The HIGHLANDS CHICKETT CONTROL The HIGHLANDS



Help Us Grow See Page 3

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

161 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.org

Hate Hits the Highlands, Again

Swastika, anti-Semitic slur painted on home

By Michael Turton

home under construction in Nelsonville and owned by a Jewish resident was vandalized overnight on Oct. 30 with graffiti that included a swastika and an anti-Semitic slur.

The contractor, who is also of Jewish heritage, alerted *The Current* on Wednesday morning after discovering the damage. The property owner asked that his name and the address of the property be withheld because of con-

cerns for the safety of his family. But he said the incident "gives members of the community an opportunity to stand on the right side of history."

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said it is investigating the vandalism, which was made with black spray paint and also included obscenities and the word "Prowler." A representative for the sheriff's office said that if it's deemed a hate crime, criminal mischief charges could be elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony or from a

(Continued on Page 24)



Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley

Candidates Address Philipstown Issues

Forum at Garrison library draws on 2017 poll

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

he focus was Philipstown during a forum last week at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison featuring candidates for Putnam County executive and county legislator.

Sponsored by the grassroots Philipstown Community Congress, the Friday (Oct. 26) gathering drew about 100 people. The questions posed by organizers reflected responses to a 2017 PCC survey in which more than 750 residents voted on a list of local priorities (see Page 9).

County Legislator

District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican seeking re-election to her

third, three-year term, and her challenger, Philipstown Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat, both said they saw a need for more teen services.

"Identifying a space is the big problem," Scuccimarra said. Using the senior center at hours when the seniors are not there is a possibility, she said. Another potential site would be the American Legion on Cedar Street, where the seniors currently meet, but "the veterans haven't had that space to themselves for a long time. They're very protective of it," she said.

Until the location is resolved, she recommended creating a bus service to take teens to the Philipstown Recre-

(Continued on Page 9)



FACES YOU CAN'T FORGET — Cold Spring held its 25th annual Halloween parade on Sunday (Oct. 28) and attracted a large number of ghouls, ghosts and cute kids. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Michael Turton

Part 1: Farmers Young & Old

By Chip Rowe

oe Hasbrouck is 74. He has been a farmer in the Hudson Valley for his entire life, the fifth generation of his family to work the land. And he's always been concerned about the disconnect between people who eat (i.e., everyone) and the people who produce what we eat.

"People are so far from farms they think their food comes from the grocery store," he says.

That view is backed up by surveys, including one by the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance. It commissioned two surveys, actually: one of 1,002 farmers and ranchers and another of 2,417 consumers. It found that 72 percent of the latter admitted they knew little about how food ended up on their dinner table outside of the fact it came from a supermarket. At the same time, 86 percent of the farmers and ranchers said they felt consumers know little about what happens on farms.

The disconnect extends to our view of how food should be grown. While nearly 80 percent of the consumers in the survey said they wanted healthy choices at the grocery, 64 percent said they want food to be cheap. You can't always have both.

Hasbrouck believes "nothing will change until people are educated about

how important farming is."

We hope to contribute to that understanding with this three-part series, which will examine what makes the Hudson Valley such a great place to farm (fertile soil, ample water) but also outline the many concerns facing our farmers, including the loss of farmland to development, the "aging out" of producers and field workers with no one to replace them (Hasbrouck has no heir for his 330 acres), the toll of climate change and the effects of federal policies such as crop subsidies, among other topics.

As we did with our series on the opioid abuse crisis and the effect of climate change on the Highlands, we assigned a team of reporters and photographers to the task. They were led by Cheetah Haysom, a longtime journalist and author of *Pride and Produce*, an exploration of the fertile black-dirt region of Orange County.

Among our many sources was Bob Dandrew, founder and director of the Local Economies Project, which is working to build a resilient food system in the Hudson Valley. With so many threats facing farms here over the next few decades, he says, "everyone should be thinking about where they will get their food."

(Continued on Page 12)

Five Questions: Chris Hughes

By Brian PJ Cronin

hris Hughes, who has a home in Philipstown, co-founded Facebook. On Sunday, Nov. 11, he will speak at a fundraiser for the Desmond-Fish Library about his book, Fair Shot: Rethink $ing\ Inequality\ and\ How\ We\ Earn.$

Why this book now?

Unemployment is at a record low and the stock market is at a record high, but

amount of money that he or she did 40 years ago. At the same time, the cost of living is going up and up. Something is fundamentally out of whack in the economy and most Americans understand that. There's a lot of ways to create structural change but one we could do tomorrow would be to create a guaranteed income for working

people.

We can do it using tax credits: \$500 a month for everyone who makes less than \$50,000 a year. The cost wouldn't be exorbitant, but it would have a transformative effect.

Have you found support for the idea?

People are understanding that it's not just doable but in line with fundamental American values. One of the core ideas of our country is that if you're working, you should not live in poverty. You should have

> the ability to reach up to the next rung of the ladder. Unfortunately, it's not true right now.

> > You write that the idea grew out of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Was it surprising to see that people such as Richard Nixon, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld championed it? There's no way it wouldn't

be! The modern Republican Party is skeptical of any economic policy that would put more power in the hands of working people and the middle

class. Look at the Trump tax bill. It gave massive cuts to corporations and the 1 percent, doubling down on what I consider a debunked theory of trickle-down economics. In the past, the centrist view was that graduated income taxes on folks who are doing well was the best way to fund the government and ensure everyone had a fair shot. So when you look back at all those icons of 20th-century conservative thinking and realize they were for these ideas, it's a testament to how far to the right the Republican Party has moved.

You led Barack Obama's digital for president in 2008 and note in the book its lack of hierarchy. Do you think current campaigns are missing that message?

traditional method of developing a mesorganization. But the more voices you listhe stronger the campaign will be.

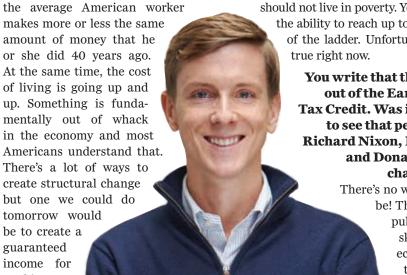
When you look at the controversies going on with Facebook, does part of you wish you were still there to

justice issues, that's my focus, that's what I'm going to keep doing. But who could have known that a website we started in our [Harvard] dorm room would turn into a platform for 2 billion people that effectively functions as the public square? With that comes immense responsibility, and Facebook is running to catch up. The whole Facebook team has its work cut out for it. And the world is watching.

organizing campaign when he ran

There are some campaigns that put people power at their core. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was considered a very unlikely candidate for Congress but she took an elbow-grease approach to politics, rolling up her sleeves and getting out there every single day. Other campaigns focus on the sage that feels well-researched and pristine. Every campaign has to find a balance between wanting to have a professional operation that relies on optics and consultations and having more of a grassroots ten to, and the more participation there is,

work on the problems? I love what I'm working on − economic





Chris Hughes

Photo by Lisa Berg

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What's your favorite fresh food from the **Hudson Valley?**

By Michael Turton

The fruit — but also the cheese, meat and vegetables.



I have a long list but especially love the heirloom tomatoes from Four Winds Farm. We use them in everything.

Shelley Boris (Dolly's, Garrison)



The apples, with all their flavors for sweet and savory dishes. They really are the pride of New York.

(Angelina's, Cold Spring; Tito Santana



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Dutchess Considers 'Bring Your Own Bag'

Legislature could vote on surcharge early next year

ix members of the Dutchess County Legislature, including the two who represent Beacon, have proposed adding a 10-cent per bag surcharge on disposable grocery bags.

The Beacon City Council is expected to adopt a resolution on Monday, Nov. 5, supporting the proposal.

Introduced in October by a group including Dutchess legislators Nick Page and Frits Zernike, both of whom are from Beacon, the bill must first be approved in committee. If all goes smoothly, the Legislature could vote on the law early in 2019, Page said. If approved, it would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

"We're facing an ecological and consumption crisis," Page said. "I'm optimistic that we have the support for this. Anything we can do to curb our [disposable] appetites is critical."

The law would require retailers including grocery, drug, apparel, hardware and convenience stores to charge customers 10 cents for each disposable plastic or paper bag provided. Customers bringing reusable bags would not be charged; revenue generated by the fees would go to the retailers. The fees would likely be waived for seniors

or customers paying through federal food assistance programs "with the hope that we can get anyone who doesn't have access

More than a dozen municipalities and counties in New York have enacted similar measures, including Ulster, which will ban disposable plastic bags by next summer. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has proposed a statewide ban.

While plastic bags, which are typically made of a high-density (checkout line) or low-density (produce bags) polyethylene, are recyclable, they take hundreds of years to break down in landfills, eventually decomposing into smaller, more toxic materials. Additionally, misplaced bags wreak havoc on virtually every recycling stream, jamming machines and contaminating the materials produced at recycling plants.

Jb Said, the manager of Key Food in Beacon, said that although more than half of its customers bring their own bags, the change could be "a challenge at the moment" for consumers who would be forced to pay the extra fee. "It's going to make people buy the [reusable] bags," he said. He added that Key Food plans to introduce a more durable plastic bag next year, as well.

matched up with reusable bags," Page said.

Without You, Stories Go Untold

From now through December,

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will be seeking your help so we can continue bringing you the compelling news of our community and the important news of national issues as they play out in our area - from the opioid crisis and climate change to the challenges today facing the farms of the Hudson Valley.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Shakespeare Fest Announces 2019 Season

Schedule includes first musical

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival last week announced its 2019 season, which includes, for the first time, a musical, Into the Woods, by Stephen Sondheim.

The other productions will be Much Ado About Nothing, directed by May Adrales; Cymbeline, directed by Artistic Director Davis McCallum; and Cyrano, an adaptation of Edmond Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac, written by Jason O'Connell and Brenda Withers and directed by Meredith McDonough. Members of the troupe also will travel to area schools to perform a 90-minute version of Julius Caesar.

Tickets for the 33rd season, which will again take place under the tent at Boscobel in Garrison, will go on sale in March.

Haldane Boosts Security

District adds patrol officer

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has assigned John Segnit, a retired corrections officer, as the school patrol officer (SPO) for the Haldane school district, which had relied on a security guard to fill the position since the start of the school year in September. Segnit was most recently an SPO for the Mahopac school district.

Superintendent Philip Benante also said in a statement that the school resource officer, Deputy Matt Shelters, who had been directing traffic with his squad car parked and lights flashing on Route 9D at

Craigside Drive before the beginning of each school day, will be stationed at the entrance to the high school and elsewhere on campus. Benante said Village of Cold Spring officials told him they could provide someone to direct traffic but then "indicated they are no longer able to do so."

Medical Marijuana Door-to-Door

Dispensary to begin local delivery

Yuraleaf New York, which earlier this year opened an office in Newburgh to dispense medical marijuana, says it soon plans to begin home delivery.

The drug is legal for use in New York with a prescription by patients suffering from cancer, PTSD, chronic pain and other conditions. Curaleaf says orders will be paid through bank account transfers with an app called CanPay. (Because marijuana is illegal under federal law, banks and credit card companies typically will not handle payments.) There are 77,600 patients certified in New York to use medical marijuana.

Where to Charge **Electric Cars?**

Philipstown conducting survey

hilipstown is seeking input on where it should place electric vehicle charging stations, according to Roberto Muller, the town's Climate Smart coordinator. To take the survey, visit surveymonkey.com/ r/2DCLH2X.

NewsMatch 2018

NewsMatch is a national matching-gift campaign supported by major foundations, including Knight and MacArthur funds, to promote giving to nonprofit journalism and to increase the fundraising capabilities of participating newsrooms. It will:

- Match all individual donations up to \$1,000 made NOV. 1-DEC. 31
- Match those donations up to a total of **\$25,000**
- Match new recurring donations at full-year value [Example: \$10 monthly donation will be matched at \$120]
- Give a bonus for attracting **100 NEW DONORS**

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The donor is a local resident who believes in the importance of our community reporting and in the value of our nonprofit enterprise. This gift will match the same \$25,000 total as NewsMatch.

> Gifts totaling at least \$25,000 will mean **\$75,000** for our newsroom operations!

We hope our coverage inspires your support. You may: **DONATE ONLINE** at highlandscurrent.org/support, or **SEND A CHECK** made out to Highlands Current Inc. to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc. 161 Main St. Cold Spring NY 10516-2818 291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

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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 44 (ISSN 2475-3785) is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc.

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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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

How to fix baseball

Michael Turton's article was great fun ("Baseball's Continued Demise," Oct. 26). To his list of grievances, I would add the late start times. The last time I tried to take my children to a game, I was surprised how few afternoon starts were on the schedule. We bought tickets to one only to have the game switched to late night to attract television viewers.

I ended up going with some friends instead, which was great for my friends (who love baseball) but not so good for my daughters, who lost a chance to be exposed to the sport.

Peter McFadden, Nelsonville

Turton lists some of the reasons why I probably haven't watched a game in years. I used to love the Yankees and the Mets. Now? Who cares? The only baseball I watch is the Little League World Series in August.

Anthony Merante, *Cold Spring*

Debt versus interest

Reduction of interest payments and refinancing do not eliminate debt ("Putnam Executive Candidates Spar Over Senior Center, Taxes, Debt," Oct. 26). The average homeowner or student loan holder knows this. I stand by my assertion that the county's debt has only been reduced by \$132,256 under MaryEllen Odell's administration.

Interest payments are the cost of borrowing money. They do not reduce the amount that has been borrowed. Only payments to principal reduce the amount of debt. Similarly, refinancing debt does not equal the elimination of debt. Refinancing debt only improves the borrowing terms to reduce the cost of borrowing — that is, the interest.

Bond rates have plummeted in recent years, making it cheaper for municipalities to borrow money. Many, including Putnam, have cashed in high-interest rate

Tell us what you think

T he 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.

bonds, then renewed and re-amortized them at lower rates. This has reduced the interest payments, not the principal. A strong bond market has made it possible for Putnam to reduce its interest payments by \$13 million, not to reduce its bond debt principal.

The remaining \$27 million that Odell claims as debt reduction is smoke-and-mirrors to cover unchecked spending. Odell is counting on folks not to question the numbers. As a fiscal conservative, I always question the numbers.

The \$17 million in "short-term debt" that Odell claims to have eliminated initially was accrued when the county borrowed against expected tax income to cover operating expenses — that's called taking out a "tax-anticipation note." Such an action is crisis borrowing, like getting a payday loan to cover your rent. The \$17 million note came due in 2011, under Odell's watch. Paying off short-term crisis debt for day-to-day expenses is nothing to brag about. The amount borrowed is a wash when the new tax income arrives, and it doesn't begin to touch any debt accumulated through bonds.

The \$8 million pension amortization also is a debt that Odell created. Rather than meeting pension obligations though smart budgeting — which I have done in the Town of Kent — Odell borrowed to cover what was owed to our esteemed retirees. That means that she was using available funds for things she deemed to be greater priorities than career public servants. It's another case of bragging

Corrections & Updates

The ribbon-cutting at the senior center at the Butterfield development in Cold Spring scheduled for Friday, Oct. 26, did not take place ("Senior Center 'Soft Opening,'" Oct. 12). Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, did not respond to emails asking for details.

We neglected in the Oct. 26 issue to include the answers to the 7 Little Words puzzle on Page 23. They are: 1. WINSTON, 2. PLANET, 3. TORCH, 4. NOZZLE, 5. SOUTHWEST, 6. FALDERAL, 7. DROSS

about paying off debt that shouldn't have been created in the first place.

Maureen Fleming, Kent Fleming is Odell's opponent in the Nov. 6 election.

County Executive

I thought MaryEllen Odell made a terrible impression at the Philipstown Community Congress candidate forum on Oct. 26 at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

First, she was late and kept people waiting and the moderator struggled to fill time. This was not only rude, it held up the other candidates and the program. When it was suggested that the forum should start with candidates for another office, the debate moderators admitted that Odell had demanded she go first so she could get to another appointment.

I would say she was dismissive toward Philipstown, but her record already established that. But there was also an air of entitlement and that we work for her, not the other way around.

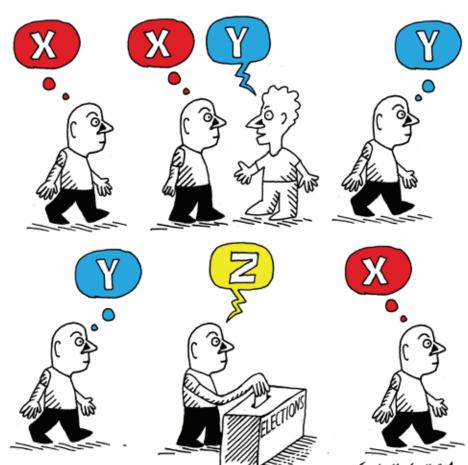
What kind of candidate shows up late for their own debate? Someone who's been in office too long, that's who. Enough of the scandals. Enough of the cronyism. Enough of Odell!

With Maureen Fleming we'll get a refreshing and needed change in county government. She is trustworthy, intelligent, knowledgeable and shows up on time. Tell Odell we're tired of waiting for her promises to be fulfilled, Elect Fleming!

Dan Willson, *Philipstown*

As a volunteer for Nancy Montgomery's campaign for county legislator, I was honored to attend the Philipstown Community Congress forum and see so many neighbors engaged in a local race. I hope the focus on topics presented by the participants in the community survey helped shed light on the role county government should play in our shared goals.

As productive and successful as the event was, however, I was appalled by the blatant disrespect demonstrated by MaryEllen (continued on next page)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Odell. After arriving 25 minutes late with no apology, her opening statement showed a total misunderstanding of the purpose of the Community Congress and a flippant disregard for its common agenda. And her early departure robbed the participants of any opportunity for follow-up questions or even a hello and a handshake.

I don't know whether this was a lack of preparation for the event, or simply a lack of consideration for the needs expressed by our community, but Philipstown has waited around too long for Odell to give us the attention we deserve. We don't have the luxury of waiting out another term.

Sean Conway, Cold Spring

As a political independent I am able to support the best candidates based on their merits rather than their party affiliation or ideology. Odell and County Legislator Barbara Scuccimara are the clear choices for re-election to ensure a bright and dynamic future for our beloved Putnam County.

As the mayor of Nelsonville, I have been privileged to work closely with both MaryEllen and Barbara and I can assure my fellow citizens that these two women are extraordinary assets to the communities they serve. Odell has demonstrated time and again tireless energy and skill in her enlightened management of county affairs. Few citizens may be aware that

her fiscal competence has placed Putnam County in the admirable position of operating with the lowest portion of any tax bill of any other county in the state.

Fewer still witnessed at first hand, as I did, MaryEllen's management of the County's Emergency Response Center during the terrible storms we experienced earlier this year. Her concern for the citizens hurt by these storms was genuine and her capability in guiding the county's response was remarkable.

Scuccimara has ably and energetically represented the needs and interests of her constituents. Her staunch advocacy, in particular, of our community's seniors in the creation of the Friendship Center in Philipstown is deeply appreciated by our citizens, old and young.

On Election Day, please go to the polls. When you do, please also consider the contributions to the future of our community made by these two outstanding women.

Bill O'Neill, Nelsonville

County Legislature

I chose to become a physician because I believe unwaveringly that health care is a human right. Every day in the emergency department where I work, we tend to the victims of a broken system: the uninsured,

(continued on next page)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN FOR THE YEAR 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons during regular business hours.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will hold a Public Hearing on the 7th day of November, 2018, at 7:45 p.m. Prevailing Time, and at such hearing all persons may be heard in favor of/or against any item or items therein contained.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law that the following are the proposed salaries of the Town Officers of this Town:

 Supervisor
 \$27,000.00

 Council Members (4 at 18,000.00)
 \$72,000.00

 Town Justices (1 at 28,000.00)
 \$28,000.00

 Town Justices (1 at 27,000.00)
 \$27,000.00

 Town Clerk/Tax Collector
 \$67,000.00

 Town Superintendent of Highways
 \$90,000.00

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando Town Clerk

DATED October 31, 2018

Why we are supporting Nancy Montgomery for County Legislator

We are voting for Nancy Montgomery for legislator on election day. The reasons for this are that Philipstown needs a stronger voice that represents all our residents. We have known Nancy for decades both as a colleague and a friend. I have worked with Nancy on the Philipstown Town Board and seen firsthand the seriousness with which she approaches the job of Council Person; so much so that I appointed her as my deputy Town Supervisor. Anyone who knows Nancy recognizes one thing, she cares about people. This is borne out in her work to provide more for seniors, youth and all families in Town. Nancy made sure that seniors have more opportunities for recreation by instituting more exercise programs. She was concerned that our seniors were not able to get out to shop for necessities, so she worked to get a new bus to drive them from various locations in town to stores out of town. Nancy has taken on the drug crisis head on by insisting that the Town Board fund a Drug crisis coordinator who can direct people in need to the best available resources. She single handedly vetted applicants for this position to make sure that the residents of our town would have someone like her to go to, compassionate and discreet. Nancy has pushed hard for more opportunities for our youth, working with our Recreation Supervisor to create programs to keep young people active and engaged. The only problem I have seen with Nancy is that she doesn't take enough credit for her long list of accomplishments.

As our County Legislator will make sure that Philipstown residents voices are heard at the County level. Nancy will work on the tough issues that affect all of us including revenue sharing, transportation, social services for those in need and protecting our treasured environment.

Karen and I encourage you will join us in supporting Nancy Montgomery on Election Day, Tuesday November 6.

Richard and Karen Shea

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR CONTINENTAL VILLAGE PARK DISTRICT AND CONTINENTAL VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown has completed the Preliminary Budget of the Continental Village Park District and the Continental Village Water District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and the same was filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown, where the same will be available for inspection by any interested persons during regular office hours. The Town Board will meet at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York on the 7th day of November 2018 at 7:30 p.m. and 7:35 p.m. respectively, for the purpose of hearing any one person in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget for the Continental Village Park District and the Continental Village Water District as compiled for or against any item therein contained.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando

Town Clerk DATED October 31, 2018

LETTERS AND COMMENTS (from previous page)

the underinsured, and the uninsurable.

We are all frustrated by functioning in a system which is driven by profit, one in which Americans pay so much and get so little. Medicare for all, a single-payer national health insurance, is the most equitable and effective way to ensure that all our medical needs are covered from birth until death.

While there is nothing inherently partisan about a national health insurance program, I believe that we have the best chance of achieving a truly universal health system by electing progressives at every level of government. For this reason, I am voting for Karen Smythe, Maureen Fleming and Nancy Montgomery. Please join me at the polls on Tuesday.

Dr. Frederick Nagel, Garrison

As a candidate for Putnam County Legislature, I would like to thank Jocelyn, Jason, Priscilla and Jane so much for hosting the Philipstown Community Congress candidates' forum on Oct. 26. The Community Congress has become such an important clearinghouse for our community in collecting views, presenting information and helping all of us become more self-aware and more involved citizens.

Their willingness to engage with all parties as the election moves forward indicates an open-minded, open-hearted attitude to our town. I honor it, I greatly appreciate it, and I look forward to continuing our work along these pathways together.

Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown

State Senate

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, is blanketing our televisions with ads touting her as "just another Hudson Valley resident like you." What she hasn't mentioned is her sickening position on the Child Victims Act, which proposes to extend the statute of limitations for people who were victims of sexual abuse as children.

Serino and her fellow Republicans have cravenly blocked this common-sense measure to give victims their chance at justice and closure. Serino wants to continue to protect the people who abuse our children. Anyone with a heart should know that you're either against molesters or you're for them.

Someone who protects child molesters isn't one of us and never will be. That's why I'm voting for her opponent, Karen Smythe.

Lawrence Fleischer, *Garrison*

Editor's note: Under state law, victims of abuse have until age 23 to file civil cases or seek criminal charges. Under the proposed Child Victims Act, victims could seek criminal charges until age 28 and file civil suits until age 50. Many Republicans oppose the bill because it would create a one-year period in which past victims could file civil lawsuits that are not allowed under the current statute of limitations. That provision is opposed by

the Catholic Church and the Bou Scouts.

which argue it could cost them big money

if they have to defend decades-old charg-

es. Serino's office noted she is among the

21 co-sponsors of a Senate bill that would

eliminate the criminal statute of limitations altogether while creating a \$300 million fund from asset forfeiture proceeds to compensate victims. A hearing officer and claims administrator would decide who qualified for the money.

I've seen letters that say Sen. Serino doesn't support the proposed state Reproductive Health Act. I had never heard of this bill, so I did some research and found that many of these letters are misleading.

Those who support the bill claim that it will codify the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* into state law and ensure a woman's right to choose if that right is ever threatened by federal law. But a report by the nonpartisan Rockefeller Institute of Government concluded that "it is unlikely that any changes to federal law will directly affect the future of abortion rights in New York State because the New York Constitution and statutes already protect abortion rights in many of the same ways as the current federal constitutional precedents."

Not only is the bill unnecessary, it is dangerous to women's health because it would allow non-doctors [physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners] to perform abortions, including late-term. No matter what political party you belong to, we can all agree that a bill like that goes too far.

It's shameful to use lies and distortions to divide women on an issue that is meaningful to all of us.

Clare Capossella, Garrison

Editor's Note: In a debate organized by the Poughkeepsie Journal, Serino said she felt the bill would be too broad an expansion of abortion rights and objected to allowing non-doctors to perform abortions. She added, however, that she would oppose any measures that further restrict access to abortion services. Smythe said she supports the bill.

State Assembly 104

In their responses to questions from *The Current*, John Jacobson and Scott Manley, the candidates to represent the 104th district in the state Assembly, both discuss ways to raise more revenue from taxes ("Jacobson, Manley Vie for Assembly Seat," Oct. 26).

How about no new taxes or fees? How about eliminating funding of the MTA by Dutchess County residents and employers? How about reducing the fees on drivers' license renewals, auto registration, etc.? How about reducing property and school taxes by eliminating mandates? How about fixing bridges and roads with funds already reaped by our taxes and fees by reducing construction costs? Let's not look for more sources of taxes and fees, let's look to take the burden off residents.

Good luck to both candidates, because unfortunately New York City politicians still and probably always will run the show in Albany and pass legislation that helps their base at a cost to the rest of the state.

Charles Symon, Beacon

THE SUPREME COURT AS A POLITICAL INSTITUTION



WILLIAM HELLERSTEIN

Professor of Law Emeritus, Brooklyn Law School Saturday, November 3, the Fish Library, Garrison 2 to 4 p.m. and refreshments

Will Hellerstein taught for 25 years at the Brooklyn Law School. He directed The Legal Aid Society with 165 attorneys engaged in appellate and civil rights. Prof. Hellerstein appeared in more than 200 cases in federal and state appellate courts, including several cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Educated at Brooklyn College (cum laude) and Harvard Law School, J.D., he was admitted to practice in 1962. Professor Hellerstein has won significant awards and has published extensively. His work concentrates on justice for the innocent and on civil rights.

In these fraught and complicated times, it is encouraging to hear and talk with someone who has fought for the rules of law his entire career.



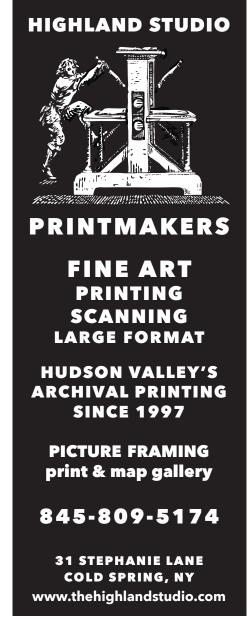
Veterans Day Ceremony

Friday, November 9th 9:00 AM

We welcome all veterans and Garrison community members to join us as we celebrate Veterans Day together. A ceremony will be held outside by the main parking lot.

All veterans are invited to a light breakfast after the ceremony sponsored by our PTA.

On behalf of the Garrison community, we thank you for your service.





Here Are Your Cheices

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. In the general election, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of party registration.

FEDERAL

U.S. House (District 18)

Sean Patrick Maloney (DEM/IND/WE/WF)

James O'Donnell (REP/CON/REF)

U.S. Senate

Chele Farley (REP/CON/REF)

Kirsten Gillibrand (DEM/IND/WE/WF)

NEW YORK STATE

Governor

Andrew Cuomo (DEM/IND/WE/WF)
Howie Hawkins (GRE)
Marc Molinaro (REP/CON/REF)
Stephanie Miner (SAM)
Larry Sharpe (LIB)

Lieutenant Governor

Kathy Hochul (DEM/IND/WE/WF)
Andrew Hollister (LIB)
Julie Killian (REP/CON/REF)
Jia Lee (GRE)
Michael Volpe (SAM)

Comptroller

Thomas DiNapoli (DEM/IND/REF/WE/WF)
Mark Dunlea (GRE)
Cruger Gallaudet (LIB)
Jonathan Trichter (REP/CON)

Attorney General

Christopher Garvey (LIB)
Letitia James (DEM/IND/WF)
Kenneth Schaeffer (WF)
Nancy Sliwa (REF)
Michael Sussman (GRE)
Keith Wofford (REP/CON)

State Senate, District 41

Sue Serino (REP/CON/IND/REF)
Karen Smythe (DEM/WE/WF)

State Assembly, District 95 (Philipstown)

Lawrence Chiulli (REP/CON)
Sandy Galef (DEM/REF/WE/WF)

State Assembly, District 104 (Beacon)

Jonathan Jacobson (DEM)
Scott Manley (REP/CON)

State Supreme Court, 9th District (vote for 7)

Kathie Davidson (DEM/REP/CON/IND)

David Everett (DEM)

Robert Freehill (REP/CON/IND/REF)

William Giacomo (DEM/IND)

Hal Greenwald (DEM)

Phillip Grimaldi Jr. (REP/CON)

Joan Lefkowitz (DEM/IND)

James Reitz (REP/CON)

Barry Warhit (DEM)

Thomas Zugibe (DEM/CON/IND)

PUTNAM COUNTY

Executive

Maureen Fleming (DEM/REF/WE)
MaryEllen Odell (REP/CON/IND)

Clerk

Michael Bartolotti (REP/CON/IND/REF)

Coroner (vote for 2)

John Bourges (REP/CON/IND)

Michael Nesheiwat (REP/CON/IND)

Legislature, District 1 (Philipstown)

Nancy Montgomery (DEM/UP/WE/WF)
Barbara Scuccimarra (REP/CON/IND)

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

Trustee (vote for 2)

Lynn Miller Steve Voloto

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Family Court

Karen Hagstrom (REP/CON/GRE/IND/REF/WE)
Jeffrey Martin (DEM/WF)

Surrogate Court

Michael Hayes (REP/CON/GRE/IND/REF/WE)
Thomas Mansfield (DEM/WF)

PARTY KEY:

DEM = Democratic | REP = Republican | CON = Conservative | GRE = Green | IND = Independence | LIB = Libertarian REF = Reform | SAM = Serve America Movement | UP = United Putnam | WE = Women's Equality | WF = Working Families

Hear from the Candidates

We emailed candidates from select races three to five questions each. The answers from those who responded are at highlandscurrent.org/2018vote.

U.S. House, District 18
State Senate, District 41
State Assembly, District 104
Putnam Legislature, District 1

Polls are open

Tuesday, Nov. 6 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To verify you are registered and find out where to vote, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Election Results

Check highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, for unofficial results.















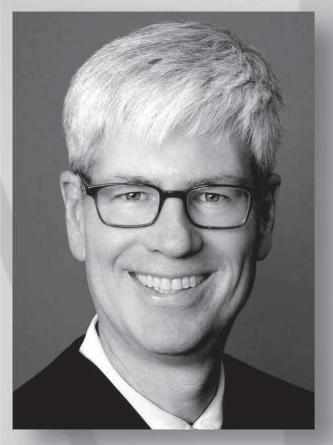




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I grew up in Dutchess County. My wife Michele and I have put down roots of our own here. We are raising our family here, and send our children to school here. I have practiced law here for more than 20 years, and am currently a public servant here. I would be honored to put my decades of professional expertise to use in serving you, the people of Dutchess County, as Surrogate's Court Judge.



judgemichaelhayes.com

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Anthony Lobiondo, Esq.

Putnam Forum (from Page 1)

ation Center in Garrison and to teen programs elsewhere in the county.

"We can certainly get space. It's available" in Philipstown, Montgomery said. "I see it as more of a programming than a space" matter. She proposed expansion of county antidrug and teen programs to western Putnam.

The organizers asked Montgomery and Scuccimarra about the county sharing of services with schools and about school consolidation. Philipstown has two relatively small schools, Haldane (827 students in grades kindergarten through 12) and Garrison (207 students in kindergarten through 8). For high school, Garrison residents can attend Haldane or James O'Neill High School, in Highland Falls. In addition, a sliver of Philipstown at the southern Putnam border is in the Lakeland school district, based in Westchester County.

"I will be the biggest advocate" of sharing of services between the county and school districts, particularly for such things as purchasing, technology, snow plowing and transportation, and personnel. Montgomery said.

She observed that district consolidation "is a very contentious subject," on par with consolidating fire departments or promoting more fire department sharing, topics which she favored exploring and which the Town Board took up in 2010, only to prompt bitter opposition and a townwide brouhaha.

"There are territorial issues, cultural issues" in school consolidation, Montgomery remarked. She said the state provides grants for studying the feasibility of consolidation and that she cannot take a position on the issue until the community undertakes such a review. But she said that she will help facilitate a discussion of consolidation, if the public wants one.

Scuccimarra said the attitude seems to be that "it's Garrison" or "it's Haldane. There's no sense of community. That's sad." She pointed out that with its relatively few students, Garrison "is like a private school. Some people like that." Moreover, if Haldane and Garrison merge, school taxes in Garrison probably would increase, she added. "There's a lot of pros and cons" either way, she said. She urged the schools to talk about consolidation.

Both candidates expressed willingness to support Climate Smart Community goals, such as reducing the use of fossil fuels, and to address flooding and other



Barbara Scuccimarra and Nancy Montgomery at the Oct. 26 forum Photo by Ross Corsain

disasters exacerbated by global warming.

"We are stewards of the land," Scuccimarra said. In chairing the Legislature's Health and Environment Committee, she said, "I've been able to bring forward a lot of initiatives in this area," including banning plastic foam cups from county facilities. But "sometimes it takes the Legislature a few times before they really get it." Putnam County also plans a solar energy installation, is getting rid of its diesel vehicles, and is reducing its car fleet overall, she said.

Montgomery noted that the Town Board is pursuing steps to make Philipstown a Climate Smart community. If elected, she said, she would push the Legislature to make the county Climate Smart as well. As part of an overall program, she proposed use of clean-fuel buses, creation of cross-county bus transportation, and similar actions, and termed Climate Smart measures economically as well as environmentally rewarding.

County executive

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, a Republican, and her challenger, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming, a Democrat, fielded questions about creating more biking and hiking paths; protecting the water supply and having the county share the sales tax collected in its towns and villages.

When asked about hike-bike paths, Odell did not address the topic specifically but cited the economic importance of tourism and emphasized road safety. She said the county provided the trolley to carry visitors and residents to popular destinations and reduce foot traffic along dangerous roads, and hopes to divert visitors from Breakneck Ridge and Route 9D to Fahnestock State Park, on Route 301.

She also advocated continued discussions

with New York State agencies, the Metro-North railroad, the public, and others on constructing the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, designed to parallel 9D, the train tracks, and river between Cold Spring and Beacon.

Fleming said that as supervisor in Kent. which is known for its lakes, she has not had much opportunity to promote a hiking-biking trail network. But she noted that she uses the eastern Putnam hikingbiking trail and wants to cultivate interagency and multi-governmental efforts to provide similar paths in western Putnam, especially alongside rail tracks, and to involve the public.

Discussing water, Fleming called for more county attention to wastewater management through extension of sewer lines to places, such as Nelsonville, that lack them. Nelsonville has begun reviewing the feasibility of connecting to the Cold Spring wastewater-sewage treatment system. "I'd try to facilitate that," Fleming said.

She also referred to Philipstown's concerns last year about county application of herbicides along a road near a Cold Spring reservoir. "I'd discontinue use" of it near water supplies, she said.

Odell mentioned road salt as a hazard, saving "we have to change that" habit of salting roads in winter. Putnam has decreased its reliance on salt and been switching to brine, which is safer, Odell said. Likewise, she said, the county has increased its efforts to limit stormwater runoff, which can carry salt, lawn chemicals, and other pollutants into backyard wells and public drinking water.

The two resumed their debate on sales

The Top 10

These proposals received the most points on a ballot completed by 755 Philipstown residents a year ago. For details, see bit.ly/pcc-results.

- 1. Create more biking/walking paths
- 2. Ensure clean water
- 3. Create a teen center
- 4. Consolidate the Haldane and Garrison school districts
- 5. Join the state's Climate Smart Community project
- 6. Demand sales tax sharing by county government
- 7. Improve the Philipstown Recreation
- 8. Have emergency medical services at former Butterfield site
- 9. Appoint a coordinator for opioid abuse prevention and treatment
- 10. Update the comprehensive plan

tax sharing, which they discussed at a forum sponsored by the League of Women of Putnam County eight days earlier.

Unlike most counties in New York state, Putnam does not return a portion of sales tax to the municipalities where it is collected. Sales tax revenue accounts for \$60.5 million, or about 38 percent, of the revenue in Odell's proposed \$159.8 million budget for 2019.

"I've spent quite a lot of time explaining that the county shares \$5 million" with municipalities by paying state community college costs, election-related expenses and similar charges, and covers school taxes when property owners default, Odell said. "We do share sales tax in our services."

She said the Philipstown area generates about \$1.5 million in sales tax. If sales tax returned to municipalities, "we'd have to raise property taxes," she said. As an alternative to sharing, "what we can do is to continue to be good partners" with towns and villages, she said.

"I don't know that it's absolutely true" that Putnam cannot share sales tax, Fleming countered. "Supervisors of all the towns have broached this with the county. It's an especially big issue in Philipstown" but also important in towns in eastern Putnam with

(Continued on Page 24)

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The Calendar





25 Years at Constitution Marsh

Longtime director (and photographer) Eric Lind moving on

By Alison Rooney

▼ ric Lind, who has spent 25 years at the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison, including the past 20 as director, will depart this month to relocate to Albany, where he will become director of community science and restoration for Audubon New York.

During Lind's quarter-century at the sanctuary, its budget doubled. Among other accomplishments, he oversaw the construction of the boardwalk and developed a year-round internship and mentoring program for students entering the conservation field. (To honor his work at the marsh, Audubon New York is creating a scholarship fund in Lind's name for high school and college students.)

This weekend, the Garrison Art Center will host an exhibition of photographs that Lind has taken at the marsh (including in its waters) and the surrounding area. The Marsh opens today (Nov. 2) and will continue on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Current spoke with Lind earlier this week.

What brought you to Constitution Marsh?

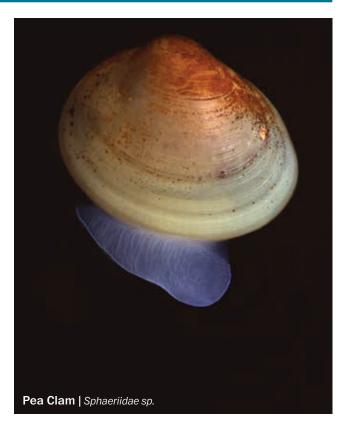
Close to 30 years ago, I came to see it out of curiosity. I had read about it in an Audubon Field Guide. I always had a deep interest in the natural world. I met Jim Rodd, who was my predecessor - he was leaning out a window, painting a ledge. We developed a friendship, and he ended up recommending me for the job.

What is the most important change you've implemented?

The continuous restoration of the habitat matters most of all. There is no finish line. The marsh is incredibly complex, and we're barely scratching the surface of how we understand it and what we can do to maintain it. We're concerned about rising sea levels and climate change; we're always thinking about what it might look like in 50 years.







What has been the most positive aspect of working at the marsh?

As a younger person I used to be focused on birds, wildlife and habitat. But the real joy and pleasure here came from the people I've worked with, including the seasonal staff. Seeing them mature and gain an understanding of the consequences of what we do here, and what they can continue to do, has been rewarding. People connect to this place and lifelong friendships develop. I've also enjoyed working with my colleagues on the Philipstown Conservation Board.

What's been the greatest challenge?

We're a small facility in a region which has exploded in popularity. We have the desire to show off the site, but we have restraints in how to handle it.

How would you describe your new position?

I'll be looking at projects statewide, and I'll be able to apply what has worked here on a broader scale. It's a big change, but I'm not leaving Audubon. I'll always be connected to the marsh

Is there a small thing that gets to you most about the marsh?

There's no singular thing. It's so extraordinarily beautiful and interesting. It's a privilege to be in a place for so long that you become aware of how little you know about it.

Photos by Eric Lind







No One Left to Farm

What happens when the children move on?

By Cheetah Haysom

oe Hasbrouck, 74, is the fifth-generation of his family to farm in the Hudson Valley, dating to the 17th century. His forebears settled in New Paltz along with other Protestants fleeing religious persecution in France. They moved to farm in the Rondout Valley near Kingston on what is now 330 acres of corn bordered by Esopus Creek.

Hasbrouck and his wife, Vivian, have two daughters who each live half a mile from the farm. One is a teacher, the other is employed in banking. Like the offspring of other farmers across the valley, neither has any interest in agriculture. The Hasbrouck farming line will soon come to an end.

A third of the farmers in New York state are 65 or older, and one survey found that 90 percent of them have no successor. Two million acres of farmland could be taken out of production in the next decade or two. More than 4,000 farms have been lost to real estate development in New York since the 1980s, according to the American Farmland Trust.

Liz Corio, vice president of development at Glynwood, a farm-based nonprofit outside of Cold Spring that promotes Hudson Valley farming, notes that, according to an agricultural census completed in 2012 (the most recent available), the average age of farmers in Putnam, Dutchess and nearby counties is 58. "Every year we hear of farmers deciding to just move out and go," she says.

Fifteen organizations, including the American Farmland Trust, Glynwood and the Dutchess Land Conservancy, have created a coalition, the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, to prevent that from happening. One of its projects is an online



farmland finder, which, like a dating site, matches farms for sale or lease with aspiring farmers. Its listings include 16 farms in Dutchess County, 17 in Orange, 17 in Ulster, and four in Putnam, including the 250-acre Sugarloaf Farm on Route 9D in Garrison.

The group also helps farmers with succession plans.

The life of a farmer is notoriously demanding. As farmers age, the load typically shifts to the next generation. But if there is no successor, farmers often must shift to low-maintenance, low-labor crops, as Joe Hasbrouck did.

"It's not a lucrative business," he says. Fifty years ago, when he started, the farm

thrived with sweet corn, a labor intensive but profitable crop that required 50 farmworkers during the summer who are today not so easy to find.

Gradually Hasbrouck switched to field corn, which can be harvested with a machine and is used mainly as livestock feed. He also experimented with red beans,

which don't require much labor, but eventually dropped them. He has an employee who has been with him for about 30 years, and the employee's son. "We farm about 285 acres and we do everything ourselves," Hasbrouck says.

As with most farmers, Hasbrouck's equity is in his property and equipment. Without an heir, a farmer usually is forced to sell to finance retirement.

"My health is not perfect, but I'm not ready to quit yet," says Hasbrouck. But, he concedes, if he were offered the right price...

"I have no regrets about being a farmer," he says. "I've had a good life. But I have a

degree in agricultural engineering and if I'd had a crystal ball, maybe I'd have gone to work in something where there are benefits like those a person in the business world gets when he retires."

One of the challenges facing farmers is the lack of a profitable export markets. "Foreign countries get subsidies so their products are cheaper," Hasbrouck says. "It's not that I want subsidies — I want a fair market."

He adds: "I don't see people rushing into farming unless it becomes profitable. Middlemen get the profits at farmers' expense. Agriculture in general was looked down on for so many years. Even now people are so far from farms they think their food comes from the grocery store. Nothing will change until people are educated about how important farming is."

Hasbrouck Farms is surrounded by farmland that has been abandoned. "You'd see a lot of farmers back if we could at least get a 10 percent profit for our produce," Hasbrouck says. Climate change has added to the burden. "For example, wheat was a common crop," he says. "Now almost none is grown because of the increased moisture. It sprouts on the stem — something you never heard of 60 years ago."

He admits it will be a heartbreaker when he sells, especially if the property stops being farmed. "The son of my employee expressed interest, but he would need considerable financial help," Hasbrouck says. "It costs me at least \$200,000 a year to run the farm, and it's a complicated business. He'd need guidance for at least a few years."

A Short History of Hudson Valley Farming

By Michael Turton

1000-1600

The Munsee and Lenape Indians consumed wild crops such as berries, nuts and root vegetables. Using fire to remove forests, they cultivated a variety of plants, including corn, beans and squash, grown together in raised mounds. Fish were used as fertilizer. Across the Americas, native peoples cultivated more than 300 crops.

A third of the farmers in

New York state are 65 or

older, and one survey

found that 90 percent of

them have no successor.

Two million acres of

farmland could be taken

out of production in the

next decade or two.

1609

Henry Hudson called the Hudson Valley "the finest land for cultivation I have ever set foot on."



Who Will Pick the Crops?

Farmworkers "aging out" with farmers

By Cheetah Haysom

It's back-breaking, repetitive, exhausting work. Most days start before dawn and can last until dark. It could be damp and cold when you punch in and scorching hot when you punch out. And the work often involves chemicals that can't be good for your health.

As with farmers, many of the men and women who do this hard work are getting old and "aging out." The average age of farmworkers in the U.S. is 38, according to the most recent figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor. In 1997, it was 31. Nearly a third of farmworkers in the U.S. are age 45 or older.

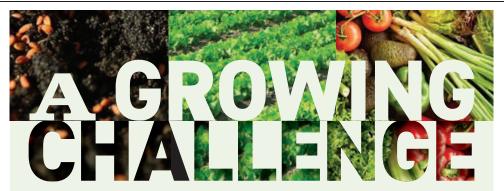
The overwhelming majority of farmworkers in the Hudson Valley are foreign-born, mainly in Mexico and Central America. However, in recent years fewer Mexicans have come to the U.S. because the growing economy in their own country offers easier jobs — some at U.S.-owned factories and farms that operate there — and a life closer to their families. In fact, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, citing government data, more Mexicans have returned home since the recession in 2009 than attempted to cross into the U.S.

Mary Joe Dudley, who directs the Cornell Farmworker Program, which works to improve working conditions, says the seasonal influx of farmworkers has also been diminished by the fear of the violence due to drug cartels operating at the border and the high price of smuggling undocumented workers into the U.S., which can run as much as \$10,000 a person.

The Hudson Valley is also challenged because New York City offers many better paying jobs than working in the fields, especially in construction and the hospitality industry, notes Liz Higgins, a specialist with the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Team, which is run by the Cornell Cooperative Extension and based in Highland.

Picking crops "is hard work," she says. "On some tree-fruit and vegetable farms workers who have come for many years [from Mexico and Central America] are

now getting old, and it's going to get even



Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley

		Hudson Valley Farms, By the Numbers						
		# of Farms	# of Acres	Average Size (acres)	Average Annual Sales	Average Federal Subsidies	% Less Than \$2,500 Sales	
County	Dutchess	678	112,482	166	\$72,303	\$6,097	34	
	Putnam	72	5,908	82	\$45,227	\$4,704	57	
	Orange	658	88,030	134	\$153,035	\$10,962	30	
	Ulster	486	71,222	147	\$115,019	\$6,688	32	
	NY State	35,537	7.2m	202	\$152,380	\$7,955	31	
	National	2.1m	915m	434	\$187,097	_	37	

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2012 (most recent available)

more serious in the next five to 10 years. I know farms where workers who served loyally for years had to be let go because they can no longer physically do the job or their skills no longer match the needs of the farm."

Except for occasional high school students doing vacation jobs, and a few farms that employ Puerto Ricans, farmhand jobs are not being filled by Americans. Some farms have used prisoners or appealed to the unemployed who were trained in other fields, with some success. Many farmers will laugh aloud when told that immigrant farmworkers are taking jobs from Americans.

"One of the problems," says Higgins, "is the way we talk about the job makes it unattractive to potential employees. It's seen as no-skill, no opportunities, no dignity and dead-end — something only the desperate would do, when in fact it requires skill to do well, and is extremely important."

The changing climate has exacerbated the problems caused by a shortage of labor, leading some farmers to leave crops to rot. "You can plan the amount of workers you need for harvesting different crops and then unexpectedly it's hotter than normal, all crops ripen simultaneously, and there isn't enough labor," Higgins says. "It's increasingly hard to predict your need."

When farmers use the H-2A, which is an agricultural work visa, "they have to guarantee working hours, so they don't want to over-hire," she explains. "But climate change can shift harvesting times, forcing them to have to get H-2A work extensions. Apple farmers, for example, have varieties that ripen at different times. But if the weather shifts and the varieties all ripen at the same time there aren't enough hands."

Higgins reports the growing use of picking machines, but many fresh-market crops, such as some cabbages and apples, can't be harvested that way. There are machines that can help. Instead of using ladders to harvest apples, for example, farmers are reconfiguring their orchards so they can use a platform pulled by a tractor. This makes the job easier and safer for older workers.

The Trump Administration's hard line on immigration has caused the most con-

cern among small farms that don't use H-2A workers because of the added expense. The visa program requires farmers to provide workers with free accommodations that are subject to frequent and strict inspections, and other benefits including transportation. Also, while the minimum wage for farmworkers in New York is \$10.40 an hour (rising to \$11.10 at the end of this year), most workers with an H-2A visa get \$12.80. Some skilled farmworkers are paid \$20 an hour or more.

Farmers who asked not to be identified because they employ undocumented farmworkers said many returned to Mexico shortly after President Donald Trump took office in January 2017. Others who had returned to work on the same farm year after year did not show up for the 2017 or 2018 planting season.

One farmer said two of his workers, a couple from Central America, vanished without a word, leaving him without help. As a result, he was planning to switch from onions and squash to lower-labor crops like soy beans.

At the Alamo Farm Workers Community Center in Goshen, more farmworkers have been asking for help lately with passport applications for their children born in the U.S., in the event the parents are deported, says Mario Fernandez, an outreach worker with the center.

A number of groups have advocated making it easier to get visas for farmworkers. One of them, the Partnership for a New American Economy, estimates the decline in farmhands has reduced fruit and vegetable production by 9.5 percent, or about \$3 billion. Immigrants who work farms in other countries — from Germany (Turks), Italy (Africans), France (poor Spaniards) and Spain (Moroccans) to Costa Rica (Nicaraguans) and Canada (Central and South Americans) — typically have temporary visas for agricultural work that make it easy to come and go.

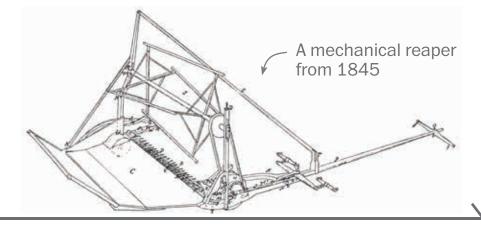
Many farmers consider the H-2A too burdensome and expensive, says Mary Jo Dudley at the Cornell Farmworker Program. She says each visa costs the average farmer an estimated \$6,000 in time and paperwork. They might also pay \$500 in expenses to recruit each worker and \$300 for transport from their home country. However, she says, the fear of workers being deported in the midst of a harvest has led more Hudson Valley farmers to apply for H-2As.

Advocates have suggested the federal government simplify and expedite the agricultural visa system and include dairy farmworkers, who are ineligible for H2A because they are not seasonal.

1640-1839

The Europeans considered farming to be mostly a man's occupation. (In Native American culture, women were the farmers.) Woodlands were widely removed for fuel and to expand farmlands. Everything was planted and harvested by hand, with oxen and horses used for power, pulling wooden plows. A cast-iron plow was introduced in 1797 and a steel plow by John Deere in 1837. In 1820, the U.S. House established its agriculture committee. In 1834, Cyrus McCormick (right) patented a mechanical reaper to harvest grain.







Finding New Farmers

Who will be growing our food?

Young Women

By Cheetah Haysom

eslie Lewis was 24 and expecting to pursue a career in public relations when she took time off to work at a 6-acre Connecticut vegetable farm.

"After that I knew I wanted to be a farmer," she says.

Soon after, Lewis, who grew up in Illinois, landed a job in development at Scenic Hudson, the nonprofit based in Poughkeepsie. But after a few years in the office, she quit to travel in South America.

In Argentina, she worked at two organic farms. "I was doing what's called 'wwoofing,' which comes from a program called Willing Workers on Organic Farms," a network also known as Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms. "You work for room and board," Lewis says. "It was a lovely way to see the world as well as other ways of farming."

When Lewis returned to the U.S., she was ready to dig in and found work on a farm in Red Hook.

"It was owned by a woman, and the only other worker was also a woman," Lewis says. "Women are still a minority among beginning farmers, but there are many more of us than in the past. The work is inspiring and empowering and nurturing. Women are by nature farmers."

The work at Red Hook was intense and demanding. "There's so much more to farming than people know and so many skills to hone," Lewis says. "Which tools for weeding? When are vegetables ready for market? What are the techniques for planting seeds? I realized I had so much to learn."

That is why, she says, she signed up earlier this year as an apprentice at Glyn-



wood, a nonprofit farm outside Cold Spring that allows beginner vegetable and livestock farmers to live, work and study on the farm for a season. Her lessons have included instruction in finances, smallengine repair, carpentry, soil and forestry.

She also met Anthony Post, a fellow apprentice who abandoned his pursuit of a doctorate in physics to go into farming. The two fell in love and next spring will start farming vegetables as partners on a 1.5-acre parcel they have leased in Gardiner, in Ulster County.

Lewis says that, like the vast majority of young farmers, she and Post are committed to organic and sustainable practices. Their parcel will be part of a larger farm, one of the number of operations in the Hudson Valley that allow beginners to lease a small plot to test their skills. Lewis and Post plan to sell shares of their crops to customers through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) system. Residents pay a fee at the start of the season and then can pick up weekly packages of seasonal vegetables.

Lewis says she and Post already have 50 shareholders. Their immediate goal is to learn how to make a profit, so they can expand. But the price of land is a huge barrier, she says.

As for where to farm and what to grow, Lewis laughs and says, "It's like dating. There are so many things to take into account." One dream is to someday have a small nonprofit farm for women who have recently been in prison. "Farming is therapeutic, gratifying and grounding. It would be a place for rehabilitation and empowerment."

When farmers retire without heirs, most of the land that they leave behind and that younger farmers could lease or buy, has already been used to grow conventional crops, with pesticides and tractors that contradict "no-tillage" organic standards. So, will young farmers dedicated to organic and sustainable farming be able to find suitable and also affordable land?

"There are many remedial things that can be done on that kind of land, including replacing the lost organic matter," Lewis says. "The Hudson Valley is not only beautiful, it has such comradeship in the farming community. It gives us enormous support, and has abundant resources to help people like us become farmers.

"That's why I'm optimistic," she says.
"One day I'm going to own my own farm!"

People of Color

By Pamela Doan

or Larisa Jacobson, farming is more than just farming — it's about creating a more just and healthy world and righting the wrongs of racism, colo-

nialism and oppression.

As the manager at Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, east of Troy, the Beacon resident leads a team that this season trained 120 aspiring farmers, all black and brown people in what has traditionally been a white (95 percent) and male (86 percent) industry.

At 41, Jacobson's resume spans continents and the most challenging, life-ordeath issues of our time: HIV/AIDS services for immigrants, sustainable energy and public health, and preserving ethnic identity. As she worked with disadvantaged communities, she says, food and farming intersected.

"Through the lens of structural racism, I saw scarcity and disconnection from the land and access to nutritious food," she says. "Discrimination and barriers to prevent black and brown people from thriving were issues that kept coming up."

Jacobson, who grew up in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh with a Chinese mother and a Jewish father, said attending schools that were led by black people and had racially integrated student bodies "helped shape my path." Racism struck close to home on Oct. 27. Her grandfather attended the Tree of Life Synagogue, where 11 people were killed by an anti-Semitic gunman, and her parents live nearby.

At Soul Fire Farm, where Jacobson stays two to six days per week, she and her colleagues have trained nearly 500 people

1840-1868

Factory-made farming equipment began to appear on the market in the 1840s and in 1842 an English factory introduced chemical fertilizer. In 1846 George Emerson observed that "the new settler cleared in a year more acres than he can cultivate in 10." Wheat, barley and rye were grown in large, separate fields. Corn, adapted from Native American varieties, provided animal feed. An agricultural census conducted in 1860 showed 393,000 acres of farmland in Dutchess County (compared to 113,000 today) and 95,000 in Putnam (compared to 5,900). The most common crops were oats, corn, rye, Irish potatoes and tobacco.



1869-1945

Farmers began to use silos. In 1888 a refrigerated rail car traveled from California to New York. The gasoline-powered tractor appeared in 1892 and the first tractor company was formed in 1905. As wood was supplanted as a fuel by coal, oil and gas, the forests regenerated, replacing fields. Many Hudson Valley farmers migrated west to flatter, more fertile lands. Land values decreased. Farmers began to focus on producing food for urban areas, especially New York City. Specialty crops such as apple

producing food for urban areas, especially New York City. Specialty crops such as apple orchards and vineyards appeared and technological innovations increased crop yields. Wholesale food distributors decreased the contact between farmers and consumers.





through the Black-Latinx Farmers Immersion Program (the "x" signifies both male and female) and nearly 90 percent have gone on to work in farming and food-justice programs.

Soul Fire's program covers all of the things you might find in other programs about how to grow food and run a farm but also addresses the trauma people of color suffer from institutional racism, Jacobson says. Her approach uses regenerative practices she describes as "healing the soil."

The food grown on Soul Fire Farm's 2 acres is delivered to doorsteps around Albany in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that works on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. This year, she says, the farm provided free shares to immigrants, refugees and people affected by violence.

Jacobson says the crops include black diasporic and indigenous food at the community's request such as collard greens. okra, hibiscus, tomatillos, maize, amaranth and chile peppers. "Typically [commercial] food is canned, processed and high in sugar," she says. "We offer food as medicine; it supports life. Fennel, for example, has been used for centuries to support the immune system and digestion."

Soul Fire's website has a "reparations map" that charts members of the Northeast Farmers of Color Network and food-justice projects, allowing visitors to donate land or money to account for land and labor taken over the centuries from indigenous and people of color, she notes. "The map is to coordinate in partnership," she says. "It's not an official effort for reparations but in spirit."

Veterans

By Jeff Simms

ohn Lemondes, a retired U.S. Army colonel who is now a sheep farmer in Chautauqua County, south and west of Buffalo, last year helped launch a New York chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

The nonprofit assists veterans "who want to get into farming, or need to know what resources are out there to help them," says Lemondes, 53, whose military career spanned 27 years.

"It's not a 'pay-for-your-equipment' type-thing," he explains. Instead, the chapter guides veterans toward resources to assist with land acquisition, financing and the other nuts and bolts of an agricultural operation.

"Farming is one of the hardest vocations that exists in our country," says Lemondes, who first worked, at his father's insistence, on a farm picking fruit during the summer after fifth grade. "The risk factor is tremendous."

In addition, the industry is in the midst of a massive demographic shift as large numbers of farmers are close to retiring "and there's not enough new farmers behind those who are producing our food to take their place," he says.

That concern led New York to create, in 2014, the Beginning Farmers Workgroup to provide on-the-job training for veterans seeking careers in farming. The Small Farms Program at Cornell University also partnered with the state to expand its training in which veterans receive wages as well as a military housing allowance through the G.I. Bill. And last year, Empire State Development, in coordination with the state Department of Agriculture and Markets, launched a \$250,000 Veterans Farmer Grant Fund.

Cornell has trained more than 800 veterans - from 24 to 67 years old - in the last three years, says Dean Koyanagi, an associate with the university's veterans in agriculture program known as "Farm Ops."

"We have a wide range of participants, from people on Wall Street to young guys who have served four years in the military and are finished," Koyanagi says. "We offer a customized service for each person."

Most of their participants, regardless of age, are attracted to the farming lifestyle - hard work, long hours and all - but may lack the administrative know-how to run a business, he says. "Our support is to keep track of that veteran, so he or she can actually get all the resources that are out there."

All the various programs, Lemondes said, show that the state "is recognizing the people [farmers] that the public takes for granted" before they're gone.

If they're not recognized, he says, "these guys are retiring, and there's going to be a problem."

BUILDING OUT

Hudson Valley group pushes to expand market

By Brian PJ Cronin

Todd Erling is the executive director of the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corp. (HVADC), an agency based in Hudson.

How did the HVADC get started?

We're a product of a study by the American Farmland Trust in the early 2000s that looked at the challenges facing Hudson Valley agriculture. Four of its 13 recommendations were addressed by creating HVADC.

You've concluded that Hudson Valley farmers could sell \$335 million more food than they do. How do you calculate a figure like that?

We look at market demand and market access, coupled with studies that look at our foodshed [a geographic location that produces the food for a particular population]. Within about five hours from Kingston, you can access 55 million mouths, including in New England, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Our location provides an amazing opportunity, as does having access to viable farmland, great water and our heritage of being the breadbasket of the Northeast.

What are the biggest challenges for new farmers here?

It's an expensive place to produce food. We have a higher cost of living, and our plentiful rain can affect the growing conditions in terms of mold, mildews and certain pests. There's also the challenge of other markets around the world having access to our customers because of highways and rail. Our farmers have to compete with a competitive food market in urban areas. But we can tell our stories about who grows the food and how it is grown. Consumers seem willing to vote with their forks.

Which farms have you worked with in the Highlands?

We've been working with Fishkill Farms on a multiyear project to create a hardcider product because it lets a farm use unsellable or unharvestable apples to make a product with a significant markup compared to sweet cider or shelf-stable apples [that can be stored for long periods without spoiling]. We also helped them, with Scenic Hudson, to expand their footprint by acquiring property adjacent to the farm to produce apple varieties that are good for hard cider.

What is the first step for the Hudson Valley to become a regional food hub?

We need to take advantage of existing infrastructure. Many farms have pack houses, cold storage, freezer storage and loading docks, but they

are under-utilized. The larger question is, how do we link the dots?

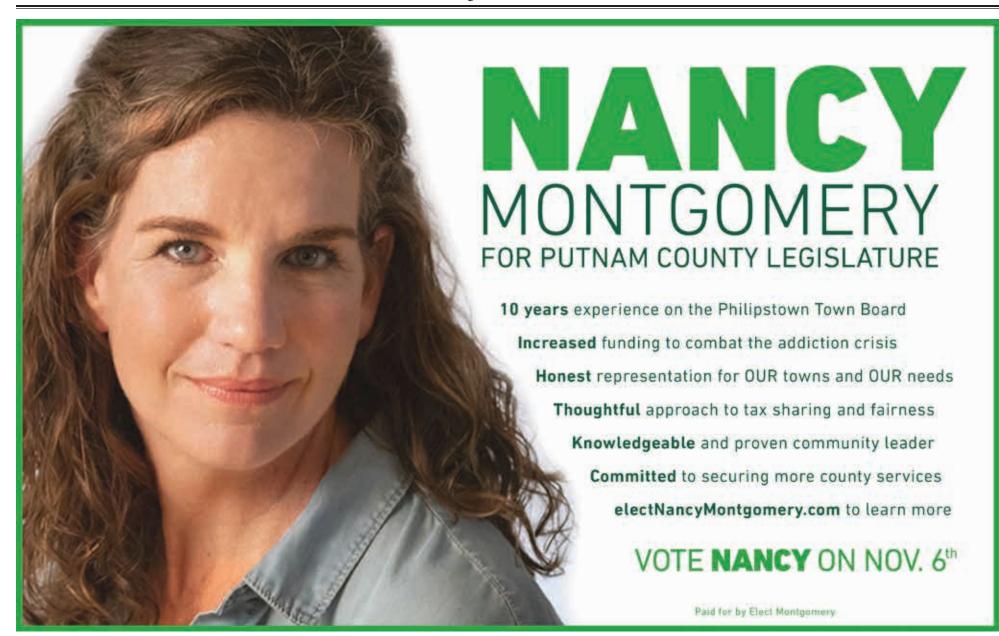


those to distribution, wholesale and retail? How do you connect

1945-present

As the transition from horses to tractors was completed (the number of tractors in the U.S. overtook the number of horses and mules in 1954), large-scale, mechanized mono-culture crops and genetically modified plants become more common. The first mechanical tomato harvesters appeared in 1959. Health concerns increased due to industrial pollution and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. "No-tillage" farming took hold in the 1970s, in part to curb erosion. A 1989 report concluded that the Hudson Valley region produced only 15 percent of the food eaten by its own residents. Farmers' markets grew in popularity. As farm families shrank, more laborers came from outside the U.S.







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Don't Eat Yourself Up

Writer looks at anxiety-inducing 'food rules'

By Alison Rooney

any Americans believe that the only way to eat well is to follow a set of rules.

Those rules may relate to the types of food, portion size, what time of day to eat, etc., but the guilt over not following them fuels multiple industries.

That's one takeaway from the research that Cold Spring resident Virginia Sole-Smith conducted for her new book, *The Eating Instinct: Food Culture, Body Image and Guilt in America*. She will speak on the topic and sign copies at Split Rock Books in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10.

A longtime magazine writer for titles such as *Seventeen*, *Organic Style* and *Parenting* (where she is a contributing editor), Sole-Smith says she began thinking about how women, in particular, consume food in part because of the many stories she was assigned about the latest diets.

"The pressure to be thin transfers to general anxieties," says Sole-Smith, who also co-hosts the Comfort Food Podcast. "Women think, 'Something's wrong with me because I'm hungry for lunch at 10 a.m.' Our custom has made this need to apologize."

In reality, she says, "most diet plans

have the same failure rate. Weight Watchers has an 85 percent failure and returnin-five-years rate. We've lost the ability to trust ourselves in knowing when we're hungry and when we're full."

The alternative food movement of the past 20 years also has created guilt about noncompliance, she says. "I hold people like Michael Pollan [author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*] responsible," says Sole-Smith.

In her book, she writes: "As we've become more aware of ethical farming practices, toxic-chemical exposures and our carbon footprint, upper middle-class consumers have become more willing to pay a premium for organic, fair trade and locally sourced food, especially for our kids. And the food industry has been delighted to market to these demands."

She says the "diet culture" particularly targets parents. "It's viewed as bad parenting if you have a picky-eater child," she says. "I feel for parents who set up rigid rules. It's more and more difficult to feed kids and also feel like you're making the right choices. It's not normal for a 2-year-old to love kale! Parents need to be more relaxed about it. No one comes to like broccoli because they were given five pieces of it at dinner."

In The Eating Instinct, Sole-Smith de-

votes several chapters to extreme eating behaviors such as avoidant-restrictive food disorder, in which people have an apparent lack of interest in eating. She also takes a look at people who have had gastric bypass surgery and "food-insecure" households, many of which are black.

"In my interviews with half a dozen black women living in or close to poverty, I found that they were just as versed in this particular [organic]

gospel, even if they weren't able to make the same purchases," Sole-Smith writes. "The question is whether absorbing the alternative-food movement's brand of clean, whole eating has actually helped or introduced them to a new set of unattainable standards, driven by diet culture, now wearing organic farmer's overalls."

Sole-Smith says she isn't anti-diet or anti-organic. Instead, "it's important that we all behave more transparently about how we struggle," she says. "Diets sometimes give a little structure, which can be helpful. But we must remain vigilant. If you can make changes, don't frame it as punitive. People should give themselves credit for things other than what space they take up in the world."



Virginia Sole-Smith Photo by Gabrielle Gerard

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Out There

The Endless List

An initiation into the Catskills 3500 Club

By Brian PJ Cronin

\ here's treasure here at the summit. although it takes five minutes of wandering

in circles to find it: A faded grav metal canister whose color nearly

I unscrew the top, gingerly reach inside and pull out a leathery plastic bag containing a spiral notepad and a few pencils. I flip through the pad, reading the names, dates and stories of the people who came before. When I reach a blank page, I write my name, the date and a note about the bears I observed on the way up. Then I return the notepad to the canister.

matches the bark of the tree it's attached to.

This is how you join the Catskills 3500 Club. There are 35 peaks in the Catskills that have an elevation of at least 3,500 feet. You climb them all. Four double as "winter peaks" and must be climbed a second time between the first day of winter and the first day of spring. About half of the peaks have no trails. Those are the peaks with canisters, to prove you made it.

The time limit? The rest of your life. The mountains aren't going anywhere.

Friends have told me they find the adventure admirable. They say they're impressed by my dedication. If you also are impressed, maybe you should stop reading and flip to the sports page. Everyone else, lean in and I'll tell you a secret.

The list is an excuse. It's a doctor's note. When the mountains are calling, you wave the list around and tell yourself that you have a Very Important Quest you need to

complete, when in reality you just want to romp around in the mountains. It's much like how fly-fishing is a socially acceptable excuse to stand in a river all day watching the interplay of light and shadow. Stand there with a rod in your hand and you're taking part in a celebrated and honorable activity. Stand there without a rod and someone will eventually call the cops.

The list is an excuse to get to know a storied and mysterious part of the Hudson Valley. To look out on a summer afternoon, from the saddle between Wittenberg Mountain and Cornell Mountain, to Giant's Ledge, across the clove and halfway up Panther Mountain. To hike Panther on a golden autumn evening, look back across the clove at Wittenberg and Cornell and realize you've climbed those slopes. To come back a few months later at 4 a.m. on New Year's Day to climb Panther again through a foot of snow in 20-degree air because it's one of the winter peaks, in time to see the first sunrise of the year crown Wittenberg.

The list is there to get you out the door to where the bears and dogs and rivers and high piles of clouds are.

It's all worth it because when you finish the list, you can mail it in and get ... a patch. I think there's a sticker, too. It's possible that there are other, amazing, top-secret rewards that I don't know about yet because I'm only halfway through. I'm pretty sure it's more about the bears and the clouds.

When you have your patch and possibly a sticker, you can keep going, because there's also the Winter 3500 club in which you climb all 35 peaks in the winter, and The Grid, when you create a spreadsheet with 35 rows and 12 columns and climb each peak 12 times, once in each month. That's 420 hikes. You'll have adventures.

Take your time with all this, because otherwise you'll find yourself trying to find ways to get through the list "more efficiently," which ... ugh. I once considered knocking out all four winter peaks the weekend before the first day of spring after an unusually warm winter because there was no snow left.

Then I thought about mountaineer and

Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, who griped that climbing Everest nowadays, with its base camps and sherpas and tour packages, was becoming too easy. The point of doing something like climbing Everest, he said, was for physical and spiritual gain. Compromise the process,

and you're a jerk when you head out and you're still a jerk when you get back.

So I waited until the following spring, when there was still several feet of snow. I strapped on snowshoes and headed with my friend Christian to Blackhead Mountain, another winter peak. At one point, while backsliding, I had to jam the spikes of my snowshoes into a rock to keep myself from shooting off the mountain.

After we reached the top, we pushed through to a place where no one had been in

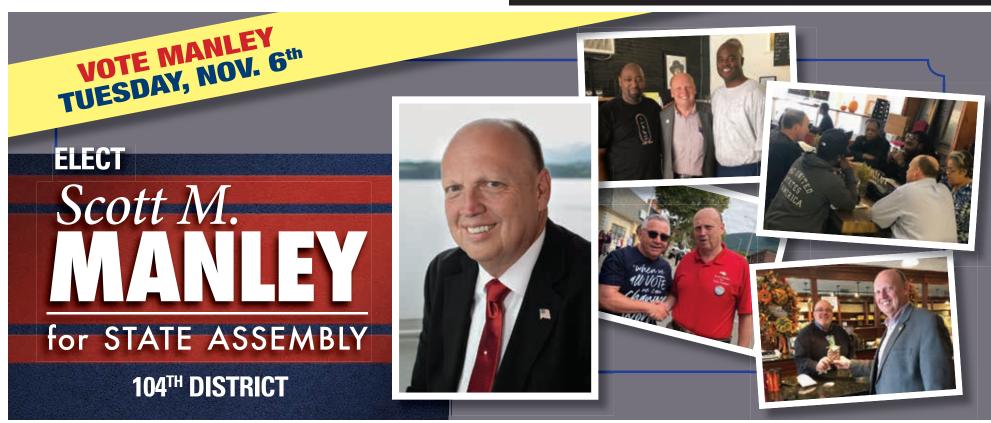
the four "winter peaks"on the Catskill 3500 Photo by Christian Stadler

> weeks. There were no tracks, only untouched powder and melting ice dripping down the branches of the pines and sparkling in the sun while a low wind blew through the trees. We stood for a moment to take it in.

"I don't go to church anymore," Christian said, finally. "But twice a year, if I can come across something like this, that's enough."

When he's not writing for The Current or teaching journalism at Marist College, Brian PJ Cronin can usually be found outside doing something questionable. You can reach him at bcronin@highlandscurrent.org.







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ELECT MAUREEN FLEMING PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

www.FlemingforPutnam.com

Paid for by Fleming for Putnam

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org) For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 3

All About Bulbs

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens 81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000 stonecrop.org

Learn how to naturalize bulbs in a landscape and pot paperwhites to bloom for the holidays. Cost: \$60 (\$40 members)

SAT 3

Volunteer Landscape Work Day and Bonfire

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Manitoga 584 Route 9D | 845-424-3812 visitmanitoga.org

CAT :

I Spy Halloween Scavenger Haunt

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Drive 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org

Search for animal artifacts along the Halloween Trail to help the Kenridge Witch gather ingredients for her potion. Also SUN 4. Cost: \$10 (\$6 members), \$8 (\$4) for children 3 and older

SAT 3

Pet Rabies Clinic

PATTERSON

2 – 4 p.m. Brook Farm Clinic 2371 Route 22 | 845-808-1390 x43160 putnamcountyny.com

Cats, dogs and ferrets welcome in carriers or leashed. Bring proof of Putnam County residency and prior rabies vaccination certificate. *Free*

SAT 3

The Get Down

COLD SPRING

7 – 10 p.m. Chalet on the Hudson 3250 Route 9D haldaneschoolfoundation.org

This fundraiser for the Haldane School Foundation will feature dancing to hip and funky music and a silent auction of items and services. *Cost: \$110*

SUN 4

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Move your clock back one hour.



SUN 4

Mid Hudson Animal Aid Auction

WAPPINGERS FALLS

3 - 7 p.m. Wappingers Elks 1195 Route 376 brownpapertickets.com /event/3608985

The 23rd annual goods and services auction to benefit the Mid Hudson Animal Aid cat sanctuary. A silent auction begins at 3 p.m. and a live auction at 4:30 p.m. *Cost: \$25*

MON 5

Restaurant Week

HUDSON VALLEY

valleytable.com/hvrw

Enjoy three-course lunches for \$22.95 and dinners for \$32.95 at seven Highlands restaurants (Cafe Amarcord, The Pandorica and The Roundhouse in Beacon; Cathyrn's Tuscan Grill, the Hudson House River Inn and Riverview in Cold Spring and Valley Restaurant in Garrison) and hundreds of others in the region. Through Nov. 11

THURS 8

Active-Shooter Defense Course

CARMEL

6 – 9 p.m. Bureau of Emergency Services 112 Old Route 6 | 845-808-4335 putnamsheriff.com

Learn skills to survive a crisis situation involving an armed attacker. Registration required. Repeats each month on the second Thursday. *Free*

THURS 8

Cultural Competency and Knowledge Building

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Binnacle Books 321 Main St. | 845-838-6191

In this two-hour workshop, members of the Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center will address issues of inclusivity in personal or professional life. Cost: \$10 to \$20 (no one will be turned away due to lack of funds)

FRI 9

Veterans' Day Ceremony GARRISON

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

Urgent Knead: For Goodness Bake

BEACON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 145 Main St. | 845-518-4194 facebook.com/forgoodnessbakebeacon

Bakers are donating goods to sell to raise money to help a family stay together. Now in its sixth year, For Goodness Bake has raised nearly \$15,000 for local causes.



SUN 11

Mount Beacon Eight Ceremony

FISHKILL

12:30 p.m. Veterans Park

A memorial ceremony on Veterans' Day to remember the eight service members who have died in crashes on Mount Beacon.

MUSIC

SAT 3

Dark Desert Eagles

PEEKSKILL

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

This Eagles tribute band will cover classics such as "Take It Easy" and "Desperado." *Cost: \$36 to \$57*

SAT 3

Honey Drop Sessions BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 honeydropsessions. brownpaperfickets.com

A night of sweetness and song with Lara Herscovitch, Amy Soucy and Lindsey Wilson. Cost: \$10 (\$15 at door)

SUN 4

Catalyst Quartet

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George's Church 105 Grand St. | 845-561-5355 newburghchambermusic.org

In Hemispheres: South America, the ensemble will perform works by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazil), Diego Vega (Colombia-America), Astor Piazzolla (Argentina) and Alberto Ginastera (Argentina). Cost: \$25 (students \$5) SUN 4

Tribute to Gladys Knight and The Temptations

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvalley.com

Get down with the Motown tribute band Shadows of the 1960s, featuring Tanesha Gary as Knight. *Cost: \$37 to \$71.50*

THURS 8

Women's Drum Corp

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beacon Music Factory 333 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-0472 beaconmusicfactory.com

The first of four weekly practices to perform at the Beacon holiday tree lighting on Dec. 8. *Cost: \$100*

FRI9

The High Lonesome Sound: Kentucky Mountain Music

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.

Tompkins Corner Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road 845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

This compilation of films by musician and documentarian John Cohen offers a portrait of rural life in the early 1960s. Afterward, Cohen, Eli Smith and Wyndham Blair will perform. Cost: \$20 donation

SAT 10

Daisy Jopling Band

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Daisy Jopling Band will celebrate Brian Delma Taylor, a composer and instrumentalist from Peekskill who died in 2017, with music arranged, produced and inspired by him. Cost: \$25 to \$50

SAT 10

Edie Brickell & New Bohemians

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon 35 Market St. | 845-473-2072 bardavon.org

The band will perform its classics as well as songs from *Rocket*, its first album in 12 years. *Cost: \$32 to \$42*

SUN 11

Modigliani Quartet

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandmusic.org

As part of the ongoing Howland Chamber Music Circle series, Amaury Coeytaux (violin), Loic Rio (violin), Laurent Marfaing (viola) and Francois Kieffer (cello) will perform works by Haydn, Ravel and Brahms. *Cost: \$30 (\$10 students)*

SUN 11

Trio Kisosen

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration 45 Market St. | 845-265-5537 chapelrestoration.org

Matheus Sardinha Garcia Souza (violin), An-Lin Bardin (cello) and Naomi Niskala (piano) will perform works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Dvorak. Cost: Free (donations welcome)

SUN 11



Boz Scraggs

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvalley.com

The singer, songwriter and guitarist and former member of the Steve Miller Band will perform as part of his Out of the Blues tour. *Cost: \$73 to \$240*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 3

Eric Lind: The Marsh

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing 845-424-3960

The outgoing director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center shares photos he has taken at the marsh and of its creatures, both above and below the water. Also SUN 4. See Page 11.

SUN 4

Hudson Valley Artist Mentors (Opening)

REACON

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

Curated by Mary Mugele Sealfo, the show includes work by Garin Baker, Clayton Buchanan, Susan Hope Fogel, Cynthia Harris-Pagano, Andrew Lattimore, John Philip Osborne, Joseph Sundwall, George Van Hook, Lois Woolley, Honigan Zhang and Lisa Zukowski. Through Nov. 25

THE WEEK AHEAD

MON 5

Watercolor Art Show (Opening)

GARRISON

2 - 4 p.m.

St. Francis Convent at Graymoor 41 Old Highland Turnpike 845-424-3625 | graymoor.org

The exhibit features work by students in Sister Marjorie Moon's classes. She also will be painting during the opening. Through Nov. 18

MON 5

Artists in the Marketplace (Panel)

PEEKSKILL

6:30 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA 1701 E. Main St. | 914-788-0100 hudsonvalleymoca.org

Bridget Donahue, Marc Straus and Miguel Abreu will discuss how to approach galleries with your artwork. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 members)*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10

Autumn in the Hudson Valley

BEACON

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

Works by 16 members of the Beacon Photography Group

SAT 10

Joan Phares and Kirsten Lyon: Potpourri

BEACON

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

Phares, in mixed media, and Lyon, in ceramics, "create their own version of potpourri," according to the gallery. Jerika Broussard's *She is Magic and Medicine* also will be on view.

SAT 10

Stanley Lindwasser: The 2018 Collection

BEACON

6 - 8 p.m. Oak Vino 389 Main St. | 845-765-2400 oakvino.com

This exhibit of conceptual paintings by the Beacon artist is an exploration of the emotion and relational experience of color found in layers of rock or clouds. Through January

SAT 10

Abstract Paintings by David Kendrick

BEACON

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

"For me, painting is a daring adventure into the unknown, a quest for truth assisted by the actions of the paint brush," says the artist. Through Nov. 26

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 3

The U.S. Supreme Court as a Political Institution

GARRISON

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

Will Hellerstein, a professor emeritus at Brooklyn Law School and former director of the Legal Aid Society, will discuss his experience arguing cases before the Supreme Court. *Free*

SAT 10

Virginia Sole-Smith: The Eating Instinct

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books 97 Main St. | 845-265-2080 splitrockbks.com

The Cold Spring author's book explores how we learn about food and eating. See Page 17.

SUN 11

Chris Hughes: Rethinking Inequality

GARRISON

12:30 p.m. Highlands Country Club 955 Route 9D | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Hughes, a co-founder of Facebook, will discuss his book, Fair Shot: Rethinking Inequality and How We Earn, at a benefit for the Desmond-Fish Library. See Page 2. Cost: Pay what you wish

SUN 11

Get Lit Beacon Literary Salon

BEACON

5 p.m. Oak Vino 389 Main St. | 845-765-2400 getlitbeacon.com

Sign up at the door to read five minutes of original work. Repeats on second Sunday. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 3

Introduction to Babysitting

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Aspiring babysitters ages 10 and older can learn how to care for younger children. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 3

Halloween Party

BEACON

6 p.m.

Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps 1 Arquilla Dr. | 845-831-4540 Facebook.com/BeaconVAC

Children should bring sleeping bags, pillows and blankets to watch *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. There will also be a parade, costume contest and pumpkin decorating. *Free*

SUN 4

Attitude of Gratitude

COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Robin Hutchinson will read from a book she wrote and illustrated about giving thanks every day. *Free*

FRI 9

Man on Wire (2008)

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

The Reel Life Film Club for middle-school students will host Philippe Petit, the subject of this documentary about his 1974 walk across a wire between the World Trade Center towers. *Free*



SAT 10

The Mitten

BEACON

11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-765-3012 howlandculturalcenter.org

A musical based on the popular children's book by Jan Brett about animals seeking shelter inside a mitten. Recommended for children ages 3 to 7. Cost \$10 (children free)

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3

Beauty and Tragedy

NEWBURGH

6 p.m. Atlas Studios 11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855 newburghbeautyandtragedy.com

A new documentary by photographer Dmitri Kasterine of Garrison about the residents of downtown Newburgh. *Free*

SAT 3

James and the Giant Peach

GARRISON

7 pm. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing 845-424-3900 | brownpapertickets. com/event/3634193

The Youth Players present Roald Dahl's tale of a boy who travels across the ocean on a piece of fruit. Also: SUN 4, FRI 9, SAT 10, SUN 11. *Cost: \$12* SAT 3

Our Town

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 Main St. | 845-298-1491 countyplayers.org

The players present Thornton Wilder's 1938 drama that explores community bonds. This performance with American Sign Language. Also FRI 9, SAT 10, SUN 11. Cost: \$20 (\$15 for seniors and children age 12 and younger)

TUES 6

The Importance of Being Earnest (Auditions)

GARRISON

7:15 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Rehearsals begin in January and the play will be performed in March. Also SAT 10. Email a headshot, resume and preferred date to kairos.carin@gmail.com.

THURS

American Experience: The Great War

GARRISON

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

On the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the library will screen a documentary made for PBS by Stephen Ives, a Garrison resident, on the end of World War I.

THURS 8

The Letters: Voices from the Great War

BREWSTER

7 p.m. Brewster High School 50 Foggintown Road | 845-279-5051 x 722 | bit.ly/letters-putnam

An original play performed by Brewster High School students based on letters and diaries of Putnam County residents who served during World War I. Produced with the Southeast Museum. Also FRI 9, SAT 10. Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 at door

SUN 11

Art Thieves Conservatory

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing 845-424-3900 | brownpapertickets. com/event/3741711

Led by Bill Coelius, the Teen Players will share an immersive theatrical experience with improv, singing, dancing, monologues, YouTube videos and smeared clown makeup. The eighth-graders this year will be stealing and performing their own version of *James and the Giant Peach. Cost: \$10*

HEALTH & FITNESS

THURS 8

Philipstown Community Blood Drive

COLD SPRING

2 - 8 p.m. Loretto Parish Hall 24 Fair St. | 800-688-0900

Drink and eat well before donating and bring a donor card or photo ID.

CIVIC

MON 5

City Council Meeting

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall

1 Municipal Plaza | cityofbeacon.org

MON 5

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road | beaconk12.org

TUES 6

Election Day

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

To find your polling place, see voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.



TUES 6

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Music Room 15 Craigside Drive | haldaneschool.org

TUFS 6

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall 85 Main St. | coldspringny.gov

WED 7

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School 1100 Route 9D | gufs.org

WED 7

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEI

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave. | putnamcountyny.com

HURS

Citizens' Climate Lobby

REACON

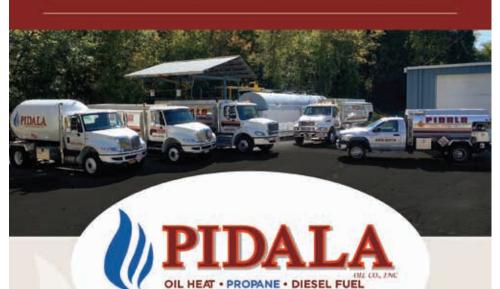
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POLLS ARE OPEN TUESDAY 6AM-9PM:

Cold Spring Methodist Church 216 Main St, Cold Spring North Highlands Fire House 504 Fishkill Rd., Cold Spring

Andrea Connor Hudson Aaron Freimark

Kim Conner

Garrison Volunteer Fire Department 1616 Rt. 9, Garrison **Continental Village Clubhouse** 49 Highland Dr., Garrison

Marc Kemeny

ADD YOUR NAME at philipstowndemocrats.org/support

PHILIPSTOWN VOTES NOVEMBER 6TH, ROWS A, E & G



MaryEllen Odell and Maureen Fleming at the Oct. 26 forum

Photo by Ross Corsair

Putnam Forum (from Page 9)

larger commercial bases, she said.

Fleming pegged the Philipstown sales tax share as \$2 million to \$2.5 million. As county executive, Fleming promised, she would investigate ways to cut the county budget and determine if sales tax revenue could be shared, at least incrementally.

The organizers also asked the candidates about ways to reach local goals.

Fleming urged citizens to stay active and contact elected officials. In Kent, "my

door is always open," she said. "That's what county government should be."

Odell asked residents to support allowing wider community access to the pending county-run senior center at the Butterfield complex in Cold Spring.

Limiting it to seniors "is patently unfair," Odell said. Several years ago, she recalled, when county, Philipstown and Cold Spring officials talked about opening a center, they agreed it could serve the whole community and accommodate some county agencies. "You guys can help me do that," Odell said.

Hate Hits Nelsonville

(from Page 1)

lower to a higher-level felony, depending on the extent of damages.

In a statement, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes Nelson-ville and who lives in Philipstown, said: "This took place within eyesight of my kids' school, where good people from all walks of life bring our kids to learn tolerance and respect." He said "hate has no home" in Philipstown, "and the light of good people coming together will expose it."

The vandalism came about a month after an anti-Semitic flier was hung at two Beacon churches. In response, the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon organized a gathering on Thursday (Nov. 1) at Salem Tabernacle, a non-denominational Christian church, of "all people of faith and good conscience ... for an evening of breaking bread and singing together."

The same flier was posted in Pough-keepsie at Marist College, Vassar College and Dutchess Community College. A man caught hanging fliers on Oct. 8 at Marist was barred from all three campuses. Pough-keepsie police handled the incident but did not release the man's name or charge him with a crime, saying the fliers did not appear to violate state hate-crime laws. Beacon police reached the same conclusion.

There have been increasing reports of anti-Semitic incidents around the country, according to the Anti-Defamation League, even before a man shouting slurs killed 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue on Oct. 27. The ADL said it recorded nearly 2,000 incidents in 2017, ranging from assaults and distribution of hate literature to vandalism and bomb threats, including 380 incidents in New York. The largest increase nationally was in vandalism.

More recently, a study of 7.5 million recent Twitter posts and 8.2 million hashtags by the ADL found a "marked rise in the number of online attacks" against Jews ahead of Election Day.





A swastika and the word "Prowler" were painted inside the home.

Photo by M. Turton

Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance said he felt it was important for the media to cover anti-Semitic acts but that the focus should not be on whether the suspects are caught. The more important question, he said, is: "Where do average people in Nelsonville, Beacon and America stand in these moments of fear?" When hate crimes occur, he said, "there is no neutral."

In an email, Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill wrote: "This hateful vandalism is outrageous and heartbreaking." He noted that village residents have expressed revulsion over the incident as well as "support for our neighbors who have been subjected to this mindless act."

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SPORTS



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The Beacon Bears, a football team of players ages 9 and younger that competes against teams in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties, will take on the Brewster Bruins for the Taconic Youth Football championship at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4, at Michie Stadium at West Point.

The Bears are undefeated at 8-0, while Brewster has only one loss, to Beacon, 26-20, on Sept. 2.

The Bears beat Somers, 14-6, on Oct. 28 to reach the title game. The photos here are from the Bears' 21-0 victory over Mount Vernon on Oct. 21 at Memorial Park.

Photos by Clark Thompson

















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PART-TIME NANNY — Garrison family needs a non-smoking, PT nanny/driver for 5-year-old twin boys, T-F 2:30-6 p.m. Pickup at Garrison home, drive our car to Beacon (great driving record and experience a must) for pick-up, take children to afternoon activity and home. Email catherineA@ pcwmanagement.com.

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maintenance worker. Work is mainly in the afternoons but can be very flexible. Could be two separate positions if needed. Must have CDL with a passenger endorsement. Call Amber at 845-424-4618.

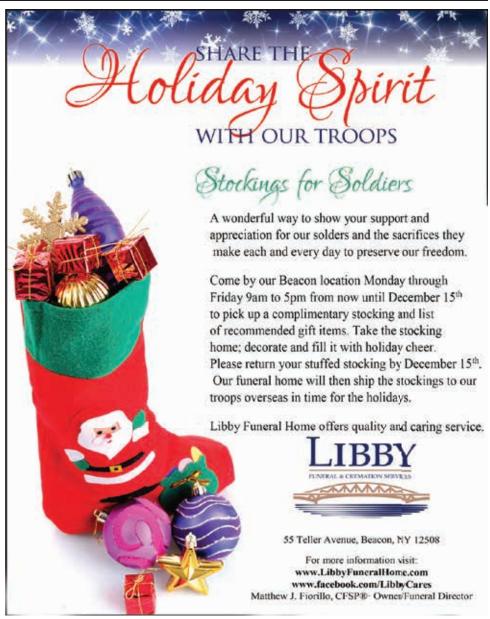
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7 LITTLE W@RDS

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			SOLU	JTIONS 💈			
1 giving a shock (9)							
2 transla	te (9)						
3 "capita	l fellow" (1	0)		Game			
4 commands (7)							
5 in a slapdash manner (9)							
CLUES SOLUTIONS 1 giving a shock (9)							
7 default configurations (7)							
				0			
STA	STS	ET	ING	NK			
STA RPR	STS	ETS	ING HU	NK ED			
RPR	DLY	ETS	HU	ED			

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SPORTS



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Haldane Volleyball in Sectional Final

Two-time champs face Valhalla on Nov. 3

By Skip Pearlman

he Haldane High School volleyball team last week took two huge steps toward its goal of winning a third straight Section 1, Class C title with 3-0 wins over Woodlands on Oct. 29 and Dobbs Ferry on Oct. 31.

The Blue Devils (19-5) will face the top seed in the tournament, Valhalla, on Saturday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m. at Pace University. The Vikings are undefeated after dropping this year from Class B.

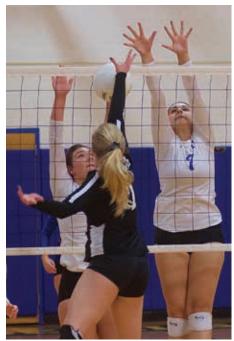
Haldane came out slowly against Dobbs Ferry but prevailed in three close sets, 26-24, 28-26 and 27-25.

"In the third we were down nine points," said Coach Kelsey Flaherty. "Then Grace Tomann served three aces in a row and turned the game around. She also had 11 kills and 12 digs."

Junior Willa Fitzgerald also came up big, with 14 kills and four aces.

"Willa ran our offense in the front row," Flaherty said. "She and Melissa Rodino were connecting. Olivia Monteleone, who had 20 digs, was picking up balls left and right and running our defense." Morgan Etta, a senior, had four aces and three solo blocks.

Against Woodlands, Fitzgerald had 13 kills, Tomann added eight kills, seven



Ashley Hotaling (left) and Morgan Etta (7) at the net against Woodlands

Photo by S. Pearlman

digs and two aces, and Rodino had seven aces and 16 assists.

"Once we got into a groove we were serving consistently and ran a fast offense," Flaherty said. "It was nice to get everyone involved."

Beacon Girls Fall at Rye

The Beacon High School volleyball team, seeded No. 18 in Section 1, Class A, traveled to No. 15 Rye on Oct. 25 for their first game in the state tournament but saw their season end with a 3-0 loss. Tessa Nilsen had 12 kills, 14 digs and four aces for the Bulldogs, and Grace Affeldt had 10 assists and three aces.



STRIKE ZONE — Irina Alekseeva (3), a 2017 Beacon High School grad, is an outside hitter for Iowa Western (32-3), which is ranked No. 5 in the nation among Division 1 junior colleges. The 6'1" sophomore, who moved to the U.S. with her family from Russia in 2013, is averaging 11.5 kills per game for the Reivers.



Haldane Girls Headed to Final Four

Soccer squad takes regional title with overtime win

By Skip Pearlman

he Haldane High School girls' soccer team is headed to the state Final Four after edging Millbrook, 3-1, in overtime on Wednesday (Oct. 31) in the regional final at Arlington High School.

The Blue Devils (9-9-1) won their eighth consecutive Section 1, Class C title on Oct. 28, defeating Solomon Schechter, 4-0, on the same field behind a hat trick by junior Jade Villella.

Haldane will play in the state semifinal at Cortland High School, north of Binghamton, on Saturday, Nov. 10, against AuSable Valley High School from upstate Clinton County. The semifinal winners play Nov. 11 at SUNY Cortland for the Class C championship. Haldane won the state championship in 2014.

Millbrook, the Section 9 champ, looked to be cruising toward victory on Halloween with a 1-0 lead late in the second half. But Lili Westerhuis scored on a pass from Villella with six minutes remaining to force overtime.

After the first 10-minute extra period ended with the score still tied, 1-1, Westerhuis delivered the game-winner four minutes into the second off a deflection in the box. Villella added an insurance goal on a breakaway with two minutes left.

"Being in a 1-0 hole is something we are used to," said Coach Ed Crowe. "We're used to coming back. Our thing is — no matter how the first 40 [minutes] go, we have enough in the tank and can run hard and do what we need in the second half.

"We won this game today with heart, grit and talent," Crowe added. "The girls didn't give up, they played very well in both overtimes. Lili was phenomenal, Jade was great, our defense and goalie were phenomenal. This was really a team effort, that's why we're moving on. I'm proud of the girls."

Most of the action during the game was on Haldane's offensive end. Millbrook keeper Claire Martell had 21 saves compared to five for Blue Devils goalie Abigail Platt.

