How Hot? How Soon?
Climate change in the Highlands

Going Green to Get Bronze
Ten years in making, Beacon racks up Climate Smart points
By Jeff Simms

Ten years after registering for the state’s Climate Smart Communities program, Beacon is inching toward certification, a milestone that could open up significant funding opportunities for future city projects.

The Climate Smart initiative was created by the state in 2009 to guide municipalities as they build resilience to floods and other effects of climate change through infrastructure upgrades, public education and planning. Of more than 1,000 municipalities in New York, only about a fourth (246) have signed on. The bulk of them, like Beacon, have stalled there. (Philipstown added its name to the

(Continued on Page 7)

Years Later, Veterans Laid to Rest
Military honors in Beacon after ashes go unclaimed

By Michael Turton

It took as long as 40 years but the unclaimed remains of four American service members were laid to rest with military honors on Jan. 10 at the Libby Funeral Home in Beacon.

Those honored were Walter Wurster (1895-1982), a veteran of World War I; Adam Garber (1906-1979), an Army vet who served in World War II; Henry Garrity (1910-1978), who also served in World War II; and James Melvin (1919-2003), an Army vet.

It is not unusual to find the remains of veterans that were never claimed, according to the nonprofit Missing in America Project (miap.us), which seek those out and has interred the ashes of 3,764 service members since 2007. (The group was not involved with the Beacon ceremony.)

After the Jan. 10 service, the remains of the four men were interred in Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island. Matthew Fiorillo, who purchased the Libby Funeral Home in 2017, said it took six months of research to determine that each of the four men, all of whom died at the Castle Point Veterans Affairs hospital north of Beacon, was discharged honorably, a requirement for burial in any of the 136 national cemeteries.

Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance was among the clergy who spoke at the service, which was also attended by about 50 people, including veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

“Though they fought overseas, their lives ended here in Beacon,” he said.

(Continued on Page 7)

Haldane Senior Battles Opponents — and Disease
Basketball fundraiser to benefit cystic fibrosis research

By Michael Turton

There’s nothing extraordinary about Kyle Sussmeier playing varsity basketball for the Haldane Blue Devils, especially at a high school where athletics have been revered for generations. What sets the 6’2”, 165-pound senior apart is that he plays while battling cystic fibrosis, a diagnosis confirmed when he was an infant.

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the boys’ and girls’ junior varsity and varsity basketball teams are scheduled to take to the court in Cold Spring for a four-game marathon that doubles as an annual fundraiser. The event in the past has raised money to fund research into breast cancer and juvenile diabetes and this year will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Cystic fibrosis, which results from a defective gene first identified in 1989, causes infections and a buildup of mucus in the lungs, which over time inhibits the ability to breath. Mucus also builds in the pancreas, preventing it from releasing enzymes that help the body digest food and absorb nutrients.

Although the disease was once an early death sentence, advances in treatment, including powerful antibiotics, have significantly increased life expectancy. According to the National Institutes of Health, in 1962 few patients survived into their teenage years; today a patient can

(Continued on Page 7)

FROM BASEBALL TO BURRITOS — The former Stadium Restaurant on Route 9 in Philipstown is expected to re-open as the El Coyote Bar and Restaurant in two to three months. Ron Napolitani, a real estate developer in Croton-on-Hudson, told The Current he purchased the property and leased it to El Coyote, which also operates three “authentic, gourmet” Mexican restaurants in Connecticut. Known for its sports memorabilia, The Stadium closed in 2017.

(Continued on Page 7)

James Metrando offers a final salute.

Photo by M. Turton

Kyle Sussmeier
Photo by Amy Kubik

James Metrando offers a final salute.
FIVE QUESTIONS: ANGELO NOTARO

By Alison Rooney

Angelo “Big Ang” Notaro is the founder of the annual Hudson Valley Wing Fest, which takes place in Poughkeepsie on Jan. 26. See bap.ticketleap.com/hv-wingfest-12.

Your day job is as a host on K104.7, which is based in Beacon. How did you get into the food festival business?

I grew up in the restaurant business, so when I went to a wing event, I thought I could do better. Chicken just has a great taste — if it’s cooked right, it’s a winner. I focused on getting the freshest wings, the most flavors and options.

Is the wing fest a competition?

It’s a tasting event. We get the best wing restaurants, caterers and food trucks — there are more than 30 this year — and they compete in categories such as dry rub, Buffalo wings, hottest and for King of the Wings. [In 2018, Whistling Willies of Cold Spring and Fishkill won in the barbecue and most creative categories.] They’re all neighborhood places. The only chain is Planet Wing, but they built their empire out of Middletown.

How far will people come for wings?

Rhode Island, Vermont, Philadelphia — it’s unbelievable. Each year a few hundred come up on the train from the city. Last year we had more than 2,800 people, all of them ready to eat.

There isn’t much to a wing.

Do people get full?

Are you kidding? With general admission, you get about 35 wings [with a guarantee of at least one per stall]. With VIP, it’s all you can handle plus cider and beer, and you get in 90 minutes early. If you’re hungry and fast, you can enter the wing-eating competition. Last year the winner consumed 18 wings in 1:44. The prize money is $1,047. We give the leftover wings, and a share of the profits, to a group called Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, which donates food to homeless shelters and to feed the hungry.

What if wings aren’t your thing?

I have a bunch of other festivals: Chowder Fest on March 9, and Bacon Bash, Mac & Cheese Fest, Taco Fest, Seafood Festival, Pizza and Meatball Fest. I’m a popular guy in the Hudson Valley! At Wing Fest we have other stuff going on like live music and a wing illusion show. The magician will have something special up his sleeves. I can’t reveal what that is.

Angelo Notaro with the Wing Fest mascot

Photo provided
Beacon Schools Project Expected to Begin in April

Voters approved $9 million spend in 2017

By Jeff Simms

Construction on a $9 million capital improvement plan approved by Beacon school district voters in 2017 is scheduled to begin this spring, with most of the work to be completed before the end of the year. The state will cover two-thirds of the cost, and the remainder will come from district savings.

The projects include the installation of an artificial-turf field at Beacon High School, air conditioning on the second floor of Rombout Middle School and a new science wing at the middle school. Repairs will also be made to the track at Hammond Field, along with other safety and accessibility upgrades throughout the district.

Construction is expected to cost $7.5 million, with $1.4 million of that going toward the new, lighted field, which will sit behind the high school and replace the boys’ varsity soccer field. The high school football and lacrosse teams will move to the turf, as well. The remaining $1.5 million will be used for insurance, testing and other district costs.

District voters approved the proposition in December 2017, 480-98.

During its Jan. 14 meeting, the school board agreed to choose contractors for the sports field from firms reviewed by the state that have agreed to do the work for a set price. Construction will begin in April and should take three to four months. The remaining work will begin after the school year ends in June.

The school board could have solicited competitive bids for the field, but project architects recommended using the state pool. “With a competitive bid, you may or may not get a lower price, but you may [also] be tied to the lowest bidder, and then we’ll end up paying for it later,” said Antony Tseng, a board member.

Bids will be accepted for the other construction projects. The board is expected to approve contractors for the work next month.
**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**Tell us what you think**

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer’s full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

Verizon simply wants to let its physical plant rot and refuses to invest in fiber because it’s cheaper for them in the short term. If it was a money-loser in the long term, they would not lobby to prevent municipalities from delivering their own fiber to homes.

Verizon is trying to take the easy way out by offering “good enough” services and keep those quarterly earnings looking good. We paid Verizon billions of dollars through tax cuts and subsidies to build out fiber and it just pocketed the cash and didn’t build anything.

Steve Smith, Beacon

**More energy?**

In response to the letter from Charles Davenport in the Jan. 11 issue about a plan to convert the Dansskaemer electric power plant in Newburgh to full-time operation: The renovation will convert the facility to a much more efficient “combined cycle design” and its proposed air-cooled condenser would end the practice of using river water for cooling.

Further, the full combustion of natural gas produces little harmful CO₂ or NOₓ emissions, unlike coal plants or the “trash burners” in Poughkeepsie, Peekskill and throughout the Northeast.

If New York doesn’t need the power the plant would generate, the owners will go broke. This isn’t a publicly financed venture, so obviously some private money believes there is a market for it.

Burke Schmollinger, Beacon

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**Slippery slopes**

Thanks to Liz Schecthuk Armstrong for elucidating Philipstown driveway grade requirements and precedent (“How Steep is Too Steep?” Jan. 11). I hope the Philipstown Planning Board will stick to those guidelines.

The project at 220 South Highland Road begs the question, however, how was this ever deemed a suitable building site? It is hard to envision how we would create a great park and trail system, then allow a nearly 5,000-square-foot building to pop up next to it. The house would loom over the Moneyhole Mountain trail connecting Earl’s Pond and Cattish Pond in Garrison.

As a Philipstown resident and lifelong hiker in this area, I did not know this site was originally part of a parcel donated to Fahnestock State Park by a previous landowner. I also did not know that the driveway would not conform to grade requirements. If this house is built, I will tend to avoid this trail. It is too bad that one person’s gain would mean a forever loss for everyone else. Take a walk to this place on a calm, sunny January Day. You’ll see.

David North, Garrison

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**What’s Closed?**

National parks in New York affected by shutdown

The African Burial Ground in New York City is the oldest, and largest known, excavated burial ground in North America for both free and enslaved. • Eleanor Roosevelt’s home in Hyde Park is called Val-Kill. • Federal Hall on Wall Street, where George Washington took the oath of office as the first president, was home to the first Congress, Supreme Court, and Executive Branch offices. • The final resting place of President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia, in New York City is the largest mausoleum in North America. • Hamilton Grange was the (then) country home that Alexander Hamilton built in Harlem. • The home of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park includes his presidential library and museum. • Sagamore Hill was the Long Island home of President Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 until his death in 1919. • The boyhood home of Theodore Roosevelt, the first U.S. president born in New York City, is located at 28 E. 20th St. • St. Paul’s Church in Mount Vernon, founded in 1665, played a vital role in the colonial life of Eastchester, 20 miles north of New York City. • The Vanderbilt Mansion is in Hyde Park. • The Women’s Rights National Historical Park, in Seneca Falls, tells the story of the first Women’s Rights Convention on July 19-20, 1848. • The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are being kept open by the State of New York.

Source: National Park Service (nps.gov)
Voting Changes Coming

By Chip Rowe

On Monday (Jan. 14), the New York State Assembly and Senate passed seven bills that could dramatically change the state's voting laws.

In the Senate, Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, voted against four of the bills, citing the cost of implementing the reforms. In the Assembly, Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, voted “yes” for all seven. Gov. Andrew Cuomo is expected to sign them all.

Galef, who co-sponsored each of the bills, said in a statement that “election reform has been an issue that I have been working on since my very first term in the Assembly. It was frustrating to work on these bills so meticulously and have them pass the Assembly, just to get stalled indefinitely [in the Senate]. To get them all passed so early in the session is a true accomplishment.”

A774 / S1100 allows 16- and 17-year-olds to register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles, high schools and certain agencies, although they cannot vote until they turn 18.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

A775 / S1099 requires the Board of Elections to transfer voters’ registration and enrollments when they move within the state.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

A776 / S1101 requires limited liability corporations to identify their owners to the Board of Elections to prevent individuals from making multiple contributions to the same candidate through separate entities.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

S1048 would amend the state Constitution to eliminate the 30-day advance voter registration requirement, allowing for same-day registration. The bill will need to pass in 2020 and 2021 and then be approved by voters in a referendum.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

S1049 would allow voters to cast absentee ballots without stating a reason for doing so, such as being out of town. As with the previous bill, it will need to be passed again in 2020 and 2021 and approved by voters.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

A779 / S1103 changes the primary election dates so that state and federal primaries will be held on the same day, which the Legislature estimated could save $25 million annually. It also requires that ballots for military personnel and other overseas voters be sent at least 46 days before an election as required by federal law.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

A.780 / S1102 establishes early voting starting 10 days before any election.

SERINO ☑ GALEF ☑ JACOBSON ☑

Serino explained her “no” votes in a statement: “Democracy relies on healthy voter turnout, and we have a duty to ensure that our system empowers New York voters to make their voices heard. Today, I supported measures to do that, like consolidating our primary election days and passing legislation that would allow for ‘no-excuse absentee voting’ — a measure that would ensure any New Yorker with a conflict on Election Day can cast their vote by absentee ballot. I cannot, however, support measures that place a significant financial burden on already overtaxed New Yorkers...

“In Dutchess County alone, the projected cost of the measure would be almost $1 million — just this year — with continued expenses accruing each election. In last year’s executive budget proposal, the governor only set aside $7 million, a small fraction of what would be necessary to fund this reform across the state. The measure ultimately failed to pass for this reason.

“The new Democratic majority ultimately disregarded these fiscal concerns, as well as the voices of local residents and local governments as they rushed to pass this mandate ahead of the Democratic Assembly and governor. I urge the state’s new leaders to ensure that the measure is adequately funded each year.”

More New State Laws

Three weeks ago, we listed some of the new state laws that have gone into effect since August. Here are a few more:

The state Department of Health will review the risk of skin cancer from ultraviolet nail dryers that are often used for gel manicures and pedicures.

Changing tables will be required in public women’s and men’s restrooms, and businesses must install them in new or renovated restrooms that are open to customers.

On Jan. 30, prisons will be allowed to use body scanners to check inmates for weapons because metal detectors are not triggered by ceramic blades.

Volunteer firefighters who have served at least five years and are diagnosed with certain types of cancer (prostate, breast, lymphatic, hematological, digestive, urinary, neurological, reproductive systems or melanoma) after Jan. 1 will be eligible for state disability coverage and death benefits.

People convicted of domestic abuse must turn in all firearms to police, not just handguns.

Along with an increase in the minimum wage, a wage-theft hotline has been established (888-4-NYSDOL) to report employers who do not comply.

As of Jan. 30, newborns who are identified or suspected of having a hearing impairment will be required to be tested for cytomegalovirus, unless a parent objects. The virus is the leading non-genetic cause of deafness in children.

Health insurers must provide men with access to prostate cancer screening without co-pays or deductibles.

Property tax rebate checks for homeowners with incomes of $275,000 or less will increase, so that the new average per household will be $530.

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Hudson Valley Reps Among Those Refusing Pay

As partial shutdown enters fifth week, Maloney and Delgado decline salaries

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As the U.S. government shutdown enters its fifth week, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney and at least 79 other lawmakers have declined to accept their $174,000 annual salaries while federal employees remain furloughed or work without pay.

According to members’ statements and news media surveys, at least 64 of the 434 members of the House (37 Republicans and 27 Democrats) and 16 of the 100 senators (10 Democrats and 6 Republicans) were relinquishing their pay. Most said they would not accept their paychecks; a few said they would give the money to charity.

The shutdown, which covers many but not all federal functions, affects some 800,000 federal employees and numerous others paid as independent contractors. While employees can expect to receive back pay eventually, independent contractors typically cannot.

Maloney, who lives in Philipstown, was among the first to eschew a paycheck, on Dec. 22, when the shutdown began. The newly elected Rep. Antonio Delgado, a Democrat whose 19th District includes part of Dutchess County, joined the group on Jan. 10.

Besides Maloney and Delgado, those forgoing pay include five other House members from New York state (two Republicans and three Democrats). The state’s two senators have not joined the campaign. Congress comprises a separate branch of government and under the Constitution its members are paid regardless of what happens in the White House.

The shutdown began when Congress produced budget legislation that did not include $5.7 billion that President Donald Trump wants for a border wall; his refusal to accept a measure without the wall money produced a stalemate while funding for much government activity ran out.

“The Trump tantrum has to come to an end, so we can get our federal workers paid and get down to business here in Washington,” Maloney said in a statement on Jan. 3.

In an Oval Office address on Jan. 8, the president blamed Democrats for the impasse. In response, Maloney argued that “we can have border security and fund the government at the same time.”
Veterans (from Page 1)

“We honor the democracy for which they fought by making sure this democracy works for everyone — rich, poor, black, white, gay, straight, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and more.”

The ceremonial unfolding and folding of the U.S. flag was conducted by a New York State Honor Guard, and Michelle Pocobut, a member of Bugles Across America, sounded “Taps,” a duty she performed as a volunteer at 290 military funerals last year alone. Members of ‘Nam Knights America formed an honor guard outside the funeral home as the remains were placed in a hearse for the drive to Long Island.

Climate Smart (from Page 1)

list in 2017 and Nelsonville in November, but Cold Spring has not joined.)

“Beacon would greatly benefit from a point person — someone dedicated to submitting all of the information to the state, because it’s time-consuming,” said Danielle Salsbury, an environment and energy resource educator with the Dutchess County office of Cornell Cooperative Extension. “This can often be a hurdle to the communities in the program because they may not have the budget.”

The state Department of Environmental Conservation dangles grant funding as an incentive for communities to make progress, which involves completing climate-smart “actions” to earn points toward certification. So far, 19 municipalities have achieved the program’s bronze certification, but none in Dutchess County. Four others are certified silver (Ulster County, Tompkins County, Kingston and Dobbs Ferry). The gold standard is still being developed.

The more points the municipality earns, the better shot it has at funding. Last year, the state made almost $9 million available through Climate Smart Communities grants.

Those grants, Salsbury said, “are open to any municipality, but if you’re registered as a Climate Smart Community you rank a little higher, and if you’re certified you rank even higher.”

The DEC awarded Philipstown two grants in December worth nearly $17,000 as part of a package supporting municipalities around the state on climate-change adaptation projects. One grant will help Philipstown complete several actions, including resiliency planning, as it works toward certification, while the second grant will pay for an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions that the town can use to set emission reduction targets as part of its climate action plan.

Although Beacon has been in the program much longer, a report just completed for the city shows it has quietly racked up points in recent years through efforts such as the newly opened solar energy farm at the city’s old landfill site, its conversion to all-LED street lighting, its energy-efficient Highway Garage facility and the growing Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail. Last year’s water availability study and Beacon’s comprehensive plan, which leaves much of the waterfront undeveloped, also received high marks.

Next up, the city plans to outfit a new building inspector with an electric or hybrid vehicle, Mayor Randy Casale said. “When you look at the list, we’ve done so much,” said Beacon City Council Member Amber Grant. “It’s just a matter of getting it documented and getting credit. We’re well within reach of that first level of certification.”

Two tasks still on the city’s list are completing its Natural Resources Inventory and hiring a climate coordinator. The inventory will include maps cataloging the city’s environmental, historical and cultural resources and should be completed next month, said Brian DiFeo, the chair of Beacon’s all-volunteer Conservation Advisory Committee. When finished, the inventory could serve as a blueprint for an Open Space Index, a planning tool which would earn the city more points.

The City Council has also discussed hiring a part-time coordinator, a position that Grant said she hopes would “expand to become a little more of a sustainability coordinator,” with a hand in recycling and other environmental initiatives outside of the state program.

Leaving Behind

The service at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon on Jan. 10 underscored a common challenge for funeral homes: ashes of the deceased that go unclaimed. Based on a survey by the Cremation Association of North America of its members, about 10,000 remains go unclaimed nationwide each year. There’s even a website — forgottenashes.com — where funeral directors can list the names of the dead who were left behind.

When Matthew Fiorillo purchased Libby, he said it was holding the unclaimed remains of a dozen people. Anthony Calabrese, who manages the Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring, says it has the unclaimed ashes of about 20 people.

“There is no rhyme nor reason” as to when ashes are not picked up, Calabrese said, noting that state law allows funeral homes to dispose of them if they are not claimed within 120 days.

The state, he said, also has strict rules regarding how ashes can be buried, including requiring a diagram of each grave site that pinpoints their location. Several years ago, when Fiorillo purchased a funeral home in White Plains, he said he found a number of remains there, as well, and purchased a plot to give them a proper burial.

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7 Little Words


Notice of formation of The Peaceful House LLC filed with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/20/2018. Office location, County of Putnam. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Dirk Geithner, PO Box 82, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Purpose: any lawful act.
Charged with stalking and harassment

P utnam County sheriff's deputies arrested a Bronx man after he allegedly made threats against the sheriff, a Cold Spring judge and a Cold Spring police officer.

Eugene A. Vitello, 46, was charged with several counts of aggravated harassment and stalking.

Police say that Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. in November received an unsigned letter in which the writer made threats against him and his family members. A few weeks later, the Sheriff's Office was contacted by the Cold Spring Police Department, which said letters containing threats of violence had been received by Justice Court Judge Thomas Costello and Officer Edward Boulanger.

Working together, the two agencies determined that Vitello had been arrested by Boulanger in 2013 for stalking and harassing a Cold Spring business owner. Langley, a retired sheriff's deputy at the time, was a witness in that matter, which was heard by Costello.

Vitello was arraigned in Town of Kent Justice Court, on behalf of the Cold Spring police officer.

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Committee Appointments

Nancy Montgomery, the newly elected Putnam County legislator who represents Phillipstown, has been appointed to the Legislature's Economic Development and Energy Committee and the Personnel Committee. All legislators serve on the Budget & Finance Committee.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose Congressional district includes the Highlands, has been appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which has jurisdiction over the CIA, FBI, the Treasury and the Department of Energy. The committee also handles issues such as cybersecurity and election hacking. Maloney also serves on the Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Maloney Collecting Valentines for Vets

Greetings due by Feb. 8

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose House district includes the Highlands, has launched his fifth annual Valentines for Veterans initiative in which students, families, individuals and businesses can send Valentine's Day greetings to veterans care of veterans' agencies and the Castle Point VA hospital, north of Beacon.

“The vets at Castle Point get a real kick out of getting valentines from folks across the Hudson Valley,” said Maloney. “This is one simple way to show our support and brighten their day.”

To participate, call Maloney's Newburgh district office at 845-561-1259. Valentines may be mailed to or dropped off at the office (123 Grand St., Second Floor, Newburgh, NY 12550) by 5 p.m. on Feb. 8.

Church to Offer Confirmation Class

Open to students grades 7 to 12

The First Presbyterian Church of Phillipstown will host a weekly class called Confirm Not Conform beginning in March for students in grades 7 to 12. The class, which will be held at the Cold Spring church at 10 Academy St., is open to students who attend any church in the area and involves a service project, mission opportunities and attending the worship services of other faith communities. It will end with a confirmation service on June 9.

To participate, call the church office at 845-265-3220.

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Dutches to Offer Narcan Training

Free sessions will take place monthly

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health will offer free monthly training throughout the year on how to use the opiate antidote naloxone (Narcan) to revive victims of overdoses. Each participant will receive a Narcan kit.

Last year, DBCH staff trained 1,800 people.

The walk-in, hour-long sessions will be offered on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie, beginning Jan. 23. For more information, email Amanda Brennan at abrennan@dutchessny.gov. The county’s Stabilization Center, also at 230 North Road, offers training at any time.
The Highlands Current

The Calendar

Hitmaker

Songwriter Chip Taylor
to perform at Depot

Got a reservation, down at Nepperhan Station
Flatten your nickels, boys and wave that train goodbye
It’ll be on time, It’s that Hudson Railway Line...

Boys, this is Harry; he’s a conductor for the Putnam Division
Now he’s been doing it for 18 years. He’s been my friend for nine of them...

Since the 1860s boys, we’ve been pushing up steam,
and I still hear those wheels, every time I close my eyes
Without that steam, boys, there’d be no American Dream
Now wave goodbye to Harry, boys, we’ll see you by and by.

~From “Charcoal Sky,” by Chip Taylor

By Alison Rooney

Chip Taylor, best known for his song “Wild Thing,” got his start as a country music fan, which was a challenge while growing up in the 1950s in Yonkers.

Taylor, who will perform and answer questions on Friday, Feb. 1, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison, recalls when he first heard what was a foreign sound in New York City on a Motorola radio in the hall outside his bedroom. “It was a life-changer,” he says.

While in high school, the musician (born James Wesley Voight) joined with two friends to form Wes Voight & The Town and Country Brothers, which was signed by King Records to play rock-a-billy. (Taylor’s own brothers, the actor Jon Voight and geologist Barry Voight, had other interests.) “That was my start in the music business,” he recalls.

Now 79, Taylor has since written nearly 40 songs that landed on Billboard’s pop, R&B, country and/or adult contemporary charts. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2016.

In 1961, at age 21, Taylor was hired as a staff writer for a publishing company called April Blackwood Music, at 1650 Broadway in New York City, the same building where the Town and Country Brothers had recorded a demo five years earlier. “Most people call that era the Brill Building era, but that is a misnomer,” he says. “Some very good songwriters did write out of the Brill Building, but the blood and guts of rock ‘n’ roll were songs written at 1650 Broadway.

“When I first signed, I asked the manager of the company, David Rosner, to please not tell me which artist was coming up for a session. I felt I could write my best if I just let some spirit flow out of me without focusing on that. Most of my hits were written in that manner. After the song was written, it would be David's job to try to find an artist to match the song. He was great at that.”

The songwriter’s first Top 100 single as Chip Taylor was “Here I Am” in 1962, but other songs he wrote began to be recorded by everyone from Willie Nelson to Aretha Franklin. In 1966, The Troggs had a No. 1 hit with one of Taylor’s “stream-of-consciousness” efforts, “Wild Thing,” which was covered a year later by Jimi Hendrix at the Monterey Pop Festival.

(Taylor did sometimes take requests. He wrote “I Can Make It with You” for Janis Joplin had a hit with “Try (Just a Little Bit Harder),” His work also was recorded by Fats Domino, Frank Sinatra, The Pretenders, Bonnie Raitt and Nina Simone, to name a few.

One of his biggest hits, reaching the Top 10 in three decades, was “Angel of the Morning,” recorded by Merrilee Rush in 1968, by Juice Newton in 1981 and by Shaggy in 2001.

In the late 1970s, Taylor began producing records and released his first album, Chip Taylor’s Last Chance. Then he switched gears, becoming a professional gambler specializing in blackjack and thoroughbred handicapping. As with songwriting, “every day, when I wake up in the morning I’m always looking for the thrill, the spark,” he explained in a short documentary, Meet Chip Taylor.

Music never left his system, however, and starting in 1996, he recorded the first of 18 albums, including one called Yonkers NY.

“I love the feel of Yonkers,” he says. “It’s a working man’s town in the best possible way. It was great to wake up smiling and say, ‘I wonder what great thing this day is going to bring! Dad said that every day. His boys lived in that spirit. Nowadays my wife and I do our walking exercise along a stretch of the Hudson River every weekend. What a blessing to have grown up here.”

Tickets for the concert and a Q&A with Taylor by Ned Rauch are $20 at brownpapertickets.com/event/6657497. Taylor will be accompanied by guitarist John Platania on guitar and Tony Mercadante on bass.
Ceramic Tech
Potter opens studio in Cold Spring

By Alison Rooney

“Ceramics,” says Frank Saliani, “is the oldest technology on the planet.”

The artist, who runs Cold Spring’s Green House Pottery, offers this explanation: most of what remains of earlier civilizations is pottery, particularly implements used for the consumption of liquids and food. That pottery is “a formal investigation into how we dissect the world, how we take knowledge and reassemble it into patterns and tools to manage the world around us,” he says.

The fusing of decorative and practical is evident in Saliani’s work, exhibited in what was formerly the garage of his village home. There, largely in soothing shades of green and blue, reside teapots, drinking vessels, oil cruets, bowls, vases and tiles, the latter made from leftover clay. “Ceramics are very environmentally friendly, because they’re durable, although it does begin with raw material mined out of the earth,” he says. To compensate, Saliani switched from a gas-to-wind-powered electric kiln. He also plans to install solar panels.

Some of what Saliani makes is thrown on a potter’s wheel. All of the work is porcelain, which “people think is delicate, but the opposite is true. It’ll bounce or shatter. There’s a spectrum of clay from terracotta, which has many impurities, to stoneware, which has fewer, to ‘pure’ clays like kaolin, which are included in porcelain. Most potters use clay bodies containing kaolin, feldspar and silica.”

For colors, Saliani says he’s “attracted to the yellow/green/blue combination. They happen to be next to each other on the color wheel, which helps, from a practical perspective, as it streamlines the process. I could have chosen, for example, yellow, red and orange, but those aren’t nearly as soothing.”

Saliani started making pots in high school. “I’m a 3-D thinker,” he says. “I built card houses, drew a lot. When I was 5 or 6, my aunt and uncle bought me a little electric potter’s wheel.” Saliani, who grew up in the Poconos region, says he benefited from his environment.

Frank Saliani

Photos provided

Please join the
Hudson Highlands Pipe Band
for our 13th Annual
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honoring the
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Saturday, January 19, 2019
7 - 11 pm
Scottish inspired dinner with haggis, open bar, and whisky toasts

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ed from a great high school art program and was already proficient in “throwing” when he headed to Syracuse University to study art education. But during his first year there, he switched to ceramics.

After graduation, Saliani moved to Colorado for a residency at the Carbondale Crafts Center, where he learned how to factor the altitude into his carefully calculated work. He continued at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in the Smoky Mountains, where he built kilns — “a big kiln will fire for five to seven days, using seven to 10 cords of wood,” he explains.

His next stop was the Red Lodge Clay Center in Montana, after which he spent three years at Ohio University in grad school. “I felt like my work was at a point where I needed something to give me a jolt,” he says. “I knew I needed time and community to think more critically about why I was doing it.” Saliani set up a studio in Brooklyn and made pots to sell at craft fairs, including a favorite, the American Craft Council Show in Baltimore. He work is also featured in the Artful Home catalogue. He moved to Cold Spring with his wife and young daughter in 2017 and has a display at the farmers market every first and third Saturday.

Green House functional pottery starts at $25 for a small bowl, $38 for a mug and $200 for a teapot. To visit the studio, email greenhousepotsinfo@gmail.com.
Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh is the curator of *Monochrome*, a photography exhibit at the Howland Cultural Center that continues through Jan. 27. His own work is not included, so we thought we would share a few of his city scenes.
A blood moon (lunar eclipse) will be visible again. Also SUN 20. Cost: $18 ($15 seniors, $8 children and students, free for ages 4 and younger).

SAT 19

The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band will honor the Scottish poet who are too often left out.”

SUN 20

Also SUN 20. Cost: $25 ($30 door). “Blindfold,” and a new album, The program will honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with performances by vocalist René Bailey and other musicians. Free.
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**FRI 25**

**New Breaks**

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. Unitarian Fellowship
67 S. Randolph Ave. | hbstreegrass.org

This spin-off of the Hillbilly Band will perform acoustic bluegrass. **Cost: $15**

**SAT 26**

**New Cicada Trio**

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
417 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandmusic.org

The trio is Iva Bittova (violin, voice and percussion), Timothy Hill (voice and guitar) and David Rothenberg (clarinets, seldjefloyte and “creatures”). **Cost: $10 ($15 door)**

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SAT 19**

**Feast for Feathered Friends**

CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hhnm.org

Learn about birds that winter in the Hudson Valley and how to feed them in your yard. **Cost: $8 ($6 children, members $6/$3)**

**MON 21**

**Girl Scouts Skating**

HYDE PARK

9:30 a.m. Roller Magic
4178 Albany Post Road | 845-229-6666

Troops 2905 and 2032 will collect travel-size toiletry items for homeless services at the event. Skate rentals are $6. **Cost: $8 ($6 with patch)**

**SAT 26**

**StarLab Indoor Planetarium**

CORNWALL

10 a.m. & 11 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hhnm.org

Children ages 4 and older will learn how to identify constellations and their Native American and Greek origin stories. Registration required. **Cost: $7 ($6 members)**

**TALKS AND TOURS**

**SAT 19**

**FDR and the Post Office**

COLD SPRING

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

Author and historian Tony Musso will discuss the impact of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the U.S. Postal Service. **Free**

**SAT 19**

**How Iron is Made**

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Doc Bayne will explain how minerals made Putnam County an ideal location for the West Point Foundry. **Cost: $10 (members free)**

**SUN 20**

**Poetry Reading**

COLD SPRING

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

Four Hudson Valley poets — Mike Jurkovic, Heller Levinson, Mary Newell and Irene O’Garden — will share their work. **Free**

**SAT 26**

**Middle School Night**

GARRISON

7-10 p.m. Philpstown Recreation Center
107 Gennyfflye Drive | 845-424-4618
philpstownrecreation.com

Philpstown students in grades 6 to 8 will play sports, pool, ping-pong and laser tag, and there will also be game-show challenges. Registration required. **Cost: $5**

**SUN 27**

**Great Westchester Toy and Train Show**

WHITE PLAINS

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave. | 914-995-4050
westchestertoytrain.com

Enthusiasts, collectors and the curious will find new and antique models from hundreds of vendors.

**FRI 25**

**The Devil We Know**

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-9476
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

This 2018 documentary focuses on a West Virginia town where residents took on DuPont for chemical poisoning of the water and air with C8, which is used to make Teflon. The story also explores research into toxic chemicals that the filmmakers say has little oversight. **Free**

**TUES 22**

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
haldaneschool.org

This board will hold its annual joint meeting with the board of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District. Garrison students may attend either Haldane or O’Neill high school.
FIRST JUMP

By Michael Turton


Illustration by Lyle Booth

MARKET TIPS

2019’S TRENDIEST COLORS FOR YOUR HOME

Colors have the ability to evoke emotions and change our attitudes. They can inspire and motivate us to try something new and bold. They can alter our moods and appetites, or even make a room feel small and cramped.

If you plan to redecorate a few rooms in the new year, the right color choices can make all the difference in the feeling you’re trying to achieve. Better yet, it’s one of the simplest and most affordable decor changes you can make. Not sure which colors to choose? Here are 2019’s best color palettes for home interiors, according to the Panton Color Institute:

* **Mot juste** in a way that even most popular definition, “flash fiction” is a short story of fewer than 1,000 words. Who has time for that? We prefer the challenge presented by the editors of 100wordstory.org, who note that “the 100-word format forces the writer to question each word, to reckon with Flaubert’s mot juste in a way that even most flash fiction doesn’t. At the same time the brevity of the form allows the writer ‘to keep a story free from explanation,’ as Walter Benjamin wrote.”

At right is a story by Current reporter Michael Turton that comes in at 75 words (the title doesn’t count), which he thought was plenty, but everyone else thought it was cruel and we settled on 100. Email submissions to vss@highlandscurrent.org.

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Small, Good Things

Panning for Gold

By Joe Dizney

Regardless of your thoughts on climate change, this has been a relatively mild winter season, with days—weeks, even—feeling more like blustery days in March than your typical bleak midwinter. But the disorderly seasonal affects of winter light still leave a transplanted Southerner with the blues, if not the blues.

It’s usually at this point in the year when the comfort of food—warm and tasty things like casseroles or roasts, soups and stews—becomes apparent. But the time constraints of life and livelihood sometimes preclude the temporal commitment such long, slow cooking requires.

Menu planning becomes more about techniques than ingredients or recipes.

In times like these, the pan roast is your friend.

Pan-roasting combines a quick stovetop fry-up or browning with an almost equally rapid finish in a hotter-than-average oven. The ultimate and desired result is twofold: a crispy, browned (i.e., caramelized and flavorful) exterior and an optimally cooked interior.

For meats, such as this dish of bone-in chicken thighs, the browning optimizes flavor while roasting ensures a fully cooked-through but beautifully moist interior. (For sturdy seafood or even vegetables like cauliflower, the results are equally dependable and delicious.)

The deep culinary secret to this method is that the process of browning and roasting in the same pan also leaves you with lots of crispy browned bits—I am borrowing the term *gribenes* (“grib-nee”) from Yiddish cooking—in the pan that contributes to a nearly instantaneous sauce created by returning the same pan, post-roast, to the stovetop for a quick deglaze with wine or stock and an extra hit of flavorful elements or herbs.

A final mounting of the sauce with chilled butter creates a luxurious dish that checks all the right boxes for winter weeknight sustenance and satisfaction.

This column has extolled the sunny, off-season culinary joys of preserved lemons (see highlandscurrent.org/preserving-my-sanity) and you can make your own easily. But for immediate gratification, preserved lemons are available at the deli counter at Beacon Pantry Market, on the shelf at Nature’s Pantry in Fishkill or online at bertsmoroccancondiments.com. Preserved lemons are a useful winter pantry item and great for all sorts of stews, sauces and vinaigrettes for meats, seafood, vegetables (particularly brassicas).

In this recipe, chopped and pitted green olives (try Italian Castelvetrano, Cerignola or Spanish Manzanilla, but almost any will do) accentuate the surprising sweetness of the lemons. Served over rice (brown or white), other grains (quinoa?) or even Israeli couscous, this is a dish guaranteed to bring a little sunshine back into your life.

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**Preserved Lemon & Green Olives Chicken Pan-Roast**

*Chef Aaron Wright, The Washington Post*

2 servings

- 4 boneless, skin-on chicken thighs
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 small shallot, minced
- 1 teaspoon each thyme, rosemary and sage
- ¼ cup dry white wine (or substitute additional stock)
- ½ cup chicken or vegetable broth
- ½ preserved lemon, rinsed and chopped roughly
- 12 pitted green olives, halved or quartered
- 2 tablespoons chilled, unsalted butter

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Season chicken all over with salt and pepper.
2. Heat oil in an ovenproof skillet (cast iron suggested) over medium heat. When hot, add chicken skin side down and cook long enough to crisp and lightly brown the skin, about 8 to 10 minutes. Turn pieces skin side up and transfer pan to hot oven, roasting for 7 to 10 minutes until cooked through.
3. Remove pan from oven and remove chicken from the pan with tongs. Reserve and keep warm. Drain all but 2 tablespoons fat. Return pan to the stove top on medium heat and when hot add shallot and garlic and stir for a minute to cook. Add herbs and stir for another minute. Deglaze pan with wine or substituted stock, using a spoon or spatula to free the browned bits.
4. Add broth and cook for 2 to 3 minutes to slightly reduce the stock. Stir in preserved lemon and olives. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for another minute or so. Whisk in butter and return chicken to the pan just long enough to reheat. Adjust seasoning and serve hot over rice, grains or couscous.
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (January 1869)

Several Nelsonville sportsmen went fox hunting but returned empty-handed. But there was also a report that two or three men caught eight rabbits with the help of a ferret, and two groups of a dozen men shot 27 pigeons before enjoying dinner at the Pacific Hotel.

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees made it illegal to cut or injure any of the shade trees planted along the streets and sidewalks of the village.

During a hunting outing at McKeel’s Corners (formerly Griffin’s), a barrel of Charles Henyan’s gun burst as he fired at a partridge. The Nelsonville resident’s left hand was so badly damaged that Dr. Lente had to amputate it above the wrist.

Thieves pried open the front shutter of the window of Samuel Coach’s store at Main and Market, cut the glass with a diamond and threw the dog a supply of fresh meat before ransacking the stock. Mr. Coach and his family, who live over the store, reported hearing nothing. Following the burglary, alarmed residents met at Town Hall and formed the Vigilance Committee of Philipstown.

While Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore were away from their home, a ham and a quart of mutton were stolen from the dining room.

Constable Dore arrested William Doane at the Fountain Head house on a complaint of Alexander Seymour of Carmel, who alleges his wife sold everything they owned and eloped with Doane, who as - who alleges his wife sold everything they owned and eloped with Doane, who as -

100 Years Ago (January 1919)

Mrs. John Campbell of Cold Spring received a letter from her grandson, Pvt. Archie Campbell Jr., who was fighting in France, dated Nov. 27: “We were drilling with gas masks when, to the astonishment of everyone, ‘Taps’ were blown. The captain announced that this was the last taps of the war, and we were to get ready for a parade in town... My only hope is to reach home at Cold Spring... We are billeted at a farm. I sleep where the chicken roost used to be, in the henhouse, and enjoy it immensely.”

75 Years Ago (January 1944)

The Cold Spring-Garrison Committee of the British War Relief extended its drive for artificial jewelry and bright trinkets to send to U.S. soldiers fighting overseas “for trading with the natives.”

Members of the Cold Spring Lions Club and the Beacon Old Timers played a basketball game at Haldane to benefit the Philipstown Servicemen’s Fund. A team of Haldane Cardinals of Beacon in the opener.

Anthony Mazzuca was re-elected president of the Italian-American Independent Club at its annual meeting at club headquarters on Main Street.

50 Years Ago (January 1969)

Mark Markovich, a 1941 Haldane grad and former U.S. Marine, is the new Guard Force captain at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland. Four years ago he bought a used school bus and converted it into a camper so he and his wife and their five children ages 3 to 10 could travel together.

Excavation began on the new Medical Arts Building at Butterfield Memorial Hospital. The interior will include eight suites for doctors, three exam rooms, a nurses’ station and a waiting room.

After purchasing a new projector and screen, the Hand-to-Mouth Players launched a foreign film series at the Depot Theatre in Garrison.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. opened registration for its third annual pocket billboard tournament. Players will be assigned to classes by Joe Mazzuca, the tournament director, and Henry Jensen, a local professional player.

Using $5,000 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fergus Reid III, the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps bought an International Harvester ambulance with four-wheel drive.

Patrick Reilly of Garrison, state commander of the Disabled American Veterans, was photographed at the organization’s national convention in Albany with Gen. William Westmoreland.

Gene Jones of Cold Spring, author of Where the Wind Blue Free, “a book of 10 exciting true stories of pioneers and Indians in the West,” will speak at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Butterfield Library.

The Putnam County Historical Society (now the Putnam History Museum) opened an exhibit about Emily Warren Roebling, who grew up in Cold Spring and played a vital role in the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Every member of the Philipstown Area Jaycees attended the Webutuck versus Haldane basketball game to cheer on the Blue Devils. The organization also sponsored a dance after the game.

25 Years Ago (January 1994)

The state Comptroller’s Office released its audit of Philipstown’s books from 1992 and said the town still did not maintain adequate records on the purchase and use of gas and diesel fuel.

The Putnam County Sheriff’s Narcotics Unit worked with federal agents on an investigation of four men who authorities said planned to bring 250 pounds of cocaine from Florida to the county hidden in yucca plants.

State Sen. George Pataki said that the state had agreed to provide $275,000 to improve the intersection of Fishkill Road and Route 9.

Haldane provided for three snow days in January, and Garrison School for four, but a winter storm closed both schools for eight.
SPORTS

Varsity Scoreboard

Girls' Basketball
White Plains 65, Haldane 40
Sophia Viggiano (19)
Peekskill 39, Haldane 37
Haldane 62, Saunders 45
Olivia McDermott (15)
Bella Monteleone (15)
Madison Chiara (14)
John Jay 43, Beacon 32
Lakeland 55, Beacon 29
Harrison 44, Beacon 29
Peekskill 52, Beacon 39
Grace Affoldt (14)

Boys' Basketball
Haldane 60, Pawling 32
Beacon 64, Lourdes 52
Beacon 59, Peekskill 53
Dayron Thompson leads all Dutchess County scorers with 19.8 average

Boys' Swimming
Beacon 77, Pelham 51
Beacon 59, Peekskill 53

Boys' Bowling
Carmel 7, Beacon 0
Beacon 7, Poughkeepsie 0

Girls' Bowling
Beacon 7, Carmel 0
Beacon 7, Poughkeepsie 0

Indoor Track
Beacon at League 2D Championship
The Bulldogs won the league championship on Jan. 13 at the Armory in New York City. The league includes Lourdes, Brewster, John Jay-Cross River and Hendrick Hudson.

Girls' 55-meter hurdles
1. Natalie Negron (10.15)
2. Alyssa Williams (10.08)

Girls' high jump
1. Aria Williams (4-08)

Girls' shot put
1. Marissa Mora (24-04.5)

Girls' weight throw
1. Marissa Mora (23-11.26)

Boys' 55 meters
2. Kaleb Istvan (6.78)
Boys' 300 meters
2. Kaleb Istvan (36.76)
Boys' 600 meters
1. Kaleb Istvan (1:26.87)
Boys' 1,000 meters
1. Zachary Cader (2:45.77)
Boys' 1,600 meters
2. Ryan Cory (4:43.49)
Boys' 3,200 meters
1. Ryan Cory (10:18.21)
Boys' 55-meter hurdles
1. Hassaan Burnett (8.78)
Boys' long jump
2. Mark Gann (19-01.75)
Boys' triple jump
1. Nolan Hihouse (18-02.25)
Boys' pole vault
2. Devin Bethards (11-06)
Boys' shot put
1. Joshua Rivera (41-04.75)
Boys' weight throw
1. Joshua Rivera (43-03.75)

Haldane at League 3C Championship
Girls' 600 meters
4. Ashley Haines (1:42.46)
Boys' 600 meters
2. Adam Silhavny (1:27.79)
Boys' 1,000 meters
2. Adam Silhavny (2:27.04)
Boys' 4x400 meter relay
1. Haldane (3:38.39)

Girls' 600 meters
4. Ashley Haines (1:42.46)
Boys' 1,000 meters
3. Frank Buticco (2:46.09)
4. Michael Tompkins (2:48.44)
Boys' 4x800 meter relay
1. Haldane (8:50.65)

HALL OF FAMERS — Three athletes and the 1983 and 1984 girls’ track teams were inducted on Jan. 11 into the Beacon High School Athletic Hall of Fame. From left: Track team members Leslie Grays McKenzie, Sonja Johnson, Janet Vanderwater Langlitz, Kathryn Vanderwater Bickford, Rahmah Gray Grant, Della Porter, Sheldon Greene, Paula Lanier, Coach Jose Rodriguez and Dorothy Vereen; Chelsea Dexter; Tori Kerr; Tori Alexander; former Athletic Director Eric Romanino; and current A.D. John Giametta.

BRACKET BUSTER — Harry Leiter, a senior at Haldane High School who wrestles for the combined Haldane-Hendrick Hudson team, won the 152-pound division with four victories at a tournament sponsored by the Sailors on Jan. 12.

RECORD TIME — At a league meet on Jan. 13 at the Armory in New York City, Haldane senior Ashley Haines trimmed nearly two seconds off the school record for the indoor 600-meter run, finishing in 1:42.46.

INTO THE NEW YEAR

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INTO THE NEW YEAR

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Sussmeier (from Page 1)

live into his or her 50s.
Sussmeier, 17, says cystic fibrosis hasn’t limited what he can do, but each day he must spend about 90 minutes fighting it. His routine includes up to 25 minutes of treatment early each morning, including taking a number of medications. He spends an hour after dinner taking more meds through a nebulizer and wearing a vest that shakes his chest, loosening the buildup of mucus. Kyle also consumes as many as 25 enzyme pills every time he eats.

Although he has been a student at Haldane for more than a decade, he says few classmates are aware that he has cystic fibrosis. “They know I have something,” he says, because of the pills. In restaurants, he says he sometimes gets strange looks when he plunks a pile of them on the table.

Teen boys are renowned for their big appetites, but Kyle takes it to a new level, a side effect of the disease, according to his mom, Mary Lou Sussmeier. “He doesn’t absorb all the nutrients and fats, so he’s hungry a lot,” she explains. She doubles every recipe she cooks for the family. (Kyle’s favorite is cashew chicken.)

His father, John, adds: “Between the disease and two-hour basketball training sessions, he eats for three or four people.”

Kyle would rather talk about basketball than cystic fibrosis. After missing his junior season due to injuries unrelated to the disease, he became a starter four games into the schedule and is on the court 16 to 22 minutes each game.

Sussmeier sees “shooting threes” as his strength. “I’ve always found that easy,” he says. “It doesn’t require that much energy — you barely have to move.”

He says he loves when the Blue Devils play better teams, and “play up to their speed and make it a game.” Although one such team, Chester, defeated the Blue Devils on Dec. 28 by a basket, Sussmeier says he savors those “nerve-wracking situations, where we’re losing with a minute left and somebody really has to score. That’s fun.”

Cystic fibrosis has provided Kyle and his family with at least one pleasant surprise: The Make-a-Wish Foundation sent him, his parents and his brother, Cole, to Whistler, near Vancouver, for a week on the slopes. “It was something else!” recalls Kyle, an avid snowboarder.

John and Mary Lou Sussmeier say they hope Saturday’s games will increase awareness of the disease while also raising money for research.

“The progress has been exponential,” John says, noting that two relatively new inhaled antibiotics, TOBI and Cayston, have been helpful to his son. The couple has even higher hopes for a medication in clinical trials that would treat the gene that causes cystic fibrosis. “It’s not a cure, but it’s a partial cure,” John says.

The Sussmeiers raise funds each holiday season through an appeal letter to friends and family, and attendees at Saturday’s fundraiser at Haldane will be invited to join the mailing list. Donations can also be made directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at 4550 Montgomery Ave., Suite 1100N, Bethesda, MD 20814 or online at cff.org.
**Beacon Girls Looking for Offensive Rhythm**

Basketball team slow to start in two losses

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School girls’ basketball team battled last week in home games against Peekskill and Harrison but continued to search for its offensive rhythm.

Against Peekskill on Wednesday (Jan. 16), the Bulldogs were in a 16-6 hole by the end of the first quarter on the way to a 52-39 loss. Grace Affeldt had a strong performance this past week, said Coach Larry Collins. “I was very happy with our performance this past week,” he said.

David Paschal, Kent Patino, David Reilly and James Patino picked up a victory in the 200-yard freestyle relay against the Red Devils. Reilly also won the 100-yard breaststroke and James Patino was first in the 50-yard freestyle.

Kent Patino, a team captain, picked up a victory in the 100-yard fly, and Paschal notched his season-best time in the 100-yard freestyle.

“Those four and [captain] Esteban Carmona are the heart of our team,” Collins said. “They do a great deal of our scoring, and they do a great job of getting everyone to swim their best.”

Another swimmer who has been performing well is Justin Tibiacchio, the coach said. “You can always count on Justin to be that player off the bench that you need, and who can swim in any event. He’s a go-to guy for extra points.”

The team is slated to honor its seniors today (Jan. 18) during its meet against Lourdes, at 4:30 p.m., and then host the conference championships on Saturday, Jan. 26, with competition scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

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**Two Blue Devils Named All-State**

Giachinta and Westerhuis receive honors

By Chip Rowe

Sam Giachinta, a senior running back for the Haldane High School football team, was named on Jan. 8 to the Class D All-State offensive first team and Will Westerhuis, a senior offensive lineman, to its second team.

In four years on the varsity, Giachinta rushed for 4,066 yards and 43 touchdowns, including 1,377 yards and 18 TDs last season. He will play lacrosse next year for The College of St. Rose in Albany.

Haldane finished the season 7-2 and ranked ninth in Class D after coming within a touchdown of reaching the state championship game.

The All-State teams are selected by members of the New York State Sportswriters Association. Giachinta was named to the third team last year.

The only other player from Section 1 named All-State in Class D was Jonathan Berger, an offensive end for Tuckahoe.

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**Beacon Swim Sunk by Red Devils**

But coach happy with how Bulldogs are competing

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys’ swim team turned in a strong performance but was defeated by Peekskill, 92-75, in a meet held Tuesday (Jan. 15) at Beacon.

Despite its 4-6 record, the team has been swimming well, said Coach Larry Collins. “I was very happy with our performance this past week,” he said.

David Paschal, Kent Patino, David Reilly and James Patino picked up a victory in the 200-yard freestyle relay against the Red Devils. Reilly also won the 100-yard breaststroke and James Patino was first in the 50-yard freestyle.

Kent Patino, a team captain, picked up a victory in the 100-yard fly, and Paschal notched his season-best time in the 100-yard freestyle.

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**Cool at the Line**

Eleven boys and girls from Philipstown advanced in the annual free throw contest organized by Loretto Council No. 536 of the Knights of Columbus on Jan. 11 at the Capuchin Ministries gym in Garrison.

Each participant shot 15 free throws. The students at each age from 9 to 14 who made the most will shoot again in the district competition on Feb. 17 at the St. Columba Church gym in Hopewell Junction.

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### Girls

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drew Kelly</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Sami Thomas</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Murphy</td>
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<td>Maggie Gordiner</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Ruby Poses</td>
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<td>Chloe Rowe</td>
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### Boys

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Parker Larsen</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryce O’Halloran</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13 (tiebreaker)</td>
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<td>Jake Powers</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>Milo Shuk</td>
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<td>Matteo Cervone</td>
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