The HIGHLANDS CHAPTER STATE OF THE HIGHLANDS CHAPTER STATE O



Seriously Funny Page 9

August 30, 2019 Support us at highlandscurrent.org/donate





Dianna Chirico-Vacca with a customer at her Glenham salon, and "downtown" Glenham

Photos by M. Turton

Welcome to Glenham

A Beacon neighbor with a 'small is good' vibe

By Michael Turton

lenham is one of hundreds of hamlets, from Accord to Zoar, that dot the New York state map — small, unincorporated settlements with unmarked boundaries and often nebulous identities.

Residents of Glenham would likely argue their identity is anything but vague. They clearly see their hamlet, nestled up against Beacon's eastern boundary, as a good place to live and do business, more akin to a neighborhood than a village or town.

In the hierarchy of communities, hamlets are an enigma.

You'll find no elected municipal board, school board, police department, library, recreation or highway department in Glenham.

But you will find a post office, complete with its own ZIP code (12527), a fire department and a small collection of commercial and institutional buildings at the corner of Old Glenham Road and Maple Street that might loosely be considered "downtown."

Although Glenham is part of the Town of Fishkill, which provides most of its municipal services, its students are in the Beacon City School District. Why? Because school district boundaries and municipal boundaries don't always coincide. Glenham had its own district until the 1960s, when it merged with Beacon.

The hamlet's exact population is a bit of a mystery, which is not surprising since there are no signs to indicate where it begins or ends. Mail is delivered to about 100 houses, but there are about 500 post office boxes. If Glenham reflects the U.S.

(Continued on Page 16)

This Parade Will Be Different

Eclectic performance slated for Cold Spring

By Michael Turton

old Spring will host a parade with a difference in November as part of a collaborative event organized by the Magazzino Italian Art Foundation.

Members of the Cold Spring Village Board discussed the event at their Aug. 27 meeting, with more details expected over the next few weeks.

The parade, tentatively scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, near St. Mary's Episcopal Church, is being choreographed by Marinella Senatore, an Italian artist known for merging popular culture, dance and music with "joyful public participation."

Senatore has organized public performances in Italy, such as the "Palermo Procession" in 2018, during which residents danced in the streets, and the four-hour traveling Modica Street Musical in 2016. Among her recent sculptural works

 $(Continued\ on\ Page\ 5)$

How They Voted on Religious Attire, Sexual Harassment, River Billboards

After passage by state legislators, governor signs more laws

By Chip Rowe

ov. Andrew Cuomo has been busy signing legislation passed by the state Senate and Assembly before both went on summer hiatus in June. According to a tally by the state Senate, he has enacted 182 bills so far this year, with another 53 waiting for his signature. None has been vetoed.

Below are summaries of select laws enacted since Aug. 8 and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon). We asked Serino to comment on her votes in the minority, but she did not respond by press deadline.

Religious attire

Cuomo, a Democrat, on Aug. 9 signed legislation that prohibits workplace discrimination based on religious attire, clothing or facial hair. Lawmakers cited the case of a follower of the Sikh religion who works for

(Continued on Page 15)



WHAT'S NEXT? — Saxophonists Adam Kolker (left) and Richard Kriska are two of the nine members of the New World Jazz Orchestra, which performed classics from 1902 to 1972 during a concert at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on Aug. 24. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair



FIVE QUESTIONS: **JENNY BROWN**

By Alison Rooney

enny Brown is the author of *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight Over Women's Work*. She will discuss it at Binnacle Books in Beacon at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13.

The title of your book refers to the idea that declining birthrates in the U.S. — which reached an all-time low in 2017 — represent the equivalent of a "strike" by women. How so?

My group, National Women's Liberation, noticed in our discussion groups that many women said they had one child and stopped because of financial burdens such as insecure health care, very short paid leave, expensive child care and lack of affordable after-school and summer programs. We realized our society is relying on women's unpaid labor to raise future generations without putting in the resources to make it tenable.

You note that corporations are concerned. Why is that?

Population growth has been the underlying factor for economic growth since the dawn of capitalism. Stagnant growth is a recent trend, and not just here. For instance, Japan's is usually blamed on low — lower than ours — birthrates. In earlier times, governments wanted more workers, more soldiers. During the Teddy Roos-

evelt era, they were quite open about it: We need more population to be able to expand and invade. Social Security is a big area of concern, with worries there won't be enough children earning money to support their parents, so the costs of retirement might end up being borne by employers. It turns out there's plenty of production and resources to allow a comfortable retirement for all, but it's concentrated in the top one-tenth of 1 percent of earners, where nearly all income is not taxed for Social Security. That money represents production, yet it is not going into Social Security programs.

So can women gain bargaining power by threatening not to have children?

It's happened. In France, the low birthrate prompted robust paid leave and child care so people could afford to have children. Sweden's welfare state, created in the 1930s when there was a panic over birthrates, still provides for families. In the U.S. we've been able to win some short, paid leaves, but we haven't united around the idea. Women blame themselves when we can't balance family and work. But individuals did not create the problem; it's part of a system and requires a political solution.

What needs to be done?

Universal health care is what it comes down to. This should be combined with

well-paid parental leave and shorter working hours. But it's also about housing costs and student debt. People sometimes don't see how their own lives can be affected. If people understood the stakes, they would unite around it.

What have the politicians said?

Sen. Bernie Sanders has cited examples of his constituents in Vermont who tell him they want to have a second child but their work hours, wages and conditions make it impossible. Sen. Elizabeth Warren proposed a big child care program. There's a hardcore part of the extreme right that believes Western civilization is on the decline because of low birthrates and wants to outlaw abortion for that reason. On the progres-

that the child-production cycle is broken.
We need to make this less onerous.

sive side, it's clear









Avengers: Endgame



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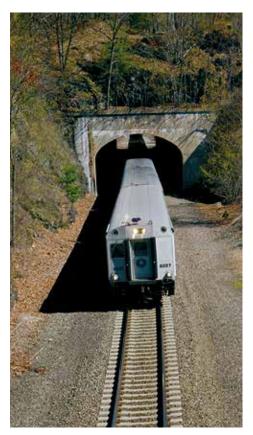
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Catching Up With the Putnam Legislature

By Holly Crocco

MTA Rep.: 'We Are Forgotten'

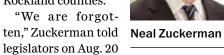
As the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates Metro-North commuter trains, works on a service and facilities plan for 2020 to 2024, Putnam legislators said they want to make sure the county's needs are being heard.



A southbound Metro-North train approaching Garrison File photo by Michael Turton

One challenge is that Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam

on the 17-member MTA board, shares a single vote with the representatives from Dutchess, Orange and Rockland counties.





during a meeting of the Physical Services Committee. "We are not attended to by the MTA the way that I would like us to be."

He added that "even if we had four votes, it is about how throaty we are. It's about how much we yell and demand things."

Zuckerman said there are four issues the MTA "desperately needs to work on": safety, price, service and sustainability of the system.

One legislator knows more than anyone about the importance of safety for Metro-North riders, Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) lost her husband, James Lovell, 58, in a derailment on the Hudson Line on

"Nancy suffered more than anybody I know from the MTA's lack of attention to safety," said Zuckerman. "If positive train control [an automatic braking system] had been implemented early in its day - the original deadline was certainly before December 2013 — Jim would still be with us."

According to Zuckerman, although the MTA missed its 2018 deadline for installing PTC, progress is being made toward a new deadline in 2020.

"Through gubernatorial inputs, my activism, and I think the real federal deadline they have in front of them, it will get done," he said. "But it has not been a pleasant experience."

When it comes to pricing, Zuckerman pointed out that Putnam commuters pay some of the highest fares across the MTA, at \$437 to \$475 per month, or \$5,000 to \$6,000 annually without accounting for parking fees.

At the same time, he said, three of Putnam's five stations — including Garrison — need repairs and the service is infrequent and with limited options for New York City destinations. He described it as "those paying the most getting the least."

The Hudson Line has seen a surge in popularity, with ridership growth exceeding both the Harlem and New Haven lines, he said.

"If Long Islanders can access Grand Central Station after an \$11 billion investment in East Side access, a small investment through existing tracks should be worthy of exploration for Metro-North riders," he said. "We must start to increase service to our region as it grows in population."

Zuckerman encouraged Putnam lawmakers to lobby for repair of the 125st Street/ Harlem viaduct, which he called "a bottleneck" that leads to system-wide delays.

"It is making Putnam County not an easy place to commute from," he said, "The last thing we want to be is a vacation home."

The Legislature agreed to draft a letter to the MTA outlining the county's needs.

Sheriff: Outlaw CBD in Food

Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. on Aug. 20 asked legislators to outlaw edibles that contain cannabidiol, or CBD, a chemical compound found in both hemp and mariiuana.



Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

The 2018 federal Farm Bill legalized CBD extracted from hemp, which has very little THC, the ingredient that produces the high, CBD derived from marijuana remains illegal.

"We are all aware that CBD oil is legal you can buy it anywhere in New York state," said Langley at the Legislature's Health Committee meeting. "The problem is they're putting CBD oil into food products" such as gummy bears, lollipops and cookies.

The Food and Drug Administration has banned the sale of food with CBD, but only if it's produced in one state and sold in another. CBD products also cannot be marketed as dietary supplements.

Langley said the biggest problem is that people who consume food products containing CBD cannot be certain of its ingredients, which in some cases contain synthetic chemicals. As of July 31, poison control centers around the country have reported 781 calls related to CBD products, compared to 118 in 2017.

After hearing Langley's request, Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said that "it seems like a logical approach to put something on the books." The sheriff said he was not targeting CBD oil sold as a health product.

Montgomery suggested the county find out where state legislators stand on the matter. "They're going to pass something eventually, I would imagine," she said. "Why double the work?"

In fact, both the Senate and Assembly passed a bill in June to regulate CBD products but it has not been delivered to the governor.

Drug-Abuse Prevention

With two federal grants to prevent opioid overdoses expiring in September, the Communities That Care Coalition/Prevention Council of Putnam told the Health Committee on Aug. 20 it hoped to receive state grants to replace the funds.

"We are the constant that the community relies on and we know, right now, more than ever, prevention needs to be a priority for our youth," said CTC Director Kirstin McConnell. "We're in a little bit of a pickle" as the group waits for funding.

"We need to sustain infrastructure," she said. "We've built an empire in prevention that I'm proud of, but we can't do it alone anymore. We've relied on federal funds for a long time and those funds are either running out or they just aren't available anymore."

Mike Piazza, the commissioner of the county's Department of Social Services and Mental Health, said that while the state has put prevention "on the back burner," a meeting he and McConnell had with representatives from Montefiore Medical Center and Columbia University left him hopeful about funding.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is earmarking \$86 million to study ways to get resources to 16 counties in New York, including Putnam, that in 2017 reported per-capita overdose deaths nearly double the national average.

Piazza said \$4 million will go to the Montefiore Health System and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which, along with Columbia, will participate in a National Institutes of Health initiative to reduce overdose deaths by 40 percent over three years.

Piazza said he hopes to have good news to report in September, before the county executive presents her tentative 2020 budget in October.

McConnell said a survey that CTC has conducted since 2008 to measure teen drug use has seen the reported use of alcohol in the past 30 days drop 32 percent, tobacco down 86 percent, marijuana drop 2 percent, and binge drinking down 50 percent.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



NEEDED: EXPERIENCED EDITOR The Highlands Current is a growing nonprofit weekly newspaper and website that covers Cold Spring, Garrison and Beacon, New York. We are adding the position of Senior Editor to work closely with our Editor and are seeking a journalist eager to engage with our community in print, online and inperson. For more information, see highlandscurrent.org/jobs.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Grateful for mural

I am writing to share my gratitude to the Wee Play Community Project and its leaders — Raquel Moller Verdesi, Heidi Kitlas, Lori Merhige, Kristen VanCott, Margaux Lange, Lauren McEvoy and Michelle Fehilly — for their work and vision in bringing art and joy to our community these past two weeks ("Painting the Town," Aug. 23).

By now many people have driven by Memorial Park in Beacon and noticed the astonishing transformation of the public facility sited next to the parking lot into a magnificent work of art, thanks to the extraordinary talent of muralist and teaching artist Joe Pimentel.

In addition to conceiving the design and preparing the building, Joe worked alongside children, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers and even the mayor of Beacon to create the mural depicting colorful and beautifully rendered animals of the Hudson Valley.

This holiday weekend, consider bringing your loved ones to visit Memorial Park, the Wee Play Tot Park, the incredible new Wee Woods and view this addition to our vibrant community landscape, presented to the public at very little cost to taxpayers. Art truly has the ability to transform and transcend.

Kelly Ellenwood, Beacon

Big rigs on back roads

I need to bring to your attention an incident involving a Walmart tractor trailer that became stuck on Canopus Hill Road on Aug. 21.

The truck blocked traffic for about four hours, jeopardized power lines and the people responding to remove it, and damaged a sign post.

More needs to be done to prohibit tractor trailers on our back roads, especially in light of the disaster on Tinker Hill Road in Putnam Valley on Aug. 19 when a tanker crashed and spilled 3,300 gallons of liquid asphalt into a stream [above, right].

In recent years, the Town of Philipstown responded well to the problem of tractor trailers on Old Albany Post and Canopus Hill roads with clear signage. Perhaps these measures have averted a catastrophe such as the one in Putnam Valley.

Ideally, law enforcement and local governments need to work with GPS navigation providers to red flag, if not remove, our back roads from their maps so truckers won't go there.

I applaud Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio and U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney for taking steps in this direction.

David North, Garrison

Food trucks

Food trucks, which pay fees to the Village of Cold Spring, should be allowed ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," Aug. 16). There is limited space for entrepreneurs to open food venues on Main Street, and all businesses benefit by having more diverse food options. It also helps keep retail customers in Cold Spring, rather than have them become frustrated and head to Beacon.

Tom O'Quinn, Cold Spring

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.



A tanker crashed in Putnam Valley on Aug. 19.

Photo by Carlos Rosaio/Peekskill VAC



Parade (from Page 1)

is "Protest Bike," a bicycle outfitted with a banana-shaped seat, four megaphones and a bulb horn.

Magazzino staged an earlier public art performance in Cold Spring when, in November 2017, it invited Michelangelo Pistoletto to re-enact his 1967 performance piece, *Scultura de Passeggio (Walking Sculpture)*. The artist and residents pushed a sphere of newspapers through the streets near the waterfront.

In early September, community groups and individuals will be invited to participate in the parade alongside performers recruited by Senatore. Described as a "creative procession," the parade will conclude with a finale at the riverfront. The procession will pause for performances along the route.

While the event is scheduled to last two hours, the time spent on Main Street will likely be less than an hour, said Thomas Huber, a representative of Magazzino, which operates an art museum in Philipstown.

The proposal brought back unpleasant memories for Trustee Lynn Miller, who recalled during the meeting that the village hosted a county bicycle event in 2012 and 2013 that hurt local businesses when race participants filled Main Street parking spaces. She said steps should be taken to ensure merchants are not similarly affected



In June 2018, Marinella Senatore organized a public performance, "Palermo Procession," in Italy. A similar event has been proposed for Cold Spring.

Marinella-senatore.com

by the parade.

But Eliza Starbuck, president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of Flowercup Wines, said she felt the parade "will be fun for residents and visitors" and a great addition to the community.

Mayor Dave Merandy was generally

supportive of the event. "The idea is that the performance is the parade," he said, adding that Magazzino is well-organized and has the resources to put the event together. "I'm willing to take a chance," he said.

Traffic issues were on Deputy Mayor Marie Early's mind. She suggested the

parade include only "mini-performances," with major performances being held at Dockside Park.

The mayor said Magazzino would be responsible for the cost of extra policing. He asked Huber to provide a more accurate estimate of the number of participants, a factor he said would help determine the number of officers required. Huber had earlier said he expected anywhere from 40 to 100 people to take part.

In other business ...

- Cold Spring's annual picnic honoring senior citizens, village employees and volunteers will be held at noon on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Mayor's Park.
- The board agreed to waive the \$200 setup fee for a water meter installed at the American Legion Hall on Cedar Street as part of a village-wide upgrade. A \$60 overpayment by the Legion was also corrected. Several Legion members appeared before the board to ask for reduced fees.
- An application by the organizers of the Putnam Wine & Food Fest to return to Mayor's Park in August was put aside. The board and the Recreation Commission are reviewing rental terms for use of village parks for larger events.

NOTICE

TAX COLLECTION

I, Jessie DesMarais (tax collector), Collector of Taxes for the Haldane Central School District, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes. Such taxes may be paid in person at M&T Bank located at Oak & Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516, during regular banking hours, or by mail to Haldane Central School District, P.O. Box 1305, Buffalo, New York 14240-1305.

Taxes may be paid on or before September 30, 2019 without penalty. On all taxes received from October 1 through November 1, 2019 a 2% penalty be added. No taxes will be received after November 1, 2019. Unpaid school taxes will be received with your Town and County taxes in January 2020 with an increased rate of interest.

Jessie DesMarais, School Tax Collector

Dated: August 23,2019

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe, Garrison, New York to hear the following appeal:

Ricky & Mark Ventura, 1 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring, NY TM# 38-3-28. The applicants are seeking interpretation of Town Code Section 175-23 that the existing uses on the premises are pre-existing legally non-conforming uses permitted pursuant to the Code. Applicants are also seeking an appeal of the April 23, 2019 Stop Work Order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. The property is approximately 9.542 acres situated in a "Highway Commercial" (HC) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated 8/23/2019

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe, Garrison, New York to hear the following appeal:

Daniel Schaublin & Mimi Fortunato, 359 East Mountain Rd S, Cold Spring, NY TM# 17.-3-28. The applicants are proposing a 4-bedroom single story residential structure with a detached garage and seek relief to construct within the rear setback area of their parcel. The applicants proposed rear-yard setback is 34 feet 7 inches where 50 feet is required and therefore are seeking a variance of 15 feet 5 inches. The property is approximately 1.67 acres situated in a "Rural Residential" (RR) Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated 8/23/2019

HELP WANTED

CUSTODIAL WORKER/ BUS DRIVER WANTED

Garrison Union Free School District seeks Custodial Worker/Bus Driver (anticipated vacancy November 4, 2019). Must hold a CDL with (p) and (s) endorsements. Full time with benefits. Experience a plus.

Contact Michael Twardy, Director of Facilities/Transportation at 845-424-3689 x225. Application deadline September 11, 2019.

HELP WANTED

CLEANER WANTED

Garrison Union Free School District seeks cleaner (anticipated vacancy November 4, 2019). Second shift, full time with benefits. Prior experience a plus.

Contact Michael Twardy, Director of Facilities/Transportation at 845-424-3689 x225. Application deadline September 11, 2019.

Nelsonville Cell Tower Case Moves Ahead, Slowly

Village given new lawyer; proceedings to extend to 2020

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

he Nelsonville cell tower lawsuit creeps forward.

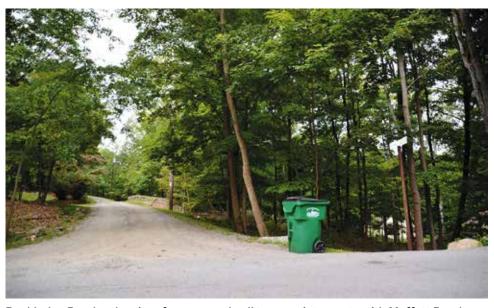
A federal court on Monday set a timetable that stretches into next year; the village last week acquired a new attorney; and the judge earlier this month quashed preliminary competing requests for a summary judgment, or victory without a trial.

Homeland Towers LLC and its partner, Verizon Wireless, sued the village in June 2018 after the village Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals rejected applications for a 110-foot cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery.

The same day, AT&T Mobility, which planned to rent space on the tower for its equipment, separately sued the village, calling the tower denial an "arbitrary and capricious" abuse of power. The two cases were bundled before Judge Vincent Briccetti in U.S. District Court in White Plains.

Nelsonville's lawyer, Terry Rice, informed Briccetti on Tuesday (Aug. 27) that due to a heavy caseload, he had transferred the lawsuit to another attorney, Adam Rodriguez, with the village's consent.

Rodriguez represented Philipstown



Rockledge Road — the site of a proposed cell tower — intersects with Moffatt Road (foreground) on a hillside at the southern end of Nelsonville. File photo by L.S. Armstrong

in the similar lawsuit filed by Homeland Towers and Verizon after the town refused to allow a 140-to-180-foot cell tower near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301. In July, under Briccetti's supervision, the two sides settled, clearing the way for installation of a 120-foot tower.

According to Rodriguez, Briccetti on Aug. 26 instructed the cell tower companies to re-submit their summary judgment motion by Oct. 11; directed the village to file its cross-

motion, or response, by Dec. 11; and set a deadline of Feb. 18 for any ensuing arguments.

Before turning the case over to Rodriguez, Rice prepared the village's request for summary judgment, noting that the Philipstown settlement changed the equation because the impact of the new tower on the service gaps claimed by Homeland and Verizon "has not been analyzed" and "significantly affects the claims."

Briccetti "terminated" both summary motion requests on Aug. 12 and ordered the litigants to attend Monday's conference to organize the calendar. Each side's summary motion request addressed questions on prohibiting wireless services and regulating visual impacts, as well as other issues, any of which could resurface in re-submitted motions.

Prohibiting service

In the request for summary judgment by Homeland Towers and Verizon, Robert Gaudioso, Homeland's attorney, claimed that although federal law says local governments "shall not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless services" or the "ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service," Nelsonville "forced" Homeland and Verizon "to comply with the village's unlawful exercise of discriminatory, multi-tiered, discretionary requirements," resulting in "substantial, unreasonable, and unjustified delay and denial" of the cell tower applications.

Conversely, Nelsonville argued that "the prohibition-of-service claim is baseless"; that cell "towers remain subject to local zoning laws"; and that Nelsonville's laws contain "nothing unusual or discriminatory toward telecommunications."

Visual impact

Homeland Towers and Verizon also contended that the developers "considered several alternatives and offered mitigation for the [tower's] visual effect and complied with the Village Code to the extent it was technically feasible, thus making the facility at the proposed location," 15 Rockledge Road, on a ridge above the cemetery, "the least intrusive to the village." Yet, they added, "there was nothing [they] could have done or offered that was technically viable and would receive approval" from Nelsonville.

Nelsonville said it rejected the application because the tower violated local code requirements that a cell tower "not have a significant adverse impact on scenic or historic resources." The village likewise maintained that, as federal courts have recognized, "aesthetics are a permissible basis for denial if there is 'more than a scintilla of evidence' of a negative visual impact."



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NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF THE DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District shall hold a public hearing on the 9th day of September, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, for the purpose of discussion of the District Safety Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. This Public Hearing was originally scheduled for August 26, 2019.

Dated: August 28, 2019 Kelly Pologe, District Clerk

NOTICE

BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2019 all scheduled Town Board, Zoning, Planning and Conservation Boards Meetings will be held at the Claudio Marzollo Community Center, 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York 10524.

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Beacon to Decide on Another Moratorium

Historic homes also up for hearing

By Jeff Simms

he Beacon City Council is expected to vote on Tuesday, Sept. 3, on a commercial and residential building moratorium, likely six months in length, that would be the city's second in two years if it's adopted.

Each member of the City Council has indicated in recent weeks that he or she favors the move.

As with the six-month freeze in 2017, the council says the moratorium will be based on water issues, not development. The previous moratorium expired in March 2018 after hydrologists projected that Beacon's water supply would be sufficient for the city through at least 2035.

Earlier this year, city officials deactivated Beacon's most abundant water source — Well No. 2, which can provide up to 1.15 million gallons per day — after it began producing "cloudy" water following the installation of a new pump. In June, hydrologist Tom Cusack, whose firm produced the water study last year, said that Beacon still has more than enough water to meet its existing and immediate future needs with the well out of service.

In addition to two wells, Beacon draws water from three reservoirs that combine to provide up to about 1.5 million gallons per day. Well No. 1 can provide more than half a million gallons per day, and the city also has an agreement to buy up to 1.2 million gallons per day from Fishkill, if needed.

Beacon currently uses about 2.5 million gallons each day, with peak usage climbing over 3 million.

Despite an aggressive program that hydrologists have described as similar to plunging a toilet, Well No. 2 has continued to produce water mixed with silt when pumped at higher volumes, said City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero at the council's Aug. 26 meeting. The next step is to "seal off" a portion of the well.

The city is getting estimates for that work, he said, and construction of the equipment it requires could take a month or more.

"There's absolutely no worry" about the city's water supply, Ruggiero said. "But it's still one of our major wells. The work needs to be done."

That work qualifies as a legal basis for the moratorium, said City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis, but Council Member Jodi McCredo has been vocal that the moratorium should also include language addressing the pace of development and that — in addition to repairing the faulty well — the city should study the cumulative effect of hundreds of new housing units on roads, schools and other infrastructure.

On Monday, Ward-Willis said those concerns don't justify a building stoppage. "You've done a significant amount of zoning and rezoning work" over the last two years to address those concerns, he said, but "the areas that you're looking at don't rise, in my opinion, to the level" of the water issues.

Council Member Amber Grant said she still thinks the city should take advantage of the break to analyze statistics on traffic, school enrollment and housing vacancy rates, along with other metrics. "I don't think this is something that requires years of work and it will help us with our policy decisions," she said. "It will help us with, 'Where do we go from here?'"

If approved, the building freeze would be backdated to June 11, the day after Mayor Randy Casale proposed it. That means no building applications submitted after that date have been voted on by the city's planning or zoning boards. (Proposals that create jobs while staying under a waterconsumption threshold are exempt.)

The moratorium, if for six months, would expire in early March of next year, but if it's based solely on water, it could end even earlier, Ward-Willis said, once the well is operational.

Each of the half dozen residents who spoke at an Aug. 19 public hearing on the moratorium were in favor, with several asking the council to consider a year-long break to study the effects of development.

Historic district

Although the measure has not been finalized, the City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 3, on a proposal to add 35 homes to the Historic District and Landmark Overlay Zone. The homeowners have been notified by mail.

While the owners of properties in the district can apply for tax breaks on exterior

Council Member Amber Grant said she still thinks the city should take advantage of the break to analyze statistics on traffic, school enrollment and housing vacancy rates, along with other metrics.

maintenance and restoration of a home's historic features, they also are obligated to get approval from the Planning Board before making changes. Planning Board approval also could be required for interior work if the home is open to the public, such as with a bed-and-breakfast.

In addition, the district allows homeowners, if granted a permit, to incorporate non-residential uses — an artist's studio, antique shop, a restaurant or bed-and-breakfast, or small office, for example — into the home if they're judged to be compatible with the neighborhood.

Homeowners may object to being added to the historic district but the council can overrule with a super-majority (five votes).

The council is expected to keep the hearing open after Tuesday's meeting while it continues to discuss the specifics of the law.





HUDSON RIVER VIEWS
Picturesque. Stone fireplace, pool, outdoor kitchen/gardens. Separate one-bedroom cottage.
WEB# POI549203 | Garrison | \$2,750,000



PARK-LIKE SETTING
Contemporary offers master suite with fireplace plus two en-suites. Deck. On 6.6 acres.
WEB# POI530638 | Putnam Valley | \$749,000



EASY COMMUTE
Colonial offers sunken living room, new kitchen, three-season room and in-ground pool.
WEB# POI535774 | Cold Spring | \$499,500



SWEET COUNTRY CAPE
Enjoy summer sunsets from front the porch and cozy winters by the fireplace. On 3.7 acres.
WEB# POI432881 | Garrison | \$470,000



A GARDENERS DELIGHT
Perfectly renovated Ranch. New kitchen, bath, floors, windows, furnace. On one level acre.
WEB# POI528921 | Cold Spring | \$378,000



Two bedroom, two bath home in private wooded setting yet close to village. Easy commute. WEB# POI572372 | Cold Spring | \$3,200

COLD SPRING BROKERAGE 845.265.5500
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first**FRIDAY**

The Current will be open from 6 - 8 p.m. on First Friday, Sept. 6

Drop by to say hello and share your thoughts about coverage.

— 161 Main Steet — ___

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AROUND TOWN



TRICKS, DIPS AND FLIPS

Tens of thousands of aviation enthusiasts flocked to Stewart airport in New Windsor on Aug. 24 and 25 for the annual New York International Air Show. The program included the Royal Air Force Red Arrows from the U.K. (below, left) in their first U.S. appearance in 11 years, as well as the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels (left) and F-35 Lightning II demonstration team, a P-51 Mustang, B-25 Mitchell Bomber, Czechoslovakian-built L-39 Albatross and the Geico Skytypers. Spectators also caught a glimpse of a 757 jet owned by Donald Trump (below) that was moved in April from LaGuardia to Stewart. The president has used Air Force One to travel since his election.





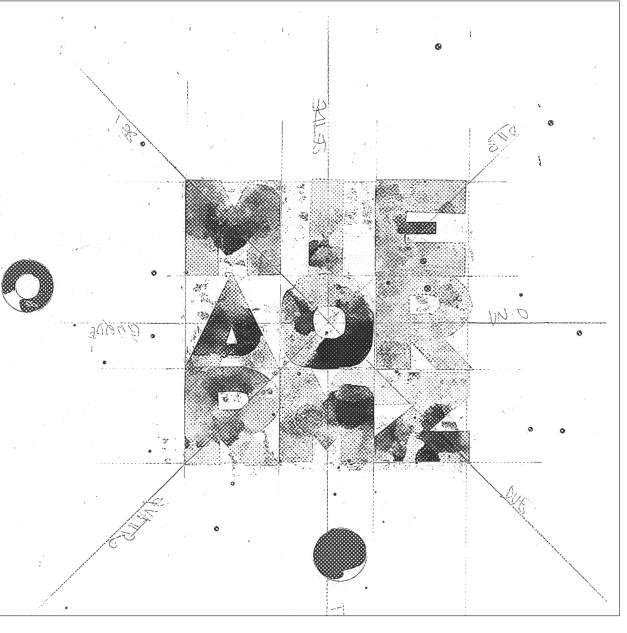
PAPER MEDIA: BOETTI, CALZOLARI, KOUNELLIS

August 28 - December 8, 2019 Opening: September 7, 2019, 5-7pm The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, SUNY New Paltz, NY

Curated by Francesco Guzzetti

In collaboration with Magazzino Italian Art Foundation





The Calendar

Seriously Funny

New Beacon firm teaches improv, stand-up

By Alison Rooney

T t doesn't matter how smart or funny you are — improv is its own beast and you have to put the work in," says Chris Fontakis, the artistic director of Serious Comedy Theatre, which launched in Beacon last year. "You're trying to recreate life off the top of your head as a different person in an absurd situation."

Serious Comedy Theatre hosts weekly instruction and "jam sessions" in improv, stand-up and sketch comedy at its studio in the former Beacon High School; its next classes begin during the last week of September.

Fontakis, who grew up in Queens and on Long Island, enrolled at Pace University



Chris Fontakis

Photo by A. Rooney

to study business but says he discovered a problem: speaking in public terrified him. He worked at it, however, and was able to do a presentation in class.

"I thought I had crushed it so was surprised when I got just a B minus," he recalls. "The professor told me I was really funny, but — I needed to change my major."

Fontakis took an improv class at the New



Performers at a Serious Comedy Theatre improv workshop

Photo provided

York Film Academy, where, he says, "five minutes in, I knew it was what I wanted to do forever." Four months later, he moved to Los Angeles and began taking classes at Groundlings, the Upright Citizens' Brigade and Improv Olympics.

"Being naturally funny is not that important," he says of improv comedy. "It's more about having experience in many aspects of life. The more you can draw from, the better. If you're kind of a jack-of-all-trades, and good at socializing, it will come more naturally, though some shy and awkward people are amazing at this. It's more about possessing wit and passion, not being the class clown."

Fontakis performed and taught in L.A. for 13 years but in 2017 moved back east (Continued on Page 13)

Big Heart, Big Voice

Blues singer: I believed in me'

By Alison Rooney

arah Potenza's voice has been compared by music writers over the past five years to Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin and Adele. Her songwriting has been compared to that of Bonnie Raitt and Lucinda Williams.

But Potenza prefers, she says, to be compared to only one artist: Sarah Potenza.

Potenza, who will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as part of the ongoing Restoration Roadhouse series, is an Italian-American native of Providence, Rhode Island. Her music falls somewhere in the blues-soul-funk stew, with vocals of the raspy, hard-driving barroom vein.

Potenza first exposed her voice nationally during the 2015 season of The Voice, where she finished in the top 20. Later that year. Potenza released her debut album, Monster. The follow-up, Road to Rome, came out



Sarah Potenza

Photo by Jeremy Ryan

earlier this year.

In the years before The Voice, Potenza dropped out of college and moved to Chicago, where she formed a band, Sarah & the Tall Boys. Although popular, the band failed to get a recording deal, something Potenza says she partly attributes to her size and the feedback she constantly got about it.

She'd been hearing variations on that theme for years, as she told Rolling Stone earlier this year: "I had to choose between being me, or trying to disguise that and making myself smaller in every way: physically, emotionally, spiritually."

It wasn't just her physical size but her oversized personality. "I've always been the kind of person who was too much," she told the magazine. "I was too loud, I had too much fun, I laughed too much, I was living too hard. And there was all this shame associated with that."

"Shame is a drug; I was a user," goes a

recent Potenza lyric.

In a recent Instagram post, one of many related to the topic, she shared a 1995 photo of herself as a teenager and wrote: "Look at this beautiful girl. It's crazy to me now that she thought she was fat and unworthy. Be the change! Moms, don't say negative things about your bodies in front of your girls. They are watching. Loving yourself is loving them."

Recorded in Nashville, where she moved before her appearances on The Voice, Road to Rome saw Potenza shift her songwriting and singing away from its Americana bent to, as she described it to Billboard, "a more R&B, big diva, vocal sound."

She views the album, released on International Women's Day, as an expression of hard-earned confidence. The first single, "I Work for Me," is "a braggy, fun song, sort of a 'Look at me now - I believed in me, even when you didn't, and I'm on top of my game, on top of the world. I call the shots."

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring; paid parking is available at the adjacent Metro-North Station. Tickets are \$25 at bit.ly/sarahchapel, or at the door. All proceeds benefit the Chapel Restoration. Beer from Industrial Arts, along with wine, will be available for purchase, and Octavio's Food Truck will be on hand.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 31

3rd New Jersey Garrison Day

FORT MONTGOMERY

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site 690 Route 9W | 845-446-2134 nysparks.com/historic-sites

Witness a day of Revolutionary War tactical demonstrations, drills, camp life and cooking presented by re-enactors from Capt. Bloomfield's company of Jersey Greys. *Free*

SAT 31

Vegan Food Festival

NEWBURGH

1 – 7 p.m. People's Park Washington and Renwick hvveganfoodfest.com

Sample food from more than 30 Hudson Valley vegan and vegetarian restaurants at this fourth annual event. There will also be live music, yoga workshops, nutrition clinics and artisan vendors, as well as activities for children. *Cost: \$5*

THURS 5

Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases

PUTNAM VALLEY 6:30 p.m. Town Hall

. 265 Oscawana Lake Road 845-229-0106

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio will host this event to provide residents with the latest information regarding prevention and tick removal. *Free*

FRI 6

First Friday

COLD SPRING

5 – 8 p.m. Main Street coldspringnychamber.com

Many shops will have extended hours and Hudson Hil's (fried chicken and biscuits) and Hudson House (burger night with Boomkat) are serving special meals. In addition,



Ascend will host a workshop, Flowercup Wine and the Cold Spring Cheese Shop will have tastings, Supplies for Creative Living plans an opening celebration and *The Highlands Current* will have office hours. Look for the orange flags.

SAT 7

Road to Hope Motorcycle Rally

GARRISON

9 a.m. Walter Hoving Home 40 Walter Hoving Road 845-424-3674 x151| hovinghome.org

Join a ride during a visit by the Disciple Christian Motorcycle Club to raise funds for the Hoving Home. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and kickstands are up at 11 a.m. for an hour-long, scenic ride through Dutchess and Putnam counties. It will conclude at Hoving Home with live music, games, raffle and food. Rain or shine. Cost: \$20 per person

SAT 7

Farm Fresh Dinner

BEACON

3 & 4 p.m. Boats leave Beacon dock bannermancastle.org

For this 10th annual fundraiser to benefit the Bannerman Castle Trust, Noah Sheetz and colleagues from the Hudson Valley Chefs' Consortium will create a five-course meal on Bannerman Island from local ingredients. Enjoy the views, music and a tour. *Cost: \$135*

SAT 7

Farm Dance Gala

PHILIPSTOWN

4:30 - 9:30 p.m. Glynwood Center 362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338 glynwood.org

Enjoy a meal prepared by Bruce Kazan of The Main Course featuring ingredients from Glynwood and other local producers. There will also be live and silent auctions and a barn dance with music by the Edith and Bennet Band and caller Eric Hollman. *Cost: \$300*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 7

Estuary Day

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638 boscobel.org

Learn from Lisa DiMarzo about the ecology and dynamics of the Hudson River's tidal estuaries. Bring a picnic lunch. Cost: \$12 (\$6 children and teens)

SUN 8

Jonathan Kruk

BEACON

12:30 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon dock bannermancastle.org

As part of a weekly tour of Bannerman Island, the master storyteller will share legends and folklore of the Hudson Highlands. Cost: \$35 (\$30 children)

SUN 8

Got Questions? We Have Answers!

GARRISON

2 – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3343 philipstowngardenclubny.org

In the first of a series of workshops organized by the Philipstown Garden Club, participants will learn practical strategies to reduce their carbon footprints. The speakers will be Victoria DiLonardo on recycling in Putnam County and Jeff Domanski, director of Hudson Valley Energy, who will discuss Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). *Free*

SUN 8

Get Lit Literary Salon

BEACON

5 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar | 389 Main St. facebook.com/getlitbeacon

The monthly series features writers sharing their work five minutes at a time. The featured writers for September are Lyn Miller-Lachman and Melanie Challenger. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 7

Sing-a-Long

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Tots Park | 4 High St. facebook.com/mtwithalexia

Parents are invited to bring a blanket and children are invited to sing and dance with Music Together with Alexia. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 6

House of Wax

BEACON

5:30 & 6:30 p.m. Boats leave Beacon dock 845-203-1316 | bannermancastle.org

Vincent Price stars as Professor Henry Jarrod, an artist with a macabre way of making his lifelike wax sculptures in this screening of the 1953 classic on Bannerman Island. Cost: \$40



FRI 6

Aery Theatre 20/20 One-Act Festival

GARRISON

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900 philipstowndepottheatre.org

This annual festival, now in its 13th year, will feature 21 original



plays by 19 writers performed five or six at a time over two weekends. It opens on FRI 6 with Plays the Thing, by Rich Landers, Kousa Mahshi, by Debbie Broshi, Viable, by Stephen Hersh, Z.etaO.megaE.ps, by Pat Oneill and Coming to Town, by Keith Whalen. Also SAT 7, SUN 8. Cost: \$23 (\$18 students, seniors)

HEALTH & FITNESS

Breastfeeding Basics

BEACON

Noon. Wyld Womyn | 378C Main St. 845-440-8300 | wyldwomynbeacon.com

Cindy Flynn from Best Beginnings will cover the basics of breastfeeding and answer questions in this two-hour class. Cost: \$50

SUN 8

CPR for Families

BEACON

3 p.m. Wyld Womyn | 378C Main St. 845-440-8300 | wyldwomynbeacon.com

Flynn will help participants become certified by the American Red Cross in CPR, first aid and automated external defibrillator (AED) for infants, children and adults. Cost: \$150

MUSIC

SAT 31

Doansburg Chamber Orchestra

COLD SPRING

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

The ensemble and flutist Christine Smith will perform Symphony in C Major Z21 by Pichl, Arriaga's Symphony in D Major, Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 2 in D Major, and Symphony 74 in E Flat Major by $Haydn.\ Cost:\ \$10\ (\$9\ students, seniors)$

Anthony Geraci and the **Boston Blues All-Stars**

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

The pianist, organist and composer, an original member of Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, as well as Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, topped the blues and roots charts with his latest recording, Why Did You Have To Go. Fishkill George will also perform. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)



SUN 1

Concert Band, Benny Havens Band, The Hellcats

WEST POINT

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point westpointband.com

For the finale of its summer concert series, the military academy's bands will perform pop hits and favorites and conclude with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and cannon fire. The rain date is MON 2. Free

THURS 5

Sarah Potenza

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration 45 Market St | 845-265-5537 chapelrestoration.org

The blues vocalist will perform as part of the ongoing Restoration Roadhouse series See Page 9. Cost: \$25

FRI 6

John Gorka

BEACON

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

The baritone will perform his original songs. Kelly Flint will join him. Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)

VISUAL ART

SAT 31

The Farm Show

GARRISON

2 - 6 p.m. Saunders Farm 853 Old Albany Post Road 845-528-1797

collaborativeconcepts.org

For this 14th annual show, artists such as Max Yawney, Hildreth Potts, Cristina Biaggi, Jill Enfield and James Cannell have created works on one of two themes: abstract and nature, or women and migration. Watch your step: the sculptures are displayed in a field shared with the farm's cows and horses. The Bert Rechtschaffer Trio, Chris Knoeppel, Al Hemberger and the Acoustic Vagabond will perform. The rain date is SUN 1. Continues daily from 10 a.m. to dusk through Oct. 28. Free

Mokuhanga Woodcuts

COLD SPRING

6 - 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery 121 Main St. I 845-809-5145 busterlevigallery.com

This show features works created between 1993 and 2018 by Ursula Schneider, whose influences include Albrecht Durer, Paul Gauguin, Edvard Munch and, more recently, Ansei Utchima. It runs through Sept. 29.

The Things Between Us

BEACON

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

Samantha Palmeri presents an exhibit of her latest paintings.

Fine Arts & Craft Fair

FISHKILL

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Main Street between Bedford and Cary fishkillbusinessassociation.com

The Fishkill Business Association will host its 26th annual curated show. There will also be shopping, food and entertainment. Rain or shine. Free

SUN 8

Cross-pollination

GARRISON

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638 boscobel.org

A study earlier in the year of plants admired and cultivated in early America led to this exhibit of works on paper inspired by plant life, subtitled "an evolution in foliate forms." It will have contributions from Austin Ballard, Livia Cetti. Jeri Eisenberg, Matthew Friday, Marian McEvoy, Jill Parisi, Wendy Small, Sara Story, Lori Van Houten, Erin

Walrath and Eleanor White. Cost: \$12 (\$6 children and teens)

CIVIC

TUES 3

City Council

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 3

Putnam County Legislature

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800 putnamcountyny.com

TUES 3

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane High School (Room 211) 15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254 haldaneschool.org

TUES 3

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

PISA Capital Project Presentation

10:15 a.m. Garrison School 1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689 gufs.org

WED 4

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School I 1100 Route 9D 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

WED 4

Philipstown Town Board COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St. 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

At this workshop, the board will hear a proposal to support a solar farm in Rochester through the **Hudson Valley Community Power** CCA, of which the town is a member.

THURS 5

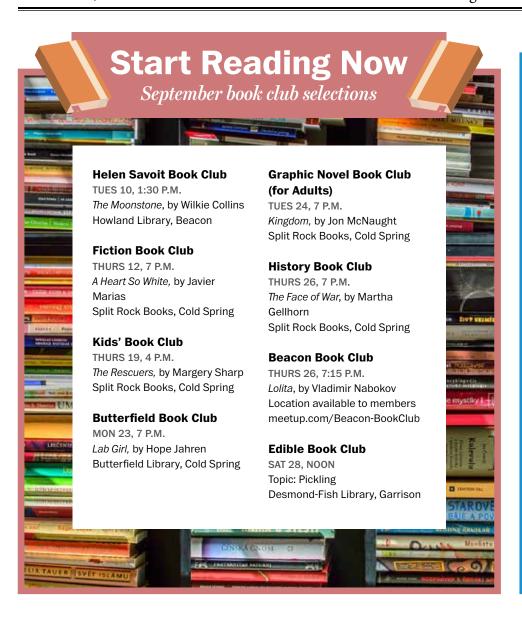
Philipstown Town Board **COLD SPRING**

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St. 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com











his feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Mark and Alexis Fry of Philipstown sent this photo of their grandson, Benjamin, sharing his snack with Bentley. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



Rob Daniels - No music cover Friday, Aug. 30, 8:30 p.m. **Soul Purpose** Carla Springer

Saturday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m.

Christopher Brown - No music cover

Saturday, Aug. 31, 8:30 p.m. Anthony Geraci & **Boston Blues All-Stars** Fishkill George

Sunday, Sept. 1, 11:30 a.m.

East Coast Brunch - No music cover

Sunday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m. **River of Dreams:** A Tribute to Billy Joel

Friday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.

Annie Mash Duo - No music cover

Friday, Sept. 6, 8:30 p.m. John Gorka

Saturday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m.

Robert Tellefsen - No music cover

Saturday, Sept. 7, 8:30 p.m.

Chris Raabe Band Dan Brother Band

Sunday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. Adam Ezra Group

379 Main St., Beacon townecrier.com • 845.855.1300



Aery Theatre Company's 20/20 **One Act Play Festival**

Sept. 6-15 (see web site for line up!)

Happy Days by Samuel Beckett

Sept. 20, 21, 28, 29

Produced by Excellent Creature, Directed by Carin Jean White With Sterling Swann and Christine Bokhour

"Beckett pursues his relentless search for the meaning of existence, probing the tenuous relationships that bind one person to another, and each to the universe, to time past and time present.'

DEPOT DOCS PRESENTS:

Knock Down the House

Friday, Sept. 27 at 7:30pm

"Four women decide to fight back, resulting in a legendary upset in Congress."

COMING SOON:

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN!!

TICKETS AT www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



HARVEST BEER & CIDER FEST

Rain or Shine - 12,000 Square Feet of Tent Space

Saturday, October 26th VIP – 12pm to 5pm GA – 1:30pm to 5pm

Mayor's Park, Cold Spring, NY





Buy tickets early and save \$\$ - www.HopsontheHudson.com

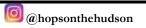
Metro North to Cold Spring, then a short walk to festival



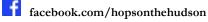












Seriously Funny (from Page 9)

and settled in Beacon. He began teaching improv at the Beacon Performing Arts Center but because the center is focused on children and not adults, moved to the Story Screen Theater before getting his own space — and a new name — in a former classroom at the old Beacon High.

He offers a six-week course called Improv Comedy 101 that begins on Sept. 24, as well as advanced classes that address theory and "what makes good improv scenes great." Fontakis only teaches "long-form" improv, which involves taking a single word from the audience and doing a 30-minute riff.

Gabriel Pages, a Beacon filmmaker and production artist — and now a sketch comedy writer and improviser — has taken a number of Serious Comedy Theatre classes. "It's a scrappy upstart with huge potential led by a young master who needs performers, which means the learning is accelerated," he says. "You don't have to wait years and take endless classes to start performing."

In addition, a four-session introduction to stand-up comedy begins on Oct. 7. "A lot of people show up at open mics and start doing it themselves, without any shaping or advice, and it's sometimes super-weird," Fontakis says. "Exercises will help generate new material. I will almost always find a way to give them the right tools to find something that

is true to them and their own specifics."

The sketch-writing class, which begins Sept. 25, is about "getting a handle on what the game is and how to write the sketches," he says. "People watch *Saturday Night Live* and think, 'Oh, the writers just must be funny people,' but actually there is an intense structure, like the rhythm in a pop song. Once you learn the structure, you break down the fog."

On the third Friday of each month, Fontakis hosts an informal jam session in which names are drawn from a hat and "we keep going until everyone has a chance to be onstage."

Fontakis says he soon hopes to be joined by his sister, Stephanie Ray, who is planning an all-female class. "We offered drop-in classes for a while, and almost everyone who came was a woman, which surprised me," he says. "That's very different from the way L.A. used to be, which was predominantly white males — not enough different voices in the scene."

Fontakis hopes to add a musical improv class, storytelling and business presentation sessions designed to build confidence. He's also toying with the idea of helping people write speeches, such as for the best man at a wedding, noting ruefully, "We all know those can go horribly awry."

Serious Comedy Theatre is located in Room 110 at 20 Kent St. in Beacon. See seriouscomedytheatre.com.

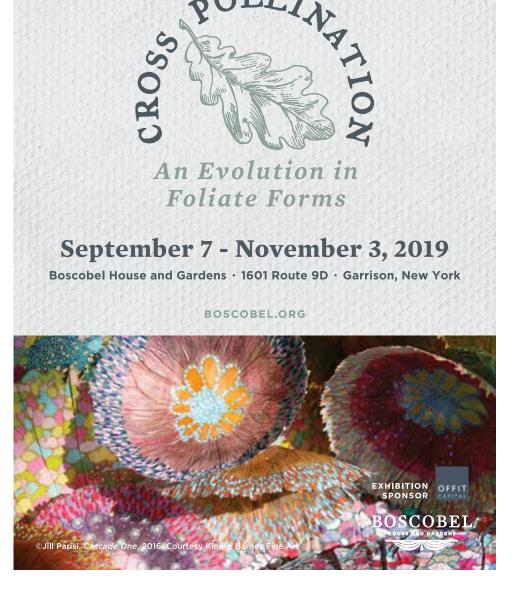


Performers improvise a scene during a Serious Comedy Theatre improv workshop.

Photo provided







Roots and Shoots

Your Questions Answered

By Pamela Doan

hen I asked Currentreaders recently to share their

gardening questions, I received so many responses I won't be able to answer them all in one column. So I decided to group them by theme. This month we'll discuss landscape pests.

Q: We've had aphids in our squash plants two years in a row. Is there something to be done to the soil during the fall and winter months to kill their eggs? They don't seem to affect the tomato.

A: Assuming you have a correct ID on the pest (if unsure, contact a resource such as the county Cornell Cooperative Extension office), aphid eggs are more commonly found in the winter on stone fruit and roses, depending on the species.

To prevent pathogens or other pests, don't leave the damaged plants in the garden. Next spring, there are strategies that may help you manage. First, plant



An ant guards its aphids.

Photo by Stuart Williams



An Asian jumping worm

the squash in a different area. Apply row covers to protect plants from insects. Check frequently for signs of infestations and ants, which usually signal aphids. Use a heavy spray of water to knock aphids off or prune out infested sections.

Another great defense is ladybug beetles. They love to eat aphids. Projects like Lost-Ladybug.org will mail you New York-native, nine-spotted ladybug larva to set loose. While they protect your harvest, you'll help repopulate an insect that nearly went extinct.

Q: Who ate that plant in the photo that The Current posted on Instagram [right]? The same thing happened to my gooseberry, but every other plant is fine.

A: The photo shows a kale plant after it was eaten by a deer. But the gooseberry sawfly can defoliate a gooseberry plant very quickly.

Q: Have you heard anything about organic mulch contributing to the Asian jumping worm problem?

A: I haven't seen any research focused on a link. While all earthworms found in Northeast forests were introduced (the native ones died off in an ice age), the Asian jumping worm has been troublesome because it reproduces faster than others and is a voracious eater of leaf litter. If you notice your mulch disappearing faster than usual or spot soil that looks like coffee grounds, it could indicate Asian jumping worms.

The good news is that earthworms don't move quickly, and you can prevent their spread by not sharing soil. While many gardeners love to trade plants, wash off the soil before transfer and transplant to avoid spreading worms or eggs. The same goes for plants purchased at sales and landscape centers.

The Asian jumping worm is distinctive for its wild movement. It wriggles like a snake and adult worms have a white band. They can be drowned to dispose of them or collected in a black plastic bag and left in the sun. Never use Asian jumping worms for vermicomposting or fishing bait.

Q: There is a deer-fencing epidemic as a quick solution for gardeners and $property\,owners\,who\,want\,to\,protect$ ornamentals or who think it helps with tick management. But it also messes with wildlife corridors. What should be considered before installing one?

A: There isn't much in the way of studies looking at the impact of fencing in our area on raccoons, possums, rabbits, covotes and other forest animals. Much more attention has been focused on the damage caused by deer to the



A kale plant after being eaten by a deer Photo by Brian PJ Cronin

point that native flora can't regenerate.

Deer fences can be constructed with openings for smaller wildlife to pass through, or they can be installed to protect specific plants. For example, fence around your vegetable garden but leave other areas accessible. Tree tubes can protect young trees until they grow large enough to withstand some deer browsing.

Repellent sprays formulated with putrescent eggs are an alternative but need to be applied regularly. No matter what course of action, we have to balance the goals of land management with environmental stewardship. Hopefully they aren't dissimilar.

Pamela Doan, a garden coach with One Nature, has grown ferns in Seattle, corn on a Brooklyn rooftop and is now trying to culti $vate \, shitake \, mush rooms \, on \, logs. \, Email \, her$ at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.



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How They Voted (from Page 1)

the MTA and was told he had to replace his turban with an MTA cap. When he objected, the MTA said he could wear the turban if he affixed his badge to the front, which the employee said would be improper. The law takes effect on Oct. 8.

Passed Senate 60-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 140-2

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Domestic violence

On Aug. 8, the governor signed three bills designed to assist victims of domestic violence. The first expanded the definition of the crime to include forms of "economic abuse" such as identity theft, grand larceny and coercion; the second allows victims to vote by mail with a special ballot; and the third allows victims to report abuse to any law enforcement agency in the state regardless of where the violence took place.

Passed Senate 61-1

Serino V

Passed Assembly 141-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Senate 59-0

Serino V

Passed Assembly 141-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino did not vote: excused

Passed Assembly 147-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

On Aug. 28, the governor enacted a law that requires companies to allow victims of domestic violence who are fleeing and have an order of protection, a police report or a signed affidavit to terminate multi-year or bundled telephone, cable or satellite TV contracts without fees.

Passed Senate 59-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 134-7

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

Pet dealers

Cuomo on Aug. 8 enacted a law that sets standards for pet dealers and breeders that includes the cleaning of enclosures daily and sanitization every two weeks, annual vet exams, regular grooming and maintaining separate spaces for pregnant dogs.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 139-1

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Infant safety

On Aug. 13, the governor enacted three laws related to infant safety. The first requires furniture retailers to sell tiprestraint devices for furniture that doesn't already have safeguards and takes effect on Nov. 11; the second requires child care facilities to anchor heavy dressers and tube-style televisions and takes effect on Feb. 9; and the third bans the sale of non-mesh crib bumper pads and takes effect on Oct. 12.

Passed Senate 52-6

Serino

Passed Assembly 142-1

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Senate 49-12



A floating billboard on the New York waterfront

Ballvhoo Media

Passed Assembly 143-0

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 129-13

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

Child abuse

Cuomo signed legislation on Aug. 22 making it illegal for a court to place a child in the custody of or have unsupervised visits with a person convicted of felony sexual assault against a minor. Known as Marie's Law, it arose from case in which a grandchild of a Long Island man convicted of molesting a 12-year-old girl was allowed to live with him.

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 144-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

On Aug. 29, Cuomo enacted a law requiring public schools to teach age-appropriate classes on sexual abuse and exploitation prevention to students in kindergarten through 8th grade. It takes effect on July 1.

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino M

Passed Assembly 143-1

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Sexual harassment

On Aug. 12, Cuomo signed a bill that eliminates the requirement that workplace sexual harassment be "severe or pervasive" for legal action; requires all nondisclosure clauses in employment agreements to allow

workers to file complaints and prohibits mandatory arbitration; extends the statute of limitations for claims for one to three years; and extends protection to contractors, subcontractors, vendors, consultants

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

Protections for victims

that (1) allows victims of domestic violence to sue individuals who violate an order of protection (it takes effect on Oct. 20); (2) expands the crimes eligible for victim compensation to include "unlawful surveillance," in which a person is recorded without his or her knowledge; and (3) expands the definition of "child victim" eligible for compensation to include minors who witness a crime. The latter two laws take effect on Feb. 17.

Passed Assembly 129-12

Serino 🗹

Passed Assembly 146-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Assembly 146-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

or others providing services. Passed Senate 62-0 Serino Passed Assembly 128-20

Cuomo on Aug. 21 signed legislation

Passed Senate 42-17

Serino 🗹

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Senate 62-0

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino



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Homeowner protection

On Aug. 14, the governor signed three measures related to the ownership of homes. The first closes what legislators described as loopholes to prevent "deed theft and mortgage scams" and to more easily return a home to its owner: the second requires banks to continue paying homeowner association fees on vacant or abandoned properties during foreclosure; and the third adds requirements for banks if a loan is sold or transferred while being modified to prevent a foreclosure.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino 🗹

Passed Assembly 134-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓ Passed Senate 43-18

Serino X

Passed Assembly 104-44

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino V

Passed Assembly 142-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

River billboards

Cuomo on Aug. 20 enacted a law that bans vessels from operating digital billboards or other advertisements that use flashing, intermittent or moving lights. "Billboards belong in Times Square, not in the middle of the Hudson and East Rivers," said state Sen. Brad Hoylman, the Manhattan Democrat who introduced the bill.

Passed Senate 42-20

Serino 🗵

Passed Assembly 143-1

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓

Scamming vets

Cuomo on Aug. 23 signed legislation to protect veterans from "pension poaching" in which scammers "reposition" assets while claiming it will help the vet qualify for federal benefits. In fact, in many cases the veterans lose their eligibility for Medicaid while paying high fees for services provided at no charge by the state. The law takes effect on Dec. 21.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 133-0

Galef ✓ Jacobson ✓



Glenham (from Page 1)

national average of 2.5 people per household, its population is roughly 1,500.

Phyllis Malon has worked at the Glenham Town Deli for 20 years. "This is a community of nice people," she said. "I feel I know the whole town, and everybody knows me."

A colleague behind the counter, James Allieri, 22, grew up in Glenham and also likes its diminutive nature. "It's a tiny place, quiet, not much traffic," he said.

The Slater Chemical Fire Co. sits across from the deli. Established in 1921, it was named for Private Jesse E. Slater, the only Glenham resident killed in World War I. *Chemical* was added to the name after Texaco donated a Ford Model T fire engine that used chemical foam. The historic vehicle is still seen in local parades.

The firehouse is also a community meeting place. On Sept. 21, it will host the hamlet's biggest annual event, Slaterpalooza, a day of music and food that is the company's main fundraiser.

Dave Dross, 50, a lifelong resident, is the fire chief. So was his father. His son and daughter also serve in the company. Multiple generation families are not uncommon among its 55 active members, he said.

Adjacent to the firehouse, Iglesia De Dios (Church of God), opens its doors on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Like the firehouse, Waves by Dianna, the hair salon next to the deli, is a meeting place. "They call my shop the *Steel Magno*-





Phyllis Malon at the Glenham Town Deli, and longtime resident Chubb Baxter



lias of Glenham," said Dianna Chirico-Vacca, its owner for 29 years, citing the 1989 film set in a local salon. "I have people who don't even get their hair done. They just come in and talk!"

John Stojkaj's shop, Laby's Pizzeria, rounds out the core of downtown.

"You could not pick a better place," he said of Glenham. "There are no problems; the people are good, and if the people are good, it's a good place to have a business."

The future is uncertain for the largest tract in the hamlet, where Texaco had its Beacon Laboratories. Fishkill Creek divides a 153-acre parcel that, beginning in 1811, was the site of a wool and saw mill. During the Civil War it churned out blue tunics for the Union Army before going out of business in 1929.

Texaco purchased the property in 1931. During its 72-year run, the oil-and-gas research center patented hundreds of products developed on-site. At its peak it employed 1,300 people.

Steve Van Buren, who grew up in Glenham, recalled the fleet of test cars that ran 24 hours a day. "They were identical cars that traveled in caravans, using I-84 as their testing grounds," he said.

Texaco's research operations moved to Beacon in 1956, and in 2003, after the company merged with Chevron, the Glenham facility closed. Most of its many buildings have since been bulldozed.

A community panel has been meeting with Chevron since 2011 over the environmental cleanup of the site, now known as Glenham Mills, and possible future uses.

"Chevron doesn't seem to be moving forward with any development plans, and until the site cleanup is complete its future will remain on hold," said Bob LaColla, who is the Town of Fishkill supervisor. "Whatever is decided, there will have to be community buy in."

Chubb Baxter, whose grandfather worked at Texaco from the beginning, has lived in Glenham for 40 years. "They want to put restaurants, houses and apartments along the creek," he said. "But people here don't want that."

Dross, the fire chief, said the community is split between wanting development and leaving the Texaco site as open space. He noted if it is developed, the increased tax revenue would benefit the fire district. (It also could bring more families to the area, which would impact Beacon's schools.)

It's a big issue for a community so comfortable with its smallness. The most recent meeting of the advisory panel was scheduled for Thursday (Aug. 29) at the firehouse.



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SPORTS



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Beacon Soccer (from Page 20)

implementing a new system and formation. "We want to dictate pace and shut down other teams," he said. "We're younger than last year, but we have some veteran seniors. There will be a small learning curve — we're learning to play together."

Beacon has two eighth-graders — forward Chelsea DerBoghossian and defender Devyn Kelly — whom Alzate believes can make an impact. "Both have played a high level of travel soccer and are well ahead of their age in terms of skill and ability," he said.

The Bulldogs tied for first place in

Westerhuis, who moved.

and high work rate," Schweikhart said.

"It's going to be a lot of fun watching

the league - which includes Lourdes, Hendrick Hudson, Poughkeepsie and Peekskill - last season, and Alzate wants to win it outright this fall.

"Hen Hud returns a lot, and they are always tough, but if things go well and we learn the system and work together as a unit, we can do something by the end of the season," he said. "We've never won a game in the Class A playoffs but we're hoping to break that streak."

Beacon is scheduled to open its season on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at John Jay Cross River, which won the Section 1 title last season. The Bulldogs host Pelham in their home opener at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6.

them grow as the season progresses." Haldane Soccer (from Page 20)

ber and November."

The Blue Devils are scheduled to open Allie Ferriera, senior midfielder Bela their season on Thursday, Sept. 5, at Monteleone, senior midfielder Anna Rowe Valhalla. The home opener is Sept. 11 against Briarcliff. Their league includes and sophomore defender Ella Ashburn. The team lost five seniors to gradua-North Salem, Pawling and Putnam Valley.

tion — Julia Rotando, Maura Kane-Seitz, "On paper we have a lot of potential," Kate Dwyer, Jamie Calimano and Kait-Schweikhart said. "The talent is there, and lyn Pidala — along with freshman Lily the chemistry seems great at this point. It will be up to the coaches to get the girls But the Blue Devils welcome a trio of ready for the challenges of a difficult schedfreshmen — Liv Villella, Sara Ferriera and ule, and the pressures associated with the postseason. But from what I've seen the Chloe Rowe, all younger sisters of senior starters — whom the coach believes can first week and a half of practice, the team have immediate impact. "They know the is going to battle each and every game, and game well, have great technical ability hopefully that will serve us well come Octo-

Haldane Volleyball Wants Trophy Back

Will move from Class C to D in playoffs

By Skip Pearlman

▼ he Haldane High School volleyball team has a mission: reclaim the Section 1 trophy the squad lost last year to Valhalla after claiming the title in 2016 and 2017.

This year the team will be chasing the Class D prize, rather than Class C; the state athletic association occasionally shifts teams based on enrollment and Haldane teams have played in both classes.

The Blue Devils return virtually their entire line-up, including seven starters, although they lost two stalwarts to graduation: four-year middle-hitter Morgan Etta and two-time All-Section selection and team captain Willa Fitzgerald.

Seniors and captains Melissa Rodino, Olivia Monteleone and Grace Tomann (who will play next year at the University of New Hampshire) head the list. Starters Sophia Immorlica, Sofia Viggiano, Maria Barry and Ashley Hotaling also return, along with senior Taylor Farrell, junior Zoe Silverman and sophomore Meghan Tomann. Juniors Desirea Hyatt and Rachel Lavicoli are new to the squad.

"Our three captains lead by example, which is all a coach can ask for," said Kelsey Flaherty, a 2012 Haldane grad who is in her fourth



Melissa Rodino (13) fires up her teammates during a win over Beacon last season.

File photo by S. Pearlman

season at the helm. "They can all play three positions, so they can also mentor other girls.

"With such a veteran team, we have a lot of confidence that this group can take it all the way" and reclaim the title, Flaherty said. "We've learned from our mistakes last year, and they've been to the sectional final. They know what to expect."

Although the team will move to Class D, and "there is great competition in both classes," Flaherty said the smaller class "could be more schools like us. It could possibly give us a better chance to reach our goal."

Haldane is scheduled to open its season on Friday, Sept. 6, hosting Rye Neck at 6 p.m. The Blue Devils will compete in a 15-team tournament at Hendrick Hudson High School the following day that will raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

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SPORTS

Blue Devils Forever



Peter Hoffmann

Photo by Josh McKee/HC

Peter Hoffmann, a Garrison resident and 2015 Haldane graduate who this year finished his career at Hamilton College with 1,488 points, was one of 22 studentathletes from 19 colleges selected for the Sport Changes Life Foundation's annual Victory Scholar Program. The program allows NCAA student-athletes to play for universities in Ireland while pursuing postgraduate studies and working with children and teens in the community. Hoffmann will attend the Cork Institute of Technology.

The Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club has announced the 2019 class for the high school's Athletic Hall of Fame: Richard Kiesbye (Class of 1967, baseball), Russell Miller (1978, track), David Milkovich (1982, football), Chelsea Lisikatos (2011, softball) and the 1998 volleyball team (Coach Toni Woody, Aaron Nastasi, Courtney Lyons, Denise Hunt, Dina DelVecchio, Emily Perpich, Kristen DeMino, Kristen Lindner, Megan Varricchio, Melissa Jamin, Rebecca Sabshin and Tony Susi), which won the first of the school's four Class D state championships.

The inductees will be honored at a luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 22, at Dutchess Manor in Beacon. Register at haldaneschool.org/athletics/hallof-fame-booster-club or by calling 845-265-9254, ext. 160.

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The Highlands Current highlandscurrent.org August 30, 2019 19

The HIGHLANDS 7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday

79/56



Mostly sunny and nice

POP: 5% NNE 4-8 mph

RealFeel 84/56 POP: Probability of Precipitation; The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine

Sunday 75/61

Cloudy with a shower

or t-storm in the

afternoon

SE 4-8 mph

RealFeel 74/57



Some sun with a shower or thunderstorm possible

Monday

78/63

SW 4-8 mph RealFeel 81/64

intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

Tuesday 84/66



Humid with clouds and sun; a p.m. t-storm possible

POP: 30% WSW 4-8 mph RealFeel 89/68 Wednesday 87/62



Humid with periods of clouds and sunshine

WSW 6-12 mph RealFeel 93/64

POP: 25%

Thursday 80/57



Some sun with a thunderstorm possible; not as warm

ENE 4-8 mph RealFeel 84/56

Friday

78/58

Clouds and sun

POP: 0% SE 6-12 mph RealFeel 78/57

Pollen Absent Absent Grass Source: National Allergy Bureau **SUN & MOON** Sunrise Sat., 8/31 6:21 AM Sunset Sat. night, 8/31 7:31 PM Moonrise Sat., 8/31 7:33 AM 8:41 PM Moonset Sat., 8/31 First Full Last

Aug 30 Sep 5 **Sep 14** Sep 21

CROSS CURRENT

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- 14. Exist
- 15. Kitchen shredder/ slicer
- 17. Pen point
- 18. See 35-Down
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- 25. "Sad to say ..."
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- 36. Has a bug
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DOWN

- 1. PIN requester
- 2. Dance syllable?

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- 16. Chances, for short
- 20. Man-mouse link

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- 28. Give as an example
- 29. Listen to
- 31. Predicament
- 34. "Scram!"
- 35. With 18-Across,
 - studying hard

- 37. Supporting
- 38. Departed
- 39. Culture medium
- 40. Oscar winner Hathaway
- 41. Icelandic epic
- 44. Melody
- 45. Meadow
- 46. Run from the cops
- 47. James Bond, e.g.

SUDOCURRENT

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20 August 30, 2019

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SPORTS



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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



Analiese Compagnone (23) keeps a Greeley defender away from the ball last season.

Jade Villella drives the ball into the Millbrook defense during last year's regional final.

Leading Scorer Gone, But Beacon Regroups



Maddie Bobnick (3) carries the ball across midfield against Greeley in the playoffs last season.

File photos by S. Pearlman

By Skip Pearlman

ast year's Beacon High School squad finished 9-5-2 and earned the No. 8 seed in the Class A sectional tournament but fell to Horace Greeley in the opening round.

Beacon this year will play without its leading scorer, All-Section center-mid Eliza Erickson, who graduated. The Bulldogs also lost All-Section keeper Meagan Meeuwisse and defender Anna Manente to graduation.

However, the squad has eight starters returning, including three All-League selections: Analiese Compagnone, Maddie Bobnick and Kaitlyn Rosa. The others are junior fullback Gabby Del Castillo, junior midfielder Ashley Casserly, senior midfielder Emelie Lenaburg, junior midfielder Jessica Spadafino and senior defender Samantha McDowell.

"I'm looking for a lot of senior leadership," said Coach Hugo Alzate, in his fifth season leading the Bulldogs. "We'll go as far as they take us."

He noted that the team would be

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Haldane Set to Defend Regional Title

By Skip Pearlman

he Haldane High School team is coming off a season in which it finished at 9-10-1 but still reached the Final Four of the state Class C tournament before falling to eventual champion Stillwater.

With six starters back on the field, Coach Steve Schweikhart — who returns to the role this year after coaching both the boys' and girls' teams at Haldane in the past — believes the team has potential.

"The returning starters will all play a huge role," said Schweikhart, who is assisted by Cali Schweikhart and Mary Callaghan, who both played on the Haldane team that reached the state title game in 2013. "They have proven themselves as quality players and great examples for the younger players. I couldn't ask for a better group."

The returning starters are senior goalkeeper Abigail Platt, senior All-State midfielder Jade Villella (who plans to play next year for the University of Massachusetts Boston), senior defender



Ella Ashburn (19) battles a Stillwater player for control in the state Class C semifinal game last fall.

File photos by Scott Warren

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