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 andEdited for brevity.

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 walk in the sky, gurgling, choking. This continued for several minutes.

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

They took her to Maria Ferrari Children’s Hospital in Valhalla. Her vital signs were OK. The doctor said to follow up with outpatient neurology and she went home.

Mira Timmer at home in Garrison with some of the “stuffies” she received during her three-month hospital stay

Why Did You Vote Against Budget?

Beacon legislators explain opposition

By Jeff Simms

Utchess 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

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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.

Mail Delivery
Due to increased postage and printing costs, the price of mail delivery for The Current will increase on Jan. 1.

Mail delivery can be started or renewed at the current rate ($20 for one year or $40 for two) until Dec. 31.

See highlandscurrent.org/delivery or send a check to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to calendar@highlandscurrent.org.

DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Front Street
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845-561-3686
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FRI DEC 21–THU DEC 27
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
Rated R
Starring Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie
FRI 2:00 7:30
SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30
SUN 1:00 3:45 6:30
MON 2:00
TUE Closed
WED & THU 2:00 7:30

By Alison Rooney

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
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.
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 400,000 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 1860s 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, including 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 Joule/Community, also will incorporate local clean-energy projects (e.g., from solar and small hydropower projects), which can provide savings that eventually will be credited 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,
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 Putnam 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 wherever 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

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

Andrew Dubler, via Facebook

Pinball in Beacon

Beacon may lift its ban on pinball machines, but it’s a little late for the arcade museum, but 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 experience 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!
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 way, 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...
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 Rituxanab, 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.’”

A family friend, Kelley Amadei, launched a campaign at 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.
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.

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.
The Calendar

December 21, 2018

The Highlands Current

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. O’Tulow lived in Nashville.) She didn’t need much convincing. “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 and took 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 immediately. “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 no audience. No special way to approach it. It just is. There’s no one way to...”

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 performances across the country, and, unfortunately, winning a writing award. “I thought they were the best band I’d ever heard,” Olender says. “I pulled to the side of the road and that was it.”

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

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 3.15 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 Buffett makes $402 every second.
• The world’s fastest computer can make 33,860,000,000,000,000 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 2018 with sun up at 5:25 a.m. and sundown at 8:30 p.m. — 15 hours, or six hours longer than Dec. 21.
MAGICAL MELTDOWNS

Max Hadden, Cold Spring
Elliott Hammond, Cold Spring
Brady and Carter Way, Beacon
Charles Rowe, Garrison
Chloe Rowe, Garrison
Jayden Luoma, Cold Spring
Cold Spring Firehouse, Dec. 16
Jack and Gretchen Smith, Beacon
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

Charlie Martin, Beacon

Nora Lahey, Cold Spring

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

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

Shaylee and Addie Hamel, Putnam Valley

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


Rombout Middle School


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**The Highlands Current**

12 December 21, 2018
[THE WEEK AHEAD]

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org) For a complete listing of events, see 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: $3 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.

**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. 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

Church of St. Joachim
BEACON
Noon. 51 Leonard St.
845-838-0915 | stjoachim-stjohn.org

**HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES**

SAT 22
A Christmas Carol
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St.
845-265-9355 | Hudsonhousein.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.

**COMMUNITY**

SAT 22
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. 1 Chestnut St.
845-228-4167 | stmaryscoldspring.org

St. John the Evangelist
BEACON
10 a.m. 7 Delavan Ave.
845-831-0114 | saltemtabernacle.org

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

Church of St. Philip
COLD SPRING
10 a.m.
269 Main St. | 845-265-3365
facebook.com/coldspringchurch

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
BEACON
7 p.m. 15 South Ave.
801-793-7376 | beacon-episcopal.org

Church on the Hill
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. 245 Main St.
845-265-2022 | jesusonthehill.com

First Presbyterian Church
BEACON
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
7 p.m. 50 Liberty St. | 845-831-5322
beaconpresbychurch.com

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
BEACON
10 a.m. 245 Main St.
801-793-7376 | beacon-episcopal.org

**SPORTS**

SAT 22
Army vs. Niagara (Men’s Basketball)
WEST POINT
4 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 $22

FRI 28
Haldane vs. Chester (Boys’ Basketball)
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive
845-938-2526 | haldaneschool.org
The Blue Devils host the Hambletonians. Free

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

**ATTENTION:**

To have your event listed in The Highlands Current, please submit an email to calendar@highlandscurrent.org. Include your name, the date, day, and time of the event, and a brief description of the event. You will receive a confirmation email with the event accepted for publication. For any questions, please contact Pamela Doan at calendar@highlandscurrent.org.
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 Chorale
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

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 23
Holiday Stories
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave. | 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 | hhm.org/minicamp
Children ages 6 to 9 will meet a live animal, spend time outdoors and do crafts and other activities. Reservations 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 | 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: $41 ($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. | 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, 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. 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

SAT 29
Searching for Bobby Fischer
NEWBURGH
11:30 a.m. Downing Film Center | 19 Front St. | 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)

THE WEEK AHEAD

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Finding Gold as a Thanksgiving Gift
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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GIVE A BEACON MUSIC FACTORY GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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GROUP CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

ALL-WOMEN DRUM CORPS
(Thursday Evenings)
Get on your feet, take to the street and join a celebration of powerful rhythms.

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP
(Jan 5)
Tell stories through music and lyrics while discovering and sharpening your unique writer’s voice in a supportive group setting. Led by celebrated theater composer/lyricist and rock singer/songwriter, Jeremy Schonfeld.

GROUP GUITAR FOR THE PEOPLE (Wednesday Evenings)
Here, you’ll find your way around the guitar through a step-by-step process that will make sense, build up the strength and dexterity you’ll need to get from one chord to the next, and learn to accompany yourself with ease.

MEN’S CHOIR
(Monday evenings)

KIDS CHOIR
(Ages 7+, Monday Evenings)
Re-Pet! Kids celebrate the songs & legacy of Pete Seeger, and perform in the community.

GEAR WORKSHOP
(Jan 13)
It’s time you make your guitar, pedals, amplifier, and PA system Sound Good Like They Should! In this hands-on how-to with Josh Stark you’ll sharpen your sense of how to make all those knobs and faders work for you.

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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 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 struggler. 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.

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 15, 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 US Navy, retiring 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 Aleena 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.
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 demand 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 Maloney. “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.”
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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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 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.

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 Ebow 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 Day’Lon 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 bust-ed 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.”