

The HIGHLANDS Current



Wildlife
Rehab
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JULY 24, 2020

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Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter protesters lined opposite sides of Route 9D in Beacon on Sunday (July 19).

Photo by J. Simms

EPA Releases Plan for Polluted Putnam Site

Pledges to buy homes and help residents move

By Brian PJ Cronin

The Environmental Protection Agency intends to move residents and destroy as many as 10 arsenic-contaminated homes in Kent — 33 years after the hazard was discovered.

The federal plan focuses on properties on Gypsy Trail Road where the soil has elevated arsenic levels from abandoned mines. The EPA said it will offer to buy the homes and property and also pay for the residents' moves.

Once vacated, the homes will be demolished and the agency will begin a years-long process to investigate the extent of the contamination, said Sonia Mohabir, an

EPA representative. Environmental easements will be placed on the parcels to limit their use, she said.

For homeowners who decline the money and elect to stay, the EPA will continue to apply the short-term remedies it began last year to mitigate the effects of the contamination, including water monitoring, providing indoor and outdoor mats and

(Continued on Page 8)

School Reopening Plans Due July 31

Beacon proposal calls for 'hybrid' schedule

By Jeff Simms

Public school students in Beacon could have the option in September to begin the school year in person, rather than in front of a screen, under a plan the district has prepared to submit to the state.

Every district in New York must submit a reopening plan to Gov. Andrew Cuomo by Friday (July 31). During the first week of August, Cuomo said the state will deter-

mine on a region-by-region basis if schools can proceed with their plans.

The governor on July 13 said that each region's schools can reopen if it has reached the fourth and final phase of the state's reopening plan — as of July 20, all nine regions had reached that milestone — and if its daily COVID-19 infection rate remains at 5 percent or lower using a 14-day average. Schools will be forced to close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a seven-day average, after Aug. 1.

The Mid-Hudson Region's infection rate as of July 20 was 1 percent.

In Cold Spring, Superintendent Philip Benante said he expects to share the Haldane district's plan with the community in early August.

In a letter to parents, he said he has asked administrators to "develop a schedule which allows our youngest students and more vulnerable populations to physically attend school more frequently" and to "establish a rotation" for the remaining students to both attend in-class and engage in virtual learning.

Garrison district officials said they are still working on their plan, as well. A

(Continued on Page 17)

Reporter's Notebook

Are We That Far Apart?

By Jeff Simms

Dueling protests took place on Sunday (July 19) in Beacon, with one group waving Blue Lives Matter and U.S. flags and signs on the Bank Square side of Route 9D and Black Lives Matter supporters across the street, near City Hall.

There were a few tense moments, with some participants seemingly itching for a fight. Beacon police officers walked the street, which had not been closed to traffic, to contain any dust-ups.

That's not to say the situation was peaceful.

In front of City Hall, Stefon Seward, a 2017 Beacon High School graduate, screamed into a megaphone: "No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

Across the way, the crowd responded: "U-S-A, U-S-A!"

I had a long day of yard work ahead of

(Continued on Page 6)



5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JOE THERRIEN

By Brian PJ Cronin

Joe Therrien is a wildlife biologist and head of the special-license unit of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Today is the deadline to register for the wildlife rehabilitator license exam. How is that different from a nuisance wildlife control officer?

A rehabilitator is taking in injured wildlife with the goal of releasing it. You can't make money from it because wildlife belongs to the people of the state. A nuisance wildlife control operator's main intent is to remedy a situation at a home, to take care of a conflict between humans and wildlife. The license allows you to charge a fee for that, and you can release the animal or euthanize it.

What's the biggest misconception that aspiring rehabbers have?

That they'll be able to help everyone. There are only 1,200 in the state, so they are overwhelmed. Their hearts are torn between "I can't take that" and "I want to take that." People go into this field because they're passionate about animals, but sometimes the initial triage may involve determining



that the animal is better off being euthanized.

When should people contact a rehabilitator?

Anytime they come across something that might need attention. But call the rehabilitator first before picking up wildlife; he or she will talk with you to figure out what's going on. [See dec.ny.gov/animals/83977.html.] A lot of wildlife that seems abandoned is not. For example, fawns will be left behind by the mother while she feeds. With

window strikes with birds, a lot of times if you put the bird in a box and keep it in the dark, in an hour it will be fine after it's had time to calm down. What people shouldn't do is take an animal into their care. Sometimes people think, "Oh, I heard that goat's milk or Pedialyte is good for them," and they end up injuring the animal.

You also want to minimize human contact, correct?

Yes. Wildlife can be cute and adorable, but a fawn or fox kit is not a pet. Any habituating that animals have with humans can be a death sentence. If you keep it for a few months and release it, it might approach other humans for food, and someone might think, "Why is this fox coming to our porch all the time?" Rehabilitators do everything they can to not let the animals get too accustomed to human sounds and scents.

Your department also offers exams for other specialties, such as falconry and leashed tracking dogs. Do you have any licenses yourself?

No, it would be a conflict of interest, since we issue them. I also don't have time. Once people know you're a wildlife rehabilitator, for example, everybody comes to you. It's like having another child.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

When's the last time you ran out of gas?

"In the early 1970s. I was a hippie, driving back from Roanoke, Virginia."



~ Mike Klubnick, Cold Spring

"In 2012, on the Newburgh riverfront, several blocks from a gas station. A policeman gave me a ride."



~ Karen Thompson, Philipstown

"I've never run out. I was always taught 'keep the tank at least half full' because you never know what'll happen in life."



~ Bob Phillips, Beacon



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Nelsonville Preserves Secor Parcel

Also passes laws regulating 5G installations

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Ending a debate that lasted nearly three years, the Nelsonville Village Board voted 4-1 on Monday (July 20) to add a 4.1-acre parcel on Secor Street to the easement that protects the Nelsonville Woods from development.

Trustee Dave Moroney cast the sole “no” vote against including the Secor property in the easement, administered by the Open Space Institute over the 112-acre woods. The 4.1-acre Secor parcel had once been eyed as a cell tower site.

The board also added 2.9 acres of village land along Gatehouse Road to the easement, which was established 20 years ago.

The easement agreement allows the village to place a modest building, such as a washroom or education center, or create a playground or tap underground water, on the Secor acreage but forbids its use for a cell tower.

Village officials had presided over several often-heated public sessions on the issue since the fall of 2017. The Village Board’s composition changed in the meantime, in part because of dissatisfaction with prior members’ handling of the issue and a cell tower proposed for Rockledge Road.

Little discussion occurred on Monday and the board did not entertain public comment before the vote. One resident later maintained that three board members who live near the Secor parcel should have abstained from voting. But another resident praised the board for “protecting us from things like cell towers” on Secor Street. Letters to the board also backed the easement enlargement.

Haldane Replaces Gergely as School Physician

Appoints retired Katonah pediatrician to job

By Chip Rowe

Haldane earlier this month replaced its longtime school physician, Dr. Peter Gergely, when the popular Garrison pediatrician did not respond to a request from the district to bid on the job.

Instead, at its reorganizational meeting on July 1, the school board voted to hire a retired Katonah pediatrician, Dr. Louis Corsaro, whom it will pay \$16,000 annually, or twice what Gergely charged.

Gergely served as the school physician for about 25 years, said Ann Gergely, his office manager and sister. He was upset, she said, at having to “reapply for his job” and said the district should have made more of an effort to contact him. “Wouldn’t you want to speak to Dr. Gergely before you made this decision?” she said.

5G technology

In January, anticipating 5G technology’s widespread use for data transfer, the board began considering a law to regulate installations. It held a public hearing in February.

The 21-page law adopted Monday closely corresponds to the draft. According to its introduction, it was enacted to “provide for new wireless technologies,” such as small-cells and distributed antenna systems (DAS), encourage the placement of small wireless telecommunications facilities (SWTFs) on existing structures; protect residents and businesses from unspecified “potential adverse impacts”; and manage SWTF development.

For basic installations, the law compels 5G companies to obtain a permit from the Planning Board. It also prohibits the installation of 5G or SWTF poles on single-family houses, duplexes and any “accessory structure” on a residential lot.

Likewise, it bans SWTF installations within 50 feet of any occupied residential structure (the draft called for 30 feet) and says no SWTF will be approved if it has “a significant adverse impact on scenic or historic resources.” The Planning Board can require that SWTFs be painted to blend in.

The law also requires applicants to demonstrate “the need for the SWTF to provide service primarily and essentially within the village” and justify the height of antennas and structures.

Dove Pedlosky, the trustee who led the drafting effort, noted that the village is constrained by federal law when attempting to control telecommunication projects but that, under the circumstances, the board made the law “as strong as we could. I do think it protects the village.”

She conceded that while “we’re hurt by this whole thing, we bear some responsibility for not reaching out,” saying it was the first time they had received a Request for Proposals (RFP), or bids, from the district.

A school physician can have a variety of duties but typically consults with the district on health and safety issues and may conduct physicals and advise parents.

The former head of pediatrics at West Point, Gergely opened a private practice in Cold Spring in 1990 and in 1995 moved to his location on Route 403 in Garrison.

Gergely remains the school physician for the Garrison school district, which pays him up to \$3,000 per year. The board is expected to approve his appointment for 2020-21 at its July 29 meeting, said Superintendent Carl Albano.

Ann Gergely said that, in February, her brother had asked Haldane to increase the \$8,000 annually that he had received for many years to \$9,000. She said the district did not respond and the RFP arrived without a cover letter or explanation.

Philip Benante, who was been the Haldane superintendent since 2018, said that the request for an increase in pay and the RFP were unrelated. He said that while

(Continued on Page 5)

What Members are Saying...



“The Highlands Current is a community touchstone in our home. From cultural and policy updates to ‘On the Spot’ questions, we look forward to and enjoy each new issue!

Arman Safa & Kristen Roeder, Cold Spring
FRIEND Members

THANK YOU! TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

As a nonprofit that provides quality journalism free to our community, *The Highlands Current* depends on our 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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Chris and Babette Brown
Greg and Jan Buhler
Marie Early
Safa/Roeder Family

PARTNER

N. Block
Peggy Clements and Chris Duffy
Dr. Helen Crohn
John Lichtenstein
Schweizer Family
Shirley Trimble

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

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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

Hate crime

I hope that the "Death to Gays" graffiti discovered near Mayor's Park is being investigated by the Cold Spring Police Department and Putnam County sheriff as a hate crime, and that *The Current* will follow up as it has done with other local hate crimes ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," July 17).

Aaron Wolfe, *Cold Spring*

It feels hurtful to see this incident receive such short shrift in *The Current*. A two-sentence mention suggests that violent homophobia in our community isn't newsworthy, or worse, is to be expected. This could be an opportunity for people to publicly reject homophobia, to talk to their children about tolerance and to make sure their LGBTQ neighbors feel safe and supported. Instead, it's been relegated to a footnote.

Teddy Nagel, *Garrison*

The editor responds: It's a tricky balancing act. We could publish a prominent news story each time some doofus spray-paints a hateful message but that agitation may well be the desired reaction and also amplifies a message that otherwise quickly disappeared. On the other hand, we can't not report on it because it might leave the impression that

hate doesn't exist in our community. So, the middle ground was to report what we knew, which amounted in this case to two sentences.

Rolling Hills

Agreement is the key word in the story of the \$1 million lawsuit by the Rolling Hills developer against the Town of Fishkill over its stalled construction plans (July 17). That is, there was never a binding contract. That's how some developers operate: 1) Ask for multiple variances far in excess of existing zoning, and 2) file a lawsuit when denied.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

Seastreak

The Cold Spring Village Board canceling visits by the Seastreak cruise ships this fall seems so unfair to the Main Street shops that are trying desperately to stay open ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," July 17).

Geraldine Fuller, *via Facebook*

The Seastreak owners themselves are questioning the wisdom and safety of packing 300 to 400 people on a boat for two hours and depositing them in the village while COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in 80 percent of the nation. New Yorkers have done an exemplary

job of addressing this public health crisis and we are beginning to emerge from it. Relaxing our vigilance would be disastrous.

Data shows that all the pop-up COVID-19 clusters in New York are directly tied to large gatherings where social-distancing protocols are impossible or ignored. With 30 percent of our residents being seniors, allowing such gatherings would put their lives and everyone else's at risk. Large gatherings also endanger our five-member highway crew, which we rely on for so much. Some have already fallen ill. This beast is not tamed yet.

Lynn Miller, *via Facebook*

Miller is a member of the Village Board.

Beacon chief

It seems odd that the Beacon City Council appointed someone as the interim police chief who retired in 2002 ("Officers Push Back on Interim Choice," July 17). The world and policing have morphed over 18 years.

Sheryl Kirschenbaum, *via Facebook*

Nursing-home deaths

So, after an intense, in-depth, nonpartisan investigation by Cuomo, Cuomo has ruled that Cuomo's policy didn't kill nursing home patients that he sent to nursing homes with COVID-19 ("State: Policy Didn't Cause Nursing Home Deaths," July 10). The attorney general should empanel a grand jury.

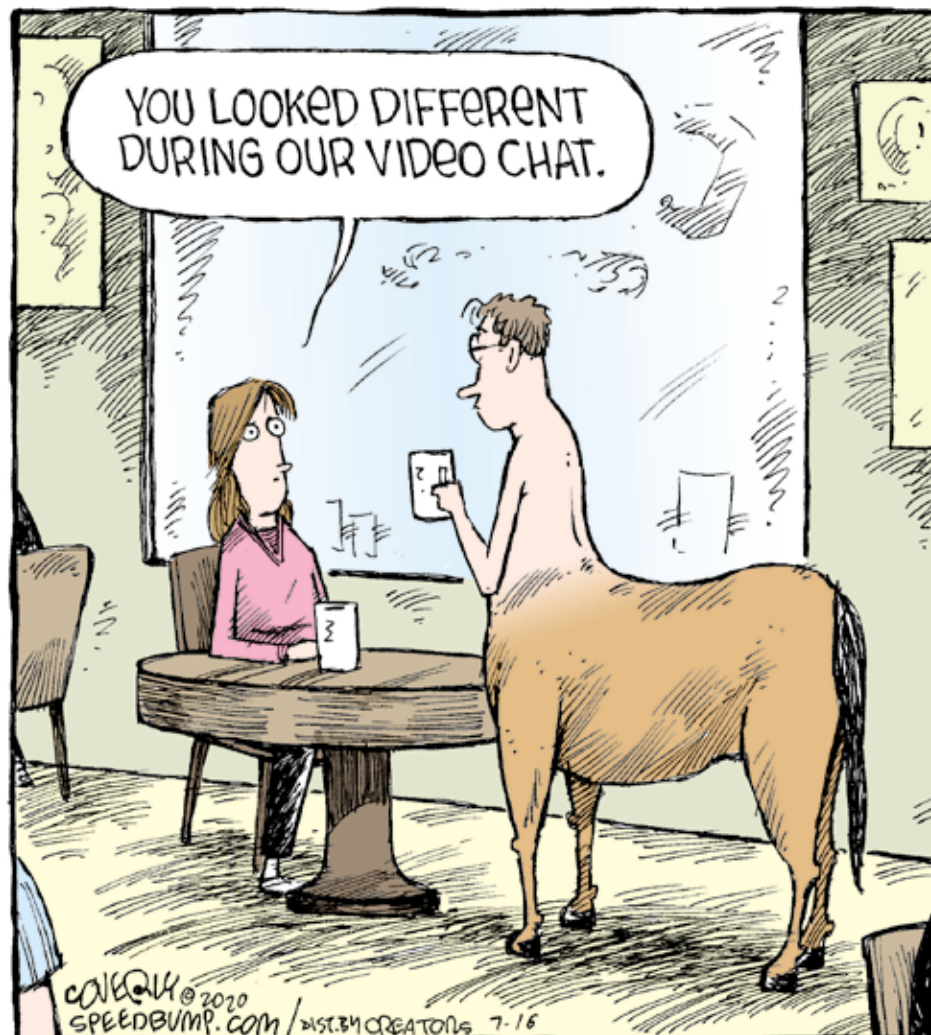
Andrew DeStefano, *via Facebook*

Many deaths have occurred at nursing homes in every state. Gov. Cuomo's leadership has saved lives. Why aren't his critics talking about the lack of same at the federal level, which has given us 144,000 dead?

Janine Dee, *via Facebook*

Clarification

In "Looking Back in Philipstown" (July 17), we reported that, in July 1870, Elijah Jones was mortally wounded when he attempted to stop an armed robber who was fleeing on Stone Street. *The Cold Spring Recorder* identified Jones as a native of Germany, but this was corrected on an obelisk erected at Fishkill Rural Cemetery that reads: "Elijah Jones, a native of Poland, died by the hand of an assassin at Cold Spring, July 29, 1870, age 40 years. Erected by the National Bank of Fishkill and Fishkill Savings Institute as a tribute of respect for one who lost his life arresting a desperado who had robbed their messenger."



Local Hospitals in Recovery Mode

COVID recedes, but shutdown leaves deficits

By Leonard Sparks

Nadia Amin will never forget her experience tending to COVID-19 patients at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital as infections and deaths soared in March and April.

A primary-care doctor, she volunteered to treat emergency-room arrivals and inpatients in frenzied 12-hour shifts at the Cortlandt Manor facility. There was a shortage of beds and a triage to determine who needed to be hospitalized and who could be sent to isolate at home.

She watched patients “crashing” without being able to help and returned to her basement between shifts, where she slept to avoid contact with her family.

“It’s not an experience that I’d ever want to relive,” Amin said. “You saw things that you generally don’t want to see.”

Three months ago, New York and its hospitals were at the epicenter of a global pandemic. On April 12 — 45 days after New York’s first confirmed case of the virus — 18,825 people were hospitalized, including 1,851 in the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam counties.

That same day, 5,156 people statewide and 559 in the Mid-Hudson were struggling to survive in intensive-care units.

“I’ve been through the H1N1 [swine] flu epidemic,” said Amin. “This is unprecedented.”

Now, more than 100 days after that low point, the situation is dramatically better.

On Thursday (July 23), 706 people statewide were hospitalized with COVID-19 (including six in Dutchess County and none in Putnam) — the lowest total since March 18 — and hospitals had resumed elective procedures and surgeries. Doctors such as Amin who volunteered for COVID duty have returned to their day jobs and family members once again can visit patients.

For the hospitals, however, what has emerged from the rubble is a new normal: testing every new patient for COVID-19 and screening visitors for symptoms; continued mask and social-distancing

rules; monitoring mask and gown supplies for staff; planning for a potential surge of infections; and combating fears some people may have about even going to the hospital.

At the same time, hospital executives are pushing for federal funds to balance the loss of revenues and rising expenses.

“Suffice to say, there was nothing normal about our operations beginning on or about March 6,” said Kerry Eaton, the chief operating officer for Nuvance Health, whose system includes Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

“Although the peak is behind us, business is not back to normal, and we foresee that the way we provided care in the past will be altered going forward for a long period of time, perhaps permanently,” she said.

A surge in patients

On March 23, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered hospitals to increase their capacity by a minimum of 50 percent. Under one projection, Cuomo said at the time, the state could need 110,000 hospital beds, including 37,000 ICU beds with ventilators.

On the front lines, fatigued doctors and nurses pushed past long hours and a lack of treatments to save as many patients as they could. Administrators reallocated personnel and supplies, created ICU beds in operating rooms and consulted with patients online.

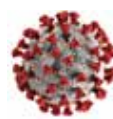
As the infections and hospitalizations accelerated, NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital quadrupled its critical-care beds, said Stacey Petrower, the hospital’s president, and still, “every one of those beds was occupied.”

“There were days where we didn’t have beds to move patients into the hospital,” said Amin.

Vassar Brothers admitted its first COVID patient on March 18, said William Begg, its vice president of medical affairs.

By April 11, Vassar Brothers had 150 confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients, including 40 on respirators. In addition to its 20 ICU beds, the hospital converted other areas into ICUs, includ-

(Continued on Page 17)



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (July 23), 1,397 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 4,400 in Dutchess; 35,667 in Westchester; 13,820 in Rockland; 1,911 in Ulster; and 10,968 in Orange. Statewide, there were 409,697 positives, including 222,832 in New York City, and 25,081 deaths.

■ New York City entered Phase 4 of the state’s reopening plan on Monday (July 20), without indoor activities such as malls and cultural institutions. Every region of the state is now in Phase 4.

■ Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley launched a grant program called Pivoting to Respond to fund the general operating costs for nonprofits and communities impacted by COVID-19 and its economic consequences. Applications are available through Aug. 31 at communityfoundationshv.org.

■ According to New York State, anyone traveling here from a state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average must quarantine for 14 days. As of July 23, the states were Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Minnesota has been removed from the list.

■ The State Liquor Authority said on July 21 that since the onset of COVID-19 it has brought 410 charges against establishments for violating executive orders on social distancing and serving alcohol only, without food, and suspended 27 liquor licenses.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,397 (+12)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:

24,299 (+2,902)

Percent positive:

5.7 (-0.6)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,400 (+43)

Active Cases in Beacon: **9**

Tests administered:

82,371 (+6,715)

Percent positive:

5.3 (-0.5)

Number of deaths:

153 (+1)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of July 23. New cases in Philipstown for week ending July 17.

County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.



A sign outside NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital offered thanks to its workers.

Photo by L. Sparks

School Physician (from Page 3)

the Haldane board each summer routinely approves a list of appointees to positions such as physician, auditor, webmaster and legal counsel, he recommended periodically sending out requests for bids so the appointments are “not just rolling over year to year. You want to examine who else may be interested and at what cost and level of service.

“You don’t necessarily want change, because with a physician or attorney or architect, they are working on matters that can last for years,” he said. “But periodically examining services and costs is part of running a healthy district.”

Benante said that when Gergely did not answer the RFP, he called his office a day or two before the vote and left a message asking if he was interested and thanking

him for his long service.

Benante said Corsaro, who retired in 2013 from the Mount Kisco Medical Group when he turned 70, submitted the only bid for the job and that his references spoke highly of him. Corsaro is also the physician for the Brewster, Putnam Valley and Yorktown districts.

Benante said Corsaro agreed to reevaluate his fee at the end of the school year but that, “in light of the current circumstances, he envisioned working closely together on matters related to opening school and the protocols and procedures, as well as how to respond if there are [COVID-19] cases in our [school] community.

“That has proven to be true. Since his appointment on July 1, myself, the school nurse or the director of pupil personnel services has been in communication with him every day.”

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy said he wants “everyone to relax a bit” as the village prepares to review its Police Department in compliance with a state requirement that municipalities review their law-enforcement policies and operations.

The issue, he said at the Tuesday (July 21) meeting of the Village Board, has prompted “a few more emails than usual” in his inbox.

Merandy said Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, plans to attend a July 27 meeting with officials from Putnam County and other local police forces. “He wants to see how other villages and towns will handle the review,” the mayor said. “Once he knows, we’ll move forward.”

The state order, issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on June 12, requires the reviews to involve “engaged stakeholders in a public and open process.”

“Everyone will be involved, as is required,” Merandy said. “We’re taking it seriously; Larry is taking it seriously. But we’re not going to just jump into forming a panel and not know where we’re going.”

The review must be completed by April 1 and include programs such as bias-awareness training for officers, community outreach and a complaint procedure.

In other business...

■ Merandy said there have been no leads in the police investigation of anti-gay graffiti on Fair Street near Mayor’s Park. He said an officer photographed the slur as evidence before Highway Department employees painted over it. “The police are doing what they can,” he said. “It might be a case where we need someone to come forward.”

■ The board continued its discussion on reopening the public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel, which have been closed since the outbreak of COVID-19. Tracey Walsh, the director of Putnam County Tourism, attended Tuesday’s meeting and said the county will supply bulk sanitizer, gloves, masks and signage to encourage the public’s cooperation. Merandy said the board is awaiting a proposal from the Chamber of Commerce to open the restrooms on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Highway Department Crew Chief Robert Downey Jr. recommended that the board accept a \$98,000 bid from Ben Funk International in Hudson for a garbage truck. The old truck was badly damaged in an accident last winter. About \$26,000 will be covered by insurance, he said.

Protests (from Page 1)

me when a reader texted that morning that something was going down near City Hall, so I grabbed my camera and jumped on my bike. By 9:30 a.m. it was already brutally hot, which surely didn’t help ease the tensions.

The hostility from both sides was startling. Some police supporters called the Black Lives Matter people “communists” (which seems archaic) while the Black Lives side chanted “Fuck the police,” which may sound tough but has never been the start of a productive conversation.

Former Beacon Mayor Randy Casale stood with the Blue Lives Matter crowd, holding a sign declaring that City Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair “must go,” presumably because of Aymar-Blair’s public comments about reforming the Police Department. (I called Casale for an explanation but didn’t get a response.)

The Blue Lives side shouted that veterans back the police, while a woman on the other sidewalk yelled that she had served 20 years in the Air Force and couldn’t accept the U.S. flag being waved as a symbol of hate.

Standing in the middle of 9D, taking photos and listening, I wondered: Will people ever be able to step off these curbs without clenched fists?

For an article last year in *The Atlantic*, Charles Duhigg spoke with Marshall Ganz, who spent 16 years organizing produce workers in California alongside Cesar Chavez.

Ganz noted that stoking emotions against injustice is easy but, as Duhigg summarized, “for anger to be productive, at some point, it must stop. Victory often demands compromise.” Ganz told him: “You have to know how to arouse passions to fuel the fight, and then how to cool everyone down



At the rally, former Mayor Randy Casale (right) carried a Blue Lives Matter flag and a sign critical of a Beacon City Council member.

Photo by Alejandro Lopez

so they’ll accept the deal on the table.”

I can’t claim, as a white person, that I’ll ever understand what people of color have endured in this country, but it seems impossible not to recognize the anger and frustration our neighbors feel after a lifetime of slights and centuries of abhorrent treatment.

Conversely, most police officers are not racists or rogue and must feel unfairly criticized and taken for granted. The city’s police respond to hundreds of calls each month and, like law enforcement everywhere, can never be sure what to expect when they arrive.

I hated to see this confrontation in Beacon, namely because of how often I’ve

heard folks say that we are a resilient and supportive people here.

That was never more evident than this spring, when the coronavirus brought all of our lives to a screeching halt, but Beacon residents banded together immediately to deliver food and medical supplies to vulnerable people who couldn’t leave their homes.

What about the fundraisers — created by schoolkids — that distributed more than \$20,000 to small businesses in the region, or the volunteers who risked their safety to put free groceries in our trunks when many of us were stuck inside?

That was three months ago.

Route 9D isn’t that wide, is it?



WIDE OPEN SPACES — There was plenty of room to roam when the Philipstown Town Board met in person on Wednesday (July 22) for a workshop at the town Recreation Center in Garrison. The board had convened only by teleconference since March, when the COVID-19 shutdown began. Attendance rules on Wednesday included wearing of masks and social distancing.

Photo by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong



Across the Divide

After a group waving Blue Lives Matter and U.S. flags announced a rally on Route 9D in Beacon on Sunday (July 19), Black Lives Matter supporters organized on social media in response and lined the opposite side of the road. Beacon police officers walked along the thoroughfare to prevent any confrontations in the street.

Photos by Alejandro Lopez



Superfund Site *(from Page 1)*

boot brushes, creating woodchip or stone walkways, and paving driveways.

The EPA estimates the remedial cleanup will cost \$5.83 million. It is being assisted by the state's departments of health and environmental conservation. Representatives at those agencies referred questions to the EPA.

The Kent site was placed onto the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 2019. It's the third Superfund site in Putnam County, along with the Brewster Well Field, in which volatile organic compounds from a dry-cleaning business were found in the village water system, and the former site on Kemble Avenue in Cold Spring of Marathon Battery Co., which discharged contaminated waste into Foundry Cove during much of the time it operated between 1952 and 1979.

The cleanups of the Brewster and Cold Spring sites have been completed but the EPA continues to monitor them. The EPA removed the Marathon Battery site from its National Priorities List in 1996, although as recently as 2018 the agency found that groundwater there still showed signs of contamination.

The culprit at the Kent site is a series of abandoned arsenic mines in operation throughout the 1800s and again during World War I. Two shafts still remain: the northern one is located on private property and the southern one is in the state's Ninham Mountain Multiple Use Area.

In 1987, residents living adjacent to the northern shaft were stricken with arsenic poisoning and had to be hospitalized. Investigation showed their drinking water well had been drilled into tailings from the mining operation. A cistern was installed by the EPA to replace the well and a warning sign placed at the mine entrance.

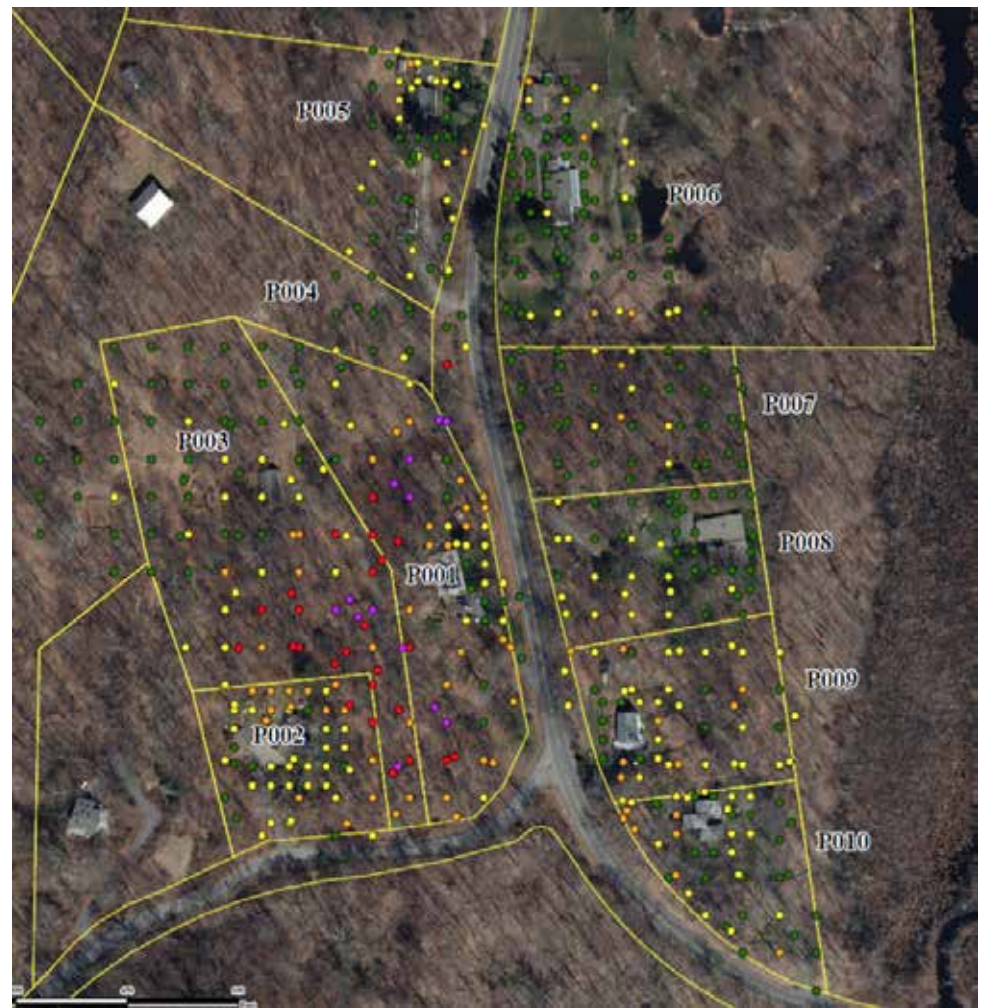
In 2016, the property owner asked the EPA to repair the cistern. During that process, the agency said, it found that the groundwater was still contaminated. Further testing revealed the arsenic levels in the drinking water at 10 sites were unsafe and that the soil had nearly 1,000 times more arsenic than what would trigger removal.

In the years since then, the state has posted signs along the lower elevation trails at Ninham Mountain warning hikers not to go off-trail because of the pollution.

Despite the high contamination levels, the EPA only recently moved the site to its National Priorities List, which allowed the cleanup to begin. Sen. Charles Schumer visited Ninham Mountain last fall and blasted the agency for the delay, accusing it of dragging its feet on the issue for more than 30 years.

For those who don't live on the affected properties or hike the lower trails, the EPA said there was no reason for concern.

"To EPA's knowledge, there should be no site-related health risks or hazards for people who are not in direct contact with contaminated soils," Mohabir said.



A map created by the EPA shows the parcels on the Superfund site in Kent. The red and purple dots indicate the test sites that had the highest arsenic readings.

MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART + artecinema +

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

Saturday, August 1, 2020, 8pm
Romanistan, 2019
Luca Vitone

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 8pm
I Am Not Legend, 2020
Andrea Mastrovito

This year summer film program meets new social distancing guidelines with a drive-in theater.

Tickets available on magazzino.eventbrite.com
No tickets available at the door.

DRIVE IN

REFLECTIONS ON HOMEMADE: ARTIST CONVERSATIONS

ALESSANDRO TEOLDI
ANDREA MASTROVITO
BEATRICE SCACCIA
DANILO CORREALE
DAVIDE BALLIANO
FRANCESCO SIMETI
LUISA RABBIA
MARIA D. RAPICAVOLI

Moderated by Vittorio Calabrese,
Director of Magazzino Italian Art,
and Chiara Mannarino,
Assistant Curator of *Homemade*

Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

Watch live on www.magazzino.art/magazzinodacasa/homemade

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16th Annual

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Please practice social distancing
Please shop without kids if possible to keep numbers down.

Thanks for your support!

100% of proceeds go directly back into the Beacon community



The Calendar



"Figs"



"Gong Gong"

The Artist Next Door

Anneke Chan

By Alison Rooney

Anneke Chan is having a busy year. Last month, the 18-year-old graduated as the salutatorian of the 2020 class at Haldane High School. She is spending August as an intern at Magazzino Italian Art, where this month she won the Philipstown museum's inaugural arts scholarship, which was co-sponsored by the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce.

In June, one of her paintings, "Pool Party," won the annual Congressional Art Competition for New York's 18th District and will be exhibited in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., beginning in September. She is the first Haldane student to win.

This fall, Chan plans to head to Boston to begin her pursuit of a dual degree in anthropology and studio art at Tufts University. As of now, the school plans to have its students come to campus.

The Magazzino internship, which comes with a \$1,000 scholarship, is given to a student with an interest in visual art or museum management.

Chan didn't start focusing on painting until last year. "I have always drawn," she says. "If I went out with my mom as a child, she'd bring crayons and a notebook, and it became my way of keeping myself busy. I also did the Garrison Art Center camp."

Last summer, realizing she didn't have a portfolio ready to apply for college, she took an advanced drawing and painting class at The Art Effect in Poughkeepsie. "We had to create a piece each week for 12 weeks and try to improve based on the critique," she says. "It was a very in-depth process, talking with teachers. After working that way, I want to be more intentional about the things I'm making."

The students were assigned to create



Anneke Chan

Photo provided

works with themes of isolation and alienation. Because of the pandemic, "I was way ahead of the curve on that," Chan says with a laugh.

Her "Pool Party" painting came from the class. "It was based on a night I had with friends in the summer," she says. "It's a transitory period for us, and I was feeling sentimental. I was just getting into painting and struggling to find my voice. How could I make my paintings look like my drawings? That one finally felt like me."

For the past two years, Chan has been the student representative to the Haldane Arts Alliance. "Theater at the school is well-done and well-supported, and I'd like the same for the visual arts," she says. "Making art can be a way to better understand yourself. When you're in high school and going through a lot of changes, it's important that people have that space."

Chan started an art club at Haldane



"Pool Party"

because she said realized that not every student had the chance to attend summer camps as she had. "We brought in artists to speak with kids about their careers and related topics," she said.

Growing up in Cold Spring, Chan says she had moments where she envied the "LaGuardia kids" who attend the public

arts high school in Manhattan, but said "making art in my own time is something I've always done" and that "teachers [at Haldane] make ample space."

She's excited about what comes next. "Cold Spring raised me and it did a good job of it," she says, "but now I'm ready to move away."

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 25

Free Rabies Vaccinations

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road
845-808-1390 ext. 43160
putnamcountyny.com/health

Bring photo ID as proof of Putnam County residency; without proof of prior rabies vaccination, pets will receive a one-year vaccine. All dogs must be leashed and cats and ferrets must be in carriers.

SAT 25

Trailside Zoo Reopens

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

After parking in the Bear Mountain lot, walk through the tunnel and past the pool to reach the entrance. Open daily.

SAT 25

Next Step Hudson Valley

BEACON

11 a.m. Memorial Park
198 Robert Cahill Drive
bit.ly/next-step-beacon

Supporters of Black Lives Matter will gather for sign-making, a march, speeches and breakout sessions. For more information, email contact@nextstephv.org.

SAT 25

Colonial Flax Processing

FORT MONTGOMERY

1 – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134

Get outside and discover how flax was turned into linen thread. This family-friendly program will demonstrate a flax break, scutching knife, heckle and spinning wheel.

TUES 28

Compass Arts Performances

BEACON

5 p.m. Seeger Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | bit.ly/compass-arts-shows

Small Tribe Hoops with Heather Davies will perform. Register online. *Free*

THURS 30

Women's Networking Event

HYDE PARK

5:30 p.m. Zoom

State Sen. Sue Serino will host a discussion with Krista Jones of Sparrow's Nest, Mecca Mitchell of Westchester Medical Center and Filomena Fanelli of Impact PR & Communications on "adapting in a time of change." Register by MON 27 by calling 845-229-0106 or emailing serino@nysenate.gov.



Bash the Trash, July 29

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 25

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

The much-anticipated, pop-up drive-in theater will debut with four films over this weekend and next: *The Muppet Movie* (1979), *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), *The Goonies* (1985) and *The Big Lebowski* (1998). See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

WED 29

Dancing on the Half-Shell

BEACON

7:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Expansive Theater Workshop will present a reading of a new play by Peter Ullian, the Beacon poet laureate. Email expansive theater@gmail.com.

SAT 1

Romanistan

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9
magazzino.eventbrite.com

In this drive-in screening hosted by the museum, documentary filmmaker Luca Vitone explores the language and culture of the Romani people. The film will also be screened online. *Cost: \$30 per car*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 25

Members Art Show and Sale

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The annual show will feature works by 30 artists from Beacon and the Hudson Valley.

TALKS

WED 29

Preparing For and Having Your Baby

BEACON

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

Dr. Meera Garcia of NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital will discuss what parents need when they bring their newborn home and what to expect in the first few months. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register for this Zoom event.

WED 29

Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock | splitrockbks.com

The book club will discuss *The Way of the Writer*, by Charles Johnson. Register online.

THURS 30

Bring More Diversity to Your Landscape

GARRISON

1 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust
hhl.org

Jennifer Lerner of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Ryan Goolic from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will discuss using native plants to landscape your yard and handling invasive species.

MUSIC

SAT 25

Towne Crier Fundraiser

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/townecriercafe

David Broza, Steve Earle, Leo Kottke and Bill Miller will unite for a performance of blues and folk, via livestream, to raise funds for the Beacon venue. Donate at gofundme.com/f/help-the-towne-crier-survive.

SUN 26

Jeff Daniels

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/townecriercafe

The Emmy award-winning actor will perform original songs and tell stories, then answer questions following the livestreamed set. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 31

Sloan Wainwright

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/TowneCrierCafe

The singer and songwriter will perform new songs with Stephen Murphy and Trina Hamlin.



FRI 31

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

HILLSDALE

falconridgefolk.com

The Slambovian Circus of Dreams will headline this virtual festival on Friday and Saturday, with a portion of proceeds going to the Towne Crier in Beacon.

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 28

Sing and Move Zoom for Toddlers

GARRISON

10 a.m. | Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/SingandMoveZoom

Join Miss Gabi for a virtual gathering for toddlers and their parents. Register online.

WED 29

Bash the Trash

11 a.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
tinyurl.com/TCBash

In this "fun and funky family show," learn how to create cool-sounding instruments from stuff you can find around the house.

WED 29

Middle School Book Club

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Register online to discuss *Port Chicago 50*, by Steve Sheikin.



WED 29

Two by Two Zoo

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
desmondfishlibrary.org

Meet animals and learn about their habits in this live online event.

THURS 30

Ree-Play Sale

BEACON

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave. | weeplayproject.org

Shop the 16th annual sale of secondhand children's clothing, toys, baby and toddler equipment, books, music, movies, games, maternity clothes and sports equipment. Masks and social distancing required. Proceeds benefit the Wee Play Community Project. Also FRI 31, SAT 1, SUN 2.

THURS 30

Mad Science with Muggle Studies

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

Children ages 6 and older can learn about the "magical" in daily life from this theatrical performance.

SUN 2

Legends and Myths from Mount Olympus

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/LegendsAndMythsFromMountOlympus

The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company will perform adventures from ancient Greece as the gods meddle with humans far below. Watch online through Aug. 9.

CIVIC

Most meetings are being streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

MON 27

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 28

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WED 29

Dutchess COVID-19 Update

POUGHKEEPSIE

3 p.m. facebook.com/dutchesscogov

County Executive Marc Molinaro will provide the latest information on the shutdown in this livestream.

WED 29

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Mix-and-Match

Given a theme and a list of elements, writers craft 10-minute plays

By Alison Rooney

Although it canceled its 2020 season because of the COVID-19 shut-down, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is still baking up a storm.

Its annual playwriting “bake-off” went virtual this summer, with a record number of participants. Each of the 70 writers wrote a short play (10 minutes or less) using at least three of a list of required elements around the theme of “Mahicantuck.” Native Americans used the word, which means “river that flows both ways,” for the Hudson River.

Six of the plays were then chosen to be performed on July 18 by actors via Zoom.

This year’s selections were *Dead Man’s Hat*, by Vernon Hamilton (a resident of Nyack), *What a Week*, by Alana Jacoby (Chelsea), *The Juicy Middle*, by Meghan Malone (Putnam Valley and now Glendale, California), *Eb & Flo — A Wife’s Tale*, by Rory Roche (Wurtsboro), *The Writing on the Wall*, by Jared Tamarkin (New City) and *Devil Heads (or The Temptation of Ann)*, by Gwynne Watkins (Beacon).

The bake-off concept was created in the early 1980s by a group of young playwrights, including Paula Vogel, who went on to become a longtime creative writing professor at Brown and Yale and who won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *How I Learned to Drive*. Her play *Indecent* recently completed a Broadway run.

She and the other writers were frustrated, Vogel recalls, because they couldn’t get their plays produced. “We decided, as a vent for our frustration, to discern the formula of what made a commercially viable new play in 1984,” she says. “Then we were to go home and in 48 hours each write a play to that formula. We agreed that the three necessary elements were a front porch, a kitchen sink and a withheld secret.”

For the past five years, HVSF has been



A Zoom screenshot of the Bake-Off cast

Photo courtesy of HVSF

using a version of that writing exercise as a tool for community engagement. Once a theme is selected, workshop participants create a grocery list of possible ingredients and Vogel whittles the list down. The local workshops were led online by Christine Scarfuto, acting director of the MFA playwriting program at Hunter College.

The first HVSF bake-off, in 2016, was related to the festival’s production of *Our Town*. The other themes have been women’s suffrage, coming home and Hudson Valley harvest.

The ingredients that Vogel selected this year for HVSF from participants’ longer list were floating patches of ice, factories, a painter from the Hudson school, canoe, Bannerman Island, dead body, Mahicantuck, Indian Point, sailboat, tugboat and the River Styx.

Ryan Quinn, an HVSF veteran, directed. “The theme mirrors going up and down the river from the city to the Hudson Valley, plus with COVID, and as a father, husband, a black man, I couldn’t wait to hear how the theme resonated, then take the unique challenge to bring that to a Zoom audience,” he says.

He advised the writers: “Write your play, and the hard and beautiful thing at the end is you’ll be giving it away, to us. It’s never exactly what you had in mind when you wrote it.”

Vernon Hamilton’s entry was his first play, though he has written many stories and a children’s book, *Isn’t It Scary*. “It’s different, because you’re depending on the visual performance of the actor, the expression, the body language,” he says. “In a story, everything is interior or descriptive.”

Asked following the performance how it felt to watch actors interpret something he wrote, Hamilton said: “It felt great. A story reaches its audience over time and anonymously. But a performed play is a shared experience, with the author, actors and audience enjoying it at the same time. It is communal. I will write more plays.”

He added: “I was surprised and

impressed by the actors’ ability to transcend the limits of the online mode. They portrayed intimate interactions with one another without actually being in the same place.”

Rory Roche, by contrast, is a veteran. This was his fourth play and the second to be performed in the bake-off. “As a horror writer, I knew there would be a dead body,” he says. “However, I imagined there would be more focus on it. I found myself, instead, focusing on the water element. I have a history with the Hudson River. Growing up, my dad took me fishing there. He passed away in 2007, and I go to those spots when I feel the need to connect with him.”

Roche says he found the reading of his previous play to be “an incredible experience. Getting to watch my characters come alive is such a gift. Getting to see it [this time] on Zoom is a plus, too. I get the privilege of inviting the people who matter most to me since none of them are within driving distance.”

Next up for the Shakespeare Festival, which earlier this year canceled its live performances because of the pandemic, is its annual HVSF2 series, with three new works by professional playwrights performed via Zoom. It begins Aug. 13. See hvshakespeare.org.

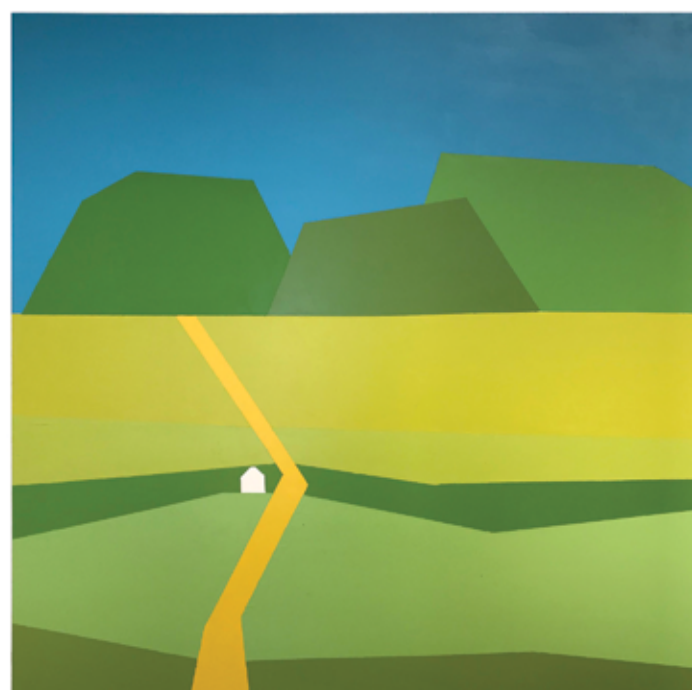
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Small, Good Things

A New Pair of Glasses

By Joe Dizney



A confession: I hate zucchini. Watery, mushy, tasteless — I am hard-pressed to identify a preparation containing said ingredient that I have ever desired in the least.

As with most fried foods, it's all about the batter. Zucchini spears are merely delivery devices for whatever dip or sauce accompanies them. And who wants to fry anything right about now?

But it is the season and, as with most endeavors during the pandemic, the challenge is to make the best of a bad situation. It passes the time and, if you're lucky, provides an unexpected pleasure.

The misconception about zucchini and most summer squash (as well as other "fresh" produce in this country) is that bigger is better. That's why you see Bocce-ball-sized tomatoes and golfball-sized strawberries. While not in the same botanical families, they share a similar texture and flavor profile with club-sized zucchinis that are the deserving butt of home-gardening jokes.

Size does matter, but smaller is better. It concentrates the flavor, the skin is thinner,

the texture crisp and tender, and the seeds, of which there are many, are so tiny as to be almost negligible.

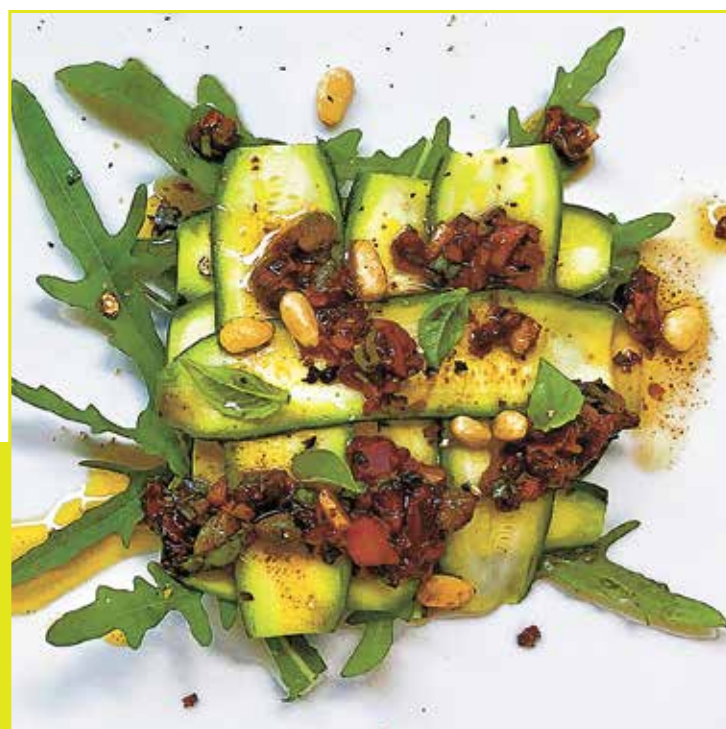
I suppose I am speaking of what the gods of marketing call "baby zucchini," but are just fresh young specimens. The food writers I trust specify 3- to 4-inch zucchini and most recipes that appeal to me specify nothing larger than 6 inches. The home gardener has an upper hand here.

I have to admit to having heard the advice to salt sliced squash before cooking. In this case, salting thinly sliced small zucchini (I found 4-inch cucurbits but also discovered organic 5- and 6-inch squash at Foodtown in Cold Spring) did draw out a lot of liquid. It also concentrated the vegetal notes and created an on-the-fly "pickle," negating the need to add heat to the process. That is appealing in 90-degree weather.

So, Carpaccio... While the vegetable is a New World crop (along with the tomato), zucchini reached its warmest culinary embrace and apogee in Italy and perhaps specifically Sicily. To honor that noble heritage, my thin, raw slices are dressed in a loose vinaigrette of sweet sun-dried tomatoes, capers, basil and Balsamic. If that's bolstered with a splash of lemon juice and extra-virgin olive oil, you've covered the flavor bases. A sprinkle of toasted pine nuts adds some crunch.

Serve over a bed of arugula with a garnish of shaved Parmesan and I'm seeing zucchini in a whole new way.

Anniversary Note: This is Joe Dizney's 113th column. The first appeared in the Feb. 8, 2013, issue.



Zucchini "Carpaccio"

with Sun-dried Tomato-Basil-Balsamic Vinaigrette

— Serves 4 —

- 2 to 3 medium (6-inch) or 8 to 10 baby (4-inch) zucchini
- Kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons pignolis, briefly toasted in a hot skillet to lightly color; reserved
- 4 handfuls of washed and dried arugula, divided among four plates

FOR THE VINAIGRETTE:

- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and drained
- 2 tablespoons chopped oil-soaked sun-dried tomatoes, drained, patted dry, chopped
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil (plus small leaves for garnish)
- 1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar (the best you can muster up)
- 5 to 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper to taste
- Shaved Parmesan (optional)

1. With a mandoline or vegetable peeler, shave the zucchini lengthwise into thin strips. (Discard the first and last slices with solid dark-green skin.). Lay the strips in a single layer on a clean cloth or paper towel and dust with salt. Set aside while you prepare the vinaigrette.
2. Prepare the vinaigrette: with a spoon lightly mix the ingredients in a small bowl or measuring cup. Do not overmix or whisk: you want a loose aggregation with distinct elements here, not a puree.
3. Blot and wipe excess salt from the slices; arrange in overlapping layers on individual plates of arugula. Spoon vinaigrette over zucchini and arugula. Garnish with a scattering of the pignolis, more cracked black pepper and curls of Parmesan if desired.

PAUSE

Looking Through
the Window

Barbara Smith Gioia

Lucille Tortora

Martee Levi

John Allen

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Something You Don't Know About Me

Alex Dubroff

By Alison Rooney

Alex Dubroff, who lives in Philipstown, is the executive director of the Topfield Equestrian Center.

You were an anthropology major at SUNY Stony Brook but ended up working with primates. How did that happen?

That was always the plan. In high school I read the autobiography of Dian Fossey, who studied mountain gorillas in Rwanda. I became obsessed and went to college planning to combine anthropology with my dream of studying primates in the wild. A graduate student asked me to be his research assistant, and that's how I wound up in a non-invasive lab [in which the animals are not subjected to inoculation, surgery or biopsies], working with macaques, baboons, chimpanzees and bush babies.

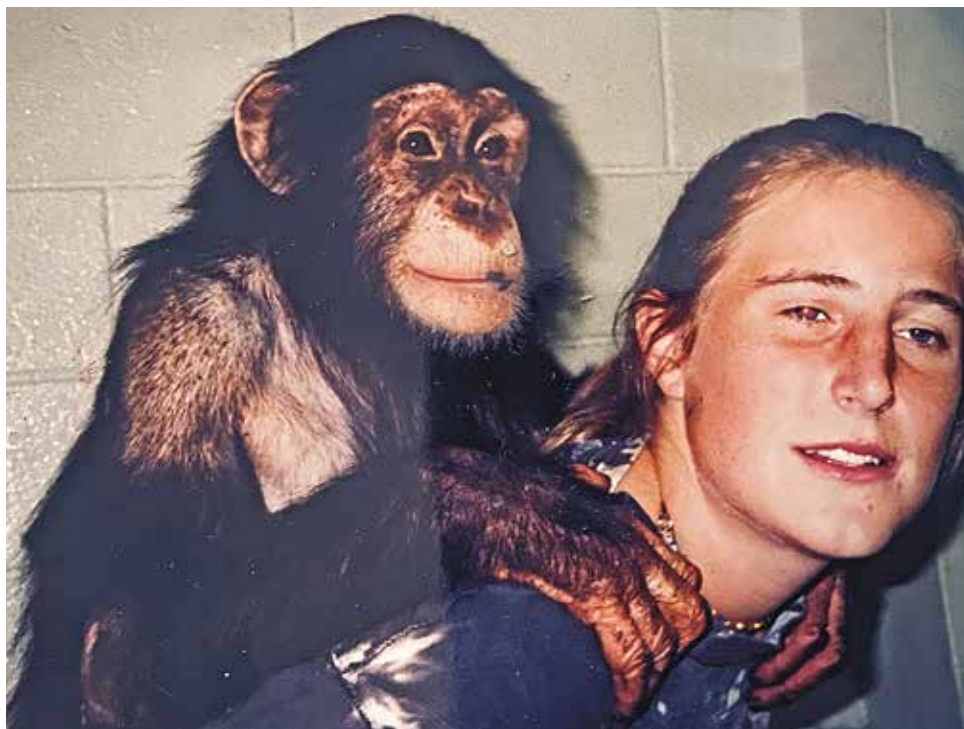
What was the focus of the research?

They were studying the evolution of muscles and how that related to the evolution of bipedalism, or how we came to walk on two legs, which chimps don't — they're quadrupedal. They put a tiny electrode wire into a primate's muscle so it could track when the animal is firing that muscle.

Did you enjoy the work?

I loved the animals. But I didn't pursue my Ph.D. because I couldn't see myself doing that kind of research. The animals were stuck in such a sterile environment. But I became the caretaker of the primate lab and really got to know them. There were these two 5-year-old boy chimpanzees, Jason and Jones, and I fell completely in love with them. When you looked into their eyes, it looked like you were looking into human eyes. There's an intelligence behind those eyes.

They used to scream when I left the lab each night. The lab was devoid of any kind of enrichment, and they were bored. I'd bring in boxes for hide and seek, and we'd use enrichment devices where they had to figure out how to get the food out of the



Alex Dubroff with Jones



Alex Dubroff at Topfield with Onyx

Photos provided

device; we'd play ball with them — really, we'd do anything that we could in order to stimulate their minds, but it wasn't enough.

There was also Kim, an 8-year-old female chimpanzee. It took me six months of sitting outside Kim's cage without her threatening me. Chimps have seven times the strength of a male human. One day she initiated a game of tag so I knew she had accepted me. Afterward, my dad was visiting the lab and wanted to leave, but I knew that if I attempted to leave at that time she would have lashed out.

Can you share three quick facts about lesser-known primates?

1. Never look into a macaque's eyes; that's considered a threat. 2. Bush babies scent mark everything. 3. A gibbon call is one of the most beautiful things; they sing to each other in the morning.

You planned to conduct research in Africa. Why didn't you?

My professor told me that study in the wild was not where it was at, that primate

research was going in a more scientific-based way rather than using observation. I decided at that point I wasn't going to go that route.

What did you do after leaving the lab?

With a degree in anthropology, I couldn't find a job. I wound up starting as a temp at a computer consulting firm. I was a receptionist, then moved into coding, which I wasn't good at, but they made me a project manager. I moved on to an investment bank, which was never my thing. My passion was always animals. But having that work experience allowed me to gain a skill set I never would have had and can put to work at Topfield [a nonprofit that provides therapy through encounters with its horses]. Your path reveals itself, eventually.

After you left, did you keep up with the animals?

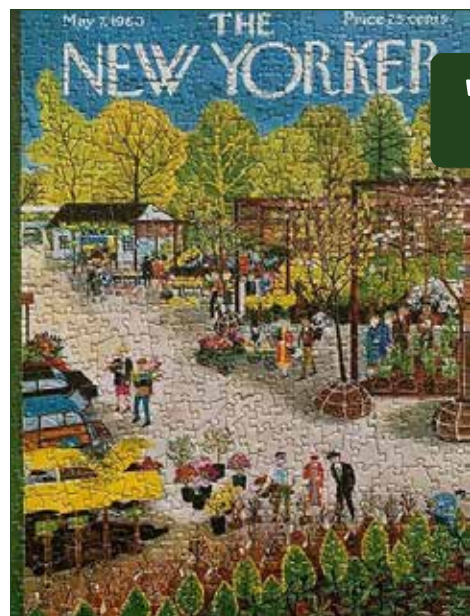
Yes. Jason and Jones are in a Texas sanctuary called Primarily Primates. I went to see them five years later and they recognized me! I knew this because of a combination of their excited pant hoots, which is a particular call that a chimp does, as well as them signing the word "apple," which was one of the words we used a lot in teaching them American Sign Language. The majority of great apes — chimps, bonobos and gorillas — have been removed from labs because they're just too smart — they have deep emotions, like when those boys would scream. They need enrichment and the right kind of environment.

Now you're around horses all day. Do you see any similar behaviors?

You can't fool a horse about how you're feeling. If you have anxiety, they sense that. They're good at reading body language. But horses communicate in a different way. They are not human-like.

How did you get involved with Topfield?

I volunteered, looking for solace, wanting to be calmer in my skin, because I was an emotional wreck. I was a volunteer for almost four years before coming on board as an employee. I've always had a connection with animals; they accept me for who I am. For people suffering from emotional turbulence, horses just have something.



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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 (July 1870)

William Dutcher, 20, a well-known endurance pedestrian, on July 4 walked at Williams' saloon at Matteawan for 115 hours straight. Earlier in the year, he had walked for 100 and 105 hours straight at Marine Hall in Poughkeepsie. However, scandal caught up with him. Despite being married, he was found to have wed a 16-year-old fan whom he passed off as a servant to his sister. At his trial for bigamy, Dutcher said he had not been in his right mind because of all the walking. A jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to three years in prison.

A well-dressed man who was found unconscious in the road near Fishkill Landing had been drugged and robbed of \$180.

125 Years Ago (July 1895)

William Melius, believed to be the oldest conductor on the Hudson River Railroad, with 44 years on the job, dropped dead at Mott Haven Junction. When he joined the railroad in 1851, he had been driving a passenger carriage between the Fishkill Landing depot and Matteawan.

The Dibble Opera House was sold and discussions began to change its name to

the Matteawan Opera House.

The Fishkill Standard opined that "the time is rapidly approaching when Matteawan and Fishkill Landing must of necessity become incorporated as a city" because of their many shared connections and needs.

100 Years Ago (July 1920)

A Beacon woman who had her husband, John Hill, arrested on charge of non-support learned at the hearing that he also was guilty of bigamy and that she was Wife No. 2. Hill lived with his first wife and their three children in Cornwall. Wife No. 2 had married Hill about a year earlier at St. Andrew's Church while he was employed at the Beacon Tire factory.

Franklin D. Roosevelt of Hyde Park was named as the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket with Ohio Gov. James Cox. Roosevelt began his political career in 1910 when he defeated incumbent state Sen. John Schlosser of Beacon to represent the 29th District, which consisted of Dutchess, Putnam and Columbia counties. By one account, he won the farmer vote by advocating uniform apple barrels.

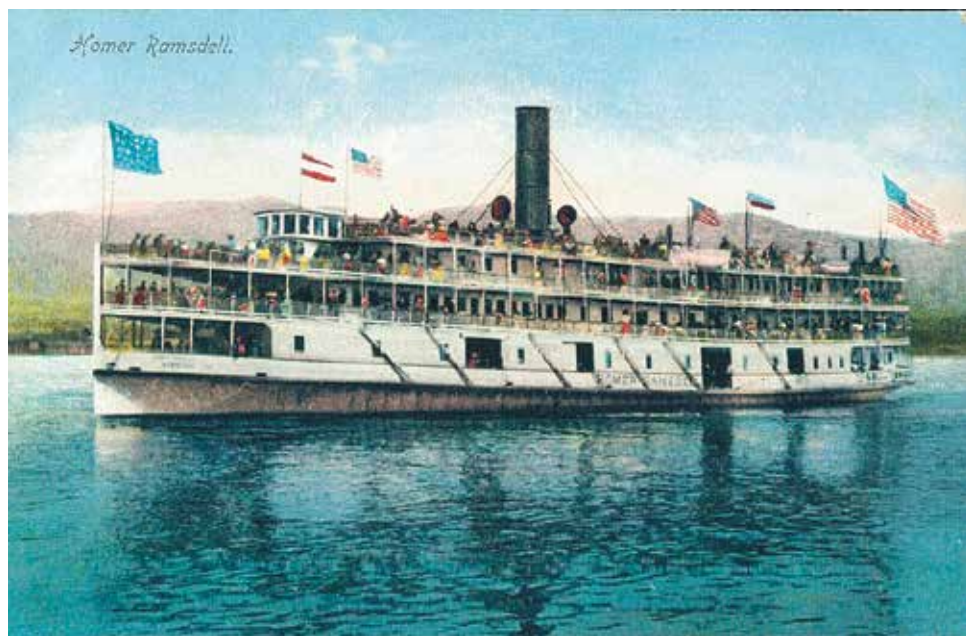
The owners of Vogel's Outlet Store, People's Bargain Store, Sheldon's Drug Store, a dry goods store and a confectioner created a "shopping center" by constructing their shops on Main Street between Schneck and Fishkill.

Mary Hall, a former vice principal of Beacon High School, returned to New York after teaching at the American College in Constantinople [Istanbul], Turkey.

Members of the Beacon Engine Co. chartered the steamer Homer Ramsdell for an excursion to New York and Palisade Park.

After a Weston Transfer Co. vehicle drove over a stretch of freshly poured concrete on Main Street, a patrol officer jumped aboard and instructed the operator to drive the truck to the courthouse.

Roswel Conkling and Edna Davis of Beacon, who recently had won the Upstate New York dancing championship in Yonkers, prepared to compete for the Ulster County title. One newspaper described Conkling as a "past master of the terpsichorean art and classic tripper of the light fantastic."



In 1920 members of the Beacon Fire Co. arranged for an excursion on the steamer Homer Ramsdell.

Sgt. Francis Murphy, who died in France of bronchial pneumonia on Oct. 4, 1918, became the first Beacon casualty of the Great War whose remains were returned to the city for burial.

A Beacon man, Stephen Mapes, escaped injury when the steering knuckle of his Mercer roadster broke and both he and his passenger were thrown over a fence and into a ravine. His passenger broke both arms.

Until city officials intervened, children from Camp Tioronda at University Settlement were swimming in the reservoir that provided city drinking water.

George Cohen removed the seats of the Good Theatre in Beacon to use in the Rialto Theatre in Poughkeepsie, which was rebuilt after a May fire. The scuttlebutt was that the Good would be transformed into a dance hall and boxing club.

Rep. Hamilton Fish and John Cronin, the Beacon commissioner of public safety, lobbied members of the Poughkeepsie Auto Club to support the construction of a highway between Beacon and Cold Spring. Putnam County said it had no money to contribute but the men hoped the state would provide \$50,000.

75 Years Ago (July 1945)

An unidentified serviceman and Angie Pomarico, manager of the Sports Leaguers, each pledged \$25 toward a covering for the bleachers at the Memorial baseball field,

and a drive was underway.

A Connecticut man was charged with reckless driving after allegedly hitting 50 mph on Verplanck Avenue.

Vincent Grady of Beacon, a member of the Dutchess County Board of Supervisors and chair of its sheriff's committee, said he had the authority to employ special deputies if a wave of cattle, chicken and pig thefts was declared an emergency.

State officials urged Beacon to speed up its plan to automatically chlorinate the water supply from the Melzingah reservoir, rather than doing it manually.

The New York Rubber Co. and the Kartiganer and Co. hat factory were forced to close because of flooding after a heavy downpour. A landslide blocked Wolcott Avenue and the water on Main Street reached a depth of 3 feet.

The Orange County Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to study the feasibility of a bridge over the Hudson between Newburgh and Beacon.

50 Years Ago (July 1970)

The Beacon City Council rejected a request to rezone a parcel at Church and North Cedar streets from off-street parking to general business. The council also discussed whether to adopt a code of ethics.

A 13-year-old Manhattan girl attend-

(Continued on Page 15)

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The soldiers at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., were made in Beacon.

Photo by Tracy Lee Carroll

(Continued from Page 14)

ing a camp for underprivileged children at University Settlement fell into the swimming pool and drowned before her companions could find a counselor.

Negotiations stalled between the city and the state corrections department over a 48-acre parcel on the campus of the Matteawan Hospital. The state wanted the land for its new Mid-Hudson Regional Development Program. The city objected to the rates that New York said it would pay for sewer and water.

Four prisoners at the Glenham Correctional Facility, a prison at the Matteawan State Hospital complex for developmentally disabled inmates, were charged with assault after attacking guards with broom handles and baseball bats.

The school district and the teachers' union reached a tentative contract agreement after a state negotiator recommended that the starting salary be raised to \$7,500 annually from \$7,000 and that the average class size be capped at 25 students. The district said it would continue to pay 100 percent of employees' medical bills and 50 percent of their family members'; teachers agreed that maintaining discipline and taking attendance would continue to be part of their official duties but dropped a demand for life insurance.

Samuel Wood announced he would retire after 14 years as police chief and 33 years on the force. Wood said that being chief "is no joke" and that the "job is not what it looks to be. It's a lot of headaches."

Dr. Jonathan Slocum, who owned Craig House, donated \$250 plus \$537 from his father's estate to a city program to address litter and decay.

Texaco announced that its Beacon plant had developed a muffler filter made of steel wool coated with alumina "which will remove a significant amount of lead and other solid particles from automobile exhaust gases." The company said the device was one example of alternatives to actually having to remove lead from gasoline.

Sixty state troopers broke up a gambling ring with raids at 4 p.m. on a Friday afternoon in Newburgh and Beacon. They said the bookmakers grossed more than \$1 million annually. Eight people were arrested in Newburgh and six in Beacon, including one resident of Cath-

erine Street who was carrying \$7,000 in cash.

25 Years Ago (July 1995)

The state Bridge Authority approved spending \$189,000 on three automatic toll machines for the Newburgh-Beacon bridge.

The Howland Public Library asked the school district for a \$385,000 tax levy but received \$310,000 and cut its Saturday hours for the summer.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that, in Beacon, "the loud reports from large radios of what is known as rap music are turning some aggravated business owners to the city for relief."

Officials gathered at the ribbon cutting for a \$3 million project that would include 27 homes at the corner of Verplanck Avenue and Schenck Street on the site of the former Highland Hospital. The lot had been vacant since 1986, when the abandoned facility was demolished.

Residents of South Avenue and Dennings Street complained to the City Council about the stench from the wastewater treatment plant, which incinerated about 35 tons of sewage on each weekday. The city agreed to test emissions to make sure they complied with federal pollution regulations.

First Lady Hillary Clinton and folk singer Pete Seeger of Beacon were among the recipients in Hyde Park of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, given annually for contributions to society.

The school district received a "magnet school" grant from the state to address racial imbalance at South Avenue Elementary, where students were mostly minorities, and Glenham, where they were mostly white. The plan was to create a program called Democracy 2000 that used the latest technology to entice white parents from around the city to enter a lottery to send their kindergarteners to South Avenue.

A federal appeals court ruled that employees at the Texaco laboratory in Beacon had violated copyright law by making photocopies of articles in scientific journals for reference or to share rather than purchasing additional subscriptions.

The Korean War Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial includes 19 statues of soldiers, each 7-feet-6-inches tall, cast at Tallix Art Foundry in Beacon.

The Signer Who Got Away

Nearly 200 years ago this month, a signer of the Constitution, Col. William Few Jr., was entombed in Beacon. But no one kept up the grave, and a relative eventually came to claim the body.

Few, who was 80 when he died in Fishkill-in-Hudson (now Beacon) on July 16, 1828, represented Georgia at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. He signed the document but was absent for much of the debate because he was also serving in Congress.

Few entered politics after winning acclaim for his military leadership during the Revolution. He had been inspired to become a patriot after his brother, James, was hanged by Loyalists following a tax revolt in North Carolina.

The family fled to Augusta, Georgia, but Few stayed behind, where he was trained by the North Carolina militia. He saw his first action in 1778. After the Constitution was ratified, he was selected as one of Georgia's first two senators.

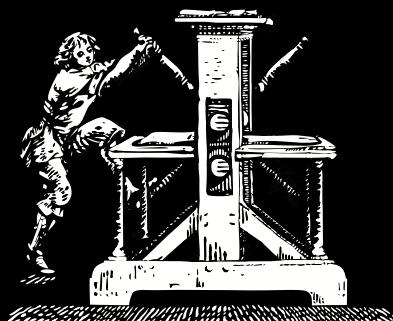


In 1799, at age 51, he moved to New York, the home state of his wife, Catherine Nicholson. They lived in Manhattan, where he served on the state Legislature, was the state prison inspector and worked as a bank president before retiring to their country home in Fishkill-on-Hudson.

He was interred in a vault at the Reformed Church on Route 9D. Several campaigns were launched over the decades to "maintain and construct a proper site in Beacon for the historic figure," the *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported, but nothing worked out. With the vault in disrepair, in 1973 a Few descendant petitioned a New York court to move the remains to Saint Paul's Cemetery in Augusta.

Later that year, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Rogers of Beacon, representing the Fishkill Historical Society, attended a program in Augusta to mark the colonel's re-interment. Gov. Jimmy Carter was also there.

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Reshuffling Planned for Putnam Health

Legislator say moves could save \$225,000

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A Putnam County legislative committee on July 14 approved a reorganization of the Health Department that could save \$225,000 this year.

The unanimous vote by the three-member Personnel Committee sends the proposed changes to the full Legislature for consideration at its Aug. 4 meeting.

William Orr, the Health Department's fiscal manager; Paul Eldridge, the county personnel director; and Dr. Michael

Nesheiwat, the health commissioner, each addressed the committee, which met by a remote audio connection.

Eldridge said the proposed changes present "a golden opportunity" to save the county money immediately and in 2021.

The changes would include the elimination of a principal typist job, with salary and benefits totaling about \$111,000 annually, which has been empty since March following a retirement. Instead of filling the position, the department would create an office-assistant position that pays about \$69,000 annually in salary and benefits.

The vacant post of director of the early intervention and pre-school programs,

whose salary and benefits are about \$147,000 annually, would also be eliminated. The program already has a supervisor who provides oversight, the department said.

The Health Department would create a senior clerk position with an annual salary and benefits of about \$78,000 to ease the paperwork burden on the four early intervention service coordinators, Orr said. He and Eldridge said the job will allow the county to rehire full-time the last of the four people who lost their jobs when legislators last year outsourced administration of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, a federal program known as WIC.

One of the four intervention coordinators would be promoted to supervise the

others, with an annual salary and benefits increase to about \$121,000 annually. The other coordinators would rise a notch to the same employment level as caseworkers in other departments, Eldridge said.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philpstown), who is a member of the Personnel Committee, asked if employees had helped define the changes and was assured by Nesheiwat that "we did get input from everyone."

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), who chairs the committee, said "the challenge for government is to strike a balance between saving taxpayer dollars while still maintaining services" and the Health Department revamping would be "a stellar example of doing just that."



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Dr. Garcia is the Division Chief of OB/GYN at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital; Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons; and Regional Director of Women's Health Services at NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group Hudson Valley. Dr. Garcia sees patients at the recently renovated medical group offices in Cold Spring and Cortlandt Manor.

To register and obtain the Zoom link, email: adults@beaconlibrary.org

For more information, call: 914-734-3576

Schools *(from Page 1)*

23-member committee of teachers, parents, support staff and administrators has been discussing options since June 25. In a letter to parents, Superintendent Carl Albano said he would release the plan once it is approved by the state.

Assuming Mid-Hudson schools are allowed to reopen, the Beacon plan would give the parents and guardians of the district's roughly 2,800 students the option of sending them to class for two or three days a week or continuing with the full-time virtual learning that took place in the spring.

In order to meet a state requirement that individuals remain 6 feet apart, the plan would have half of the district's students who opt for in-school attending on Mondays and Wednesdays, with the other half on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The groups would alternate attendance on Fridays.

"It's not perfect, but I think we can keep learning happening for all of our students," said Superintendent Matt Landahl. "Last

year we were thrown into it, but this year we can prepare. We want to make a difficult model at least predictable."

During a school board meeting on Monday (July 20), Landahl took the federal government to task for its lack of financial support for schools and parents alike.

"It's hard to not be frustrated by this sense that localities can figure this out," he said. "There needs to be more support if they're serious about trying to reopen schools. It's not just buying masks or buying filters for our ventilators; it's about supporting families" struggling with childcare and other issues related to the economic shutdown.

District officials asked parents and guardians this week to complete a survey to determine how many students might return to classrooms.

If the Mid-Hudson Region is given the OK by the state to proceed, Landahl said August



Landahl

will be spent fine-tuning nearly every aspect of the reopening plan. A significant concern, he said, will be the strain on teachers and support staff attempting to offer in-person and virtual learning at the same time.

If schools stick with a hybrid schedule for the entire 2020-21 academic year, Landahl said he anticipates New York State will relax its requirements for instructional "seat time," which is a minimum of 990 hours for grades 7 to 12 and 900 hours for grades K to 6.

In addition to its altered schedule, the Beacon district would implement a number of health and safety protocols.

Students would be required to wear masks at school except when eating; the district has a stockpile of 25,000 disposable masks and may purchase a supply of washable ones. School buildings would be disinfected midday and at night, and each classroom would be equipped with ventilators to keep the air moving.

The custodial staff would conduct deep cleanings after the school day with newly purchased "auto-spray" and ultraviolet-

light equipment.

The district also expects to provide parents with a smartphone app that would help identify COVID-19 symptoms. School officials could screen students' temperatures upon entry, as well, and enforce staggered entry into buildings to maintain social distancing.

Landahl said that the district plans to rent tents for each of its schools to complement outdoor learning spaces.

Parents and guardians will also be offered an all-virtual option that Landahl said "will feel a little different" than the one employed this past spring.

In response to a survey of parents conducted by the district after the shift to online learning in March, the remote option will include more live teaching and student-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction. It would run daily but also will attempt to address "Zoom fatigue," the superintendent said.

"There needs to be more of a structure and more interaction so it's not kids sitting in front of a screen from 8:30 to 3:30," Landahl said. "We're working on what that looks like."

Hospitals *(from Page 5)*

ing its pediatric unit, cancer center and its unit for post-surgical patients, Begg said.

MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, which is part of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, increased its ICU and "medical-surge" beds by 50 percent, said Anthony Costello, the senior vice president for professional support services at WMC. Fortunately, he said, that was enough.

Revenues take a hit

Local hospitals spent money creating and equipping new units; buying personal protective equipment for doctors, nurses and staff; and covering overtime. The biggest financial hit occurred between March 25 and April 29, when hospitals in Dutchess and Putnam had to forgo elective surgeries and procedures under an order issued by Cuomo.

The lost revenue from those canceled procedures had "an enormous impact" on the Nuvance system and continues to lag compared to the months before COVID, Eaton said.

The impact on the books at MidHudson Regional is still being evaluated, Costello said. But operating procedures are up 40 percent over the months before COVID, and the number of patients is higher than this time last year.

"You would have thought it was through the backlog for the first month, but it's continuing," he said.

On July 17, Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced that NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital would receive \$5.4 million, MidHudson Regional \$7.4 million, Putnam Hospital Center \$9.2 million and Vassar Brothers \$5.7 million in relief funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES), which President Trump signed in March.

Money was set aside in the package to reimburse "hot spot" hospitals for costs

and lost revenues. Overall, hospitals in New York state received \$5 billion in April and \$680 million this month.

The day before the funding was announced, Schumer visited Putnam Hospital Center, where he called on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to release more CARES Act funding.

Back on track

Only select entrances at Hudson Valley Hospital are in use and inpatients are allowed one visitor at a time. Visitors must be at least 18 years old and have their temperature taken and be screened for symptoms. Appointments are spaced out to reduce crowding and wait times.

Nuvance's hospitals and MidHudson Regional have also resumed visitations, with a one-person limit, and every hospital continues to provide COVID-19 testing.

Keeping patients and visitors safe is not the only challenge.

Despite the precaution, many people who postponed or delayed non-emergency procedures are wary of using hospitals. At Nuvance, some patients suffered complications — to the point of risking emergency surgery — because they delayed seeking care, Eaton said.

Light in the darkness

Over the last four months, medical personnel and staff at area hospitals were treated like heroes.

The Dutchess and Putnam governments delivered masks and other supplies. Organizations and restaurants delivered meals. Schoolchildren created artwork honoring their efforts. Actors such as Matt Damon and Jennifer Lopez recorded video tributes for the staff at NewYork-Presbyterian. Signs expressing gratitude are planted along a grass expanse fronting the entrance.

The pandemic has "been life-changing for everybody in our area," said Begg.

"We pulled together as a team and we developed relationships that we'll have


forever," he said. "It's not quite the same, but it's similar to fighting a war."

Much attention has focused on the more than 25,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths reported by the state. But at the same time, nearly 72,400 patients had been treated, recovered and been discharged as of Tuesday (July 21).

Begg, when asked to name something that stood out during the crush of patients, recalled those who went home after being hospitalized for weeks, and sometimes more than a month, without seeing their family.

"Seeing those reunions was emotional," he said. "It gave you a reason to get up and go to work every day."

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OBITUARIES

Melissa Castro-Santos (1971-2020)

Melissa Castro-Santos, 49, died July 18 at Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York City after a nine-year battle with multiple myeloma.



Born in Beacon on April 24, 1971, she was raised in Newburgh, where she attended the Newburgh Free Academy. She resided with her children on Parrott Street in Cold Spring. Her husband, Darrin, whom she married in 2000, died on April 4 at age 50 of complications related to COVID-19.

Melissa was a corrections officer at the Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill until her retirement. She was a member of Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring.

Her friends and family remembered Melissa as always having a smile, no matter what challenges she faced. She was a great listener and incredibly supportive person, they said.

She is survived by her sons, Darrin Santos and Daniel Santos, who will be seniors this year at Haldane High School, and her daughter, Mikayla Santos, who will be a sophomore. She also is survived by her mother, Elba Castro (Neil Martin) and her brothers, Marcelo Castro and Eduardo Martin.

A graveside service was scheduled for today (July 24) at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made at gofundme.com/f/santos-stronger or by sending a check with "Santos Family" in the memo to Our Lady of Loretto, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Tim DeCarlo (1967-2020)

Timothy A. DeCarlo, 52, a longtime Beacon resident and former city firefighter, died on July 13 at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.



Tim was born in Beacon on Nov. 20, 1967, the son of William and Patricia (Ketcham) DeCarlo. He graduated from Beacon High School in 1985.

From an early age, Tim was passionate about being a fireman. He joined his father as a member of Beacon Engine Fire Co. 1 and was a life member. He also joined the Castle Point VA Fire Department. He was a former chief with more than 25 years in the department. Tim was a Yankees and NASCAR fan and also enjoyed four-wheeling.

Along with his parents, he is survived by children: Timothy DeCarlo and Anastasia DeCarlo; his former wife, Amy DeCarlo; and three brothers: William DeCarlo, Harry DeCarlo (Joyce) and Robert DeCarlo.

A graveside service was held July 18 at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon.

Robert Hard (1931-2020)

Robert William Hard, 89, of Garrison, died June 28.



Bob was born in Peekskill on Feb. 7, 1931, the son of Francis and Lavinia

(O'Toole) Hard, and was a graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School in Montrose. As a young man, he worked at Vic's Garage on Washington Street before joining the U.S. Marines to fight in the Korean War.

On Oct. 7, 1956, he married Pamela Delamater at Assumption Church in Peekskill.

Bob was a longtime parishioner in the Our Lady of Loretto parish at St. Joseph's Chapel in Garrison. Before he retired, he worked as an operating engineer with Local 137 and contributed to construction projects across the region.

His passions included gardening, cooking, model aircraft, astronomy and being a grandfather ("Pop"). He could build and fix anything, his family said, and was always good for a laugh and a glass of wine.

Bob is survived by his five children: Francis Hard (Pamela), Robert Hard (Kathy DiBart), Mary Haskell (Tony), Susan Freeman (Robert) and Joseph Hard; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, as well as a sister, Kathryn Lounsbury.

Maria Mauro (1958-2020)

Maria Mauro, 61, of Cold Spring, died July 16 at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital.

Born Aug. 27, 1958, in Brooklyn, she was the daughter of Anthony and Sylvia (Orlando) Mauro. In 1993, she married Benjamin Bochicchio in Carmel. She enjoyed reading, fishing and her music.

In addition to her husband, she is

survived by a niece, Toni Ann Byrne.

A funeral Mass will take place on Saturday (July 25) at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring.

Denise Sauer (1984-2020)

Denise Sauer, 35, of Putnam Valley, died July 16 at Northern Westchester Hospital.



She was born Aug. 1, 1984, in New York City, the daughter of Charles and Louise (Gallagher) Sauer. She was employed at Stonecrop Gardens in Philipstown.

In addition to her parents, Denise is survived by her sister, Julie Thomas (Jason), and her nephew, Jason Thomas Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on July 23 at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring, with entombment following at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Other Recent Deaths**Beacon**

Eleanor Kilgore, 91
Bill Komisar, 76
Valerie Moriarty, 83
Vera Wilson, 92

Information provided by local funeral homes. For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obit.

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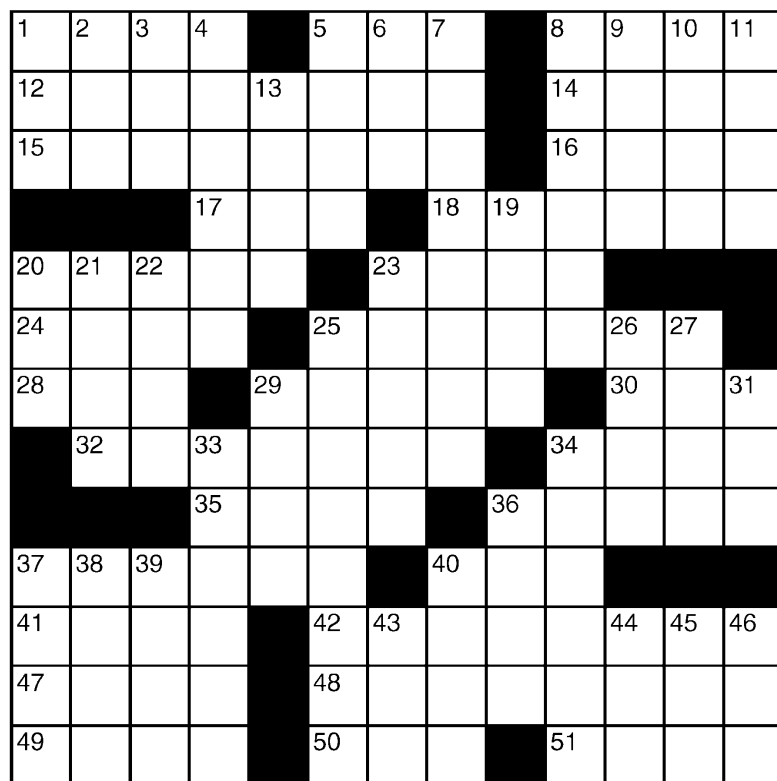
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Fleet from faraway?
5. — *Impossible*
8. Get a look at
12. Strict disciplinarian
14. Small grimace
15. Geometric curve
16. Former European capital
17. Can metal
18. "Gracias"
20. Orbital point
23. Affair of honor
24. Coalition
25. New Jersey borough
28. Coquettish
29. Parking lot structure
30. Bigwig, for short
32. "Semper —"



DOWN

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ref | 19. Listen to | 34. Argentine |
| 2. Sky safety org. | 20. Kimmel's network | grasslands |
| 3. Bobby of hockey | 21. Fall into a | 36. Burn somewhat |
| 4. Radio interference | beanbag chair | 37. Secondhand |
| 5. A party to | 22. Sauce source | 38. Protuberance |
| 6. Aviv lead-in | 23. Piece of | 39. Venetian |
| 7. Heights | information | magistrate |
| 8. Mummify, maybe | 25. Jif rival | 40. Get ready, for short |
| 9. Any time now | 26. Eye layer | 43. Literary collection |
| 10. Play a prank on (Sl.) | 27. Portent | 44. Lubricate |
| 11. Longings | 29. Partner | 45. Wedding utterance |
| 13. Sacred wading bird | 31. Cauldron | 46. Venomous viper |
| | 33. Disturbed the peace | |

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

SOLUTIONS

- 1 where to keep arms (7) _____
- 2 premium Japanese beef (5) _____
- 3 alerts (8) _____
- 4 push-up without pushing up (5) _____
- 5 unnecessary (8) _____
- 6 capital residents of England (9) _____
- 7 making well (8) _____

SL	DLE	NOT	ES	IES
GYU	DO	VE	SS	CUR
LON	RS	ANK	IF	WA
PL	ATI	EEV	NE	NEE

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for July 17 Puzzles

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

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

1. HARMONIOUS, 2. INTUITIVE, 3. NICKS, 4. OPERATOR, 5. REALIZATION, 6. INSINUATED, 7. STUDENT



Fall Sports Season Delayed

Option 2: Move games to March and April

By Skip Pearlman

The fall sports season at Haldane, Beacon and other high schools in the state won't begin until at least Sept. 21 under a plan announced last week by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

The association also canceled the regional and state tournament for fall teams, which include football, soccer, volleyball, girls' tennis and cross-country.

The season had been set to begin with practices as early as Aug. 24, but with that date now moved by four weeks, the result may be shorter seasons. The association also has said that schools must be open for sports to take place.

If the state does not allow high school athletics to begin on Sept. 21, the association said the next option would be to move fall sports to early 2021. Winter sports would run about 10 weeks, followed by fall sports in March, then spring sports in May.

Given the time frame, there would be overlap with the preparation for one sport while playing another, which could cause problems for multi-sport athletes. Section 1, which includes 79 schools in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, does not allow athletes to participate in more than one sport a time, but that could be revisited given the unusual situation.

"We're all trying to stay positive, stay optimistic," said Chris Salumn, the athletic director at Haldane. "We have the additional month, and now we have an idea of what we're dealing with. The goal for everyone is to have athletics back in a safe way,

and to have a positive experience."

The state association requires that each team hold a minimum number of practices before competition begins. For football, it's 10 practices, meaning that a Sept. 21 start date would allow for games to be played as early as Oct. 1.

Ryan McConville, the varsity football coach at Haldane, said that while his players were disappointed not to be able to play in the regional or state tournament, they are grateful for the chance to get on the field.

"Honestly, it's good to know that we have an actual start date," he said. "Aug. 24 was looking a little early; I had a feeling that would get pushed back.

"The kids responded well when we found out," McConville said. "We'll run a virtual camp next week, and then maybe have another one. We'll adapt and prepare."

How confident is McConville that the Blue Devils will be the field on the 21st? "I feel good about it," he said. "In New York, we've been trending very well. You want to

see no infections, no deaths. But we've seen COVID at its worst, so I remain optimistic."

McConville said even a shortened season would be light years better than what winter and spring athletes had to deal with. Winter sports were shut down during the regional tournament and spring sports never happened.

"If we can play six games, then have some kind of bowl or championship game, we'd have to feel pretty lucky," he said.

Salumn said the worst-case scenario — no in-person school and no sports in the fall — would be a tough pill to swallow.

"It would be terrible for our student-athletes," he said. "They're such a big part of the community. But kids are resilient, and when we return, we'll do everything to make sure they have a great experience."

McConville agreed. "I don't think anyone is prepared for that situation. All the things sports provide kids — mental well-being, turning young adults into leaders, helping them deal with adversity — they need those things."



Elijah Epps



Tye Elias drove in two runs, including the game-winner, Tuesday vs. East Fishkill.

More Baseball!

Beacon 11-year-olds win first two league games

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon travel baseball team for players ages 11 and younger got its Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League summer season off to a solid start with victories in its first two games.

The Bulldogs opened with an 8-1 victory last week over the Poughkeepsie Lightning before edging the East Fishkill Patriots,

3-2, on Tuesday (July 21) at Memorial Park.

James Brouhard picked up the victory on the mound, with four innings of solid relief work. Parker White started for Beacon and went an inning. Eli Netboy picked up the save.

Tye Elias drove in two runs, including the game-winner, for Beacon.

"That was a good team effort; East Fishkill is a tough team," said Coach Anthony White. "James is new to the mound and pitched well. He kept batters off balance. Ryan Landisi and Zach Schetter had quality

at-bats, and Elias was superb in the outfield."

The Poughkeepsie game was the team's first game after quarantine," White said. "We had very little practice, but they were disciplined at the plate and we got timely hits."

Netboy picked up the win on the mound, and Alex Young and Schetter pitched in relief. Young and Schetter each had two RBI, and Brady Philipbar and Netboy each had one.

The team is scheduled to host Kings Baseball from Suffern on Wednesday (July 29) at 6 p.m. at Memorial Field.

The 10-and-younger Beacon team, meanwhile, last week tied the Beekman Bombers, 9-9; lost at East Fishkill, 14-6; and lost both games of a doubleheader against Poughkeepsie. The Bulldogs are scheduled to host East Fishkill today (July 24) at 6 p.m.



Eli Netboy

Photos by S. Pearlman