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 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 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)
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 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 Wing, 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 people can’t be Marines? It doesn’t matter what religion or color you are. Just do your job.

Philipstown Creates ‘Drug Czar’

Board also reconsiders FOIL policy

By Liz Schevchuk 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 Yannitelli 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.”

Highlandscurrent.com

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

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3-Time Winner: Best of Hudson Valley Magazine
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 retold stories of collecting truckloads of supplies, trying to get to 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 anywhere 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 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 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.’ ”

“Now 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.’ ”
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

The article's first sentence — “The fall-out 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 “fall-out,” 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 fall-out 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 play.

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 nation on the women who spoke out about their experiences.

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

Diana Hird, Cold Spring
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Administrators</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Spring Neighbors</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>Andrea Hudson, Steve Laifer</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Spring Neighbors (Not the Secret Neighbors Group)</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>Bridget Villetto</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<td>You Know You’re from Cold Spring When...</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>Villetto, Lori Marie</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philipstown Locals</td>
<td>3,401</td>
<td>Violet Rivenburg, Susan Kenny, Margaret Yonco-Haines</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philipstown Locals Uncensored</td>
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<td>Russ Cusick</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<td>Beacon is My Home</td>
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<td>Cusick, Scott Harrison, Scott Snell</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beacon, NY</td>
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<td>Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>You Know You’re From Beacon When...</td>
<td>6,021</td>
<td>Kyrstin McCabe</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
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Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

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And Dedicate Our New Memorial Wall
Saturday, November 11
11:00 AM Ceremony at Veterans’ Memorial
On St. Mary’s Lawn
11:30 AM Dedication of Our New Memorial Wall
American Legion Hall, Cedar Street, Cold Spring
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 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

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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

Officer Dustin Dainack outside the Region 3 headquarters

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

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

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.

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.

Sharks in the basement

Officer Dustin Dainack outside the Region 3 headquarters

Photo by B. Cronn
**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.
Langley Leads for Putnam Sheriff  (from Page 1)

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.

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Hopefully 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.”

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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...
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 ruins of the camp pool in 2015

Photo by Diane Lapis

The camp pool in 1929

Photo by Joe Wiener

The student creations are augmented by professional costumes, many from Bottari and Cae 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.

The following transformation is for the Covent Garden set made of fabric and twisted wire. 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 fishing. (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 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.

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

Photo by Vitta Poplar

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.org or 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.
Calendar Highlights
For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com. Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

- **After the Spill (Documentary)**
  7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
  50 Liberty St., Beacon
  moviesatmattubeacon.org

- **Willy Wonka Jr.**
  7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
  10 Garrison’s Landing Garrison
  845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

- **Napoleon Dynamite**
  8:30 p.m. Tappan Hill Mansion
  509 Tappan Rd., Cold Spring
  845-265-9150 | napoleondynamite.com

- **Wait Until Dark**
  8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
  1008 Brown St., Peekskill
  845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Saturday, Nov. 11

- **Veterans Day**
  9:30 a.m. Pocket Road Trail Head, Beacon
  Veterans Day
  845-338-1600 | goarmysports.com

- **Creole Fiddle**
  3:30 p.m. Workshop | 7:30 p.m. Concert
  825 Manor Ave., Beacon
  845-831-9415 | creolefiddle.com

- **Louie Tunes Band**
  7:30 p.m. Blue Water Grill, Beacon
  845-831-0868 | bluewatergrill.com

- **Willy Wonka Jr.**
  4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
  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

- **Chanteille Norton: Dog Days**
  6 – 8 p.m. Thea Goranz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
  917-318-2239 | theagoranzstudio.com

- **Wait Until Dark**
  8 p.m. County Players Theater
  See details under Friday.

Sunday, Nov. 12

- **Train and Hobby Show**
  10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
  14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
  845-765-2400 | trainandhobbyshow.org

- **Todd Davis: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Film)**
  7:15 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
  845-679-3000 | bardavon.org

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)**
  9 a.m. T. Stage School
  612 Main St., Beacon
  845-838-3191 | museumschool.org

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

- **Zine Club**
  3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-838-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **The Beacon Players: Cinderella**
  7 p.m. Beacon High School
  101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
  845-838-9000 | 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.
Back in the Saddle

Horses are therapy for traumatized veterans
By Alison Rooney

M ost 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 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.”
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.”

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 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.

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**Bright Side Somewhere**

Lindsey Horner, bass and baritone sax
David Rothenberg, clarinets
John Wieczorek, drums and percussion

perform some songs you know, some you don’t know

**Saturday, November 18th  8 PM**
The Howland Cultural Center / 477 Main Street / Beacon, NY
845.831.4988 or 917.318.2239
Tickets $10 at the door or [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

https://www.facebook.com/equinoxseries/

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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 site 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

Audubon-Sponsored
Bird-Watching Field Trips!
Every Third Saturday – Free

November 18th
Foundry Cove 8:30 – 10 a.m.
December 16th
Peekskill area Christmas Bird Count 8 a.m.
January 20th
Shawangunk National Grassland (Ulster County: for wintering short-eared owls, hawks 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

February 17th
Eagle Watching – local hotspots 10 - 11:30 a.m.
March 17th
Constitution Marsh 9 – 11 a.m.
April 21st
Glynwood Farm 8:30 – 10 a.m.
May 12th
Annual “Birdathon” Day – local hotspots

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society is pleased to offer these FREE and fun birdwatching field excursions. Beginners are welcome! Watch local newspapers and social media for more information, where to meet, carpooling, etc.

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 was too apexy, 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 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.

Adapted from Joshua McFadden; serves 4

**Charred Carrots with Honey, Black Pepper and Almonds**

1 ½ pounds small-to-medium carrots, trimmed and peeled and left whole

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

2 tablespoons honey

Black pepper; best quality, freshly ground (medium-to-large grind)

½ cup almonds, toasted and chopped

Maldon flakes

Finish with:

Finishing salt (Himalayan pink or Maldon flakes)

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.
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. (Countywide 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 new-comers 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.”

“Debate is 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.
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 /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 East, barbecue from Farmers & Chefs, Center. The event featured music by Nash T

THaldane fundraiser held at Topfield

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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 McGlinley 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.

Birdwatching at Foundry

Aububon 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.

Local Actors in Midsommer

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 Midsommer 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.

Sarah Casperian is a student at SUNY New Paltz and a staff writer for The Highlands Current.
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 845-827-8671 for information.

Artist 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 Bealive 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.
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 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, "Dots, Dols & 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 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 Dots, Dols & 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, Marij 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).
On 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.”
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 II champ Southhold/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.