



DECEMBER 21, 2018

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Bumper Crop for the Highlands

Maloney calls farm bill 'best ever for Hudson Valley'

By Brian PJ Cronin

After months of deadlock revolving around such diverse issues as food stamps, wildfire management and conservation easements, the 2018 Farm Bill has passed both houses of Congress. President Donald Trump was expected to sign it into law on Thursday.

Sean Patrick Maloney of Cold Spring, whose district in the U.S. House includes the Highlands, and who serves on the Committee on Agriculture, called it the best farm bill ever for the Hudson Valley. (He said that about the farm bill passed in 2014, as well, but proclaimed this one even better.)

"We have won the battle, won the war, and made the progress that we wanted to help our farmers," he said at a Dec. 14 news conference at Soons Orchards in New Hampton. "By working together with our Republican Senate colleagues, we were able to produce a farm bill that I'm very proud of."

The Hudson Valley is home to more



than 3,100 farms that cover 474,000 acres. These farms collectively produce more than \$322 million of food each year. But when the farm bill was put on hold in the fall because of political disagreements, many agricultural programs were in danger of losing funding and the region's economy placed at risk.

With the bill signed, farmers and those who work with them are breathing a sigh of relief. And its provisions ensure that if future farm bills are deadlocked, several key programs will continue to receive funding regardless.

"This bill has delivered increased and

(Continued on Page 17)

Home for the Holidays

Garrison second-grader battles brain disease

By Chip Rowe

Something was wrong with Mira. Her parents, Ted and Nell Timmer, had taken notice near the end of the summer. Their 7-year-old, about to enter the second grade at the Garrison School, was falling asleep at odd times, crying for no reason, having weird memory glitches and trouble finishing sentences. But it didn't cause serious concern; it was August when it was scorching hot and everyone was a little off.

But then came the seizure.

On the Sunday before Labor Day, Mira and her father, uncle and three of her four brothers were playing basketball outside their home on Lewis Lane, opposite the school field. Mira fell silent. When Ted walked over, she was rigid, staring at the sky, gurgling, choking. This continued for several minutes.

They took her to Maria Ferrari Chil-



Mira Timmer at home in Garrison with some of the "stuffers" she received during her three-month hospital stay

Photo by Sheila Williams

dren's Hospital in Valhalla. Her vital signs were OK. The doctor said to follow up with outpatient neurology and she went home.

(Continued on Page 6)

Philipstown Senior Center Opens



SENIOR CENTER OPENS — After years of debate, revisions and setbacks, Barbara Scuccimarra (center), who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, finally cut the ribbon on Tuesday (Dec. 18) to open the new senior center at the site of the former Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring. She was joined at the 6,000-square-foot Philipstown Friendship Center by a number of county and state officials and two centenarians. The county spent about \$1.4 million renovating the space and will spend about \$2.5 million over the next 15 years on rent and fees.

Photo by Michael Turton

Why Did You Vote Against Budget?

Beacon legislators explain opposition

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro on Dec. 14 signed the \$503 million budget sent to him by the Legislature, which passed it 19-5. Both legislators who represent Beacon, Frits Zernike and Nick Page, voted no. They were joined by Kris Munn (Red Hook), Rebecca Edwards (Poughkeepsie) and Joel Tyner (Staatsburg).

Molinaro vetoed only one amendment sent to him by the Legislature: He restored \$40,000 to the county parks department budget to expand a summer concert series at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie. He left intact an amendment introduced by Page that funds a \$9,400 feasibility study for ferry service between Dutchess and Orange counties.

We asked the Beacon legislators why they voted no. Their responses have been edited for brevity.

Frits Zernike

One example stands out as emblematic of why I felt compelled to vote no. Kris Munn offered an amendment that would have provided funds to hire full-time temps to take up the overtime slack at the jail. Right now the county employs part-time officers and relies on overtime. This means correctional officers are working to the point where the job becomes riskier for them and the inmates.

In addition, the jail has had to cut staffing for things like accompanying volunteers into the jail who provide classes on

(Continued on Page 16)



Frits Zernike

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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: RON IAROSSO

By Alison Rooney



Ron Iarossi
Photo by A. Rooney

Ron Iarossi owns the seasonal Kringle's Christmas House in Beacon, which during most of the rest of the year is also the Beacon Creamery.

What do ornaments and ice cream have in common?

They represent something nostalgic — it takes people back. It's a fun shop to run. We help people out. If they have a memory of an ornament from their childhood, we try to find one like it. We're even open on Christmas Eve. It's mostly men who come in then when they realize they've forgotten to buy something. Ice cream always sells, even during snowstorms. At this time of year, it's mainly pints, not cones.

How did you get into selling ornaments?

It was something my wife and I dreamed of doing. We were always on the look-out for Christmas stores when we went on vacation. Twenty-six years ago, I was working for a bank in Connecticut which went under. We decided to make a change and opened a store in Fishkill, which we ran for three years. When we needed to expand, we found space in Beacon. We've moved a few times over the years, but all on Main Street.

Which ornaments are best-sellers?

Right now, it's the Italian glass ornaments, which are a little more contemporary. Each part is individually blown and the assembly is labor intensive. Others are hand-painted but blown in a mold. There can be many painters working on a single

ornament; one might specialize on the eyes, for instance.

Does your family trim a tree?

You know, having this business, it's kind of whoever gets to it. I haven't done it yet. Between being here, baby-sitting for my grandkids twice a week... Plus, I've been collecting ornaments for so long that we had to get a second tree to fit them all.

What makes Christmas special for you?

Well, I have five grandchildren under the age of 5; they're all toddling around now and are able to pick out their own ornaments [at the store]. I used to choose them, but those days are over.

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is your favorite holiday music?

“

I love the music from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, especially “Christmas is Going to the Dogs.”

”



~ Allison Shea, Beacon

“

Phil Spector's Christmas album — you can't beat it.

”



~ Jeff Vidakovich, Cold Spring

“

My kids say that every Christmas song is my favorite Christmas song.

”



~ Maria Jones, Nelsonville

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Members of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson celebrate at Beacon City Hall after the council created a municipal ID. Photo provided

Updates to Past Stories

Beacon Approves Municipal IDs

Program will begin within six months

The Beacon City Council voted unanimously on Monday (Dec. 17) to begin offering a municipal identification card within six months. With the vote, the city joined three other municipalities in the Hudson Valley (Poughkeepsie, Middletown and Kingston) and about two dozen across the country that offer IDs.

The IDs had been championed by groups such as Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, which argued they would make it easier for individuals who typically have difficulties in obtaining government ID (such as undocumented immigrants, minors, the recently incarcerated, homeless, and transgender individuals) to participate in civic life, pick up children from school, retrieve prescriptions and interact with police officers.

The ID, which is voluntary, will cost \$10, with discounted rates for minors, the elderly and those facing financial hardship. Applicants will need to provide a form of identification such as a passport, green card, consulate card or visa.

Although the law passed unanimously, Council Member George Mansfield said

the city should spend the next six months making sure that businesses and institutions are prepared to accept the ID.

"I mean, I own a bar [Dogwood]," he said. "I want to make sure it's OK if I start accepting these IDs as proof of drinking age."

Serino: Let Voters Decide

Introduces bill to put raises on ballot

Sue Serino, whose district in the state Senate includes the Highlands, on Dec. 17 introduced a bill that would require voters to approve pay raises for state legislators ("Pay Raises in Albany," Dec. 14).

The 213 men and women in the state Senate and Assembly will see their annual salaries increase on Jan. 1 for the first time in 20 years, to \$130,000 by 2021 from \$79,500, unless a special session is called to vote down the raises. The increase comes with some caveats, such as a cut in the stipends that many members claim.

Serino's bill, which is co-sponsored by Chris Jacobs, a Republican whose district includes parts of Buffalo, would require voter approval of pay raises recommended by the Legislature's Compensation Committee.

"With New York politicians poised to become the highest paid in the nation, New Yorkers themselves deserve a say in the process," Serino said in a statement.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sheriff Investigates Bomb Threat in Philipstown

Apparently part of nationwide spam

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office responded to a bomb threat on Dec. 13 at T. Webber Plumbing, Heating, Air & Electric on Route 9 in Philipstown.

An email that arrived at about 2 p.m. said an explosive device had been placed in the building, the sheriff said. About 20 people were evacuated and police closed Route 9 and other nearby roads while bomb-sniffing dogs from the New York State Police and the Sheriff's Department conducted a search.

The sheriff said the threat appeared to be part of a wave of hoax emails received that day by businesses, schools and hospitals across North America. The bogus message demanded a \$20,000 ransom paid with digital currency to prevent the bomb from going off.

Putnam History Names Executive Director

Museum hires county historian

The Putnam History Museum on Dec. 18 named Sarah Johnson, the Putnam County historian, as its executive director. She succeeds Rachel Ornstein, who left when her partner received a job offer in Michigan.

Johnson will join the museum on Jan. 2. She will oversee exhibitions, development and programming.

Johnson has been the county historian since 2014 and previously worked with the Bard Graduate Center, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the Smithsonian. She holds a doctorate in historical and critical studies from the University of Brighton.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Solid foundation

I loved Michael Turton's article on brickmaking ("Beacon's Building Blocks," Dec. 14). My great-grandfather was Joshua Babcock, owner of the Moore & Babcock Brick Co. of Albany. Our family home here was built with M&B bricks.

Leslie Smith, *Albany*

At Davis Furniture on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, the entire floor of the main showroom is paved with a collection of old Hudson Valley bricks.

Pat Kelley, *via Facebook*

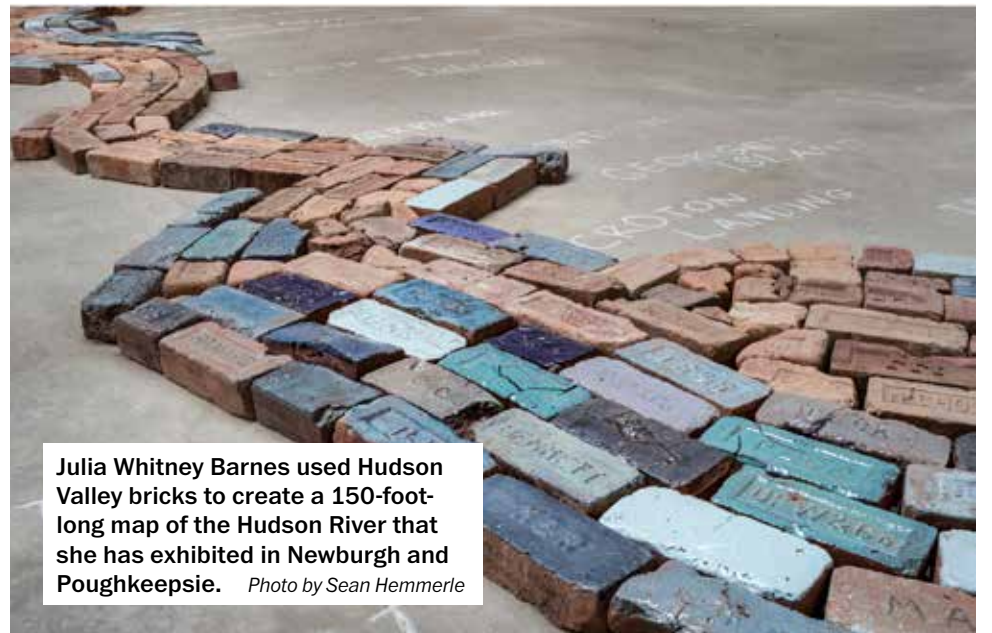
Bricks were used as ballast low in the holds to stabilize ocean vessels in olden days, which helped in the sale of bricks. And when a major portion of Haverstraw collapsed into the river in 1906, killing early morning residents and burying blocks of houses, it was because the clay had been excavated from beneath the village for ... bricks!

Bob McCabe, *via Facebook*

According to the Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation, because of the explosive growth of New York City, by 1860 there were nearly 100 brickyards in the Hudson River Valley. Each season the industry turned out more than 500 million bricks, and every 450,000 bricks required about 22.5 tons of coal. Therefore: Not handmade ... not unique ... not rare.

Rob Doyle, *via Facebook*

Michael Turton responds: "Bear in mind this industry evolved from its start in the 1600s through the mid-20th century. Early bricks were handmade in small molds. Before being shaped, the clay was tempered using human feet — think grape stomping. Over time, the process became more mechanized but for centuries still involved a great deal of physical labor. Pulverized coal was added to the clay-sand-water mix because when fired it ignited inside the bricks, reducing the time each brick had to be baked. What makes the story interesting, if not unique, is that an entire industry that once was so widespread and contributed to the construction of so many buildings, in-



Julia Whitney Barnes used Hudson Valley bricks to create a 150-foot-long map of the Hudson River that she has exhibited in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. Photo by Sean Hemmerle

cluding Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building, disappeared completely. What would be rare would be to find an old brick building in Beacon that was not built with Hudson Valley bricks."

Energy choices

Thanks for spreading the word about the Community Choice Aggregation energy-savings program in the Highlands ("5 Questions: Jeff Domanski," Dec. 14). Anyone who has more questions can email me at cca@hudsonvalleyenergy.org or call 845-859-9099.

I wanted to clarify a few points. First, not everyone is automatically included when a CCA program launches: anyone who already has a contract to receive their electricity from an energy supply company (ESCO) is excluded. Second, the price the CCA pays for the energy will not fluctuate as the supply price from Central Hudson does.

Finally, everyone in the CCA remains a Central Hudson customer for the distribution of the energy to their homes and businesses and will still have their billing and service disruption repairs handled by Central Hudson.

Our program, which is administered by JouleCommunity, also will incorporate local clean-energy projects (e.g., from solar and small hydropower projects), which can provide savings that eventually will be cred-

ited on individual utility bills. To me, this is a game-changer because it will greatly increase demand for supply from local projects, advancing the market and creating local jobs. Participation in the local part of the CCA program will occur on a first-come, first-served basis within each community.

What happens next? The participating communities are working on an agreement that will include the prices and supply mix of the proposal that will be issued for supplier bids. When a proposal is chosen, there will be a period of at least 30 days where people can opt out before the program begins. When that period ends, meters are read and customers begin paying the CCA rate. However, anyone can opt out of the program with no penalty at any time.

Jeff Domanski, *Beacon*

The CCA is wonderful news. Thanks to all those who've worked to make it happen. Spread the word here and around the nation!

Raymond Bokhour, *Cold Spring*

Less doubt

I'd like to thank Tim Donovan for his letter to *The Current* (Dec. 14) about our recent production at the Philipstown Depot Theatre of *Doubt: A Parable* and in response say I agree — a show that dramatically satirizes the members or beliefs of any faith is not something that we would do either — at any time of year.

Fortunately, *Doubt* is the farthest thing from a satire and we would be hard-pressed to believe that any audience member felt that the church was targeted in any way. The play is steeped in the loving memory of the playwright, John Patrick Shanley, who did not set out to criticize the Catholic Church (in which he was raised) but to illustrate how certainty can close the door on human communication and connection and blind us to our imperfections.

In his introduction to the play, Shanley is clear that he wrote this play to deal with the concept of certainty versus doubt, not misconduct in the church. The play is, indeed, a parable. I believe *Doubt* delivers a warning to us not to be seduced into being convinced of one's absolute certitude. And given that "certainty" seems to be pervasive in so much of our current religious,



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

cultural and political climes, we had hoped that presenting this play could be a reminder that none of us are perfect, a deeply reverential tenet shared by all religions.

Robin Joseph, *Hastings-on-Hudson*
Joseph is the co-artistic director of GoJo Clan Productions.

Cell tower update

I would like to express my appreciation for Philipstown's continued thoughtful and principled approach to the cell-tower matter ("Balloon Test a Bust for Cell Tower," Dec. 14). Thank you to Richard Shea and the board for fighting to preserve the town's natural beauty, our most important asset.

Steve Laifer, *Cold Spring*

Much gratitude to our Town Board and community members for their thoughtful approach and many hours of effort examining and working on this issue for us all.

Travis Fyfe, *via Facebook*

Bag ban

Besides climate change and air pollution, the next big environmental threat is plastics. Nine million tons enter our oceans every year, and you don't have to go far to see where it ends up: Take a walk on the beach at Little Stony Point and count the plastic straws, bottles and other detritus that washes up.

I commend Dutchess County for passing a plastic bag ban, even if the 10-cent per bag fee didn't make it into the law ("Dutchess Adopts Plastic Bag Ban," Dec. 14). I urge Put-

nam County to follow suit. We cannot continue to live in a throwaway society, especially now that so little of what we thought was being recycled, isn't. We will pay a price by allowing plastic to keep contaminating our environment. Banning plastic bags seems like a smart and sensible way forward.

On another note, on Dec. 7 the Garrison School PTA passed a resolution that it will work to eliminate disposable plastic straws, plates, cups and utensils and reduce the amount of disposable items it uses during school events or when serving hot lunch. When not possible to use reusable items, we will try to use items sourced from sustainable materials. We also will encourage the use of reusable water bottles and compost whenever possible.

Krystal Ford, *Garrison*

Ford is president of the Garrison School PTA.

Ireland has had a plastic bag ban for 15 years. It's a brilliant idea. All my relatives keep canvas bags in the boot of their car, and it keeps the countryside looking cleaner and cuts down on all that plastic.

Yvonne Mee, *via Facebook*

Another stupid law banning something when we have much bigger fish to fry.

Geraldine Fuller, *via Facebook*

I wonder what Walmart will do with their self-checkouts? They design around the plastic bag.

Andrew Dubler, *via Facebook*



QUARTER-CENTURY OF TOYS — Anthony Phillips stands at the Cold Spring firehouse on Wednesday (Dec. 19) with some of the hundreds of toys collected for this year's Toys for Tots drive, a project of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. This is the 25th year that Phillips, a former Marine and a past mayor of the village, has coordinated the program in Philipstown. The toys were distributed on Dec. 20 to families and agencies that assist them. *Photo by Michael Turton*

Pinball in Beacon

Beacon may lift its ban on pinball machines, but it's a little late for the arcade museum guy, who was basically thrown out of the city ("Beacon Council Reconsiders Pinball Ban," Dec. 14).

Robert Cahill, *via Facebook*

Ask and you shall receive. Based on its application to the city, Industrial Arts Brewing Co. plans to have an arcade in its

new space on Fishkill Road in Beacon.

Lisa Hall, *via Facebook*

Coming soon: an "artisan" pinball hall!
Chris Ungaro, *via Facebook*

Tell Gov. Cuomo he can make money from them and he will make pinball machines mandatory.

Joseph Pedro III, *via Facebook*

HELP WANTED

Philipstown Recreation Department

Are you looking to become part of a fun and exciting team? The Philipstown Recreation Department is hiring for the following two positions. To apply, please send your resume to Amber Stickle, PO Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516 or email to amber@philipstownrecreation.com.

For more information, please call 845-424-4618

- 1) **FULL TIME BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUPERVISOR** - Work involves supervision and management of recreational facilities/grounds. General work activity includes, but is not limited to, overseeing building operations, repairs, maintenance, construction, supervision, budgeting, and record keeping. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree with one year work experience in maintenance or comparable field; or an associate's degree with three years work experience in maintenance or a comparable field; or high school diploma with five year experiences in maintenance or a comparable field; or an equivalent of training and experience outlined above. This is a civil service position and may require an exam for permanent hire.
- 2) **PART-TIME TEEN PROGRAM SPECIALIST** - Work involves developing and implementing teen program offerings for the community. Hours to include nights and weekends. We are looking for an enthusiastic and flexible person to help build these program. Candidates must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Experience with teens is a plus!

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Mira Timmer receives an EEG during her treatment. There were so many procedures, says her mother, "I can't honestly remember why they had the probe on her cheek."

Photo provided

Mira Timmer (from Page 1)

There were no more seizures, but two days later, Mira was still having trouble. She confused the name of a friend and the friend's dog. Unprovoked, she screamed at her father: "Stop looking at me! Stop looking at me!" She thrashed violently on her bed and then, suddenly, fell into a deep sleep.

"I was like, 'OK. This is not right,' " recalls Nell, who is a maternity ward nurse at Westchester Medical Center. As she carried Mira to the car to return to the hospital, her daughter told her: "I can't take it anymore. I feel like it's pulling me into my head."

Nell remembers thinking: *Is this what people say when they have a brain tumor?*

Back in Valhalla, an MRI of Mira's brain showed no tumor. The fluid from a spinal tap was sent to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. In the meantime, Mira remained in the hospital. With one of her parents always in the room, she had periodic, 15-minute "episodes," Nell says. She would scream at her mother to get away, then cry out for her when Nell backed off. She burrowed into the small spaces of the room. She repeatedly tore the sheets off the bed, and complained she couldn't see. She colored incessantly, filling long sheets of paper. Her memory faded: she couldn't remember her birthday, or who had visited the day before.

"It felt like I was watching her brain erase itself," says Nell. "I was watching my child disappear."

As they waited for the results from

Mayo, a pediatric neurologist made a list on a white board in Mira's room. No tumor. Bacterial meningitis? Tickborne disease? (Mira later tested negative for Lyme.) HaNDL syndrome? Some kind of autoimmune encephalitis, such as anti-NMDA?

The latter is a relatively uncommon disorder, first described in 2007, in which the immune system creates antibodies that attack N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors in the brain. This monkey wrench causes patients to lose inhibitions, act out violently and exhibit other behaviors often associated with severe mental illness. It is far more common in females and has been confirmed in children as young as 21 months.

The doctor told the Timmers he would be surprised if that was the case because Mira's symptoms were relatively mild compared to the 10 cases he had seen over the past decade. For instance, he said, Mira wasn't making weird movements with her mouth and tongue, a common symptom.

The next day, Sept. 10, Mira's mouth became a beehive of activity.

Every other day over the next week, Mira underwent a process in which a machine at her bedside removed the blood from her body through an IV in her neck, pumped it through a centrifuge to strip the plasma (which carried the antibodies attacking her brain), and returned it to her body with donated albumin so the plasma could regenerate. That was followed by five rounds of intravenous and IV immunoglobulin (IVIG) to

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

tamp down her overactive immune system.

While she still had some episodes, her parents say she seemed to be recovering. On Sept. 28, a Friday, she was sent home.

On Saturday morning, her mother watched her right-handed child struggle to eat her cereal with her left hand, while making random movements with her right hand, which she was holding up in the air. She had several episodes over the weekend where she showed a messy lack of inhibition, and by Monday afternoon, she raced impulsively out of the house and began running laps in the school field with the middle-school soccer team, then doing calisthenics with them. "Coach Beckley asked if he should send her back," Ted recalls, smiling.

It was funny, in retrospect, but Mira clearly was not better.

Their doctor at Maria Ferrari was on vacation, but they were able to see a pediatric neurologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who admitted her. She was having moments of catatonia, Nell says, and randomly touching and stroking strangers, along with screeching. When they reached the hospital room, Mira slept for 36 hours.

"When she woke up, she was a lunatic," Nell says. "That week was the worst. She was screaming, hitting, kicking, biting."

And running.

"There was nothing in her brain telling her to stop," Nell says. "Both of us had to be there because she would have raging fits and try to

bolt. One of us had to guard the door."

"It got to the point where I just let her run," says Ted. "I would run the loop with her." In one instance, he says, Mira bowled over a doctor who saw her coming and crouched to hug her.

A neurologist at Columbia prescribed four doses of Rituxanmab, a form of chemotherapy, to wipe out the white blood cells producing the antibodies, since washing them out hadn't worked. Mira was moved back to Maria Ferrari, closer to home, for the final three doses. On Oct. 26 she was transferred to Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where she remained for nearly six weeks of speech, memory and behavioral rehab.

"She still had some good tantrums" at Blythedale, says Ted. "She once kicked the heavy bathroom door for 30 minutes. I mean, karate kicks."

In November, the Timmers received the results of a second spinal tap done in the midst of chemo that showed that the antibodies were gone.

Since returning home to Garrison on Dec. 5, Mira has been attending her second-grade class for two hours every other day, although after the first two hours she slept for four, her mother says. A steroid she was taking until recently made her constantly hungry, and she gained 30 pounds.

Nell says Mira's brothers are glad to have their sister home and have been supportive as she recovers. "When she had a freakout, even Graham [who is 4] said, 'I think Mira's brain is still hurting her.'"



SMALL-TOWN SUPPORT

A family friend, Kelley Amadei, launched a campaign at [gofundme.com/mira039s-medical-marathon](https://www.gofundme.com/mira039s-medical-marathon) to help the Timmer family with expenses while both parents stopped working to care for Mira. As of this week, 229 contributors have donated \$44,300.

"I was blown away," says Nell. "It feels like an episode of *This is Your Life*. Not only my family gave, but friends from middle school and boys I went to dances with in high school, and so many people from Beacon, where we had a coffee shop for five years, and the teachers at Garrison School."

Timmer noted other support: Courtney McCarthy organized a meal train, Vilma Ortiz stayed late and overnight with the boys, Garrison School Superintendent Laura Mitchell checked in regularly and school nurse Melissa DeFonce emailed photos of teachers holding a white board that read, "We miss you, Mira!"

"We're just feeling everybody was looking out for us," Nell said.

Photo by Sheila Williams



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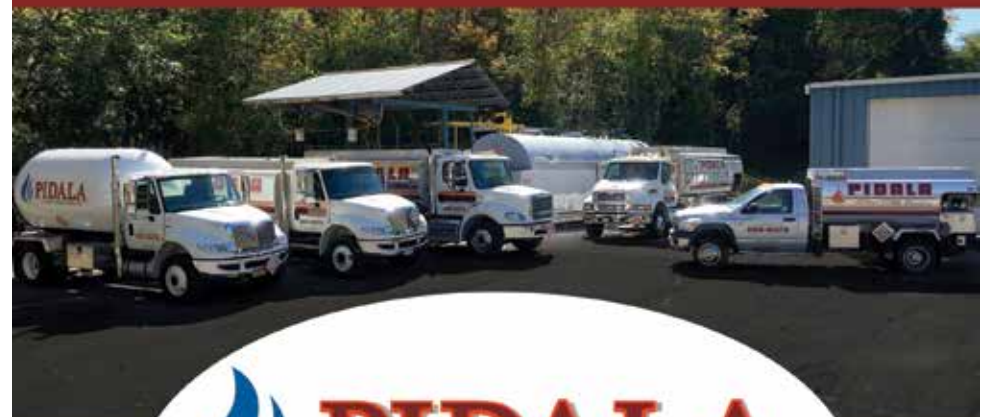
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Nelsonville Urges Philipstown to Resume Cell Tower Talks

Mayor says town garage best location for everyone

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill on Monday (Dec. 17) urged Philipstown to resume negotiations that would place a cell tower at the town highway garage and presumably end litigation against Nelsonville while leaving a 190-foot tower on Route 9.

Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless proposed in 2017 to erect cell towers on

hillsides in Nelsonville and Philipstown. The Nelsonville tower would have been off Rockledge Road, overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery. The Philipstown tower was to occupy a perch along Vineyard Road, off Route 9.

Philipstown and Nelsonville officials denied both permits, prompting Homeland Towers and Verizon several months ago to sue both municipalities in federal court.

This fall, a potential compromise

emerged: Homeland would move the Vineyard Road tower to a spot lower on the hillside, closer to Route 9, and build a second tower at the town Highway Department garage complex on Fishkill Road in Nelsonville, instead of over the cemetery. However, after a balloon test demonstrated the height of a 190-foot tower on Route 9, the Town Board rejected the idea.

On Dec. 6, Supervisor Richard Shea said the town expects the case to go to trial.

O'Neill wants the talks and possible compromise resurrected.

"The solution is, as a community, to contemplate a tower at the Highway Department, which I thought was the least-worst alternative from the get-go," he said, to general agreement from the Nelsonville trustees.

"If we're stuck between a rock and a hard place fiscally because of [legal costs] then there has to be a compromise somewhere," Trustee Alan Potts said.

At the same time, O'Neill complained that Philipstown excluded Nelsonville from participation in the Highway Department tower talks.

"It would appear Philipstown was negotiating a settlement on behalf of Nelsonville," he said. "Why Philipstown — we offer our sincere thanks for working on our behalf — engaged in these discussions without consultation is somewhat mystifying."

Shea did not immediately respond to O'Neill's criticism.

Planning Board Backs Zoning Change

The Philipstown Planning Board last week backed a zoning law change to allow museums and art galleries to operate in the office-commercial-industrial district. It also approved a project on a 20-acre lot on Lake Celeste Drive. See highlandscurrent.org.

Trustee Michael Bowman suggested that "from a best-case scenario, they were doing it without thinking it through completely because they were just trying to make the best decision for the community in general." He added that "if there's a chance to settle it, I'm willing to hear everybody out." And that means the public, too, he emphasized.

"The town is in a terrible position," Trustee Chris Caccamise said.

O'Neill also said the village received notification that in about eight weeks it must provide an "onerous, extensive" amount of material sought by Homeland Towers in its lawsuit against the village, "despite the fact that" during months of review of the Rockledge application, Nelsonville "sent them about 60 pounds in print outs, thumb drives and videos." The mayor termed the demand "unreasonable" but said that after conferring with lawyers he concluded "we have no option."

Beyond that, should the village go to court, "I have confidence that we will win, on the facts," he said.



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The Calendar



Upstate Comes to Beacon

Indie band will perform at Towne Crier

By Alison Rooney

The women of Upstate have been finding their voices this year.

The seven-member band, which is fronted by three female vocalists, including two Beacon residents, Mary Kenney and Allison Olender, will perform a holiday concert at the Towne Crier on Friday, Dec. 28. Its second album, *Healing*, will be released in February.

Originally called Upstate Rubdown, the band changed its name as part of what Kenney calls “a trimming of the fat, and a push toward more maturity.” Its sound is “ever-changing,” she says. “There is Americana, soul, folk, rock ‘n’ roll, funk, old-time — pretty much any kind of music except rap. We’re driven by three-part harmonies.”

Both women moved to Beacon in August. Olender was a newcomer, but Kenney’s fiancé is a brewer who works in Beacon and before making the move she was employed at Ella’s Bellas. (The third

vocalist is Melanie Glenn, a native of Rochester who lives in Massachusetts.)

Olender was invited to join the group two years ago after its members saw her play at a festival in Arkansas. (She lived in Nashville.) She didn’t need much persuading. “I saw them perform and thought they were the best band I’d experienced,” she recalls. “I was called two weeks later and asked if I’d move to New York City. I pulled to the side of the road to take it in, because it was like, *I can’t believe that band I saw wants me*, which shows you that anything can happen.”

The band’s instrumentation, which includes mandolin, upright bass and cajon (a boxy, drum-like instrument), doesn’t adhere to traditional combinations. This is reflected on *Healing*, most of which was recorded in six days at the Clubhouse in Rhinebeck. (The band’s other members are Harry D’Agostino on bass, Ryan Chappell on mandolin, Dean Mahoney on cajon and Christian Joao on sax and flute.) Kenney says Olender’s influence was felt imme-



The band’s second album, from the Kingston-based indie label Royal Potato Family, will be released Feb. 8.

diately. “She came from this country/folk background as a singer and songwriter,” she says. “She helped us hone in.”

With Olender, the group has four songwriters, and three are women. “We strive to have equality within the band,” says Olender. “We’re always reminding people: female-fronted is not a genre! There’s anger and humor in every one of us.”

Upstate is always morphing, says Kenney, with “people weaving in and out” because of work and family obligations. “It takes a lot of commitment,” adds Olender. “About 60 to 70 percent of our time is taken up with the business side of things. It’s way more work than writing songs and performing them, unfortunately.”

The band’s debut, *A Remedy*, released in 2015, led to festival bookings, touring and

(Continued on Page 15)



Let There Be Light

Second-by-second, the sun will return

By Michael Turton

The winter solstice arrives at 5:23 p.m. today (Dec. 21), marking the shortest day and longest night of the year. It also signals the beginning of winter.

But on Dec. 22, there will be reason to rejoice; the amount of daylight will begin increasing with each passing day. That means, on Saturday, we will have one second more daylight than the day before.

What are your plans for that second?

Sure, it isn’t long: There are more than 31.5 million of them each year. But consider, for a second, how its significance can increase dramatically:

- On Dec. 31, 2017, about 2 million people packed Times Square to experience the first second of 2018. Another 2 million are expected next week to welcome 2019.
- In 2009, Usain Bolt ran the 100 meters in 9.58 seconds. Had Darvis Patton taken one second off his last-place finish of 10.34 seconds, he would have beaten Bolt handily.
- If your private jet could fly at the speed of light, you could circle the planet 7.5 times in a second.
- In 1992, after 500 miles of intense racing, Al Unser Jr. won the Indy 500 by 0.043 seconds.
- Warren Buffet makes \$402 every second.
- The world’s fastest computer can make 33,860,000,000,000 calculations in a second.

As winter progresses, it doesn’t take long for the seconds to add up. Sunset arrives at 4:31 p.m. on the solstice but by Jan. 21, it doesn’t happen until about 5 p.m. By Feb. 21, it’s approaching 6 p.m. The breakthrough will be March 20, the spring equinox, when the amount of daylight catches up to the amount of darkness, at about 12 hours each.

The summer solstice on June 21 will be the longest day of 2019, with sun up at 5:25 a.m. and sundown at 8:30 p.m. — 15 hours, or six hours longer than Dec. 21.

Its sound is “ever-changing,” Kenney says. “There is Americana, soul, folk, rock ‘n’ roll, funk, old-time — pretty much any kind of music except rap. We’re driven by three-part harmonies.”

MAGICAL

MELTDOWNS



Why is anyone surprised when a child loses his or her cool when meeting Santa Claus for the first time? Sure, the old man takes requests, but he also has a beard so thick you can't see most of his face, he wears a blood-red suit and he lives at the mall. We asked readers to share their photos, vintage or modern, of children who were none too happy to meet Santa. Happy holidays to all who responded, and good luck.



Max Nast, Beacon



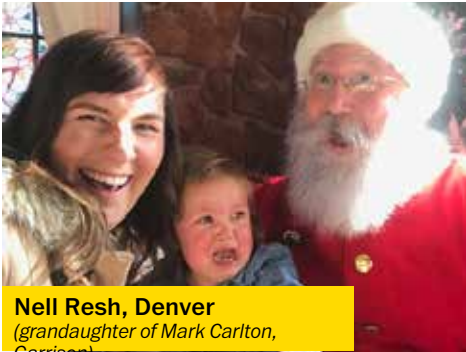
Emily Greene (great granddaughter of Carolyn Harlan, Cold Spring)



Maggie Grant, Beacon



Shaylee and Addie Hamel, Putnam Valley



Nell Resh, Denver
(granddaughter of Mark Carlton, Garrison)



Charlie Martin, Beacon



Jaxon Krauss, Staten Island (great-grandson of Fran and Ed Murphy, Cold Spring)



Nora Lahey, Cold Spring



Reagan McConville, Cold Spring

Top of the Class

The following Highlands students received the highest academic honors for the first quarter of the school year. For a complete list of students who made the honor roll at each school, see highlandscurrent.org/honor-roll.

Haldane High School, Cold Spring
Grade 12 - Helena Alvarez, Theodore Bates, Robin Ben Adi, Adam Bernstein, Riley Bissinger, Fiona Brady, Philip Cairns, Randall Chiera, Roisin Daly, Catherine Dwyer, Morgan Etta, Angela Fee, Catriona Fee, Meghan Ferri, Ashley Haines, Maura Kane-Seitz, Kyle Kisslinger, Stefan Linson, Zoe Lyons-Davis, Ronan Marrinan, Matthew Mikalsen, Honor O'Malley, Olivia Olsen, Parker Parrella, Michael Perricone, Katelyn Pidala, Justin Roffman, Paulina Saldana, Reid Sandlund, Michael Scicluna, Adam Silhavy, William Speziale, Henry Weed.
Grade 11 - Mollie Altucher, Christian Alvarez, Madeleine Barkman, Noah Bingham, Anneke Chan, Collin Eng-Wong, Julie Geller, Bridget Goldberg, Luke Hammond, Sophia Immorlica, Riley Johanson, Cassandra Laifer, Liam Marrinan, Olivia McDermott, Quinn McDonald, Owen McGinley, Aurora McKee, Benjamin McPherson, Andrew Nachamkin,

Lindsay Phillips, Abigail Platt, Melissa Rodino, Anna Rowe, Grace Tomann, Shianne Twoguns, Sofia Viggiano, Liana Waller.
Grade 10 - Arden Conybear, Douglas Donaghy, Shannon Ferri, Walter Hoess, Rachel Iavicoli, Sophia Kottman, Elizabeth Nelson, Patrick Reinhardt, Camila Saldana, Andrew Scicluna, Zack Shannon, Andrew Silhavy, Afton Spiegel, Benjamin Strol.
Grade 9 - Blake Bolte, Madison Chiera, Shea DeCaro, Mia DiLello, Eden Feinstein, Kyle Frommer, Stefano Hammond, Matthew McCoy, Luke Parrella, April Ransom, Stephen Robinson, Katie Shields, Meghan Tomann, Liliana Westerhuis.

O'Neill High School, Highland Falls (Garrison residents)
Grade 12 - Thai Dodge, Jack Kelly, Hanna Scali;
Grade 11 - Gaetano Cervone, Henry Heckert, Benjamin Higbee, Megan Horan, Remy Mancuso, Hayden Mayer, Solana McKee, Adam Sharifi, Isaac Walker;
Grade 10 - Amy Albertson, Luke Wimer;
Grade 9 - Evelyn Higbee, Chase Meyer, Lina Sharifi.
Haldane Middle School, Cold Spring
Grade 8 - Kate Bolte, Beatrice Corio, Isabella Crofts, Celia Drury, Owen Edelson, Niamh Fortuna, Elliott Goldberg, Matthew Junjulas, Erik Mauro, Kate Meisner, Mairead O'Hara, Sadie Remillard, Isa Schmidt, Jackson Twoguns.
Grade 7 - Lily Benson, Vanja Booth,

Grace Bradley, Liliana Cappello, Colin Delabie, Frankie DiGiglio, Luca DiLello, Liam Gaugler, Maggie Gordineer, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Madeleine Hutz, Mary Junjulas, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Amelia Kupper, Elaine Llewellyn, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Jacqueline Muth, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Simon Pieza, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Iain Starr, Emily Tomann, Ryan Van Tassel, Mackenzie Warren.
Grade 6 - Amelia Alayon, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Alexandra Cairns, Brody Corless, Judine Cox, Savannah Crofts, Kira Drury, Violetta Edwards Salas, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchinson, Zohra Kapoor, Sophie Koch, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Oliver Petkus, Brendan Shanahan, Keira Shanahan, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel.
Garrison Middle School
Grade 8 - Caitlin Liu, Timothy Liu, Lorelei McCarthy, Fionnola O'Reilly, David Tacuri, Henry Timmer, Phelan Waldron.
Grade 7 - Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Lena Singer-Delius.
Grade 6 - Jude Morrison, Eleanor Walker.

Beacon High School
Grade 12 - Brandon Belmar, Jamie Brown, Esteban Carmona, Jaskar Castillo, Elizabeth Cenicola, Kelvin Chan, Ryan Chin, Madelyn Correllus, Aaron Davis, Alix Haase-Arrigo, Jessica Hockler, Meghan Kemp, Ian Kidd, Jenna Maffei, Marisa Mourgues, Rebecca Oberle, Daisy Okoye, Jadelyn Panko, Alyssa Polletta, William Rivera Jr., Josiah Russell, George Stojakovic, Chloe Tomlins, Alexander Ullian, Jillian Warner.
Grade 11 - Hanna Alfieri, Nikita Borschov, Analiese Compagnone, Kahlia Durso, Samantha Fellenz, Peter Fernandez, Angelina Finateri, Marianne Fultz, Sierra Giamportone, Dior Gillins, Shane Green, Patrick Lewis, Sean Lise, Isabella Nocerino, Eric Ostrow, Benjamin Price, Philip Rossignol III, Olivia Salcedo, Sarah Seymour, Lauren Simon, Cassandra Smutny, Alexis Thompson, Sabrina Tutasí, Selena Virtuoso, Jordan Zinserling, Justin Zinserling.
Grade 10 - Aidan Alvarado, Wesley Brooks, Hannah Burch, Sara Chin, Rhan Dabashi, Lejdina Gecaj, Mark Guzman Lizarazo, Natalie Khalil, Thandiwe Knox, Regan Ladue, Michael Levy, Ryan Liao, Sophie Mercado, Anna Miller, Beyonce Otero, John Padoleski, Marianna Pastorello, Jessica Pavone, Justin Piciacchio, Eliza Principe Garcia, Ryan Rabenda, Joleah Russell, Stephen Schneider, Gianna Thompson, Katelin VanBuren, D'Anna Williams.
Grade 9 - Gretta Anderson, Lotus Blumenthal, Madeline Bobnick, Jeremy Brinas, Sulayman Ceesay, Jack Cleary, Allyson Correllus, Lucia Diebboll,

Yahli Felixbrodt, Chase Green, Hunter Ingold, Dillon Kelly, Evan LaBelle, Kayla Lare, Cherlin Liao, Andrew Lucas, Simrat Mann, Amatullah Muhammad, Ava Muscat, Ayanda Nxumalo, Camille Pahucki, Kathryn Park, Nora Phelan, Lulu Romer, Kenneth Rosa, Emma Sandison, Alexia Segarra, Lauren Shanahan, Carissa Smutny, Olivia Spiak, Aiden Tripaldi, Caleb Ullian, John Urban-Quezada.

Rombout Middle School
Grade 8 - Lina Ahmed, Margot Burke, Frankie Campbell-Huston, Ariadna Carmona, Sofia Castelhana, Crystal Chen, Esther Clair, Sophia Clauson, Danielle DiRubbio, Laney Ebeling, Layla Graham, Jenna Griesing, Labibah Hassan, Ysabel Heath, George Humphreys, Farah Jaafar, Gabriella Leiva, Audrey Lewis, Jordyn Long, Eleanor Lopez, Alexis Mastrantuono, Jonah Mensch, Brianna Moleano, Gia Moreno, Sofia Mourgues, Lindsay Otero, Rowan Parsaca, Lila Quinn, Isabelle Ray, Ruby Rodgers, Shepard Rodgers, Amelia Sanker, Demetra Sela, Leian Simon, Isabella Travis.
Grade 7 - Imroz Ali, Isabella Amundson, Jack Antalek, Ikaika Baysa, Ariana Bedell, Emma Campagiorni, Vanessa Campanelli, Douglas Capawana, Ella Cason, Rubio Castagna-Torres, Sean Cleary, Nicole Coliman, Olivia Del Castillo, Isabella Donohue, Marina Elias, Jayden Featherstone, Christopher Gonzalez, Sara Gonzalez, Tiana Gonzalez, Jacqueline Griesing, Harsh Gupta, Isabella Haydt, Cadence Heeter, Una Hoppe, Keira Istvan, Serena Jabar, Emma Joyce, Georgia Kane, Devyn Kelly, Gabrielle Kuka, Olivia Lapaz, Erin Lenihan, Myasia Lewis, Evan Lombardo, Bryce Manning, Stephen McDowell, Nico McKible, Isabella Migliore, Karimah Muhammad, Twyla Nelson, Thomas Nocerino, Elisa Pahucki, Emilia Pastorello, Vanessa Piciacchio, Henry Reinke, Keira Robinson, Kiarra Rodriguez, Elizabeth Ruffy, Matthew Sandison, Kasey Senior, Anisa Shtanaj, Allison Thomas, Rachel Thorne, Emily Wei, Wallace Wei, August Wright.
Grade 6 - Riley Adnams, Nicholas Albra, Beckett Anderson, Anabelle Arginsky, Taryn Beardsley, Jelden Brereton, Isabel Bunker, Lila Burke, Elizabeth Carbone, Christine Chen, Evelina Diebboll, Lucas Foret, AvaMaria Gianna, Sarah Jaafar, Jeannae' Jean-Francois, Avneet Kaur, Charlie Klein, Rory LaDue, Reilly Landisi, Lily Larson-Wolbrink, Ela Lyons, Allen McKay, Emma Merola, Addison Miller, Ronan Moran, Lance Morgan Jr., Rory Mowen, Connor Murphy, Isaiah Nieves, Amelia Padilla, Sariah Paulin, Lindsay Pedersen, Mackenzie Phillips, Christine Robinson, Daveya Rodriguez, Katherine Ruffy, Agnesa Shtanaj, Jacob Signorelli, Serenity Smith, Serena Sampleman, Mika-Gisselle Tate, Amya Thompson, Sortia Tripaldi, Ryan Verdesi, Francis Zezza.



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[THE WEEK AHEAD]

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

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 22

Beary Merry Holiday Party

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Drive
trailsidezoo.org

Meet at the bear den to make treats for the bears and watch them explore their decorated enclosure. *Cost: \$1 per person*

SAT 22

Cold Spring Aglow

COLD SPRING

4:30 – 8 p.m. Main Street

More than 1,000 candle-lit paper lanterns will line the thoroughfare from Route 9D to the waterfront bandstand in this event sponsored by the village and the Chamber of Commerce. The highway department, C&E Paints and Pidala Landscaping provided sand (for weight) and supplies, the fire department opened its meeting room for the assembly line and volunteers from the Walter Hoving Home and elsewhere put together the luminaries. Rain date: SUN 23.

SUN 23

North Highlands Santa Run

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon – 3 p.m.

Santa's sleigh makes stops to visit with children along two routes. See highlandscurrent.org/santa for times and stops.

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

SAT 22

A Christmas Carol

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St.
845-265-9355 | hudsonhouseinn.com

A dinner-theater production with Theatre on the Road and Victorian carolers. *Cost: \$75*

SAT 22

Brasiles Ensemble

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167
stmaryscoldspring.org

The vocal chamber group will perform selections from its debut CD, *A Christmas Feast*, and other holiday songs. John Drew accompanies on organ. *Cost: \$20 donation*



SUN 23

Holiday Caroling

COLD SPRING

1 – 3 p.m. The Gift Hut | 86 Main St.

Kat and Stephen Selman perform holiday classics.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

MON 24

Our Lady of Loretto

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. (Children's Choir) & 8 p.m.
24 Fair St. | 845-265-3718
ladyofloretto.org

Church of St. Joachim

BEACON

4:30 p.m. & Midnight
51 Leonard St. | 845-838-0915
stjoachim-stjohn.org

St. John the Evangelist

BEACON

4:30 & 6 p.m. (Spanish)
35 Willow St. | 845-838-0915
stjoachim-stjohn.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

GARRISON

5 (Family Service) & 11 p.m.
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571
stphiliphighlands.org

Cold Spring/South Highland United Methodist Church

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. 216 Main St. | 845-265-3365
facebook.com/csshumc

St. Joseph's Chapel

GARRISON

6 p.m. 74 Upper Station Road
845-265-3718 | ladyofloretto.org

Christ Church United Methodist

BEACON

7 p.m. 60 Union St.
845-831-0365 | beaconmethodist.org

Church on the Hill

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. 245 Main St.
845-265-2022 | jesusonthehill.com

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. 10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

BEACON

7 p.m. 15 South Ave.
801-793-7376 | beacon-episcopal.org

First Presbyterian Church

BEACON

8 p.m. 50 Liberty St. | 845-831-5322
beaconpresbychurch.com

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

BEACON

10 p.m. 850 Wolcott Ave.
801-793-7376 | beacon-episcopal.org

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

COLD SPRING

10 p.m. 1 Chestnut St.
845-228-4167 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Salem Tabernacle

BEACON

10 p.m. 7 Delavan Ave.
845-831-0114 | salemtabernacle.com

TUES 25

St. John the Evangelist

BEACON

8 & 10:30 a.m.
35 Willow St. | 845-838-0915
stjoachim-stjohn.org

Our Lady of Loretto

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. 24 Fair St.
845-265-3718 | ladyofloretto.org

Church of St. Joachim

BEACON

Noon. 51 Leonard St.
845-838-0915 | stjoachim-stjohn.org

COMMUNITY

SAT 22

Retro Recipe Exchange

BEACON

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

Bring 20 copies of your favorite recipe to share. *Free*

FRI 28

Community Blood Drive

BEACON

2:30 – 7 p.m. Beacon Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 800-933-2566
nybloodcenter.org

SAT 29

64th Annual Putnam Christmas Bird Count

PHILIPSTOWN

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
As part of the annual Audubon

Christmas Bird Count, a tradition created by ornithologist Frank Chapman in 1900, the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will conduct a census in Philipstown. Beginner birders welcome. The data helps assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation efforts. A group will gather at 6:30 p.m. to compile the results. Contact Charlie Roberto at 845-270-2979 or chasrob@optonline.net to participate

SPORTS

SAT 22

Army vs. Niagara (Men's Basketball)

WEST POINT

1 p.m. Christl Arena
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

The Black Knights (5-7) are undefeated at home. *Cost: \$12*

THURS 27

Westchester Knicks vs. Capital City Go-Go

WHITE PLAINS

7 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave. | 914-995-4050
gleague.nba.com

The Knicks' minor-league squad takes on the Washington Wizards' team. *Cost: \$14 to \$125*

FRI 28

Haldane vs. Chester (Boys' Basketball)

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigsides Drive
845-938-2526 | haldaneschool.org

The Blue Devils host the Hambletonians. *Free*

SUN 30

Army vs. Connecticut College (Women's Basketball)

WEST POINT

1 p.m. Christl Arena
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

The Black Knights (4-6) will host the Camels (8-2). *Cost: \$12*



Army Basketball

[THE WEEK AHEAD]

MUSIC

SAT 22

The Slambovian Circus of Dreams

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-401-4062 | townecrier.com

The band, formed in Sleepy Hollow nearly 20 years ago, will perform its annual Christmas show. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

THURS 27

Dance Jam

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Beacon Dance Beat plays music from the 1960s to the present. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 28

Upstate

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

The band's new album, *Healing*, recorded mostly in six days in Rhinebeck, is the first with a new member, Allison Olender, its first with four songwriters, and its first since shortening its name from Upstate Rubdown. See Page 9. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 30

Newburgh Choral

BEACON

4 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | newburghchorale.org

Directed by Michael Saunders, the chorale will perform holiday music from the British Isles during its program "Make We Joy Now in This Fest." *Cost: \$10 donation*



Holiday Tea

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 23

Holiday Stories

COLD SPRING

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

Jonathan Kruk will share stories of the holidays, including "Santa on the Hudson" and "Hanukkah Bear." *Free*

WED 26

School Break Mini-Camp

CORNWALL

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hnm.org/minicamp

Children ages 6 to 9 will meet a live animal, spend time outdoors and do crafts and other activities. Registration required. Also, THURS 27, FRI 28. *Cost: \$50 (\$42 members)*

WED 26

Winter Break Fun

GARRISON

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. & 1 - 3 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

These two-hour programs

include a flashlight tour of the mansion. On WED 26 the activity is candle dipping/making and FRI 28 will be making a pomander ball. Reservations requested. *Cost: \$11 (\$7 members)*

THURS 27

Children's Holiday Tea

BEACON

Noon. Mount Gulian | 145 Sterling St.
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Children will learn about Victorian tea traditions while enjoying afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, scones, breads and — of course — tea. Reservations required. *Cost: \$22 (\$17 children)*

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 28

Sinbad

PEEKSKILL

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

The comedian, a U.S. Navy veteran whose real name is David Adkins, has performed stand-up for decades. "If you're not happy before you're successful,



Searching for Bobby Fischer

you're going to be miserable when you do become successful because all your problems just get magnified." *Cost: \$35 to \$70*

FRI 28

Cirque de la Lune

BEACON

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

This repeat performance (the first was in June) is an original musical by Hayden Wayne with Kelly Ellenwood, Rhiannon and Rowan Parsaca, Leah Siegel and Michael Bonanno. Also SAT 29. *Cost: \$10*



Cirque de la Lune

SAT 29

Searching for Bobby Fischer

NEWBURGH

11:30 a.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St. | 845-561-3686
downingfilmcenter.com

In this 1993 film, starring Max Pomeranc, Joe Mantegna, Joan Allen and Ben Kingsley and nominated for an Oscar for cinematography, a chess prodigy hopes to become a champion who is better liked than the elusive Bobby Fischer. Rated PG. *Cost: \$9 (\$8 students, \$7 seniors, children, \$6 members)*



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Allison Olender, Mary Kenney and Melanie Glenn of Upstate

Photo provided

Upstate *(from Page 9)*

opening for artists such as the Felice Brothers and Phox. By the end of next week, Upstate will have played 110 shows this year, across the country. At one point the group spent 30 straight days on the road.

The group is planning for 150 shows next year but its members are still not quite making a living. What is the alternative? asks Kenney, who grew up in Ithaca. "I've wanted to be a singer my whole life, and I'm grateful for the people who have

believed in this band."

The musicians promise that their new Beacon neighbors who come out to the Towne Crier on Dec. 28 will be in for a treat. "Our second single will be out, and we'll play it live," says Kenney. "We will make you dance! The show will be like a holiday party."

"We will warm up your soul," adds Olender. "We're a cocktail of soulful sound."

Tickets for the 8:30 p.m. show are \$20 at townecrier.com or \$25 at the door.

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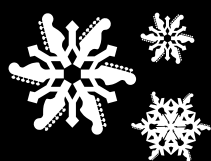
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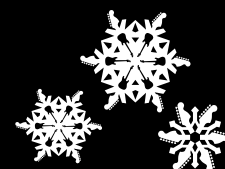
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MEN'S CHOIR

(Monday evenings)

Monday Night Men Singing. Men singing songs in unison or sometimes harmonized. Men singing, but nothing fancy. Men singing loud on Mondays.

KIDS CHOIR

(Ages 7+, Monday Evenings)

Re-Pete! Kids celebrate the songs & legacy of Pete Seeger, and perform in the community.

GEAR WORKSHOP

(Jan 13)

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Budget *(from Page 1)*

topics such as resume writing and creative writing, which can serve a therapeutic purpose for inmates. Without an officer there, the volunteers cannot do what they do. The rules don't allow it. Relieving the staffing problem is also necessary to provide medically assisted therapy for inmates struggling with addiction.

Legislator Munn's proposal was met with scorn, the argument being that, sure, it'd be nice to have full-time temps, but it's impossible to find them. Kris pointed out that if the positions went unfilled, the funds wouldn't be spent. So if the county couldn't fill the positions, no money would be lost. Nevertheless, it was voted down.

That encapsulates what's wrong with this budget. It's fundamentally mean-spirited, and it lacks any kind of vision for how to think differently. While it's nice that the administration worked to incorporate amendments from the minority side of the Legislature, and I can understand several of my colleagues' wish to reward such efforts with a "yes" vote, there's a lot more room for improvement.

Nick Page

It's frustrating when the lack of coherent vision is combined with a resistance to a considered suggestion. The staffing crisis at the jail is a perfect example. It's been ongoing for years and the administration says nothing can be done.

Another example is the Climate Smart Community program. Getting Dutchess County registered as a Climate Smart Community was an early priority for our caucus. The program is the conduit for state funding. In preparing the resolution that begins the process, we found that a similar resolution had gone through in the 2008/9 session but was never sent to Albany, so Dutchess County was never enrolled. Because the email was never sent, the county missed out on millions of dollars in state funding.

Now we are enrolled, and, after six months of prodding, the county has set up a volunteer task force co-chaired by Steve MacAvery, who is chair of the oft-ignored county Environmental Management Council. He will not



Nick Page



Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro signed the 2019 budget on Dec. 14. Photo provided

be compensated. Brad Barclay, of the county Planning Department, will also be on the committee as part of his salaried position.

I pushed a budget amendment that would add a full-time Climate Smart Coordinator chair to planning for \$75,000 annually plus benefits. It went down in committee by a 7-5 vote along party lines. With the appropriate attention, we could gain significant funding that could be used to stimulate and shape the green economy and make Dutchess a model, not a sometimes-reactionary straggler. There is no sense of urgency or vision.

The bag ban [which the Legislature passed but without a 10-cent surcharge on

plastic shopping bags or restrictions on paper bags] is similar. It's a small issue but, like all things, should be done right. The majority and administration proved immune to piles of evidence from around the globe and pushed through the more easily digestible and superficially palatable bag ban as opposed to adding a tiny fee which has been shown to make all the difference environmentally while being an insignificant financial burden. What good is a government that is unresponsive to fact? It seems to me to be a laziness and indifference born out of local political stasis and limited, if any, public accountability.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

1. SCATTERS | 2. CURRIER | 3. OCULUS | 4. CARRIAGE
5. BUGGING | 6. THEM | 7. NINTH

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLE ON PAGE 18

Fenton T. Downey (1938 - 2018)



On Friday, December 7, 2018, Fenton Thomas Downey, loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at the age of 80. Fenton was born on October 13, 1938 in Cold Spring, NY. After graduating from St. Patrick Boys High School in Newburgh, NY, he attended University of Dayton (Dayton, Ohio) where he earned a BE in electrical engineering. He attended the School of Mines in Rapid City, SD before being drafted into the US Navy. He served three years active duty, and 20 years in active Reserves in the U.S. Navy, retir-

ing as a Commander. He was also a professional engineer, whose career spanned thirty-three years with Northwestern Bell/US West Telephone Company.

Fenton was married to Blenda Hill on November 9, 1961 in the Base Chapel at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Together they brought up three sons and four daughters. A member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, he belonged to the Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 0374, and Pioneers of America. He was a member and former president of West Omaha Diamond D Kiwanis.

Fenton is survived by his wife of 57 years, Blenda; their children: Mike (Ann), Shaun, Patrick (Kathleen), Shannon Schnepf (Bill), Kathy Wamsley, Mary Gohr (Pat), and Megan Reichert (Axel). He was blessed with fifteen grandchildren: Alex Downey, Ian Downey, Connor Downey, Daniel Downey, Rachel Schnepf, Becca Schnepf, Leah Wamsley, Brock Wamsley, Quinn Wamsley, Kate Gohr, Andrew Gohr, Michael Gohr, Max Reichert, Christoph Reichert, and Aleina Reichert. He is also survived by a brother, Larry (Joan) and sister, Mary Lou Burke. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jeremiah and Charity Downey; brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Ann Downey.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Dec. 11 at St. Wenceslaus, followed by interment with military honors at Omaha National Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Parkinson's Nebraska, 16811 Burdette St., Suite 1, Omaha, NE 68116, or parkinsonsnebraska.org.

PAID NOTICE

Farm Bill *(from Page 1)*

permanent funding to train the next generation of farmers, to support veteran farmers, farmers of color and indigenous farmers, for programs that support local food and expand regional markets,” said David Howard of the National Young Farmers Coalition. Drawing from Maloney’s Young and Beginning Farmers Act from 2017, the bill doubles the amount of loans that new farmers can take on and also pays for more training.

The bill preserves the current requirements that need to be met in order to receive food stamps; Republicans in the House had pushed for additional work requirements.

“A lot of people don’t know that there are already work requirements for food stamps,” said Maloney. “We’ve had them for 20 years.”

The bill also preserves the link between food stamps and heating assistance. “They wanted to break that up and make it harder for folks to get both, or have to choose between one or the other,” said Maloney. “That was nuts. We stopped it.”

When Maloney spoke to *The Current* in November about the pending bill, he mentioned assistance for small dairy farms as being something that he felt the previous bill was lacking. Under a program called the Dairy Margin Coverage Program, the new bill includes 100 percent price support to farms that produce under 5 million pounds of milk annually, offering financial stability for farmers.

“It’s geared toward the little guys,” said Maloney. “That’s who we have here in New York. And it’s effective retroactively, so they can get money and credits that they were not able to get under the previous farm bill.”

In addition, farmers will have new crop insurance options which will make premiums more affordable and accessible for smaller, diversified farms, he said. In the past, crop insurance programs had focused on larger farms which only grow one or two crops. Even the types of crops that farmers are able to grow will expand; the bill legalized industrial hemp cultivation and production.

“This is going to be big for New York State,” said Jen Metzger, who was elected to the state Senate in November and will chair its Agriculture Committee. “This is a crop that has an unbelievable number of diverse uses. It’s low-impact in terms of its impact on the soil, its water usage, its de-



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (left) with Brian Nault, a Cornell professor who is among the researchers battling the Allium leafminer, an invasive species threatening the Orange County onion industry. *Photo provided*

mand for pesticides. It grows in marginal soil. This commodity provides really significant opportunities for farmers in New York who are looking to diversify.”

Farmers markets will also see benefits. In addition to fixing a problem that prohibited certain markets from accepting electronic benefit cards for payment, the bill gives low-income consumers incentives to purchase locally grown food at the markets, where it can be more expensive than at the supermarket.

While work on the next farm bill won’t begin for several years, Maloney said he is already thinking about what could be added. In addition to a program to help young farmers with student loan debt, Maloney would like to see conservation programs expanded, especially easement programs that help new farmers by keeping the cost of land low. And with the legalization of industrial hemp production, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo voicing support for legalizing recreational marijuana, it’s not hard to tell

which way the smoke will be blowing.

“We’ll be dealing with the issue very soon of recreational marijuana and expanded medical marijuana in New York,” said Ma-

loney. “There’s real legislative priorities that have to go along with that for our local farmers. If we’re going to have it, I’d like our farmers to benefit as much as possible.”

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 disperses (8)
- 2 specialist leather worker (7)
- 3 eye, to a doctor (6)
- 4 horse-drawn vehicle (8)
- 5 annoying (7)
- 6 our counterpart (4)
- 7 final inning in regulation (5)

SOLUTIONS

SC	RRI	RR	TE	OC
CU	GG	TH	AGE	EM
BU	TH	US	IER	RS
UL	NIN	AT	ING	CA

SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 16

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SPORTS



Devin Lambe (left) and Willa Fitzgerald (right)



Photos by Skip Pearlman

Four Highlands Athletes Named to All-State Teams

Two soccer and two volleyball players among best in New York

By Chip Rowe

Four Haldane and Beacon high school athletes were named to All-State teams last month in soccer and volleyball.

Devin Lambe of Beacon and Jade Villella of Haldane were named among the best soccer players in the state, and Willa Fitzgerald and Melissa Bodino were recognized as top volleyball competitors.

Lambe, a senior, was named to the All-State fifth team among large schools by United Soccer Coaches, whose members compile the honors. He also was named to the Section 1 team and as most valuable player in League II-E, which includes Beacon, Hendrick Hudson, Lourdes, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie.

Other boys' players honored were John Mesnick, named All-League, and Alec Druckenmiller, who received a league honorable mention. Craig Seaman was

named the league's coach of the year.

Beacon had two MVPs in the league, as Beacon senior Eliza Ericson received the honor for the girls and also was named to the Section 1 team.

At Haldane, Villella, a junior, was named to the All-State second team in Class C. The girls' honors are compiled by the New York Sportswriters Association. Villella also was named to the Section 1 team.

Fitzgerald, a senior volleyball player at Haldane, was named to the All-State fourth team in Class C by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, and junior Bodino was named to the sixth team.

The All-State football selections, which are made by the sportswriters' association, will be announced in January. Running back Sam Giachinta, then a junior, was named to the All-State third team in Class D after the 2017 season.

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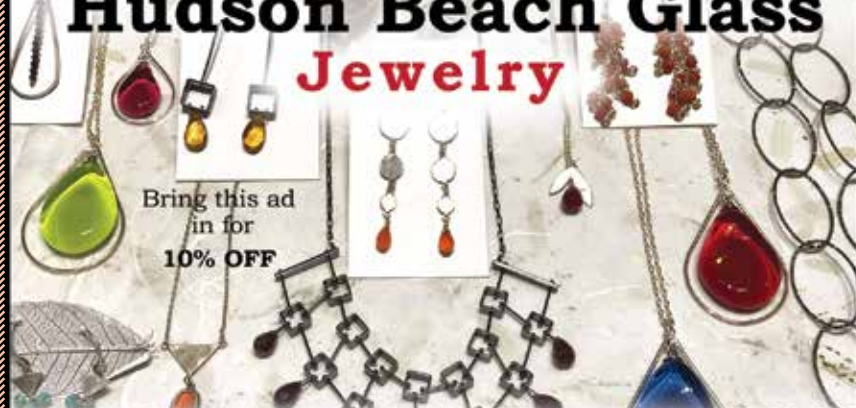
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Javon Dortch (160 pounds) controls his Yonkers opponent in a match he won with a pin to improve to 9-2.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Beacon Wrestling Off to Strong Start

Wins seven of first 10 dual meets

By Skip Pearlman

Beacon High School's wrestling team has gotten off to a strong start, winning seven of its first 10 dual meets.

The Bulldogs had little trouble disposing of Yonkers on Tuesday (Dec. 18), rolling to a 69-15 victory.

Eighth-grader Chris Crawford and junior Javon Dortch, who wrestles at 160 pounds, both won by pins. Crawford improved to 11-0, and Dortch is 9-2.

Sophomore Ryan Plimely is 6-4 after a victory in his 126-pound bout. "Ryan has gotten consistently better in each match," said Coach Ron Tompkins.

At 170 pounds, Adam Sovik also won, and is now 7-3.

Because they don't have wrestlers at every weight, the Bulldogs typically must forfeit twice during each match. "So to win [the match], the kids have to wrestle pretty well," said Tompkins. "We have a nice mix of new wrestlers and starters from last



Beacon eighth-grader Chris Crawford is undefeated wrestling at 113 pounds.

year," when the squad finished 13-8.

Beacon is led by senior captains Di-rani Hayes (182 pounds) and George Pinkhardt (285 pounds), who have both been on the team since they were in the ninth grade. "They give the team stability and drive the hard work in the weight room," said Tompkins.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to compete in the Mid-Hudson Tournament at Arlington High School on Dec. 27 and 28.



Aaron Davis (4) drives the baseline Tuesday in a win at John Jay East Fishkill.

Bulldog Boys Hoops Off to 5-2 Start

Coach: Still improvements to be made

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys' basketball team continued its early season success on Tuesday (Dec. 18), rolling past John Jay East Fishkill, 53-36, in a non-league contest.

The Bulldogs (5-2) were in control from the start, sprinting to an 18-5 first-quarter lead. Beacon led 31-11 by halftime, on the way to handing the winless Patriots their fifth loss.

"Our offense was a little sloppy, it was hard to get a flow going," Coach Scott Timpano said, noting that the Bulldogs only shot 30 percent from the field. "But on defense we responded."

Aaron Davis and Ebou Simpson each had 12 points, and Simpson also grabbed 10 rebounds, blocked four shots and went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line. Davis added five rebounds and two assists, and Dayi'on Thompson and Manny Garner each had eight points.

"Aaron gets the team going," Timpano said of his senior captain. "And we're very high on Thompson. He has the talent to take it to the next level. Manny also busted it on both ends."

Nevertheless, "we're still not playing our best basketball," he said. "And that's good, because we don't want to be peaking yet."



Manny Garner (24) puts up a shot off a rebound against John Jay.

In a 59-43 victory on Monday over Harrison, Davis scored 18 points, Thompson had 11 and Garner and Simpson each added eight.

On Dec. 27, Beacon will play its first game in the Dwayne Davis Tournament at Ketcham High School.

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Beacon 59, Harrison 43
Beacon 51, John Jay East Fishkill 36
Schechter 62, Haldane 54
Haldane 58, Rye Neck 38
Mame Diba (14), Kyle Sussmeier (13), Matt Champlin (13), Alex Kubik (12)

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Mahopac 0
Beacon 7, Arlington 0
Selena Virtuoso (666 series)

Boys' Bowling

Mahopac 7, Beacon 0
Arlington 7, Beacon 0

Boys' Swimming

Beacon 108, Poughkeepsie 57

Girls' Basketball

Byram Hills 56, Beacon 33
Beacon 51, Roosevelt 32
Sarah Evans (16), Skyler Kurtz (12), Dior Gillins (7)
Dobbs Ferry 45, Haldane 34
Carmel 59, Haldane 56