

The HIGHLANDS Current



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

6 Candidates for 3 Beacon School Seats

Three incumbents will not seek re-election

By Jeff Simms

Six candidates will appear on the May 15 ballot for three seats being vacated by incumbents on the Beacon school board.

Bill Zopf, who has served on the board for eight terms, or 24 years, is not seeking re-election, nor is Vice President Kenya Gadsden (a board member since 2014) and Georgia Patchen, who was first elected in 2009.

The six residents who filed nominating petitions by the April 25 deadline are Elissa Betterbid, James Case-Leal, Joshua Galarza, Christine Galbo, Ali Muhammad and Flora Stadler. The winners will each

serve three-year terms.

District voters will also vote on May 15 on the schools' proposed \$70.5 million budget for 2018-19.

The candidates

The Current asked each candidate to provide biographical details. We will publish their responses to policy questions in the May 11 issue.

Elissa Betterbid works in media and advertising and has three children attending school in the district — a freshman at Beacon High School, a sixth-grader at Rombout Middle School and a fifth-grader at Glenham Elementary. She is the former president of the Packanack Lake Mothers Club, a women's organization in Wayne, New Jersey, with more than 1,000 members. (Continued on Page 6)



Police Chief: Opioid Crisis a Health Issue

Former resident advocates treatment, not jail

By Michael Turton

“You’re never going to get anyone into treatment if they’re dead.” That message was at the core of a talk by Brandon del Pozo at the Gar-

risson School on Monday (April 23) to address how communities can combat opioid addiction. The former Nelsonville resident was appointed the police chief of Burlington, Vermont, in 2015 after serving 19 years with the NYPD.

Del Pozo said that on his first day on the job in Burlington, which does not have a health department, the mayor assigned him to lead the fight. And (Continued on Page 18)



Danielle Pack McCarthy, the newly appointed addiction treatment coordinator for Philipstown, speaks with Brandon del Pozo after this talk.

Photo by M. Turton



SPEAKING OUT — Radcliffe Dunne, 5, marches with his mother, Eileen Sheppard, near Memorial Park in Beacon on April 20 as part of a national protest of gun violence in schools.

Photo by Roya Darling

Another \$300K for Senior Center

After debate, facility is named after ... nobody

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Two Putnam County legislative committees last week agreed to take \$300,000 from a reserve fund to finish construction of the Butterfield senior center, whose costs have exceeded expectations.

Legislators also settled on a name for the facility: The Friendship Center in Phil-

ipstown. The center is in the Butterfield redevelopment complex in Cold Spring

The Audit and Administration and Physical Services Committees both unanimously approved the spending and sent the request to the full Legislature, which meets on May 1.

On Wednesday (April 25), Maureen Fleming, the Kent town supervisor, who hopes to defeat County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell in November, termed the additional spending “outrageous.” In a news release, the Democrat said dipping into (Continued on Page 3)

5 Five Questions: LESLEY STAHL

By Brian PJ Cronin



Lesley Stahl

Photo provided

Lesley Stahl has been a CBS reporter since 1972 and a *60 Minutes* correspondent since 1991. On May 4, the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will honor her at its annual awards dinner (see Page 16).

You covered Watergate. How does that compare to what's going on now?

I have a sense of déjà vu, especially with the reactions of the Republicans. People think the Republicans turned on Nixon fairly early. But they stayed in a little circle, protecting him, until the tape came out on which he admitted he was part of the cover-up. Boy, you see them circling the wagons around Trump, too! Obviously the threat of firing the special prosecutor is similar, which Nixon did. The focus on the charge of corruption for Trump is drip, drip, drip. Watergate wasn't a steady drip. There were long intermissions when nothing happened.

You've written that covering Watergate made you aware of how a president's personality can affect history. Does that apply to Trump?

He's no different, he just has a larger personality. Every president, in his own way, brought his temperament to bear on us. When I covered Jimmy Carter, the lights in the White House never went out. He was a micromanager, and it created a sense of nervousness. When Reagan came in, it felt as if overnight things settled down. He'd seen it all, this too shall pass. His calm interior affected everybody.

60 Minutes premiered in 1968. What's the secret to its longevity?

It hasn't changed. It's the same as it's always

been, and it's comforting, and people trust us. We approach whoever we interview with dignity and respect. I watch these polls about how people are losing faith in journalism, but they've kept their trust in us. I also think our protected Sunday time slot is a part of it, I can't deny it. We don't do surveys to see what stories people will watch. We come up with our own that we personally are desperate to cover. It's wonderful to work there, which is why few people leave.

How do you feel about the state of journalism?

I'm pessimistic. I so worry about journalism on the web. Everything's fragmented. I worry about paying journalists enough money to draw the best and brightest. And I worry about people only reading stories they want to read, instead of being a little challenged, the way people who read newspapers are. Our system of government needs an adversarial press. Look at what's happening now with President Trump's cabinet members and the vetting that the press is doing. We're finding things *they* should have found. We're there to cleanse. We're essential. And if no one believes us, the system's in trouble.

How about for women journalists?

It's been slow going. In my naivete, I thought, the door's open, we'll prove ourselves, and we're on our way. We proved ourselves and still had to climb mountains. Maybe it was necessary that we had to earn our way, and maybe it had to take years, because no one can say we jumped the line because of affirmative action. I just did a story on pay inequality. This has nothing to do with journalists, but it's stunning to learn that waitresses are tipped less than waiters are. There's something inherent in the system that pays women less. It's hard to change that, but the pressure needs to stay on, and we need more women in the executive suites.

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Another \$300K for Senior Center *(from Page 1)*

the reserve demonstrates “yet another example of fiscal mismanagement by Odell. The proposed Butterfield senior center is 6,000 square feet in an existing building. Why are the costs so high for this small retrofit?”

After initial bids for renovation came in too high, crews from the county’s Highway and Facilities Department spent three weeks demolishing the interior, laying the rough plumbing and installing drywall.

Fleming charged the project diverted them from roadwork and other assignments.

But John Tully, deputy Highway and Facilities commissioner, told the Physical Services Committee on April 17 that the work produced new, lower bids and, with other cost-cutting, reduced expenses by about \$400,000. He said work would be completed by the end of the year at the latest.

Officials repeatedly asserted the transfer, because it was coming from reserves, would have “no fiscal impact.”

According to documents released by the county, the most recent bids for the renovations ranged from \$1.365 million to \$1.779 million. County data show a

\$134,000 gap between the \$1.231 million in the Butterfield account and the \$1.365 million charged by the low bidder, Key Construction Services LLC, of Poughkeepsie.

The \$300,000 “is necessary to cover the project shortfall and kitchen equipment, furniture, and furnishings,” Tully stated.

William Carlin, the county finance commissioner, told the Audit Committee that the money “should, according to our latest estimates, take care of the whole project.”

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown and has spearheaded the project, expressed delight at the committee support. She said on April 19 that she had conferred with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney’s staff about obtaining federal grants for the senior center so the reserves could be replenished.

Senior center name

In an April 12 Rules Committee session, legislators discussed what to call the senior center and complained that Odell’s request for community input had produced little feedback.

“We did send letters to the supervisor of Philipstown [Richard Shea] and the may-



The redevelopment underway at the former Butterfield Hospital property includes transformation of part of the Lahey Pavilion (in distance) into a county senior center.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

or of Cold Spring [Dave Merandy] and got absolutely no reply,” Scuccimarra said.

However, at the March 1 meeting of the Philipstown Town Board, Scuccimarra asked for suggestions. Board members proposed the center be named for Julia Butterfield, the 19th-century philanthropist who provided money for a Cold Spring hospital.

On April 12, Scuccimarra proposed calling the facility the Philipstown Senior Center. “There’s plenty of people we could name it after, but Philipstown Senior Center kind of says it all.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino remarked

that “to name it after one person always seems to cause hard feelings.” Until last year, the senior center was expected to bear the name of Roger Ailes, the Fox News magnate and Garrison resident, who pledged \$500,000 for it. But he later withdrew the offer.

Robert Firriolo, the legislature’s lawyer, advised “if you call it the ‘Philipstown Senior Center,’ people might think it’s a town, as opposed to a county, facility.”

So, the committee settled on the Friendship Center in Philipstown, reflecting the title of county facilities in other towns.



OBSTACLE COURSE — Spring has arrived, and with it potholes, including this selection from the Highlands. The hazards form when water seeps through cracks in the asphalt, then freezes, pushing up on the road surface. During the thaw, the aggregate base has weakened enough that the weight of passing vehicles collapses the asphalt and the hole expands as it is hit. Next on the schedule: Mud.

Photos by Michael Turton

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tower

The Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has the unenviable task of deciding on April 30 whether a cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery constitutes a significant visual impact on our cultural and scenic resources ("Rockledge Cell Tower Review Continues," April 6). Its placement adjacent to a National Historic landmark and within one of a few districts designated by New York State as a Scenic Area of Statewide Significance (SASS) makes this a precedent-setting decision of the highest consequence.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation describes SASS regions such as ours as "special places that the public has deemed worthy of protection due to the inherent aesthetic value associated with the resource." Our SASS designation is the result of years of planning by state policy makers and local municipalities eager to have the exceptional scenic resources of this area recognized. Workshops and public hearings to solicit feedback were held throughout the Hudson Valley, including in the Philipstown Town Hall in 1990, where we meet now to consider the cell-tower application.

The small river communities in the Hudson Valley SASS regions are responsible for upholding its mission of preservation. As the lead agency in this review, the ZBA has sole authority to decide if the proposed tower will negatively impact the village — from its historic and natural resources, to its aesthetic singularity and community character. In a letter dated April 15, experts from the SUNY Landscape Architecture program wrote the ZBA to express their opinion that "the historic resources, the valley vistas, and the local residents'/visitors' visual experiences would inevitably be infringed upon" by each of the design proposals submitted by Homeland Towers.

The developer would like the community to believe that a cell tower situated in the heart of what makes our village special is not a big deal. But these businessmen don't get to decide what our village values are or what we find visually spectacular or historically meaningful. This decision rests with residents — in this case, the members of the ZBA.

As Nelsonville residents, my husband and I feel deep gratitude to the village for its decades-long efforts to preserve its natural resources, celebrate its rich cultural history and encourage development that reflects the scale and spirit of our bu-



The proposed Nelsonville cell tower would be on a tract of land in the area to the left, off Rockledge Road.

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

colic environs. It is my sincere hope that the ZBA will continue this tradition and at its April 30 meeting refrain from granting a special permit to Homeland Towers.

Dove Pedlosky, *Nelsonville*

I wait with a heavy heart for the April 30 vote. I dread the outcome because I have watched the bullying salesman technique used by the tower company. In meeting after meeting, its lawyer, Robert Gaudio, threatened a lawsuit if the zoning board members didn't approve the tower. In meeting after meeting, members of the board attempted to untangle themselves from the sales pitch and get to the truth.

One trick of sales is that if you convince buyers they have to choose between options, they will pick one. They will buy *something*. I have been to every meeting, listened to every word, and the sales pitch is evident. The tower company is selling its designs, and the Zoning Board members must pick one. If they don't pick one, we lose control.

This is not true. The federal government allows villages like ours some independence — we can choose our vision, our design, a common plan for our town. This is why we have planning and zoning boards. Because these boards are us — our neighbors, ourselves — deciding what will happen to where we live for years to come. The law says our board can say no to a bad application, as long as it can show, in detail, why it said no. It's that simple. The board should take back its power and find better places for our cellphone technology.

I have a heavy heart because if the

bullies succeed in pushing the Zoning Board to accept this terrible tower, our village will not only destroy a cherished and historic site, but will also do harm to so many of our neighbors whose lifelong view will be destroyed, whose trees will be cut down and a road put through their yard, and who go to visit family members buried in the peaceful, beautiful, sanctuary of our village cemetery.

And it will not just be those neighbors but those in the future who will find, after this tower has been approved, that the next one is in their view, through their yard, in their tranquil, cherished spot. The approval of this tower will set such a low bar, such a bad precedent, that nowhere in our village will be off limits.

If there is approval, there will be real division in the village. I am angry at the perpetrators — the tower company — for trying to make the board believe it must go against the community. Will the bullies, whom we will never see again, succeed in dividing us with their fear tactics? Could you forgive a neighbor who approved a 110-foot tower between the mountains and your window? If this tower is approved, you will have a lifetime of towers to figure that out. The vote is April 30, but the outcome may last forever.

Eliza Matthews, *Nelsonville*

As part of our effort to combat the one-sided set of facts produced by Homeland Towers, our community was aided by Robin Hoffman, a professor at and curriculum director for the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. No one more understands better the important role communities like ours play in protecting our natural environment.

I encourage everyone to read the report that she created for the Zoning Board (bit.ly/nelsonville-tower). This report helped us to understand the SASS designation and the work done by our neighbors to protect our natural areas. According to Hoffman, because of this designation, if we as a community allow these towers to be built then we risk setting a dangerous precedent for (Continued on next page)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

the entire Hudson Valley.

This vote is that important. We are unique in the legal power we have been granted to say no to these towers. Hoffman says that the approval of the application despite the SASS could lead to “an amassing of towers along the riparian corridor’s recognizably-valuable scenic ridgelines. Disapproving the proposed tower would likewise set a precedent example for nearby villages, in that it may afford the empowerment of communities to legally wield a greater measure of control and preservation ability toward high-visibility structures becoming introduced among the SASS-designated scenic resources.”

Let’s not be the village that sets in motion the covering of the Hudson River Valley with cell towers.

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*

McCarthy is a member of the advisory board of Highlands Current Inc.

As a community member and a practicing litigation attorney with more than 15 years of experience, I am concerned about how the law has been misrepresented by the applicant and how as a result it may be misunderstood by the ZBA.

Under federal law, the ZBA has the discretion to deny cell-tower applications where a denial is rationally supported by substantial evidence (e.g., expert testimony, supporting case law, statistical data). In this application, there is overwhelming substantial evidence in support of denial. Federal court rulings have upheld many cell tower application denials, even when supported by significantly less evidence in opposition than is now before the ZBA.

Homeland Towers has a right to sue if there is a denial, which it will likely do as a matter of course. It does not mean, however, that simply filing a claim will result in success. As a litigation attorney, I can attest that most lawsuits are settled, and by compelling the tower company to file suit when it is in a position of weakness on the merits, the village will have the upper hand in any settlement negotiations and the leverage to dictate better terms. Such leverage is lost if it merely votes in favor of this flawed application.

Jason Biafore, *Cold Spring*

Edgewater

The proposed Edgewater Development in Beacon is a Trojan horse (“Edgewater Debate Chugs Along in Beacon,” April 20). I have seen this type of scam proposed so many times in Philipstown that I have lost count; each time, we sent the profiteers packing. The fabric of the Beacon community is well-established and needs to be preserved. There are too many examples of developments like Edgewater making promises that don’t materialize, and that includes “affordable housing.”

The fact is that 330-plus homes will require more than Beacon can sustain. All the qualities that have drawn so many families to Beacon will be lost if this abomination is allowed to go forward. If the prospect of fouled water, sewage running into the Hudson River and higher taxes don’t bring the community out to oppose this ill-conceived project, I don’t know what will. I knew Pete and Toshi Seeger my entire life and I can say without reservation that they would not stand for this.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*

Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

Awards

Congratulations to my former colleagues on well-deserved recognition



RECKLESS — Last weekend brought large numbers of hikers to Breakneck Ridge for the first time this spring. At mid-afternoon on Sunday, three hot-rodders in succession demonstrated their three-point-turn skills at the most congested section of Route 9D, just north of the tunnel. The photographer dubbed them Larry, Moe and Curly.

Photo by Michael Turton

(“The Current Wins 13 State Awards,” April 20). And congrats to *The Current’s* board of directors and financial supporters for keeping the enterprise going and seeing your investment grow in ways that benefit the whole community. Local journalism matters!

Kevin E. Foley, *Northampton, Massachusetts*

Foley is the former managing editor of The Current.

Sale

A quick correction to your story about the ReePlay sale, which takes place this weekend at University Settlement Camp in Beacon (“Bargains Galore Help Kids Explore,” April 20).

You noted that the first sale took place in a member’s garage, but that was just where the items were sorted after Mary Antalek came up with the idea of a “big sale” of kids’ items as a fundraiser. We carted everything over to Legion Hall on Main Street for the one-day event, with the promise that it would be cleared out in time for bingo. The American Legion and VFW were very generous in letting Wee Play use their space those first few years.

Kelly Ellenwood, *Beacon*

Corrections & Updates

In the April 20 issue, we reported that Jill Lake was among the incumbents running unopposed for re-election to the Garrison School Board. In fact, it is Raymond O’Rourke, who is seeking his fourth term.

The forum organized by the Haldane PTA to meet the five school board candidates has been rescheduled from April 30 to Monday, May 7. It will begin at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

In our coverage of the Beacon baseball team, we misspelled the first name of sophomore pitcher and utility player Besim Dika.

In *5 Questions* with Chris Reisman, one of his “desert-island discs” should have been identified as *The Shape of Jazz to Come*, by Ornette Coleman.

Spot an error? Email editor@highlandscurrent.com.

Vandalism

Judge Thomas Costello said he was tempted to put a suspected vandal in jail as a “wake-up call” (“Accused Cold Spring Vandal Appears in Court,” April 13).

Consider what the village did 150 years ago. According to a report reprinted in *The Current* on April 6, the Cold Spring Village Board in 1868 authorized the arrest of “all persons violating the laws of the village by the ringing of bells, blowing of horns or other unusual noises calculated to break the peace.” Now there’s a real wake-up call.

Joanne Kenna, *Cold Spring*

Signs

Instead of promoting negativity, divisiveness and banners with hypocritical content, why not hang signs with positive messages such as “Strive to be Better” or “Promote Equality” (“Sign Lands Beacon Man in Court,” April 13)? Antagonism such as “Resist White Supremacy” doesn’t solve any problems.

Bob Kacur, *Beacon*

For more comments, visit
highlandscurrent.com

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Site Visit – May 6, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

**James Copeland, Hudson Structures Inc.
3052 Route 9, Cold Spring**

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Site Visit – May 6, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

**Garrison Property Holdings LLC,
88-92 Whipoorwill Pond Rd., Garrison**

HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, will conduct a **Continuation HEARING** on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at 7 p.m. Prevailing Time, at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear the appeal of Homeland Tower, LLC from the decision of the Town Conservation Board to deny the application of Homeland Tower, LLC and New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a wetlands permit sought in connection with an application for:

A special use permit to erect a wireless telecommunication service facility consisting of a 180-foot monopole with antennas, together with related equipment, at the base thereof within a multi-carrier equipment compound. The property at issue is located at 50 Vineyard Road, Cold Spring, New York in an OC zoning district.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk
Dated: April 25, 2018

6 Candidates for 3 Beacon School Seats *(from Page 1)*

James Case-Leal, a college educator and visual artist, is the father of twin fourth-graders at J.V. Forrestal Elementary. He led the team of students that made last year's Spirit of Beacon Day float at Forrestal and coordinated with the district and the city's parks and police departments to organize the April 20 protest at Memorial Park against gun violence in schools.

Joshua Galarza is a chef at Quinn's on Main Street. He is a mental health advocate and a former coach for the Beacon Bears Pop Warner football team.

Christine Galbo served two terms on the school board but did not run for reelection in 2016. She is a special education teacher in Westchester County and has teenagers who attend Beacon High School. She and her husband organize the summer Beacon Youth Police Academy.

Ali Muhammad is a former two-term member of the Beacon City Council, representing Ward 4, who was defeated last fall in a campaign to win an at-large seat. He is an executive aide for the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights and director of the Terrence Wright Memorial Basketball League.

Flora Stadler is a PTA board member at South Avenue Elementary and the mother of two boys who are students there. She volunteers for the Wee Play Community Project and Advocates for Beacon Schools and works part-time for two Beacon-based companies.



The candidates, clockwise from top left: Galbo, Muhammad, Betterbid, Stadler, Case-Leal and Galarza

Photos provided

The budget

The district budget, which was approved by the board on April 16 to present to voters, will increase the annual property taxes of the average Beacon resident by about \$160, based on current assessments.

The \$70.5 million in spending is offset

by \$28.2 million in state funding, \$38.6 million in property taxes, \$2.5 million from savings and \$950,000 from various other sources.

The budget includes funding for three new elementary teachers — one each at South Avenue, Glenham and Sargent — along with two elementary physical education teachers, a special education position and a \$36,000 contract with Altaris, a Yorktown Heights-based consulting firm that just completed a security audit for the district.

In addition to salary and benefits, it includes \$50,000 to hire a director of school security. If approved, the post would be filled for a year and then re-evaluated by the school board.

Beacon Looking for Two Principals

The Beacon schools are seeking new leadership at Beacon High School and J.V. Forrestal Elementary, respectively, where John Sieverding and Asheena Baez have announced they are leaving the district.

Sieverding, the high school principal since 2011, is retiring, while Baez, Forrestal's principal since 2016, has been appointed as a principal in the Baldwin school district on Long Island.

The Beacon district has received more than 50 applications for each position, Superintendent Matt Landahl reported

at the April 24 school board meeting. Those pools will be whittled down to six to eight candidates for each school, with stakeholder groups — including community members and, at the high school, a Beacon High student — narrowing the fields further. Landahl hopes to interview the finalists and make hiring recommendations to the board by the end of May, he said.

District officials have met with parent and staff groups, and a student survey is being circulated at the high school to inform the hiring process.

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Garrison School Board Adopts \$10.9M Budget

Plus, highlights from earlier meetings

By Lily Gordon

The Garrison School Board adopted a \$10.9 million budget for 2018-19 at its April 11 meeting and scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, May 2, for public comment.

The estimated tax rate per \$1,000 assessed value is \$20.92 for Philipstown and \$9.80 for Putnam Valley, translating to an estimated tax increase of 2.44 percent.

The polls will be open on Tuesday, May 15, for voters to decide on the budget. There are three open school board seats on the ballot, as well, but the incumbents — David Gelber, James Hoch and Raymond O'Rourke — have no challengers for new three-year terms.

The board's budget proposal includes an increase in spending of \$333,000 over 2017-18, or about 3 percent. The majority of the additional costs are due to higher employee health care insurance premiums and special education costs, said Business Administrator Sue Huetter.

Hoch said he hadn't noticed any major change in the number of students identified as having learning disabilities (Garrison had 23 to 29 special education students in each of the past four years) but rather that "the commitment to serving the entire population has changed," he said. "That's a reflection of the effectiveness of the administration."

In other business ...

- New York state standardized tests for English Language Arts were administered to students in grades 3 to 8 on April 11 and 12. Twenty percent of students opted out, down from 32 percent last year. According to the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association, the state plans to count all non-testers above a 5 percent threshold as "non-proficient" in a district's results. A board member suggested that Principal John Griffiths meet with the parents of non-testers to attempt to persuade them to take the test on a makeup date.
- Griffiths noted that an invasive species, black swallow-wort, has overrun the South Redoubt, part of the school forest, making access difficult. The board discussed possible solutions, including herbicides.
- Krystal Ford, a member of the Philipstown Climate Smart Task Force, asked the board to advocate student participation in activities related to climate change. On April 20, Ford and science teacher Kevin Keegan took 11 middle-school students to a day-long Youth Climate Summit at Columbia University.
- Sam Smith, an eighth-grader, shared research he had done on geothermal heating systems. He explained potential benefits for the environment and the school district's bottom line. In early April, Superintendent Laura Mitchell, along with Keegan, Ford, Director of Maintenance Michael Twardy and five students, visited Putnam Valley High School to observe its geothermal HVAC system.
- The Garrison Children's Education Fund reported that it is \$5,000 short of its \$50,000 goal to revamp part of the playground. Representatives of the fund will prepare a proposal for a plaque to recognize donors.
- The school installed its first filtered water fountain.
- The board approved a sports merger with the Haldane and Putnam Valley districts for 2018-19, for wrestling.
- At its Feb. 14 meeting, the board declined a suggestion from Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell that she visit the district to discuss the county's participation in a class-action lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies and their distributors over the marketing and distribution of opioid painkillers. Because Odell is running for re-election this year, the board decided it wanted to avoid the impression that it was participating in a political campaign.
- At the March 14 meeting, representatives from the Putnam-Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) presented a Student of Distinction Award to Eric Stubblefield, a Garrison student who attends The Walden School.
- Also on March 14, PTA President Nell Timmer, who has four children at the school, commended the principal and superintendent for their response to concerns and their "measured, thoughtful and supportive" handling of the student-led walkout earlier that day to protest gun violence.
- An anonymous donor gave the district \$1,000 to provide financial assistance to students in need for school-related expenses such as lunch or snack money, book money and school supplies. The fund will be called the "Quiet Fund" and is open for further donations. The funds will be dispersed by the superintendent.
- At the April 24 meeting, the board accepted the resignation of foreign-language teacher Idalia D'Antuono, who is retiring after 19 years with the district. The board also voted to appoint Cathy Lilburne of Garrison and Michael Simpkins of Peekskill to three-year terms on BOCES.
- Griffiths reported that students are attempting to reduce the amount of trash they produce at lunch; in the first week of the initiative it went from 28 pounds to 19 pounds. The second and third grades alone reduced their trash from 8.75 pounds to 2.5 pounds, he said.

Haldane Adopts \$24M Budget

New superintendent to be named 'very soon'

By Pamela Doan

The Haldane school board on April 17 approved a \$24 million budget for 2018-19, clearing the way for voters to act on it on May 15th.

The board will hold a public hearing on the budget at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1.

The board also has chosen a candidate to succeed Superintendent Diana Bowers, who retires on July 1 after four years with the district, and will announce its selection "very soon," Board President Laura Hammond said on April 25.

The district budget, which includes spending of \$24,070,392, is 2.35 percent higher than 2017-18 and will require a tax levy increase of 2.62 percent, the district said.

After crunching the numbers earlier this year, the district had projected a shortfall of \$330,000, citing rising health insurance premiums. Bowers presented a plan that covered the deficit and \$102,000 in additional spending. It recommends not replacing two full-time teachers' aides who are retiring (\$170,000), not replacing two other aides (\$69,000), a reduction in special-education tuition costs (\$154,000), reducing travel costs for professional development (\$7,250) and spending less on heating oil (\$10,000), among other cuts.

The district will increase the third grade from three classes to four and kindergarten from two classes to three. In addition, it will create two new positions, a \$1,600 arts coordinator and a \$30,000 security guard; enhance entrance security; create a visitor badge system; purchase a 30-passenger bus for \$55,000, and allocate \$47,000 for technology assistance and software.

Voter also will be asked to renew a reserve fund established in 2008 that contains up to \$1 million for facility improvements and maintenance such as gym and field updates.

The May 15 vote also will fill two seats on the five-member school board. *The Current* will share policy positions from the five candidates in the May 4 issue and the PTA has scheduled a forum at the school for May 7.

In other business ...

- A progress report on the 10 goals of the district's strategic plan, created in 2015, has been posted at haldane-school.org. One of the major shifts was to introduce project-based learning and encourage collaboration.
- Haldane students ranked first in Putnam County and eighth among the 600 districts north of Westchester on SAT scores, according to high school Principal Julia Sniffen.
- Students organizing a town hall forum on school safety and gun violence have invited state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef to participate.

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On April 20, the Emergency Response Team of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department conducted a training exercise at the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department in which a hostage situation was simulated on a school bus.

Sheriff's Department photos



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The Calendar

Tapping into Main

New craft beer pub to open in Beacon

By Brian PJ Cronin

In 2016, Main Street in Beacon got a block shorter when The Hop, a restaurant and bar that exemplified a craft beer renaissance, suddenly closed. Since then the expansive storefront on the east end has been dark.

Now, the block is back. A new craft-beer pub, the Melzingah Tap House, is scheduled to open next week.

Its owners, Kevin and Dana Collins, have deep Beacon roots. They opened The Barking Frog on Route 52 near the outskirts of town in 2001, when Dia:Beacon was still an old Nabisco factory. Much of Main Street was boarded up.

"I want to be here every night so that I can meet every single person who walks in the door. I want to introduce myself and welcome them and thank them for coming."

"Beacon exploded in what seemed like overnight, even though I know it took much longer," says Dana Collins, who with her husband also owns The Publick House in Pleasant Valley. "We felt like we missed the boat. Even though we were only a minute away, if you're not on Main Street now you might as well be in Timbuktu."

The couple were frequent diners at The Hop. The



Kevin and Dana Collins

Photo by Scott Snell

building was put up for sale, but it was only when it was offered for rent that the Collins began considering starting a restaurant there. Its menu will aim for what the couple calls approachable, recognizable pub food with surprising upscale twists thrown in.

"We might do fish and chips," said Dana, "but instead of a big piece of cod, it'll be smelt, under a pile

of awesome fries."

The bar will have 22 taps in rotation and a canning machine for takeout.

The couple hopes to open on Monday, April 30, in part because they told people they would open in April and partly because Dana claims to like Mondays. "If you start a new project on a

(Continued on Page 14)

Drawing on the Job

A general contractor shares his art

By Maria Ricapito

Fred Schlitzer claims many influences for his art, which is on display at McCaffrey Realty in Cold Spring through Sunday,

May 6. Those influences include Van Gogh, the abstract expressionists, multimedia artist Red Grooms and *Peanuts*.

"I don't like knocking things out via a formula," explains Schlitzer, 59, a general contractor who lives in Cold Spring.

"There are common threads in my work, but I've never been locked into one style."



Noncturnal Nature, by Fred Schlitzer

Image provided



Fred Schlitzer

Photo by Michael Turton

He grew up in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and remembers disliking school, although he loved sports and "my highest grade was always in art." After a teacher encouraged him to consider art school, he enrolled at nearby Kutztown University.

"I had a lot of catching up to do," he recalls. "I was finding my way, like a singer finds his voice. Once I did, it was

no longer school to me — it was just something I loved."

Schlitzer realized it was unlikely he would be able to support himself with his art, so he looked for a career that allowed him to at least work with his hands.

After he and his wife, Mary, a native of Wappingers, moved to the Highlands from Washington,

(Continued on Page 18)

Emergency Farming

Rootstock music festival will create disaster fund

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's been said that farming is a profession where the days are measured in acres, not hours. But when disaster strikes, a season can be ruined — or saved — in a matter of hours.

"Say you have a barn fire," explains Stacy Dedring, a third-generation farmer who works at Fishkill Farms. "You get all your animals out, but all of their feed is gone. It's going to take a while for the insurance companies to process things, but

you need to feed the animals right now."

Creating an emergency bridge-loan fund for farmers in crisis is the idea behind Rootstock, a music festival that Dedring created with Sara Milonovich, a second-generation farmer. It will address smaller-scale disasters rather than large storms where thousands are affected and there is a coordinated response.

After an inaugural run in 2016 at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon, the 2018 festival will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at Long Dock Park in Beacon. It will feature Sloan Wainwright, Daisycutter, Twisted Pine and Jacob Bernz.

During a backyard gathering of farmers a few years ago, the discussion turned to the hardships created by the one-two punch of Hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011. Milonovich and Dedring are both involved in independent music (Milonovich is the fiddler for Daisycutter and Dedring managed a punk record label and organized festivals in New York City), and realized it had a lot in common with independent farming.

"Farming itself is kind of an anarchist punk act," says Dedring. "It flies in the face of conventional farming."

Support from emergency funds will become even more crucial in the future as the climate continues to change in unexpected ways. "Ask any farmer,



Sloan Wainwright



Twisted Pine

Photos provided

regardless of his or her political affiliation, if the weather is less predictable than it was 20 or 30 years ago, and the answer is always yes," Milonovich says.

The festival's four musical acts were chosen for their connection not only to the Hudson Valley but to the agricultural and sustainable food movement.

Sloan Wainwright was an early part of the sustainable food movement in Westchester County. Twisted Pine is from Boston but their fiddler has Newburgh roots. And it's hard to imagine Beacon's folk scene without Jacob Bernz. "If you want to know who here is following in

Pete Seeger's footsteps," says Milonovich, "he's the guy."

Women on the Farm

Stacy Dedring says she is encouraged to see more women becoming farmers, despite the economic hardships. "There's a general trend of women being pushed toward lower-paying jobs, and women tend to fill a void in lower-paying jobs that have some art and soul to them," she says. "But there is this opportunity for women today to step in, take control and get in touch with our roots."



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Magic of the Music

Tito Puente Jr. brings the beat

By Alison Rooney

Tito Puente Jr. spent his teenage years playing heavy metal on a drum set in the garage with his friends and listening to his Grammy-winning father, Tito Puente, known as the king of Latin music, on occasion yell that he was off beat.

As he got older, Tito Jr. progressed from metal to rock to dance and house music before finally, he says, he embraced his father's legacy, "despite it having a double edge, being the son."

On Saturday, May 12, the Tito Puente Jr. Ensemble will perform at the Ritz Theater in Newburgh as a benefit for the nonprofit Nora Cronin Presentation Academy (see Page 13).

It wasn't until after his father's death in 2000 that Tito Jr. focused on Latin music. He started by mastering the claves, which he describes as the equivalent of a metronome, "two meaningless sticks, but put them together and you get the feel of salsa and mambo."

His father toured 200 nights a year, and now it's Tito Jr. who is on the road. He spends a lot of time in Vegas and at Latin and jazz festivals. He also performs frequently on USO tours. Raised in the



Tito Puente Jr. around 1986

Bronx, he now lives in Miami, which he says has broadened his musical sensibility beyond his own Puerto Rican heritage.

"The opportunity to listen to music from Mexico, South America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world has allowed me to expand my own musical horizons, so my music can reach more people," he notes. He's even dabbled in acting, but says with a laugh that "every movie I'm in, I always get killed at the end."

Tito Jr. says he feels "there was magic in the music my father made. It made people

(Continued on next page)



Tito Puente Jr.

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Magic of the Music (from previous page)

happy, all over the world. My goal is to keep it alive. People who don't know anything about Latin music know my father and people always, always smile

when they say his name. That is a very special gift I have been given. My father was a pioneer in bringing people together." General admission for the show is

\$25, or reserved seating starts at \$50. See brownpapertickets.com/event/3339037. The Ritz Theater is located at 107 Broadway in Newburgh.

Where the Money Goes

Concert benefits Newburgh girls' school



By Alison Rooney

Funds raised by the Tito Puente Jr. concert will benefit the nonprofit Nora Cronin Presentation Academy, a school that serves minority girls from low-income families who live in or near Newburgh.

The school has 15 students in grades 5 to 8, according to Sister Yliana Hernandez, its principal, who points to a United Nations report that found educated women are less likely to be involved with drugs and alcohol, experience fewer incidents of domestic violence and are more apt to be involved in politics.

Now in its 11th year, the school asks parents to contribute \$50 per month, if they can. It costs about \$10,000 to educate each student per year, Hernandez says. Many parents also volunteer, serving and cleaning up after meals and mopping down the hallways after the school day.

Hernandez says she has high standards, "and the girls respond to those standards." Every member of last year's graduating class was accepted into private Catholic high schools such as Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie and John F. Kennedy, in Somers, she says.

The school has its origins in a request in 1999 by leaders of the Sisters of the Presentation in New Windsor for members to dream of what ministries they would create if money were not an obstacle. Sister Nora Cronin encouraged her colleagues to pursue a grade school for girls from low-income families in Newburgh.

After a request from Cronin and Hernandez, the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation provided \$15,000 to study the feasibility of the idea, and later \$150,000 to launch the school. It also provided money to purchase and renovate a building. The school received its state charter in 2006.

After graduating high school, many of its former students attend college or join the military, Hernandez says. "Our first student will graduate from Mount Saint Mary College this year," she adds, with pride.



Tito Puente Sr.

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Tapping into Main *(from Page 9)*

Monday, or exercise on a Monday, it sets a good tone for the rest of the week," she says.

She raises her voice to be heard over the whir and buzz of power tools as her husband and his crew continue to work. "Did you hear that everyone?" she

shouts. "We're opening on Monday!"

Once the pub is up and running, the couple will work on a biergarten space out back. For a while, they will leave managing The Barking Frog and The Publick House to others.



The Hop soon after it closed in 2016

File photo

What's in a Name?

Kevin and Dana Collins chose to call their new restaurant the Melzingah Tap House as a conversation starter. There's the story about the word that everyone knows and the story behind that story.

In 1913, when Matteawan and Fishkill Landing merged, officials decided to call the new village Melzingah to honor local Native American tribes. After the name was ridiculed by New York City newspapers, village officials opted to instead name the municipality after Mount Beacon.

However, *melzingah* doesn't come from any Native American language. As Algonquin elder Evan Pritchard has explained, it was a Dutch play on an Algonquin word – word-play being

something white settlers did all over the Hudson Valley.

Pritchard believes *melzingah* has its origins in the slender island at the base of the waterfalls in what is now Madam Brett Park. The Munsee tribe referred to the island as *M'singwe* (muh-sing-way), referencing the "little people" of the forest, spirits that could not be seen.

The Munsee believed the island was a sacred, supernatural place. When Madam Brett built a mill there, she referred to it as "Fairy Island" to honor that belief. The Dutch referred to the area as *Melzingah*, which Pritchard believes is a playful merging of *M'singwe* and *muhle-zinger*, which is Dutch for "mill singer," a reference to the lyrical sound a mill makes.



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Family Trails

Your Ancestors in the News

By Valerie LaRobardier

Newspapers can deliver tremendous value to genealogists. Besides finding obituaries or news about your ancestor, the stories can help flesh out what life was like in that time and place.

The news also points to primary documentation with legal notices, advertising for estate sales, foreclosures and bankruptcy lists. We use marriage and death announcements as substitute vital records. Letters left at the post office establish that a person was in a place at least long enough to receive mail, and likely died or moved on before the notice.

Scattered newspaper extracts can be found on many county sites at the GenWeb Project (usgenweb.org), as well as in genealogical society quarterlies. But if you want to cast a wider net, you need to search an archive.

The most prominent of the digital newspaper archives are Newspapers.com (which has 18 million pages from 124 New York newspapers dating to 1785, heavy on Buffalo titles), GenealogyBank.com (886 New York papers dating to 1730) and FultonHistory.com (at least 1,000 papers).

The first two require paid subscriptions but are easier to navigate and have tools to save and reprint quality images. But Fulton History is still truly remarkable, a labor of love by Tom Tryniski, a retired engineer who lives north of Syracuse and has so far scanned from microfilm more than 43 million newspaper pages and posted them as PDFs. (His favorite is the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.)



Tom Tryniski, who lives near Syracuse, has scanned more than 43 million newspaper pages.

Photo by Jim Epstein/Reason

The paid sites do not include any papers from Putnam and southern Dutchess counties, but Tom has scanned issues of the *Cold Spring Recorder* (1867-1934); *Putnam County Courier* (1849-1988); *Putnam County Republican* (1882-1946); and *Beacon Daily Herald* (1913-1927). More recent copies of the *Recorder* (later the *Putnam County News & Recorder*) can be browsed on microfilm at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring.

Unfortunately, many issues of early Highlands papers have been lost. The New York State Library in Albany has only 13 issues of the *Cold Spring Journal*, which was published in 1855 and 1856; two issues of the *Philipstown News* (from 1901 and 1904); and single copies of *The Highlander*, published in Garrison, and *The Matteawan Enterprise* ("devoted to literature, local, foreign intelligence and to the business interests of the village, town and country"), both from 1873.

The paid sites have basic how-to search information, but you will likely want to spend more time learning the ropes at Fulton History. It's not as easy to navigate as it could be, but who is going to complain with all the valuable work Tom has done? He has worked daily for more than 18 years on the project and so far has posted more than three times more pages than the Library of Congress has up at its Chronicling America site — and the library received a \$22 million grant.

To reach the search engine at Fulton History, click Go and Search My Archives. To browse all titles, click Go and Browse My Archives and then select Historical Newspapers United States and Canada. The subfolders are arranged alphabetically by the name of the city in which the paper was published.

Make sure to also review the Fulton History FAQ, and Kathleen O'Hara has posted an excellent tutorial at bit.ly/fulton-tutorial. Also, check out the other folders in Tom's browse



Many newspapers become brittle and difficult to preserve, such as this issue of the Beacon Daily Herald from 1915.

Fulton History

section to see if any of those have useful material for your search. And consider making a donation, which Tom uses to buy more microfilm reels to scan.

One last bit of advice: When you download clippings from any newspaper site online, make sure the source is preserved, either in the file name or within the file itself. Do not depend on memory — put the file in a folder dedicated to the individual or surname. Don't limit yourself to the exact location, as an article may be published in a large city paper or a neighboring state. Check out the browse section of each site, go to the state listings, and see what papers are covered and for what years.

LaRobardier is a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Every other month, she will discuss strategy and resources for research in Dutchess and Putnam counties and answer queries from readers. She can be reached at genealogy@highlandscurrent.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Desmond-Fish to Hold Annual Dinner

Five honorees for three awards

The Desmond-Fish Library's annual Associates Awards Dinner will be held Friday, May 4, at the Factoria at Charles Point in Peekskill. The honorees include *60 Minutes* correspondent Lesley Stahl (see Page 2).

In addition, William Burback, former director of education at the Museum of Modern Art, and Dr. Peter Hofmann will be recognized for their philanthropic work with Manitoga, Constitution Marsh, Garrison's Landing, the Garrison Art Center, Boscobel and other Philipstown organizations.

Gary Golio and Susanna Reich also will be honored for their contributions to children's literature. Golio is the author of books about Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, John Coltrane and Billie Holiday, while Reich has written about Pete Seeger, the Beatles and pianist Clara Schumann.

For tickets, call 845-424-3020 or visit desmondfishlibrary.org/dinner.



Bill Burback and Peter Hofmann

Photo by Christine Ashburn



Susanna Reich and Gary Golio

Photo by Laurel Golio



TAKE A PEEK — Stonecrop, with its 15 acres of gardens, is open for the season on Route 301 about 3 miles east of Route 9. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

Photo by Michael Turton

Garden Guru

Landscaping expert to speak to club

The Philipstown Garden Club will present a lecture by Kent Russell, known as "the garden guru," at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. His free talk, *Candy in the Garden*, will cover how to design gardens for dramatic impact.

Atlantic Art

Buster Levi has new exhibit

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will host a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 4, to open *Atlantic*, a show of new paintings by Bill Kooistra. The exhibit will remain on view through May 27; the gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 121 Main St.

Got Hazardous Waste?

County will collect on May 5

Dispose of household solvents and other chemicals from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 5, at the Canopus Beach parking lot at Fahnestock Park on Route 301 in Kent. The event is organized by the Putnam County Department of Health. Registration is required; call 845-808-1390, ext. 43150, or



BEE HAPPY -- Two teams from the Putnam County Health Department -- The Queen Bees and The Bees Knees -- tied for the Most Enthusiastic Team award on April 19 at the annual Adult Spelling Bee, which benefited the CoveCare Center. Photo provided

email putnamhealth@putnamcountynyny.gov. For a list of acceptable items, see putnamcountynyny.com/green-putnam.

Three Hikes on Schedule

Take some time in the woods

On Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m., Evan Pritchard, director of the Center for Algonquin Culture in Rosendale, which he founded in 1998, will lead a hike focused on the culture of native people in our area. To RSVP, search for "Take-a-Hike" at eventbrite.com.

On Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m., guides from Scenic Hudson will lead a 90-minute tour of the West Point Foundry Preserve, including the interior of the 1865 office building.

On Sunday, May 6, for its annual spring benefit, the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary will offer a walk through the woods with expert guides, music and a reception. It begins at 3 p.m. and Ana Paula Tavares, the newly appointed regional executive director, will be attending. See constitutionmarsh.audubon.org/benefit.

Haldane Tag Sale

Class of 2019 raising funds

To raise money for the senior-class trip to New Orleans in the spring of 2019, which includes working on a house for Habitat for Humanity, Haldane students and their families are holding a tag sale on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 59 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring, adjacent to Drug World. The rain date is April 29.

Lions Scholarship

Deadline to apply is May 7

The Cold Spring Lions Club is accepting applications until Monday, May 7, for a college scholarship it awards annually to a graduating high school senior who lives in Philipstown. The \$2,000 award is based on need, scholarship and potential. Applications are available at the guidance offices at Haldane and O'Neill high schools.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



CLEANING UP — Cub Scouts from Cold Spring Pack 137 descended on Little Stony Point on Earth Day (April 22) with gloves and buckets to pick up cans, plastic bags, bottles, diapers and countless chunks of Styrofoam.

Photo by Brian Tormey

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



THE BEST MEDICINE — During a delay at the regional Pinewood Derby, John Griffiths, who is also the principal at the Garrison School, contemplates a joke being told by a Cub Scout.

Photo by Sheila Williams

Beacon

Mains to be Flushed

Maintenance may discolor water

The Beacon Water Department will be flushing mains until the end of May, which may cause tap water to appear discolored. To learn when your street will be affected, see cityofbeacon.org.

Symphony Show

Restive Reverie on May 5

In a program it is calling Restive Reverie, the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, on Saturday, May 5, will per-

form Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor* with soloist Kariné Poghosyan, as well as Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6, Pathétique*. The concert, which takes place at Aquinas Hall at Mount Saint Mary College, begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$45.

See newburghsymphony.org.

Dar Williams in Concert

Singer to perform at benefit

Singer and songwriter Dar Williams, who lives in Cold Spring, will perform at Winter Hill in Garrison on Sunday afternoon, May 6, to benefit the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. Tickets are \$75. See beaconhebrewalliance.org.



Kariné Poghosyan will perform with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra on May 5.

Photo provided

Wag of the Week



Russo and Petunia

Every so often, reporter Mark Westin visits the Animal Rescue Foundation shelter in Beacon for *The Current* to meet a dog or cat available for adoption. The latest installment stars the inseparable Russo and Petunia. To watch, see highlandscurrent.com/wag.

Urban Farming

Fair scheduled for April 28

Learn how to grow food and raise animals from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, at an urban farming fair to be held at 80 Broadway in Newburgh. There will be activities for children and families, farm animals and locally produced food. Bring a soil sample for a free lead test. See newburghurbanfarmandfood.org.

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A Main Street cat in Cold Spring on April 19

Photo by Michael Turton

Drawing on the Job *(from Page 9)*

D.C., in 1993, he trained in welding and metalwork at Tallix Foundry in Beacon and Metal Concepts in Cold Spring.

Sometimes Schlitzer's worlds overlap, such as when he brings a sketchbook to a job site so he can draw at lunch. Recently he noticed the sandpaper he was using resembled part of the Mojave Desert he'd seen from a plane, so he glued it to a

board, incorporating it into the art.

Besides working on his home, which was built around 1907, Schlitzer is creating a sculpture for Collaborative Concepts at Saunders Farm in Garrison. He has contributed to the annual outdoor show, which is held in August, for the past decade.



Cornfield, by Fred Schlitzer

Image provided

Police Chief: Opioid Crisis a Health Issue *(from Page 1)*

he wanted a plan, pronto.

"I told him I could come up with a plan but it wouldn't include a lot of policing," del Pozo said. "It was going to be a public health plan."

Like every other state, Vermont faces an escalating addiction crisis. Nearly 68,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses in 2017, a 13 percent increase over the previous year, according to federal estimates. That included 128 fatal overdoses in Vermont, or a per-capita rate nearly twice that of New York's.

Del Pozo's said his policing strategy in Burlington is to jail dealers who come into town while getting local users into treatment. He has added an epidemiologist to his staff, hired an opioid policy coordinator and partnered with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the University of Pennsylvania.

"It's going to be medicine-assisted treatment that solves opioids," he said, citing a study that found treatment in Vermont prisons had reduced opioid fatalities by 62 percent among inmates after their release. "In the short or midterm, medicines get you at least 80 percent of the way" to recovery.

Del Pozo says Narcan, a drug that counteracts opioid overdoses, should be more widely available. "We want to keep people alive, to get them into treatment," he said. "I carry it, all my officers, sheriff's deputies and EMS carry it."

Narcan must be administered quickly, and the introduction of a powerful painkiller, fentanyl, to street drugs has greatly reduced that window, he said. With her-

oin, the window can be minutes or even hours; fentanyl reduces that to seconds.

Users often misjudge the power of a dose because they don't know it includes fentanyl. The drug is cheaper and less bulky than heroin, making it attractive to dealers, who are sometimes less than careful in dispensing it. "They don't want to get people killed," del Pozo said. "But they're not chemists."

He feels that users need to see a clear path to treatment, whether they seek help from a prison doctor, the police, the emergency room or an internist. Hospitals, he noted, have protocols for routing people to treatment for many maladies but not addiction.

He urged organizations in Putnam County to have a "keen awareness" of what treatments are available and their relative effectiveness and insurance implications, not just in adjoining counties but all the way to New York City. That, he said, will help those dealing with addiction to make good decisions.

Del Pozo advised avoiding lengthy, complex strategies to deal with the crisis, citing Rhode Island's 2016 plan to reduce opioid overdose deaths by a third in three years as one of the best (governor.ri.gov/documents/press/051116.pdf).

He said childhood trauma appears to accelerate drug use, an issue that one mother in the audience said is not being addressed. "I knew my son was having difficulties," she said. "I asked for assistance from the school and the court system and no one could help me. I had to go bankrupt, fight tooth and nail, to save my son's life. There is no system in place."

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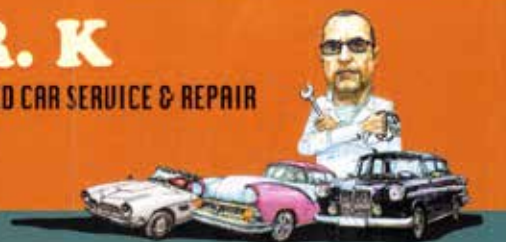
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More Talk on Nelsonville Tower

Critics attack designs, say one evokes white supremacy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As the long-running discussion over placement of a cell tower in Nelsonville appeared to inch toward conclusion, the latest proposed designs prompted a new wave of criticism and a warning from the state.

The Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled a session on the tower at Philipstown Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30. The developers, Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless, need a special-use permit from the ZBA and might also need variances for height or distance. The project must also obtain site-plan approval from the Planning Board.

Over the last several months, Homeland Towers has presented five potential designs for the tower: a 110-foot fake tree; a 110-foot flagpole; a 120-foot flagpole; twin 110-foot towers; and a 125-foot obelisk.

The tower's proposed site, on Rockledge Road, overlooks the Cold Spring Cemetery. In an April 16 letter to Nelsonville officials, the state parks department said that two of the designs "would have no adverse effect on the historic resources" of the cemetery.

John Bonafide, director of the Technical Preservation Services Bureau, said the agency could accept a tower disguised as a 110- or 120-foot flagpole as long as it is "painted in a neutral, sky-based color to minimize visual intrusion;" had no flag or other attachments; if its height never increases; and no more equipment is ever added. The agency also could accept a fake fir "monopine," he wrote.

The 125-foot obelisk creates problems, he wrote. For example, it would be much larger than necessary and passersby might mistake it for a real monument and try to reach it, creating safety and security risks.

In a 54-page report, a grassroots organization, Philipstown Cell Solutions, urged the ZBA to deny the special-use permit.

"Any looming structure at 110 feet would destroy the sanctity and beauty of this historic cemetery and destroy this important viewshed forever," the group wrote.

"That such a monument stands on the verge of approval in this application should shock our collective conscience."

It dismissed the 110-foot flagpole as an eyesore; noted that the 120-foot flagpole and the 110-foot double towers would violate village laws on height or distance between such structures; and expressed concern because obelisks were erected after the Civil War as Confederate memorials and could evoke memories of "a troubled past" when the Ku Klux Klan operated in Philipstown.

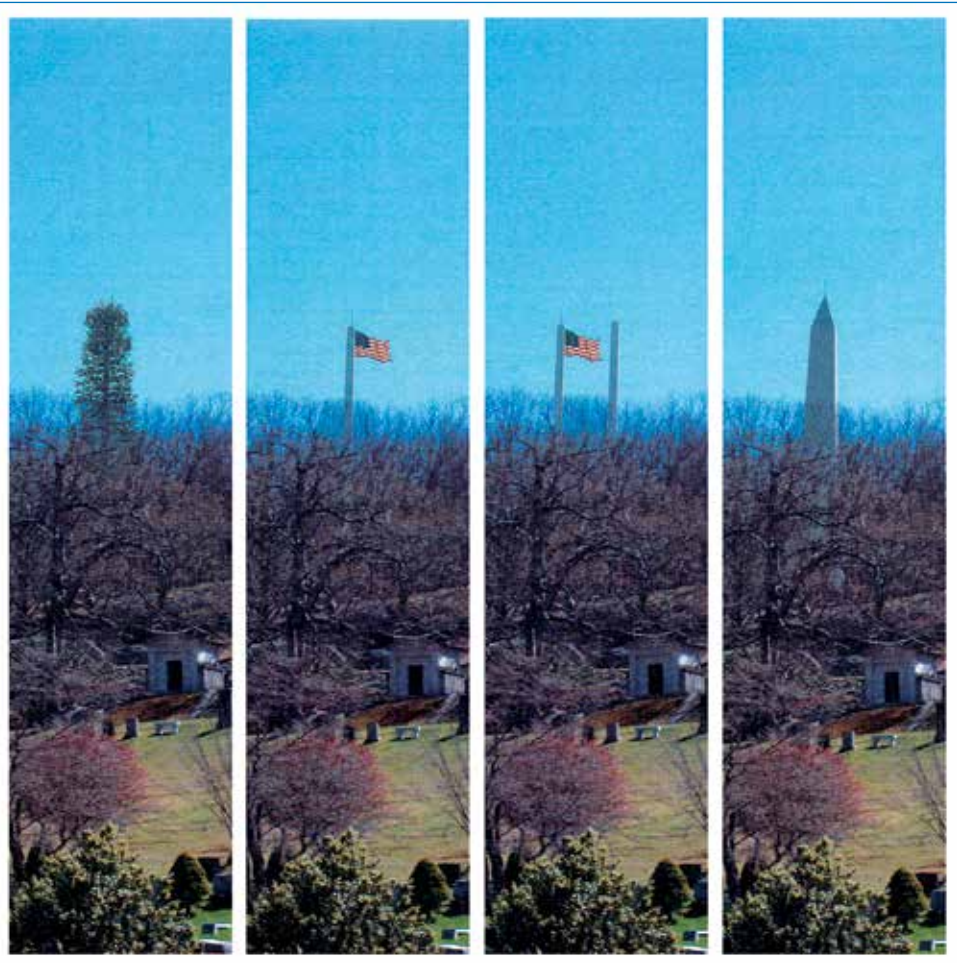
"That such a monument stands on the verge of approval in this application should shock our collective conscience," Philipstown Cell Solutions charged.

At an April 4 meeting, Robert Gaudio, Homeland's lawyer, said his company still favors the monopine. At any rate, he said, "we've done everything that could possibly be done" to make the tower acceptable. "We don't have anything to add."

Philipstown Cell Solutions disagreed, proposing that Homeland explore other sites, such as the Butterfield redevelopment on Route 9D in Cold Spring. On Feb. 14 the Cold Spring Historic District Review Board approved placement of a cupola containing telecommunications equipment on a pending Butterfield residential building.

Before the demolition of the hospital and revamping of Lahey Pavilion, the complex contained rooftop cellular devices, and the Butterfield developer told the review board wireless companies have asked to return.

But Gaudio said on Feb. 27 that Butterfield does not work for Homeland and Verizon. "We could come up with a hundred what-ifs," he said. "The shot clock is meant to make things happen."



The developer has proposed a monopine; a flagpole; a flagpole with a second pole; and an obelisk. This view is from the gatehouse at the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Homeland Towers

Philipstown Tower Updates

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Vineyard Road

The Philipstown Town Board on April 11 opened, and carried over to May 2, a hearing on Homeland Towers' appeal of the refusal of the town Conservation Board to grant a wetlands permit for a cell tower proposed for Vineyard Road, near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.

Neighbors claimed that intermittent streams lace the area, often making it very wet and unsuitable for a tower. Robert Gaudio of Homeland Towers responded that the wetlands permit only involved a driveway. He warned that continued denial of the permit, preventing Homeland from accessing the tower site, likely constituted a legal "taking." Alleged municipal taking of private property is

often cited as grounds for litigation.

After the Zoning Board of Appeals on Jan. 22 denied Homeland's request for a special-use permit, Homeland and its partner Verizon filed a 72-page complaint in federal court. On March 19, a town lawyer filed a response denying each of the lawsuit's allegations, without elaboration.

WHUD tower

The ZBA on April 23 unanimously approved plans for construction on Sky Lane of a Pamal Broadcasting tower to serve WHUD radio and provide enhanced wireless communications. It will replace an existing tower.

After neighbors expressed concern about potential damage to the lane, Pamal agreed to set aside \$30,000 for any necessary repairs.

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 perplexes (9)	_____
2 humorous Python (5)	_____
3 reason to "raise a flag" (8)	_____
4 fitting (in) (8)	_____
5 keenly (7)	_____
6 courier's bag type (9)	_____
7 manicurist's targets (8)	_____

FLU	ACU	OF	XES	DES
NTY	MES	LES	TE	CU
LY	GER	END	FSI	MO
BL	TIC	MMO	SEN	ING

See answers: Page 15

Sports

Six Starters Return for Haldane Baseball

Blue Devils hope to compete for section title

By Skip Pearlman

With six starters returning from the 2017 squad, the Haldane High School varsity baseball team is hoping to make some noise in Class C.

The Blue Devils, who finished 10-11 last season and fell to Pawling in the first round of the state tournament, lost two big pieces of the team to graduation in All-State centerfielder and pitcher Brian Haines (playing club ball at Villanova) and All-League shortstop Justin Maldonado (an outfielder for Mount Saint Mary College).

But Coach Tom Virgadamo, who is in his 10th season coaching the Blue Devils, believes he has the returning talent — along with some strong newcomers — that can make for an exciting spring.

All-League catcher Aidan Siegel, center-fielder Dan Rotando, outfielder George Leiter and All-League right-handed pitcher Anthony Sinchi, all seniors, are the captains.

Junior Devin Siegel (left fielder), junior Matt Mikalsen (second base), junior Adam Hotaling (third base) and junior Kyle Kisslinger (right fielder) round out the returning starters.

Junior Alden Dobosz (utility/pitcher) and sophomore Cole Bolte (outfielder) are also back, while the newcomers include freshmen shortstop and pitcher Dan Santos and catcher and outfielder John Bradley.

Virgadamo, a Haldane grad who played catcher for the Blue Devils on three sectional championship teams, likes his mix.

“We’re taking it game by game, but this is a good group,” he said. “They want to learn, and they have a great work ethic. Can we challenge for the title [in Section 1]? I think so.”

Haldane’s fate will rely largely on its pitching. “We need our pitchers to pound the zone and trust the defense,” Virgadamo said. “We play good team defense, so if they do what they can do, we’ll be in most games.”

The coach said Sinchi (1-2) is the No. 1 pitcher “and he knows the game. He pounds the zone with two or three good pitches. Siegel and Santos and Hotaling



Kyle Kisslinger (12)

are next, and I have a lot of confidence in all of them. And our relievers — Kisslinger, Dobosz and Mikalsen — are all solid.”

Santos, the lead-off hitter, paces the team with a .250 average, and Virgadamo expects to get some good pop from the middle of the lineup, with Rotando and the Siegel brothers occupying the two-three-four holes. “It’s a great mix of power and speed,” he said. “We have the ability to produce runs.”

The Blue Devils have gotten off to a 4-5 start, defeating Peekskill, Irvington, Pawling in the second game of a double-header and Yonkers Montessori. They’ve lost to Poughkeepsie, Hamilton, Croton, Pawling and North Salem.

Haldane played at North Salem on Thursday (April 26) and travels to Pleasantville on Saturday. The Blue Devils host Hastings on Monday, at 4:30 p.m.



Dan Rotando (4)



Senior catcher Aidan Siegel discusses strategy with his teammates during Haldane's 3-0 win over Irvington.

Photos by Skip Pearlman

Varsity Scoreboard

Baseball

Pawling 14, Haldane 1
Haldane 8, Pawling 4
Haldane 16, Yonkers Montessori 10
North Salem 10, Haldane 0
Henry Hudson 2, Beacon 0
Nyack 7, Beacon 1
Beacon 6, Mahopac 3
Beacon 6, John Jay Cross River 3

Boys' Lacrosse

Haldane 13, Blind Brook 4
Lourdes 10, Haldane 3
Haldane 9, Croton 5

Girls' Lacrosse

Eastchester 15, Beacon 5
Katelyn Rosa (2 goals)

Rye Neck 8, Beacon 7 (OT)
Tessa Nilsen (5), Victoria Albra (2)
Blind Brook 10, Beacon 9
Nilsen (7)
Eastchester 17, Beacon 4

Softball

Dobbs Ferry 23, Haldane 14
Beacon 17, Haldane 0
Nyack 16, Beacon 10
Beacon 6, Irvington 4

Boys' Tennis

Beacon 6, Brewster 1
Henry Hudson 4, Beacon 3
Beacon 4, Lourdes 3

Track & Field

See highlandscurrent.com.

No-Hitter for Hunter

Little Leaguer strikes out 16 of 19 batters

Hunter Erickson of the Bailey Dentist-Hry Angels threw a no-hitter on April 14 in a Philipstown Little League game at the North Highlands Fire Department fields.

The Garrison School fifth-grader faced 19 batters from the visiting Slater Chemical Giants of the Fishkill Little League and struck out 16. He allowed one walk, nearly missing a perfect game.

Hunter said he was so excited that he thought he had lost the no-hitter when he allowed the walk in the fifth inning. After being assured it was still intact, he struck out the side for a 3-0 Angels win.

Hunter Erickson

Photo provided

