sunny skies. Bears don't always remain in torpor. Avoid rock caves, which are possible dens. If you encounter a bear, never approach, surround or corner or run away or turn your back. Softly back away, slowly leave the area while speaking in a loud, calm voice; avoid direct eye contact. If a bear snaps its jaws or swats the air or ground, you're too close.

Know when to say when

There's a saying, "Getting to the top is optimal, getting down is mandatory."



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New Haldane Teacher: Midterm Report

School year racing by, says Kristen Spooner

Second in a series

By Alison Rooney

In October, *The Current* profiled newly hired Haldane fifth-grade teacher Kristen Spooner. A former lawyer, she had previously taught high school in the Bronx. We checked back with Spooner to see how the school year was going after six months on the job.

Spooner, who lives in Cold Spring (she married a Haldane grad) and will next year become a Haldane parent when her son starts kindergarten, says she has been pleased with her fifth-graders. "The pacing is different [than in high school], but the problem-solving skills and critical thinking surprises me in every way." A math specialist, Spooner also teaches interdisciplinary topics to students in her homeroom class, which she works with for a few hours each afternoon.

Spooner and Haldane's two other fifth-grade teachers have been working on an initiative focused on the election process, with the goal of forming a student council in the elementary school. Students had to organize voter registration and candidates solicited signatures to get on the ballot. They competed first within their classrooms, then among the grade. The council will create a school constitution.

The project, which ties into a unit on democracy and also came out of lessons last year on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is an example of "project-based learning" embraced by the district, which has partnered with a Florida-based firm to develop engaging curriculum.

Spooner said the election process in school went much more smoothly than the bitter U.S. presidential battle, which she says did seep into the classroom.

"There has been much negativity, and, in particular, the day after Election Day was difficult, but actually having this democratic experience in our building has helped to take away the external and make the democratic process a positive one," she says. "Some students carry the weight of the world on their shoulders, and while we touch upon sophisticated topics — we've talked about immigration policy, for example — I try to shift some of that to more positive reflection: 'Were you a good friend yesterday?' or 'How did your soccer game go?'"

Spooner says she has seen a dramatic change in her fifth-graders in only six months.

"A lot of them are really maturing," she

says. "There's a big push to make them autonomous and less dependent on me as the teacher. They are learning to teach each other; in fact, now it's almost automatic. A lot of students resisted at first; they turned to me to answer, but they got used to it and the classroom runs more smoothly. On a typical day I'm more of a facilitator in their learning and they're driving it along themselves most of the time."

Technology plays a key role in her classroom, she says, in particular for presentations and formative assessments. Through online surveys, Spooner can track individual, class and grade responses to determine if students are grasping a particular topic. However, most work is still done one-on-one. "I want them talking," she says. "It's rarely quiet in here, because they're thinking out loud."

The "emotional stuff" has proven to be more of a challenge than she anticipated, she says. "They are much more outwardly sensitive than high school students," she says. "I spend a good deal of the time making sure everyone is emotionally well, because they need to be emotionally ready in order to learn. By high-school they can manage their emotions better, put them aside while they're focused on school."

The dynamic between the genders is also different than in older grades.

"They're still separate at this age, and I've learned to be sensitive to that, in ways like making sure there's not only one boy or girl within a group I make up to do a project," she says.

Inevitably, there have been a few activities Spooner initiated that didn't work out as she planned, such as a spelling bee-like contest focused on multiplication. "There were a lot of hurt feelings," she says. "I thought it would be an enjoyable

way to practice, but the boys were more competitive and the girls were reserved."

Another project Spooner says she is reevaluating is a pen-pal exchange with students from the Bronx. While the Haldane students might benefit from being exposed to what may be an unfamiliar environment, she wonders if the relative wealth of students in Cold Spring will be difficult for Bronx students to relate to. She says she hasn't abandoned the idea but feels it needs more consideration.

At the same time, Spooner says it's encouraging that the district seems to welcome attempts at innovation, even if they sometimes don't work. That is "rare and pleasant," she says.

With five months remaining in the school year, Spooner admits she is a little behind schedule. "There's a lot in the curriculum, but I've spent a lot of time working with kids on how to work," she says. "I sacrificed time in the beginning but ultimately they will gain from it."



Spooner assists two of her fifth-grade students.

Photo by A. Rooney



Kristen Spooner File photo by A. Rooney

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Torts for Teens

Rivertown Hub brings law school to home school

By Brian PJ Cronin

As his students settled in, Joseph Linksman opened with a question. "Did anybody leave the last class feeling confused?" he asked. A few students glanced at each other sheepishly.

"Don't lie to me," Linksman said. "I left the last class feeling confused."

"OK, a little," admitted one student.

"Remember, this is an introductory class," Linksman replied. "You're not going to understand all of this; you might not master any of this. As long as you leave class with more thoughts than you came in with, we're all good."

If that seems like a remarkably permissible attitude for a teacher, keep in mind that Linksman's class, Introduction to Law, covers almost everything that's taught during the first year of law school. But Linksman's students aren't in law school. They're children and teenagers who meet once a week at the Rivertown Homeschoolers Hub in Beacon, and some of them are as young as 10.

"The overarching theme for the class is that law exists, it's a very real thing that affects your life, and you have to play by these rules or deal with the consequences," Linksman said before class. "If we're going to have public education in which



Joseph Linksman and his Introduction to Law students are shown at the Rivertown Homeschoolers Hub in Beacon. Photo by B. Cronin

we prepare our young people to be good citizens, the material that's covered in the first year of law school is essential."

Linksman says he envisioned the class being for high school seniors at public schools. That changed when he met Rebekah Azzarelli, who helps organize the Rivertown Hub that began last year when she and Jessica Simkovic were each looking for a way to have their children connect with other homeschoolers and learn from professional teachers without having to drive them to the nearest hubs in Danbury or New Paltz.

All homeschool parents "travel a lot to find cool stuff," Azzarelli explained. "But Beacon is so full of amazing resources, I felt like we could do something sustainable here."

The hub meets at Compass Arts at 395 Main St. on Tuesdays for ages 5 to 9 and Wednesdays for ages 10 to 18. Classes range from art to science to philosophy. "My daughter calls the philosophy class 'How to Debate Kindly,'" said Azzarelli.

Linksman and Azzarelli met last summer while helping to plan a Unity in the Community barbecue. When Linksman learned Azzarelli was involved in a homeschooling hub, he mentioned his idea for a law class. Linksman had never taught before, which Azzarelli found surprising the first time she peeked in on a class. "He's a natural teacher," she said. Linksman said there's been enough interest from parents that he's considering a drop-in course for adults.

The mix of grade-school and high-school students haven't been phased by the difficulty of the material, Linksman said. "They're moving at warp speed," he said. "They're so sharp and well read."

That view was borne out in class when

Linksman told the students he'll be talking about the election of 1796.

"That was between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, and Adams barely won," one student interjected.

"Whoa, spoiler alert!" said Linksman. "I was going to draw that out a little."

Before class Linksman said he hoped the students would recognize the parallels between the history of constitutional law and current events, parallels that become clear when he

brought up the Alien and Sedition acts of 1798.

"With the Alien and Sedition acts, we ruled that we can kick immigrants right out, yelling at them to go back to where they came from," he told the class. "We also stopped immigration from certain countries. Does this sound familiar?"

A dozen hands shot up.

Even when dealing with subjects as complicated as the *Marbury v. Madison* case of 1803, which formed the foundation for judicial review, he said there is always at least one salient point that everyone, no matter the age, takes to heart.

"You think everyone in government argues and fights like idiots today?" Linksman asked his students, after recounting the squabbles between Adams, Jefferson, James Madison and William Marbury that led to the case. "This has been going on for our entire history."

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Mmmmm ... Donuts (from Page 1)

semi-slow spell. “We wanted it to feel like you were coming into my living room. You can come in, see some friends and hang out, and leave with a smile on your face.”

Two weeks in, the shop has been consistently busy. Everyone, it seems, wants a donut, or six, in the morning; the afternoon brings hungry students, and by the late afternoon, the going-home crowd. Weekends have been a free-for-all, with lines frequently stretching to the door.

“It’s been overwhelmingly incredible,” says Tompkins. “Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would have the response we’ve had.” But, she adds, while mixing batter, “there was no place to just stop in the afternoon or after school if people wanted something sweet.”

Glazed Over’s donuts, which cost \$1.59 each, are handmade, made-to-order and served warm. For the uninitiated, each donut begins its journey — you can watch as each one floats down the mini-conveyor — as a freshly cooked cake donut before being customized with a glaze, topping and/or drizzle. Choices range from traditional fare such as chocolate, maple or lemon glazes, to add-ons like peanut-butter chips, white or dark chocolate, or, for the far out, Fruity Pebbles, Oreo crumbs, or mini-marshmallows. The menu includes eight glazes, 13 toppings and nine drizzles, for 936 possible combinations.

“Donuts. Is there anything they can’t do?”

~ Homer Simpson

“It’s freshly made and it’s your donut,” Tompkins says. “It’s what your taste buds are telling you you want that day.”

Orders usually take 15 or 20 minutes to fill. A staff of friends and students — none of whom are paid in donuts (not fully, at least) — help behind the counter.

By the summer, Glazed Over hopes to add donut sundaes (take a deep breath and read that again), and Lisa wants to get more creative with the toppings, taking the menu “to another level,” she says.

For the winter, Glazed Over is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Hours will likely expand as the weather warms.



A morning pick-me-up Photo by Raquel Ringgold/omnivogues.com

Hanson Gregory: The Hole Story

Now in them days we used to cut the doughnuts into diamond shapes, and also into long strips, bent in half, and then twisted. I don’t think we called them doughnuts then — they was just “fried cakes” and “twisters.”

Well, sir, they used to fry all right around the edges, but when you had the edges done the insides was all raw dough. And the twisters used to sop up all the grease just where they bent, and they were tough on the digestion.

Well, I says to myself, “Why wouldn’t a space inside solve the difficulty?” I thought at first I’d take one of the strips and roll it around, then I got an inspiration, a great inspiration.

I took the cover off the ship’s tin pepper box, and — I cut into the middle of that doughnut the first hole ever seen by mortal eyes!

Well, sir, them doughnuts was the finest I ever tasted. No more indigestion — no more greasy sinkers — but just well-done, fried-through doughnuts.

~ As told to *The Washington Post*, March 26, 1916



Glazed Over Donuts in Beacon

Photo by Raquel Ringgold/omnivogues.com



Co-owner Lisa Tompkins checks donuts as they float down the line.

Photo by J. Simms

Why the Hole?

In 1916, Capt. Hanson Gregory claimed to have invented the holes in 1847, when he was 16 and working on a lime-trading ship. (See “The Hole Story” below.) As the story goes, he was unhappy about the fried cakes being served because the outsides were crisp but the insides doughy. Using a tin pepper box, he cut a hole in the middle so the cakes would cook evenly. Some credit his mother, Elizabeth Gregory, for the name: She deep fried dough with hazelnuts or walnuts in the center where it didn’t cook through; hence, dough-nuts.

An alternative hypothesis is that when donuts became popular, street vendors sold them on sticks or ropes, as they had been doing with bagels.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Art Labriola, Joni Blondell and Tony Garner

Photo by Alethea Hohenberger

Garrison Performers Featured at Hudson Room

Trio will perform on Valentine's Day

Three Garrison performers — bassist Tony Garnier, singer Joni Blondell and pianist Art Labriola — will perform jazz standards during two dinner shows at The Hudson Room in Peekskill on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Reservations are encouraged. Each show and a four-course meal is \$70 per person, with proceeds benefitting Hope's Door, which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic abuse. See hudsonroom.com or call 914-788-3663.

Back to the 80s Skate

Foundation to host fundraiser at rink

The Haldane School Foundation will host a fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Hyde Park Roller Magic. From 5 to 7 p.m., families can skate to hits from the 1980s. Retro clothes are welcome. Admission is \$10 per person. See haldan-eschoolfoundation.org.

HHLT to Hold Forum About Granite Mountain

Land trust seeks feedback for park

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which recently purchased 358 acres on Granite Mountain in Putnam Valley, is holding a community forum to discuss public access and plans for the preserve. It will take place on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Putnam Valley Grange Hall, 128 Mill St. For more information, visit hhl.org.



Members of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust Natural Resources Committee toured Granite Mountain in the fall. *HHLT photo*

Know Your Books?

Students are invited to join Battle of the Books teams organized by the Howland Public Library in Beacon and the Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries in Philipstown.

Butterfield/Desmond-Fish will have one team for students in grades 5 to 8 and another for students in grades 9 to 12. The Butterfield Library has had a middle-school team for 12 years and has won first place twice. The high school team has been competing for two years.

There are also two Beacon teams. One is open to students entering grades 6 to 9 in the fall and the other for students currently in grades 9 to 12.

Team members will read eight books throughout the spring and summer and meet weekly to practice and prepare to compete against other Mid-Hudson library teams and in the 13th annual regional battle.

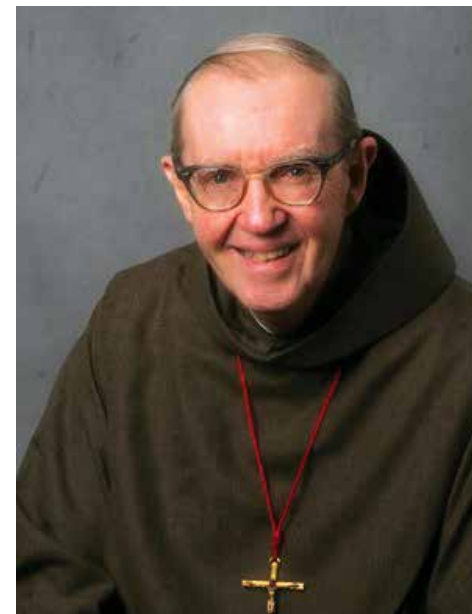
For the Philipstown team, an informational meeting for grades 5 to 8 will be held on Feb. 15; a meeting for high school students is scheduled for March 15. Both start at 5 p.m. at Butterfield. Email Maureen McGrath at jbl.libraryservices@gmail.com for information.

Starting in June, the Beacon middle-school team will meet on Thursdays and the high school team on Tuesdays. Two All-Star teams will compete in the regional competition. (The Beacon Bees middle-school team was the regional champion in 2010, 2013 and 2015.) Middle-school students may sign up by emailing Ginny Figlia at youth@beaconlibrary.org or calling 845-831-1134, ext. 103. High school students should email Michelle Rivas at community@beaconlibrary.org or call her at extension 101.

Author Will Discuss Japanese Experience

Graymoor friar spent 18 years as pastor in Japan

Father John Keane, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement from Graymoor, will speak at the Desmond-Fish Library at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 about his



Father John Keane

book, *Cultural and Theological Reflections on the Japanese Quest for Divinity*. Keane, who spent 18 years as a pastor in Japan, explores the sociology, anthropology, linguistics, literature and history of Japanese divinity (*kami*). The snow date is Feb. 16.

Eagle Viewing

Audubon Center to open trails


Guides from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison will lead visitors to the best sites along its trails to spot bald eagles that use the marsh as a winter home and spring nesting area. Sign up for the free, family friendly Saturday walks that take place at 10 a.m. on Feb. 18, March 4 and March 11. Call 845-265-2601, ext. 15, or email cmacs@audubon.org.

Beacon

Second Saturday (Feb. 11) Gallery Events

Bannerman Island Gallery, 4 to 6 p.m.

Earth, Water and Wood. Photographs by Max Mueller and Brian Wolfe, wood sculptures by Sheldon Stowe. See story on Page 9.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Contentment, by David R. Clark, on display at RiverWinds Gallery through March 6

Image provided



Winds of Storm King, a sculpture by Sheldon Stowe at Bannerman Island Gallery

Image provided

RiverWinds Gallery, 5 to 8 p.m.

Fantasy Worlds by David R. Clark explores the interplay of manmade and natural settings in surreal and provocative images. The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The show ends March 6.

bau Gallery, 6 to 9 p.m.

In the main gallery, Jeff Schaller's paintings incorporate text and images that draw from popular culture. In the Beacon Room, David Provan's pen-and-ink drawings feature sculptures or sketches for sculptures he wants to make. The gallery is open noon to 6 p.m. on weekends. The show continues through March 5.

Others:

Matteawan Gallery will host a closing reception for its Dia Staff Art Show from 6 to 9 p.m.; Clutter Gallery debuts *(In)Action Figures 5* from 6 to 9 p.m.; and Catalyst Gallery opens a group show, *Chocolate*, with an reception from 5 to 9 p.m.

Free Jazz Concert at St. Andrew's Church

Piano and cornet featured

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present a free concert of jazz standards at St. Andrew's Church in Beacon

at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11 featuring pianist Jesse Stacken and cornet player Kirk Knuffke. See howlandmusic.org. The church is located at 17 South Ave.



Kirk Knuffke

Image provided



Effluence, a sculpture by Lori Merhige

Photo by Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh

Call for Artists

Beacon 3D raising money for sculpture

Beacon 3D, a public art project of BeaconArts, is raising money with an artistic bowl sale that runs from noon to 5 p.m. from Feb. 24 to 26 at the Theo Ganz Studio at 149 Main St. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of *Effluence*, a sculpture by Lori Merhige, for its permanent collection.

Artists are invited to create functional and decorative bowls from any material for *Bowled Over* and to drop them at Theo Ganz between noon and 5 p.m. on Feb. 22.



Champions of Obscure Knowledge: Mike Musso, Richard Corio, Liz Corio, Chris Daly, Maureen McGrath, Joanne Roffman, Dani Locastro and Eugenie Milroy, also known as team *Is That a Smarty in Your Pants?* won the annual Haldane School Foundation Trivia Night on Jan. 27. The popular fundraiser, which included 15 teams, sold out a month in advance and raised more than \$4,000 for Haldane. Craft beer was donated by Industrial Arts Brewing.

Photo provided

The bowls should be affordably priced; Beacon 3D will split proceeds with the artists. For more information, see beacon3d.org/category/events.

Burt is Back

Bacharach tribute set for Feb. 16



A group devoted to the music of Burt Bacharach will perform a free Valentine's Week concert on Thursday, Feb. 16 at Dogwood Bar in Beacon. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. Bacharach's classic compositions will be performed by Jen Clapp, Dan Fisherman, Ken Fox, Michele Gedney, Rick Gedney, Jamian Prober, Vibeke Saugestad and Mark Westin. Bacharach had more than 100 hits in the 1960s and 1970s.

Pre-K Registration Open

Children must turn 4 by Dec. 1

Children who live in the Beacon City School District who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1 can attend pre-kindergarten during the 2017-18 school year. The program helps children transition to kindergarten and enhances developmental skills. It is available at the four district elementary schools, Cedar Street Daycare and Rose Hill Manor. A registration packet is available at beaconk12.org/domain/30, or call the registrar at 845-838-6900, ext. 2002, with questions.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Valentine's Pop-Up

One-stop shopping at blog gallery

A Little Beacon Blog will host a pop-up Aboutique for Valentine's gifts on Feb. 11 and 12. Located at 291 Main St., the pop-up features jewelry from Kit Burke-Smith, Marguax Lange and Third Muse Metal Arts and scarves from Kate Aubrey. Viridescent Design Flowers will have fresh-cut bouquets and Five Hens will sell sweet treats and baked goods. The pop-up is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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:

calendar@highlandscurrent.com

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Beacon Brewery Beckons

The Hudson Valley Brewery, which opened Feb. 4 at 2 Churchill St. in Beacon, relies on a traditional European process called mixed-culture fermentation to create its signature

farmhouse ales: Make Believe, Amulet and Soleil. It also serves Forever Overhead, a sour IPA brewed with wheat, and Incandenza, which is made with two-row barley, raw wheat and hopped

with citra and simcoe. The bar is open Friday from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 10 p.m. See hudsonvalleybrewery.com.



HVB's brewer-owners: Jason Synan, Michael Renganeschi and John-Anthony Gargiulo

Photo by M. Turton

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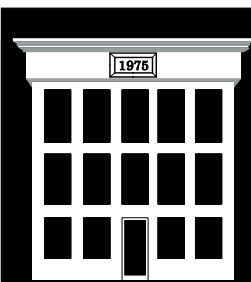
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Sports *(continued from Page 20)*

Beacon Basketball

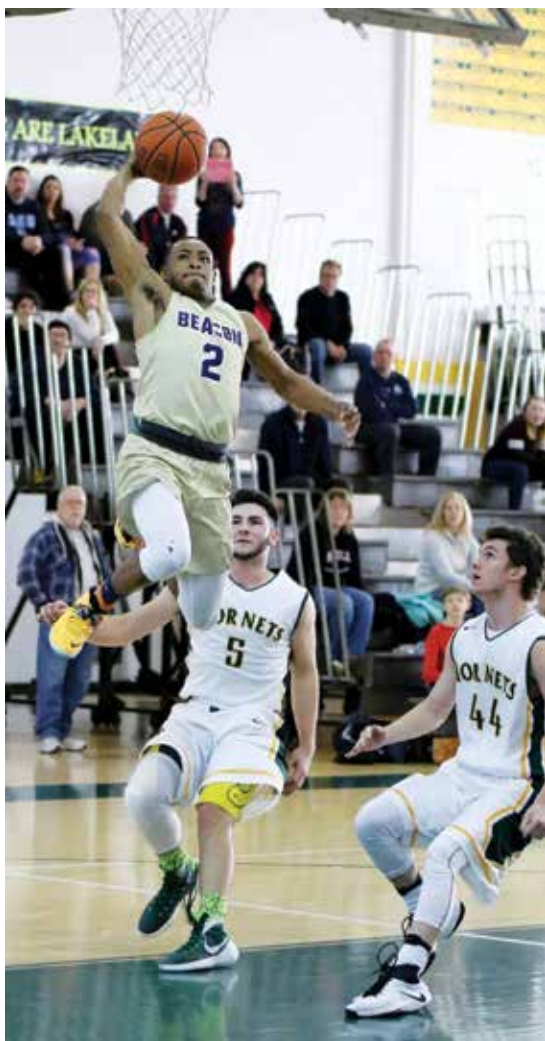
At left, senior Alex Benson (2) drives to the basket during the Bulldogs' 84-75 victory at Lakeland High School on Feb. 4. The night before, Benson scored his 1,000th career point in an overtime win against Hendrick Hudson.

Center, Junior Zamere McKenzie at the line against Lakeland.

Far right, Junior Jerome Henderson (21) blocks a shot by a Hornets player.

*Photos by
Richard Kuperberg Sr.*

For more photos from this game, see highlandscurrent.com.



Why Put Up with It?

(from Page 20)

they think they can do a better job than what they've seen done. Whether that's true, they often think if they do a better job, people will appreciate it. But they don't understand that when you are keeping score, at least one side isn't going to like you."

"There is a change in fans," an NFL official who also referees high school games in Florida told the *Miami Herald* last year. "They are less forgiving of an official's mistake. There is a lack of respect. And in to-

day's world, the abuse can be spread very quickly online. I think some young people are looking at that and wondering why they should get into officiating. Some of the veterans wonder why they continue to do it."

Most don't do it for the money. According to one survey, per-game pay ranges from \$35 to \$90, depending on the sport and location.

Most officials say their goal is to provide a safe, neutral environment for the players. Most are former players or coaches themselves.

Antonio Brimmer, head of officials for

the New York City Public School Athletic League, sees a deconstruction of what he feels was once a more orderly high school fan. "Parents today feel because they sit in the stands for hundreds of games, that they instantly become experts on the rules," he said. "Sometimes it gets out of hand where a fan is becoming disruptive in the stands and I have to get control of the situation."

Many schools ask parents to sign sportsmanship "contracts" in which they agree to behave themselves. But athletic directors still must often assign chaperones to manage the crowd. "I have to plan ac-

cordingly to have chaperones at all of our games," said Haldane's Salumn. "There have been times when fans have been asked to leave. Athletics is an opportunity to see kids succeed and fail, and parents have difficulty seeing their child struggle and their emotions get the better of them."

Being an official "is not for the thin-skinned," added the local referee. "You can never take it personal." But, he said, "you feel the tension. The kids feel it too. They emulate what they hear from the parents and coaches. I have been spoken to in ways I have never been spoken to in the past by kids."

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Sports

High School Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Haldane 59, Pawling 51
 Nick DiPalo (23 points), Blaine Fitzgerald (18)
 Haldane 60, Irvington 57 OT
 DiPalo (23)
 Putnam Valley 50, Haldane 48
 Fitzgerald (20), DiPalo (11)
 Beacon 78, Hendrick Hudson 77 OT
 Zamere McKenzie (19), Alex Benson (16), Andre Davis (14)
 Beacon 84, Lakeland 75
 Benson (19), Jemond Galloway (17), McKenzie (13)
 Beacon 61, Carmel 54
 Galloway (28), Benson (19)
 Croton 46, Haldane 34

Girls' Basketball

Haldane 58, North Salem 23
 Beacon 48, Hendrick Hudson 44
 Hendrick Hudson 43, Haldane 40
 Putnam Valley 46, Haldane 33

Boys' Bowling

John Jay 7, Beacon 0

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Ketcham 0
 Jenna Maffei (597 total pins)

Indoor Track

Section 1 Class C Championships

Top 5 Finishers

Haldane Girls

3,000 meters
 5. Claire Cassidy 11:47.86
 4x400-meter relay
 3. Haldane 4:46.82
 Long Jump
 3. Paige Lee 13-05
 Shot Put
 1. Catherine Parr 27-06.75

Haldane Boys

1,600 meters
 2. Nick Farrell 4:31.23
 3. Adam Silhavy 4:39.03
 4x400-meter relay
 Haldane 3:44.35
 Long jump
 4. Jose Mendoza 18-07.75
 Triple jump
 3. Jose Mendoza 37-07.50

Why Put Up with It?

Abuse by fans and parents thought to contribute to referee shortage

By Leigh Alan Klein

During the winter, an exciting high school basketball game in a warm gym could be a refuge, where an appreciation for sport, sportsmanship and teamwork converge. It's a good feeling that lasts only until noisy and abusive parents and other adult fans go after the refs.

Screaming at the officials seems like a longtime American pastime. "Are you blind?" "Call it on both ends!" "You suck, ref!" But at the high school level, it causes concern among athletic directors, coaches and many parents in large part because students often emulate the behavior and disrespect they see exhibited by adults.

It also discourages many referees from continuing in what is typically a part-time profession, or even getting into the game, causing shortages in many places that forces athletic directors to cancel games or take more drastic action, such as not offering junior varsity sports.

Haldane's athletic director, Chris Salumn, believes a trend toward early specialization contributes to the abuse he's heard from the stands at various schools. Students no longer play two or three sports casually but focus intensely on one sport year-round.

"More parents are spending money and the pressure has increased," said Salumn. "Parents are more outspoken because they believe there is more at stake with opportunities for scholarships."

A referee who has officiated games in Westchester and Putnam counties for 10 years and asked not to be identified echoed that judgment. "Today's parents intensify the atmosphere," he said. "They bring this pressure of the money they have spent in the sport to the gym. There is an unrealistic push for the sport to carry kids to college."

The scrutiny and judgment are spread evenly among all stakeholders: players, coaches and officials. But often the criticism of coaches are kept to a murmur or saved for the ride home and the dinner table.

Instead, it is the officials who become the target of this anxiety from the jump ball to the final whistle. In many games, verbal barbs, insults and criticism rain down on the court, especially in smaller gyms with sparse crowds. "What are you looking at?" "Someone is going to get hurt." "You're horrible, ref."

"Officiating is a difficult part-time job for most who do it," said Salumn. "They need to leave their full-time job at 3 p.m. to get to the game, where they are scrutinized and judged the entire time. It's a no-win job that is missing the respect it deserves."

Scott Timpano, who coaches the Beacon boys' varsity basketball team, said



Sports officiating can be a lonely job.

Photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

that "the overall atmosphere of the games makes it very challenging for them. Coaches push the officials to make the right calls, players are constantly positioning for foul calls and then you have the parents who feel they need to be on the officials, as well."

Although he doesn't always agree with the calls, the coach recognizes the challenges. "I know I could never handle" being a ref, he said.

Abusive taunting of referees happens at schools all over the county. It's not unique to Beacon or Philipstown. It's also not new. In 2004 an official posted online that one reason people don't continue as referees is that "people are not conditioned to being yelled at constantly by so many people, especially when the people doing the yelling don't have a clue about what they are talking about."

He added that people often become officials "because (Continued on page 19)

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Nick DiPalo, Haldane High School

The junior guard was the Blue Devils' high scorer with 23 points in a 59-51 victory at Pawling on Feb. 2. Two days later, he poured in another 23 points in a 60-57 overtime win at home against Irvington.



Nick DiPalo

Photo by Sharon DiPalo

NY Alert

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Coaches and Parents

We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos.

Email sports@highlandscurrent.com

More Sports on Page 19