UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE — Jennifer Sandlund (left) updates the sign at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison, which canceled services, as well as two recitals scheduled for March 21 to dedicate its new organ. At right, Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown, put out a call online for six volunteers to help restock at Foodtown in Cold Spring after a truck of groceries arrived.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Coronavirus Update

Disruption

Do We Have Enough Hospital Beds?
Region has fewer than 75 for intensive care

By Leonard Sparks

A 1,000-bed U.S. Navy hospital ship plans to deploy to New York City harbor in April as Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other state officials warned of a potential shortage of intensive-care beds and ventilators to treat coronavirus patients.

Of New York’s 50,000 hospital beds, 3,000 are designed for intensive care and 80 percent of those are occupied, including with 65 COVID-19 patients, Cuomo said on Monday (March 16). The state also has between 5,000 and 6,000 ventilators that would be needed by patients with the most serious cases, he said.

Closer to home, the five hospitals in Dutchess and Putnam counties, along with Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall in Putnam County, have a total of 2,237 staffed beds, according to the Dutchess-Putnam Health Council. The number of beds varies during the year, but the local hospitals are not at capacity, said Dr. Thomas Kehoe, the council’s medical director.

Putnam Has Its First Cases of Virus
Governor closes schools, restricts gatherings

By Chip Rowe

On Sunday (March 15), Putnam County reported its first two cases of coronavirus, or COVID-19. The county Health Department said the individuals have been quarantined at home and will be monitored. “Contact tracing is underway and those that are found to have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case will be notified and precautionary or mandatory quarantine will be established for each person,” the department said.

On Thursday (March 19) the number of cases in Putnam had increased to five.

Running on Empty

With a few exceptions, I have covered every Beacon City Council meeting since the fall of 2015. Most have been newsworthy; a few have been entertaining. But none have been like this week’s.

While civics in much of the Highlands grounded to a halt after last week’s mass cancellation of public events and social distancing guidelines were imposed by the governor, the City of Beacon remained open for business.

It was announced on Friday (March 13) that Monday’s council meeting would be held not at City Hall but across Route 9D in the basement of the Lewis Tompkins fire station, which has capacity for up to 200 people.

I ran into Mayor Lee Kyriacou on Main Street on Saturday (no handshakes; we bumped elbows) and he said he felt it important for the city government to stay open. Closing up shop would be giving in to the hysteria, he said, but, at the same time, city officials would use common sense.

There was little of consequence on the Monday agenda, but I wanted to see how this would work. As the 7 p.m. hour approached, however, I admit I’d begun to feel apprehensive.

As I walked the half-mile from my house (Continued on Page 6)
FIVE QUESTIONS: MARIANNE SULLIVAN

Marianne Sullivan, of Garrison, is a professor of public health at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey.

Putnam County has five cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus, and Dutchess has 31. Why should we be concerned?

Those are the reported cases. We are so far behind on testing that we don’t yet understand the magnitude. In Seattle, which has more confirmed cases, researchers urged the health department to act early because a genome analysis showed that the virus had already spread to the community undetected, possibly since January. In the absence of knowing who has the disease and its prevalence, we have to go to social distancing.

A big deal here is that it appears the virus may be passed even when a person doesn’t have symptoms, or when he or she has mild symptoms. It’s not like with other viruses, where if you stay home when you have symptoms, other people might be OK. If the healthcare system becomes overwhelmed [with serious cases], it will be challenging for providers to save as many lives as they could. That is what physicians are very concerned about in Italy.

This pandemic is not something that most Americans could have imagined. As we were sliding toward this weeks ago, my students were even asking, “Do you really think they’ll shut the university down?” Every time we met things got a little more serious.

Coronavirus has been compared to the flu. How is it different?

A report in The Journal of the American Medical Association predicts the fatality rate could be 1 percent. As many as 50,000 people die in the U.S. each year from seasonal flu, but its fatality rate is around 0.1 percent. If 100 million people in the U.S. were to get COVID-19, and the fatality rate is 1 percent, that’s a million deaths. Unlike the seasonal flu, we have no known immunity, and no vaccine.

But there is hope. South Korea has shown you can slow the spread of the virus if you do widespread testing, isolate infected people and their contacts and do some social distancing, and it’s done that without infringing much on people’s liberties to the extent that China has done. I hope the U.S. can get up to speed and limit the surge. We can get a handle on it, but we have to work hard.

Is there a feeling among public health professionals that this was inevitable?

Yes, absolutely. The conversation about pandemic preparedness really got going after 9/11 and the anthrax attacks, which got people thinking about large-scale public-health disasters. Big-city health departments made plans, but, even so, it’s shocking to see it happen. One problem is that local and state public health departments have been underfunded for so long. When I worked in public health in California and Seattle there was never a time that our budgets were safe from cuts. The public health system is also a patchwork. For rural counties and poorly resourced cities, it’s going to be challenging.

Why did you go into public health?

It was the HIV epidemic. It was interesting to me how a health issue could become a larger social issue, and how existing inequalities could be exacerbated. It’s a recurrent theme in public health. This pandemic has brought out a lot of the same issues with racism and stigmas, seeing other people as the source of infection.

You have two sons. What have you told them about what’s going on?

I’m told them this is a very unusual situation and why we need to practice social distancing. We’ve been working on handwashing. And we talked a little bit about how numbers grow exponentially.
to the fire station, a few scenarios ran through my head. Should I wear gloves to open the door? Should I pull my scarf all the way over my face? Does that look weird? Will I be able to find a seat with 6 feet of open space on every side? What if I can’t — do I stand? When I arrived, the smell of bleach almost knocked me over. This place had been cleaned.

There were about 15 plastic chairs that someone must have lifted from a middle-school classroom strategically placed around the room and a long row of tables for the council members and city staff that nearly stretched the entire width of the hall.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m. Including the mayor, there were six council and staff members in attendance. Four members called in. There were seven people in the audience, including myself and Pete Skorewicz, who commented during the segments. Truthfully, I think the familiarity of her voice put us regulars more at ease.

From there I expected the council members to breeze through the rest of the agenda, but they proved me wrong. One by one, city staff and council members spoke about programs like Mutual Aid of Beacon, a grassroots citizen group that’s sprung up in the wake of COVID-19, or the need for state and federal representatives to advocate economic stimulus for the small business owners and other citizens affected by this topsy-turvy situation. Or simply a reminder to take care of your neighbor. “Beacon, this is where you shine,” said Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair.

The council did move quickly through the administrative portion of the agenda, setting a slew of public hearings for next month and authorizing the use of nearly $30 million in bond funding to make improvements to City Hall, as well as Beacon’s sewer lines, water treatment plant, and water supply treatment and distribution system. We may be looking at increases on our water bills to pay for those expensive but necessary upgrades, but it’s too early to say for sure, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero told me later in the week. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m., and no one hung around for longer than they had to.

As I walked home, a cool breeze helped lift away the scent of bleach. There’s rarely much going on along Main Street at 9 p.m. on a Monday, but this time it felt even more quiet than usual.
Coronavirus

Your online posting of the latest local information regarding coronavirus updates and cancellations is an invaluable service to our community. This is the most relevant and otherwise least accessible information needed for us to remain calm and take intelligent action in line with what serves both our personal well-being and the well-being of the community as a whole.

Melissa Meyers, Garrison

As I am reading your excellent coverage of the spread of COVID-19, I am thinking about the fact that the whole planet is facing the same threat. We are united in that, even as we continue to think of others as “other.” We are, all of us on this planet, experiencing the same threat, the same fears, the same losses.

The coronavirus plague could have a silver lining if it would help us to recognize each other as human beings rather than identified by race, religion, nationality or any of the other false dividers that separate us from each other and perpetuate hatred. If our community could embrace this concept, perhaps other communities would follow.

Calli Gorevic, Cold Spring

Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 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

Coronavirus

The pandemic is already having an effect on Main Street. Many business owners are concerned that customers will be staying away for the foreseeable future.

Last Sunday (March 8) we had a beautiful spring day and there should have been hundreds of visitors with packed streets in Cold Spring. Instead it was fairly dead with few shoppers, more like what is seen during the winter months.

If this keeps up for weeks or months, I don’t know how many business owners will be able to hang in there. Regardless of how much money we make or how bad things get, we still have to pay our rents and overhead. Our wonderful restaurants seem to be hit the worst, especially since they have such high overhead and perishables to deal with. We should all go out of our way to patronize them, if at all possible.

I wrote County Executive MaryEllen Odell asking her to see if she can get emergency aid from the federal government for Putnam’s small businesses. People need to realize that taxation is not a one-way street.

We are entitled to get something back for all the money we pay to every branch of government. This pandemic could put a lot of people out of business. Let’s hope and pray it doesn’t come to that.

Patty Villanova, Putnam Valley

Victory gardens

Victory gardens came about during World War I, following an idea by George Washington Carver. In March 1917, Lathrop Pack organized the U.S. National War Garden Commission and launched the war garden campaign. To support the home garden effort, a U.S. School Garden Army was launched through the Bureau of Education. During World War II, victory gardens played a part.

I have been thinking of these gardens since reading in The Current about Chevron trying to sell its old industrial property in Glenham ("Old Texaco Site for Sale," March 13).

It reminded me of another local big piece of property, the old Beacon Prison. I had been involved some years ago in trying to get that back to farmland and maker space. Given the world situation, it might be a good idea for the City of Beacon to ask the state for the right of a temporary eminent domain so we could immediately put in an emergency crop of root vegetables. I spoke to a farmer and a farm administrator over the weekend about the feasibility of this plan, including the city designating emergency funds for a tractor or two, fencing and seed.

The world economy is in the process of being decimated by the response to the coronavirus. Many of our jobs in the modern era are decidedly non-essential. After who knows how many months of lockdown, a great deal of those jobs will never come back. The rebuilding process, even to a 1917 level, will be long and difficult.

At some point, rationing may come into play. On March 1, 1943, canned fruits and vegetables were rationed in the U.S. Having a local supply of vegetables to supplement distributed canned goods will be of great value, especially if the money system is eventually compromised. It can also be a morale booster. And in times of social distancing, being outdoors and far enough apart can help build and sustain community cohesion.

In December 1941, shortly after the U.S. entered World War II, Agriculture Secretary Claude Wickard began promoting Victory Gardens. The Department of Agriculture produced pamphlets to guide urban and suburban gardeners, magazines and newspapers published helpful articles, and patriotic posters urged participation.

There will be plenty of farmlands available, as many members of the community are already being laid off in these early days. While the city may take longer to react, it might be prudent to tear up your lawn this spring and plant a garden.
A Note to Readers

Due to concerns about the coronavirus, The Current has discontinued its regular business hours. The best way to reach our staff is by emailing me at editor@highlandscurrent.org or Michele Gedney at ads@highlandscurrent.org for advertising. We will continue to publish the print paper, although distribution will be limited because many of our usual drop-off locations are closed.

The locations where you can find the paper are listed below. Alternatively, we offer mail delivery for $30 per year or $50 for two years. Write us at 342 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 or see highlandscurrent.org/delivery. Or become a sustaining member of The Current by donating $10 or more per month and mail delivery is included. See highlandscurrent.org/join.

Chip Rowe, Editor

Blue Boxes

Cold Spring
- Current Office, 142 Main St., Cold Spring
- Moo Moos Creamery, 52 West St., Cold Spring
- Tourist Information Booth, foot of Main Drug World, 55 Chestnut

Philipstown
- B&L Deli, 3182 Route 9
- Beacon Bread Co., 193 Main
- Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main
- Key Foods, 268 Main

Other Locations

Cold Spring
- Foodtown, 49 Chestnut
- Cold Spring Coffeehouse, 92 Main
- Country Goose, 115 Main
- Foundry Cafe, 53 Main
- Garden Cafe, 116 Main
- Angelina's, 41 Chestnut
- Cold Spring Farmers Market @ St. Mary's
- NYP/Hudson Valley Hospital, 1756 Route 9D
- Yannitelli Wines, 55 Chestnut

Philipstown
- Round-up up Texas BBQ, 2741 Route 9
- Vera's Philipstown Farm Market, 3091 Route 9

Garrison
- Appalachian Market, 1467 Route 9
- Garrison Golf, 1122 Route 9D
- Garrison Post Office, 1145 Route 9D

Beacon
- Bank Square Coffeehouse, 131 Main
- Beacon City Hall, 1 Municipal Plaza
- Beavie, 291 Main
- Big Mouth Coffee, 387 Main
- Forrestal Heights, Route 9D (lobby)
- Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Thinking about divorce?

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Cold Spring is a very different village than it was a week ago. With schools, libraries and government offices closed, most businesses remain open but must cope with the coronavirus. Some are doing OK while others struggle. Some are getting creative while others question their future. All are trying to figure out what might work best.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday (March 16) ordered all bars and restaurants to close by 8 p.m.; many eateries have already altered their business plan in light of the ruling, which also prohibited indoor dining but allows takeout and delivery. Others ponder what to do.

“We’re going to try to stay true to the community,” said Bob Hayes, co-owner of Hudson Hills Cafe and Market. “We’re offering a limited menu from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. so people who are tired of cooking at home can come and pick up food.”

Hayes said the cafe will also offer delivery within Philipstown, which can include alcohol following a state ruling allowing restaurants with liquor licenses to sell packaged beer and wine. He is considering other ideas such as regular Friday night fried chicken dinners, which until now have only been available on First Fridays.

Greg Pagones, owner of The Cold Spring Depot, said he is still weighing his options. “We’re doing takeout for now until we figure out what’s going on; it’s been difficult,” he said. By Tuesday afternoon, he had received only five orders for corned beef and cabbage dinners, the traditional St. Patrick’s Day dish.

“I’m deciding whether it’s worth it to stay open at all,” he said. Pagones said he hopes that by next week, after people have stocked up on groceries, they’ll be looking to pick up some different foods. “They may be getting a bit stir-crazy,” he said.

The Riverview Restaurant in Cold Spring locked its doors on Thursday (March 19) after offering takeout earlier in the week. “Business was good, but we’re in a danger zone now,” said owner Jimmy Ely. After talking to his staff members, some of whom were being pressured by family members not to work, Ely opted to close. “We just don’t want to put anyone at risk,” he said.

Business has also picked up at The Country Goose. “I’m selling a lot of coffee,” said owner Leonora Burton, who also noted that customers have been practicing “social distancing” by waiting outside her Main Street shop and entering only after the previous purchaser leaves.

Business has been brisk at local wine and liquor stores. “We’ve been in business for 90 years and seen a lot, including world wars, but never anything like this,” said Donnie Yannitelli, owner of Yannitelli Wines & Spirits. “We’ve been very, very busy.” He said hoarding that is happening industry-wide should stabilize soon. “These are uncharted waters, let’s give it a week and see where it goes,” he said.

Juanita Rincon, owner of The Floral Gift Shop, said she was in the lucky position of already being 100 percent online. In fact, she said, her sales have doubled.

Wine and president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, agreed. “It’s one of those storms before the quiet,” she said. “We’ve been busy, but we anticipate things dropping off dramatically at some point.”

She said the shop’s weekly wine tastings have been suspended but customers can call in orders for pickup or receive free delivery on cases. “We’re happy that we can provide something that gives people some calm and relaxation during this crisis,” she said.

Business has also picked up at Juanita’s Kitchen in Nelsonville, even though owner Juanita Rincon continues to offer her full Mexican menu as takeout. On St. Patrick’s Day she even offered green soup.

“Customers can also get delivery through

(Continued on Page 8)
Hospital Beds (from Page 1)

Newburgh, have 1,226 beds and 72 intensive-care beds. Assuming 50 percent of those ICU beds are already occupied, that would leave 14 immediately available for COVID-19 patients.

Public health officials say that while most people infected by COVID-19 will likely experience only mild symptoms — fever, cough and shortness of breath — and not require hospitalization, even the relatively small percentage who suffer severe symptoms could overwhelm the system.

New York had 4,152 confirmed coronavirus cases as of Thursday (March 19), including 31 in Dutchess, five in Putnam, 798 in Westchester, 51 in Orange, 53 in Rockland and 10 in Ulster. Twenty-one people have died.

Under one projection, Cuomo said, the state could need 110,000 hospital beds, including 37,000 ICU beds with ventilators, within 45 days.

“We can’t build new hospitals in 45 days,” Cuomo said on Wednesday. “The federal government can be extremely helpful here and we need the federal government’s help.”

Cuomo asked the Trump administration to call in the Army Corps of Engineers and military personnel to build hospitals and repurpose buildings.

The Department of Defense said Wednesday that the USNS Comfort would head to New York City after it finishes undergoing maintenance in Virginia. Its role would be to care for patients suffering from ailments other than COVID-19, officials said. Another ship, the USNS Mercy, will deploy to the West Coast.

The state, in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers, is also identifying existing facilities that could be repurposed as hospitals, Cuomo said on Thursday.

The state Department of Health on Monday issued guidance to hospitals seeking emergency approval to repurpose their space, install tents or trailers, exceed their bed capacity or use off-site spaces to treat patients.

On Thursday, Cuomo said Health Commissioner Howard Zucker is preparing new regulations based on how many beds can be added to existing hospitals.

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a plan to add 8,300 hospital beds, “creating them where they’ve never existed before” in places such as North Central Bronx Hospital, which has two vacant floors, and a recently built but unoccupied nursing home in Brooklyn.

In the Hudson Valley, Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie are part of the Nuvance Health System, which includes four other hospitals in western Connecticut.

The system has “an adequate number of required rooms and supplies, including ventilators,” the company said in a statement. It said its system also has 100 “negative-pressure rooms,” which are used to contain airborne contaminations, and can readily expand its isolation space.

“One of the many benefits of being part of a health system with seven hospitals is we can work together to help balance and accommodate a shifting census if we see an influx in patients,” it said.

Nuvance this week joined the growing list of hospitals, including MidHudson Regional in Poughkeepsie and Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall, prohibiting visitors except for pediatric and maternity patients.

The NewYork-Presbyterian system, which includes Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt, has instituted the same visitation rules and canceled elective procedures and surgeries.

“The health and safety of our patients, visitors, employees, and our communities remain a top priority,” the hospital said on Facebook.

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.ny.gov/health/coronavirus.

New York State has created a coronavirus hotline at 888-364-3065, and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is posting updates at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

Students and Teachers Adjust to New Plan

With schools closed, districts set up ‘remote learning’

By Jeff Simms

Thousands of students and teachers in the Highlands this week began adjusting to the “virtual learning” platform, which will serve as a substitute classroom until at least March 31, according to an order to close public and private schools throughout the state.

The Beacon school district has more than 2,800 students who are now spending their weekdays at home, while Haldane has more than 800 and Garrison about 220.

As instructors adapt to full-time virtual learning, the biggest challenge “will be to help [students] learn without being in the same room with them,” said Monica Paredes, the math coordinator at Rombout Middle School in Beacon. “It’s going to absolutely be a different experience for everyone involved.”

Paredes said her students already have some experience with a “flipped classroom”

(Continued on Page 10)
Coronavirus Update
(from Page 6)
“...Our small businesses are the backbones of our communities. As they do their part to help keep our communities safe and healthy, many of them are feeling tremendous pressure. They do not have time to monitor or speak out against proposals moving rapidly through Albany that could have serious long-term consequences for them.”

Cuomo and the governors of Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey jointly ordered a capacity limit of 50 people for social and recreational gatherings. In Beacon, Mayor Lee Krylaczou said in a statement: “Dutchess County and the City of Beacon collectively have the authority to enforce this limitation through our police, fire and building departments, and will promptly begin doing so.”

Cuomo ordered businesses to have 75 percent of their employees stay at home, effective today (March 20), except for those involved in the media, shipping, warehousing, grocery and food production, health care, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain.

The governor ordered restaurants and bars to close except for takeout and delivery. Those selling liquor were given waivers to close except for takeout and delivery...
By Alison Rooney

Painters Alex Bradley Cohen (born 1989) and Rafael Ferrer (born 1933), are the seventh and eighth artists paired off by Parts & Labor Beacon in their gallery template that teams the works of a contemporary artist with works done by another in earlier years.

In this instance, Cohen's more recent paintings share space with art created in the early 1980s by Ferrer, who is still painting.

"This is the first show where you really get confused as to which work was done earlier," says Nicelle Beauchene, who co-owns the gallery at 1154 North Ave. with Kent Henrickens and Franklin Parrasch.

This is the fourth show at Parts & Labor has mounted since it opened in May. "I hope you write a novel instead? Go figure it out."

By the late 1970s, Ferrer had returned to figurative painting, and the Parts & Labor show features neo-expressionist portraits he did in Puerto Rico in the early 1980s. "He's painting the people from where he grew up, and he's sketching the figures, making arms tiny and taking other liberties when rendering them," Beauchene explains.

Ferrer spends part of the year in Puerto Rico and the remainder in Greenport, New York. Beauchene thought she would like to see his work paired with "a young contemporary artist with a little more street credit and grit."

While pitching the idea to Ferrer, Beauchene spent a lot of time talking with him about the premise and visiting his studio. She didn't need to do much coaxing with Cohen. "Although Rafael fell off the page a little — history can swallow older artists up — Alex knew who he was and was excited about being in the dialogue. These collaborations are just so rare — the opportunity to show like this."

**Two Painters, One Time**

**Gallery pairs artists born in 1933 and 1989**

As with other Parts & Labor shows, this one will run for several months. It opened in early February and runs through May 3, although because of concerns about the coronavirus, it is open only by appointment (email info@partsandlaborbeacon.com).

Beauchene says portraits by Cohen, whom her eponymous New York City gallery represents, are about the "kinship and the interior lives" of his subjects. He paints "friends, family members and colleagues in scenes of everyday moments of connection. He spends hang-out time with them. So, in a way he's painting a self-portrait. They've become autobiographical as he's grown into his practice and his own language. They visualize the complexities of belonging in relation to others."

The portraits are made from personal photographs and memories rather than direct observation, she notes. "Friends appear across shared lunch tables or relaxed in their living rooms, either gazing at the artist, caught mid-conversation, or lost in their own thoughts."

Ferrer's work was more conceptual when he first emerged as an artist in the 1960s. Initially a musician, the native of Puerto Rico began to draw and paint while at college, galvanized by a 1953 trip to Paris. By the late 1950s he was experiencing success as a process-based artist, and was a part of a groundbreaking 1970 exhibit, Information, at the Museum of Modern Art.

"Ferrer began to weave more personal elements into his work, a shift seen in his solo exhibition Museo (1972) at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago," Beauchene says. "He was greatly stimulated by Chicago's scene. That exposure helped to confirm for him the course he had intuitively been taking in his work."

By the late 1970s, Ferrer had returned to figurative painting, and the Parts & Labor show features neo-expressionist portraits he did in Puerto Rico in the early 1980s. "He's painting the people from where he grew up, and he's sketching the figures, making arms tiny and taking other liberties when rendering them," Beauchene explains.

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**How to Hide an Eagle**

**Novel introduces intrepid wildlife rescuer**

By Alison Rooney

Suzy Gilbert was stuck, inside and out. Holed up in solitude in a house in the woods, she spent two years trying to write a book which just wasn't flowing. While ‘whining’ to her agent about ‘how badly this book was going’, she stopped and told him a funny wildlife rehabber story.

“He stopped me, and said ‘Why are you writing what you’re writing?’ ” she recalls. “That story you just told me — why don’t you write a novel instead? Go figure it out.”

So Gilbert, who first book was a 2006 memoir titled Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings, made her first attempt at fiction. The first of four attempts, as it turned out.

“The first draft was all over the place,” she says. “So was the next. I did three full drafts, sent each to my agent thinking, ‘Oh, he’s just going to love this’ and hearing back from him that there were big problems. ‘I wasn’t hopeful about the fourth. Instead, he called me and said ‘I absolutely love this,’ ” which shows that I should not be an agent.”

The result is Unflappable, which will be released on March 24. (It is actually her second work of fiction, but Hawk Hill, published in 1996, was written for chil-
Remote Learning (from Page 7)

model through her video homework assignments. “Two or three times a week, they go home and watch a 10-minute video and take notes and answer a couple of questions online and hit ‘submit,’” she said. After the assignment, she’s able to group students according to their results and “help them directly where they’re struggling, as opposed to standing up and lecturing.”

With the fourth quarter of the academic year set to begin in early April, some teachers may opt to skip non-essential curricular while reviewing important concepts taught earlier in the year as preparation for Regents and final exams, Paredes said.

Bill Castaldi, the social studies coordinator at Rombout, said that teachers used a March 13 professional day to prepare two to three weeks of material in anticipation of closing. If it appears school will be shuttered past April 1, “that would give us time to fully change over, if need be, to a distance-learning model,” he said.

In his classes, Castaldi said, every lesson covered so far this year has been posted on a March 13 professional day to prepare for Regents and final exams, Paredes said.

There was more emphasis this week, Sniffen said, on addressing the issue of households without reliable internet access. Haldane has been working with local cable providers on providing free Wi-Fi and, in cases where that’s not an option, providing mobile “jetpacks” for students to connect.

Sniffen said teachers haven’t been structuring the virtual school day to match the typical 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule. She noted that with many classes already using online interfaces, some students have already been learning “on demand.”

There was more emphasis this week, Sniffen said, on addressing the issue of households without reliable internet access. Haldane has been working with local cable providers on providing free Wi-Fi and, in cases where that’s not an option, providing mobile “jetpacks” for students to connect.

Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante added in an email that one challenge, and concern, for the district “is how we can best support those students with learning needs and supports” who must study from home.

As for students’ impressions of the virtual platform this week, Paredes said she received nine emails (out of the roughly 60 students she teaches) on Monday alone.

Some are feeling overwhelmed, she said, while others sought clarification on assignments. “And then I had one who told me she was already bored.”

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Note to Readers

A s art exhibitions, music and theater performances and other events are on hold for the near future, The Current would like to use this lull to turn the spotlight on the community and introduce more members of it to each other.

Do you have an unusual background you’d like to share? Does your elderly uncle have amazing stories? Is your neighbor an amateur painter but has never shown her work? Are you a tech guy? Amusing stories? Is your neighbor an amateur painter but has never shown her work? Are you a tech guy?

We’d love to hear your ideas and suggestions. Email arts@highlandscurrent.org and we’ll take it from there.

Alison Rooney, Arts Editor

THE WEEK AHEAD

Because so many events have been canceled, we will post listings only online at highlandscurrent.org/calendar for the time being. Email updates to calendar@highlandscurrent.org.

Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante added in an email that one challenge, and concern, for the district “is how we can best support those students with learning needs and supports” who must study from home.
That Empty Feeling

Photos by Ross Corsair

Coronavirus Update
(from Page 8)

- Cuomo waived the requirement that schools be in session for 180 days each school year to receive state funds. Districts are required to develop and submit their plans for alternative instructional options (including distance learning); the distribution and availability of meals; and childcare, especially for parents of first responders and health care workers.

- Molinaro closed schools until at least March 31 and suspended extracurricular functions, although schools may remain open for administration and staff. His order did not include private day care facilities, Head Start or other day care programs.

- Odell on March 15 ordered all public and private schools in Putnam to close for at least five days, as well as day care centers and nursery schools, although the state did not require the latter. She allowed day cares and nursery schools to re-open on Wednesday following Cuomo’s order that required school districts to have plans to provide childcare for first responders and health care workers.

- Putnam Legislator Amy Sayegh, who chairs the Health Committee, defended Odell’s order, saying in a statement: “If on the one hand we are telling [residents] to stay home and keep their school-aged children home, how can we then tell them to drop their little ones at day care?” Odell said that “residents who have any questions about whether their business should be opened or closed in an effort to flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections should direct their questions to the governor’s office.”

- Odell closed the county’s four senior centers, including the Philipstown Friendship Center in Cold Spring, for at least two weeks. Michael Cunningham, director of the county Office of Senior Resources (OSR), said on Wednesday that although the centers are inactive, two crucial services continue: deliveries of meals and phone calls to check on the elderly, both those who had been homebound before the crisis and those who frequented the senior centers and are now cut off from them. So far, he said, no dramatic changes have occurred in the volume of meals delivered. He noted that some residents who had eaten lunch at a senior center have now requested deliveries, but others who had meals delivered have stopped because family members are not commuting to jobs and can provide meals.

- Before the crisis, the county delivered 120 to 140 meals a day, including eight to 10 in Philipstown, he said. In Philipstown, there are now 10 to 15 recipients, he said, adding that a slow increase has begun county-wide. Before the closure, Cunningham said, 200 to 230 people used the senior centers daily and the shutdown generated “a lot of disappointment, a lot of concern, but not real surprise.” The OSR staff, now working half-day shifts, also feels the anxiety, he added. “The biggest issue is concern for the seniors.”

- The Garrison School announced that it will be closed, and all transportation and activities suspended, through April 13. Distance learning began for students on Wednesday. In explaining the decision to close longer than mandated by the state, interim Superintendent Debra Jackson wrote to parents: “Limiting social interaction controls the rate of infection. As such, it only makes sense that we request you practice the same measures according to your capability: Stay home. Wash hands. Avoid socializing, play dates, parties, sleepovers, movie theaters, malls, etc. Try to limit your exposure and only venture into public areas when necessary. If we all participate in social distancing, the lives saved will be profound. If we treat this closure as we would a typical break, we will undermine the purpose of this closure. The good news is that it is getting warmer and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking and running are encouraged.”

- During her first week as a remote student, Cora McMahon, a fifth grader at the Garrison School, organized a “virtual Spirit Week” for her classmates, with “wear your pajamas to ‘school’ day” on Monday followed by dress-up day, wacky Wednesday, VSOCO girl (a teenage fashion trend) or sports player, and Garrison School gear. Students were asked to post photos of themselves in their outfits.

- “This may go over like a lead balloon, but if you are one that thinks everyone is overreacting, then this message is not for you,” wrote Timothy Haskell, owner of the Cold Spring Cheese Shop, on Facebook. “I’d just like to remind all parents that they canceled school to keep kids from congregating. Although kids don’t get very sick from this, they apparently are excellent carriers, hence eliminating social interaction at school. I am mentioning this because I have seen several large groups of kids just hanging out in town enjoy their very prolonged spring break. This defeats the whole purpose. I know everyone is stir-crazy and this truly blows, but I think everyone would like for this to be over sooner rather than later, so please do your part and allow it to suck for a little while.”

- Troop K of the New York State Police, which is based in Poughkeepsie, advised anyone calling 911 to advise dispatchers if they or any members of the household are experiencing flu-like symptoms. This information will ensure first responders can prepare to prevent the spread of any illnesses.

- The Beacon City School District continues to provide breakfast and lunch to students daily at the Beacon High School parking lot from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and at South Avenue Elementary from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Haldane is delivering breakfast and lunch to eligible students.

- A message on the Putnam County Health Department site reads: “We’ve received many complaints that you are calling the Health Department and are not receiving an answer after leaving a message. We do apologize that our nurses are inundated with calls. Please know that you are among many other people with concerns and questions. We are attempting to contact everybody who leaves us a message.”

- The Hastings Center, a think tank based in Garrison, has posted links at thehastingscenter.org to essays on COVID-19 published in its Bioethics Forum and Bioethics Briefings, including two from China on transparency in fighting coronavirus and others on New York City’s response to the pandemic, the crisis of trust and pandemic ethics.

- Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. suspended visitation, church services, outside work details and programs for inmates at the Putnam County jail. “We know that these steps will be difficult for the families of inmates and the inmates themselves, however we must ensure that we protect everyone’s health, especially those confined to close quarters,” he said in a statement.

- A Little Beacon Blog published a (Not) Happening This Weekend Guide.

- Putnam County warned residents about scams in which callers claim to be from the federal government and offer to send a coronavirus test kit if the person will provide a name, address and Social Security number. “No government agency would ever call and request your Social Security number,” said Legislator Addisonzio. Other reported scams include texts that offer free iPhones to help pass the time at home and emails from hackers with subject lines promising cures.

- Dutchess County on March 19 closed the Beacon DMV from March 23 to April 3.

Government Reaction
(from Page 8)

48 hours. Services such as police, water, and garbage and recycling pickup will continue, village officials said.

In a message posted online, Mayor Dave Merandy said that the village staff continues to check phone messages (845-265-3611) and emails “so let us know if there is anything we can do to help.” He also noted that “many of our local businesses have been shuttered” in the epidemic but “are offering take-out or delivery service. Please try to do what you can to help them stay afloat. Call your favorite restaurant, pub or gift shop to see what they are doing. If you can, order pizza, burgers or family dinner” or a gift. “I’m sure whatever each of us does will be appreciated.”

Nelsonville

The Village Board canceled its Monday meeting and, as the state mandated, moved its election for mayor, two trustees, and justice court judge from Wednesday to April 28 to coincide with the presidential primary vote. All meetings are postponed until at least March 30.

Mayor Michael Bowman backed the election postponement. “The governor absolutely made the right decision to err on the side of caution,” he said.

Residents can email mayor@nelsonville.ny.gov with questions or requests for assistance.

Beacon

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said the service window at the front of City Hall would remain open during regular city government hours. “Municipal buildings are being cleaned twice a day and are safe for the public,” he said. However, he encouraged residents to contact officials by phone or email. The city clerk suspended appointments for those seeking marriage licenses.

On a trial basis, officials moved civic meetings to a larger space inside the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. at 13 South Ave. to allow more social distancing. (See Page 1.)

Trash collection, handled by a private contractor, will continue on schedule, the city said. The recycling and transfer facility on Dennings Avenue also remains open for some services.

Justice Courts

New York on Monday ordered town and village justice courts to postpone all non-essential activities. It stated that one special court per county will handle urgent matters such as arraignments and orders of protection. After-hours urgent matters may be handled in a town or village courtroom, it said.
Arts Groups Feeling Pinch

By Alison Rooney

We asked a number of local arts organizations how they are coping with the shutdown because of concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Craig Wolf
Howland Cultural Center, Beacon

Not much is happening publicly here at our little nonprofit. We are an arts center that normally produces and presents performances and exhibits, largely administered by volunteers, most of whom are older, falling within the age zone of higher concern.

We can do what we normally do right now. The impact is hard for us not only because we must cancel near-term events, but because it is not yet clear when we will be able to go forward with events that are further out on our calendar. Every day has brought another conversation with a presenter, producer or renter about whether their plans can go forward, and so far, the answer has been “No.”

The impact of not producing events is a significant loss of revenue. It is through doing what we do that we earn a good paycheck. So this situation is worrisome and stressful.

The Chapel Restoration is a small organization with a big architectural, historical and cultural presence. We will be deeply affected by this state of emergency, especially if it proves to be prolonged. We do not have paid staff. We can’t afford it — all of our activities and programs are administered by volunteers. But we are concerned about the performers and writers who will be unable to present their work. We often form unusually personal relationships with the artists who perform at the Chapel and we know that many of them will suffer financial hardship as a result of being unable to perform.

The Chapel Restoration itself will be severely impacted by the loss of revenue. We do not schedule programming and weddings during the winter months because of icy, windy conditions at our site. Events during our active season from April through November provide a major part of our revenue, through donations at free events and ticket sales at others. Maintaining our historic building and grounds in the absence of this revenue will be a challenge. And we regret the loss to the community of the high-quality programs we provide, including an increasing number of events featuring local talent.

We look forward to welcoming visitors and guests back to the Chapel as soon as possible and we send best wishes to all for a healthy outcome.

Alex Bloomstein
Ballet Arts Studio, Beacon

Our faculty and staff live, as most artists do, from paycheck to paycheck. So this situation will be extremely worrisome and stressful for them. More importantly, all of us are saddened by the impact this situation will have on our students. These dancers have been working diligently and with commitment all year on their craft, only to have their momentum abruptly interrupted. We are considering “video classrooms” but are aware that, because dance instruction is so immediate and interpersonal, we will have to work hard to make that platform effective.

Barbara DeSilva
The Chapel Restoration, Cold Spring

The Chapel Restoration is a small organization with a big architectural, historical and cultural presence. We will be deeply affected by this state of emergency, especially if it proves to be prolonged. We do not have paid staff. We can’t afford it — all of our activities and programs are administered by volunteers. But we are concerned about the performers and writers who will be unable to present their work. We often form unusually personal relationships with the artists who perform at the Chapel and we know that many of them will suffer financial hardship as a result of being unable to perform.

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We look forward to welcoming visitors and guests back to the Chapel as soon as possible and we send best wishes to all for a healthy outcome.

Amy Dul
Philipstown Depot Theatre, Garrison

Like everyone, we are doing our best to cope with a new reality. Like many organizations whose mission is, in part, to bring people together, we have shut down. This spring’s Mainstage play, Morning’s at Seven, has been postponed until 2021, as well as our March and April events. With luck, we will reopen in June with a full and exciting schedule. Depot Docs: The Apollo on June 12; Night Train: An Evening of Storytelling on June 13; Depot Dance on June 14; and Glass Ceiling Breakers One Acts on June 19 to 21.

Once this crisis passes, we will return to the stage with gleeful enthusiasm. Our actors, designers, directors and producers are all eager to get back to work. Until then, we wash our hands and wish good health for all the members of our community and a quick recovery to anyone who is suffering.

Carla Goldberg
Beacon Artists’ Union Gallery

Our current way of dealing with the temporary closure of our brick-and-mortar gallery is to not give up completely. We did hang our March show, which celebrates each artist’s experimentation and interpretation of the word roots. We hung a much smaller show of entries to the windows so that people can enjoy the art if they walk by. We hope the art pieces bring a moment of joy and light in this time of uncertainty. We will continue to do this until we can open again.

In the meantime, we have images of the individual works in the show at baugallery. We’ve contacted the gallery via email if they are interested in a piece and want to help support us. When we do re-open, our gallery is spacious and clean and easy to social distance in. Artists are still making art for future shows and we can’t wait to share those works with our audience. For now, we go with the flow.

Katie Schmidt-Feder
Garrison Art Center

Closing the art center to wait for the COVID-19 storm to pass was a difficult decision because we were about to install two solo exhibitions: Caroline Burton (mixed media) and Eric Erickson (paintings). They have been rescheduled to 2021. The spring class session was to have started last Sunday. Not only are we concerned about the financial impact, because the art center derives a large chunk of its operational funds from classes, exhibitions and events, but we also are sad to put on hold the valuable social interaction and multiple benefits of art-making that our students enjoy.

We are encouraging community members to continue to create at home and share their work via GAC_QuarantineArt. We are looking to social media to stay connected and will be posting virtual content — maybe even some short technique videos provided by our instructors, as well as other virtual tours, and art education resources.

The Riverside Art Auction remains scheduled for Saturday, May 9. We realize there is a strong possibility the auction will need to be postponed or made virtual, but at this point we will forge ahead.

Our galleries are currently empty — back to bare white. This could feel a little sad. But we will look instead, for the next couple of months, to the positive aspect in the final line in the musical based on the life and art of George Seurat, Sunday in the Park with George: “White. A blank page or canvas. His favorite. So many possibilities.”

Davis McCallum
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

A prolonged state of emergency would be disastrous not just for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, but for our entire nonprofit arts sector.

First and foremost, many of whom are familiar faces at HVSF, have already seen many of their gigs at other theaters evaporate.

Though the present crisis is most harrowing for them, institutions like ours are subject to the same pressures. At HVSF, we are lucky to be in a strong financial position in the short term, and also fortunate that we’re not yet in production, which would mean expenses going out the door with no certainty of our ability to produce a play or gather an audience for it.

The big picture is just as troubling: Our nonprofit business model relies almost equally on ticket sales and contributed revenue, so the dire economic climate affects our delicate finances hugely. When the box office slows to a trickle and the donations freeze, even healthy and vibrant organizations like HVSF are quickly vulnerable.

Where does that leave us? Well, we are hoping our patrons will embrace our flexible exchange policy and buy tickets even in this moment of uncertainty, which would then afford us the cash flow to pay our artists. Should we have to cancel a show due to COVID-19, we’ll hope that some of our patrons will consider a donation or conversion to a gift certificate to be redeemed whenever the world rights itself and we are again able to produce theater, even if that means the following season.

At this point, we’re considering every ticket sold as a gesture of solidarity and support, an instance of our loyal patrons stepping up at a precarious moment to protect the institution they love and the artists who make it so special.
2020 College Scholarship Guide

By Chip Rowe

The list below includes a sampling of scholarships available to high school seniors in Philipstown and Beacon — visit highlandscurrent.org/scholarships for links and information on how to apply. Each listing includes who qualifies, the amount of the award and the deadline.

**HIGHLANDS**

**Acacio “Roger” Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship**
Putnam or Dutchess seniors or undergraduate college students who plan to study in a field that will lead to a career in the building/construction industry. $2,000+ annually | April 1

**AIAWHP Foundation**
Putnam or Dutchess college students studying architecture. $7,000 | April 6

**Daughters of the United States Army**
Senior is the child or dependent of an active, retired or deceased U.S. military service member whose family resides within a 35-mile radius of West Point. April 17

**Elena Eckert Memorial Scholarship**
Putnam or Dutchess seniors who are children or grandchildren of a current or former member of the Armed Forces, a police officer or a corrections officer. $1,500+ | April 1

**Hudson Valley Guns and Hoses Scholarship**
Putnam or Dutchess senior planning to major in criminal justice, fire science, public administration or related fields. | $1,000+ | April 1

**Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents**
Hudson Valley students pursuing a career in law, education, engineering, architecture, science, math or technology. | Varies | April 23

**Mid-Hudson Ivy Foundation**
Seniors from the Mid-Hudson Valley. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha. $500 to $2,000 | March 28

**Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Society**
Seniors who plan to pursue a career in mental health, such as psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing or social work. $125 to $500 | May 1

**Nebraska Foundation Scholarships**
Seniors in the Hudson Valley “who may not fit the traditional four-year college model” but plan to pursue vocational or technical education. | $2,500 | April 15

**New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal**
Haldane or Beacon seniors who are (1) enrolled in special education, (2) have demonstrated resourcefulness and ingenuity to overcome a puzzling creative obstacle, or (3) plan to attend a New York college and have a record of involvement and work for a cause or organization that promotes social justice, equal opportunity, relief of human suffering or similar aspirations. $3,000 to $5,000 | March 27

**Professional Nurses Association of Dutchess/Putnam**
Putnam or Dutchess seniors or college students pursuing a career in nursing. $500 to $1,000 | May 12

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**
Lower Hudson Valley seniors who demonstrate an interest in U.S. history. $250 | April 15

**St. Luke’s Cornwall Health System**
Seniors who plan to enter the medical field. | $1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

**Tony Schembri Memorial Scholarship**
Seniors from the Mid-Hudson Valley. Sponsored by the Newburgh-based chapter of the veterans’ organization Rolling Thunder 3. $500 | April 1

**Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Society**
Seniors who plan to pursue a career in social work, such as psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing or social work. $125 to $500 | May 1

**Bianca Knight Memorial Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors pursuing careers in human services or ministry. | $1,000 | May 6

**Camara Sor Chorale Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors pursuing careers in music or music education. | $1,000 | May 1

**Charles S. North Scholarship for Music & Art**
Dutchess seniors who plan to major in music performance, music/art education or visual arts (ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, photography, video, filmmaking and architecture). $1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

**Dutchess County Agricultural Society**
Dutchess seniors and college students who plan to pursue a degree in agriculture, horticulture or human ecology or a career related to agriculture or horticulture. $1,000 | May 8

**Dutchess County Music Educators Association**
Dutchess seniors who plan to major in music or the arts. $500 | May 1

**Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade Committee**
Dutchess seniors and college students of Irish descent. | $1,000 | April 30

**Eileen Hickey Nursing Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors or college students pursuing a career in nursing at a New York school. $1,500+ | April 1

**George A. and Catherine V. Quill Scholarship**
BHS seniors “who must apply themselves to prosper or who are able to demonstrate financial need.” $1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

**H. Normington Schofield Scholarship**
BHS seniors who plan to major in environmental studies or education. | $1,000 | April 1

**Hudson Valley Financial Professionals**
Dutchess seniors who plan to pursue a career in the financial services industry. $500 | April 1

**Juan Lafuente Leadership Scholarship**
Dutchess residents attending a college in New York state who demonstrate academic achievement, especially in math and science. $1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

**Landon R. Gray Memorial Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors who are African American and plan to pursue a degree in education, human services, technology or media. | $1,000 | May 6

**The Parent-Teacher Educators Association**
Dutchess seniors or recent graduates “who must apply themselves to prosper or who demonstrate financial need.” $1,500 annually | April 1

**Joseph S. Guarneri Sr. Memorial Scholarship**
BHS seniors “who have overcome or is overcoming personal, financial, family or emotional difficulties.” $650+ | April 1

**Jennifer Coudrey Memorial Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors or recent graduates “who must apply themselves to prosper or who demonstrate financial need.” $1,500 annually | April 1

**Patrick’s Parade Committee**
Dutchess seniors or college students intent to pursue a career in physical therapy. $1,000 | April 1

**Joe M. and Mildred C. McManus Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors or recent graduates “who must apply themselves to prosper or who demonstrate financial need.” $1,500 annually | April 1

**The Parent-Teacher Educators Association**
Dutchess seniors “who must apply themselves to prosper or those who are able to demonstrate financial need.” $1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

**Landon R. Gray Memorial Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors who are African American and plan to pursue a degree in education, human services, technology or media. | $1,000 | May 6

**Hudson Valley School Food Service Directors Scholarship**
BHS seniors planning to study food service, hospitality, hotel management or dietetics. $1,000 | April 20

**Kappa Alpha Valley. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha.**

**Quill Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors or college students pursuing a career in nursing at a New York school. $1,500+ | April 1

**Landon R. Gray Memorial Scholarship**
Dutchess seniors who are African American and plan to pursue a degree in education, human services, technology or media. | $1,000 | May 6
Mary McKenzie Memorial Scholarship
BHS seniors of African-American descent.
$500 | April 1

Maynard and Ferne Brownell Family Scholarship
BHS seniors with financial need and athletic and/or community service.
$750 annually | April 1

Norman and Rita Nussbickel Memorial Scholarship
BHS seniors who have demonstrated excellent academic and athletic achievement and have a meaningful record of community service.
$1,000+ | April 1

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – Upsilon Tau Chapter Scholarship
Dutchess seniors with 85 or better average.
Varies | March 25

R&M Promotions Latino High School Scholarship
Dutchess seniors of Hispanic origin.
Varies | April 3

Richard W. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship
Dutchess seniors with "significant economic, physical, developmental or emotional barrier(s)" who will enroll at a New York college.
$1,000 to $1,500 | April 1

Robert K. and Clara Lou Gould Memorial Scholarship
BHS seniors with "extensive community service experience."
$2,000 | April 1

Stephanie D. Brown & Barbara M. Murphy Memorial Scholarship
Female Dutchess seniors who intend to major in education and become elementary, middle school or high school teachers.
$1,000 to $2,000 | April 1

Steven and Linda Lant Family Scholarship
Dutchess seniors or college students pursuing a degree in business or finance at a New York school.
$2,500+ | April 1

TEG Betros Scholarship
Dutchess seniors who are TEG Federal Credit Union members (or whose parent or guardian is) who demonstrate academic achievement and commitment to community.
$1,000 | April 1

TWIGS Social and Civic Club – Poughkeepsie Chapter
Dutchess seniors who are African American.
$1,000 | May 29

PHILIPSTOWN
Alice Reiley Schatzie Memorial Scholarship
Haldane seniors who plan to major in education, liberal arts or another field that serves others.
| May 29

Blue Devil Booster Club Scholarship
A male and female senior who have been involved in the Haldane athletic program and demonstrated honesty, self-discipline, commitment and team play.
$500 | May 12

Cold Spring Lions Club Scholarship
Philipsen seniors on basis of need, academic record and potential to succeed.
Varies | May

Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association Scholarship
Haldane seniors for community service and potential for success.
Varies | April 30

Glaser Orthodontics Scholarship
Haldane seniors who plan to pursue a career in health care.
| $1,000 | March 31

Joseph Perciaccato Memorial Award
Haldane seniors who have demonstrated service and dedication to the community.
May 29

Knights of Columbus Scholarship
Philipsen seniors, with preference to Our Lady of Loretto and St. Joseph’s parishioners.
| April 24

Kristofer J. DiNatale Scholarship
Presented to a Haldane senior who has demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to technology.
May 29

Liz Bono Memorial Scholarship
Haldane seniors preparing for a career in business management or planning to start their own business.
$500 | May 29

Lori Isler Teacher Scholarship
Haldane seniors who plan to pursue a teaching career and are involved in community service.
| $1,000 | May 29

Master Gardeners Scholarship
Putnam seniors who plan to pursue a degree in horticulture, environmental science, sustainability and similar subjects. Sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County.
| $500 | April 30

Mental Health Association of Putnam County Scholarship
Putnam seniors who plan to pursue a career related to mental health or human services.
| $500 | March 27

Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship
Philipsen seniors who volunteer for a local nonprofit and/or have worked for a local business. Sponsoreed by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.
$1,000 | April 12

Philipsen Volunteer Ambulance Corps Scholarship
Offers the Robert Christie Memorial Award for a Haldane senior involved in community service and volunteerism.
May 29

Philipsen Republican Committee Scholarship
Awarded to a Philipsen senior who demonstrates leadership qualities, participates in extracurricular activities and demonstrates superior moral character.
| $250 | April 17

Putnam County Children's Committee Scholarship
Putnam seniors who exhibit a “commitment to service to the community, and strength of purpose in achieving an educational goal, ability and maturity.”
| $500 | April 24

Putnam County Sheriff’s PBA Scholarship
Putnam seniors, on basis of need and potential for success.
| April 29

The VFW Leadership Scholarship Award
The James Harvey Hustis Veterans of Foreign War post 2362 offers a leadership scholarship to graduating Haldane seniors with leadership qualities who participate in extracurricular activities and community service and demonstrate a high moral character.
| May 29

How to Read and Compare Financial Aid Awards

By Sandra Moore

With the deadline for committing to a college — May 1 — around the corner, now’s the time to review financial aid award letters carefully. Since these notifications are not standardized, the information they contain is often incomplete and confusing. Here’s how to make sure that you’re comparing apples to apples:

Determine Cost of Attendance (COA)
For each school, verify actual direct and estimated indirect costs for the academic year in which the student will begin study. For most colleges, direct ("billable") costs include tuition and room and board; some also add in fees and/or health insurance premiums, although the latter can be waived with proof of family coverage. Indirect costs typically include books and supplies, travel and personal expenses.

Compare Awards
Enter the above data in an online comparative tool, such as the one provided by the College Board (collegeboard.org).

Subtract Gift Aid
First, minus out the “free money” from federal, state, institutional and any outside sources (e.g., need-based grants and merit scholarships) from the total cost to calculate a net price.

Review Self-Help Options
Next, look at each award package to see if it includes Federal Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Student Loans (formerly known as Stafford Loans) and work-study availability to see what the student qualifies for.

Calculate Loan Repayment
If awarded a student loan or loans, determine how much of the total loan amount is acceptable based on the interest rate and re-payment schedule. (Remember: Unsubsidized loans accrue interest throughout the college years that must be repaid by the student; currently, for subsidized loans, interest accrued during that time is absorbed by the federal government.) To help you complete this task, use the College Board’s online repayment calculator.

Important Reminders
• If a work-study amount is included, that money is not a given and must be earned. Accordingly, it cannot be counted as a gift and should not be deducted from net price; be sure to check with financial aid offices about job availability, wages, schedule, etc.
• A family’s net price should only reflect gift aid, not loans or work-study. However, it’s useful for budgeting purposes to also calculate the out-of-pocket cost: the amount the family will actually have to pay for each year of college. To do this, subtract total acceptable student and parent loan amounts.
• Before signing on the dotted line, families must compare the bottom-line price of each college with their own budgets to determine which one best fits their financial situation. It’s not a good idea to raid retirement fund or emergency savings and/or apply for additional private loans to cover any gap. With so many affordable college options out there, don’t allow the student to choose schools that may risk the family’s fiscal future.

Sandra Moore, a former college admissions director, is the founder of Next Step College Counseling in Hyde Park. She can be reached at smoore@nextstepcollegecounseling.com.

For more scholarships, see highlandscurrent.org/scholarships
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (March 1870)

The night watchman at the depot reported that the engineer and the brakeman of a freight train had a fight while the cars were stopped at the Cold Spring station. "It seems that the engineer put the brakeman off the locomotive, and the latter sneaked behind him while oiling some portion of the machinery and struck him a heavy blow from behind," the Cold Spring Recorder reported. "The brakeman got an axe from the caboose but the conductor got the train under motion and the instinct of their trade took each to his respective post."

The directors of the Cold Spring Reading Room, founded seven years earlier and supported by annual subscriptions paid by residents, voted to close.

Thomas Vance challenged any reader of the Recorder to "combat with me in figures, including examples based upon algebra and arithmetic, to be decided by three judges and place of solving said examples at the discretion of the one who returns this challenge." A propeller steamer forced its way from Garrison through the ice to a point opposite Cold Spring, cutting a channel between the stores of Robert Smith and T.B. Truesdell that it had to be unloaded.

A hailstorm caused many cancellations. "A flock of 20 eagles in the lower cove continue living at the Garrison Hotel for up to 160 prisoners in the space."

The New York Evening Post reported that a group called the Prison Association of New York was agitating for the abolition of the county jail system in the state, citing as an example the situation at the Putnam County jail, which during an inspection had 86 prisoners in a 32-by-32-foot area designed to hold 18. When asked about the overcrowding, the sheriff replied that the jail had held up to 160 prisoners in the space.

The St. Mary's Athletic Club hosted a running high jump competition. The bar began at 2.5 feet and progressed one inch at a time. William Bell won by clearing 4 feet, 7 inches, and the top three finishers each received souvenir spoons.

The Waverley bicycle, popular in 1895, was made in Indianapolis. The beverage is then tossed down glasses. The beverage is then tossed down in a single swallow."

A flock of 20 eagles in the lower cove caught the attention of travelers on the railroad.

In Garrison, Eugene Crawford purchased a new Waverley bicycle that weighed 22 pounds.

George Smith, the telegraph operator, returned home after visiting friends in Connecticut.

Prof. P.A. Carciofini, of West Point, who gave a boxing class in the village last year, was hired by Princeton College in New Jersey to teach "the manly art of self-defense" to students. [Later that year, the Princeton Bric-a-brac reported: "Prof. Carciofini started a boxing class and incidentally tried to get up a prize fight among the fellows. The faculty promptly sat on the preliminaries and the professor imported a couple of would-be sluggers, and held a scéance at Kingston, attended by a few students and much disappointment."]

The proprietor of the Pacific Hotel said he planned to remodel its interior and change its name to the Burnett House.

The Highlands Current
100 Years Ago (March 1920)

Henry Metcalfe recalled in a letter to the editor that about a year before she died in 1913, Julia Butterfield had asked him what he thought she could do for the medical welfare of the village. He suggested “a visiting nurse, to live in a little dispensary, stocked for simple emergency cases.” He noted that “she had grander ideas.” In her will, Butterfield bequeathed $150,000, or the equivalent of $3.8 million today, to build Butterfield Hospital.

The New York State Police opened a substation in Cold Spring at the residence of Mary Royce on Main Street. Any call for assistance could be directed to telephone 47-J.

A gun shot heard near Fair Street turned out to a resident firing at a prowler.

A state examiner sent to Cold Spring to look at the village books declared that a $5 payment made to place a wreath of flowers on Mrs. Butterfield’s grave was illegal.

After a complaint by the Village Board to the railroad company about Train 160, which was typically 60 to 90 minutes late bringing about 75 commuters home each day from Beacon, the train began to arrive at its scheduled time of 5:34 p.m.

The Village Board voted to move its meeting from Fridays to Tuesdays.

75 Years Ago (March 1945)

The Hudson River Conservation Society held its annual meeting at the Essex House in New York City, under the leadership of President William Church Osborn of Garrison, to discuss “safeguarding the shores,” the Recorder reported.

The parents of Pvt. Robert Thom, 19, of Pine Street in Nelsinville, received a telegram saying he had been wounded in combat in Luxembourg.

The trustees of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital announced that Minnie Boyd had bequeathed the hospital property on the west side of Paulding Avenue known as the Boyd Estate, which it planned to sell.

Putnam County Sheriff Soffief Palmer led an assembly for students at Haldane Central School that included a demonstration of how to make cold cream. The chemistry class later presented an assembly that included a demonstration of how to make cold cream.

Frederick Mosher Sr., 64, a North High Street known as the Boyd Estate, which it gave the superintendent a raise for the past year.

The Cold Spring Light Co. installed wire for each year on the force.

The Garrison school board voted 5-2 to give the superintendent a raise for the past year, present year and coming year.

In their fifth trip to the Class D state tournament semi-finals in eight seasons, the Haldane girls’ basketball team lost to Pine Valley, 65-53.

Anthony Phillips won re-election as Cold Spring mayor over Antonia Godsey, 410-128. Voters approved a proposition, 204-187, to provide Cold Spring firefighters with “service awards” at age 62 of $10 monthly for each year on the force.

Putnam County Legislator Vinny Tamagna, whose district included Philipstown, said he would push to make Continental Village a part of the Garrison postal district, instead of Peekskill’s.

Brion Travis of Garrison was appointed to head the State Board of Parole.

Putnam County sheriff’s deputies arrested a 27-year-old Philipstwon man whom they accused of selling five pounds of marijuana to an undercover agent over a two-month period.

Emery Sharples of Nelsonville was named Dutchess County’s first commissioner of aviation.

The Army announced that Constitution Island would be opened during the summer as a recreation area for cadets. The DeWitt Wallace Fund provided $250,000 for a five-year project to add pavilions, restrooms, a lodge, concessions, picnic tables and possibly a pool.

According to the Army, Specialist John Jay Bennett, 23, whose wife lived on Hamilton Street in Cold Spring, was killed in Vietnam by a booby trap in an abandoned building. An Army officer from West Point and a priest delivered the dispatch. Bennett was scheduled to be discharged in April.

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50 Years Ago (March 1970)

The Continental Village Republican Club hosted a talk by Lucy Muscarnaro of the Movement to Restore Decency that included two short films on “sensitivity training and sex education in the schools.”

Cold Spring Mayor James Early signed a contract with the State Pure Waters Authority for a $1.9 million project that would “substitute modern waste management for the village’s current practice of pouring raw sewage into the Hudson.”

Dave Mattern of Haldane finished third in a free-throw shooting contest sponsored by Dutchess Community College.

Forty and a teammate, Bob Headly, were each named to the 10-player Putnam All-County Basketball Team by The Reporter-Dispatch in White Plains.

Milton Powers, chair of the Philipstown Board of Assessors, returned from the annual meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York, where he attended a seminar on “real property exemptions.” He noted that Philipstown had the highest percentage of tax-exempt property in the county, at 43 percent, compared to 19 percent in Carmel and 18 percent in Putnam Valley. Of the Philipstown parcels, 15 percent were schools, 14 percent religious, 5 percent hospital and 1 percent owned by the state.

Four members of the Putnam County Board of Supervisors visited pulverizing installations in Madison, Wisconsin, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to see if grinding methods could help resolve Putnam’s waste-disposal problems.

The Cold Spring Lions Club held its 31st annual Charter Night Celebration at Gino the Chef’s Restaurant. Four charter members of the club, which was founded in 1939, were able to attend.

About 125 residents showed up for a meeting of the Garrison school board to discuss a proposal to plant the town with a 5000 annual (about $100,000 today).

A science teacher at Haldane High School, Jon Lovelot, organized a modern folk music club for students.

31st annual Charter Night Celebration at Gino the Chef’s Restaurant.

25 Years Ago (March 1995)

Haldane said it would need to add a fourth kindergarten class because enrollment was projected to increase by nearly 10 percent.

Gov. George Pataki, of Garrison, and his wife, Libby, joined about 130 other people at the Plumthub Inn to honor Abby Hartman on her retirement as chair of the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

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Season Over? (from Page 20)

working athletic administrators who will make the best of the situation.”

At Beacon High School, Athletic Director John Giametta said the district would “do everything we can” to salvage a partial season for spring sports. “We’ve never seen anything like this, and we all feel for our student athletes — our seniors in particular,” he said. “It’s very hard to predict, because things have been changing so fast. I like to prepare for the worst and hope that we are pleasantly surprised, and that we are able to get kids on the field again.”

The worst case is a season lost.

“Our coaches have all offered to play whenever and wherever, and extend the season,” Giametta said. “They are all devastated, just like everyone in athletics.”

Although some athletes have been working out in small groups, athletic directors say they shouldn’t be because of directives to distance socially to slow the spread of the virus.

“We’ve instructed all of our coaches to tell the kids not to” have private practices, Sullivan said. “Workouts should be on their own. Stay in shape. But do it on your own. If I was talking to a group of kids I would tell them, in a respectful way, that it’s for your own health and safety — getting together is not recommended.”

The vast majority of winter athletes were able to conclude their seasons. The exceptions were those who were involved in state tournament competition. In the Highlands, that included Beacon bowler Selena Virtuoso, who qualified for the sectional All-Star team. It was scheduled to compete in Syracuse on March 14 before the event was canceled.

At Haldane, the girls’ basketball team had its Class C regional game moved twice, from a high school in Westchester County to Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh and then to Haldane, where it was played without spectators. Millbrook defeated the Blue Devils to advance, but the state tournament was then suspended. The Putnam Valley girls’ team also had reached the Class B regional title game after a stellar season.

“Our girls were very appreciative they got to compete,” Sullivan said. “To get to that point, and to get to play that last game — not only will they appreciate it, but they will cherish it.”

Bela Monteleone, a senior who was named MVP of the Section 1 championship game, said moments after Haldane hoisted the gold ball at the Westchester County Center for a seventh consecutive year: “We are so grateful that we got to play this game.”
Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

**ACROSS**
1. Do arithmetic
4. Long tales
9. Stitch
12. Take to court
13. Treasure cache
14. Work with
15. Newlyweds' trip
17. Siesta
18. Chicken-king link
19. Waldorf salad ingredient
21. Floated on air
24. Remain
25. Ostrich's cousin
26. Blue
28. Ruhr Valley city
31. Tear
33. Cry loudly
35. Apiary structure
36. Boredom
38. Solidify
40. Morning moisture
41. Village People hit
43. Express sorrow for
45. Like a duck's feet
46. The — Cometh
47. Jima

**DOWN**
1. Fire residue
2. Pair
3. Lair
4. Fashions
5. Fleets
6. Sticky stuff
7. Acknowledges
8. Washington group
20. Whip
21. The Way We —
22. "So be it"
23. Sense of humor
24. Remain
25. Ostrich's cousin
26. Blue
28. Ruhr Valley city
31. Tear
33. Cry loudly
35. Apiary structure
36. Boredom
38. Solidify
40. Morning moisture
41. Village People hit
43. Express sorrow for
45. Like a duck's feet
46. The — Cometh
47. Jima

57. Praise in verse
58. "When pigs fly!"
59. Conclusion

5. Optimist's part of the street?
10. Jacob's brother
11. Cried
16. Dine
20. Whip
21. The Way We —
22. "So be it"
23. Sense of humor
27. Pooch
29. Tied
30. Mr. Gingrich
32. Foolish
34. Accept as true
37. The — Cometh
39. Attorney
42. Pueblo brick
44. Unruly bunch
45. Texas city
46. "Zounds!"
50. Autumn mo.
51. Honest politician
52. Martini ingredient
53. Turf

**7 LittleWords**

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. like a good raincoat (10)
2. drew back (from) (6)
3. eye makeup (7)
4. Brolin and Groban (6)
5. place for a play (5)
6. in need of a nap (6)
7. gym sessions (8)

**SudokuCurrent**

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
Is Season Over Before It Began?
Athletes and coaches may have to forego spring sports

By Skip Pearlman

As responses to the coronavirus crisis continue to change on a daily (and even hourly) basis, high school athletes, coaches and administrators are trying to keep a glimmer of hope alive for spring sports.

On Monday (March 16), athletic officials for Section 1, which includes the Highlands, suspended practices and games for baseball, boys' tennis, golf, lacrosse, softball and track until at least March 30, when they said the situation will be “reassessed.”

Local coaches and athletes, particularly the seniors, remain hopeful.

“This is something we’ve never seen, and our athletes, students and coaches are handling it as well as possible,” said Haldane Athletic Director Chris Sahum. “Everyone’s health is the most important thing. Athletics are on the back burner. Of course, we hope to save some portion of the season, and we have a lot of hard-

(Continued on Page 20)