

The HIGHLANDS Current

Daylight
Savings Time
begins Sunday,
March 11
Spring ahead



MARCH 9, 2018

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Above, the tree that killed an 11-year-old boy in Putnam Valley split the home in half. Right, Carmelo with his mother



Putnam Valley Boy Killed During Storm

*Tree falls on home in
heavy winds*

By Chip Rowe

A Putnam Valley Middle School student was killed by a tree downed by high winds that split his home in half just after noon on Friday, March 2.

According to the Putnam County's Sheriff Department, when Deputy Charlie Johnson responded to an emergency call from 33 Dunderberg Road at 12:15 p.m., he found a large tree had crashed into the home and trapped Carmelo Singleton, 11. Johnson attempted to rescue the boy but could not reach him.

Members of the Putnam Valley Fire Department also attempted to rescue Carmelo, who had been home with his mother, Arin Travis. He was pronounced dead at 12:50 p.m. by EMStar medics.

Putnam Valley schools were closed on Friday due to the Nor'easter and again this past week because of poor road conditions, downed power lines and a second storm on Wednesday (March 7). However, the district opened the high school for three hours on Monday (Continued on Page 6)

Magazzino, or Museo?

*Philipstown board
questions art space
zoning*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week questioned whether Magazzino Italian Art on Route 9, approved as a warehouse, should be re-zoned as a museum.

During the board's monthly meeting on March 1, Supervisor Richard Shea praised Magazzino, owned by Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu of Garrison, as a benefit to the town but suggested that its true identity be acknowledged.

"I know it was constructed as an art-storage facility, but everybody knows it's a museum," he said, suggesting the zoning should be changed "so it can be a museum, because it's silly to just go on like this."

He added: "I can't imagine a better outcome for that [former industrial] property. In my wildest dreams, I couldn't have



Magazzino Italian Art

Photo by Marco Anelli

imagined a museum coming into town with great artwork and the architecture is incredible, they hired all local contractors. And they throw a hell of a party."

Kim Conner, a Planning Board member, agreed that Magazzino "is a great thing for the town." However, she told the Town Board, "it would've been nice if they'd been upfront from the beginning," when the Planning Board reviewed site plans.

"I asked them repeatedly" exactly what the building would be, she recalled. "I just caution applicants to tell us the truth."

The minutes of a November 2016 Planning Board meeting noted "board members felt the applicants were still being vague regarding the use of the building." They questioned how many people would be visiting it (a maximum of 155, although realistically, no more than 50 per day, they were told) and whether there would be sufficient fire safety features and access for emergency vehicles.

Documents filed with the Planning Board before a January 2017 public hearing stated that Magazzino, which is Italian for *warehouse*, would be a building "in which extensive collections of art will be stored" and would be "used for educational and research purposes." It would be "absolutely not open to the public but rather made accessible by appointment only in order to limit the number of visitors," the documents said.

Magazzino opened in June. Visitors can make appointments online for visits between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday to Monday. Because of the limited parking, it often runs shuttle buses to Main Street in Cold Spring.

Why Shea raised the issue is not clear, but his Town Board colleagues agreed that Magazzino's zoning should be reconsidered. It is not clear what practical effect a change would have on the building.

Amid a snowstorm, Shea did not immediately respond to emails seeking more (Continued on Page 5)



Hundreds of crews descended on the Hudson Valley to help Central Hudson restore power after the March 2 storm, including these workers from the New York Power Authority who cleared a tree hung up on a power line in Wappingers Falls.

Photo by Philip Kamrass/NYPA

5 Five Questions: GREG MCCOY

By Michael Turton

Greg McCoy of Cold Spring is a member of the National Ski Patrol.

What do you do as a member of the ski patrol?

I volunteer 16 days a year as a first responder on the snow for everything from lost children to first aid. We keep an eye on the weather; conditions can be normal and an hour later you have solid ice. We keep trails safe, mark exposed rocks. The hardest part is that you have to know the mountain like the back of your hand.

How did you get started?

I learned to ski when I was 6 years old, and I was a ski instructor for five years. I'm a chiropractor, and after I finished chiropractic school my wife and I bought a place in Vermont and I wanted to get involved with the mountain. Ski patrol is hard but rewarding. You have to love it, and you have to be an excellent skier.

How do you handle injuries?

We're trained in Outdoor Emergency Care, which is EMT training specific to ski patrol. It's not an easy environment; it's cold up there. We have emergency gear, oxygen and lifesaving equipment, but the toboggan is our main tool. When someone

is hurt, our objective is to prevent shock, load them up and transport them safely down the mountain to an ambulance or, in a severe case, a helicopter.

How do rookie and veteran skiers differ?

Rookies don't evaluate the terrain. They ski too fast, not thinking about what's 20 yards ahead. Veteran skiers choose their days, know the terrain. But after lunch, they're tired and maybe had a beer or two; their reflexes are diminished. That's when even veterans get in trouble.

How would you describe the 2017-18 season?

We'd have snow, then it would warm up, then back to cold, so you'd get ice under snow and that's when it gets dicey. But March is the premier skiing month in the Northeast. Families can get out there, it's not so cold, the snow softens up and it's not dark by 4:30 p.m. Many people ski from mid-February until the end of March. In big snow years, such as 2015, we've gone until the middle of April.



Greg McCoy

Photo provided

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How'd We Miss This?

Million-dollar lottery ticket sold in Cold Spring

By Chip Rowe

This past June 15, George Wilson stopped at the Gulf gas station near Foodtown to fill up his car. On a whim, the Cold Spring resident bought a \$5 scratch-off ticket for a New York Lottery game called Super Tripler Cash.

"I read the ticket after scratching it and knew immediately I had won the jackpot," Wilson told lottery officials.

The jackpot was \$1 million, or \$522,822 after taxes. Wilson, 59, said at the time he planned to use the money for retirement.

Lottery officials release the names of any winner of \$1 million or more, although a spokesperson said the agency did not take a photo of Wilson with a giant check, as is often done. And unlike with Powerball draws, retailers do not earn bonuses when they sell winning scratch-offs. So the station has only the honor of having sold a big-money ticket.

Winning at least \$1 million on a lottery ticket is uncommon but not unheard of. Since 2012, six Putnam County residents have done it. The largest jackpot was \$2.5 million on a scratch-off purchased in 2016 by a 23-year-old landscaper at a Gulf station in Brewster.

No one in Beacon has won more than \$25,000 since 2012, but a scratch-off purchased at a Stewart's Shop in Poughkeepsie in January 2017 was worth \$10 million.

In Philipstown, Foodtown had a \$10,000 winner in 2015, Appalachian Market in Garrison had a \$15,000 winner that same year and the Gulf in Garrison had a \$20,000 winner in 2013. In Beacon, the most recent big win was \$22,731 on a Take 5 ticket purchased in May 2015 at the Citgo on Fishkill Avenue.

The New York Lottery says it distributes more than \$2 billion to public schools annually from its proceeds. In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, Putnam County schools received \$13 million, according to lottery officials.

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Development in the Highlands: Where Things Stand

UPDATES ON TWO PHILIPSTOWN PROJECTS

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Two Philipstown regulatory boards plan reviews next week of projects at opposite ends of town: a cell tower proposed for southern Philipstown and the planned Hudson Highlands Reserve development off Horton Road.

Tower replacement

The Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled a public hearing for Monday (March 12) on a proposal by Pamal Broadcasting to replace a WHUD radio and Sprint telecommunications tower at 22 Sky Lane.

According to Robert Gaudio, an attorney for the Beacon-based firm, the original tower was approved in 1957 for radio transmission and the proposed tower would largely replicate that. However, unlike its 60-year-old predecessor, the replacement will carry antennas for Sprint and Verizon Wireless plus upgraded equipment for Putnam County emergency services and first-responders.

Gaudio also represents Homeland Towers LLC, which, with Verizon Wireless, is suing the town over rejections of their application for a cell tower on Vineyard Road, near Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

In a letter, Thomas Lannon, the director of information technology and geographic information systems for Putnam County, told the ZBA that his biggest concern "is the poor coverage within the western part of the county and the lack of true interoperability within county agencies and other municipalities."

Lannon described the WHUD tower as "critical for our emergency radio system" but said the existing structure tower cannot support the county's equipment.

The March 12 public hearing is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 238 Main St.

Hudson Highlands Reserve

At a workshop on Thursday (March 15), before its regular monthly meeting, the Planning Board will continue its discussion of the proposed Hudson Highlands Reserve, a development that covers 210 acres at Horton Road, Route 9 and East Mountain Road North. The project involves 25 houses, each on a 1-acre lot, surrounding a large pond, plus an equestrian center. The developers have proposed the project as a "conservation subdivision," which enjoys certain zoning exemptions.

When the Planning Board (Continued on Page 19)



Detail from the plan for the Hudson Highlands Reserve project

UPDATES ON NINE BEACON PROJECTS

By Jeff Simms

Construction has been nearly completed on the four-story building at **344 Main St.** in Beacon that prompted much criticism and concern among residents over the last 18 months. Although the building must resolve a conflict over parking before it receives its certificate of occupancy from the city, 24 apartments are being advertised online, with 850-square-foot, one-bedroom units available for \$1,900 per month.

Approved by the Planning Board in December, the four-story project at **226 Main St.** received variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals allowing a 10-foot (rather than 25) rear-yard setback and waiving its on-street parking requirement. Parking will be located at the rear of the Dutchess County-owned lot across the street, which is being widened to create 18 additional spaces, and in a nearby municipal lot, which is being re-striped.

Like 344 Main St., the building will have retail stores on the ground floor. However, with eight apartments on three higher floors, it will be about half the size of 344 Main. Architecturally, it's modeled after the Holland Hotel, which stood a century ago across the street, now the site of the county parking lot.

The **Beacon Theater** at 445 Main St., built in 1934, is expected to reopen by the summer, with three screens showing classic and independent films as well as first-run movies. It will have theaters with 85 and 25 seats and a third room with 50 seats that will be the home of Story Screen, which has shown movies in restaurants and shops in Beacon since 2015.

About a third of the 30 apartments

above the theater have been leased, according to the developer. An online listing shows 13 units are available, ranging from \$1,800 per month for a 700-square-foot studio to \$2,700 for an 1,120-square-foot two-bedroom.

No plans have been submitted to the city for the redevelopment of the 64-acre Tioronda estate, which includes the former **Craig House** psychiatric facility. The site was purchased in October for \$5.5 million by Craig Realty Holding LLC, an investment (Continued on Page 19)



A listing photo for 344 Main St.



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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
161 Main St.
Cold Spring NY 10516-2818
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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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More on gun storage

The misguided Philipstown Town Board has been entertaining and working on a gun-control measure since April 2015 ("Philipstown Board Postpones Gun-Storage Vote," Feb. 23).

The Town Board is revising this proposed law for the fifth time, despite having no legal authority to pass it, which the town attorney and Town Board gun-control advocates understand full well: Section 2 of the proposed law notes that "the Town Board hereby asserts its intention to supersede Town Law pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law." *Supersede* is the key word. It demonstrates "intent" on the elected board to violate state law. That is an expense this town can ill afford.

It also fails to address the real problem. Why is the board ignoring the elephant, or "low-hanging fruit," as the board has called it — the opioid crisis. Opioids are a killer in this community, county, state and country. They are the clear and present danger. If the Town Board was serious about addressing the epidemic, the entire community would support it. It would go a long way to healing a community as opposed to dividing it.

Opioids do not discriminate. They are an equal-opportunity offender. The only way this community can move forward to confront opioids is to hold educational classes both at Haldane and the Philipstown Recreation Department. We all have to be active participants. I carry the opioid antidote Narcan and am not afraid to use it. The community is anyone within my line of sight. Why? Because opioids are everywhere.

The Town Board is failing the community by ignoring opioids. Why is it not passing any opioid laws? Is it politically imprudent or not important enough? The board should not use this as a platform to build one's resume for the next election.

Airinhos Serradas, *Cold Spring*
Serradas, who was a Village of Cold Spring trustee from 2010 to 2012, indicated in the signature of his letter that he represents the Philipstown Coalition Against Opioids. A Facebook group under that name created Feb. 11 and categorized as a political organization had 45 likes as of March 5.

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 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.

The Philipstown Town Board is considering a law that would impose unjust imprisonment and fines upon a civilian exercising his Second Amendment rights. There are very few laws that punish an honest citizen for innocent mistakes. Forgetting to place the firearm in a safe when leaving a residence should not constitute grounds for a misdemeanor charge with a penalty of up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine for each firearm left unattended.

Most crimes require some sort of injury, either physically or financially, to justify a criminal charge. If we pass a law that does not require an injury, it is quite likely the law will do more damage to the community than the activity it intended to prohibit. There has not been an accidental firearm death in Putnam County for 20 years.

Consider a situation in which a parent is called outside of the home to attend to an injured child. If that parent makes an honest mistake by accidentally leaving a firearm on a table, and exits the residence to attend to the child, the parent would be considered a criminal and could be thrown in jail for up to a year. Even if no one touched the firearm, and nothing happened, the parent could still be held liable.

What happens if a police officer is called to the scene and sees the unattended firearm through a window? Will the parents be thrown in jail? Could the children be permanently removed by child protective services? How many families will be torn apart by this proposed law?

Chris Turan, *Mahopac*

Cell tower

Thank you, everyone involved for your diligent work to prevent these monstrosities from happening ("Cell-Tower Company, Verizon Sue Philipstown," March 2).

Truth to power (pardon the pun) won

over deception and greed. Just notice the language the lawsuit uses to distort the truth: "irreparable harm," "equipment needed to improve services," "unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Lillian Rosengarten, *Cold Spring*

Love how the cell-tower company and Verizon gave no credibility to the thorough reviews by all the local boards, and all the public input.

Judith Rose, *Cold Spring*

What to call it?

In the Feb. 23 issue, you asked in a headline, "What Should Senior Center in Cold Spring Be Called?" How about the Philipstown Senior Center? That would emphasize that seniors from Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Continental Village, Manitou, Garrison and Philipstown are welcome. It is an opportunity for unifying all after a long and sometimes difficult process.

We already have the Putnam Valley Senior Center, Carmel Senior Center and Kent Senior Center. Continue the tradition.

Dottie Gilman, *Garrison*

How about the Betty Budney Senior Center? Betty served as a Philipstown Town Board member for 24 years and was a longtime volunteer.

Kathleen Kourie, *Cold Spring*

I suggest the Betty Green Senior Center, after the longtime resident and volunteer who died last year.

Susan MacDonald, *Beacon*

How about just calling it the Senior Center in Cold Spring?

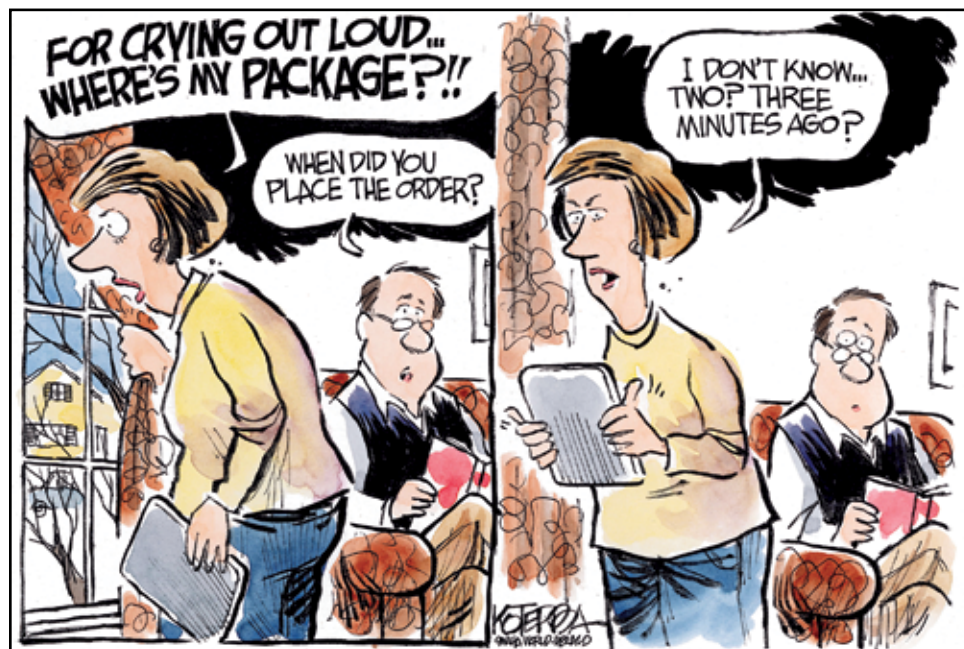
Lou DelConte, *Beacon*

Fighting back

I grew up in the 1970s, and drugs were prominent among many adults. It took years for me to realize that lifestyle was not normal or healthy. I'm in recovery, many years sober, but it wasn't easy. I've lost friends to drinking and driving, or drug overdoses.

I'm overjoyed, and relieved, to see this desperately needed and overdue appointment by the town of a prevention, treatment and recovery coordinator ("Philipstown Names Anti-Drug Coordinator," March 2). No one has to die, and no one should die, from drugs. Addiction is a gravely misunderstood affliction. Although a disease no different from others, it is stigmatized and stereotyped. I'll help in any way I can in our daily grind against drug abuse, but the greatest thing we can do is love and understand.

David Mahoney, *Cold Spring*



Magazzino, or Museo? *(from Page 1)*

details. In a statement, Olnick and Spanu said: "We appreciate the support of the local community for Magazzino and welcome the initiative by the Town Board to amend the zoning." As a museum, Magazzino could admit visitors without requiring reservations.

Cell-tower zoning

In another zoning issue discussed at the March 1 meeting, Shea said that because "we can see more on the horizon" (figuratively, if not literally), Philipstown must look at cell towers and its code. "The last thing we want to see is more polluting our ridgelines and skylines."

Homeland Towers LLC and its partner, Verizon Wireless, sued the town last month after the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Conservation Board rejected the companies' application for a cell tower along Vineyard Road, just south of the intersection of Routes 9 and 301 (and, coincidentally, near Magazzino).

Councilor John Van Tassel observed that coming 5G wireless technology will rely on shorter towers positioned much closer together, "like every 1,000 feet."

Robert Dee, the ZBA chairperson, recommended that the zoning code extend the setbacks for cell towers from 150 feet to 500 feet; create a uniform height limit, because currently the code limits towers to 110 feet in some places but 195 feet in others; and demand stronger evidence from cell tower companies of gaps in service as experienced by actual customers,

instead of using projections.

Councilor Mike Leonard said Philipstown also needs to clarify how far the federal government can demand Philipstown go to satisfy tower companies "if this town decides we don't want one particular tower or service in an area."

Federal telecommunications law governs many aspects of cell tower operations, minimizing local governments' authority.

Butterfield center

Also at the March 1 meeting, Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) asked for input from board members on what to name the county senior center being developed on the old Butterfield Hospital site.

Town Board members suggested it hon-

or Julia Butterfield, the 19th-century philanthropist who provided money for the Cold Spring hospital.

(In 2015, the county announced plans to name the building The Roger Ailes Senior Center, after the then-Fox News chairman and Garrison resident, who promised \$500,000 for the project. But Ailes withdrew the offer after resigning from the network in 2016 following allegations of sexual harassment.)

Whether the facility will be strictly a senior center or also available for community events remains unresolved. "The Village [of Cold Spring] has a little problem with the 'community' part of it," Scuccimarra said.

At a Feb. 27 Village Board meeting, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy opposed making the building a community center

as well as a senior center, because the village's Butterfield redevelopment approvals were based on "a very specific use" of the space as a senior center. "If the county believes that they can turn this into a community center, there is going to be a problem," he said.

Scuccimarra told the Town Board she would still like to see the facility accommodate a Department of Motor Vehicles office, a women's resource center to assist victims of domestic violence and offices for the county health department and other agencies that could function when the senior programs aren't in session and "we have an empty building and an empty parking lot."

"I was not looking to make this a community center that would have hordes" all day, she said.

Councilor Nancy Montgomery said she believes "seniors expected that it was going to be exclusively for them" while county and other municipal offices went elsewhere.

Van Tassel asked if the center "would be available for meetings" and noted that "we might be needing some space." The board plans major renovations to Town Hall, including its meeting room and courtroom.

Scuccimarra said it would depend on the meeting type but termed such use "what I meant by a 'community' center."

While the debate continues, Scuccimarra said one facility not geared solely to seniors may open this month: the post office.



A view inside Magazzino

Photo by Marco Anelli

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Putnam Valley Boy Killed During Storm *(From Page 1)*

to provide grief counselors and therapy dogs for staff, parents and students.

A fundraiser organized by a family member at [gofundme.com/tuxsw-funeral-expenses](https://www.gofundme.com/tuxsw-funeral-expenses) raised \$13,500 in its first four hours and \$32,000 in its first day.

At least seven other people in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states were killed by falling trees or limbs on March 2, according to news reports. They included a 6-year-old boy struck in his bed at 2 a.m. in Chesterfield County, Virginia, by a tree that fell on his family's mobile home.

Enough already!

About 109,000 Central Hudson Gas & Electric customers lost power during the March 2 Nor'easter, according to the utility. Sustained winds of 30 mph and gusts of 50 to 60 mph snapped 130 poles, dropped 1,000 power lines and damaged nine transmission lines, it said.

As measured by the number of people who lost power, the Friday storm was one of the most severe to hit the Mid-Hudson Valley in 50 years, Central Hudson said.

Hundreds of crews from Canada, Vermont, the Midwest and other parts of New York arrived over the weekend to aid the utility's 240 tree-trimming and electric-line crews. Most customers in southern Dutchess and western Putnam counties had their power back by Monday afternoon; the hardest hit areas were in northern Dutchess, Ulster and Greene counties.

In the days after the Friday storm, Putnam officials arranged for daytime "com-

fort stations" with power and heat at locations such as the Kent Public Library, Mahopac Firehouse and Carmel Town Hall. The Garrison Fire Department manned its firehouse on Route 9 overnight on Sunday.

On Sunday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency for four counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. The same day, he deployed 100 members of the New York National Guard and 30 vehicles out of Camp Smith to assist the 100 Guardsmen already in the field and also sent his director of state operations to Dutchess County and his emergency services commissioner to Putnam.

The state Department of Transportation said it deployed more than 1,000 operators and supervisors, 388 dump trucks, 23 chippers, three bucket trucks, 12 signal trucks and 91 loaders to the Hudson Valley



A National Weather Service photo of the storm taken early Saturday morning (March 3)



A tree branch that brought down power lines in Philipstown Central Hudson

and Southern Tier.

The second storm on Wednesday dumped more than a foot of snow on the region at about the time Central Hudson and mutual-aid crews restored power to the last customers affected by the previous storm.

More than 40,000 Central Hudson customers again lost power on March 7, primarily in Dutchess and Ulster counties, and more than 650 locations required repair, the utility said. Working overnight

on Wednesday, crews restored power to about 18,000 homes by 7 a.m.

At the same time, the Dutchess and Putnam county executives both ordered roads closed except to emergency responders and public works personnel. The New York State Police banned commercial trucks, buses and tractor trailers on I-84 and Metro-North shut down the Hudson line.

More snow is expected on Monday, but only 1 to 2 inches.

The first day of spring is Tuesday, March 20.

Most Severe Storms Since 1987, by Power Outages		
Date	Outages	Details
February 2010	240,000	Back-to-back storms
August 2011	180,000	Tropical Storm Irene
October 2011	156,000	Fall snowstorm
March 2018	109,000	Winter storm
October 2012	104,000	Hurricane Sandy
April 1997	100,000	Spring snowstorm
October 1987	80,000	Fall snowstorm
September 1999	80,000	Hurricane Floyd
December 2008	75,000	Ice storm
Source: Central Hudson		

St. Philip's Nursery School

White Elephant Sale



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Early Birds enter at 8:30 for \$5.00

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Maloney Calls for Assault-Rifle Ban

Boos and heated debate at forum on gun violence

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney on March 3 called for banning the sale of the AR-15 rifles, praising students for “doing a better job than Congress,” and endorsed new initiatives in school security.

The three-term Democrat, whose district includes Philipstown and Beacon, spoke in Poughkeepsie at a forum he organized on gun violence in schools. Constituents sometimes spoke politely; at other times, heatedly; and often at length.

Maloney, who lives in Philipstown, chastised those in the audience of more than 200 who sometimes booed when people spoke. “I’m the one you should boo,” he said. “Your neighbors you don’t get to boo.”

The event, intended to last 60 minutes, continued for nearly two-and-a-half hours. Scheduled for Poughkeepsie High School, it moved to the Family Partnership Center after the school received an unrelated threat of violence, later dismissed. It also reflected national concerns after the Feb. 14 killings of students and teachers at a Parkland, Florida, high school.

At the forum, Maloney repeatedly argued that Second Amendment protections have been limited by U.S. Supreme Court rulings. “You have a right to own a handgun, possibly a shotgun, in your home for personal protection,” he said. “What they have never said is that anyone has a Second Amendment right to own anything more than that.” Therefore, he said, banning AR-15s or similar military-style rifles “is not a Second Amendment issue.”

Maloney backed more funding for school districts to hire police officers and for mental health treatment but



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney listens to an audience member on March 3 during a forum on gun violence.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

added, “I want to talk about guns, too.”

Freya Wood-Gallagher, a junior at Haldane High School, agreed. “I don’t think it’s possible to take guns out of this issue.” In the Parkland killings, she said, the problem was that the 19-year-old assailant obtained a powerful gun. “You can’t have this mass killing with any other weapon,” she said.

Other teens also spoke; most advocated stronger gun control. A high school student named Grace said she didn’t feel safe at school. “I’m supposed to be worrying about homework and I’m worrying about dying,” she said.

Beacon Gun-Violence Forum

Maloney will hold a forum on gun violence at the Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St. at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 11.

Samuel, a 16-year-old who attends Arlington High School, said students want the federal government to act, and warned that when those with political authority fail to respond to a popular outcry, violent revolution can occur. “If we don’t reform, something will happen,” he cautioned.

“I’d give elections a try first,” Maloney advised. He said “students have been doing a better job than Congress recently” addressing issues such as gun violence, and quipped that voters should replace it with teenagers. “I’ll go, too,” he offered.

Declan, a 17-year-old student at John Jay High School, objected that “people pick on AR-15s.” He criticized proposals to raise the age of gun ownership to 21, as in a bill passed in Florida on Wednesday (March 7).

Declan also argued that a person intent on murder will find a way, suggested that schools ban backpacks and lockers because they can conceal guns, and urged a focus on mental health.

John Collins of Monroe, who mentioned 44 years of military service and a National Rifle Association membership, echoed that view. “People kill people, and they don’t care what the law says,” he told Maloney. He said he supported a ban on machine guns but not AR-15s.

Maloney said “law-abiding gun owners are not the problem” and assured gun-rights proponents that “I’m really glad you came; I really want you in the conversation.”

He stressed that “you haven’t heard from me that we have to collect every gun in circulation,” but if the AR-15 were out of the picture, “maybe we will save lives.”



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Making the Grade

By Chip Rowe

Political action committees often rate politicians on how well they represent the organization's views. Here is how the National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF), Gun Owners of America and New York Shooters Committee on Political Education (SCOPE) collectively have judged state and federal elected officials who represent the Highlands. Politicians who receive an "A" are "solidly pro-gun candidates," according to the NRA, while those given an "F" are "true enemies of gun owners' rights."

Grade: A

State Sen. Sue Serino (R)

Serino was endorsed in 2016 by the NRA, SCOPE and the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Political Victory Fund.

On her campaign site (sueserino.com), she writes: "I fully support our Second Amendment and, in the [Dutchess] County Legislature, I even sponsored legislation opposing the SAFE Act [the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act, enacted in 2013]. As a mother and a member of this community, I understand that we need to be doing more to stop the violence wreaking havoc on communities across the country."

"Since taking office, I have co-spon-

sored nearly every bill to repeal and chip away at the SAFE Act. I believe the solution to violence starts with improving mental health services and taking guns out of the hands of criminals, not stripping law-abiding citizens of the rights that our founders and veterans fought to protect."

Grade: F

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D)

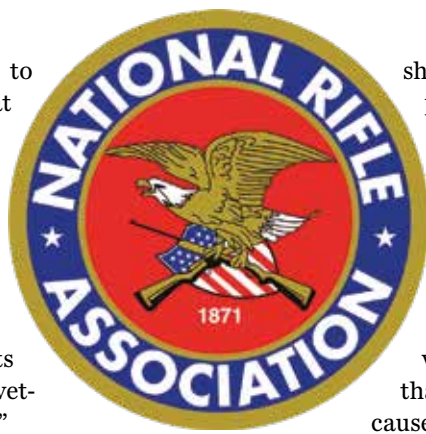
U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D)

State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D)

State Assemblyman Frank Skartados (D)

Gillibrand, who as a member of the U.S. House earned 100 percent ratings from the NRA, has done a 180 on her views since joining the Senate. Her website (gillibrand.senate.gov) states: "While Sen. Gillibrand supports the Second Amendment, she is focused on protecting communities in every corner of New York from unnecessary gun violence by supporting common-sense solutions to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals."

In 2013, Maloney said: "There are some common-sense things we can do, but we



should start by saying that people have a Second Amendment right to own a gun, to defend themselves in their own homes, and I respect that. And I also respect hunters and I respect sportsmen, and we shouldn't do anything that affects those folks because they're not a threat to anybody. But what we should do are things like universal background checks, which I think might really get at the problem and be effective."

In 2012, following the killings in Newtown, Connecticut, Skartados asked: "How many more children have to die, and how many more massacres must we endure, before we do the right thing and restrict access to military-type assault rifles?"

Galef, in a 2010 "political courage test" solicited by votesmart.org, said she supports restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns, requiring background checks on gun sales at shows and requiring a license for gun possession and does not support concealed carry.

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The Calendar



Sasha Levy as Éponine



Maddy Barkman as Fantine



Max Barkman as Javert

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

Les Miz in the Family

Parents of Haldane actors spent years in Broadway production

By Alison Rooney

It sounds like a far-fetched plot right out of those corny kind of high-school musicals they don't tend to do at Haldane High School: Three of the students in the cast of *Les Misérables*, which runs from March 16 to 18, have a parent who appeared in the original Broadway run of the hit musical.

Maddy and Max Barkman will portray Fantine and Javert. Their father, Ryan Barkman, was a "swing" understudy on Broadway for the show, mean-

ing he had to know 15 separate roles.

Sasha Levy, a freshman who plays Éponine, is the daughter of Jennifer Lee Andrews (known locally as Jenn Lee) who understudied Éponine, along with Cosette, before playing Cosette steadily.

Both Barkman and Andrews stayed with the Broadway production for more than two years in the early 1990s, overlapping for part of that time.

There is many a singing actor who has been in a production, somewhere, of *Les Misérables*. Adapted from Victor Hugo's novel and set in France in the early 19th century, its sprawling storyline includes detours into poverty, injustice, perseverance, mercy, revolution, retribution, greed, kindness and forgiveness, all conveyed through stirring, character-

driven songs.

It remains one of the most popular musicals ever and has had multiple revivals since its initial Broadway run from 1987 to 2003. It has been running on London's West End since 1985.

Martha Mechalakos, who directs the Haldane production, says that, in deciding on *Les Miz*, she "listened to the music and realized just how powerful it is, when it's sung well. I came to really appreciate it and to understand its appeal and how it gives even the smaller characters such color."

The Barkmans and Levy say they have enjoyed exploring both character and vocal expression

during rehearsals. Max, as Javert, is looking beyond the perceived villainy. "I'm trying to build a base of what I feel Javert is, and working to bring myself from a 'nicer' person to what Javert sees as right, but what others see as wrong," says the junior. "Still, if the audience boos me, I'll take it as a sign that I've done well."

Of Fantine, Maddy says she "connected with her, especially when we blocked it for the first time; there was a nice feeling of empowerment."

She and Levy (Continued on Page 11)

Art by Intuition

Beacon painter has always found the next place

By Alison Rooney

In her studio near the Beacon riverfront, Paola Ochoa lets things come to her. And she has confidence that they will.

"All of my work comes out of the idea that I can trust myself to get to work, and the work will come out," says the artist. "Maybe it's intuition, or a kind of energy at hand, whatever it is, it leads to a decision to create a composition."

Ochoa, whose exhibit, *What The Thunder Says* — its title taken from a passage in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* that Eliot borrowed from the *Upanishads* — opens at Matteawan Gallery on Second Saturday,

March 10.

Ochoa will soon be turning her studio into a gallery, at the request of her landlord, who wanted the space to have a public face. Called Mother Gallery, and run by Ochoa and Kirstin Deirup, also an artist, it will open on April 14. When it does, Ochoa will retire to the attic to paint in a smaller space but with the same big theme: "Investigation into what is within us."

During the year she has been in that studio, Ochoa has created nine oversized paintings. Because of the space limitations of Matteawan, the exhibit is an overview of her work with one of the new paintings, *Ariadne's Thread*.

Born in Medellin, Colombia, Ochoa, 39, lived there until she was 11 or 12, when her family immigrated to Miami to join a grandparent who was a U.S. citizen. They came largely to (Continued on Page 14)



Paola Ochoa

Photo by A. Rooney

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Contemporary Art Video Series: Basquiat
6:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

The Sacred Run (Documentary)
7 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Legally Blonde: The Musical
7 p.m. O'Neill High School
21 Morgan Road, Highland Falls | hffmcsd.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Putnam Sheriff's Cadet Pancake Breakfast
8 – 10 a.m. Carmel Fire Department
94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-225-4300, x42266

Beacon Record and CD Fest
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. VFW Post | 413 Main St., Beacon

Garrison School Budget Workshop
10 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689
gufs.org

Rootin' Tootin' Hootenanny for Kids
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

The Mitten, A Family Musical Experience (ages 3-7)
10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

2018 Maple Fest
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Randolph School
2467 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
facebook.com/randolphschool

St. Patrick's Day Parade
11 a.m. Main Street, Beacon
dutchesstourism.com

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506, x204 | hhn.m.org

Philipstown Scouts Pinewood Derby
Noon. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

The Fanny Crosby Story (2003)
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.com

Legally Blonde: The Musical
3 & 7 p.m. O'Neill High School
See details under Friday.

In Collaboration with Magazzino Italian Art (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Middle School Night
7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Registration required.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Calendar Highlights

Submit to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.com

Square Dancing

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

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Judd Schiffman and Athena Witscher:
Young Bonsai

1 – 8 p.m. Artifact Beacon
17 E. Main St., Beacon | artifactbeacon.com

Beacon High School Art Exhibit

2 – 4 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon Gallery
18 Front St., Beacon
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

Amanda Gross: Fearless Portraits of Women in History

5 – 8 p.m. Howling at the Edge of Chaos
428 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/howlingattheedgeofchaos

Group Show: The Yellow Wallpaper Revisited

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Virginia Donovan: Inner Sense

5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Paola Ochoa: What the Thunder Said

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

Catherine Welshman, Andrea Moreau and Margot Kingon

6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Beacon Open Studios and Artist Videos

6 – 9 p.m. Beacon Institute | 199 Main St., Beacon
845-838-1600 | beaconarts.org

Elana Goren: Prints and Ghosts

6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
845-917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

George B. Davison: Walks of Life

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Member Show: The Doors of Perception

Robert George: Sculpture

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

Kiss! Kiss! Kill (Sofubi, Sofvi & Kaiju Show)

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Daylight Saving Time Begins

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25th Annual Maple Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Noon. Pancake breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Demonstrations, tours
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-3773 | parks.ny.gov

Maple Sugar Tours

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

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

Eels: Animals of Awe and Wonder (Talk)

2 p.m. Denning's Point Visitors' Center, Beacon
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Legally Blonde: The Musical

3 p.m. O'Neill High School | Details under Friday.

Gun Violence Forum with Rep. Maloney

3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | seanmaloney.house.gov

MONDAY, MARCH 12

AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | Registration required. Call 211.

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 | 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | 845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Tax Law for Small Business

8 a.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | explorecoldspringny.com

New Moms and Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com for info.

Word Blaster Game Night

5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Cinehub Annual Mixer

7:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/thecinehub

Cold Spring Village Board

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Pi Day Pie Luck

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

Pop-Up Knitting Workshop

6 p.m. Butterfield Library | Details under Tuesday.

Tioronda Garden Club

6:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Garrison School Board

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

Nelsonville Village Board Workshop

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

Memoir Writing Workshop (First Session)

7:30 p.m. Address provided at sign-up.
See donnaminkowitz.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Colon Cancer: Prevention and Treatment (Talk)

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.

Irish Dance with the Kelly O

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

All-Star Lip Sync Battle (Benefit)

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon | townecrier.com

State of the County Address

7 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St., Mahopac | putnamcountyny.com

Southern Dutchess NAACP

7 p.m. Springfield Baptist Church
8 Church St., Beacon | facebook.com/naacpsd

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Contemporary Art Video Series: Mary Frank/Joan Semmel

6:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
See details under March 9.

Les Misérables

7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring | haldaneschool.org

Open Mic

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under March 9.

Irish Comedy Tour

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
paramounthudsonvalley.com

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Les Miz in the Family (from Page 9)

are finding parallels to some of today's prevailing issues. "With Fantine, you have a woman who is forced into things just because she has a child to provide for," says Levy. "She's just trying to live her life and not be forced into anything."

What Maddy, a sophomore, loves most about the show is "how it connects right from the beginning. It goes in immediately from prison to the factory and the poor; all the characters and their stories are connected." Her director concurs. "It's fast-paced," says Mechalakos. "Every scene jumps and there's no waste, no filler of boring material."

Are their parents providing any "coaching"? "For the most part our dad stayed out of it, although he did say it *(Continued on Page 12)*



Lindsay Phillips as Cosette

Photo by Jim Mechalakos

Ryan Barkman

"It was not a big thing in our house," says Maddy Barkman of her casting. "I'd never even heard the music until I found out we were doing the show. My dad told us he was in *Les Miz*, and his whole life then was surrounded by theater, but once he settled down with kids, it was all in the past."

"That's true," says Ryan Barkman. After seven years of professional acting, Barkman says he tired of the endless auditioning and irregular paychecks and went into banking, cabinet-making and general contracting. "You have to have an understanding of where you fit into the hierarchy and an acceptance of a lifestyle," he says of the acting profession. "That, plus a tremendous amount of drive."

Still, he says he has great memories of his time before and during *Les Miz*. He grew up in Pittsburgh and performed in musicals as a child and during his teens, eventually studying vocal performance and classical piano at Duquesne University.

His journey with *Les Miz* came through an open call. They called him back four times. "I did 15 different tracks [roles]; I still have the blocking notes," he says, adding that he initially had to learn 14 roles in 11 days. "I was told by 7 p.m. each night which one I'd be doing, but sometimes it would change by 7:30."

Barkman says he has worked with Max and Maddy on their acting

Les Miz: The Parents

and singing, but just a little. "They have to create these characters," he says. "So, I'm not telling them how to do it."

Jenn Lee

Lee comes from a family with theater DNA. Her mother, Georgia Kirby, was a musical theater dancer, and her father, George Lee Andrews, has appeared in hundreds of shows, including five on Broadway — notably *The Phantom of the Opera*, in which he holds a Guinness World Record for the most performances in the same Broadway show (9,382 over 23 years).

Lee came to New York in her late teens and, under her full name of Jennifer Lee Andrews, landed roles in musicals, including *The Fantasticks* and *Grand Hotel*. She was called to audition about five times for *Les Miz*, she says, before being cast as an understudy for both Éponine and Cosette. She filled that role for 18 months and then played Cosette for two years.

It never got old, she says. "You can't say that for a lot of shows, especially when you've heard them a million times. It's about grace and second chances and love, failure and redemption; those are things we all can relate to. 'To love another person is to see the face of God' — that's not talking about romantic love, that's about humanity. Its message is clear: be kind, be hopeful, forgive your enemies and, above all, try to do what is right."



Jenn Lee as Cosette with Craig Rubano as Marius in a 1994 performance of *Les Miz* on Broadway



Ryan Barkman, left, as Grantaine in *Les Miz* with Taylor John, who played Gavroche

Photos provided

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Les Miz in the Family *(from Page 11)*

was OK if I wanted to shave my head for the part," said Maddy. "He sings around the house, all the time. He's been singing a lot of *Les Miz* recently." Levy adds: "My mom sings around the house. Lately, we joke-sing the guy parts."

Les Misérables will be performed three times: on Friday, March 16, and Saturday, March 17, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, or \$8 for students (seniors are admitted free) at the door. For the matinee performance, children under age 8 will be admitted free with a paid adult admission.



Beatrice Corio plays multiple supporting roles



Jóia McKelvey as Gavroche

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

Garrison Students in *Legally Blonde*

O'Neill High presents musical this weekend

By Alison Rooney

Blondes, brunettes, and redheads, and those with raven tresses, will all have more fun this weekend as O'Neill High School presents *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, the Broadway adaptation of the 2001 Reese Witherspoon movie.

The cast includes Alexandra Angelopoulos, Thai Dodge, Alexa Gagnon, Solana McKee and Valerie Mancuso of Garrison, and Jack Kelly is a member of the crew. Father-and-son duo Paul and Hudson Heckert handle the music direction and lights, respectively.

Filled with big song-and-dance numbers, the show will be presented at O'Neill tonight (March 9) and Saturday at 7 p.m., and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets at the door are \$10, or \$5 for students.



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WED 1:15 4:15 7:15, THU 7:15

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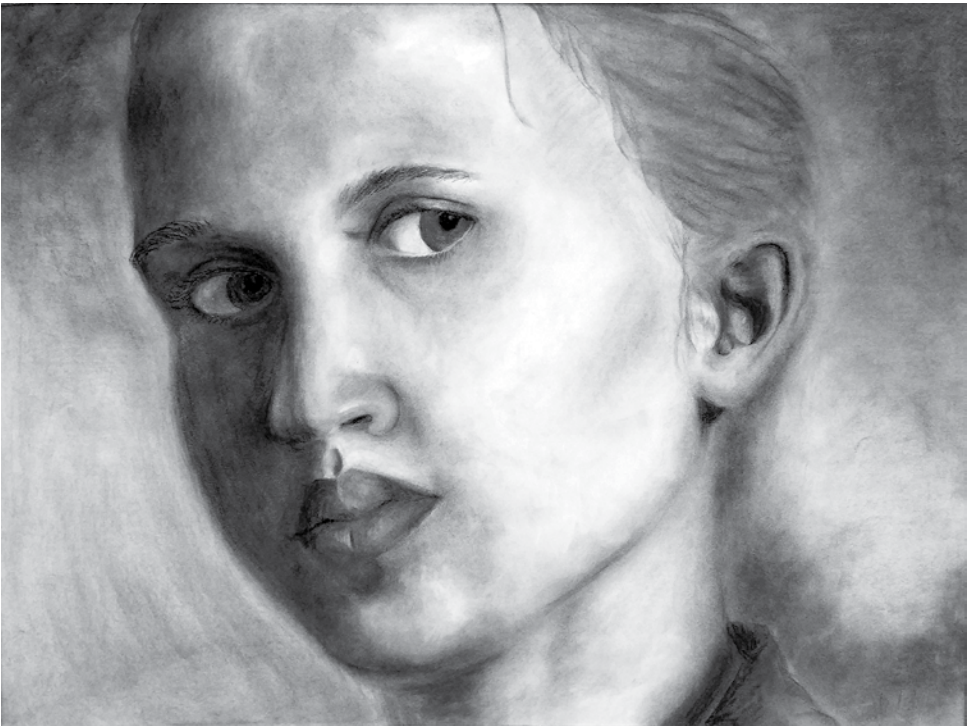
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Students of Art

Gallery to show Beacon High School work

The Lofts at Beacon Gallery will open its annual exhibit of work by Beacon High School students with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. A few selections appear here.

The artists are students in drawing, painting, digital art, photo, textile and ceramics classes taught by Mark Lyon, Sergio Perez and Claudine Farley. The gallery is located at 18 Front St.



Artwork by Molly Robinson



Artwork by Mia Amarosa



Artwork by Eliza Principe

Sphere Observation, by Chloe Antalek, was awarded a gold key last month in the regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. The national winners will be announced on March 13.



Artwork by Samantha Tutasi



A Visit to Hudson Beach Glass

Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon, an artisan glass shop housed in a historic firehouse, offers handmade crafts and classes in glassblowing.

Co-owner John Gilvey, who has been making glass for more than 40 years, shares his thoughts on this ancient art form in a video by Mark Westin posted at highlandscurrent.com. "There's a certain part of humanity that wants something that was created by somebody else's hands rather than a machine," he says. "It's how we connect to each other."



Artwork by Kyra Husbands

Art by Intuition (from Page 9)

escape the violence of the drug wars under Pablo Escobar. Ochoa says she does not remember much about that time in her life and her older family members would rather not talk about it.

"My works have been a place for me to find my own identity, and work through the trauma of the past," says Ochoa. "My studio practice is my spiritual practice."

After graduating from high school in Miami, she dreamed of attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn to study computer animation and was thrilled to be accepted.

But she had no money to live in New York, and so instead followed the counsel

of "an internal voice" and relocated to Denver. "I knew nobody, yet took my three bags and went," she says. She received a scholarship at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design to study graphic design and animation.

Her animations were character-driven rather than narrative, she says, and inspired by nature. "I was trying to convey emotional space through image and sound," she explains. "My professors wanted me to do more narrative, but I decided to enroll in senior portfolio class through the painting division. I came to realize I was making paintings — moving paintings."

In that class, she was spotted by Cydney Payton, then director of Denver's Museum of Contemporary Art, who asked her to be part of a residency program for artists under age 30. "That made me think, OK, I am an artist," Ochoa says.



Cosmic Giggle



Ariadne's Thread



Second Nature

After creating two video installations at the Denver museum, she moved to New York. "There was so much less space, less time and less money, and I had to adapt," she says. "It was much easier to use ink and paper, so I started making ink drawings. It was freeing to let go of the technology."

Along the way, Ochoa met the man who became her husband, Nick Page, who in 2017 was elected to the Dutchess County Legislature. They lived in Brooklyn but Page worked in Beacon and suggested they move. She resisted but now notes that "when I think I lived in Brooklyn for 10 years and the people in the corner bodega never knew my name, I realize it's been good for me to open up here. I'm a Beaconite!"

What The Thunder Said runs through April 15. An opening reception will be held at the gallery, at 436 Main St., on Saturday, March 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. Matteawan will also host a discussion with Ochoa about her work on Sunday, April 8.

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:

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- June 25-29
Out of this World
- July 2-6 (no 7/4)
Backyard BBQ
- July 9-13
Deep Sea Diving
- July 16-20
Let's Go Camping
- July 23-27
Nature and Art
- July 30-August 3
Creepy Crawlers
- August 6-10
Once Upon a Time
- August 13-17
Olympic Fun

KINDERGARTEN

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- June 25-29
Superheroes Academy
- July 2-6 (no 7/4)
Holidaze
- July 9-13
Magical World
- July 16-20
Movie Madness
- July 23-27
VROOM!
- July 30-August 3
Pirates
- August 6-10
Happily Ever After
- August 13-17
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Holidaze
- July 9-13
Wizard World
- July 16-20
Silver Screen
- July 23-27
VROOM!
- July 30-August 3
Ship Rec Island
- August 6-10
Happily Ever After
- August 13-17
Team Spirit



TEEN TRAVEL

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- June 25-29
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SPINS & Mystery Room
- July 9-13
Secret Caverns &
Lake Compounce
- July 16-20
Movies & National Geographic
Encounter
- July 23-27
Castle Fun Center & Orange
County Chopper
- July 30-August 3
Mountain Creek & DC Sports
- August 6-10
Medieval Times & Fishkill Farms
- August 13-17
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SPINS Rope Course

ACTIVITY/THEATRE CAMPS

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Grades 4-8
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- Stories for the Stage
Grades 1-3
July 30 – August 3
August 6-10
- “The Addams Family”
Grades 8-12+
June 25-July 26
- “SPAMALOT”
Grades 4-7
June 25-July 26

SPORTS CAMPS

- Football
Grades 1-6 (2017-2018)
June 18-21
- Basketball Skills & Challenges
Grades 3-6
July 2-6
- Basketball – Co-Ed
Grades 6-9
July 9-13
- Basketball – Co-Ed
Grades 4-7
July 16-20
- Basketball Offense Clinic
Grades 5-8
July 23-27
- Baseball
Grades 3-9
July 30-August 3
- Basketball Co-ed
Grades 6-9
August 6-10
- Soccer
Ages 6-14
August 20-24



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



READY FOR RUN — Kim Caruso (front right), owner of Fleet Feet Sports Poughkeepsie, delivered shoes that the store donated of the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison for residents who are training for a 5K race. *Photo provided*

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White Elephant Sale

Annual nursery school fundraiser

St. Philip's Nursery School on Route 9D in Garrison will hold its annual White Elephant Sale on Saturday, March 17. The doors open at 9 a.m., but early birds will be admitted at 8:30 a.m. for \$5. The sale continues until 1:30 p.m. Donations of toys, clothing, household goods and books will be accepted at the St. Philip's parish house through March 16. Baked goods also will be sold.

Meet the Birds

Walk and talk on March 17

Learn the names and habits of common birds during a free walk and talk at Bear Mountain State Park on Saturday, March 17. The program begins at 10 a.m. and is suitable for children ages 10 and older. Parking is \$10. Register by calling 845-786-2701, ext. 293.

Spring Break Options

Where to send the children

Boscobel will host events from Monday, March 26, through Thursday, March 29, for children age 5 and older. On Monday, an inflatable planetarium will be open for visits at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and on Tuesday and Thursday the site will offer flashlight tours of the mansion and games and crafts. On Wednesday, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has sessions scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to teach clowning. See boscobel.org to purchase tickets.

All-Sport Health and Fitness in Fishkill will hold its spring-break camp for children ages 5 to 12 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$55 per day for members and \$65 otherwise. Registration is required. See allsporthealthandfitness.com.

Snakes Welcome

Wildlife center to hold workshop

The Hudson Highlands Museum Wildlife Education Center in Cornwall will present a program on St. Patrick's Day (March 17) about snakes for children ages 5 and older. Admission is \$3 to \$7. See hhn.org.

Maple Syrup Season

Breakfasts planned at Taconic Center, Little Stony Point

The Taconic Outdoor Education Center will host its 25th annual Sugar Maple Celebration on Sunday, March 11, with a pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to noon and demonstrations of crosscut-wood sawing and maple syrup production from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The breakfast is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children.

On Sunday, March 25, the Little Stony

Point Association will have its annual Maple Syrup Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a pancake breakfast, live music and a raffle. See facebook.com/littlestonypointpark.

Talent Show

Haldane students to perform

The Haldane School Foundation, a non-profit that supports district programs through grants, will hold its annual fundraiser, Haldane's Got Talent, at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Thursday, March 22. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$35 for students age 12 and younger, including dinner, or \$25 and \$15 for the show. See townecrier.com.

Eat Local

Restaurant week begins March 12

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week begins Monday, March 12, and continues through March 25. Participating restaurants will offer three-course prix-fixe menus; lunch is \$22.95 and dinner is \$32.95.

In Philipstown participants are Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, Hudson House River Inn, Riverview, and Valley Restaurant at The Garrison, and in Beacon, it's the Beacon Hotel and Restaurant, Cafe Amarcord, Kitchen Sink, The Pandorica and The Roundhouse. See valleytable.com.

McGuire Scholarship

Audubon Society accepting applications

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society is accepting applications for its annual scholarship named to honor Marty McGuire, who became a board member at age 15 and for five years compiled the Putnam Christmas Bird (To next page)



PUPPY DELIVERY — During his weekly 25-hour drive to New England, truck driver Rich Hawkins delivered Bailey, a 7-week-old black lab mix, from a Mississippi rescue group to Putnam Service Dogs in Brewster for training.

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

Count. The scholarship is typically \$1,500 to \$2,500 and is open to high school seniors from Beacon, Philipstown, Fishkill and Putnam Valley, among other locales. See putnamhighlandsaudubon.org. The deadline is March 15.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Church to host on March 17

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17. It will include traditional Irish fare such as corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and other vegetables and soda bread, as well as alcoholic and nonalcoholic refreshments.

The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 for children 12 and younger. All proceeds benefit the church. Reservations are encouraged by calling 845-265-2539 or emailing stmaryinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Art Talks

Gallery to screen video interviews

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will present a series of videos by Paul Tschinkel, the founder and executive producer of ART/newyork, in which he interviews contemporary artists.

The series begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 9, with an interview with Jean-Michel Basquiat. Tschinkel plans to be on hand for most, if not all, of the screenings, and a discussion will follow each one. The remainder of the schedule features Mary Frank and Joan Semmel (March 16), Walter Robinson (March 23), Larry Poons (April 13), Alan Vega of Suicide (April 20) and Laurie Anderson (April 27). Seating is limited.

Beacon

Lip-Sync Battle

Mayor and others will fight it out

Hosted by drag queen Pissi Myles, an All-Star Lip Sync Battle will be held at the Towne Crier in Beacon on Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m., to benefit BeaconArts and the Center for Creative Education.

The mayor, City Council members, performers from the Beacon Players and at least one former Broadway star are scheduled to appear. There will also be a silent art auction. Tickets are \$30 at townecrier.com, \$40 at the door or \$20 for students ages 12 to 17.



The drag queen Pissi Myles will host an All-Star Lip-Sync Battle at the Towne Crier on March 15 to benefit two Beacon arts groups.

Photo by David Ayllon

Eels of the Hudson

Specialist to discuss their habits

Gracie Ballou, an educator with the State Department of Environmental Conservation who studies glass eels and their migrations, will give a free talk at the Denning's Point Visitor Center in Beacon on Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. She'll discuss the tiny eels and how they swim from the Sargasso Sea to streams and ponds in this area. Locally, the DEC maintains two monitoring sites assisted by volunteers. See bire.org/events.

New York Health

Speaker will discuss proposed law

Eve Madalenoitia from the Campaign for New York Health will visit a meeting of the Southern Dutchess branch of the



At Denning's Point in Beacon on March 11, an expert in glass eels will discuss the creatures and their migrations.

Photo by Eric Lind



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? Joan and Jay Varricchio of Cold Spring shared this photo of their grandson, Cormac, with their dog, Lady Belle.



If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.

NAACP on Thursday, March 15, to discuss details of the proposed New York Health Act, which would provide universal coverage to state residents. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon.



WOMEN'S HISTORY — In honor of Women's History Month, the Howland Public Library has organized a group show with art from 30 women artists inspired by the classic 19th-century feminist short story, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. It opens Saturday, March 10, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Shown here is *After the Yellow Wallpaper*, by Anna Bergin.

Image provided



PRINTS AND GHOSTS — A showing of works by Elana Goren opens at the Theo Ganz Gallery in Beacon on March 10.

Image provided



FEARLESS WOMEN — Howling at the Edge of Chaos at 428 Main St. in Beacon will open a show of works by Amanda Gross, including this portrait of social activist Grace Lee Boggs, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 10.

Image provided



WALKS OF LIFE — An exhibit of clay sculptures by George B. Davison opens Saturday, March 10, at Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show was curated by Barbara Galazzo.

Photo provided

Roots and Shoots

Plant Breeding at Home

By Pamela Doan

The glow of tube lights around my house is a sign of hope that spring is coming. After opening up space in our yard to let in more sunlight, we're able to plant a full vegetable garden. The plans are made and the seeds are started for transplanting as soon as all this snow interference clears.

While trying to grow more vegetables and perennials from seeds, I discovered something surprising. Most organic produce doesn't start with an organic seed. There isn't enough supply to meet the "growing" demand. When the standards were set for organic certification by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there was even less supply. As a result, farmers are allowed to source non-organic seed and still meet the certification.

Regardless of the seed, produce marketed as organic isn't sprayed with chemical fertilizers or pesticides that poison beneficial and harmful insects indiscriminately. The soil health in organic growing depends on amending it with organic matter that decomposes slowly and feeds the roots and microbes, not dumping synthetic compounds that can damage the soil and run off into waterways.

Does that mean the organic tomato you bought at the supermarket may have been grown with a genetically modified seed produced by a biotechnology company? Possibly. While GMO seeds aren't typically available to home growers, they are widely available to farmers. In a 2016 report, the Organic Seed Alliance (OSA), a nonprofit that advocates for seeds as a resource for the public good, found that only 18 percent of vegetable growers were planting organic seeds.

The odds aren't in favor of organic seeds. The OSA study found that three corporations control more than 50 percent of the global seed market and that four corporations control nearly 90 percent of the worldwide retail market for corn. Seeds are being patented and privatized, making it illegal for farmers to save seeds for the next crop. "Policy isn't keeping up with how fast the technology is changing," says Kristina Hubbard of OSA.

The challenge ahead is a loss of genetic diversity. About 90 percent of seed diversity has already disappeared. The methods of producing seeds and growing plants require heavy inputs of chemicals and lots of energy. Market consolidation makes it less economically viable for organic farmers to become seed producers.

Hubbard cites some of OSA's partnerships as bright spots in this landscape. One example is the success of Who Gets Kissed Sweet Corn, an open-pollinated, organic variety that was bred with input from organic farmers and plant breeders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with funding from the Organic Farming Research Foundation and the USDA. It's also an example of how regional breeding trials make a difference.

More research and funding is needed for regionally specific seeds. Locally, we're fortunate to have a resource like Hudson Valley Seed, which produces organic, open-pollinated and heirloom seeds and does all of its plant breeding and trials here. These seeds are bred to succeed in our climate and soil temperatures.

Climate change makes issues about seeds urgent. For decades, experts have been raising alarms about the fragility of our food system and its dependence on chemical inputs and fossil fuels, among other things. Extreme storms, unseasonal temperature fluctuations, water scarcity and flooding, and new threats from pests and pathogens are some of the problems farmers are dealing with in a warming world.



Seeds waiting patiently for the snow to GO AWAY

Photo by P. Doan

If you want to be an organic gardener, studies show that vegetables grown using organic methods that start with organic seeds have higher yields and better results. To make your garden even more affordable, choose open-pollinated varieties and save seeds that you can plant the following season. Just like that, you're breeding plants to adapt to your specific growing conditions.

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UPDATES ON TWO PHILIPSTOWN PROJECTS (from Page 3)

Board on Feb. 15 continued a public hearing begun in January, it received another round of mostly negative comments.

Dave Merandy, Cold Spring’s mayor, who owns a property on East Mountain Road North, repeated criticism by others that “this is not a conservation subdivision.”

Merandy, a contractor and former Town Board member, said Philipstown’s zoning code envisioned conservation subdivisions as clustering houses and other buildings “in a tight area,” to optimize undeveloped land and natural resources. He advised the Planning Board to eliminate the unbuildable areas from the total acreage and calculate the number of structures appropriate on what’s left.

Andy Galler, a member of the Philipstown Conservation Board, emphasized its concerns. He read a statement in which the board recommended the developers prepare a detailed environmental impact statement to ensure that the project’s ramifications “are better planned and fully considered.”

The Conservation Board believes the project will significantly affect the site, “primarily through forest fragmentation.” Reducing the lot sizes, or number of houses, around the pond would provide a

wider wildlife transit corridor to undeveloped land and “help eliminate the impact of fragmentation, provide a higher level of protection of water resources,” and enhance conservation overall, it said.

Furthermore, the Conservation Board stated that the complex would have a network of new roads, another concern; urged bring with it reconsideration of the equestrian center size and location; and sought examples of storm water and wastewater management plans, which it called “essential for the long-term protection of water resources on-site and for Clove Creek,” which crosses the property.

“How much water is going to be sucked out of the aquifer we all count on?” asked Julia Famularo, a neighbor to the planned project. The Clove Creek aquifer is Philipstown’s largest.

Garrison resident Noel Kropf also expressed fears for the aquifer. “It would be some sort of travesty” if a conservation subdivision produced more sprawl and conserved less land than a traditional one, he said.

The Planning Board workshop begins on March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave., in Cold Spring.

“How much water is going to be sucked out of the aquifer we all count on?”

UPDATES ON NINE BEACON PROJECTS (from Page 3)

group led by developer Bernard Kohn.

The parcel, the largest in Beacon that could still be developed, is located within a primarily single-family residential zoning district that requires a little less than 2 acres for each dwelling unit.

A religious institution, public school or municipal recreation area would be permitted there, and certain uses, such as a private school, club, museum, artist studio, nursing home or bed-and-breakfast, are allowable with a special permit. The property was not affected by the Beacon City Council’s recent rezoning of the Fishkill Creek Development District.

The developers of the 307-unit **Edge-water** proposal near Beacon’s waterfront, after receiving environmental approval from the Planning Board and variances from the ZBA for the number of stories allowed per building, the number of units per building and the space between buildings, are pursuing site-plan approval and a special-use permit from the City Council. A public hearing on the site plan is scheduled for April 10.

Beacon Hip Lofts LLC, the developer of **The Lofts at Beacon** on Front Street, has asked to remove the commercial space it had planned for the site and instead add 29 residential units, bringing the total live/work spaces to 172. About 80 units

have been completed. The Planning Board will continue its review on March 13.

The Planning Board also will continue a public hearing that same day for the 18-townhouse **River Ridge Views** project located on the Parcel L property. River Ridge, along with Edgewater, could be significantly affected if the City Council moves forward with legislation that would modify how a parcel’s allowable density is calculated to “buildable,” rather than total, acreage — excluding environmentally sensitive land.

On March 5, the City Council approved an agreement with the owners of **West End Lofts** to make voluntary payments beginning at \$170,000 per year in lieu of property taxes. The project will include 72 middle-income and artists’ spaces and 26 market-rate units. It was granted tax exemptions on its affordable units last year as a requirement of the \$4.5 million in funding it received from the state Homes and Community Renewal agency.

The developers of the long-delayed **248 Tioronda** project in January showed the Planning Board preliminary plans for its redesign. The project, which had received authorization for 100 units along Fishkill Creek, must now seek new approvals after the council rezoned the creekside district, cutting the project’s allowable density by about a third.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 where Archie & Jughead live (9)	_____
2 running at top speed (9)	_____
3 Buenos Aires is its capital (9)	_____
4 in a notorious way (8)	_____
5 on the other hand (7)	_____
6 amusement park (7)	_____
7 “Star Trek” phaser setting (4)	_____

RIV	SLY	ING	ALE	ENT
INT	VER	UN	HO	IR
WE	NFA	FA	ARG	SPR
INA	ST	ERD	FU	MOU

See answers: Page 14

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Sports

Beacon's Got Talent

Top basketball players say they are proud to 'rep' city

By David Cordova

New York state has plenty of places with basketball talent — New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, as well as one locale often overlooked: Beacon.

Two of the city's best players starred this season at private schools: Tyrese Williams, a senior at Cardinal Hayes High School in the South Bronx who has committed to Quinnipiac University, and Malachi de Sousa, a senior at South Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, who is headed to the University of Albany. Another Beacon native, Elijah Hughes, is a sophomore who redshirted this season at Syracuse University after playing at East Carolina.

Shayla Diaz, a 2006 Beacon High School graduate who was a standout at SUNY Purchase and now produces a videoblog about basketball culture called *Shayz' Dayz*, says the fact that three Division I players came from Beacon within three seasons is "big, because no one knows about Beacon. It's somewhere where tourists come up on Metro-North to visit or hike."

She says Beacon lacks tournaments that showcase high school talent, and are far more common in New York City. "That's why you see Tyrese, Malachi and Elijah south and not up north," she says.

Tyrese Williams

Williams says he enjoys having people ask where he's from. "I like putting on

for Beacon. I like repping my city." He describes the Beacon basketball scene as "laid back. So when you get a dope group of friends who take ball serious, that's when we start seeing the greatness that Beacon has."

Cardinal Hayes was 21-7 going into the semifinals on March 8 of the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) quarterfinals in Class AA. Last season, when Williams was a junior, Hayes went 21-9 and won the CHSAA championship.

Before his senior season began, Williams had scholarship offers not only from Quinnipiac but mid-majors such as St. Bonaventure, Iona, Manhattan, St. Louis, Fordham, Towson and Vermont.

Malachi de Sousa

De Sousa says "being from Beacon is unique; it's not like any other place. It puts a huge chip on my shoulder because nobody thinks of Beacon as having serious hoopers anymore.

"I feel like it's my job, along with others, to set the tone and remind them that we've still got talent just like every other place," he says. "We have dudes who could hoop with top players in the country. And sure we don't get the same media coverage as others but that's fine. We're good."

Before enrolling at South Kent, de Sousa attended Kennedy Catholic, where in 2015 he helped lead the team to a CHSAA Class B championship.

On March 3, South Kent lost, 118-116, in double overtime in the semifinals of the Class AA tournament of the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council, to the eventual champions, Tilton School. De Sousa had 24 points.

On Sept. 3, before the season began, the forward signed a letter of intent with the University of Albany. After a visit to campus and meeting the team and Coach Will Brown, "it was clear that I wanted to join their family," says de Sousa. "I feel like I'll bring versatility and another fierce competitor."

Elijah Hughes

Hughes played for Beacon High School as a freshman and sophomore before transferring to Kennedy Catholic, where he averaged 15.7 points, 7.4 rebounds and 5.4 assists for the team, which went 26-2, and was named to the first team Class A All-State.

As De Sousa would do, he left Kennedy to play his senior year at South Kent, where he averaged 16 points per game. "It was hard to leave New York and go to Connecticut, but I feel [now] like it was one of the best decisions I've made," he says. "I played alongside, in my eyes, All-



Malachi de Sousa, Tyrese Williams and Elijah Hughes with Shayla Diaz

Photo courtesy Shayla Diaz

Americans. The biggest thing it helped me with is my confidence, knowing that I can play with anyone."

In early 2015, Hughes committed to East Carolina, where as a freshman he averaged 7.8 points per game.

Hoping to test himself against even tougher competition, he transferred to

Syracuse. The move required him to sit out the 2017-18 season.

"The coaching staff here at SU just felt I'd fit right in perfectly in their style of play, and I did as well," he says. "The school has a history of producing great NBA combo/scoring guards and that's what I envision myself as."

Haldane Girls Fall in Regionals

Millbrook moves on after 46-36 win

By Chip Rowe

After battling back to take the lead at halftime, the Haldane girls' basketball team fell to Millbrook, 46-36, on Tuesday (March 6) in the Class C regional tournament.

The Blue Devils, who finished 12-11, were down 16-9 after one quarter and 38-32 after three. Haldane's leading scorer, senior Allison Chiera, fouled out with 5:46 remaining in the game and her team down by six, making a comeback all the more difficult against a top-ranked squad that had lost only three games all season.

Earlier in the day, Chiera was named by coaches to the Section 1 All-Conference team.

Haldane advanced to the regionals after a convincing 50-30 win at Pace University on Feb. 24 over Keio Academy, for its fifth consecutive Section 1, Class C championship.

Millbrook, ranked third in the state in Class C by the New York State Sportswriters Association, reached the game by defeating Seward, which was ranked 11th, by 26 points in the Section 9 final. The Blazers (19-3) will play the Section 11 champions on March 9 at SUNY New Paltz, with the winner advancing to the final four.

The Haldane girls last year reached the regional final title game before falling to the Section 11 champ, Port Jefferson, 43-30.

More Beacon Players

Xavier Mayo, who played as a freshman at Poughkeepsie Day and as a sophomore for Beacon High School, is a junior at The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The team went 19-7 and won the Pennsylvania Independent School Athletic Association state championship on Feb. 24. Mayo averaged six points and six rebounds per game and, according to Coach Phil Canosa, was the team's best defensive forward.

Zamere McKenzie, a senior, and **Branden Evans**, a 2017 Beacon High School grad enrolled as a post-graduate, both played for the New York Military Academy in Cornwall. McKenzie had nine points and Evans scored eight on March 4 as the Knights won the first New England Preparatory School Athletic Council championship for the school in any sport.