

The HIGHLANDS Current



Black History Month
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JANUARY 26, 2018

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Pond Hockey: Skating on Thick Ice

For players, a 'Zen-like' experience

By Michael Turton

Few groups that have thrived for decades go unnamed, but don't tell that to a loose-knit band of Philipstown skaters who share an intense passion for pond hockey.

Tom Ptacek, 60, has been chasing the puck locally for 20 years and thinks the nameless outdoor hockey competition dates back at least 45 years. John Benjamin thinks games have taken place for closer to 70 years. Both will tell you it's not about naming the group or pinpointing when it all began; it's about the game.

These days, longtime skater Richard Berner emails 37 players whenever good ice is discovered at spur-of-the-moment playing surfaces at venues such as Lake Alice, Indian Lake, Earle's Pond, Cat Pond,

Jaycox Pond and Lathe Pond.

"Seven-on-seven is a big game; we're happy playing four-on-four," Ptacek says. Players range from their teens to their 80s. They are mostly men, but a few women lace up, as well.

The local pond-hockey rule book is not thick: the goal is 6 feet long and 2 feet high, painted red; goalies are optional; no lifting the puck above the knees; no off-side, although goal-hanging is frowned upon; no body checking.

"The best rule is that no one keeps score," Ptacek says. "You just have a feeling which side got the better of the other."

The size of the impromptu rink expands or shrinks depending on the number of players. There are no boards so an errant puck could end up a quarter mile away — a long skate for the retriever.

"It's comradeship, fierce competition and whooping fun in insanely beautiful settings. It's a spiritual experience."

Teams are selected in a time-tested, unbiased manner: Sticks are put in a pile and randomly tossed to create two new piles, giving birth to opposing squads.

Mother Nature determines the quality of the ice; there is no Zamboni. Blowers and custom-made shovels are used to remove any troublesome snow. The group's only strict ritual, Ptacek says, is to clear the playing surface after every game, even if changing weather means the ice won't be playable the next day.

Local pond-hockey players must have an aversion to (Continued on Page 15)



Pond hockey player Tim Tenney

Photo provided



While riding home on the 6:25 Hudson Line train toward Cold Spring, a stranger (Vera Farmiga) offers the unemployed Mike MacCauley (Liam Neeson) \$100,000 to place a tracking device on another passenger.

StudioCanal

Mayhem on the Cold Spring Train

Station plays starring role in Hollywood thriller

By Chip Rowe

Did you hear about the ex-cop named Mike MacCauley who was riding the Hudson Line home to Tarrytown after losing his job as an insurance salesman when a stranger offered him \$100,000 if he could attach a tracking device to another passenger whose identity was unknown except that the ticket slip on his seat was punched for Cold Spring?

It's a little complicated.

MacCauley, played by Liam Neeson, is the protagonist of a newly released Hollywood thriller, *The Commuter*. After losing his job, he takes the 6:25 p.m. Metro-North train from Grand Central, which inexplicably makes several stops along the Lexington Avenue subway line. At any rate, after receiving a \$20,000 down payment, he has about an hour to identify the passenger.

"For Cold Spring, a few stops past MacCauley's usual one, to be epicenter of such intrigue is curious," wrote film critic Jake Coyle, who lives in Croton, in his review for the Associated (Continued on Page 2)

Philipstown Boards Vote 'No' on Cell Tower



Claim company failed to demonstrate need

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Capping months of intense discussion, two Philipstown regulatory boards on Monday (Jan. 22) turned down an application from Homeland

Towers LLC to construct a 140-foot cell phone tower near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.

The dual decisions by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Conservation Board came after futile overtures to Chris Fadden, who owns the land where the tower would be built, to allow it to occupy a different site on his 64-acre property to accommodate neighbors who claimed the spot Fadden leased Homeland would leave the tower looming above their homes.

ZBA and Homeland representatives spoke with Fadden on Jan. 17 but he rejected two alternative sites because he said they made the tower too visible from his own home, ZBA Chairperson Robert Dee reported on Jan. 22. (Fadden did not return phone calls seeking comment.)

The ZBA voted (Continued on Page 8)

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Five Questions: LILA BARCHETTO AND KATIE HOFFMAN

By Alison Rooney

Lila Barchetto and Katie Hoffman of Moonsway Birth & Baby in Beacon work in tandem as labor and postpartum doulas.

How do you become a doula?

Barchetto: You become certified. The training covers the history of birth, the phases of labor, what happens to the woman's body, physical techniques, pain management and what a doula does not do, which is mainly that we don't give medical advice. It's like being a chef: it's important to go to cooking school, but you have to be in the kitchen to learn. And there are specialties: rebozo work [with a shawl], pelvic-floor work, aromatherapy.

Are most doulas also mothers?

Barchetto: Some of my favorite doulas don't have children, and they bring different things to the table. I've been involved in 75 births, and I don't typically like sharing birth stories, because in a group setting, they bring out an inherent competitiveness. I used to never share my own experience with clients because I didn't want my choices to shape their choices. That's hard in Beacon, where everyone knows everyone! The important thing is there's no right way for a woman to have her baby.

What about the other parent?

Barchetto: I sometimes doula the partner more than the person giving birth. I'm a safety net: I get to know the couple and see their dynamic. I sense out what the partner is good at — calming, organizing, making food, giving foot massages — and work at enhancing that. For the "I'm scared, but I don't want to look scared" person giving birth or their partner, I reassure them with a lot of "You're doing great."

Do clients typically book postpartum services during the pregnancy?

Hoffman: About half do. The other half call right after the baby is born when they realize they have been completely blind-



Katie Hoffman and Lila Barchetto

Photo by Erin Giunta

sided. It's all one long day after another. During the "fourth trimester" — the first three months — there is so much focus on nurturing and caring for the newborn that often there hasn't been a recognition of the transition period for mom. It's hard for the partner, too, understanding and coping with the hormone shifts and healing. Some parents don't feel like they're providing enough care because they're so tired from lack of sleep and ask me to help overnight. I try to meet them where they are, rather than me telling them what to do.

It's always interesting working with adoptive parents, since neither gave birth so both parents receive equal treatment and often have similar needs.

Do insurance plans cover doula services?

Barchetto: Not that I'm aware of. That is a real failure in our national health system. I think it's economics: The revenue generated by newborn intensive care units keep other wings in hospitals open.

Birth has been taken out of the home and medicalized. Yet sometimes doulas are more important at hospitals because home births already have more people in the room. Contrary to what people suppose, the majority of my births have been at hospitals.

UPDATES TO PAST STORIES

Wappingers Falls Votes to Keep Police

The Village Board in Wappingers Falls voted Aug. 30 to disband its part-time police force and rely on newly hired full-time officers and a shared services agreement with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department ("Wappingers Falls Disbands Police," Sept. 8). The board said the move would save about \$700,000 per year. But after a lawsuit forced a public referendum, residents on Jan. 16 voted 486 to 294 to keep the part-time force.

Philipstown Accepts Land for Park

The Philipstown Town Board voted Dec. 20 to formally accept property donated by the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson (below) to create a 10.8-acre town park at the intersection of Routes 9D and 403 ("Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute Donate Land to Philipstown," Sept. 1).

The town plans to create a youth soccer field and/or play area and space for a community garden. The park will be positioned and shielded by vegetation to minimize visibility from Route 9D.

OSI and Scenic Hudson acquired the land, along with 74 more acres, from the Osborn family in 1981. The groups donated 43 acres to the state in 2011 that became part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.



The donated land in Philipstown, looking north

OSI

Mayhem on the Cold Spring Train (from Page 1)

Press. "But then again, even the feds [federal agents are involved] deserve a bit of antiquing and a brisk hike."

The Commuter, which has received mixed reviews ("gaping plot holes" is a typical observation), was not filmed in New York City or the Highlands but on a soundstage in London and at two stations in southern England that were "dressed appropriately" to stand in for Cold Spring and Tarrytown, according to the film's production notes. (In September 2016, commuters in Worplesdon were amused to find their station transformed into the snowy, strange locale of "Tarrytown," according to the *Surrey Advertiser*. It's not

"For Cold Spring, a few stops past MacCauley's usual one, to be epicenter of such intrigue is curious. But then again, even the feds ... deserve a bit of antiquing and a brisk hike."

clear which station became Cold Spring.)

In the notes, Neeson is quoted as saying the Hudson Line is familiar because he has ridden it regularly for 20 years to reach his country home in Millbrook, east of Poughkeepsie. Anyone seen him?

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Students on Board

Beacon, Haldane add teens as non-voting members, advisors

By Jeff Simms

High school students in the Highlands — and across New York — are adding a fresh perspective to their local school boards.

Earlier this month, the Beacon school board appointed juniors Ennie Akinwunmi and Noah Cory as non-voting members of the board. However, after reviewing a 2003 state law that requires student members to be seniors, the board at its Jan. 22 meeting re-appointed the two as “advisors.” They’ll remain in that capacity for the remainder of the school year before becoming non-voting, ex-officio members in the fall.

At the Haldane district in Cold Spring, senior Mae McGrath was appointed in November as a non-voting member of its school board.

“School boards have long heard from students as either informal liaisons or ex-officio, non-voting members,” said Al Marlin, a spokesman for the New York State School Boards Association. “Having a liaison is a good way to hear from students and give them a voice at the table.”

He said the NYSSBA doesn’t track how many students are serving on boards statewide, but in some districts the tradition dates back many years.

“This is something that the board has been looking forward to,” said Anthony White, the Beacon board president. “We’re very happy that it’s come to fruition and we certainly feel their input will enhance our programming.”

Besides requiring that a student appointed to the board be a senior who has attended a district high school for at least two years, the 2003 law stipulates that he or she cannot vote or participate in executive sessions where the board discusses legal and personnel matters. The student may be the president of the student council, chosen by the high school principal or district superintendent or voted in by the student council, student body or school board.

Some critics of the practice say high school-age concerns are too narrow for students to contribute to most discussions, and that they end up becoming disinterested. Others argue that the right student will remain engaged and not only contribute but take a lot away from the experience.

Advocates for student engagement would like to see districts go further and allow the appointed student to vote. “When districts actually engage students in substantive ways, the boards become more effective,” argues Adam Fletcher, an education consultant and co-author of the *SoundOut Guide to Students on School Boards*. “But any role for students is better than no role, and it can begin the process.”

When passed in 2003, the New York law required that



Mae McGrath

Photo provided

districts “shall” ask voters every two years during the budget vote to approve the student position, but the wording was amended in 2005 to say it “may” ask voters. It also removed a requirement that the student be 18 years old.

Having student board members was “a longstanding tradition in Ithaca, my former district,” said first-year Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl. “The students were expected to share comments with the board and we expected questions from the student members as well. Some of the best and hardest questions I had came from the students, so it makes me feel at home having them on the board here in Beacon.”

The Beacon school board had discussed the idea off and on for years, and earlier this school year asked students to write a 500-word essay on why they’d like to get involved.

For Cory, it was a natural fit after he’d worked with Beacon High School Principal John Sieverding on numerous fundraising projects. “I’m used to bringing up ideas and I want to bring that into the school district,” he said, adding that he plans “to talk to students and see how we can accomplish their ideas.”

Akinwunmi said she saw this as an opportunity to get more involved in the community. “I noticed that a lot of students don’t really know what goes on inside the board, so we can bring them awareness and give students a voice,” she said.

Haldane Principal Julia Sniffin approached McGrath, who plans to study political science at George



Noah Cory and Ennie Akinwunmi

Photo by J. Simms

Washington University, with the idea of joining the board. McGrath, too, was unfamiliar with the meetings but looks forward to briefing the board on student needs, such as a long jump pit for the track team.

“I’d never been to a school board meeting before,” McGrath said, “but it’s given me a new look into the behind-the-scenes things that go on in the school community. I’d love to give a student’s perspective on the day-to-day activities at school.”

The Beacon students wasted little time getting involved, pitching a student survey on electives, foreign language options and Advanced Placement (AP) offerings as a way to expand the dialogue about curriculum options at Beacon High School.

“They showed [the survey] to me for my review,” Sieverding said, “but they ran with it. Kids are going to start knowing that they can contact them to let them know what they’re interested in.”

“We expect them to be actively involved,” Landahl added. “It’s helpful for the board members too, to have students there reminding us why we’re doing this. Sometimes we get a little lost in the adult stuff.”



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161 Main St.
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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

MANAGING EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.com

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.com

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Brian PJ Cronin
Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan
Jeff Simms

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
ads@highlandscurrent.com
highlandscurrent.com/ads



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Snow days

With climate change expected to increase the intensity and frequency of storms, and as a working parent, I have come to dread the sight of a snowflake icon on the weather app in my phone. It seems that every time it snows, we can expect school to close.

School being dependent on the weather is a major challenge for working parents. We have already had at least four snow days in the Haldane school district this winter and January is not even done. One thing is for sure: every winter in Cold Spring will bring snow. I hope that in the future the district will be able to find ways to safely keep school open and the buses running even when it snows, so that children can keep their classes and parents can keep their jobs. Or ... perhaps we could move the 10-week summer vacation to winter instead?

Zoe Antitch, Cold Spring

We asked Haldane Superintendent Diana Bowers to respond. She wrote: "When snow is on the way, we are notified days in advance by our weather service, Fleet-Weather. It sends updates as the storm approaches such as start time, end time and expected accumulation. This is considered in a conference call with superintendents in the Putnam/Northern Westchester region at 4:30 a.m. on the day of the storm, after we have checked in with our directors of transportation. Locally, we receive input from Philipstown and district employees on road conditions. If the roads throughout the district, including mountain roads, are unsafe for travel, we delay or close. The safety of students is the first and foremost consideration. We also consider wind chills, dark and icy roads, travel conditions for our employees and the ability of our amazing 'snow team' to



Share Your Memories of Guinan's

Guinan's Pub and County Store closed 10 years ago this month, on Jan. 31, 2008. "A lot of stories were spun, a lot of problems put aside for another day, before the warmth of that hearth," recalled Gwendolyn Bounds, a Garrison resident and author of *Little Chapel on the River: A Pub, a Town and the Search for What Matters Most*. Email editor@highlandscurrent.com with your memories and photos from the Garrison's Landing landmark, which operated for more than 50 years, and we'll share them in the paper and online next week.

Photo by Russ Cusick

get the campus ready. As a mother of two, I remember the stress these days caused for my family. But there is no margin of error, so we err on the side of safety."

Gun storage

The Fourth Amendment says it all. No warrant, no search ("Gun Storage, Again," Jan. 19). The Philipstown Town Board should stop wasting time on the issue of a law that mandates safe gun storage in homes. You can't fix stupid. People will keep getting hurt with stupidity. When it happens and a law was broken, the courts can nail them.

Thomas Nastasi, Cold Spring

I can raise no objection to a law that seeks to protect children from firearm mishaps. Speaking from personal experience, the extra few minutes it takes to secure a weapon in a safe repository protects the family and gives the owner peace of mind. As a longtime handgun owner, I

found it no inconvenience to lock them in a small safe when not in use. I could leave the house knowing that my children had no possible access to a weapon.

In my opinion, this isn't about whether the gun owner would get caught flouting the law as a result of an illegal search; it's about taking every precaution to keep guns out of unlicensed and underage hands.

Ron Soodalter, Cold Spring

A police officer cannot usually tell if I have my seat belt on. But if I have an accident while not belted in, I can be charged. The point of the seat belt law is to encourage on pain of punishment (a monetary fine) the desired conduct. In the case of gun storage, a law would likely establish a "standard of care" such that failure to observe could lead to almost automatic tort liability. That means a money judgment against you. That should encourage compliance.

Ann Beddingfield, Garrison



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Coincidences

It might have been fate that brought me to the St. Philip’s Episcopal Church choir in Garrison (“Were You Just Thinking We Should Do a Story on Coincidences?,” Jan. 19). It turned out that the mother of our director, Woody Entrekin, went to college with my father in Georgia in the 1950s. We had them meet at Woody’s house and they looked at photos together of those college days, and we all had a nice dinner. The world is so small.

Madeleine DeNitto, *Fishkill*

A few weeks ago I was at the North Plank Road Tavern in Newburgh and asked about a photo of a woman named Mrs. Sauer and the history of the restaurant. I picked up a copy of *The Current* the next day and it had an article on the North Plank Road Tavern (“The Coolest Tavern in Newburgh,” Dec. 8).

Jennifer Schneider Dwyer, *Newburgh*

Homeless veterans

This is egregious treatment of an organization, Hudson River Housing, and the homeless veterans and their families who appear to get overwhelmingly posi-

tive results (“Federal Cuts Threaten Local Veteran Housing,” Jan. 19). With a vast sea of failed federal programs, successful initiatives should be rewarded. Each of us in our own way may want to consider a donation as well as contacting our elected federal representatives to get this mistake corrected.

Tim Donovan, *Garrison*

Cell towers

I appreciate the time and effort of everyone who contributes to opposing what is in my determination an inadequately justified, unneeded overkill version of

yet another cell tower in our area (“Cell Tower Decisions, On the Clock,” Jan. 12).

“My way or the highway” and “one size fits all” badgering and bullying by the out-of-town, Orwellian-named Homeland Towers, should not be rewarded with blind approvals or by trusting in goodwill for the long haul. An alternative — limited, reasonable and well-tailored to the specific circumstances — should be found.

By the way, the jury is still out on the long-term health effects of this technology.

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Site Visit – January 28, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on
Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
to inspect the following site:

SEJE Realty LLC – 1510 Route 9, Garrison, NY 10524

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Site Visit – January 28, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on
Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 10 a.m. to inspect the following site:

Surprise Lake Camp
382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Allen Chase Enterprises, Inc. is soliciting quotes from M/WBE Contractors for herbicide application in Region 8, NYSDOT Project number D263664. The goal is 12% for Minority and 18% for Women Business Enterprises certified in the state of New York.

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TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

The Recycling Center will be CLOSED
on January 27, 2018.

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York

Notice of Public Hearing for Utilization
of the Repair Reserve Fund

The Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District, Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York hereby gives Notice that the School District will hold a Public Hearing on the 6th day of February, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. on said day in the Band Room of the Haldane Elementary/Middle School, located at 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, New York, to hear all persons interested in the following matter:

The School District proposes to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the Repair Reserve Fund for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of boys’ and girls’ toilets within the Elementary Wing of the Main Building.

Work will include replacement of all plumbing fixtures; replacement of interior finishes, including ceramic tile walls and floors and ceilings. The work will also include modifications to provide full compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines and requirements.

Information regarding the project is on file in the District Office.

Julia Famularo
District Clerk, Haldane Central School

GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GARRISON, NEW YORK 10524

Kindergarten Registration Dates Set in Garrison

Garrison Union Free School will hold its Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year on Tuesday, February 6 and Wednesday, February 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on both days.

Parents should line up in the hallway outside the main office at the school and are required to bring the following:

- Original birth certificate - child must be age 5 by December 31, 2018
- Immunization records/Recent physical
- Proof of residency
 - Owners
 - Signed contract of sale or deed, and
 - Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)
 - Renters
 - Notarized affidavit of landlord, and
 - Rent receipt (within 30 days) indicating address, and
 - Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)

The child does not need to accompany the parent or guardian for registration.

Information about the Wednesday, May 2nd orientation will be given out at registration.

For additional information, call 424-3689 ext. 230 or 221.

Haldane Students Propose Skateboard Park

Also, board clarifies Royal Carting test run

By Michael Turton

A group of eighth-grade students at the Haldane Middle School addressed a joint meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board and Recreation Commission on Tuesday (Jan. 23) to propose a skateboard park at Mayor's Park on Fair Street. They also suggested a substantial renovation of the pedestrian tunnel passing under the Metro-North tracks on Main Street.

The proposals were developed as part of the Design, Create and Innovate class at Haldane led by teachers Heidi Gesson and Michelle Hartford.

A model of the tunnel, constructed by the students, was displayed at the meeting. Their suggested upgrades include painting, decorative graphics, improved lighting and trash cans. The students hope to begin painting this spring.

Students working on the tunnel project include Madison Chiera, Patrick DiNardo, Eden Feinstein, Sydnee Monroe, Harrison Sassano, Lee Schmidt and Meghan Tomann.

Mayor Dave Merandy said he was "all for it. I don't see any reason why not. It's a great idea." He noted that the Highway Department would have to be involved and would likely take care of any prep work

before students begin painting. He encouraged the group to research the best type of paint for the tunnel, which is often damp.

The skateboard park proposal was more ambitious. The students estimated it would cost \$100,000 and presented a model of the facility. Their research included consulting with the Tony Hawk Foundation, which promotes public skate parks, along with detailed cost estimates and funding options.

The students who worked on this proposal were Bozley Beachak, Michael Covelli, Aaron Hathaway, Ryan Merritt, Ryan Buhre, Katrine Boslovich, Zoe Harris, Soren Holmbo, Rose LaBarbera, Camille Maglio, Mazzie Maxwell, Nick Pickersgill and Pelle Sandlund.

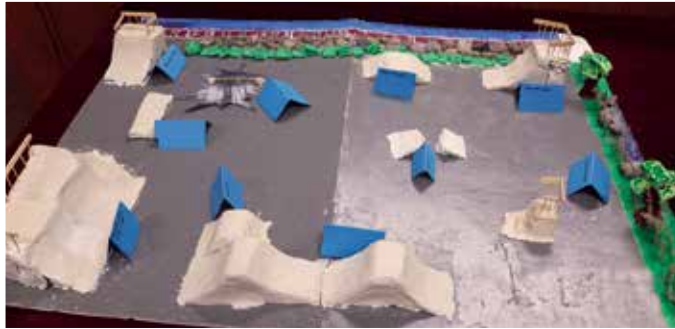
Merandy was again supportive and added that the project would fall under the purview of the Recreation Commission. He complimented the students for taking the initiative. He also commented that the basketball court at Mayor's Park might be a suitable location.

The mayor said the village and the Recreation Department "really should have activities for young people." He said the need for such activities comes up frequently in discussions about how to address the opioid crisis. "Not having a place for anyone to go leads to boredom," he said. "It would be nice to have a facility that would



Eighth-grade students from Haldane presented their ideas on Jan. 23 to the Cold Spring Village Board and Recreation Commission. Their model (left) shows the skate park they proposed for Mayor's Park.

Photos by M. Turton



be used, that we can be proud of, and that people will invest their time in."

Garbage trial run

At the meeting, Merandy addressed confusion over a test run by Royal Carting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 30, to determine the cost of outsourcing garbage collection, which is now handled by the Highway Department.

Royal Carting will begin the trial run at 5 a.m. It had been announced that the pickup would include recyclables, but Merandy said that was a misunderstanding.

The mayor also commented on what he termed "a knee-jerk reaction" to possible changes in garbage collection. "Other people have numbers and some people's math is incredible," he said "But we are going to do our own independent study."

The test run, he said, will enable

Royal to assess costs and submit a proposal. "Right now we don't have that number," Merandy said, adding that he would not rely on other people's numbers, some of which he feels are outdated. "When we get Royal's offer, we'll look at everything: what it costs, the pros and cons."

Merandy said the impact that garbage collection has on services provided by the Highway Department would be part of the evaluation. "Right now at least two days a week are taken up by garbage and recycling," he said. "A lot of things can get pushed off. We really don't have an efficient system."

The mayor said the board would schedule public hearings but said "it won't be a Facebook hearing; it will be held here," at Village Hall. He also said Royal's test would enable the company to estimate the cost of handling recycling.

Proposed Development Gets Pushback

What belongs in a 'conservation' subdivision?

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Plans for an upscale development for weekenders in North Highlands drew a barrage of questions and concerns from residents, environmentalists, firefighters, and the state park system at a public hearing on Jan. 18.

The planned 210-acre complex, called Hudson Highlands Reserve, would include 25 homes, each about 2,500 square feet and each on a 1-acre lot, along with a stable, indoor and outdoor arenas and paddocks for 40 horses.

In the past, the developer has said the homes would sell for \$1 million to \$3 million. It's the first project to seek Philipstown Planning Board approval as a "conservation subdivision" under the town's 2011 zoning code, enacted to safeguard natural resources and rural and historic attributes.

At the hearing, held at the Old VFW Building in Cold Spring, critics argued that the property does not qualify as a conservation subdivision despite the developers' assertions and its designation of

at least 154 acres as open space.

Given the issues raised, the Planning Board kept the hearing open and said it would hold a workshop for board discussion before reconvening the public hearing. No date was set for the workshop.

After four years of on-and-off Planning Board review, developers Horton Road LLC seek preliminary approval of their plans. The site is zoned rural residential, and in part, industrial-manufacturing, with soil mining, aquifer and open-space conservation (OSO) overlay districts. Zoning law demands that at least 60 percent of land in a conservation subdivision be retained as open space, an amount that increases to 80 percent in OSO districts.

Located below East Mountain and bordered by Route 9, Horton Road, East Mountain Road North and East Mountain Road South, the property includes 6-acre Ulmar Pond, woods, a historic road and barn, and wetlands. Clove Creek bisects it and neighbors include Fahnestock State Park and a parcel owned by the City of Beacon.

Conservation subdivisions typically cluster buildings near each other on a small part of the property and preserve most of the land, containing the best natural features, as (Continued on Page 18)

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How Best to Save Lives?

Newburgh panel addresses strategies in opioid crisis

By Brian PJ Cronin

Four months ago, Frank Skartados, who represents Beacon in the state Assembly, was visited in his office by Lauren Mandel, a Newburgh nurse whose son, Zane, had just died from an opioid overdose. Their conversation led to a forum held at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on Jan. 20 in which a diverse group of panelists discussed the crisis and the practical things that can be done to save lives.

The panelists agreed that the opioid problem needs to be addressed as a public-health issue. Jeff Kauffman, a former police officer and attorney with the New York Police Department, said that returning to the days of “the war on drugs” would be a mistake.

“I’m the living history of the failure of the drug war,” said Kauffman, a member of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership. “The fact that I’m here dealing with the same problems that I’ve been dealing with for the past 35 years is no accident.

“If we attack this in a more policy-oriented way, to prevent the involvement of the criminal justice system, not only would more treatments be available, but as a society we can figure out how to deal with this problem in a way that does not stigmatize users and future generations,” he said.

Carl Hart, chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University, pointed out that many users overdose because they mix opioids with other substances such as alcohol, antihistamines or a benzodiazepine such as Xanax or Klonopin. Educating users about this risk would be a simple way to reduce fatalities, he said.

Similarly, heroin may be mixed with substances such



From left: Frank Barone of Hudson Valley Community Services; Jeff Kauffman of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership; Cassandra Frederique of the Drug Policy Alliance; Carl Hart of Columbia University; State Assemblyman Frank Skartados; Lauren Mandel of Evercare and the Veterans Health Administration with a photo of her son, Zane; Vincent Trunzo of Cornerstone Family Healthcare; and Sgt. Julio Fernandez of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

Photo by B. Cronin

as fentanyl, a painkiller whose lethal dose is the size of a few grains of salt. Hart said some countries have free, anonymous services that will analyze drugs for users so they know what they’re about to consume. “There’s always risk, but these things would make the risk-safety ratio more favorable,” he said.

Frank Barone works for a syringe exchange program run by Hudson Valley Community Services that operates in Newburgh, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Monticello. It provides single-use syringes, as well as safety containers so used needles can be returned for disposal. The service also connects users to treatment and rehab facilities and hands out water and snacks. “Sometimes that’s the only thing they get to eat all day,” Barone said.

Critics argue that syringe exchanges promote drug use, but Cassandra Frederique, state director of the Drug Policy Alliance, doesn’t see it that way.

“You have to love people past the point of your comfort,” she said. “If someone is struggling with addiction, do you want them to also catch a blood-borne illness [such as HIV]? And how do we connect people to the resources that they need? You don’t know what’s going to be the thing that clicks for someone. You could be using a syringe right now, but two seconds later, you’re done and thinking ‘I want to talk to someone about not using anymore.’ And you can get connected to someone right there” at the exchange.

“People are addicted to this idea that you have to use tough love, let people hit rock bottom, kick it cold turkey,” she said. “That works for some people. It kills others.”

Police Arrest Cold Spring Man on Heroin Charges

Allegedly sold dope from apartment near Haldane

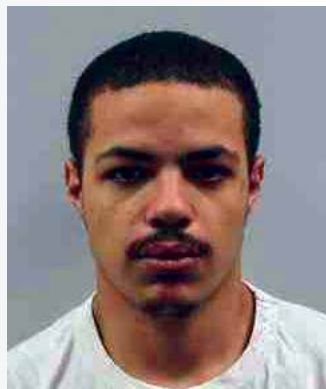
Police arrested a Cold Spring man on Jan. 10 and charged him with five felony counts of possessing and selling heroin.

Kurian C. Hamilton, 27, was selling the drug from his apartment at 2 Morris Ave., over Whistling Willie’s restaurant, according to the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department. The apartment is located three blocks from the Haldane school campus.

Hamilton was charged with three felony counts of possession, two felony counts of sale, a misdemeanor count of possession and two misdemeanor counts of using drug paraphernalia.

According to his social media profiles, Hamilton is a Mount Vernon native who earned his GED after attending Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls. He also is an aspiring actor.

The Sheriff’s Department



Hamilton

said one of its narcotics investigators learned that Hamilton was allegedly selling heroin. Working undercover over several months, he arranged to purchase heroin from Hamilton on multiple occasions, police said.

On Jan. 10, Hamilton was arrested after narcotics investigators executed a search warrant at his apartment and recovered a quantity of alleged heroin and drug paraphernalia consisting of scales and materials commonly used in packaging drugs.

Senior Investigator Thomas Corless of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit commended Cold Spring residents and the Cold Spring Police Department for providing information which led to the investigation.

Hamilton was arraigned before Judge Thomas Costello in Cold Spring Justice Court and remanded to the Putnam County jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash or a \$50,000 bond.

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Philipstown Boards Vote ‘No’ on Cell Tower *(from Page 1)*

4-1 to deny a special-use permit for the tower and the Conservation Board voted 6-0 to refuse a wetlands permit. The project needed both to proceed.

Two weeks earlier, at a public hearing, the Conservation Board signaled its reluctance to approve a permit, noting in a statement that it “has never allowed a building in a wetlands buffer or encroachments on water courses unless there is an absolute, compelling reason to do so.”

Dee and the three ZBA members who voted with him to deny the special-use permit — Vincent Cestone, Paula Clair and Leonard Lim — collectively cited a lack of need, the negative impact of a tower on the town’s scenic and rural character, the threat to property values and conflicts with Philipstown zoning laws.

What is ‘need’?

Dee argued that the project did not address an “actual need” but was proposed “on speculation of future use.” That conflicts with Philipstown zoning code, he said.

The code requires applicants to establish a “present need” for a tower.

Dee also said the tower would be visible from public trails, conflicting with town code mandates on protecting scenic resources.

Although Homeland Towers representatives repeatedly attested to a “significant gap” in the Route 9 and Route 301 corri-

dors, residents said they had no problems with their Verizon services. (Verizon partnered with Homeland on the project but left Homeland to oversee the application process.)

Dee said the board had not heard from Verizon that a gap existed, and Homeland “failed to prove there’s a substantial gap.”

“I drop calls all the time on Route 9 in the area” where Homeland Towers found problems. “That was my reason for voting” to approve the tower.

Granite Frisenda, the ZBA member who cast the sole vote to approve the special-use permit, disagreed. “I drop calls all the time on Route 9 in the area” where Homeland Towers found problems. “That was my reason for voting” to approve the tower, he said after the meeting.

Existing sites

Philipstown’s zoning code directs tower applicants to “investigate the possibility of constructing a new tower on property occupied by an existing tower.” However, Dee said, Homeland Towers never suggested installation of a tower alongside an existing tower located about three-quarters of a mile away. Nor did the applicants look at making the existing tower higher in partnership with its owner, he said.

“No rural homeowner would find that industrial view pleasing or acceptable,” she said, calling a tower “an abomination” in such a setting.

Lim pointed out that yet another tower stands near Tower Road, a short distance up Route 9 from the intersection, known as Mekeel’s Corner. “I’ve never seen three towers” so close together, he said, recalling that the 20-year-old Tower Road structure was expected to serve area needs indefinitely. “I don’t see anything that’s changed.”

Aesthetics and property values

Clair noted the proposed Vineyard Road project involved not only the tower but a 4,000-square-foot base for equipment storage and other purposes. “No rural homeowner would find that industrial view pleasing or acceptable,” she said, calling a tower “an abomination” in such a setting.

Dee said appraisals showed that a home near the tower could lose 30 percent of its value. Cestone recalled a conversation with a homeowner elsewhere in town who said the visibility of a cell tower forced him to steeply reduce his home’s sale price. “I don’t want to see that happening to others in Philipstown,” Cestone said.

Robert Gaudio, the lawyer who repre-

Conservation Board

Mark Galezo (Chair)

Jan Baker

Andy Galler

Lew Kingsley

Eric Lind

MJ Martin

Bob Repetto

sents Homeland Towers, declined to comment after the votes.

Although Dee and Gaudio had sometimes clashed during the ZBA review, Dee praised Homeland Towers’ cooperation in seeking a compromise with Fadden. They “are actually under a pretty big restriction because a lot of the property Fadden naturally wants to develop and put homes on,” severely limiting options for a tower, Dee said.

Fadden’s 11,127-square foot home off Vineyard Road is on the market for \$8.8 million, down from its 2012 listing price of \$15 million. Real estate promotions tout its 270-degree views of the Hudson River, Manhattan skyline and West Point.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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The Calendar

The Art of Instagram



Anna West during her talk at the Howland Library
Photo by A. Rooney

Painter offers tips to sell works online

By Alison Rooney

Perhaps because she began her artistic career as a photographer, Anna West has always been at ease documenting her oil paintings with a camera.

She's been less comfortable with the world of galleries and the negotiations required to consistently show in them. Then she discovered Instagram.

"I used to have shows, and I sold a bunch of paintings that way, but that's only once a year," she says. "Now I have a goal to sell a painting every month."

On Jan. 18, West presented a well-attended, illustrated talk at the Howland Library in Beacon on what she has learned about selling art through social media.

West immediately debunked the notion that it's a numbers game.

"You don't have to have thousands of followers," said West, who has 680. "It's about having the right people looking at what you post."



Hateful Eight, by Anna West

She advised artists to create a business account as she did ([instagram.com/annawest.painter](https://www.instagram.com/annawest.painter)) distinct from your personal one, "or you won't be taken seriously." Try to post daily for a month to establish baseline numbers. "Even if you're posting something unfinished, get something up there, just to keep people 'liking' it," she said.

Gathering "likes" on your posts, it is hugely dependent on visibility, West said, and that means where and when the post shows up on the platform. How to get that visibility? In addition to adding "hashtags," or key terms, to the posts, it's about being diligent in reacting to those who are reacting to you, she said.

That means, (Continued on Page 12)

Seven Dogs Take a Hike

Meetup group has canine members

By Michael Turton

The vast majority of the thousands of hikers who visit the Highlands have at least one thing in common: two legs. Yet there are a significant number of four-legged adventurers who enjoy the trails, as well.

"We limit each outing to 10 dogs," explains Anne Haugland, the organizer of the Meetup.com group Hudson Valley Active Dogs, during a Jan. 21 excursion with seven canines and their owners at Canopus Lake in Fahnestock State Park. "Dogless hikers are also welcome, as long as they don't mind dogs!"

The group, created in 2015, has a membership of 234 people and their dogs. The breeds among the seven at the Jan. 21 hike were Belgian Tervuren, Beauceron and American Terrier, along with four mixed.

Four of the dogs were rescues. Owners came from Salt Point, Highland Mills, Putnam Valley, Staatsburg, Hopewell Junction, Peekskill and Newburgh for the 3.3-mile trek on the Heart of Fahnestock Trail.

"Winter hiking is a necessity when you have dogs," says Haugland. "You have to get them out." The group schedules a meet-up for each Sunday, with hikes ranging from 3 to 6 miles and lasting two to four hours.

Haugland said that the dogs' love of hiking is obvious. "They get excited as soon as we take out our boots and backpacks," she says. "The wagging tails and big grins are a dead giveaway. The fact that they are satisfied and tired at the end of a day is also a good indicator that they love getting together."

At the conclusion of the hike, the owners socialize over lunch at a nearby restaurant.

For information, see [meetup.com/hudson-valley-active-dogs](https://www.meetup.com/hudson-valley-active-dogs). The next hikes are Jan. 28 at Mills Mansion/Nori Point in Staatsburg and Feb. 4 at the Black Rock Forest Preserve.



Members of Hudson Valley Active Dogs led their owners on a 3.3-mile hike at Fahnestock State Park.

Photo by M. Turton

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Knit Hearts
with Kit Burke-Smith

Casting from Life
with Lori Merhige

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10



Napkin Basket Weaving
with Kimberly Carver

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11



Japanese Shibori Master Class (full day workshop)
with Katrin Reifeiss

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Winter Wonder Photo Walk
with Lori Adams

Suminagashi
with Christina DiMarco

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24



Soft Pastel Still Life
with Linda Barboni

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Garrison Art Center

Calendar Highlights

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

International Film Night: *Tanna* (Australia)

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

Haldane vs. Putnam Valley (Boys' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Haldane Gym
15 Craigsides Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-2500 | haldane.org

Beacon Film Society: *Walking Out* (2017)

6:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon
beaconfilmsociety.org

Beacon Open Studios Roaring '20s Costume Ball

8 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St., Beacon
beaconopenstudios.org

Men Without Hats

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Newburgh Last Saturday

newburghlastsaturdays.com

Town Meeting with Sandy Galef

10 a.m. – Noon. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Sandy-Galef

Shibori Workshop with Organic Indigo

Noon – 3 p.m. Colorant
146 Main St., Beacon
nytextilelab.eventbrite.com

Beacon vs. Arlington (Girls' Basketball)

12:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
beaconk12.org

Met Live in HD: Pocini's *Tosca*

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

Army vs. Loyola (Women's Basketball)

3 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Haldane vs. Peekskill (Girls' Basketball)

4 p.m. Haldane Gym
See details under Friday.

Michal Gavish: *Crystalline Architecture*

Eric Wagner: *Abstract Paintings* (Openings)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Piff the Magic Dragon (Comedy)

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

SUNDAY, JAN. 28

Animal Tracks and Traces

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Quilting Guild

1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Restoring Purple Martins to Cold Spring (Talk)

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

Ori Alon Closing Reception and Talk

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

USA Presidential Volunteerism Awards

3 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
beaconelks1493.com

Pianist Roman Rabinovich

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Wingfest

4 – 9 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Leslie Pelino: *Earth, Sky and In-Between* (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary
Art | 1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

MONDAY, JAN. 29

National Theatre Live: *Follies*

1:15 & 7:15 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Beacon vs. Lourdes (Girls' Basketball)

5 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Saturday.

Haldane vs. Hawthorne Cedar Knolls (Boys' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Haldane Gym
See details under Friday.

Marian Dunn: *Restoring Vision in Slums of Peru* (Talk)

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

Beacon City Council Workshop

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

Putnam County Flu Clinic

2 – 6:30 p.m. Health Department
1 Geneva Road, Brewster
845-808-1332 | putnamcountyny.com

Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting

6 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-2500 | haldane.org

Beacon vs. Walter Panas (Girls' Basketball)

6 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Saturday.

Design and Print Valentines

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

Cold Spring Board of Trustees

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

Beacon vs. Brewster (Boys' Basketball)

4:30 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Saturday.

Highland Photographers' Salon

7 – 9 p.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Saturday.

Steve Blamires: *Tom Crean, Serial Hero* (Talk)

7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

Writing Lab (grades 9-12)

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

Haldane vs. Pawling (Boys' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Haldane Gym
See details under Friday.

Writing Club for Tweens and Teens

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

Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meeting

7 p.m. Haldane (Music Room)
See details under Tuesday.

Philipstown Town Board

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, FEB. 2



Groundhog Day

Community Blood Drive

2 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Beacon vs. Hendrick Hudson (Boys' Basketball)

5:45 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Saturday.

Reel Life Film Club: *Waste Land* (grades 6-8)

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

Haldane vs. Westlake (Girls' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Haldane Gym
See details under Jan. 26.

Dragonfly Story Hour

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Sunday.

Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Jan. 26.

Country Touch to Close

Known for whimsical signs, shop will shutter after 25 years

By Alison Rooney

One of Cold Spring's longstanding shops, The Country Touch, will close in February after 25 years on Main Street. The whimsical signs displayed in its windows have been replaced with one that reads, "Retiring — 50% off entire store." The owner, Connie Kelley, is headed for the warmer climes of South Carolina.

Kelley opened the shop after taking a buyout in 1992 from IBM. She recalled a gift shop that had impressed her in Carmel, California, during a business trip and decided to start one of her own.

Then living in Brewster, she launched The Country Touch that same year in the corner property now occupied on Main Street by Blue Olive. At the time, her products reflected the name: country-themed items such as wooden benches with carved-out hearts and dollhouse miniatures. In the intervening years The Country Touch moved west to its current location at 97 Main, and its merchandise became more diversified.

In the pre-digital age, Kelley ordered her merchandise from print catalogs, at trade shows and through referrals to vendors and wholesalers. It was all a calculated risk. "It was a big deal, going from the corporate world to not having a steady income," she says, although for the first few years she worked as a consultant for J.P. Morgan three days a week.

Eventually she opened the store seven days a week, something she feels is essential for achieving retail success in Cold Spring. "It took a while for me to get on my feet," she says. "But 25 years later, I'm still here."

Kelley's busiest year, which thankfully occurred just after she had expanded into a back room, was 2016, although revenue dipped the following year. She attributes that to a gray, rainy spring. "It's all about the weather," she says.

The Country Touch attracts many day trippers from Westchester, Dutchess County and New Jersey, drawn to return by her unusual merchandise. Stocking what other stores don't sell is important for new business owners in Cold Spring, she says, along with keeping prices down and having something for everyone.

Some of Kelley's lines, such as the signs, personalized towels, candles and



Connie Kelley at The Country Touch

Photos by A. Rooney

braided rugs, will now be carried by Kismet at Caryn's at 72 Main St.

Kelley hadn't given much thought to retiring until recently. "I mentioned to a friend that 'I'm kind of getting ready, but I'm not sure, and I don't know how one knows,'" she recalls. "She told me I'd know when it was really 'the time.' Two weeks later, I called her back and said 'It's time.'"

Kelley and her husband, who have been married for 12 years after a long-distance relationship (they met at a beach in Rhode Island), will be heading to coastal South Carolina, where they have family, by April. There, Kelley envisions a few months of doing nothing but "planning Sunday dinners, playing cards, lots of beach time."

Then she lets slip that "there's this new gift shop there. Maybe I would work two days a week ... We'll see."

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WEB# PO1443190 | Garrison | \$739,900



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WEB# PO1412000 | Cold Spring | \$535,000



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WEB# PO1442194 | Cold Spring | \$379,000

COLD SPRING BROKERAGE 845.265.5500

HOULIHANLAWRENCE.COM



The Country Touch will close in February after 25 years on Main Street.

The Art of Instagram *(from Page 9)*

at a minimum, liking all the comments and going to each person who has liked a post or comment by you and doing the same for them, save for the fake identities created through apps, which are easy to spot.

"Click the little hearts next to the comments; acknowledge them," West said, adding that updating whom you follow is important, too, especially because what goes around, comes around. "You want active followers; that helps with boosting visibility on both sides."

Contests, featuring a giveaway of your product or art to those who repost and share the post, are a good way of raising visibility and increasing followers, West said. It's also crucial to repost to other

social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr, which is easy through Instagram.

Stressing that less is more, West emphasized that "you don't have to be a good writer. You don't want a lot of text on your Instagram page; it's all about the image and the hashtags."

Most sales are done through private messaging. "People might ask about the cost, and then you can just direct them to messaging," she said. "The great thing about Instagram is that you don't have to do the sales hustle: they have found your painting, you give them the price and they decide if they want it, and payments are usually made through PayPal or Venmo."



Wicker Chair, by Anna West, a.k.a. #wickerchair #whitechairs #sunroom #sunroomdecor #chairart #chairporn #chairlove #chairsofinstagram #chair #newburghny #fullertonmansion #hudsonvalleyartist #hudsonvalley #oilpainting #beaconartist #artgallery #artcollector #paintingaday #comfychair #annawest (57 likes)

West began her career in the San Francisco Bay area, playing in and photographing punk bands. After she moved to New York City in the mid-1980s, she taught photography and darkroom techniques to support her ventures, which included a lot of traveling. West switched to oil painting and creates landscapes from her travels but also works on multiple images of items that catch her fancy, from chickens to chairs to surfers.

The non-abstract nature of her pieces makes them easier to promote through hashtags, those thickets of crosshatching which produce head scratching in many new to social media. West spent a good portion of the presentation deciphering them.

Hashtags are short descriptions such as #chairs or #relaxingonasummerafternoon that might be attached to an image of a deck chair on a patio. They act as hooks to draw in followers of the subjects.

West said it's important with hashtags to combine the common with the unusual, because each has its pitfalls. Say



Wooden Chair in Snow, by Anna West

you do the generic #chairs. Your post will wind up on a page with hundreds of #chair posts. A more unique hashtag may be seen by far fewer people, but with far less competition for space, it will likely occupy a top spot on the results page for quite some time.

"It's strategic," West explained. "You have to be playful and create hashtag varieties, like #chairart, #chairlove, #chairaday. You might want to place an additional object in the picture so you can add hashtags. For example, #forkandrose. These all help in not having your post disappear after a day."

"I also take down my posts if I don't have at least 20 likes in the first hour," she added. "I can tell those are going nowhere and I need to rethink."

West recommended forming what she calls "pods," which are groups of friends and followers who hashtag, comment on and like each other's posts. As part of the session, West asked attendees to break off into pods to connect and strategize.

If this all sounds arduous, it's simply a new way of doing business, according to West, and an opportunity for those willing to put in the effort to create income and/or greater visibility for their creative output.

"Once you make it a habit, doing it every day for, like 15 minutes, it becomes pretty easy," she said. "It's a job, a different one than preparing work for a gallery, and it's been worth it for me."

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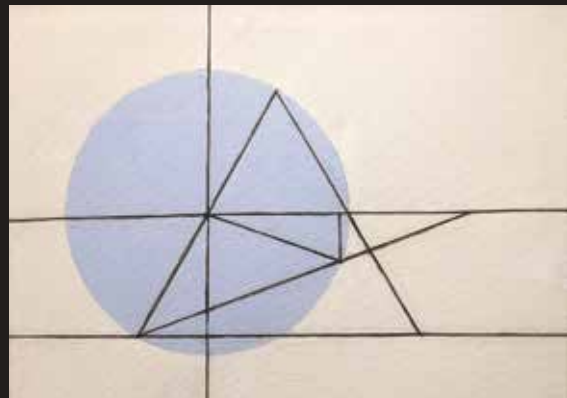
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Hiding in Plain Sight

Name That Loo

By Michael Turton

It has many names: loo, lavatory, toilet, outhouse, restroom, powder room, water closet, bathroom, head, privy, washroom, john. And just as plentiful are the words and symbols used to indicate his, hers or both: men-women, ladies-gentlemen, cowboys-cowgirls, guys-gals, boys-girls, gender neutral, family, unisex.

Whatever its name and in whichever direction a person is sent, the door can be a most welcome destination — and not something you pause to consider when only steps away from relief. So, how many of these Philipstown and Beacon restroom doors do you recognize? The answers are below.



Answers

1. Trax, Beacon; 2. Hudson Hills, Cold Spring; 3. Le Bouchon, Cold Spring;
4. Stock Up, Beacon; 5. Hudson House, Cold Spring; 6. Max's on Main, Beacon

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (January 1868)

An association of men was being formed to address the many thefts in the village, in large part to hire a lawyer who cannot be influenced by fear or favors.

Mr. Hughson of Nelsonville caught his sleeve in the lathe in the pattern shop at the Foundry and it was stripped from his arm as if cut off by scissors.

A brawl broke out near the railroad tracks between William Cayten and a young man from Matteawan [Beacon]. "It is needless to say that whiskey had a hand in the disgraceful affair," reported the *Cold Spring Recorder*.

Farmer George Hadden reported losing 23 chickens in two weeks to wild cats. He poisoned some poultry with "strychnine sauce" to take care of the problem.

A brakeman on the No. 6 fell from his seat after leaving Garrison and was crushed under the train. He apparently rose in his seat and hit his head as the train passed beneath the bridge.

A showman brought a trained bear to the Alhambra House in Nelsonville and caused much excitement.

75 Years Ago (January 1943)

The Haldane Board of Education voted to move the Easter vacation to the week of Feb. 15 so that school could be closed for 10 days to save fuel due to war rationing.

The members of Zaithe Reilly's Standard First Aid Class presented the teacher with a bouquet of snapdragons and a fountain pen.

50 Years Ago (January 1968)

The Hand-to-Mouth Players at the Depot Theatre in Garrison launched a Sunday film series that began with Jacques Cousteau's film on deep sea exploration, *World Without Sun*, and *Automania 2000*, an animated satire

about the growing number of cars.

Duffy's Tavern defeated Sullivan's, 38-32, and George and Dee's Restaurant crushed the Plaza Restaurant, 50-28, in the Philipstown Basketball League.

An intoxicated Bridgeport, Connecticut, man was arrested as he walked down the middle of Route 9D. He was committed to the Hudson Valley State Hospital.

The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution expressing its concern that the state was acquiring thousands of acres of land in Philipstown, where more than 63 percent of the property was already tax-exempt.

A burglar went through a rear window overnight and stole \$217.91 from Palen's Drug Store on Main Street.

Cold Spring Mayor James Early announced that a state appeals court had upheld a decision by the village to deny a permit for the construction of an apartment building with 75 units at the corner of Cross and Stone streets.

After a written exam and interview, Cathi Alderman, a senior at Haldane, was named the school's Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow.

Elizabeth Cole, the widow of Wilton Cole, the first rural letter carrier in Garrison, died at age 79.

25 Years Ago (January 1993)

Philipstown became part of the new 91st State Assembly District, represented in Albany by Vincent Leibell.

Mayor Roger Chirico dismissed a rumor that the duties of the Cold Spring Police Department would be turned over to the New York State Police.

After 30 years of silence, the church bell at the South Highland Methodist Church rang again after being repaired.

Frank Eaton, the owner of Eaton Funeral Home in Cold Spring for the past 24 years, and a former deputy mayor, died at age 72.

Anthony Phillips announced he would run for mayor



Wilton Cole, the first rural letter carrier in Garrison, appeared in a photo taken in 1902. His widow died 50 years ago this month.

of Cold Spring.

10 Years Ago (January 2008)

Michael Bowman and Vincent Cimino were named Cold Spring Firefighters of the Year.

The Garrison Board of Education entered into mediation with the school's teachers to settle an impasse over a new contract. Before the board's Jan. 30 meeting, teachers, staff and parents lined the hall outside the school library in silent protest.

Burke Catholic, ranked No. 4 in the state in Class B, handed the Haldane girls' basketball team its first loss of the season, 59-45. The Blue Devils (13-1) were ranked No. 5 in the state in Class C.

Guinan's Country Store on Garrison's Landing closed on Jan. 31. (See Page 4.)

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Pond Hockey: Skating on Thick Ice (from Page 1)

temperatures that climb over 32 degrees. The frigid temperatures of early January emboldened them. "We played every day," Ptacek says, adding that 19 games have been played so far this season, a total that could reach 40 by spring.

Bill Foley started trekking to frozen ponds when he was a junior in high school. He's 63 now and still relishes playing. "We'd play until dark, by far the best after-school activity," he says. "Pond hockey is for pure enjoyment, and something I can share with my son and good friends."

Stephen Ives, 58, says he has been skating on ponds since he was 5, and his love of hockey has only grown over the years. "It's the perfect combination of free-spirited exercise, an intense but thoroughly friendly game, and communion with the great outdoors," he says. "There is a timelessness to the game and a kind of Zen-like simplicity that connects you to your friends, the movement of the puck and the astonishing beauty of the ponds that is like nothing else I know."

John Horgan, 64, agrees. "It's comradeship, fierce competition and whooping fun in insanely beautiful settings," he says. "It's a spiritual experience." Horgan traces that sentiment to the first time he played at Earle's Pond. Skating onto the virgin black ice, he saw a turtle swimming beneath him. "That was a very good omen."

While pond hockey is recreational, players need to come ready to play. "Full pads are recommended," says Ives. "It's a rough



A player drags a rope onto the ice to place behind the goal to prevent the puck from sliding too far. It also serves as a rescue rope during late-season games.

Photo by Tom Ptacek

game, even though there is no checking." While players behave themselves, he describes the games as "spirited and fast."

Until his retirement from the game last year, Lars Kulleseid, 80, was an inspiration to the other players, Ives says. "He brought both a boisterous good humor and fierce competitiveness," he says. "His passion for pond hockey was infectious;

he was also, at times, the roughest player on the ice."

A bit of good-natured rough play isn't the only hazard. Breaking through the ice is almost inevitable, especially in spring when dunkings can occur on the thin outer edges. A safety rope is kept behind the goal; it also helps keep the puck from sliding too far away.

Pond Hockey's Stanley Cup

The 2018 World Pond Hockey Championships will be held in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, from Feb. 8 to 11. It will feature 120 teams from 12 provinces, 35 states and 15 countries competing in men's and women's divisions.

"He brought both a boisterous good humor and fierce competitiveness. His passion for pond hockey was infectious; he was also, at times, the roughest player on the ice."

Ptacek says that safety is paramount and that ice thickness is always checked carefully. "We play on the first ice, as soon as it can support a game."

Foley reflects the players' nonchalant acceptance of the odd soaking. "It usually happens on a warm day so there is not much concern of hypothermia," he says. "You shake it off and get back to playing."

Asked what, if anything, might improve local pond hockey games, Foley replies: "Not much. Just longer winters, which my wife would dread!"

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See philipstowndepottheatre.org/auditions for more info.

Philipstown Depot Theatre

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philipstowndepottheatre.org

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



NEW PRESIDENT — Gary Wawrzycki, a lifelong Garrison resident, has been elected board president of Support Connection, a Yorktown-based nonprofit that provides support to people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. *Photo provided*

Meet Your Rep

Galef to host town hall in Garrison

Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, will host a town meeting at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 27. The Democrat, who joined the Assembly in 1992, will discuss

the state budget, election reform, legislative priorities and the impact of the new federal tax law.

Flu Shots Available

Clinic will be held Jan. 30

Since the flu season has been severe and there are a growing number of cases reported in Putnam County, the Department of Health will offer a flu vaccine clinic from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at its office in Brewster. The vaccine is \$25 or free for anyone with a Medicaid card. Call 845-808-1332 to check on the availability of pediatric vaccine. For other questions, call the Flu Hotline at 845-808-1390.

HSF Awards \$29,000 in Grants

Funds 21 projects for Haldane students

The Haldane School Foundation awarded more than \$29,000 in grants to fund 21 projects and programs to benefit students in the Haldane Central School District, including class field trips to Boston, the Liberty Science Center, the Metropolitan Museum, Washington, D.C., Frost Valley, Museum Village and Locust Grove, as well as support for the Hudson Highlands River of Words, a foreign-language immersion program and a third-grade poetry workshop.

The foundation also funded an *Aladdin Kids* Drama Experience for grades 4 and 5, a percussion ensemble, a recess Garden Club, a high school newspaper project with *The Current*, fourth-grade Colonial Day, a pre-prom drunken-driving prevention workshop for seniors, an elementary school photography center and poetry readings for kindergarteners.

New Vision in Peru

Volunteers bring sight to children

Marion Dunn, who traveled to Peru as a volunteer to provide eye tests to impoverished students, will speak about her experience at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29. See highlandscurrents.com for a story on Dunn and fellow volunteer Jon Lilburne that ran in the Dec. 22 issue.

Martins Are Back

Sixty nesting birds settle at Glynwood

Malachy Cleary of Cold Spring, who spent 20 years helping to restore a type of swallow, the purple martin, to the Highlands, will speak at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Butterfield Library about the 60 pairs of the birds nesting at Glynwood Farm. The free program is sponsored by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.



Malachy Cleary will discuss the purple martin on Jan. 28 at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Photo by Michael Stubblefield via Audubon

Emergency Blood Drive

Scheduled for Feb. 2 at NHFD

With blood supplies low, an emergency drive will be held from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2, at the North Highlands Fire Station in Philipstown. Anyone ages 16 to 75 can give blood. (Those ages 76 and older may donate with a doctor's note.) Call 845-424-3456 with questions.

Climate Action Now

Bedford to host summit

A climate-change summit hosted by Bedford 2020, the New York League of Conservation Voters and the Bedford Central School District will take place from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, to discuss methods to reduce carbon emissions.

David Gelber of Garrison, creator and executive producer of the *Years of Living Dangerously* series, will be a keynote speaker along with David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch. A dozen breakout sessions will focus on climate action. See bedford2020.org.

Tracks and Traces

Seeing animals in winter

Families with children ages 3 and older can learn to identify the signs of win-

ter animal activity during a nature walk at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28. Guides will explain how to recognize animals by their tracks and provide T-shirts for children to make their own tracks. See hnm.org. Tickets are \$3 to \$7.

Kindergarten Registration

Open to students who are 5 by Dec. 31

Haldane and Garrison schools will soon open kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year for children who will be 5 years old by Dec. 31.

Haldane will host an informational meeting for parents at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Music Room.

Haldane's registration takes place Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. Forms are available at haldaneschool.org. Garrison's registration will be Feb. 6 and Feb. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Call 845-424-3689. The Beacon district will register incoming kindergarteners, who must be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, in April.

Museum Announces History Winners

Haldane and Garrison seventh-graders compete

The Putnam History Museum on Jan. 22 named the winners of its Jean Saunders History Contest for Haldane and Garrison seventh-graders. The contest, which has been conducted annually for more than 30 years, is named for the museum's first curator.

Chloe Rowe of the Garrison School won first place for her presentation, a board game that answered the question, "Why was Benedict Arnold so compelled to betray his own country?"

Madeleine Knox and Mairead O'Hara of Haldane Middle School won for their project, "How did the West Point Foundry affect the economic development of Cold Spring?"

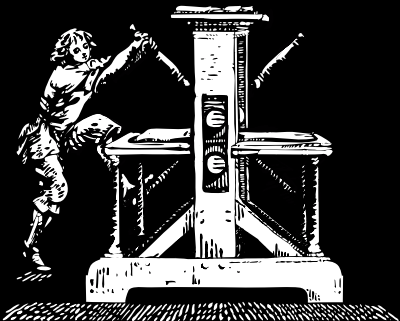
Siblings Caitlin and Timothy Liu of the Garrison School received third place for "How did the (Continued on next page)"



The Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall on Jan. 28 will present a workshop for young children and their parents on how to identify animal tracks. Whose are these?

Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



Winners in the Jean Saunders History Contest, from left: Chloe Rowe of Garrison, Mairead O'Hara and Madeleine Knox of Haldane and Celia Drury of Haldane. Not pictured are Caitlin Liu and Timothy Liu of Garrison and Sophie Sabin of Haldane. Photo provided

Bear Mountain Bridge influence transportation in the Hudson Valley and the construction of future bridges?"

Finally, Celia Drury and Sophie Sabin of Haldane were awarded honorable mention for, "How did the local media react to the Women's Suffrage Convention taking place in Newburgh?"

The awards presentation took place at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

Magazzino Wins Architecture Award

Philipstown art space recognized

The American Institute of Architects New York awarded Miguel Quismondo, who designed the Magazzino art space on Route 9 in Philipstown, with an Honor in Architecture Award for the structure. The center will be showcased in the spring at the AIANY Design Awards exhibit at the Center for Architecture.



Miguel Quismondo, who designed the distinctive Magazzino art space on Route 9, will be recognized for his work. Photo provided

Beacon

Black History Month Exhibit

Howland to host annual art show

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, the Howland Cultural

Center will open its annual *African-American Artists of the Hudson Valley* show with a reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Curated by Josephine Green and Richard Outlaw, the exhibit includes the work of 16 artists and is dedicated to Michael White, who died in December. Several of his paintings are included, along with work by Outlaw, Jean Benoit, Ronald Brown, Yvette Byrd, Ramona Candy, Destiny Faulkner, Shaunda-Sekai Holloway, Kyra Sukenya Husbands, Robert E. Lewis, Corey Lightfoot, Samantha Outlaw, Dwight Reed, Eddison Romeo, Oliver Spearman, Gina Waters and Donald Whitley.



A work by Gina Waters that will appear in the exhibit, *African-American Artists of the Hudson Valley*, which opens at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Feb. 3

Image provided

Support for Time's Up

Story Screen will donate T-shirt proceeds

Story Screen, the Beacon film club, plans to donate the proceeds of its T-shirt sales during January and February to the Time's Up movement to fight sexual harassment in the film industry. See storyscreenbeacon.com to purchase a shirt for \$10.



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? Christina Metrailler of Beacon shared this photo of her granddaughter Paige with Duncan, who appeared previously in Baby and Dog with Paige's brother, Jack. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.



Elks to Honor Members

Volunteers and 'old timers' recognized

The Beacon Elks Lodge will honor members for their volunteer service to the community at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at the lodge. The club will present Mayor Randy Casale, Anthony Thomaselli, Tony Banick, Jerry Landisi, Robert Haight and Pat Kerr with USA Presidential Volunteerism Awards.

It also will recognize a group of long-time Elks, including Joseph Bergen, James Cahill and Ronald Stanto (55 years); Ed Blaney (50); Joseph Lotsko, Ronald Piga, Richard Butler, Joseph Hockler and Aloysius Quirk (45); Douglas Murphy (35); Paul Banick (30); and Richard Begany, William Diesing, David Eraca, Dennis Hayden, Timmy Joseph and Michael McCullagh (25). The event is open to the public and the \$10 admission charge includes a buffet.

Concert of American Hits

Newburgh orchestra to perform

Newburgh Chamber Music will perform *Swing and the Great American Songbook* with jazz pianist Vinnie Martucci at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, at St. George's Church in Newburgh. Mark Dziuba (guitar), Katie Martucci (vocals), Jeff Siegel (drums), Rich Syracuse (bass) and Carole Cowan

(violin) will also perform. Tickets are \$25 (\$5 for students) at the door or newburghchambermusic.org. A reception will follow the concert.

Modfest at Vassar

Annual event starts Feb. 1

Artists will explore the theme of "adapting" with events from Feb. 1 to 11 during the annual Modfest held at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. Broadway actor and singer Ali Stroker will headline with a performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Vogelstein Center. For a list of performances and exhibits, see libguides.vassar.edu/modfest2018.



Broadway actor and singer Ali Stroker will headline Modfest at Vassar with a performance on Feb. 11.

AliStroker.com

Proposed Development Gets Pushback *(from Page 6)*

open space. In return, developers can get certain breaks, such as leeway to develop more densely than otherwise allowed.

According to the Philipstown zoning code, the dwellings in a conservation subdivision “shall not result in fragmentation of the open space.” Michelle Smith of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which had considered managing the project’s conserved lands, said it would not do so given the project’s design, which she said had “houses sprawling right across the property,” including eight “wrapped around the pond.”

Smith said HHLT is also concerned

about the developer’s plan to use pesticides and the project’s effect on the pond, Clove Creek, and Clove Creek Aquifer.

Ironically, because of zoning restrictions on rural land and open space, if the project were developed as a typical suburban subdivision, it would only have eight or nine houses. “You’d have a better conservation outcome if you had a conventional subdivision on this property,” Smith said.

Noting that other developers, inspired by this project, have similar proposals in the pipeline, Smith warned Planning Board members against setting a bad

precedent.

Evan Thompson, manager of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, said the park service is worried about the project’s effect on Clove Creek and wildlife such as the endangered Indiana bat, as well as the view from trails.

Joe Hyatt, assistant chief of the North Highlands Fire Department, questioned whether the development’s roads could bear the weight of fire trucks and where water for firefighting would come from if Ulmar Pond becomes too shallow. The water level of nearby Quarry Pond dropped about 5 feet after construction of the Glassbury Court housing there, he said.

If Ulmar Pond runs out of water for fighting a fire at Hudson Highlands Reserve, “we’re out of luck,” he said.

Horton Road resident Richard Nairn urged the board to evaluate “the magnitude of this project and stormwater run-off,” as well as the developers’ belief that stormwater will “infiltrate” into the ground. He recalled that Ulmar Pond flooded Horton Road during Hurricane Irene. “You have no idea of the amount of water that comes off that mountain,” he said.

Toshi Yano, another Horton Road resident, is horticultural manager of an 80-acre estate with a house, zoo with “mostly birds,” and gardens in Westchester County. He asked about the disposal of horse manure, since even at his employer’s small-animal zoo, animal waste must be trucked away “every couple days.” He

urged the Planning Board to exercise “extreme caution.”

Richard Butensky wondered if the developers can claim conservation subdivision status for apparently setting aside steep slopes and wetlands, because “you don’t necessarily get credit for preserving land that is undevelopable.”

“That is a question, isn’t it?” said Planning Board Member Kim Conner.

Acknowledging his fiduciary interest in the development, Sam Isaly of New York City argued that Hudson Highlands Reserve “will bring major benefits,” including jobs and the equestrian center. “This is going to be a fantastic project,” he said, urging approval.

Ulises Liceaga, who with his wife, Christina Isaly Liceaga, and five children has a weekend home near the site, designed the project with his firm, the Fractal Group, which shares a New York City address with the developer, Horton Road LLC, which in turn is owned by the David Isaly 2008 Trust.

Saying that his family loves the Highlands, Liceaga emphasized the importance of the open space. “No one will ever do anything” to the conserved land, which he said actually covers about 175 acres. Addressing fears of pollution in Ulmar Pond, he said that elsewhere in the area, homes, a tennis court, roads and structures ring similar ponds, which nonetheless “are perfectly healthy.”

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Sports

Haldane Relay Team Sets Record, Twice

Girls' teams trim mark by 10 seconds

The Haldane girls' 4-by-800-meter relay team broke the school record in the event twice within three days. On Jan. 19, Maura Kane-Seitz, Ashley Haines, Emma Rippon and Heather

Winne finished in 10:35.16, trimming nearly eight seconds off the previous best mark while competing at New Haven, Connecticut, during the Yale Invitational. They were among eight athletes accompanied by Coach AJ McConville at the event. On Jan. 21, the Haldane team of Kane-Seitz, Rippon, Haines and Shannon Ferri, competing at the league championships at the Armory in New York City, shaved off nearly two more seconds, winning in



Winne, Haines, Kane-Seitz and Rippon at the Yale Invitational Photo by Michael Haines



BIG WIN — Beacon's Paul Cohn jumped from No. 4 to the top of the *Journal News* wrestling rankings for the 132-pound class for large schools in Section 1 after he upset No. 1 Matt Kramer of John Jay Cross River on Jan. 10 with a 14-9 decision.

Photo by Dawn Sela

10:33.83. At the same event, Jonas Petkus broke the school record while finishing third in the 300-meter run, at 38.61. Other top finishers at the championship for Section 1, League 3B, which includes Haldane, North Salem, Pawling, Bronxville and Edgemont, were Brittany Gona, who won the girls' long jump at 14-02.25; Bridget Goldberg, who was second in the girls' triple jump at 26-07.50; Adam Silhavy, who was second in the boys'

600-meter run at 1:30.66 and second in the 1,000 meters at 2:43.17; Nicholas Farrell, who won the boys' 1,600 meters in 4:38.82; the girls' 4-by-200 relay team of Goldberg, Olivia Olsen, Meghan Ferri and Jamie Calimano, which finished second in 2:01.30; and the boys' 4-by-800 team of Conor Van Riper, Joe Abate, Frank Burbico and Farrell, which finished second in 8:50.85.



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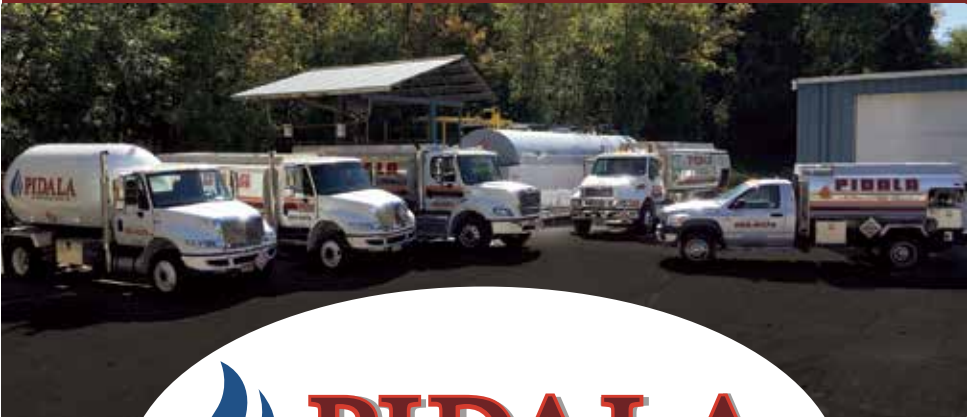
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Sports

Haldane Prevails in Hoops Showdown

Girls' basketball team defeats Beacon by 10

By Leigh Alan Klein

The Haldane girls' basketball team traveled to Beacon High School on Jan. 24 for a Highlands hoops showdown that saw the Blue Devils prevail, 37-27.

Both teams had their share of supporters in the stands, including 2017 grads and basketball stand-outs Hannah Monteleone of Haldane and Lauren Schetter of Beacon, now classmates at Pace University.

The match-up of senior interior players Brianna Dembo of Beacon and Alli-

son Chiera of Haldane took center stage. Haldane's defense forced Beacon out of its rhythm during the entire game, with Coach Tyrone Searight throwing a combination of full-court presses and diamond, man and half-court zone defenses at the Bulldogs.

The defense forced the Beacon players to play a pace they didn't appear comfortable with. Beacon took three-point shots without success until late and Dembo struggled for touches in position to score. She scored six points but went 2-for-10 at the free throw line. Chiara had eight points but played sparingly in the second half and fouled out with 5:25 left to play.

Dembo would soar to catch post feeds



Sophomore Dior Gillins (3) prepares to challenge Haldane guard Olivia McDermott (1) during the Jan. 24 game. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.



Abbey Stowell drives to the basket during Haldane's Jan. 24 win over Beacon.

Photos by Dawn Sela

like a wide receiver, but there were no easy buckets. At the same time, Haldane's offense against Beacon's zone gave Chiera a number of looks at the basket.

The Blue Devils are a quick perimeter-passing team and the three-point shooting of Olivia McDermott forces the defense to extend. If McDermott found a teammate in the corner and the Beacon defenders stretched to cover the corner, Chiera slid down to the box for the easy shot.

Beacon Coach Christina Dahl struggled with her guard play, shuffling players in and out, looking for consistency. Grace Afeldt led the Bulldogs with seven points. Enita Rodriguez, Skylar Kurtz and Sarah Evans, all who have shown flashes of potential, combined to score only three.

The rims were tight, or the shooters were. Both teams saw shots go three-quarters into the basket and spin out. Down nine points, Beacon failed to convert on three straight chances. The backbreaker was a three-pointer by freshly inserted Lexi Thompson that went in and out.

Haldane was led by sophomore Bela Monteleone with nine points. Sophomore McDermott scored seven, all in the first

half, and sophomore Sophia Viggiano had five in the second half. Haldane's final basket was a pass by Bela to her twin sister, Liv, cutting to the basket for a lay-up. "Our two seniors generally do something that jump-starts us out of the gate," Searight said after the win. "And then when we need it, the sophomores pick us up."

Haldane, which has won four straight, travels to Putnam Valley today (Jan. 26). "That will be a real dog test," said Searight. "They play exactly like us, full-court pressure, pushing the pace. We are ready mentally, we need to be physically. If we wait until we touch the waters, it may be too late."

Searight labored with some of the mistakes his team made during the game but has seen the Blue Devils move in the right direction. He said the team seemed to turn a corner during its 51-47 victory on Jan. 11 at Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls. "We aren't there yet, but we are getting closer."

The goal, he said, is a postseason run in the state tournament. Playing larger schools such as Beacon and Ketcham "make us stronger. We scheduled like we did last year preparing for a potential regional matchup with Pine Plains or Millbrook."

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Hendrick Hudson 55, Beacon 48
Poughkeepsie 82, Beacon 59
Haldane 56, Yonkers Montessori 20
Haldane 53, Pawling 47 (OT)
Haldane 54, Solomon Schechter 43
Haldane 62, Webutuck 18

Girls' Basketball

Hendrick Hudson 47, Beacon 27
Haldane 37, Beacon 27

Boys' Swimming

Yonkers 99.5, Beacon 68.5
Beacon 93, Lourdes 76

Boys' Bowling

Arlington 4, Beacon 3

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Arlington 0

Wrestling

Bulldog Tournament
Beacon team finish: 6 of 15

Finals:

99 – Chris Crawford defeated Cody Drost (Saugerties), 18-4
152 – Ray Napolitano (Valley Central) pinned Christian Mendoza

Indoor Track

Beacon at Yale Classic
Girls' high jump
2. Jummie Akinwunmi (5-03)
Girls' long jump
2. Jummie Akinwunmi (17-03)

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