

SONG OF FREEDOM — A re-enactor provides musical inspiration for the troops on Aug. 12 during a Revolutionary War program at the Mount Gulian historic site just outside of Beacon. For more photos, see Page 15.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Father Shane to Leave St. Mary's

Vestry says church no longer can afford rector

By Jeff Simms

Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, who has been rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring since 2002, will resign from his full-time duties on Sept. 1 after the vestry of the 178-year-old parish concluded it can no longer afford to pay a rector.

"The decision was difficult and without pleasure, but it was a necessary decision in order for the parish to continue," the church said in a statement posted on its website.

Scott-Hamblen will continue to live in the church rectory and say Mass through at least Dec. 31, after which St. Mary's will be served by temporary clergy supplied by the Episcopal Church. The hope is that Scott-Hamblen will have found employment elsewhere by year's end, said Mark Forlow, St. Mary's senior warden.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison is also using temporary "supply clergy" as it searches for a rector to succeed Frank Geer, who retired in May after nearly 31 years there.

Forlow called the decision to part with

Scott-Hamblen a "purely financial issue," saying "it's just not viable at this point" to continue paying a full-time rector. The St. Mary's vestry has asked for donations to pay the \$10,000 due on Scott-Hamblen's pension and \$6,000 for his health insurance.

"The decision was difficult and without pleasure, but it was a necessary decision in order for the parish to continue."

Scott-Hamblen warned in January 2013 and again in July 2017 that St. Mary's faced a serious financial shortfall as its endowment dwindled, but by the end of last year it had raised more than \$73,000 through contributions and fundraisers such as a patronal festival and basket raffles. He said last summer that the church planned to bring together a team of professionals to recommend a long-term solution to the chronic budget shortfalls.

The parish was founded in 1840 and its present building at Main and Chestnut Streets was constructed in 1868.

Forlow said he didn't know offhand what percentage of (Continued on Page 3)

The Great War Comes Home

A century ago, the first local men died in WWI

By Robert Murphy

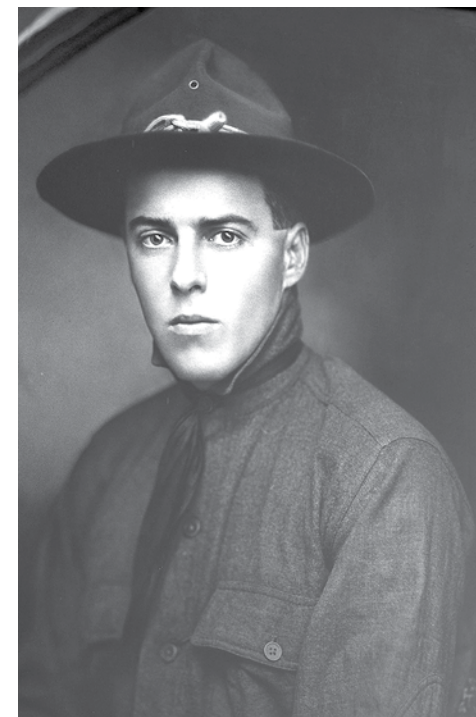
One hundred years ago this week, Pvt. William B. Wilson became the first soldier from Beacon — and the Highlands — to die in World War I when he was killed in action in Belgium. The Veterans of Foreign Wars post on Main Street in Beacon is named for him.

Wilson went off to war with two of his best friends, George Van Pelt of Beacon and Herbert Miller of Newburgh. The three, with about 50 other Beacon boys, joined up in Newburgh's Company L of the 107 Infantry Regiment.

By late April 1918, the regiment had landed in France. By mid-August, the 107th was seeing its first action as a back-up force to the British in the Dickebusch Lake sector of Belgium. The doughboys were in clear view of the Germans, who were entrenched on Mont Kemmel.

The regiment's historian recalled that on the day Wilson died, Aug. 19, 1918, Company L was under continuous shelling by the Germans. Among those killed was Herb Miller, whose body remained in No-Man's Land until nightfall.

After darkness fell, Wilson and Cpl. Richard Connery volunteered to retrieve Miller's body. As they carried the stretcher back to the trenches, they came under fire. Connery was wounded by shrapnel



Pvt. William Wilson was the first soldier from the Highlands to die in World War I.

BHS

and Wilson was killed by a sniper.

Word of Wilson's and Miller's deaths reached Beacon on Sept. 18. They had been the only soldiers from Company L to perish that day. A Mass for Wilson was quickly arranged. The Rev. Michael Aylward, pastor of St. Joachim's Church, cried as he gave the eulogy. Wilson's body arrived in the U.S. in April 1921 and was interred at St. (Continued on Page 8)



Father Shane Scott-Hamblen

File photo by Ross Corsair

5 Five Questions: KELLY PREUSSER

By Alison Rooney

Kelly Preusser, who grew up in Cold Spring, and whose family ran Guinan's on Garrison's Landing for more than 50 years, has been selling her ceramics since 2013 at the Garrison Art Center's annual Riverside Crafts Fair, which takes place Aug. 18 and 19.

What has your experience been like as a vendor?

I always do well. There's so much variety. A lot of vendors do the "craft-fair circuit," and I like that the show gives them and visitors a sense of what's here in Garrison and introduces them to the art center. Somehow I've never been caught in some of the epic rainstorms. I missed one year after I had a baby — maybe it was that year. A lot of locals buy my pieces, which could be because I notice them in the crowd and we wind up talking.

Guinan's was practically next door to the Garrison Art Center. Did that influence your interest in ceramics?

I've always loved art. It was my favorite subject in high school. In college I started studying special education but switched to graphic design. I moved away, then, when I returned, I wanted to get back into doing art. I had never done ceramics. Lisa Knaus [the pottery studio manager at the Art Center] was my first teacher and is still my teacher.

Does the view from the Landing ever get old?

Never! It's a beautiful spot.

How has your artistic style evolved?

I learned techniques from Lisa, and I pick things up online. Everything I do now is hand-drawn, freehand, never sten-

ciled and never sketched out. I use different types of glazes, and make everything: bowls, mugs, plates, vases. Everything is functional. I want things to be used every day.



Kelly Preusser with her ceramics

Photo by A. Rooney

Do you worry about children around your ceramics?

Well ... my daughters are 8 and 3. They're actually good. The older one loves art, and she appreciates the pieces. The little one is so ... enthusiastic ... that sometimes ... Luckily, I work in the basement, away from them. I make the objects at the art center but draw and decorate them at home. You know, handles break off and other things happen, but you must forgive. Things can go wrong in many ways; there are so many steps in the process. I've had customers who contact me, saying, "My piece broke. Can you fix it?" And the answer is, "Nope, but we can make a new one, and move on."

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's left on your summer bucket list?



"Visiting Montana to explore and ride horses." ~ Lauren Groth, Cold Spring



"Going to the 2 Way Brewery Co. for the first time."

~ Zachary Quick, Beacon



"Kayaking to Bannerman's Island."

~Caitlin Malik, Beacon

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Father Shane to Leave St. Mary's *(from Page 1)*

the budget had been dedicated to the rector's salary and benefits, but it's "quite a bit." However, once those costs are off St. Mary's books, he said, the church will begin saving for future projects, including hiring a church administrator.

In addition, there are longstanding maintenance issues and repairs that must be addressed with its facilities. Completing those projects will still require outside financial help, but "with the rector, they

"It's tough seeing him go, and it's even tougher when you know what he's done for the community."

would be nearly impossible," Forlow said.

Scott-Hamblen did not return a call seeking comment, but Forlow noted that the rector's impact has reached far beyond St. Mary's 75 members.

"It's tough seeing him go," Forlow said, "and it's even tougher when you know what he's done for the community."

The church will remain open once the supply clergy — which could be one or several priests — take over. The temporary clergy will provide Mass on Sundays and officiate at baptisms and weddings, Forlow said, but will not live in the rectory or receive full-time pay



Father Shane Scott-Hamblen

File photo by Ross Corsair



St. Mary's Episcopal Church and its parish hall, as seen from Main Street across its great lawn

File photo

or benefits.

"We will be able to keep the doors open, and we hope to provide community sup-

port that's as close as possible" to what it has been in the past, he said.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Village of Cold Spring's Code Update Committee will conduct its third public meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Cold Spring firehouse.

The Code Update Committee is responsible for examining 29 topics identified by NYSEDA (the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority) to determine what changes to these topics, if any, should be made to the Village Code. Once the Code Update Committee has completed its work on these 29 topics, the committee will make recommendation to the Village Board for Village Code changes. The Village Board will evaluate these recommendations and then proceed to a Public Hearing. Once completed, the Village can then proceed in completing the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

Two prior public meetings have been held covering topics in the "Use" category (10 topics) and in the "Appearances" category (7 topics). All materials from these public meetings are available on the Village website. Additional public meetings will be held in the future covering topics in the "Procedures" category (5 topics) and the "Consistency and Clarity" category (2 topics).

The purpose of the public meeting on August 22 is to obtain public input on the "Environment" category that will be presented. The five topics are: Outdoor Lighting Standards; Evaluate Steep Slope Standards; Evaluate Flooding Standards; Evaluate Adopting a Ridgeline Protection Overlay District; Green Building Standards. An overview of each topic will be presented along with the committee's recommendations for changes.

All are welcome to attend

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The Highlands Current, a nonprofit media company based in Cold Spring, New York, is seeking a part-time bookkeeper who is familiar with Quickbooks and accrual accounting. The position involves creating advertising invoices, inputting contractor invoices, and recording deposits, as well as monthly reconciling. It requires about 10 to 15 hours per month.

Send resume and hourly rate to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

HELP WANTED: LAYOUT EDITOR

The Highlands Current, a nonprofit weekly newspaper based in Cold Spring, New York, about 50 miles north of New York City, is seeking a part-time layout editor.

The paper, a 10"x13" tabloid, is published each Friday on Adobe InDesign, so familiarity with Adobe products is essential. Experience in newspaper or magazine layout preferred. Experience in designing advertisements and other print materials also a plus.

The layout editor works closely with the advertising director and managing editor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is potential for some remote work. Position is salaried with vacation.

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
161 Main St.
Cold Spring NY 10516-2818
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**Institute for
Nonprofit News**

The Highlands Current is a 501c3 nonprofit funded by grants, advertising and the generous support of our readers. Thank you.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT,
Vol. 7, Issue 33 (ISSN 2475-3785)
is published weekly by
Highlands Current Inc.,
161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2818.
Nonprofit postage paid at Newburgh, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2818. Mail delivery \$20 per year.
highlandscurrent.org/delivery
delivery@highlandscurrent.org

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Border business

I have just returned from an eight-day trip with the Grannies Respond/Abuelas Responden caravan from Beacon to McAllen, Texas, a border town where refugees legally cross to ask for asylum ("Grannies Head to Border," July 27).

The trip encompassed 2,000 miles with hundreds of supporters. It included stops to visit detention sites and hear personal stories from immigrants, as well as working with volunteers who offer food and basic supplies to folks on bridges waiting to cross over to the U.S. to ask for asylum.

The current zero-tolerance policy is unconscionable. It is a violation of basic human rights. Asylum-seekers at our borders are risking everything in pursuit of safety for their families. We heard firsthand the stories of young men and women whose parents were murdered in front of them, who were not even safe in so-called "safe houses."

We saw families huddled under tarps on bridges, lacking basic supplies and food, open to driving rain and unbearable heat, waiting for an opportunity to cross over and be heard. They are not criminals and

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Letters and Comments

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.org 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.

rapists but are being used as scapegoats to rile up fear and anger. They are still being housed temporarily in cages in the "ICE-box" and detained in residential prisons, sometimes for years. There are hundreds of children who have been separated from their parents and have not been reunited yet.

Many of these detention centers (or, by appearance, internment camps) are managed by GEO Group and Core Civic, the two largest private prison operators. They are major profiteers of immigration detention. We, the taxpayers, are paying hundreds of millions of dollars for the detention of people whose only crime is to seek refuge, as so many of our ancestors did.

JPMorgan Chase is one of GEO Group

and Core Civic's major financiers. The Dutchess County Executive, Marc Molinaro, signed an executive order on Jan. 2 allocating a whopping \$150 million of county funds to be kept with JPMorgan Chase. The inhumanity of these policies is enforced with our dollars.

It is time we told Molinaro and our county legislators: Not in our name! Not with our dollars! The unjust treatment of people seeking refuge, the imprisonment of the innocent and damaging separation of families must end.

Tina Bernstein, *Beacon*

Plastic snow

I was one of Jack Brunel's students in ski jumping when he created his summer slopes on Mount Beacon in the 1950s using ground plastic over nylon parachutes over cotton batting ("Bits of Beacon History," Aug. 3). I started when I was 7 years old and stayed with it until I was 18.

Jack lived in a mobile home at the foot of Mount Beacon, right next to the jump. I remember clearly going to pick up the barrels of plastic chips, spreading saw dust on the jumping hill and scaffolding and spreading the plastic over that base. It certainly hurt to fall on the mix.

I will never forget Jack and his assistant instructor, Dick Robinson. They formed the Beacon ski-jumping club and took us to compete at Lake Placid, Bear Mountain, Brattleboro, Vermont, and Salisbury, Connecticut. Jack and Dick were wonderful people and so was the whole team of jumpers.

Greg Fortin, *Hebron, Connecticut*

Along with my brother, Greg, I was a ski club member. I will always remember watching Jacques Brunel from Beacon when he appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* to demonstrate his plastic ski pad.

David Fortin, *Morganton, North Carolina*

Geese patrol

We could use fake coyotes at Long Dock Park, where the geese foul the walkways terribly at times ("Geese vs. Coyotes," Aug. 10). They all leave when we walk our dog, although she isn't large or loud, so maybe cutouts would help.

Karen Twohig, *Beacon*

New State Laws

The list below contains some of the state laws that have gone into effect since May. (During the most recent legislative session, from January to June, the Assembly and Senate jointly passed 641 bills to send to the governor.) Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown, said many laws begin with ideas from residents and invited constituents to email her at galefs@nyassembly.gov or write her office at 2 Church St., Ossining, NY 10562.

- Establishes that a person who is under arrest, in detention or in police custody cannot consent to sexual contact (Ch. 55 of 2018)
- Requires mortgage lenders, assignees or servicers to inform borrowers at least 90 days before legal action is taken that their reverse mortgage is in default, and that they risk losing their home. The notice must include a list of local housing counseling agencies and free legal services (Ch. 58 of 2018, Part HH)
- Forbids the distribution or sale of electronic cigarettes to minors (Ch. 508 of 2000)
- Forbids the sale of ice cream made with beer or hard cider to minors (Ch. 42 of 2011)
- Authorizes home health aides, with appropriate training and supervision, to perform certain nursing tasks such as administering medication (Ch. 471 of 2016)
- Requires all used mattress or bedding material that is transported, stored or sold in the state to be sanitized (Ch. 413 of 2017)
- Adds "attending nurse practitioner" to the list of health care providers who can execute an order not to resuscitate and orders pertaining to life-sustaining treatments (Ch. 430 of 2017)
- Prohibits individuals convicted of misdemeanors related to domestic violence from possessing or purchasing firearms (Ch. 60 of 2018)
- Allows charitable organizations to accept credit or debit cards as payment for raffles and allows raffle tickets to be sold online (Ch. 464 of 2017)
- Requires the state to notify individuals who are age 65 or older, blind, disabled or eligible for federal supplemental security income benefits that they can participate in a qualifying trust to obtain additional medical assistance (Ch. 475 of 2017)
- Requires automobile brokers to be licensed (Ch. 477 of 2017)
- Requires public school health programs to address mental health (Ch. 390 of 2016)
- Prohibits unauthorized and false alterations to or tampering with official student records, files or data (Ch. 170 of 2017)
- Ensures feminine hygiene products are available to students in public schools at no charge (Ch. 56 of 2018, Part Q)



The governor signs a bill into law. File photo

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Why Newspapers Make You Mad

This week the *Boston Globe* organized an effort to encourage newspapers to write editorials responding to attacks on the press by President Trump, who has called journalists “enemies of the people” (borrowing from the likes of Stalin and Goebbels) and denounces reporting he dislikes as “fake news.” The call has been answered by more than 300 newspapers, along with organizations such as the Institute for Nonprofit News, of which *The Highlands Current* is a member.

Journalists are right to push back but would do just as well to show they are not an enemy by doing what they have always done: expose injustice, follow the money and shed light in dark places. Politicians all complain about their coverage; Trump is just more skilled than most at pushing buttons.

There are two problems with the president’s rhetoric. First, journalists are shot dead all over the world by people who believe they are enemies. Would you die for your job? Second, the disdain has trickled down to local newspapers, where editors report that politicians have started dismissing any coverage they are unhappy with as “fake news” rather than responding for the benefit of the people who elected them. Thankfully we have not yet heard the phrase in these parts; only the usual invectives.

The fact that the press is not an enemy doesn’t make us a friend. “A newspaper should have no friends,” said Joseph Pu-



litzer, meaning if everyone consistently loves what you report, you’re probably not digging deep enough. Newspapers aren’t designed to cheer anyone up. They should irritate you sometimes. They should make you uncomfortable, or angry. They should challenge your beliefs.

You will sometimes see bias, even when the reporter is honestly puzzled by the charge. Journalists like to think they have tough skins, but it’s the most navel-gazing profession outside of obstetricians — we hold seminars and read books and kvetch about whether we were fair. We take criticism personally. We put our heads in our hands when we spell a name wrong. We try to do better. We aren’t in it for the money.

All this is to say, *The Current* exists because a number of people in the Highlands believe that Beacon and Cold Spring and Garrison and Nelsonville deserve a quality newspaper written by local reporters with years of experience. Regardless of the criticism thrown our way (which we print!), we strive to get it right and keep you informed and keep an eye on the elected officials who are spending our money. Thousands of papers do the same around the country. They are not an enemy, or a friend. They are faulty, aggravating, informative, inspirational tools of democracy. Without them, we’re headed in a dangerous direction.

Praise or Protest

Village of Cold Spring

Mayor Dave Merandy
mayor@coldspringny.gov

Village of Nelsonville

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Town of Philipstown

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City of Beacon

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New York Assembly

Sandy Galef (Philipstown)
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

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New York Senate

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Around Town



NEW TRUSTEE — Chris Caccamise, an artist and teacher, is sworn in on Aug. 15 by Justice Dennis Zenz as a Nelsonville trustee. He succeeds Thomas Robertson, who resigned from the five-member board in June. Caccamise, 43, who has lived in the village for five years, teaches at the Allen-Stevenson School, a private boys’ school in New York City. His term runs through the next village election in the spring.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

FUN WHILE IT LASTED — Canada geese have plagued Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring for years. They disappeared after coyote effigies were installed but soon returned. Mayor Dave Merandy is considering issuing dog-walking permits to discourage the birds.

Photo by Michael Turton



IT’S BACK! — Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, celebrates the return of the mailbox outside Foodtown in Cold Spring. Scuccimarra lobbied for its return after the post office moved from a trailer adjacent to the grocery store to the Butterfield development across the street.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Man Charged with Cruelty to Animals

Allegedly left dogs in hot car

By Michael Turton

A Brooklyn man was arrested in Cold Spring last month and charged with misdemeanor cruelty to animals.

William Toonk, 35, is alleged to have left two dogs, a pit bull and a puggle, unattended in a vehicle in front of 50 Main St. on a day (July 3) when temperatures in the village reached 93 degrees. According to the Cold Spring Police Department, the arrest was made at 1:25 p.m.

Toonk also was charged with two other misdemeanors: criminal possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana, police said. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke said Toonk posted bail and was released.

In a separate incident in July, Cold Spring police arrested a male on charges of possession of marijuana. Burke declined to identify the man.

Burke reported the arrests at the Cold Spring Village Board meeting on Aug. 14. He also noted that two CSPD vehicles have been equipped with dashboard cameras provided by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department at no cost to the village, and that his officers issued 80 parking and 20 traffic tickets during the month.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Nelsonville Sued Again Over Cell Tower

AT&T alleges violations

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

AT&T has sued the Village of Nelsonville for its denial of permits for a 110-foot cell phone wireless tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery, alleging violations of federal and state law and adding its voice to the complaints raised by Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless in their lawsuit against the village.

In its 11-page complaint, filed on June 29 in U.S. Court for the Southern District of New York, AT&T cited its desires as a wireless tenant to locate its equipment on the tower proposed by Homeland Towers (a tower-construction firm), and Verizon.

AT&T asserts that the village refusal to allow the tower "barred entry of AT&T to provide telecommunications services in the village," in violation of federal telecommunications law. It filed its complaint the same day that Homeland Towers and Verizon filed their case against the village.

AT&T asks the court to order the village to issue permits for the tower, designed to occupy part of a hillside on Rockledge Road, above the historic cemetery. The tower needed, first, a special-use permit from the village Zoning Board of Appeals, and, beyond that, site plan approval from the village Planning Board.

In a four-page response filed on Tuesday (Aug. 14), the village, without elabora-

tion, tersely denied nearly all 50-plus allegations and argued that another two or three raise points that fall under state, not federal, court jurisdiction. A federal judge scheduled an initial discussion of the case for Sept. 19 in White Plains.

The village tersely denied nearly all 50-plus allegations.

Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill noted the lawsuit at a Nelsonville Village Board workshop on Wednesday (Aug. 15).

The village's response was filed by Terry Rice, a Suffern-based attorney assigned by the village's insurance firm. (He has similarly been assigned by the insurers to the case Homeland Towers brought against the Town of Philipstown for refusing to allow a cell tower on a hillside off Vineyard Road, near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.)

Nelsonville's ZBA voted on May 30 to deny the special-use permit, ending 10 months of public meetings and submission of stacks of documents from those either for or against the tower project. The telecommunications companies termed the tower essential for filling a gap in wireless coverage. Many residents fiercely disagreed and said a tower would be intrusive and unnecessary.

AT&T's complaint repeats the assertion about the existence of a significant gap

in service and states that "a substantial number of users" — it does not give a figure — "are unable to rely on their ability to use their personal wireless devices to make and maintain a connection of reliable quality," including in emergencies.

Being able to reach 911 "from within structures ... is an important public safety consideration given that 70 percent of 911 calls are made from personal wireless devices and over half of households nationally no longer utilize landline service," AT&T declared.

The suit also contends that the proposed cell tower, disguised as a fir tree, "satisfied all requirements for approval" under Nelsonville's zoning law, that no available site except Rockledge Road will work in filling the coverage gap while meeting zoning law demands, that the record from Nelsonville's lengthy review "contains no credible evidence from any qualified expert that the facility would have any significant impact on scenic or historic resources," and that the tower "would be the least intrusive means of providing reliable, personal wireless services" to address "the significant gap."

In short, it asserts, the village's refusal "has the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless services," contrary to federal law, and constitutes "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable actions and abuses of discretion," violating the state law on property use.

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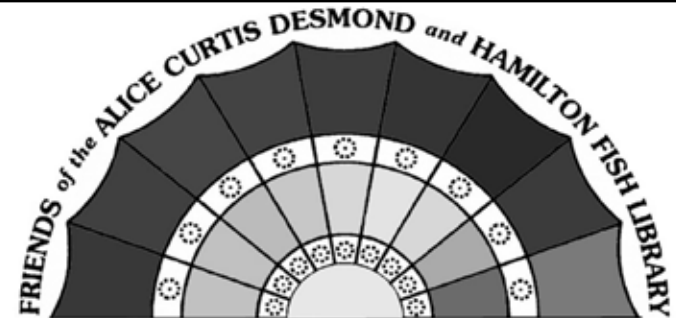


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The Great War Comes Home *(from Page 1)*

Joachim's. In 1922, the new VFW post was named for him.

After the war, George Van Pelt and his comrades from Company L, including Connery, visited Wilson's mother at her home at 138 Verplanck Ave., to console her and to remember Billy.

Philipstown

The first soldier who lived in Philipstown to die in World War I was Pvt. Charles Clainos, 28, who was killed in



David Urrabazo, a member of the Beacon Historical Society's Cemetery Committee, places a flag on Memorial Day on Pvt. William Wilson's grave in the Old St. Joachim's Cemetery. BHS

France on Sept. 27, 1918. A native of Greece who worked as a butler for the Joseph Walker Jr. family in Garrison, he is buried in the American Cemetery in Lorraine, according to Roderick Cassidy's *Putnam County Veterans of World War I*.

The other five combat deaths of men from Philipstown all occurred on French battlefields during the two weeks that followed.

On the same day that Clainos died, two other local soldiers were mortally wounded. Lt. Charles DeRham Jr., 30, of Philipstown, was injured in the Battle of Argonne Forest while leading his fifth attack against German machine-gun positions. He died on Oct. 9.

Cpl. James Harvey Hustis, 30, of Nelsonville, was wounded on or about Sept. 27 while acting as a scout and died about Nov. 8, according to Cassidy. The VFW Post in Cold Spring is named for him.

On Sept. 28, Sgt. George Casey, 29, of Cold Spring, died after being wounded during shelling of his platoon. He lived long enough to calm his men and direct an evacuation. His body was returned to Cold Spring in 1921, and the American Legion post is named for him.

On Sept. 30, Walter Croft, of Garrison, 22, a second machinist mate in the Navy, was one of 214 men lost when a German U-152 submarine torpedoed the USS *Ticonderoga*.

Finally, Edward J. Burns, 30, a Cold

Letters Home

Extracts from two letters by George Casey that appeared in the Oct. 4, 1918, issue of The Cold Spring Recorder. Casey had been killed on Sept. 28 but word had not reached the village.

Just back from the front for a spell and believe me, it is some relief to get freshened up a bit. We were up against the line and it required all the energy one possessed to keep in the game.

Was detailed to stay over 24 hours to show our relief [to] the positions, etc., and arrived in a city almost completely destroyed by shelling at about 1 o'clock in the morning ... We had the good fortune of running into an American outfit who were located at a once beautiful chateau on the outskirts ...

I spent the most interesting morning I have so far spent in France, in wandering around the ruins of the city. The church, which was one of the most beautiful in all France, is nearly demolished. It would fill anyone with awe to see the paintings, carved wooden panels and statuary, shattered and torn. It seems a

horrible crime that such things should have been destroyed ...

We are now in "support," and it is rather quiet at present. We usually go to the "first line," then in "reserve" and then in support ... There is a good deal of difficulty in bringing up food on account of the almost continuous shelling of the roads. It is hard to do any cooking because the smoke indicates location.

We will probably go up the line tonight. The artillery has been doing considerable pounding of late and I understand they are very active all along the line. It must be mighty uncomfortable for "Jerry" these days.

The leather supply in Germany must be very limited because the heels of their shoes are made of wood.



Sgt. George A. Casey
American Legion

Spring native who also went by Robert, died of battle wounds on Oct. 9. He enlisted while living and working in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, where the American Legion post is named for him.

Robert Murphy has been president of the Beacon Historical Society since 1998. The story of William Wilson was excerpted from his blog at beaonhistorical.org. Chip Rowe contributed reporting on Philipstown's casualties.

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The Calendar



The Politics of Love

Garrison writer pens bipartisan romance

By Alison Rooney

Can a Democrat and a Republican fall in love?

As she digested the results of the 2016 presidential election, Krystal Ford began to ponder the possibility. The result is her first novel, *Love Across the Divide*, from which the Garrison resident will read at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19, at Split Rock Books in Cold Spring.

Ford, a Quebec native who was recently sworn in as a U.S. citizen, admits she barely paid attention to U.S. politics before the 2016 election.

"It was a huge wake-up call for me," she says. "I had a 'removed' view to government before then, and was never planning on becoming a U.S. citizen, but after the election I became determined never to sit on the sidelines again."

"Joan Baez once said 'The antidote to despair is



Krystal Ford

Photo provided

action' and in my case, I wanted to understand more about what was happening, and I didn't like the feeling of simply hating the other side."

While out driving a couple of months after the inauguration, Ford flashed on an idea: could a Republican and Democrat date during the Trump administration?

"My initial thought was, No way!" But she read a book written by James Carville and Mary Matalin, the politically opposed strategists who have nonetheless been married for 25 years, on their relationship, and began to formulate ideas for her own, fictional account.

Ford said she felt that her main character should not share her personal politics. "I wanted to examine what priorities our values take over our differences," she says.

The story begins on the eve of the election when a young Republican, Megan Thompson, becomes a candidate for Congress. (Continued on Page 13)

Art from the Heart

Peekskill group teams professionals with students

By Alison Rooney



Students take part in a drawing exercise as part of an Arts 10566 program.



The cast and creative staff of Arts 10566's production of *The Concert Hall Cats*, which was presented as a culminating activity in June at the Peekskill Middle School Theater

Photos provided

Arts 10566 has no office — at least, not until next month — but last year managed to bring together 125 children and teenagers with professional artists.

The Peekskill nonprofit (10566 is the city's ZIP code), which brings art classes to students at schools, religious institutions and community centers, will open its first administrative office on Sept. 12. It has started recruiting volunteers for the 2018-19 school year, including those from Philipstown and Beacon.

"It's incredible to see the excitement that the kids show when they learn what the arts can do for them," says Valerie Swan, board president.

Last year, artists offered after-school workshops in

subjects such as mural-making, dance, chorus, drumming, spoken word and chorus. There's a nascent strings program led by violinist Daisy Joplin as well; 10 students performed at a recent fundraiser on rented instruments. Earlier this year, Arts 10566 was able to bring 30 children to visit Lincoln Center.

In June, most of the students came together to perform *The Concert Hall Cats* at a packed Peekskill Middle School theater. Behind the scenes, visual arts students made the props and scenery and learned about lighting.

The Arts 10566 season runs from Oct. 1 through the third week of June, and artists (Continued on Page 13)

SLIPPING ON THE BANANA PEELS

Last month at the Howland Cultural Center:

Pinot & Augustine

(aka Mark Jaster and Sabrina Mandell) vividly demonstrated the pitfalls and pratfalls of personal relationships. They should know, they fell in love in clown class and have been mining the ying and yang between them for comedy gold ever since.

The interplay between Pinot, the pompous maestro, and Augustine, the bumbling, wannabe assistant, is funny as heck. This cartoonist also found it instructional. Some outtakes:



Some days your role is to be the low-status clown. But at least the audience is rooting for you.



OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS



FRIDAY, AUG. 17

Book and Media Sale (Member's Preview)
6 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Rick Altman Quartet (Jazz)
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
ferrygodmother.com

HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood*
6:15 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-809-5750 | hvshakespeare.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 18

Audubon Bird-Watching Tour
8:30 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
Email ryan.j.bass@gmail.com.

Glynwood Farm
9 a.m. – Noon. Farm with Your Farmer
Noon – 3 p.m. Picnic Day
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | glynwood.org

Book and Media Sale
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Nimham Pow Wow
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road, Carmel | nimham.com

Riverside Crafts Fair
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Back to School Block Party
Noon – 4 p.m. South Avenue Park
Route 9D and South Ave., Beacon
b.m.simmons28@gmail.com

Dutchess Veterans Picnic
Noon – 4 p.m. VFW Post 190
1 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie | 845-473-2500, x1307

Broadway on Bannerman
4 & 5 p.m. Boats leave Beacon dock.
Call 855-256-4007 for reservations.

The Four Dutch Governors of New Netherlands (Talk)
5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.com

Calendar Highlights

Submit to calendar@highlandscurrent.org

For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
6:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Dr. Magkneetoe Medicine Show (Rock)
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
See details under Friday.

Danger: Diabolik (1968)
7 p.m. Bannerman Island | See details above.

Benny Havens Band: *Red, White and Country*
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
westpointband.com

HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Cold Spring Film Society: *The Thing (1982)*
7:45 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

Limited Liability String Band
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Hippiefest 2018
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Whispering Tree (Music)
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, AUG. 19

Book and Media Sale
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Riverside Crafts Fair
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Saturday.

Sewing with Naturally Dyed Materials
10 a.m. Beetle and Fred | 171 Main St., Beacon
845-440-8867 | beetleandfred.com

Wildflower Walk
10 a.m. Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
127 Warren Landing Road, Garrison
845-265-2601 | constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

At Once Piano Duo
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration | 45 Market St., Cold
Spring | 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

One Quiet Plunge (Music)
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
5:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Krystal Ford: *Love Across the Divide* (Reading)
6 p.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St., Cold Spring | splitrockbks.com

Jewish Music Series: Madarka
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *Richard II*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

MONDAY, AUG. 20

Book and Media Sale
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

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

HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

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

TUESDAY, AUG. 21

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
dutchessfair.com

Book and Media Sale
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *The Sea-Maid's Music*
2 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Ice Cream Party
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

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

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

HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

Book and Media Sale
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *Richard II*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

THURSDAY, AUG. 23

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

Book and Media Sale
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Beacon Historical Society Picnic
5:30 – 8 p.m. Seeger Riverfront Park
beaconhistorical.org

Hudson Highlands: *Crucible of American Art* (Talk)
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery | 690 Route 9W, Fort
Montgomery | 845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Tri-City
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, AUG. 24

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

Book and Media Sale
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Aug. 17.

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

Slide Attack (Jazz)
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
See details under Aug. 17.

H.V. Renegades vs. Tri-City
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Aug. 17.

HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew*
6:15 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel | See details under Aug. 17.



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The Politics of Love *(from Page 9)*

While dating a dashing spokesman for the National Rifle Association, she starts to fall for one of her roommates, Andrew Croswell, “a liberal environmentalist determined to make her life hell.”

“I wanted both characters to struggle with their attraction and to have the focus be on this internal struggle,” she says. “I wanted to see if they could navigate the differences, rather than doing the equivalent of ‘de-friending,’ which so many people opt for now.”

As research, Ford read “a good amount on conservative philosophy” and modeled her protagonist in part on Elise Stefanik, a representative from New York who was elected at age 30, making her the youngest woman ever sent to Congress.

“I looked at her site and got ideas about issues, then I changed her into a fictional character who grew up in Florida, surrounded by conservatives,” Ford says. She then created the male counterpart, who “grew up in New York City with a mother active in throwing political fundraisers. He believes protesting and lobbying are the best ways to make a difference.”

Last summer, with her two children at Philipstown Recreation camps, Ford got to work. She set a goal of 10,000 words a week, but threw out the first 10,000 when she couldn’t get the tone right. By November, however, she had finished a second draft.

Then the hard part: finding an agent or publisher. After 80 rejections, she says she thought, *It could die, or I could publish it myself.* “The rejection rate for getting an agent is so high, you just can’t surrender to it, especially because the subject matter of my book is so timely,” she says. “So I hired a graphic designer.”

Ford and her dual-citizen Canadian/American husband moved from Montreal to New York 11 years ago. She holds a bachelor’s degree in nutrition and a master’s in food studies from New York University and works in advocacy for sustainable agriculture. She’s also a past manager of the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market, but she says it’s a job she had in Canada that planted the seed for her next book: “food inspector for the airline industry.”

Curious? You’ll need to wait a few years until Ford has another free summer to write it.



It Can Be Done

According to a study of data on voter registrations of 18.3 million married couples, about 70 percent share the same political affiliation. Of the remainder:

- 3 percent are female Republicans with male Democrats
- 6 percent are male Republicans with female Democrats
- 10 percent are Democrats with an independent
- 10 percent are Republicans with an independent

Source: Eitan Hersh and Yair Ghitza, “Mixed Partisan Households and Electoral Participation in the United States” (2017)

Art from the Heart *(from Page 9)*

can teach from October through January, January through June, or for the full season. Most sessions are open to a maximum of 15 students and run from 3 to 6 p.m. on different days of the week.

Arts 10566 was formed in 2013 by Wilfredo Morel, a community organizer, advocate and artist, and Lee Balter, a patron of the arts and former chairman of the Tallix Foundry in Beacon. Its goal was to address the “lack of inclusion of low- and middle-income resident minority children in the arts.”

Funded by a small grant, the program initially served 20 children. Today it receives support from the City of Peekskill, the Peekskill Housing Authority, Family Ties of Westchester and corporate supporters, including the Peekskill Brewery, which hosted a Spring for the Arts fundraiser on Memorial Day weekend.

Artists who are interested in volunteering can visit arts10566.org. The deadline is Aug. 31. For more information, email Swan at arts10566council@gmail.com.



Peekskill students take part in a vocal class organized by Arts 10566.

Photo provided

7 LITTLE WORDS

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5. ABORIGINAL, 6. CONTRASTS, 7. JETTY

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Sunday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m.
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Wendy Cody ~ Free

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Paul Tryon Band
Kurt Henry Band

Friday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
Michael Alan ~ Free

Friday, Aug. 24, 8:30 p.m.
Dead End Beverly

Saturday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m.
Margaret McDuffie ~ Free

Saturday, Aug. 25, 8:30 p.m.
Bruce Molsky, Tony Trischka
& Michael Daves

Sunday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
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Support Groups

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SAT 1:30 4:30 7:15, SUN 1:00 4:00
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Mile 22 (R)

FRI 2:30 5:30 8:15
SAT 2:00 5:00 7:45, SUN 1:30
4:30 7:15, MON 2:30, TUE 7:15
WED 1:30 4:30 7:15, THU 7:15

The Meg (PG13)

FRI 1:45 4:45 8:00
SAT 1:15 4:15 7:30, SUN 12:45
3:45 7:00, MON 2:15, TUE 7:00
WED 12:45 3:45 7:00, THU 7:00

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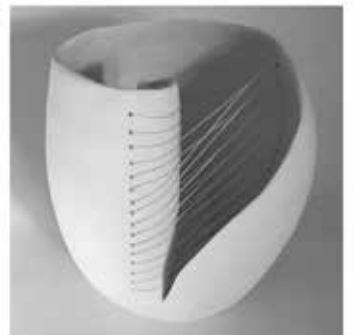
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featuring Maia Sharp and Anna Schulze
September 13, 7 p.m.

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Order and Discipline

The Mount Gulian historic site just outside of Beacon held a Revolutionary War program on Aug. 12 with military drill re-enactments for children, bayonet demonstrations, musket firings, fife and drum playing, a lecture on battle tactics used to defeat the British and a peek inside a soldier's haversack.

Bob Gleason (below), an actor with the American Historical Theatre, portrayed Baron von Steuben, a Prussian who was Gen. George Washington's chief of staff and was stationed at Mount Gulian at the end of the war in 1783 while Washington was across the river in Newburgh. Von Steuben is remembered for bringing discipline to the Continental Army and establishing standards of sanitation and layout at military camps.

Photos by Ross Corsair



McCaffrey Market Tips

4 Home Improvements Worth The Money

Remodeling your home can be a great way to increase its value and ensure you get good returns when it comes time to sell. But before you go tearing out your floors or adding another bedroom, take note: Not all projects are created equal. In fact, according to recent data from *Remodeling* magazine's Cost vs. Value report, there's a pretty big discrepancy between which projects deliver high returns and those that don't.

Want to make sure your remodels are worth the effort? Here are some top options:

- **Get a new garage door.** It seems simple, but replacing your garage door is the most value-adding project you can take on. On average, it delivers returns of more than 98 percent upon resale.
- **Focus on curb appeal.** Upgrades to exterior areas saw serious growth over the last year. Wood deck additions increased over 18 percent in value, while stone veneer installation value was up almost 14 percent.
- **Replace your entry door.** Don't bother sprucing up old doors. Replacing them with steel models can deliver a whopping 91 percent ROI. And at an average cost of \$1,471, they're one of the most affordable updates for your home.
- **Upgrade your kitchen.** Minor kitchen remodels continue to be a top value-adding project. This year, the average small remodel adds about \$17,193 to your home's value and recoups more than 81 percent of your costs.

You might want to rule out projects like backyard patios, master suite additions and major kitchen remodels — they're notorious for low returns. If you're looking to boost your home's value and increase its marketability, focus your efforts on projects that improve aesthetics and add ease and convenience instead.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dutch Governors

Museum to host talk on early leaders

Historian Leon DiMartino will talk at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, about the four Dutch governors of the New Netherlands (later New York). He'll cover how Peter Minuit, Woulter Van Twiller, Wilhelm Kieft and Peter Stuyvesant organized and ran the colony the English would later take over. Admission is free for members and \$10 otherwise.

Native American Cultural Fest in Carmel

18th annual pow wow

The Nimham Mountain Singers will hold their 18th annual pow wow on Saturday, Aug. 18, and Sunday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day at Veterans Memorial Park in Carmel. Admission and parking are free. The program includes dancing, drumming, food and crafts and storytelling for children. See nimham.com.

Birds of Cold Spring

Ever seen a green heron?

Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a bird-

watching trip at the West Point Foundry Cove beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18. The walk is free but donations are welcome. Register at putnamhighland-saudubon.org and meet in the parking lot at the end of Kemble Avenue in Cold Spring.

Military Day

Boscobel to host annual re-enactment

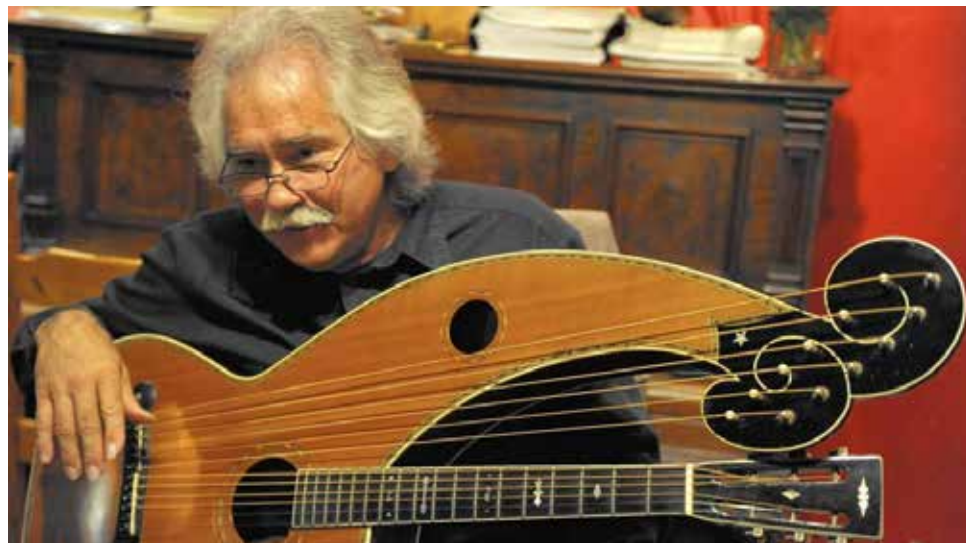
Boscobel will host its annual Military Re-enactment Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26, in partnership with the Living History Education Foundation. The grounds of the 18th century mansion in Garrison will have encampments from the American Revolution, War of 1812, the Civil War and World Wars.

The schedule includes stories from Jonathan Kruk, an inspection of the troops by actors portraying Gen. George Washington, President Abraham Lincoln and Gen. Ulysses Grant, an address by Lincoln and mass drills and tactical exercises. Tickets are \$5 to \$17, and children ages 5 and younger are admitted free. See boscobel.org.

Style and Technique

Guitarist to host workshop, perform

Stephen Bennett will play a six-string Sharp guitar in concert at 7:30 p.m. on



Stephen Bennett will play the harp guitar in Putnam Valley on Aug. 25.

Photo provided

Saturday, Aug. 25, at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley. Earlier in the day, from 2 to 4 p.m., he will lead a workshop during which participants can learn to play a bass line, rhythm and melody simultaneously. See tompkinscorners.org.

Warm Up Your Pipes

Dream Choir prepares for season

The Dream Choir is recruiting singers for its fall season. Rehearsals begin Sept. 12 and continue each Wednesday evening from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. No experience is necessary; the repertoire includes vintage pop, world and folk. Call Cat Guthrie at 914-420-4515.

Watch for Monarchs

Help tag and release butterflies

Monarch Watch, a citizen-science project that monitors butterfly migrations, will be at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 25, and Sunday, Aug. 26, as part of Butterfly Weekend. After a presentation at the Outdoor Discovery Center, participants will tag and release monarchs. See hnm.org.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Snowmobile jumping will take place at the Dutchess County Fair.

Photo provided

Beacon

County Fair Time

Dutchess event opens Aug. 21

The Dutchess County Fair opens in Rhinebeck on Tuesday, Aug. 21, and continues through Sunday, Aug. 26. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The fair showcases local agriculture and horticulture with 12 barns of animals and daily competitions. There is also Century Museum Village, which features turn-of-the-century tools and demonstrations, a marketplace with 300 food and craft vendors, pig racing, live music, magic shows and carnival rides.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for seniors and military. Children ages 11 and younger are admitted free. See dutchess-fair.com. The grandstand schedule includes performances by The Wallflowers, Kane Brown, Chris Lane, Kip Moore and The Little Creek Band.

Arts Funding Deadline

Applications are due Sept. 7

Applications are due Sept. 7 for the Clara Lou Gould Fund for the Arts, which was created by BeaconArts to recognize the support Gould, Beacon's former mayor, provided to local arts projects. It is designed to fund projects in Beacon not generally supported by other arts organizations. See beaconarts.org.

Youth Program Grants

\$5K to \$25K available

Dutchess County has grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 available for youth development services. Municipalities, nonprofits and community-based organizations can submit proposals by Oct. 10. The county will hold informational workshops on Sept. 5. Call Sheila Stuewer at 845-486-3354.

Bus Trip to Gardens

Howland will lead on Aug. 21

The Howland Cultural Center is organizing a bus trip on Tuesday, Aug. 21, to the New York Botanical Garden and its exhibit, *Georgia O'Keefe: Visions of Hawai'i*. The bus leaves Beacon at 9 a.m. from Henry Street near the municipal



A participant in the Dutchess County Fair, which opens in Rhinebeck on Aug. 21

Photo provided

parking lot and returns at about 6 p.m. Tickets are \$60 for members and \$65 otherwise and includes admission. Call 845-831-4988 for details and to register.

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Baby and Dog

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? Kate Vikstrom, our resilient layout editor who this week takes leave of *The Current* after six years and 324 issues to move closer to her family in the Northwest, shared this photo of granddaughter Nola with beagle Lena. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.

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Roots and Shoots

Designing a New Garden

By Pamela Doan

A tree had to come down and a new, full-sun area for landscaping opened up in front of my house. The dining room windows look directly out on it and I'm feeling pressure to make it perfect.

As I've become more experienced from many years of trial and error in the garden, it's become more difficult, not easier, to make a new garden. Now I understand better the complexities of plants' needs, my needs, and the ecological role I want my landscape to serve.

I know what not to do, which is to go shopping for plants and pick up whatever I like. That's lead to a lot of transplanting and, "Oh geez, how did this get so huge/small/spindly/dead?" *Right plant, right place* is the mantra of successful gardening, but you have to know something about both.

Now I understand better the complexities of plants' needs, my needs, and the ecological role I want my landscape to serve.

This time, it's going to be different. I will be prepared.

Inspiration. Garden visits, whether to those created by professionals or regular folks, always reveal something. Trying to match the New York Botanical Garden's native plant section isn't reasonable, but I have learned ways to group plants and use texture. The Highline, Stonecrop and Innisfree are some of my spiritually companionable landscapes, and Instagram has become a source for seeing what other gardeners are doing. For books, I've returned to *The Living Landscape* by Douglas Tallamy and Rick Darke for ideas as I make a list of all the plants I want.

Function. I want my garden to be beautiful and welcoming, of course. As one of the first views of my house, it's going to make an impression. I've pictured myself as someone with an herb garden outside the kitchen door where I can quickly snip something while I'm cooking, so it needs edible plants mixed in. Back to that ecological role: it has to provide food and habitat for birds and insects, too.

Budget. I neglect this area. Who wants to constrain their vision with money? But most everyone has to set



A support for hops that leads down a path at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Millbrook provides gardening inspiration.

Photo by P. Doan

a cap. Starting plants from seeds, using plugs from garden centers instead of mature plants, and bartering with friendly gardeners will help. (See, honey, I am fiscally responsible.)

Evocative. This is the feeling I want to create. French country garden? Mediterranean hillside? Native meadow? I'm not too formal in this category.

Maintenance. Many gardeners underestimate the work of tending a garden in years to come or are so afraid of time-consuming projects that they revert to lawn, stone mulch and red bark ground covers. Design with weed control in mind — pruning, watering, mulching and amending soil with compost — all the major work that goes into gardening. I've found that native perennials and herbs require the least amount of nurturing.

Evolution. Choose plants with an understanding of how they grow. Allowing for sufficient space for a 3-inch perenn-

ial to grow up and out means not having to shift things around later when it's crowding the plants around it.

Resources. Given our uneven rainfall, considering where the water will come from matters. Ten years from now, during a drought, I don't want to rely on using my well water for plants. As climate change brings hotter, drier weather in summer, milder winters and more extreme weather in general, any gardens I plant need to factor in that future. Water, nutrients, heat tolerance, cold tolerance — if I'm going to take care of this garden, it has to be light on the natural resources it requires.

In the next *Roots and Shoots*, I'll continue with more steps that go into designing a garden and maybe have an update on my progress.

Have gardening questions? Email rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.com.

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Change of Address

The Highlands Current website has moved from highlandscurrent.com to **highlandscurrent.org** to better reflect our mission as a nonprofit enterprise serving the Philipstown and Beacon communities. (Highlandscurrent.com will forward you to the new address, and emails also will be forwarded.) Thank you for your continuing support of local, independent journalism.

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

- 1 steep Alpine gorge (7)
- 2 letting off the clutch (8)
- 3 making a wordy little joke (7)
- 4 like a clique (8)
- 5 earliest known (10)
- 6 points out opposites (9)
- 7 harbor-protecting pier (5)

SOLUTIONS

COU	ISH	NG	IR	NN
AGI	NAL	TY	ABOR	STS
IGI	TRA	CLA	PU	ENG
ING	JET	LO	CON	NN

See answers: Page 13

Home Run! Renegades Celebrate 25 Years

*Three championships, more
than 50 big leaguers*

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Valley Renegades are celebrating their 25th anniversary and no one enjoys talking about their history more than public address announcer Rick Zolzer.

"There's no better job for me," says Zolzer, 61, who joined the team in 1994 when owner Marv Goldklang moved his Erie Sailors to the Hudson Valley. "I entertain 3,500 people a night [at Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls] while watching the game I love. I wasn't good enough to get paid to play, but I'm good enough to get paid to talk about it."

He vividly remembers the team's first home opener. "It was hilarious," he says. "I'm in the booth with no walls to my right or left, and no ceiling other than a plastic tarp." Below the press box window, fans waited with tickets in hand as workers bolted down the new seats.

Zolzer, who is also a team vice president, announced Renegade games for the first two seasons but was fired after an incident that is now part of baseball lore. After an umpire called four consecutive balks on a Renegades pitcher, Zolzer played a series of unflattering sound effects over the PA system. When the umpire, incensed, called the booth from the dugout phone, Zolzer broadcast the disagreement to the entire stadium.

When a fifth balk was called, he addressed the umps directly: "The only way you clowns will make the major leagues is if you buy a ticket!"

He promptly became the only PA announcer in professional baseball history to be ejected from a stadium. (The *Sports Illustrated* account of his ejection adorns his office wall.)

"My mouth got me in a lot of trouble in those early days," says Zolzer, who was rehired by the team three seasons later. "I spent most of my time tripping over the line; now I get up to the line and know when to stop."

Zolzer says the highlight of his time with the Renegades so far was the team's first NY-Penn League Championship in 1999. "They won in this stadium and made those poor guys [Mahoning Valley] drive back the miserable nine-hour bus ride as losers," he says. "That was pretty cool." (The team also won the league championship in 2012 and 2017.)

A more personal highlight came on his first wedding anniversary. "My wife Mary



The Renegades play at Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls.

File photo by M. Turton



Renegades' Vice President Rick Zolzer

Photo by M. Turton

and I danced to our first song on top of the dugout," he recalls. "I gave her two dozen roses for heading into the second year."

The Renegades are an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays and a Class A Short Season franchise, an entry level into professional baseball where teams play 76 games between June and September.

More than 700 Renegades have taken the field since the team's inception, and at least 50 have played in the Major Leagues, including Josh Hamilton, Evan Longoria, Ryan Dempster and Wade Davis. Scott Podsednik was the first former Renegade to hit a walk-off, game-winning home run in a World Series when he did it for the Chicago White Sox in 2005, Zolzer notes.

Most first-year players in the minor leagues are drafted in June from colleges across the country. With talent, they advance to Class A, Class A Advanced, Double-A and Triple-A, the last stop before the big leagues.

The Renegades players are paid, but just barely. "At this level they make \$1,200 for the season," Zolzer says. Players are hosted by local families.

The biggest adjustment for college players used to be switching from aluminum to wooden bats. Now, it's playing as a pro.



Evan Longoria, now with the San Francisco Giants, played only eight games with the Renegades in 2006 before being moved up. By 2008 he was in the big leagues.

"When you sign a contract and they give you a check, it's your livelihood," he says. Players must cope with slumps, travel and playing almost every day.

"There are lots of kids who can play," Zolzer said. "But not a lot who can play and have the mental makeup to move forward."

The Renegades lead the league this season but have cooled off after a fast start. Zolzer wonders if they simply got cocky. But he acknowledges that playing college

and minor league baseball in the same year takes its toll. "They've played more games than a major leaguer would have at this point."

He notes that the team's marketing doesn't focus on the players. "We don't sell the shortstop or starting pitcher because if they're any good they won't be back here next year."

Instead, promotions emphasize family fun. "That's what this is all about," Zolzer says. "Come to a ballgame. Be a part of the fun. Enjoy the experience." A night at "The Dutch" often includes postgame fireworks and novel, between-innings contests. Earlier this season, "the human cannon ball" was a big hit.



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