**Odell Punts on Shared Services**

*Dutchess submits plan, but Putnam declines, for now*

**By Chip Rowe**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo would like the chief executives of New York’s counties to think long and hard how to share services within their borders. In fact, as part of the passage of the 2018 state budget, he mandated it.

In September, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro submitted a 59-page report, *Dutchess Together*, that outlined $27 million in savings from 37 projects, including disbanding the Wappingers Falls police department.

In Putnam County, MaryEllen Odell said she would not produce a plan, at least not this year. The county executive told the Legislature on Aug. 1 that “severe time restraints” (the initiative was announced on April 30) made it “impractical and impossible to finalize a substantive and well-reasoned plan” but that one would be ready for 2018.

Anyway, she said, none of the town supervisors wanted to be involved; they were happy with the county’s existing efforts.

The supervisors begged to differ.

**Going it alone**

The Shared Services Initiative required that county executives (excluding those in New York City) appoint a panel of local elected officials, hold at least three public hearings, and draft a plan with input from cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire departments, non-profits, unions and other interested groups.

The goal was to eliminate duplicate services, use bulk purchasing to get reduced rates and prices, share equipment and facilities and reduce administrative overhead.

If a county submitted a plan to the director of the New York Division of the Budget by Oct. 15, the state promised matching grants.

*Editor’s note:* (Continued on Page 3)

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**Butterfield Developer Drops $2.5 Million Federal Suit**

**Attorney: Guillaro still pursuing state claim**

**By Chip Rowe**

The developer of the Butterfield Hospital site has withdrawn a $2.5 million federal lawsuit he filed against the Village of Cold Spring alleging that Mayor Dave Merandy had illegally attempted to thwart the project.

Salvatore Ferlazzo, the Albany-based attorney who represents developer Paul Guillaro, said his client had instead decided to pursue his claim in state court, where in December he filed notice that he planned to sue the village for the same amount of damages.

Before suing a municipality in state court, notice must be filed with the New York State Court of Claims. The municipality is then allowed to question the plaintiff and sometimes will settle the case before a lawsuit is filed.

Guillaro has given a sworn statement to village attorneys, but Ferlazzo said the developer is now waiting for the village to respond to multiple Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests for documents before deciding whether to sue.

“We are evaluating our options,” he said.

At a Village Board meeting on Oct. 10, Merandy said the dropping of the federal suit was “good news” but noted there has been “a lot of concern” in the community about pending lawsuits. Asked why he thought the

*Editor’s note:* (Continued on Page 6)
Central Hudson Asks to Raise Rates

Hearing in Newburgh on Oct. 16

Central Hudson has asked state regulators to let it raise rates on electricity and gas.

If approved, the plan would increase the average residential electricity bill by about $4.19 per month, based on 560 kWh of usage at July prices, the company said. The average residential electric bill is $112 per month.

For natural gas heat, the increase would bump the average bill up $5.54 per month, based on 69 ccf of usage and July prices, it said. The average residential natural gas bill is $117 per month.

The utility says the increase would raise $61 million to fund infrastructure and other improvements.

The state Public Service Commission will hear comments on the proposal on Monday, Oct. 16, at Newburgh Town Hall, 1496 Route 300. Information sessions will be held at 2 and 6 p.m. and hearings will be conducted at 3 and 7 p.m.

Comments also can be emailed by Oct. 20 referencing “Cases 17-E-0459, 17-G-0460 — Central Hudson Gas and Electric Rates” to secretary@dps.ny.gov.

Diana Henriques is a veteran financial journalist and author of A First-Class Catastrophe: The Road to Black Monday, the Worst Day in Wall Street History. She will discuss the market crash of Oct. 19, 1987, and its lessons at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22, at St. Mary’s Parish House in Cold Spring to benefit The Highlands Current.

Why was Black Monday important?

It was incredibly instructive about the direction our financial systems were moving, which is to say, toward the world we’re in right now. It gave us early warnings of how we needed to change our regulatory systems, our thinking about personal finance, our understanding of the role markets play and our understanding of what a market is. That should have changed, if we’d been paying attention.

What should have been done?

We needed to recognize the incredible gap between market reality and market regulation. We live in a marketplace dominated by giant, computer-driven investment strategies that surge from one asset class to another, without notice, and yet we still regulate the financial landscape as if it still consists of nice little silos. That was already a dangerous delusion by the early 1980s.

Do we need a single regulatory body with authority over the market?

That’s a citizen problem. Everyone who has an ATM card or a mortgage or a car loan depends on a functional system. What we should be fixated on is, if the market falls, is it going to fall apart? That’s what almost happened after Black Monday, and it almost happened again in 2008. During that crisis, the shorthand we had for it in the newsroom was, “On what day will the ATMs go dark?”

The Dodd-Frank Act was passed in response to the 2008 crash, but you suggest it could hinder the response to future crises. How so?

In a drive to prevent bailouts, the crafters of Dodd-Frank created a rulebook. But even in 1987 there would not have been time for that. Today, with social media and 24/7 financial news, it’s ludicrous to think you would have time for the act’s deliberative procedural steps to rescue a failing firm.

Are bailouts a necessary part of the financial system?

You have two options: keep things small and quarantined, or monitor everything to prevent risks. What you cannot do is let companies get so big they can bring the house down and then say that you won’t rescue them. If you don’t want to do bailouts, you have to dust off the antitrust statutes. Politically that’s difficult. So you have to regulate big business to make sure that the risks they’re taking are not going to bring down the system.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.
Odell Punts on Shared Services (from Page 1)

that equaled whatever savings it realized. Counties that waited would likely miss out on grants but could repeat the process in 2018.

The initiative was not universally popular. A number of counties, including Putnam, said they already had their own strategies in place to share services, and didn’t need marching orders. Odell said that the target of the Shared Services Initiative – was because of unfunded state mandates. Nevertheless, 50 of 57 county executives submitted draft plans to their legislatures for approval by the Aug. 1 deadline.

Odell said the governor’s initiative was flawed, and based on the fallacy that the Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell at a “Stand Up for America” rally on Oct. 1 in Carmel.

Putnam County’s towns are pursuing, they wrote. Odell said she had reached out to the supervisors of the county’s six towns and concluded that all were satisfied with its efforts at consolidation.

For that reason, Odell said, she recommended that the Legislature instead rely on a revived county Commission for Fiscal Vision and Accountability, which looks for ways to make infrastructure improvements, consolidate law-enforcement departments, achieve health insurance savings, and share garbage and recycling services, recreational facilities and programs, energy consumption and tax assessment resources.

“That’s the route that Putnam went,” she said in an interview.

Why not?

Odell said the governor’s initiative was flawed, and based on the fallacy that county spending is the reason property taxes are higher in New York than other states, “which is incredibly absurd.”

In a presentation at her first public hearing on the Shared Services Initiative, Odell noted that of every $1 collected via property taxes, 71 cents goes to school districts and 9 cents to the county, while towns, villages, and fire districts account for the remaining 20 cents.

On Oct. 5, during a presentation of her draft 2018 budget, Odell said that 70 percent of county operating expenses are for unfunded mandates imposed by higher levels of government.

(Nin his shared services report, Dutchess Executive Marc Molinaro described a similar situation in his county, in which “70 percent of net county costs are for mandated programs and services. The remaining 30 percent is ‘optional spending,’ including crucial government functions such as health and mental health services, sheriff road patrols, road repair, snow removal, public transportation, 911 dispatch, and senior services.”

School districts and fire districts can opt out of the state initiative, which Odell says she considers unfair because a school district’s portion of a property tax bill far exceeds the county portion.

Odell said that Cuomo had backtracked on the promise of matching state grant money and that lawmakers learned at a meeting of the New York State Association of Counties that counties which execute a plan won’t see any matching funds until 2019, because they will have to document the actual savings in 2018 and then file reports.

The concept of reducing redundant services is new to Putnam, said Odell. They are already “hundreds of ways” the county is sharing services with municipalities and school districts through the School Resource Officer/Special Patrol Officer Program, the Putnam County

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from Page 1)

November 3, 2017
Unpleasant welcome
Two weeks ago my husband and I had our things moved to what we expected would be a nice new apartment in Cold Spring. It was a “mother-in-law suite” near but not attached to the landlord’s home. My husband went with the truck and I stayed in New Hampshire for work reasons. That was a Monday. On Tuesday the landlord saw my husband’s “My God Loves LBGT!” button on his camera bag. He asked what it was about. My husband said he supports gay rights. The landlord asked if he was gay. My husband said, “Yes, I’m bisexual.”

On Wednesday we were evicted because, according to the landlord, “it’s unhealthy for my children to be around such people.” We removed our belongings from the property and put them in storage. We are stunned that such a thing happened in Cold Spring. We are now staying at a friend’s home looking for a place to live.

Karen Gorst, Cold Spring

The editor responds: New York state law forbids landlords from discriminating against tenants on the basis of age, race, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, military status or sexual orientation. (There is one exception: rental units in two-family homes occupied by the owner are not subject to the law.) At the federal level, the Fair Housing Act protects renters from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability and the presence of children but not sexual orientation.

Stand up for the flag
As an elected official, County Executive MaryEllen Odell took an oath to uphold the Constitution, which means, among other words, “maintain, sustain, continue, preserve, protect, champion, defend” (“Two Sides to Every Symbol,” Oct. 6). She has let us all down.

It doesn’t matter if you agree or disagree that kneeling during the national anthem is an appropriate form of protest. Odell took an oath to protect our freedoms and laws, including free speech. What the protesters are doing is kneeling during the national anthem is constitutionally protected and legal, but what our county executive has done is take an official position and spend county funds in support of violating our laws and the U.S. of New York constitutions.

Everybody is entitled to their opinions, and to voice those opinions, but elected officials need to take the high ground and defend our freedoms, without exception, diminishment or qualification.

Kurt O’Hare, Putnam Valley

Getting help
I was in the area to visit Bannerman Castle when I picked up a copy of your newspaper in a corner café on Main Street in Beacon. I wanted to comment on your special report (“Fighting Back – The Opioid Crisis,” Sept. 29).

On Long Island, there is a free, walk-in clinic, the Charles K. Post Addiction Treatment Center in West Brentwood, that accepts people no matter their ability to pay. A ride from a friend or relative or a Metro North/Amtrak connection to Long Island Railroad and cab are two ways to reach it.

Also, if a person is on Medicaid, he or she can be taken to a county hospital or teaching hospital. If there is an underlying mental health issue, a dual diagnosis program that treats both the addiction and mental illness is ideal and probably most effective. C.K. Post is one place.

Good luck and God bless all who suffer from addiction. I am beginning to believe

Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen

What have been your three most recent jobs?

“I’ve been here at Deb’s [Hair Design] since March. I came from Romeo & Juliet, where I worked for 17 years under two owners.”

~Mary Burns, Cold Spring

“I am a psychotherapist but previously was a dance therapist/social worker and a professor at Wesleyan University.”

~Jane Wilson Cathcart, Philipstown

“I’ve been at Home Depot since March. I came from the Beacon recycling plant. And for years before that, I was a long-distance truck driver.”

~Joshua Smith, Fishkill
Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer’s full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer’s name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

addicted persons have no more control than do Alzheimer's patients or any other person affected with a brain disease. The why-can't-you-just-stop or why-cant-you-remember attitude won't help or change anything. Someone ought to explain that to Richard Jones, the sheriff in Ohio who won't let his deputies carry the opioid antidote Narcan.

Gloria Schramm, Bellmore

Supreme Court race

Linda Murray, born and raised in Dutchess County, is the best choice for New York State Supreme Court Justice.

Linda is a wonderful, caring mother of two young children, Juliet and Sean, and devoted wife to her husband of 16 years, Richard. Linda's lifelong local roots, strong community involvement and her passion for helping others are demonstrated by her volunteer efforts for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Youth Soccer League and local recreation departments. Linda is intelligent and trustworthy. Her work ethic and legal experience as an attorney in both the private and public practice is unmatched.

Linda's attention to detail and legal prowess while working as an assistant district attorney in the Queens County District Attorney's Office has earned her praise and accolades from her co-workers and superiors. Linda continues her passion for law and order today while serving as the principal court attorney in Poughkeepsie City Court.

Linda has been endorsed by the county executives in Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Orange and Rockland counties, which this judgeship covers. In addition, Linda has earned the nomination to be on which this judgeship covers. In addition, Linda has earned the nomination to be on.

Linda is independent and trustworthy. She is knowledgeable, steady and committed. On Nov. 7, vote for Linda Murray and Richard Murray.

Frank Michetti, Pleasant Valley

The Philipstown election

I am writing to express my support for Richard Shea for Philipstown supervisor and John Van Tassel and Mike Leonard for the Philipstown Town Board.

Each of these men works tirelessly to bring Philipstown admirable management and leadership. I am grateful to have a board that works together in the town's best interest, mindful that there are many different opinions about the problems that confront us. They are knowledgeable, steady and committed.

On Nov. 7, vote for Richard Shea for supervisor and John Van Tassel and Mike Leonard for Philipstown Town Board. Lithgow Osborne, Garrison

When I decide who to vote for, I look for the candidate who possesses the values that I consider most important for public service. Among the qualities I look for are integrity, a genuine dedication for service, experience, knowledge of the job and of the issues, humanity and concern for the welfare of others.

The voters of Philipstown are fortunate to have candidates running that hit every one of those criteria — and more.

As our next Putnam County sheriff, Robert Langley will bring integrity, dedication to service and experience to an office where Putnam residents have been too long shortchanged.

Richard Shea, upon re-election as supervisor, will continue his long record of honesty, dedication and wisdom, as well as superb leadership.

Michael Leonard and John Van Tassel — two of the hardest working and most dedicated public servants I know — will continue to be part of what makes our Town Board and government the gold standard in Putnam County (and probably Dutchess and Westchester, as well). Like Richard and Robert, both Michael and John are independent thinkers whose main focus is on serving their constituents, and serving them well.

Be sure to vote on Nov. 7. This isn't "only a local election" that you can afford to miss. Your day-to-day life is affected by our town and county leaders. And you are in a position to ensure the best are elected. Do it.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, Garrison

Having lived here for just two years, I recently went to my first meeting of the Philipstown Town Council. I was curious to see who our elected leaders were and what they were like. I was pleased to find our local representatives to be a dedicated, hard-working and transparent group of people that work well together and is very approachable. How often can you say that about elected officials? Having met them and seen them in action, I’m voting to re-elect Richard Shea, John Van Tassel and Mike Leonard. We’re truly lucky to have such high-quality representation.

Dan Willson, Philipstown

Defund Planned Parenthood

The signs I have seen around declaring, “I Support Planned Parenthood,” should add, “whether I want to or not.”

Many people see the movement to deny $500 million in tax dollars given annually by pliant politicians to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion chain, as a step in the right direction. Planned Parenthood gets this tax money under the guise of running women’s health clinics, though the clinics don’t even offer mammograms as many other community clinics do and for fewer tax dollars.

In reality, abortion, in all its violent forms, dismemberment by suction, scalding with saline solutions and piercing with scissors and knife, is its big business. It does about $325,000 abortions each year, charging on average more than $500 for the procedure.

The organization realizes even more money from abortions when the pieces are sold. Its president, Cecile Richards, who earns more than $725,000 annually, declared in a letter to Congress in 2015 that its California affiliate “receives a modest reimbursement of $60 per tissue specimen” — read, “body part” — and less in other states.

At the same time, she and her organization have been staunch defenders of late-term abortions, even partial-birth, have opposed fetal-pain legislation, as well as limits on sex-selection abortion, which falls heaviest on females, and have even opposed any requirement that first aid be given to children who survive botched abortions. This is not a life-friendly organization. Rather, it represents choice gone berserk. Nor is it family friendly. With hands deep in mom and dad’s tax pocket, Planned Parenthood vehemently thwarts any right of parents to be informed of a minor daughter’s impending abortion.

It’s time to defund the infamy and take a huge step toward a kinder, gentler and less violent nation.

Dick Murphy, Beacon

Notice to Bidders

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 2:00 pm on October 25, 2016 when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

• BITUMINOUS CONCRETE – FURNISHED, DELIVERED & LAID IN PLACE
• BITUMINOUS CONCRETE – FOB
• CALCIUM CHLORIDE – DELIVERED
• LIQUID MELTING AGENT – SOIL STABILIZER – DELIVERED
• #2 FUEL OIL – DELIVERED
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• BANK RUN, FILL, TAILINGS – DELIVERED & FOB
• INSTALLATION OF GUIDE RAIL AND FURNISHING OF GUIDE RAIL MATERIAL
• WASHED CRUSHED STONE – DELIVERED & FOB
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Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: October 11, 2017

TINA MERANDO
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Mr. Guillaro feels that this is true. We’ll and the people that are implicated in this, know where the people in this office were, was filed, Merandy said he and the village March 16, the day after the federal suit dismiss.

The federal court for the Southern District of deadline set by Judge Nelson Román of

The state notice of claim, filed on Dec.

"I know where I was on this," he said. "I know where the people in this office were, and the people that are implicated in this, and there is absolutely no truth in it. I’m sorry that it has to come to that ... that Mr. Guillaro feels that this is true. We’ll see where it goes. It’s unfortunate."

During a Village Board meeting on March 16, the day after the federal suit was filed, Merandy said he and the village attorneys were confident that Cold Spring would prevail.

“I know where I was on this,” he said. “I know where the people in this office were, and the people that are implicated in this, and there is absolutely no truth in it. I’m sorry that it has to come to that ... that Mr. Guillaro feels that this is true. We’ll see where it goes. It’s unfortunate.”

The notice of claim, filed on Dec. 18, charged that the village, Merandy, ex-

Trustee Stephanie Hawkins, and other unnamed officials intentionally delayed the project, for reasons not stated. Hawkins served on the Village Board from April 2013 through March 2015.

“If the village’s continual demand to involve engineers, attorneys and other professionals in what had previously been handled in the village administratively by the building inspector and other village officials has delayed progress by over a year and caused an explosion of inappropriate expenses,” the state complaint read.

Also claimed Merandy “unlawfully assumed jurisdiction and interfered with the details of all aspects of the project ... for the purpose of stopping, destroying, interfering with and/or harming the project without justification and for personal reasons.”

Merandy said at the March 16 Village Board meeting that Guillaro’s sworn statement was “probably five pages long and is very favorable to us.” In response to a FOIL request from The Current at the time, the village clerk said the mayor was referring to a letter to Merandy from a village lawyer, John Purst, and that the letter was shielded by attorney-client privilege. Purst repeated that assertion on Oct. 11.

The development of the 5.7-acre property on Route 9D in Cold Spring, now well underway, has a long, contentious his-
Devastated by Hurricane Irma

Former Garrison resident loses everything

By Michael Turton

A former Garrison resident is reaching out for help after Hurricane Irma destroyed her Florida home.

Julie Marcinak, 22, was living in a “floating hotel” on Key Largo while she and a friend renovated a houseboat. As the forecast worsened during the week of Sept. 3, she moved all her possessions from the houseboat to the hotel, confident they would remain out of harm’s way.

“The studio apartment was on the second floor of the hotel; I thought it would be safe from flooding,” she said.

Flooding was not the problem. The floating hotel was torn apart by 150 mph winds. And the houseboat sank.

Marcinak obeyed an evacuation order and left the Keys on Sept. 7, two days before Irma struck. She packed, she said, “as though I was going out of town for the weekend.”

She was among millions of Florida residents fleeing north. A six-hour drive to the state line took 11 hours as vehicles crawled along at 20 mph.

“I lost everything,” she said. “It’s like you’ve lost your whole life.”

When she returned briefly to Key Largo, the floating hotel had been reduced to “a pile of splinters.” Searching through the wreckage, she found one shoe, a swimsuit and little else. A bulletin board filled with her most important personal photos was destroyed. She lost the jewelry that her father, who was killed in 2008 during a robbery at his Garrison Garage, had given to her mother. Her class ring was gone, along with every stitch of clothing and all her furniture.

Marcinak said she will be better prepared for the next hurricane. “I’m trying to buy a camper or RV,” she said. “That way I can drive it away.”

The Garrison Fire District pledged $100 to kick off a GoFundMe campaign at gofundme.com/hurricaneirmadestroyedmyhome. Her late father, John Marcinak, was a lifetime member of the fire company, and his garage was located on Route 9 near its headquarters.

The Highlands Current presents

THE LESSONS UNLEARNED

Diana B. Henriques, author of A First-Class Catastrophe: The Road to Black Monday, the Worst Day in Wall Street History, discusses the 30 years since that day, Oct. 19, 1987, with Floyd Norris

Garrison resident, former New York Times financial columnist

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Diana Henriques, a former New York Times reporter, also wrote The Wizard of Lies: Bernie Madoff and the Death of Trust and appeared as herself in the Emmy-nominated HBO film of that name. See DianaBHenriques.com.
Proposed County Budget Meets Tax Cap

Odell again points to challenges of state mandates

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell presented her sixth county budget Oct. 5 at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac. She said it totals $155.3 million, and meets the state-mandated property tax cap for 2018 of 1.84 percent with a net increase of $2.3 million, or 1.5 percent spending increase, over the 2017 budget.

Under Odell’s proposed budget, which must be reviewed and approved by the Legislature, a homeowner with a property assessed at the average of $277,000 will pay $22 more in county taxes, or $984 annually.

The county’s portion of a homeowner’s tax bill is about 9 percent, which Odell said was the lowest county share of any tax bill in New York (the average is 21.5 percent). School districts make up 71 percent of the tax bill in Putnam, with towns accounting for 18.5 percent, she said, and villages and fire districts each taking up a little more than half a percent.

To balance the budget, Odell proposed using $4.6 million from the general fund, leaving it with a “very healthy” $12 million after adjustments when the current year ends, she said.

Another mandate with a high price tag is retiree health benefits, which cost the county $5.1 million. “New York State Health Insurance Program rates have continued to rise significantly,” Odell said.

In an effort to reduce this expense, the county executive proposed an alternative, voluntary plan for retirees on Medicare who use the state health insurance program. This would be a fully insured group retiree medical plan with group Medicare Part D coverage and a prescription plan. It could save the county $160 per retiree, and as much as $6,591 per family, according to Odell.

Odell boasted of the county’s success in reducing its debt since 2011, when she took office. Between 2011 and 2017, long-term debt has been reduced 15 percent, from $88 million to $75 million, and short-term debt has been reduced from $17.2 million to zero, she said.

This was achieved even with the county making improvements at Tilly Foster Farm and the Putnam County Golf Course, as well as ramping up highway services and purchasing vehicles, Odell said.

In addition, the budget reflects a $2.4 million decrease in New York pension expenses because the county paid off its debt to the state through accelerated payments over the past four years. That saved taxpayers $773,000 in interest, she said.

On the revenue side, Odell said she expects the county will collect $58.5 million from sales tax in 2018, $42.3 million from property taxes, and $26.8 million from various departments, or a total of nearly $128 million. State and federal reimbursements add another $5 million.

Odell emphasized the importance of maintaining the extra 1 percent sales tax extension allowed by the state in years past, explaining that it is crucial to avoiding “layoffs, deep service cuts, and huge property tax increases.”

### Tim Greco for Philipstown Town Board

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With support from Blue Devil Booster Club & Haldane Tennis Association
Solar Panels Inactive on Haldane Roof
District says installer had been unresponsive

By Lily Gordon

A large array of solar panels installed on the roof of Haldane Elementary School has not generated electricity for the district for nearly a year due to maintenance issues.

After a fire on the roof in December, Haldane staff quickly identified the source as one of 16 switches encased in boxes that are supposed to be waterproof.

The elementary school panels are the largest of three arrays installed on the roofs of district buildings in 2015 as part of an agreement with Monolith Solar. A total of 958 panels were installed at no cost to Haldane with a 20-year lease and were expected to save the district about $21,000 annually in energy costs.

Soon after the fire, Mark Fobare, the founder and CEO of Monolith, told the board that it had been a “one-in-a-million situation,” comparable to a tire blowing out on a car. “Your car manufacturer didn’t really have any direct participation,” he said, “but I’m standing here and taking responsibility to make sure the system is safe.”

By that time, water had seeped into another of the switch boxes. Superintendent Diana Bowers told Fobare that the district wanted a third-party inspector. The elementary school roof is the only one that uses those type of switch boxes switches, he said, and it was the first time his company had used “this particular configuration.” He said the boxes would be replaced.

The issue did not come up again until the board’s Oct. 3 meeting, when Bowers provided an update. She said water had eventually seeped into all 16 switches on the elementary school roof. The elementary school panels are not generating power, although smaller arrays on the high school and bus garage are functioning.

“Our attorneys have been back and forth,” with Monolith, she said. “I’m sorry to say that that they have been almost unresponsive. A couple of weeks ago — when we gave them a deadline — there was a response.”

Bowers also noted she had told Monolith’s attorney that it might be time for the district to contact the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), which provided funding for the installation. Although the state Department of Education has told Monolith to replace the faulty switches with ones from a different vendor, Bowers said “we are waiting for an agreement about annual inspections before we allow them to make changes and put the panels back into service.”

When reached by phone, Fobare would say only that the company was in contact with the district. “If the superintendents is going to follow the contractual agreements, I think we’re all set,” he said.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.
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2700 Route 9
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Giuseppe Penone
Michelangelo Pistoletto
Remo Salvadori
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Reel Life for Teens

Documentary club embraces reality
By Alison Rooney

It’s exciting to watch kids discover how gripping a movie about real people living ‘ordinary lives’ — as opposed to wizards or superheroes — can be,” observes Julie Shiroishi, a Beacon parent whose son has attended documentary screenings hosted by the Reel Life Film Club, which begins its second season on Oct. 20.

The club, geared towards students in the sixth through ninth grades but also open to older high school students, is guided by documentary filmmakers and aficionados who live in the Highlands. It is hosted by the three area libraries, Butterfield in Cold Spring, Desmond-Fish (DFL) in Garrison and Howland in Beacon.

The 2017-18 season opens at the Desmond-Fish with a screening of Hamilton’s America, a look by PBS behind the scenes of the hit musical. The free monthly screenings, which each begin at 6 p.m., will rotate among the libraries on a Friday night each month through July, except in November and June. They are typically followed by discussion with someone involved in the production (live or by Skype).

Last year’s screenings usually attract an audience of about 15 students. This year organizers and librarians are contacting teachers, promoting more on social media and extending the reach to Peekskill.

One organizer, Jackie Wlodarczak, a teacher at the Manitou School and a parent, said the club is designed to “encourage ‘tweens to learn about people, events and places that are not part of their everyday experience and cultivate the personal responsibility that comes with sharing our planet with others.”

At the club’s September meeting, a list of potential films was discussed and debated. Even if a film is chosen, however, there is still the practical matter of getting permission to show it. For that, committee members often rely on documentary filmmakers such as David Gelber of Garrison (Years of Living Dangerously) and David Sampliner of Beacon (My Own Man).

Among other topics, this season’s tentative schedule includes a look at slam poetry in a New York City high school; Philippe Petit’s 1974 high-wire walk between the Twin Towers; the pressures of high-level ballet competitions for teenage dancers; a 14-year-old girl’s attempt to sail solo around the world; and an election for third-grade class monitor at a school in Wuhan, China.

“Documentaries find drama in quotidian lives and poetry and philosophy on the tongues of everyday, seemingly unremarkable people, and that’s how I understand the world, that the dramatic and beautiful and important is all right in front of us if we just care to look,” says Sampliner. “That’s why I think it’s important to dangle them in front of kids as early as possible. I want them to see that movies don’t have to be only about escaping reality.”

Reel Life Film Club Screenings

Oct. 20: Hamilton’s America (DFL)
Dec. 1: To Be Heard (Howland)
Jan. 5: Man on Wire (Butterfield)
Feb. 2: Wasteland (DFL)
March 2: Before the Flood (Butterfield)
April 6: First Position (Howland)
May 4: Maiden Trip (DFL)
July 13: Who’ll Vote for Me? (Butterfield)
Backyard Stage

Directors create a neighborhood theater — behind their house

By Brian PJ Cronin

Beacon’s boom has brought with it many cultural amenities: a world-class museum, galleries, restaurants, cafes, coffee houses and old diners converted into Japanese restaurants/underground music clubs.

But what the city has been lacking, at least according to Jason Craig and Jessica Jelliffe, is a flexible, chicken-infested theater space for people who prefer their musicals to be as “stabby” as they are catchy.

Craig and Jelliffe, co-artistic directors of the experimental theater company Banana Bag & Bodice, have turned their backyard at 194 Fishkill Ave. into a theater, which opened this month with Thursday and Friday night performances of their musical Sanwich. Admission is free but since the backyard isn’t that big (and the chickens need space), reservations are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/3092006.

“Years ago this show was our introduction to the New York City community, so it’s the perfect show to use as our introduction to the Beacon community,” Craig said a few days before opening night on Oct. 5. “There’s something approachable about this show. It’s got a weird sense of humor but it’s not very long, the songs are fun and catchy, it’s very bright and kid-like.”

Jelliffe interjected: “It’s not necessarily for kids, though.”

When Sanwich had its debut in New York City in 2005, Time Out New York advised: “Stab whom you have to for a ticket!” That gives you an idea of the quality of the show and its dark humor.

Craig and Jelliffe founded Banana Bag & Bodice in 1999 in San Francisco and have created a dozen original touring shows. Their best-known production is an adaptation called Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage, will be restaged in 2018 at the Signature Theatre on 42nd Street. Like Sanwich, Beowulf is a collaboration with composer David Malloy, known for his Broadway hit Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812.

Craig and Jelliffe moved to Beacon from New York City three years ago. “It had all of the things we were looking for,” said Craig. “An artists’ community, closeness to the city, mountains and the river. But we had no idea that so many people from the city had been moving up here.”

While Beacon has its share of theater artists, the vast majority still perform in New York City. But performance space is expensive there. So last winter, they took one of their shows — an off-beat telling of the Nativity story created as a collaboration with Manhattan’s Trinity Church — and performed it in their Beacon backyard.

“We figured, why not just perform it up here with anyone in town who wants to sing and dance?” said Craig. “It was a lot of fun.”

Inspired, the couple built risers, extended the floor of their garage, convinced their lighting designer Miranda Hardy to visit from Portland, Oregon, to rig up a system and — most important — secured the blessings of (Continued on page 23)

Collective Soul

At this Beacon gallery, the artists run the place

by Alison Rooney

Beacon is a tough sell,” says Gary Jacketti, who owns the Beacon Artist Union gallery, known as bau.

Jacketti has been trying to shift that dynamic. Thankfully the gallery is a cooperative, and so sales are important to make artists happy but not vital to keeping the doors open. Instead, every member contributes financially and helps run the place, such as assisting with maintenance, marketing, bookkeeping, labeling, graphics and the website.

The gallery has been on the east end of Main Street for five years, after leaving a smaller space closer to Dia:Beacon. Jacketti, who teaches art for the U.S. Department of Defense, was living in Tokyo when he read a story in Art in America about the debut of Dia and soon after happened to be offered a job at West Point.

When he arrived in town, Jacketti found space at Bulldog Studios, in the former Beacon High School building.

“That was quite an endeavor,” he recalls. “Those studios never quite took flight, but it was there that I got to know so many artists and got the idea to open bau. The idea then and now is to promote art and the arts and to have a place for members to experiment and grow. We also wanted to be a platform for music and theater.”

When it opened in January 2004, the bau collective had six members. Artists have come and gone and returned over the years.

(Continued on page 22)
FRIDAY, OCT. 13
Dragonfly Story Hour for Adults
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Steady On: Celebrating Lilith Fair at 20
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

SUNDAY, OCT. 15
Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
6 – 10 p.m. Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9, Beacon
haldaneschool.org/athletics

SATURDAY, OCT. 14
Walk to End Alzheimer’s
9 a.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie
845-394-4952 | alz.org

Bring the Kids (Ages 4+)
9:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Plein Air Painting Group
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Cold Spring Bandstand
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Family Music Hootenanny
10:30 a.m. Binnacle Books
506 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

SECOND OPENINGS
HHLT Take-A-Hike: Tot Hike
10 a.m. Glenclyffe Trailhead, Garrison
845-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Thyra Heder (Children’s Book Reading)
10:30 a.m. Binnacle Books
321 Main St., Beacon
845-424-3358 | hhlt.org

Animal Superstitions
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnm.org

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845-534-7781 | hhnm.org
Citizens Climate Lobby Organizing Meeting
6:45 p.m. Beehive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/cclny18

NY Firearm Laws Forum
7 p.m. Paladin Center
39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel
RSVP to marilyn.PCFOA@gmail.com

Philipstown Budget Meeting (Fire & Ambulance)
7 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Meet The Beacon Candidates: Democrats
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Tuesday.

The Wailers
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Sunday.

THURSDAY, OCT. 19
Common Ground Harvest Gala
5 – 9 p.m. The Roundhouse
2 East Main St., Beacon
See details under Friday.

Women Veterans’ Group
6 – 8 p.m. Cornerstone Building
Route 52 and Fair Street, Carmel
mhaputnam.org

FRIDAY, OCT. 20
Crop Shop Farm Stand
4:45 – 6 p.m. Sargent Elementary
29 Education Dr., Beacon
cityofbeacon.org

Haunted Library
5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

6th Annual Catoberfest
6 – 10 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
2 Churchill St., Beacon
catoberfest.brownpapertickets.com

David Freund: Gas Stop (Reception)
6 – 9 p.m. Antipodean Books
29 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3867 | antipodean.com

Fellowship Supper
6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Reel Life Film Club: Hamilton’s America
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The Streamlined Antiquarian (Design Talk)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Saturday.

Haunted House
7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
307 Giencliffy Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Cries from Syria (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Howard Jones
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Sunday.

Highlands Current Selected for Matching Funds

News Match designed to assist nonprofit media

Three foundations that fund a grassroots campaign for nonprofit news organizations have selected Highlands Current Inc., the publisher of The Highlands Current, to be among the more than 100 media firms to receive matching funds through Dec. 31.

The $3 million collaboration between the Democracy Fund, the Knight Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation will match all donations of up to $1,000 to Highlands Current Inc., up to a total of $28,000. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Readers may contribute at newsmatch.org, although any donation by check sent to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 or by credit card at highlandscurrent.com/donate also qualifies.

“News Match comes at a time when journalists are facing a perfect storm of economic challenges and political attacks,” said Josh Stearns of Democracy Fund. “A robust, independent press is essential to fostering an informed and engaged public and vital for a healthy democracy.”

“People are increasingly looking to nonprofit news to fill their information needs,” said Sue Cross, executive director of the Institute for Nonprofit News, of which Highlands Current Inc. is a member. “We need to build an infrastructure that supports organizations that deliver fact-based, nonpartisan, accountable journalism.”

Added Christine Bockelmann, chair of the board of Highlands Current Inc.: “Our readers recognize their stake in government decisions, in the environment and culture of their communities and in national issues with significant local impact. It is our goal to cover all with energy, insight and objectivity. The matching funds in this program will serve that mission.”

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Hudson Beach Glass
Fine art gallery located on second floor
Lacuna paintings by Khara Gilvey
Artist Reception Second Saturday
Oct 14, 2017 6-9 pm
Oct 14 thru Nov 5, 2017
162 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508 845 440-0068
Open daily 10am - 6pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm
www.hudsonbeachglass.com
### The Way Out (from Page 1)

There is a plan. Last year, Cuomo assembled a 23-member Heroin and Opioid Task Force that included Salomone, Patrice Wallace-Moore of Arms Acre in Carmel and state Sen. Terrence Murphy, whose district includes eastern Putnam County. After a series of public hearings, it made 25 recommendations, including mandating addiction training for healthcare professionals; limiting first-time opioid prescriptions for acute pain from a 30-day supply to seven; expanding access to painkillers that are difficult to crush or dissolve; and eliminating the need for a patient to have prior authorization from an insurer for long-term in-patient treatment.

We asked a number of people for their ideas on what should take priority in this fight and were overwhelmed with the responses (below). Thank you to the counselors, doctors, parents and law-enforcement officials who spoke with us over the past few months — and a special thanks to those who shared their personal experiences fighting this demon. Always fighting.

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### Lena Petersen, of Cold Spring, is a nurse who treats homeless and jailed addicts in New York City.

Most in-patient, traditional drug treatment programs are a fast, sometimes sloppy approach to detox. They provide a relatively controlled environment where addicts can go through withdrawal. But after completing detox, individuals are thrown back into their communities and social networks where their addiction was formed. They are expected to avoid opioids while engaged in the environment that prompted their use.

A more successful approach is to engage individuals within the context of their home communities but keep them engaged in treatment through controlled “home detox.” This eliminates the requirement that they isolate themselves from their natural environment and networks. This approach destigmatizes treatment and may even prompt others to seek help, as well.

David Poses, 41, has lived in Cold Spring since 2005.

Unless you’ve experienced addiction first-hand, it doesn’t make sense. No junkie wants to be a junkie, but there’s a terrifying chasm between “will” and “way”: a hopelessness. In that regard, addiction is a disease, a terminal one. It is infectious and contagious, and no amount of guilt/shame/blame/denial/prayer will make it go away.

I started using heroin at age 16. I was in pain. Heroin didn’t make me happy, but it sure as hell made me forget how miserable I was. That’s what it does. It kills pain — and so much more.

At 19, I went through the conventional recovery process (rehab, halfway house, support groups). Though I don’t begrudge the therapy, I never completed it. Every addict has to contend with feelings of guilt and shame. In addition to the stigma of addiction, there is a black market for the drug. We need to eliminate the barriers to access, and addicts would learn first-hand that it won’t get you high.

A tremendous amount of inertia must be overcome for an addict to take the first step toward recovery. In addition to the stigma of addiction, every addict has to contend with feelings of guilt and shame. If someone is making the effort to get clean, a safe, supportive, understanding family is going to yield better results than telling the addict how disappointed you are.

Everything above contributed to my recovery and continues to be vital in my ongoing effort to stay clean. Today, my life is beyond anything I could have imagined when I was on dope. I’m married to the most amazing

(Continued on next page)
woman in the world. We have two children whom I love in ways I never knew existed until I became a parent. I have a successful career. I’m happy, fulfilled. Mindful. Grateful. Not the kind of person you’d look at and imagine as a junkie. But I’ve been to hell and back. I’m not saying I’m right and anyone who disagrees with me is wrong. I’m saying this needs to be a conversation, not a template.

Rebecca Darman, 24, of Cold Spring, has lost eight friends to overdoses.

When I was in high school, Percocet was just becoming a thing at parties. I don’t think people realized how addictive it is, how close to heroin it is. It starts out as a fun thing and they get sucked into it.

I just didn’t know what to do about it.

Sometimes tough love is a good thing. You have to be willing to call out your friends. I never thought it was my place. I should have.

Kids often know more about what other kids are doing than the parents, especially at a small school like Haldane. You’re together five days a week. Everybody knows everybody.

It’s important to look after each other. To help them. To have their back. Many of the friends I hung out with in high school died.

Lillian Rosengarten, of Cold Spring, is a licensed clinical social worker. Her son, Phil, died of an overdose in 1996.

I know all too well no family is exempt from addiction and the possibility of overdose and death, no matter how intact, how loving, how open or closed the communication, how angry or dysfunctional, how wealthy or poor. I want to absolve all parents of guilt that they may be responsible for their child’s addiction and/or death.

Phil, my first-born, had a long history of drug addiction that began at age 15. Although able to achieve 10 years of sobriety, he overdosed at age 36. My own parenting had lacked consistence and good communication. I felt helpless at the time to know what to do. Pleading and anger were of no use. Enabling was destructive.

Many years later I learned how open communication between parent and child can nurture a healthy sense of self and a capacity for the child to express themselves with open directness and to say “No” without fear.

It is never too early to begin to talk to your child about how drugs harm and kill. Parents need to be honest, open and talk about their own feelings and emotions. Talk about depression. Mood disorders and depression are a common reason children begin experimenting with drugs. Teach your child it is OK to cry, as well as to express anger and fear. Do not say, “Don’t cry, you are a big boy or girl, boys don’t cry, crybabies.” etc. Don’t shut the child down or punish for self-expression. This humiliates the child, who will lie, hide or shut down emotions as he or she learns to be “compliant” and “good” to please the parent.

Just listening is a powerful tool to cultivate to accept your child’s experience and emotions as they may arise. If discussion is possible (but never pushed) do so without criticism or judgment. When parents can access their own emotions (not as criticism or punishment) this can bring closeness and honesty to the relationship.

The anti-drug message needs to be an ongoing conversation. Share with your child your own drug experience or that of someone close to your family. When there is addiction in the family, a child can feel he or she is at fault for the parent’s erratic moods. To be in a support group such as Alcoholics Anonymous is an accomplishment, as is sobriety. What is important is for the child to know the parent is coming from a genuine place.

Stay calm and non-critical. This lets your children know you are on their side and that you love them. Preaching does not work, nor do threats. The parent’s role is to educate and keep communication open. Speak to your child with respect, do not undermine, and listen well. No matter how the communication goes and the lessons to be learned, eventually it is the child who makes his or her decision on whether to use. There is no way to shield your child from the realities of drug use and abuse.

All children need room in the parent-child relationship to learn to express themselves without criticism and to feel safe doing so. In this way children learn to feel good about themselves and hopefully make healthy choices.

Susan Salomone is the co-executive director with her husband, Steve, of Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, a nonprofit based in Mahopac. They co-founded it in 2012 after their son Justin, 29, died of a heroin overdose.

When Justin was 23, we found out from his girlfriend that he had started using prescription pain killers, specifically Percocet. I remember her email telling us that she was breaking up with him because he was making poor life choices and using Perks. I had to call her to find out what that was.

Before he died, we learned many things about addiction. We learned that addicted children lie right to your face, but we don’t acknowledge it because they are our children. We learned that the pusher is not some scraggly old man in a dark alley but more likely your kid’s friend or a classmate. We learned that the junkie you envisioned living on the streets in New York City in a cardboard box was now living in your house.

We learned the pain that goes with being addicted to painkillers, the withdrawal the addict suffers, the anxiety and guilt that our child suffered. We learned that nothing we could do would cure or control Justin.

We also have learned so much in the five years since his death.

We learned that continued attempts at recovery raise the chances of success. Once is not enough and sometimes 10 times is not enough, but the important thing is to keep trying. Remaining hopeful under the most distressing circumstances is difficult but important.

The Highlands Current

Rebecca Darman

Photo by Michael Turton

Lillian Rosengarten

Photo by Sheila Williams

Photo by Michael Turton

Photo by Sheila Williams

(Continued on Page 16)
Medication-assisted treatment, along with behavioral therapy, increases the chance of recovery. We cannot make anyone get well. They have to do this on their own, but recovery is possible with the support of family, professional intervention and a solid support network — Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or something similar.

We learned that this is a brain disease and that some researchers believe that even the first use is not voluntary. We learned that 40 percent of the people who abuse substances suffer from a mental-health issue that might include social anxiety, generalized anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, ADHD and bipolar disorder.

We learned that early use of any drug, including alcohol and marijuana, leads to higher rates of addiction. We learned that there is a family disposition for the disease, as there is with diabetes and heart disease. If you have a family member who is addicted, no matter how distant, the chances increase. Educate your children on this important health hazard.

We learned that people suffer in silence because of the stigma associated with addiction and mental illness. People think that they are the only ones when, in reality, two out of three families are suffering with this disease. We learned that Americans consume close to 90 percent of the painkillers manufactured in the world. That 23 million people need treatment and only 10 percent get it. That many insurances will only cover 14 days of treatment; no wonder this is a revolving door with people coming out of treatment and relapsing within hours. With opioids, months and years are needed in learning how to live without the drugs and deal with the cravings.

We have learned that parents and siblings of the addict are also victims of this disease. They watch their brother or sister create chaos in the house and struggle with their anger. If the sibling dies, they feel guilt for not trying harder. They need help, too.

During one of the many sessions we spent with Justin’s addiction psychiatrist, he said as long as there is life, there is hope. I think of that often. When I first heard it, there was no connection for me because deep inside I never believed Justin would die. The pain and anxiety caused by living with the disease clouded my judgment and caused such anger and resentment that I couldn’t see my son’s pain. I only saw the symptoms of the disease: lying, stealing and manipulating.

So now I know the truth. As long as there is life, there is hope. It is important to believe that an addict can die and once he or she is gone there is no going back and trying again.

The priority now is to bring awareness of the dangers and rampant use of opioids. Denial is a huge factor and people need to realize that the earlier an intervention is made, the better the chances of a person not getting into trouble.

The stigma associated with addiction keeps families and those who are struggling from asking for help. We also need to reduce barriers to treatment and increase prevention education in our schools. By bringing awareness of addiction as a disease, and focusing on this issue in our community, we reduce stigma.

David Gerber is the director of counseling and shelter services at St. Christopher’s Inn in Garrison.

We have laws that require people who receive a DWI to, at the very least, get a chemical dependency assessment. We need a common-sense law that says if your use is so severe that you require your life to be saved by a first responder after an overdose, you are required to attend inpatient treatment.

This could reduce the number of people who require emergency services through multiple overdoses, and reduce the number of people who rely on Narcan as a “get-out-of-overdose-free” card. It would provide helpless families with relief and peace of mind knowing that help is available.

The lengths of stay for such treatment should be long enough to ensure that we are not merely detoxing people, but giving them the time to develop coping skills, and giving their brains time to get past past biological urges and cravings. The standard 14 days covered by insurance does not adequately address the need.

Our most recent approach has been to detoxify, re-medicate the problem with drugs like methadone and Suboxone and attempt to engage in an outpatient setting. Addiction takes over lives. It requires rehabilitation, not a bandage.

The best approach for many is detox and residential treatment, followed by a halfway house or supportive living in conjunction with out-patient treatment. We’ve been penny-wise and dollar foolish, by limiting and reducing access to care.

Stacey Farley, of Garrison, is a ceramic artist and member of the Highlands Current Inc. board of directors. She first proposed a drug czar at the Sept. 24 meeting of the Philipstown Community Congress.

In our local government we have highways and building departments. We have planning boards, zoning and conservation boards. We have dog control. Doesn’t it make sense to have someone in charge of the important and pervasive issue of drug abuse?

Whether you call the position drug czar, commissioner or director of prevention and treatment, let’s put our best resources behind this problem and create a full-time, paid position. This person would be responsible.
for focusing full attention on the crisis, supporting existing resources, mobilizing appropriate medical and rehab support, and educating and communicating with families, individuals, schools and the community, with the goal of reducing abuse and addiction.

So long as there is one person struggling with addiction in our community, we need to try harder and make prevention and treatment a priority. Let’s put someone in charge.

Beth Greco is the CEO and president of the Walter Hoving Home, a Christian ministry founded in Garrison in 1967 that serves women who have been addicted to drugs.

We must give people hope and instill the belief that addicts can recover. We need to recognize it as a battle for a person’s life — it will take families, communities, schools, businesses, police, churches and other faith-based organizations, medical professionals and government to make a difference. That will mean getting our own agendas out of the way and making the priority to work together, even if we have different viewpoints or methods.

Helen Keller said it best: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” We have to recognize that each individual in need will respond to different types of help. Our team members participate in many coalitions, and I travel the country working with women at our homes in Garrison; Las Vegas; Pasadena, California; and Oxford, New Jersey. I see people working together and it encourages me that we will see progress.

Being from the faith-based community, being freed from addiction myself and working in the field for more than 25 years, I believe that together we can put hope within the reach of every addict.

Larry Burke is the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department.

Narcotics training has been a priority for us. We only need to train one more officer. Having a small, part-time force with limited resources is frustrating, especially after working in narcotics for 14 years in New York City, where resources seemed unlimited.

Robert Tendy is the Putnam County district attorney.

The priority is to save lives. This can be done by utilizing every resource available: expanded use of Narcan for overdoses; education from an early age about the risks of drug abuse and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle; teaching parents to be vigilant for signs of drug abuse and to seek help immediately; a change in our society’s views about using prescription drugs for seemingly every problem that arises — even to the point that we have some children regularly taking pills as early as 4 years old. These children can grow up to have no understanding and no fear of the risks of drug use.

It is also important to have compassionate and understanding law enforcement when dealing with victims of drug abuse, who would love to stop using but cannot. Nobody wants to become an addict. We need expanded facilities for treatment — real, long-term treatment.

All of the above are important and must be part of the plan. However, intensive drug-traffic interdiction also is a necessity. Without it, we will never turn the tide. This means de-politicizing the border-security debate. In the realm of “saving lives,” border security is not a left versus right discussion.

Make no mistake, immigrants — documented and undocumented — also suffer from the opioid crisis. Border security is a matter of national security. The U.S. in 2015 alone seized from our southern borders over 1.5 million pounds of illegal drugs, most of it heroin and fentanyl. Much more was not seized and entered our neighborhoods. Unless we can stanch the flow of heroin and fentanyl it will take a very long time to “solve” the opioid crisis.

To that end, we need more state and federal funding to give law enforcement agencies the tools necessary to track points of origin, entry and distribution; we need severe penalties for repeat offenders who sell these drugs. We need to recognize that the opioid crisis is part of a plan of attack by unofficial international corporations — loosely connect-
The Way Out
(from Page 17)
ed cartels that have one goal: keep as many of our citizens as possible devoted to their product.

Marc Molinaro is the Dutchess County Executive.

Addiction needs to be addressed as a mental health issue. Our goal is to divert the individual from ever needing to go to the emergency room or criminal justice system. The Dutchess County Stabilization Center [a 24-hour crisis center that opened in Poughkeepsie in February] is a critical tool to acknowledging that. It’s based on the belief that individuals, if provided with the right response, can find their way to recovery.

Every county in America should have something like this. And long-term beds and long-term care are the responsibility of state and federal governments, along with insurance companies, which should be required to provide assistance.

The opioid crisis is the public health crisis of our lifetime. It affects every income level, every background, every religion, every race, every color, every creed, both genders. There’s not a family that is not affected by addiction, and in particular, opioid and heroin addiction and abuse.

I’m not a physician, a psychiatrist or a psychologist. I observe. This country has never confronted mental illness and drug addiction in a way that it ought to. It has always treated it only as some sort of stigmatized issue or criminality. Drug addiction can lead to criminal behavior no question, but we need to treat the addiction, and help the person, and I don’t think that we’ve ever gotten to the point where we acknowledge that, institutionally and universally, and that still has to be confronted.

We see enormous amounts of fentanyl coming to New York state and to the Hudson Valley from China, and finding its way into other drugs. That’s a criminal action that needs to be confronted. The Hudson Valley is situated next to a major city, and that proximity makes it easier to move illegal drugs. They get into the hands of people who shouldn’t have them, people who are fighting addiction as well as those who want to buy and sell. All of that converges to make our problem — I wouldn’t say unique — but certainly more acute.

Lisa Scicluna is co-chair of Philipstown Communities That Care. Her brother, Joey Maddaloni, died of an overdose in 2008 at age 22.

We need greater support in our emergency rooms. When someone comes in with an overdose, we need to have a professional there to discuss recovery and treatment options in a non-judgmental way. Would a person at high risk for diabetic complications get released without speaking to someone who can guide them? Someone who has overdosed deserves the same guidance.

In addition, the judicial and prison system needs to better address those with this disease. For many, what landed them in court or prison is a symptom of the disease.

To parents of young children — do not assume this won’t ever affect your family. Educate yourself on prevention. Just as you try to instill healthy physical habits now, like eating vegetables and applying sunblock, encourage positive emotional health. There is never a guarantee, but the more odds you can put in their favor, the better.

For adolescents and young adults, the window between experimentation and addiction has become much smaller due to the potency of the drugs out there. No one ever plans to become an addict. It is a disease that can prance right in once the door has been opened. The risks are great, whether you use regularly or just once.

Addiction is a disease and it needs to be treated as such. It can be managed, no matter your age or circumstance. There is hope. Reach out. There is no need to fight alone.

Terrence Murphy represents eastern Putnam County in the state Senate and was a member of the governor’s Heroin and Opioid Task Force.

Treating heroin and opioid addiction requires getting to the root of the problem, which is the overprescribing of opioids to patients with short-term, acute pain. This is why I sponsored legislation to limit opioid prescriptions from 30-day supplies to 7-day supplies.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the bill, S8139, into law in 2016 and it has become a national model. In July, Senators Kristin Gillibrand of New York and John McCain of Arizona introduced the idea in Congress as part of their Opioid Addiction Prevention Act.

But there is more to be done.

Families are paying enormous amounts to send loved ones to sober homes. While there have been successes, sober homes in New York state are unregulated, posing a significant financial risk to patients. There are also accounts of people across the state overdosing at these facilities.

There must be accountability and consequences for bad actors. Profiting from those seeking help, and not providing the promised care, cannot be tolerated.

Heidi Snyder is a pharmacist and president and CEO of Drug World Pharmacies, which includes a store in Cold Spring.

I don’t have all the answers on how to address the crisis, but my immediate goal is to get Narcan into 100 homes and businesses in Philipstown, and from there, into every home and business. It should be inside every first aid kit.

We offer Narcan free without a prescription at our pharmacies — the
Where to Find Help

Hotlines
24-7 Drug Abuse Helpline
877-846-7369 or text 467369
Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
855-378-4373 (Weekdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
24-Hour Crisis Counseling (Dutchess)
845-485-9700 (call or text)

Local Treatment Centers
Arms Acres, Carmel
armsacres.com
845-225-5202 (out-patient)
845-225-3400 (in-patient)
CoveCare Center, Carmel
covecarecenter.org
845-225-2700 (out-patient)
Dutchess County Stabilization Center
230 North Road, Poughkeepsie
845-485-9700 | Open 24-7 for walk-ins
Lexington Center for Recovery, Wappingers Falls
lexingtonctr.org | 845-765-2366
Onward Recovery, Newburgh
onwardrecovery.org
845-725-1244 (out-patient)
St. Christopher’s Inn, Garrison
stchristophersinn-graymoor.org
845-335-1020 (out-patient, adult men)
Walter Hoving Home, Garrison
walterhovinghome.org
845-424-3674 (faith-based, adult women)

Treatment Directories
Doctors Who Prescribe Suboxone
suboxone.com
Bed Availability / Out-Patient Treatment
findaddictiontreatment.nys.gov
Provider Directory
oasas.ny.gov/providerdirectory
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)
800-662-4357 | findtreatment.samhsa.gov

Overdose Prevention Training
St. Christopher’s Inn, Garrison
Contact Rob Casasanta at 845-335-1035 or rcasasanta@atonementfriars.org.
The next classes are Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.
Arms Acres, Carmel
Contact to Tammy Bender at 845-704-6198 or tbender@libertymgt.com.
The next class is Nov. 17.
Dutchess County Health Department
845-486-3500 | healthinfo@dutchessny.gov

Counselors
Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW
845-265-2856 | lilirose@optonline.net

Pharmacies that dispense naloxone without a prescription
Drug World, Cold Spring
Rite Aid, Beacon
CVS Pharmacy, Fishkill

Support Groups
Spotlight Family Support Group
Call 914-582-8384 for information.
Mahopac: Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 21
Hopewell Junction: Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23
Yorktown: Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Nov. 28
Friends of Recovery Putnam, Carmel
845-225-4646 | facebook.com/forputnam
The next meetings are Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (Mid-Hudson)
845-431-9011 (Dutchess)
888-399-5519 (Regional)
newyorkna.org/meetings/meeting-search
NA meets in Beacon at the Reformed Church and St. Andrew’s.

Paying for Treatment
NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
combatheroin.ny.gov/get-help#payfortreatment
Understanding Your Rights for Treatment and Insurance Coverage

Intervention Services
David Gerber | 845-325-1101
Ray Dorrill | 914-473-4735

Education/Prevention
Philipstown Communities That Care
philipstownctc.org
Council on Addiction Prevention & Education of Dutchess County
845-765-8301 | capedc.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)
845-424-3674

Rockin’ at the Chapel
Music series debuts in Cold Spring

A newly minted rock music series, Restoration Roadhouse, will host its first concert on Saturday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. Session Americana, a rock/folk band from Boston, will perform. Tickets are $25, and beer will be available for purchase. Search for “Restoration Roadhouse” at eventbrite.com for tickets.

Industrial Pioneer
Lecture to discuss Depression-era master designer

John Stuart Gordon, a curator and American design expert, will speak at Boscobel in Garrison on Friday, Oct. 20, about the industrial designer Lurelle VanArsdale Guild, who created icons during the Depression era for many leading companies. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is $20, or free for members. Guild is best known for redesigning the Electrovox vacuum.

Carbon-Free Driving
Talk on future of electric cars

David Noland will speak on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Cornwall Presbyterian Church on the past, present and future of electric cars. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. A number of electric cars, including Tesla Models X and S, a Chevy Volt, a Honda Fit and a Volkswagen e-Golf, will be parked at the venue. Tickets are $5 for members of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum and $8 otherwise. See hhnm.org.

Beyond Monuments
Discussing racial inequalities

A public forum on Sunday, Oct. 15, organized by the Ecological Citizen’s Project, will address issues of racial inequality. It begins at 2 p.m. at the St. Philip’s Parish House in Garrison.

Run Wild
Museum to host 5K

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host a Meadows and Trails 5K on Saturday, Oct. 21. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race is at 9 a.m. The fee is $35. A quarter-mile dash for children ages 3 to 10 begins at 10:15 a.m. See hhnm.org.

Get Your Flu Shot
It’s that time again

The Putnam County health department will hold a walk-in flu shot clinic from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the Garrison Fire Department. Any county resident age 18 and older can receive a vaccination for $25. The shot is free for anyone age 65 and older or anyone with a Medicare card. See putnamcountyny.com.

Beacon
Catoberfest is Coming
Fundraiser for animal shelter

Live music, German food, craft beer and raffles are on the program for the sixth annual Catoberfest to benefit Mid Hudson Animal Aid. It will take place Friday, Oct. 20, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Hudson Valley Brewery in Beacon. Meal tickets are $16 in advance or $18 at the door. The no-kill cat sanctuary has more than 150 cats available for fostering or adoption. See catoberfest.brownpapertickets.com.

Meanwhile, the Howland Public Library in Beacon will host a reception on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. for The Cat Art Show, featuring photos and artwork depicting felines. All sales also will benefit Mid Hudson Animal Aid.

“Garden Cat,” by Jan Dolan, is one of the pieces on display at the Howland Public Library as part of its Cat Art Show that opens Oct. 14.
COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Winners Needed
Marine Corps League to hold raffle
The Marine Corps League will host a Basket Raffle on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Memorial Building in Beacon. Doors open at noon and prizes will be called at 2 p.m.
The prizes include 50 gift baskets, 20 gift cards and a basket of Lotto tickets. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds benefit veterans and youth programs in Dutchess County. Call 845-440-6344.

Boxing in America
Author to discuss book on heavyweights
Paul Beston will read from and discuss his new book, The Boxing Kings: When American Heavyweights Ruled the Ring, at the Howland Library in Beacon at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. The book examines the lives of seven legends and how sports reflect American society and history.

Music Series Ends
Trio to perform at Howland
The Elysium Furnace Works music series at Howland Cultural Center will end on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m. with a performance by the Baba Andrew Lamb Trio. Admission is $10. The trio includes Lamb on saxophone and flute, Joseph Daley on tuba and Tani Tabbal on drums.

How to Get Arts Grants
Council to hold information sessions
The Mid-Hudson Arts Council will present an informational session on Saturday, Oct. 21, to explain how to apply for three of its grant programs. It takes place at 1 p.m. at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. See artsmidhudson.org. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.) philipstowndepottheatre.org

Excellent Creatures Dialogues with Drama reading: The Cake
by Bekah Brunstetter
Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Depot Docs:
Long Strange Trip, The Untold Story of the Grateful Dead
Oct 27, 7:30 p.m.
includes reception with director Amir Bar-Lev
Oct 28, 7:30 p.m. Part II

Youth Players: Willy Wonka, Jr.
Nov 3-12

My Queer Youth
By Phil Geoffrey Bond
Nov 18, 8:00 p.m.
Collective Soul (from Page 11)

“We try to accommodate life,” Jacketti explains. “We’ve always been pro-artist, always.”

He estimates bau has had 40 members; currently it has 12. Each application is vetted by all members and a majority must approve. Once accepted, each member is given the gallery space for a month to mount a show. It can be open whenever the artist wants, as long as someone is there. The only requirement is that the gallery must be returned to the white box he or she started with.

When months are allocated, each artist suddenly has a deadline, Jacketti notes, which can be “conducive to creativity, and daunting.” The focus is not on sales. “We have our fair share,” he says, “but if we were a commercial gallery we wouldn’t have lasted 14 years showing a profit each year. Bau has held 154 consecutive monthly exhibitions since we opened — not bad, right?”

Jacketti, himself an artist who specializes in figurative bronze sculpture, also owns a gallery called Beacon Art Shortwave Gallery that he opened in 2009 in the wealthy weekender enclave of Stone Harbor, New Jersey. During its season from April through Columbus Day, Jacketti displays, and sells, many works by co-op members and other Hudson Valley artists.

Now he’s bringing some of that work home to roost with a group show at bau called Selections From the Vault, which runs through Nov. 5.

In Beacon, Jacketti observes, residents who shop for art are mostly in their 30s and starting out. They buy pieces for $300, not $3,000.

“I wish I could do the same here in the Hudson Valley as I have in New Jersey,” Jacketti says. “I wish the wealthy people of New York City would pay attention to the talent in the Hudson Valley, but the collectors have not come. We’ll see what happens in the next few years.”

bau Gallery, at 506 Main St., is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. See baugallery.com.
Backyard Stage (from Page 11)

neighbors. Sandwich is the first show in their newly converted space.

Alex Harvey, who performs in Sandwich some nights and offers a directorial eye, thinks the space could ease tensions between Old Beacon and New Beacon. The backyard show “has the potential to create co-ownership over things” and “maybe even break down a barrier or three,” he says.

Once Sandwich concludes in the space, the second show will not be Beowulf, which requires 12 performers and a large band.

“Yeah, I don’t know about that one,” said Craig, while scanning his neighbors’ homes. “It’s pretty loud.”

Jason Craig and Jessica Jelliffe during a performance of Sandwich with an oversized cat and a rabbit who are having a bad day

Photo provided
What Was Not Said: My Eulogy by Aleta Wolfe

He was always the voice of reason and contemplation in our deep conversations on religion, God, politics, and art.

He was polite, well mannered, respectful and sensitive through every stage of his life, childhood to young adult.

Forrest hiked the Appalachian Trail with his friend Brianna for one month a few years ago. He loved nature. A feat, since until his late teens he was petrified of spiders and insects. Once on a horseback camping trip when he was 10-years-old, as we were lying in our sleeping bags, he asked if we could sleep at a nice hotel with good cotton sheets instead of the tent. Go figure...there was a huge spider.

He rode his beloved bike as many places possible instead of driving. Environmentally conscious, he cared about our oceans, our earth and humankind, he put forth efforts and brought awareness to these issues as often as he could.

Forrest was an accomplished and healthy cook and was crazy about mussel meunière since he was in kindergarten. Sriracha sauce and Shichimi Togarashi powder kept on hand a must, for Forrest was an accomplished and healthy cook and was crazy about mussels meunière since he was in kindergarten. Sriracha sauce and Shichimi Togarashi powder kept on hand a must, for he really enjoyed reading. Pondering Alan Watt’s was a favorite endeavor and falling asleep listening to tape. To list all the literature that he liked would be difficult but I will include Haruki Murakami and especially The Wind up Bird Chronical. He appreciated the classics as well. He had a subscription to The New Yorker. Harry Potter held a place in his heart.

Forrest adored his dogs Mingus, Luna, Jet Black and cat Chico. Together we rescued Mingus from the streets of a nearby city, Forrest named him.

He was a tactful being, and that never went away.

His sense of humor revolved around making slight comical changes to words and slipping them into normal conversation when everyone least expected it. Because of years of doing this, he had an entire language of “Forrestisms” that are impossible to forget.

Forrest brought a smile and warmth into every room he entered. Always positive, nourishing, uplifting and ready for a meaningful conversation. Yet he also had a deep place of sorrow that surfaced in prose, art and music. In his innocence and youth, unrequited love, the untimely death of an uncle, childhood friends and a dear friend to suicide weighed heavily in his heart.

He was proudly the descendant on his maternal side of Jesse de Forest, orchestrator of the Penstuff current topic.

Forrest was an accomplished and healthy cook and was crazy about mussel meunière since he was in kindergarten. Sriracha sauce and Shichimi Togarashi powder kept on hand a must, for he really enjoyed reading. Pondering Alan Watt’s was a favorite endeavor and falling asleep listening to tape. To list all the literature that he liked would be difficult but I will include Haruki Murakami and especially The Wind up Bird Chronical. He appreciated the classics as well. He had a subscription to The New Yorker. Harry Potter held a place in his heart.

Forrest was 23.
Seafood with a Spanish Accent

By Joe Dizney

The first “bad” tomato was an indicator that things were headed south. After over two months of summer lunch sandwiches, one mealy bite of a less-than-optimal specimen signaled that it was time to reconsider the menu. Summer spoils us with its bounty. It’s not that we get lazy in the kitchen, but when things are at their absolute freshest, “cooking” takes on a new meaning and doesn’t require as much effort or planning.

But during this time of the year, when the air temperature says summer but the garden is winding down, we long for the light, fresh-but-substantial dish perfectly suited to this in-between season.

The Pimientos de Padrón may be difficult to find; shishitos are the best substitute, but fresh Anaheim or poblano peppers (or jalapeños, particularly if milder) are also reasonable.

I’ve added chorizo (Spanish, or Portuguese if you can find it) but it is by no means necessary. In all honesty, this recipe — minus fish or sausage, plus beans or cauliflower — is just as authentic and enjoyable as a vegetarian main course or vegetable side dish.

Serves four

4- to 8-ounce cod steaks
1/4 cup olive oil
2 onions, sliced thin
6 or more garlic cloves, sliced thin
2 bay leaves
2 teaspoons or more sweet paprika
6 or more garlic cloves, sliced thin
2 onions, sliced thin
1/4 cup olive oil
6 ounces chorizo, cut into 1/2-inch bits
6 ounces Padrón peppers or other tiny green peppers (shishito is ideal; poblano, Anaheim are acceptable), diced
2 pounds fingerling potatoes, halved
1 cup dry, white wine
1 cup fish, shellfish or vegetable stock

1. Heat the olive oil in a 10-inch skillet (with lid) over medium-high heat; add onions and garlic, cooking gently until just soft (about 3 to 5 minutes). Add the paprika and fry for an additional 2 to 3 minutes, add chorizo, peppers and bay leaves and cook for another 3 to 4 minutes.
2. Add potatoes, wine and stock and reduce to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper to taste and cook for 10 to 15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender and liquid has reduced a bit.
3. Season the cod with salt and pepper on both sides. Lay the fish on top of the potatoes, cover the pot and simmer/steam for 8 to 10 minutes, until the fish is cooked through. Serve cod in shallow bowls covered with a generous portion of the potatoes, choriczo and sauce.
**Varsity Scoreboard**

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<th>Football</th>
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<th>Girls' Tennis</th>
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<td>Haldane 3, North Salem 1</td>
<td>Beacon 6, Brewster 1</td>
<td>Haldane Girls</td>
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<td>Beacon 8, Poughkeepsie 0</td>
<td>Reanna Cader (2), Chloe Antalek (1)</td>
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<td>Vahalla 6, Haldane 3</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haldane 2, Pawling 1</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beacon 8, Poughkeepsie 0</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
<td>Girls' Tennis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Highlands Current Athlete of the Week**

Reanna Cader, Beacon

Cader, a senior and co-captain on the girls’ varsity soccer team, scored three goals, including two in the first six minutes of the second half, in a 4-0 victory over Peopleskill on Oct. 10. She has been a big part of the Bulldogs’ nine-game streak without a loss after starting the season 0-4.

Reanna Cader
Photo by Dawn Sela

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Haldane Reconsiders Athletic Policies

Considers training rules, limiting team sizes

By Lily Gordon

After a number of parents expressed concern at the Sept. 5 meeting of the Haldane School Board about athletic policies at the high school, the board has started the process of making changes.

The district does not have training rules, leaving discipline to the discretion of coaches, but some parents protested what they see as a lax attitude toward athletes who skip practices or are caught using alcohol or drugs. In response, board members on Oct. 3 said they are drafting an athletic and extracurricular code of conduct.

Further, Athletic Director Chris Salumn said he will change the process of determining if eighth graders can “play up” on junior varsity and varsity teams, after parents expressed concern about the large size of some fall sports squads and the risks of having middle school students playing against high school juniors and seniors at the varsity level. Starting with winter sports, instead of responding to requests from parents, Salunn will solicit recommendations from varsity coaches.

“They’re going to recommend the children [eighth-graders] who they think can help the J.V. or varsity team,” he said. “If we both feel that it’s in the best interests of the student, I will reach out to the family and we will start that process.”

To address large teams (the Haldane girls’ varsity soccer team has 25 players, including five eighth-graders, and the boys’ varsity has 26 players, which coaches determined was not quite enough to field both J.V. and varsity squads), Haldane is discussing again having coaches make cuts rather than taking an everyone-makes-the-team approach. “It looks like we’re moving in that direction,” said Superintendent Diana Bowers at the Oct. 3 meeting.

More sports on page 26.