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 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.

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 interested,” Avocato said.

Dutchess Has First Case

By Chip Rowe

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)
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.

---

**Celebrate St. Patrick with Us!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3:00 - 5:00PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Song!” Art Exhibit and Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Featuring artists’ interpretation of the word “Song.”</td>
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**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

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<th>7:00PM</th>
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<tr>
<td>A Celebration of Irish Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Brian Conway &amp; Brendan Dolan</td>
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<td>Hosted by Neil Hickey</td>
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**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>“From Shakespeare to Thurber ... and Beyond”</td>
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<td>- Actors Reading Stories</td>
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**SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

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<tr>
<td>All About Raptors - Free!</td>
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<td>Roaring Brook Garden Club with Maggie Pichura</td>
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**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

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<td>Lui Collins and Anand Nayak</td>
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729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579 | 845 528-7280 |
Visit: www.tompkinscorners.org
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 arrested in January with 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 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 statute 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.

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.

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:

- Conducting an energy audit of Beacon’s greenhouse gas emissions (16)
- Joining the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA program (38)
- Creating an inventory of municipal greenhouse gas emissions (16)
- Conducting an energy audit of Beacon’s municipal buildings (36), 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 Paquale.

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,” Glasser observed, “and I hope we can get the policy drafted by the Putnam County Sheriffs’ Department to the full Legislature. Let’s get the funding. 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 notice, it doesn’t mean we should lower our standards” and fall “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 for 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 will 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.”

Thinking about divorce?

Let’s talk. Spare your children the trauma of seeing their parents “battle it out” in court. Work with us to reduce the confusion, conflict, and cost of your separation or divorce.

MAGNUSS Divorce Mediation
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Home dispute
In approximately 30 encounters — either in person, by email or by phone — with the Philipsburg 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 time-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 giant plastic bags are a sad 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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Police radios
Putnam County has entered into a $10 million agreement with Motorola to upgrade its emergency radio system. Will we have a system and if so, will it be up and running in time? 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 Row

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.

“With $7.2 million in grants for its local population,” Andrew Cuomo said in a statement. “For the first time, the census will be conducted primarily online, and while efforts to drive participation to state and local governments also received $1.2 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 responsibility for on-the-ground work necessary to drive participation to state and local partners.”

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Borda noted that the bureau cannot 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.

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Village of Cold Spring has an immediate opening for a Full Time Laborer with a background in cleaning and maintenance.

HELP WANTED
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

NOTICE
Haldane Transportation Requests Due by April 1st
Haldane Central School District is accepting applications for Private/Parochial School Transportation for the 2020/2021 school year. Completed applications should be mailed to:

Haldane Central School District
15 Craigside Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516

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

WHERE WE’RE AT

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<th>BEACON</th>
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Source: Census.gov. Figures are 2018 estimates based on 2010 count.

2010 Response Rates

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<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Thank You to Our Members!

As a nonprofit that provides quality journalism free to our community, The Highlands Current depends on its readers for support. We are grateful to the following readers who have joined The Current as members and to the following foundations who have together demonstrated their appreciation for the important role journalism plays in our democratic society.

Our membership program introduced at the end of last year is now the primary means of support for our newspaper and website. To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, visit highlandscurrent.org/join, or write to The Current at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. In addition to supporting quality journalism, members will receive benefits that include a sturdy tote bag, a weekly behind-the-scenes email newsletter, and quarterly updates. To join, visit highlandscurrent.org/join.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Joanna Batstone
M. Cervone
Abbie Carey
Joe and Anne Carbone
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Martha Callaway
Joe and Anne Carbone
Abbie Carey
M. Cervone
Caitlin and Walter Chadwick
Alexander Wilcox Cheek
Andy Chmar
Chuck and Michelle Clifton
Susan Coleman
Pamela Cook and Erik Brown
Kay and Frank Corkum
James and Patricia Cronin
Caroline Danford
Luke Davoren
Micah J. Davoren
Thomas Davoren
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Elizabeth Hires
Connie Hogarth
The Holmbo Family
Jan Hopkins
Kelly House
Nancy Hull
Mary Ietaka
Lillian Jagendorf and Dan Shannon
Peggy and Todd Janus
Victoria and Robert Jauernig
Flora Jones
Ann and Robert Kacur
Anne Kane
Delmar and Irene Karlen
Michael C. Keenan
Ethan Kerr and Stephanie Diamond
John Kinnard
John Kyle Kiphar
Susan Kornacki and Charles Gordianer
Noel Kroepf
Jessica Ladlie
Lange/Balog Family
Diane and Peter Lapis
Larry Lebow
Barbara and Guy Lester
Cynthia Ligenza,MD
Catherine Lin
Viv Linarens
Grace Lo
Donald MacDonald
Paul and Roberta MacLean
Kelly Maloney and Richard Schunk
James Marr
Karen Maschke
Linda and John Matthews
Karen Mayer
Davis McCallum
David McCarthy and Danielle Pack McCarthy
Jen McCreery
Michael Mell and Kate Dayton
Friedrike Merck
Jeff Mikkelson
Patrick Miskell
The Moody Family
Darryl Morrison
Deirdre Mullane
Joanne Murphy
Frederick Nagel and Colin Wright
Anthony Napoli and Judith Tantleff-Napoli
Tim Nolan and Dana Popeles
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The Pattersons
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Michael Reisman
Andy Revkin and Lisa Meachely
Kathy and Peter Richter
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Miriam and Eric Wagner
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Stephen Wallis
Judith and Jeremy Walsh
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Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads
Dave and Diane Winn
Adam Yarinisky and Amy Weisser
Ben Yarmolinsky

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**$120 - $599**

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John Aerni
Steven Atenescu
Jane and Fred Andrews
Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello
Alison Anthoine
Johanna and Joy Asher
Jan and Suzanne Baker
Jodi Balka
Susan Bargman and Lee Warshavsky
Yona Benyamina - Feinstein
Dan and Rebecca Blumberg
Alison and Steve Bodurtha
Ann Borthwick and Richard Cogliandro
Lynn Brown
Bernard Bunyan
Bill Burback and Peter Hofmann
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Steven Anderson
Zoe Antich
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Celia Baczkowski
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Gary Barrack
Joanna Batstone
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Martha Callaway
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Abbie Carey
M. Cervone
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(Continued on Page 7)
Become a member today!

Help The Current engage and inform The Highlands

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.

To thank you for your support, we are offering members these benefits:

**Member Benefits**

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- **CurrentPlus**: A weekly newsletter featuring insights, calendar highlights and other exclusives
- **Priority Invitation and Reception**: Before annual community forums
- **Priority Early Digital Delivery**: Of Friday's print paper
- **Annual Patrons' Lunch**: With The Current editor and members of the Board of Directors

BONUS: Make a recurring contribution of $10 or more a month and receive free mail delivery of the paper for the year in addition to Partner benefits.

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- Send a check to The Highlands Current at our new address: 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
interested,” Avocato 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,” Avocato 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 (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, Avocato 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.
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 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 $96.6 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 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. County Executive Marc Molinaro.

"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.”

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 to $7.35 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 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.

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ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER

TUESDAY MAR 17
6:00 - 8:00 PM

$20 suggested donation
Corned Beef & Cabbage, Dessert and Beverages

St. Mary’s in the Highlands Parish Hall, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY
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.

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

379 Main Street, Beacon
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
7:00 pm Toland Brothers - No music cover
8:30 pm Latin Jazz Express Dance Party
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
8:30 pm Tom Chapin Birthday Celebration
SUNDAY, MARCH 15
11:30 am Mary Zeita - 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
Free Magic Show preview 6 p.m. on the Salon Stage
FRIDAY, MARCH 20
7:00 pm Last Minute Soulmates - No music cover
8:00 pm Willie Nile Band
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
6:00 pm Judith Toloch Band - No music cover
6:30 pm Stephane Wrembel
SUNDAY, MARCH 22
7:00 pm Total Mass Retain: YES Tribute
FRIDAY, MARCH 27
8:30 pm Dar Williams
A Benefit for Riverkeeper
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
8:30 pm Kenny White

TOWNE CRIER CAFE

2019 AWARDS
We are excited to recognize our top sales agents for 2019

Charlotte Brooks
Associate Real Estate Broker

Claudia Dizenzo
Associate Real Estate Broker

Robert Nobile
Real Estate Salesperson

March 6 to March 29, 2020

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The Calendar

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)

Lies We Tell Ourselves

*Company to present performance, parlor game*

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 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.

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. To report a cancellation or postponement, email 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.

SAT 14
Maple Sugar Tours
CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 120 Maier Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
The private school’s annual event is an opportunity to learn about the sugar-making process. Enjoy a traditional corned beef dinner catered by the Riverview Restaurant.

SAT 14
Maple Fest
WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Randolph School 2467 Route 90 | 845-297-5600
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 and teens; members $8/$6)

SAT 15
Parisian Gala
FISHKILL
4 p.m. Dutchess Manor | 263 Route 9D
454-203-1316 | bannermancastle.org
Proceeds from this fundraiser 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
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
COLD SPRING
6 – 8 p.m. St. Mary-in-the-Highlands 1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-2539
smaryinscoldspring.org
Enjoy a traditional corned beef dinner catered by the Riverview Restaurant. Cost: $30 donation

SAT 17
Youth Mental Health First Aid
GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park | 85 Sheafe Road
845-298-4602 | dutchessny.gov/parks
If you work, volunteer or interact with local youth, learn how to help them with mental health or addiction problems, or other crises. Cost: $80

TUES 17
Bird Walk
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park | 85 Sheafe Road
845-298-4602 | dutchessny.gov/parks
Join Putnam County Parks for a bird walk and learn about the birds that form an inescapable part of our lives. See Page 11. Cost: $30 ($25 door)

THURS 19
Liar
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
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: $30 ($25 door)

SAT 21
Song Art Exhibit
PUTNAM VALLEY
8 a.m. Foundry Preserve | 80 Kemble Ave.
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 are available for loan. Online registration required.

VISUAL ART

SAT 14
Ellen Devlin and Alison Stone
GARRISON
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
The poets will read from their work as part of the Hudson Highlands Poetry Series.

TALKS & TOURS

THURS 19
Cougar Recovery
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club 2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
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
Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a search for early migrants such as the Eastern Phoebe and Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. Binoculars are available for loan. Online registration required.
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. Magazine Italian Art 845-666-7202 | magazzino.com

Victoria Scuriaga, 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**

**Music**

**NEW WINDSOR**

2 p.m. MNJ Convention Center 14 Civic Center Plaza | 845-454-5800 midhudsonmusiccenter.org

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

**FRI 20**

**Celtica**

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

The guitar trio will perform music from its new album, Somnolent. Cost: $10 donation

**SECOND SATURDAY**

**SAT 14**

**We Persist!**

**BEACON**

6 p.m. Howland Public Library 331 Main St. | 845-631-1134 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**

**Kaiju Kanibal & Mr Kum Kun**

**BEACON**

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

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

**SAT 14**

**School Board**

**COLD SPRING**

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

Robinson creates abstract environments using collage and mixed materials.

**SAT 14**

**The View From Here**

**BEACON**

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

电者 Rogers’ paintings of the Hudson Valley will be on view through April 5.

**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

RSVP to mshields@nelsonvilleny.org

**TUES 17**

**Budget Forum**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. Haldane School Library 15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254 haldane.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 Workshop**

**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 grier.org

**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, Tschaikovsky and Missy Mazzoli. Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the performance was moved from Mount Saint Mary College. Cost: $25 to $50 (students free)

**FRI 20**

**Celtica**

8 p.m. Codet Chapel | westpointband.edu

The West Point Concert Band’s woodwind section will perform Charles Gounod’s Petite symphonie, Jean Francais’ Musique pour faire plaisir and Richard Strauss’ Serenade in E-flat. Free

**SAT 21**

**Serenade for Winds**

**WEST POINT**

2 p.m. Codet Chapel | westpointband.edu

The West Point Concert Band’s woodwind section will perform
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 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.”

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
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 Pine-wood 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 Hall after the official Pine-wood 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 burnedished 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.

—

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Just 30 minutes from Cold Spring!
Breakneck Burns (from Page 1)

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.

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 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 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.

Garrison Union Free School District presents a series of Budget Workshops

- Learn about the 2020-2021 Budget
- Ask questions
- Share Ideas

WORKSHOP DATES:

Wednesday, February 12 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 12 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 18 6:00 p.m.

at the Garrison School Library
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 carried off the road. The flip side 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 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 out any way we can to protect them.”

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.
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 Garri-son’s Landing called off its Friday night

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 moni-tored by the department. This is in addi-tion 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.”

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 Mont-gomery, whose district includes Philip-stown, on March 3 requested that the Legislature discuss adding a full-time epidemiologist to the Health Department staff. (A part-time position was elimi-nated 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 Depart-ment staffing, and a second on distributing protocols for incident response to town and village leaders. Like Nacerino, Addonizio deferred to Odell, saying the county execu-tive 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 Depart-ment “is prepared to issue guidelines” in the event of “any community spread of the virus” within the county.

Addonizio said she would ask Legislators Amy Sayegh, chair of the Health Commit-te, to invite Nesheiwat to provide legis-lators an update in two weeks, at the committee’s March 19 meeting.

A few schools and colleges closed tempo-rarily, 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.

A report that a dog in Hong Kong was placed in quarantine following a “weak posi-tive” 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 differ-ent 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 videoconferenc-ing 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 insur-ance 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, Berk-shire, 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 for absentee ballot for the April 28 presiden-tial primary is April 3. See putnamboe.com or dutchesselections.com.

Questions?
The Dutchess County Health Department posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and also has an informational hotline at 845-486-3555.
The Putnam County Health Department has posted information at putnamcounty.com/health/coronavirus.

New York State has created a coronavirus hotline at 888-364-3065, or visit health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is posting updates at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.
Talking About Tourists

Concerns in Cold Spring over trolley, congestion

By Michael Turton

I t’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.

“People can’t get past it,” she said.

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.

“Are you 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.

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 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 $15, he said.

“I don’t know,” 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 Della-valle 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.
HELP WANTED

VEGETABLE APPRENTICE — The Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming is seeking a summer Vegetable Apprentice to work from May 18 to Aug. 7. Primary duties of the position are seeding and transplanting, greenhouse management, cover cropping, irrigation, season extension, pest and disease control and weed management. This position works outdoors in all weather conditions. Qualified candidates should email a cover letter and resume to jobs@glynwood.org. Please indicate Summer Vegetable Apprentice in subject line.

FOR RENT


COLD SPRING — Furnished village home, short walk to Metro-North, convenient to local shops, supermarket, drugstore, restaurants. Near hospital extension. No car needed. Close to hiking trails, parks nature preserves and riverfront. Laundry, all utilities and Wi-Fi. Full basement. Direct to owner; no brokers. Email ben.f@thirdfloorllc.com.

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

CONCRETE BLOCKS — Brand-new and well-seasoned 12” x 16” concrete blocks, $1 each. Call 845-424-4244 (answers as Life & Funding Group of Garrison). Leave name, number and best time to return call.

MINI-FRIDGE — The Current moved to its new offices and has a Danby 3.2 Cu. Ft. Compact Refrigerator — Black, $100. Also, Philips VIC NW1016A5B large-screen TV stand with assorted screws, $15. Email 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 putnamcountyywinefest.com.

SERVICES

HOUSEKEEPING AND SUPPORT — Housekeeping, cleaning, laundry, ironing, house-sitting, running errands, accompanying patients to hospital appointments and procedures, elderly care and support, also experienced executive assistant and business manager. Able to provide support either for an hour or more at your convenience in Philipstown, Fishkill, Garrison, Beacon and Wappingers. Email sandiafonso70@gmail.com or text/leave message on 845-245-5976.

CARETAKER/PROPERTY MANAGER — Caretaker with 20+ years’ experience available to: Manage operations of property; maintenance, repairs, painting; gardening, landscaping; convenience services (errands); pet care, Local, trustworthy; flexible to a variety of needs; insured. Resume and references available. Contact Greg at 914-618-2779 or gproth24@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

CONCRETE BLOCKS — Brand-new and well-seasoned 12” x 16” concrete blocks, $1 each. Call 845-424-4244 (answers as Life & Funding Group of Garrison). Leave name, number and best time to return call.

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.
Service Directory

The Highlands Current 7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Wind</th>
<th>RealFeel</th>
<th>POP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>52/31</td>
<td>Partly sunny, breezy and cooler</td>
<td>NNE 10-20 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 49/29</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>48/23</td>
<td>Partly sunny</td>
<td>SSE 6-12 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 48/24</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>45/33</td>
<td>Clouds and breaks of sun</td>
<td>SW 4-8 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 39/31</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>50/29</td>
<td>Rain</td>
<td>NNE 3-6 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 48/30</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>59/38</td>
<td>Sunny to partly cloudy</td>
<td>SSE 4-8 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 66/41</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>62/47</td>
<td>Cloudy</td>
<td>NW 6-12 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 61/46</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>61/54</td>
<td>Partly sunny with a couple of showers possible</td>
<td>ESE 7-14 mph</td>
<td>RealFeel 60/48</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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

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Puzzles

CrossCurrent

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
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
12. Greenish-blue
13. Bathroom fixture
14. Bill’s partner
15. Drag along
16. Accomplished
17. Football fill
18. Go downhill rapidly?
19. Haw preceder
20. Long-snouted antelopes
21. “Absolutely”
22. Deposit
23. “Absolutely”

SudoCurrent

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Answers for March 6 Puzzles

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

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

“But when you bring this group of seniors back together, they’re as close as we possibly can be,” said Perrone. “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.”