Putnam Visitors’ Bureau Disappears
County considers hiring its own tourism director

By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau unexpectedly shut down earlier this month after the county placed an ad for a new executive director — allegedly without telling the bureau it was looking for one.

County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner on July 10 told legislators that she had been notified by the state that the Visitors’ Bureau had attempted to return $68,000 in grant money and said in its cover letter it was closing shop.

Further, Bumgarner said, the website at visitputnam.org was taken offline (the bureau's social media accounts remain, with a post to Facebook as recently as July 3); an email sent to Executive Director Bruce Conklin bounced; and, when she walked over to the agency's office on the third floor of the county office building in Carmel, she found it had been cleared out and the keys left on a desk.

“There’s been no formal notification to anyone that this is what they were doing,” she said.

On Monday (July 15), Kevin Callahan, the chair of the board that oversaw the nonprofit agency, issued a statement on

(Continued on Page 11)
What do you remember about Neil Armstrong’s walk on the moon on July 20, 1969?

By Michael Turton

We had just moved to Frankfurt, Germany. I was 11 and watched in the hotel bar — the liftoff, then, days later, Armstrong kind of skipping along.

I was 3½, wearing my pink, one-piece, footed PJs. I have a picture of me watching it on TV.

I was 35, working the night shift at IBM. We watched at a restaurant; it was incredible.

~ Grey Zeien, Cold Spring
~ Liz Travis Heitmann, Garrison
~ Tony Musacchio, Beacon
Conflict with NYC Over Water Continues

Cold Spring hoping to connect to city system

By Michael Turton

Greg Phillips will likely end his 22-year tenure as Cold Spring's superintendent of water and wastewater on July 26 without the satisfaction of having resolved a protracted standoff with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Since 2010, the village has negotiated with DEP to secure a temporary connection to the Catskill Aqueduct, part of the New York City water system, which passes by the village of Nelsonville. The connection would supply Cold Spring with water during repairs to the dams at its reservoirs located above the village and could also be used during water emergencies.

The stumbling block is that the Cold Spring system also supplies water to Nelsonville and about a dozen homes in Philipstown. Phillips said in an email that the village has told DEP that when connected to the Catskill Aqueduct it would continue to sell water to Nelsonville and Philipstown as it always has. DEP, he said, counters that such an arrangement is not allowed under the New York City code, which permits the agency to sell water only to municipal corporations or water districts.

As a result, before the aqueduct connection can be made, DEP has called for Philipstown to establish its own, separately metered water district, a move the town has rejected. Phillips said DEP is also asking that a separate, metered water supply system be set up for Nelsonville.

It would cost millions of dollars to do that, Phillips said at the July 9 meeting of the Village Board: “It’s ridiculous. It’s not reasonable.”

In an email, Phillips, who is retiring, said there were at least two other options, both also expensive: (1) Cold Spring, Philipstown and Nelsonville could form a common water district, or (2) litigation.

“The [legal] argument can be made that DEP’s position is unreasonable,” Phillips wrote. “But how long would it take and how much would it cost?”

DEP plans to shut down the aqueduct later this year and into 2020 as part of a $158 million rehabilitation project. Constructed between 1907 and 1916, it provides 350 million to 400 million gallons of water per day to New York City.

In an email a DEP representative, Adam Bosch, said that during the shutdown “we plan to install a tap that Cold Spring can eventually connect to.” The village will be required to submit plans for the connection and will be responsible for infrastructure costs of the tie-in, he added.

In other business...

The village received notice that the Philipstown Town Board had exempted the Catskill Aqueduct zoning code during upcoming renovations to Town Hall. The exemption is allowed under New York State law and will allow the town to make changes to the 1867 building without approval of the village’s Historic District Review Board. Merandy said he will ask for a “courtesy peak” at Philipstown’s bid specifications for construction materials such as doors, windows and siding.

Merandy thanked those who helped plan the Independence Day celebration, including the Old VFW Hall, which sponsored the fireworks at a cost of $10,500. The mayor said weather and a shortage of volunteers combined to make it a difficult year. Severe weather forecasts on July 6 led to the festivities being postponed for a day and many people who had planned to participate had other commitments. Merandy said he’d heard criticism that the village had not allowed veterans to march in the parade but said invitations were sent months ago to the VFW and American Legion and that members showed little interest in taking part.

Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke reported that the Cold Spring Police Department responded to 59 calls for service in June. Four arrests were made, one for suspended insurance and three for suspended drivers’ licenses. Officers also issued 109 parking and 54 moving violations. Burke asked the board to consider a number of changes to street signage because permitted parking times are inconsistent, ranging from two to five hours. He also cited illegal signs, such as those for handicapped parking, that have been installed by residents.

The owners of 21 Parsonage St. have withdrawn their application to the Zoning Board of Appeals to convert a small barn into a residence.

Philipstown Criticizes County Secrecy Act

Also delays discussion of cell-tower settlement

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board on July 11 criticized the Putnam County Legislature for passing a law that would allow legislators, county employees and consultants and contractors to mark any document “confidential.”

The board discussed the issue after Nancy Montgomery, a former board member who represents Philipstown on the Legislature, raised it during her periodic report.

Montgomery cast the sole “no” vote on July 2 when the Legislature decided, 7-1, to adopt the measure, which will take effect if County Executive MaryEllen Odell signs it. She first must hold a public hearing — set to occur at the county office building in Carmel in two sessions — at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 24. Montgomery said that the hearing is scheduled for a small conference room, which “is not conducive to democracy,” and that she wants it moved to a larger chamber.

“It’s just a shame the county is busy passing a secrecy law that’s in search of an issue,” said Supervisor Richard Shea. “They’re depriving the public of information. That seems to be the only intent.” He predicted the law “is never going to stand up” in court.

“The first challenge, it will go down.”

In a letter to Odell dated July 17, legal counsel for the New York News Publishers Association, of which The Current is a member, asked her not to sign the law, which, it argued, “violates both the letter and spirit” of the state Freedom of Information Law. It also noted that the state’s highest court “has consistently rejected attempts by local governments to create legislative loopholes” to open-records laws.

Cell-tower settlement

The board delayed until its July 24 meeting further discussion of a proposed settlement with Verizon Wireless and Homeland Towers that would end a federal lawsuit that began after the town denied an application to construct a cell tower on Vineyard Road, off Route 9.
Cell-tower settlement

Apparently, the Philipstown Town Board is committed to accepting a settlement agreement from Homeland Towers and Verizon to build a cell tower on Vineyard Road (“Proposed Cell Tower Lawsuit Settlement Draws More Attacks,” July 12). We have been to every hearing and meeting on this issue, and we wish to sum up what we have learned.

After in-depth investigation and a multitude of hearings, the Zoning Board and the Conservation Board both said no to this tower. Their decisions are being ignored. We were under the impression their conclusions would be respected and adhered to.

There is no evidence of need for this tower. Philipstown already has 11 towers, and gaps in service are extremely rare.

For almost a year, the Town Board was represented by a lawyer who would not support our motion to intervene in the case. The most recent balloon test was conducted during full summer foliage that covers up most of the tower. In winter, without leaves, it would be much more visible.

On a personal note, three local real-estate agents have warned us to expect a 30 percent drop in home values for the neighbors of this tower.

The builders and operators of the tower will not accept responsibility for damage done to our road by their construction and maintenance vehicles.

All of this is due to the selfishness of one man who will be leasing his land for the tower, selling out neighbors and (former) friends.

The Town Board says the tower is for the good of the town, but why? Who benefits? Everyone who cared enough to attend meetings was opposed to the tower.

Philipstown has the right to take this issue before a judge and there is little to lose by doing so. We have devoted almost two years to this issue — why stop now, before we finally have a chance to make our case? Neighbors to the proposed tower can be accused of practicing NIMBY (Not in My Backyard). But the cell-tower companies are trying to make big bucks on many new towers with 5G technology, which requires smaller towers, right around the corner. Vineyard Road will not be the last tower in Philipstown. This decision will affect all of us soon, if not now.

If residents are at all concerned about the outcome, or about the way this issue has been handled, the Philipstown Town Board is planning to approve the settlement agreement on Wednesday, July 24, during a meeting at Town Hall, 216 Main St., in Cold Spring, that begins at 7:30 p.m.

Cali and Roger Gorevic, Philipstown

Verizon poles

Verizon Wireless should put small-cell antennas on existing power poles (“Beacon to Decide on Proposed Verizon Wireless Structure,” July 12). One pole in a favored location covers up most of the tower. In winter, without leaves, it would be much more visible.

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Cali and Roger Gorevic, Philipstown

Tell us what you think

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

Missing post office

You’re not missing anything when looking for the U.S. Post Office at the Butterfield redevelopment — it’s buried away from any real village center and the lack of street signage makes finding it a game of hide-and-seek (“Missing Sign?,” Letters and Comments, June 28). Once you find the post office, you will see the developer’s offices are next door. Maybe if enough people stop in and complain, as I did, the situation will change.

Donald MacDonald, Cold Spring

Trolley struggles

Visitors to all the areas in the Highlands that the Cold Spring trolley serves need to be aware of this service (“Trolley Struggles to Get on Track,” July 12). Perhaps stores could post a flyer with the times and stops — there could be a contest for children to create them each year.

Since the trolley driver is not allowed to handle fares, why don’t we have retailers sell tickets? This would encourage people to go inside stores.

Since many people come up from New York City, maybe county transportation manager Vinny Tamagna could reach out to Metro-North to have an advertisement posted in the train, promoting areas of interest and how they can be reached with the trolley. I’m hoping that the trolley catches on and that ridership expands.

Patricia Sawickis, Garrison

The trolley should be free as a perk to the thousands of people who travel on Metro-North to Cold Spring to experience and fall in love with our quaint little river town. Riders could get around to the attractions and boost local business. Exact change and paying to get back on the trolley on the return trip seems burdensome. A free trolley would attract more riders.

Kathie Kourie, Cold Spring

The trolley should meet incoming trains and take visitors where they need to go. Pretty simple!”

Kathleen Kittleman, via Facebook

Danskammer plant

I attended Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney’s town hall in Carmel on July 14 to ask a simple question: Will you renounce your support of
Two Women Charged with Thefts
"All allegedly stole items from hikers’ cars"

Putnam County sheriff’s deputies on July 10 arrested two Fishkill women on felony charges of grand larceny following an investigation into a string of burglaries in Philipstown, Putnam Valley and Kent.

Megan Gonzalez, 25, and Kimberly Breer, 24, were released pending court appearances.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. said in a statement that police received complaints over the course of about three weeks from hikers who, upon returning to their parked cars, discovered items such as loose change, pocketbooks and wallets containing credit cards, money and identification cards were missing. The thefts took place along Route 9D from Little Stony Point to Breakneck Mountain and along Route 301 in Fahnestock State Park.

The stolen credit cards were used for purchases in Dutchess, Orange and Westchester counties, as well as in Danbury, Connecticut. Using security footage, sheriffs’ investigators identified two women as suspects and obtained a description of their vehicle.

A sheriff’s investigator driving on Route 301 saw the suspects’ vehicle in a parking area of Canopus Lake in Putnam Valley. The women were arrested when they emerged from a trail.

Beacon Man Cleared in Stabbing Death
"Grand jury concludes self-defense"

A Dutchess County grand jury ruled earlier this month that a Beacon resident charged in May with first-degree manslaughter for stabbing a 55-year-old man acted in self-defense, according to his attorney, Anthony DeFazio.

Keano D. Munoz, 22, stabbed Richard Viera in a parking lot on South Davies Terrace on May 11. Viera was taken to St. Luke’s Hospital in Newburgh and then to Westchester Medical Center, where he died on May 17. Munoz was arrested the next day.

DeFazio said the victim had an issue with his client’s father “from years back” and had threatened to stab Munoz. Security cameras captured most of the encounter.

Deputy Credited with Saving Man
"Apparent plan to jump from bridge"

Deputy Benjamin Levine of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department was credited with saving a man on July 14 who apparently planned to jump from the Bear Mountain Bridge.

The department said that emergency responders answered a distress call at about 4 p.m. that a man was threatening to jump from the bridge. Levine observed the man looking over the railing and said he saw multiple times that he wanted to die. After speaking with the man for about 25 minutes, Levine convinced him to step away from the railing.

If you or someone you know are in crisis or need to talk, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Beacon Member Elected DAR President
"Joined Melzingah chapter in 1988"

Denise Doring VanBuren, who has been a member of the Melzingah (Beacon) chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1988, was elected on July 1 to a three-year term as president general of the national organization.

VanBuren is a former state regent, organizing secretary-general and first vice president general of the organization, which has 185,000 members worldwide. Her patriot ancestors are Jacob and Marcus Plattner of New York. Eighteen members of the Beacon chapter, which was organized in 1895, traveled to Washington, D.C., for the vote.

The Current Wins Four State Awards
"Recognized for business, investigative reporting"

The Highlands Current won four citations in the annual Awards for Excellence competition sponsored by the New York News Publishers Association, bringing its total to eight since 2017. The winners were announced on July 17 at the Hearst Media Center in Albany.

The Current staff was recognized for business reporting among member papers with circulations of less than 10,000 for its series A Growing Challenge: Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley, and for investigative reporting for its series How Hot? How Soon? Climate Change in the Highlands.

Managing Editor Chip Rowe won for headline writing among small papers for the second year for the entry “Were You Just Thinking We Should do a Story on Coincidences?” and layout editor Pierce Strudler was recognized for his design of A Growing Challenge.
Beacon Squeeze (from Page 1)

agenda for a July 29 workshop and Council Member Jodi McCredo has proposed some fairly radical changes to address congestion. She's asked the council to discuss removing parking from one side of Main to widen the driving lanes and add a dedicated bike lane. Alternatively, Main Street could become one-way.

The state Department of Transportation recommends 5-foot-wide bike lanes on streets with parking, but in places like Beacon where the road is narrow, “shared-lane markings” are required to indicate that bikers and motorists should travel in the same lane, rather than side by side.

“Main Street is just too narrow,” McCredo said in an interview. “If a bus or a truck is driving [in one direction] and the cars aren’t parked right against the curb on the other side, you can’t get past them. I’ve heard so many stories of people getting their side mirrors taken off that they don’t park on Main Street anymore.

“As a parent, I’m terrified to have my kids riding their bikes down Main,” she added. “It’s not working for the drivers or the bikers. It’s not working for anyone.”

While wider lanes might solve some problems, Mayor Randy Casale said he believes they would just create others.

“People will go faster down Main Street because it’s becoming unpassable.” He also described driving on Main when a city bus approached in the opposite direction.

“With the way people park, I’m lucky I didn’t lose half my car,” she said. “Then you come around the bend by Howland (Avenue) and if somebody’s getting a delivery, you have to drive blind around the truck that’s double-parked on the corner.”

McCredo said that since much of the evidence for congestion is anecdotal — the county’s most recent traffic data for the street, from 2015, was virtually unchanged from 2014, and Beacon Police report 64 accidents on Main so far this year compared to 75 during the same period in 2018 — she hopes residents will attend council meetings and provide feedback on her ideas.

“If there’s support, I’m willing to fight for it,” she said.
Turton Takes the Trolley

By Michael Turton

Before reporting on the challenges facing the Cold Spring trolley (July 12), I rode along on two of its five, one-hour routes.

On Saturday, July 6, I traveled the route from Cold Spring with stops at Manitoga on Route 9D, the Garrison train station and Magazzino Italian Art on Route 9. Four other riders joined me.

On Sunday, July 7, I rode from Cold Spring with stops at Magazzino, Beacon and at Breakneck Ridge. Fourteen others boarded along the way.

The weather was good on both days and the village was busy with visitors.

Here are some observations and thoughts on possible improvements:

The trolley outdid Metro-North, arriving consistently on time at its stops. It was also squeaky clean, inside and out. The air conditioning was a welcome feature.

When the trolley pulled up to the Cold Spring bandstand, I watched people's reactions on the dock. They often smiled; the trolley is appealing. But many people appeared puzzled. More than once along the route, someone stepped onboard, asked the driver to explain what the trolley was, and got off. Signage at key stops could help. No one boards a bus or train without knowing where it's going.

Signs at key stops could also include QR codes that would allow smartphone users to access information about routes, times, attractions and dining.

When I boarded on Saturday, I handed the driver a $5 bill for my $1 senior fare but was told the drivers aren't allowed to make change (bills or change must be inserted in a fare box). Fortunately, the driver bent the rules and broke my five with dollar bills from his wallet. There has been talk of developing an app that would enable riders to pay via their phone, a smart idea that should be pursued.

The trolley's exterior is another missed opportunity. It's a mobile billboard waiting to happen. Why not list stops and include a website address?

I expected to find the recently issued trolley brochure, map and schedule on board but it was nowhere to be found. It would be helpful, especially for visitors. A rack with brochures on attractions, events and eateries could also improve the experience.

Unlike trains, subways and city buses, there is no advertising inside the trolley. Ads would inform riders, boost businesses — and generate revenue. In addition, photos of attractions and their websites would be a simple add.

Along the route, a local radio station plays over the sound system. It adds nothing to the experience. Tour guides explaining local history and sights would make more sense. Volunteer guides have been discussed, but in a community already dependent on hard-to-find volunteers, why not have a recorded audio guide delivered on board or through phones?

A lack of marketing, promotion and features as basic as signage have all contributed to significantly decreased ridership. The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is now lending its support, but in the end, the trolley is a Putnam County project. Since 2007, operating it has been the responsibility of the county Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation. The Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau, which recently dissolved (see Page 1), was uninvolved, despite the trolley being one of the tourism industry’s most visible assets.

A large majority of the county’s tourist attractions are located west of the Taconic; most are along the trolley’s routes. As Putnam County sorts out its tourism dilemma, its leaders should ensure that any new entity is required to work with the transportation department to increase trolley ridership.

Better yet, the county ought to establish its tourism office on Main Street in Cold Spring, making it the last stop on every trolley run. The trolley, and tourism, might then get the attention they deserve.
Arte Povera
Giovanni Anselmo
Alighiero Boetti
Pier Paolo Calzolari
Luciano Fabro
Jannis Kounellis
Mario Merz
Marisa Merz
Giulio Paolini
Pino Pascali
Giuseppe Penone
Michelangelo Pistoletto
Gilberto Zorio

Open: 11:00am to 5:00pm
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday
Closed: Tuesday, Wednesday
Admission is free to the public
No reservation required
Free shuttle from Cold Spring train station

MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

Up & Away
The 28th annual Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival took place in Rhinebeck on July 13 and 14. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
845 666 7202
info@magazzino.art
www.magazzino.art

The 28th annual Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival took place in Rhinebeck on July 13 and 14. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair
The Calendar

Henry Feldman has chosen humor as his (clean-energy) vehicle. The new Cold Spring resident is an engineer and software coder by trade. He's also a playwright, and in Sea Level Rise: A Dystopian Comedy, he uses humor to address the dire outlook for the climate. It will be presented at the Lion Theatre in New York City on July 31, Aug. 2 and Aug. 3 as part of the Broadway Bound Theatre Festival.

Set in South Florida in the not-so-distant future (2048), the play depicts a world "where the citizens are so deep in denial they’ll boil like the proverbial frog before giving up their Maseratis," Feldman says. "Enter an alcoholic climate researcher, absentee Russian condo owners and a homeless wandering gun nut."

Who Will Play You in the Mini-Series?

By Chip Rowe

The seven-part Showtime series on the last days of Roger Ailes, who ran Fox News and the Putnam County News & Recorder until shortly before his death in 2017, finally reaches his life in Philipstown in episodes that air on Sunday, July 21, and Sunday, July 28. (Showtime provided The Current with a preview.)

The episodes include a subplot that focuses on the relationship between the Aileses and Joe Lindsley (Emory Cohen), a young conservative reporter hired to run the PCNR who is depicted as being deeply troubled by a lack of fair and balanced journalism. Phil...

(Continued on Page 10)

Sea-Level Rise: The Comedy

Cold Spring playwright takes madcap approach

By Alison Rooney

Henry Feldman has chosen humor as his (clean-energy) vehicle. The new Cold Spring resident is an engineer and software coder by trade. He's also a playwright, and in Sea Level Rise: A Dystopian Comedy, he uses humor to address the dire outlook for the climate. It will be presented at the Lion Theatre in New York City on July 31, Aug. 2 and Aug. 3 as part of the Broadway Bound Theatre Festival.

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Feldman says he thought madcap humor would work well as a conduit for a message about a more serious topic. "Engineers are bad at communicating, yet there were very important things to convey," he says. "I started thinking about a way to get theaters invested in the transmission of information about climate change, and I thought that comedy was the best way to do it."

Feldman says he was inspired to write Sea Level Rise while watching An Inconvenient Sequel, the follow-up to Al Gore's 2006 documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. The film included a discussion of the fragile infrastructure of Miami's Biscayne aqui...

(Continued on Page 10)
Sea-Level Rise (from Page 9)

fer, without which the city would have no potable water.
“A month later, The Miami Herald ran a big article on the problem of [failing] septic tanks” because of sea-level rise, Feldman says. He decided to combine the two issues.

Feldman, who has a degree in electrical engineering from Rice University, says he blames his parents for his dual-brain interests. “My parents both went to Cooper Union [the arts and engineering college in New York City] in the 1950s,” he says. “My father was in the engineering program and my mother in the arts. Evidently those two sides got together a lot. I always harbored this theater thing, but I had to put food on the table.”

While living in Houston, Feldman took acting classes at the University of Houston and became involved in local productions. After their children graduated from college, he and his wife started travel-tours. After their children graduated from college, he and his wife started travel-tours. In 2015 Feldman and his wife left Houston for Port Townsend, Washington, but both found it too remote and decided to relocate to the Hudson Valley. They bought a home in the village and moved in September.

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The producers of the Broadway Bound Festival choose plays from submissions and the village and moved in September.

Festival choose plays from submissions and the village and moved in September.

Feldman says that for him “the festival is a stepping-stone to a stand-alone, multi-work run.” He hopes to demonstrate that the play, and the topic, have an audience. “The world is going to sort of fall into chaos,” he says. “Climate change is an existential crisis. In fact, I’m not sure why every play isn’t about climate change.”

Sea Level Rise will be presented at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31; at 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2 (with a Q&A following) and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3. Tickets are $27 at sealevelriseplay.com or by calling 212-239-6200. The Lion Theatre is located at 410 W. 42nd St.

The Loudest Voice (from Page 9)

ipstown Town Supervisor Richard Shea (Mark Lotito) also makes an appearance to push back against Ailes’ campaign to shoot down a proposed change to town zoning laws.

Memorable dialogue
“That’s Our Lady of Loretto. I play organ there on Sundays. It’s a wonderful congregation. You’ll have to come to Mass with us.” ~Beth Ailes (Miller), to Lindsley (Cohen)

“It’s beautiful here, but there needs to be socialist who wants to redistribute the country’s wealth and the biggest news around here? Pot lucks and yard sales.” ~Roger Ailes (Crowe), after Lindsley reports encountering Shea “He seemed like a nice guy.”~Lindsley

Yeah, a nice guy, like Stalin was a nice guy.”~Ailes

“I’d like him to know that his employees are making blatant political statements with their bumper stickers. It’s a breach of journalistic integrity. It shows bias, and it’s wrong.” ~Beth Ailes, new to town, lecturing a PCNR receptionist after spotting an Obama-Biden sticker in the parking lot.
Only three of the top 20 occupations — general and operations managers, accountants and auditors, and registered nurses — earn enough to support a survival budget for a family of four, a minimum of $34.40 per hour.


In a relatively high-cost area such as the Highlands, it takes a lot of income to get by. For a couple raising an infant and a preschooler, a “survival budget” (with no money saved) requires an annual salary of $88,524 in Putnam County and $80,016 in Dutchess, according to the United Way (see chart bottom left).

The United Way noted that only three of the top 20 occupations in New York State — general and operations managers, accountants and auditors, and registered nurses — earn enough to support a survival budget for a family of four, which requires a worker to make at least $34.40 per hour (top left).

Compare that to the median salary for someone working in the tourism industry in Putnam: A male food service or hotel worker here makes less than $30,000 a year, or $14.42 per hour, according to the U.S. Census bureau. For women, the median is $20,000.

In recreation, entertainment and the arts, which also support the Hudson Valley economy, the figure is even lower. Most people in retail work, as well as people like mechanics, security guards, bus drivers, nurses’ aides, warehouse workers, bartenders and school teachers, if early in their careers or a single parent, find themselves in this situation. They are our clerks, cashiers and cleaners.

“It’s the people that we count on every day,” noted Joseph Czajka, senior vice president of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a Newburgh-based nonprofit that promotes stable growth in the region. “They’re our neighbors.”

(Continued from Page 1)
WHAT CAUSES FRAGILITY?

LACK OF ASSETS

Financially fragile households tend to lack assets that non-fragile households take for granted.

HOUSE

Renting means no equity is being gained and the family is at the mercy of the rental market.

CAR

Reliable transportation is crucial to getting and keeping a job, as well as for daily activities such as grocery shopping and doctor appointments.

INSURANCE

Inadequate health insurance means higher out-of-pocket costs. Lack of car and home insurance can mean huge bills for repairs and maintenance.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Lack of access to traditional financial products can lead to use of services that charge higher interest, fees and penalties.

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Without a 401(k) or IRA in which to grow it, cash that could have been invested loses buying power, thanks to inflation.

CREDIT CARDS

Low borrowing capacity means fewer options to pay for large unexpected expenses. There is no credit safety net.

DEBT

MEDICAL DEBT

Unpaid bills make respondents more likely to be financially fragile.

EDUCATION DEBT

Nearly 50 percent of people with education debt have difficulty dealing with a $400 emergency expense, versus 39 percent of those without education debt.

CREDIT CARD DEBT

Financially fragile people tend to have limited access to credit. They are more likely to be denied credit or to receive less than they ask for.

Coping Mechanism | Potential Effect | Potential Secondary Effect
--- | --- | ---
**Work more, particularly if they are self-employed or control their own hours, for example, as a ride-booking driver.** | Working longer hours leads to needing more child care. If free care isn’t available, this could mean paying for a babysitter, which cuts into earnings. | Working leads to fatigue and declining health. For ride-booking drivers, it also means more wear and tear on their vehicles.

**Use alternative financial services, such as payday lenders, pawnshops and check-cashing services.** | Borrowing at up to 300 percent interest triggers a cycle of loans to pay for other loans, putting the family into deeper and deeper debt. | More debt lowers credit scores, making it harder for family members to get better credit terms from traditional lenders.

**Borrow from family and friends.** | To help their adult children, aging parents borrow against their home equity at terms they can’t afford, jeopardizing the family’s only major asset. | As they approach their own retirement, the parents are forced to sell the house for a loss. They move in with their adult children, putting even more strain on the household.

**Sell something or cash-in assets.** | Taking a lump-sum payout of a 401(k) when leaving a job before age 59½ leads to paying the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty and taxes, reducing the net amount significantly. | The family has little left after paying immediate bills and is quickly back in debt — only now it does not have money growing for the future, either.

Source: National Endowment for Financial Education (nefe.org)
apartment is $1,057 in the area that includes Beacon and $1,558 in the area that includes Philipstown, according to figures from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, which advocates affordable housing.

In fact, more than 30 percent of renters in the 19th Congressional District, which includes the Highlands, are paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing and utilities, the coalition calculates, putting them in the category of what it calls “severely burdened.”

**Spiral effect**

When a working family is strapped, it’s not just the household that suffers. It has a spiraling effect that can strain public resources and boost tax rates.

A family that’s working most of the time trying to make ends meet may be shopping at the nearest grocery to the bus route, for instance, even if it’s more expensive, because they have no car and little free time. Or they’re making processed foods at home or stopping for fast food. Longer term, that has an effect on health.

People living on the edge “can’t afford to take care of themselves,” Czajka said, which leads to greater public health costs.

This population is also living in the cheapest rental housing, which may not get a lot of care from the property owner, so they may have old, broken or missing appliances, for instance. Or, if they own a home, expenses such as painting, landscaping and upgrading are unlikely to be priorities, potentially affecting their own and neighbors’ home values.

“The more you have to work, the less time you have for family, friends, community,” Czajka said. The situation also has an effect on the labor market. Jodi McCredo, a Beacon City Council member, has focused recently on the amount of affordable housing in the city. But she is also a boss.

“As a small-business owner, I know it’s difficult to be able to pay the rent [for her business] and pay a fair wage to my employees,” McCredo said.

Yet if people can’t afford to live here on a minimum-wage job, businesses with low-paying jobs may find it harder to find reliable employees. At the same time, the area’s population is flat or declining, meaning a smaller workforce bears more of the tax burden, Czajka noted.

In 2017, New York had the third-highest number of people leaving the state, according to U.S. Census figures.

“It’s a problem without an obvious solution. It’s tough to say what the role of local government is,” McCredo said. Affordable housing — including redefining what “affordable” means here — is one way. “We could do more on the state level, like rent stabilization, both residential and commercial,” she added.

Maggie, the once well-paid Cold Spring resident who frequents the Philipstown Food Pantry, says she hasn’t given up. But she also struggles to stay optimistic.

She has added her name to lists for subsidized housing, though her disability payments price her out of lower-income categories. She also has applied for various housing lotteries in the region.

She knows there is more affordable housing in eastern Putnam. But she has built her life in the Highlands. “It would help if developments in Philipstown included affordable housing for artists and government employees like they’re doing in Beacon and Peekskill,” she said.

“It’s about the community deciding not only to keep senior citizens here, but to provide a base for younger people to afford it. We need affordable housing that’s not Section 8,” a federal government program for impoverished households.

She keeps looking, although many apartments she sees “are shoddy for the money they’re asking. We’re not talking about granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Level floors and windows that open and close would be nice.”

She also believes that more bartering services and resources like the Philipstown Freecycle group on Facebook can help people like her.

“I work out a payment plan for car service locally because I’ve been going there so many years,” Maggie said. “You do what you can. Sometimes if you pay cash, you’ll get a lower rate.”

Czajka sees an educated public as the first step. “Individuals need to make time to understand the issues, educate their neighbors, be part of the community,” he said.

“If you want to build a community where people want to live and work and grow and build something, you have to find a way for them to afford it,” McCredo said. “It’s tricky because developers aren’t going to come if they’re not making money.”

In the meantime, three out of every 10 households are straining just to keep up with the cost of living in Putnam and Dutchess.

“The mental energy that goes into figuring out how to make it all work is incredible,” Clark said. “There’s so much stress involved in looking at every dollar.”

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**WHERE IS ‘THE EDGE’?**

**SINGLE ADULT INCOME**

$12,490

This is what a person needs to earn annually to make more than the federal poverty level. It equates to $6 per hour.

$25,764

This is what a person in Dutchess County needs to earn to survive, according to the United Way. It equates to $13.88 per hour.

$30,432

This is what a person in Putnam County needs to survive, according to the United Way. It equates to $15.22 per hour.

**FAMILY OF FOUR INCOME**

$25,750

This is what a household of four needs to earn annually to make more than the federal poverty level.

$80,016

This is what a family of four in Dutchess needs to survive, according to the United Way.

$88,524

This is what a family of four in Putnam County needs to survive.

---

**THAT SINKING FEELING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th># of households</th>
<th>% poverty/survival</th>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Cold Spring</td>
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<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelsonville</td>
<td>230</td>
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<td>Philipstown</td>
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<td>Dutchess County</td>
<td>108,200</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>5,203</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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**NEXT WEEK**

Beacon is experiencing rapid growth, with new development expected to bring up to 2,000 new residents to the city by 2022. Will it be possible for these people to reside where they work without living on the edge? What steps can a municipality take to attract businesses that pay at least a survival wage? Jeff Simms will speak with local and regional officials and economic development professionals to investigate the nuts and bolts of job creation.
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

SAT 20
Putnam Kennel Club Dog Show
CARMEL
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Veterans Park
225 Gipsy Trail Road
putkennelclub.com
Watch breeds compete and perform. Cost: $5 per car

SAT 20
Community BBQ
COLD SPRING
6:15 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut Dr. | 845-265-2539
stmarycoldspring.org
The Episcopal church will hold a Mass at 5 p.m. followed by a public barbecue to welcome Father Steve Schunk, its new priest-in-charge.

TUES 23
Special Needs Picnic
PLEASANT VALLEY
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cady Field
1554 Main St. | thinkdifferently.net
Westchester Circus Arts will create an interactive midway loops into Madam Brett Park. Cost: Free

SAT 27
Pet Rabies Vaccination Clinic
PHILPSTOWN
10 a.m. - Noon. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9 | 845-808-1390 ext. 43160
putnamcountyny.com/health
Bring dogs, cats and ferrets with proof of prior rabies vaccination and Putnam County residency. Free

SAT 27
Butterfly Festival
WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | 845-831-3800
stonykill.org
Learn about butterflies in the Verplanck perennial garden and visit the butterfly tent for a one-on-one experience. Free

SAT 28
Ice Cream Social
GARRISON
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Sample modern and 19th-century flavors. Violinist Gwen Laster and her quartet will perform. The rain date is Aug. 4. Cost: $22 ($13 children; members $18/$12; ages 5 and younger free)

SAT 28
Fifteen young playwrights (ages 8 to 12) — Nadine Alayon, Dylan Ambrose, Dahlia Beck, Alexandra Cairns, Emerson Campbell-Ambrose, Samuel Bates, Alexandra Cairns, Lorelei McCarthy, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Oliver Petkus, Lauren Sassano and Ivan Siciliano, presented by the Depot Theatre’s teen players, an extraordinary group of teens. Suitable for ages 14 and older.

THURS 25
Matilda The Musical
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
A war hero is celebrated by the Roman people but mistrusted by some of his closest friends in this family performance by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s touring company. The tickets have all been distributed, but the festival notes it has never had to turn anyone away and suggests calling the box office for availability. Cost: Free

TUES 23
Julius Caesar
GARRISON
2 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org
The classic play starred Boris Karloff on Broadway. Expect plot twists. Also FRI 26, SAT 27, SUN 28. Following the FRI 26 and SAT 27 performances, Sarah Karloff will speak on what the play meant to her father. Cost: $65 ($70 with lecture)

THURS 25
Arsenic & Old Lace
BEACON
6 - 7 p.m. Boats leave dock
bannermancastle.org
The classic play starred Boris Karloff on Broadway. Expect plot twists. Also FRI 26, SAT 27, SUN 28. Following the FRI 26 and SAT 27 performances, Sarah Karloff will speak on what the play meant to her father. Cost: $65 ($70 with lecture)

FRI 26
Putnam County 4-H Fair
CARMEL
Noon - 6 p.m. Veterans Park
225 Gipsy Trail Road
putnamcounty4hfair.com
The annual fair, sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, includes livestock, crafts, games, a pig roast, a plant sale, music and theater, magic shows, and re-enactments. Also SAT 27, SUN 28.

SAT 25
Portable Planetarium
BEACON
2 & 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
howlandpl.org
A war hero is celebrated by the Roman people but mistrusted by some of his closest friends in this family performance by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s touring company. The tickets have all been distributed, but the festival notes it has never had to turn anyone away and suggests calling the box office for availability. Cost: Free

SAT 25
Heathers The Musical
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Ave. | 845-350-2722
beaconperformingartscenter.com
A war hero is celebrated by the Roman people but mistrusted by some of his closest friends in this family performance by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s touring company. The tickets have all been distributed, but the festival notes it has never had to turn anyone away and suggests calling the box office for availability. Cost: Free

SAT 20
Big Night
GARRISON
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Bring an Italian appetizer or dessert to share at this screening of the 1996 foodie film hosted by the library’s Edible Book Club. Free

SAT 20
Summer Playwrights Festival
GARRISON
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3638
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to create building projects during this hour of architectural adventures.

WED 24
Magic Show
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
The illusionist Scott Jameson returns. Free

SAT 20
Tranquility Base
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Hosted by Matt Clifton and Larry Sansone, this evening of poetry will include readings by Eva Deitch, Tania Steele, Glenn Werner and Phoebie Zinman. There will be an interview with writer and Phoebe Zinman joined by her quartet. Free

SAT 27
Matilda The Musical
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
In the Roald Dahl favorite, presented by the Depot Theatre’s teen players, an extraordinary girl with imagination and smarts takes a stand. With Amelia Alayon, Samuel Bates, Alexandra Cairns, Alex Danilov, Violeta Edwards, Maya Gelber, Kristian Holmbo, Helen Hutchison, Elaine Llewellyn, Loretta McCarthy, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Oliver Petkus, Laurel Sassano and Ivan Siciliano. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. Cost: $22

FRI 26
Peekskill Film Festival
PEEKSKILL
peeksfilmfestival.org
More than 50 films will be shown over three days during the fourth annual weekend festival, which also includes panel discussions and parties. See website for schedule and locations. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. Cost: $15 per block of films
SAT 27

**Thelma and Louise**

**COLD SPRING**

8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon star as two friends fleeing for freedom in this 1991 film, which won an Academy Award for best screenplay and is presented as part of the Cold Spring Film Society’s summer series. Bring blankets, chairs and bug spray. Free

**Showcase of Modern Dance, July 28**

SAT 20

**Tina Rhino**

**BEACON**

9 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St. 
845-202-7550 | dogwoodbeacon.com

Steve Giordano, Mighty George Schaefer and Mark Westin play rock ’n roll blues.

**SUN 21**

**Ambient Soundscapes**

**BEACON**

2 – 4 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St. 
845-440-7844 | baugeallery.org

Browse the exhibits while Craig Chin of Errant Space performs.

**SUN 21**

**Sax and Taps**

**COLD SPRING**

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

Erika von Kleist will perform on saxophone accompanied by tap dancer DeWitt Fleming Jr. Cost: Free (donations suggested)

**SUN 28**

**Summer Showcase of Modern Dance**

**COLD SPRING**

4 p.m. Dancing Dialogue

facebook.com/putnamcountydanceproject

Local and regional dancers will perform early and contemporary modern dance pieces. Cost: $25 ($20 children, seniors, veterans)

**MUSIC**

**SAT 20**

**Last Minute Soulmates**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

Howlandculturalcenter.org

Russell St. George (vocals/guitar), Carla Springer (vocals), Glenn Sacchi (vocals/drums), Francisco Mena (vocal) and Seth Masten (bass) will play rock with folk-style storytelling. Cost: $20 ($15 students)

**SAT 20**

**Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes**

**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

7 p.m. Bowdoin Park | 85 Sheafe Road dutchessny.gov/concert

Dutchess County and Dutchess Tourism are sponsoring this summer concert; the band, which was founded in 1976 on the Jersey Shore and is known for its collaborations with Bruce Springsteen, will perform hits such as “The Fever” and “Fade Away.” Registration required. Free

**SAT 20**

**Peter Yarrow**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center

729 Peekskill Hollow Road

845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

In a benefit to preserve the 130-year-old historic building that houses the cultural center, Yarrow, best known as the Peter of Peter, Paul and Mary, will perform. Cost: $35

**SAT 27**

**Darius Jones**

**SHADES OF BLACK**

**NEWBURGH**

8 p.m. Atlas Studios

11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855

dariusjones.brownpapertickets.com

The jazz saxophonist and composer will be joined by Sam Newcombe (soprano sax), Cooper-Moore (organ) and Michael Wimberly (drums). Cost: $25 ($30 door)

**SAT 27**

**Jon-Erik Kellso Quartet**

**COLD SPRING**

8 p.m. Chapel Restoration

45 Market St. | 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Kellso (trumpet) will be joined by Scott Robinson (vibes), Joe Cohn (guitar) and Pat O’Leary (bass) for an evening of jazz. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 20**

**Sarah Copeland**

**COLD SPRING**

11 – 3 p.m. 8-2 Olive

80 Main St. | 845-666-1777

daydaysaturday.saturdayeventbrite.com

The former food director at Real Simple will sign her latest cookbook, Every Day is Saturday. Recipes + Strategies for Easy Cooking, Every Day of the Week.

**SAT 20**

**Spring Street Reading Series**

**COLD SPRING**

7 p.m. Atlas Studios

11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855

The theme will be “unusual and unpredictable bonds between women” with fiction writers Ifra Novey and Laura Caterine Brown.

**SUN 21**

**TASTE OF SUMMER WALK**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

11 a.m. Glywood Center

362 Glywood Road | 845-265-3338

glywood.org

Come see the farm at the peak of the season and learn about Glywood’s work and how it is addressing climate change. Free

**WEB 23**

**Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church

15 South Ave. | 845-831-0514

beaconhistorical.org

Tony Musso will discuss historic sites included in the third volume of his book series in this program sponsored by the Beacon Historical Society. Free

**THURS 25**

**The History of Leopard Print**

**GARRISON**

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Jo Weldon, the author of Fierce, will trace the leopard print’s path through modern fashion and celebrate some of its fiercest wearers.

**FRI 26**

**Invasive Species Workshop**

**BEACON**

5 – 6 p.m. Nature | 321 Main St. 
845-202-3468 | orenaturerlic.com

Learn how to manage common invasive species. Free

**SAT 27**

**It’s Not Your Shame**

**GARRISON**

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Susan Peehl will lead a reading and discussion for women who have experienced violence. Free
AROUND TOWN

Optometrists Dr. Brian Peralta | Dr. Gary Weiner | Dr. Brian Powell | Dr. Weixun Wang
969 MAIN ST.
FISHKILL
(845) 896-6700
sdec2020.com

Welcome Dr. Weixun Wang

We are pleased to announce Dr. Weixun Wang has joined Southern Dutchess Eye Care.

- Experienced clinician.
- Patient-focused optometric care.
- Passionate about his profession.
- 5-star patient service.

Accepting new patients, including Saturday appointments.

SEMPER FI — Jared Wigdor, 18, of Cold Spring, graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, on July 12, and will report to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, for combat training before becoming an aviation support reservist at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. The 2018 Haldane graduate is the son of Jeff Wigdor and Mitzy Folster.

DEATH-DEFYING FEAT — Mark Jaster (as the lion) and Sarah Thomas (as the lion tamer) were among a traveling troupe of clowns that performed on July 8 at the Howland Cultural Center in a show they called Preposterous! For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

PLANE PULL — Teams of 20 volunteers competed on June 29 to record the fastest time pulling a FedEx jet 12 feet on a taxiway at New York Stewart International Airport while raising nearly $60,000 for the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. Team Poughmentum took first place, pulling the Boeing 757 across the finish line in 8.626 seconds.
HUMANS FLOCK TO "BIRDS OF PREY" DAY

The students care for the birds daily. The wildlife has been therapeutic for me. Animals set you straight. Normally, I hold my arm higher and further away, but I can rest my arm lower and closer because I trust him too.

The full-timers are disabled...

The raven's imprinted, too.

Nick P. Student

No, I'm on the human.

I'm not here.

I'm a human...

Have a ways to go.

I got Hawaii Five-0.

Click click clack.

Dana Spillo Wildlife Caretaker

...or imprinted like Luty the Chinese goose.

Wildlife Expert

Bill Robinson

On June 2nd, nearly 3,000 people turned out to see over 100 birds up close and to find out from the experts about birds of prey.

When a screech owl doesn't feel safe, he squints his eyes and turns sideways to look like a branch.

Rachael Ford, Educator

An owl's muscles are in the feet. The body has almost no muscles so its light. Inside the torso are air sacks to give structure to the body.

Ayden and Kaelyn Whittington, Delmar, NY

Master Falconer: James Eyring and his Go-Saker Falcon Elvis added some drama to the flying demo when Elvis turned it into a flying-away demo.

Nature Nick demonstrated how talented toucans are...

...at catching flying bugs. In this case, the "bugs" were blueberries.

Jethro Wood, Master Falconer, Raptor Project

Lastly, student Nick E. who is returning to his home school district, gets to release a rehabilitated red-tailed hawk.

...from up here.

Green Chimneys: Farm & Wildlife Center is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. greenchimneys.org  ©deblicks2019
They go nowhere. All of this beauty we are creating for photo streams is going downstream, perhaps never to be seen again. Think about the photo library on your computer. A scary place, right? Where are you going to find that trip to your cousins or out west if you didn’t print the photos right away?

Digital disappears

All of those amazing photos of your amazing children that you shared on Instagram — have you printed them? Have you written down your thrilling captions? Have you created vacation photo albums?

If not, this needs to change. Applications for instant photo printing need to be on your phone immediately (this is a word my son uses — the plural of “immediately” — that’s how important it is).

Writing by hand

This is the belief that writing letters with your hand connects to your brain in ways we may never understand. This is emphasized by Julia Cameron, who created The Artist’s Way, a book that enforces that we are all artists. Tapping into that artistry, she believes, can be done through writing anything, even “I don’t know what to write.” Thoughts will start coming.

If you do this in the morning, for some reason, your day goes a little better. You might even write something upsetting. But if you write it, the day shifts in a different direction.

Your assignment

You are going to start a journal. And so are your kids. You’ll do it together, or in-between Device Time. There are journals of all kinds available, plus gel-ink pens if you want fancy, scented gel-ink pens, pencils, chalk pencils, highlighters, stickers, all of it.

I have baby journals for all of my babies. The first is filled with details. The next two are — a little sparse, due to a lack of time. My son, who is now 7, likes to watch me write in his journal, and he likes to contribute to what I am remembering, and what makes him laugh.

I gave up on my own journal about nine years ago. My journalizing time was put into those baby journals. For your assignment, you could start one for your child or children where you write memories or things you notice about them. But you also must keep one for yourself, to tap back into one you started but left.

Photos are just as important. You must print them.

Choose a photo-printer-by-mail, such as Snapfish, Apple’s print option from the computer, and/or Chatbooks (for instantly bound photo books). Install the app on your phone and send-to-print individual photos or “mini-books” after an adventure.

I’ve tried the print-at-home options, and it’s just not happening with these printers that need endless refills of ink or toner or ribbon ink. Alternatively, skip the mail and use Accu-print’s easy computer machine in Beacon. Print out anything you published at Instagram or texted to someone.

Get a journal and paste in the photos, and write next to them what you wrote online. Print out anything you published at Instagram or texted to someone.

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Get a journal and paste in the photos, and write next to them what you wrote online. Print out anything you published at Instagram or texted to someone.
The charge led by Gen. “Mad” Anthony Wayne on July 16, 1779, at Stony Point ended British control of the Hudson. More than 350 Revolutionary War re-enactors from 16 states and Canada descended on the battlefield site on July 13 and 14 to commemorate the event. The re-enactment is held only once every five years. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.
Tourism (from Page 1)

Visitors’ Bureau letterhead in which he said that the board was taken aback when the county in late May placed a help-wanted ad for a new executive director. Callahan said the Visitors’ Bureau board had been more than happy with Conklin.

Although the board selects the director, the hiring and salary must be approved by the county Legislature, according to the bureau's federal tax filings. The bureau, which operates under contract with the county and has an annual budget of about $270,000, is funded almost entirely by county and state grants.

The Visitors’ Bureau has been the subject of drama throughout the tenure of County Executive MaryEllen Odell. Odell took office in November 2011 and not long after that long-time Visitors’ Bureau Director Valerie Hickman stepped down. Odell quickly tapped Libby Pataki of Garrison, a former first lady of New York, to lead the bureau.

In early 2016, the state attorney general opened an inquiry after The Journal News reported that Pataki had in 2012 quietly created a charity, Putnam Tourism Corp., that was soliciting donations and paying her a $50,000 salary — in addition to her $70,000 salary from the Visitors’ Bureau — without active oversight from a board of directors, as required by state law.

Pataki resigned in March 2016, and former intern Frank Smith was named acting director. A new volunteer board of directors was created with guidance from the attorney general’s office; the board hired Conklin, a native of Putnam Valley, in March 2017.

Tourism generates $63 million annually in spending in Putnam County, according to the most recent report compiled for New York State by a firm called Tourism Economics. That includes $5.3 million on lodging, $8.8 million on recreation, $23 million on food and beverages, $30.8 million on retail, and $3.2 million on transportation.

In Putnam, the industry employs about 1,400 people and generates $4.6 million in sales tax annually, the report said. Tourism revenue grew 6 percent between 2015 and 2016 but only 1 percent the following year. The latest data, for 2018, is expected in August.

Although the Legislature approved $227,000 in funding for the bureau for 2019, Callahan said in his statement that the board and county had not finalized a contract.

He said that in March, two unnamed legislators and Bumgarner asked to speak with the board. (Callahan asked that questions about his statement, such as the identity of the legislators, be sent by email, but he did not respond further.)

“It was clear from this meeting that the Legislature was not satisfied with the performance of the executive director,” he wrote. The board asked the county for a “performance improvement plan” so it could “meet the objectives expected by the Legislature. This was never received.”

Instead, he wrote, board members saw the county’s help-wanted ad, which promised a salary of $75,000 to $85,000 annually. It was published in local newspapers designated for public notices on May 29, June 5 and June 12, but included a June 7 deadline for applications.

Callahan said board members concluded that the county planned to bring the tourism agency “in-house” rather than operating it under contract. “In anticipation of this change, and in deference to the executive director,” the board dissolved the nonprofit, he wrote.

He said the board sent a check to the state for the matching funds it had received but was told that returning the money would make it impossible for the county to reapply in 2019. The check was returned and voided, he wrote, so that a check made payable to Putnam County could be issued and the county could operate as a state-approved tourism promotion agency.

Callahan said the Visitors’ Bureau planned to pay its outstanding bills, file its final tax returns and return any unspent funds to the county.

The tourism board was chaired from its formation in 2016 until March of this year by Barney Molloy, a former Cold Spring resident who said in an email that he left in March when he moved out of the county. The most recent board members listed on the website before it disappeared included Callahan (of Brewster) and two other original members, Elizabeth Carson-Tompkins (Carmel) and Victoria Causa (Carmel), along with newcomers Kim Boeheim ( Patterson), Rhonda Jacobius (Carmel), Joann Mailman (Carmel) and Mary Cay Nilsen (Brewster).

Callahan wrote there had been informal discussions in 2017 with Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker about combining the bureau with two similar entities, the Economic Development Corporation and the Industrial Development Agency, to create a county department. A merger could save money because each agency had its own attorney and accounting firm and two employed executive directors, he said, but the idea died after Walker resigned to take a federal job.

Bumgarner told legislators on July 10 that the county’s negotiations with the Visitors’ Bureau over the 2019 contract stalled because the county wanted a provision that would require the tourism board to provide more information about its spending and audits. “Their counsel sent me an email indicating that they wanted all those new provisions stricken,” she reported.

Bumgarner said the county is considering whether to look for another outside agency or hire its own tourism director. Conklin is under contract with the bureau, not the county. She told legislators the county had received 21 applications in response to the ad.

Putnam County Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin told legislators he would ask the bureau for an accounting of the money it has spent this year. “You’re not allowed to just turn your lights out and say you’ve cut out of business,” he said. “That’s not the way it works.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson)

(Continued on Page 21)
Real Estate

History on the Market

By Chip Rowe

1123 OLD ALBANY POST ROAD — This centuries-old structure off Route 9 in Philipstown is once again on the market, with an asking price of $1.47 million. Built by John Warren, the home was converted in 1761 by his son, Samuel, into a stage-coach stop and seized by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War as a regional headquarters for Gen. George Washington. In the mid-19th century, Justus Nelson, who had built a grist and lumber mill on the banks of Indian Brook, converted it into a family home. It remained in the family until his grandson, James H. Nelson, decided to become a minister. Rhinelander Waldo, the former police commissioner of New York City, purchased it in 1916 but it was abandoned until 1940, when George Perkins and Charles and Constance Stearns restored the building and named it the Bird & Bottle. It became a hot spot, visited by Hollywood elite such as Joan Crawford, Constance Talmadge, Greer Garson and Veronica Lake; in 1954, it earned a “superb dining distinction” award from Holiday magazine. Most recently, the inn was closed from 2010 to 2015 before a caterer, Pamela Resch, purchased it to host special events such as weddings.

40 UPPER STATION ROAD — This 6,300-square-foot Garrison home on 5.4 acres was the summer estate, called Kleiner, at the turn of the 20th century for James A. Glover, a real estate and insurance mogul. With seven bedrooms and 5.5 baths, it’s listed for $2.3 million. In 1899 Glover had all the trees cut down on the hill in front of the house to create its sweeping view of the river and West Point. A 1939 newspaper profile of his widow, Franny Livingston Glover, then 90 and described as “the oldest woman in Garrison,” said her father, William S. Livingston, had purchased the home about 1860. The home was occupied in 1908 by Gene Kelly, who rented it while directing scenes shot at Garrison’s Landing and in Philipstown for Hello, Dolly! Catherine Portman-Laux, who owned the home with her husband, Burton, until her death in 2016, once said that when she first saw the house and grounds, she “made a vow to God if he would allow us to own this house, we would use it to make people happy.”

11 PARROTT ST. — Built around 1840 and known as Cascabella, this 5,000-square-foot Cold Spring home was purchased about 1893 by Capt. Henry Metcalfe, the Army’s chief of ordnance. It’s listed for $1.8 million. Metcalfe, an 1868 West Point graduate, usually wintered with his family in Thomasville, Georgia, but for several years served as the “military professor” at Haldane. He also was president of the village and of the Haldane Board of Education, a charter member of the Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 and an inventor. In 1873 he designed the first detachable magazine for small guns, and he held patents for a “road-map exhibited” for automobiles (1907) and a “pocket memo case” (1919). In 1926, shortly before Metcalfe’s death, the estate was sold to Jacob Glick, an immigrant from Austria-Hungary who had opened a dry goods and clothing store in 1906 that operated until 1975. Glick lived in the home for 41 years, until 1967, when it was sold to a couple from Long Island.

(Continued from Page 20)

Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said he is disappointed in the way the bureau “unwound itself” without notifying the Legislature.

“Tourism is so critical to Putnam County,” he said. “Over the last couple of years and beyond, that has sort of been floundering — the direction of tourism — and we need to get hold of that. It makes a lot of sense that we bring that position inside the county, like a department head, under the control of the administration and us, so that we have real accountability.”

“It’s just very disheartening how this all went down and it was all totally unnecessary to do it in that way,” added Nacerino. “But maybe it’s an opportunity for us to move forward in the direction that we’ve been wanting it to move forward for a very long time.”

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.
Summer Moves
By Skip Pearlman

The sounds of basketball — dribbling, squeaking sneakers and court chatter — filled the air at the South Avenue court last week as Beacon Hoops began its 24th season providing instruction and competition.

The summer program hosts games at this and other city courts for four divisions: Pee Wee (ages 6-7), Intermediate (8-9), Rookie (10-12) and Junior (13-16). Before the season, players are evaluated during tryouts and assigned to teams in an effort to keep the games competitive.

The instructors include former players and coaches, along with parents. Each team plays a nine or 10-game schedule, plus a tournament.

Truck Williamson, a 1983 Beacon High School grad who runs the program, which was founded in 1996 by his classmates Wayne Griffin and Leaman Anderson, noted the league attracts many players from outside Beacon. “For many years we had a waiting list — but it’s still good, people are still coming,” he said.

Williamson says the city doesn’t offer much else for children and teens by way of competitive sports in the summer, except baseball, and that with many sports the cost of equipment can be prohibitive. “Here it’s 50 bucks [for registration], and everyone is guaranteed to play,” he said.

Current Classifieds

**WANTED**
BLOOD DONORS — Friday, Aug. 2, 2-8 p.m.
North Highlands F.D., 504 Fishkill Road. Mark your calendar. Bring donor card or other ID. Walk-ins welcome. Feb. 3 goal was 55, we saw 52. May 2 goal was 45, we saw 32. Aug. 2 goal is 56!

**PRUNING**
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

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Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling

73 Main Street  lynneward99@gmail.com
Cold Spring, NY 10516  (917) 597-6905
7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

**Saturday**
- Mostly sunny, very hot and very humid
- POP: 25%
- W 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 110/86

**Sunday**
- Very hot; a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon
- POP: 40%
- WSW 6-12 mph
- RealFeel: 108/74

**Monday**
- Mostly cloudy and cooler but humid
- POP: 25%
- NNE 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 88/63

**Tuesday**
- Times of clouds and sun
- POP: 25%
- NNE 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 85/63

**Wednesday**
- Sunny
- POP: 25%
- S 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 81/62

**Thursday**
- Sunshine and patchy clouds
- POP: 0%
- WNW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 90/65

**Friday**
- Mostly sunny
- POP: 0%
- WNW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 90/65

**Sunday**
- 98/71
- POP: 40%
- WSW 6-12 mph
- RealFeel: 108/74

**Monday**
- 80/64
- POP: 25%
- NNE 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 88/63

**Tuesday**
- 82/61
- POP: 25%
- NNE 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 85/63

**Wednesday**
- 80/59
- POP: 25%
- S 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 85/63

**Thursday**
- 81/62
- POP: 0%
- NW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 88/63

**Friday**
- 84/64
- POP: 0%
- WNW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 90/65

**Saturday**
- 97/77
- POP: 25%
- W 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 110/86

**Sunday**
- 98/71
- POP: 40%
- WSW 6-12 mph
- RealFeel: 108/74

**Monday**
- 80/64
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**Wednesday**
- 80/59
- POP: 25%
- S 4-8 mph
- RealFeel: 85/63

**Thursday**
- 81/62
- POP: 0%
- NW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 88/63

**Friday**
- 84/64
- POP: 0%
- WNW 2-4 mph
- RealFeel: 90/65

**SUN & MOON**
- Sunrise Sat., 7/20: 5:39 AM
- Sunset Sat. night, 7/20: 8:25 PM
- Moonrise Sat., 7/20: 10:48 PM
- Moonset Sat., 7/20: 9:02 AM

**7-Day Forecast for the Highlands**
- Mostly sunny, very hot and very humid
- Very hot; a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon
- Mostly cloudy and cooler but humid
- Times of clouds and sun
- Sunny
- Sunshine and patchy clouds
- Mostly sunny

**POP: Probability of Precipitation; The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.**

**SudoCurrent**

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**ACROSS**
1. Wildly popular trend
4. Appropriate
7. Hammering god
11. Assist, perhaps in criminal way
13. Female deer
14. Update; rehabilitate
16. What Columbus "found" (2 words)
18. West Side Story character
19. Gone without military permission, initially
20. Load
22. Wee mythical being
25. End of "Old MacDonald" refrain
26. Neighbor state to NC
27. Brutal dictator ___ Amin
28. Exol
30. Name of book
32. ___ gin fizz
33. Lid or lip application
35. Change, as a clock
37. Befuddle
38. "... the season ..."
39. Requirements
43. La Bohème, for one
45. English shire
46. Airport sign categories, initially
49. Hangers-on at Hudson Riverfront
52. Television host Jay
53. Swedish for "costly"
54. Dialect shorthand for old
56. English shire
57. Stitch
58. Goal of Putnam confidentiality law?
61. Hats
63. Resident of gulf nation
64. Colleagues of Assembly members
68. Seasons or preserves
69. Director Jean___ Godard
70. Informal form of SS-across
71. Opening; slit
72. Church founded for African-Americans, initially
73. 9, 9D, or 301, initially

**DOWN**
1. Air mover
2. Japanease Prime Minister Shinzo
3. Morning grass moisture
4. Deft
5. Hol ___
6. CNN founder ___ Turner
7. What 51-down may induce
8. Rooster harem
9. Dealing with (2 words)
10. Not wholesale
11. International airline initials
15. Be indebted
17. Bits of land amid water
18. Prevarication
22. Beacon shop _____’s
23. Put down
24. Money account
29. Greek example of a 20-down
31. Courtroom event
32. Iron and carbon product
33. Sean Patrick Maloney, i.e.
34. Greek example of a 20-down
35. Change, as a clock
36. Final stage
37. Befuddle
38. "... the season ..."
39. Requirements
40. Nights before holidays
41. Completed
42. Falling flakes
44. One obsessed with self
46. Tokyo, formerly
47. Keystroke errors
48. Plays
50. Place where Aristotle taught
51. Ghost-calling session
52. Church founded for African-Americans, initially
53. Swedish for "costly"
54. Dialect shorthand for old
55. Aye
56. English shire
57. Stitch
58. Goal of Putnam confidentiality law?
60. Common preposition
61. Hats
62. Piggish quarters
63. Resident of gulf nation
64. Colleagues of Assembly members
68. Seasons or preserves
69. Director Jean___ Godard
70. Informal form of SS-across
71. Opening; slit
72. Church founded for African-Americans, initially

**Answers for July 12 Puzzles**

**SUDOCURRENT**

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

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71. Opening; slit
72. Church founded for African-Americans, initially

**Pollen**

Source: National Allergy Bureau

Grass: Moderate
Weeds: Absent
Trees: Low
Molds: High

**SUDOCURRENT Answers**

1. Air mover
2. Japanease Prime Minister Shinzo
3. Morning grass moisture
4. Deft
5. Hol ___
6. CNN founder ___ Turner
7. What 51-down may induce
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72. Church founded for African-Americans, initially

**Answers will be published next week.**

See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.
The BEACON, July 21, 1969

For America, Shining Hour

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Apollo astronauts landed on the moon and walked for the first time on lunar soil, with one of them saying it was a "wonderful experience." The moon landing was announced live on television to the world, with millions of people across the globe watching in awe.

The mission, codenamed Apollo 11, had launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on July 16th. The astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, were the first humans to set foot on the moon's surface.

Neil Armstrong, the mission's commander, made the historic first step onto the lunar surface at 2:56 a.m. EDT on July 20th. He was followed by Buzz Aldrin, who also took several steps on the moon's dusty surface.

As Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The moment was broadcast on live television, allowing millions of people to witness history as it unfolded.

The landing had been a decades-long dream for many, and the achievement of landing on the moon was a significant milestone in human space exploration. It marked the end of the Apollo program and paved the way for future space missions and achievements.

The landing also had implications for international relations, as the United States and the Soviet Union were in the midst of the Cold War. The moon landing was seen as a symbol of American technological prowess and a victory over the Soviet Union.

Despite the technical challenges and risks involved, the Apollo 11 mission was a resounding success. It demonstrated humanity's capability to explore the solar system and inspired a generation of space explorers and scientists.

The success of the mission led to further advancements in space exploration, including the establishment of the International Space Station and the development of powerful rockets like the SpaceX Falcon Heavy.

Today, the moon landing is celebrated as a triumph of human ingenuity and a testament to the power of determination and collaboration. The legacy of the Apollo 11 mission continues to inspire future generations of space explorers and all who are fascinated by the stars.