

The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

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



Back on the Trail
Page 11

Special Forces:
An occasional series

To Protect and Conserve

State environmental officers pursue smugglers, poachers

By Brian PJ Cronin

Dustin Dainack enjoyed last weekend's beautiful weather in the woods, hunting.

It's not hunting season, however. That's why he was hunting.

"We were in our camouflage jackets, and I said to my partner, 'Isn't this great?'" Dainack recalled. "We're out in the beautiful woods and it's like we're hunting, only instead of deer, we're hunting poachers."

Dainack is an environmental conservation officer (ECO), one of 20 armed law enforcers who cover the part of Hudson Valley that the state Department of Environmental Conservation refers to as Region 3. (There are 330 officers statewide.) With headquarters in New Paltz, its officers cover Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester and Putnam counties. Originally called game protectors, the first ECOs were appointed by the state in 1880.

The job has its dangers. In November 2016, a man hunting illegally in Pine Plains shot and critically wounded an ECO. He claimed he mistook the officer for a deer but pleaded guilty to felony assault.

Dainack, a native of Hurleyville, in Sullivan County, is a 2008 academy grad and one of two officers assigned to patrol



HAVING A BALL — A young art lover contemplates *Sfera di Giornali* (Newspaper Sphere), a sculpture by Michelangelo Pistoletto that the artist and spectators took for a spin at the Cold Spring waterfront on Nov. 3. For more photos, see Page 19.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Westchester and Putnam counties. (The other is Craig Tompkins, a Beacon native who graduated last year.) Because there is little public land for hunting in Westchester, Dainack spends many weekends there tracking people who are illegally hunting on private land.

In Putnam County, by contrast, he often deals with beaver dams.

"Either a beaver is building a dam somewhere that people don't want one, or they're building a dam somewhere that people do want one and somebody else is taking it down," he explains. Removing a



beaver dam is illegal without a permit, so Dainack must determine if someone should get a permit to remove a dam, or issue a violation for someone removing a dam without a permit (in either case, the beaver is not issued a violation).

Although conservation officers have the same power and authority as a state trooper (meaning they can write you a speeding ticket), they deal with everything from illegal dumping to water rescues to fishing regulations to air quality violations.

"You think it's going to be a slow day and then you get a call that someone is shooting hawks in (Continued on Page 6)

Langley Leads for Putnam Sheriff

- Election Day win over Smith
- Absentee ballots still to be counted
- Write-in candidate may be spoiler
- Philipstown incumbents prevail
- Democrats sweep Beacon council
- Dutchess legislators turned out

By Chip Rowe

By the thin-
nest of mar-
gins, Robert
Langley Jr.
on Nov. 7 became
Putnam County's
54th sheriff by
defeating four-
term incumbent
Donald Smith.



Langley

According to unofficial results released by the Putnam County Board of Elections, the Democrat and former sheriff's department investigator won by 355 votes of nearly 25,000 cast. Nearly 42 percent of Putnam County voters turned out.

Because absentee ballots will not be tallied until Nov. 14, Smith could still win a fifth term, but it would take a landslide. The Board of Elections received 1,211 absentee ballots, which would mean Smith needs to win 65 percent of them to overtake Langley. (The count does not include affidavit paper ballots, used when a voter did not show up in the rolls, but there are typically far fewer of those than absentee.)

In a statement dated Nov. 8, Smith, a West Point graduate and retired brigadier general who was first elected in 2001, said he would "accept the will of the people" but held out (Continued on Page 8)



AHOY, MATEY — Rita Guilette, 91, awaits trick-or-treaters, including the occasional pirate, during Spookytown on Oct. 31. The Cold Spring event, in its second year, is designed to bring younger children and retirees together at Chestnut Ridge.

Photos by Ross Corsair

5 Five Questions: MOE BAXTER

By Brian PJ Cronin

Moe Baxter is commandant of the Marines Corp League of Dutchess County, which is based in Beacon.

What does the League do?

We raise money for veterans, the community, and children. We raise money, we donate it. That's what veterans' groups are supposed to do. We don't keep it.

You served eight years in the Marines. What did you learn?

Everybody should go into the Marines when they turn 18. That's where you learn discipline, how to take orders and how to follow orders. That guy who was in the Air Force who shot everybody down in Texas? That never would have happened if he had been in the Marines. And the Army guy [Bowe Bergdahl] who left his post in Afghanistan? In the Marines, you



Moe Baxter as a young Marine

wouldn't even think about that.

So it's the Marines over all other branches?

Everybody gets intimidated because they hear the Marines are so tough, but it depends what part of the Marines you go into. I was a grunt. You get yelled at, and you're in the mud, both physically and mentally. If you become an Air Winger, that's more relaxed. Being a grunt involves hard, physical work all the time, and everybody else supports the grunts.

So nothing seems so hard after going through that?

I live my life that way. It's unbelievable how much discipline you get in the Marines. I pay my bills the day I get them. I just paid off my house. I never missed a payment. You do what you have to do.

What do you think of the services admitting gay and transsexual people?

I don't have a problem with it. Are we also going to say black or Puerto Rican or Mexican people can't be Marines? It doesn't matter what religion or color you are. Just do your job.



Moe Baxter

Photos provided

Philipstown Creates 'Drug Czar'

Board also reconsiders
FOIL policy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Responding to the national opioid crisis, the Philipstown Town Board on Nov. 2 voted unanimously to hire a "drug czar" to coordinate drug-abuse prevention, treatment and recovery resources. Supervisor Richard Shea recommended allocating \$10,000 in the 2018 budget, which the board plans to finalize on Nov. 16, to hire a consultant for the position. Unlike the federal position, the local equivalent would offer guidance but not set policy.

Councilor Nancy Montgomery, who lost her 23-year-old nephew, Anthony Yanitelli Jr., to an overdose in 2015, pushed for the funding. After attending anti-drug meetings since about 2012, she said, she concluded that "we're not getting very far. The statistics are still rising and our community continues to be heartbroken" from overdose deaths. "We need someone to pull resources together to benefit our residents." While many forms of assistance exist for families, finding or making sense of it during a crisis can be daunting, she said.

During the board members' discussion, they suggested that the right person might have a background in mental health, social work or law enforcement, or a combination.

FOIL requests

The board voted unanimously to require notification of its members before their official emails and other communications are released under the state Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

Montgomery said a problem arose when a constituent emailed her in September with concerns. Montgomery did not provide details, but the issue was the volume of the bells at The Church on the Hill in Nelsonville. The email was released in response to a FOIL request by Tim Greco, the pastor of the church, and the resident's identity and contact information became public when he posted it on Facebook. Now, Montgomery said, the constituent is leery of contacting elected officials.

She proposed that a board member be

notified when her or his Town Hall emails are targeted in FOIL requests to allow time "to review" the situation "with the rest of the Town Board and our attorney, if necessary, before a constituent's name and contact information is shared."

Along with other exceptions, the law allows municipalities to redact information that constitutes an "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The law gives officials five days to approve or deny a request or acknowledge receiving it and state when they expect to respond. They have 20 business days to fulfill a request they approve.

Cell tower debate

Montgomery also questioned the "integrity" of an application by Homeland Towers LLC to construct a cell tower in Philipstown, noting that the company had wanted to use the town's landfill site on Lane Gate Road in 2014 but now says it's inappropriate.

Homeland Towers, which also has applied to build a tower in Nelsonville, dropped the 2014 landfill project after neighbors protested. Earlier this year, the Town Board suggested the landfill site and the Philipstown Highway Department garage on Fishkill Road as potential sites.

Shea suggested that increasing the height of an existing tower near Mekeel's corner, at the intersection of Routes 9 and 301, be considered. He proposed the board hire a consultant, rather than relying on information from Homeland Towers.

"They don't make money increasing the height of cell towers or going to areas where they have to spend more," he said. "They want to build them cheaply and to get them up and put as many carriers on these as they can. That's fine. That's their business. But our business is protecting our views and our residents."

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- Beacon zoning hearing set for Nov. 20
- Putnam legislators OK salary hikes, budget
- More on the Nelsonville cell tower proposal

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Relief for Puerto Rico

Island still desperate for water, power

By Brian PJ Cronin

On Oct. 27, five weeks after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney hosted a meeting of lawmakers and community leaders at his Newburgh office to discuss relief efforts.

Almost everyone in the room had Puerto Rican roots and told stories of collecting truckloads of supplies, trying to get in touch with loved ones, and elderly relatives who refuse to leave because they're too busy helping neighbors. Maloney, who represents Philipstown and Beacon, had seen much of this firsthand as part of the first congressional delegation to visit the island after the hurricane.

"The response was way too slow, and the response was way too small," he said. "Seventy-five percent of the island doesn't have electricity. You have a third of the island without potable running water. If there was anyplace else in the United States — if this were a state — and it was five or six weeks later and they didn't have lights, all of



Two young residents of Vieques, Noemi Adorna and Zulmaria Garcia, at the shelter on Vieques about a week after the hurricane

Photos by Andrea Booher/FEMA

us would be shouting from the rooftops. You cannot run an economy on portable generators."

During the weeks after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, more than 5,000 utility crews restored power in Florida, with half of them coming from out of state under an Emergency Mutual Assistance Compact between power companies to send crews first and worry about payment later.

"We asked the Army Corp of Engineers how many crews they had working in Puerto Rico, and they said 200," Maloney said. "The president of the United States needs to pick up the phone, call these power companies and say 'I want those trucks down at the docks and the airfields so we can get them on the island tomorrow and I'll figure how any legitimate concerns you have about payment.'"

A spokesman for Central Hudson, which sent crews to Florida after Maria, said the utility received the first formal request on Oct. 31 for assistance in Puerto Rico from two industry organizations, the American Public Power Association and the Edison Electric Institute. A week later, the utility said it would send at least 20 electric-line contractors to the island.

Some Highlands residents are organizing their own



Barry and Claire Nelson of Beacon on Vieques in January, when they organized a Women's March there

Photo provided

relief efforts. Barry and Claire Nelson of Beacon, who own a home on Vieques, eight miles off of the main island of Puerto Rico, have been sending generators, solar lights, mosquito nets and insect repellents to friends there, as well as its Boys and Girls Club. They also hosted a fundraiser at Dogwood in Beacon for the Vieques Humane Society that brought in more than \$1,600.

Claire Nelson said she and her husband plan to travel to Vieques on Dec. 1 and will volunteer wherever they can do the most good, especially for the children. "They tried to open the school, but without water or electricity, they can't," she said. "The Boys and Girls Club opens in the afternoon for two hours, but a lot of the kids are out and about."

Short of flying to Puerto Rico to volunteer, Maloney said the best way to help is to call members of Congress to pressure them to push for more resources.

"I was in Puerto Rico with Ron Johnson, the senator from Wisconsin who's the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee," Maloney said. "And I thought his questioning was condescending. He's talking to the governor, who hasn't slept in three weeks, and he's telling him, 'I don't want any exaggerations on what this is going to cost. I want the real numbers. I don't want any gold-plated stuff.'"

"No one is trying to screw you over here, these are people who are desperately in trouble," Maloney said. "And we know it's going to cost a lot."

Maloney also suggested reminding members of Congress that while Puerto Ricans living in the Commonwealth can't vote in federal elections, they can if they move to a state.

"A lot of my colleagues didn't realize Puerto Ricans were American citizens," said Maloney. "When you clue them in on that, they start to connect the dots. Puerto Ricans are already citizens. They're just moving, and a lot of them have family on the mainland. So I tell them, 'If you want a quarter of a million angry Puerto Ricans voting in Florida next year, keep it up.'"

Maloney also suggested reminding members of Congress that while Puerto Ricans living in the Commonwealth can't vote in federal elections, they can if they move to a state.



A home on Vieques that was destroyed by Hurricane Maria

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Garrison students

On Saturday, Nov. 4, I had the honor of being a guardian on Hudson Valley Honor Flight No. 18, taking 86 World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C. There we visited the World War II and Korean War memorials and watched the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery.

I would like to thank the many students at the Garrison School for the letters they wrote to these veterans under the direction of guidance counselor Mike Williams. On the flight home there was a surprise Mail Call and each veteran was given a large envelope containing letters written by various groups, including the Garrison students.

I can attest to the emotions of the veterans as they received these packets. Many had tears running down their faces as they read all of the sincere words honoring their service to our country. Most said that they wanted to reread all the letters the next day and share them with their families and friends.

There were hundreds of people at the airports in Newburgh and Washington, D.C., to cheer their departure and arrival. I was so pleased to see a Garrison student at Stewart Airport at 7 a.m. among the throngs — Ian Matkin looked so happy and proud as he shook the hands of these heroes. Bravo, Ian!

There are many reasons to be proud of Garrison students. Please add this to the list.

Maureen Sheeran, *Cold Spring*

Cell towers

There is a significant difference between utilizing private property for a cell tower versus taking municipal property, historically used as publicly accessible park, and repurposing it ("Anyone Want a Cell Tower?," Nov. 3). I hope the Village of Nelsonville is doing its homework on what it means to shift village land to a non-park use.

Michelle Smith, *Garrison*

Smith is executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

All emergency services would appreciate a few extra towers, since it is very difficult to communicate across the county to



The veterans of Hudson Valley Honor Flight No. 18 watched the hourly Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 4.

Photo by EC Media Group

the 911 Center and Sheriff's Department.

Steve Smith, *Cold Spring*
Smith is chief of the Cold Spring Fire Department.

#MeToo

To introduce the allegations of workplace misconduct against Hamilton Fish as "fallout from the 'me too' movement" is deeply offensive ("Hamilton Fish Takes Leave at *New Republic*, Library," Nov. 3). These allegations are serious and are fallout from the alleged bad acts of this individual. Your characterization of them as part of some movement undermines and disrespects the issues at hand and suggests a lack of neutrality and seriousness in your reporting.

Kim Chirls, *New York City*

The article's first sentence — "The fallout from the 'me too' movement sparked by the resignation of film producer Harvey Weinstein amid allegations of sexual misconduct has reached the Highlands"

— reads as if you are blaming Fish's resignation on the women who spoke out about their experiences.

Fallout is defined as adverse side effects or results from a situation. The sentence equates Fish's resignation as "fallout," implying that it's an adverse result of #MeToo, when, in reality, the fallout (Fish's resignation) occurred as a result of his alleged behavior.

Here's a better sentence to lead the story: "A Highlands man has come forward and resigned as fallout from his alleged inappropriate behavior toward women at his place of employment."

Erin Giunta, *Beacon*

Shifting tactics

Switching from "My statements were untrue" to "My statements were based on facts" seems like a calculated strategy by Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith in preparation for the multi-million-dollar lawsuit pending against him ("Ex-DA Says Putnam Sheriff Owes Him \$50K," Nov. 3). It is not likely to be a very effective ploy.

Given the extensive evidence of Smith's vendetta against ex-DA Adam Levy, there is a good chance Smith acted without probable cause and will be found liable. The fact that the plaintiff, Alexandre Hossu, hired one of the most famous civil-rights lawyers of our time, Michael Sussman, suggests this is going to be a long, protracted battle that Hossu is likely to win. (Sussman was the lead lawyer in the 1980s in a landmark Yonkers desegregation case.)

Only time will tell how much Putnam County taxpayers have to pay.

Diana Hird, *Cold Spring*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City in the Cloud

The contentious election for Philipstown Town Board — at least between Republican candidate Tim Greco and his detractors — brought up issues of Facebook, privacy and closed groups.

To restrict who sees your Facebook posts, click the down arrow at the top right navigation, select “Settings,” then “Privacy” on the left. You can set your posts to be visible to Friends, Friends Except Certain People or Specific Friends. You also can select who can see your list of Friends, who can contact you, who can follow you and who can look you up. For more guidance, see facebook.com/about/basics.

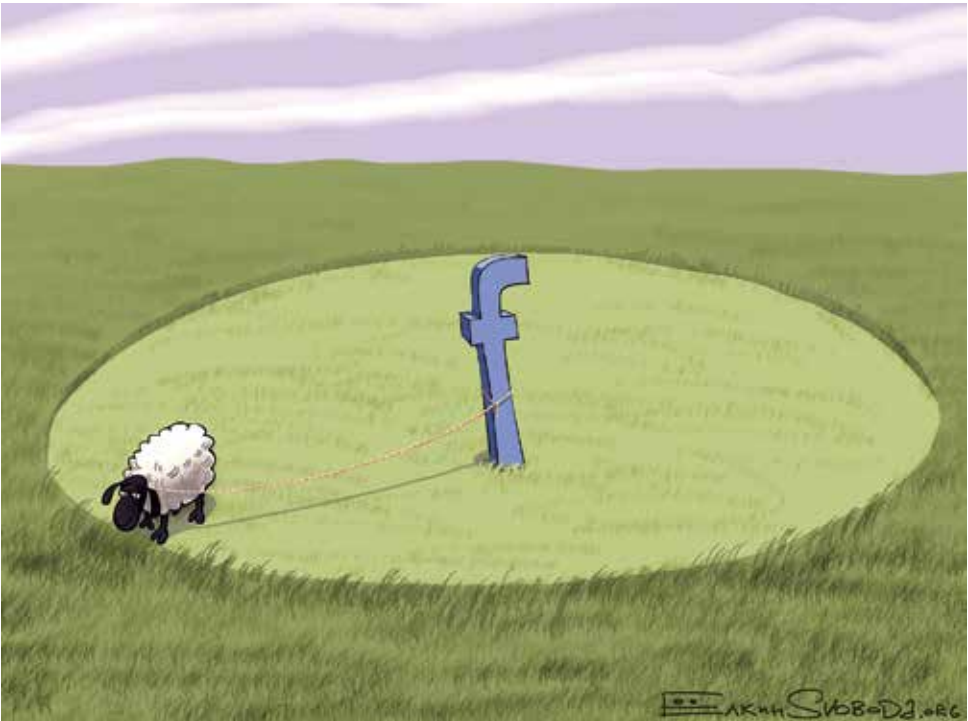
Of course, none of this prevents anyone




who can see your post from taking a screenshot and sharing it.

Much discussion of the candidates and election took place within Facebook groups, which can be Public (click the +Join button) or Closed, in which administrators must approve your request.

Below are the most popular local groups, with the number of members as of Nov. 6, although many typically are “lurkers” who never post. To find a group, search at Facebook.com for its name. For links to smaller groups, including those organized by artists, dog lovers, commuters, gun owners and chicken people, see highlandscurrent.com.



Group	Members	Administrators	Status
Cold Spring Neighbors	556	Andrea Hudson, Steve Laifer	Closed
Cold Spring Neighbors (Not the Secret Neighbors Group)	615	Bridget Villetto	Public
You Know You’re from Cold Spring When...	1,156	Villetto, Lori Marie	Public
Philipstown Locals	3,401	Violet Rivenburg, Susan Kenny, Margaret Yonco-Haines	Closed
Philipstown Locals Uncensored	789	Russ Cusick	Closed
Beacon is My Home	1,780	Cusick, Scott Harrison, Scott Snell	Public
Beacon, NY	7,284	Dave Gianna, Keith Décent, Todd Drake, Nils Huehnergarth	Closed
Beacon, NY: Open Forum	2,322	Brad Fredricks, Phil Bram, Ori Alon	Public
You Know You’re From Beacon When...	6,021	Kyrstin McCabe	Closed



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ON ST. MARY’S LAWN

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REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

If you’re a Veteran, or know a Veteran who’s not a member, come talk with us about joining the American Legion and VFW.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown is seeking a Coordinator of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Resource Officer to assist individuals struggling with substance abuse. Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk
Town of Philipstown
238 Main Street / P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516
or townclerk@philipstown.com

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Philipstown Recreation Commission. Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk
Town of Philipstown
238 Main Street / P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516
or townclerk@philipstown.com

Special Forces: To Protect and Conserve *(from Page 1)*

downtown Yonkers,” said Dainack, which is why becoming an environmental officer requires extra training at the police academy to study environmental law, poisonous snake identification, seamanship and boat operations, to name a few topics.

“I have a lot of friends and family who are police officers, and they told me ‘We don’t go swimming,’” Dainack said, “whereas we get handcuffed and thrown in the pool” as part of training.

Dainack has been an ECO since 2008 and was transferred to Region 3 in 2014 from New York City. “People are surprised to hear New York City is one of our busiest areas,” he said. “They say ‘There’s not a whole lot of fish and wildlife in Manhattan.’ But there is. The first time I saw a sturgeon was under the Brooklyn Bridge.”

In New York City, ECOs check on recreational anglers on piers and at harbors, as well as the commercial fisherman in the markets and offshore to make sure what’s being sold isn’t undersized, over quota, or off limits. They go undercover to bust ivory dealers; New York was one of the first states to ban its sale. Dainack took part in the agency’s “Ivory Crush” in Central Park in August, in which \$8 million worth of illegal ivory was destroyed.

There is also a burgeoning exotic animal market, most of which is illegal.

“On one of my first days on the job, in Brooklyn, we had a guy with a kangaroo in his apartment,” Dainack said. Rescuing the animals is only the first step. The of-



Officer Dustin Dainack outside the Region 3 headquarters

Photo by B. Cronin

ficers also must figure out what to do with them, such as when Dainack helped bust someone with 37 reptiles, including alligators. Since setting a 20-foot Burmese python free in the Highlands isn’t an option, ECOs must locate zoos or individuals with the right permits and training.

While it’s hard to talk your way out of being caught with a basement full of sharks (discovered in a Lagrangeville home in Sep-

tember), Dainack says ECOs have heard every other excuse in the book. Like the man in Jamestown who was discovered this past summer with a deer living on the second floor of his home; he told the officers he thought you could keep a deer for up to six weeks. (Nope.) Or the man in Essex County who bagged three turkeys during the spring season when the limit is two and bragged about it on Facebook. When confronted, he



Sharks in the basement

claimed he killed the second and third turkeys with one shot. (Also, nope.)

“For minor violations, if the person says right up front, ‘OK, I’m sorry, that was wrong,’ it usually works out pretty well for them,” said Dainack, “as opposed to people who you know are just lying to you through their teeth.”

Among the worst liars are fishermen who catch more fish than are allowed and then attempt to hide them. This is especially common during runs of striped bass, which state law says must be at least 18 inches long and limited to one per day. The bass season is April 1 to Nov. 30.

“We see them,” taking too many fish, Dainack said. But when the officers approach, the fishermen say, “We haven’t caught anything today.”

“At which point the fish, which are in a plastic bag in the bushes, start flopping around,” said Dainack. “It’s almost like they’re saying, ‘Help me!’”

Crime Stoppers

If you witness an environmental crime or believe a violation of environmental law occurred, call the DEC enforcement hotline at 844-332-3267.

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Sunday, November 19, 2017 59th Annual Thanksgiving Service & Reception St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands 1101 Route 9D in Garrison, NY

Join us for our annual free, non-denominational service at 5 p.m., followed by our ticketed Thanksgiving Reception at 6 p.m. at the historic Parish House of St. Philip’s Church. Enjoy Thanksgiving-themed hors d’oeuvres as well as a signature cocktail, wine, beer, and soft drinks.

The Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award will be presented to Doris Shaw during the Thanksgiving Reception. Doris is a longtime community volunteer who served as a board director, trustee emerita, and Executive Director of the Putnam History Museum.

Individual reception ticket: \$50 through November 15th, and \$60 thereafter and at the door. Purchase tickets at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org or call 845-265-4010, ext. 10.

Local businesses and merchants: please contact the museum to become a sponsor of this community event at 845-265-4010, ext. 11.

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

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing ~ November 16, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 16, 2017, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring, New York to consider the following application:

1657, LLC (Christopher Buck), 1657 Route 9D, Cold Spring, New York – for a proposed renovation and addition to the existing residence and construction of a new accessory structure for use as a home office, new pool and pool house. Additionally, new driveways will be added to the property to access the home office and redefine the main entrance to the residence. The proposal also includes construction of a buried garage adjacent to the residence in excess of 1000 sf allowable by the Town Code, for which the applicant has obtained a variance. The property is 33.044 acres.

The property is located along the west side of NYS Route 9D slightly north of Boscobel and is situated in a “RC” (Rural Conservation) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 49-1-24.1.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 2nd day of November, 2017.
Anthony Merante, Chairman

Special Forces: To Protect and Conserve *(from Page 6)*

Police Blotter – in the Woods

State environmental conservation officers (ECOs) responded to more than 26,000 calls last year and issued 22,150 tickets. Most calls were routine, but once in a while the agency's weekly blotter reads like a mix of wildlife and the Wild West. Some recent highlights:

Too much temptation

On Oct. 17, ECOs Steve Shaw and Ryan Kelley received a phone call from a concerned citizen in Saratoga County stating that he had witnessed a vehicle driving up and down a driveway and then heard a single gunshot. Shortly thereafter, the caller saw lights in a wooded area. All of the activity occurred about an hour past legal hunting hours.

When the ECOs arrived, they located an antlerless deer hanging in a tree. A man at the residence admitted to shooting it. "I didn't even see a deer last season and the temptation was just too much for me," he said.

The man was charged with killing a deer except as permitted by the Fish and Wildlife Law, hunting during closed hours, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle and taking deer with the aid of an artificial light. The deer and gun were seized as evidence.

Animal amnesty day

On Sept. 30, ECOs Brian Gustitus and Justanna Bohling participated

in an amnesty day in Suffolk County. Throughout the day a steady trickle of residents arrived to surrender their illegally possessed animals. By the end of the day, the group had collected two Yellow Bellied Sliders, four Eastern Box Turtles, two American Alligators, two raccoons, a Nile Monitor, two Common Snapping Turtles, a Gulf Coast Box Turtle, a Black Throat Monitor, and a Barred Rock Rooster. The animals will be given to licensed exhibitors who will use them for educational purposes.

Sticky situation

On Sept. 9, the opening day of early bear season, ECOs Max Nicols and Lucas Palmateer were patrolling Pochuk Mountain State Forest in Warwick. One vehicle at the trailhead caught their attention when they noticed jars of honey on the passenger seat. They encountered three hunters returning to the car and casually asked where they planned to hunt in the morning.

The next day, the ECOs returned to Pochuk State Forest and located the hunters, who immediately began to pack up. The ECOs located two piles of illegal bait — cold-cut meats and sausages, pastries, peanut butter and multiple piles of white rice stuck together with honey. One of the hunters took off running down the mountain. Nicols caught him while Palmateer stayed with the others.

All three hunters were issued tickets for Hunting Bear with the Aid of a Pre-Established Bait Pile and the subject who fled was issued a ticket for Failing to Comply with a Lawful Order of a Conservation Officer.

No fish

On Sept. 9, ECOs Spencer Noyes, Jason Smith and Adam Johnson were conducting surveillance of fishermen along the East River when they noticed a man catching fish, stuffing them into a bag and hiding the bag in the bushes. As darkness approached, Noyes approached the man nonchalantly and asked how the fishing was, to which the man smiled and said, "No fish." Noyes told the man to look behind him and, to the man's dismay, there were Johnson and Smith holding two black plastic bags.

The man confessed to catching two undersized Oyster Toad Fish, which were returned to the river. The angler was issued two summonses.

Fox pup for sale

On Aug. 3, ECO Mark Mazurkiewicz received a call

regarding an ad on Craigslist for an 8-week-old female Arctic Fox pup for \$600. A woman in Erie County said she had bought it in Michigan. She was ticketed for offering a wild animal for sale as a pet.



Bear in a bucket

On April 24, ECO Andrew McCormick received a call from a woman in Broome County who said she had a black bear in her yard with a bucket stuck on its head. DEC staff placed two traps, and over the next three weeks, three bears were captured, but none turned out to be Bucket Head. On May 19, a resident contacted the office and said Bucket Head was in the backyard. After tracking the bear for six hours, McCormick and wildlife biologists tranquilized it (above) and removed the container, which was the type used to hold bulk pretzels or cheese puffs.



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Langley Leads for Putnam Sheriff *(from Page 1)*

hope for the absentee count.

“Historically I have done very well with absentee ballots, as many of them come from senior citizens, the military and the youth of the county who are away at college and know me personally through scouting, the Sheriff’s Cadet Program and the Youth Court,” he wrote.

The unofficial tally released by the Board of Elections showed 11,732 votes for Langley, who lives in Garrison and ran on the Democratic and Women’s Equality lines, and 11,397 for Smith, who ran on the Republican, Conservative, Independence and Reform lines.

There were also 467 write-in votes, presumably with most cast for Andrew DeStefano, who hoped to challenge Smith in the Republican primary but whose nomination petition was invalidated. That means DeStefano may have played the spoiler, taking enough votes from Smith to swing the election for the Democrat.

In a comment posted Nov. 8 at highlandscurrent.com, DeStefano charged that Putnam Board of Elections Commissioner Anthony Scannapieco Jr., who is also a town chairman for the Putnam County Republican Party, derailed his nominating petition to prevent a primary battle for Smith.

“His scheming backfired badly,” DeStefano wrote, adding that he received reports from the Republican election-night

headquarters at Villa Barone in Mahopac that Scannapieco was “cursing my existence.... Never has anyone received 467 votes on a write-in in Putnam.”

Scannapieco did not immediately return an email message seeking comment.

With other Philipstown Democrats, Langley awaited the returns in a Main Street home in Nelsonville, where fervent shouts and applause greeted his victory after all 172 polling stations had reported.

The next day, in a statement, Langley said it “appears we have won an historic victory.” He added: “Voters sent a clear message that we need a sheriff with integrity, and one worthy of trust. I am honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in me.”

In his own statement, Smith wrote that he was “proud of our positive and clean campaign” and blamed the close race on what he said was higher-than-expected Democratic turnout because of widespread opposition to a ballot measure calling for a constitutional convention.

However, the focus of Langley’s and DeStefano’s attacks on the sheriff during the campaign was a defamation lawsuit filed against him by a former Putnam County district attorney, Adam Levy. Smith agreed in June to settle the case with a public apology and \$150,000. He paid \$25,000 and Putnam County legislators voted to have the county pick up the rest. Smith is also fighting a multimillion-dollar civil suit in a related case.

Incumbents returned to Philipstown board

John Van Tassel and Michael Leonard, both Democrats, retained their seats on the Philipstown Town Board by comfortable margins over challenger Tim Greco.

In the unofficial tally, Van Tassel received 2,458 votes (43 percent) and Leonard 2,100 (37 percent). Greco, a minister and former *Putnam County News and Recorder* reporter who ran on the Republican line, received 1,141 votes (20 percent). Van Tassel won his third four-year term, and Leonard his second.

Richard Shea, the Philipstown supervisor who ran unopposed for his fifth two-year term, received 2,426 votes.

Van Tassel said the renovation of the 150-year-old Town Hall will be a priority. “It’s a disaster,” he said. He also cited the nearly completed overhaul of the annex, a former residence, behind Town Hall, as an example of what can be accomplished.

Leonard said his win was “all about results” in terms of the board “getting things done.” The five board members, he said, have “different opinions on some issues” but a common interest in collaborating.

Shea concurred. “We don’t always agree, but we know how to disagree in the right way,” he said. “I think people are pleased with the work we do.”

After the vote, at a gathering at Doug’s Pretty Good Pub on Main Street, Greco

(Continued on page 15)



Philipstown Democrats on election night: Supervisor Richard Shea, Town Board members Mike Leonard and John Van Tassel and Putnam County Sheriff-elect Robert Langley Jr.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

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The Calendar

Communist Utopia

Highlands resort once welcomed 1,000 people per day

By Michael Turton

It's one of those largely forgotten but fascinating chapters in local history: a 250-acre resort with close ties to the Communist Party that thrived for three

decades along Route 9D between Cold Spring and Beacon.

Camp Nitgedaiget, also known as Camp Beacon, was established in 1922 by the United Workers Cooperative Association (UWCA). It initially provided alternative housing for its members, many of whom were garment workers who lived in squalor on the Lower East Side. The UWCA had its roots in the Communist Party; most of its founders in 1910 were members.



The camp pool in 1929

Photo by Joe Wiener



The ruins of the camp pool in 2015

Photo by Diane Lapis

"It was the first cooperative proletarian adult vacation resort in the U.S.," explained Diane Lapis, a member of the Beacon Historical Society who shared her research on the camp during a Nov. 4 presentation at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Nitgedaiget is Yiddish for "no worries." In that spirit, the camp, which straddled Route 9D just south of present-

day Stratus Lane, provided a low-cost rural getaway for its urban members, many of whom were Jewish liberals and/or Communist sympathizers. Many city dwellers described it as "utopian." At its peak, it hosted 1,000 people at a time.

The portion of the camp west of 9D had bungalows, a dining hall, sports facilities and a lake, as well as access to the river for (Continued on Page 12)

A Charming Show in Beacon

Players to present modern Cinderella

By Alison Rooney

Think you know every twist and turn of the tale of Cinderella? The Beacon Players have a few surprises up their sleeves — and tucked into their gowns and slippers.

The Beacon High School theater group will perform the 2013 Broadway update of the 1957 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Cinderella*, which includes a whole lot more contemporary psychology — think oppressed kingdoms, peasant revolutions, rabble-rousers and a more forthright protagonist who orchestrates her own fate.

The show opens on Friday, Nov. 17 at the high school, with performances on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as well.

After presenting *The Who's Tommy*, a rock musical, in the spring, the students wanted something more familiar that wasn't *Oklahoma* or *Carousel*, said Anthony Scarrone, who directs the twice-yearly productions.

Many students liked the idea of a child-friendly show but were divided



Cinderella (Elizabeth Cenicola, at right) with her stepfamily, from left, Madame (Ellery Harvey), Charlotte (Leah Siegel) and Gabrielle (Lindsay Fister)

Photo by Vitta Poplar

about *Cinderella*. So Scarrone split the players into two groups — one to argue for the musical, and one to argue against.

"It was up to one group to convince the other," he said. The scales were tipped because, he said, many students had seen the Broadway revival and loved it.

The show also was appealing because of the creative props, scenery and costumes it would require, many of

which the players fabricated themselves. *Cinderella* includes a fox who turns into a footman; raccoons which turn into people; a town with stone walls, shingles and pinnacles; a giant tree; and horses made of fabric and twisted wire.

Many transformations occur on stage, and there are quite a few special effects. Junior Jillian Warner leads the costume design team.

The student creations are augmented by professional costumes, many from Bottari and Cace Theatrical Designs, which did the Broadway production. There's also a spectacular coach designed by Nino Novellino for the Westchester Ballet Center to deliver Cinderella to the ball.

One crucial element retained from the original production is the score, with familiar songs such as *My Own Little Corner*, *Impossible/It's Possible* and *Ten Minutes Ago*. Elizabeth Cenicola (who is playing Cinderella) and Elyse Istavan (who appears as a featured dancer) handled the choreography. As with earlier productions, middle school students from Rombout make up the ensemble of townspeople and pages.

Tickets for the three performances (7 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday) are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. See beaconplayers.com or at visit the box office at the high school, which is open Saturday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Pre-show luncheons scheduled for Saturday and Sunday are sold out.

For a list of the cast and crew, see highlandscurrent.com.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

After the Spill (Documentary)

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Willy Wonka Jr.

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Zeppelin Complete

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

Wait Until Dark

8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

Veterans Day**Veterans Day Hike**

9:30 a.m. Pocket Road Trail Head, Beacon

Bring the Kids (ages 4+)

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D,
Garrison | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Family Music Hootenanny

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

Soul Stroll: Shabbat Walk in the Woods

10 a.m. Little Stony Point (Railroad Bridge)
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Calendar Highlights

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

Veterans Day Ceremony

11 a.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St., Beacon
Hosted by VFW Post 666

Made & Given Pop-Up Shop

11 a.m. – 8 p.m. A Little Beacon Space
291 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/madeandgivenny

Veterans Day Ceremony

11 a.m. Veterans' Memorial
St. Mary's Lawn, Cold Spring

Dedication of Memorial Wall

11:30 a.m. American Legion
Cedar Street, Cold Spring

Guided History Tour

11:30 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Army vs. Duke (Football)

Noon. Michie Stadium, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Family Movie: Home Alone

1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403,
Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Wine Glass Paint 'n Sip

3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | Muser Drive,
Cornwall | 845-534-5506 | hhnrm.org

Willy Wonka Jr.

4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Creole Fiddle

3:30 p.m. Workshop | 7:30 p.m. Concert
Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Pop-Up Show Biz (Music & Comedy)

7:30 p.m. Create Community
11 Peekskill Road, Cold Spring
facebook.com/lesserstage

Louie Tunes Band

7:30 – 10:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Lonesome Traveler: The Roots of American Folk

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Wait Until Dark

8 p.m. County Players Theater
See details under Friday.

SECOND SATURDAY OPENINGS

BeaconArts Retrospective 15

3 – 6 p.m. Beacon Institute | 199 Main St., Beacon
845-838-1600 | beaconarts.org

Chantelle Norton: Dog Days

6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Janet M. Coleman: Nevertheless She Persisted

6 – 9 p.m. Howling at the Edge of Chaos
428 Main St., Beacon | howlingchaos.com

Julie Jacobs and Melissa Schlobhom: Past Imperfect

6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Thomas Huber: After Some Time

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

Jonathan Howard (Artist's Reception)

7 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St. Beacon
845-765-2400 | oakvino.com

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

Train and Hobby Show

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Made & Given Pop-Up Shop

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Little Beacon Space
See details under Saturday.

Children and Families: Edgy Engineering

1 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Putnam County in the Struggle for Women's Suffrage (Talk)

1 p.m. Putnam Valley Free Library
30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Willy Wonka Jr.

2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Claremont Trio

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration | 45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Jo Pitkin / Irene O'Garden (Poetry)

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

NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner

4 p.m. Chalet on the Hudson
3250 Route 9D, Cold Spring
Call 845-831-6447 for tickets.

Brandi Carlile

7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Dark Star Orchestra (Grateful Dead)

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, NOV. 13

Beacon City Council Workshop

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

Morning at the Museum (ages 2-5)

10 a.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Business Succession Planning Seminar

6 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon | beahivebzzz.com

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

Senior Luncheon

Noon. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Garrison School Board

7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Film)

7:15 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
jkrukslegend.brownpapertickets.com

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

Zine Club

3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Afterschool Farm Stand

4:45 – 6 p.m. Forrester Elementary
125 Liberty St., Beacon | cityofbeacon.org

The Beacon Players: Cinderella

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 x3420 | beaconplayers.com

Darlene Love

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Nov. 10.

Anjelah Johnson

8 p.m. Eisenhower Hall
655 Ruger Road, West Point
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Wait Until Dark

8 p.m. County Players Theater
See details under Nov. 10.

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FRI 3:30 6:30 9:30
SAT 2:30 5:30 8:30, SUN 1:30 4:30
7:30, MON 4:30 7:30, TUE 7:30
WED 1:30 4:30 7:30, THU 7:30

Thor Ragnarok (PG13)

FRI 3:00 6:00 9:00
SAT 2:00 5:00 8:00
SUN 1:00 4:00 7:00
MON 4:00 7:00, TUE 7:00
WED 1:00 4:00 7:00, THU 7:00

Only the Brave (PG13)

FRI 3:15 6:15 9:15
SAT 2:15 5:15 8:15, SUN 1:15 4:15
7:15, MON 4:15 7:15, TUE 7:15
WED 1:15 4:15 7:15, THU 7:15



Back in the Saddle

Horses are therapy for traumatized veterans

By Alison Rooney

Most pet owners can attest to the ability of a cat or dog to de-stress its human. Horses can do the same thing, which is why Topfield Equestrian Center in Philipstown hands traumatized veterans a brush, then puts them in the saddle.

Topfield, formerly known as the Therapeutic Equestrian Center, has been offering therapeutic services to veterans since 2011, after launching a program in partnership with West Point called the Warrior Transition Unit. After the Army disbanded the unit (the academy is not a combat post), Topfield partnered with the VA hospital in Montrose to help veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as veterans at St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor dealing with addiction.

Today, Topfield offers therapy in association with the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (Eagala), a non-profit based in Utah that advocates using horses to address mental health issues.

Each veteran typically visits Topfield for four to six weeks, explains John MacEnroe, the center's executive director. Each session has as many as 16 participants, eight of whom are in the ring at a time with the counselors and three to five

of Topfield's 13 horses.

"We give the participants what we call a Challenge Coin in recognition that we honor and support their service," says MacEnroe, who is a veteran himself. He says that being with a horse can be calming. "A horse's heartbeat is much lower than a human's, and being in its presence and brushing and grooming brings down a person's heartbeat and blood pressure," he says.

An important part of the therapy is to always have a military member or active-duty spouse or child in the ring. "This is a unique population," MacEnroe says. "Only 1 percent of the U.S. population is serving and only 7 percent of the population has ever served. There's a huge disparity between civilian and military society in terms of shared sacrifices. To understand the ethos is the challenge."

Each branch of the military has its own culture, and its own issues, MacEnroe says, noting that veterans from every branch except the Coast Guard have participated in Eagala at Topfield. The participants are mostly men, and they include veterans from every conflict since Vietnam.

"Everyone experiences trauma differently," he says. "In the global war on terror, there's more moral injury because it's an 'asymmetrical conflict.' That is, the enemy is not in uniform, and there are often women and children around. If you



A Marine in Utah connects with a horse as part of an equine therapy session.

Richard Meade/Eagala

fire, then find out that the people were not combatants, there's a struggle with 'I killed a family.' It's not as clear-cut as the Huns coming over the trenches."

The veterans generally have a positive response to the horses, MacEnroe says. "Most say it's the best part of their week, except they use language which is far more colorful than that."

On Oct. 29, Topfield hosted a conference to explore other equine therapies with names such as Saratoga Warhorse, Man

'O War Project and Natural Lifemanship, as well as Native American cleansing rituals. "This is a population for which one size definitely doesn't fit all," MacEnroe explains.

He says the veterans who come to Topfield strike him as people for whom "the wish to serve is part of their nature. We're helping them get back on the track of service," he says. "They're the Scout leaders, the people who run food pantries. They're just great folks."

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Communist Utopia (from Page 9)

boating and fishing. A hotel was converted to a library and hospital and replaced by a 200-guest facility that operated year-round. The interior door frames were decorated with the hammer and sickle and the bungalows bore the names of Soviet republics.

On the east side of the highway was the main office, a pool and waterfall, more bungalows, platform tents and a “casino” that served as a dance hall and theater.

In 1937 a one-week stay cost \$14.50, or about \$250 in today’s dollars. “New arrivals received a pillow, pillow case, a cake of soap and a meal ticket,” Lapis said. “Twenty-five cents went to the Communist Party.”

Daily roundtrip transportation provided by the UWCA from New York cost \$2.25 per person, or about \$40. Other campers took The Dayliner along the west bank of the Hudson River to Newburgh and ferried to Beacon. One local resident, Janet Rust, recalls her father and uncle operating a shuttle bus from the Cold Spring train station to the camp.

The pool, which was formed by an 85-foot high dam, was especially popular. Swimmers sitting on its wooden bleachers were led in anthems such as *The Internationale* and *The Red Army March*.

The Communist influence was even more visible in the 800-seat dining hall, which was adorned with a portrait of Lenin, a scarlet hammer and sickle and

15-by 10-foot sign that read “Strong Farmer and Worker Party in this Country.” It was the only location at the camp where men were required to wear a shirt, a rule reinforced by a sign that read, “Comrades, your bare backs are not inspiring to appetites.”

“It was place for fun and socializing but they may have gotten radicalized along the way.”

While the resort was designed for adults, children often visited with their parents. Lapis, who interviewed people now in their 80s who attended as kids said they told her “it was place for fun and socializing but they may have gotten



A poster at the camp for the *Daily Worker*

Beacon Historical Society

radicalized along the way.”

However, not all camp guests were Communists. “They went because their friends and neighbors spent time there, not knowing that there would be Marxist theater or speeches from Communist leaders,” Lapis said.

Many musicians, actors, dancers, poets and directors visited the camp and performed in its casino. Jules Dassin, director of *Never on Sunday* (1960), was the entertainment director in the 1930s. Warner Brothers star John Garfield, who frequented the camp, would be blacklisted during the McCarthy era. S.J. Perelman, known for his humorous pieces in *The New Yorker*, visited. And Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, who built his home on property just above the camp, performed there.

Lapis said the Communist

presence became less prominent with each new generation of visitors. The camp was abandoned between 1952 and 1954 and an arsonist torched the hotel, dining hall and casino in 1963. Four years later, the property became part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

Today, the Notch Trail off Route 9D passes by what little remains of the bustling resort: rusty handrails and moss-covered steps leading to a ravine and the dam that created the pool.



The hotel and bungalows in 1939

BHS

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Progress at Butterfield

Post office, senior center openings expected in 2018

By Michael Turton

The era of the post-office-in-a-trailer in Cold Spring may be ending soon. Construction is on track for the U.S. Postal Service to relocate its retail counter early next year from its trailer next to Foodtown to the Butterfield redevelopment

ment across the street, said postal service spokesperson George Flood.

The post office will be located at the rear of the Lahey Pavilion. The new county senior center, also in Lahey, should open a few months after the post office, said Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra. She said the former medical offices there have been demolished but that bids for the new construction came in higher than expected and so will be rebid.



Crews repaved the parking lot behind the Lahey Pavilion on Nov. 7.

Photo by M. Turton



Baby and Dog



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Beacon native Mary Strolis-Schulz shared this shot of her granddog, Schroeder, with her granddaughter, Avery. "They have been best friends forever!" she writes. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.

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A Dramatic Retelling by
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Check www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org for leader's phone number, weather/cancellations, etc. We have some binoculars to loan for each trip.



Small, Good Things

Same Notes, Different Tune

By Joe Dizney

There's one thing you can count on as Thanksgiving rolls around: variations on a theme.

Let's see, how *does* that song go?

Oh yeah — roast turkey in a major key with a minor groaning-board chorus of side dishes: a mash-up of potatoes (white or sweet); purées of the latest exotic fruit and/or vegetable du jour; Brussels sprouts (or an acceptable cruciferous substitute); maybe cornbread or a bread dressing; a crisp, healthy salad (with or without pears).

Anyone for a green-bean casserole? Cranberry sauce, of course — unless you prefer chutney.

For all but the strictest traditionalist, fashion suggests the grace notes: Ethnic spices or ingredients, exotic combinations or non-traditional techniques. This is not a bad thing per se — variety is still the spice of food and life.

This recipe for charred carrots from Joshua McFadden's excellent *Six Seasons: A New Way with Vegetables* was too appealing not to give it a shot. Roasting promised to concentrate the carrots' natural sweetness and offer a slight char and its complex, appealing bitterness. Brightened with a splash of white wine vinegar and offset by a second blistering oven

glaze (just the barest drizzle of honey and a spicy hit of black pepper), it's a more sophisticated take on the traditional, candy-like Vichy carrots.

McFadden's recipe calls for roasting whole, peeled carrots, which also promised a lingering crunch beneath the char. But I wasn't satisfied with his results. A stovetop pan-char, which is easier to control and monitor, seems a better solution.

As simple as it may sound to slice roasted carrots into bite-sized pieces and macerate them in vinegar for a few minutes, the flavor dividends are amazing. A second hot roast in the oven candies the honey, and a final garnish of toasted, chopped almonds is another unexpected accent. The final generous grinding of cracked black pepper is a spicy counterpoint.

Further embellishment — a sprinkling of fresh herbs — adds a vegetal note. Thyme or mint are suggested, but parsley, dill and cilantro happen to be in the same botanical family as carrots and seem like natural pairings. (Little-known fact: carrots were originally cultivated for their tops; a sprinkle of carrot greens would not be out of place.)

Another variation worthy of trial is substituting brown butter for the final toss, which would add a nutty note. Maple syrup or sorghum (if you can find it) would be interesting substitutions for the honey.



Charred carrots with honey, black pepper and almonds

Photo by J. Dizney

Charred Carrots with Honey, Black Pepper and Almonds

Adapted from Joshua McFadden; serves 4

1½ pounds small-to-medium carrots, trimmed and peeled and left whole
Extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
4 tablespoons melted, unsalted butter
Black pepper; best quality, freshly ground (medium-to-large grind)

2 tablespoons honey
Finishing salt (Himalayan pink or Maldon flakes)
½ cup almonds, toasted and chopped
Optional: 1 tablespoon freshly chopped herbs (carrot tops, thyme, tarragon, mint, dill, cilantro or parsley)

1. Preheat oven to 475 degrees. On a small baking sheet, roast whole almonds until fragrant, about 5 to 6 minutes. Cool on a plate, chop roughly and reserve.
2. Heat a large heavy frying pan on high for 3 to 4 minutes. While the pan is heating, rub carrots with olive oil to coat. When the pan is hot, add carrots in a single layer. Continually shake the pan while cooking 8 to 10 minutes until the carrots are blistered and charred in spots, but not excessively so.
3. When carrots are cool enough to handle, cut them into ½-to-¾-inch angled slices; transfer to a bowl and toss with the vinegar and a healthy grind of black pepper. Let sit for 5 minutes to absorb the vinegar; toss with melted butter. Spread sliced carrots in a single layer on a large rimmed baking sheet (covered with foil for easy cleanup). Drizzle with the honey and roast in hot oven for 7 to 10 minutes. Scrape all into a serving bowl and salt to taste. Add another healthy grind of black pepper and a splash of vinegar. Toss lightly and top with chopped almonds (and herbs, if using). Serve warm.



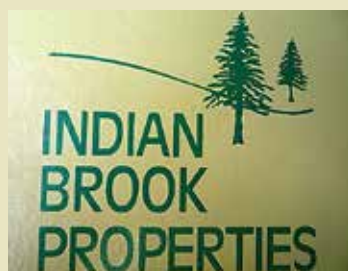
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Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)
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Langley Leads for Putnam Sheriff *(from Page 8)*

offered congratulations to Van Tassel and Leonard.

At the same time, he said, the campaign was "the worst, the most negative-run I think in the history of Philipstown. I've never experienced anything like that. But that's how they won."

Greco vowed to run again in 2019, when the seats on the five-member board held by Nancy Montgomery and Robert Flaherty will be on the ballot.

Beacon City Council

Despite the cold and rain, turnout was up significantly from 2015, with hundreds more residents casting votes. (County-wide the turnout was 38 percent.) It was more than enough to buoy the Democrats, who easily won all six council seats, in four cases by more than a 2-to-1 margin.

The two incumbents on the ballot, at-large members George Mansfield and Lee Kyriacou, were re-elected with 44 and 42 percent of the vote. Republican challenger Amando Downer, who was ill during the campaign and did not appear at a forum in October, received 13.5 percent.

From the wards, Democrats Terry Nelson (1), John Rembert (2), Jodi McCredo (3) and Amber Grant (4), all first-time candidates, each won by wide margins.

Kyriacou, who was elected to his ninth term overall, said the mix of four newcomers and two veterans (Mansfield was elected for a fifth term) will allow for healthy debate.

"The new members are going to bring

quick learning and hard questions," he said. "That's going to be good, because when we're all in consensus, I think we expose ourselves to making mistakes."

"This election was all about who you spoke with and who you established that personal connection with," McCredo said. "That made all the difference."

Democrats take Dutchess seats

Beacon voters elected newcomers to take over the two seats now held in the

Dutchess County Legislature by members of the Independence Party, giving Democrats a clean sweep in the local elections.

Frits Zernike defeated incumbent John Forman in the 16th District, which includes Ward 4 and part of Ward 3, and Nick Page unseated Jerry Landisi in the 18th, which includes Wards 1, 2 and part of 3. Zernike won by four percentage points, 52-48, and Page defeated Landisi, 63-37.

For more election results, including vote tallies, see highlandscurrent.com.



On election night, Beacon Democrats celebrate their sweep of the county legislative and Beacon City Council races.

Photo by Jeff Simms



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Sun., 11/19 2:30 p.m.
HV Ukulele Invitational

Sun., 11/12 7:30 p.m.
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Sun., 11/19 7:30 p.m.
Beacon Music Showcase
Last Minute Soulmates,
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Wed., 11/15 7:30 p.m.
Paul Thorn

Thurs., 11/16 7:30 p.m.
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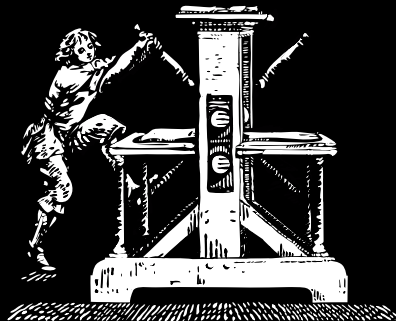
Fri., 11/24 7:00 p.m.
Jenny Leigh Miller - Free

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Children's Room Dedication

Butterfield to honor Jean Marzollo

On Friday, Nov. 17, the Butterfield Library will recognize Cold Spring resident Jean Marzollo, best known for her *I SPY* series of books, by naming the newly renovated children's room in her honor. The event takes place at The Garrison at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 and can be purchased at butterfieldlibrary.org.

School Foundation Raises \$25K

Haldane fundraiser held at Topfield

The Haldane School Foundation raised more than \$25,000 at its annual fall gala held Oct. 21 at Topfield Equestrian Center. The event featured music by Nash East, barbecue from Farmers & Chefs, a bourbon-tasting from Yannitelli Fine Wines & Spirits and craft beer by Industrial Arts Brewing Co.

The proceeds will fund educational enrichment programs at Haldane schools. More than \$9,500 was raised during a silent auction that included an architectural drawing of the high bidder's house by Madeleine McGinley and tickets to *Kinky Boots* on Broadway. The tally also included \$3,000 from a pledge drive to pay for

field trips, which had been scaled back due to budget constraints. To donate, see haldaneschoolfoundation.org.



Members of the Marzollo family, longtime supporters of the Haldane School Foundation *Photo provided*

Birdwatching at Foundry

Audubon Society to lead tours

Ryan Bass of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead birdwatching tours at the West Point Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring beginning Saturday, Nov. 18. See putnamhighlandsaudubon.org. Dress in layers and bring binoculars if you have them.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Jonathan Kruk to screen film

Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will screen his new film, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, a dramatic retelling of Washington Irving's classic story, at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Cold Spring. The suggested donation is \$10. DVDs will be for sale. A reception will follow. The screening is free to donors to the film's Go Fund Me campaign.

Thanksgiving Service

Museum to host 59th annual event

The Putnam History Museum will host its 59th annual Thanksgiving Candlelight Service and reception at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, at St. Philip's Church in Garrison. The Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Services Award will be presented to Doris Shaw for her many years of work as a museum board director, executive director and trustee emerita. After the non-denominational service, refreshments will be served in the Parish House. See putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Holiday Music

Symphony plays the classics

A concert of holiday music will open the season for the Putnam Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Christine Smith, the performance takes place at Brewster High School at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19.

The program includes *The Polar Express*, *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*, *Little Drummer Boy*, *Hanukkah Festival*, *Do You Hear What I Hear* and Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. Tickets are \$15 for families, \$10 for individuals and \$6 for seniors and students. See putnamsymphony.homestead.com.

Local Actors in Midsummer

Opens this weekend at New Paltz

Caroline Casparian of Cold Spring and Colin Battersby of Beacon are among the actors who appear in a SUNY New Paltz production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* being performed at the university this weekend and from Nov. 16 to 19. Tickets are \$16 or \$18 at newpaltz.edu/theatre.



DO-BA-DEE-DOO — The Oompa Loompas are in town. Clara Gelber, Gemma Sabin and Phoebe Bokhour sang at the Depot Theatre in Garrison during a performance of *Willy Wonka Jr.*, which runs through Nov. 12.

Photo by Ross Corsair

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Beacon**Free Memberships for Vets***Lions Club extends invitation*

The Beacon Community Lions Club is waiving its \$30 initiation fee for qualified veterans. It meets monthly at 1:30 p.m. on the third Saturday at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Email beaconlionsclub@gmail.com.

Harmony in Dissonant Times*Sound/Peace concert is Nov. 19*

The Howland Cultural Center will host a Sound/Peace concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, in which attendees are invited to listen, think, read, draw or nap. Bring a pillow or mat. The musicians are Craig Chin (guitar and loops), Brad Hubbard (woodwinds), Andy Rinehart (accordion and piano) and Nathan Yeager (synthesizers). The suggested donation is \$10.

Auction Your Art*'Little Boxes' returns Nov. 18*

The Beacon Sloop Club will hold its annual Little Boxes art fundraiser at the Red Barn River Center at Long Dock Park from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18.

To participate, visit bpt.me/3099189 to buy a \$25 ticket. Exchange it at RiverWinds Gallery, at 172 Main St. in Beacon for a 3-inch-square canvas. Add your interpretation of the Hudson River and return it by Nov. 17. Then show up for the party, where there will be a silent auction of each canvas. Half of the proceeds benefit the Beacon Sloop Club. Call 845-527-8671 for information.

Art Show at Library*Photo group hosts sixth annual exhibit*

The Beacon Photography Group will open its sixth exhibit at the Howland Public Library with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. The theme is Food, Drink and Photography.



A photograph by Tara Tornello that appears in the Beacon Photography Group show that opens at the Howland Public Library on Nov. 18

Keep Kids Warm*Coats being collected for students*

Fareground Community Café and In-CareOf Multi-Services are collecting new coats for Beacon elementary school kids through Dec. 16. Donation sites are

located at the Beacon Community Kitchen, Ella's Bellas and JV Forrestal Elementary School. Email fareground@gmail.com.

Handing Off Your Business*Seminar will address succession plan*

A free seminar at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Beahive Beacon will address how to plan for the succession of businesses with more than \$1.5 million in annual revenue. The presenters include an attorney, the co-founders of Coherence Collaborative and the founder of Nature Equity, a merger, acquisition and funding expert.



KIDS TO THE RESCUE — River Silverstein, 3, helps fill one of 15 buckets with cleaning supplies on Nov. 5 at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown to restock a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance facility in Connecticut. Donations of new items are accepted each Saturday morning at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring. Photo by Michael Turton



AFTER SOME TIME — A painting entitled *The Eighteenth Bullet* by Thomas Huber, whose work will be on exhibit at the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon beginning with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, Nov. 11

Image provided

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Obituary

The Rev. Jonathan W. Benton, 84, a former Garrison resident who with his wife, Elsie, in 1967 founded the Walter Hoving Home there, died on Nov. 1, 2017, in Pasadena, California.

Benton was born in Seattle on Aug. 29, 1933. He and Elsie, who survives him, were married for 65 years. They had known each other since kindergarten.

For nearly 50 years, as Assemblies of God ministers, the Bentons offered women a way to escape drug and alcohol addiction and prostitution.

Prior to moving to Garrison, the Bentons were pastors at a church in Washington state, directors for Youth for Christ and missionaries in Japan. In 1965 they were asked by David Wilkerson, the founder of Times Square Church best known for his book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, to join his Teen Challenge ministry in Brooklyn.

Wilkerson asked Benton to become director of the Women's Home in New

John Benton, Co-Founder of Walter Hoving, Dies at 84

York City. John and Elsie began to walk the streets of the city, looking for young women in need of assistance. (John later wrote a book, *Debs, Dolls & Dope*, about their experiences.)

At the same time, the Bentons began to search for a place outside the city to establish their own recovery home. In March 1967, they met Walter Hoving, the former longtime chairman of Tiffany & Co., and his wife, Pauline, at a dinner party. Hoving helped secure funding for the couple to buy, for \$175,000, a 22.5-acre property and home on Snake Hill Road in Garrison.

At the time it opened on June 21, 1967, the home had 12 residents and four staff members.

In 1984, the Bentons expanded the ministry to California, opening a home in Pasadena in the former Mira Monte Hotel, and in 2006 they added a third home in Las Vegas. A fourth home in Oxford, New Jersey, opened in April. Women are



John and Elsie Benton

allowed to stay at the facilities for up to a year; more than 23,000 have lived at one of the homes over the past five decades.

"We've created a homelike atmosphere," Benton explained to the *Los Angeles Times*

in 1991. "But we try to make boundaries between a homey environment and a structured environment. Our girls can't just come here and hang out."

The Bentons relocated to California following the opening of the home there but kept a residence at the home in Garrison until May 2016 and for many years visited several times each month.

Besides *Debs, Dolls & Dope*, Benton wrote dozens of other books, including *One Lady at a Time*, a history of the Hoving ministry, and a series of Christian young adult novels.

Besides his wife, Benton is survived by his children, Marjii Smith (David), Connie Adams and Jim Benton (Judy), nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the John Benton Memorial Fund at the Walter Hoving Home, P.O. Box 194, Garrison, NY 10524 (hovinghome.org).

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Sphere of Influence

Photos by Alexa Hoyer



In Nov. 3, artist Michelangelo Pistoletto rolled into town from Biella, Italy, with a version of his *Sfera di Giornali* (Newspaper Sphere) constructed from issues of publications that included *The Current*. The event was a re-enactment of a 1967 performance in Turin, which Pistoletto has done many times around the world.

After being rolled through the streets at the Cold

Spring waterfront, the sculpture was donated to Magazzino, the art space in Philipstown devoted to the Arte Povera movement. Its owners, Giorgio Spanu and Nancy Olnick of Garrison, said they invited Pistoletto to perform *Sfera di Giornali* as a thank you to the community for welcoming Magazzino, which opened in June.

"In order to better understand this piece, we can refer to the famous *Fontana* by Marcel Duchamp," Pistoletto

explained. "The artist introduces a urinal, a common object, into the temple of art, making it artistically sacred.

"*Sfera di Giornali* is a work that comes out of the temple — from the artist's studio, the gallery, or the museum — in order to enter into the dimension of common things which are part of human society; this is what is achieved each time the performance is completed."



Pistoletto with the sphere at the Cold Spring waterfront



As during the 1967 performance, the sphere arrived via Fiat.



Giorgio Spanu, Nancy Olnick and the artist get things rolling.



Alek Maasik of Garrison gives the artwork a push.



Spectators lift the sphere near the Cold Spring bandstand.

Sports

In Upset, Haldane Volleyball Wins Sectional Title

Cross country advances to state finals

The Haldane girls' volleyball team won the Section 1, Class C title at Pace University on Nov. 5 with a 3-1 victory over top-seeded Rye Neck but fell short in the regionals to Section 4 champ Tioga.

The Blue Devils, who finished 16-8, moved up from Class D to C last year after winning 13 consecutive Section 1 titles through 2015. Rye Neck had defeated the Blue Devils during the regular season in four sets.

Haldane had a tougher time on Nov. 7 against Tioga, losing 3-0.

In the Rye Neck contest, which Haldane won 21-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-19, Melissa Rodino had seven aces, 31 assists and seven digs; Grace Tomann had three aces, 14 kills and 14 digs and Makenzie Patinella had 11 kills and 15 digs. Willa Fitzgerald led the Blue Devils with 14 kills and Mackenzie Tokarz had a season-high 30 digs.

"This is an amazing accomplishment," said Coach Kelsey Flaherty of the sectional title. "They played high energy volleyball and they never gave up."

Cross country

Led by senior Nicholas Farrell (18:17.25), senior Jonas Petkus (19:04.44) and junior Adam Silhavy (19:16.02), Haldane took the top six spots to win its 11th consecutive Section 1, Class D championship against

Alexander Hamilton at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls on Nov. 4.

Farrell finished 100th overall, among 457 runners. The best time of the day went to senior Matthew Fusco of Somers, who ran the 5,000-meter course in 16:31.03.

The Haldane girls, led by freshman Shannon Ferri (21:44.30), were the only team competing in Class D.

Both Haldane teams next compete in the Class D state championships on Nov. 11 at Wayne Central High School near Rochester.

Girls' soccer

After winning the Section 1, Class C title and the first game of the regional tournament, the Haldane girls' soccer team fell, 2-1, in the regional final on Long Island against Section 11 champ Southold/Greenport (14-4). The Blue Devils finished 7-11-2.

Football

Playing for the Section 1, Class D title against perennial rivals Tuckahoe, the Blue Devils jumped to an early lead but were defeated, 36-33, when a fourth-down pass from the 5-yard line to win the game with 30 seconds left fell short.

Sam Giachinta carried the ball 31 times for 299 yards and a touchdown, and quarterback Brandon Twoguns ran the ball 19 times for 140 yards and four TDs.

The Blue Devils finished 6-3. The Tigers (7-2) play Section 9 champ Millbrook at Mahopac on Nov. 12 in the state quarterfinals.



Haldane Coach Tom Locascio rehashes the sectional win on Nov. 4 with his runners.

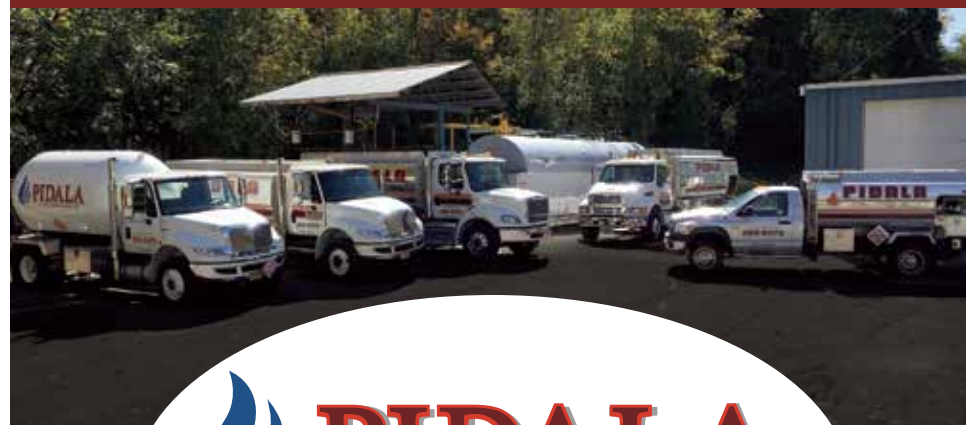
Photo by Derek Kisslinger



Willa Fitzgerald (25) spikes the ball during Haldane's 3-0 victory on Nov. 3 over Keio Academy in the first round of the state tournament.

Photo by Ross Corsair

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