

The HIGHLANDS Current

AUGUST 14, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

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BLACK VOTES MATTER — Oliver King (at left) portrayed Frederick Douglass on Tuesday (Aug. 11) during the unveiling in Newburgh of a mural by Vernon Byron that honors the former slave and abolitionist. Douglass spoke in the city on Aug. 11, 1870, as part of a lecture tour to push for the passage of the 15th Amendment, which extended voting rights to African-Americans. For more info, see bit.ly/douglass-newburgh.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Schools Can Open. That's the Easy Part.

Haldane, Garrison, Beacon work on the details

By Jeff Simms

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Aug. 7 gave public schools the green light to reopen next month and his office last week approved plans submitted by hundreds of districts, including Beacon, Haldane and Garrison, to do so as safely as possible amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cuomo said he would allow schools to reopen as long as their region had an infection rate below 5 percent on a 14-day average. The rate in the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Putnam and Dutchess counties, has hovered around 1 percent. Infection rates also have been relatively low in Dutchess (which tested 1,362 people on Wednesday [Aug. 12] and had nine positives, or 0.7 percent) and Putnam (which tested 360 and had five positives, or 1.4 percent).

Cuomo last month asked every district to submit detailed reopening plans to his office for in-person, virtual and hybrid instruction. All schools will be closed in a region if its infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a seven-day average, the governor said.

(Continued on Page 15)

Cold Spring Tragedy Averted

Carbon monoxide causes early morning evacuation

By Michael Turton

A loud banging at your front door in the middle of the night doesn't usually mean good news. But for residents of the apartment building at 1 Market St. in Cold Spring, the knock in the early morning hours of Aug. 5 may have been a lifesaver.

On Aug. 4, Tropical Storm Isaias left the village without power. That night, Ed Currelley, who lives in and manages the five-unit building, was awakened at about 1 a.m. by an alarm in his second-floor apartment.

Because Currelley had the week before replaced the battery-powered carbon monoxide alarms in the building, as well as the batteries in the smoke detectors, he said his first thought was that his CO detector must not have reset properly,

(Continued on Page 3)



The apartment building at 1 Market St.

Photo by M. Turton

Putnam Says 'No' to Human Rights Commission

Legislators say it's not needed; Montgomery decries 'stonewalling'

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam legislators on Aug. 7 rejected a proposal to create a human rights commission, saying the county has too few problems to justify it and that it would duplicate state anti-bias efforts.

The 9-3 vote came during a meeting held by audio connection that had been rescheduled from earlier in the week due to power outages caused by Tropical Storm Isaias.

The proposal was endorsed by County Executive MaryEllen Odell, a Republican, and championed by Nancy Montgomery, the only Democrat on the Legislature, who represents Philipstown. The commission would be asked to "inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between various racial, religious and nationality groups" and recommend solutions, according to the resolution presented to the Legislature.

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: GINNY FIGLIA

By Leonard Sparks

Ginny Figlia last month marked her 30th year as a librarian at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.

How did you become a librarian?

When I was younger, I never in a million years thought this would be my career. I wanted to study art, maybe become an art teacher. But I was looking for part-time work [in 1986] when my son was young, and where I lived [in Westchester County], there was an opening for a library assistant in the children's room. That's how I got into a library. Eventually, after I came to Beacon, I got my master's degree in information science from the University at Albany.

What hooked you on the job?

I assumed being a librarian would be to have your nose in a book and archiving and cataloging and not seeing people. I never knew it could be this much fun. I love working with all different ages; I'm not in a classroom with one group. I love meeting families. I can be creative. I am able to do all kinds of arts and crafts.

How has programming changed?

When I started, libraries had story times,



they had performers come in and they did a summer reading program. But now libraries do more afterschool programs and programs that aren't centered on books. We've developed STEM or STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math] activities. We include art and we have included a lot more technology.

In what ways have children's books changed?

Children's writing and authorship and illustrations have become a much larger field than when I started, just by adding cultures

and races and religions. Parents are much more open to teaching their children about the differences and likenesses of all of us.

Have kids you've met returned with their own children?

The first time that happened, it was like, "Boy, do I feel old." But it's one of the nicest things about my job — that somebody remembers the library so fondly that they want to bring their own children. I keep in touch with quite a few kids who are adults now, which is such a satisfying part of the job.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite place by the water on a hot summer day?

“

The Amalfi Coast, Italy.
The water is so blue and clear and peaceful.

”



~ Tina Barile, Cold Spring

“

Rocky Beach,
Falmouth, Maine. It never gets hot there, and the water is cold.

”



~ Hannah Sultan, visiting Garrison

“

Capers Island, South Carolina. The most interesting island I've seen, from pristine white sand to pure untouched swampland.

”



~ Parker Elbe, Beacon

Wanted: Artist with a Thing for Trees

Also, Village Board appoints code enforcer

By Michael Turton

“I think that I shall never see / A sculpture as lovely as this dead tree.”

The Tree Advisory Board of the Village of Cold Spring may be hoping residents and visitors paraphrase Joyce Kilmer’s poem if their creative aspirations for a large dead tree near the pedestrian tunnel work out as planned.

Jennifer Zwarich, who chairs the board, received approval from the village on Aug. 5 to seek proposals from artists with a vision for transforming the doomed Norway Maple.

“We’ve been watching this tree for a long time,” she said. “It didn’t make it through last winter.”

Zwarich said if the tree were removed, the advisory board wouldn’t have the funds to excavate the extensive root ball. So, the five-member volunteer panel brainstormed alternatives.

“We thought we could do something uplifting,” Zwarich said. “Then came the idea of making this already dead tree into at least a temporary piece of art in a very prominent, visible spot.”

Ten to 12 feet of the tree, which has a diameter of about 30 inches, will be kept intact as the foundation for whatever art project is chosen. (Email jzwarich.cstab@gmail.com for more information.)

“It’s carte blanche for someone with a creative idea,” Zwarich said. “I envision it as being community-centered. Sculpture would be the coolest, but it could also be painted.”

The advisory board intends to advertise the project soon with a goal of seeing the project underway this fall.

Zwarich hopes it will get the community involved in a conversation about the advisory board’s other work. It received a \$50,000 urban forestry grant from the state Department of Environmental Conservation last year. Phase 1 helped fund metal tree guards and pervious pavers along Main Street, while Phase 2 will include extensive pruning of village-owned trees.

“We have a large, aging tree population that has never been maintained well,” Zwarich said. Nearly a dozen trees will be removed as part of the program.

“We’ve been planting trees in those areas to try and make up for it,” she said.

In other business (Aug. 5) ...

■ The Village Board hired Newburgh resi-



Jennifer Zwarich with Archie and the tree

Photo by M. Turton

dent Charlotte Mountain as a part-time code enforcement officer. Mountain, who also works in code enforcement in Mamaroneck, will work up to 18 hours a week for \$24.50 an hour. Greg Wunner, the code enforcement officer for Philipstown, had been handling duties in the village since June 2017 when the municipalities merged building departments.

Merandy thanked Wunner, whose services he said “got us through some tough times” and the Butterfield redevelopment project.

The mayor said the board decided it needed “someone that can respond a little more quickly” and work directly with Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovich. The mayor said he wanted to hire Mountain in October but her contract in Mamaroneck prevented her from working elsewhere. Her situation is more flexible now, he said. Merandy met with Mountain on Aug. 2 and the board interviewed her in executive session before the Aug. 5 meeting. Merandy said there will be a period of overlap while Wunner completes current permit applications and Mountain becomes familiar with Cold Spring’s needs.

■ The village will use the state bidding system to purchase a new garbage truck. Its procurement policy does not allow it to seek bids on its own for equipment purchases of more than \$20,000. The cost of the truck has been estimated to be much as \$134,000.

■ Trustee Fran Murphy said the village is still waiting for information from its insurance company regarding a proposed plan to have volunteers from the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce be partially responsible for disinfecting the public restrooms alongside the Chamber’s Main Street visitor booth on weekends. Facilities there have been closed since the outbreak of COVID-19. The Chamber must also submit its final proposal to the board.

(Continued on Page 7)

Tragedy Averted (from Page 1)

triggering a false alarm.

As he examined the detector — which was displaying the message, “Danger. Open windows. Get out!” — he heard alarms go off in two other apartments.

Currelley said he began banging on doors, hollering at tenants to wake up and get out. “Everyone was asleep,” he said.

At the same time, he called 911, which received the call at 1:17 a.m. The Cold Spring Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and Cold Spring Fire Co. were on the scene within minutes, he said.

Danny Meisner, who lives on the second floor, slept through Currelley’s attempt to wake him but was roused when the power happened to come back on moments later.

He did hear the Putnam County sheriff’s deputy who banged on his door. He was told to leave the building immediately.

“I got out pretty quickly,” Meisner said. “With my dog!”

All of the building’s six residents, along with three dogs and six cats, were evacuated to Market Street and the building’s backyard until 2 a.m., when the first responders gave them the OK to return to their apartments.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas found in fumes produced by gasoline engines, stoves and ranges, propane lanterns and grills, charcoal grills, fireplaces and furnaces.

Searching for the source of the gas, police found a portable generator running in the basement of the building. Hector Antonio, owner of Rincon Argentino, a cafe on the ground floor, had started it when the storm knocked out power, hoping to save his



Ed Currelley

Photos by M. Turton



Cold Spring Fire Chief Tom Merrigan

inventory of gelato and other perishables.

“I put the generator in the boiler room, which I thought was separate from the rest of the building,” he said. “I wasn’t cautious enough,” noting that the generator should have been placed up to 50 feet away from the building.

“I apologized to everybody for the inconvenience,” he said. “It won’t ever happen again.”

There was enough carbon monoxide in the building to trip the detectors but not enough to cause symptoms, according to measurements taken by the fire company. Chief Tom Merrigan said the apartments had levels of 40 parts per million; symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, fatigue and nausea typically occur at sustained levels of 70 ppm or more. Sustained levels of more than about 150 ppm can cause disorientation, unconsciousness and death.

Merrigan said the incident was a reminder for residents to maintain their CO detectors, which are required by state law in any dwelling with a carbon monoxide source, including fireplaces and attached garages.

“They’re like smoke detectors,” he said. “Change the batteries yearly and make sure they’re not beyond the expiry date indi-

What Property Owners Must Do

A state law that went into effect in 2010 requires that at least one detector be installed in every dwelling where there is a carbon monoxide source (including a fireplace or attached garage). Before the law went into effect, only residences built or bought after July 30, 2002, were required to have them.

Homes, apartments, condos and townhouses built after Jan. 1, 2008, are required by the state building code to have hardwired detectors within each dwelling or sleeping unit, and on each story where there is a sleeping area or a CO source. Dwellings built before 2008 can have battery-operated units, and they don’t have to be interconnected.

In addition, a law enacted in 2014 requires every restaurant and commercial building in the state to have CO detectors.

cated on the back.”

Merrigan emphasized the need to follow manufacturers’ instructions. “Carbon monoxide is a low-lying gas,” he said. “If you put a detector up high on a wall or ceiling, by the time CO gets up there, it’s too late.”

Meisner said he won’t forget his brush with carbon monoxide anytime soon. He had to wait outside longer than his neighbors because his apartment is directly over the boiler room and had higher CO levels that took more time to clear.

He “was up for hours” from the anxiety

How to Prevent CO Poisoning

- Run generators far away from buildings.
- Never use a gas range or oven for warmth.
- Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill in enclosed spaces, carports or covered porches.
- Start and run gas-powered mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers and chain saws away from buildings.
- Never use a stove or fireplace unless it is properly installed and vented.
- Never run a car, truck or motorcycle inside a garage that is attached to a house or in a detached garage with the garage door shut.

Source: New York State Department of Health

after returning to his apartment, Meisner said. “We could have all died, and I would have been the first.”

More than 430 people are killed by accidental, non-fire-related CO poisoning in the U.S. each year, and some 4,000 people are hospitalized, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 2004 and 2013, small, gas-powered generators were responsible for 81 percent of accidental deaths by CO poisoning, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Local activism

As a newcomer to Cold Spring who has felt nothing but welcomed by this beautiful community, I was a bit surprised at the reaction to your interview with the young activist Cassie Traina (*Letters and Comments*, Aug. 7).

I haven't met Cassie but she sounds like an impressive person who is working to make the world a better place. She was, however, called a brainwashed Marxist and outsider whose family apparently hasn't lived here for enough generations, even though she graduated from Haldane High School.

What sort of message does this send to young people and people of all ages who choose to make their home here? Keep your mouth shut and don't get involved in your community?

As a not-so-young actual "outsider," I humbly suggest that we should listen more, not less, to younger generations — wherever they come from — and let them lead, because frankly we older generations have not done such a great job. And if having a deep history here is what confers legitimacy, I would also suggest that the Munsee and Mohican people who were driven from these lands centuries ago would have a better claim.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*

It's been said that "when you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression."

Steve Smith, *Cold Spring*

The Cold Spring resident who wrote in the Aug. 7 issue that longtime residents of the village don't "suffer" from "white privilege" I think was confusing white privilege with "white guilt," because no one suffers from privilege.

Guilt is certainly something that white people do suffer from, so to avoid it, they deny that they have anything to feel guilty about.

Privilege is when someone has an easier time getting something, and it applies to different scenarios, in addition to race. It could involve people of different economic classes. The fact that white people have privilege is just that: a fact. It's just easier to get things. If you're a white man getting pulled over because your brake light is out, you most likely will not be told to get out of the car, as happened in Cold Spring to a Black friend of mine.

Our job is to increase the privilege to Black and brown people. The first step is to listen to them and believe them. Part of increasing privilege is peeling away one's own views of what you think when you see

a Black or brown person walking down the street. Or in a job interview. Or at a party. Or to your neighbor. It's a lifelong action, and one will encounter a different action every day.

Katie Hellmuth Martin, *Beacon*

Let the young people have their views. They may be different from your own but that is the price for progress.

Francesco Robledo, *Nelsonville*

COVID in prison

What does Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan mean about "proactively" testing inmates when the prisons have been hot spots for months ("Why the Jump in Dutchess Cases?" Aug. 7)? Ulster should have been testing its jailed citizens since March. Doing it now is welcome but tardy.

James Carmody, *Carmel*

Black lives

I look forward to hearing Justice McCray and the other organizers of Beacon 4 Black Lives share their plans and strategies ("Q&A: Justice McCray," Aug. 7). Protests and boycotts are important components of any movement, and aligning with others who have similar goals is how to create lasting and impactful change. I also would like to know if they are collaborating with Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley or other social justice movements. Who are their inspirations; what other movements are they learning from?

Lisa Gallina, *via Facebook*

Who elected Justice McCray to speak for Beacon residents?

Christopher Bopp, *via Facebook*

That's the beauty of freedom of speech. You don't have to be an elected official to speak out about things that matter.

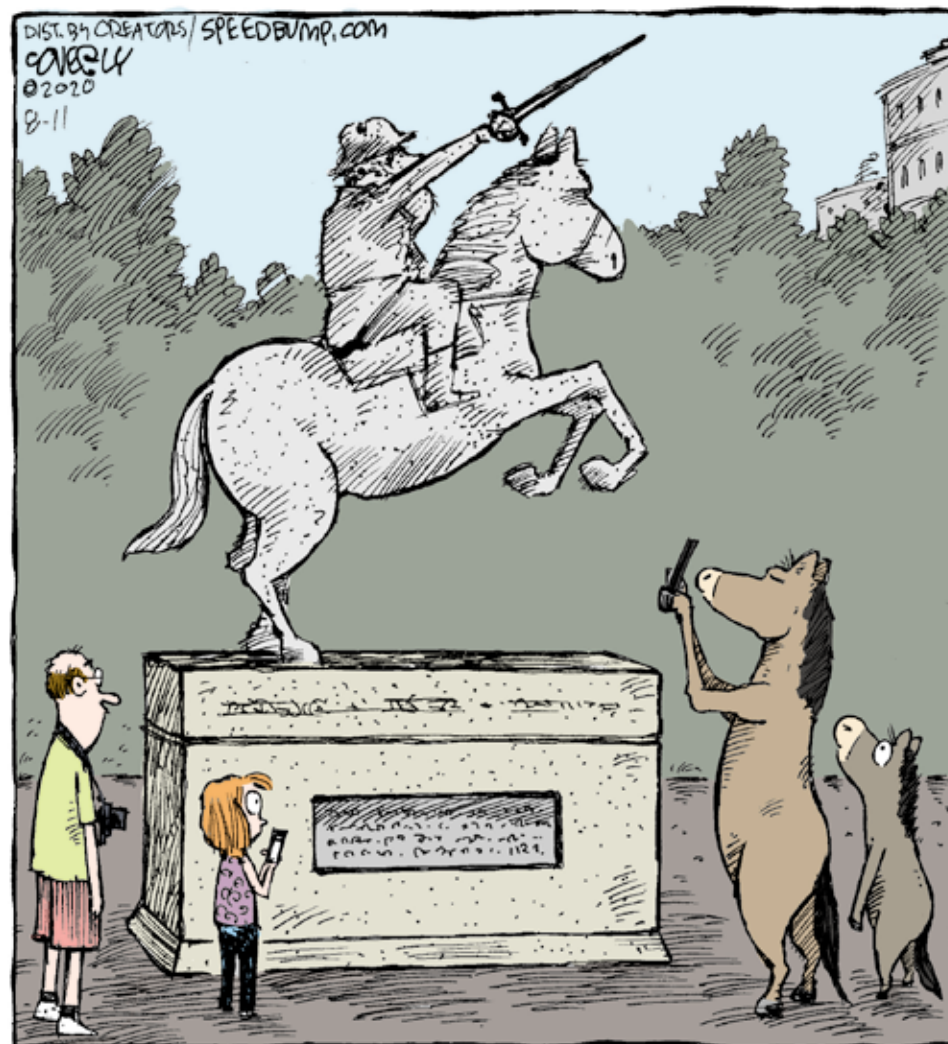
Michelle Rivas, *via Facebook*

Deer snacks

In her most recent *Roots and Shoots* column ("Planting for the Frogs," Aug. 7), Pamela Doan wrote that she suspected that deer would snack on swamp rose. I have found that deer will eat the blooms but will mostly leave it alone.

Swamp rose is a reasonably prolific spreader and quite hardy — I put a few volunteers in a pot and they survived the winter just fine. It's hard to find, but it was worth it. My landscape guy had to special order it from his wholesaler.

Joyce Toth, *Kent*



Count, or Undercount?

Census takers begin knocking on doors as deadline approaches

By Leonard Sparks

Local public officials and organizations that thought they had another three months to convince holdouts to complete the 2020 census are critical of a federal decision to shorten data collection by a month — a move some believe will lead to an undercount of immigrants and minorities in Democratic-leaning states like New York.

On Aug. 3, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham announced that the arduous work of collecting information from households and individuals, already beset by delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, would end on Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 31. The original deadline, July 31, had been extended to the end of October in response to the delays.

While Dillingham gave no reason for the reversal, Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive, called the decision “pathetic” and said it seems “clearly political.”

He and other elected officials said they want to see as many people counted as possible. Census figures not only determine the number of representatives each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives but also figure into formulas that determine the amount of federal aid that is sent to states and local governments for Medicaid, highway construction, school lunches, Head Start and other programs.

“I don’t see any reason why the federal government could justify cutting short or reducing the amount of time, especially under the current circumstances,” said Molinaro, who is a Republican. “There are certain things that we do as a society, as a government, that need to be protected from political or partisan influence. The census count is one of them.”

Putnam, with 66.6 percent of households responding through Aug. 12, and Dutchess, with 62.2 percent, have had relatively healthy responses compared to the past three censuses, which are conducted every 10 years. Putnam, which had only a 56 percent response in 1990, has nearly matched its 2010 rate. Dutchess had a 65.7 percent response in 2010.

Cold Spring, Philipstown and Nelsonville have 65 percent response rates or better (see chart, top right) and Beacon is at 62.3 percent. The national response rate is 63.4 percent. The City of Newburgh, whose population contains many of the under-represented racial and economic groups the census hopes to capture, was at 41 percent and had only 50 percent response in 2010.

Door-to-door

The beginning of the final stage of counting began Tuesday (Aug. 11), when 500,000 census takers nationwide began making



in-person visits to the estimated 56 million households that had yet to complete a questionnaire at census2020.gov (available in English, Spanish and 11 other languages), by phone (844-330-2020) or by returning a paper form received in the mail. Door-to-door visits started in some areas of the country in late July.

As many as 500 enumerators will be deployed in Dutchess County and up to 100 in Putnam County, said Jeff Behler, a regional director for the bureau whose office oversees New York, seven other states and Puerto Rico. They will generally visit residences between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. and try up to six times to speak with someone directly.

If unable to reach anyone, census-takers will try to get basic information about a household from neighbors. If that fails, the Census Bureau will estimate “what that household looks like” based on data from neighboring households, Behler said.

Enumerators will have an identification badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. They also may carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo and are required to wear masks and follow other health guidelines.

The door-to-door phase generally leads to “an uptick in self-response,” said Behler. “We’re confident we have plenty of time to finish the door-knocking before Sept. 30.”

In mid-March, at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S., the Census Bureau suspended field operations as large swaths of the country shut down. Partner organizations, such as local churches and libraries that usually hold outreach events closed, said Behler.

Another problem created by the pandemic, Behler said, was the flight of people from their primary addresses in COVID-19 hotspots such as New York City to second homes upstate and on Long Island. Only 55.5 percent of city residents

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Aug. 12, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is emailing households that have not responded and also sending census-takers to knock on doors.

| | 2020 | 2010 | 2000 | 1990 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Cold Spring | 69.1 | 69.1 | 71 | 72 |
| Putnam County | 66.6 | 66.8 | 67 | 56 |
| Philipstown | 66.5 | 66.2 | 67 | 64 |
| Nelsonville | 65.2 | 66.5 | 67 | 65 |
| 18th District | 63.7 | 66.0 | - | - |
| National | 63.4 | 67.2 | 65 | 61 |
| Beacon | 62.3 | 65.8 | 54 | 66 |
| Dutchess County | 62.2 | 65.7 | 68 | 64 |
| New York State | 59.2 | 64.6 | 67 | 62 |
| New York City | 55.5 | 64.0 | 55 | 53 |
| Newburgh | 41.0 | 50.2 | 45 | 44 |

Source: 2020census.gov

had responded as of Aug. 12, although only 64 percent did in 2010.

“More than likely they left before they ever got the form” in the mail, he said.

Playing politics?

Along with announcing the new deadline, Dillingham said the Census Bureau would be hiring more workers and creating an awards program to “accelerate the completion of data collection and apportionment counts.”

But actions by President Donald Trump have fueled the belief by detractors that politics is behind the decision.

Two weeks before the announcement, on July 31, Trump issued an executive order to exclude undocumented immigrants from the census “to the maximum extent feasible.” Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an attempt by Wilbur Ross, the secretary of the Department of Commerce, which oversees the Census Bureau, to add a question asking people whether they were U.S. citizens, which critics said would discourage participation.

Dillingham said that the bureau “continues its work on meeting the requirements” of the president’s order.

“We are committed to a complete and accurate 2020 census,” he said.

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, a Poughkeepsie-based grassroots advocacy organization, is part of Dutchess County’s Complete Count Committee, a group formed last year

to spread awareness about the census.

Before COVID-19 hit, NLMH members had knocked on 5,000 doors, said Jonathan Bix, the group’s executive director. Since the pandemic put a halt to the door-step campaign, volunteers have been using phone calls, text messages and social media to encourage people to be counted.

Having one less month is “concerning and troubling” and “seems like it’s being done by the administration to produce an undercount,” said Bix.

“We’ve been doing as much as possible for as long as we can already, but we’re just going to have to try to do even more with the time we have left,” he said.

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Neighbors Alarmed by Potential Park

Lake Valhalla residents worry about visitor access

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Scenic Hudson wants to transfer 766 acres of property it owns at Lake Valhalla in Philipstown to New York State or put it under a conservation easement, and some residents are wary.

At a public hearing convened by the Philipstown Planning Board last month, several neighbors of the property expressed fears that if the nonprofit gives some of the land to the state, and the state adds it to the park system, their idyllic enclave could be within reach of thousands of visitors.

The public hearing continues on Thursday (Aug. 20) via Zoom.

On Tuesday (Aug. 11), Scenic Hudson officials said dividing its property at Lake Valhalla will preserve it as open space and protect its ridgetop trails; fill a major gap in the Hudson Highlands State Park; and provide Lake Valhalla residents “with control over lands surrounding their community.”

Scenic Hudson purchased 1,178 acres of property at Lake Valhalla in 2018 for \$12 million through a subsidiary, SlopeLine LLC. The property, which straddles the Putnam-Dutchess border and is adjacent to the Hudson Highlands State Park, lies atop an aquifer that serves six Dutchess County communities.

Scenic Hudson wants to divide part of the tract into three pieces:

- Parcel A, with 520.5 acres, would be placed under a conservation easement and eventually given the state.
- Parcel B, with 193.5 acres, has a picnic area, tennis courts and trails. It would be transferred to a Lake Valhalla



Fishing at Lake Valhalla

Photo by Karen Thompson

homeowners’ association under a conservation easement that precludes development.

- Parcel C, with 52 acres, contains Valkyria, a historic home, a second residence or two and outbuildings, and would be sold but likewise protected by a conservation easement.

Lake Valhalla, which was created by damming a brook, lies in Parcels B and C. The remaining land, with 411 acres, would remain with Scenic Hudson.

Representing Scenic Hudson, Glenn Watson, of Badey & Watson Surveying & Engineering, told the Planning Board in June that the plan is “a chance to create a win-win situation that’s been a long time coming.” Last month, he added that “ultimately, the entire property will be subject to some kind of permanent conservation” and that conservation easements “are very strictly regulated.”

The Lake Valhalla community was founded in the 1930s by Ludwig Novot-

ing, who owned Valkyria. Watson told the Planning Board that residents had “the run of the property” during Novoting’s tenure but that after its sale following his death disputes arose about the extent of homeowner rights. He said the community, where he lives, consists of about 60 houses, most on quarter-acre lots.

The Philipstown Planning Board must approve Scenic Hudson’s plan. Land divisions, especially those not linked to commercial activities or road construction, often draw little attention. However, Stephen Gaba, the Philipstown town government attorney, advised the Planning Board in June that “even though there’s no development involved, this is clearly important land and you want to give the public a chance” to react.

Lake Valhalla residents took that opportunity when the public hearing opened in July, cautioning that if some of the land joins the park system, the state could build an access lane, parking lot and trails to alleviate pressure on Breakneck Ridge.



A view of Lake Valhalla File photo

“We all know that the situation with the influx of hikers on Route 9D is just a disaster,” said James Calimano. At Lake Valhalla, “the thought of any parking lot, even for 25 cars, is kind of terrifying,” he said. “We live in a beautiful little community up here. We certainly do not want it overrun the way other parts of Philipstown have been, by people who come from distances to hike the trails.”

Richard Chirls warned that building a public access lane to a parking lot off Foundry Pound Road would risk “extreme danger” from infrastructure “development on steep slopes off a very narrow road.”

However, Joseph Lombardi, president of the Lake Valhalla Civic Association, said the group supports Scenic Hudson’s plan.

Nancy Montgomery, who also lives at Lake Valhalla and represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, cited the town’s Open Space Index that prioritizes land to be preserved as providing protection against development.

“I don’t believe either Scenic Hudson or the state can override that,” said Montgomery, who was a member of the Town Board when the index was updated in 2016. “For me there was no great fear of development. “We will have the protection we want and need.”

Michael Knutson, Scenic Hudson’s senior land project manager, told *The Current* that Scenic Hudson “can’t speak for the state, but we’re not aware of any plans to add any” hiking trails or parking lots. “We would expect the use of the property transferred to the state to remain as it is now.”

Warehouse Proposed for Route 9

Neighbors express concern about truck traffic

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board last month opened a public hearing on a proposal by CRS International, a fashion and apparel distributor, to create a 20,340-square-foot warehouse and office on 2.5 acres on Route 9 near Route 301.

The public hearing will continue on Thursday (Aug. 20), by Zoom.

Several neighbors raised concerns about traffic, especially large trucks making deliveries.




“The traffic is very, very rough” along Route 9 already, said Frank Anastasi.

“Nobody does the speed limit” and large trucks whiz past at 60 or 70 miles an hour, he said. “The situation is horrible.”




“Everybody is trying to beat the traffic light” at the intersection, said another neighbor, Terry Thorpe.

Glenn Watson, of Badey & Watson Surveying & Engineering, who represents CRS, said the developers have “done everything we can” to eliminate threats from trucks entering or leaving the CRS site. He said CRS expects about six or seven trucks a day: one or two large tractor-trailers and four or five smaller box trucks.

A project traffic engineer, Veronica Prezioso, observed that Route 9 is intended for use by tractor-trailers and that more than 900 trucks use it daily.



Real Estate



Market Report (July)

| | Beacon | | Philipstown | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 |
| New Listings | 11 | 10 | 26 | 29 |
| Closed Sales | 8 | 7 | 16 | 18 |
| Days on Market | 38 | 114 | 111 | 103 |
| Median Price | \$345,000 | \$415,000 | \$500,000 | \$790,000 |
| % List Received | 98.6 | 95.6 | 95.2 | 92.7 |
| Inventory | 40 | 20 | 93 | 72 |

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

Cold Spring *(from Page 3)*

■ Murphy expressed concern over toys being moved from Tots Park on High Street into the adjacent McConville Park. Tots Park remains closed due to the pandemic. Merandy said people have been dropping off plastic toys at the park in increasing numbers in recent weeks. “It makes no sense to have children playing outside Tots Park if they can’t play inside it,” he said. He added that “there’s no way we can disinfect those toys.” Merandy said he will seek input from parents.

In other business (Aug. 12) ...

■ Merandy and Kathleen Foley, who is running unopposed for a seat on the Village Board, engaged in a protracted exchange over the role of the Historic District Review Board, of which Foley is vice chair. Foley had provided the HDRB’s monthly report, which stated that its members discussed the Village Board’s “insistence” that the HDRB be prohibited from attending inspections of building interiors, because its mandate only deals with exteriors. “If an engineer decides [a building] should be demolished, why should the HDRB need to go inside?” Merandy asked. Foley said inte-

rior inspections sometimes provide information related to the historical accuracy of the exterior. She cited the example of 126 Main St., formerly Carolyn’s Flowers, where an interior inspection before its demolition revealed a parapet that was then included in the design of the new building.

■ Village Accountant Michelle Ascolillo reported that the COVID-19 shutdown has so far led to a loss of about \$40,300 in village revenue, more than half of which is fee income usually collected from Seastreak when it docks its cruise ships at the waterfront in the fall. Those trips have been canceled for this year.

■ The Cold Spring Police Department responded to 59 calls for service in July. Officers issued 56 parking and three traffic tickets. No arrests were made.

■ Merandy said he and Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea are speaking with the state parks agency about the role of local fire companies in rescuing lost and injured hikers at Breakneck Ridge and other trails. Merandy said the number of rescues has gotten “out of hand.”

Human Rights *(from Page 1)*

In a letter dated July 17, Odell told representatives of Putnam Pride, Putnam Progressives and Putnam County Patriots for Immigration Reform that she would sign the resolution “once adopted” by the Legislature, “as I believe that the creation of a Human Rights Commission in our community is an important step toward creating greater cultural understanding and tolerance.”

Montgomery noted that Dutchess and Westchester, as well as other counties in the Mid-Hudson Valley, have commissions.

The Putnam commission, which would receive no funding from the county, would have the power to receive and direct allegations of human rights violations to the New York State Human Rights Division or to local, state or federal agencies; offer programs to educate the public; and work “to foster mutual respect and understanding.” Its members would have included a volunteer from each legislative district.

Legislators Joseph Castellano of Brewster and Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac joined Montgomery in voting for the commission.

Legislators William Gouldman of Putnam Valley, Paul Jonke of Southeast, Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, Amy Sayegh of Mahopac, Carl Albano of Carmel and Toni Addonizio of Kent, who chairs the Legislature, each voted “no.”

Albano acknowledged that “it would be silly to say there never were issues [in Putnam]. But when they did arise, it seemed the community was extremely upset and they were addressed immediately.” In addi-

tion, he said, “I just don’t want to see more government where it is not necessary.”

Nacerino asserted that “no one on this Legislature said they are against basic human rights” or tolerance. “We know more has to be done to alleviate bigotry, prejudice and discrimination” but creating a commission that fields complaints “will not meet our goal,” she said.

She referred to the commission as “nine untrained, uneducated, rookie volunteers who are at the mercy of the people who come to them. They’re not in a position to handle that. They don’t know how to mediate. They don’t know what to do.”

Furthermore, she said, the commission’s work could invite false accusations and smears against “victims of retaliatory tactics. Is this what we call fair and just?”

Nacerino and other opponents also maintained the state Human Rights Division, which has investigatory power, can address complaints from Putnam.

Sayegh said that schools play a role in overcoming discrimination and that law enforcement can pursue those who commit hate crimes. “Do we need, in our little county, more intervention?” she said. “We have the protections in place. It’s not the human rights I vote against. It’s the politicization of human rights,” the costs and replication of state activities, she said.

Castellano said that the legislators “are very careful with finances” and that a commission comes with “a fine line” to calibrate. “I’m very concerned with where it could go,” he admitted. Yet, he concluded, forming one “is the right thing to do.”

“Diversity requires diversity of thought, from many sources. A county-level human rights commission is a forum in which people can speak honestly about their experiences, disagree respectfully and find pathways to change, together.

~ Nancy Montgomery

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,455 (+11)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:

30,449 (+2,077)

Percent positive:

4.8 (-0.3)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,640 (+58)

Active Cases in Beacon: **8**

Tests administered:

106,469 (+7,786)

Percent positive:

4.4 (-0.2)

Number of deaths:

153 (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Aug. 13. New cases in Philipstown for week ending Aug. 6.

For Beacon Residents

The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, which was created in 1984 and re-established in 2016, can be contacted at 845-486-2169 or dchumanrights@dutchessny.gov.

Its mission includes reporting complaints of alleged discrimination because of age, religion or religious practice, race, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, domestic violence victimization, disability, military status, arrest record, conviction record, predisposing genetic characteristic, familial status (housing only) and domestic worker status (employment only).

“If you believe you have a human rights issue, please contact us so that we can discuss the situation with you and help you decide the best course of action,” the commission says on its website. That could include sending a complaint to the White Plains office of the state Division of Human Rights.

county government for too long in Putnam. And it’s wrong.”

From “Day One,” she said, “you have made choices to stonewall and limit my ability to deliver for my constituents. Worse, for the sake of gamesmanship, you hurt your own constituents. The people you hurt by denying a human rights commission are all across Putnam. Someone you know would benefit from a commission. And you’re willing to deny them in an attempt to hurt me.”

It won’t succeed, she promised. “I will be back.”

AROUND TOWN



▲ **YOGA AT BOSCOBEL** — Julian Paik leads a class on the West Meadow at Boscobel in Garrison as part of a partnership between the historic site and Ascend Yoga of Cold Spring. Classes take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 13. To register, see boscobel.org.

Photo by Leslie Kenney



◀ **MESSAGE MAKERS** — Alejandro Lopez took this selfie with Aaron Sinift as they created banners on July 29 at University Settlement for Beacon Mutual Aid.

▼ **MAKING HISTORY** — A woman in Beacon films a Black Lives Matter march on Saturday (Aug. 8) as it passes her car on Main Street, and a girl creates a poster for the protest.

Photos by Alejandro Lopez



The Calendar

The Artist Next Door

Sascha Mallon

By Alison Rooney

There's something going on in Sascha Mallon's attic in Beacon: things being moved about, hammering noises and the occasional sound of something shattering.

Too scared to investigate? Don't be. It's "just" an installation, although *just* is relative when considering a work-in-progress that already has more than 400 parts.

Mallon, a native of Austria who studied art therapy there, is an artist-in-residence (albeit her own residence, at the moment, because of the pandemic) for the oncology and hematology, and the bone marrow transplant programs at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan.

Her attic installation began as a "meditation on dying, a way for me to meditate in a peaceful way," she says. "It became specific to people, events, like the Connecticut school shooting [in Newtown in 2012] and the deaths of my patients."

She prefers drawing but switched to clay to make her images "more real and adaptable." A friend gave her an old kiln and a bit of advice to operate it, but "most of it came to me very easily, as if I was meant to do it," she says. "It all happened very late, but it felt like coming home when I started the ceramics."

Quickly, the forms turned into installations that filled walls because, she says, "I see my work as three-dimensional drawings in motion."

The smaller parts of the whole are frequently life forms: female figures, plants, animals. "My work is predominantly about the cycle of life, and within that context my sculptures serve as pictograms, carriers of hidden messages," Mallon explains. "There are figures covered by flowers and insects, an unusual sense of scale, bodies opening up to reveal scenes inside. I love when people have their own interpretations and their own magic."

Much of the work is improvised. "One piece leads to the next and the next," she says. "Once I have all the pieces, I bring them all to the space, where sometimes, the story changes."

"All the installations feel like they're all part of one; it's fluid — I could go on forever and have to cut myself off," she adds. "When it feels good, balanced, holds together, it's done, but it always wants to keep moving. The installations also change over time, evolving as new pieces are added and adaptations are made to display in new spaces. We all have to adapt to unpredictable situations, so these installations do, too."

Mallon's installations have been shown in New York at the Samuel Dorsky Museum, the Garrison Art Center, the Katonah Museum and Albany's Collarworks, among



Sascha Mallon

other locations. In 2017 she was invited to participate in a residency and exhibition in Taiwan and in 2019 had a solo show at Walnut Hill Fine Art in Hudson, where she created an installation of ceramics, yarn and wall painting. She will have solo shows in the near future at the Woodstock Artist Association and Museum and at the BAU Gallery in Beacon.

She says the biggest change to come with the pandemic has been having her daughter at home. "We're trying to keep a schedule, distinguishing between weekends and weekdays," she says. "During the week we work and have school. It's important for keeping sane because time is such a watery thing."

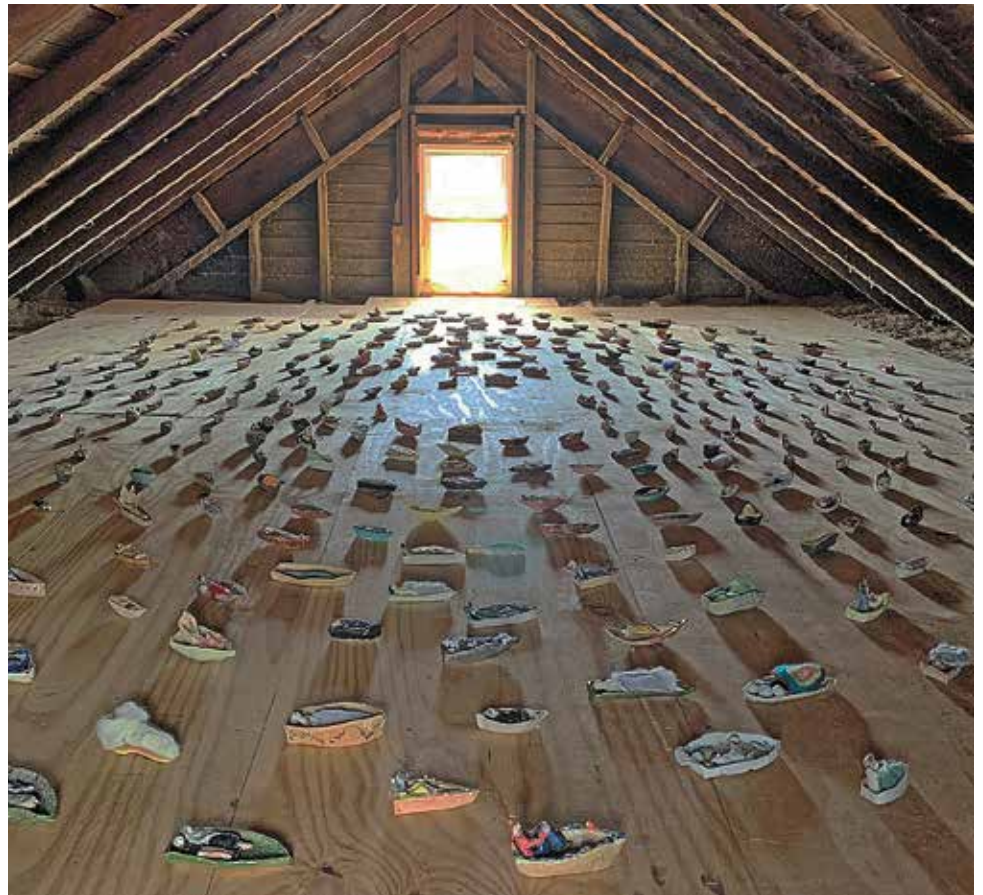
"I try to focus on positive ways to deal with all of this," she says. "I've stopped listening to the news so much. For my art, it has changed a little bit. I used to do much-larger-scale work, but I find myself now working in the kitchen, making tons and tons of little ceramic flowers, looking forward to placing them as an installation in the yard."

Mallon has been working at Mount Sinai for nine years, interacting with patients, which she continues to do remotely. "When I came to the U.S., my plan was to work as an art therapist, but regulations were such that I would have to redo my master's degree," she says. "That was too much of a financial commitment, as I was already in my 30s. After attending an arts-in-health-care conference, I knew that's what I wanted to do."

At Mount Sinai, "I learned how to pay good attention to another person's needs, how to face impermanence better and also to let go, because it's a tricky relationship that mixes being professional but also giving people a lot of warmth and comfort," she says. "What I learned is how art is magic, how it can bring happiness to people in awful situations. My hospital work connects to my own art; I practice it and give it back."



"Accumulation of Nature"



"About Forever," an ongoing installation in Sascha Mallon's attic in Beacon Photos provided



"Jumping Inwards" (left) and detail

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 15

Yoga on the Farm

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

9 a.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Register online for this weekly class led by Red Tail Power Yoga. Check in at the CSA window.
Cost: \$18

SAT 15

Yoga at Boscobel

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Boscobel and Ascend Studio collaborate on an in-person, weekend yoga program on the West Meadow overlooking the river. Classes are being held Fridays to Sundays through Sept. 13. Registration required. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 15

Pop-Up Farm Shop

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

This fundraiser for the Stony Kill Foundation will feature farm-fresh eggs and honey along with gear and accessories.

SAT 22

Save the Children March & Rally

BEACON

10 a.m. Memorial Park
198 Robert Cahill Drive
bit.ly/3309F5b

Highlands residents are invited to participate in this national event to raise awareness about the trafficking of children by wearing red and making signs.

SAT 22

Flower Arranging

COLD SPRING

4:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
crowdcast.io/e/flower-arranging-with

Marcella Broe, owner of The Parcel Flower Co., will lead this virtual seminar. To follow along, email Broe at info@theparcelflower.co. to arrange pickup of flowers.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 15

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

8:30 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

This pop-up drive-in theater will screen *Gremlins* (1984) and *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984). See website for show times and health

protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 16. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

THURS 20

Paradise Lost

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
hvshakespeare.org

In this adaptation by Erin Shields of John Milton's classic poem, performed as part of the HVSF2 series, Satan (Nance Williamson) vents about her frustration at being cast out of heaven and shares her thoughts on oppression while plotting revenge on the Almighty. Directed by Sara Holdren. Register online. *Cost: \$20 donation*



THURS 20

The Wiz

BEACON

8:15 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconnmyrec.com

The Beacon Recreation Department and Story Screen's outdoor movie series continues with the 1978 adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* starring Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and Richard Pryor. Bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Registration required. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 17

Zooming Babies & Books

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020
bit.ly/BabiesAndBooks

Lucille Merry leads this program for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Register online.

MON 17

Story Time with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

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

TUES 18

Teen Zoom Book Club

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

The selection is Nnedi Okorafor's *Akaka Witch*. Email community@beaconlibrary.org to register.

THURS 20

Imagine Your Song

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

City Winds Trio will lead a Zoom program for elementary school students that will feature music from classics such as *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as an intro to rhythms and movement. The Zoom ID is 880 542 2579.

THURS 20

Fairy Tale Trivia

GARRISON

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

Children and families are invited to test their knowledge. Register at bit.ly/3itCA2F.

TALKS

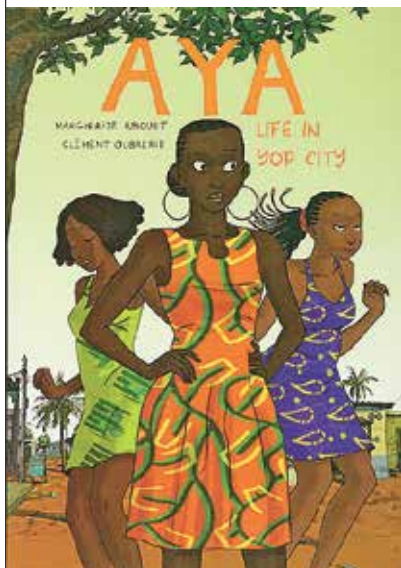
TUES 18

Graphic Novel Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Summer Pierre will lead a virtual discussion of *Aya: Life in Yop City*, by Marguerite Abouet and Clément Oubrerie. See the website for Zoom info.



Flower Arranging, Aug. 22

WED 19

Pathways to Planetary Health

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Sebene Selassie, a meditation teacher and author, will discuss her book, *You Belong*, with Garrison Institute co-founder Jonathan Rose as part of an ongoing Zoom lecture series. Register online.



THURS 20

Rock Your LinkedIn Profile

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

Learn how to build your profile in this 90-minute virtual workshop. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.

MUSIC

TUES 18

Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra

BEACON

5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconnmyrec.com

The Beacon Recreation Department, Compass Arts Creativity Project and Gwen Laster

of the Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra will present this socially distanced show. Register online. *Free*

TUES 18

Circle of Song

PUTNAM VALLEY

7 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
tompkinscorners.org

Tompkins Corners' monthly open-mic Zoom sessions highlight the talents of local musicians. Registration required to perform. Email linda@tompkinscorners.org.

CIVIC

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

MON 17

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 17

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

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

THURS 20

Haldane Parent Town Hall

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

SAT 22

Haldane School Board

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. Via Zoom
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org



MARRIED AT

Manitou

On June 23, 2019, Sara Ziff found herself waiting at the Manitou Station in Philipstown to board the Metro-North train for Manhattan. She had just spent four days hiking the Appalachian Trail with friends.

Reed Young, a photographer, was also waiting at Manitou for the southbound train. He also loved hiking, and they chatted on the platform and during the ride about their common interest. But by the time they parted ways at the Union Square subway station, Young had not asked for Ziff's name or number, to his later regret.

Then, almost miraculously, four months later, they were matched on the dating app Hinge, where Ziff, a model and labor organizer, had just posted her profile. A year to the day after they met, they were married at Manitou Station by a friend who was ordained for the occasion.

After the ceremony, the newlyweds hiked Anthony's Nose with their wedding guests. A month later, on July 24, their story was told by *The New York Times* in its *Vows* column.

Photos by Jaka Vinsek



That Philipstown Sound

Guitarist records first album after 30 years of playing for others

By Alison Rooney

Chris Peifer has played with and for a blizzard of bands during his 30-year career as a bass guitarist (“groovy metal, punk, art-rock, folk-rock, singer-songwriter stuff”), but it is only now that he has recorded his first solo album, *Suicide Mission* — and he did it at Philipstown’s Roots Cellar Studio.

“It was never the intent to play in all those bands,” Peifer says. “Far from it. In fact, three-quarters of the members of one of my favorite bands, The Figgs, from Saratoga, have kept it going for 30 years, whereas in 30 years I’ve played in 30 bands.”

It was the breakup of his penultimate band, Blockhouses, two years ago, that prompted his return to songwriting. “It was the perfect time for a solo — the sadness of collaborations ending,” Peifer says. “I thought I needed to keep playing and keep my sanity.”

He began writing songs with no intention of recording until he recalled that Todd Giudice, whom he’d met years earlier when they played together in a band, had converted a Philipstown barn into a studio.

“I came up to the studio for a day, we recorded one song and there was a real chemistry, working together in a spontaneous fashion,” says Peifer, who lives in New York City but often performs in Beacon. “It took two or three songs to think, ‘I’m going for this.’”

“I didn’t have 10 cohesive songs, but I scheduled another session, so I effectively gave myself a deadline,” he recalls. “Sometimes I finalized arrangements, or even finished lyrics on the train. I work under pressure, even when self-inflicted. Over the course of a little over a year, we were recording. After the pandemic started, I was staying with my parents in the Midwest, came home briefly to swap out my sweaters for shorts, and finished it off.”

Giudice co-produced, engineered and mixed the album, played drums and acoustic guitar and sang backing vocals.

Peifer says the character of the studio contributed to the album. “I had a tiny studio in Williamsburg, where character had to be added artificially, whereas with Todd’s, it’s there,” he says. “It’s a treat just being in a space and playing, hearing it as it will actually sound. With this record, I wanted sonic connectedness.”

Peifer bought his first bass guitar with the proceeds from a paper route while growing up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. “Pretty much from that time I knew I wanted to be a rock ‘n’ roll musician,” he says. “I still want to be that, which is crazy.” (He also works as a theater sound designer.)

He had his first paid gig at age 15 when his “very supportive” parents dropped him off at a Harley bar. “Hey — I got paid,” he says with a laugh.



Todd Giudice and Chris Peifer recording *Suicide Mission* at the Roots Cellar Studio in Philipstown

Photo provided



Chris Peifer

Jetpack Promotions



Chris Peifer's first solo album, released earlier this month with an illustration by Sarah MacGhee, can be purchased on CD or downloaded at chrispei.bandcamp.com.

“I thought I needed to keep playing and keep my sanity.” ~ Chris Peifer



WHITE FRAGILITY
WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM
ROBIN DIANGELO
FOREWORD BY MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

Local Bestsellers

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



NEW KID
JERRY CRAFT

| ADULT | Position | last month | TITLE | AUTHOR |
|----------|----------|------------|--|------------------------|
| | 1 | - | <i>White Fragility</i> | Robin DeAngelo |
| | 2 | - | <i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> | Ibram Kendi |
| | 3 | - | <i>The Vanishing Half</i> | Brit Bennett |
| | 4 | - | <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> | Ibram Kendi |
| | 5 | - | <i>Me and White Supremacy</i> | Layla Saad |
| CHILDREN | 5 | - | <i>The New Jim Crow</i> | Michelle Alexander |
| | 6 | - | <i>Want: A Novel</i> | Lynn Steger Strong |
| | 1 | - | <i>New Kid</i> | Jerry Craft |
| | 2 | - | <i>The Youngest Marcher</i> | Cynthia Levinson |
| | 3 | - | <i>Ghost Boys</i> | Jewell Parker Rhodes |
| | 4 | - | <i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You</i> | Reynolds & Kendi |
| | 5 | - | <i>Antiracist Baby Picture Book</i> | Ibram Kendi |
| | 6 | - | <i>Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness</i> | Anastasia Higginbotham |
| | 6 | 5 | <i>When Stars are Scattered</i> | Jamieson & Mohamed |

Putnam Talent Down to 10

Four Philipstown students in competition finals

Four Philipstown students are among the 10 finalists in Putnam Performs, a talent showcase and competition being held virtually over the summer under the auspices of Putnam County’s libraries.

The finalists include Lucky Bell, 11 (violin), Joanna George, 12 (violin), Kate Parker, 14 (ballet) and Chloe Rowe, 15 (singer).

There have been three elimination

rounds since July 6, with each participant submitting videos for each round of a performance. The public then votes on which performers should advance. Three winners will be chosen, with a grand prize of \$300, plus \$200 for second place and \$100 for third.

The students’ most recent performances will be posted for voting beginning Monday (Aug. 17) at the websites of the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring (butterfieldlibrary.org) and the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison (desmondfishlibrary.org).



The Gift Hut

Online Ordering with Scheduled Curb Side Pickup or Shipping

www.thegifthut.com

86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY
845-297-3786

Something You Don't Know About Me

Richard Saunders

By Alison Rooney

Richard Saunders, who owns Hudson Rouge, a framing and fine art prints shop in Nelsonville, is a former pilot and flight instructor.

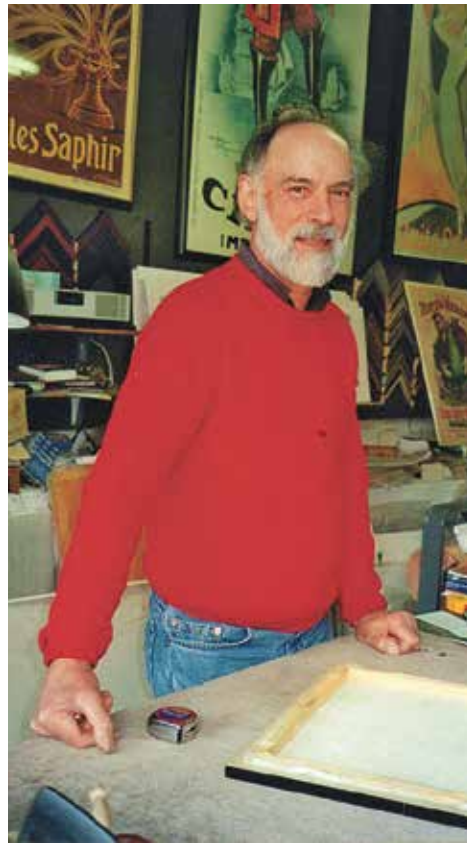
What was more nerve-wracking: flying or teaching others to fly?

I had close calls in both. I was flying along one day in my single-engine Cessna, somewhere over Rockland County at about 1,500 feet, building time [getting flight experience], when a little red airplane zipped by my wing. When I came back down, the airport called the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]. It turned out that there was a model airplane club and it was not supposed to fly planes at that altitude; they were reprimanded.

I loved to fly at night because it was calm. The downside is that, in an emergency, it's hard to find a place to land. I was flying one night south of Teterboro, New Jersey, building time, when this row of lights loomed up in front of me. I realized it was a jet, coming into Newark airport. I immediately hit his wake turbulence — that's the air that spirals off the wings — and my plane made a sharp roll to the left. I flew off my seat and my head hit the ceiling before the plane righted itself. Those moments were a little hairy. The radar at Newark should have picked me up and let me know, but I never heard from them.

As for instructing, I had a couple of interesting students. One guy had just left the Army after serving as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He had 12,000 hours flying but no wing experience. During the first lesson, he practically came straight down on the landing. I had to tell him, "Louie, this is not a helicopter!"

I had to have students practice emergency landings, which meant getting up there, turning off the power and having the student "trim the airplane" so it would glide as far as it could. The first thing you do in an emergency is fly the airplane. Something could be on fire in the cabin, but you deal with flying. After trimming, you look for



Richard Saunders at Hudson Rouge in Nelsonville

a place to land. The best places are either a highway or a golf course with a long fairway. Once we reach tree level during the practice, I restore the power and we pull up and leave. It was always something to see the golfers running for the woods.

Did you aspire as a kid to be a pilot?

Not really. My wife used to work for TWA, so we got a lot of free travel. I used to look at the pilots and think, "Maybe I could do that." I began taking lessons. I trained at Teterboro Airport, which was the busiest general aviation airport in the country — it's like a zoo — and obtained my private pilot license, my commercial license, my instrument rating and flight-instructor certification.

Do you remember the first lesson you received?

You're on the ground with the instructor talking to you. The second lesson you get in the airplane. My first thought was, "This is like a sardine can." We took off and it was cool, a new sensation, to be sure.



Saunders during his flying days

Photos provided

The instruction planes have dual controls. You have to coordinate your feet and your hands. Your feet operate the rudder, which is the vertical stabilizer. What surprised me the most was the extra dimension: in a car, you can't go up and down or sideways.

What about your first solo flight?

That's probably when you get the most anxious. When you get the number of flying hours you need [for your license], you make an appointment with an FAA examiner who goes with you. The guy who examined me opened the door on his side of the plane during takeoff. The noise was deafening. He probably did it just to see how I would react.

Why didn't you continue flying?

It was the 1970s. The Vietnam War was ending and all these guys were getting out of the service with tons of experience flying jets, and there was me in my Cessna. The timing was bad. I'm glad I stopped, because I didn't love it. It wasn't my life's work. And the companies don't make any money when their planes are on the ground, so they want you flying through wind, snow, etc., getting banged and bounced around. It's a tough way to make a living.

What did you do next?

I worked in New York City at B. Altman, which is where I learned framing and printing. That's another story.

Do you still fly from time to time?

No. I'm not sure what the rules are. It used to be that pilots' licenses never expired, but you had to pass a physical. Every once in a while I think about flying again, but I'm happy to sit back [as a passenger] with a book and a soda and let someone else do it for me.



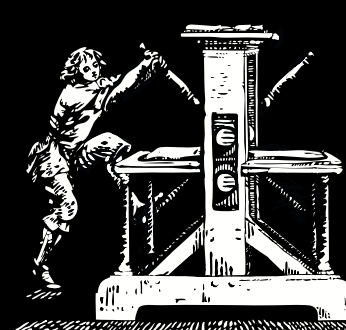
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Mouths to Feed

Rhapsody in Green (and Yellow)

By Celia Barbour

I don't know anyone who loathes green beans. I also don't know anyone who loves them madly; who will, say, stand in line 20 minutes for them at the farmers market the way so many have been doing lately for tomatoes, or coo over them like spring peas.

Even my husband, who eats them raw with a distracted-snacker's kind of pleasure, doesn't rhapsodize at the sight of them the way he does fresh summer corn on the cob. And I have yet to see an EAT MORE GREEN BEANS bumper sticker.

Part of the problem is that they are the quintessential straight man to meat and potatoes, the eternal dinner-plate sidekick, the perpetual Best Supporting Role nominee who never wins.

I set out to see if I could change that. After all, my guiding aim as a cook is to put vegetables at the center of the proverbial dinner plate, not because I'm vegetarian,



but because vegetables are the category of food that is simultaneously best for you and (to most folks) the hardest to get passionate about. I've tried to integrate them fully into tasty meals so that, at my table at least, they can no longer be seen as side dishes.

Because: side to *what*? Banish the hierarchy! — or so my old-school idealistic peacenik brain would wish.

Yet green beans very nearly proved my Waterloo. Last week, I pulled two dozen cookbooks off the shelves, and, by the light of my trusty headlamp once Tropical Storm Isaias had gotten busy with us, began conducting an all-out search.

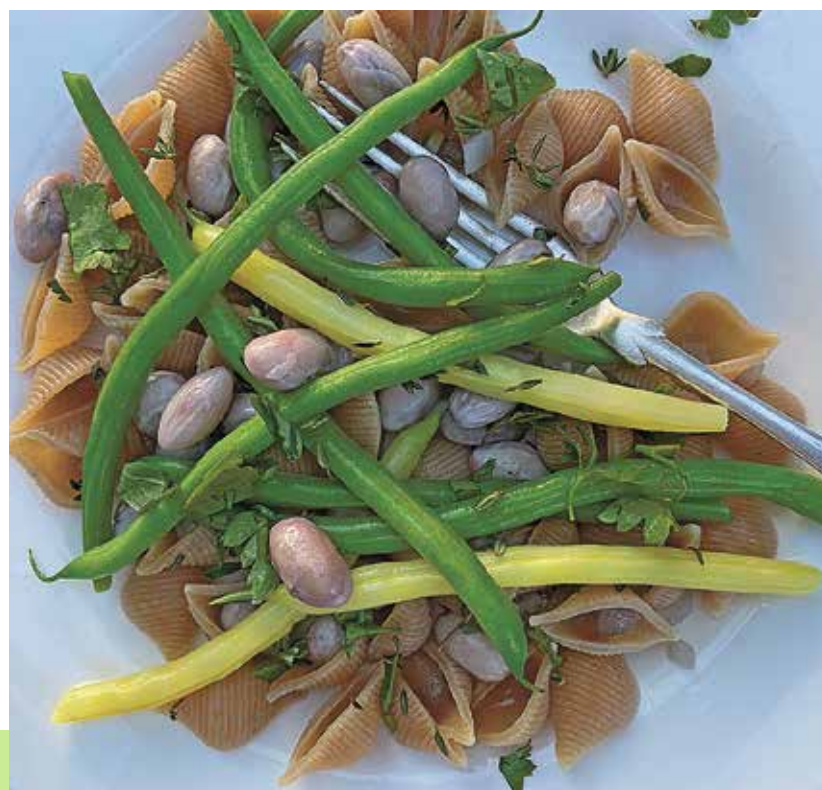
While doors slammed from the sudden gusts and sheet music blew around the house, I paged past Salades Niçoise, novelty green-bean casseroles and Greek stews (which, by the way, are a fabulous way to cook beans out of season). I came across a recipe in an Italian cookbook for a baked green-bean loaf, with eggs, bread crumbs and cheese. Sure, yeah, I thought, you can *do* that to a green bean. But will it benefit from the effort?

Finally, discouraged, I clicked off my headlamp and contemplated the paper-strewn darkness. It was then that a glimmer of hope appeared, in the form of a distant memory.

Many years ago, when we had just bought our house and had only two children, both still infants, my dear friend Maura came up from the city to see what kind of trouble we'd gotten ourselves into here in the Highlands. For dinner, I made us chicken on the grill and a kind of fricassee of fresh and shell beans with herbs. The latter turned out so nicely that Maura declared she could become a vegetarian if vegetables always tasted that good.

In the months that followed, I made the dish a handful of times, serving it with whole-wheat pasta, which ingratiated it with the aforementioned tots. And then, like dishes do, it floated away on one of time's inexorable breezes.

So for all the trouble and loss Isaias dumped on us last week, I'd like to also thank it for blowing that little memory into my mind, and for giving me a chance to share it now with you.



Fricassee of Many Beans

You can use a combination of yellow wax beans, haricots verts and green beans for this dish. Fresh shell beans in season are a great treat, and pair beautifully with their botanical cousins; to prepare them for cooking, twist the pods to release the bean (seeds) within. I like to serve this dish over whole-wheat pasta, whose rich, nutty flavor complements the beans; plain semolina pasta is also fine.

FOR THE FRICASSEE

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 fresh young red onion, or 2 large shallots, finely diced, divided
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 teaspoons thyme leaves, divided
- 3 cups cranberry beans, or other fresh shell bean (from about 2 pounds in pods)
- Salt and pepper
- 6 cups haricots, green and yellow beans (see headnote)
- 1 bunch parsley, leaves only (about 1 cup loosely packed), chopped
- 1 bunch basil, leaves only (about 1 cup loosely packed), chopped
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons butter, optional

FOR SERVING

- 1 pound whole-wheat pasta, cooked al dente, according to package directions
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan over medium heat, warm half the olive oil. Add half of the onion or shallot, all the garlic and half the thyme leaves, and cook, stirring, until the onion is beginning to turn golden and soft, about five minutes. Add the cranberry beans, stir to combine, then cover with water to about 2 inches in depth. Simmer over low heat until the beans are quite tender, adding more water if necessary (the exact time can vary greatly depending on the variety and freshness of the bean; allow between 15 and 25 minutes). When beans are nearly soft, add 1 teaspoon salt and a few grindings of pepper.

Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to boil, salt generously, and blanch the green and yellow beans for about two minutes. Remove beans (if you use a steamer or can scoop them out, you can reuse the water for your pasta) and run under cold water to retard cooking.

Heat a large skillet over medium. Add the remaining olive oil and onion, and when it begins to sizzle, add the blanched green bean mixture. Raise the heat to medium-high and cook until the beans start to blister. Transfer the cooked cranberry beans to the skillet along with some of their cooking liquid, stir to combine, reduce the heat, and simmer together for three to five minutes, adding the al dente pasta for the last two minutes of cooking. Remove from heat. Just before serving, toss with chopped parsley, basil, lemon juice and zest, and butter, if using.

Serve with grated Parmesan on the side.

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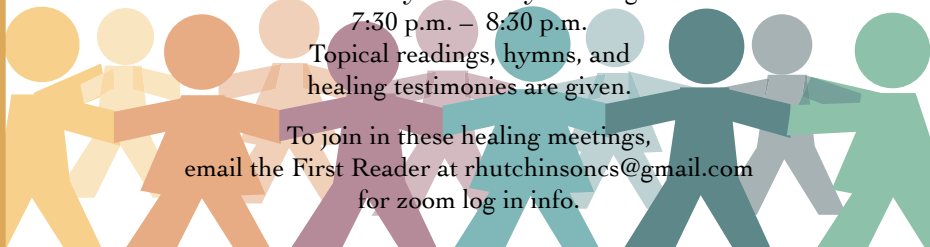
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Schools *(from Page 1)*

After the state Department of Health reviewed the plans, which also had to be posted online, it left each district to decide how to proceed. Beacon, Haldane and Garrison chose the hybrid route, with a mix of in-person and virtual instruction. They must offer all-virtual plans, as well, because some parents said they did not want to send their children into classrooms.

Each district has sent questionnaires to parents to ask them whether they plan to send their children in person or rely on remote instruction.

School districts must post their remote-learning plans online, as well as plans for testing and tracing students and teachers. In addition, according to the state, they must hold three to five public meetings to discuss their plans.

Haldane held one meeting last week and has others scheduled for Aug. 20 and 26, while Garrison will hold sessions on Aug. 18 and Aug. 20. The schedule for the Beacon district was not immediately available. The Haldane and Beacon superintendents this week each discussed their reopening plans in Current Conversations that can be viewed at highlandscurrent.org/cc-archive.

Reopening Plans

Beacon

bit.ly/beacon-plan

Haldane

bit.ly/haldane-plan

Garrison

bit.ly/gufs-plan

Private Schools

Hudson Hills Academy, Beacon

The school is offering in-person, remote or a hybrid plan with in-person learning for half the day. All students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors but may take breathers outside and in designated indoor areas with social distancing.

Manitou School, Philipstown

The school plans to open in-person. It has created outdoor classrooms and will have students spend a significant portion of the day outdoors. Masks and social distancing will be required for students and staff. Families may request all-virtual instruction, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The Randolph School, Wappingers Falls

The school plans to open in-person. Staff will be required to wear masks. Children will not be required to be masked in the outdoor classroom, with social distancing. Children will be encouraged to wear masks when using a restroom indoors or for temporary periods indoors "with attention to the developmental and emotional needs of children." There is no virtual-only option.

Q&A: Beacon's Matt Landahl

By Jeff Simms

Matt Landahl is the superintendent of the Beacon City School District. He spoke during a Current Conversation on Wednesday (Aug. 12) that can be viewed at highlandscurrent.org/cc-archive. Below are edited excerpts.

This is a massive lift that's been required of the district to prepare for reopening.

It has been the most challenging time in my career as an administrator. But this experience has been hard on everybody. We're figuring out new ways to do everything.

You had to prepare for three options in the plan sent to the governor:

Q&A: Haldane's Philip Benante

By Chip Rowe

Philip Benante is the superintendent of the Haldane Central School District. He spoke during a Current Conversation on Monday (Aug. 10) that can be viewed at highlandscurrent.org/cc-archive. Below are edited excerpts.

School starts in three weeks. What is that first day going to look like?

It's going to look very different. There are going to be a lot of new procedures and routines. Health and safety is what's most important. We don't envision a heavy emphasis on academics to start. There's going to be a transitional period where we have to acclimate students and staff.

Like every district in the state, we had

in-person, all-virtual or a hybrid model. Which did you choose?

The notion of in-person with social-distancing requirements seemed impossible. We've always been focused on hybrid, and the state put out guidelines in mid-July to provide remote-learning opportunities for students who have health conditions or family members with health conditions, or if they're uncomfortable being at school. So, we're moving forward with a hybrid plan and a remote plan for folks who choose that.

Will masks be required?

Masks are required, and so are mask breaks. We're working with administrators and teachers to define how we'll do them. On the flip side, we need to start working with families to prep students to wear masks for longer periods of time.

What happens if a student or teacher gets sick?

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case,

we'll immediately work with the county Department of Health to start contact tracing. We would make a decision, in conjunction with the state, about who needs to be notified, who needs to be quarantined, whether the school needs to close for cleaning. We will tell the community when we have a confirmed case. Every county is getting more clarity on people who are symptomatic [but not confirmed], because that doesn't automatically warrant quarantining and shutting every school or classroom. But if there's a confirmed case, it's clear what we need to do.

How will absences be tracked?

The state is asking us to track students daily. And by that, when students are home doing remote work, that means that we're

(Continued on Page 16)



Landahl

rooms are going to look different. Kids are going to be 6 feet apart. Students are going to be masked. Teachers are going to be masked. I think there were 89 assurances we had to provide to the state, each of which speaks to a process or a routine or a procedure.

How will teachers manage to do in-person and virtual instruction?

We're sorting that out. We are not big enough to designate teachers just to handle the students working remotely. Larger districts might have five or six teachers at each grade level, so one teacher could teach remotely. We could do a livestream where we allow kids to look into the classroom. We could contract with an entity where families sign in. That's not our preference, but

(Continued on Page 16)



Benante

Q&A: Garrison's Carl Albano

By Jeff Simms

Carl Albano is the superintendent and interim principal at the Garrison School. He joined the district on July 1.

Which of the plans required by the state does the district plan to use?

Like everyone else, we submitted three models [in-person, virtual and hybrid], and what we learned is that we have the ability, with nearly 60,000 square feet and approximately 210 students, to fit all of our students in-person full-time. As long as the governor allows us to remain open, we're confident that we can fit everyone here with social-distancing measures in place. We had our architecture firm, which

is doing the work on our \$10 million capital project, come in and analyze every square foot of instructional space in the building and give us a capacity for each classroom, with students 6 feet apart.

Will masks be required?

Masks will be required by all staff and students unless you are alone in a space, and then you can remove your mask, or if you're outdoors and you're 6 feet apart, then you can remove the mask. The other exception would be if a staff member or student has a health need, such as asthma, and we would make accommodations. We also have ordered plexiglass barriers for people who may have trouble tolerating a mask. Students and staff could lower their masks in the building, if they're 6 feet apart, for instance if someone needs to drink water. We also intend to have students eat lunch in the classrooms. Weather permitting, they may be eating outside, but if it's raining, they will most likely eat in their classrooms. And

of course they'll remove the mask for that. There will be scheduled mask breaks for all students and staff.

Will there be an all-virtual option?

The district plans to partner with a company called iTutor through Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES. The iTutor teachers, who are all state-certified, will provide synchronous remote instruction for students whose parents decide to keep them at home. We conducted a survey about three weeks ago, and at that time, 17 percent of parents said they would not be comfortable sending their children back to school in person. I'm going to ask parents in Garrison to make a final decision by Aug. 21 so we can plan schedules, room assignments and transportation routes.

(Continued on Page 17)



Albano

Landahl *(from Page 15)*

sure we're doing a daily check-in or some sort of attendance procedure. The flip side is we don't want anybody coming to school who's the slightest bit sick. Attendance policies that encouraged students not to have a lot of absences are, at least temporarily, a thing of the past. If a student has a cold, we want them to slide into remote learning and keep up that way.

For students who are doing only remote learning, will there be a day when they can meet their teachers?

We haven't adopted this yet, but we're looking at Sept. 10 and 11, and we may add a few days at the beginning of the year as orientation for everyone. It will be staggered so we don't have large numbers of students at any one time. We were thinking of holding elementary orientations outside. One of our goals with the remote learners is that they feel like they're part of the community. I understand some folks, if they're all-remote, just want to stay home, and we wouldn't force this on anyone. But there could be opportunities for remote students to join outdoor activities. One of my goals is to do whatever we can to keep the district whole during this challenging year.

Will there be live distance-learning classes?

Yes. But while we are a well-staffed district, with our current levels it would be virtually impossible for us to create two school districts. So, we're going to have some of our teachers doing a little bit of both, or a lot of both. And the teachers have asked for more planning time to pull this off, and they've also asked to not have to create different lessons for different groups of kids. We know there needs to be more teacher interaction with students and more student-to-student interaction. Some of it needs to be recorded to watch later, because we never know what a student might be dealing with at home. But we want to have more of a schedule.

We also need to plan for the governor closing schools in the state or region. If we're closed, with every kid remote, we'll have a daily schedule of live classes. I'm not expecting kids to be in front of a screen for

six or seven hours a day, so start times will be pushed back a little bit.

Will students have access to gym class or other physical activity?

We want to encourage getting outside, but even there, the state asks for social distancing. As a dad and a former elementary educator, I get that it's a challenge. I want to try to push back through our planning that being in-person is not just sitting with a mask on for six-and-a-half hours without moving from your chair. That's not healthy and, honestly, one of our reasons for moving forward with the hybrid model is that class sizes will be significantly reduced. Kids will be able to move around a little bit more because there will be space. Obviously, they have masks on, but kids are kids and this is going to be a big change. I think everyone recognizes they're going to need a lot of breaks.

How can you be certain that students will stay masked on the bus?

We will work with them to keep them on. We're hoping to add bus monitors to help our drivers. I know they're concerned about how it's going to work, and the deputy superintendent is setting up a Zoom meeting with the drivers to go over some of their concerns. I feel like in New York, in our region and our community, people have been serious about wearing masks and kids are getting used to it. Not to get punitive, but we are going to work mask-wearing into our code of conduct, to be clear about the expectations and how to work with students and their families if they're resistant to wearing a mask. Some kids have medical issues or special needs that make it more difficult, and we'll work with those families, too.

Will preschool students be expected to wear masks?

Yes, although the procedures are going to look different than for 12th graders. I'm sure our pre-K teachers have already been thinking about ways to both encourage mask-wearing but also to give the kids a lot of breaks from it.

Wappingers and other districts have decided to go fully remote until they're better prepared. Would it be wise for

they're uncomfortable with the student being in the building, we can more readily make that change to virtual. I feel we would have a responsibility to accommodate that concern. These are the same questions that our administrative team has been grappling with.

Masks will be mandatory inside the school?

Correct. Initially our plan followed state Department of Health guidelines, which is that wherever students cannot be 6 feet apart, they need to wear masks. From that you could infer that students would be able to remove their masks when sitting at their desks. Today [Aug. 10] we updated that language to state that they are expected to have a mask on at all times in the classroom. That's something I received a lot of feedback on over the last week or so.

Beacon to do the same?

My feeling is that we will be prepared to start the hybrid model. We would not need another month. If my feelings change, the community will hear about it. The infection numbers in the Mid-Hudson Region are very low right now, so if we have all of our preparation done, it would be great to get the hybrid model up and going in September. I will never say that we've done this perfectly, but we had a team of administrators working on "school recovery" in mid-June. Now we should put most of our time into getting ready for the instructional side.

As I said at the school board meeting last night [Aug. 11], it's very complex what we're asking teachers to contemplate and implement. My promise to the community and the board is that if I start changing my mind, or I don't feel like we're ready, I will pull back and change the plan. We're working on this it feels like every second of the day, and we're working hard to be ready.

Under the hybrid plan, one group of kids will go to school two days a week, then they'll be remote two other days, and Wednesdays will be remote for everyone. What will the "off days" look like?

It's hard to make a blanket statement because the courses are so vast and different, but students will either be doing independent work or using instructional videos, and there will be live check-ins and teaching. At the elementary level, when the kids are remote, they will have check-ins that may involve live teaching. We're contemplating changing schedules so teachers have more time to do this. But it doesn't mean that you won't hear from anybody for three days. You will be seeing your teacher or teachers on your off days and doing work, along with live teaching, but not a full day. We don't have the staff to do both. But we think we have enough in place to have kids advancing their learning and feeling supported every day.

You mentioned that last night at the board meeting, the goal of "advancing learning every day."

When schools closed in the spring, it was a shock to everybody, and it was a shock to us as educators. It's always been done

in person. The world got pulled out from under us, and we had families struggling with people who were sick or out of work. Our teachers and administrators did amazing things last spring, but it was hard to develop a system on the fly. This summer it's been cool to have small group conversations with teachers and administrators or, like today, we had a town hall with 178 teachers and teaching assistants. There are a lot of concerns and a lot of tough questions but also a lot of "We got this" and "We're going to figure this out."

That being said, I want our community to feel that learning is happening every day. We want the kids to feel like, if they're at home, "I am checking in with people. I am learning stuff from a teacher. I am being able to connect with my peers on a daily basis." And we want the kids who are in-person to feel that way, too. That's important to me, and it's important to the teachers. Depending on the moment, I have different feelings, but I'm excited to try to get this going and to do it safely. And to start seeing everybody again, whether it's on a screen or in person, or both.

The night you were introduced to the school board nearly four years ago, "We got this" was your go-to phrase.

I try to at least pretend to be a human being every once in a while. That story was that, in Ithaca, our son was in a special pre-K program. We had been having some health challenges, and I remember the teacher met with us in early September. And she said, "We got this," we're going to figure this out. It's cool to hear from other people. I heard it from some teachers today, and that was exciting, and our administrators have been awesome. I also want to shout-out our custodians and grounds crews, who have been working on these buildings every day since late April; and our bus drivers, who were delivering food all during the closure; and our office staff, who have been getting everything ready; and our nurses, who are helping us plan; and our security staff, who are working this summer to help with all the school entry stuff. I'm sure I've forgotten someone. It seems like my job is listening and communicating and trying to make sure we're in a good place in September. That's what we're working toward.

Benante *(from Page 15)*

it may be necessary because we can't put our teachers in a position where they have to navigate two classrooms. It's also very different to do that with 5-year-olds and 17-year-olds. That's why the survey we sent out today to families is important so they can let us know their intentions. If 5 percent want remote learning, versus 50 percent, the strategy will look different.

Will parents be able to switch back and forth?

If a family commits to virtual, it will have to be for a defined period of time, perhaps at least a trimester. We're not in a position where we can accommodate going back and forth. However, if a family is sending their child to school and we get four weeks in and

What feedback have you been getting from teachers?

We had a number of teachers on our reopening task force, and I've been in constant communication with our faculty association president, Andrea McCue, who is a special-education teacher at our high school. We also asked our principals to give each teacher a call and check in. How are they feeling? What concerns do they have? A lot is happening now in a short period of time. We had concerns early on about ventilation and there still are some concerns. Schools generally have older buildings and HVAC systems. I want to be able to say to our teachers that we've taken every precaution. I feel that responsibility to our staff. I was a teacher, my wife's a teacher, my sister's a teacher; I can empathize.

I'd like to note that while our schools are reopening to students in September, we

reopened the campus to administrative, maintenance and operation staff during the second phase of the state reopening plan. Our cafeteria staff and some of our maintenance and ground crew never left. I feel we've been able to maintain a standard to demonstrate to the employees who have been here and those who are getting ready to come that we're taking their health and safety seriously.

Can a teacher opt for virtual instruction?

We have a responsibility to make accommodations for teachers who may have a particular condition that would interfere or put them at greater risk by working with students or coming into a large gathering space each day. But at this point — as of today — everyone will be here.

(Continued on Page 17)

Benante *(from Page 16)*

What if someone gets sick? What is the protocol?

I remind folks that we were in that mode for a week or two before they closed the schools in the spring. We didn't have anyone who was sick, but it was happening in Westchester. You need to have a swift response. That's why I say it could be a unique school year because I can foresee a period of closure and another reopening. We could be forced to go into a remote learning for a period of time. It doesn't take much to put the school in a position where the safest thing to do is to close. I'd like to think we'll be OK with all of the protocols we have in place and the mask-wearing and the low rate of transmission in the community. But we've learned that this virus is resilient. And we've seen the worst of it. We've lost a parent to COVID-19. We've had students who were sick during the closure, and some of our staff. We don't have blinders on. We know it can happen here just like it's happened elsewhere.

I want to mention that we will be asking families not to send kids to school if they are sick, whether you think it's COVID-related or not. This is not the year or the environment to tough it out. We haven't announced this yet, but we want families to attest that they've screened their kids before they send them to school. We will have a procedure in place to flag students who are not screened so that they can be screened upon arrival by a nurse. The same will go for staff; their screening will be reviewed by administrators each day.

It's too bad for the students that they have to live through this. You wonder

what lessons might come out of it.

There have been periods throughout our history when people have had to deal with something that changes what is normal. We're in one of those periods. Our kids are going to tell their kids about it, and maybe their grandchildren. When you think about how unprepared we were from a public-health perspective, maybe our kids will consider pursuing public health as careers.

What about students with special needs?

We want our students with special needs to have the opportunity to come to school every day, as well as our lower-income students and our English-language learners, because they are at greater risk of falling behind. That's something I take quite seriously from an equity perspective. The spring was a transitional period — we got thrown into it — but I think by May we had some things set up that we saw were effective.

Many parents were disappointed with the virtual learning.

We heard those concerns. We collected feedback in June and have made modifications. You should know we're barraged with pitches for products and services and solutions, but 90 percent of them are no good. None of it matters, though, when you don't have any funding. We're dipping into the well already just to get the schools ready. That's where federal stimulus money could go a long way toward creating an infrastructure.

Local governments are facing the same financial issues.

We're all in the same boat. It's a credit to

the Haldane community that back in the spring, when we put our budget up to a vote, many districts were hesitant to go to the tax levy limit [imposed by the state]. But we went to the limit because we were anticipating that we were going to have greater needs come September. And that's proven to be a good decision by our Board of Education. It's put us in a better position to pursue some things in these last few weeks as we considered the all-remote option.

Do you plan to use more of the outdoor space?

We are working with a group of parents to re-examine how our outdoor space could be reconfigured to better enable teachers who want to take their classes outside. If we had a little bit more time, maybe even more money, we'd be able to do some creative things. We've had some families say, "I want my child outside all the time." But I can't guarantee your child is going to be outside all the time.

I imagine dismissals, like arrivals, will be staggered.

Yes, but those are the details, now that our plan is approved, that we're working through. The good news is we're at that point where we're talking about the school day, whereas two weeks ago we were examining the models. Now we have a model and we're thinking through the schedule. I have already made some changes to the calendar to create more time, before classes start, for teacher training. Our role now is to communicate what the school day is going to look like, because anxious parents lead to anxious kids, and anxious teachers lead to anxious kids.

Albano *(from Page 15)*

Has being such a small district made it more or less challenging to create a reopening plan?

In some ways it's been less complicated. With our generous instructional space, we have some advantages that larger, more-crowded districts don't have. Where it was more challenging is that we have a small administrative staff, and our principal position is vacant. Between myself, our business official and our director of trans-

portation and facilities, we really have just three administrators.

What are your plans if a student or teacher gets sick?

We're going to have iTutor teachers in place for every grade level, so if one of our in-person students becomes ill or has to quarantine, we could enroll that student in iTutor. If we go fully remote, the Garrison teachers would replace iTutor.

Is this the most challenging situation

you've dealt with in your career?

Without question. Any administrator will tell you that, typically, by this time in the summer, the school year is 95 percent planned, if not more, meaning everything from bus routes and schedules to teacher assignments. At this point, you're just fine-tuning and preparing to welcome everyone back. Instead, this year many districts are creating three schedules and two bus routes, and then there's professional development for the teachers, as well. Many of the initiatives that we were working on are on hold because now the focus is on training staff for health and safety protocols. The last big piece is that, for the most part, myself included, our expertise is in in-person education, not remote. So there's a big learning curve there. Our teachers have worked hard to improve their understanding of virtual learning because that's what we need to do this year. But this pandemic will eventually end. We will get through it, and I look forward to that day.

Current Classifieds

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BEACON — Retail shop/office available Sept. 1. Charming retail shop / office. Lower level has large storage space and a garden. 17 E. Main St. Call 917-406-2838 to view.

BEACON — Route 9D, minutes to RR, 70 NYC, HWY, spectacular Hudson views, restaurants, Dia, antiques, hiking, biking, mountains, 2 bedrooms plus den, WD/DW, \$2,200, suitable for 1-3. Call 914-584-7137.

COLD SPRING — Second-floor corner apartment in Butterfield with 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, den, living, dining, w/d. Available Oct. 1. Unfurnished. Beautiful south & west exposure. One interior parking space, storage space. Exterior parking. Adult community for ages 55 and up. Close to Foodtown, Drug World, medical center, wine store. Walk to Main Street and Metro-North. Email jgrant1225@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

NANNY — Seeking experienced, long-term female nanny for four wonderful children, in a nanny share arrangement in Garrison. Hours M-F 8 to 5. Children are 5 mos, 10 mos, 3 yrs, 7 yrs. Three days a week taking care of the two infants; two days a week taking care of one infant and the two older children (when not in daycare/school). Must have experience with infants. Competitive pay and option to live-in, with private bed/bath and access to home gym. Weekends off. Start by September. Email anthony_pirraglia@yahoo.com.

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OBITUARIES

George Bradley Jr. (1942-2020)

George Bradley Jr., 78, of Beacon, died Aug. 3 at Montefiore St. Luke's-Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.



George was born on March 3, 1942, in Aiken, South Carolina, the son of George and Louise (Mathis) Bradley. He served in the U.S. Army in 1963-64 during the Vietnam conflict.

George worked for many years as a bridge operator for New York City and spoke highly of his time at the Williamsburg Bridge, connecting New York City with Brooklyn, his family said. He lived in his later years at the Castle Point VA Hospital and loved visitors.

George is survived by his siblings, Amanda Stallings, Mae Doris White and Norris Bradley.

He will be interred with military honors at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina.

1990, he became a member of the carpenters' union and fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2008 when he graduated from the New York City Police Academy.

Paul had a love for the beach that began as a child, his family said, and he would look forward to spending time at Chadwick Beach each year with family. He never passed up an opportunity to enjoy a seafood dinner and often provoked laughter with his wit, they said.

Besides his mother, Paul is survived by his son, Colin Kennedy, 15; his sister, Colleen Kennedy; and his brother-in-law, Richard Tompkins. His father died in 2006 and his sister, Kerri Ann Kennedy-Tompkins, died on April 10.

A Mass of Christian ceremony was held Aug. 10 at St. Columbanus Church in Cortlandt, with interment following at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Memorial donations can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (jdrf.org).

Paul Kennedy Jr. (1972-2020)

Paul Thomas Kennedy Jr., 47, of Buchanan, a former longtime resident of Continental Village in Philipstown, died Aug. 4.



He was born Oct. 17, 1972, in Yonkers, the son of Paul and Eileen (Kilduff) Kennedy. After graduating from Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt in

Gary Medley Sr. (1939-2020)

Gary Andrew Medley Sr., 81, a lifelong Beacon resident, died Aug. 5 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



He was born Jan. 8, 1939, the son of Thomas and Mildred (Washington) Medley. Known to friends

and family as "Sammy," he graduated from Beacon High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1956 to 1959 as an airplane engine mechanic, followed by two years in the reserves.

Gary was employed by the Barbrich Blanket Factory in Beacon. In 1971, he joined Chemical Rubber (later Chemprene) as a fabric coater. He retired in 2001.

Gary was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Soul Clan Motorcycle Club, as well as multiple bowling leagues over 20 years. He also enjoyed softball, fishing, gardening, birdwatching, hiking, crafting, listening to jazz music and watching football, especially the Washington Redskins.

Gary is survived by his children: Gary Medley (Carolyn) of Aurora, Colorado; Christopher Medley of Poughkeepsie; Jocelyn Medley of Poughkeepsie; and Andrea Medley (Vern) of Georgetown, South Carolina; and his siblings: Carol Ann Medley of Utica; Candace Carter (Thomas) of Marietta, Georgia; and Shawn Medley of Manhattan.

He is also survived by two stepchildren, Aaron Owens (Jacqueline) of Poughkeepsie and Nyree Callaway of Hemingway, South Carolina; and six grandchildren: Lauren, Matthew, Navonni, Bryan, Kayla and Vern.

A graveside service with military honors was held Aug. 12 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

died Aug. 6 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



He was born July 20, 1942, in Georgetown, South Carolina, the son of Johnny and Annie Mae (Washington) Williams. He was a bus driver and custodian for the Wappingers Central School District until his retirement.

Richard loved music, dance and food. He was a bit of a jokester, his family said, and enjoyed a good laugh.

He is survived by his former wife, Mary Ann Williams of New Hamburg, and his children: Richard Williams, Belinda Williams, Angela Williams-Buggs (Terry Buggs), Katherine Williams, Yvonne Williams, Richard Nelson and Matthew Nelson.

He is also survived by his grandchildren: Andre Brown, Natasha Brown, Asia Buggs, Erica Clayton, Terry Buggs (Josiah), Aliya Clayton and Anaya Clayton; a great-granddaughter, Maya Brown; and his siblings: Ruby Simmons, Johnnie Mae Blacknall, Cecil Williams, Benjamin Williams and Charles Williams.

A service was held at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon on Aug. 11, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

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

Richard Williams (1942-2020)

Richard Allen Williams, 78, of Beacon,

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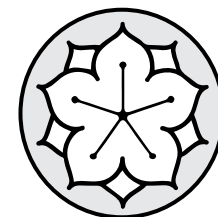
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Height of fashion?

4. First victim

8. Expansive

12. Retirement plan acronym

13. Sushi bar soup

14. Grooving on

15. Plaid garment

17. Greek vowels

18. Small barrel

19. Irish overcoats

21. Wunderkind

24. Thither

25. Atmosphere

26. — sauce

28. Florida city

32. Mid-month date

34. Chow down

36. Painter Chagall

37. Archaeologist's find

39. Cushion

41. Opposed

42. Plaything

44. Malign

46. Young child

50. Mongrel

51. Hodgepodge

52. Yankee Doodle's feather?

56. Huff and puff

57. "Zounds!"

58. Erstwhile acorn

59. Knitting need

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45

46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

60. Scruff

61. "Science Guy" Bill

DOWN

1. That guy

2. Mound stat

3. Holy fish?

4. Pedro's pals

5. Recycling receptacle

6. Jacob's brother

7. Humble

8. Platoon locale

9. Initial stake

10. Celebrity

11. Pitch

16. Barbie's companion

20. Drunkard

21. Twosome

22. Stash

23. Curly's brother

27. Shrill bark

29. Coconut cookie

30. Senior moment?

31. Zits

33. Take a chair

35. Slight amount

38. Army rank (Abbr.)

40. Ten-year period

43. Sanaa's land

45. Bear hair

46. Country singer Keith

47. — podrida

48. A-line designer

49. Sitarist's rendition

53. Upper limit

54. Aye rival

55. Mamie's man

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 demanding quiet (9)

2 in a creepy way (6)

3 completely captivating (8)

4 exterior finish of plaster (6)

5 uncertain (10)

6 in all places (10)

7 sort of (8)

SOLUTIONS

SIL ESO RIV ING ING

ILY EVE HAT LV SOM

ED HERE CCO ET EER

STU EW ENC RYW UNR

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for August 7 Puzzles

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

1. CONVERGED, 2. SLIDES, 3. WEIGHT, 4. REDFORD, 5. FRAGMENTARY, 6. FERRY, 7. SCULPTURES

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

SPORTS



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Caellum Tripaldi doubled in two runs for Beacon.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Jesse Apostolou reacts to an inside pitch.

Beacon Comes Close, But Can't Stop Powerhouse

Putnam Valley scores seven in final inning

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon travel baseball team of players ages 10 and younger has been searching for its first win during this abbreviated summer season, and the Bulldogs had a golden opportunity Wednesday (Aug. 12) at Memorial Park.

Beacon, which plays in the second division of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, held an 8-7 lead going into the top of the sixth and final inning against Putnam Valley (10-4), which plays in the top division.

The Bulldogs found out the hard way that the game isn't over until the final out, as the Miners rallied for seven runs for a 14-8 victory.

"That was a tough pill to swallow," said Coach Jed Varicchio. "But overall, we kept the errors down. I'm proud of the way the

team battled."

Hudson Fontaine started the game on the mound for Beacon, followed by Nolan Varicchio, who pitched the final three innings. "Hudson was masterful," Varicchio said. "And our defense played well behind him. Nolan came in and also pitched a great three innings.

"But we had a tough defensive sixth inning," he added. "When you give a good team extra chances, they will make you pay."

Jake Deluise went 2-for-3 for the Bulldogs, Caellum Tripaldi went 2-for-2 with

two RBI and Connor Varicchio and Nolan Varicchio each had an RBI.

"Putnam Valley is a great team, and a great bunch," Varicchio said. "But our team matched their hustle, and that's why this was such a good game."

Varicchio said his team will not participate in next week's playoff tournament. "We are not a playoff team right now," he said. "But we'll come back in the fall, and work more, and get there on merit."

The team was scheduled to host Poughkeepsie on Thursday (Aug. 13) for its final game of the summer.

“Putnam Valley is a great team, and a great bunch. But our team matched their hustle, and that's why this was such a good game.

~ Coach Jed Varicchio

SPORTS BRIEFS

Haldane Names Interim Athletic Director

District says he will serve for about three months

The Haldane school district announced on Aug. 7 that it has appointed an interim athletic director while it searches for a successor to Chris Salumn, who is leaving for the Carmel district.

Salumn had been at Haldane for five years. He will be replaced in the short term by David Goddard, who was the athletic director at the Arlington Central School District for 16 years until his retirement in

2016. That same year, he was selected as the Section 1 Athletic Director of the Year.

"It is anticipated that Mr. Goddard will serve in this role for no more than three months as we seek to identify a candidate for the probationary position," Superintendent Philip Benante, who came from the Arlington district to Haldane in 2018, said in a statement. "In the coming weeks, Mr. Goddard and Mr. Salumn will work together to effectuate a smooth transition."

Because of the COVID-19 shutdown, the association that governs high school sports in New York state has delayed the start of the fall season until Sept. 21.

Beacon, Haldane Honored Named 'schools of excellence'

Beacon and Haldane high schools were each named Schools of Excellence by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for 2019-20.

To qualify, 75 percent of a school's varsity teams must receive the association's Scholar-Athlete award, in which 75 percent of the roster has a GPA of 90 or better.

Beacon had 13 of its teams meet that standard and Haldane had nine. Beacon qualified in 2018-19 with 19 teams and Haldane with five. If every team qualifies, the school is named a School of Distinction.

Beacon 11U Results

Beacon 14, East Fishkill 10

The Beacon Bulldogs travel baseball squad of 11-year-olds nabbed the lead late in the game to secure a victory Aug. 5 over the Patriots.

Eli Netboy pitched three innings, allowing two runs on four hits and striking out two.

The game was tied with the Bulldogs batting in the bottom of the fourth when Tye Elias doubled on a 1-2 count, plating two runs. Beacon pulled away with 10 more runs in the inning.

Beacon 9, Cortlandt 3

Beacon 8, Cortlandt 3

Although the Bulldogs gave up three runs in the fourth inning of the first game of a doubleheader, they held on to defeat the Nationals on Aug. 8.

Beacon scored seven runs in the fourth, led by singles by Parker White, James Bouchard and Zachary Schetteran, an error on a ball put in play by Netboy and a double by Ryan Landisi.

White lasted five-and-two-thirds innings on the mound, allowing one hit and three runs while striking out four. Schetteran went 2-for-3 at the plate.

The Bulldogs took an early lead in the second game. White led off the scoring with a double in the first and Beacon scored four more in the third. Alex Young and William Flynn contributed RBIs, with Young going deep with a home run.

Bouchard pitched for six innings, allowing four hits and three runs while striking out five.

Poughkeepsie 3, Beacon 0

Poughkeepsie 5, Beacon 3

The Bulldogs watched two games slip away against the Lightning on Aug. 9.

Young went five innings for Beacon, allowing three runs on one hit and striking out eight.

Flynn, White and Schetteran each had a hit for Beacon, and the team didn't commit any errors. White made the most defensive plays, with eight.

The second game was tied at three in the top of the sixth when a Poughkeepsie batter singled to drive in the winning runs.

On the mound, Schetteran went five innings for Beacon, allowing four runs on four hits and striking out nine.