

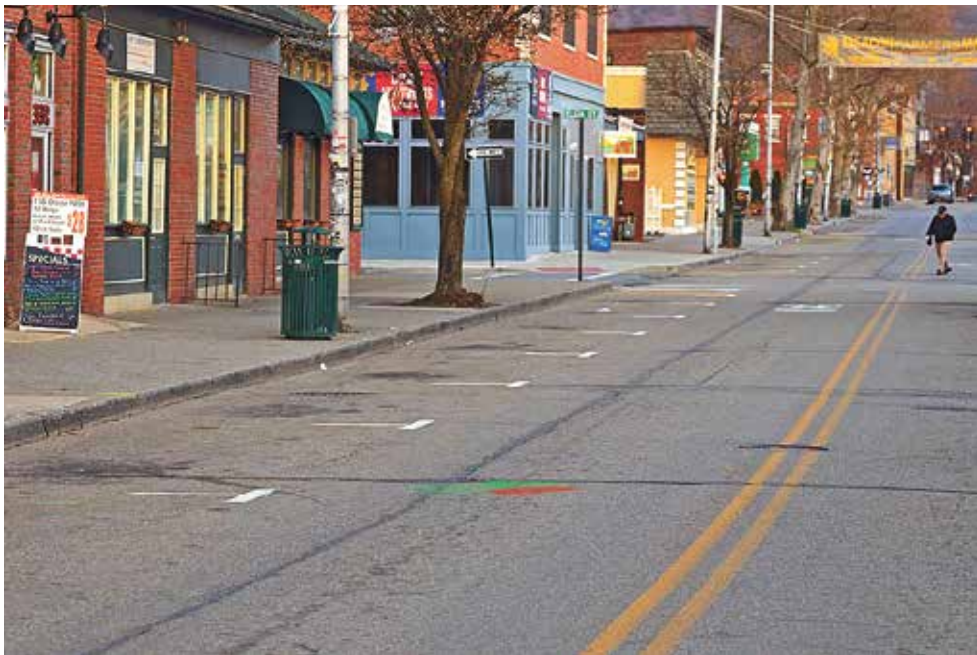
The HIGHLANDS Current

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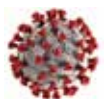
MARCH 27, 2020

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THE NUMBERS CLIMB — While Beacon residents fled inside to slow the spread of the coronavirus, a few miles down the road Breakneck Ridge was as busy as ever over the weekend. Some local officials are calling for the state to close its trails.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Coronavirus Update

Dutchess Has First Deaths

■ Dutchess County on March 22 reported its first deaths related to COVID-19. The health department said it could not share the victims' identities or where they lived because of medical privacy laws but that the first, who died March 20, was 69 years old and went to MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie after he had trouble breathing. The second was a 71-year-old man who died Wednesday (March 25) at St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh. Neither man had been screened or monitored by the health department for COVID-19 before going to the hospital.

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (March 26), 94 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County, 190 in Dutchess, 5,944 in Westchester, 1,197 in Rockland, 78 in Ulster and 751 in Orange. Statewide, there were 37,258 positives, including 21,393 in New York City.

■ On Monday (March 23), Dutchess County opened a mobile coronavirus testing facility in a parking lot at Dutchess Stadium. The site is open by appointment only and requires a doctor's order. Nurses from Nuvance Health, which owns the Putnam Hospital Center and six other facilities, collect a nasal sample, send it for

(Continued on Page 7)

Hike, or Stay Home?

Mixed messages from departments, municipalities, on trails

By Brian PJ Cronin

So, can you hike in the Highlands or not?

That depends on who you ask.

On Tuesday (March 24), the Putnam County Sheriff's Department posted on social media that, as per a newly enacted state of emergency by Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, you could not.

"Trails Closed," the message began, asserting that, with the approval of the state Department of Health, Philipstown was "closing all trailheads along the Route 9D corridor." Cones and caution tape were put up, and locals applauded the measure, which they saw as an antidote to the enormous crowds that have descended on the Highlands, especially Breakneck Ridge, in

the wake of a COVID-19 crisis that has left outdoor recreation as one of the few activities allowed.

But, according to the state parks department, its trails aren't closed, including Breakneck, whose trailhead lies just over the county line in Dutchess County, outside the purview of Philipstown by a few hundred feet.

By Wednesday afternoon, the state Department of Transportation had removed the caution tape and cones, saying it first had to complete a safety review, and the parking lots were reopened, although Metro-North closed its lot near the Breakneck stop.

(Continued on Page 13)



The Timmer family at Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia Photo provided

Stuck in Patagonia

Vacation becomes a staycation for Garrison family

By Chip Rowe

Nell and Ted Timmer watched with trepidation in January and February as the coronavirus spread through parts of China and Europe.

The Garrison couple had been planning since last summer to take their five children, ages 5 to 14, for three weeks to the Patagonia region of Chile and Argentina. They had attended a wedding in England as a family in 2015, but this would be the first big trip with children who were all potty-trained, eating regular food and carrying their own backpacks.

"As the beginning of March rolled around, I was patting myself on the back for picking the one place on earth that coro-

navirus hadn't hit," recalled Nell Timmer, who is a nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at Westchester Medical Center.

When the family boarded the plane at JFK to South America on March 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had only issued a Level 2 warning for Chile ["practice enhanced precautions"].

Two weeks later, on Monday (March 23), that suddenly changed. The virus was moving quickly, and the CDC upgraded its assessment to a red alert: "avoid all non-essential travel." There are more than 920 confirmed cases in Chile; last week, its president announced a "state of catastrophe" that allowed him to deploy the military, close the

(Continued on Page 14)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: FLOYD NORRIS

By Chip Rowe

Floyd Norris, of Garrison, was a financial reporter for *The New York Times* for 26 years and wrote a column on the stock market and the economy for the *Times*.

Stocks have plunged. Why can't they just close the stock market?

People would trade anyway, because we have the technology to allow that to happen. If this virus had emerged in the 1970s or 1980s, they would have been forced to close the New York Stock Exchange floor because it was a haven of close personal interaction. Electronic markets were not able to function without the NYSE doing price discovery [to determine the price of a security based on supply and demand and other factors], so they would have closed at the same time. Those days are gone; now the NYSE largely operates without person-to-person interaction, and the electronic markets don't need the NYSE.

People also need liquidity. Imagine the frustration if the market were closed and you had no idea how low it would go. What if you had a margin loan [to buy stocks]? How would you, or your broker, know if you needed to put up more cash? I suspect cautious brokers might just demand more cash, making a bad situation worse. And for people who lose their jobs, even temporarily, access to their money may be a necessity. The \$1,200 check in the new bill [in Congress this past week] will be far from enough for many people.

Has the stock exchange ever been closed before?

It was closed from July to December of 1914, after World War I broke out. After it reopened, it turned out that the war was good for American profits. It was also closed from 9/11, which was a Tuesday, until the following Monday, but that seemed to be needed

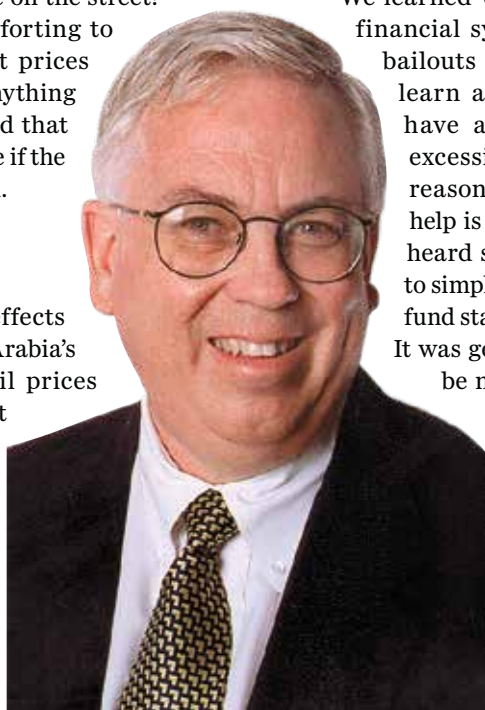
because of damage to lower Manhattan.

What are your major concerns?

I worry each day whether the wild market volatility is over, and I worry how people forced to stay home from work will get by. How deep, how long, will the coming recession be? How long until we feel confident meeting people on the street? It is, in a way, comforting to know what current prices are. Not knowing anything might be worse. And that is where we would be if the markets were closed.

What else do you worry about?

It's not just the effects of the virus. Saudi Arabia's decision to send oil prices down will, if not reversed soon, bankrupt the entire U.S. shale industry, causing massive losses to investors and job loss in the oil patch. And I worry about the govern-



ment prematurely relaxing the efforts now being made to control the virus. I and two of my colleagues at Johns Hopkins University, where I teach economics, wrote about that this week. [See cfe.econ.jhu.edu.]

Didn't we learn anything from the crash in 2008?

We learned we need a functioning financial system. That made the bailouts necessary. We did not learn as much as we should have about the dangers of excessive debt, which is one reason so much government help is needed now. In 2008, I heard someone advise people to simply not open their mutual fund statements and wait it out. It was good advice then. Will it be now? My instinct is yes, but I am not sure.

Editor's note: Norris is the husband of Christine Bockelmann, the board chair of Highlands Current, Inc., which publishes this newspaper.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite spring flower?

“

Peonies

”



~ Linda Patterson, Nelsonville

“

Lady Slipper

”



~ Peter Henderson, Cold Spring

“

Red roses!

”

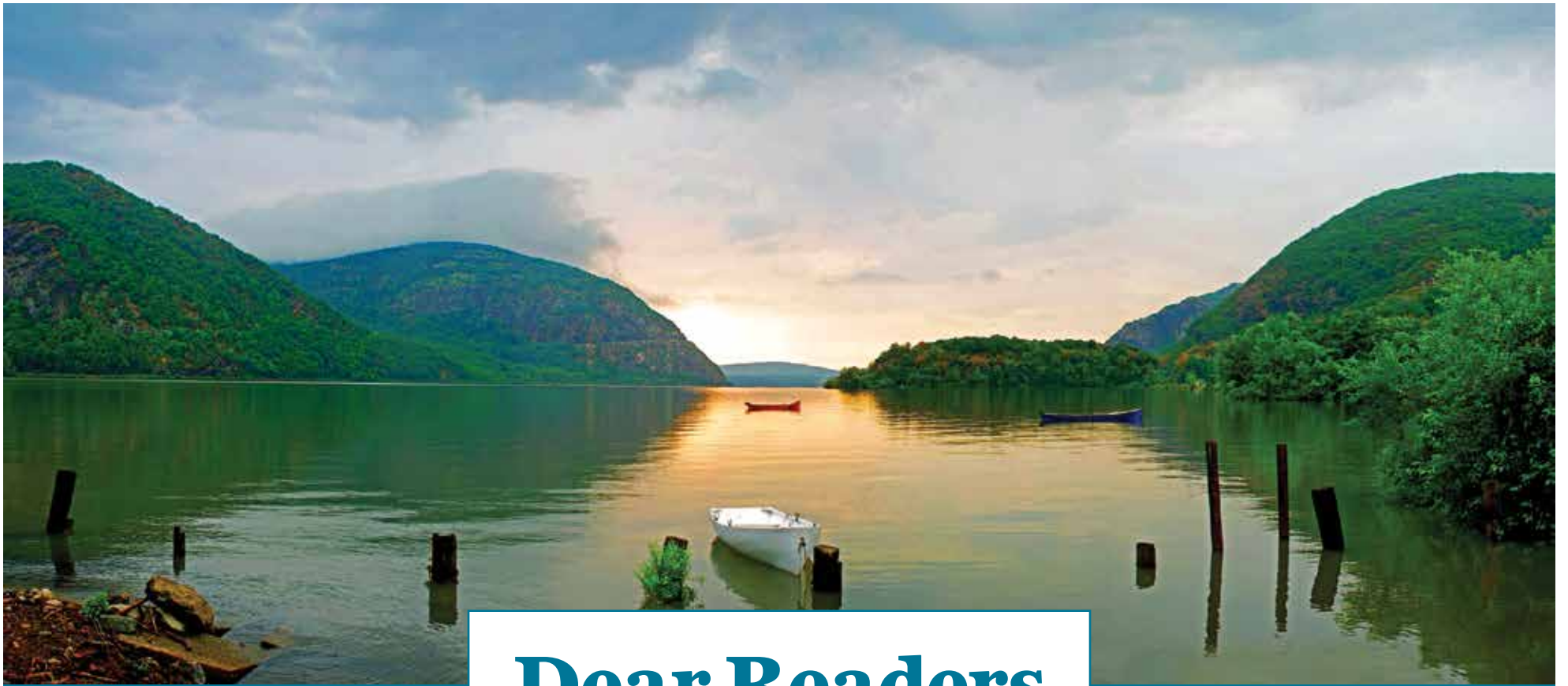


~ Patti Rinaldi, Beacon

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Dear Readers

At the end of this third week of disruption, I want to thank you for your support — and to let you know we will continue to publish the paper and report on everything that is going on. As I told our members last week in the newsletter I send each Thursday night, everything is happening, but nothing at all, at the same time.

We take our responsibility to the community seriously. The traffic on our website is up more than 40 percent over the last few weeks, which our reporters find encouraging because it shows that you, our readers, are looking to us for reliable information and news about our community.

Many small newspapers are struggling, unsure how they will pay their bills, as advertisers — understandably — have put their campaigns on pause. Advertising is an important part of our budget. Such a pause hurts, but everyone is hurting. We want to help local merchants and nonprofits get their messages out, to remind customers that they will be back, so in

April we will be offering deep discounts.

For nearly 10 years, we have offered this newspaper and access to our website free to the community. We don't receive revenue from subscriptions or newsstand sales. What keeps us going is the support of our readers, and, in this moment of crisis, that has allowed us to pivot and continue serving you.

I am grateful for that.

Most of our reporters are freelancers. I was concerned initially that, without art openings, sports, civic meetings and all the aspects of daily life in which we find ourselves closer than 6 feet to each other, there wouldn't be enough stories to go around.

After working with this crew for five years, I should have known better. As it has turned out, we haven't had enough space for all the stories they are finding. They have so many ideas because they know the communities they cover so well.

Like other businesses and nonprofits, we have taken measures to isolate and

protect our staff. Interviews are being conducted by phone and email. Photographers must go out into the world but keep their distance. Our regular Monday morning editorial meeting is now held via videoconference. During the week, nearly all of our layout design and editing is done remotely.

We know readers have concerns about going outside, including to pick up the new print edition each Friday. We have been providing early digital delivery of the paper to our members at the Partner and Patron level, but, given the heightened desire for information, we are now offering this service to everyone on our email list, including non-members. To sign up, see highlandscurrent.org/digital. (We offer U.S. postal delivery as well; please see highlandscurrent.org/delivery.)

My email inbox is always open. If you have news tips, story ideas or feedback on any of our coverage, email me at editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Chip Rowe, *Editor*

The HIGHLANDS
Current

The HIGHLANDS Current

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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

Stay off our trails

Encouraging people to travel now is irresponsible ("Out There: Trails Less Traveled," March 20). Every "trail less traveled" is effectively ruined when reported in a newspaper. Please consider taking the article off the internet. Anyone who is not familiar with the Wicoppee Pass trail who is considering it: There is *not* room at the point Brian PJ Cronin describes for two families to keep a safe distance from each other. And if it is publicized, you will find many more than "two families" at any desirable point on the trail.

Joanne Roffmann, *Cold Spring*

Unfortunately, the parking at the trail-head is limited, is near private property, and the access road — East Mountain — does not need significantly more traffic.

Much needs to be done to these trails in order to educate hikers on etiquette, such as staying on trails, hiking in small groups, and not leaving trash or spray-painting rocks. We have seen the impact of Break-neck Ridge and would prefer if this behavior does not turn these remote trails into the same overused thoroughfares. I think this column is premature and I am wondering if the author researched this enough.

This is extraordinarily short-sighted and dangerous to publish this article now, when we are trying to discourage people from congregating. Where do you think they are going to have lunch?

Craig Roffmann, *Cold Spring*

Please keep the secrets a secret. Too many of our "trails less traveled" have been ruined.

Kelly Preusser, *via Facebook*

I'm a local resident who was not aware

Correction & Update

In *Out There: Trails Less Traveled* (March 20), we identified a quote as coming from Lori Moss of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. In fact, it came from Lori Severino. In addition, the instructions for the hike read that a quarter mile before the yellow trail ends, you will find yourself in the middle of the Charcoal Blazers trail. In fact, you will be on the Wicoppee Pass trail.

Since our publication in the March 20 issue of the "2020 College Scholarship Guide," the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley has extended the deadline for the scholarships it maintains from April 1 to May 1.

of this trail hike. I hope to check it out one day in better weather. Thank you.

John Giametta, *Cold Spring*

I'm all up for people exploring the outdoors and our great lands, but please note these "less traveled" trails are in heavy residential areas where children are playing, ride their bikes, go for walks and walk their pets on these very narrow roads. It is irresponsible to send people up this road when they should be starting at Hubbard Lodge, where there is parking. There are no safe places to park on this road.

Julisa Rincon-Tomizawa, *Cold Spring*
Brian PJ Cronin responds: I didn't

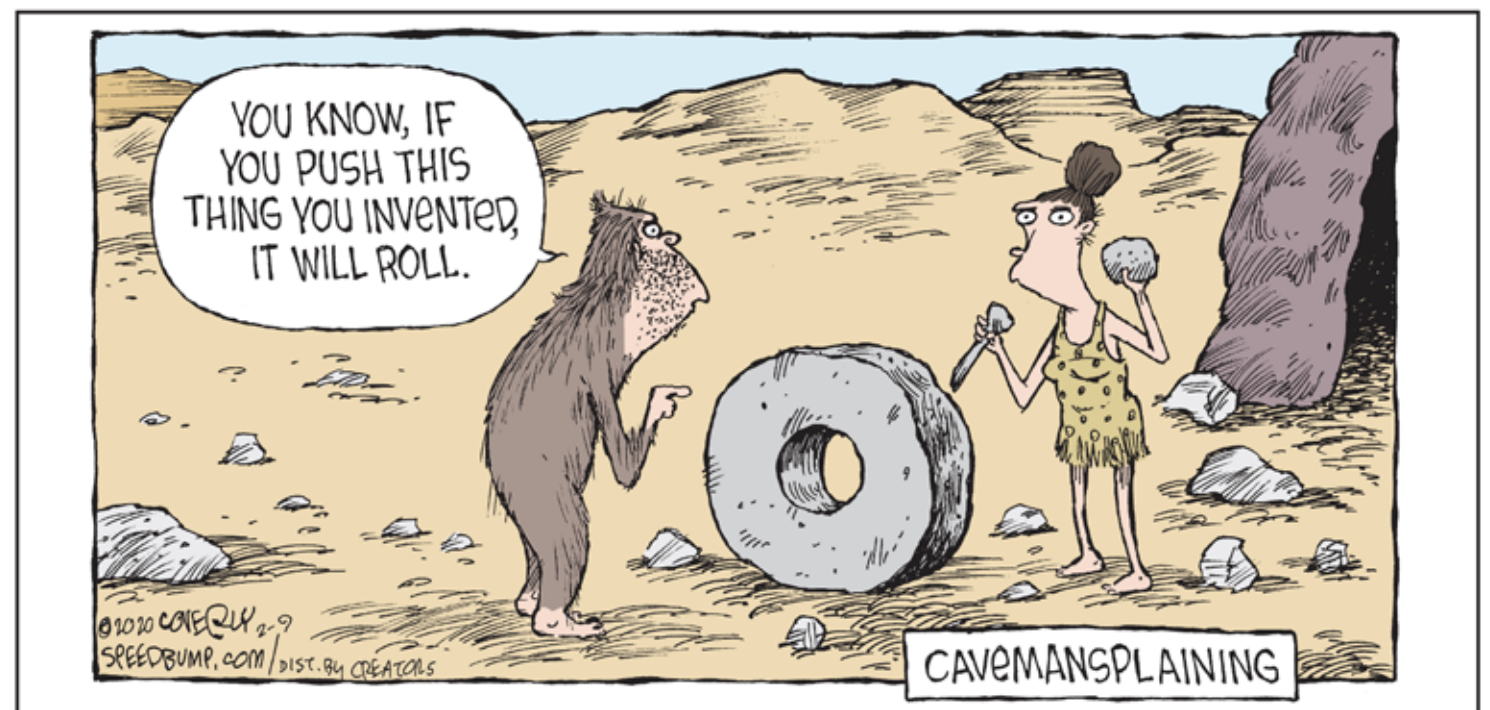
encourage people to hike up from Hubbard Lodge on the Schoolhouse Trail because the northern part of it is closed because of construction.

As this crisis sweeps through our state, so do the changes in rules pertaining to how we are to approach these changes. I have spent the last two days calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo, state park officials and state parks Regional Director Linda Cooper to request the immediate closure of Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, along with all New York State parks.

I am working with local officials, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy, Nelsonville Mayor Michael Bowman and Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley and municipal attorneys to do the same. I am calling for a "locals-only" policy. A continued influx of visitors at this critical time presents a grave public health concern to our small towns and our surrounding communities. New York City is the epicenter of this crisis in the U.S. A third of all COVID-19 cases in the U.S. are an hour south of us.

We do not have a hospital. We need to minimize our exposure to the greater world in any way we can. We do not need to be encouraging anyone to visit our parks, playgrounds or streets. We need to shut down the Airbnb rentals. We have an older, high-risk population with many retirees and limited critical resources. Some of our businesses are closing and others are on restrictions to comply with public health orders. Medical and emergency services, as well as basic supplies like groceries, must be available to meet the needs of our community at this time. Philipstown, Putnam

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Where to Get Your Copy of *The Highlands Current*

Blue Boxes

Beacon

- Beacon Bread Co., 193 Main
- Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main
- Key Foods, 268 Main

Cold Spring

- Drug World, 55 Chestnut
- Current Office, 142 Main
- Moo Moos Creamery, 32 West
- Tourist Information Booth, foot of Main

Garrison

- Garrison Cafe, 1135 Route 9D

Philipstown Plaza

- Allstate Insurance, 3182 Route 9

Other Locations

Beacon

- Bank Square Coffeehouse, 131 Main
- Beacon City Hall, 1 Municipal Plaza
- Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main
- Beahive, 291 Main
- Big Mouth Coffee, 387 Main
- BJ's Soulfood, 213 Main
- Forrestal Heights lobby, Route 9D
- Mr. V's Deli, 297 Main
- Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Mai
- Trax, 1 East Main

Cold Spring

- Cold Spring Farmers' Market
- Cold Spring Pizza, 120 Main
- Country Goose, 115 Main
- Doug's Pretty Good Pub, 54 Main
- Foodtown, 49 Chestnut
- Foundry Cafe, 53 Main
- Garden Cafe, 116 Main
- NYP/Hudson Valley Hospital, 1756 Route 9D
- Yannitelli Wines, 55 Chestnut

Cortlandt

- 123 Food Stop, 871 Route 9

Fishkill

- Hometown Deli, 812 Route 52
- Maya Cafe, 448 Route 9

Garrison

- Appalachian Market, 1467 Route 9
- Garrison Gulf, 1122 Route 9D
- Garrison Post Office, 1145 Route 9D
- Garrison Restaurant, 2534 Route 9

Nelsonville

- Juanita's Kitchen, 289 Main

Philipstown

- B&L Deli, 3182, Route 9
- BP Station, 3188 Route 9
- Glassbury Court, 3370 Route 9
- Round-up Texas BBQ, 2741 Route 9
- Vera's Farm Market, 3091 Route 9

(Continued from Page 4)

Valley and Putnam County are not in a position to support the potential needs of extra guests at this time. It's too dangerous.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*
Montgomery is a Putnam County legislator whose district includes Philipstown.

We are all in need of and entitled to enjoy the outdoors.

Denise Loatman-Owens, *via Facebook*

Those of us who live up here have identified quite a number of hungry bear sightings on East Mountain. We do not suggest visitors take this trail.

Lynn Rogoff, *Cold Spring*

We pay very high taxes to live in this beautiful area and it has to be shared with everyone? I don't think so. There are plenty of parks in New York City. East Mountain Road South is not intended for high-volume traffic.

Doreen Derry, *Cold Spring*

Trails less traveled will become trails most traveled by citidiot. About 10 years ago one of the New York papers wrote a story about Manitoga. For weeks after, the city dwellers got into their cars, parked up and down Route 9D, backed up traffic, and blocked people's driveways all because they wanted a joyride in the "country."

This is what's going to happen to these lesser-known trails if you decide to "out" them. If anyone who lives here wants to find out about these trails, let them ask their neighbors. These trails are not a secret to most of us who live here.

Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

Cronin responds: None of the trails we'll be covering are secret. They're established trails, on state-owned land. They're on maps, they're in guidebooks. They're exactly the kinds of trails that the state parks department, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference have been urging people to get out on: Lesser-known hikes, so that there is plenty of room and space for people to be responsible and practice social

distancing. The column is designed for local people, probably families, who desperately would like to get outside to enjoy the one leisure activity we have left these days but can't because the trails they know about are too crowded. (Editor's note: A longer response from Brian is online.)

I live a giant's stone throw away from Wicoppee Pass, the first featured trail of your Trails Less Traveled series. I find myself hiking or running on it at least once a week. In the lucky place that we live — among a thick nest of trails that clamber up mountains and cut deep into the forests — too many of us know of just a few routes, those made infamous by the out-of-town crowds.

In these extraordinary times, when a hike is just about the only thing a family can do together outside, it's wonderful to share with our neighbors some of the ordinary treasures nearby. Thank you for the great new series. I can't wait to explore where the next paths lead.

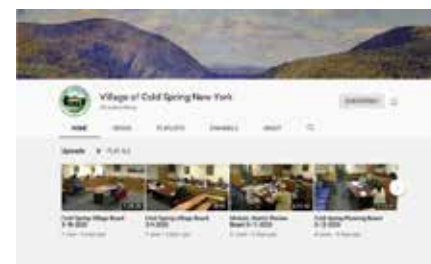
Michael Moyer, *Cold Spring*

This idea for a column is ridiculous and completely reckless given the current circumstances. I cannot even fathom the editorial decision being made here.

First, the caution being expressed by local residents has absolutely nothing to do about hiking, and has everything to do about inviting numerous people from all parts of the tri-state area into the community at this time.

I don't think anybody cares about exposing hiking trails or swim holes, but they do care about their personal health. And let's face facts: Most hikers who come here are from New York City, which at this moment is ground zero of the epidemic. There is no need to regurgitate the facts about asymptomatic transmission and the reasons for social distancing. It's just common sense at this point. I read the response from Cronin posted on the site and it is not only flippant, condescending and reckless, it's actually just plain selfish and symptomatic of the larger issue of why this "stay at home" order will be continuously ramped up.

(Continued on Page 6)



Meetings on Video

Under a state order to enforce social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, municipalities and school boards in New York State are allowed to close their meetings to the public. However, they are required to post video and/or audio. *The Current* has assembled links to local meetings at highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.



What Do You Like About New York?

Hello! I am a third-grade student in Northern Virginia. Our class is learning about the U.S., and I will be teaching our school about the state and creating a display about New York for our state fair.

Although I have gathered facts from books and websites, I think I can receive the best information from the people who live there. I am hoping you would be willing to send me some items to help me learn about the best things in your state. I am most interested in the history, traditions and culture that make your state unique, such as postcards, photos, souvenirs or newspaper articles.

Some questions to consider: Why do you live in New York? What brought your family there? What do you like most about New York? What is your job? What does New York look, feel and sound like? What animals live in New York? What traditional food and/or recipes does New York have? What attractions are in New York?

I will need to gather all my materials by the first week of May. You can write me care of Mrs. Lyons' Class, The Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101. Thank you!
 ~Aisha



Q: Why are there No Trespassing signs along Fishkill Creek near The Roundhouse? I assumed all waterways were public property. So why is the creek off-limits? ~Lee Neiley, Beacon

A: The land between The Roundhouse and Herbert Street is private property, although in 2010 the owners of The Roundhouse created a creekside public park, including a segment of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail, across the street from the Melzingah Tap House. They said the No Trespassing signs were placed on the land adjacent to the waterfall to keep people from getting too close to the banks, where they could slip and be seriously injured.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

Second, I would completely agree (under normal circumstances) that every resident and taxpayer is “entitled” to the outdoors, but given these extraordinary circumstances all those “rights” are literally out the window. When it comes to saving the lives of the most vulnerable (and maybe even those who are strongest, if the latest developments are true) then perhaps it’s time for *The Current* to focus on activities that can be enjoyed indoors and not ones that create a melting pot of epidemiology on our trails, and in turn our supermarkets, public spaces, etc. In my opinion, it’s worth erring on the side of caution.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*
Bowman is the mayor of Nelsonville.

I just read Brian’s reply and found it insufficient, condescending and tone-deaf. I add my voice to the growing chorus of community members imploring *The Current* to not only take this post down but to give up the idea of the Trail Less Traveled column out of respect for our community, as well as for nature.

Brian assures us this column is intended for local readership and justifies the necessity by saying locals may not be aware of uncrowded trails — this is after Brian reminds us that these trails are not secrets, are published in maps and in guidebooks, and are on state land.

I would imagine that anyone ambitious enough to get out into nature would know how

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of March 25, along with historical data, are below. The Census Bureau sent reminders this past week to those who had not yet responded. If a household hasn’t answered by April 1, the agency sends a paper questionnaire.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	29	69.1	71	72
Philipstown	26.5	66.2	67	64
Putnam County	26.3	66.8	67	56
National	26.2	66.5	67	65
18th District	24.3	66		
Dutchess County	23.6	65.7	68	64
New York State	22.3	64.6	67	62
Beacon	21.6	67.2	65	61
Nelsonville	20.6	65.8	54	66
New York City	18.5	64	55	53
Newburgh	14.4	50.2	45	44

to use Google, consult a map, buy a guidebook from their local bookstore or ask a neighbor. No need for the weekly paper to do that.

Heather Candon, *via Facebook*

I implore you, for all that is decent and human, remove the article online and apologize immediately. Shame on you, *Highlands Current*. You should know better! I’m angry. Directing people to “less traveled trails” during a pandemic is completely irresponsible. While I imagine this action is well-intended, it will not produce good or healthy results.

Lori Moss, *Cold Spring*

If you’re a financial supporter of this paper, let them know this is a very bad idea.

Allison Jacoby, *via Facebook*

I know this article is truly well-intentioned, but I agree with Nancy Montgomery. Visitors should not be encouraged now. Also, please don’t publish the address of a private home as a landmark!

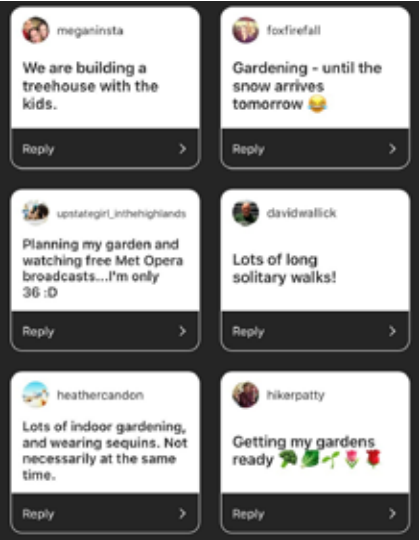
Lisa Alcott, *Cold Spring*

We all need shelter

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has declared that real estate agents are “non-essential”

Stress Relievers

After Michael Turton asked three Highlands residents for the March 20 issue what they were doing to combat the stress of the coronavirus, we put the question to our followers at [instagram.com/highlandscurrent](https://www.instagram.com/highlandscurrent). Below are some of their responses.



service providers and must close. He also banned open houses and showings. As a licensed real estate broker, I believe this to be a mistake.

Here in the Hudson Valley, we are fielding calls from concerned city dwellers wishing to escape a likely New York City lockdown. They’re seeking short-term rentals in our area, and we’re unable to help them. Our hands have been tied, effectively stranding them in an already over congested city. What purpose does that serve?

There are two basic human needs: food and shelter. Nationwide, we are entering a time of huge societal disruption. Children will be taking their parents out of nursing homes to protect them; homeowners and landlords will not be able to make their mortgage payments; the unemployed will be hard-pressed to pay their rent. People will need to relocate to be closer to family. Everybody will still need a roof over their heads. And real estate agents are uniquely positioned to help.

Real estate agents greatly contribute to the efficiency of the housing market. We are all deeply embedded in our communities. No one knows the housing stock better than we do. That knowledge is our job description.

If we have to, we can do without offices, but we will still need to have showings. There is only so much we can accomplish virtually. Most people will still want to physically visit a property before renting it and, especially, buying.

Showings will require social distancing. Surfaces will need to be disinfected. With common sense, our work can be conducted with minimum risk to the public and to ourselves.

Real estate agents have much to contribute to our communities. This is no time to sideline us. Gov. Cuomo should reconsider his overly hasty decision.

Daniel Aubry, *Beacon*

NOTICE

Dear Philipstown Residents,

My family and I are very concerned about the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and I imagine all of you are too. There is already major disruption to our daily lives and we all need to accept that this will be the case for an extended period of time. Recognizing this, we must do what is best for our community.

We need to focus on essential services so the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will be suspending all nonessential government activities. Please refrain from visiting our temporary Town Hall, Recreation Department, Court or Building Department. If you have business with the Town, please use email or the telephone.

We must think not only about ourselves but also about our neighbors. To assist in this community effort the Town of Philipstown is offering assistance to anyone who feels that they are unable to get essential items such as food or medication. If you, or someone you know, are in need of help please call the Town at 845 265 5200. We have resources and the ability to help. This will include home deliveries of essential needs and accurate information from both State and County agencies.

Please take the commonsense precautions that are recommended by the CDC. If you suspect that you have been exposed to Corona, please call your health care provider and they will be able to assist you.

This is a time when we need to check on the most vulnerable to make sure that our neighbors are safe and well. The crisis will end as is evidenced by the gradual abatement in other countries. There will also be a time when we sit down and talk about the lessons learned. In the meantime, let’s take care of families, loved ones and neighbors.

Sincerely,
Richard Shea, Philipstown Supervisor
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Coronavirus Update

(from Page 1)

testing and notify the doctor of the results, which could take up to six days. Contact your doctor or the state Health Department at 888-364-3065. Putnam County has set up a number of temporary drive-thru sites and the state has one at the Anthony Wayne Recreation Area on the Palisades Parkway in Rockland County. As with Dutchess, appointments are required.

■ Haldane announced that a student in the district has a confirmed case of COVID-19. It said the student is resting at home and that the symptoms, which first appeared after schools had been closed, have been mild. "It is inevitable that we will continue to have cases," said Superintendent Philip Benante in an email to the community. "I will not be able to inform you of each one during our closure; however, I felt it was important to bring this first known case to your attention. It reinforces that our children are vulnerable to this illness and that we must take the necessary precautions as a community to stop its spread."

■ Because of a 94 percent decrease in ridership, Metro-North said it would be reducing service on the Hudson Line, cutting capacity by about 50 percent. As of today (March 27), trains will operate hourly, with extra trains during peak hours.

■ The state established a free mental-



SERVICE CORPS — A small staff of Beacon school cafeteria workers on Monday (March 23) handed out more than 2,500 meals to students, their families and other members of the community, a big increase from the week before. For Wednesday, they prepared 6,000. Here, Stefani Dobert wheels meals from the kitchen to the site where the meals were handed to people in a drive-thru lane. Since the schools closed on March 16, "helping out at the pickups and delivering meals to families has been the highlight of my week," said Cathryn Biordi, an assistant principal at Rombout Middle School.

Photo by Ross Corsair

health hotline at 844-863-9314 staffed by 6,000 professionals who are volunteering their time.

■ Because Dutchess County could run out of Personal Protective Equipment within the next week, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will collect donations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (March 28) of disposable gloves, masks, isolation gowns, eye protec-

tion and cleaning supplies at its headquarters at 1 Arquilla Drive off Delavan Avenue.

■ Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro on March 24 announced the creation of Dutchess Responds, a portal at dutchessny.gov/dutchessresponds that has information for residents who want to volunteer through the Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County or to deliver supplies. It

also offers information about receiving food delivery, prescriptions and household essentials, and lists organizations that are providing relief services.

■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley on March 24 created the Dutchess Responds Fund, which will raise funds to provide support for residents experiencing hardships. See communityfoundationshv.org/DutchessResponds.

■ On Tuesday (March 24), the Village of Cold Spring announced that the Tot's Park is closed. It also banned all "non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size, for any reason" and asked residents not to flush disinfectant and baby wipes because of the risk of clogged sewer pipes.

■ On Monday (March 23), Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an order requiring all hospitals to increase capacity by a minimum of 50 percent, with a goal of increasing capacity by 100 percent. In Dutchess and Putnam counties and Newburgh, this would represent about 650 beds.

■ Beacon residents can sign up to receive updates from the city at cityofbeacon.org/index.php/public-safety-alerts. The city also has a list of food pantries, free meals and other resources at cityofbeacon.org/index.php/beacon-resources.

■ Mutual Aid Beacon, a grassroots citizen organization, is delivering groceries (Continued on Page 8)

NOTICE

An Update from the Town of Philipstown

As the number of cases of Covid 19 continue to rise around the country and right here in Philipstown, The Town Board wants to keep our residents informed on what is being done to protect all of us.

To date Putnam has over 100 confirmed cases and we can expect that number to continue to rise as more testing is done. All of the people with the coronavirus are either in self quarantine or in the hospital. At this time Putnam is faring well. I have daily updates with our County Health Department and they are working hard to get us current information and actions we can take to flatten the curve. Our County Emergency Operations Center is fully staffed and receiving the supplies they need each day. I spoke with Kenneth Claire, the head of emergency operations for Putnam, and he informed me that he is anticipating a shipment of masks today. He has a large demand for personal protective equipment as the EOC is the clearing house for emergency supplies.

Here is a brief update as to what we have done and what you can do to keep your family and community safe.

1. Philipstown has declared a state of emergency. This is so that we can take actions like banning parking on roadsides and closing off areas under our control. It

may also avail us to certain funding sources. We have decreased our staffing levels by over 50% in order to lessen person-to-person contact.

2. We participate in daily briefings with the Putnam County Department of Health for updated information on the number of cases and readiness preparation. There is now a 211 phone number in place for residents to get information. Do not call 911 unless you have an emergency.

3. Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville and Haldane and Garrison schools are working closely with Putnam County to keep information flowing. This is critical because right now data is what will drive both the response and the flow of necessary supplies to EMS and hospitals. We have also had conference calls with neighboring towns to hear what they are doing and what has helped.

4. Philipstown is ready to help people in need. We have gift cards for groceries for people who are experiencing difficulties from missing paychecks for any reason. No questions, just your name and your request. As of Monday, March 30, they will be available at 845-265-5200.

What you can do.

1. Visit the CDC website and the Putnam County Health Department website for good, accurate information on handwashing, hygiene and how best to protect

your family., as well as what to do if you or a family member becomes ill.

2. Social distancing is the best tool we have for fighting the spread of the virus. We are social beings and it is hard not to be together with friends and loved ones but social distancing is the most effective way to stop the spread.


3. Be a Hero and Stay at Home.

4. Make sure your neighbors, especially the elderly, are well. Philipstown is ready to help with food and financial assistance for prescriptions for anyone who is experiencing an economic strain.

To all our residents, please take care of yourselves. Right now, your good health is vitally important so take steps to protect it. Eat well, get your rest and get out for a walk and some fresh air while observing the proper distancing. This crisis will end but much of the outcome depends on individual decisions. The Town Board is thinking about our residents in every decision we make and your concerns are our concerns.

Be well and take care of your families.

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

By: 
Richard Shea, Supervisor

Montgomery Clashes With Putnam Over COVID-19 Response

County executive defends efforts to slow virus

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County's handling of the coronavirus crisis has sparked friction between its sole Democratic legislator and the Republican-controlled county government, with accusations on one side of "reckless" withholding of information and allegations of erroneous "facts" on the other.

The clash involves concerns raised by Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, and responses from Legislator Toni Addonizio, who represents Kent and chairs the nine-member Legislature.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell also weighed in to defend the county's performance, including "heroic work" by the Health Department.

Over the last month, in memos, emails and other messages, Montgomery has urged a stronger county response to the COVID-19 threat. Additionally, she advocates telecasting legislative meetings to "get our proceedings before the public faster" while social-distancing restrictions prevent public access. To expedite imple-

mentation of a virtual option, she offered to bring lighting and microphones.

Her communications highlight her frustrations after the Legislature canceled a March 19 meeting of its Health Committee and as legislators considered a policy allowing them to convene from remote locations, with no audience.

Legislators were scheduled to vote on the policy on Thursday (March 26). The draft policy, written on March 15, promised to provide meeting coverage whenever feasible via an audio feed or a telecast, but on March 20, Addonizio announced that the county intends to make only an audio feed available.

Montgomery greeted that news with the hope, expressed in an email to fellow legislators, that "we can soon find a better solution than audiocasting." She pointed out that other counties use Facebook Live, Zoom, YouTube Live and similar systems to offer real-time coverage.

Similarly, in a separate memo to Odell, Addonizio and others, Montgomery recalled that in January she recommended that Putnam "make advance preparations," including plans for utilizing technology for meetings, to "be ahead of this crisis."

She has also advocated that the Health Committee promptly address other matters, such as:

- Re-instatement of the county's part-time epidemiologist's job, which was cut from the 2020 county budget. Montgomery stated that the employee who served as epidemiologist now is simultaneously a public information officer, public education supervisor and epidemiology overseer.
- Supplying protective gear to ambulance corps, firefighters and other emergency responders.
- Clarification of whether Putnam has a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site. The county Facebook page mentions a drive-thru testing option, but provides no details, Montgomery said.
- A streamlined process for applying for food stamps, whose importance is expected to increase with businesses shut and paychecks lost to the pandemic.

At present, it takes applicants two to three weeks to obtain food stamps, but "families can't wait," Montgomery wrote on March 18. She also noted that only two county employees handle the paperwork and that applicants must either mail completed forms, drive them over to county offices, or fax them, although fax machines scarcely exist anymore.

(Expansion of the food stamp program as more Americans suffer economic hardship became a major sticking point this week in Washington in negotiations over

a \$2 trillion relief and stimulus package.)

Montgomery also wants Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the health commissioner, to brief legislators through telephone hook-up or other remote means.

Addonizio rejected suggestions of county foot-dragging and a briefing by Nesheiwat. "Your facts and therefore your claim that action has been untimely are incorrect," she wrote to Montgomery on March 19. Moreover, she continued, "considering how busy the Health Department is in fighting the COVID-19 outbreak, it is simply unnecessary and counterproductive to require the health commissioner to appear before the Health Committee at this time."

Emailing fellow legislators, Montgomery then protested that "it is unconscionable that anyone would deem the participation of the health commissioner during a public health emergency to be 'unnecessary and counterproductive.'"

She also told constituents in an open letter that notwithstanding her ongoing conversations with officials from the federal to the village level, and despite the willingness of neighboring county executives to discuss the situation "in detail, with transparency," she has been "systematically excluded from communications" from Odell and Nesheiwat and, "despite multiple requests," has been denied inclusion in telephone briefings.

"This is frustrating and worrisome," said Montgomery, who has publicly expressed her disappointment that she was not appointed to the Health Committee. "Their lack of information-sharing is reckless. It undermines public trust and creates social and political turmoil. We must govern together, or we all fail."

Reacting to Montgomery's criticism, Odell said on Wednesday (March 25) that the Health Department, "which is doing heroic work as the lead agency during this crisis, is casting a wide net," with outreach to federal and state officials, businesses and states less affected by COVID-19, "to secure Personal Protective Equipment and supplies for our first responders and for health care workers."

Putnam also has asked New York State to set up a drive-thru test site, Odell said, referring further questions to Albany. She likewise referred questions about food stamps to the county Department of Social Services.

Odell said Nesheiwat conducts daily phone briefings with county department heads and Addonizio and Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac Falls, who chairs the Health Committee, and that participants are charged with passing the information down their chains of command. Likewise, the Health Department disseminates a morning email and Addonizio sends an end-of-day briefing and "all legislators are on these mailing lists," Odell said.

Montgomery agreed on Wednesday that the county provides email summaries, which, she said, essentially repeat COVID-19 updates on the county website. Nonetheless, she added, "there's no coming together as a legislative body to discuss the coronavirus crisis."



DRIVE-THRU TESTING — On Monday (March 23), Dutchess County opened a mobile coronavirus testing facility staffed by nurses such as Jenna Dupilka (above) from Nuvance Health in a parking lot at Dutchess Stadium. The site is open by appointment only, with a doctor's order.

Photo by Ross Corsair



Coronavirus Update

(from Page 7)

and prescriptions to residents, many of them seniors, single parents with immune-compromised children or people with health issues. "People are so grateful, but they're also scared," said Dara Silverman, the group's organizer. "There are a lot of isolated seniors and people with disabilities who are falling through the cracks."

Silverman said nearly 200 people have volunteered to shop, pick up prescriptions or deliver the goods. The group also has created a series of neighborhood "pods," through which it coordinates requests and drop-offs. "A lot of people feel connected to this community but they may not feel connected to their own block," Silverman said. "People don't know who lives around them." See mutualaidbeacon.com for assistance, or donate at venmo.com/MutualAid-Beacon.

■ In Putnam County, three nonprofits — Community Cares, the Putnam County Business Council and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam — have partnered to provide meals to senior citizens, residents who are disabled or actively seeking treatment for chronic or terminal disease, first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS workers and health care workers. Those interested in receiving meals can call 211. Financial contributions can be made at communitycares.org. Restaurants in Putnam that are interested in providing family-style meals-to-go at a set price, or individuals who want to volunteer as delivery drivers, should email covid19@communitycares.org.

■ In a statement, the Putnam County Department of Health said it could not release the names of the towns with confirmed positive cases because of patient privacy laws. However, it said on Sunday (March 22) that "the numbers have reached the point where positive cases have been found in every town."

■ In Cold Spring, Drug World closed and is providing curbside pickup and delivery only. "We have a new normal and we're doing everything we can do to keep

(Continued on Page 10)

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Customers wait in line on March 21 to enter the Cold Spring Farmers' Market.

Photo by M. Turton

Dining Dilemma

Restaurants can stay open, but is it worth it?

By Jeff Simms and Michael Turton

A number of restaurants and cafes in the Highlands that began offering curbside pickup or delivery a week ago after Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order to end in-seat dining have now closed, and others are struggling.

For updates, see highlandscurrent.org/dining-out.

In Beacon, George Mansfield, who owns the Dogwood restaurant and bar, had to lay off his entire staff when he made the decision to close almost two weeks ago.

Mansfield, who is also a Beacon City Council member, said that a restaurant typically has a profit margin of 5 or 6 percent after expenses such as wages, insurance, rent or mortgage payments and utilities. That leaves little room for the sudden drop in business that came after the governor ordered restaurants, bars and cafes to close except for takeout or delivery.

"I've spent the last two days trying to decrease my monthly overhead as much as I can while we're closed," Mansfield said on Tuesday. "Those with the highest overhead now are the ones that will suffer the most. That's what's going to kill people. It's terrifying because there's so much uncertainty."

Mansfield said he considered staying open for takeout and delivery, but once you factor in the fees taken by Grubhub or other online booking systems, "you're immediately in the red."

Instead, he decided the best course of action was to dismiss his 20-person staff, which will allow them to collect unemployment, with the understanding that they all have jobs waiting when he reopens.

"If you catch me on an optimistic day, I think business is going to come back strong" for restaurants, he said. "The community knows how much we're suffering."

Kamel Jamal, who owns Angelina's in Cold Spring and the Beacon Bread Co., Tito Santana Taqueria and Ziatün in Beacon —

and had planned to open a fourth Beacon restaurant, Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, over St. Patrick's Day weekend — said he decided to close everything down, but not for lack of business. "I didn't want to be part of the problem," he said. "If shutting my doors will help slow the spread, we shut down. It's ethics, not economics."

B&L Deli in Philipstown remains open for takeout. "We have an obligation to our employees, our landlord and ourselves," said Bob Carpino, who co-owns the Route 9 breakfast and lunch spot. "We're serving our community."

He said that customers at B&L, which stocks staples such as milk and produce, ground coffee and chicken breasts, "don't have to go to a supermarket and wait in line."

The shop is taking precautions, he said. "We sanitize regularly and employees are all required to wear gloves," Carpino said. Customers also are asked to stand back from the counter.

"People have been very respectful, and grateful we're open," he said. "We're all a bit more humble."

Cold Spring Pizza remains open but owner Mike Procopio says it's been a struggle. "It's slow," he said. "It's tough. We need a little help from locals. It's been three weeks and I haven't made a dime. I'm not getting the numbers to make a profit."

The Cold Spring Farmers' Market, which usually operates inside St. Mary's Parish

Hall through early May, moved outdoors on Saturday (March 21).

"Our vendors wanted to continue and customers kept thanking us, so with the input from St. Mary's we found safe ways to continue," said the market's board chair, Susan Branagan. "The market is an essential service."

Branagan said she hopes the market can continue outdoors at St. Mary's through the end of April, before moving to its summer home at Boscobel.

The market seems to be thriving despite the virus. "We were slammed last weekend," said market manager Colin Wright, noting that many vendors sold out.

"People line up outside the market, respecting social distancing," he said. "Just a few people are allowed in at a time."

Vendors are also spaced farther apart than they were indoors, he said. The market has banned sampling and only allows customers to handle products when making a purchase.

The Beacon Farmers' Market has closed but customers can order directly from vendors, paying in advance for Sunday pickup up at the VFW Hall. Details are available at bit.ly/beacon-fm.

At Foodtown, hoarding appears to have subsided. "Thankfully, we have seen the business settle down over the last week," said Noah Katz, the chain's co-president. "Our supply chain is in full gear." Katz said he anticipates that, with a few exceptions, the chain will be fully restocked over the next week or so.

What's 'Essential?'

Just outside of Beacon, the Gap Distribution Center in Fishkill remains open because Gov. Andrew Cuomo's closure order exempted warehouse and distribution centers. But some employees, many of whom are still working 40-hour weeks, are questioning that call.

"How are we still essential if we're not shipping anything important?" said one employee who asked not to be identified. "We're shipping socks and shirts."

The company, on the other hand, said through a spokesperson that it has added measures "to keep our facilities clean and help our employees stay healthy and distant from one another" while also implementing a staggered schedule, "which will allow fewer employees to be at our facilities at any given time while offering continuous pay for the shifts when they stay home."



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Coronavirus Update

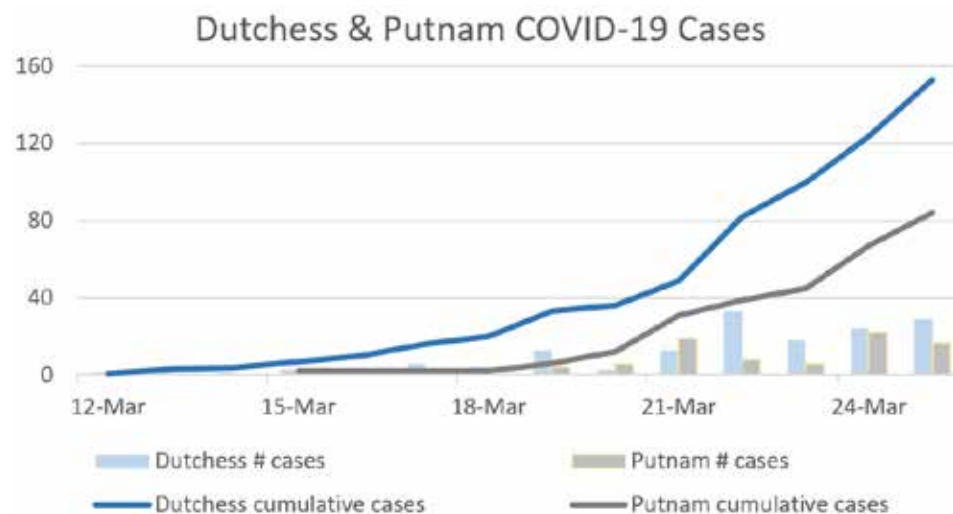
(from Page 8)

our employees and customers healthy,” co-owners Heidi and Mark Snyder wrote on Facebook. Call 845-265-6352 or email csp@drugworld.com and provide your order and the time you would like to arrive. Call the store when you arrive and the order will be brought to your car.

■ If you are not registered to vote, the deadline is April 3 to participate in the presidential primary election scheduled for April 28. If you are registered and want to vote by absentee ballot, the postmark deadline is April 21. Cuomo issued an executive order allowing voters requesting absentee ballots to check the “temporary illness or physical disability” box and cite “potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus” to qualify. You can download a form at www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html.

■ On March 17, Sven Wenske created a private Facebook group, COVID-19 Philipstown Community Care, to share, communicate and organize information about the response to the virus. He encourages community members to “post requests for aid/support and to share opportunities, events, broadcasts and blogs that may be helpful.” See facebook.com/groups/philipstown-covid-19.

■ The state and federal filing deadlines



for income-tax returns have been extended from April 15 to July 15.

■ New York State opened its health insurance marketplace to allow individuals to enroll through April 15. See nystateof-health.ny.gov.

■ Cuomo on March 20 ordered all non-essential businesses to keep all of their workforce at home, effectively an order to close. Essential businesses include grocers and restaurants, the media, health care providers, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, banks, hardware stores, laundromats and cleaners, child care providers, auto repair, utilities, warehouses and distributors, plumbers and other skilled contractors, animal-care providers, transportation providers, construction

navirus.” Call 800-688-0900 with questions.

■ The Haldane school board adopted several emergency measures at its March 17 meeting, including the payment of part-time employees through at least March 31. Administrators developed an emergency response plan that is posted at haldane-school.org and includes an overview of key responsibilities.

■ Beahive in Beacon posted on its blog a list of resources for freelance workers. “Much of the coronavirus aid being bandied about in Washington and Albany will directly support employees and corporations,” wrote owner Scott Tillitt. “Small businesses and self-employed freelancers are left to mostly fend for ourselves.” Its resource list includes links to sites such as Community Capital New York, which is offering up to \$10,000 in bridge loans at 2 percent interest to small-business owners in Putnam, Dutchess and five other counties. See beahivebuzz.com/blog.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and also has an informational hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County has posted info at putnam-countyny.com/health. 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.

For the updates, see highlandscurrent.org.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Village Hall, 85 Main Street,

Cold Spring, NY to receive comment on the Budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. The comment period will be kept open until 4:00 PM on Friday, April 10, 2020.

NOTE FROM THE MAYOR:

The Coronavirus has certainly thrown a wrench into our everyday lives. Everything has been turned upside down and there is no normal anymore. On April 7th we will open a Public Hearing on the Village's Tentative 2020-21 Budget with the public not being allowed to attend. Having always been an advocate for transparency and public participation, this puts me in a very uncomfortable position. Complying to Public Hearing Notification Laws we were not able to hold the Hearing earlier, giving more time for public input. So, although the Hearing will officially and lawfully be opened on April 7th,

The Village Board of Trustees will take public comment starting immediately and keep the Public Hearing open until April 10th, giving as much time for comment as possible. I encourage everyone to review the Budget asap and send comments and questions to the below links. You can also call the Village Hall with comments. All comments will be documented and entered into the minutes. The Budget is posted on-line with the link below. If you do not have a computer or would like a hardcopy, we will hand deliver one to your address at your request.

All Village Board of Trustee meetings are videotaped and available on the Village's YouTube channel (search Village of Cold Spring NY on YouTube), including the preliminary budget meetings held on 3-9-20 and 3-18-20.

You can view the 2020-21 Tentative Budget in a number of ways:

- On the Village website at <https://www.coldspringny.gov/village-clerk-treasurers-office>.
- You can also request a copy electronically by emailing the Village Clerk's office (vcclerk@coldspringny.gov).
- You can call the Village Clerk's office at 845-265-3611 x1 and we will make arrangements to get a copy to you via the US Mail or deliver one to your doorstep.

Budget comments and questions can be addressed to the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516, via email at vcclerk@coldspringny.gov or by calling 845-265-3611 x1.

The comment period will remain open through Friday April 10, 2020 at 4:00 PM.



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The Calendar



Jayde Green nibbles on biscotti



Donuts!

Photos by Dana Devine-O'Malley

Class is on hiatus, but instructor has some tips

By Alison Rooney

When the Howland Public Library in Beacon resumes its afterschool programs, Dana Devine-O'Malley will be putting on her apron again to guide tweens and teens in monthly "bakeology" lessons.

She's hoping the middle schoolers who attended the class before the library closed due to the coronavirus pandemic will use some of their newfound baking skills at home. She says her own two children, ages 8 and 12, are pretty good at it already.

Devine-O'Malley comes from a cooking and baking lineage. Her grandmother was a chef for the Lackawanna Line, working in the club car. "She was a foodie before a foodie was a foodie," she says. "I went to art school, but baking has always been in my life."

After working in New York City as the photo editor for *The Wall Street Journal*, Devine-O'Malley moved to Beacon with her family 13 years ago. She soon discovered there weren't that many bakeries around.

While nurturing a dream of someday being able to open "an affordable food place for all — it's lacking," she had stints as the manager of the Beacon Farmers' Market and launched Five Hens Baked Goods, whose products are sold locally. She also leads many baking classes, such as the one at the Howland. "I'm trying to teach kids the difference between home-made and natural and helping them learn the basics, which are being lost in this generation," she says.

Before they went on hiatus, the 90-minute Bakeology classes attracted

about 15 middle schoolers, she says. "It's a great class — it brings me a lot of joy," she says. "I put the essentials before them: washing hands, wearing aprons, skills and rules. I usually break them up into two groups. Sometimes they bake the same things, but sometimes I change one ingredient or step to show them how much changes with baking, depending on what you do."

"We've done sweets, pizza, bread, pretzels, crepes and have worked with eggs. We bake in two convection ovens the library has, which fit a couple of racks each. It's a little tricky timing things, and we can go over. When that happens, we pre-bake and let the kids finish it at home. Each kid gets a recipe so they can recreate the dish at home for their family."

For parents and caregivers who are now dealing with much unstructured togetherness with their children and charges, Devine-O'Malley suggests that cooking together is a great pastime. But she advises the adults, particularly with baking, to keep it simple. "Kids often get the concepts down, but they don't understand the time factor," she says. "They're surprised by all the steps involved, the preciseness, the science of it. I try to add a math or science element to it. I do a lot of measuring ingredients with scales."

"A lot of times parents see things in a magazine, and attempt to replicate it, but it's too hard. Start with crepes, or a basic cookie you can play with, trying different elements within that. Keep them away from packaged mixes, although there are some out there that are OK and can be a first step."



Creative cupcake



Dana Devine-O'Malley cooking at home



Alejandra Calderon



Big Cookie Pie

Recipe by Dana Devine-O'Malley

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- Pinch of flaky salt, to finish

Heat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9-, 10- or 12-inch cast-iron skillet with cooking spray. You can use steel or enamel-coated as well, as long as they are oven safe.

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars with a hand mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Add flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix until just combined. Fold in 1 cup chocolate chips.

Spread dough into skillet in an even layer. Top with remaining 1/4 cup chocolate chips and sprinkle with flaky sea salt. Bake until edges are golden, 20 to 24 minutes. Let cool to the touch, and cut like you would a pizza pie!

For two more recipes, see highlandscurrent.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 28

One Poem a Day Won't Kill You

GARRISON

Desmond-Fish Library | bit.ly/read-poem

Last month, the library and *The Current* teamed up to revive this annual event to recognize National Poetry Month in April. The idea was that community members would be recorded at the library reading their favorite poems. Unfortunately, few recordings took place before the library closed. However, we are able to collect and share poem recordings online. Visit the link above and use your phone, tablet or computer to record a favorite poem to share with the community -- something we all may need during this challenging and humbling time, notes Ryan Biracree, the library's digital services coordinator. If you have questions or technical difficulties, email him at ryan@desmondfishlibrary.org.



TUES 31

Knitting Meet-Up

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email Lucille Merry at lucille@desmondfishlibrary.org for registration information. Continues weekly.

WED 1

Lawn Debris and Leaf Pickup

COLD SPRING

coldspringny.gov

Leaves and grass should be bagged and small branches and twigs bundled and tied for curbside pickup by the village.

THURS 2

Paper Crafts Workshop

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary

The workshop will take place each week via Facebook.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 4

Arte Povera's Worlds

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
magazzino.art

In this livestreamed lecture and Q&A, Valérie Da Costa will address the concept of "the Mediterranean" in the work of Pino Pascali.

FOOD RESOURCES

SAT 28

Philipstown Food Pantry

COLD SPRING

9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Also SAT 4.

SAT 28

Farmers' Market

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | csfarmmarket.org

See the website for ordering information and protocols. The market is held outside and only a few customers are admitted at a time.

SAT 28

Food Pantry

BEACON

10 - 11 a.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | 845-831-1369
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

Also SAT 4.

SAT 28

Food Pantry

BEACON

10:30 a.m. - Noon.
Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St. | 845-202-7199

Provided by New Vision Church of Deliverance. Also SAT 4.

SUN 29

Farmers' Market

BEACON

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | bit.ly/beacon-fm

The market is closed but you can order online for pickup.

MON 30

Grab-and-Go

BEACON

10 - 10:30 a.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
10:30 - 11 a.m. South Avenue Elementary
60 South Ave. | beaconk12.org

Also WED April 1. On Monday, you can pick up two breakfasts and two lunches and on Wednesday you can grab three days' worth of food. If you need meal delivery, email landahl.m@beaconk12.org or text 845-372-2286. No phone calls, please.

MON 30

Community Soup Kitchen

BEACON

11 a.m. - Noon. Tabernacle of Christ
483 Main St. | 845-728-8196

Also TUES 31, WED 1, THURS 2.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 28

Woodlands Trails

GARRISON

7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Manitoga
584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

All programs are suspended

through at least June 4, but the woodlands trails are open daily during daylight hours. Manitoga advises: "Please take the necessary steps to protect your health by walking alone or with family members and by practicing social distancing while on the trails." Dogs are not permitted. A trail map can be downloaded online. *Free*

SAT 28

Trails and Grounds

MILLBROOK

8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Cary Institute
2801 Sharon Turnpike | caryinstitute.org

The hiking trails on the institute's 2,000-acre campus will open for the season. Explore distinct habitats and forests. *Free*

HEALTH & FITNESS

Gov. Cuomo Live Briefings

10:45 a.m. | twitter.com/NYGovCuomo

Tune in daily to hear statewide updates and plans. Katie Hellmuth Martin, editor of *A Little Beacon Blog*, says she is a fan, "not only for the facts — he loves telling you about the numbers, what he needs, why he needs it and when he's not getting it — but he leads you through the scary part, and then presents the life-after-the-pandemic part, helping you through the mental difficulty of this. He usually ends each briefing with basically a sermon."



MON 30

Meditation Group

GARRISON

Noon. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Via Zoom. Online registration requested. Offered weekdays.

Virtual Classes

COLD SPRING

Ascend Studios
facebook.com/
ascendstudiocoldspring

Cold Spring Fitness

facebook.com/coldspringfitness

BEACON

• BeBhakti Yoga

bebhaktiyoga.com

• Beacon Pilates

beaconpilates.com

• Pavonine Yoga

pavonineyoga.com

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 30

Story Time

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Lucille Merry and other members of the staff will read children's books aloud. Also WED 1, FRI 3.

TUES 1

New Parents Support Group

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email beautifulmamas123@gmail.com for the registration information. Continues weekly.

STAGE & SCREEN

MON 30

Live at Five

5 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
facebook.com/
beaconperformingartscenter

Sing and dance for some fun relief. Offered daily on weekdays.

CIVICS

TUES 31

Haldane School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School
Closed to the public but a video will be posted.
highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos

WED 1

Garrison School Board

GARRISON

6 p.m. Garrison School
Closed to the public but a video will be posted.
highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos

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Local Trails *(from Page 1)*

Evan Thompson, the manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, said he wasn't sure if Philipstown's order was enforceable on state property.

Even in the best of times, the patchwork of state agencies, municipalities, nonprofits and other stakeholders involved in outdoor management complicates matters. Add in a pandemic and the issue becomes nearly impossible, and the result has been conflicting messages about whether people should use the trails or stay home.

Just last week, it was simpler. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that the state's parks would remain open and encouraged responsible outdoor activity. The state parks department issued a series of guidelines, including to only hike with people you're already in isolation with, avoid crowded or popular trails, and stay home if you're feeling ill. The state Department of Environmental Conservation announced that it was still stocking streams for trout season, which opens April 1, and advised bird watchers to stay 6 feet away from each other.

At the same time, the nonprofit New York-New Jersey Trail Conference promoted a series of "less-traveled trails" in an effort to encourage hikers to avoid popular paths. In the Highlands, it promoted the Catfish Loop in southern Fahnstock as a suitable, spacious hike.

The advice went unheeded. Last Sunday afternoon, only two cars were parked at the Catfish Loop trailhead — one of which belonged to this reporter — and the trail itself was desolate. Meanwhile, Breakneck, Mount Taurus, Mount Beacon and the Hubbard Lodge were mobbed.

Hank Osborn, the director of programs for the Trail Conference, said that over the past week, the number of its maps downloaded online had increased 60 percent. He said he found that worrisome, because people who don't already have maps tend to be inexperienced hikers. In addition, the Trail Conference's trail stewards program, in which employees stationed at busy trailheads discourage novice hikers and steer people toward less-traveled trails, doesn't begin until May.

In the past week, both the Trail Conference and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy suddenly reversed course and began urging people to stay home.

Earlier this week, Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown, called on the state to close Hudson Highlands State Park. (See Page 4.)

"A continued influx of visitors at this critical time presents a grave public health concern to our small towns and our surrounding communities," she said. "New York City is the epicenter of this crisis in the U.S. A third of all COVID-19 cases in the U.S. are an hour south of us."

Many Catskills counties and towns have issued similar decrees in the past week, urging those from New York City specifically to stay away.

Breakneck Ridge remains a chief source of concern because it is one of the riskiest, popular and populous hikes in the country, as well as a constant source of aggravation for residents who grumble about the mass of people who congregate at the trailhead,



Metro-North closed its Breakneck parking lot and the Fishkill Police Department is patrolling parking along the east side of Route 9D. The temporary barriers were replaced on Thursday (March 26) by concrete ones.

Photo by Michael Turton

TRAILS LESS TRAVELED NO. 2

While state trails remain open, given the conflicting guidance about whether people should hike them, we will hold off for the time being on our next recommendation for where residents can engage in social-distancing in nature.

In the meantime, the state parks department has information about trails at Fahnstock and Hudson Highlands state parks at parks.ny.gov/recreation/trails, as well as maps and advice, and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference offers a "find a hike" feature at nynjtc.org/view/hike that allows you to filter for difficulty, features and whether dogs are allowed.

presumed to be from New York City. But a 2018 survey by the Trail Conference showed that while city dwellers do climb the ridge, the overwhelming majority of hikers are from the immediate area.

With another weekend of good weather on tap, and after a confusing week for officials and the public, plans are slowly coming into alignment. As of press time, Scenic Hudson was in talks with Beacon city officials about how to keep the parking lot at Mount Beacon open while limiting access to prevent crowds.

"Our parks are open," said Rita Shaheen, the director of parks and community engagement for Scenic Hudson, who also manages Beacon's Long Dock Park and Madam Brett Park. "Our plan is to keep them open but monitor them carefully. We're taking this very seriously."

Also this week, Supervisor Shea in Philipstown said he planned to meet with Evan Thompson from the state park department

SOCIAL DISTANCING

NEW YORK STATE Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
COVID-19

STAY LOCAL

ENJOY OUTDOOR SPACES CLOSE TO HOME AND KEEP VISITS SHORT. AVOID TRAVELING TO HIGH-TRAFFIC DESTINATIONS.

STAY HOME

THOSE 70 AND OLDER OR FROM A VULNERABLE POPULATION SHOULD POSTPONE VISITING. IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL, STAY HOME.

GO SMALL

AVOID CROWDS AND GROUPS. ENJOY YOUR VISIT, BUT UNDERSTAND IT IS BEST TO DO SO SOLO OR WITH THOSE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD.

BE READY

MOVE QUICKLY THROUGH AREAS WHERE PEOPLE CONGREGATE SUCH AS PARKING LOTS, TRAILHEADS AND SCENIC OVERLOOKS. IF CROWDS ARE FORMING, CHOOSE A DIFFERENT PARK, TRAIL, OR RETURN ANOTHER DAY/TIME.

BE SAFE

MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 6 FEET FROM OTHERS. WHILE ON TRAILS, ALERT OTHER USERS OF YOUR PRESENCE AS YOU PASS, AND STEP ASIDE TO LET OTHERS PASS.

Advice for hikers from the state parks department

to come up with what Shea referred to as "more creative" ways to limit parking.

Shea stressed that, for now at least, the trails were open. But he said a lot more common sense and distance is needed from everyone.

"We encourage people to get outside, especially our residents," said Shea. "They

have a right to do these things. We support these trails. In times like these it's extremely important for your mental health and your physical health to get outside and get moving. But people are finding that they're unable to do that because of the level of crowding on the trails, and it's discouraging our residents from getting out there."

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Summer Camp Guide

Many camps scheduled for June, July and August are in flux as they wait to see where we are with the coronavirus by the summer. We're optimistic, and below share a list of local and nearby camps and their contact information.

4th Wall Theatre Camp (Wappingers Falls)
845-226-8099 | 4thwallproductions.org

All Sport Camp Fit (Fishkill)
845-896-5678
allsporthealthandfitness.com

Army Sports (West Point)
armywestpointssportscamps.com

Ballet Arts Studio (Beacon)
845-831-1870 | balletartsstudio.com

Beacon Art Adventures
845-218-1593 | beaconartadventures.com

Beacon Art Studios (Wappingers Falls)
845-728-2542 | beaconartstudios.com

Beacon Music Factory
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Beacon Pantry Cooking
845-440-8923 | beaconpantry.com

Beacon Performing Arts Center
845-350-2722
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Be Creative as Possible (Beacon)
845-905-2338 | becreativeaspossible.com

Camp @ The Camp (Beacon)
845-765-8440 | cityofbeacon.org

Common Ground Farm (Wappingers Falls)
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Compass Arts (Beacon)
917-648-4454 | compassarts.org

Garrison Art Center
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Hudson Hills Montessori (Beacon)
845-831-1100 | hudsonhillsmontessori.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare (Cold Spring)
845-809-5750 x13 | hvshakespeare.org

Kid's Place (Beacon)
845-838-9934 | kidsplacebeacon.org

Manitoga Nature & Design (Garrison)
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Manitou School (Cold Spring)
845-809-5695 | manitouschool.org

Philipstown Recreation
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Renegades Baseball (Wappingers Falls)
renegadesbaseballcamps.com

Stony Kill Farm (Wappingers Falls)
845-831-3800 | stonykill.org

Storm King Art Center
845-534-3115 | stormking.org/summercamp

Surprise Lake Camp (Cold Spring)
845-265-3616 | surpriselake.org

Patagonia *(from Page 1)*

borders and enforce a 10 p.m. curfew.

The Timmers, and many others, didn't see that happening so quickly. After arriving in Santiago, "we had a week of nice, relaxing vacation" before flying to Punta Arenas, Chile, said Timmer. "However, when we went to pick up our rental van to drive across the border, we were told that Argentina had instituted a 14-day quarantine for foreigners entering the country."

The family gave up on the Argentine portion of their trip and instead drove three hours south, to an Airbnb in Puerto Natales, near Torres del Paine National Park.

"We did some amazing hiking," Timmer said. "Then each night we got on the Wi-Fi to check on the day's developments. By the end of Day Two, it wasn't looking good, and many services in Chile, including the national park and restaurants, were shutting down." In fact, it went dark so quickly, Timmer said, they weren't able to return their rental car.

"We realized we might not get out — nor maybe did we want to," she said. "The schools were canceled at home, traveling meant passing through busy New York airports, and for me, it was going back to work without adequate protection."

Realizing they might be in Puerto Natales longer than expected, and needing to stretch their budget, "we spent a few hours on a street corner using the Wi-Fi from a cafe searching for another [less expensive] Airbnb that had room for seven people. We rented it for three weeks — or perhaps a few months, as the [U.S.] State Department was saying, if we don't come home now, don't plan to come home for a while."

"That's the story of how our vacation became a staycation."



Mira and Emmett Timmer in Patagonia

Photos provided

Timmer said the family has appreciated the long-distance support from friends in Philipstown with South American connections, including Robert Choi and Ralph Moran in Garrison and Francisca Salas from the Manitou School in Philipstown, whose brother lives in Puerto Natales.

"We are all finding new routines, with kids checking into their Google Classrooms [for remote learning], parents finding their way to new grocery stores and other essen-

tial resources, and everyone happy to be together, healthy, under a nice roof with food to eat," she said.

"The kids are doing great," she added in an email on Wednesday (March 25). "I am proud of them. They have adapted to life abroad (except for the fact that Jasper was dying without a basketball — we found one today), have been curious and open to new experiences. The part they struggle with most is probably the same thing as us — the



Seven pairs of hiking boots

unpredictability of what comes next. We are having regular conversations to update them on plans. Having assignments from teachers has helped us have a little bit of structure in our days, which I appreciate."

The five Timmer children and teens — Graham, Mira, Emmett, Jasper and Henry — attend three schools: Garrison, Manitou and Masters. "Thankfully, all the teachers have been very supportive and understanding, saying things like 'They will learn way more on this trip than I can teach them in three weeks in school,'" their mother said. They are studying Spanish, she said, "but there aren't many people to talk to. Everybody is in their homes."

The family was scheduled to return to JFK on April 2 but their flight has been canceled. "At this point, we feel the risk of encountering COVID-19 while traveling is too great to outweigh the benefits of being home," Timmer wrote on March 25. Because many airlines are now canceling flights, "we don't want to give up the safety of where we are to sit in an airport for days."

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STORM KING RANGERS *New this year!*
JULY 13–17 | 9AM–4PM | AGES 10–12
Instructor: Evan Miklos
Fee: \$350
Adapting our popular *Storm King Young Explorers* for older campers, participants will make use of Mark Dion's *Storm King Environmental Field Station* (2019) as an exciting home base for the week. The station will become host to myriad activities, including tactile investigation of the landscape and artmaking. Campers will come away confident about exploring the outdoors and modern and contemporary art.



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STORMKING.ORG/SUMMERCAMP



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Small, Good Things

Existentially Yours

By Joe Dizney



His genesis of this column was an exercise in bringing a little mindfulness to the activity of cooking and, therefore, eating.

The reasons we cook, beyond mere sustenance, are critical in the current state of affairs. When the whole of humanity is living on the edge, its fundamental importance takes on more urgency. It's a pandemic! No, it's an existential crisis! It's two quandaries in one!

In such times as these — and I promise to not use the c-word or the term *social distancing* beyond this point — the activities in question boil down to: "What's available to me here-and-now and what can I do with it to satisfy the visceral and emotional needs of those I am responsible to and for?"

This is certainly no time for stupid food tricks, but when we're confronted with bare shelves and mouths to feed, something's got to give. Usually that something is the simple and always-available-but-elusive joy in the process of putting tasty, nutritious food on the table.

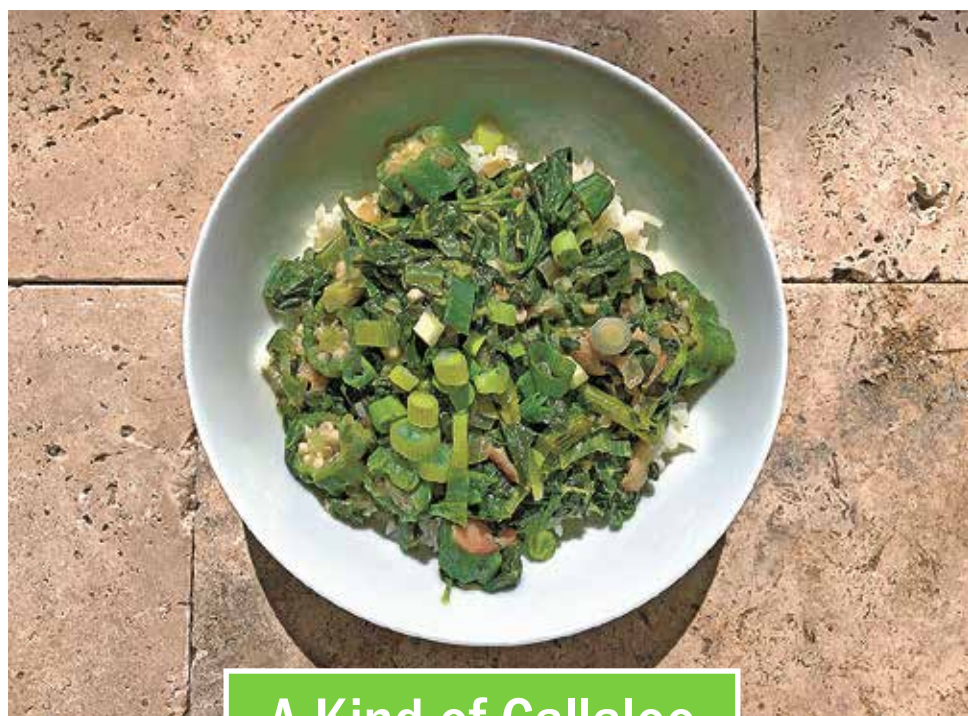
The situation called to mind food writer M.F.K. Fisher's eloquent *How to Cook a Wolf*, published during World War II at the height of food shortages and rationing. The wolf in question was loudly knocking at the front door. Fisher extols the voluptuous joy, wonder and discovery of transforming the most common ingredients into a loving feast.

Thus inspired, I ventured to the local supermarket, still in the early stages of the hoarding panic. Surprisingly, there was still a fair amount of fresh produce, but I was interested to see how we might cope in the worst-case scenario and made a beeline to the frozen foods, which offer the home-bound chef an extended pantry picked at its freshest and just as healthful and tasty.

I came upon a couple of lonely boxes of chopped spinach, some equally humble collard greens and a bag of sliced okra, a secret favorite of this Louisiana son, which would normally prompt a pot of gumbo z'herbes (a vegetarian version of gumbo) but for some reason flashed on the memory of a delicious dish of callaloo at the Caribbean Star Restaurant in Harlem.

Callaloo, which is a pot of greens stewed in coconut milk with onions and spices, seemed eminently doable under the circumstances. Risking accusations of cultural appropriation at the promise of a good meal seemed a fair trade-off. Then, too, Callaloo has the M.F.K. Fisher-approved advantage of being malleable in a variety of recipes: in addition to being served as a stew over rice, it can be served as a vegetable side, or as a main course with the addition of shrimp or crab (admittedly a luxury, but...). It can also be pureed and used as a dip or thinned with water or stock and served as a soup, so leftovers are wise and encouraged.

Somehow more appealing was the exotic promise of a little West Indian heat and creamy coconut milk, which also afford a welcomed antidote to the early spring snow in addition to offering distraction from the crisis. So herewith, an admittedly inauthentic version that I and my closest have enjoyed in various guises over the last few days. I sincerely hope you and yours find it inspirational and enjoyable. Stay curious, safe and healthy.



A Kind of Callaloo

Serves about six

1 to 2 tablespoons butter or oil for sautéing

2 strips thick, cured bacon, diced large (optional)

1 large yellow onion, diced

3 large cloves garlic, minced

3 sprigs thyme, leaves removed

½ teaspoon ground allspice

2½ cups (20 ounces) unsweetened coconut milk (not "lite" or cream)

1 whole habanero, Scotch bonnet or jalapeno pepper

2 packages (10 ounces each) of chopped frozen spinach, thawed and drained

10-ounce package frozen cut okra, thawed and drained

6 scallions, white and green parts sliced thin

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Cooked white rice for serving (optional)

1. Heat a large lidded skillet and add two tablespoons of butter or oil over medium heat. (If using bacon, add it and cook stirring long enough to render some of the fat.) Increase heat to medium high and sauté onions until translucent. Add garlic and cook for another minute. Add allspice and thyme and cook for another minute or two until fragrant.

2. Add coconut milk and pepper. Stir to incorporate, taking care not to break or smash the pepper (especially if using the Scotch Bonnet, or you risk ending up with a painfully hot dish). Bring skillet to a low boil and immediately reduce to a simmer and cook, covered, for 20 minutes.

3. Remove and discard the pepper and add the spinach, okra and half of the scallions. Add the butter and check seasoning. Cover and simmer all for another 10 minutes.

4. Serve hot as a vegetable side or over white rice as a main course garnished with the remaining scallions.

Note: Add grilled or sautéed shrimp for a heartier main course, or puree and serve as an alternative to spinach dip. To serve as a soup, add two to three cups boiling water after the vegetables have been pureed. Adjust salt and pepper accordingly.

Thank You to Our Members

As a nonprofit that provides quality journalism free to our community, *The Highlands Current* depends on its members for support. Today we welcome the following new names to our membership ranks. We are grateful for their recognition of the important role journalism plays in our community and in our democratic society.

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Our membership program, introduced at the end of last year, is now the primary means of support for our newspaper and website. The full list of our members is on our website at highlandscurrent.org/members.

To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, especially in this difficult time, visit highlandscurrent.org/join, or write to *The Highlands Current* at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (March 1870)

The *Matteawan Herald* reported that “200 girls in the village are *dyeing* to get married. Rather old girls they must be.” It also reported that “Miss P____” made a marriage proposal to a young hatter. “She claims women have as good a right to make an offer of marriage as a man has.”

The *Herald* reported that “[Mr.] Miller-ton has a girl 18 years old, who can speak her mind freely. She spoke a few nights ago at a Methodist meeting, telling one of the deacons that it was time for him to leave off lying and live up to what he professed.”

Benjamin Beach, of Matteawan, was in possession of a silver watch that had been in his family for 160 years.

The Port Jervis *Evening Gazette* reported that “Fishkill Landing is one of the meanest places on record. They shuffled off a poor helpless man on a neighboring town, refusing to give aid themselves. It is a wonder that they had sufficient charity to direct him to Newburgh, where they knew he would be cared for.”

The newly organized Peabody Life Insurance Co. announced that its New York agent would be W.T.Y. Schenck, of the machinist firm H.B. Schenck & Son in Matteawan. “Capt. Schenck has been for some years indirectly connected with life insurance, and brings a large circle of acquaintances throughout the entire state,” it said. “He is a gentleman of the highest standing and of quite considerable wealth.”

The right arm of James Hopper, of Fishkill Landing, a brakeman on the Hudson River Railroad, was crushed while coupling cars at the station and had to be amputated.

125 Years Ago (March 1895)

Henry Piano, of Fishkill Landing, who led the West Point band for 18 years, was granted a military pension payment of \$400 plus an allowance of \$12 per month. [According to a 1902 story in *The New York Times*, Piano was born at West Point in 1822, the son of Louis Piano, who “served in the French war with Napoleon and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Waterloo.” *The Times* said the younger Piano, who had retired to Fishkill Landing in 1867, “walks miles about town every day, attending to the tuning of pianos and giving instructions on that and other instruments.”]

The Fishkill Electric Railway Co. was incorporated to build and operate a street surface railroad from Matteawan to the Village of Fishkill.

Charles Robinson, 73, of East 44th Street in New York City, died at his home. He was known for the fine horses he bred at his family farm at Fishkill Landing. He made his fortune investing in mining interests in Colorado and California and the Northern Pacific Railway.

John Russel, who bought a wagon in Matteawan “just as it is,” took that to include the several blankets inside. When

the seller objected, it cost Russel “\$10 besides the return of the blankets to settle the matter,” according to the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*. The paper warned its readers to be careful, “as there are a great many swindlers in the country, and it is very evident that Matteawan is not in want.”

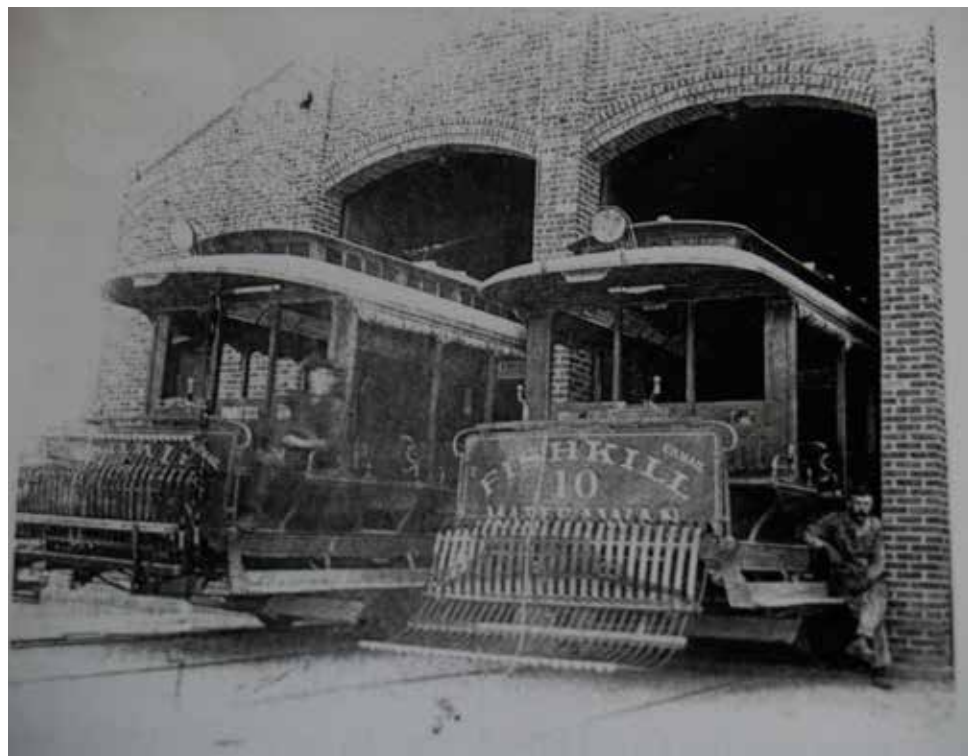
A judge ordered the release of William Harris, 28, from the Criminal Insane Asylum at Matteawan. He was supposed to have been released months earlier, but the superintendent of the facility said he thought Harris was still insane.

Another inmate at the Matteawan asylum, Thomas O'Connor (alias Edward Doyle), 20, escaped after being transferred to a facility in Brooklyn. Soon after the escape, the attendant who had been with Doyle disappeared, suggesting to authorities it had been an inside job. Doyle was said to have “a mania for committing suicide.”

A group of men and boys looting a shanty in Byrnesville (a suburb of Fishkill) days after its owner died at a friend's home in Matteawan found a large stash of hidden bank bills and silver coins. It was unexpected because John Corcoran had been a coal heaver. The *New York Herald* reported “the shanty is to be torn down in the quest for more of the money.”

The State Eclectic Medical Society, which promoted the use of botanicals and physical therapy, elected Dr. A.R. Tiel of Matteawan as its president.

D.S. McLaughlin of Fishkill Landing sold his tobacco and cigar route, horses and wagons to John Schwartz & Sons of Pough-



The Fishkill Electric Railway garage near South Chestnut Street

Beacon Historical Society

keepsie. McLaughlin had done his route, which covered Fishkill, Wappingers Falls and Cold Spring, and into parts of Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties, for 40 years.

100 Years Ago (March 1920)

The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the population of Beacon was 10,926, or 3.5 percent more than the combined populations in 1910 of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan.

The will of Elizabeth Barnard, signed an hour before her death, was presented for probate. Although her estate was worth

\$10,000 [about \$150,000 today], she had refused to make a will. On her deathbed she dictated her wishes to a friend and was said to have signed the document — “Elizabeth” filled half the width of the page and “Barnard” less than a quarter of an inch.

Twenty-five men competed in a 16-mile walk from Beacon to Poughkeepsie. “Some of the best walkers in Dutchess County have been entered,” noted the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*. Walt Knauss finished in 2:29:10 and won three trophies: for arriving first, for reaching the city line first and for being the first soldier or sailor to finish.

Anthony Faurellet died of “sleeping sickness” [encephalitis lethargica] — the first local fatality in an epidemic that had been confined to New York City.

Ferdinand Hoyt, who resigned as city judge to fight in World War I, returned home to discover that the man appointed as his successor, Daniel Dugan, was running to keep the seat. It was too late for the Democrats or Republicans to nominate Hoyt, so he won on the Citizens' Party line.

Pvt. Daniel Merritt, an Army machine-gunner, won two citations for bravery, one in Belgium and one at the Hindenburg line. At the same time, Harrison Holmes was cited for bravery by the U.S. Navy for submitting to experiments at a naval hospital for the treatment of influenza.

Richard Hoor, designer of the Mount Beacon monument [at left] and others at the West Point cemetery, died in Newburgh.

75 Years Ago (March 1945)

Twenty state troopers on a Saturday at 4 p.m. raided two illegal gaming dens — Speeds Smoke Shop at 342 Main St. and the Men's Independent Club at 238 Main St. — and arrested 32 players and six operators. Beacon police said they were not aware of the raids until after the fact. At the subsequent jury trial of the operators, an undercover officer said he lost \$20 playing craps at 238 Main St. In response, the men's defense attorney, Daniel Prior of Albany, told the jury: “On the door there

(Continued on Page 19)



The Mount Beacon monument, about 1900

Library of Congress



Frank “Dough” Dubetsky, Joseph Myers and Francis “Speed” Dubetsky were arrested in Beacon on gambling charges in 1945.

(Continued from Page 18)

is a sign, ‘Members Only.’ They played for 25 cents and gave refreshments free. They had to pay the rent and it was paid out of the contributions. The state police rushed in and took everything they could. I hope they will admit they took some liquor out of the cellar. They took a sledgehammer and smashed everything to smithereens. I don’t know why they should do that.” All six operators were convicted.

Beacon boxer Melio Bettina fought fellow heavyweight Jimmy Bivins to a draw at Madison Square Garden in front of a crowd of 15,000. Although Bivins was a 3-to-1 favorite and knocked Bettina down for a one count as the bell ended the fifth of 10 rounds, Melio recovered and managed a draw, with one judge scoring it 5-5, the second 8-2 Bivens and the third, 6-4 Bettina.

The South Avenue school was evacuated after dense smoke filled the second-floor hallways; firefighters discovered the assistant janitor’s trousers, hanging from a hook in a closet, were smoldering and two feather dusters nearby were aflame. The fire chief said that wooden matches in a pants pocket had ignited.

Harriet Brewer of Beacon was presented with an Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster at

Mitchell Field on Long Island, both awarded posthumously to her son, Tech. Sgt. Frederick Brewer, who had been killed in action.

50 Years Ago (March 1970)

A hearing held by the Public Service Commission on the weekend closing of the Penn Central ticket office at the Beacon station lasted three hours as residents complained about the railroad service.

The Beacon Savings Bank said that, as part of a push for urban renewal, it would allocate \$500,000 in lending funds to assist lower-income families, \$500,000 for FHA loans and \$250,000 for property improvement.

The Beacon Housing Authority opened bids on \$3.2 million in notes to finance the construction of the nine-story Forrestal Heights project for the elderly to alleviate what the agency said was a “critical housing shortage” in the city.

The Beacon High School boys’ basketball team finished as the best offensive and the worst defensive team in the Dutchess County Scholastic League. Beacon’s Jerry Williamson led the league in scoring, averaging 22.3 points per game.

The state authorized a 44-bed addition to Highland Hospital, bringing its capacity to 125 beds.



Jimmy Bivins of Cleveland (left) and Melio Bettina of Beacon fought 10 rounds before 15,000 fans at Madison Square Garden in 1945. It was a draw.

Firefighters rescued nine children from a fire at 98-100 Beekman St. that left eight families homeless.

25 Years Ago (March 1995)

The Beacon City Council moved forward with a plan to spend \$19,000 to install security cameras along Main Street. City officials said it would be less expensive than hiring two police officers.

During a meeting at Beacon High School, Detective Thomas D’Amicantonio told

concerned members of the Parent Advisory Council that most of the gang problems in Beacon had been “minor so far. If they escalate, so will we.”

The Rev. Al Sharpton, speaking at St. Andrew’s Church, called on Hudson Valley residents to join him and about 20 other marchers who were walking from New York City to Albany to protest “mean-spirited” budget cuts they blamed on Gov. George Pataki. They earlier had protested outside Pataki’s Garrison home.

NOTICE

EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 1 PURSUANT TO NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE LAW §24

WHEREAS, the existing pandemic of corona virus (COVID-19) has produced public health emergency within the unincorporated area of the Town of Philipstown; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Town Supervisor proclaimed a state of local emergency pursuant to New York State Executive Law §24; and

WHEREAS, the existing state of emergency requires that all persons are prohibited from entering or congregating at all roadside parking at trailheads on Route 9D in the Town of Philipstown immediately;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested in me as Supervisor of the Town of Philipstown and pursuant to Section 24 of the Executive Law of the State of New York, I hereby order and direct that:

- 1. Effective immediately, all persons are prohibited from entering or congregating at all roadside parking at trailheads on Route 9D in the Town of Philipstown immediately;
- 2. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 24, Subdivision 2, this order shall cease to be in effect five days after promulgation unless it appears to the Supervisor of the Town of Philipstown that the emergency conditions continue, in which case this Order may be extendedfor an additional five days.

March 24, 2020

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
By: *Richard Shea*
Richard Shea, Supervisor

Real Estate

Market Report (February)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	5	10	12	8
Closed Sales	4	9	6	6
Days on Market	73	97	111	138
Median Price	\$331,250	\$350,000	\$428,750	\$625,000
% List Received	91.5	92.8	89	85.5
Inventory	21	26	59	56

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

Current Classifieds

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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. Elegantly maintained backyard and garden. Laundry, all utilities and Wi Fi. Full basement. Direct to owner; no brokers. Email ben.f@thirdfloorllc.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

FOR SALE

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

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Cold Spring Wants Short-Term Rentals Shut Down

Concerned about visitors amid pandemic

By Michael Turton

With the U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic located 50 miles south in New York City, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy wants local short-term rentals, such as those listed on Airbnb, shut down.

"The advertising is there — you can go online and see everybody who's renting," Merandy said at the Tuesday (March 24) meeting of the Village Board. "Under these circumstances I'm not comfortable having families move in from New York City or wherever."

"We need to protect the people who live here," said Trustee Lynn Miller. She suggested the board write Gov. Andrew Cuomo asking him to shut down short-term rentals. She noted that Airbnbs and hotels are not included on the list of "essential" businesses allowed to remain open during the shutdown designed to slow the spread of the virus.

Short-term rentals are illegal in village residential areas zoned R-1, except on state Routes 9D and 301. However, homeowners in R-1 can apply for a special-use permit enabling them to rent rooms as a "tourist home." (Under state law, an establishment offering five or more guest rooms is considered a hotel.)

The local law has never been enforced



Members of the Cold Spring Village Board practiced social distancing at their March 24 meeting. Photo by M. Turton

and in recent years short-term rentals have proliferated. At a packed public meeting in September, residents expressed support for increased regulation of the rentals.

At Tuesday's meeting, Merandy said he wanted to "put it out there to ask people to stop renting. It's against the law and we will do our best to enforce it."

The mayor said he believes the village could ban short-term rentals and hotels if he were to declare a state of emergency.

When asked by Deputy Mayor Marie Early if he felt there were health risks associated with the rental of a home, Merandy responded empathically.

Someone renting an entire house "is more than likely coming up from the epicenter [New York City]. Where are they going to shop for provisions? They're going to go over to Foodtown. And that's where the health issue comes in. That's what I'm worried about," he said.

Early pointed out that short-term renters outside Cold Spring can also come into the village for groceries.

Merandy said that, recently, multiple families have moved in and out of rental properties adjacent to his home. "That has to increase the risk," he said.

The issue goes beyond the rental of entire houses, Miller said. "It's also people renting apartments in their homes. One person I know is on quarantine but renting out their Airbnb in the bottom of their home."

The risk that short-term rentals will aid in spreading the virus also needs to be considered, Miller said. "We need people to stop moving so the curve is flattened" and the health care system is not overrun with critical cases.

Merandy said he planned to consult John Furst, the village attorney, to explore the village's legal options.

In other business ...

■ The board tentatively agreed to the sale of a village-owned property at the corner of Moffatt and Healy roads for \$21,500. The 0.97-acre property is on the boundary of Nelsonville and Philipstown. Early said the property was purchased by Cold Spring years ago to provide Catskill Aqueduct access, which is no longer needed from that location.

■ Trustees approved a two-year renewal agreement with Comp Alliance for workers' compensation insurance for village employees at a cost of \$118,590.

■ A public hearing for the proposed 2020-21 budget is scheduled for April 7 but will be closed to the public. The tentative budget is posted on the village website at coldspringny.gov and the hearing will be videotaped and remain open until April 10, allowing residents to submit comments by mail or email. Residents without internet access should call the village clerk at 845-265-3611 for a copy of the budget.



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Schools Draft Budgets in Uncertain Economy

New concerns about state aid for 2020-21

By Holly Crocco

Along with the many other challenges of running public schools during the spread of COVID-19, local districts still must prepare their budgets for 2020-21.

Philip Benante, the superintendent at Haldane in Cold Spring, said that only a few weeks ago, the district was confident that it could create a budget that met the state-mandated property tax cap.

But now, with businesses closing, people out of work and the economy in recession, that may no longer be the case.

"In two weeks' time we've potentially done a 180," he said.

Under the tax cap, which mandates that districts keep their annual property tax hikes under a certain percentage calculated by the state, Haldane can increase its levy by 3.3 percent. That would equate to an increase of about \$56 per \$100,000 of market value, he said.

Benante said on Tuesday (March 24) that he had recommended a budget to the school board that was under that cap, but "the last two weeks have blown all that up."

COVID-19 will have little impact on the budget and operations for the current school year because the district already has its state aid and property taxes in hand, he said.

"The real impact is budget development for next year," he said. "To present a budget that is respectful of the economic climate — it's tough to assess that when you're in the middle of the crisis."

Benante also said there is fear that state aid will be impacted.

"A lot of revenue at the state level is

generated by [returns on investments in] the stock market," he said. "So when we see the market essentially lose a third of its value, that has a real impact on revenue for the state."

Districts have until April 21 to approve their budgets and deliver them to the state before voters are asked on May 19 to approve them.

Benante said that if school buildings are still closed in May, preventing a vote, the state could allow districts to approve 2020-21 budgets without a public vote, similar to the way municipalities adopt their budgets; the vote could be done by absentee ballot; or the vote could be delayed.

Haldane's proposed \$25.2 million in spending for 2020-21 represents a \$660,000, or 2.69 percent, increase over this year. Business Manager Anne Dinio said the allowable tax levy increase is higher this year than in the past because state aid for building dropped off, which affected the state's calculation.

Haldane is still paying off a 30-year loan that expires in 15 years, but it was only getting state aid for the bond's first 15 years. "So that variance gets added back to your tax levy limit and it allows us to tax more, because we're getting less aid," she explained at a recent school board meeting.

In addition to voting on the budget, Haldane taxpayers will consider a proposition that would allow the district to replace two buses.

Garrison School

The Garrison district's proposed 2020-21 budget is \$11.48 million, which is about \$400,000 more than this year's, said Susan Huetter, the district's business administrator, at a recent Board of Education meeting.

That increase is mostly due to a hike in

instructional expenses, which are increasing \$422,000, she said, and that was mostly in special education costs.

The state's tax-cap calculation allows the district to collect about \$9.5 million, which is \$219,000 more than this year. With \$917,000 expected to arrive in state aid, and \$40,000 earned from interest, Huetter recommended the district use \$1 million from its savings to balance the budget.

According to Huetter, over the last five years, district homeowners within the Town of Philipstown have seen a tax rate increase of 92 cents per \$100,000 of assessed property value, while homeowners in Putnam Valley have seen an increase of 29 cents.

"We have the second-lowest tax rate in a five-county area," she said. "The only school that is lower than us is Pocantico Hills" in Westchester.

Beacon

The Beacon district has proposed a \$73.5 million budget. Under the tax cap, the district may increase its levy by \$1.3 million, or 3.23 percent, to \$41.6 million. That would increase the tax rate from \$15.42 to about \$15.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Because property values have been rising in Beacon, the rate had dropped for four straight years, from \$16.51 per \$1,000.

During a March board meeting, Trustee Craig Wolf noted that recent re-valuations in municipalities may cause residents to see an increase in their taxes.

He said those increases were "not the doing of the district" but the City of Beacon, the Town of Wappinger and the Town of Fishkill.

According to Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi, the district was able to save some money in the 2020-21 budget because of eight teacher retirements and the growth of the tax base. However, the district expects its contribution to the teacher retirement system to increase by as much as 1.4 percent.

The facilities budget is expected to increase about \$100,000, she said, which would include the purchase of a new dump truck with snowplow and the repair and resurfacing of the pool. In addition, the transportation department would like to spend \$390,000 on two 72-passenger school buses and three 20-passenger buses.

The technology budget should decrease by nearly \$270,000 — mostly with the help of nearly \$200,000 in increased regional aid, as well as reductions in supplies and hardware — although Director of Technology Mike Kealy said the district needs to replace 250 outdated laptops used by students. The department also would like to increase its cybersecurity budget by 43 percent, he said.

School Votes Still On, as of Now

The annual school budget votes and trustee elections are on schedule for May 19, according to education officials.

Three of the nine seats on the **Beacon** school board — those held by President Anthony White, Kristan Flynn and Craig Wolf — will be on the ballot. Candidates must submit nominating petitions signed by at least 100 qualified district voters to the district clerk by 5 p.m. on April 29. Call 845-838-6900, ext. 2032, or email pologe.k@beaconk12.org for information.

Three seats will also be open on the seven-member **Garrison** school board. One is for a seat vacated over the summer by Raymond O'Rourke

and two are for full, 3-year terms for the seats held by Diana Swinburne, who also resigned over the summer, and Courtney McCarthy. (The candidate with the lowest vote total will fill the one-year term.) Nominating petitions are available by calling District Clerk Dusti Callo at 845-424-3689, ext. 224.

At Haldane, there is one seat up on the five-member board, held by Peggy Clements. Nominating petitions are available by emailing District Clerk Catherine Platt at cplatt@haldaneschool.org.

For Garrison and Haldane, petitions must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters from the district and filed with the clerk by 5 p.m. on April 20.

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Middle School Honor Rolls

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

HALDANE

Principal's List

Grade 8 – Quinlynn Carmicino, Luca DiLello, Maggie Gordineer, Clement Grossman, Amelia Kupper, Elaine Llewellyn, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Julie Shields, Emily Tomann, Joseline Vasquez

Grade 7 – Amelia Alayon, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Savannah Crofts, Edwin Dubroff, Violeta

Edwards Salas, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchison, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Oliver Petkus, Brendan Shanahan, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Stickle

Grade 6 - Dylan Ambrose, Daniel Campanile, Eleanor Chew, Louise Denehy, Aine Duggan, Ryder Henricksen, Kai letaka, Sofia Kelly, Nicolas Lagerman, Elliott Mahoney, Lincoln McCarthy, Fiona Mooney, William O'Hara, Marisa Peters, Maxwell Sanders, Tomas Simko, Ty Vilella

High Honor Roll

Grade 8 – Scott Bailey, Jr., Lily Benson, Hannah Bissinger, Vanja Booth, Alexandra Busselle, Lili-ana Cappello, Frankie DiGiglio, Oscar Donahue, Liam Gaugler,

Evan Giachinta, Jeremy Hall, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Madeleine Hutz, Sarah Jones, Mary Junjulas, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Henry O'Neil, Ruby Poses, Ryan Van Tassel, Mackenzie Warren

Grade 7 – Domenica Awananch, Claire Bolte, Judine Cox, Kira Drury, Christian Ferreira, Patrick Ferreira, Ethan Hall, Tyler Hyatt, Zohra Kapoor, Sophie Koch, Rain Lee, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Ranger McElhattan, Jake Powers, Laurel Sassano, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Isabella Tavares, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons

Grade 6 – Anthony Bailey, Molly Bernstein, Luke Bozsik, Lyla Chandler, Diego DiGiglio, Savannah Duggan, Aine Fortuna, James Frommer, Ryder Griffin, Carl Kester, Genevieve Knox, Ember

Mahoney, Nicolo Masella, Owen Powers, Kayla Ruggiero, Samantha Thomas, Luke Tippet

Honor Roll

Grade 8 - Grace Bradley, Alissa Buslovich, William Denehy, Liam Flanagan, Emily Gilleo, Zachary Harris, Lola Mahoney, Jacqueline Muth, Simon Pieza, Peter Ruggiero, Oliva Scanga

Grade 7 – Alexandra Cairns, Emilia Cardoso, Brody Corless, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Wilson Robohm, Shania Vasconcelos, Sidonius White

Grade 6 - Philip Cappello, Zackery Fox, Luis Andres Lopez, Zack Michalek, Daniel Nakabayashi, Daniel O'Sullivan, Kayena Pierre, Megan Powell, Brett Rodino, Lavender Sevilla, Karly Thompson

GARRISON

Academic Excellence

Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Jacob Higbee, Tozai Kawabata, Jude Morrison, Leo Grocott, Jazmine Kirkwood, Seth Lunin-Pack, Giovannina Manfredi, Olivia Moran, Anna-Catherine Nelson, Sofia Rasic, Tyler Schacht, Louisa Schimming

High Honor Roll

Morgan Murphy, Lola Rosenberg, Ada Caccamise, Marika McCarthy, Sophia Pitaleff, Jasmine Wallis, Merrick Williams

Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Alyssa Harris, Michael Murray, Nathan Armstrong, Bryce Kenny, Henry Schimming, George Stubbs, Jessica Tudor

The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
51/41	54/44	55/33	56/35	56/39	54/30	55/35
Some sun, then clouds, cooler; a little p.m. rain	Rain ending in the morning; cloudy	Cloudy	Times of sun and clouds	Cloudy, a couple of showers possible in the p.m.	Rain possible in the morning; otherwise, clearing	Chance for a couple of afternoon showers
POP: 65%	POP: 75%	POP: 25%	POP: 10%	POP: 30%	POP: 35%	POP: 30%
SSE 4-8 mph	SE 4-8 mph	WNW 7-14 mph	SSE 3-6 mph	E 4-8 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	W 6-12 mph
RealFeel 52/35	RealFeel 56/41	RealFeel 51/34	RealFeel 60/38	RealFeel 56/37	RealFeel 63/26	RealFeel 53/31

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

Snowfall	
Past week	1.1"
Month to date	1.1"
Normal month to date	3.9"
Season to date	15.5"
Normal season to date	31.2"
Last season to date	28.4"
Record for 3/27	2.0" (1959)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 3/28	6:45 AM
Sunset Sat. night, 3/28	7:17 PM
Moonrise Sat., 3/28	9:02 AM
Moonset Sat., 3/28	11:31 PM

First	Full	Last	New
Apr 1	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 22

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Sacred wading bird

5. Suitable

8. Morse "T"

12. Created

13. Meadow

14. Erstwhile Peruvian

15. Series of missed calls

17. Celebrity

18. Pair

19. Consecrate with oil

21. Cognizant

24. Huffed and puffed

25. Shrewd

26. Lunch holder

30. Tokyo's old name

31. Canonized one

32. Beer-like brew

33. Joke that won't work on radio

35. On the briny

36. Thy

37. Theater staffer

38. Treeless tract

41. Blond shade

42. Ark builder

43. Long-popular jazz tune

48. Shrek, for one

49. Pirouette pivot

50. Car

12

15

21

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51. German city

52. Finish

53. Encounter

DOWN

1. Mischievous tyke

2. "Humbug!"

3. Altar affirmative

4. Guard

5. Chorus member

6. Shooter ammo

7. Annoying follower

8. Drop from a will

9. Opposed

10. Read cursorily

11. Rodgers collaborator

16. Lamb's mama

20. Salamander

21. Dogfight participants

22. Gully

23. Awestruck

24. Pipe type

26. Loaf of French bread

27. Wild party

28. Sheltered

29. Paraphernalia

31. Halt

34. It's handy if you have to break your word

35. Religious retreat

37. Handle

38. Uppity one

39. Takeout phrase

40. Deserve

41. On in years

44. Charged bit

45. Regret

46. Corroded

47. Obtained

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 like a new \$20 bill (5)

2 knee or elbow (5)

3 absolved (8)

4 possibilities (8)

5 display of great wealth (8)

6 modern theaters (10)

7 certain chess piece (6)

SOLUTIONS

CR OP DO JOI TH

PAR CI HOP ULE ES

NCE LEX RI NED NT

EO BIS ISP NEP ES

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for March 20 Puzzles

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

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

1. WATERPROOF, 2. SHRANK, 3. MASCARA, 4. JOSHES, 5. STAGE, 6. SLEEPY, 7. WORKOUTS

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



Beacon Native Considers Jump to NBA

Elijah Hughes may leave Syracuse early

By Skip Pearlman

Elijah Hughes, a Beacon resident who is a junior at Syracuse University, announced last week on Instagram that he intends to enter the upcoming NBA draft.

Hughes attended Beacon High School for his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Kennedy Catholic for his junior year and South Kent Prep in Connecticut for his senior year.

Hughes, 22, has a year of eligibility remaining at Syracuse after being red-shirted for a season following his transfer from East Carolina University.

"I just felt like the time was right," Hughes said this week. "I had a good season, and everything just felt good." He said he received counsel from his parents, Coach Jim Boeheim, the assistant coaches and "a tightknit group" of friends. "They're all very supportive, and they make it all easier for me."

Under rules adopted by the NCAA in 2018, Hughes will get feedback from the Under-



Elijah Hughes rises for a dunk during a game in January against the University of Pittsburgh.

Syracuse Athletics

graduate Advisory Committee, which polls NBA executives to provide underclassmen who declare for the draft with feedback on where they will probably be selected — or not selected — among the 60 players chosen over

two rounds. Hughes also can hire an agent but must sever ties if he returns to school.

Hughes appeared on the radar of NBA scouts after a standout season during which he led the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in

scoring at 19 points per game. He was named to the first team of the all-conference team.

The Sporting News ranks Hughes, a shooting guard who is 6-foot-6 and weighs 215 pounds, as the draft's 50th best prospect, and ESPN has him at No. 57. Each ranking would have him being selected late in the second round.

Hughes took on a leadership role this season for the Orange, who finished 18-14. "I took on more of a scoring load," he said. "I really feel like I've seen improvement. The way I've been putting the ball on the floor opened up my game — the way I shoot and get in the lane."

Like most players, Hughes said playing in the NBA was a childhood dream. "I always wanted to be one of the best and play against the best," he said. "It's exciting, but I am nervous with all that's going on with this pandemic."

While home with his family in Beacon, Hughes said he's trying to stay in shape and catching up on his movies and entertainment.

"I've been getting a lot of rest," he said. "I played a lot of minutes this season, so I'm getting back in tune, doing some running. I'm not big on video games, so I'm watching Netflix."

While Hughes said he feels ready to play as a pro, he also is prepared to return to Syracuse, which could raise his stock for the 2021 draft. "I want to keep my options open, and listen to people I trust, like Coach Boeheim," he said. "I can only control the things that I can control."

Still Hope for Spring

Officials will meet Monday to discuss season

By Skip Pearlman

As the COVID-19 health crisis continues to evolve, high school administrators, coaches and athletes are holding onto a sliver of hope that a part of their spring might be saved, while at the same time trying to brace for the worst.

Section 1 athletic officials are scheduled to reassess the current shutdown on Monday (March 30), but further delays seem inevitable.

Coach Bob Atwell, whose Beacon High School baseball team went 13-8 last season, was hoping for good things this spring. He said his players are concerned but hopeful.

"The players are very disappointed, some are apprehensive," he said. "The last day we were on the field together you could tell. It

felt like there was a gray sky, a black cloud, over us.

"The guys have worked so hard from last November, and now uncertainty is on everyone's mind. We've never done anything like this, so it's very different."

Atwell is urging his student athletes to stay in shape and stay ready by doing what they can, alone. "We don't know where we're going, but we should all be doing what we can for our families," he said. "Make things easy for your parents, do whatever you can. We talked about that."

What no one wants to hear is that the spring sports seasons will be wiped out. "We're hoping for a miracle — that things settle down and we can get back on the field," the coach said. "If the season is lost, I'd feel terrible for the seniors. Some

athletes in other sports got to experience some of their senior season. But we also have some who only play baseball. My heart breaks for them.

"The kids would be absolutely devastated if we lose this season; they've worked hard for years to represent the city and their town," he said. "We're hopeful, but I also believe reality is setting in for a lot of them."

The Haldane High School boys' lacrosse team went 15-3 last year and had sectional title aspirations for 2020.

"It's tough, but you have to look out for the health of the student athletes," said Coach Ed Crowe. "They're taking it well but there's some disappointment. They want to play. But they also recognize this is something we've never seen."

Crowe is hoping not to have to tell his players there will be no games. "They understand this is in their best interest, but there are a lot of spring events, so it will be tough. I will feel terrible for the seniors if we lose all that time."

Crowe reinforced the idea that athletes

should be working out on their own and not in small groups. "We've been giving the kids individual workouts that they can do three or four days a week," he said.

Jim Henry, who coaches the Beacon High School boys' and girls' track teams, said some of his coaches and athletes are hoping for a shortened season but "others feel we don't have much of a chance. Kids are trying to stay in shape. I feel worse for the seniors, especially if they're not competing in sports in college."

Henry said coaches are trying to encourage athletes to stay in shape, but time is running out. "The further on we get, the harder it is to see any kind of season," he said. "You start looking at summer and next year."

"Getting the kids back to school is the first thing," he said. "But then there may be no buses to other schools. It's going to look different when we get back. No one knows how different. Sports are secondary to school. So until we have a vision of that, there's no looking into what sports will look like."