

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Outlaw Derby Page 15

MARCH 13, 2020

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## Breakneck Burns

*Brush fires along shoreline  
jumped over Route 9D*

Helicopters lowered containers into the Hudson River to retrieve water that was dumped on the fire.

Photo by Brian Wolfe

By Chip Rowe

A series of brush fires that began along the shoreline of the Hudson River near Breakneck Ridge on Monday afternoon (March 9) by nightfall had jumped over Route 9D and made their way up the mountain toward Lake Valhalla.

A New York State Police representative the next day said the fire had been contained after burning about 150 acres, although crews continued to work on isolated areas and to prevent flare-ups. There was no danger to any residences, he said.

Route 9D between Cold Spring and Dutchess Junction was closed for hours as firefighters battled the flames, including with helicopters that dropped water taken from the river. At least one car parked in a lot along Route 9D was destroyed, and there also was a pileup involving multiple cars on the highway. There were no reported injuries to hikers.

The origin of the fires remains under investigation, state police said. In a statement, a representative for the MTA said “it appears a Metro-North diesel work train locomotive at the brush fire location between



A car burns Monday in a lot along Route 9D.

Photo by Brad Fredricks

Cold Spring and Beacon experienced some type of malfunction at the beginning of the incident. Railroad investigators at the scene will determine the nature of any link.”

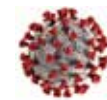
Hiking trails on and near Breakneck remain closed as of Thursday.

At least 16 local, county and state agencies responded, including firefighters from Beacon, Dutchess Junction, Glenham, Cold

Spring, Continental Village, North Highlands, Garrison and Putnam Valley. Five additional fire departments remained on standby to handle other emergencies.

In Cold Spring, officials said that because firefighters were pulling water from the village’s distribution system to fill tankers, residents might see discolor-

(Continued on Page 16)



### Coronavirus Update

## Dutchess Has First Case

■ Dutchess County on Thursday (March 12) confirmed its first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19. County Executive Marc Molinaro said a county resident tested positive Thursday morning after seeking treatment at a local hospital for a fever and cough. Officials have been tracing the patient’s social contacts, including with family and friends, Molinaro said.

■ As of 4 p.m. on March 12, Putnam County had no reported cases, but state health officials said that, elsewhere in the Hudson Valley, 148 people had tested positive in Westchester County, seven in Rockland, four in Ulster and one in Orange. Statewide, there were 325 positives, including 95 in New York City, 61 on Long Island, three in Saratoga County, and one each in Albany, Monroe, Delaware, Herkimer and Broome counties.

■ Federal health officials said last week that the virus appears to be spreading within communities unrelated to foreign travel and so containment (isolating only

(Continued on Page 18)

## Old Texaco Site for Sale

*Owner pivots from redevelopment plans*

By Jeff Simms

After holding public meetings throughout 2017 and into 2018 to gather community input on how to redevelop the 153-acre former Texaco Research Center just outside of Beacon, its owner has put the site on the market.

Chevron said it hopes to find a buyer who will develop the property, now known as Glenham Mills, and assume responsibility for the ongoing environmental cleanup. A sign posted along Washington Avenue, between Beacon and Fishkill, shows the land as “available,” rather than “for sale,” because a price has not been set, said Phil Avocato, a Chevron representative.

“We’re trying to get an idea if anyone is

(Continued on Page 8)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JAMES GLEICK

By Chip Rowe

James Gleick, of Garrison, is a science writer and author, most recently, of *Time Travel: A History*. Three of his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and two for the National Book Award.

**You write that “time travel” didn’t exist before H.G. Wells published *The Time Machine* in 1895. What do you mean?**

That was the most surprising thing to me and why I wrote the book. It seemed impossible because time travel is so much a part of our modern imagination. There were Rip Van Winkle-type stories, but nobody until H.G. Wells imagined a machine that would let you choose a place in the past or future. Before railroads and telegrams, there was no sense of the future as a faraway place you could visit.

**It was disappointing to learn that time travel is impossible. Are you certain?**

I make fun in the book of people who try to reason their way through it. If you ask the typical physicist, he or she will reply, “We can’t say it’s not possible,” and some go further and say Einstein showed how you could do it, and mention wormholes. But if you ask 100 science-fiction writers,

they will all say, “It’s just a gimmick.” H.G. Wells said that.

**Einstein said: “The time of the philosophers does not exist.” What did he mean?**

It’s convenient for scientists to view time as part of a four-dimensional continuum, because the physics work out nicely. It’s a powerful view of reality: past and future already exist, and what we call “now” is a figment of our consciousness. But that flies in the face of our intuition about the world, which says the past is done and there is uncertainty about the future. I love science but this is an area where scientists sometimes make the mistake of taking their models too literally.

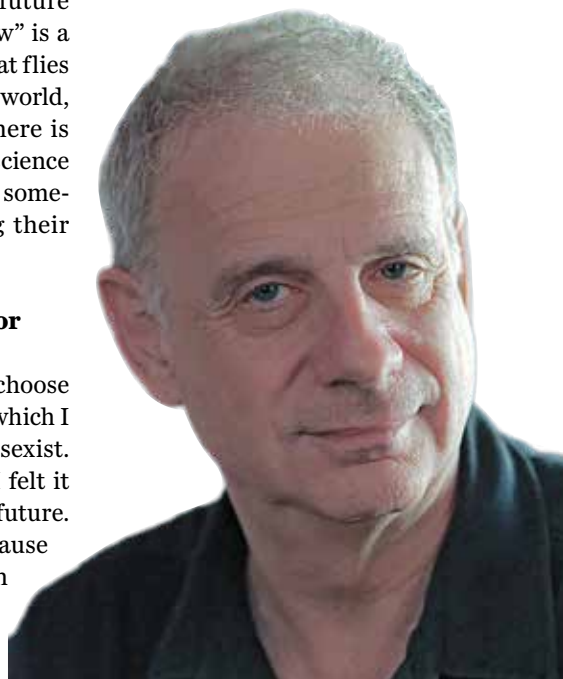
**Which way would you go — past or future?**

My wife has a theory that women choose the past and men choose the future, which I will attribute to her so I don’t sound sexist. When I started writing the book, I felt it was obvious that I would go into the future. Now I don’t feel that way, partly because the future seems more dismal than it used to. I have written a lot of history, including a biography of Isaac Newton, so I would like to

meet him. One question I would ask is when he first saw a clock. In all his writings, he never mentioned that.

**Besides *The Time Machine*, do you have a favorite story about time travel?**

There is special place in heart for the film *La jetée* [1962]. It’s obscure, but people who have seen it know it well.



## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Will we have more snow before the official start of spring?

“

Absolutely. Maybe not a lot, but one more snowfall.

”



~ Nancy Musacchio, Beacon

“

Hope not. Not a big fan of snow; I used to live in Rochester.

”



~ Jeff Vidakovich, Cold Spring

“

Anything can happen. I love snow, but not right now.

”



~ Dani Locastro, Cold Spring

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**“From Shakespeare to Thurber ...and Beyond”**  
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## Suspect in Stalking Case Released

*Does not meet standard for jail under law*

By Leonard Sparks

In a case cited as an example by opponents of the flaws in a newly enacted state bail-reform law, a town judge for the third time released a New Hampshire man accused of stalking a Putnam County woman.

The Town of Southeast judge cited the law on Tuesday (March 11) in declining to set bail for Rattana Phimmavongsa, who was charged in January with stalking a woman he met while gaming online and then again in February with violating an order of protection by repeatedly contacting her by email and phone.

Lean and clean-cut, and wearing glasses, Phimmavongsa resembled a young professional as he stood before Judge Richard Vercollone.

Vercollone said the reform law, which went into effect on Jan. 1 and mandates that people charged with misdemeanors and most nonviolent felonies be released, prevented him from requiring bail, despite his two arrests.

"My client is here," said his attorney, Elizabeth Costello of the Putnam County Legal Aid Society. "The primary purpose is that he show up in court."

The judge took note. "He's appeared here; he's appeared here on time," he said.

Vercollone scheduled Phimmavongsa's next court appearance for April 14. Larry Glasser, an assistant district attorney, said the county planned to convene a grand jury to seek an indictment.

Glasser asked Vercollone to order Phimmavongsa jailed with bail under a stat-



Phimmavongsa

ute that dates to before the reform that allowed judges to revoke release conditions for "failure to obey a lawful order."

The statute was "completely unaffected" by bail reform, Glasser argued. "This court has authority to enforce its own orders, independent of whether they [defendants] show up in court."

Putnam County sheriff's deputies arrested Phimmavongsa on Jan. 18; he was charged with fourth-degree stalking, a misdemeanor, after he showed up uninvited at the woman's home in Southeast.

The woman said she met Phimmavongsa online while playing a game called Ark Survival. She said she stopped speaking to him about two years ago "due to his 'jealous' behavior toward her," according to the Sheriff's Office.

The woman said her gaming account was hacked on Jan. 16, and two days later, Phimmavongsa showed up at her door. "She never provided him her home address," Glasser said. She called the police, and Phimmavongsa was arrested at a nearby motel.

Glasser said Phimmavongsa contacted the woman at least 60 times, including after the order of protection was issued.

Phimmavongsa was arrested a second time on Feb. 11, the date of his court appearance on the stalking charge, and accused of calling the woman five times that day. He was charged with multiple counts of felony and misdemeanor criminal contempt. A different town judge said he could not set bail under the law but did order electronic monitoring and told Phimmavongsa to stay out of New York until his court appearance.

Under bail reform, a defendant can be jailed for violating a protective order, but only in a domestic violence case. The Phimmavongsa case is not defined as "domestic" because he and the woman are not spouses or partners.

- Including sustainability measures in the city's 2017 update to its comprehensive plan (18)
- Joining the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA program (18)
- Creating an inventory of municipal greenhouse gas emissions (16)
- Conducting an energy audit of Beacon's municipal buildings (16), and
- Teaming with the Town of Fishkill on a climate vulnerability assessment (16)

As an incentive, the state offers grants of up to \$100,000 for assessments and activities that enable communities to become Climate Smart-certified. Grants of up to \$2 million are available for implementation projects for certified municipalities.

Earlier this year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo bolstered New York's climate programs by announcing a \$3 billion bond act as part of a \$33 billion, five-year plan to combat climate change.

Putnam County (enrolled in 2019), Philipstown (2017) and Nelsonville (2018) are also participating in the program.

## Putnam County Weighing Policy for Plate Readers

*Cold Spring purchase held up during debate*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Police Department has been waiting since the fall for Putnam County to fund the purchase of four license-plate readers for its officers, but legislators say they first want to establish a policy to guide how the data is used.

The readers are high-speed camera systems mounted on squad cars that can capture and store license plate images to help track vehicles, which has raised privacy concerns.

At a meeting on Tuesday (March 10), the three-member Protective Services Committee voted unanimously to send a policy drafted by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department to the full Legislature to consider at its April meeting.

However, committee members referred to the draft as still rough and stipulated that any final version considered by the Legislature should address concerns raised Tuesday with Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.; Larry Burke, the Cold Spring department's officer-in-charge; and Conrad Paquale, the senior deputy county attorney.

Those concerns included how long data collected by plate readers could be stored (legislators said three years; the sheriff suggested six); whether the public and businesses can get the data; and penalties that would be assessed for abuses.

The text of the draft was not made public, nor was a six-page analysis prepared by Pasquale.

Burke described the Sheriff's Department draft as "great" but acknowledged that the committee review process had been "a little frustrating, coming over here hoping to get the funds a while ago — and now I'm getting caught up in a policy."

In November, the Sheriff's Department and the Cold Spring police proposed that the county help the village buy four read-

ers. Capt. James Babcock, who accompanied Langley to Tuesday's meeting, said state grant money had been earmarked for the purchase.

According to the Sheriff's Department, police in Carmel, Kent and Brewster, the state police and the sheriff's deputies already use readers. In December, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy reminded the committee that the county had helped fund readers for the Carmel police.

"These are out there right now, with no policy" from the county governing the use of the data, noted Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast), who chairs the Protective Services Committee.

He backed a policy but opposed further delays in order to perfect one. "We've been kicking this thing around for quite some time. I'd like to see some motion and get these things out on the road," he said.

But another committee member, Neal Sullivan (R-Carmel), argued that there was no reason to rush. "It's better to get these things done right the first time and not have to be continuing to tweak" them, he said. "Just because towns and villages have not caught up with us does not mean we should lower our standards" and fail "to create a comprehensive policy," he said.

He told Burke: "We want you to get your LPRs in Cold Spring; don't doubt that." However, "we want to do this the right way." He said that his view is shared by County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who last fall removed funding for license plate readers from the 2020 county budget.

The third committee member, Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), proposed sending the draft to the full Legislature with further changes to be discussed.

Originally, Burke told the committee, he had planned to use license plate readers only inside Cold Spring, "which means I wouldn't have to follow anybody's policy but the policy I came up with, for my village."

Then he and Langley decided to team up. "The Sheriff's Department helps us out with investigations and everything else," he said. If the Cold Spring police have readers, "it'll help the Sheriff's Department and help Cold Spring at the same time, and, possibly, in covering Nelsonville [where the Sheriff's Department has a substation], where we're going to, hopefully, put the LPRs if approved."

## Beacon Goes Bronze

*City certified by state climate program*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon, along with six other municipalities in the Hudson Valley, received bronze certification on Thursday (March 12) from the state's Climate Smart Communities program.

Thirteen municipalities statewide were certified as bronze and Suffolk County, on Long Island, has been certified as silver. None has been certified as gold. Dutchess County was previously certified bronze.

The Department of Environmental Conservation awarded Beacon 266 points for completing 34 climate-smart "actions" since enrolling in the program in 2009. Among its highest point-earning activities were:

- Creating a Climate Smart Communities task force (20 points)

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## Tell us what you think

**T**he *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, 142 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.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Home dispute

In approximately 30 encounters — either in person, by email or by phone — with the Philipstown building department, Building Inspector Greg Wunner, Town Supervisor Richard Shea, County Legislator Nancy Montgomery and the Zoning Board and its members between July 13 and Aug. 12, we attempted to obtain the paperwork to file a petition for review of the permit issued for a non-conforming structure at 529 Route 9D (“ZBA Extends Review of Disputed House Plans,” March 6).

On Aug. 9, the chair of the Zoning Board graciously and correctly asked me to try again. On Aug. 12, with the help of a lawyer, we were finally given the paperwork to file our petition. It was timed-stamped within the 60-day period. Many months later, against established law, the Town Board on March 2, sensing a loss, placed its heavy hand on the scale by attempting to change this timeline. The documentary evidence is clear. We filed on time.

José Roméu and Sidney Babcock, *Garrison*

### Plastic-bag ban

I am so disappointed to see that Foodtown's

response to the plastic bag ban is, in part, to sell bigger, thicker bags with even more plastic. A depressing tower of these bags sits at the checkout with a sign that says plastic bags are banned, yet these bags are being sold.

Even if these plastic bags comply with the letter of the law, they are out of sync with its spirit and intent, and the hopes of the people who spent many days in Albany to fight for the ban, with the plastic-bag lobby pushing back every step of the way.

I hope others will let Foodtown know its approach to the ban is disappointing. The intent behind the ban was to reduce plastic waste, to reduce petroleum use that furthers climate change and to make some effort to stop the plastic waste in our streams and oceans that kills fish, whales, turtles, birds and other wildlife.

Foodtown's giant plastic bags are a sad failure to achieve any of these goals.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

*Editor's note: The law allows stores to sell bags that are petroleum-based, including those made from polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene-terephthalate (PET), as long as they have a minimum life span of 125 uses.*

### Police radios

Putnam County has entered into a \$10 million agreement with Motorola to upgrade its emergency radio system. When will the system be live? Are the portable radios used by deputies addressed as part of the \$10 million investment? Recently, a sheriff's deputy could not call for help after being slashed because his radio did not work. How is the issue of radio dead spots being addressed until the upgrade is complete? Will the radios work with those used by other local first responders?

I am the partner of a sheriff's deputy and the mother of his boys. His wife and children deserve to know that the Legislature is making progress on this upgrade. The Sheriff's Department has been asking for an upgrade to the poor system since at least the mid-1990s.

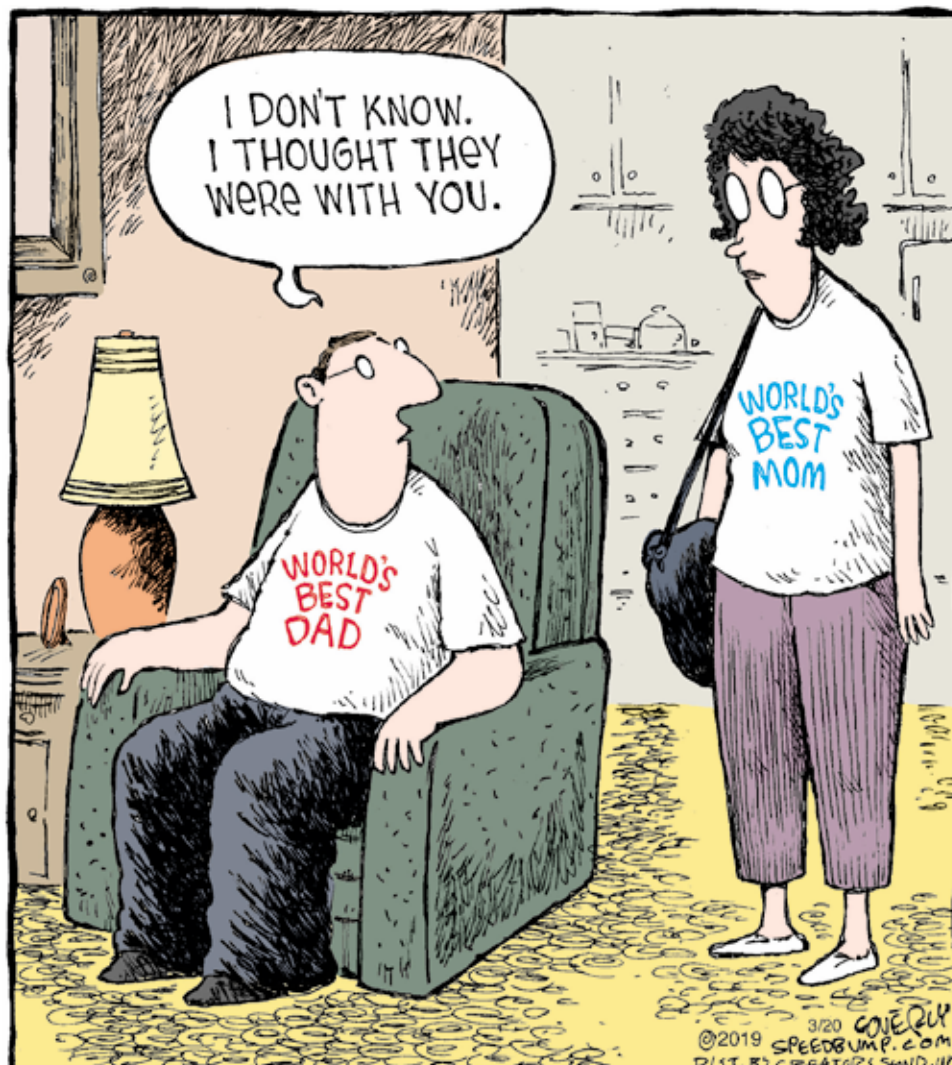
Erin Crowley

*Editor's note: Lawmakers in December approved a recommendation from their Radio Project Committee to spend up to \$10 million to have Motorola Solutions upgrade the county's emergency communications with a “state-of-the-art, fully interoperable, digital simulcast trunked radio system,” according to Neal Sullivan, deputy chair of the Legislature. He said Motorola has guaranteed that it will provide at least 95 percent coverage, “which will be a vast improvement. It also will not require manual switching between sites.”*

*At a Dec. 11 meeting of the Protective Services Committee, Tom Lannon, the county's director of information technology, said it would take at least a year to get the system up and running, in part because the 11 towers in the county must be coordinated, and an additional tower is needed for Cold Spring and Nelsonville. At the same meeting, Ken Clair, commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services, called the upgrade a “monumental project” that has been discussed for years, and several first responders expressed gratitude to the lawmakers that it was underway.*

## Nelsonville Election

The Village of Nelsonville will hold its annual election on Wednesday, March 18, at Village Hall, 258 Main St., from noon to 9 p.m. The candidates, all incumbents who are running unopposed, are Michael Bowman for mayor and Dave Moroney and Chris Winward for trustees. Each term is two years. Justice Court Judge Dennis Zenz is also running unopposed for a new four-year term.





# The Big Count

Census invitations arrive this week and next

By Chip Rowe

Every 10 years since 1790, the U.S. government has counted the population. The census helps determine the number of seats in Congress each state receives and also is factored into formulas used to distribute billions of dollars in federal aid.

This week and next, about 95 percent of 143 million households will receive an invitation by mail to respond to the 2020 census. In the Highlands, households will be asked to respond at 2020census.gov or through a toll-free number.

If a household hasn't responded by April 1 (Census Day), the Census Bureau mails a paper questionnaire.

From March 30 to April 1, the bureau will count people who are homeless at shelters, soup kitchens and tent encampments. In April, census takers will visit college dorms, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, prisons and military vessels.

In May, June and July census takers will visit households that didn't respond to the invitation or paper questionnaire to knock on doors. Owen Borda, a representative of the Census Bureau, told the Philipstown Town Board on March 5 that "we are persistent." The census "is the single most important civic duty we're going to have except for electing a president" this year, he said.

According to a study conducted by the Institute of Public Policy at George Washington University, in 2017 New York State received \$1.2 billion in grants for its local school districts (including \$7.2 million in Dutchess County and \$1.13 million for

WHERE WE'RE AT	PHILIPSTOWN	BEACON	U.S.
POPULATION	9,731	14,523	327m
% MINORS	19.7	19.1	22.4
% AGE 65+	19.3	13.4	16
% WHITE	91	68.1	76.5
# VETERANS	486	889	18.6m
% FOREIGN-BORN	8.7	12.7	13.5
MEDIAN HOME VALUE	\$492,000	\$262,000	\$204,900
# HOUSEHOLDS	3,607	5,178	138.5m
% INTERNET	92.5	80.2	80.4
% COLLEGE GRAD	53.9	35	31.5
% NO HEALTH INS.	4.1	6.5	10
% POVERTY	5.2	8.6	11.8

Source: Census.gov. Figures are 2018 estimates based on 2010 count

Putnam) — amounts which were allocated based in part on data collected during the 2010 census. State residents also received \$73 billion from 55 federal programs that were guided by the 2010 census.

The challenge of any census is reaching "hard-to-count" populations such as children younger than 5, immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, rural residents, low-income people, the homeless and Native Americans. The Institute for Public Policy notes that missing people in general isn't as damaging for states as missing these populations.

Because of concerns about an undercount, New York created a Census Council and allocated \$20 million to outreach efforts. "For the first time, the census will be conducted primarily online, and while the Trump administration failed in its effort to include a citizenship question on the census, its attempt to do so spread fear among immigrant communities," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement.

He also charged that the administration and Congress did not provide enough funding for the 2020 census, "shifting respon-

sibility for on-the-ground work necessary to drive participation to state and local partners." Cuomo noted that the 35 federal census field offices in New York in 2010 fell to 21 in 2020.

### Privacy concerns

By law, the data collected by the Census Bureau cannot be shared with law enforcement or government agencies, and personally identifiable information will be sealed by the National Archives until April 1, 2092. (Data from the 1950 census, which is mostly of interest to genealogists, will be released in 2022.)

Borda noted that the bureau cannot

## 2010 Response Rates

Cold Spring	Nelsonville
69.1%	65.8%
Beacon	Peekskill
67.2%	65.7%
National	New York State
66.5%	64.6%
Philipstown	New York City
66.2%	64%
18th District	Newburgh
66%	50.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

divulge information on individuals or their pursuits. That means, he explained, if a homeowner illegally rents out an apartment in the house, the census will say nothing but does need to know the number of persons living on the premises.

### Scams

The Census Bureau has cautioned people about scams. The census does not ask for complete Social Security numbers or banking or credit card information, and census workers will not knock on doors until the summer. Census workers carry an ID badge with their photograph and a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark.



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ATTN: Transportation Dept. and received not later than April 1st, 2020

Contact Elisa Travis at the Haldane Transportation Department at 845-265-9254 ext. 171 if you have any questions.

Applications can be found on the haldaneschool.org website

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VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Village of Cold Spring has an immediate opening for a Full Time Laborer with the Highway Department. Responsibilities include: road maintenance, garbage and recycling, snow removal, lawn mowing and maintenance, operation of power equipment and tools, emergency repairs, etc. Valid NY State Driver's License required. Must be willing to obtain New York State Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) within 4 months of start. Mechanical experience a plus. Salary commensurate with experience.

This is a full-time 40 hours/week position with benefits (medical/dental/vision), paid time off, etc.

Applications available at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516 or submit resumes by March 31st to:  
Village Clerk, Village of Cold Spring, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov

HELP WANTED

DISHWASHER/CLEANER

Join us! Beautiful work setting on Hudson River

The Garrison Institute, a non-profit retreat center and events venue overlooking the Hudson River in Garrison, NY is seeking part-time dishwashers/cleaners to join our team. Responsibilities include dish washing, sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning common spaces and bathrooms, and waste/compost removal.

Candidates must have: 2+ years of cleaning work experience; a positive attitude with strong sense of customer service; be capable of physical labor; have a valid driver's license; speak English; and able to work under deadlines as well as evenings/ weekends. Competitive part-time wage, beautiful work setting, employee perks.. References with work experience are required. To apply, email a note with resume to: jobs@garrisoninstitute.org. Please, no phone calls.

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AS PART OF OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, we are planning two community forums this year on issues of the moment, and we will invite all on our email list at the time of the event.

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# Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for February by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT	Position	last month	TITLE	AUTHOR
	1	-	Weather	Jenny Offill
	2	-	The Queen's Fortune	Alison Pataki
	3	1	No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference	Greta Thunberg
	4	3	On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous	Ocean Vuong
	5	-	A Very Stable Genius	Rucker & Leonnig
	5	-	Little Fires Everywhere	Celeste Ng
	1	3	New Kid	Jerry Craft
	2	1	Dog Man: Fetch 22	Dav Pilkey
	2	-	Bob	Mass & Stead
CHILDREN	2	-	Sparky!	Jenny Offill
	3	-	Hilo Book 6: All the Pieces Fit	Judd Winick



Community members used models to envision potential development scenarios during meetings in 2017 and 2018. *Chevron Glenham Mills (2)*

## Texaco *(from Page 1)*

interested,” Avocado said. Texaco purchased the site in 1931, operating a self-contained community and research center there for decades that developed and produced high-performance aviation gasolines and other industrial products. Chevron merged with Texaco in 2003, then closed the facility and began assessing decades of chemical dumping near Fishkill Creek, which divides the property.

In August, Chevron submitted a report to the state Department of Environmental Conservation summarizing its “environmental investigations,” Avocado said. The company and the DEC must agree on a plan to remediate the property; if it’s sold, the buyer would have to continue those efforts.

After holding the community meetings, Chevron produced a 150-page document that includes, along with historical and contextual information on the site, sketches of four redevelopment scenarios.

Each option includes residential and commercial development clustered at the northern half of the site, which Chevron called the “most heavily disturbed” portion of the old Texaco campus. One of the scenarios would preserve the “Back 93” acres south of Washington Avenue — once used by Texaco employees for recreation — as open space, while the other three would allow varying degrees of development, most of it residential, in that area.

Deb Davidovits, who lives in the nearby Beacon Hills community, said she isn’t sure any of the scenarios reflect community wishes.

“There is a lot of support for some level of development on the northern parcel,” she said, mentioning restaurants, artists’ spaces and small businesses as examples. “But my impression is the community does not want high-density housing.”

Each of the scenarios includes a mix of high- (24 units per acre) and lower-density



The former Texaco site, at center, covers 153 acres in Fishkill and a sliver of Beacon.

(8 units per acre) residential building. The property is zoned for “planned industrial” uses; any change to that would have to be approved by the Fishkill Town Board.

The redevelopment of Glenham Mills would likely impact Beacon, as well. The site, which at the height of the Texaco era was home to some 1,000 employees and their families, falls within the Beacon City School District. Glenham Elementary, one of Beacon’s four elementary schools, is less than half a mile away.

While the company plans to vet potential buyers “with respect to their ability to assume environmental liability as well as the viability of their development plans,” a buyer will not be obligated to pursue one of Chevron’s redevelopment scenarios, Avocado said.

“We’re making that available to any potential buyers,” he said, but “it’s simply a document that shows them what the community is interested in.”

That’s a shift from two years ago, when Chevron consultants said the firm would approach builders with experience in projects similar to those preferred by the community.

The crash of global crude oil prices could be a factor in Chevron’s decision to divest itself of real estate such as Glenham Mills. On March 3, the company said it planned to curtail its spending through 2024, and prices have fallen even further since, hitting 30-year lows.



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# Philipstown Plans New Highway Garage

*Also: Continental Village park changes coming*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As renovations on Town Hall progress, the Philipstown Town Board last week turned its attention to another infrastructure demand: A new, larger garage at the Highway Department, located on Fishkill Road in Nelsonville.

Supervisor Richard Shea announced the plans on March 5 during the board's monthly meeting at the Recreation Center in Garrison.

He said early estimates put the cost at about \$1.5 million. According to Shea and Town Board Member John Van Tassel, the structure would include office space, a conference room and an area to clean the trucks to prevent salt from washing into the ground.

Shea said he hoped the renovation of



Philipstown plans to replace its highway garage.

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

the 1867 Town Hall will be finished by late fall. He said the work so far has produced surprises.

"With a building this old, you start taking it apart and find real damage," he said. The

frame turned out to be in good shape and the rehab revealed a long-hidden tin ceiling and 19th-century decorative elements in the upstairs meeting room, which will be accessible by elevator. The whole building

will be "much more functional and more efficient," he said.

He said a new garage and the Town Hall work will not require a tax increase.

The town also plans to spruce up the Continental Village park facilities before summer and establish rental policies for the clubhouse.

"The assertion that it's a moneymaker for the town isn't panning out," Shea said. The use of the clubhouse is "a resident perk," he said, although "it's not some hall for renting out where you can do whatever you want. It's in a residential area and we want to be respectful there. And we have insurance liabilities, so it can't be a free-for-all" scene of noisy, disruptive conduct, as has sometimes occurred, he said. "So we're going to set some guidelines and adhere to them."

In other business, the board approved an arrangement to share equipment with Cortlandt, Buchanan, Croton-on-Hudson and Peekskill. New York State has been pushing local governments to cooperate and consolidate.

## Governor Wants Counties to Pay More for Medicaid

*Odell: Proposal could 'devastate our budget'*

By Leonard Sparks

The county executives in Dutchess and Putnam have each expressed their opposition to a proposal by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to shift at least \$150 million in Medicaid costs to local governments to help close a \$6.1 billion state deficit.

New York is one of the few states that require county governments to contribute to the cost of the federal program, which in New York provides health insurance for 6.2 million low-income families and individuals. New York is also one of the states that expanded Medicaid eligibility under the 2010 Affordable Care Act, reducing the number of uninsured but increasing costs.

"Here in Putnam we take care of our most vulnerable citizens, and will always make sure they get the services they need," County Executive MaryEllen Odell said in statement. But if the state asks counties to

pay more, "we will have to make other cuts that will devastate our budget."

Officials across the state have for decades petitioned state lawmakers to relieve them of their contributions to the program, which in Putnam last year amounted to \$9.6 million, and in Dutchess, \$41.3 million.

In Putnam, where Medicaid is the county's largest single expenditure, costs rose by \$4 million between 2018 and last year, county officials said. The county has 13,114 residents enrolled in Medicaid, up from 5,000 in 2015 before the expansion under the ACA.

To stay below the 2 percent property tax cap, Putnam can increase its budget by \$1.2 million this fiscal year, county officials said. Under Cuomo's plan, Medicaid costs would increase anywhere from \$194,650 to \$1.75 million, according to an estimate from the New York State Association of Counties.

In Dutchess, where 57,190 residents are enrolled in Medicaid, its share could rise \$3 million to \$5 million under the proposal, said County Executive Marc Molinaro.

To assist counties, state lawmakers in

2012 agreed to pay for any growth in the program and cap the annual county share at \$7.6 billion. New York State estimates its costs during the 2020-21 fiscal year will be \$23.6 billion, with the federal government contributing \$39.9 billion.

But under Cuomo's proposal, the state would no longer cover the growth in Medicaid costs for counties that fail to stay within the 2 percent tax cap or whose Medicaid costs grow by more than 3 percent.

New York would also cap the counties' share of a federal program that provides financial assistance to localities that face higher costs from the expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act.

When counties were paying the costs without a cap, they had incentive to keep costs low, Cuomo said in January during his budget presentation. But now, "they pay the same amount every year. Their cost does not go up. It doesn't matter what they spend."

Molinaro has a different take. "This is a drastic reversal of an agreement counties have lived up to for years," he said.

Under Cuomo's proposal, according to projections by the state comptroller, counties would see their share of Medicaid spending fall to \$7.2 billion from \$7.33 billion, followed by an increase in 2021-22 to \$7.354 billion.

In 2010, under Cuomo's direction, the state convened a Medicaid Redesign Team to find savings in the face of a \$10 billion overall deficit. The MRT has been reconvened, this time to find \$2.5 billion in savings as the state races to finalize a spending plan before April 1.

Officials from Dutchess and Putnam say they have little control over the number of people who enroll in Medicaid because the eligibility criteria is set by the state and most enrollees are approved through its health exchange. Molinaro said Dutchess County only determines eligibility in 30 percent of cases.

"The assertion by the governor that local governments are to blame for growing costs is patently false," Molinaro wrote in a letter to state Assemblyman Didi Barrett, whose district includes part of Dutchess. In a statement, state Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, called Cuomo's proposal a "gimmick being used to try and balance a bloated state budget."

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## AROUND TOWN



▲ **WINNING ARGUMENTS** – Students from Haldane and the Manitou School swept the middle-school division at the ninth annual Hudson Valley Debate Tournament hosted on Feb. 28 by the Bard College Debate Union. Students from the Garrison School also competed. Shown are the Manitou winners, along with Aiden Sullivan-Hoch (left), a Manitou grad who attends Haldane High School. For full results, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

*Photo provided*



▲ **SCOUTS HONORED** – State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, visited the Garrison Fish & Game Club on March 1 to honor Alek Maasik and Guy Cervone as the Garrison residents received their Eagle Scout awards. Both are members of Troop 437.

*Photo provided*

◀ **SIGN REMOVED** – The familiar stone “Welcome to Beacon” sign was dismantled recently after sitting for 11 years across from the Metro-North station. The half-acre parcel is being cleared to make way for six townhouses. City Council Member George Mansfield, who helped create the sign, said he expected it would find a new home, although he cautioned, “it may not be the same exact thing.” *Photo by Jeff Simms*

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

11:30 am Marji Zintz - No music cover

7:00 pm Flash Company: Music of Ireland

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

7:00 pm Calling All Writers Open Mic

7:00 pm That1Guy

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

7:00 pm Last Minute Soulmates - No music cover

8:30 pm Willie Nile Band

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

6:00 pm Judith Tulloch Band - No music cover

8:30 pm Stephane Wrembel

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

7:00 pm Total Mass Retain: YES Tribute

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# The Calendar



Photo by Hashim Kirland

## Seeing the Light

*A performance highlights the work of blind photographers*

By Alison Rooney

The Seeing with Photography Collective, which has been around for 30 years and meets each week in Manhattan, is unusual. The members are blind.

Its work was scheduled to be part of a multimedia performance, *Blind Visionaries*, on Saturday, March 21, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, accompanied by music by the Daniel Kelly Trio, before the production was canceled this week because of concerns about the coronavirus.

During the show, which was part of the theater's ongoing Flipside series, images are be projected on a screen while the photographers are heard speaking about living with blindness. In addition, audience members

(Continued on Page 14)



Photo by Victorine Floyd Fludd

By Alison Rooney

Are little white lies a necessary social maneuver or symptomatic of greater deceit?

What do you feel when you get away with an untruth? Is it thrilling, or do you feel guilt coursing through your veins?

You can explore those feelings at *Liar*, an immersive hybrid of performance and parlor game that is scheduled to take place at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. It will be produced by PopUP Theatrics, a collaboration between Ana Margineanu, Peca Stefan and Tamilla Woodard created in 2011.

Margineanu and Stefan are from Romania, which is where *Liar* has its origins. It also has been performed in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

"It's hard to explain in a blurb," Margineanu says. "It's structured like a game in which audience members get to compete for the prize and title of the biggest liar — only not many people want to compete for such an honor."

"It's a lot of fun, but also an interrogation of how much we actually lie, why we say the lies that we say, and why the tiny, justified lies we say on a daily basis give grounds for the big lies that transform," she adds. "You think at the beginning that you don't want to compete, and the challenge is altering

## Lies We Tell Ourselves

*Company to present performance, parlor game*



Tamilla Woodard, Ana Margineanu and Peca Stefan

Photo by Cinty Ionescu

that thought to an extent that you may even end up being crowned."

The Romanian production was described

as "a parlor game for 40 spectators, in five rounds, with a DJ and a little wine drinking." (Their sponsor in Romania was a wine

company, so there was more than a little. "For this edition, it will be a little wine," Margineanu says with a laugh.)

The show is constructed so that no one feels put on the spot, she says. "It's more about asking the questions for ourselves: Are we the person that we think we are? Everything is pretty confidential. Nobody is going to be exposed unless they feel like sharing. The performance is highly participatory, but the level of participation is up to you."

"I never believe that theater spectators are actually spectators," she adds. "There is always so much going on in there. To me there is a magic in the meeting, and I want to highlight that magic. We all need *Alice in Wonderland*, to drop where we are in our lives, jump in the rabbit hole and experience a universe which makes us think about our lives, then go back with a new perspective."

*Liar* features two actors, Dexter McKinney and Krystal Sobaski, along with DJ Marguerite Frarey. It was developed in 2017 during a PopUP Theatrics residency at the Women's Project in New York City. Margineanu, Stefan and Woodard spent two years conducting research around the world.

"We placed 'lie boxes' in the lobbies of buildings, theaters and online," Margineanu says. "We positioned an actor on the street

(Continued on Page 14)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

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

## CANCELLATIONS

A number of local organizations have canceled or postponed events and performances due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus. The Week Ahead is accurate as of late Thursday (March 12); for the most up-to-date information, see our Community Calendar at [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar). To report a cancellation or postponement, email [calendar@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.org). We also recommend calling ahead or checking online before attending an event.

## COMMUNITY

SAT 14

### Soup and Bake Sale

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – Noon. Methodist Church  
216 Main St. | 845-656-5810

The annual fundraiser will include six varieties of soup at \$4 per pint or \$8 per quart, plus assorted baked goods. Order ahead by phone or email [csumw@aol.com](mailto:csumw@aol.com).

SAT 14

### Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive  
845-534-5506 x204 | [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org)

Learn how sap is collected and turned into syrup. There are two tour options: the Sugar Bush tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. include a 1-mile moderate hike through field and forest to the Sugar Bush Shack; the Maple Lane tours at noon and 3 p.m. include a short walk from the Visitors' Center. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children and teens; members \$8/\$6)*

SAT 14

### Maple Fest

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Randolph School  
2467 Route 9D | 845-297-5600  
[bit.ly/randolph-maple](http://bit.ly/randolph-maple)

The private school's annual festival will have a pancake breakfast beginning at 11 a.m., maple-sugaring demonstrations, music, storytelling, face painting, crafts and hikes on the forested property. *Cost: \$10 adults (\$5 children)*

SUN 15

### Parisian Gala

FISHKILL

4 p.m. Dutchess Manor | 263 Route 9D  
845-203-1316 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)  
Proceeds from this fundraiser



*The Informer, March 20*

will support Bannerman Castle Trust programs and its ongoing preservation of the island. Enjoy French food, a preview of the upcoming *Hunchback of Notre Dame* performance and a silent art auction and raffle. *Cost: \$75 to \$110*

TUES 17

### Beacon Peace Awards

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

The Howland Public Library will be recognized during a ceremony for this annual award.



TUES 17

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

COLD SPRING

6 – 8 p.m. St. Mary-in-the-Highlands  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-2539  
[stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)

Enjoy a traditional corned beef dinner catered by the Riverview Restaurant. *Cost: \$20 donation*

SAT 21

### Youth Mental Health First Aid

COLD SPRING

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Philipstown Hub  
5 Stone St. | 845-809-5050  
[philipstownhub.org](http://philipstownhub.org)

If you work, volunteer or interact with local youth, learn how to help

them with mental health or addiction problems, or other crises. *Cost: \$105*

SAT 21

### Archery Course

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. Bowdoin Park | 85 Sheafe Road  
845-298-4602 | [dutchessny.gov/parks](http://dutchessny.gov/parks)

Dutchess County Parks will launch its five-week archery course to be held in hour-long sessions on consecutive Saturdays. It is designed for adults and children ages 8 and older. The equipment is provided, but space is limited. *Cost: \$60*

SAT 21

### Annual Gala

GARRISON

5 – 9 p.m. Highlands Country Club  
955 Route 9D | 845-265-4010  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org)

The Putnam History Museum's benefit includes cocktails and silent auction at 5 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing. Tara and James Carroll will be honored with the Gen. Israel Putnam Trailblazer Award. *Cost: \$275*

SUN 22

### Newcomers and Neighbors Meet-Up

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Meet people in the community and learn about resources.

## KIDS & FAMILY

FRI 20

### Knives Out

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Pizza will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the film will begin at 6 p.m.

during this after-hours teen movie night. Come early to play *Clue*.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 14

### Fiddler on the Roof

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium  
15 Craigsides Drive  
[haldaneschool.org/arts/performing-arts](http://haldaneschool.org/arts/performing-arts)

Haldane drama students will perform the classic musical for cast and crew members' families only because of concerns about the contravirus.

FRI 20

### The Informer

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

This 1929 drama/thriller directed by Arthur Robison takes place in a newly independent Ireland. Cary Brown will provide live music accompaniment as part of the library's Silent Film Series. *Free*

FRI 20

### Urinetown

HIGHLANDS FALLS

7 p.m. O'Neill High School  
21 Morgan Road  
[jiodrama.brownpapertickets.com](http://jiodrama.brownpapertickets.com)

The high school's drama residents Neo Wastin and Solana McKee (performers), Henry Heckert (tech), and Evan Maasik and Zach McCarthy (crew), will present this musical satire set in a fictional dystopia that is experiencing a severe water shortage. Also SAT 21, SUN 22. *Cost: \$12 (\$8 students)*

SAT 21

### Ellen Devlin and Alison Stone

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

The poets will read from their

work as part of the Hudson Highlands Poetry Series.

SAT 21

### Liar

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[liar.bpt.me](http://liar.bpt.me)

An immersive theater piece engages the audience in a game of self-exploration that aims to reveal the lies that form an inescapable part of our lives. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

## TALKS & TOURS

THURS 19

### Cougar Recovery

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
[beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)

Christopher Spatz, former president of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation, will explain why restoration of this magnificent predator's population is imperative to the recovery of critically declining eastern forests.

SAT 21

### Bird Walk

COLD SPRING

8 a.m. Foundry Preserve | 80 Kemble Ave.  
[putnamhighlandsaudubon.org](http://putnamhighlandsaudubon.org)

Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a search for early migrants such as the Eastern Phoebe and Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. Binoculars will be available for loan. Online registration required.

## VISUAL ART

SAT 14

### Song Art Exhibit

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 – 5 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | [tompskinscorners.org](http://tompskinscorners.org)

Artists were asked to interpret the word "song" as part of a celebration of Irish music and stories. Through April 5.



*Knives Out, March 20*



SAT 21

**Winter Weekend**

NEW WINDSOR

1 a.m. – 4 p.m. Storm King Art Center  
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115  
stormking.org

Enjoy the coming of spring during special viewing days before the outdoor sculpture park opens for the season. Also SUN 22. *Cost: \$18 (\$15 seniors, \$8 children and teens, free under age 4 and for members)*

SAT 21

**Ezio Gribaudo and Arte Povera**

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art

Victoria Surliuga, a professor of Italian art and cinema, will discuss the work of Gribaudo from 1966-1972 as part of the *Una visione globale: Arte Povera's Worlds* series. Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the location of the event has been changed to a livestream on Facebook and Instagram. *Free*

SAT 21

**Incarnations**

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Caroline Burton's mixed-media paintings are being exhibited in the Riverside Galleries, along with Eric Erickson's oil paintings on canvas, through May 3.

SAT 21

**To Bathe the World in a Strange Light**

BEACON

5 – 8 p.m. Mother Gallery  
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039  
mothergallery.art

This solo show of new work by Jenny Morgan will be on view until April 19.

**MUSIC**

SAT 14

**Brian Conway and Brendan Dolan**

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

This celebration of Irish music features Conway on fiddle and Dolan on keyboard. *Cost: \$20 donation (children 12 and younger free)*

SAT 14

**Greater Newburgh Symphony**

NEWBURGH

7:30 p.m. Motorcycle Museum  
250 Lake St. | 845-913-7157  
newburghsymphony.org

In a performance titled *Transfiguration*, the orchestra will perform works by Strauss, Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Missy Mazzoli. Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the performance was moved from Mount Saint Mary College. *Cost: \$25 to \$50 (students free)*



Celtica, March 20

SAT 14

**Tom Chapin and Friends**

BEACON

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

The three-time Grammy winner is celebrating his 75th birthday with bandmate Michael Mark, who is turning 70. They will play a mix of ballads and comedic and political songs. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 15

**Flash Company: Music of Ireland**

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The band will perform a mix of classic and contemporary Celtic music. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 15

**Enter the Haggis**

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Canadian band mixes bagpipes and fiddles with a rock rhythm to create an eclectic Irish sound. *Cost: \$25 to \$37.50*

WED 18

**Angeline Butler**

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
tribalharmony.bpt.me

Accompanied by Brian Hurley on piano, Butler will perform jazz favorites as part of the Tribal Harmony series. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

FRI 20

**Celtica**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. MJN Convention Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza | 845-454-5800  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The band performs “high-energy, bagpipe-driven, Celtic hard rock.” *Cost: \$30 to \$75*

SAT 21

**Serenade for Winds**

WEST POINT

2 p.m. Cadet Chapel | westpointband.edu

The West Point Concert Band's woodwind section will perform

Charles Gounod's *Petite symphonie*, Jean Françaix's *Musique pour faire plaisir* and Richard Strauss' *Serenade in E-flat*. *Free*

SAT 21

**Organ Recital**

GARRISON

3 & 7 p.m. St. Philip's Church  
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571  
stphilipshighlands.org

To dedicate the church's new organ, Aaron Tan will perform *Prelude and Fugue in B Minor*, BWV 544 by Bach, *Farandole* from *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2* by Bizet, *Toccata* by Fernando Germani, and *Toccata* by Serge Prokofiev. RSVP required online. *Free*



SAT 21

**Stephane Wrembel**

BEACON

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

Wrembel will perform music from his latest release, *The Django Experiment V*, a tribute to Django Reinhardt. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 22

**Beacon Jazz Lab**

BEACON

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

The local band will play classic jazz standards. *Free*

SUN 22

**InBetweens**

BEACON

8 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447  
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

The guitar trio will perform songs from its new album, *Somniloquy*. *Cost: \$10 donation*

**SECOND SATURDAY**

SAT 14

**We Persist!**

BEACON

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

This reception will open an exhibit of works from more than 20 women artists who, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, were asked to respond to the theme “She persisted.” Through April 5.

SAT 14

**Matthew William Robinson**

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Robinson creates abstract environments using collage and mixed materials.

SAT 14

**Kaiju Kanibal & Mr Kum Kum**

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505  
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

SAT 14

**The View From Here**

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068  
hudsonbeachglass.com

Rick Rogers' paintings of the Hudson Valley will be on view through April 5.

SAT 14

**Remnants**

BEACON

7 – 9 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery  
172 Main St. | 845-838-2880  
riverwindsgallery.com

Alaina Enslen repurposes fabrics and materials to which she's emotionally connected, wrapping them in an encaustic medium. Her husband, Joshua Enslen, will perform music inspired by the work.

**CIVIC**

MON 16

**City Council**

BEACON

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

MON 16

**Village Board**

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 17

**Budget Forum**

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Haldane School Library  
15 Craigsides Dr. | haldaneschool.org  
RSVP to mshields@haldaneschool.org

TUES 17

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

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

WED 18

**Village Election**

NELSONVILLE

Noon – 9 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

WED 18

**Dutchess County Budget**

WAPPINGERS FALLS

6 p.m. Wappinger Town Hall  
20 Middlebush Road | dutchessny.gov

County Executive Marc Molinaro will answer questions about proposed 2020 spending.

WED 18

**Budget Workshop**

GARRISON

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

WED 18

**School Board**

GARRISON

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



Enter the Haggis, March 15



## The Seeing *(from Page 11)*

make a photo with members of the collective.

That's *make*, not *take*. The collaboration involves a technique called "light painting," in which a blind or visually impaired photographer from the collective describes an idea for an image. For example, he or she might say: "I want to take a picture of a person with three heads, and clouds all-around."

A sighted helper works with a camera on a tripod to help focus and frame the shot but "there is 'nothing creative in the actual camera work,'" says Kelly, who lives in Cold Spring and helped organize the show. "What's creative is how it's conceptualized. Several people make the photo together."

With the lights off and the camera shutter open, "people with small flashlights light parts of it, creating multiple exposures," he explains. "They might use cotton for clouds. It's surreal portraiture. It's all about controlling the light."

Kelly says many members of the collective came to photography after their loss of sight, and that it has given them a way to express what they visualize. After a photo has been taken, Mark Andress, who directs the group, will describe it to its creator. "Most have seen before but have an illness that's causing them to lose their vision," Kelly explains. "They know what things look like. This is their photographic imagination."

Still, the images may conjure up mysteries unknown to the sighted, Kelly says, because they reflect the internal life of those who once were able to see. One



"Woman in Fire, Gazing Upward," by a member of the Seeing with Photography collective

member of the collective expressed it in this way: "When I go to sleep, it becomes just like life again. I hear things, I smell things in my dream."

Kelly says he discovered the collective's work about 15 years ago. "I was playing a gig in Manhattan, and a friend came," he recalls. "He's one of the sighted people involved. He said, 'I feel like your music reminds me of those photos,' and he opened his laptop to show me. I felt like the photos created their own world."

"I started going to the classes. It was so rewarding. For instance, I created a photograph with a man named Benjamin Paige. A year later, I returned to the class again and Benjamin said to me 'I remember you — I

recognize your voice.' Then he described the photo we made together the year before."

Kelly notes that "none of the participants call themselves a photographer or an artist. They're not touting themselves as a product; this is a process. It gives them a link to the world of sight, creating a visual that excites people who see them. Equally important, it gives them friendship."

The photos are underscored with Kelly's music, which "matches the stories," he says. "The combination of film, photography and music hopefully amplifies and conveys the experience. There's something special about being together in a darkened theater, hearing someone's experience."



Liar host Krystal Sobaskie

Photo by Aidan Kenney

## Liar *(from Page 11)*

with strips of paper on which people passing by could write lies and pin them on. Some were benign, some were devastating, some were lies that people were told, and some were lies that people told themselves.

"The majority of them were pretty powerful, strong lies," she says. "I was surprised that strangers would share devastating moments of their lives. But I realized that people carrying those secrets are burdened by them and they welcome the opportunity to put it out there."

*The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets are \$20 at [brownpapertickets.com/event/4526155](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4526155) or \$25 at the door.*

## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

### THE VIEW FROM HERE

Paintings by **Rick Rogers**

Mar 14 - Apr 5, 2020

Opening Reception Saturday, Mar 14, 6:00 - 9:00PM



162 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508 845 440-0068  
Open daily 10AM - 6PM, Sunday 11AM - 6PM  
[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](http://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)

Two exhibitions  
March 21 - May 3, 2020

Opening Reception March 21, 5-7pm



**Caroline Burton**  
INCARNATIONS:  
Mixed media  
paintings

**Eric Erickson**  
PAINTINGS:  
Oil paintings  
on linen



The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524  
Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am-5pm  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org) 845-424-3960

**Garrison Art Center**  
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES





By Michael Turton

Our high-speed moral dilemma was short-lived.

Someone questioned whether it was ethical for *The Highlands Current*, which planned to co-sponsor an unofficial Pinewood Derby for adults scheduled for Saturday (March 14), to enter two wooden cars in the low-stakes event. (The race, which was to benefit Philipstown Cub Scout Pack 317, was canceled at the last minute due to concerns about the coronavirus.)

A lawyer we found online responded immediately, pointing out that the name of the second annual event — the Outlaw Derby — almost mandated that rules be ignored. The event's principal organizer, Quinn Chandler, was also being permitted to enter a car, which screamed conflict of interest. "What's good for the organizer is good for a sponsor," I said.

*The Current* approach to the event — which was to take place at St. Mary's Parish



# Reporter's Notebook: *The Current* Goes Outlaw

## *A winning race formula to benefit Cub Scouts*

Hall after the official Pinewood Derby was conducted for the Cub Scouts at Philipstown Recreation during daylight hours (also canceled) — was far superior to that of the other 30 or so teams whose cars would be trailing ours down the angled straightaway. They are an independent lot, bordering on aloof. We are a community newspaper, with an emphasis on community, and that's where we turned

to craft our vehicles.

Tim Brennan, a general contractor in Cold Spring, opened his shop for research, development and assembly. Tim is a veteran racer with a 1-1 record on the circuit. Years ago, his son Connor won in his Pinewood Derby debut. His son Chris finished dead last. Chris wasn't asked to join *The Current* Racing Team.

Hours of aerodynamic testing in a wind tunnel produced startling results, showing that sleek isn't all it appears to be. The pine block of our lead car, *The Current* LTE (Letter to the Editor) has been left untouched for maximum bulk.

Our second car, which was only slightly slower, was built in the classic Formula 1

style. Truth be told, it was the only kit left at AC Moore's going-out-of-business sale.

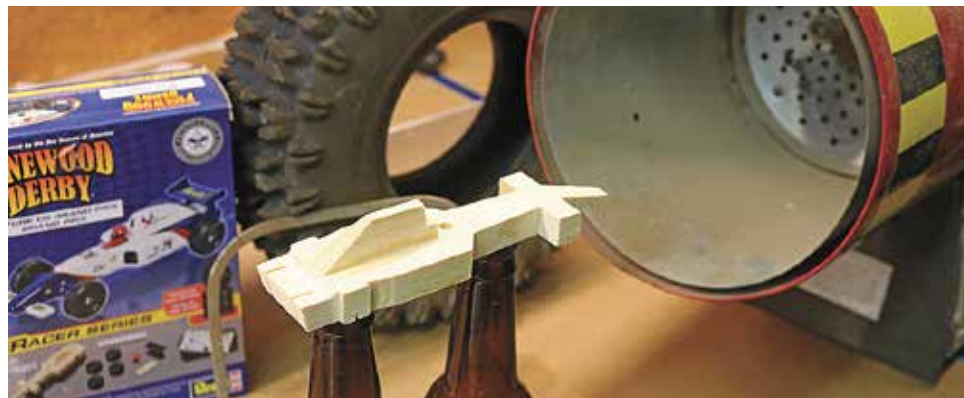
Both cars had a distinct advantage: the paint. We consulted with Susan Early of C&E Paint Supply in Cold Spring, who mixed a latex in *The Current*'s signature color that she said would decrease wind resistance. By applying barely visible brush strokes diagonally by hand, she said we could channel the air in a downdraft, enabling the car to hug the track, gaining speed much quicker than cars using conventional spray paint. Plus, it was on sale.

Our final element was swagger. Artist Cassandra Saulter's bold exteriors burnished the cars in a way that will intimidate the opposition.

My contribution was watching *Ford vs. Ferrari*. Good movie. Fast cars.

To prepare for the race, teams added as much weight to the car's rear as possible without exceeding the 1-pound limit; polished axles and bent them to optimize performance; cleaned the tires; ensured that only one front wheel touched the track; applied graphite lubricant; made last-second improvements to aerodynamics; and pondered an entire rebuild.

This year's derby would have again featured two classes: gravity cars and propulsion-assisted cars. Unconfirmed reports indicated one propulsion car would have featured a treadmill powered by a gerbil, unless it got kidnapped.



The development of *The Current*'s Formula LTE (Letter to the Editor) included extensive wind tunnel testing.

Photos by M. Turton



## COME SEE WHAT ALL THE BUZZ IS ABOUT!

Learn more about what families love about Camp Nabby, now celebrating our 80th season as one of Westchester's premier day camps.

Designed for children ages 3 through 13 years old, Nabby is owned and operated by professional educators who believe in play with a purpose.

Building confidence and social skills through sports and activities, but most of all having fun!

No cell phones. No screens. Just kids being kids.

Choose a package that fits your summer schedule from 1 to 8 week sessions.

Hot lunch and transportation offered.

Camp Dates:  
June 29-August 20th

Come visit by appointment or drop by during our

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 21<sup>ST</sup> 10am - 2:00pm

Just 30 minutes from Cold Spring!





A photo taken Monday afternoon (March 9) shows the multiple spots where fires broke out along the Hudson River shoreline.

Photo by David Rocco

### Breakneck Burns *(from Page 1)*

ation and loss of pressure.

Brad Fredricks of Cold Spring said he was on Sugarloaf, a mountain north of Breakneck, on Monday afternoon when he noticed the fires break out along the shoreline. He said it appeared that “a train went by and started four or five fires.” Video he shot from atop the mountain and after he returned to Route 9D can be viewed at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Diane Lapis, the president of the Beacon Historical Society, whose home office faces Route 9D, said she watched firefighters and police officers all afternoon directing traffic away from Cold Spring via a turnaround in her driveway near the Dutchess Junction firehouse.

“While I couldn’t hear the interactions, I could see how travelers were disrespectful to the officers’ directions to turn around and go back to Beacon,” she wrote in an email.

“Repeated directions using arm signals to turn and go back were the norm. Speedy turns in the driveway seemed passive-aggressive toward the emergency services personnel as if protecting the public was a personal affront to their all-important life.”

Erin Fedigan of Poughkeepsie wrote that she was driving from Cold Spring toward Beacon on 9D at about 10:30 p.m. on Monday after visiting her brother near Bear Mountain and was surprised to find the road again open.

“Once I went through the tunnel, you could see many people parked under the flaming wall of the mountain, taking photos, with ash flying through the air,” she wrote. “I did not stop to take pictures; the smoke filled the road enough to make me turn around to take Route 301 to Route 9 home.”

In September, a smoky blaze atop Sugarloaf burned at least 50 acres.

The annual spring ban on burning residential brush to prevent wildfires begins on



The fires on Breakneck at 9:30 p.m. on Monday

Photo by Peter Bach

Monday, March 16, and continues through May 14. The state Department of Environmental Conservation said the ban, which began


in 2009, has reduced spring wildfires by 43 percent, although about 1,500 still occur. To report burning violations, call 800-847-7332.



Isolated fires were still burning on Tuesday afternoon along Route 9D near Breakneck.

Photo by Michael Turton

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## Out There

## Big Night

*Why the frogs crossed the road*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The call came in during Chess Club: The amphibians were on the move. The game was forfeited, beers were abandoned, the bar tab was paid, and we ran out into the rainy night.



This past Tuesday (March 10) was the first Big Night of the year, when the spring migration season begins for frogs, spring peepers and salamanders. On the first rainy night following a few days in which temperatures hit at least 40 degrees, amphibians emerge *en masse* from their winter hibernation to find vernal pools for breeding. Still sluggish from their winter naps, they don't move fast, which can be a problem when crossing roads as oblivious drivers run them over, also *en masse*.

Enter squads of scientists and volunteers who spend those nights with reflective vests and flashlights, running up and down roads in the rain to shepherd the sleepy amphibians toward wetlands and eros. It's essentially a live-action recreation of the 1980s video game *Frogger*, including the fact that you could get hit by a car.

Months ago I had mentioned to a few environmentalists that I would love to tag along on Big Night, but I was warned that the Highlands' microclimates make predicting exactly when the season kicks off almost impossible. The past few weeks have been peppered with email chains and group chats. With its unusual warmth, Feb. 25 was a candidate for the start of the season, but except for a few toads at Bear Mountain, nothing was moving.

Tuesday night was also a possibility, but the probability looked low. That's how I ended up at Quinn's in Beacon. I was playing chess against Nicole Wooten from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust when she got the call. Soon we were driving south by Breakneck Ridge, the air still heavy with the smell of brush fire, swerving around



A frog in the road, moments before rescue

Photo by B. Cronin

the occasional frog dashing across the road.

By the time we hit Cold Spring, we had a dilemma: There was a guy named Joe who lives on Secor Street who had been part of the loose group of volunteers, but neither of us knew him. Surely one doesn't just show up at a stranger's house at 9:30 p.m. on a Tuesday with nets and a bucket, point toward a still-running car, saying, "Get in — we're going frogging!"

Two minutes later, Joe Hirsch was in the backseat.

"I brought spatulas," he said, holding up a bag.

When we reached the intersection of Fishkill and Lake Surprise roads, we rolled down the windows and were instantly hit with a wall of sound: The high chirps of hundreds of peepers, accentuated with the low quacks of wood frogs.

Lew Kingsley, a retired arborist and a veteran of many a Big Night, was waiting for us. He had just caught a spotted salamander — 6 inches long, brilliantly purple with bright yellow dots along its back, looking like it had been created by Dr. Seuss.

The roads were dotted with peepers, which are tiny and blend in with the pebble-speckled pavement. It was similar to foraging for mushrooms: Once you find one, your brain adjusts to the pattern and suddenly you see them everywhere.

"They're so tiny and they're the ones making the big noise," said Lew as the four of us scooped up peepers in our hands and gently carried them to the side of the road. The rule of thumb is to carry the frog in the direction it was going, even if it looks like there's no water in that direction. You have to trust the frog knows more than you do.

It was hard not to feel a swell of wonder and joy for every peeper or larger frog that we carried off the road. The flip side of that was the feeling of despair when we

reached the sections of Fishkill Road that were covered in the Jackson Pollock splatters of frogs we didn't get to in time.

Also depressing: Attempting to identify the deceased amphibians via splat. "The crows will be here tomorrow," said Lew. He pointed to a smudge on the side of the road. "Somebody actually drove up onto the shoulder to get that one."

We spent about two hours at the intersection moving frogs before Lew suggested we drive about a half-mile to another hot spot, but our speed never reached beyond a mile an hour. We kept having to stop to clear the road of more frogs. "One thing we're not gonna catch tonight is a speeding ticket," said Lew.

Over the next few weeks there should be many more mass migrations on any rainy night after a warm day. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has guidance at [dec.ny.gov/lands/51925.html](http://dec.ny.gov/lands/51925.html) but in brief: Wear something reflective, have flashlights, and don't do this on the highway. You can scour online maps for wetlands, but note that many of the amphibians will be on their way to temporary vernal pools.

As Nicole explained to me, without those pools, amphibians wouldn't exist. They are among the most threatened habitats since there's little legal protection for them, unlike year-round wetlands. The amphibians keep the local insect population in check as well as provide critical food for larger animals.

"Losing these amphibians to habitat fragmentation has a cascading effect on all trophic levels, up and down," she said. "And they're our canaries in the water-quality coal mine."

Our final tally for the evening was that we saved about 100 peepers, 10 green frogs, three pickerel frogs, three great tree frogs, three American bullfrogs, a wood frog and that brilliant purple salamander. Lew was satisfied.

"I think we won tonight," he said.



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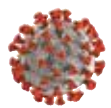


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# Coronavirus

(Continued from Page 1)

the sick and their contacts) must make way for “mitigation.” An early reflection of this shift was a decision to twice move a high school state tournament girls’ basketball game between Haldane and Millbrook before it was finally played in Cold Spring without spectators. See Page 24.

■ On March 12, New York State directed that events with 500 or more individuals be canceled or postponed. Gatherings with fewer than 500 individuals will be required to cut capacity by 50 percent, with exceptions for “spaces where individuals do not make sustained close contact,” such as schools, hospitals, public buildings, mass transit, grocery stores and retail stores. The regulations go into effect today (March 13) at 5 p.m.

■ A number of local venues, including the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison and the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, this week postponed or canceled performances. See Page 12. Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown closed its galleries through March 26, and Antipodean Books on Garrison’s Landing called off its Friday night social gathering indefinitely.

■ Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell postponed her annual State of the County address scheduled for March 12 at Tilly Foster

Farm in Brewster, opting instead to share written materials with the Legislature.

■ On March 9, Odell said in a statement that “with increased testing, we expect we may have some cases” and that the county Health Department “has been preparing diligently.” Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat said the county is monitoring 19 Putnam residents “who either returned from mainland China or came in contact with a person who tested positive for the virus” but that, as of Sunday (March 8), all were asymptomatic.

■ On March 9, Molinaro said in a statement that the Dutchess County Health Department “has been informed a limited number of residents may have had contact with an Ulster County individual who tested positive. All Dutchess residents who may have had contact with the individual have been contacted and are being monitored by the department. This is in addition to several residents who were already under precautionary quarantine relating to travel status. None of the residents being monitored have exhibited any symptoms, and we are grateful for their cooperation.” He added: “We have been preparing for this emerging health situation for weeks.”

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 7 declared a state of emergency, which, among other things, allows health departments to speed up the purchasing of tests and disinfectants, and hire more medical workers. “It will help us get the money we need,” Nesheiwat, the Putnam

health commissioner, said in a statement.

■ Nesheiwat recommended a “call-before-you-go” plan for anyone with symptoms who intends to visit a doctor’s office, urgent care or emergency room.

■ Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown, on March 3 requested that the Legislature discuss adding a full-time epidemiologist to the Health Department staff. (A part-time position was eliminated in 2019 during the budget process.) Legislator Ginny Nacerino, who chairs the Personnel Committee, instead forwarded the request to Odell, noting that under the county charter the county executive is responsible for “staffing determinations.”

■ Montgomery on March 4 asked Toni Addonizio, who chairs the Legislature, to add two discussions to the agenda for its meeting the next day, one on Health Department staffing, and a second on distributing protocols for incident response to town and village leaders. Like Nacerino, Addonizio deferred to Odell, saying the county executive has complete authority over the “staffing and organization of departments” and that the Legislature cannot “establish or abolish positions of employment and titles thereof, outside of the budget process.”

Addonizio also said the county executive controlled the distribution of protocols and noted that Odell had begun a daily briefing “with key partners and department leaders” to “ensure that information is shared in an accurate manner.” Odell also had “offered assurance” that the Health Department “is prepared to issue guidelines” in the event of “any community spread of the virus” within the county.

Addonizio said she would ask Legislator Amy Sayegh, chair of the Health Committee, to invite Nesheiwat to provide legislators an update in two weeks, at the committee’s March 19 meeting.

■ A few schools and colleges closed temporarily, including the Scarsdale district in Westchester through March 18 and the private Keio Academy in Purchase through the end of the school year. The sports teams at the academy, which is sponsored by Keio University for Japanese nationals, often compete against Haldane.

■ A Cold Spring resident who is teaching as part of an exchange program in Japan, where schools closed on Feb. 27 for the remainder of the school year (which ends in April), said he had been asked to continue to report each day to help with paperwork and janitorial duties. He said a few students still show up, mostly younger children whose parents are not able to arrange for child care. No cases have been reported in the area, which is about four hours from Tokyo.

■ Hudson Hills Montessori Academy in Beacon closed today (March 13) after it said a co-worker of a school parent tested positive for COVID-19. It said the school, located on the campus of St. Luke’s Church on Wolcott Avenue, will be “deep cleaned.”

■ A report that a dog in Hong Kong was

## Questions?

The Dutchess County Health Department posts updates at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](https://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and also has an informational hotline at 845-486-3555.

The Putnam County Health Department has posted information at [putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus](https://putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus).

New York State has created a coronavirus hotline at 888-364-3065, or visit [health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus](https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus). The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is posting updates at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov).

placed in quarantine following a “weak positive” test result for COVID-19 raised concern among pet owners. But Dr. Peter Bach, a veterinarian in Cold Spring, said there is little reason for alarm, given there has only been one reported case. “There is coronavirus that affects dogs, causing gastrointestinal upset, and we vaccinate for it,” he said. “It’s a different virus but in the same family. It’s usually a puppy disease.” On its website, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that “there is no reason to think that any animals, including pets in the U.S., might be a source of infection.” But, it added, “if you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food.”

■ In Cold Spring, Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke reported the department has purchased masks and gloves for officers who may have to respond to calls from residents exhibiting symptoms associated with the virus.

■ On March 6, the interim superintendent at the Garrison School, Debra Jackson, said that, as part of an e-learning Preparedness Plan, parents of students in kindergarten through second grade have been given Google accounts already in place for grades 3 to 8 to connect with teachers remotely; all teachers have been trained in using the virtual learning space; a videoconferencing account has been established for staff meetings; and the business office is setting up a virtual network to operate remotely.

■ Cuomo said on March 6 that travel insurance companies and travel agents will offer residents and businesses travel insurance that includes coverage for cancellations due to COVID-19. Six insurers have agreed to offer “cancel-for-any-reason” coverage — Allianz, Nationwide, Starr Indemnity, Berkshire, Crum & Forster and Zurich — which had not been available in New York state. Standard travel policies usually exclude coverage for pandemics. “Cancel-for-any-reason” policies are more expensive than standard insurance and typically only cover 75 percent of expenses.

■ The postmark deadline to apply to vote by absentee ballot for the April 28 presidential primary is April 3. See [putnamboe.com](https://putnamboe.com) or [dutchesselections.com](https://dutchesselections.com).

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# Talking About Tourists

## Concerns in Cold Spring over trolley, congestion

By Michael Turton

It's a sure sign that spring, and with it the tourist season, are just around the corner when the trolley and sidewalk congestion come up at a meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board.

Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the board at its March 10 meeting about preparations for an increase in visitors.

Under the direction of Mayor Dave Merandy, village workers recently removed a bench outside the Hudson Hills Cafe & Market at 129-131 Main St. because it contributed to the congestion caused by customers waiting to be seated in the restaurant. She asked that it be returned.

"It's a real problem," said Deputy Mayor Marie Early in response. "People can't get past it."

Merandy described the location as "a bottleneck," adding, "I have to fight my way through there almost every weekend."

Bob Hayes, who co-owns the cafe with

his wife, Hilary, said he takes phone numbers from customers who are waiting and encourages them to walk around the village until a table opens. "But they don't listen," he said. "They're oblivious."

"It's really unfortunate that we are being singled out," Hayes said.

"You are not being singled out," Merandy responded, raising his voice.

The mayor said numerous merchants along Main Street continue to move merchandise and tables out past their stoops or the 3-foot limit allowed under the village code.

"Then we're the bad guys when we say, 'Can you move those back?'" Merandy said. "There are a lot of people on weekends, and weekends are starting to turn into every day."

He said the area will be monitored to see if eliminating the bench reduces congestion.

### The trolley

Starbuck reported that Putnam County has accepted the chamber's suggested changes to the route of the Cold Spring Trolley, including switching to a single, two-hour looped route.

When she mentioned the War Memorial near the corner of Main and Chestnut streets would be a trolley stop, Early said, "I thought we said 'no' to that."

Starbuck said she would speak with county Transportation Director Vinny Tamagna to see if the stop could be removed. "We're trying to find a stop near

the top of the hill," she said.

When Starbuck said the trolley will also stop in front of Butterfield Library, Early pointed out that the board had also objected to that location.

"You came to us and we said 'no' to those stops," Early said. "Yet you took them to Putnam County and that's what they're planning on."

Early said the width of the trolley creates safety problems along Main Street.

"A whole lot of progress has been made" with the trolley's route and schedule, said Jack Goldstein, a member of the chamber board. "I don't consider it a finished product at this point. We're going to continue to massage this."

### Water quality

Later in the meeting, Hayes expressed concern about the quality of village water.

When tap water has been "not palatable," he said he purchased water to serve to customers. "On top of that, I've spent hundreds of dollars replacing filters for the building, ice maker, soda machines and coffee makers." Individual filters cost up to \$150, he said.

"Do I have any recourse," such as compensation for filters?, he asked.

"I would say no," Merandy replied, adding that if Hayes were compensated everyone in the village would be also entitled "at whatever millions that would cost."

### In other business ...

■ The Cold Spring Police Department answered 51 calls for service in February and made four arrests, including for criminal mischief, criminal possession of a controlled substance and unauthorized use of a vehicle. Officers also issued 61 summonses for moving violations, including 21 for speeding, and 32 parking tickets.

■ Trustees approved rehiring Nico Dellavalle as parking enforcement agent for the upcoming summer at a pay rate of \$15 an hour. It will be his third summer on the job.

■ Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco said he expects to receive an application soon to change the use of the second floor of Building 1 at the Butterfield redevelopment from office/commercial to six senior housing rental units.

The Planning Board is also considering an application for a change of use at 20 The Boulevard, the former Campbell estate, from residential to residential/tourist home, with up to five rooms available for rent. Five rental rooms would require the facility to meet state laws governing hotels, he said.

Finally, the Planning Board is reviewing an updated site plan to address complaints about refuse and debris behind Foodtown Plaza.



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**GARRISON** — Rural 2-bedroom house, small and delightful. \$2,100/mo.; utilities separate. Available April. Call 914-382-9462.

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**MINI-FRIDGE** — *The Current* moved to its new offices and has a Danby 3.2 Cu. Ft. Compact Refrigerator — Black, \$100. Also, Philips VIC WK1016A5B large-screen TV stand with assorted screws, \$15. Email [tech@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:tech@highlandscurrent.org) with interest.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**VENDORS NEEDED** — The Putnam County Wine & Food Fest is seeking vendors, volunteers and sponsors for its 10th-anniversary event, which will be held Aug. 8 and 9 at Mayor's Park in Cold Spring. 15% early bird for vendors until March 20. For more information, call 845-842-0575 or visit [putnamcountywinefest.com](http://putnamcountywinefest.com).

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## PHILIPSTOWN OBITUARIES

### Pierina Federico (1922-2020)

Pierina Federico, 97, a longtime resident of Cold Spring, died March 1 at Putnam Hospital Center.

Pierina was born Aug. 23, 1922, in Petorano Sul Gizio, Italy, the youngest of six children of Domenico and Donata Ventresca.

Pierina married Erminio Federico on April 25, 1940, and they immigrated to the U.S. in 1957. The couple settled in Cold Spring, where Pierina worked as a seamstress. She was a devoted matriarch and loved family gatherings. She would spend hours cooking and preparing for visitors. Her family said she also was known for her faith, hospitality and feisty sense of humor.

She is survived by her children, Luisa, Gina and Panfilo (Ben), seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 4 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac, with interment at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Putnam Valley.



Spring, died on Feb. 26 in Miami.

He was born at Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring on May 13, 1950, the son of James and Susan Rapalje. He attended Our Lady of Loretto Elementary School and Haldane High School before earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from Duquesne University.

During the 1970s, he served as a police officer in the U.S. Army. He moved to South Florida 40 years ago, and for 30 years was employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Peter is survived by his wife, Tanya, and his brothers: John Rapalje of Garrison, Michael Rapalje of Cold Spring and Charles Rapalje of Cold Spring.

A memorial Mass is being planned for Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association ([heart.org](http://heart.org)).

### Gary Ritchie Sr. (1931-2020)

Gary M. Ritchie Sr., 88, of Southington, Connecticut, and formerly of Cold Spring, died Feb. 18 at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born Dec. 21, 1931, in North Russell, New York, the son of George and Ina (Parker) Ritchie. Until his retirement, he was a corrections officer for the State of New York. He also was proprietor of Ritchie's Valet Service and served as the assessor for the Town of Philipstown for 31 years.

Gary was a commissioner for the North Highlands Fire District in Philipstown and active in the Cold Spring Lions Club, where he was awarded an outstanding service award. He enjoyed golf, bowling and bingo, but mostly, his family said, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and family. He was known for his sparkling blue eyes, charismatic smile, quick wit and contagious laugh.

He is survived by the mother of his children and friend, Lydia Ritchie; and his children, Deidre Benitez (Abe) of Southington; Gary M. Ritchie Jr. (Kerri) of Highland Mills; and Alyce Orr (Bill) of Danbury, Connecticut. He also is survived by his grandchildren: Keith, Pepper, Alyssa, Kaela, Taylor, Kara, William, Andrea, Abigail and Harper; and his great-grandchildren: Madeline and Adeline. In addition, he is survived by a sister, Dixie Gilby (Joe) of Las Vegas.

A funeral service will be held March 14 at DellaVecchia Funeral Home in Southington, followed by private burial. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org](http://stjude.org)), the Shriners Hospital for Children ([shrinershospitals-forchildren.org](http://shrinershospitals-forchildren.org)) or Care for Our Wounded Soldiers ([caregivingfoundation.org](http://caregivingfoundation.org)).

*Information provided by local funeral homes. For more obituaries, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).*



### Rhoda Needelman (1931-2020)

Rhoda Needelman, 89, of Cold Spring and formerly of Yonkers, died March 8 at a nursing facility in Mohegan Lake.

Born Feb. 24, 1931, in New York City, she was the daughter of Louis and Minnie (Garfinkel) Cohen. She married Marvin Needelman, who died in October at age 93.

She was a founding member of the Philipstown Reform Synagogue and also known to many in the community for running the concessions with her husband at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison and for the Philipstown Little League. Rhoda also was the controller and bookkeeper for Cresthill Industries.

Rhoda is survived by her children, Gayle Needelman and Mindy Jesek (John), both of Cold Spring; her grandchildren Katharina Jesek, J.M. Jesek, Lauren Lulgjuraj (Johnny), Nicole Needelman and Kaitlin Needelman; and her great-grandchildren, A.J. Lulgjuraj, Serena Lulgjuraj and Mason Jesek. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law, Michele Needelman of Suffern, and her siblings, Gerald Cohen (Katrine) and Sandra Greenberg (Jerome).

A graveside service was offered on March 10 at Sharon Gardens in Valhalla. Memorial donations may be made to the Philipstown Reform Synagogue, P.O. Box 94, Cold Spring, NY 10516.



### Peter Rapalje (1950-2020)

Peter Steven Rapalje, 69, formerly of Cold

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## SPORTS

# The Next Level: Beacon Basketball

**Aaron Davis**, a 2019 Beacon High School graduate, is a freshman at Buffalo State College (6-16), where he averages 8.9 points and 5.2 assists.

**Malachi de Sousa** played in 29 games for the University at Albany (14-18) and averaged 4.4 rebounds and 6.1 points.

After transferring from Northwest Florida State College, **LeAndra Echi** is a junior guard for Indiana State University (5-25). In 10 games she averaged 8.1 points and 7.6 rebounds, including highs of 14 points against Murray State and 12 rebounds against Eastern Illinois, before suffering a season-ending injury on Dec. 16.

**Raiven Encarnacion**, a 2017 Beacon grad, is a junior at Oswego State (6-18), where in 19 games she averaged 10.9 points and 3 rebounds.

**Sam Engel**, a 2019 Beacon grad, is a freshman at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she played in 12 games.

**Shaheim Fryar**, a 2016 Beacon grad, is a sophomore at Monroe College in New Rochelle (24-9) after playing last season

for Dutchess Community College.

**Elijah Hughes**, who plays for Syracuse, was named first team all-conference by the ACC. The junior averages 18.8 points per game for the Orangemen (17-14).

**Xavier Mayo**, a freshman at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (9-21), played in 28 games, averaging 1.7 points and 1.8 rebounds.

**Zamere McKenzie**, a freshman at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, appeared in four games for the Greyhounds (14-12).

**Lauren Schetter**, a 2017 Beacon grad who plays for Pace University, was named second team all-conference by the Northeast-10. The junior averaged 14.7 points per game for the Setters (19-10) and led the team in steals and blocks. She also joined the list of 15 players who have scored 1,000 career points and grabbed 500 rebounds for the school.

**Tyrese Williams**, a sophomore at Quinnipiac University (15-15), averaged 10 points a game, including a season-high 26 points against Canisius College.



Elijah Hughes (33)

Syracuse Athletics



LeAndra Echi Indiana State Athletics



Tyrese Williams

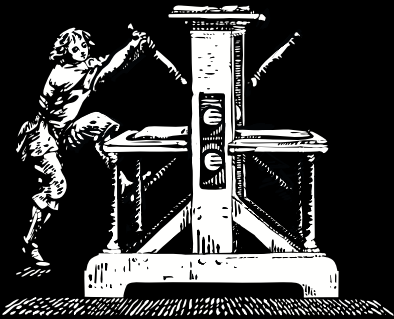
Quinnipiac Athletics



Lauren Schetter

Pace Athletics

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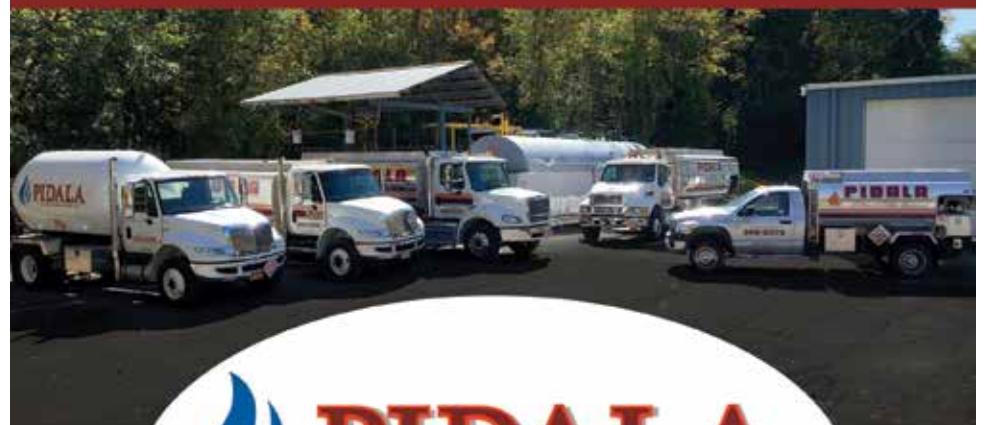
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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
52/31	48/23	45/33	50/29	59/38	62/47	61/54
POP: 0%	POP: 5%	POP: 10%	POP: 75%	POP: 0%	POP: 5%	POP: 30%
WNW 10-20 mph	NNE 6-12 mph	SSE 6-12 mph	SW 4-8 mph	NNE 3-6 mph	NW 6-12 mph	ESE 7-14 mph
RealFeel 49/29	RealFeel 48/24	RealFeel 39/31	RealFeel 48/30	RealFeel 66/41	RealFeel 61/46	RealFeel 60/48

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.

Snowfall

Past week	0.0"
Month to date	0.0"
Normal month to date	2.0"
Season to date	14.4"
Normal season to date	29.3"
Last season to date	28.4"
Record for 3/13	5.0" (1984)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 3/14	7:09 AM
Sunset Sat. night, 3/14	7:02 PM
Moonrise Sat., 3/14	12:05 AM
Moonset Sat., 3/14	10:21 AM

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 16	Mar 24	Apr 1	Apr 7

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Symbol of intrigue

4. Jet forth

8. Faucet problem

12. Shade

13. Part of the foot

14. Solemn promise

15. Geological period

16. Silver salmon

17. Wrinkly fruit

18. Informal game

21. "Absolutely"

22. Deposit

23. Brilliance

26. Cotillion honoree

27. Blond shade

30. Proper subject?

31. Stop running

32. Toll road

33. Pooch

34. Cover

35. Bizarre

36. "A mouse!"

37. Donkey

38. Uncanny ability to make money

45. Memory unit

46. Tittle

47. Aye canceler

48. Practice pugilism

49. Heal, as a fracture

50. Little demon

51. Bouquet

52. Withered

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32

33 34 35

36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

53. Ball prop

**DOWN**

1. Sharpen

2. Continental coin

3. Bridges or Brummell

4. Potpourri bag

5. College lecturers, often

6. Reverberate

7. "Yahoo!"

8. Uncertainty

9. Sitarist's music

10. "— have to do"

11. Collins or Donahue

19. Greenish-blue

20. Bathroom fixture

23. Conclusion

24. Bill's partner

25. Drag along

26. Accomplished

27. Football fill

28. Go downhill rapidly?

29. Haw preceder

31. Long-snouted antelopes

32. Mexican moola

34. Mainlander's memento

35. Will subject

36. Nail smoother

37. Moving about

38. Recipe meas.

39. Syringe, for short

40. Greek vowels

41. Top-notch

42. Troop group

43. Arrived

44. Advertise

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Answers for March 6 Puzzles

I	T	S		B	O	B		D	A	M	U	P
N	E	W		A	V	E		U	N	I	T	E
L	E	A		J	E	T	S	E	T	T	E	R
A	T	M		A	R	T	E	L				
W	H	I	Z		D	Y	E		B	R	A	G
			O	H	O			D	I	L	U	T
N	O	O	N	E				R	I	G	E	L
A	D	V	E	R	B			W	E	T		
P	E	A	S		R	A	H		Z	A	N	Y
				S	A	V	E	S		P	O	E
S	H	A	R	K	T	A	N	K		S	I	N
K	O	R	E	A		I	C	E		E	S	T
I	D	E	S	T		L	E	W		S	E	A

2	7	9	3	1	4	8	5	6
1	4	5	6	2	8	7	3	9
8	6	3	9	5	7	4	2	1
5	1	4	7	3	2	9	6	8
3	8	6	4	9	5	1	7	2
9	2	7	1	8	6	3	4	5
4	5	1	2	7	9	6	8	3
7	9	2	8	6	3	5	1	4
6	3	8	5	4	1	2	9	7

1. BOOHOOING, 2. SLIDESHOW, 3. CAFETERIA, 4. SCOFFS, 5. CONVERT, 6. CRADLES, 7. CUSHION

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

1 see in a mental picture (8)

2 "connecting flight" (8)

3 bright purplish-red color (7)

4 telling no lies (8)

5 5K or silent auction (10)

6 draw a conclusion (9)

7 habitable (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ENVI	DRA	FUCH	STA	TR
AY	DETE	LE	IS	LIV
ER	INE	FUL	SIA	IRW
UTH	EAB	SION	RM	FUN

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SUDO CURRENT

					7			
		7	2		9	8		
			5					6
6					1		7	
1		8	9					5
		3	7					1
						4		
	9			2		5		7
					3	2	8	

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## SPORTS



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Senior Liv Monteleone, driving against Millbrook, scored 19 points; her twin sister, Bela, had 15.



No spectators were allowed into the gym to watch the game on March 11, although a few oversized photos of senior athletes were placed in the home section. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photos by S. Pearlman

# Strange Days

*Haldane falls in regional game in gym emptied of fans*

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School girls' basketball team had a home game on Wednesday (March 11), but it came about in a circuitous way.

The Blue Devils, who on March 7 won their seventh consecutive Section 1, Class C title by defeating Tuckahoe, were scheduled to play Section 9 champ Millbrook on Tuesday at a neutral site, Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua. But the high school backed out as host because of concerns about the coronavirus, so the game was moved to Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh.

College officials then backed out of hosting, too, citing concerns about the virus, so state high school athletic officials moved the game a third time, to Haldane. However, they stipulated that no spectators would be allowed to attend.

Millbrook prevailed, 60-46, to advance in the tournament before empty bleachers, although the game was broadcast online, and a small group of fans gathered in a room at the high school to watch it together.

"Section 1 and Section 9 jointly decided to have the game played without spectators," Haldane's athletic director, Chris Salumn, said before the game. "Obviously a lot went

into that decision. The girls are playing, they're getting to compete, and have a chance to advance. It's unfortunate that we're in this situation, but we wanted to make sure the girls had an opportunity to play."

Haldane (12-11) started slow against Millbrook and fell behind by 18 points midway through the second quarter. The Blue Devils regrouped at halftime and closed the deficit to five points with 3:43 remaining in the game after Liv Monteleone drained a three-

pointer, and then scored off a turnover.

But within a minute, the Blazers (20-3), led by Marist-bound Erin Fox, pushed the lead back to nine.

"After halftime we played more of a man-to-man defensive press," said Coach Jessica Perrone. "We knew it would come down to turnovers, and pressing their guards."

Liv Monteleone finished with 19 points and eight rebounds, and Bela Monteleone added 15 points and six boards.

Perrone said not having spectators was unusual but "once the game started, you don't even realize. You're involved in the game, and the girls brought a lot of energy. We're grateful we got to play."

Against Tuckahoe on March 7, the only surprise for Haldane was that the Blue

Devils were seeded No. 2 behind No. 1 Tuckahoe, which the New York State Sportswriters Association on March 10 ranked among the top 25 Class C teams in the state. The Blue Devils dismantled the Tigers, 49-22, to claim their seventh consecutive sectional title.

Bela Monteleone scored 16 points and was named tournament MVP. Liv Monteleone added 11 points, Shianne Twoguns had nine, Maddie Chiera had nine and Abigail Platt grabbed seven rebounds. Liv Monteleone and Twoguns also were named to the All-Tournament team.

"I wanted to win a gold ball, my senior year especially," said Bela Monteleone. "I was nervous and didn't play well until the second half. But as soon as you start hitting shots, my confidence came back, and I knew we had it."

The Blue Devils had a rough start to the season. Their longtime coach, Tyrone Searight, was dismissed in December after pleading guilty in a case involving workers' compensation fraud, and two senior starters quit early in the season.

"We've been working all year for this," Twoguns said of the sectional title. "We had a rough patch near the beginning, but that brought us together."

"I'm just so proud of the girls," said Perrone, who was promoted from coaching the junior varsity team after Searight's departure. "The way they handled the season, progressing every day and becoming a different team. They had great chemistry and that made the job easier."



Parents and fans were invited to watch a livestream of the game at the high school.