Nelsonville Denies Permit for Cell Tower Near Cemetery

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Ending 10 months of discussion, including fierce public debate, the Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals voted 3-2 on Wednesday (May 30) to deny a special-use permit for a cellphone tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery.

The ZBA members who voted “no” said the 110-foot, pole-like tower would have an “adverse visual impact” and conflict with village law that safeguards scenery.

The two members who voted “yes” cited the possibility of improved wireless service and the merits of making a decision in Nelsonville rather than putting the village at the mercy of a federal court if the applicants file a lawsuit.

Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless proposed the tower for a rocky hillside off Rockledge (Continued on Page 6)

Back to Basics

Couple plans bookstore in Cold Spring

By Alison Rooney

Heidi and Michael Bender are eager to open the doors to Split Rock Books on Main Street in Cold Spring — the village’s first bookstore since Merritt Books left in 2008 — but last week were waiting on a crucial piece of equipment: Shelves.

Besides the carpenter, they also had an appointment on Wednesday (May 30) with the sign painter.

“The hardest part [about the preparations] has been not being able to work in a bookstore every day,” says Heidi. “We can’t wait to open.”

They expect that to happen this month. The couple, who were married last year in Garrison before moving to Cold Spring from Brooklyn, have no illusions about the challenges of owning a bookstore in a small village, or anywhere. Both are experienced booksellers.

“Some people love books and have great intentions, but it’s a lot of hard work, navigating people and situations,” says Michael. “People (Continued on Page 8)
Five Questions: Tina Tobin

By Michael Turton

Tina Tobin has been a volunteer firefighter for 10 years with North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1 in Philipstown.

What are the challenges of being a firefighter?

Fires are physically demanding. Climbing a ladder is torture for me; I don’t like heights but I’m able to address my fear. You also deal with people in bad situations. I hate seeing people get hurt, but I enjoy helping them.

How do you manage having a family and being the company treasurer, a railroad supervisor and a Philipstown Ambulance Corps volunteer?

I function much better when my plate is overflowing. Sometimes it’s a little too full, but I get everything done. My kids are used to it and my husband, Chris, was the fire chief in Cold Spring. We’re all involved.

North Highlands has seven female firefighters. What is the dynamic between the men and women?

It’s good. Women are a big part of this firehouse. No one gets treated differently. Once you’re in your gear, gender doesn’t matter — as long as whoever you’re working with has your back.

How do you unwind after a serious house fire or traffic accident?

We decompress at the station. If it’s really bad, counseling is available. I go home, enjoy my kids, watch TV, play with my dogs and think of something happy.

A proposal in Albany would require all state laws to refer to firefighters instead of firemen. What do you think?

It’s ridiculous. Personally, you can call me anything you want. I get the job done just like anybody else. I’m not at all offended being called a fireman.

Putnam County Names Seniors of Year

The Putnam County Office for Senior Resources has named Donna Anderson (below left) of Garrison as one of its two Seniors of the Year. She was presented with the award by County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell in a ceremony on May 23 at the Putnam County Golf Course. Mary Bodor of Patterson was the other recipient.

Anderson, 77, is a longtime volunteer in Philipstown, and has been particularly active pushing for the senior center that is expected to open this year in the Butterfield redevelopment. A Peekskill native, she moved to Garrison with her husband, Paul Anderson, in 1975. Married for 55 years, they have two children, Christine and Paul III (both of whom are nurses) and five grandsons.

When asked her advice about volunteering, Anderson said, “Don’t slow down — stay involved.”

Haldane to Test Traffic Pattern

Access via Craigside Drive will be restricted

The Haldane school district plans to experiment with a new traffic pattern on
Corps responded. The Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance, Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and quarry without equipment when Steier were climbing at the old Mount Taurus Spring, according to the Sheriff’s Department. They were climbing at the old Mount Taurus quarry without equipment when Steier fell about 6 p.m. Members of the state park police, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded.

Steier graduated from Arlington High School and attended Dutchess Community College and SUNY Oswego. He worked at Raymour & Flanigan and was a member of Grace Bible Church in Wappingers Falls. He is survived by his parents and five siblings. A Brooklyn man, Jason Kindopp, 48, died at Breakneck Ridge, to the north, last July after falling about 30 feet.

Putnam Sheriff Makes Arrest in Philipstown
Suspect allegedly nearly hit officer with car

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. arrested an Oklahoma man on May 15 after he allegedly nearly hit the officer with his car during a traffic stop. According to the Sheriff’s Department, at about 6:15 p.m. Langley noticed a vehicle on the property where he lives in Philipstown. As he was speaking with the driver, later identified as Brant D. Carter, 33, of Stillwell, Oklahoma, Carter sped away.

Langley followed in his squad car and stopped Carter on Route 9 near Appalachia Market. He ordered Carter repeatedly to turn off his ignition but, according to the Sheriff’s Department, Carter sped off, nearly striking Langley.

After being boxed at the intersection of Routes 9 and 403 by traffic and debris from another vehicle, Carter stopped and got out of his car. He was then arrested by the Sheriff’s Department for allegedly nearly hitting an officer.

Langley was assisted by members of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. and passersby, including Charlie Polhemus of Polhemus Construction.

According to police, Carter failed sobriety tests and officers found several open containers of alcohol as well as marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his vehicle. He was carrying ID but was identified through fingerprints. Carter was charged with felony assault, reckless endangerment, resisting arrest and driving under the influence. After posting bail, he was released until his next court date.

Cortlandt Couple Dies from Fumes
Apparently left car running in garage

A Cortlandt couple apparently died of carbon-monoxide poisoning on May 23 after leaving their car running in the garage of their home.

On Saturday, the New York State Police were alerted by a neighbor who saw three days of newspapers outside the Skytop Drive residence. Officers discovered the bodies of Cornelius Dennis, 86, and Joan Dennis, 85, inside the home.

The couple, who had been married for 62 years, are survived by three children and nine grandchildren. A funeral service was held May 31 in Ossining.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless poisonous gas produced by vehicles and faulty furnaces, among other sources. State law requires carbon-monoxide detectors to be installed in all residential dwellings.

Support Groups
For a full list of area support groups, visit: highlandscurrent.com/bg

Stonecrop Gardens
A plant enthusiast’s garden...
Cold Spring, NY ~ (845) 265-2000
Open Monday - Saturday, 10am-5pm – Admission $10
www.stonecrop.org

Trough-making Workshop
Saturday & Sunday, June 9 & 10, 9am-12pm (both days required) $90/$70-Members
Space is limited, registration required. Online registration available.

Garden Conservancy Open Day
Sunday, June 10, 10am - 5pm
Featuring Tea in the Garden (tea & cake available for purchase from 12-4pm)

 Shrubs and Vines - Guided Garden Walk
Wednesday, June 13, 6:00pm
Admission $10 / Members no charge
In memoriam

Thanks to Michael Turton for all the effort and care he used in writing about my uncle, Warren Eitner, to make sure that he was remembered as more than a name inscribed on a memorial (“Remembering Warren,” May 25).

I had never heard the stories about who he was as a person and not just about his last tragic day. The 1949 film Twelve O’Clock High and subsequent TV series by the same name is based on Uncle Warren’s unit. It is good to remember that these young men all had their own stories, families and personal lives which they managed to “check at the door” when they climbed into those B-17s.

On Veterans’ Day, I hope people will remember those who were willing to make that sacrifice but were fortunate enough to survive. Many — Warren’s older brother, Walter, included — refused to talk about their own experiences, perhaps from survivors’ guilt. On behalf of our family, thank you for helping to preserve the memory of everyday people who fought and died for freedom.

Richard Pfarrer, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Thank you for this beautiful remembrance. It brought Warren’s story and his sacrifice — and the sacrifice of his loved ones — to life. Perfect Memorial Day reading!

Peter McFadden, Nelsonville

Proud of students

Thirty-five Haldane sixth-grade students, along with Haldane teachers Simon Dudar and Kim McCollum, on May 18 hosted a Learning Lunch panel discussion to talk about a project called Why I am More than Just a Number.

In February, each sixth-grader was paired with a seventh-grader at a school in St. Vincent and the Grenadines during a school field visit to my family and I made representing my nonprofit organization, Denniston International. Via video chat, the students spoke with each other about what is was like being a student in the U.S. versus being a student in the Eastern Caribbean.

We know the adolescent brain is ripe for risk-taking. The more positive risk-taking opportunities we give our young people, the less likely they are to seek out risk in less healthy ways. From start to finish, this project and the teachers who spearheaded it gave the sixth-graders a chance to take positive risks: meeting young people from a different culture, presenting their work in essay and art form, and answering questions from the superintendent and other adult guests.

I was very proud of every one of them, and proud to be a parent in a school that values learning in this way.

Danielle Pack McCarthy, Nelsonville

McCarthy is the Town of Philipstown addiction prevention and treatment coordinator.

Thanks for support

The Beacon High School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) would like to thank the many Beacon area businesses who donated food and other items for our Staff Appreciation Lunch on May 3. We are grateful for the support we received from restaurants and retailers to make the teachers and staff at the high school know they are appreciated for all their hard work.

The following businesses made donations: Leo’s Italian Restaurant, Brother’s Trattoria, Antonella’s, Homespun, Sukhothai, Yankee Clipper Diner, Labys’ Pizzeria, Robbie’s Deli, Beacon Pantry, Shop Rite of Fishkill, Durant’s Party Rental, Dollar Tree, Market 32 by Price Chopper, The Chocolate Studio, Ella’s Bellas, Top Pings of Wappingers Falls and Adams Fairacre Farms of Wappinger.

Donna Green, Beacon

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.

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Donna Green, Beacon

7 LITTLE WORDS

1. MISTAKEN, 2. MUTANTS, 3. ABACUSES, 4. CALENDULA
5. MICROLOAN, 6. UNINFLATED, 7. HEALING

FLAGS TO REMEMBER — On Memorial Day, local Boy Scouts and their parents and grandparents, as well as members of the Philipstown Cemetery Committee, placed flags on the graves of veterans at the Mountain Avenue and Cedar Street cemeteries in Cold Spring. The Scouts and their leaders are shown near the crypt on Mountain Avenue of Major Gen. William Hopkins Morris (right), who commanded brigades at Harper’s Ferry and Gettysburg during the Civil War and was severely wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Photo provided/National Archives
Should You Be Able to Deduct Your Taxes?

State and federal government clash over proposal

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Empire State’s feud with the Trump Administration over federal tax law changes escalated last week after the IRS denounced state plans to mitigate the revisions’ effect on those who — like more than half of Putnam County taxpayers — itemize on their federal tax returns. Promoted by President Donald Trump and passed by the Republican-controlled Congress in December, the new law caps, at $10,000, the amount taxpayers can deduct on their 1040s for paying state and local taxes.

Previously, no such ceiling existed. The changes take effect with 2019 tax returns. The average total of itemized deductions in New York state, $36,000, is the nation’s highest.

In response, New York State authorized an alternative: Instead of paying local taxes per se, taxpayers could donate the money to a charitable foundation established by a local government — including school districts and counties. In return, they would receive a credit for up to 95 percent of the donation, which they could claim as a charitable tax write-off on their federal return.

A local government would then transfer money from its charitable foundation to its general fund. Local governments or school districts who create foundations could limit how much of a taxpayer’s donation qualifies for a tax credit.

Other states are pursuing similar initiatives, but on May 23 the Internal Revenue Service dismissed the plans as “efforts to circumvent” federal law. In a preliminary notice, the agency warned taxpayers that only the federal government can decide what constitutes a deductible charitable contribution. The IRS promised to soon release a comprehensive opinion.

Firing back the same day, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo asserted that “the IRS should not be used as a political weapon” and pledged that state officials “will continue to fight against this economic missile with every fiber of our being.” A number of states are joining forces to challenge the tax law in court.

In a memo to municipalities this spring, Barbara Van Epps, deputy director of the New York Conference of Mayors, observed that the IRS definition of charitable activities includes “advancement of education or science; erection or maintenance of public buildings, monuments or works; lessening the burdens of government”; providing for “relief of the poor, the distressed or the underprivileged,” and “combating community deterioration.”

The issue has drawn attention in Putnam County, as well. According to the IRS, more people itemize on their federal returns in Putnam than any other county in the state. About 51 percent of Putnam residents itemize, and 41 percent in Dutchess. The state average is 34 percent.

On April 19, County Executive MaryEllen Odell asked the county Legislature’s Rules Committee to “thoroughly vet the charitable trust option” to help “determine the best course of action for Putnam County.”

The three-member committee began to do that on May 14 but after a few minutes postponed deliberations. “This is a really complex issue,” said Neal Sullivan, who chairs the committee. “The amount of work, on the county side, and the town side, required to put some of these ideas into place would be” significant. Nonetheless, he said, “if the IRS says we can do it, then we have to explore it.”

The New York State School Boards Association has recommended its members take a measured approach.

“We are advising districts that it would still be a good idea to proceed with caution,” said Julie Mariette, the association’s director of governmental relations. “We always anticipated that the IRS would weigh in on this. Ultimately, its interpretation will dictate whether a federal tax benefit materializes.”

The New York State Association of Counties, of which Odell is president, noted that “downstate New York is disproportionately impacted by the significant curtailing of the deductibility of state and local taxes.” Its executive director, Stephen Acquario, in April called the new federal policy an unprecedented “intrusion into state and local taxation.”

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**Philipstown Democrats**

invite you to join us at our

**Annual Spring Fundraiser**

Sunday, June 10th

3-5pm

at the **Old VFW Hall**
34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring

Suggested donation: $30/person

RSVP at philipstowndemocrats.org
Nelsonville Denies Permit for Cell Tower  
(from Page 1)

Road. The ZBA denial represents the second setback for Homeland Towers in Philipstown this year. In February, after the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals voted to deny a special-use permit for a tower proposed for a hillside off Route 9 near the intersection with Route 301, Homeland Towers sued.

The May 30 meeting, held at Philipstown Town Hall, drew a standing-room-only audience. Many carried signs opposing the Rockledge tower.

Members of the Nelsonville Planning Board joined the ZBA on the rostrum but did not vote. Had the ZBA approved the tower, the Planning Board would have had to OK the site plans.

Before voting down the special-use permit, the ZBA unanimously rejected two proposed tower designs. The first was for a tower disguised as a “monopine” fake fir tree and the second for a 120-foot pole.

Homeland Towers also proposed a two-tower configuration; a flagpole; and an obelisk, but the state parks department rejected the latter two. However, it said the a monopine or a pole painted a neutral color would be all right visually.

ZBA member Peggy Clements said that even a single pole still threatens the view. “Access to views is really very precious,” she said. She voted against the permit.

ZBA member Chris Keeley said he was unconvinced the tower was needed because of a crucial gap in coverage, and he agreed that the Rockledge location “undoubtedly has a significant, adverse impact” on its surroundings.

“There’s a lot of reasons” it presents problems, “not the least of which is that it’s right on top of the Cold Spring Cemetery,” he said. Under the zoning code, the Rockledge Road site “clearly is not appropriate,” he added, before voting “no.”

ZBA member Judy Meyer likewise opposed the application. Chairman William Rice and Member Steve Merando supported it.

“This tower is probably necessary in this village to give us better service,” Merando said. “I know I’m going to make a lot of enemies, but I vote yes.”

Rice observed that “everybody has cell phones and iPads, yet there is opposition to a cell tower.” He expressed concern for stay-at-home parents, professionals working from home offices, tradespeople, emergency responders and others who utilize wireless communication.

Rice also pointed out that when Cold Spring Cemetery was created during the Civil War, a prominent neighbor was the massive West Point Foundry — with multiple smokestacks, deforested environs and noise. “I very much doubt” that Foundry executives like Robert Parrott, whose grave is in the cemetery, “would be offended” by a cell tower, he remarked.

Rice said the village had “an opportunity to mitigate the impact of this cell tower by selecting a stream-lined, authentic wireless tower, as opposed to the monopine. Instead of a U.S. court judge dictating our future, I suggest we seize the moment,” he said.

After the meeting, Robert Gaudioso, the Homeland Towers attorney, said he and his colleagues had no comment.

“They will go to court,” predicted Todd Steckler, an attorney for the village.
Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Highlights from May meetings
By Michael Turton

At the May 22 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, trustees took no action on a request from the Recreation Commission for $5,100 to purchase an apparatus to clean up goose droppings at Mayor’s Park. The board discussed other, less expensive solutions, including the use of fake coyotes or creating a dog park to discourage geese from landing.

The board approved a request from Lee Cone to operate a food cart on Fair Street near Mayor’s Park. Trustee Lynn Miller abstained, saying the cart would compete with Go-Go Pops, the Main Street shop she co-owns with her husband. Cone initially asked to set up a cart on upper Main Street near the pedestrian tunnel.

The board approved a flat, $10-per-unit quarterly increase in the sewer rate, effective July 1.

The board approved a contract with the Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association that ends May 31, 2020.

The village received a grant of $2,500 from the John T. Sloper Community Fund to purchase portable automated external defibrillators (AED) that can be applied to someone undergoing cardiac arrest.

The board approved a contract with Managed Technologies to provide the village with telecommunications services.

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

PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, June 11, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:
Leonard & Karen Lindros, 593 Route 9D, Garrison, TM# 81-1-33.
The applicants are seeking approval to build a new, 24 x 24-foot, detached garage which requires a variance for a sideyard setback. The applicant is proposing a setback of 10 feet, where 30 feet is required under the Town of Philipstown Code Chapter 175 Dimensional Table. The property is located in the RR Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.
Dated 5/25/2018

Come to Beacon for the
2018 CITY WIDE YARD SALE
Sat. June 9th
9:00am - 3:00pm
cityofbeacon.org
don’t imagine “the constant cleaning of the bathroom, the red wine spilled over books, the kid chewing on a book, the sweating from lifting things all day.” Heidi adds, with a laugh: “After all that, if you still love it, and you love the customers, it’s working for you.” She says her “endorphin moments” are when she recommends a book that a customer loves.

The shop, which will be located at 97 Main St., the former home of The Country Touch, is named for a trail in Nelsonville: the couple saw parallels between a split rock and an open book. They envision the store as “a place to explore and find things you didn’t know you wanted.” The Split Rock stock will include fiction, nonfiction, history, politics, wellness and spirituality, poetry and graphic novels, as well as local interests such as farming and gardening. There will be books from independent presses and “books that get overshadowed and books you know you deserve more attention,” says Heidi.

Though thousands of books have already arrived, there will be plenty of fine-tuning after “we discover what people around here love,” says Michael. They plan to host storytimes for younger readers, book groups for adults and middle readers (8- to 12-year-olds), and readings.

Michael, who grew up near New Haven, Connecticut, and majored in history at Fordham, had his first taste of bookselling as a clerk at a Barnes & Noble. While earning a master’s in library science at Long Island University, he worked at Ursus, a rare book dealer in Manhattan, and Brooklyn’s Bergen Street Comics, which specialized in comics and graphic novels. He also was employed at the New York University library.

“I liked sharing the excitement over books in bookstores, but found the NYU job isolating,” he recalls.

He left the library and, after Bergen Street Books closed, found a job at Community Bookstore in Park Slope, which was founded in 1971. (The original owner still lives over the shop.)

“That cemented it,” he says. “I didn’t want to do anything else.”

Heidi, a native of Connecticut and western Massachusetts, earned a degree in English literature from Vassar. After spending time in Paris and Thailand, she took a job at Book Culture in Manhattan. She decamped to Auckland, New Zealand, where she obtained a master’s degree in poetry, while employed at Unity Books there.

Upon her return, she worked at the nonprofit Housing Works bookstore in Soho for nearly four years. “Everywhere I worked, I’ve learned something different,” she says.

The couple met through mutual friends at Housing Works, where each of them worked but not at the same time. On their first date, they discovered they both dreamed of opening their own bookstore. They chose Cold Spring for their joint venture because, Heidi says, “after being in the bookstore business, you get a sense of the kind of stores which are complementary.” They liked the fact that the village has a thriving Main Street and is easily walkable, yet had no bookstore.

They hope their timing is right. “There was a time when cheapest and fastest was the motivator for everything,” says Heidi. “But it feels like there’s a growing sense that people want great spaces in their communities and are willing to spend a few extra dollars” to support them. “We’ve had such a positive response.”

Even before it opens, Split Rock formed a partnership with the Sunset Reading Series, whose next event, a reading by Benjamin Taylor, author of The Hue and Cry at House, is scheduled for Sunday, June 24, at the Chapel Restoration. It will sell books at the readings and donate a portion of the proceeds to the series and the chapel.

**Summer Reading**

We asked booksellers Heidi and Michael Bender to recommend a children’s title, a novel and a work of nonfiction.

**Today, by Julie Morstad**

“Beautifully illustrated, this picture book leads children through all the choices they can make in a day. It’s full of familiar objects and is a fun way for parents and caregivers to engage with their little ones.”

**Florida, by Lauren Groff**

“Filled with the swampy, humid heat of her home state and peopled with stubborn women, snakes and raw natural life, each one of these stories leads you deep into the inner lives of its characters and leaves you wanting more.”

**Rat F**ked: Why Your Vote Doesn’t Count, by David Daley

“A thorough, compelling look at gerrymandering. Daley convincingly shows how smaller elections, like state legislatures and governors, combined with biased redistricting, can affect who ends up controlling Congress for a decade or more.”

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**Limited Editions Realty, Inc.**

**Garrison**

A centrally located Garrison home for the commuter to NYC, post office and library. Preserved land in front of home and privacy to the rear. Three (3) bedrooms, 2 full baths, family room with fireplace and office. Portion of pond is on property. A nice find in this residential area.

MLS 4819978

**Cold Spring COMMERCIAL**

A prime 1860’s commercial building in prominent village location. First floor is open plan 2000SF raw space to be built out. 2nd floor has 3 offices, studio apt. and CAC. The 2000SF space with 12 foot ceilings and off street parking in rear makes for an imaginative venture for the innovative mind. Owner/user is best option.

**Cold Spring**

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PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATOR

**JUNE 6 2018**

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6-8pm

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Paid for by Friends of Barbara Scuccimarra
Julia Sniffen: 20 Years at Haldane

High school principal, formerly a teacher, recounts changes

By Alison Rooney

Julia Sniffen pulls out a framed photo from a shelf in her office and points to a child. “I called him in recently and showed it to him and told him he was in diapers then, now he's 18 and graduating,” she says.

Soon the Connecticut native will be able to say that frequently, as this marks her 20th school year with the Haldane Central School District in Cold Spring. She began as an elementary school teacher in 1997-98, (when she was Julia Marchinkowski) and is now the high school principal.

In a recent conversation, Sniffen reflected on her time at Haldane. Her remarks have been condensed.

What has brought you the greatest satisfaction?

Watching the students grow, seeing them making good decisions, to hopefully be a positive influence — that's the greatest reward. My role is, first, to be sure that the school is safe, and then to allow each student to find his or her own voice, not to tell them what their voice should be. Mental health is the most important thing, making kids feel good about who they are.

You get so proud of your students through the years; you become so involved at stages of the lives; whether they're getting a job, or have found an incredible BOCES (vocational) program that's just right for them, it's exciting. You always want to know how they're doing. I've even seen a few become teachers here themselves. When I started, Tom and Joe Virgadamo, Ryan McConville, Kristin Peparo and Michelle Grasso were all still students.

Did you always want to be a teacher?

There was never a question. When I was hired at Haldane as a student teacher for the third and fourth grade, my mom said, “I'm so glad I'm not a student anymore” because of all the times I had made her play school as a kid.

I also coached varsity girls' soccer. I took over Mrs. Battersby's third-grade class when she was on maternity leave. Then I taught fourth grade and also moved into other areas, mainly in technology. In 2005, when the new high school was built, my title was "Watching the students grow, seeing them making good decisions, to hopefully be a positive influence — that's the greatest reward."

"Continued on Page 10"
Julia Sniffen: 20 Years at Haldane (from Page 9)

middle school coordinator. When Brian Alm arrived as high school principal, my title changed to assistant principal, elementary/ middle school. After eight years of being a teacher, I felt a need to learn more. The administrative piece fit right in with that.

The approach to instruction has changed tremendously. When I arrived there was no internet. Now, teaching kids how to be problem-solvers is huge. We're asking them to think more deeply, not just skim the surface. There used to be so much more memorizing. Now it's about analysis, synthesizing, making connections. Things which used to start in college are woven through all grade levels.

Social media has complicated things. I believe in human interaction, face to face, so you can see emotions. I try hard not to go near it, although I also think, as a principal, that you need a presence.

What are the benefits of staying at one school?

I've worked for three elementary principals, five high school principals, four superintendents, and many directors of special education. When you don't need to learn the same kinds of off-campus privileges which don't require them to be here every period. For the seniors, we have a panel of our college freshmen come in at the end of their first year to talk to them. This will be my second graduation speech. Last year, I had only been in the job for three months, so I called on Brian and Stephanie [Impellitteri, the former Garrison School principal] for help, because, for instance, the Garrison kids barely knew me. This year's speech will be the first one that comes directly from me.

Where did you meet your husband, Jeff?

I was teaching third grade. He came to the door and said, “I'm your sub.” And I said, “No, you're not — I'm here, so I don't need you.” Those were our first words! The love is deep. So many people have been deeply involved for so many years. We have people who graduated 50 years ago always coming back here, with pride.

How about three challenges?

Ensuring in a small school that all students have what they need to grow and learn to be all they can be. The inability for people to have differences of opinion and to be able to work together to come up with a consensus. And the fiscal constraints are different that they used to be. You want to do everything, but you get stuck.
When Orly Cogan began creating artwork on fabric—cast-off sheets, vintage table runners, yard-sale samplers—the words fiber and artist were not often seen together.

Today, there’s a fiber-art movement, and Cogan’s work is very much part of it. Her latest solo show, *Summer Lovin’*, opens at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill on June 10 with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m., and a panel talk at 5:30 p.m. “Embroidery and fabric materials have been dismissed historically as not being a high art,” she says. “I’ve been working in that vein for years and am so happy that feminism, activism and craft as high art are being recognized and celebrated.”

The artist says her use of vintage materials is calculated: she wants to acknowledge the struggles of the women who first used the items. “With hand-stitching, I update the content of the vintage embroidery to incorporate the unladylike reality and wit of contemporary women; their struggles and the stereotypes which must now be overcome,” she explains. These struggles are likely far different from the women of earlier generations who embroidered the textiles to “feminize” their homes.

Cogan grew up in New York City and trained as a painter at Cooper Union and the Maryland Institute College of Art. In the mid-1990s, her mother signed up for a quilt workshop at the American Folk Art Museum. When she had a conflict and couldn’t attend, she suggested Orly go instead. “I was there with a small group of elderly ladies,” Cogan recalls. “After I made my quilt piece, I took another and embroidered a small, naked figure, almost hidden between the seams of the piece work.”

The other students loved it. “The figure took the old-fashioned quilt square out of the domestic realm and into something perverse, contemporary and kind of magical,” she says.

Cogan continued to play with materials. When a curator visited her studio to see her more traditional work, “he focused on the experimental pieces,” she recalls. “I started doing fabric pieces and began thinking of putting them into paintings. I didn’t know anyone who was working with craft materials and with personal and pop-culture references.”

Cogan says she enjoys the intimacy of the used fabrics. “I discover them at tag sales, then elevate them to the gallery wall,” she says. When she began working with thread, her figures were small, with thick, dense thread, “frolicking among funky printed and patterned fabrics.”

As her storytelling became more focused, the lines became lighter. “It’s drawing with threads,” she says. “I have an idea and I figure out how to achieve it. I don’t know how to use a sewing machine.”

Four years ago, Cogan, her husband (who runs a photography gallery in New York City) and their young daughter relocated to Putnam Valley. Soon afterward, Cogan chanced upon studio space in Nelsonville. There, in her workroom, sheets and decorative runners are pinned to the walls.

Describing the elements of one painting, “Beware of Childhood,” she says she was “thinking of childhood and what I’m relearning through my daughter: how big our emotions are, how scary. The unsteady ground, the whispering, fairy tales, beware, rumor, but still positive and so forgiving: birds and flowers. The work is left unfinished, as childhood is.”

The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, at 1701 E. Main St., is open Friday to Sunday. See hvcca.org. *Summer Lovin’* continues through July 31.
Wrenches in the System

Temperatures warm, ranges shift and systems are disrupted

By Jeff Simms

Constitution Marsh is in danger of drowning. The 270-acre wildlife sanctuary in Garrison, which has been managed by Audubon since 1970, could be overrun by sea-level rise caused by global warming by the end of this century.

“The rate and volume of sea-level rise that we’re seeing is unprecedented,” says Eric Lind, who has been the director of the Audubon Center at the marsh since 1998. “The vegetation here grows in a ‘window’ of water depth, and there’s a strong possibility that with too much water the vegetation in these habitats will be drowned.”

One of five large tidal marshes on the Hudson, the preserve provides foraging, nesting and resting habitat for more than 200 species of birds and 30 species of fish. But because the river is an estuary, or arm of the Atlantic, as sea level rises, so too will the river. When it does, the mix of grasses, sedges and reeds that make up the marshes may be submerged, allowing the vegetation to move along, or die.

In other locales, marshes could move inland to higher elevations. But at Constitution Marsh, Lind says, the habitat is “hemmed in by steep slopes — the Hudson Highlands, essentially.”

One solution would be to build up the river floor, giving the marsh a “platform” to grow on, which is happening naturally, but probably not quickly enough, as more frequent and intense storms dump huge volumes of sediment into the river.

Lind and his colleagues at Constitution Marsh have installed nine measuring stations to assess whether the sediment is being held by the marsh or flowing through to the Atlantic.

“It’s unlikely that there will be enough sediment entering the river to maintain pace with sea-level rise,” Lind concedes. “But nobody knows. The point is it’s a dynamic natural system.”

That may have been the greatest takeaway from my visit last week to Constitution Marsh. The natural world is infinitely complex, and it is that exceptional quality, a connectedness that runs layers and layers deep, that makes it difficult to quantify the effects of global warming on plants and animals.

Some changes are easier to observe than others. As temperatures warm, animals move to higher elevations to find temperate waters and reliable food sources. This is true for many species — fish or fowl, flora and fauna.

Similarly, the populations of invasive species like the hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny, brown, aphid-like insect, have been jumpstarted in the Highlands by the warmer spring weather. Their voracious feeding sucks fluid from and eventually destroys hemlocks, a tree that grows along the sides of streams and helps with flood and erosion control.

There are so many corollary and intersecting effects that it’s virtually impossible to say that climate change caused this but not that in the natural world, notes Lynn Christenson, a Vassar College associate professor of biology. The impacts are intricately woven together.

However, what global warming clearly threatens is biodiversity, or the healthy variety of life. But why, I asked Christenson, is a variety of life forms — from humans to habitat to microscopic organisms — important? Why does it matter?

“Biodiversity enriches the environment at the most basic level,” she explains. “When we lose it, we lose functions and relation- (Continued on next page)

Resilient Landscapes
Mapping tool says we’re more than halfway there for the region

By Jeff Simms

The Hudson Highlands — with its steep slopes, marshy wetlands, valleys and ravines — represent the type of complex landscape that conservationists are seeking when it comes to protecting wildlife habitat, especially in the era of rapid climate change.

Diversity is a key characteristic of “resilient” landscapes, a term first used by The Nature Conservancy about a decade ago to describe the wildlife habitat most suited to endure the rapidly changing climate. The two main characteristics of resilient lands are complexity — an assortment of “microclimates” that create a range of temperature and moisture options for species — and connectedness, which supports the continued rearrangement of species as they respond to global warming.

The thinking, says Nava Tabak, director of science, climate and stewardship for Scenic Hudson, a nonprofit environmental group, is that it’s hard to predict where species will end up as their ranges shift.

“The best we can do is conserve a diverse landscape,” she says. “And the Highlands is one of those places.”

Clarence Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands state parks score high for resiliency, which is one reason why conservation organizations have consistently acquired and added lands to these swathes.

In 2016, Scenic Hudson introduced the Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy, a mapping tool that identifies the most efficient conservation projects to preserve biodiversity, resilience and connectivity.

“This doesn’t give you marching orders to go out and get this or that property,” Tabak says, “but it shows us important areas where there are opportunities.”

In the 11-county Hudson Valley region, almost 900,000 acres have been protected by the state and private organizations such as Scenic Hudson, including the 6,000-acre Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve between Cold Spring and Beacon that provides habitat for bald eagles, black bear and timber rattlesnakes, among many other species.

On the other side of the Hudson, thousands of acres — Harriman, Bear Mountain and Storm King state parks — protect a major spring and fall flyway for migratory birds.

It’s impossible to predict exactly how much more land needs to be conserved, but Scenic Hudson’s tool suggests 750,000 more acres in the 11 counties would “give us a pretty good portfolio of places that would enable species to adapt with climate change,” Tabak says.

That’s a tall order, “but it’s not out of the realm of possibility,” she says. “It’s something to strive for.”
ships that have long-term connectedness.

“Every time something shifts, there’s a whole new arrangement with organisms that have to share that space. And when a system gets disrupted, the ability of diseases and pathogens to move through that system can increase. If we have poor nutrition or we don’t have a safe place to live, we’re more susceptible to catching a virus or a bacterial infection. That’s why biodiversity is important.”

Back at Constitution Marsh, Eric Lind tells me during a hike why he is drawn to the natural world. While growing up in Putnam County, being outside was a huge part of his childhood, he says. “I found things and heard things,” he recalls. “I realized how full the world was. Later, when I began to study things like migratory birds or fishes, I realized these were connections that I had with the rest of the world.

“As a child, I heard a bird singing in a treetop in my neighborhood one day. It was a scarlet tanager,” which is now threatened by climate change, Lind says. “It was this incredibly clear spring day. The bird was vivid red, the trees were vivid green and the sky was vivid blue. When I saw that, it seared the image. It was unforgettable.”

The idea that images like that could someday be lost is painful.

“The news is bad,” he says. “It gets worse every year. It’s troubling at best and terrifying at times. We’re talking about decades, but it’s difficult to think beyond what you have to do next week. Day-to-day, the changes here just aren’t that obvious.”

Saying Goodbye

We asked Audubon’s Eric Lind to identify three birds seen at Constitution Marsh that face dire circumstances due to global warming. He notes that “these examples are already under pressure due to habitat degradation or loss, collisions with buildings and other man-made structures, environmental contaminants and invasive species. Major stresses from climate change add to a fate that is complex and uncertain.”

**Least bittern**

“Currently listed as a threatened species in New York state, it needs large freshwater and brackish marshes with tall and dense emergent vegetation, interspersed with patches of open water. The numbers are stable in the marsh, likely due to our management of invasive plants. It may experience a shift in range from the South to our area, but this won’t matter if the marsh is severely diminished from sea-level rise.”

**Bald eagle**

“The increasing severity of storms threaten its chicks, as the large size of the nests make them prone to being blown down. By 2080, only about 25 percent of the bald eagle’s current range is expected to remain. While new areas may open up with the warming climate, they will not assure a sustained population. Forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water with abundant, large fish are also needed. In New York, we are seeing eagles breeding earlier in the season.”

**Louisiana waterthrush**

“They nest only along clear, clean streams that flow through hilly dense forests. Audubon’s climate model projects a 97 percent loss of current breeding range in eastern North America by 2080.”

Could Trees Save Us?

*Don’t hold your breath*

**By Jeff Simms**

Bill Schuster, a biologist and the executive director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium, the nonprofit organization that manages the nearly 4,000-acre Black Rock Forest in Orange County, says there has been a perception since climate change entered the lexicon that “trees will save us” because they remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air.

That’s true, but a study conducted in part at the forest suggests the outlook is not so cheery.

Research published last fall found that plants emit more CO₂ into the atmosphere than believed. While plants and trees during photosynthesis capture about 25 percent of the carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, the research found that when they “exhale,” or respire, they emit around 30 percent more CO₂ than previously predicted.

In practical terms, this means that as the planet warms, plant respiration will increase significantly, likely reducing the earth’s ability to absorb emissions from burning fossil fuels, explains Kevin Griffin, president of the consortium’s board and a professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.

Griffin and his team sampled leaves from deciduous trees at Black Rock before comparing their findings to more than 4,000 measurements of CO₂ respiration from plants around the world. The next phase of the team’s research will be to gather data on the growth respiration of leaves, which will provide information on how much CO₂ is released when trees add new leaves each year.
So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish

As the climate changes, the Hudson gets weirder

By Brian PJ Cronin

No forecasting about the climate and ecological health of the Highlands can be made without taking into account how global warming will affect the most important and vulnerable part of its landscape, the Hudson River. But when it comes to the effects of climate change on the estuary, the future is here.

For years, scientists have looked at the declining numbers of migratory fish returning to the Hudson, such as shad, sturgeon and striped bass, and blamed aggressive offshore fishing operations. But now many are thinking that rising water temperatures may be at fault, as cold-water species bypass the river for cooler temperatures, and even minimal increases could cause massive die-offs.

Does that mean some aspects of climate change in the river could be... beneficial?

“There’s going to be a wide range of impacts,” says David Strayer, a freshwater ecologist at the Cary Institute. “There’s going to be this asymmetry for at least a few centuries. We’ll see more extinctions than arrivals.”

Meanwhile, the warmer water temperatures will make life rough for some unwelcome transplants, such as the zebra mussel. Native to Russia and the Ukraine, the voracious plankton feeders began showing up in American waterways in the late 1980s after stowing away in the ballast of ships. Although they quickly wreaked havoc on ecosystems, the bi-valves are extremely sensitive to temperature changes, and even minimal increases could cause massive die-offs.

“Ecologists are always accused of responding to everything with ‘Well, it depends,’” says Strayer. “But in this case it really does depend. All we can say is that these actions are going to range from having a modest to an enormous ecological impact.”

If Metro-North builds bulkheads to raise the train line, the infrastructure could further isolate the river from the floodplains, altering the river’s flow rates even further. If the infrastructure is designed thoughtfully, with its ecological impacts in mind, the damage to the river could be minimized. But if it ends up being designed and implemented quickly in response to an immediate disaster, scientists worry these considerations won’t be taken into account.

“The coast guard spends a lot of money breaking ice in the river to maintain its navigability. So if there’s less ice because of warmer temperatures, the Coast Guard will rejoice, but the ice boaters will weep.”

Global warming will expose the Hudson’s vulnerabilities. The river has one of the world’s highest “nutrient-loading rates,” a measure of the concentration of organic matter coming in from outside sources.

With the Hudson, that’s mainly sewage. If the sewage sticks around, it gets consumed by microbes, which leads to runaway algae blooms that can suffocate marine ecosystems. For now, the Hudson flushes itself well, clearing out organic matter before it turns into blooms, but Limburg notes that flow rates can change.

“We know that the storms are changing in intensity, frequency and magnitude, but there are probably going to be more droughts too.”

Finally, there’s the question of how the river will react to whatever we construct to counter the effects of climate change. For instance, a flood gate near Manhattan could impede the flow of migratory fish.

How these species will coexist with native fish, and what diseases they may bring with them, is anyone’s guess. But unlike birds migrating north, many fish species will never reach the Highlands. “They can’t just hop on the bus,” says David Strayer, a freshwater ecologist at the Cary Institute. “There’s going to be this asymmetry for at least a few centuries. We’ll see more extinctions than arrivals.”

“Ecologists are always accused of responding to everything with ‘Well, it depends,’” says Strayer. “But in this case it really does depend. All we can say is that these actions are going to range from having a modest to an enormous ecological impact.”

The Climate for Lyme

Reporter traces connection between ticks and warming

By Michael Turton

In her new book, Lyme: The First Epidemic of Climate Change, former Poughkeepsie Journal reporter Mary Beth Pfeiffer examines how the dramatic increase in Lyme disease in the U.S. since the 1970s correlates with climate change.

In an interview last week, she discussed her findings and the risks facing the Highlands. Her responses have been condensed.

You reviewed quite a bit of research on Lyme disease, which is spread through tick bites. What did you find most compelling?

“What clinched it for me was a 2014 Environmental Protection Agency report that listed... (continued on next page)
It’s not just the black-legged tick, which is common in the Northeast, that is moving because of climate change. The lone star tick has migrated from the South and arrived in Long Island, where it is causing big problems.

**How do birds factor into the spread of Lyme?**

For eons birds carried ticks as they migrated north from South and Central America. But in the past, if they dropped a tick from Brazil in the Eastern U.S., the tick would die. Now they survive, and they also carry more pathogens.

**If the Highlands become hotter and drier, would that reduce the tick population?**

It’s unlikely we will get too dry. We may have periods of drought and intense heat that make it more difficult for ticks. But even in the South, where it’s very hot and getting hotter, it’s still very humid. Ticks can go beneath leaves or into the soil and stay moist, coming out when it’s humid enough to survive.

**In the book, you discuss how the threat of the Zika virus was reduced by genetically modifying mosquitoes so they only produced male offspring. Could that work with ticks?**

A mosquito has a two-week life span; ticks live for two or three years. It would take many generations of ticks for that approach to take hold. But I would love to see research along those lines.

**Are there more promising solutions?**

The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook is conducting a five-year tick project aimed at controlling ticks in neighborhood yards. But we need a lot more money spent on figuring out how to control ticks, such as a vaccine that would kill a tick when it bites a human. A vaccine could also be used to kill ticks as they feed on mice and deer. It could stop the epidemic dead in its tracks.

**What can be done in the meantime?**

People need be vigilant. Cover up when you go outside, check yourself when you come inside. Use permethrin-impregnated clothing; it kills or causes ticks to fall off when they come in contact. That clothing is rather expensive although permethrin itself isn’t. You spray it on, let it dry; it survives about six launderings.

We need to protect our children; 5- to 14-year-olds are the largest group infected each year. Make your yard safe. Don’t have leaf or brush piles. Open it up to the sun.

**Can we stop Lyme?**

We have the ability to conquer it. I’m a little pessimistic because we haven’t had the will or put the money into it. We need to convince the powers that be that this is a serious, underestimated epidemic that leaves many people ill long after they’re infected. Then, the will and the money will follow.
FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Marce Anelli: Building Magazzino (Reception)
5:30 - 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Group Show: Mokuhanga Woodcut Prints (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-609-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Country Music Night
7 p.m. Beacon Eks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | beaconekslodge1493.com

The Music Man
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-265-9259 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Lisa Lampanelli (Comedy)
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
845-838-9575 | hshakespeare.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Peekskill Open Studios
peekskillartsalliance.org

Snapping Turtle Walk
7:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Eastern New York Soccer Festival
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Newburgh | Delano-Hitch Park, Newburgh
516-766-0849 | enysoccer.com

NYNUTC Trail Cleanup
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Breakneck/Brook Trailhead Parking
nyntc.org/civcmr/event/info

iPhotoGraphy Workshop
10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-638-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Tag Sale
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-631-6346 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Bannerman Island Paint Out
11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Boat departures from Beacon dock
845-631-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Glywood
11 a.m. Farm tour
2 p.m. Cider tasting workshop
362 Glywood Road, Philipstown
845-265-3338 | glywood.org

Victorian Hat Decorating
1 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Peekskill Open Studios
peekskillartsalliance.org

Kids Fishing Derby
9 a.m. – Noon, Garrison Fish and Game
Philips Brook Road, Garrison
facebook.com/garrisonfishandgameclub

Putnam County Veterans of World War I (Book Launch)
2 p.m. Centennial Golf Course
185 John Simpson Road, Carmel
845-561-1259 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The Dance of Life, The Life of Dance (Recital)
2 and 6:30 p.m. Bardstown
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-831-1870 | balletartsstudio.com

Group Show: The Art of Balance (Opening)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-561-1259 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Gala
5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-609-6750 x12 | hshakespeare.org

Israel Putnam: Hero of the Revolution (Talk)
5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Woody Mann Film and Concert
7 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-529-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

The Music Man
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Dann the Torpedoes: A Tribute to Tom Petty
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Susan Alcorn
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-561-1259 | howlandculturalcenter.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Backyard Farm Skills
3:45 p.m. Glywood | See details under Saturday.

Farmer Recovery Fundraiser
5 – 9 p.m. Barber and Brew
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
See details under Saturday.

Putnam County Legislate
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcounty.ny.gov

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-677-7600 | haldaneschool.org

Ward 3 Town Hall
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Handmade Happy Hour
5 – 9 p.m. Barber and Brew
70 Widmer Road, Wappingers Falls
845-831-9102

6 – 9 p.m. Denning’s Point Distillery
7 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | northhighlandsfirehouse.org

Create Comic Characters with Deb Lucke (Teens)
5 – 8 p.m. Denning’s Point Distillery
7 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
See details under Thursday.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Creating Comic Characters with Deb Lucke (Teens)
7:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Gala
5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-9259 | hshakespeare.org

Handmade Happy Hour
7:30 – 9 p.m. Putnam History Museum
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

PTA End of Year Celebration
3 – 6 p.m. Haldane School | hal.danepTA.org

Family Camp-Out
6 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | 100 Muser Drive, Highland Mills
845-265-2050 | outdoor-discovery.org

Little League Fundraiser: Ladies Night Out
7 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
845-677-7600 | nhighlandsfirehouse.org

Celebrating the Music of Billy Joel
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Performance Start June 7!

Save 25% Putnam-Dutchess Neighborhood Nights

June 7 THE TAMING OF THE SHEREW
June 12 THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD
June 21 RICHARD II

hvshakespeare.org
Spring Potato Salad

1 cup shelled peas (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 cup shelled, blanched and peeled fava beans (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 small bunch scallions, white and green parts thin-sliced on the bias
1 tablespoon chopped tarragon
1 tablespoon chopped mint

1. Boil the potatoes, covered, in a pot of generously salted water for 10 to 12 minutes. While they boil, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar and lemon juice, adding salt and pepper to taste. When the potatoes are done, drain them and toss the warm potatoes, minced garlic and olive oil dressing in a large bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate to cool.

2. Prepare an ice water bath. Blanch the asparagus tips, shelled peas and peeled fava beans for 2 to 3 minutes in a pot of solidly boiling salted water, drain and immediately plunge into ice water bath. When cool, drain thoroughly and reserve.

3. When the potatoes are completely cool, add the blanched vegetables and scallions and toss lightly to mix. Add more oil if dry and adjust salt and pepper. Just before serving, add tarragon and mint and toss again. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Serves 4 to 6
1½ pound small (1 to 1½-inch diameter) new red potatoes (cut to size before boiling)
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
Salt & freshly ground pepper
1 teaspoon minced garlic
Tips from one bunch asparagus (slice and reserve stalks for an omelet or stir-fry)
1 cup shelled peas (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 cup shelled, blanched and peeled fava beans (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 small bunch scallions, white and green parts thin-sliced on the bias
( Optional: 3 to 4 globe artichoke hearts, blanched, cooled and diced large)
1 tablespoon chopped tarragon
1 tablespoon chopped mint

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3. When the potatoes are completely cool, add the blanched vegetables and scallions and toss lightly to mix. Add more oil if dry and adjust salt and pepper. Just before serving, add tarragon and mint and toss again. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Serves 4 to 6
1½ pound small (1 to 1½-inch diameter) new red potatoes (cut to size before boiling)
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
Salt & freshly ground pepper
1 teaspoon minced garlic
Tips from one bunch asparagus (slice and reserve stalks for an omelet or stir-fry)
1 cup shelled peas (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 cup shelled, blanched and peeled fava beans (about 1 pound in the pod)
1 small bunch scallions, white and green parts thin-sliced on the bias
( Optional: 3 to 4 globe artichoke hearts, blanched, cooled and diced large)
1 tablespoon chopped tarragon
1 tablespoon chopped mint

Spring Potato Salad

1. Boil the potatoes, covered, in a pot of generously salted water for 10 to 12 minutes. While they boil, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar and lemon juice, adding salt and pepper to taste. When the potatoes are done, drain them and toss the warm potatoes, minced garlic and olive oil dressing in a large bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate to cool.

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Help Local Farms
Fundraiser for storm damage

Many farmers suffered damage during the severe May 15 storm. On Tuesday, June 5, Barber and Brew in Cold Spring and Glynwood in Philipstown will host a benefit to help the Hudson Valley CSA Coalition rebuild.

From 5 to 9 p.m., Barber and Brew, at 69 Main St., will serve beer and small food plates for a $25 donation, with all funds benefiting farmers. The proceeds from all regular-priced haircuts will also be donated. See bit.ly/farmer-recovery.

Free Playwriting Workshops
HVSF will host in Philipstown, Beacon

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will hold community playwriting workshops at three libraries in June. A session will be held on Saturday, June 9, at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring at 10 a.m.; on Sunday, June 10, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at noon; and on Saturday, June 16, at the Desmonds Fish Library in Garrison at 2 p.m. RSVP at hvshakespeare.org.

After attending, participants may submit a short play on the theme “coming home” to HVSF, and select works will be staged by actors at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in August.

PTA Celebrates Summer
Plans end-of-year bash

The Haldane PTA will host a family celebration to mark the end of the 2017-18 school year from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 8, at the elementary school. There will be games, storytelling with Jonathan Kruit, music, crafts and food trucks. Tickets are $5 at haldanepota.org/upcoming-events. The rain date is June 14.

Church Tag Sale
St. Mary’s event on June 2

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring will hold a tag sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, at the church. It will include baked goods. All proceeds benefit the church.

Glynwood Events
Tour and farm dinner planned

On Saturday, June 2, at 11 a.m., Glynwood will host a guided tour of its property and operations. At 2 p.m., Artisan Wine Shop of Beacon will present a hard-cider tasting workshop at the farm to kick off Cider Week Hudson Valley.

On Saturday, June 16, Glynwood will host a farm dinner that also features cider. It will accompany a farm-to-table meal prepared by Alex Burger, chef at the Amsterdam in Rhinebeck. Tickets are $150 at glynwood.org.

Painters Up!
Little League benefit on June 8

Create a masterpiece at the Paint and Party Ladies Night Out to support the Philipstown Little League. The fundraiser takes place at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 8, at the North Highlands firehouse in Philipstown. RSVP to Luz Bailey at eelen8@optonline.net.

Seeking Musicians
Orchestra preparing for holidays

The Putnam Symphony Orchestra is looking for musicians for a performance in November. The concert will have a holiday theme and weekly rehearsals begin in September. Call Christine Smith at 845-228-4367.

Story Slam
Will be held on Constitution Island

The Butterfield Library’s story slam for adults, the Dragonfly Story Hour, will be held on Constitution Island at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 10. The theme is “constitutional.” To sign up to share a four-minute, nonfiction story, email jbjhappenings@gmail.com.

Museum to Host Book Signing
Celebrating WWI veterans in Putnam

The Southeast Museum will host a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at the Centennial Golf Course in Carmel, for the release of Putnam County Veterans of World War I, an annotated roll of service members in the Great War by Roderick Cassidy.

(Continued on next page)
COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(from previous page) Cassidy will talk about his research and share World War I memorabilia. The golf course is located at 185 John Simpson Road.

Beacon

It's Strawberry Season
Sloop club festival is June 10
Rain or shine, the Beacon Sloop Club will hold its annual Strawberry Festival from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, at Seeger Riverfront Park. The club will be selling strawberry shortcake and smoothies, and there will also be music, performances, games and free sails on the Woody Guthrie. See beaconsloopclub.org.

Pollinator Gardening
Workshop at One Nature
Timothy Stanley will lead a workshop at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at One Nature Garden Center in Beacon on native plants and attracting pollinators to your garden. Tickets are $25 at onenaturelle.com/events.

Swingin’ on the Roof
Dance party on rooftop
Swing dance on the rooftop of the Inn and Spa at Beacon on Sunday, June 3, with La Familia Singing Blues Band. Emily Vanston will offer swing lessons at 6 p.m. for intermediate dancers and at 7 p.m. for beginners. Tickets are $20. See facebook.com/rogersfolly.

Town Hall Meeting
Ward 3 reps host on June 5
Representatives of Ward 3 will host a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon. Jodi McCredo, who represents the ward on the City Council, and Nick Page, whose Dutchess County Legislature district includes Ward 3, will answer questions.

Binnacle Books
A club meeting, and a launch
Binnacle Books on Main Street in Beacon will hold its monthly book club at Denning’s Point Distillery at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, to discuss Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. On Saturday, June 9 at 7 p.m., Binnacle will host a release party for Mike Faloon’s The Other Night at Quinn’s with music by Joe McPhee and Michael Bisio.

Paper Art Workshop
Cut, fold and share
Learn how to cut and fold paper into art at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7. Sine Hjort will explain different types of paper, how to handle them and cutting patterns. Register at beaconlibrary.org.

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Dana Hammond of Cold Spring shared this shot of her son, Elliott, hanging out in the backyard with Mischief and Grandpa. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.
The Howland House. This stately home has been totally restored to its original charm w/all the modern conveniences of a new home. Located at the foothills of Mt. Beacon it has 2 oversized porches with views of Mt. Beacon offering a perfect venue for day/evening entertaining or just relaxing. The almost 5000 sf of living space offers all new kitchen, hw floors throughout, 4 fireplaces, 5 1/2 baths, and two suites. The first has large room w/fireplace, built-ins, custom full bath & separate brick patio, the top floor suite has kitchenette, bedroom w/french doors to balcony w/views of Newburgh & Hudson River, bath w/clawfoot tub & separate shower. Don’t miss out on the endless possibilities this home offers for extended family, nanny/Au pair, home office, or a fabulous B&B. All new appliances, System 2000 gas heat, Central Air. Enjoy everything Beacon has to offer from antique stores and art studios to fabulous eateries. Convenient to Main Street, train and all major roads. **Offered at $864,900**

AMAZING RIVER VIEWS! The panoramic Hudson River views speak for themselves from the deck and backyard of this colonial style home located in BEACON. This home offers 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths on a pristine .36 acre piece of property just a hop, skip and a jump to the Beacon train station and walking distance to Beacon’s happening Main Street with its shops, restaurants, galleries and antiques. **Offered at $554,900**

This 4BR light-filled Colonial home built in 2004 has been meticulously maintained and sits on .22 acres on a cul-de-sac. It has a grand entrance, vaulted ceilings & fpl in the FR, Kitch w/island, spacious rms, laundry/mud rm, cherry hw flrs, MB suite w/wlkin closet & jacuzzi tub. Enjoy evenings & weekends on your 16x20 oversized deck. Home has full walk-out basement with high ceilings, large windows, sliding drs to yard & roughed in plumbing just waiting for your finishing touches, perfect for extended family. 2-car garage & a huge attic give you all the storage you will need. Walking distance to park, Main Street’s galleries, shops, and restaurants. Minutes to train, and I84. **Offered at $529,900**

SOHO living, in the heart of Beacon. Built in 1900 as a gymnasium for a private military school. Enter into the open expanse of the main living area with ceiling height of 24ft. Get your Epicurean on in the chef’s kitchen, featuring stainless steel counters and appliances. This unique property has been totally renovated including updated mechanicals, with features such as Runtal baseboard heating. Each level has 8’x20’ French doors, with a spacious full sized bathroom. Windows of 4’x7’4’. Choose the bedroom of your dreams. Sleeping loft, with sitting area, skylights and 9ft ceiling, or the huge bedroom suite, with separate entry, kitchen, and bathroom. During the warm months you can enjoy the landscaped rain garden. Off the main building is a 126-sqft-studio cottage. Walk to Main Street, and Metro North. **Offered at $949,000**

Brick Carriage House. This unique 1890 home with brick carriage house has been lovingly restored to its original charm. Beautiful private perennial gardens, stone walls and slate walkways to patio. The home offers 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, custom kitchen with Capital gourmet stove and hardwood floors throughout. The home was restored in keeping with the original character and charm. The brick carriage house is presently used as artist studio on the top floor with 16ft ceilings and great northern light. The main floor was used to restore Steinway Grand Pianos and basement has cement floors with exterior access. The building has 200 amp service and central a/c and heat. **Offered at $749,900**
Haldane Students Visit Prison

By Grace Campanile

On March 14, students in Haldane's sociology and criminal justice classes took a trip to the maximum-security Green Haven Correctional Facility in Dutchess County.

The trip, made possible by the Youth Assistance Program (YAP), is organized and run by inmates who volunteer their time. It is not to be confused with a Scared Straight program, because the intent isn’t to scare students but to educate them about the harsh realities of prison in hopes that they will make the right choices and never end up behind bars. During the trip, students had discussions and predictions about prison life and the prison population, and the trip served to break down a lot of their preconceptions.

Once at the prison, every student removed their shoes and walked through the cells, towered on top of the guard who is trained to shoot and kill if necessary.

Another silent walk through the halls led the group to the cells, towered on top of one another. The students weren’t allowed to walk through the cells, but just a glance at them was enough to understand the conditions of cell life.

The dining hall was described as a hot spot for fights. The inmates shared that on the way out of the dining hall prisoners are typically strip-searched. This process was described as dehumanizing and one of the most humiliating things that many of these men go through on a daily basis. The reason for this is the fact that most contraband is smuggled through prisons within the anal cavity.

The tour ended back in the room where the first discussion was and lunch was served. Students sat and ate with the inmates and talked about many things, life, the choices they make, the people they hang out with. Students enjoyed this part of the experience and getting to know the inmates in the program.

One senior commented, “I respect how these men wanted to change for the better and have goals that they might not [have had] before.” A sophomore stated, “This program has changed my perspective on life completely.”

Haldane Honors Parkland

Haldane students came together on March 14 in remembrance of the 17 people who lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida the month before. In addition to students walking out to raise awareness about strengthening gun laws, Haldane marked the day with optional activities from 10 to 10:17 a.m. to coincide with the National School Walk-out, and continued activities during the students’ lunch period.

Immediately following the schoolwide Pledge of Allegiance at 10 a.m., about 50 students chose to walk out of their classrooms and gather in solidarity on the front steps of the high school. They were joined by several middle-school students and Superintendent Dr. Bowers, high school Principal Ms. Sniffen and high school social worker Mr. Many.

The remainder of the students chose to stay in their classrooms, where they could hear the names of the 17 victims read aloud, followed by a quote about the importance of kindness and positivity.

Students were provided with optional activities such as reading articles, making cards, coming up with ideas for 17 acts of kindness, or working silently.

During lunch Mr. Many, Ms. Mosco, Mr. Piazza, and Mrs. Rosanno, the school psychologist, ran a discussion in Room 211 on mental-health issues. About 15 students attended. Ms. Mosco also created a “De-Stress Before the Test” board in the lobby, and Mr. Many is exploring options to bring Mental Health First-Aid Training to the high school.

This impactful day took time to plan. On (Continued on Page 22)
March 1 students packed Room 211, wall to wall, to brainstorm safe activities that would bring students together during lunch and 10th period. Mrs. Sniffen, Dr. Bowers and Mr. Salumn, as well as teachers Ms. Linda, Mrs. Preparo and Mrs. Granese, were all present to listen to students’ concerns.

The events that took place on Haldane’s campus on March 14 reflect the collaboration of students and faculty members. The Haldane community was able to come together, despite different backgrounds and personal opinions, and everyone was able to commemorate a significant day in modern history in their own way.

**THE BLUE PRINT**

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**HEARD IN THE HALL**

By Anna Rowe and Natalie Sandick

**What weird food combo can’t you live without?**

**Broccoli and mac ‘n’ cheese**
- George Leiter, Grade 12

**Mac ‘n’ cheese and fries**
- Kate Dwyer, Grade 11

**JAMMIN’ IN THE KITCHEN WITH JULIE**

By Julie Geller

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup wheat flour
- 1 cup bananas, mashed
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup peanut butter
- ¼ cup coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 egg, beaten

**Frosting**
- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- ½ cup peanut butter

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl add egg, peanut butter, coconut oil, vanilla and honey. Whisk until all of your ingredients are combined and smooth.
3. Add in mashed bananas, the less clumpy the better.
4. Add in flour and baking soda into mixture and fold in until all the ingredients are incorporated.
5. Spray 12 cupcake liners with nonstick spray and put in the batter evenly into the cupcakes.
6. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until you can stick a toothpick in and it comes out clean.
7. Mix together yogurt and peanut butter, and when the pupcakes are cool, frost ’em.
8. Give to your dog and watch him enjoy!

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**Chips and ice cream**
- Theo Bates, Grade 11

**Cucumbers and cream cheese**
- Allie Ferreira, Grade 10

**Maple syrup on barbecue chips**
- Ben McPherson, Grade 10

**Hot dogs and chocolate**
- Essie Florke, Grade 9

**Honey and bacon**
- Ben McEwen, Grade 9

**Pizza and ranch dressing**
- Heather Winnie, Grade 12

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Tony Burton (1929-2018)

Anthony David Burton, 89, of Garrison, died on May 24, 2018, at Emerald Peak Nursing home in Peekskill. Among his survivors is his wife of 49 years, Leonora Burton, owner of The Country Goose in Cold Spring.

Born April 3, 1929, in Birmingham, England, he was the son of George and Ethel Burton. He grew up in Birmingham and Coventry with his brother, George.

After leaving school, Tony became an apprentice reporter for a local Birmingham newspaper before landing a job at the London Daily Mirror. Several years later, he moved to the U.S. and, after a stint at The Knickerbocker News in Albany, was hired in the late 1950s by the New York Daily News.

He met Leonora Fairclough, a native of Newport, Wales, in the Oak Room of the Plaza Hotel. (She had moved to the U.S. in 1967.) They were married in the British Virgin Islands.

During his time at the Daily News, Tony covered everything from the arrival of the Beatles in 1964 (he called it “the Beatle bounce” because spectators at CBS Studios bounced in their seats during a performance on The Ed Sullivan Show) to the Attica prison uprising in 1971 and the death of Louis Armstrong that same year.

In 1967 he was on a team at the Daily News that was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for helping a woman from the Bronx adopt a young Mexican boy who had been chained to a kennel for many years.

In 1973 he wrote his first book, Solo: Self Portrait of an Undercover Cop. His work at the Daily News brought him into contact with the undercover cop whose code name was Solo. He later wrote several novels: The Embrace of the Butcher, The Coventry Option and The Department of Corrections. His most recent, Jackie True, was published this year.

He left the Daily News in 1990 to work as a foreign correspondent for the London Daily Mail.

In 1978 the couple’s twin boys, Robert and David, were born. The family moved to the Highlands from New York City in 1983 because Tony’s newly widowed mother was relocating to the U.S. from a small Welsh town to live with the family.

“She would not have enjoyed the city,” Leonora once recalled. “She needed a place where Tony could commute and where our 5-year-old twins could go to school. We found Cold Spring.”

For a number of years Tony ghostwrote a column in The Current called “Sitting on the Bench,” under the byline of Tara, the resident dog of The Country Goose.

Besides his wife, Tony is survived by his sons, Robert John Burton (Cathrine) of South London, and David Ross Burton (Deanna) of Plantation, Florida, as well as two grandsons, Eliza Burton and Betsy Burton.

Funeral services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to the Desmond-Fish Library, 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524 (desmondfishlibrary.org).

Oblivious

Daniel Einbender, 68, died May 25, 2018, at Ryder Farm in Brewster.

Born Nov. 14, 1949, Dan was a songwriter, storyteller, sloop singer, sailor, educator, stage manager, festival organizer, cook, activist, organizer, host, camp counselor, music teacher, gardener, history buff and music therapist. At age 7, while attending Camp Willoway, he met Pete Seeger, who inspired him to learn guitar. He studied theater at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he co-founded the counterculture venue Amazingrace Coffeehouse.

In 1980 he became an educator for Clearwater, which Seeger had founded and where Dan worked for 30 years.

Dan is best known as a musician for his song, “Dinner,” from his album, Amazingrace Coffeehouse. In 1990 he became an educator for Amazingrace Coffeehouse.

Dan led a program in the Beacon elementary schools that was nominated for a Grammy Award as one of the three producers of Seeger’s Tomorrow’s Children 2010.

As a boy, Dan in 1971 and the death of Louis Armstrong during a performance on The Ed Sullivan Show at CBS Studios bounced in their seats. He called it “the Beatle bounce” because spectators at CBS Studios bounced in their seats during a performance on The Ed Sullivan Show to the Attica prison uprising in 1971 and the death of Louis Armstrong that same year.

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Dan is best known as a musician for his song, “Dinner,” from his album, Dinner Alone is a Bore, and Paula Einbender, and two step-siblings, Lauren Resnick and Don Brown, as well as four nieces and two nephews. His survivors include two sisters, Deborah Einbender and Paula Einbender, and two step-siblings, Lauren Resnick and Don Brown, as well as four nieces and two nephews. A memorial service is being planned.
A Moment of Thanks

Philipstown residents, including many military veterans, gathered on Main Street in Cold Spring on Monday (May 28) for a parade and memorial service to remember and honor Americans who lost their lives at war. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*

Members of the Haldane marching band prepare for the parade.

Hadley Scuccimarra, age 3, with her parade program.

Local fire companies turned out in force.

A garden of remembrance was set up on the lawn of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church.

Rick Valentine of Cold Spring and Tony Sexton of Philipstown.