



ANY GUESSES? — Scott MacScott, a military re-enactor, shares an artifact on Feb. 17 with two visitors to a celebration of George Washington's birthday at the general's former headquarters in Newburgh. What is it? A mouth harp. Photo by Ross Corsair

## Dual Demolitions

*Two Cold Spring buildings to be razed*

By Michael Turton

In a marathon session that lasted more than four hours, Cold Spring's Historic District Review Board approved appli-

cations to demolish buildings at 35 Market St. and 126 Main St. to make way for new construction.

No objections to the demolitions were raised during public hearings.

Richard Krupp was granted permission to take down a cottage at 35 Market St. and construct a (Continued on Page 7)

## Are Schools Safe Enough?

*In aftermath of Parkland, districts review security*

### Beacon Officials 'Tweak' Emergency Plan

*Adding police officer still on table*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon city officials, the police chief and school administrators met this week to ensure their emergency preparedness plans are in sync after news broke of the shooting deaths of 17 students and teachers at a high school near Miami.

Matt Landahl, the superintendent of the Beacon City School District, said the district has an Emergency Response Team — which includes principals, administrators and security staff, the Beacon fire and police chiefs and Fishkill police (because one district elementary school is located there) — in place to address a number of scenarios.

"We reviewed our plans, especially in light of what we're learning about Florida, but also based on what we're seeing here in Beacon," Landahl said. "There are some tweaks we're making as to how we're training staff and to the plan itself. We had a (Continued on Page 8)

### Haldane to Begin Locking Doors

*Visitors, students must be buzzed in*

By Chip Rowe

In the wake of the Parkland high school shootings, the Haldane Central School District on Thursday (Feb. 22) began locking the main entrances to its middle and high school buildings throughout the school day. For the first time, visitors had to be buzzed in.

Because only the elementary/middle school building has a cafeteria and gym, each of Haldane's 300 high school students must at some point each day walk between the district's two main buildings.

In the past, the main entrance doors remained unlocked at the middle and high school to allow easier access for high school students. Three years ago, the district added staff members at both entrances and began to require visitors to sign in, according to Superintendent Diana Bowers, who announced the change in a Feb. 21 letter to parents and community members. (Continued on Page 8)



## Data Against Drugs

*New York National Guard crunches numbers to fight abuse*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Staff Sgt. Julio Fernandez of the New York National Guard arrives at work each day with one mission: Make himself obsolete.

"I'd be very happy to find another job," he says.

Fernandez, along with Staff Sgts. Luis Giron and Windolyn Patino, are members of the New York Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, a lesser-known operative in the war on opioid abuse.

Although the task force provides support for local law enforcement in the form of sharing its helicopters and planes (flown by Guard pilots) and handheld

drug-detection gear, its members don't collect evidence or make arrests. The three sergeants, who visited Cold Spring to discuss their jobs over coffee, focus on collecting and analyzing data and supporting community organizations.

"A lot of people see us in uniform and connect us to the 'bang-bang' side of things," explains Fernandez, a former security consultant in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. "We're soldiers, and that is our primary job. But this fight, on the homefront, is just as important, and just as engrossing."

"Everything I do in the military police is about enforcing the law," adds Giron, who also serves in the military police as part of the Air Force International Guard. "But, I thought, instead of just arresting people, why not get a better understanding of every aspect of the problem?"

The task force (Continued on Page 6)



Staff Sgts. Windolyn Patino, Julio Fernandez and Luis Giron of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force during a visit to Cold Spring

Photo by B. Cronin



# 5 Five Questions: RON SOODALTER

By Brian PJ Cronin

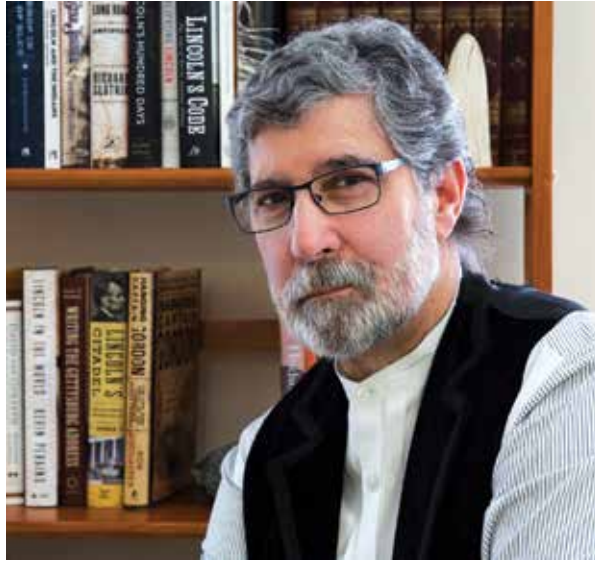
**R**on Soodalter of Cold Spring is the co-author, with Kevin Bales, of *The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today*, which examines the plight of those forced to work for little or no money under threat of violence.

## How did the book come about?

I was finishing *Hanging Captain Gordon*, which is the story of the only man in U.S. history to be executed for slave trading, when I stumbled on an article about modern-day slavery. It dawned on me that at the time [2009] a book had not been written about human trafficking in our own country. So I asked the co-founder of an advocacy group in D.C., Free the Slaves, if he cared to co-author one.

## What was the most surprising thing you learned?

The fact that slavery, although it is legal nowhere, exists virtually everywhere, including in 50 of our 50 states. As an historian, it floored me to find that the old slave trade had survived.



Ron Soodalter

Photo provided

## What can be done politically?

The Obama administration was well intentioned but I don't think there was much done to curtail the illegal importation of trafficking victims, either from the north or from Mexico. I'm discouraged beyond words at what's going on in the Trump administration as far as immigration. I don't think its policies are designed to curtail trafficking, and I don't think it's displaying any interest in the subject.

## Are you optimistic the situation will change?

I'm optimistic that it continues to make headlines but discouraged that we are almost without exception focused on forced prostitution. Slavery occurs with nannies and housekeepers in our homes, it occurs in restaurants, laundries, you name it. Wherever there is an opportunity to exploit someone, it's being done.

## What can be done?

We have to be aware of the fact that slavery still exists, and the iterations in which it exists. We think slavery ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. We are the land of the free, yet there has not been a single day without slavery in this country since the first white man set his foot on the shores. That's something that should be taught in every social studies course.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Marijuana Dispensary in Newburgh

A medical marijuana company said on Feb. 20 that it plans to open a dispensary in Newburgh off Interstate 84 near Interstate 87.

"We look forward to helping the patients that need the highly regulated medicine we provide and becoming an active and engaged member of the Newburgh business community," said Michelle Bodner, president of PalliaTech NY, which operates dispensaries under the name Curaleaf New York.

Bodner said in a statement that the dispensary, at 8 North Plank Road, will be

managed by a pharmacist and have 10 to 15 employees.

### Sales Tax Grows, Except in Putnam

Local sales tax collections across New York totaled \$16.6 billion in 2017, according to the state comptroller, an increase of 3.9 percent.

Sales tax revenue grew in every county except Putnam, where it fell by 0.45 percent, to \$58.8 million. This was due, the state said, to corrections made to the county's initial 2016 and 2017 filings.

Dutchess County saw a 2.79 percent increase in revenue, to \$183 million.



**DIESEL SPILL** — A truck delivering building materials to a home on Foundry Pond Road in North Highlands went off the road Tuesday afternoon (Feb. 20), leaking diesel fuel into a small ditch below the Lower Reservoir that supplies drinking water to the village of Cold Spring. A hazardous materials crew from the Putnam County Department of Health responded, along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, North Highlands Fire Department and Cold Spring Department of Water and Waste Water. Absorbent mats and booms were used to contain the fuel and contaminated soil and water was removed. A statement issued by the Village of Cold Spring later indicated that the situation was "under control and will not affect the potable [water] supply."

Photo by Michael Turton



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# Philipstown Board Postpones Gun-Storage Vote

## Backers and opponents of measure voice concerns

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After a public hearing on a draft law that requires guns at home to be locked up when their owners aren't present, the Philipstown Town Board on Wednesday (Feb. 21) postponed a vote on the measure.

Supervisor Richard Shea said the board had "heard a lot of public comments" and wanted time to consider them.

The hearing filled nearly every chair in the Haldane school auditorium in Cold Spring. Before it got underway, the board held a moment of silence for the victims of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting on Feb. 14 in which 17 students and teachers died.

Most residents who spoke favored the safe-storage initiative, which demands that no firearm owner leave a gun "out of his or her possession or control in a residence" while knowing, or having reason to know, that anyone under age 18 is at home, unless the owner is also present or gives the gun "to a lawful custodian," locks it in a container, or disables it with a lock. Penalties for violating the law, a misdemeanor, would include a fine of up to \$1,000, a year's imprisonment in the county jail, or both.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley, a Philipstown resident, led the long list of attendees addressing the issue. Unlike the speakers who followed, Langley did not take sides, saying his job was "public safety ... As sheriff, it is my expectation that Putnam County residents will acquire firearms lawfully. I expect that they will educate themselves and others about gun safety. And I expect that they will handle their guns responsibly, always with the

*"As sheriff, it is my expectation that Putnam County residents will acquire firearms lawfully. I expect that they will educate themselves and others about gun safety."*

safety of others foremost in their minds."

Kathleen Zebzda accused the board of overstepping its bounds, citing a 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008 that struck down a Washington, D.C., law that required trigger locks on rifles and shotguns.

"Your mandate is to do things for residents of the town we are not able to do ourselves," such as road maintenance and recreation programs, and "to ensure the liberties of every person are protected," she said. "Protecting myself in my home is my responsibility and right. It must not be infringed by any government or law." She urged the board "not to pass this illegal and unconstitutional law."

"Rendering us defenseless is not" a Town Board function, Kenn Sapeta concurred.

However, Stephen Gaba, the town's

attorney, said the law at issue in the Supreme Court decision differed significantly from the proposed Philipstown regulation, which would only apply "when you are not home. Under this law, we do not prevent people from accessing their guns."

Some critics said the Town Board should focus not on guns but drug abuse. "We don't have a firearms problem in this town, we have an opioid epidemic," Rodney Dow asserted.

Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery responded that the board is addressing opioid abuse, as are other local organizations.

Claudio Marzollo described the pleas for attention to the opioid problem as "a red herring." Concern about opioids "does not mean we cannot tackle other problems. Let's not wait until the first kid in Philipstown gets shot."

Sapeta faulted the Town Board for not implementing a suggestion made by gun owners in 2016, when the board first proposed the ordinance, to establish gun-safety courses in Philipstown schools and at the Recreation Department. "The board did not seize upon this opportunity" he said. "It's upon you to contact us."

Montgomery explained that such

programs start with residents and recommended those interested present a proposal to the town's Recreation Commission, as other citizens have done in getting courses offered. "We went over this with you guys" in 2016, she recalled.

Young people also joined the conversation.

"There's no reason to be opposed to a safe-storage law," said one, Haldane senior Mae McGrath, a non-voting advisor to the Haldane School Board. "It no way infringes on an individual's right to bear arms and doesn't prevent being able to use a gun for defense. There are too many deaths in this country as a result of gun violence and this law could be a step in the direction of decreasing this number."

Karen Kapoor, a preschool teacher, said she lives in fear of having to protect her students from a gunman. "I don't want to have to do that," she said.

Ana Silverlink described a family tragedy when her brother, a lifetime National Rifle Association member, shot himself in front of his wife. "Guns do not save lives. Guns are made to kill," she said. "Laws save lives."

Lt. Mike Cappello of the New York Police Department, a lawyer and Haldane parent, also backed the proposal. He said he locks up his gun as soon as he arrives home. "It's common sense. It's a deadly weapon," he said. "I think the law is constitutional."

Steve Sterling said he had dropped his membership in the National Rifle Association because of its lack of interest in gun safety. A safe-storage law "is not a Second Amendment issue" and "it's not gun control," he argued. Rather, "it's gun safety. Who can possibly have an issue with that?"

"Gun safety is public safety, and we need to stand up for public safety," added Stacey Matson-Zuvic, of Cold Spring.

## Gun-Storage Law for Dutchess?

By Jeff Simms

Newly elected Dutchess County Legislator Nick Page, who represents Beacon and parts of Fishkill, said this week that he would like to see the county consider a gun-storage law similar to one passed by the Beacon City Council in 2016.

That law requires Beacon residents to keep loaded weapons in a gun safe or to equip them with a trigger lock when anyone under the age of 16 lives in or is

visiting the home.

Page said he also would like to see Dutchess create an extreme-risk protection order that would allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend an individual's access to firearms if there's evidence the person is threatening to harm themselves or others.

Page said both proposals have been discussed informally among legislators but "any gun legislation is going to be a heavy lift at the county level."



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## Beech blues

Maintenance of the area immediately beneath the endangered copper beech tree at the Butterfield development site should have been a condition of the preservation plan, not simply fencing at the drip line ("Butterfield Beech Blues," Feb. 9).

What had been manicured lawn for much of the tree's recent lifetime has become overgrown with woody weeds competing with the tree's roots for moisture and nutrients. Coupled with the droughts of the past couple of years, it seems the tree must be experiencing exceptional stress. Why not try clearing the brush and possibly adding some water occasionally over the next few months to see if there is a change?

Mark Galezo, *Philipstown*

*Galezo chairs the Philipstown Conservation Board.*

## Volunteer shortage

Philipstown is in line with Beacon when it comes to a shortage of volunteer firefighters ("Beacon Fire Victims Stable," Feb. 16). As our population changes, and our young people leave, there are fewer people willing to take the training and time to help their community.

There are many positions that don't require intensive training. Please join your nearest volunteer fire department!

Dave Brower, *Garrison*

*Brower is a Garrison Fire District commissioner.*

## Gun safety

Two letters to the editor in the Feb. 16 issue argued against a gun-storage law in Philipstown. In this climate of death from guns, it is irresponsible to ignore the rage at out-of-control gun use. Prayers are useless. Only gun control can change this climate of fear. How many children need to die for responsible gun control?

One writer suggested children be taught target shooting. This is based on the self-interest of gun owners and shows no concern for the climate of insanity that has taken over the U.S. We are in crisis mode and we need to push back the National Rifle Association and say no.

Lillian Rosengarten, *Cold Spring*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letters to the Editor

*The Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com) or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

This world is full of weapons. It doesn't matter if you lock up every gun: people will find any way necessary to kill each other.

If it wasn't guns, it would be bombs. That's a scarier prospect. The right to choose is our right. What's next? Cars, food, house, how many children we can have? Be careful when asking for new legislation.

Richard Hagen Jr., *Cold Spring*



**LOADED GUN** — On Feb. 16, former Beacon council member Ali Muhammad called police to report finding a loaded handgun on a Main Street trash can while walking to work. He posted a video on Instagram that has been viewed more than 2,200 times.

## Correction: Tax Exemptions

In "Taxes in Philipstown" (Feb. 16), the list of the 10 largest categories of exemptions assumed full exemptions but some categories, such as veterans, low-income residents, volunteer fire and ambulance, and farms receive only partial exemptions.

A list with the corrected figures is below. It excludes STAR rebates, which in 2016 exempted about \$64 million worth of property from school taxes. The figures show the assessed value of property, by category, exempt from town, county and/or school taxes, and an estimate of the taxes that would be collected if it were on the rolls.

1. Religious: \$52.4 million (\$1.86 million)
2. Educational: \$25.6 million (\$911,000)<sup>1</sup>
3. Government: \$25.2 million (\$896,000)<sup>2</sup>
4. Nonprofits: \$17 million (\$607,000)<sup>3</sup>
5. Veterans: \$13.2 million (\$440,000)<sup>4</sup>
6. School districts: \$12.3 million (\$438,000)
7. Low-income: \$6.5 million (\$230,000)<sup>5</sup>
8. Volunteer fire/ambulance: \$4.5 million (\$159,000)
9. Railroad: \$2.4 million (\$85,000)
10. Farmland: \$1.4 million (\$50,000)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This includes land preserved by the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson.

<sup>2</sup> This includes land owned by the town, village, county, state and federal governments, including parks and cemeteries.

<sup>3</sup> This includes properties such as Stonecrop Gardens, Boscobel, Garrison's Landing, Lake Surprise Camp, the Fresh Air Farm and Manitoaga.

<sup>4</sup> There are a number of categories, including disabled, combat and Cold War. In addition, not all categories receive exemptions from all types of taxes.

<sup>5</sup> This includes residents who are disabled and/or over the age of 65.

<sup>6</sup> This includes agricultural parcels such as those at Lanza Farms and Saunders Farm in Garrison (but not homes).



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# Is Indian Point Pipeline Safe?

*Risk assessment long overdue*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In February 2016, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo commissioned a study of the risks of running a gas pipeline through the Indian Point nuclear plant site. Seven months later, the state told the consulting firm preparing the \$275,000 assessment to complete it by Dec. 31, 2016.

More than a year after that deadline, the study hasn't been released and its status remains unclear.

After repeated efforts to pry loose the document through Freedom of Information Law requests, activists are urging Cuomo and local officials to do something. Organized by Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), a group formed as the pipeline plans took shape, they have scheduled an "interfaith climate vigil" for Feb. 25 outside Cuomo's Mount Kisco home.

Known as the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) project, the 42-inch pipeline began operation in January 2017 despite opposition from environmentalists and scientists who argued that a high-pressure pipe cannot be safely snaked

through 2,300 feet of a nuclear power complex, much less one, like Indian Point, on an earthquake fault.

*A draft resolution a resident proposed noted that a radioactive release caused by an explosion could "render Philipstown uninhabitable for generations."*

Although Indian Point is scheduled to close by spring 2021, critics contend that dangers of a pipeline accident will remain because spent radioactive fuel will be stored at the facility indefinitely.

Constructed by Spectra Energy, AIM is a link in a system to carry natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation in Pennsylvania into New York, beneath the Hudson River, and across Putnam County into Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the pipeline, although critics contend that its decision was based on erroneous data.

On Feb. 1, Philipstown resident Paula Clair asked the Town Board to call for the study to be released, saying that "we who live close to the nuclear plant have a right



Workers for Spectra Energy prepare to drag the 42-inch gas pipeline under the Hudson River near Indian Point in August 2016.



Demonstrators protest the pipeline near Indian Point in August 2016.

Photos by Erik McGregor

to know" of the hazards. Clair, who sits on the town's Zoning Board of Appeals, said that the proximity of the gas pipeline to spent nuclear fuel means that "if there was an explosion or a fire, it would be a catastrophe."

A draft resolution she proposed noted that a radioactive release caused by an explosion could "render Philipstown uninhabitable for generations."

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea agreed that the study, paid for with taxpayer funds, should be released, and promised that the board would consider passing a measure soon. "I don't think it's going to be a problem" approving it, he said.

Susan Van Dolsen, co-founder of SAPE, said her organization has been attempting to get a copy of the study through FOIL and other means since mid-2016, without success. Instead of the study, the state sent stacks of emails and other items, often of dubious relevance, she said, with large portions blacked out.

Sandy Galef, who represents Philip-

stown and Beacon in the state Assembly and serves on the task force looking at the impact of Indian Point's closure, also wants the assessment released.

In a Jan. 19 letter to Cuomo, she reminded the governor that she had previously asked to see the document, which, she said, becomes especially important as the task force looks at possible re-uses of Indian Point after its nuclear operations cease. "I don't think we can move forward without all possible information," she wrote.

As of Thursday (Feb. 22), the governor's office had not responded to questions posed a week earlier by *The Current* about the study. The state Office of General Services, which oversaw the contract for the study, on Feb. 14 referred inquiries to the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, which also did not respond.

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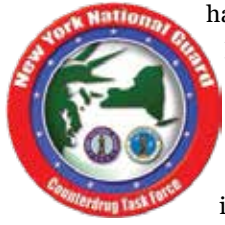
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## Data Against Drugs *(from Page 1)*



has developed a proprietary system that allows its members to monitor, in real time, the number of overdose cases coming into hospitals. The system is only operational at St. Luke's Cornwall in Newburgh but the task force hopes to expand it to other local facilities.

When a patient who has overdosed is brought to St. Luke's by ambulance, the task force finds out instantly. Among other things, they learn what ZIP code the victim was picked up in, how much Narcan (an opioid antidote) was administered, whether the patient survived, his or her gender and age, and when he or she was discharged. (One thing they do not learn is the patient's identity.)

Patterns emerge in the data, and those patterns can be acted upon. For example, if the task force notes a high number of overdoses coming from a certain neighborhood on Fridays around 5 p.m., they can alert dispatchers to have ambulances positioned to cut down on response times.

The data also indicates the epicenters of the crisis. There are fewer overdoses in Newburgh than in the past, but the data show them rising in Kingston, which may indicate supply shifting as police bust dealers.

"The demand doesn't go down," only the supply, says Fernandez. "Someone who is addicted can't say, 'Well, Newburgh got shut down, I'll take a break from heroin for two weeks,' so they find dealers elsewhere."

The data also indicate that while the number of overdoses has stabilized in the Hudson Valley, the number of fatalities has risen, which the task force attributes to fentanyl, a powerful synthetic painkill-

er that is often added to heroin. A fatal dose is the size of a few grains of salt.

The data that the task force collects is shared almost immediately with anyone "on the front lines of the epidemic," Fernandez says, such as law enforcement officials and health professionals, as well as members of community coalitions. "Data that's held back is a paperweight," he says. "You might as well have never collected it."

In addition to its statistical work, the task force partners with organizations such as Team Newburgh and the Southern Dutchess Community Coalition to draft action plans, provide data for grant applications and attend community events. It even put notes in pizza boxes about to go out for delivery in neighborhoods where the crisis is particularly bad listing resources for those struggling with addiction and encouragement for parents and others.

*"Sometimes it's as simple as 'Your kids need you to be a parent and not a friend,' so have a slice and have a talk."*

"Sometimes it's as simple as 'Your kids need you to be a parent and not a friend,' so have a slice and have a talk," says Fernandez. Task members also encourage people to volunteer. "Take more of a sense of responsibility for each person in your community," Fernandez says. "You can't just sit on the couch and say 'I wish things were better' and not make a phone call" to join a coalition.

Elaine Trumpetto, executive director of the Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, the agency that sponsors the Southern Dutchess Community Coalition, says she admires



The Counterdrug Task Force provides helicopters such as these UH-72A Lakotas, and their pilots, to local enforcement agencies at no charge.

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone*

the guardsmen because they are "unafraid to roll up their sleeves. If I ask for help, and it's something that's within the purview of what they're allowed to do by their regulations, they do it."

The guardsmen have been equally im-

pressed by the members of the community coalitions they work with. "The way they feel about their communities is inspiring," says Patino, who grew up in a Brooklyn neighborhood ravaged by drugs.

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## Paying Tribute



A funeral procession for lifelong Cold Spring resident Richie Tomlins that passed by the Main Street firehouse on Feb 20 included a Putnam County Highway Department plow. Tomlins, who died suddenly on Feb. 15 at age 43, was employed by the department. He also was a 25-year member of the Cold Spring Fire Company.

*Photo by Michael Turton*

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The cottage at 35 Market St.

Photos by M. Turton

## Dual Demolitions *(from Page 1)*

building of similar size and appearance.

Beth Sigler, of the Newburgh-based architectural firm, Sigler-Henderson Studio, said the cottage was in poor condition. She told the board that the new structure would be “in keeping with the iconic form of the [existing] building,” and reuse parts of it, such as portions of the board and batten. She said that the cottage dates to the 19th century but that its original use is not known.

SCGY Properties, the owner of 126 Main St., said it planned to raze the mixed-use structure, which most recently housed Carolyn’s Flower Shoppe, and construct a building with ground-level retail and a

second-floor apartment. The parking area to the east of the building will also be upgraded.

Speaking for the owner, Cold Spring designer Karen Parks said the existing building appears on maps dating to 1853 and began as a bakery. But in the 165 years since, the frame has deteriorated badly due to dry rot and its integrity weakened by “many cuts and compromises,” she said. “Very little of the historic fabric of the building remains.”

Parks said that the new building would not replicate the original but its design would fit with the village character while creating a more appealing storefront. Materials from the exist-

ing building will be used wherever possible, she said. A yarn shop will occupy the retail space.

The new building also will be built slightly to the east, creating a 5-foot gap between it and the Silver Spoon Cafe, to improve drainage. Currently the two buildings are about 6 inches apart.



The former site of Carolyn's Flower Shoppe at 126 Main St.

## Local Assault Rifle News

### Win the Gun of Your Choice

The Kent Volunteer Fire Department decided on Feb. 20 to change the prize of an ongoing fundraising raffle from a modified Windham AR-15 rifle to a gift certificate at a Carmel gun shop.

The department decided in January to raffle off the rifle and a shotgun, with tickets selling for \$20 each. The department president has said it is the most successful fundraiser the 40-member department has ever done, with proceeds expected to reach \$10,000.

After the Parkland killings near Miami on Feb. 14, the Kent Board of Supervisors asked the department to suspend the raffle. The firefighters refused but changed the prizes to \$500 and \$800 vouchers so the winners can select their own weapons.

Like all AR-15s sold in New York, the weapon is modified to comply with state law, meaning it can't have a pistol grip, muzzle-flash suppressor and/or collapsible stock. The state also bans magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

### Rifles Seized in Fishkill

New York State Police troopers on Feb. 16 arrested a Fishkill man on charges of illegally possessing three assault rifles with large-capacity magazines. He also was accused of illegally owning a taser, brass



Strack

knuckles and a baton.

Scott H. Strack, 48, was charged with three felony and four misdemeanors.

Police said the weapons were discovered when troopers executed a search warrant on Max Way and arrested Kim Amato, 44, of Fishkill, on a felony larceny charge.

Strack was arraigned and sent to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$7,500 cash bail or \$15,000 bond. Amato was given a Feb. 22 court date and released.



Scott Pappalardo's video had been viewed more than 25 million times by Feb. 22.

### Cutting Up AR-15

A video made by a Wallkill resident that shows him cutting the barrel off his AR-15 rifle with a chainsaw has received more than 25 million views on Facebook.

Scott Pappalardo, who has “the right to keep and bear arms” tattooed on his arm, posted the video on Feb. 17, three days after the Parkland killings.

“Is the right to own this weapon more important than someone’s life?” he asks. Pappalardo said he has owned the rifle for 30 years but didn’t want it to fall into the wrong hands.



The weapons seized in Fishkill by New York State troopers

Photo provided



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## Beacon Officials ‘Tweak’ Emergency Plan *(from Page 1)*

thoughtful conversation, and it’s ongoing.” Administrators anywhere are reluctant to discuss details of security plans. But Landahl said he knows that “every single parent is thinking about this.” The district has 2,900 students.

Last fall, then-Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon recommended that the school board allow him to assign a police officer, known as a school resource officer (SRO), to the district. At the time, Solomon said

he didn’t think the district was “where it needs to be” regarding safety plans.

There is a security monitor on duty at each of the Beacon district’s four elementary schools, Landahl said, along with four security monitors at Rombout Middle School and eight monitors at Beacon High School. One of the high school monitors is assigned to after-school events such as sports contests.

Kevin Junjulas,*(Continued on Page 18)*



The main entrance of Beacon High School *Photo by Daniel Case*

## Haldane to Begin Locking Doors *(from Page 1)*

The elementary school entrance has always been locked during the day, she said.

In addition, in the fall of 2015, the county assigned a Putnam County sheriff’s deputy to the district, who is on campus whenever school is in session. His presence is signaled by his squad car parked in the traffic circle between the two buildings.

As of Feb. 22, visitors to Haldane are being asked to show identification, and Bowers said the district plans to add the capability to scan driver’s licenses. She noted the district upgraded many of its

safety systems in 2014 after voters passed a bond referendum to pay for it.

“We continually refine safety and security procedures and work closely with first responders and security experts to improve the procedures and protocols within our safety plans,” Bowers wrote. “Our district’s Safety Committee, which includes members of the Cold Spring Police Department, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, administrators, teachers and parents, meets regularly to review best practices and implement *(Continued on Page 18)*



The main entrance of Haldane High School *File photo by Michael Turton*

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# The Calendar

## Fresh Perspectives



Artwork by Matteo Cervone, a seventh-grader at the Garrison School

### *Students take over art center with two shows*

By Chip Rowe

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, the Garrison Art Center will host a joint reception for its annual School Invitational Theme Exhibition (SITE), *Inside the Outsiders*, and works by high school students participating in its Mentor Program. Both shows continue through March 4.

SITE is a collaboration between the art center and schools in Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester, Orange and Rockland counties. It began in 1994 and this year includes students from the Garrison School, Haldane Elementary, Haldane Middle School, Beacon High School, John Jay High School in Hopewell Junction, Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers, and Peekskill High School.

Each year the art center offers a theme for teachers to present to their students, then selects works to display at the art center. This year the focus was on self-taught artists. For many students, SITE is the first opportunity they have to see their work in a



Tyler-Tyrel Winston, a senior at Beacon High School, is working with Barbara Smith Gioia on collages. Photos provided

gallery.

The art center also will open its annual Mentor Program exhibit with artwork by 12 high school students who, (Continued on Page 12)

## Embroidering Memories



### *Garrison author writes 'sort-of' memoir*

By Alison Rooney

Marcelline Thomson is an unreliable narrator. That's not an accusation; she admits it. She has written what, at first glance, appears to be a memoir, which it is — and isn't.

The Philipstown resident's first novel, *Dreaming of Oranges*, published in January in paperback and digital versions, depicts a close friendship and the wanderlust-driven adventures which stem from it. The time Thomson spent living in locales around the world, including Beirut, serves as a springboard for fictional intrigues.

A friend who read an early draft and said the protagonist sounded like "an unreliable narrator: fact mixing with fiction, coming from fiction," says Thomson, a former public relations and advertising executive. "At first I was concerned, but then I thought, Why not? We did go to the places in the book, but then imagination takes over. As my friend put it, 'The thing with reality and fiction and unreliable is that they can all exist together in a creation.'"

Opening with a heart-thumping traffic stop en route to an airport, the novel dips back to a time when, inspired by Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet*, two friends-to-be from different backgrounds meet in college. It then sets sail with them, first to Greece, then Egypt and Cyprus, in an era when it was possible to not



Marcelline Thomson, in her favorite landscape: the desert

Photo provided

be closely followed by parental eyes and apps.

"My friend and I did read the *Alexandria Quartet*, but, unlike in the book, our parents knew where we were headed and sanctioned it — that's one part I did fictionalize, because, strangely, something can be true, but not credible," Thomson says.

"We didn't have a lot of plans," she recalls. "It was a wonderful time, and there was nothing other than the ordinary kind of danger traveling to the Middle East then — although no young American women went there — even going to Greece was unusual. We were following in the footsteps of authors we admired, like Freya Stark, though what we did was (Continued on Page 13)



FRIDAY, FEB. 23

**Harlem Wizards**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | [romboutpto.org](#)

**I'm Not Your Negro (Documentary)**  
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
50 Liberty St., Beacon  
[moviesthatmatterbeacon.org](#)

**You Can't Take It with You**  
8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls  
845-298-1491 | [countyplayers.org](#)

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

**Cabin Fever Workshop: Soft Pastel Still Life**  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | [garrisonartcenter.org](#)

**A Sugaring Off Celebration**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 | [hnm.org](#)

**Infant CPR Class**  
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | [desmondfishlibrary.org](#)

**Army vs. Boston University (Men's Basketball)**  
2 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point  
845-938-2526 | [goarmywestpoint.com](#)

**West Point Band: On the Waterfront**  
2 p.m. Eisenhower Hall  
655 Ruger Road, West Point  
845-938-4159 | [ikehall.com](#)

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit [highlandscurrent.com](#).  
Send event listings to [calendar@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com)

**School Invitational Exhibition (Opening)**  
3 – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center | See details above.

**Putnam County in Struggle for Suffrage (Talk)**  
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | [putnamhistorymuseum.org](#)

**Cold Spring Film Society**  
4 p.m. *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*  
7 p.m. *Reds*  
Old VFW Hall | 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring  
[coldspringfilm.org](#)

**Uriah Heep**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | [paramounthudsonvalley.com](#)

**You Can't Take It with You**  
8 p.m. County Players Theater  
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

**Soup 4 Greens Fundraiser**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. VFW/Bingo Hall  
413 Main St., Beacon  
[beaconfarmersmarket.org](#)

**Free Admission to Dia:Beacon**  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. 3 Beekman St., Beacon  
845-440-0100 | [diaart.org](#)  
*Putnam and Dutchess residents*

**Modern Quilt Guild**  
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | [desmondfishlibrary.org](#)

**PHAS Talk: Carolyn Llewelyn**  
2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  
845-265-9254 | [putnamhighlandsaudubon.org](#)

MONDAY, FEB. 26

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

**Beacon School Board**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
See details under Friday.

**Garrison Fire District Meeting**  
7 p.m. Garrison Firehouse  
1616 Route 9, Garrison  
845-424-4406 | [garrisonfd.org](#)

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

**Desmond-Fish Library**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. New Moms & Infants  
1:30 p.m. Spanish Storytime  
4 p.m. Kids' Craft Hour  
See details under Sunday.

**Senior Luncheon**  
1 p.m. Church on the Hill  
245 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2022

**Hudson Valley Forward: Independent Workers Unite**  
6 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
291 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-1890 | [beahivebzzz.com](#)

**Haldane School Board Workshop**  
7 p.m. Haldane (Music Room)  
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring  
845-265-9254 | [haldaneschool.org](#)

**Cold Spring Board of Trustees**  
7 p.m. Public Hearing: Filming and Audiovisual Regulations  
7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting  
85 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](#)

**Whose Streets? (Documentary)**  
7 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  
[beaconsurj@gmail.com](#)

**Weird Al Yankovic**  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](#)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

**Senior Luncheon**  
Noon. Philipstown Community Center  
107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison  
845-424-4618 | [philipstownrecreation.com](#)

**Battle of the Books Info Session**  
3 p.m. Middle School  
5 p.m. High School  
Butterfield Library | See details under Sunday.

**Sketchbook Open Studio for Teens**  
3 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | [beaconlibrary.org](#)

**Dutchess State of the County Address**  
5 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion)  
1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park  
[dutchessny.gov/RSVP](#)

**BeaconArts Member Meetup**  
6:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon | [beaconarts.org](#)

**Army vs. Bucknell (Women's Basketball)**  
7 p.m. Christl Arena  
See details under Saturday.

**Highlands Photographers' Salon**  
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Steve Blamires: Why Was Shackleton Shunned?**  
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
See details under Tuesday.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

**Magazzino Opens for Season**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 2700 Route 9, Philipstown  
[magazzino.art](#)

**Yarn Salon**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Aspiring Writers Experience (AWE) for Tweens and Teens**  
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Sunday.

**Philipstown Town Board**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5200 | [philipstown.com](#)

**Decades Rewind**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Saturday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

**Reel Life Film Club: First Position (grades 6-8)**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Wednesday.

**Girl Scout World Thinking Day**  
7 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | [girlscouts.org](#)

**Talk and Tasting: Big Reds**  
7:15 p.m. Valley Restaurant  
2015 Route 9, Garrison  
845-424-3604 x39 | [thegarrison.com](#)

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## Mouths to Feed

## Going for Gold

By Celia Barbour

When I asked my kids at the beginning of the week if there was something — anything — I could do to make their mid-winter/Presidents' Day breaks more interesting, I got shrugs.

Fine with me. I'm down with a case of winter inertia as bad as any teenager's.

Well, not any teenager. Not, for example, those 17-year-olds winning gold medals in Pyeongchang, who don't seem to realize that it's February. But although watching Chloe Kim and Nico Porteous whirligig through the air elevated my heartrate, and googling Adam Rippon required a certain level of manual dexterity, my fit of indifference wasn't sitting well with me. I've never been comfortable with the idea of doing nothing.

For much of my life, I had my own internal Julie-the-maniac-cruise-director to spur me along on my personal journey (which has in no way resembled either *The Love Boat* or the Olympics, mind you). During a trip a friend and I took to Montana in our 20s, I wanted to cram so many experiences into each day that I woke us both up at 5 a.m. with a rise-and-shine, time's-a-wasting roar. She hated it, resented me, and lay defiantly in her bed while I stomped off to embrace the moment. We soon compromised and had a wonderful trip: Eight days that felt like a month, so full were they with adventures (and just enough sleep).

There's a huge payoff to getting off your *tochus*. The more you bother, the richer life becomes. When the kids were little, I felt compelled to pass this wisdom along to them, organizing spontaneous ice-skating trips to Bear Mountain or mushroom-spotting hikes into the forest. I insisted they learn to ski early, since I, growing up in flat-as-a-griddle Indiana, hadn't tried it until I was 26, by which point I was far too old to be fearless, or good.

Yet sometime in the last decade, I began living my life as if it were a real-life motivational video designed to convey just the right lesson to my target audience. Perhaps that's why inertia has me in its grips these days. My teenagers no longer look to me for inspiration. (Actually, they do, I tell myself. They just won't admit it.)

So when Dosi came to me the other day and said, "Can I make nachos for supper?" I said sure. Because at that moment, nachos sounded great, and nachos made by someone — anyone — other than me sounded positively gourmet.

Then Dosi said, "Can I make them for just me? I don't like the pressure of cooking for everyone," and I realized I had to get off the sofa and feed my family.

I actually have a great repertoire of next-to-nothing dishes that I turn to when I'm feeling lazy. This recipe originally came to me via a Korean friend, but has long since become a family staple because it is satisfying on so many different levels. It's comforting and nourishing, but also aromatic with scallions and sesame oil, and



Winter gold, in honor of Korea

Photo by Henry Weed

invigorating thanks to the sriracha. And if there's leftover rice in the fridge, it can be ready in five minutes, so the kids often make it for themselves as a snack.

Here's a thing about old life lessons: They work, even if you're feeling blue. All I had to do was get myself into the kitch

en, and motivation started seeping into my cell membranes. I wound up cooking happily and more elaborately than I'd expected. To wow my judges, I cooked the rice in water I'd first pureed with fresh spinach (a trick borrowed from Mexican and Middle Eastern rice dishes). The result? Yeah, okay, teenagers don't cheer for their own mother, but they did say, "This is so, so good." It's medal enough for me.

## Korean-Inspired Egg and Green Rice

You can substitute plain rice for green, and fried eggs for poached.

## For the rice:

- 1 cup uncooked rice
- 1 generous handful spinach leaves
- 2 scallions, green tops only (reserve the white parts for the finished dish)

Prepare rice according to package directions, pureeing the spinach and scallion tops with the water and salt in a blender before cooking. When cooked, fluff with a fork then set aside, covered, until ready to serve.

1. Bring 1½ inches of water to a simmer in a heavy-bottomed saucepan. Stir in the vinegar. Crack one egg into a small bowl or cup, and slide it gently into the water. Repeat with remaining eggs, spacing them evenly. Cook at a bare simmer about 3 minutes, until the whites are set and the yolks firm on the outside but still wobbly within. Transfer to a plate using a slotted spoon and set aside.
2. Divide the reserved rice among four bowls. Set a pat of butter on each. Top with one poached egg. Drizzle with sesame oil, soy sauce and sriracha. Sprinkle with scallions and sesame seeds, if using.

## For the dish

- 4 eggs (very fresh if poaching)
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar (if poaching)
- 2 tablespoons butter (optional)
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- Soy sauce, to taste
- Sriracha or Korean chili paste, to taste
- 2 scallions, white and light-green parts only, minced (see left)
- Toasted sesame seeds (optional)

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

Space is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend both workshops.  
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To register, please call (845) 265-2000 or email us at [garden@stonecrop.org](mailto:garden@stonecrop.org)



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Fresh Perspectives (from Page 9)

with the help of professional artists, each complete an independent project in art, architecture, design and/or the performing arts. The program began in 1988.

The student participants this year are Harsha Philip (Briarcliff), Nina Ansaldi (Yorktown), Emma Galantich (John Jay), JoAnna Galbo (Beacon), Andrew Mark (John Jay), Debora Martinez (Peekskill), Katerina Merendino (Ketcham), Makena Mohl (John Jay), Grace Sanker (Beacon), Joseph Song (John Jay), Tyler-Tyrel Winston (Beacon) and Michelle Yannarelli (John Jay).

The mentors are Ada Pilar Cruz, Rick Price, Rob Penner, Hildreth Potts, Sheryl Levine, Lori Merhige, Jenny Bender Stasikewich, Erin Murphy Doan, Andrea Lenci-Cerchiara, Stephen Rose, Barbara Smith Gioia and Thomas Huber.

The galleries at the Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [garrisonart-center.org](http://garrisonart-center.org) or call 845-424-3960.



Katerina Merendino, a participant in the Mentor Program, works on mosaics.



Artwork by Adam Dee, a student at Haldane High School

Photos provided



Makena Mohl of John Jay High School designing fashion

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## Embroidering Memories *(from Page 9)*

nothing compared to what she got up to."

Thomson invented many of the male characters. "Young boys would often attach themselves to you; they had such yearning," she recalls. "This boy in Addis Ababa came, every single morning, to the hotel."

Thomson says she always wanted to do a book about her early life and attempted it in fits and starts. "Last summer I got tough on myself and said, 'Do it, or drop it.'" Her husband, David Duffy, who writes crime fiction (and is a member of the board of directors of Highlands Current Inc.), offered some advice. "Why don't you start it at a dramatic point?" he told her. She thought

that might work for crime fiction, but not for a memoir-novel. But it got her started.

Thomson decided to self-publish partly out of impatience with the prospect of finding an agent and selling it. "I was going to have instant gratification, or I'd be demoralized by it," she says.

She is mulling over a travel memoir. Although she lived in Bangkok, she never visited China. "It was basically forbidden," she says. "We forget that now." She is also drawn to the desert, especially the Sahara. "In that part of the world, so much happens that we don't understand," she says. "If you want to be in a place where you don't know what will happen, that's the place."

### Share Your News With Our Readers

To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to [calendar@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com).

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# Eco Action Day

## Community Eco-Action Day

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**Desmond-Fish Library**  
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**Saturday, March 3, 2018**  
(snow date, March 17)

**10:30 am - 3:30 pm**  
Doors open at 10 a.m.

Sessions are **FREE** and open to the public.  
The event includes a complementary light lunch.  
All participants **must** pre-register. (Sorry, no walk-ins)

**RSVP** to [http://eco\\_action\\_day.eventbrite.com?s=82661433](http://eco_action_day.eventbrite.com?s=82661433)

### Morning Session: 10:30-12:00

- Update on the Climate Smart Community Initiative
- Climate Smart Resilience - Hudson River Estuary Program
- Carbon Neutral Strategies

### Carbon Neutral Lunch 12:00-1:00

### Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:30

- Haldane & GUFs Student Presentations: "Going Green at School"
- Panel Discussion: "Smart choices for your home"
- Screening: *Years of Living Dangerously* documentary followed by Q&A with creator/executive producer David Gelber



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# What Should Senior Center in Cold Spring Be Called?

*And other business before the Putnam Legislature*

By Holly Crocco

Developer Paul Guillaro is asking the Putnam County Legislature to provide a name for the senior center being constructed at his development at the former Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring, so he can start placing signage.

"What I was looking for was the Julia L. Butterfield Senior/Community Center — if they can fit that on a sign," said Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) at the county's Feb. 15 Rules Committee meeting in Carmel.

However, she said, County Executive MaryEllen Odell "is asking for input from Philipstown seniors, so I think this has to wait."

In addition, the name will be discussed with the Philipstown Town Board and Cold Spring Village Board. "They should also have input," she said. "I just hope the developer can keep that space open" in the meantime.

Legislator Neil Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said he thought "it was nice of the county executive to send a letter to ask them to work with her and with you on coming up with a name for the pavilion, rather than the county just picking something."

The county plans to lease 6,000 square feet in Lahey Pavilion for the center. The

space is currently being renovated.

## Planner position

The Legislature is again considering amending the county charter to change the job requirements for commissioner of the Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation.

The change would allow O'Dell to appoint Sandra Fusco to the job. She has been the interim deputy since 2016 after moving to the agency from the law department.

Among other requirements, the charter requires the commissioner to have eight years of practical experience in regional or municipal planning.

Fusco does not meet that requirement, but the change would allow for an individual with a law degree to be considered as an alternative. The amendment also would require the individual to have at least four years of experience in government, with knowledge of federal, state and local statutes, rules and regulations pertaining to land use, the State Environmental Quality Review Act and general municipal law.

"This will ensure that the qualifications or the position are not watered down or diminished, but rather, are enhanced," argued County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner.

Sullivan noted at the Feb. 15 rules meeting that the county is not growing like it was in the 1970s and '80s, when the charter was created. Instead, the Legislature

is focused on maintaining infrastructure, building public-private partnerships and seeking grants for repairs.

"I feel that most of the major planning has arrived and is behind us," he said.

Scuccimarra expressed concern with the proposal, saying that to change the charter to fit a candidate was not right. She pointed out that the county will review the charter in 2019, as it does every 10 years, and that would be a more appropriate time to make changes after letting residents have input.

"We're rushing this through," she said.

Sullivan, however, criticized Scuccimarra for voting differently two years ago when a proposal to change the charter so Fusco could be appointed first arose. It did not receive the two-thirds vote required to pass, but Scuccimarra at the time voted yes.

At the Feb. 15 meeting, she said circumstances have changed. "This is how I feel right now," she said.

Legislator Toni Addonizio (R-Kent) argued that because the charter does not state that the commissioner must have a degree in planning, Fusco is qualified.

The last time the charter was changed to accommodate a personnel matter was in 2012, when a residency requirement was amended to allow for the hiring of Fred Pena, who lives over the Dutchess County line, as commissioner of highways and facilities. He still holds the position.

The issue will now go before the Personnel Committee.

## NY Health Act

While the League of Women Voters of Putnam County is encouraging the county to support the proposed single-payer New York Health Act that would cover all state residents, Putnam legislators say they need more information.

"It is different from the Affordable Care Act in that the ACA kept in place health insurance plans, and this would do away with health insurance companies," Michael Piazza, the county's commissioner of social services, told legislators at the Feb. 13 Health Committee meeting. "Theoretically, single-payer makes a lot of sense, but in the details it's confusing for me at this point."

Lillian Jones of the LWV of Putnam County encouraged the Legislature to pass a resolution in support of the NYHA, saying it would save Putnam more than \$9 million annually in Medicaid costs.

"Should absolutely nothing be done at the state level, your costs are going to go up much higher than they are now," said Jones. "It seems to me that it's a win-win."

The NYHA has passed the Assembly four times but has never passed the state Senate.

Legislators expressed skepticism.

"It sounds like it's socialized medicine, in a sense," said Ginny Nacerino (R-Paterson). "Like one for all and all for one."



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# A Tale of Two Municipalities

*Parcel in both Philipstown and Nelsonville; which zoning applies?*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Plans to develop a parcel that straddles Nelsonville and Philipstown have provoked opposition from neighbors, questions about variances, and disputes over the meaning of the word *taken*.

The case, pending before the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals, involves a request by Susan Green for variances to build a four-bedroom, 3,300-square-foot house on a half-acre lot off Douglas Lane. The private road runs south from Moffatt Road, on a hillside above Route 9D.

The spot where Green wants to build the house lies in Philipstown's rural-conservation district, which requires at least 10 acres to build a home. The remainder of the property, which would be about an acre of lawn, is in Nelsonville.

"It's a little complicated," said Robert Dee, who chairs the ZBA, at a Feb. 12 public hearing on the variance requests.

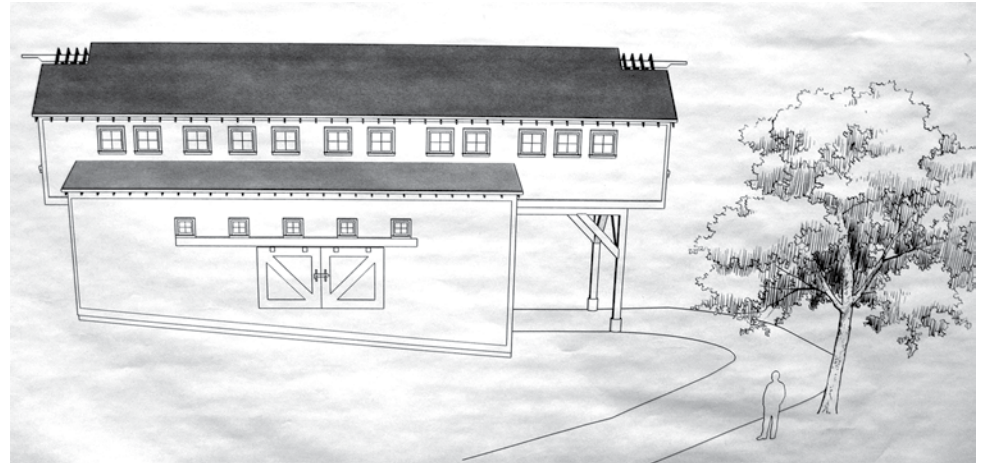
Before the zoning changed, Philipstown required house lots to be at least 1 acre. Initially, Green's half-acre was part of a 1.22-acre parcel. In 1966, to obtain access to

New York City's aqueduct, which the Cold Spring water system uses in emergencies, the Village of Cold Spring bought a 0.67-acre section of the 1.22-acre property. Later, Green bought the 0.55-acre remnant, along with the adjoining 0.9 acre in Nelsonville.

Daniel Richmond, her attorney, argued at the hearing that because the division of the 1.22-acre tract allowed Cold Spring to acquire the 0.67-acre tract for aqueduct access, her 0.55-acre parcel was created by land being "taken" by a municipality for a public purpose. Therefore, he said, the lot where Green would like to build a home is a pre-existing, legal, non-conforming lot. If the zoning board agrees, Green's 0.55-acre lot would require fewer variances.

However, Douglas Martino, an attorney for Nelsonville neighbors of the parcel, the Meyer family, contended that the lot is a pre-existing, *illegal*, non-conforming lot. Even under the old, 1-acre requirement, he argued, a 0.55-acre house lot violated the law. He also disputed that Cold Spring's purchase of the 0.67 acre for aqueduct access constituted a legal "taking" akin to property seized by eminent domain.

Richmond responded that even if the 0.55 acre needs several variances, the ZBA should accommodate the house because it will "seamlessly" blend into its surroundings. "Zoning boards are supposed to be



A drawing of a home planned for Douglas Lane by architect Susan Green

governed by the totality of the circumstances," he said.

An architect and developer, Green plans to build the home and sell the 1.4-acre property. But, she said, "I don't think of myself as a 'spec' builder." Instead, she tries "to make a house that fits in. I love Philipstown. I love the rural quality" and designed the house to resemble a barn, she said.

The neighbors were not persuaded.

"It's the applicant's approach that needs to be modified," not the zoning, said Josh Meyer. "Not every property is buildable, including this one."

He claimed Green had first intended to construct the house in Nelsonville but found the village unreceptive and so relocated it to the Philipstown side.

Nelsonville requires 2-acre house lots in that area, said Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill, who attended the hearing and

who lives on Moffatt Road. He raised concerns about drainage from impervious surfaces on a built-up lot. Already, rain water cascades into his yard from Douglas Lane, he said, and flooding from an inundated house septic field could bring "contaminated run-off." He advised the ZBA "to hold the line" and deny the application.

Randy Florke, a real estate broker who lives along Douglas Lane, also criticized the plans. "I'm pro-building, generally," he said, adding that he had considered buying what became Green's property but concluded it was undevelopable. Like O'Neill, he mentioned run-off problems, observing that the night of the hearing, the area around the Douglas Lane-Moffatt Road intersection was "a frozen pond."

The ZBA closed the hearing but will discuss the application further in March.



Neighbors say rain water and other runoff pours down Douglas Lane into the intersection with Moffatt Road (foreground). The proposed home would be built in the field at left, behind the stone wall.

Photos by L.S. Armstrong

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Eco Philipstown

Garden Club holding 'action day'

The Philipstown Garden Club will host a Community Eco-Action Day on Saturday, March 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

The free event includes a discussion on the Climate Smart Community Initiative, and reducing the carbon footprint of your home, as well as an episode of the series *Years of Living Dangerously* presented by its co-creator and executive producer,

David Gelber. Lunch is included and an RSVP is required. Search for "Philipstown Garden Club" at eventbrite.com.

## Global Experience

Girl Scouts host world tour

Garrison Troop 1407 will host a Girl Scouts World Thinking Day on Friday, March 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Garrison School gym. The troop will represent different countries with food and performances and will be selling refreshments. The snow date is March 9.



A century ago, protestors demanded New York give women the right to vote.

## Putnam Suffrage

Historian to discuss women's vote

What happened in Putnam County as the movement for women's suffrage played out? Find out at a talk by County Historian Sarah Johnson at the Putnam History Museum at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Johnson will discuss local involvement for and against the legislation that gave U.S. women the right to vote and



**NEW DIRECTOR** — The Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring has named Rachel Ornstein (right) as its executive director, succeeding Mindy Krazmien (left), who is leaving the museum after 12 years to become a schoolteacher. Ornstein joined the museum in 2016 as its director of administration.

Photo provided

how different county towns voted. Admission is \$5 or free for museum members.

## Environmental Scholarships

Funds available for Putnam students

Students who plan to pursue environmental and nature-related majors are invited to apply for one of two \$500 scholarships from the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County. Any high school senior who lives in the county and meets the criteria can apply. The deadline is April 30. See [putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/scholarship](http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/scholarship).

## Roll Out the Red Carpet

Film society to host Oscar viewing

The Cold Spring Film Society will host a viewing party at the Old VFW Hall to watch the Academy Awards on Sunday, March 4.

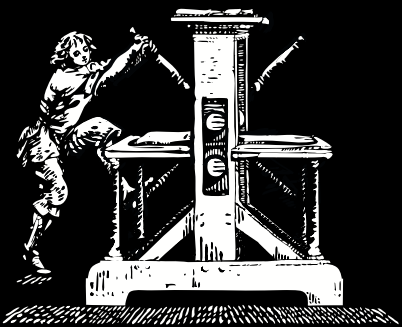
The viewing begins at 6 p.m. and continues through the last award. It will include a contest for correctly guessing winners in each category. Attendees are encouraged to dress up and bring food and drinks to share. See [coldspringfilm.org](http://coldspringfilm.org).



The Cold Spring Film Society will host a viewing party on March 4 of the 90th Academy Awards, which will be hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

ABC

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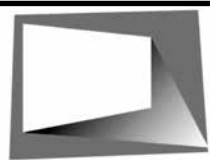
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**Faces Places (PG)**

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**Black Panther (PG13)**

FRI & SAT 2:15 5:15 8:15  
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**Peter Rabbit (PG)**

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



**EAGLE EYES** — A hiker searches the skies for eagles during an excursion led by guides from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society on Feb. 17 at Little Stony Point. The group spotted about 30 eagles, although most were distant.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Native Wisdom and Japanese Traditions

*Tompkins Corner to screen film*

As part of a ceremony led by Donna Coane, a Native American drummer and member of the Schaghticoke First Nation, the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley will screen the 2001 documentary, *The Sacred Run: The Lotus and the Feather*, at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 9.

The film follows the journey of First Nation people from North America and Japan in a ceremonial run along the Sea of Japan concluding in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The suggested donation is \$10. Tickets can be reserved at [tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org).

## Beacon

### Demanding Change

*Activist group to discuss Ferguson*

Ferguson, Missouri, was pushed into the national spotlight in 2014 when Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot and killed by a police officer. The Beacon chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice will screen the 2017 documentary, *Whose Streets?*, about how the Ferguson community responded and set off a movement. The free showing takes place at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

### Arts Funding

*Info session on grants*

Arts Mid-Hudson will hold an information session about its grants for nonprofit arts organizations on Monday, March 5, at 3 p.m. at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. The deadline for proposals is April 13. See [artsmidhudson.org/grants-and-funding](http://artsmidhudson.org/grants-and-funding).

## Piano Series Continues

*Next performance is March 4*

Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan will perform on Sunday, March 4, at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon as part of an ongoing Howland Chamber Music Circle series. The program, which begins at 4 p.m., will include works by Schubert, Dorman and Rachmaninoff. Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students) at [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org).



Pianist Inon Barnatan

Photo provided

## Soup Benefit

*Proceeds support Greens for Greens*

Sales of soup at the Beacon Farmers' Market on Sunday, Feb. 25, will support its Greens for Greens program. Pay \$5 for soup served in a disposable bowl or \$25 for soup served in a handmade ceramic bowl, or take home soup for \$15 per quart.

All proceeds allow people who need assistance with groceries double their spending power for fresh vegetables at the market and the Green Teens Summer Mobile Markets. See [beaconfarmersmarket.org](http://beaconfarmersmarket.org).



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? David and Maggie Gordon of Garrison sent this photo of their granddaughter, Klara, with their granddog, Oscar. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com).



## Real Life Dancer

*Film club to show ballet doc*

Competitive ballet is the focus of the upcoming Reel Life Film Club on Friday, March 2, at 6 p.m. at the Howland Public Library. Students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to see *First Position*, a 2011 documentary that follows dancers preparing for a prestigious competition.

Following the film, there will be a discussion with Solee Dinio, a Beacon High School student who danced in the competition depicted in the film, and Alex Bloomstein, the director of Ballet Arts Studio. Registration is encouraged by emailing [community@beacon-library.org](mailto:community@beacon-library.org).



*Sweet Relief*, a painting by Tanya Kukucka, is part of an exhibit at the Howland Cultural Center to celebrate Women's History Month. The show opens March 3.

Image provided

## Creative Cluster

*Work through Artist's Way*

Anyone interested in experiencing *The Artist's Way*, Julia Cameron's program for claiming your creativity, can join a weekly meeting at A Little Beacon Space beginning Sunday, March 4, at 1:30 p.m. Participants will work together through the 12 weeks of exercises. See [alittlebeaconblog.com](http://alittlebeaconblog.com).

## Women's History Month

*Art exhibit at Howland*

The Howland Cultural Center will open an exhibit to celebrate Women's History Month with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 3. The show features the work of 30 artists on the theme of girlhood. It will remain on view through April 1.



## Beacon Officials 'Tweak' Emergency Plan *(from Page 8)*

who was promoted to chief earlier this month after Solomon left to take the same job in Newburgh, said on Thursday that he believes school districts everywhere could improve on security. Junjulas last year trained the Beacon officer who would take the SRO position if it's instituted.

"I've advocated for an SRO for a long time," he said. "I would absolutely support one now, but ultimately school security is up to the district."

Landahl said during the discussion in the fall that he'd had positive experiences with SROs at a previous job in Baltimore (he also worked in Charlottesville, Virginia; and Ithaca), although some parents and board members bristled at the notion of adding an armed police presence to the schools. Ultimately, Landahl, who had just come aboard as Beacon's superintendent two months earlier, conceded that he should familiarize himself with the district before making a recommendation to the board.

That evaluation process is ongoing, he said this week.

"It certainly comes to mind [after the Florida shooting]," he said, "but it's complicated. My thoughts about the position are positive, but I also realize that some folks have misgivings about it."

Beacon Mayor Randy Casale confirmed this week that the city would pay half the cost of a school resource officer if the board approves the assignment.

Meanwhile, students and parents were

making plans this week to support the #NeverAgain movement that has grown out of the Feb. 14 Parkland attack. A trio of national protests — a 17-minute (one for each person killed in the Florida shooting) school walkout on March 14, a march in Washington, D.C. on March 24 to call for tighter gun-control laws and a high school walkout on April 20 (the anniversary of the 1999 attack on Columbine High School in Colorado) — are being organized, largely through social media.

Beacon parent Julie Shiroishi said that more than a dozen parents were planning to meet on Feb. 22 to discuss "how we can support the Never Again movement locally, and especially in our children's schools."

The school district has yet to decide how or if it would respond to school walkouts, Landahl said.

"My job is to keep kids safe, so I do worry about that," he said. "But I also think some good conversations can come out" of protests. "Young people having a voice is a wonderful thing."

### Garrison School

**A**t the Garrison School, which has students from kindergarten through eighth grade, the main entrance door is locked during school hours and visitors, who can be seen from the main office, must be buzzed in and sign in. They do not need to show identification.

## Haldane to Begin Locking Doors *(from Page 8)*

changes as needed."

(The next committee meeting, which is open to the public, is Monday, Feb. 26, at 3:15 p.m. in the school library. The Haldane PTA also is hosting two coffees in the library, on Thursday, March 1, at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., to discuss safety.)

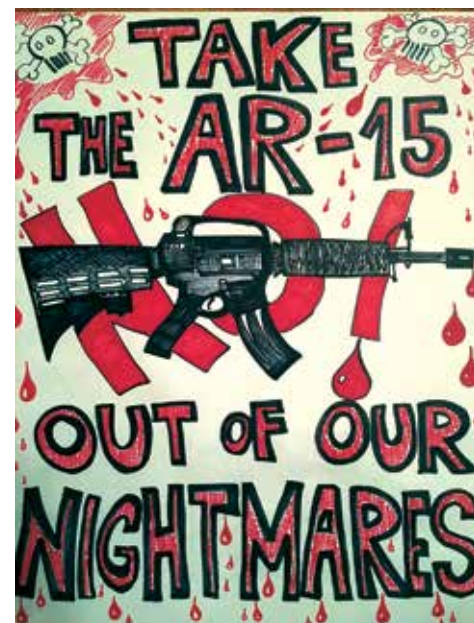
Further, Bowers wrote, "our schools conduct regular drills, including four lockdown drills annually, so all members of the Haldane family know what to do in an emergency situation."

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. also cited the Parkland shootings in a statement on school safety sent to the news media on Feb. 21. He noted that every school in the county has an emergency response plan on file with his office. Every district also has at least one deputy sheriff on duty, he wrote.

"We feel that the school resource officer program is the best preventative measure for not only handling a violent school incident but for addressing many other problems that can affect our youth," he wrote. "A deputy sheriff at a school gives students and staff someone to interact with and share concerns. These deputies have training specific to working in a school setting and recognizing a threat before it's carried out."

The Sheriff's Department has trained administrators in each school district "on how to manage a mass-casualty incident" using the state Incident Command System, he wrote. (The ICS coordinates

emergency responses between various agencies.) Each of his deputies is also trained in how to respond to an "active shooter" at a school, he said.



**RALLY IN CARMEL** — Activists pushing for stricter gun control following the Parkland shooting staged a candlelight vigil at the historic courthouse in Carmel on Feb. 19 with signs such as this one, created by a volunteer for Indivisible Yorktown. The vigil was interrupted several times by counterprotestors.

*Image provided*

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.

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Sports

Higher Level of Hitting for Haldane, Beacon Grads

The college baseball season has begun, and two Highlands residents have already notched dramatic hits. At DeLand, Florida, on Feb. 16, Matt Forlow, a 2013 Haldane grad, hit a grand slam in the fifth inning of Manhattan College's opener at Stetson, giving the Jaspers a 5-2 lead. (Stetson came back for a 6-5 win.) Forlow, a second baseman, hit .305 last season; he is playing this year as

a graduate student. On Feb. 17, Patrick Schetter, who graduated from Beacon High School in 2014, singled home the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth for SUNY Cortland in its Feb. 17 opener at Salisbury College in Maryland. The senior infielder, who finished 3-for 5 at the plate, hit .377 for the Red Dragons last season.



Matt Forlow, a 2013 Haldane grad, hit a grand slam on Feb. 16 to give Manhattan College a 5-2 lead over Stetson.

Manhattan College



Patrick Schetter's third hit of the game on Feb. 17 drove home the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth. Photo by Martin Santek

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**Free-Throw Winners Advance**

Three of the eight players sent by Loretto Council No. 536 to the district competition for the Knights of Columbus annual free-throw competition have advanced to the regionals.

At the districts, which took place Feb. 16 in Fishkill, Marisa Peters shot 11 for 25 in the 9-year-old girls' bracket; William Bradley hit 19 of 25 in the 12-year-old boys' bracket; and Marisa Scanga made 19 of 25 to win the 13-year-old girls' bracket. The three sharpshooters will next compete on March 4 in the regional tournament at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie.

**Coaches and Parents**

We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos.  
Email [sports@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:sports@highlandscurrent.com)

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## Sports

### Haldane Basketball Teams Advance to Sectional Finals

*An easy win, and a nail-biter*

By Chip Rowe

The top-seeded Haldane girls' basketball team rolled into the Section 1, Class C championship game with a 71-23 victory over Solomon Schechter at the Westchester County Center on Feb. 20. During the win, senior Allison Chiera scored her 1000th point as a high school player and put her name on the Haldane gym banner.

The girls' team (11-10) will take on the second seed, Keio Academy in Harrison, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Pace University. The teams have not met this season.

#### State Tournament Scoreboard

##### Boys' Basketball

Beacon 70, Yonkers 54  
Hendrick Hudson 64, Beacon 44  
*Bulldogs finish 12-10*  
Haldane 63, Tuckahoe 54 (OT)  
Haldane vs. Hamilton, Feb. 24

##### Girls' Basketball

Walter Panas 56, Beacon 33  
*Brianna Dembo (16 points, 10 rebounds)*  
Haldane 71, Schechter 23  
Haldane vs. Keio Academy, Feb. 24

The boys' team, seeded second in Section 1, Class C, had a much tougher — and more dramatic — time against No. 3 seed Tuckahoe. Haldane trailed after each of the first three quarters and needed an offensive rebound and put-back by senior Liam Irwin just before the buzzer to tie the game in regulation.

The Blue Devils then dominated the overtime, winning 63-54.

Senior Nick DiPalo had 19 points for Haldane, while sophomore Matt Champlin finished with 18 and Irwin scored 13 and grabbed 11 rebounds. Tuckahoe's star, Malik Moore-Crooks, who averaged 25.4 points per game, was held to 21, although

#### Getting to Pace

Both games take place at the Goldstein Fitness Center, 861 Bedford Road, in Pleasantville; use Entrance 3 into the university, off Route 117. Take Route 9 south to the NY 117 exit (Pleasantville/Sleepy Hollow). It's about a 40-minute drive.

Parking is free and security will direct vehicles to lots. Admission is \$8 for one or both games (\$5 for students, veterans and seniors), and tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at [gofan.co/nysphsaa1](http://gofan.co/nysphsaa1).

he added 12 rebounds and four assists.

The boys' team, now 15-6, will face top-seeded Alexander Hamilton from Elmsford (16-5) in the title game at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 at Pace. They also have not played this season.



Allison Chiera celebrates her 1000th point as a high school player with her parents, sister and Coach Tyrone Searight (left). At right, Chiera (12) looks for the basket against a Schechter defender.

*Photos by Scott Warren*



Matt Champlin (5) drives to the basket with the Blue Devils down by two and less than 10 seconds remaining. He would miss the shot but Liam Irwin (right) rolled to the basket, grabbed the rebound, and tied the game.



Far left, Haldane's Nick DiPalo hangs in the air in front of the basket while Malik Moore-Crooks of Tuckahoe (5) soars by.



Livy Monteleone scores inside against Schechter.