Beacon Assessments Jump 10 Percent

But don’t panic — your taxes may not go up

By Jeff Simms

Many property owners in Beacon were surprised last week when they received the city’s 2019 property assessments in the mail and discovered nearly across-the-board increases of 10 percent.

Residents took to social media to air their grievances; one thread on Facebook had nearly 500 posts, with many people expressing concern that taxes would be going up.

However, that’s not always the case, state and local tax officials say.

“A higher assessment isn’t necessarily a reason to panic,” explained James Gazzale, a representative for the state tax department, who noted that it’s possible for an assessment to increase but taxes decrease, or vice versa.

What typically make your taxes rise is an increase in municipal or school district spending. Beacon property owners pay taxes to the city, Dutchess County, the Beacon City School District and the Howland Public Library District, each of which has its own tax levy, or a percentage of its budget it’s allowed to raise through taxes.

In Beacon, new construction added $30 million of assessed value, which could contribute to a tax rate decrease and assists in spreading the tax levy across a larger base while giving residents more equity in their homes.

(Continued on Page 17)

The Extremist Next Door

First Pittsburgh, then Christchurch and Poway — where does the hate come from?

By Chip Rowe

When the four pseudonymous hosts of a popular white supremacist podcast produced in southern Dutchess County were “doxxed” — or publicly identified — in January 2017, three immediately left the show.

The fourth seemed to shrug and carry on. He began using his real name on the show and made no effort to scrub his identity or address from the internet. This astonished a contributor to It’s Going Down, an anti-fascist site, who wrote: “We could be dealing with someone preparing to live as an open Nazi in Fishkill, New York.”

Two years later, Jesse Dunstan, 40, remains a co-host of TDS (a consumer-friendly rebranding of its original name, The Daily Shoah, which mocks the Holocaust), on which he spews hatred for Jews, blacks, Muslims and gays. The show — one of 18 hosted on a website run by Dunstan called The Right Stuff (TRS) — has more than 400 episodes.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which tracks extremists, calls TRS “one of the white supremacist movement’s most popular and effective [audio] propaganda hubs.” It says there are 34 loosely organized chapters of TRS listeners — their gatherings are called “pool parties” — up from four just two years ago. An offshoot of TRS called Identity Dixie and described by the SPLC as “neo-Confederate” has seven chapters. Recruitment fliers promoting TRS have been posted at the University at Albany, Purdue, Kent State and other universities, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

“People need to understand that TDS is more than a podcast,” says Michael Edison Hayden, a senior investigative reporter for the SPLC who earlier this month posted a video clip from a 2017 book-burning conducted behind Dunstan’s home. “They are attempting to build an on-the-ground white supremacist movement.”

That Dunstan lives in the Hudson Valley is not widely known, which may be how he navigates dual identities, hating openly but not openly hated. He resides with his wife and two children in a modest home that he has owned since 2007, pays his taxes and has played guitar in local bands. From family photos once posted on social media, he appears to be a regular guy. And he used to be, years ago, when he was growing up in Garrison.

(Continued on Page 20)
SETH GALLAGHER

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Seth Gallagher, 54, a former bagpipes-maker who served as mayor of Cold Spring from 2009 to 2013, in February was sworn in as an attorney with the Dutchess County Public Defender’s Office.

How is the job going?
It’s going great. The people I work with take a holistic approach that includes working with social workers and dealing with aspects of the client’s life that are maybe more tangential to the criminal case but relate to trying to assist people as much as possible so they don’t have future contact with the justice system. I’m dealing with people who are dealing with difficult situations; I like being able to provide help.

What do you like least about it?
It does seem the scales are often weighted against the rights of the defendant. This is often the case when someone is charged with an offense and bail is set at an amount much higher than needed to satisfy the purpose of bail — to ensure the defendant shows up at court. This results in people being held in jail when they don’t pose a flight risk. Yet if you have money, you could get out. This is undergoing a huge change in New York. In the last few weeks the state government has adopted substantial reforms, including an overhaul of the cash bail system. Going forward, pretrial release without bail will be mandated when the offense is a misdemeanor, or for certain nonviolent felonies. The law will also give defendants access to the evidence possessed by the prosecution much earlier in the pretrial process, allowing them to make more informed decisions as to whether to accept a plea offer. New York is now a leader in criminal justice reform.

Why did you go to law school?
I'd been making instruments for over 20 years and was ready for a change. It's a pretty solitary endeavor; I was looking for something more social. And I wanted something that would be more intellectual. I'd had experience with aspects of the law in running a business and in village government. I like solving puzzles, problems. That's what law is.

What was the best part — and the hardest part?
One of the best parts was you're spending all your time reading and thinking and learning. There's a real luxury in doing that. The hardest part? It wasn’t too difficult. I sort of fell right into it. I was surprised about that. I thought it might be more daunting. Of course, it takes a little time to come up to speed.

Any advice for someone considering a return to school?
If you can afford it, it's a great experience — to be able to start anew and try something different. And it's never too late!

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Legislators Override Veto
Expand hours for wine and liquor sales

The Dutchess County Legislature voted 19-5 on May 13 to override a veto by the county executive and expand the hours for sales of wine and liquor. The proposal will now go to the state Liquor Authority, which will hold a public hearing before ruling on the request.

County law allows liquor and wine sales from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 12 until 9 p.m. on Sundays. Under the new rules, weekday and Saturday sales would be extended until 9 p.m.

Holiday sales, allowed from 9 to 10 a.m. on New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, and Independence Day, would expand to 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Legislature approved the expanded hours on April 8 but County Executive Carol Miller vetoed the measure, saying the public had not had adequate time to provide input. A two-thirds majority was required to override the veto.

Nick Page and Frits Zernike, who represent Beacon in the Legislature, both voted for the measure and to override the veto.

Constitution Marsh
Appoints Director
Garrison resident will succeed Eric Lind

The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary has named Scott Silver, a Garrison resident who is director of the Queens Zoo, to succeed director Eric Lind, who left in November after 25 years for a position with Audubon New York.

Silver joined the Queens Zoo in 1998 as an animal curator and became director in 2008. At Audubon, he will oversee the Rheinstrom Hill sanctuary in Columbia County, the Buttercup Farm sanctuary in northeastern Dutchess and the Rams Horn Livingstone sanctuary in Catskill, as well as Constitution Marsh.

“I’ve done extensive fieldwork in tropical America related to Howler monkeys, jaguars and Andean bears, but birds have always been a particular passion of mine,” Silver said in a statement. “I’m excited to showcase their value to my community right here in the Hudson Valley.”

Silver has been a board member of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society since 2010.

Planned Parenthood
Offices to Merge
Will form entity to oversee 28 health centers

Twenty-eight Planned Parenthood offices in the Mid-Hudson Valley, New York City and elsewhere in the state will merge into an entity called Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. The offices provide services to about half of the state’s counties, and 65 percent of its population.

Laura McQuade, the president and CEO of the New York City chapter, will lead the consolidated entity. According to the organization, the merger will help standardize operations and medical records, increase bargaining power with insurance companies and streamline administration and specialized services.

Teen Art Program at Dia Museum accepting summer applications

Dia:Beacon is accepting applications from high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors for Dia Teens, a program that will begin in the summer and continue through the 2019-20 school year.

The museum says it is looking for “creative thinkers, experimenters, art-makers and art-lovers” for the free program, which includes all snacks, lunches, field trips to New York City and art supplies. See bit.ly/diateens2019. The deadline is May 26.

Beacon Elks Receives Grants
Funds will assist veterans, food banks

The Beacon Elks received $4,500 in grants from the national organization that will allow the lodge to assist local veterans by getting them involved in social activities such as bowling, fishing, attending movies and patriotic picnics and lunches.

“The goal is to assist with their physical and mental health, and nutrition; show our appreciation for their service; and assure them that they are not forgotten,” said Exalted Ruler Robert Lanier, of the lodge.

The grants also will support two food banks (including a program in which children in need are given food to take home on weekends); provide supplies for educational programs at the Beacon Historical Society and Dutchess Outreach; and provide lunches for the junior firefighter and police programs.

Dutchess Gives Tourism Awards
Bannerman, Fishkill Farms recognized

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. announced the winners of its 2019 Awards of Distinction on May 7 at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park.

Three finalists were named in seven categories, and the winners were presented with awards made by Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon. Fishkill Farms received the Dutchess County Executive’s Award for Overall Distinction, and BeaconArts was a finalist for the Arts Award of Distinction. The Bannerman Castle Trust won the History Award; the Beacon Historical Society was among the finalists.

Volunteers Needed for Independence Day
Cold Spring parade scheduled for July 6

The Village of Cold Spring is looking for volunteers for its annual Independence Day Celebration, which is scheduled for Saturday, July 6.

“Even an hour of your time selling 50/50 raffle tickets, manning a donation bucket or helping with the parade would be greatly appreciated,” said Village Trustee Frances Murphy.

If interested, contact Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovitch at 845-265-3811 or by emailing vcsclerk@coldspringsny.gov.

The parade will take place down Main Street at 4:30 p.m., and food and games will begin at the riverfront at the same time. There will be a dramatic reading of selections from the Declaration of Independence performed by the members of Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and a bicycle decorating craft hour hosted by Gillian Thorpe of the Butterfield Library.

Besides the bicycle decorating contest, which this year will be judged by staff from the Desmond-Fish Library, the patriotic pet contest and pie-baking contest will also return, as well as live music at the waterfront and a fireworks display.
Haldane endorsements

I had the honor of serving on the Haldane Board of Education for seven years, so this time of year still brings out the “concerned citizen” in me. School board elections, budget votes and capital bonds are important and I feel it’s my civic duty to be informed, share insights from past experiences and offer support when I can.

Candidates Jen Daly and Laura O’Connell are excellent choices for the two open positions on the board. I met Jen when I was completing my final stint as president and she was elected to the board. She jumped right in and served as vice president. Jen is smart, asks well-researched questions and understands why checks and balances matter in the relationship between board and administration. Her experience can aid the board as a whole throughout another term.

I met Laura last year when she ran for the first time and then a few weeks ago spent several hours with her on the capital bond tour offered by the district. Laura’s background in large-scale facilities-planning and oversight can be a major asset and in that brief walk-through her comments and observations were spot-on. There has always been at least one board member who likes to get their hands dirty on these issues and Laura is that person. She’s a perfect addition, and the timing is right.

The $2.3 million proposed capital bond on the ballot is projected to be tax neutral. Frankly, it’s also unexciting. I rejoined the Building and Grounds Committee this past fall. In those meetings, it was clear the scope of work was going to be disciplined and focused on needs versus wants. There’s very little on the list of projects that is going to get anyone excited but that’s not necessarily a bad thing. Former Superintendent Mark Villanti excelled at reminding the community of why these uneventful but necessary bonds are critical to rebuild campus infrastructure. The new superintendent, Philip Benante, is taking the same approach.

I encourage you to support the bond and these very qualified candidates on Tuesday, May 21.

Joe Curto, Cold Spring

Having served for three-and-a-half years on the Haldane board, including two years as president, I have a good understanding of what it takes to be a good board member. This year the community is lucky to have three strong candidates. I am writing to explain why I will be supporting incumbent Jen Daly and Laura O’Connell.

Daly has been a member of the Haldane community for seven years and has demonstrated her commitment to the district by serving on the board for the past five years. Jen has a deep understanding of how a board should function and has demonstrated her commitment by previously serving as president for two years and more recently helping to spearhead the effort to audit the district’s policy manual. She has a deep understanding of the budget development process. In addition, she brings expertise as a certified dance educator and small-business owner, and someone whose professional career is devoted to helping others live healthy and well-balanced lives.

In recent years, Jen has continually championed the district’s efforts to improve its ability to support social emotional needs of all students.

Laura has been a member of the community for more than 10 years and has played an integral part on the district’s Building and Grounds Committee. As director of capital projects for The Public Theater in New York City, Laura has extensive experience in helping an organization assess its long-term needs related to capital improvements while also considering the inherent financial implications. Laura also has strong communication, organizational and problem-solving skills, experience developing and overseeing large budgets, and the willingness to make Haldane the best that it can be for all students.

Laura Hammond, Cold Spring

I have known Laura O’Connell for many years and worked with her when she was employed at Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence College. During all of this time I found her to be both intelligent and incisive. She has always been able to get to the essence of an issue and has the tenacity to follow up on things to their conclusion. She would be an excellent member of the board and help it develop reasonable and innovative solutions to the problems facing the district.

Al Zolinski, Cold Spring

Corrections

- In the May 10 issue, we reported that a community garden proposed for a 10.8-acre parcel owned to the Town of Phillipston “would cover 6.7 acres of arable land.” The total arable land on the parcel is 6.7 acres, says Tim Donovan, who proposed the project to the Town Board, but the project would only cover about 3.5 acres, including a fenced garden (2 acres), a meadow as a buffer (1 acre), a perennial garden/plant exchange (1/3 acre), a pergola shaded area (0.05 acre) and the parking lot (1/5 acre).

- In the May 10 issue, we reported that Hudson Valley Community Power would begin on June 1 to provide standard or renewable energy to residents and small businesses in Cold Spring, Beacon, Phillipstown, Fishkill, Poughkeepsie and Marlborough as part of a Community Choice Aggregation program adopted by each municipality. In fact, the activation day is July 1, after which the rates will be fixed for 24 months. Residents and businesses are automatically enrolled but may opt out through June 14 (call 845-859-9099 or email cca@hudsonvalleypower.org) and continue to be supplied with electricity by Central Hudson. Information sessions are held Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Beacon Recreation Center and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Cold Spring Village Hall.

Spot an error? Email editor@highlandscurrent.org.
(Continued from Page 4)

the years to grow the social and emotional supports our students have at Haldane.

Jen is someone who listens to the concerns of parents yet has a true grasp on the tough choices that the Haldane administration must sometimes make. In her inquisitive yet no-nonsense way Jen has led the school board through a number of difficult decisions and, in my opinion, has been on the right side of each choice. Jen is a real asset to our community and especially to the Haldane district. Please join me in voting for Jen Daly again in the upcoming election.

Danielle Pack McCarthy, Nelsonville

Idling cars
I would love to know why Cold Spring police officers so often leave their cars idling without anyone in them. It’s terrible for the environment! Today I encountered one squad car parked in a crosswalk, ignition on and empty, as usual.

I appreciate all that the officers do for the community and would love it if they could turn off their engines now and then. Jen is a real asset to our community and especially to the Haldane district. Please join me in voting for Jen Daly again in the upcoming election.

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Desmond-Fish vote
Consider two women: Julia Butterfield and Alice Curtis Desmond. Their values shape our community. Both of these accomplished women gained comfortable fortunes and bestowed funds to bring about their vision of an improved life for all in Philipstown — Butterfield in 1913, and Desmond in 1990 — and that vision for both included a library.

Butterfield left funds to start a library and a hospital in Cold Spring. Desmond, while married to her second husband, Hamilton Fish, gave funds to open a library in Garrison in 1980, and at her death in 1990 left additional financial support.

Thanks to these two women, Philipstown enjoys two thriving, busy libraries. Any resident can use both libraries with one card. Their operating hours are coordinated so that when one opens late the other opens early. The libraries cooperate on projects — most recently on a series of Welcome Newcomers receptions and an online guide to community resources at Philipstown.org. The children's rooms of both libraries welcome families. Cardholders for both libraries have access to books and resources from all over the state through in the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Thanks to community demand, both libraries long ago outgrew their origins as quiet reading rooms and offer internet access, digital collections, a wide array of technology and professional staff. They also outgrew their original funding, and, along with most libraries in New York, have turned directly to taxpayers to support their expanded services and hours.

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison survived for 34 years without asking for taxpayer funding. Special projects like an elevator, a children's room and a technology lab were achieved with private gifts and state grants. A combination of board fundraising and endowment income supported our growth — until it didn't.

In order to provide the technology and other services that our patrons rely on, stay open seven days a week, and provide more than 600 programs a year, we need to ask our taxpayers for a sustainable and reliable level of support. The $300,000 that we are requesting represents only 45 percent of our budget, compared to an 80 percent level of public support for most libraries in New York state. Since residents of the Garrison school district constitute the vast majority of our cardholders, we are asking them for support.

Please vote on Tuesday, May 21, at the Garrison School; the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. And please visit both of Philipstown's wonderful libraries, reflecting the vision of two remarkable women. Anita Prentice, Garrison

Prentice is president of the Desmond-Fish board.

We are writing in support of the Desmond-Fish Public Library and its upcoming referendum.

We have been Garrison residents for more than 19 years, and for us the library is the heart of the community. It isn't just a place to check out a book; it's a place that welcomes everyone from children to seniors, and has a fabulous tech center, programs and interest groups and social activities. The staff is so helpful and kind, and nearly every time we go to the library, we run into a friend or neighbor.

We are happy to pay our share to support the library needs. It's a small price to pay for what the library provides for everyone in Garrison. Sheilah and Bert Rechtschaffer, Garrison
Hossing Around

Impertinent parrot gets by on a (partial) wing and prayer

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

It’s not always easy living with a colorful local celebrity, especially one who saunters around the house, getting into mischief and talking back. But for the last 10 years, that’s been my lot with Hoss, the only macaw to ever claim the “best pet” award at the Cold Spring Fourth of July parade.

Hoss and I met in 2009 after I paid a visit with a friend to a pet bird shelter then based in southern Dutchess County. He was looking to adopt a shelter parrot (and subsequently did).

But my husband, Mike, and I already had three parrots, including a large macaw. We based in southern Dutchess County. He visit with a friend to a pet bird shelter then only macaw to ever claim the “best pet” award been my lot with Hoss, the

Hoss: “I said a prayer.”

My husband, Mike, and I already had Hoss and I met in 2009 after I paid a visit with a friend to a pet bird shelter then only macaw to ever claim the “best pet” award been my lot with Hoss, the

Hoss: “What’s it worth?”

Someone, somewhere, named him Hoss, and his smart he is, as well as being extremely good-natured, despite whatever horrors he might have experienced.

He greets his avian stepbrothers with an exuberant “Hi!” each morning, and his repertoire includes “I want to take over,” “Look at that,” and “What are you doing?”

When riding in a car, he exults with a sing-song riff, in an old woman’s voice, declaring that “it’s just so awful” and “I just don’t know.” as if complaining about neglectful grown children. He also appears to engage in “conversations.” A few examples follow, duly recorded by his slave-and-chronicler:

Room service

I put Hoss to bed and left to cover a meet-
By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold an informational session at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 20, to discuss the city’s first-ever revision of the dense zoning tables that dictate how parcels can be used.

Originally drafted more than 40 years ago, the tables live in the Building Department and outline the uses allowed in each of the city’s zoning districts, along with the dimensions — such as setbacks from the boundaries of the parcel and the height of buildings — that property owners must conform to. But after four decades of urban renewal, the city’s deterioration in the 1980s and early 1990s, and Beacon’s recent growth spurt, the tables are filled with so many amendments and footnotes that city officials say they’re challenging to decipher.

“If city staff has a hard time with this, how can we expect the public to understand it?” asked City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero.

That was the impetus nearly a year ago for the council to assign a consultant, John Clarke, to wade through the tables and create a more manageable document. In some cases Clarke went line-by-line through decades of zoning code and changes. His streamlined guidelines are nearly complete, and the public will be asked to look them over on Monday. (The effort complements the ongoing review by the City Council that could lead to changes in city zoning; Clarke’s work condenses and collects the current guidelines in one place.)

The session will function much like a public hearing, with residents given the chance to ask questions about the changes. A formal hearing will follow at a later date before the council votes on the amendments.

Most prominent in the changes is the elimination of several nearly duplicate zoning districts. The antiquated “parking business” district, for example, which flanks Main Street and is left over from a 1970s plan to create a pedestrian mall, would be combined with the “office business” district.

Together they would form a new “transitional” district that allows more contemporary uses such as artists’ studios, fitness centers or day care centers on either side of Main, along with housing. The current zoning, for the most part, allows only parking lots or residential buildings in the parking business zone.

The new documents also eliminate long-extinct uses such as a skiing facility that, under the present zoning, would still be allowed on Mount Beacon.

Want to open a gas station or a car wash in Beacon? The new setup would reduce multiple 11-by-17 sheets to two pages of simple X/Y graphs to make it easy for building permit applicants to determine which zoning districts allow which uses. (Hint: Those uses will be consolidated into two lines in the proposed table. They would be allowed by special permit in the general business and light industrial districts.)

Details from the draft of a streamlined zoning map being considered by the Beacon City Council

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• Outdoor items! Generac Generator, garden pots, tools.
• Fill-a-bag section for $5

235 AVERY ROAD IN GARRISON
TAKING THEIR HUMANS FOR A WALK

The 12th annual Beacon Barks! dog parade and street festival on April 27 to benefit the Safe Haven Animal Shelter & Wildlife Center in Stormville drew scores of man’s, woman’s and child’s best friends to Main Street. The event is co-sponsored by the Beacon Barkery and the Dutchess County SPCA.

Photos by Ross Corsair

MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

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May 18, 2019, 3:00-5:00pm

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Scholar-in-Residence,
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Old Souls, New Music

Band to perform ‘cosmic roots’ at chapel

By Alison Rooney

The Chapel Restoration will get an infusion of Santa Cruz on Thursday, May 23, when Marty O'Reilly & the Old Soul Orchestra brings to the banks of the Hudson what the California band describes as its “signature cosmic roots aesthetic, brimming with cinematic song craft, impressionistic lyrics, clever arrangements, telepathic ensemble interplay and soulfully world-weary vocals.”

O'Reilly has said people also seem comfortable with “alt-folk.”

The concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is part of the Chapel’s Restoration Roadhouse series, and, as with past editions, it will include meals for sale from Pappi’s Mediterranean Food Truck and beer from Industrial Arts.

The four-man band — O'Reilly on vocals and electrified resonator guitar, Chris Lynch on violin and keys, Matt Goff on drums and percussion and Ben Berry on upright bass — has been crisscrossing the U.S. to support its latest album, Stereoscope, released last year after a crowdfunding campaign. (The band will perform in Rochester; Somerville, Massachusetts; and New York City in the three days before their chapel concert, and Washington, D.C., and Cumberland, Maryland, in the two days after.)

The Delta blues primed the pump for O'Reilly. He received a guitar for his birthday as a teenager and a music teacher started him off the genre.

After attending the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he majored in environmental studies, O’Reilly taught outdoor education. He formed the orchestra in 2012, and it played festivals on the West Coast before releasing a self-titled live album in 2013 and a studio album, Pray for Rain, in 2014. Its audience is expanding now mostly through streaming via Spotify, he says.

Tickets are $25 at bit.ly/old-soul-chapel. The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring. Paid parking is available at the adjacent Metro-North lot.

Back from Her Break

After 10 years away, Francesca Beghe returns to stage

By Alison Rooney

After an extended break from performing — but not from singing — Francesca Beghe will return to the stage on Thursday, May 23, at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon.

It will be her first gig (except for an unannounced practice run) in 10 years, although Beghe has never stopped singing. “There’s no break,” she says. “It’s the same with playing piano. It’s my meditation, every single day.”

At the busiest time of her career, she performed frequently, although her decisions were dictated by record labels. Initially, it all seemed to flow easily for the singer, who grew up in Manhattan, where she studied classical piano and sang in a church choir.

“My mother made me keep taking lessons even though I was a chaotic kid,” she recalls. At age 14 she started learning songs she was hearing on the radio by Elton John, Carole King and Yes, among others. “I lived in this rambling apartment that my parents bought for very little money in the early 1960s and it was so large that I could sing and play, on a baby grand, without the neighbors hearing me. I was on a mission, driven, though I had no idea I could make it a profession.”

Beghe headed to her parents’ alma mater, the University of Chicago, but left school to sing in restaurants and join a band she found through an ad in The Village Voice. It was then that she began writing songs. Although the group played venues such as The Ritz and The Bitter End, opening for artists including Jerry Garcia and Muddy Waters, it never got a record deal.

In response, Beghe put together her own group and co-wrote a song, “Trust in Me,” that was sung by Joe Cocker and landed her a deal with SBK. The label “hemmed and hawed before signing me,” she says. “I was waitressing two jobs, while waiting months to hear if I’d been signed. Working for a major label, you’re working with the machinery of that label, which is toxic and stressful, though of course it had its benefits.”

SBK attempted to reshape her as a glossy, (Continued on Page 16)
Photographer captures Appalachian Trail hikers en route

By Alison Rooney

Turns out, all it took was a pot of home-cooked chili. That’s what photographer Stan Goldblatt had to offer to the Appalachian Trail hikers he approached at Bear Mountain’s Hessian Lake, asking if they would come to his home studio in Fort Montgomery so he could take their portraits.

“Some looked at me like, I don’t know who this guy is, and I don’t want to know,” he recalls.

Goldblatt said he would recruit hikers by waiting at the bottom of the trail, at Perkins Drive, sitting on a bench, with his dog. “You can tell when an AT hiker is near — there’s a certain look — a certain smell, too,” he says. “I’d explain the project, show them the photos I had already taken, and tell them: ‘There’s a big pot of chili on the stove for you.’

Those turned out to be the magic words that convinced 166 hikers to participate. Year after year, like a migratory species, Appalachian Trail hikers turn up in mid-June in Fort Montgomery, frequently visiting the post office to pick up pre-arranged mail drops of food and supplies.

Many of the photos have been assembled for an exhibit, Portraits of Hikers on the Appalachian Trail, that runs through Oct. 4 at the Highland Falls Library, 298 Main St. Goldblatt began approaching hikers (Continued on Page 11)
during the summer of 2014. He says their diversity surprised him. The youngest was 8 years old, part of a family of four. The oldest was 66 and a former Space Shuttle pilot. By the time he met the hikers, each had walked about 1,400 miles of the 2,285 total. Most of the hikers are traveling from Georgia toward Maine, expecting to finish in September.

He initially hoped to create studio portraits of 50 to 60 people but says he found the process easier than he expected. If a hiker appeared uncomfortable while being photographed, Goldblatt says he would offer suggestions, such as “lean on your [walking] poles” and “don’t forget to take a breath.” Also: “Be who you are when you’re on the trail.”

Hikers never use their real names, Goldblatt explains, “because there could be 50 Steves. They need something more unique. Their trail names are given to them by fellow hikers. There are little journals along the way and they leave notes, signed with their trail name.”

Goldblatt says he has a new photo series in mind; he wouldn’t reveal any details but says “the logistics are kind of daunting.” One thing is certain, though: “No more chili.”
THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

SAT 18
Master Gardener Plant Sale
BREWSTER
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CCE Putnam 1 Geneva Road | 845-278-6738
putnam.cce.cornell.edu
You’ll find organic heirloom and hybrid vegetables suited for Putnam gardens, annuals, herbs, perennial garden packs to attract pollinators, and native plants and shrubs. Get advice from Cornell’s master gardeners and bring a sample of soil for a free pH test.

SAT 18
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
KENT
9 a.m. – Noon. Fahnestock Park Canopus Beach Parking Lot Route 301 | 845-808-1190 x43125
putnamcounty.com/green-putnam
Putnam County residents can drop weather permitting, members gather every week or so to show off their cruisers. The club was established in 2000 to support the preservation of American classics from early street rods and lead sleds to 1970s muscle cars.

SUN 19
Antique & Classic Car Show
NEWBURGH
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stop & Shop 1429 Route 300 | 845-527-6804
The Winona Lake Engine Co. No. 2 will hosting this car show, which has a rain date of June 1. Admission is free; the cost to register a vehicle is $10.

WED 23
Bear Mountain Car Cruise
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Field adjacent to the Inn 845-926-0083
bearmountaincarcruise.com
Founded by Craig Young of the Rod Benders Car Club, the cruise is now in its 20th year. It takes place weather permitting every Wednesday from May to September. Cost: $5 (park admission)

SAT 18
Blue Star Marker Ceremony
BEACON
11 a.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza 845-464-2111 | tiorondagardenclub.org
For Armed Forces Day, the Tioronda Garden Club will dedicate a Blue Star marker — the first in Dutchess County — to honor everyone who has served.

SAT 18
Pasture Walk
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Glyndwood | 362 Glyndwood Road 845-265-3338 x132 | glyndwood.org
Tour Glyndwood’s fields and pastures with the farm’s vegetable and livestock managers. Learn about the animals being raised, how a farmer assesses pasture for each breed, and where they’ll be grazing, and why. Learn what vegetables are being grown, and how the crew is adapting to climate change. Free

SAT 18
Life with the Lenape
FORT MONTGOMERY
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery 690 Route 9W | 845-446-2134
parks.ny.gov/historic-sites
See hand-drill fire-making, flint-knapping and a hide-tanning demonstration by Barry Keegan, an expert in historic Native American skills. Free

WED 22
Community Conversation
BEACON
6 p.m. Eks Lodge 900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-1134
beaconconversations.org
Anyone who lives or works in the city is invited to share ideas, concerns and hopes for the future of Beacon at a forum organized by the Howland Public Library. Repeats FRI 24, at 10 a.m. at the Howland Cultural Center.

SUN 19
Run and Walk with the Dogs
BEACON
10 a.m. Memorial Park facebook.com/arfanimalrescue
This fourth annual 5K run and walk is a fundraiser for the Animal Rescue Foundation. Cost: $25

SUN 19
Diamonds for Deputies
COLD SPRING
Noon – 4 p.m. Jaymark Jewelers 3612 Route 9 | 845-265-9246
facebook.com/jaymarkjewelers
Meet members of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office and explore law enforcement vehicles, including drones. Nicola’s Italian Restaurant will provide refreshments and Eloise Pearsall will perform. Proceeds from jewelry raffles will support the sheriff’s cadets program. Free

COMMUNITY

Estate of Clearwater 50th Anniversary, May 18
Clearwater 50th Anniversary
SAT 18
Clearwater 50th Anniversary
BEACON
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Riverfront 2 Red Flyn Drive | clearwater.org
On the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Sloop Clearwater, take a sail from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., there will be free music, crafts and children’s activities. Cost for sail: $50 ($35 members, $15 ages 12 and younger)

THURS 23
Mary Poppins Returns
GARRISON
819 Dennings Ave. | 845-838-1600
10 a.m. Water Ecology Center 199 Dennings Ave. | 845-838-1600
sloop.org
Learn about the three time periods of the dinosaurs using fossils and replicas. Suitable for children ages 6 and older. Free

SAT 18
Community Conversation
BEACON
6 p.m. Eks Lodge 900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-1134
beaconconversations.org
Written by Imagination Playhouse students in grades 3 to 5, this play is about a girl who eats a poisonous strawberry and her friends who go on a journey to find the ingredients for the antidote. Free

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KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 18
Jr. Paleontologist
BEACON
10 a.m. Water Ecology Center 199 Dennings Ave. | 845-838-1600
sloop.org
Learn about the three time periods of the dinosaurs using fossils and replicas. Suitable for children ages 6 and older. Free

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SAT 18
Baby Shark’s Treasure Hunt
BEACON
1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St. 845-831-4614 | hvlti.org
This 45-minute musical for children will be presented by members of the Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative. Cost: $80 ($15 for children free with adult)

SAT 18
The Very Scary Berry
BEACON
6:30 p.m. University Settlement 724 Wolcott Ave. | 917-648-4454
compassarts.org
Enjoy a screening of the latest Valley Women in Business founder Sophfronia Scott, novelist David Hicks and Hudson Valley Women in Business founder Lauree Ostrosky will read stories about hope and inspiration.
SUN 19

**Girl in Black and White**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Binnacle Books
321 Main St. | 845-838-6191
binnaclebooks.com

Jessie Morgan-Owens, the dean of studies at Bard Early College in New Orleans, will read from her biography of Mary Mildred Williams, a light-skinned black girl born into slavery whom abolitionists made a symbol of their movement. The author also will discuss and answer questions about the book with moderator Sam Anderson. Free

TUES 21

**Farming for a Resilient Future**

**GARRISON**

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Kathleen Finlay and Lynda Prim of Glynwood will discuss efforts in the Hudson Valley to farm in a regenerative way. Free

THURS 23

**The Story of Captain Dixie**

**BEACON**

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Dario Rocco, author of *The Indestructible Man: The True Story of World War II Hero “Captain Dixie,”* will share the story of Dixie Keifer, who died in 1945 when his Navy transport plane crashed on Mount Beacon. Free

THURS 23

**Afro-Futurism Book Club**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

The Newburgh LGBTQ Center will launch this club that, over its first five sessions, will explore *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. Reservations required. Cost: $10 donation

FRI 24

**Jeffrey Yang and Anna Moschovakis**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

Yang’s most recent poetry collection is *Hey, Marfa,* Moschovakis is the author of the novel *Eleanor, or, The Rejection of Mamie,* and the collection is *Hey, Marfa;* Jeffrey Yang and Anna Moschovakis will discuss the story of Dixie Keifer, who died in 1945 when his Navy transport plane crashed on Mount Beacon. Free

SAT 18

**Open Studios**

**BEACON**

Noon - 6 p.m. Various locations beaconopenstudios.com

Art spaces, venues and studios will be open to visitors. See the website for a list and suggested tours. Also SUN 19. An after-party will be held on SAT 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Beekman Art Club, 71 Beekman Road, in Hopewell Junction, and a closing party on SUN 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Bank Square Coffeehouse, 129 Main St. Free

SAT 18

**Dorothea Rockburne**

**BEACON**

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-440-0100 | diadi.org

Evangelia Antonakos, a math and computer science professor at Bronx Community College, will discuss the artist’s work. Cost: Free with museum admission

SAT 18

**Arte Povera on the Edge**

**COLD SPRING**

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.org

Francesco Guzzetti, the museum’s scholar-in-residence, will explore the visual issue and essential concept of defining Arte Povera. Free

SAT 18

**Orphans of Painting II**

**BEACON**

4 – 7 p.m. Ethan Cohen KuBe
211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270
ecfa.com

Curated by Ratil Zamudio and Ethan Cohen, this is a continuation of a show that opened in 2017 at the gallery. It will feature works by 41 artists who identify as painters but who expand into other registers to create “hybridized art forms.”

SAT 18

**Time After Time**

**BEACON**

6 – 8 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844
catalystgallery.com

Scott Lerman will share his latest paintings. Through May 26.

SAT 25

**Eco Print Workshop**

**BEACON**

Noon - 3 p.m. New York Textile Lab
146 Main St. | 845-408-2070
nytextilelab.com

Using locally sourced flowers and leaves, participants can experiment with “eco printing” on silk textiles using steaming and hammering to extract pigment. Registration required. Cost: $98

SAT 25

**The Artichoke**

**GARRISON**

7 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wooldt Ave. | 845-831-9476
adamisso.com

Adam Isso, Peter Sasso and Rob Falcone will perform stand-up. Cost: $25 ($30 door, $20 members)

SAT 25

**Three Short Comedies**

**COLD SPRING**

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

As part of its ongoing Silent Film Series, the library will screen “The Scarecrow” (1921) with Buster Keaton, “Puttin’ Pants on Philip” (1927) with Laurel & Hardy, and “The Rink” (1916) with Charlie Chaplin. Pianist Cary Brown will provide accompaniment. Free

FRI 24

**The Edukators**

**BEACON**

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

As part of its ongoing International Film Series, the library will screen this 2004 drama from Germany and Austria that explores how radical best friends, united in their passion to change the world, are challenged by the world. Rated R. Free

SUN 18

**Community Blood Drive**

**GARRISON**

3 – 7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | bit.ly/guds-drive

Appointment recommended.

THURS 23

**Single-Payer Health Care**

**MAHOPAC**

6:30 p.m. Mahopac Library | 668 Route 6
845-628-2099 | mahopaclibrary.org

The League of Women Voters of Putnam County will host a forum on proposals to extend health care coverage to everyone in New York State. The panelists are state Sen. Gustavo Rivera, who chairs the Senate’s Health Committee; Peter Arno, director of the Health Policy Research Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst; and Katie Robbins, director of Campaign for New York Health. Free

MUSIC

SAT 18

**Jazz Vespers**

**COLD SPRING**

5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Celebrate the 100th birthday of Nat King Cole with vocalist Marty Elkins and bandleader Tom McCoy, who will perform hits such as “Straighten Up and Fly Right,” “Route 66,” “Sweet Lorraine” and “Unforgettable.” A wine-and-cheese reception will follow. Free

(Continued on Page 14)
THE WEEK AHEAD (Continued from Page 13)

SAT 18  
**A Little Night Music Revue**  
PUTNAM VALLEY  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Pekinck Corners Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org  

**Howland Cultural Center**  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  

**1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039**

**Abbarama**  
SAT 18  
**SUN 19**  
**COLD SPRING**  

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

Jesse Mills, Raman Ramakrishnan, and Rieko Aizawa will perform Piano Trio by Taillferre, Piano Trio by Ravel and Piano Quartet in C minor by Gabriel Fauré.  

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

The musician and performance poet brings together folk and hip-hop. Christine Dominguez will open. Cost: $22 ($30 door)

**Breakneck Ridge Revue**  
BEACON  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-250 | nelsonvilleny.gov  

The progressive francophone folk band from Quebec plays traditional and original music. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

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

Violinist Amy Schroeder and cellist Felix Umsansky will be joined by pianist Yalin Chi for a program that includes Dvorak’s Trio in F Minor, Op. 65 and Chaussson Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 3. Donations are welcome. Free

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**CIVIC**  
SAT 18  

**School Budget Vote and Trustee Election**  
BEACON  
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900  
beaconk12.org  

District residents in Fishkill and Wappinger vote at Glenham Elementary, 20 Chase Drive, in Fishkill.

**School Budget Vote and Trustee Election**  
GARRISON  
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 90 | 845-424-3689  
gufs.org

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**  

Open 4:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m. 
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

- **Towne Crier Cafe**
  - Best Brunch in Beacon
  - Open 4:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m. 
  - Closed Mondays & Tuesdays
  - Friday, May 17, 7 p.m.  
    - Adam Falcon - Free  
    - Friday, May 17, 8:30 p.m.  
      - Graham Parker  
    - Saturday, May 18, 12:30 p.m.  
      - The Music Cottage Showcase  
    - Saturday, May 18, 8:30 p.m.  
      - Le Vent du Nord  
    - Sunday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
      - Classical Brunch with Dan Stevens, guitar  
  - Sunday, May 19, 12:30 p.m.  
    - The Music Cottage Showcase  
  - Sunday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
    - Karan Casey from Ireland  
  - Thursday, May 23, 7 p.m.  
    - Francesca Beghe  
  - Friday, May 24, 7 p.m.  
    - Toland Brothers - Free  
  - Friday, May 24, 8:30 p.m.  
    - Chris O’Leary Band  
  - Saturday, May 25, 6 p.m.  
    - Le Vent du Nord  
  - Saturday, May 25, 8:30 p.m.  
    - Decora  
  - Sunday, May 26, 11:30 a.m.  
    - The Eduked Fleas - Free  
  - Sunday, May 26, 7 p.m.  
    - Breakneck Ridge Revue

**Lambs Hill Bridal Boutique**

**SUN 19**  

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

The progressive francophone folk band from Quebec plays traditional and original music. Cost: $30 ($35 door)
Getting Out of My (Own) Way

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

The column this month nearly broke me. I tried writing it early, but that only afforded me more time to reflect on what I was trying to say about, in this case, day care and babysitters — always a trigger.

When you’re writing a kid-friendly column, there is the necessity of self-reflection of how and what you are doing as a parent. Looking down that kaleidoscope is scary.

The photo at right was taken on a Saturday, in the early evening, after I had left the house (as a homebody; this is a status I aspire to) to do an afternoon work session to finish an article. I have been doing that a lot lately — leaving the house to go to the office, because if I don’t, I just clean the kitchen on repeat. This is a problem for the self-employed, because you never get in trouble with the boss.

So the theme this month is Getting Out of My (Own) Way. As a working parent, and an entrepreneur who chases ideas, I have encountered what could be called “negative time.” This occurs when I run out of time to do all the things that need to be done.

As a business owner, being in your own way means that you’re not letting go enough to grow your business. Hold on too tightly, and you choke it. The problem of not letting go looks like this: I want to write all of the articles! I want to design all of the websites! I want to write all of the arti-

Who needs a glass?

During the time I’m mostly driving to and from camp and taking family day trips. The time that I can work is so limited that I begin working in negative time, which means that opportunities disappear as time marches forward. It’s a great way, however, to cut to the chase to get something done — perfectionism and the guilt of having some-

The guilt subsided. The result has been a balanced feeling when I do return home. I can unplug work life and be on the full-court press of family life.

As I said, the photo here captured a moment when I had come home from working on a Saturday. I had published the article, and a business owner called me up to chat about it. I very much wanted to continue hearing what the business owner was saying, but I was walking up my driveway, encountering various family members as I went inside the house to put down my bags.

My middle son and his friend wanted to show me their scooter moves; my husband wanted to show me his first yard trimming of the season; my littlest was on the porch treating himself to a jug of apple cider; my daughter and her friend had finished another batch of slime; my neighbor (and the mother of my daughter’s friend) was over, looking as lost as I felt, watching the chaos. We looked at each other. “Is this all all right? Is everyone as they should be?” we seemed to ask each other silently, because I was still on the phone.

Perhaps the chaos in the kaleidoscope is sparkle, and we only need to look at shape definition sometimes, to understand how it’s made, and then carry on as the kalei-
doscope turns.

Katie Hellmuth Martin is a Beacon mother of three children, wife to one man and owner of A Little Beacon Blog and Tin Shingle.
Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a "natural finish" and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening. 845.446.7465

The Haldane PTA Supports the 2019-20 School Budget, which:

- Maintains current programs, adds leadership support for Curriculum and Instruction.
- Meets District goals that are derived from the Strategic Plan.
- Within tax cap, up to the levy limit.
- Adds additional social/emotional health professional with Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification.
- Proposition #2, Student Bus and Utility Equipment.
- Proposition #3, Capital Referendum: addresses health/safety issues, helps programming, preserves District facilities. Tax neutral; no additional taxpayer cost.

Vote May 21
Polaris open 7 am to 9 pm
Haldane School Room 105, 15 Craigside Drive

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Friday & Saturday 8 - 5
Tel. 845.265.3126
158 Main Street • Cold Spring, NY 10516

Hudson Valley Auctioneers LLC
Antique and Estate Auctioneers
432 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
Monthly Public Auctions Mondays 5 p.m.
Featuring online and offline sessions
Sunday Previews • Gallery open daily by appointment

Tickets for the show, which begins at 7 p.m., are $20 at townecrier.com, or $25 at the door. Beghe will be performing with Tony Garnier, Jerry Marotta, Marc Shulman, Daniel A. Weiss and vocalists Emily Bindiger and Diane Garisto.

Beghe (from Page 9)

Francesca Beghe
Photos provided
Village Board (from Page 1)

have done sampling on-site when people are concerned.” He added that rust, inherent in the century-old water system, is a big part of the problem.

An overnight hydrant flush scheduled for May 19 to 24 should take care of much of the discoloration Phillips said, though he cautioned, “there is always some residual discoloration” when that procedure is undertaken. (The village says residents may notice periods of little or no water between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. and discoloration each morning. It advises to run the cold water until clear.) “If someone out there has a miracle way of cleaning pipes that are 100 years old, let us know,” Merandy added.

The hydrant flush uses the velocity of the water to scour the lining of the mains to remove loose particulate, film or sediment and 4 a.m. and discoloration each morning.

In other business …

The Planning Board held a public hearing on May 9 as part of its consideration of an application by Laura Bergman to convert the commercial space at 15 Main St. to a home got that 10 percent boost in value. “It makes the city more attractive,” Ruggiero said.

As assessments go up, the city can make improvements in the community “without going back to the residents and taxing them at a higher rate.” He cited Beacon’s after-living the tax rate required to collect the revenue required by the budget falls, property tax bills go down or remain the same.

The tax rate has decreased in Beacon over the past three years, “and this should be a fourth one,” said City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero. As assessments go up, the city can make improvements in the community “without going back to the residents and taxing them at a higher rate.” He cited Beacon’s after-school program and the city pool as benefiting from increased property values. “It makes the city more attractive,” Ruggiero said.

If you’re curious, here’s how your Beacon home got that 10 percent boost in value. Homes and other properties are reassessed each year in Beacon, explained Kathy Martin, the city’s assessor. But if a municipality’s assessed values appear to be out of whack with market values, it can obtain a comprehensive review to get them re-aligned. That last happened in Beacon in 2007.

This year, after a comparison of the city’s previous assessments with similar sales, the value of nearly every residential property in Beacon (with the exception of a few properties Martin said were over-assessed or upgraded) was bumped up 10 percent to better reflect market value, or what a home would actually sell for. “What it means is that your market value has gone up but, effectively, the tax rate should come down because everyone went up uniformly,” she said.

Market values everywhere decreased after the 2007 review, so assessments in Beacon followed suit, going down 22 percent over the next several years. Then, as the market recovered, home values increased 3.5 percent last year, while commercial property values increased by almost 30 percent.

“Thankfully Beacon has seen wonderful growth in its property values,” Martin said, “and that’s been a long time coming. Who doesn’t want their house to be worth more? It’s a good thing. Building equity in your home is a positive thing.”

Property Values (from Page 1)

Each of these factors — not just the value of an individual property — impacts what a household pays. For instance, the state Department of Taxation and Finance offers these scenarios (see chart):

- Your assessment decreases, but the total value of all assessments in the city decreases at the same time, meaning the tax rate required to collect an increase in revenue rises, which means your property tax bill goes up.
- Your assessment increases, but the total value of all assessments in the city increases at the same time, meaning the tax rate required to collect the revenue required by the budget falls, which means property tax bills go down or remain the same.

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Assessments vs. Taxes: What’s the Difference?

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<th>Last Year</th>
<th>This Year</th>
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<td>Your Assessment</td>
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<td>Total Value of the Town</td>
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<td>Tax Levy</td>
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<td>Tax Rate</td>
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<td>Your Property Tax Bill</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your assessment could INCREASE, and your tax bill could DECREASE</th>
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<td>Your Assessment</td>
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<td>Total Value of the Town</td>
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<td>Tax Levy</td>
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<td>Tax Rate</td>
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<td>Your Property Tax Bill</td>
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<tr>
<th>Your assessment could DECREASE, and your tax bill could INCREASE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Your Assessment</td>
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<td>Total Value of the Town</td>
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<th>Your assessment could STAY THE SAME, and your tax bill could NO CHANGE</th>
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<td>Your Assessment</td>
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<td>Total Value of the Town</td>
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<td>Tax Levy</td>
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<td>Tax Rate</td>
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<td>Your Property Tax Bill</td>
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</table>

Source: NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

How to Appeal Your Assessment

Each year, Assessment Review Boards assemble for four hours on a single day in May to hear appeals, or “grievances.” This year the Beacon board will meet on Wednesday, May 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. in Philipstown on Tuesday, May 28.

There are no appointments; cases are heard on a first-come, first-served basis. A standardized appeals form (RP-624) can be downloaded at bit.ly/grievance-form and should be completed before arrival. The board may ask for supporting documents such as comparable properties that have lower assessments.

If an appeal is denied, a property owner may go to court to request a Small Claims Assessment Review. For more information, see bit.ly/grievance-booklet.
Catching Up with the Putnam County Legislature

Legislators Again Discuss Climate Smart Pledge

Putnam County legislators seem to agree that government should be doing all it can to prevent climate change, protect the environment and wildlife, implement smart infrastructure and capital improvements, and work toward building energy-independent communities that provide for the health and safety of residents.

But they are not all convinced that an official pledge is needed to continue the work that some say is already being done to move toward a “greener” Putnam.

Since 2015, the county Legislature has been considering taking the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s Climate Smart Communities Pledge. It can be amended by local governments, but its 10 points must be adopted verbatim. In exchange, the county would earn points on its requests for state grants from the Regional Economic Development Council.

On April 25, Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls), the committee’s chair, noted that the county would have to, among other commitments, create an inventory of its emissions, decrease energy use, shift to renewable energy, use climate-smart materials and implement climate-smart land use.

She said 23 of the state’s 62 counties have passed resolutions. However, not all have created a task force or fulfilled all the requirements to be recognized as a Climate Smart Community.

In a presentation to the legislature’s Economic Development Committee in February, Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown), urged her colleagues to have the county join the initiative. Philipstown began working toward Climate Smart certification in 2017. Beacon and Nelsonville are also involved.

On April 25, Montgomery expressed disappointment that the pledge was only on the agenda as a discussion item, and not something for the committee to vote on to send to the full Legislature.

“I’m ready to move this forward,” she said. “If you guys don’t want to take the pledge, I will take the pledge and implement these 10 items. And I’d be happy to ask the state if I can take the pledge myself and do this. But I’m at the point where I don’t want to see this again before another committee.”

Sayegh said the Legislature was waiting on a response from County Executive MaryEllen Odell about how the pledge may affect various departments. “I believe the weight of this will fall on the Planning Department,” she said.

However, she voiced her support for the initiative.

“It helps facilitate networking between municipalities, much like our shared services initiatives,” Sayegh said of the pledge. “It lets residents know that the county does value green energy. We encourage everyone to participate in lowering their energy costs and their impact on the environment.”

Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) pointed out that if the county takes the pledge but is unable to fulfill its commitment to become a Climate Smart Community, there are no repercussions.

“We have nothing to lose,” he said. “If we put it together, great. If it’s too cumbersome or too much work, we don’t.”

But Sayegh argued there is a downside.

“The downside is man hours and duplication of work,” she said. “I guess that’s the question: Do we need a task force and man hours and another volunteer board to fulfill the task that we’re already doing? We’re all in favor of green energy and saving the taxpayers money and limiting our footprint on the environment, but is it going to double the workload? Because now instead of doing what we’re doing, we’re also participating in a task force.”

Montgomery volunteered to go to the Planning Department as a coordinator and ask for a master plan for capital improvements planned at the county jail, upgrades planned at Tilly Foster Farm, and other steps the county is taking “as far as green-energy use.”

“I can easily put together a task force,” she said. “It’s important as elected officials to take this pledge and to sign on to this. We owe that to the public because of the state we’re in with climate change.”

Sayegh, however, said it’s not up to one legislator to decide if the county wants to take the pledge.

“It’s not a committee of one,” she said. “It is something that takes our entire county and our departments into consideration. It’s a resolution that has to be passed by a municipality. I don’t think anyone is saying we don’t want to pass it, but this involves the entire administration and the entire community and the entire county.”

County Needs Foster Parents

Although Putnam County typically only has a few dozen children who need foster care, there is still a need for qualified adults who can provide temporary homes, the county’s director of children and family services told legislators on April 25.

Frank Marocco, who oversees the child welfare and foster care units within the Department of Social Services, spoke to the legislature’s Health Committee.

“It can be a difficult thing to be a foster parent, but it can be extremely rewarding,” he said.

There are currently 23 children in foster care in Putnam, about five less than last year, when there were about 28. However, that number nearly doubled between 2017 and 2018, he said, and 30 years ago there were about 60 children.

Most foster children are ages 6 and younger, although there are sometimes teenagers, he said.

The county has 15 to 20 foster families, Marocco said, and also houses children at a group home in Poughkeepsie, residential treatment centers and other facilities.

Most children end up in foster care after abuse and neglect proceedings, he said.

Last year, there were 691 investigations by Child Protective Services of allegedly “unfit homes,” he said. Most involve domestic violence or parents who are struggling with substance abuse and/or mental illness. In many cases, children are voluntarily placed

(Continued on Page 19)
in foster care by their parents or guardians.

Marocco said that if a child has been in foster care for 15 of the previous 22 months, the county is required by law to file a termination of parental rights so the child can be adopted. In addition, if a parent abandons a child for at least six months, the county can file for termination.

“We had seven children adopted last year,” typically by the foster parents, Marocco said.

Marocco noted that his department also provides services to families that it hopes can keep children out of foster care. “I think it’s because of their efforts that we have one of the lowest [per-capita] rates of foster care in the state,” he said.

The county holds training sessions twice a year for adults interested in becoming foster parents. Applicants must complete a certification process that includes background checks on everyone in the home over the age of 18, and a home safety inspection. (Call 845-808-1500 for information.)

Foster families receive reimbursement for most expenses from the county, which is in turn reimbursed by the state and federal governments. Starting in 2020, the fostering of children classified as “persons in need of supervision” will be 100 percent covered by county dollars with no reimbursement from the state or federal government.

“The state and federal government are pushing to get children out of care” because of the expense, he said. “They are encouraging us and pushing us to place children with family members, which is a great thing if they are out there — but they’re not. So the funding is starting to decrease.”

County OKs Purchase of Horses

The Legislature on May 7 approved the purchase of two black Percheron horses for Tilly Foster Farm, although Montgomery and Bill Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) voted “no.”

The county will purchase one horse for $5,000 from a private owner, who will donate the second horse.

The first-year cost of purchasing the horses, providing veterinary services, buying feed and other supplies, equipment and building materials, is estimated at $37,700. Each subsequent year, the cost of continued care for the horses is estimated at about $15,000.

“The thing that we have to keep in mind is that open space, green space, the properties that people like to see cost a lot of money,” said Albano.

He explained that at public meetings that were held a few years ago when capital improvements began at the farm, “many residents came up to us and said what they would like to see are horses. At that time, it was premature; we had a lot of work to do on the farm, and it wasn’t an option.”

However, now the county has an opportunity to acquire the horses at a reasonable price, with support provided by the owner, he said. “It’s a beautiful addition to the farm.”

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) added that the county, which partners with Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES to offer culinary classes at the farm, will now be able to offer even more.

“The purchase of the horses will further continue and expand the partnership with BOCES to increase educational opportunities at the farm, specifically to begin an animal science program in September,” he said.

“This is not only an investment in the farm, it’s an investment in our youth,” he said. “Hopefully one day they will come back and work at the farm for us.”

Montgomery said she simply could not support the purchase.

“I love these horses,” she said. “They are a magnificent thing to see.” But at $15,000 a year, “that’s a lot of money to spend on something to just look at, when we are lacking so many other essential services in our county.”

Montgomery explained that the BOCES’ “animal care program” will begin at Tilly Foster in September regardless of whether it has horses.

“I’m interested in my constituents at this point,” she said. “I’m not interested in Tilly Foster, or investing any more money in Tilly Foster. I don’t buy something just because it’s on sale.”

Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) said the Legislature owes it to the residents to make the farm a profitable enterprise and a recreational asset.

“Putnam County owns a farm,” he said. “If I were on the Legislature at the time we acquired the farm, I probably would have voted against it. But the fact is we have a farm and we need to make it the best we can.”
Extremist (from Page 1)

Spreading hate

Dunstan launched TDS in 2014 with Mike Peinovich, a prominent white supremacist who may also live in Fishkill, based on social-media clues and video posted to the website. To conceal their identities, Peinovich used the name Mike Enoch, Dunstan became Seventh Son or Sven, and the other two hosts went by Ghoul and Bulbasaur. The podcast made a name for itself with the popularization of “echoes,” which began as a reverb the hosts used whenever saying the name of a Jew and morphed into triple parentheses placed around names on social media to indicate Jews or Jewish influence.

“The show came out of edgy libertarianism and the jokey ‘troll’ culture of the internet,” explains Daniel Harper, a researcher who has listened to hundreds of episodes for his own podcast, which debunks far-right propaganda. “These guys aren’t stupid; they have political knowledge. Jesse’s job is to be the joker and keep the show moving.”

Harper says that, on the show, Dunstan doesn’t appear to be as engaged as Peinovich in the pseudo-intellectual discussions. “When Enoch goes into his sophistry, Sven — or Jesse, he goes by both — will play an audio clip of a slur or racist joke to throw Mike off whatever point he’s making,” Harper says.

Dunstan is particularly admired by listeners for his racist song parodies. The SPLC found in a study of posts in TRS chat rooms that a number of listeners credited Dunstan’s songs with drawing them into the movement. “If you can get them to laugh, you can get them on our side,” explained a user named LeBlanc.

Some mentioned specific songs they admired, such as Dunstan’s version of Bryan Adam’s “Summer of ’69” (renamed “Summer of ’88,” after code for “Heil Hitler”) in which the chorus ends, “These are the first days of our Reich.”

“You get them hooked in with Sven’s songs,” a poster observed, “then when they’re all relaxed, Mike comes in and cracks them over the head with some real shit.”

Because much of the discussion involves code words, the site once published a lexicon to help listeners follow along. Harper says that, if you listen closely, some terrifying ideas emerge from the banter. He points to one conversation that stood out because the hosts rarely talk so explicitly about their beliefs.

In the exchange, a co-host known as Jayoh de le Rey argued that segregation has never worked and that the only realistic option for solving the “problem” of Jews, blacks and other non-Aryan groups is “un-ironic extermination,” a signal to listeners that he wasn’t kidding.

“That’s rough,” replied Dunstan, adding with a laugh that “extermination the other way is what’s going on now.” When Peinovich argued that “you don’t reduce conflict by increasing the diversity,” Dunstan responded: “Well, you reduce it to nothing once you’ve won, once you’ve increased diversity [sic] to 100 percent. I mean, that’s how ethnic conflict goes. One wins, one loses.”

From here to there

Everyone grew up somewhere, and for Jesse Dunstan, it was Philipstown. At the Garrison School, his eighth-grade classmates voted him “most artistic.” In the yearbook from his senior year at James O’Neill High School in Highland Falls, he quoted John Lennon (“We all shine on, like the moon and the stars and sun”). He was married at St. Philip’s Church in Garrison and, two years later, the birth announcement for his eldest child appeared in The Putnam County News & Recorder.

Dunstan did not respond to interview requests made by email, a letter sent to his home and a phone message left at a number believed to be his. A member of Dunstan’s immediate family, contacted by email and phone, declined comment; another close relative did not respond to a Facebook message or email.

Ken Stern, the director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate, who has been studying extremism since the 1980s, said he was not surprised to learn that a prominent white supremacist grew up in the Hudson Valley.

“A lot of folks with this ideology are not necessarily someone you’d pick out of a crowd,” he says. “What has changed is that extremists feel they have the wind at their back because of the politics of this country and abroad. They hear people in the mainstream saying things that sound familiar in terms of their views of ‘us and them’ and that ‘white folk are endangered and we have to do something about it.’ They see it as a noble cause.”

In April, FBI Director Christopher Wray told Congress that the agency considers white supremacists to be a “persistent, pervasive threat” to public safety.

Despite his extremism, Dunstan sees himself as a regular guy, waiting for society to catch up. “We’re just normal people,” he says in a 12-minute rant he posted to YouTube under his real name. “But to the globalists and you-know-who — presumably, anti-fascists and/or Jews — we’re ‘Nazis,’ we’re full of hate [because] we don’t want to be wiped out and demographically replaced by immigrants. Don’t let anyone tell you this is a

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- Ken Stern, Bard Center for the Study of Hate
Of the nearly 50 hate groups with chapters in New York state identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center, TRS is the only one in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

nation of immigrants. The whole Ellis Island experiment was a big mistake. We’re still feeling the repercussions of letting those people in who weren’t north European.”

The alleged killer in Christchurch, New Zealand, who is accused of shooting 50 people dead on March 15 and another victim who died later, cited this same fear of “replacement” — a common trope among white supremacists — in a manifesto he posted before the attacks, as did a 19-year-old charged with attacking a synagogue in Poway, California, on the last day of Passover, killing one and injuring three others, including the rabbi.

Dunstan is not alone in his ignorance. According to the SPLC, there are nearly 50 hate groups with chapters in New York State, including the American Freedom Party, Identity Evropa (now the American Identify Movement), the National Socialist Liberation Front, Patriot Front, and the Racial Nationalist Party of America, as well as The Right Stuff, which Dunstan operates out of a post office box in Hopewell Junction. (In 2017, Dunstan registered an LLC of the same name with New York State.)

In the hours after the killings in Christchurch, while Christian and Jewish leaders sat for zakat, or afternoon prayers, in a show of support at a Beacon mosque, Dunstan also responded to the killings. He reposted on Twitter a photo of a woman holding a sign that read, “No more white terrorism,” and commented, “There are ways to achieve such a lofty goal, but you’re not interested.”

Social media

When people in the Highlands were asked how they would respond if a white supremacist with a popular podcast lived in their neighborhood, a typical reaction was, “White supremacists have podcasts?” TRS claims 100,000 listeners a week and posts episodes of TDS on YouTube and at least one audio archive that states in its terms and conditions that it does not allow hate speech. The podcast format and private chat rooms were embraced by extremists after the violence at the Unite the Right march in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017 prompted companies such as Facebook and Twitter to close their accounts.

White supremacists continue to play cat-and-mouse with the social-media giants. Dunstan posted more than 3,300 tweets at SeventhSonTRS (which included his real name in the bio, noted he lived in Fishkill and included a link for donations) before it was closed; his most recent Twitter account, which also had his real name in the bio, had 2,000 followers before it was suspended in April. He also has at least two Facebook accounts, including one with 1,500 friends who include Peinovich and many others who appear from their monitors and bio photos to be white supremacists. A gallery photo shows an oven mitt with the social-media giants’ logo superimposed. Dunstan — although it’s not exactly clear why — also has at least 1,500 friends who include Peinovich and other employees, says Harper. After the four original co-hosts of the flagship show were doxxed, Dunstan — momentarily the lone voice at the console — assured listeners that white people are in danger of being eliminated from the Earth, explained Michael Edison Hayden, a senior investigative reporter with the Southern Poverty Law Center who noted that the number of hate groups in the U.S. rose significantly five years ago after the census bureau predicted whites will be a minority by 2044. “When you embrace framing like that, the situation can only decline and only become violent.”

Hate is not news — it’s part of the history of the Highlands, the Northeast, the South, the country, humanity. Long before Jesse Dunstan, another influential white supremacist, Henry Fairfield Osborn, lived in Garrison at a time when the Ku Klux Klan operated openly in Philipstown and Beacon and across the nation. More recently, fliers were posted in Beacon by members of two white supremacist groups and a swastika and anti-Semitic slurs were painted inside an empty house in Nelsonville owned by a Jewish resident.

Those incidents and, more importantly, the killings at synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway, California, and at two mosques in New Zealand, have left some Highlands residents feeling exposed. In all three attacks, the gunmen took inspiration from racist rhetoric and crackpot logic of the type spewed by Dunstan and other bigots.

“Humans need to belong to something. For so much of us, our identity helps us belong. I have my roots in New York, my Irish ethnicity, my Catholicism, my alma mater, my membership in the world of journalism, and conservatism, plus the very local, human connections. Among alienated white men, many of whom lack religion and come from places without strong senses of community, they seek to belong to something, but nothing is there. But they know they’re white and they know they’re American. So white nationalism follows.”

~Timothy Carney, author of Alienated America, in The Christian Post

(Continued from Page 20)

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(Continued on Page 22)
Extremist (from Page 21)

ing his notoriety, although his parents asked him to change his name, according to an account in The New Yorker.

He and Dunstan have since been joined by two new co-hosts. The first is Alex McNabb, who has always used his real name and last month lost his job as an emergency medical technician in rural Virginia after he said on the show that he “terrorized” a black child by using a large-gauge needle to draw his blood. (In a videotaped hearing before a county board, McNabb claimed TRS is simply “edgy shock comedy” akin to Howard Stern and that he had been joking.) The second, Jay de le Rey, has not been identified.

The optics

In a report issued earlier this year, the Southern Poverty Law Center noted that after their exposure at Charlottesville, white supremacists argued over strategy. Instead of rallies that brought bad publicity and led to participants being identified and losing their jobs, “movement figureheads largely settled in favor of putting forward as inoffensive a public presentation as possible,” the group reported.

That suited Dunstan. In March 2018 he removed a podcast called Action! from the TRS platform, saying it didn’t fit with the site’s mission. The show was produced by a member of the Traditionalist Worker Party, which promotes violent street protests. According to the SPLC, during the online bickering over the removal, Dunstan explained that his quibbles weren’t with “optics” such as the “uniforms, helmets, polo shirts, torches, banner drops or monuments,” but with the efficacy of open conflict.

“In the bigger picture, fighting with antifa [anti-fascists] is an energy siphon Glob-Homo set up to entrap us and waste our time,” Dunstan wrote, according to the SPLC. (GloboHomo is shorthand for a globalized/homogenized culture that tolerates diversity and racial equality.) Dunstan argued that energy would be better spent growing platforms like TRS.

“I want to replace the Jewtry that runs news and entertainment media,” he wrote. Unfortunately, not every bigot believes in the power of podcasts. In October, hours before 11 people were shot dead at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, the alleged killer, Robert Bowers, posted a message on a site called Gab. “Screw your optics,” he said, addressing other extremists. “I’m going in.”

Hatred of ‘Other’ Not a New Idea
A century ago, promoting ‘scientific’ racism

By Chip Rowe

As it happens, Garrison — population 4,400 — was home to a prominent white supremacist besides Jesse Dunstan.

The men grew up about a mile from each other and attended the same church, but Dunstan never met Henry Fairfield Osborn. They lived a century apart, but the racist ideas they spread are similar.

As a boy, Osborn spent summers in Garrison; as an adult he lived in the landmark home at Castle Rock; he is buried in the St. Philip’s churchyard. A celebrated paleontologist and conservationist, Osborn was president of the American Museum of Natural History for 25 years and championed the teaching of science and evolution in public schools.

“He was as well-known in his time as Albert Einstein,” says Brian Regal, a history professor and author of Henry Fairfield Osborn: Race and the Search for the Origins of Man. “He wanted to do good in science and politics and religion. Yet, at the same time, his ideals were stained by a much darker strain of thinking.”

In 1916, Osborn wrote the introduction for The Passing of the Great Race, a book by a museum trustee and friend, Madison Grant, that Adolf Hitler praised as “my Bible.” Toward the end of his life, Regal says, Osborn distanced himself from Grant, who he felt had become too extreme. But a year before his death, Osborn was deeply impressed after a visit to Germany by the Nazis’ “racial hygiene” campaign. “He viewed the Nazis in the same way that some socialists in America viewed Stalin, through rose-colored glasses,” Regal says.

Although Osborn would accuse his colleague Grant of not basing his arguments about race on the firm foundation of science, some of Osborn’s arguments were equally ridiculous. He claimed, for example, that there were three “species” of humans — the superior Nordics (Homo sapiens europaeus), the Mongolians and the Negroids. The latter were in “a state of arrested brain development,” he declared, because food is easier to find at the equator.

More ominously, a century before Dunstan and the shooters in Pittsburgh, Christchurch and Poway claimed the superior white race faces “replacement,” Osborn endorsed the same fallacy.

“The original pioneer stock is dying out; the foreign element is in the ascendency,” he wrote. “Purity of race is today found in but one nation — the Scandinavian; but Scandinavia has been seriously bled by emigration.” He expressed little faith in “the melting pot” and said protecting white people needed to be “a matter taken into consideration by the State.”

Hitler loved it, but many Americans, not so much. When Osborn died in 1935, a reader wrote The New York Times to protest a plan by the American Museum of Natural History to erect a memorial. “If a monument is needed to supplement the racial achievements of the professor, it should be erected at Nuremberg, where his racism is carried out under the emblem of the swastika,” he wrote.
7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday  72/53  
Intervals of clouds and sunshine  
P: 5%  

Sunday  79/65  
Clouds and sun, a t-storm in spots in the p.m.  
P: 40%  

Monday  82/55  
Cloudy with a shower or t-storm in the afternoon  
P: 55%  

Tuesday  72/49  
Mostly cloudy and not as warm but pleasant  
P: 10%  

Wednesday  74/55  
Times of clouds and sun  
P: 5%  

Thursday  73/56  
Mostly cloudy with showers possible  
P: 35%  

Friday  74/60  
Partly sunny with a couple of showers possible  
P: 30%  

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CROSSCURRENT

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

ACROSS
1. Sicilian volcano  
5. Brit. Air predecessor initials  
9. common preposition  
13. interruptive sound  
14. syrupy tree  
15. Hawaiian island  
16. female name  
17. “__ __ __ forward” (2 words)  
18. without slack  
19. with 53-across, state sites near Cold Spring and Beacon  
22. bath-exercise-health center  
23. battery type  
24. promos  
27. consumed  
29. opposite of flat  
33. young canine  
34. hosp. trauma site  
35. variant for Ireland  
36. horse gait  
39. overseas  
41. South American berry  
42. hiker’s Bean  
43. part of Brazilian city  
45. ninth follower  
47. reptile non-native to Highlands  
49. member of Wolcott Avenue club  
50. large city reduced to initials  
51. EMS treatment  
53. See 19-across  
54. additionally  
56. MTA rep Zuckerman  
57. accordingly  
58. rowing sticks  
60. acting part  
61. Brassica vegetable  
62. forcefully shut

DOWN
1. individually  
2. archaically you  
3. geeky pedant  
4. gather  
5. hit  
6. start for mum?  
7. “__ __ __ up” (horseback rider need)  
8. Aramaic for “rock”  
9. ninth Greek letter  
10. leavened flat bread  
11. dull thump  
12. baseball: 6 strikes = 2 __ __ __  
14. aquatic mammal  
20. German grandfather  
21. not sooner  
24. h.s. accelerated course, initially  
25. medieval coin  
26. roominess  
28. mistake  
30. items betwixt A and U  
31. wipe out  
32. bike pusher  
33. book name  
34. liturgical garment  
35. barred  
36. acceptable  
37. fit  
38. e-gadget function  
39. barred  
40. puncture result  
41. stormed  
42. rather, quaintly put  
44. acceptable  
46. fuss  
47. e-gadget function  
48. rowing sticks  
49. Algonquian language  
50. acting part  
51. desired attainment  
52. healing plant  
53. allotment  
54. desired attainment  
55. healing plant  
56. healing plant

SUDOCURRENT

Answers will be published next week.
See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.
**Playoff Picture**

**By Skip Pearman**

**Baseball**

The Beacon High School squad snapped a two-game losing streak with an 8–0 victory over Sleepy Hollow last week to close out its regular season. The Bulldogs finished 12-7-1 and will open the Section 1, Class A playoffs on Saturday or Monday. Beacon is expected to be the No. 8 seed among 20 teams.

Against the Headless Horsemen, Matt Monzoeillo threw a complete-game shutout, striking out eight batters without allowing a walk. At the plate, Kai Jacketti and Monzoeillo both homered, and Andrew Schneider and Mike Lepere each had two-run doubles. Lenny Torres, the 2018 Beacon grad who signed with the Cleveland Indians, had surgery in Texas to reconstruct the elbow ligament in his pitching arm. His recovery is expected to take at least a year. Last summer, Torres had a 1.76 ERA in 15 1/3 innings for a minor league team in Arizona.

After rattling off five wins in a row, Beacon had dropped back-to-back games the week before against powerhouse Lake-land, and Tappan Zee.

At Haldane, the baseball squad should receive the No. 4 seed in the Section 1, Class C tournament, which will likely put it up against No. 1 Tuckahoe (15-4) in a first-round game on Saturday.

The Blue Devils (4-12) were scheduled to host Rye Neck on Thursday (May 16) to finish their regular season. They squeaked by Irvington, 1-0, on Wednesday after losses to Putnam Valley (14-0) and Pawling (2-1) last week.

**Softball**

The Haldane and Beacon softball teams squared off Wednesday at Beacon High School, with the Blue Devils coasting to a 14-2 victory.

Beacon, which is 7-11 with two games remaining, is projected to receive the No. 19 seed of 20 teams in the Section 1, Class C tournament, while Haldane (11-3, with one game left) should receive the No. 1 seed of four teams in Class D.

Shianne Twoguns of Haldane picked up the victory against Beacon, while Olivia Giancanelli took the loss for the Bulldogs.

At the plate, Kelly Murphy went 2-for-4 with an RBI for Beacon, Hanna Alfieri went 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored, and Haleigh Zukowski drove in a run and scored one.

“I was proud of the girls because they kept fighting until the end,” Beacon Coach Brian Antelak said. “We put three on the board in the seventh inning, so I was proud of the way they always work hard and never give up. That bodes well for us going into sectionals.”

In the second game of a doubleheader for Beacon, the Bulldogs defeated visiting Peekskill, 23-2. Senior captain Kamryn Haran picked up the complete-game win on the mound, allowing two unearned runs on one hit, with five strikeouts.

“She comes up big when we need her,” Antelak said.

Senior centerfielder and team captain Lia Muscat had a productive afternoon, going 4-for-5 with a double, a triple and a career-high nine RBIs. Jordana Caputo had a triple and four RBIs, and Zukowski went 2-for-3 with three runs scored. Haran also drove in two runs.

“Lia was locked in,” Antelak said. “It was great to see both captains have a great day in their last home game.”

The Bulldogs were expected to complete their regular season with a doubleheader at Hendrick Hudson on Thursday (May 16). Haldane is scheduled to end its season today (May 17) when it hosts Dobbs Ferry.

**Lacrosse**

After finishing the regular season with two decisive wins over North Salem and a 14-2 record, the Haldane boys’ lacrosse team received a bye in the first round of the Section 1, Class D playoffs. The No. 3 Blue Devils will host No. 6 Dobbs Ferry (13-4) today (May 17) at 4:45 p.m. in the second round.

The Beacon girls’ lacrosse team, which finished 2-14, did not qualify for postseason play.

**Boys’ Tennis**

Hendrick Hudson, 5, Beacon 0

**Boys’ Basketball**

Putnam Valley 14, Haldane 0

**Boys’ Golf**

Haldane 16, North Salem 0

**Boys’ Track**

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth coach of the year after the Blazers opened the season with a 7-5 victory over St. John’s University in a five-game series to open the Division III NCAA tournament.

Lenny Torres, the 2018 Beacon grad who signed with the Cleveland Indians, had surgery in Texas to reconstruct the elbow ligament in his pitching arm. His recovery is expected to take at least a year. Last summer, Torres had a 1.76 ERA in 15 1/3 innings for a minor league team in Arizona.

Nick DiNapoli, a 2016 Beacon grad and senior shortstop for Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, is batting .387 with 11 doubles, 12 homers, 55 runs scored and 51 RBI on the season. The top-ranked Captains finished 35-7, won their first conference title and face off today (May 17) against Misericordia University in a five-game series to open the Division III NCAA tournament.

Mike Impellitteri, a 2009 Haldane grad who is in his second season leading the Hood College baseball team in Frederick, Maryland, was again named the Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth coach of the year after the Blazers finished 25-11-1.

Shannon Becker, a sophomore pitcher for the Mahopac High School softball team, threw a “perfect” perfect game against Carmel on May 8, striking out all 21 batters in a seven-inning, 8-0 victory.