State IDs Fatal Deer Virus
Highlands residents find dozens of carcasses
By Brian PJ Cronin

The usual summertime smells of fresh-cut grass and grilling hamburgers have been replaced by the stench of rotting animals for the past two weeks around Cold Spring and Nelsonville, where residents have encountered dozens of dead white-tailed deer.

After conducting tests, the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) confirmed late last week that the deaths are the result of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, a rare viral disease spread by the bites of midges — small, flying insects sometimes referred to as gnats or “no-see-ums.” It’s the first known case of the virus in Putnam County.

As of Wednesday (Sept. 9), the DEC had confirmed 32 EHD fatalities in the Cold Spring area and 26 across the Hudson River near Goshen. Although confirmed cases have so far been confined to those two localities, officials warn that, depending on the weather, the disease could spread to other parts of the county.

August Surge
Deluge of visitors boosts Cold Spring eateries
By Leonard Sparks

Hudson House River Inn has a good problem.

August and a run of rainless days have brought crowds of day-trippers from New York City and New Jersey to Cold Spring, fueling for some eateries a better-than-expected summer season that began late following the three-month COVID-19 shutdown.

Owner Regina Bei cannot “recall the town being this busy — ever.” She also never needed to hire a full-time bartender.

“I had to hire four wait staff last week and I’m still bringing more people in,” said.

The unexpected demand is palpable. On Sunday (Sept. 6), Labor Day weekend, long lines formed outside Moo Moo’s Creamery and the Cold Spring Depot. Visitors waited to be seated outside Hudson Hills Cafe and diners filled sidewalk tables outside Hudson House.

Your Old Fridge Is Anything But Cool
Local program disposes of refrigerants to ease global warming
By Michael Turton

A new program offered by the Town of Philipstown is helping local residents properly dispose of old appliances whose refrigerants have the potential to contribute to global warming at an alarming rate.

Carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of fossil fuels and other activities, is a serious contributor to heat being trapped in the atmosphere, which in turn leads to global warming. But the warming potential of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the refrigerant found in most home fridges, freezers, air conditioners and heat pumps, is up to 20,000 times greater than CO2.
By Brian PJ Cronin

Leanne Lawson is the executive director of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, whose mediators help people resolve conflicts without going to court.

What makes an effective mediator?
An effective mediator has a commitment to both the process and the practice of mediation. A lot of people think that you have to be an attorney to be a mediator. You can be, but it’s certainly not a prerequisite. One of our longest-serving mediators is a retired postal worker. He’s been with us since the inception of the center, 36 years now. He takes on a lot of our small-claims cases and is motivated by a strong willingness to help his neighbors and the community through different disputes.

What should someone going into mediation keep in mind in order to make it an effective process?
Be open to it and understand that it’s their decision and their voice. What we find a lot is that people don’t understand mediation at first, and they’re looking for the mediator to make decisions for them or to tell them that they’re right and the other person is wrong. That’s not our role. Our role is to help the parties get clear about their issues and to hear the other person, so that something shifts. Sometimes they realize, “Oh, that’s actually not what I wanted at all.” Through that process there very often is a resolution. It may not be a monetary settlement. It may be “I don’t need to be in small-claims court; I’m just mad at you for all these other things.”

How has COVID-19 affected the work that you do?
We’ve taken everything online but we were very slow and careful with it and we’re still tweaking. We’re helping the courts with their backlog of cases that they have because of the pandemic, helping to save people from even having to go to court if they choose mediation.

Is it harder to mediate online?
It’s a little bit harder because you’re not in the same space to sense that shift in things. But what’s even harder is trying to mediate in person, from a distance, with a mask on, and being worried about transmission and that someone just touched your pen. It’s different and interesting, but we’re finding it’s still effective. We did hear from a party who mediated virtually after mediating in-person in court, who said: “This was wonderful, I didn’t have to go to court, pay for parking, spend all morning on this case. I was able to schedule it after work.”

How is the work that the center does in restorative justice being utilized now?
A lot of our restorative justice work had been focused on youth work and higher education. We’ve been training teachers how to use circles with their students, which is when everyone sits in a circle and everyone gets a chance to speak, or not speak. But now we’ve had a lot of positive feedback from our partners who are using these techniques in their online learning. They knew it was important to connect with their students, and the circle process helps navigate through that, to check in with the students and ask them if they’re OK. There’s a deep connection and a sense of community that is created through circles. And then the students are more engaged in the lesson.

So now we’re offering free community dialog circles twice a month on Thursdays. We started it at the beginning of the pandemic because we were wondering what we could do to respond to the crisis. Everyone felt disconnected. So we started offering free community circles with self-selecting groups like parents or essential workers or business owners. Those were already popular, and then, after the killing of George Floyd, it shifted. People needed to talk about it. So we’re working with a lot of anti-racist visioning and movements. It’s labor intensive, but it’s important in these moments for us to all ask ourselves what we can do collectively.

Selling organic produce every Saturday at the Cold Spring Farmers Market.
Now accepting online preorders for safe and easy market shopping.
Order online and pickup at market.

fourwindsfarmny.com

FIVE QUESTIONS: LEANNE LAWSON

What’s something from the past that you’d enjoy reliving?
By Michael Turton

~ Jeff Green, Garrison
Playing trombone in the Gothenburg Opera House orchestra pit for a performance of Puccini’s Turandot.

~ Bob Nobile, Cold Spring
I’d love to redo our trip to Italy, together as a family.

~ Ron Piga, Beacon
My later days in the Marine Corps, the birth of my three daughters and the process of them growing up.

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My later days in the Marine Corps, the birth of my three daughters and the process of them growing up.

~ Ron Piga, Beacon
I’ve had the opportunity to...
Town Board Renews Support for Paving Strip of Dirt Road

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Residents from East Mountain Road South again object

Despite a chorus of opposition featuring old points raised anew, the Philipstown Town Board last week refused to abandon plans for paving 1,111 feet of East Mountain Road South.

The board took no formal vote because the paving was approved six years ago. But one by one, at their Sept. 3 session, Supervisor Richard Shea and the four other members, or counselors, reiterated their support.

On Tuesday (Sept. 8), the town Highway Department announced plans to begin work on Thursday (Sept. 10), but rain forced the department to reschedule it for today (Friday, Sept. 11). The project is designed to smoothly join the already-paved southwest-

er length of East Mountain Road South with paved East Mountain Road North.

The two roads wind eastward from Route 9 and connect atop the mountain. Beyond the Y-shaped intersection with East Mountain Road North, a northeastern prong of East Mountain Road South continues, unpaved, toward Dutchess County and is not part of the project.

Paving opponents have asserted that dirt roads deter speeder and serve as handy venues for leisurely walking, meeting neighbors and similar pursuits. Some have also accused the Town Board of dismissing their concerns or ignoring democracy.

Shea said he understands their feelings but “I’ve not been swayed by the arguments.” Furthermore, he said, “democracy involves the entire community.”

Over the last decade the board has only paved 1.5 miles of dirt roads, although it has “had many meetings with people who want us to pave further. We’ve resisted,” he explained.

Authored by the Joint Philipstown–Cold Spring building department could complicate efforts to obtain state funding linked to shared services, Supervisor Richard Shea said last week, after the Town Board voted unanimously to end the 3-year-old arrangement.

The board acted on Sept. 3 during its formal monthly meeting, held at the town Recreation Center under social-distancing protocols, after Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy declared on Aug. 5 that Cold Spring was re-establishing its own building depart-

ment, with a part-time building inspector/code enforcement officer, instead of relying on the town’s fulltime department.

The intermunicipal agreement set a 60-day notification for severing the relationship, but Merandy, in an Aug. 18 letter to Shea, sought an immediate out, saying that Cold Spring officials believe the residents and the property owners will benefit by having a person dedicated solely to the needs of the village.

The letter cited what the mayor portrayed as unhelpful attitudes on the part of Greg Wunner, the town code enforcement officer, including an alleged refusal by Wunner to meet with the new village building inspec-
	or, Charlotte Mountain.

Merandy asserted that Wunner’s perceived unresponsiveness provided “clear indications of his unwillingness to work with the village for one more day, let alone 60.”

But Shea said at the monthly meeting that Wunner “is completely willing to meet with the new (village) inspector. That may not have happened yet, but it will happen.”

The supervisor also said that Wunner had organized and promptly returned all Cold Spring building department files to Village Hall, a statement Village Clerk Jeff Vida-

kovich confirmed on Tuesday (Sept. 8).

Councillor Robert Flaherty concurred that Wunner “just didn’t walk away from this” and “is more than happy to help out” the village during the transition, and Councilor John Van Tassel pointed out that the village will now have a building inspector available only two days a week, instead of five.

“I really don’t understand how it’s going to benefit the residents of the village,” he said.

Several years ago, Andrew Cuomo has been promoting municipal consolidation or at least sharing of services, func-

tions and departments, with financial bonuses for jurisdictions that team up.

Ending the Philipstown–Cold Spring cooperation “certainly won’t help us” in that regard, Shea said. He described the joint department as “one thing that we thought was working well.”

But Shea also promised that the town would find other ways, including highway department projects, to work with Cold Spring, as well as the Village of Nelson-

ville, and keep local sharing of services alive. “Any way we can continue to help the village we will continue to do so,” he said.

Shea: Cold Spring Exit From Joint Building Dept. Risks State Support

Philipstown adopts energy-tracking policy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The demise of the joint Philipstown–Cold Spring building department could complicate efforts to obtain state funding linked to shared services, Supervisor Richard Shea said last week, after the Town Board voted unanimously to end the 3-year-old arrangement.

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ville, and keep local sharing of services alive. “Any way we can continue to help the village we will continue to do so,” he said.

Town to measure energy usage

In another unanimous vote, the Town Board adopted an “energy benchmarking policy,” reflecting its determination, under the Climate Smart Communities program, to reduce air pollution and the effects of climate change exacerbated by fuel emis-

sions. The move compels the town to measuring the energy usage of each town government building, tracking it over time, comparing it to data from similar structures and reporting the findings yearly, starting with May 1, 2021.

Compiled by the town’s Climate Smart program coordinator, the information is to be submitted to the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s online database and made available to the public.

Buildings “account for 45 percent of total emissions from government operations,” according to a Town Board resolution launching the benchmarking policy.

In related business, Roberto Muller, the town’s Climate Smart program coordinator, said the task force he heads recommends that the town government strive to reduce its gross consumption-based emissions by 30 percent by 2030 and by 50 percent by 2040, and that it reduce its local carbon emissions by 10 percent by 2030 and 15 percent by 2040.

Muller also announced that he plans to marry and move away, so that town officials should appoint a successor to begin early, if possible.
Storm response

With Tropical Storm Isaias in the rearview mirror, it is time to ensure that we learn from this experience and avoid such prolonged power outages in the future (“Officials Fault Utilities for Isaias Response,” Aug. 28).

While there are many reforms being discussed in our communities, I would like to highlight some of the obvious changes I am advocating.

First, we need to change the incentive structure for our utility and telecommunications companies. We need the Public Service Commission to issue larger fines for slow responses.

If passed and enacted by the governor, Assembly and Senate bills A10955/S8932 would create time-based goals for power restoration, such as the requirement that at least 80 percent of customers have service restored within 48 hours.

Assembly and Senate bills A10900/S8931 would direct the Public Service Commission to study the feasibility and costs of burying utility transmission lines. Many of our outages are related to falling trees and wind. While some areas are already underground, our area is susceptible. This bill is the first step to undergrounding our system.

Assembly bill A4010 would require gas stations to have emergency generators that supply 48 hours of electricity (“Should Gas Stations Have Generators?” Aug. 28). We rely on gas stations for our cars and generators. Having gas stations remain open is in the public interest.

Finally, electric utilities should provide reimbursements for the foods and medicines of customers who are left without power for more than 24 hours. This is another way that companies cut corners to save a dime.

There is much left to do to improve our system. If you have ideas for legislation, email me at galefs@nyassembly.gov. These are necessary first steps, with more to come.

Sandy Galef, Albany
Galef’s district includes Philipstown.

Dirt roads

Attention all who use Philipstown roads: At recent Town Board meetings, a board member expressed his opinion of local road usage and monitoring (“Dirt-Road Fans Oppose East Mountain Paving,” Aug. 28). First, despite the fact that the Philipstown roads have a speed limit of 25 mph, he terminated the ticketing of speeding drivers as they turned out to be neighbors! Second, he opined that “roads are for cars and trucks. All those others have the trails, parks, whatever...” “Those others” could be you: Stroller people, walkers (elderly and young), bikers, horsemen, those enjoying scenery, many of us. If you moved here recently, please be aware of the less-than-perfect long-term residents and keep your children close on the road.

Betsy Calhoun, Garrison

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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No questions

It’s time to vote some of these legislators out (“Question About Questions Stirs Debate,” Sept. 4). If you can’t be prepared to ask questions about what you are voting on, you should not be serving.

Mary Alice Boyle, via Facebook

If they’re so fully prepared, why can’t they answer the questions? Do they actually know what they’re voting on?

Kathleen Foley, via Facebook

Thank you, Nancy Montgomery, for tirelessly representing the people of your district. You deserve recognition for your oversight of what for so many years has been an opaque government in Carmel. Keep up the good work.

Evan Hudson, Cold Spring

Metro-North cuts

Such counter-logical thinking (“MTA Weighs Metro-North Service Cuts,” Sept. 4). Fewer trains running will mean more crowded trains, which will discourage more people from using Metro-North. They should be letting prospective passengers know about the safety changes they have instituted for the pandemic.

Joe Carr, via Facebook

Just one more thing that makes absolutely no sense.

Marie-Louise Best, via Facebook

Paul Newman in Beacon

I remember seeing Paul Newman going in to eat at The Velvet Feedbag on Main Street (“Looking Back In Beacon,” Aug. 28). It was my favorite restaurant in town at the time. I also remember that was one of the snowiest winters we ever had. It’s a great movie and it’s fun pointing out all the local sites from 9D, Beacon and even Bedford Avenue in Fishkill, by the library.

Denise Loatman-Owens, via Facebook

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer’s full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

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How to Vote by Mail

1. To vote by absentee ballot (aka voting by mail), you request an application. (If you are not yet registered to vote, you must first register, and the deadline for that is Oct. 9.) To receive a vote-by-mail application, you can do one of the following:
   a. Request a form at absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov.
   b. Download the form at elections.dutchessny.gov or putnamboe.com.
   c. Call 845-486-2473 (Dutchess) or 845-808-1300 (Putnam).
   d. Email dutcheselections@dutchessny.gov or putnamcountyelections@putnamcountyny.gov.

2. Once you receive the application form, you can select one of six reasons for your request, such as that you will not be in the county on Election Day or that you have a “temporary illness.” The definition of the latter now includes “being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.”

3. Mail the completed and signed form to the Board of Elections. The address is on the form.

4. The application deadline is Oct. 27, although the U.S. Postal Service has said it cannot guarantee delivery of ballots for absentee applications received within 15 days before the election, so the prudent deadline is Oct. 19. You also can apply in-person at the Board of Elections up to the day before the election (Nov. 2). Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning on or about Sept. 18.

5. To check the status of your ballot, visit putnamboe.com/absentee-voting or bit.ly/dutchess-status.

NOTICE

Request for Proposals:
The Board of Education of the Beacon City School District hereby invites the submission of sealed Proposals for: 

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLEMENTAL BUILDING SERVICES AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS 

Proposals will be received until 11:00 AM on September 21, 2020 at the Business Office, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, N.Y. 12508 and at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened. The services under this proposal consist generally of performing building services including blacktop patching, drain line cleaning, excavating, sewer line repair, and emergency snow removal. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained at the same office. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Ann Marie Quartironi, Purchasing Agent

City Seeks Developer for Historic Building

The City of Newburgh is seeking developers to redevelop an iconic, Downing/Vaux-designed City-owned property - commonly known as the ‘City Club Building’ - at 120 Grand Street.

The RFP is available for viewing at the Planning & Development's departmental page on the City of Newburgh's website: www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/planning-development/pages/rfps-request-for-qualifications-rfps-request-for-proposals
August Surge (from Page 1)

At the Village Board meeting on Tuesday (Sept. 8), Deputy Mayor Marie Early reported that the municipal parking lot on Fair Street was filled to capacity from Sept. 4 to Sunday.

“While this has never happened before,” she said.

In fact, it was a far cry from March 22, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all non-essential businesses shuttered to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and May, when retail shops, restaurants and other closed businesses began getting approval to reopen. In between, owners had to lay off employees and pivot to online-only sales and takeout.

Before the shutdown order, as customers hunkered down in fear of becoming infected, Greg Pagnes, owner of the Cold Spring Depot, was weighing whether to stay open even for takeout. On the afternoon of St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, he had received just five orders for corned beef and cabbage dinners.

Business is down 45 percent for July and August compared to last year, but the last three weeks “have been the best of the summer by far,” Pagnes said on Thursday (Sept. 10).

“I attribute it to lower temperatures and little rain,” he said. “I’m hoping, with many working from home and schools still on remote learning, we will see a good turn-out between the weekends.”

When shops and restaurants in Dutchess and Putnam counties were allowed to begin reopening in phases starting in May, they faced myriad challenges: limits on capacity, hesitant customers and the widespread cancelation of crowd-drawing events like the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

In July, the Cold Spring Village Board voted unanimously to cancel large-scale events through the end of the year, including the Putnam County Wine and Food Festival and the Hops on the Hudson beer fest. The board also canceled visits by the Seastreak cruise line, which brought hundreds of shoppers to the Village each fall.

When Bei reopened on June 24, business “was building back at a steady pace but not normally where I would have been.” Since the beginning of August, however, “it’s just been crazy down there,” she said.

Hudson House’s restaurant is “beating” last year’s sales, said Bei. Cathryn Fadde had a “very low bar” for the summer, but on Sunday, Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill did about the same amount of business that it did for all of May, when she could only serve food via takeout. Business has been “much better than expected,” she said.

Eliza Starbuck, president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, and owner of Flowercup Wine on Main Street, has also seen the difference.

“In speaking with different business owners, and from my own experience, I can report that customer traffic has been good in the past few weeks,” said Starbuck. “It has also spurred a need for workers.”

In addition to seeking a bartender, Bei, during the last week in August, posted on Facebook a need for other positions, including a dishwasher and line cook.

Higher up on Main Street, Fadde has been unsuccessful in her search, since July, for a waiter to take the pressure off her and the existing staff.

“I am one good waiter short,” she said. “And I’m just not getting that person.”

Some business owners believe that, despite the widespread layoffs of service workers during the shutdown, a $600-a-week payment in extra unemployment benefits, approved by the federal government in March and offered until July 31, convinced some people to stay home rather than return to work when businesses reopened.

Some studies have concluded just the opposite. A study by Yale University researchers “found no evidence that recipients of more generous benefits were less likely to return to work.”

Finding employees has been a “mixed bag,” said Brian Arnoff, who owns both the Tuscan Grill and the South Street Wine and Tap Room. Early on, as unemployed workers received the extra payment, there was difficulty, but “after the extra money expired, we had people who wanted to work again,” he said.

The bigger challenge, he said, is keeping employees healthy.

“Our policy is, if you have any type of suspect cold, sneezing, basically anything, we tell you to stay home,” he said. “To then have to find somebody to fill that position is difficult.”

In Beacon, foot traffic has been down but still “pretty good,” said Arnoff. Neither place is offering indoor dining, and Kitchen Sink is operating under limited hours.

While Meyers Olde Dutch is still behind the level it was at last summer, “we’ve dug ourselves out of the hole significantly in terms of how far down we are, so that’s doing OK,” said Arnoff.

“I always tell people, at this point, we’re just kind of holding our breath and trying to survive until spring of 2021,” he said.

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COVID-19 by the Numbers

### PUTNAM COUNTY

- Number of confirmed cases: 1,541 (+23)
- New Cases in Philipstown: 3
- Tests administered: 40,170 (+2,052)
- Percent positive: 3.8 (-0.2)
- Number of deaths: 63 (+0)

### DUTCHESS COUNTY

- Number of confirmed cases: 4,962 (+70)
- Active Cases in Beacon: 5
- Tests administered: 146,641 (+8,213)
- Percent positive: 3.4 (-0.1)
- Number of deaths: 154 (+1)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Sept. 9. New cases in Philipstown as of Sept. 3 (the most recent reported).

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**Full-time Associate Program Director**

**Tri-County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**, is seeking the ideal candidate to be an Associate Program Director for our agency, working with residents in the long-term care setting, developing programmatic policies and volunteer management.

The primary quality for this position is leadership and fundamental respect for seniors residing in long term care facilities.

You will be the person to work directly with residents to help advocate for their rights and dignity, working together to resolve issues. Proactive with outreach to the community to promote the program, recruit volunteers and interact with families, residents and facility staff when needed.

This is an amazing opportunity to serve the senior community and be very proud of your work. Extensive training will be provided post-hire. Travel within three counties (Westchester, Putnam and Rockland) is required. The following skills are required: time management, written and verbal communication, experience with computers.

Please send cover letter and resume via email to: judy@ltcc.org
The movement patterns of the local midge population, the disease could be spreading. On Wednesday, the DEC received a report of a deceased and rapidly decomposing deer found by Fishkill Creek in Beacon’s Madam Brett Park.

The disease is not transmissible to humans and only affects white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope, the latter two of which do not live on the East Coast. But while humans, their pets and other local animals may be safe from the disease, its effect on deer is horrific, with a high mortality rate.

After a deer is bitten by a midge carrying the virus, it takes about seven days for symptoms to appear. Once they do, the end comes swiftly, usually 8 to 36 hours after being affected. Besides acting disoriented, appearing lame and losing their normal fear of humans, infected deer have high fevers that cause extreme thirst, which is why most deceased deer are found near water sources (one of the first reported cases was a doe found in a Putnam County lake). Other visible symptoms include swelling of the head, neck, tongue and lips.

There is no known cure or effective management plan for the disease. The only remedy is to wait for the first hard frost of the season to kill the midges and end the outbreak, usually occurring around mid-October in the Highlands.

The disease first appeared in New York State in 2007 in Albany, Rensselaer and Niagara counties. Another outbreak occurred in Rockland County in 2011. The disease is most likely to occur in late summer and early fall, when the midge population is most active, and is usually confined to the American South, where decades of EHD have resulted in much milder outbreaks with low fatality rates.

The lack of previous exposure to the disease makes New York state deer especially vulnerable. Officials from the DEC said that the leading theory on how infected southern midges make their way to New York state is via hurricanes and tropical storms, such as Tropical Storm Isaias, which battered the Highlands in early August.

That theory would also explain a 2011 outbreak in Rockland County that occurred shortly after Tropical Storm Irene passed through the area. Hurricane Irene ended that outbreak a few weeks later. It’s expected that EHD will become more common in New York as climate change continues to alter existing weather patterns.

Despite EHD not being transmissible to humans, the DEC still urges precautions. Deer that succumb to EHD decompose at a much higher rate than normal as a result of weakened blood vessel walls and an elevated body temperature from fever. This leads to extremely rapid meat spoilage, so infected deer should not be eaten.

Residents should contact the wildlife department at the DEC’s Region 3 office in New Paltz by calling 845-256-3098 to report sick or dead deer.
Village Board Police Hiring Questioned by Future Trustee

Cold Spring to get better access to reservoirs
By Michael Turton

The hiring of a new Cold Spring Police Department officer touched off a debate at the Tuesday (Sept. 8) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board. The board approved hiring officer Scott Lombardo, a 22-year veteran who recently retired as a sergeant with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department. Lombardo was interviewed by the board in an executive session held earlier that day.

During the public comment period, village resident Heidi Bender asked why the hire was made without public input. Bender is running unopposed for a seat on the Village Board and will begin serving as a trustee in January.

She said that as part of the New York State-mandated review of municipal police departments, “in a lot of places, including Beacon, communities are embracing having citizens involved in these kinds of things.”

She then asked, “Why was the interview done in private?”

“I don’t know why a larger group of people would be needed,” Mayor Dave Merandy responded. “What input would they have in looking at someone’s resume?”

Bender then referred to the hiring of officer Scott Morris late last year. Morris resigned six months later after residents demanded he be fired because he was the supervisor at the scene of a fatal shooting of an unarmed black man in New York City in 2012.

“Is there something to be learned [from the hiring of Morris] when people found out after the fact?” Bender asked. “As elected officials, can we be more inclusive of the community we’re representing?”

Trustee Lynn Miller commented that including the public in the hiring process would set a bad precedent. “The Labor Board is very protective of people in the hiring and interview process,” she said. “There is an assumption of privacy when interviewing and we’re elected to do that work.”

Miller added that Lombardo will be on probation for 40 months. “If there’s a problem [with him] later it can be brought up later,” she said.

Bender persisted in her argument for more public involvement. “A transparent process can avoid a lot of these misunderstandings and a lot of the reactions we saw” in the Morris case, she said. “I just don’t see why there’s a threat [by] being inclusive in the process.”

“I don’t feel it’s a threat at all,” Merandy replied. “I just don’t see how involving more and more people, everyone with their own opinion, will make a better process and a better hire.”

Bender then asked when public input will be sought as part of the review of Police Department policies.

Merandy said he has not yet read a document recently provided by Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke, which he said can serve “as a starting point” for the development of police policies.

“As soon as we have that base to work from, we will have a public meeting and discuss what we feel is a decent policy,” Merandy said.

In other business...

Scenic Hudson will transfer ownership of a small property adjacent to the village reservoirs to the Village of Cold Spring. The parcel will help provide access for maintenance of the reservoir dams. The village will pay about $2,700 for survey and legal costs associated with the transfer.

The village will seek the advice of Oneonta attorney David Mertzig in an attempt to improve the pace of negotiations with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

The village needs to tap into DEP’s Catskill Aqueduct before making repairs to the village reservoir dams. Mertzig has assisted other municipalities that have experienced difficulties in dealing with DEP. Cold Spring’s negotiations with the agency have been ongoing for more than a decade.
‘Mad scientist’ Lukas Milanak’s exhibit opens at BAU

By Arvind Dilawar

Artist Lukas Milanak says he takes “a mad scientist approach” to glass-and furniture-making, and it isn’t difficult to see why.

One of his works, “Mobile Alchemy Research Station (M.A.R.S.),” resembles a microwave atop a rolling cart with a tin can attached. But during performances, he demonstrates that the setup is intended to mix and meld various elements in pursuit of the “philosopher’s stone,” a mythological substance that can turn mercury to gold.

The sculpture-turned-laboratory is part of Allegory and Apparatus, an exhibition of Milanak’s work opening alongside painter Daniel Berlin’s Weightless at Beacon Artist Union on Saturday (Sept. 12). Combining traditional techniques like glassblowing with do-it-yourself experiments in chemistry and engineering, the show seems likely to delight and amaze.

Milanak, who will be on hand each Sunday to discuss his artwork, said the show’s unifying theme is the combination of both custom-made and found objects, as well as the deceptive nature of the pieces, such as the question of whether something is a work of art or science experiment.

He describes his work as “taking elements from your environment and cobbling them together to make something useful.”

“A lot of times I’m using found objects to create whimsical sculptures and drawings,” said Milanak. “A lot of times there’s an element of an overlooked phenomenon taking place under the surface.”

Skill is evident in his ability to jerry-rig a glassmaking studio out of a microwave, rolling cart and tin can. But the provocation is that its ostensible “use” is to pursue a fairy tale like the philosopher’s stone.

Another sculpture in the exhibit is “Last Cicada.” The handblown bell jar combines a small robotic arm with guitar-string fingers and a tin can, and juxtaposes science and fantasy, engineering and art, and nature and technology.

At intervals, the arm rubs its fingers against the ridges of the tin can, producing a cicada-like song. The work’s title and construction suggest that the human detritus from which the piece is constructed will outlive the real cicadas that inspired it — perhaps even contributing to their extinction.

Milanak’s approach to art follows an equally unique journey. After studying glassmaking and sculpture at Temple University in Philadelphia, he worked aboard the GlassBarge. Launched by the Corning Museum of Glass in the summer of 2018, the barge sailed the Hudson River and Erie Canal, demonstrating glassblowing during stops at riverside communities between Brooklyn and Buffalo.

“That’s how I got into the Hudson Valley,” said Milanak. “I was coming up the Hudson River on a barge and kind of just fell in love with the area and decided to bring my craft here.”

In September 2018, Milanak got a job as an assistant at Niche, the Beacon lighting and glassware company. After moving from Philadelphia, he also set up his own studio in Beacon.

Milanak describes his upcoming show as a kind of coincidental second-anniversary celebration of his move. The exhibit is all the more coincidental because he was unsure whether it would actually take place after being canceled multiple times because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The show will be BAU’s second since the state allowed museums to reopen in July. Considering Milanak’s “mad scientist” approach to art, the masks visitors are required to wear may have been in order even if there was no pandemic.

“If you come to my show, you can expect to see robots, light shows and a little bit of backyard chemistry all combined into this package,” he said.

Allegory and Apparatus opens at BAU, 506 Main St., on Saturday (Sept. 12) from noon to 8 p.m. The show will run each Saturday and Sunday, from 12 to 6 p.m., through Oct. 4. An online Instagram performance will be broadcast at instagram.com/lukaslabs on Sept. 20 at 6 p.m.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 12
Save the Dogwood Fundraiser
BEACON
4 – 11 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | eventbrite.com/savew
dogwood-fundraiser-tickets
The popular bar, restaurant and
music venue needs assistance with
ventilation upgrades to reopen.
Enjoy live and livestreamed music,
food, drinks and a silent art
auction. Cost: $100

MON 14
Book Club
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Meet outdoors in
the garden to
discuss The Rosie
Project: A Novel by
Graeme Simmsiam,
with masks and social distancing.
The rain date is MON 21.

WED 16
Fact-Check Happy Hour
GARRISON
8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020
Learn how to reliably vet
information online with recent
examples of misinformation that
have been widely shared. Register
for the Zoom event.

FRI 18
Summer of 2020 Show and Tell
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Share your summer highlights,
like good books, garden and house
projects, adventures or experiences
in this online community event.
Register for the Zoom event.

SAT 19
Bird Walk
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 a.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
The Putnam Highlands Audubon
Society is leading 2 groups to look
for migrating birds, raptors and
songbirds. Advance registration
required.

WED 16
Middle School Book Club
COLD SPRING
3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Meet up outdoors to discuss
the new series featuring Hudson
Valley musicians livestreamed from
the Howland Cultural Center,
featuring Gwen Laster,
Damon Banks and special guest
Tim Regusis, will perform, as well
as Jeremy Schoenfeld and Tony
DePaolo.

SAT 19
Free Rabies Clinic
CARMEL
10 a.m. – Noon
Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
845-808-1390 ext. 43160
putnamcounty.com/health
Bring your dogs, cats and ferrets,
proof of prior vaccination, proof of
residency and a mask.

SUN 13
Monarch Migration
WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
stonykill.org
Participants ages 6 to 12 can help
tag and record the farm-raised
monarchs while learning about
them before their trek to Mexico for
the winter. Cost: $20 per family

SAT 12
KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 12
Monarch Migration
WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
stonykill.org
Participants ages 6 to 12 can help
tag and record the farm-raised
monarchs while learning about
them before their trek to Mexico for
the winter. Cost: $20 per family

WED 16
Viral, featuring Gwen Laster,
Damon Banks and special guest
Tim Regusis, will perform, as well
as Jeremy Schoenfeld and Tony
DePaolo.

SAT 19
Space Out, Outside
BEACON
5 p.m. Polvili Park
facebook.com/events
Steve Davis, Matt Luczak and
Craig Chin perform soundscapes for
chilling out.

SAT 19
The Valley Hour
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
ontestage.com/show/howland-
cultural-center
Analysse and Ryan are the hosts
for the new series featuring Hudson
Valley musicians livestreamed from
the Howland Cultural Center,
featuring Gwen Laster,
Damon Banks and special guest
Tim Regusis, will perform, as well
as Jeremy Schoenfeld and Tony
DePaolo.

WED 16
Mindfulness for Birth
and Parenting
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
Zoom (register in advance)
garrisoninstitute.org
Mary Esther Malloy, founder of
Mindful Parenting, NYC, presents
this free, online program.

THURS 17
Toddler Time in the Garden
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
The garden-themed stories, songs
and activities for young ones will
feature gardens from around town.
Register to join online.

THURS 17
Mindfulness for Birth
and Parenting
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
Zoom (register in advance)
garrisoninstitute.org
Mary Esther Malloy, founder of
Mindful Parenting, NYC, presents
this free, online program.

THURS 17
Kids Book Club
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Split Rock Books
splitrockbk.com
Kids ages 8 to 12 can discuss
Nico Bravo and the Cellar Dwellers
with author and illustrator Mike
Cavallaro.

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 12
Story Screen Drive-In
BEACON
8:30 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreenanddrivein.square.site
This pop-up drive-in theater
will screen Jumanji (1995) and
Ghostbusters (1984) this weekend
and jaws (1975) and Jurassic
Park (1993) next weekend. See
website for show times and health
protocols. Snacks will be available
for purchase. Also SUN 13, THURS
17, FRI 18, SAT 19, SUN 20, Cost: $10
($8 children, seniors, military)

SECOND SATURDAY
SAT 12
finally Golden
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreenanddrivein.square.site
A one-hour condensed version
of the four-part PBS documentary
series directed by award-winning
filmmaker Lynn Novick tells the story
of a small group of incarcerated men
and women struggling to earn college
degrees and turn their lives around
in one of the most rigorous and effective
prison education programs in the
United States — the Bard Prison
Initiative. Cost: $12 after Sept. 12
SAT 12
Weightless
BEACON
Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Daniel Berlin will showcase paintings, monotypes and sculpture that intend to embody an energetic connection which relieves the density of thinking. Through Oct. 4.

SAT 12
Allegory and Apparatus
BEACON
Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Mathew M. Duman documented his playful sculptures and art-making machines created from found objects like wood and steel, and from hand-blown glass. Through Oct. 4.

SAT 12
Creative Quarantine, a Czee13 Solo Show
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery
The singer, songwriter and 17 year old Nelsonville artist, Alex Turk, aka Dakotaxela, has released their debut album entitled “Through My Eyes” which, is now available on Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon Music, Google Play and Bandcamp. They write, record and produce all of their music in their room. Dakotaxela’s music can be described as experimental electronic with influences of indie rock and rap. “Through My Eyes” includes 12 original songs all made by Dakotaxela, which talk about complex emotions, failing relationships and parts of ourselves that we hide. Instagram: @dakotaxela
www.alexturk.com

SUN 13
Votes for Women
POUGHKEEPSIE
3 p.m. Queen City 15 Gallery facebook.com/WERISEpoughkeepsie
Miriam Cohen, a history professor at Vassar, discusses the beginnings of the Suffrage movement at the college, along with its connections, factions and some troubling history. Watch online by registering.

SUN 13
George Patakí Book Reading
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
crowdcast.io/e/tacoj4hj/register
The former governor, who led the state during 9/11, talks about his latest book, Beyond the Great Divide: How a Nation Became a Neighborhood, and shares his perspective on the division he sees in the nation and the questions ahead.

SUN 13
Strategies for Healthy Emotion Regulation
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org
Marc Brackett and Robin Stern, co-founders of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, discuss how to stay balanced emotionally.

TUES 15
Preserving Family History
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org
Kate Jacus, a museum archivist and founder of The Photo Curator, discusses how to safely store photos and heirlooms. Register in advance for the online program.

TUES 15
Architectural Sculpture from 10 Colleges
BEACON
3 to 5 p.m. Womenswork.Art
bit.ly/2Fgqgon
The virtual artists’ talk features exhibitors in the current juried show of the same name on view at the gallery.

TUES 15
The Feminine Agenda
POUGHKEEPSIE
3 to 5 p.m. Womenswork.Art
bit.ly/2Fgqgon
The virtual artists’ talk features exhibitors in the current juried show of the same name on view at the gallery.

CIVIC
Most meetings are being streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.
I was living in New York City in 2009, and had just had my second child, when my husband, Brandon, and I discovered a new show called *American Ninja Warrior* on the little-known G4 network. I was immediately enthralled by the amazing abilities of the athletes as they competed on the show's crazy obstacle course, hitting a buzzer after finishing each stage. It all seemed so familiar to me. As a young girl I was very active in sports: basketball, volleyball and baseball. My dad was often the coach. I was an extremely energetic little girl and would often jump around on the furniture, try flips or even put my feet against the hallway walls and walk without touching the ground. I'm sure my parents were thrilled.

When I saw *American Ninja Warrior* I thought: "I found it, an obstacle course for grownups!" Even though there were no female competitors the first year, I still wanted to be on the show. I realized that upper-body strength was extremely important, so I attempted pull-ups. I did a whopping two and then I realized I was no longer that muscular little kid climbing the walls. So I started training, but every time I made headway I discovered I was pregnant yet again.

Fast forward to 2017, with me now living in Garrison with five kids, and the show now on NBC. I decided to focus again on training for it, but this time I was not just training for myself. I was training for my kids — to teach them the importance of setting goals and working hard to achieve them. I also wanted them to learn that exercise could and should be fun.

Over the next two years my two pull-ups turned into six, then 10, then 20. I visited several ninja gyms in the area, where I learned how to tackle obstacles like the Devil Steps, the Wing Nuts, rock climbing and the dreaded 14.5-foot Warped Wall. It was during this time that I learned the most about myself. I learned to push forward through pain, blistered hands, callused fingers and sore muscles. I learned that, just like in childbirth, you have to use your breathing to control pain. I learned that only through failure do we learn.

My husband filmed my progress for my submission video. I got the call to be on the show in February. Out of 70,000 people, I was one of 150 selected. I had done it. I had accomplished my dream of being on *American Ninja Warrior*.

But then COVID-19 struck. Everything in our lives came to a screeching halt, including the show. In lockdown, with no gyms for training or obstacles to run, I did not think it was ever going to happen. Thankfully, Brandon built a rock wall and installed a pegboard, salmon ladder and cliff-hanging obstacles in the yard so I could train for the upper-body strength the course required.

I got the call that we were going to be secretly competing in St. Louis in July, with strict social-distancing guidelines. My family wasn’t able to come cheer me on, but I was part of a team of strong mothers, led by Sandy Zimmerman, a veteran ninja and first mom ever to hit the buzzer. These women became my new support group.

I met lifelong friends, fellow ninjas and teammates. Although my run on the course was far from what I had hoped for, it was an incredible experience. I am now more determined than ever to return and compete again.

Williams made lifelong friends while appearing on *American Ninja Warrior*. 

Williams began training for the show in 2017. Photo by Tegan Roobol
Roots and Shoots

Fall Gardening – A Different, More Thoughtful Pace

By Pamela Doan

After a summer of sweating it out with more responsibilities than ever (no camp, a puppy), I'm honestly relieved that the growing season is winding down. I need to pare back and want to shift from time-consuming tasks like watering, harvesting and weeding into longer-term yard projects.

I like fall gardening. It's so different from the spring and summer, when my expectations and chores are more intense and full of promise, and anticipation and timing are urgent.

Fall gardening is a wind-down. It's about setting a vision for the next year, gathering the observations and lessons and making adjustments. It's also my last chance to finish out The List — projects I've had in mind for oh, shall we say, many years. The List never gets shorter. I bet most gardeners can relate.

Ideas for what to do this fall:

Assess, stay on top of weeds and fill in bare spots

I have many perennial beds in my yard that I planted years ago and I appreciate the dynamic process of how the plants have shifted. Last year, though, I lost the battle with Japanese stiltgrass, an invasive weed. The annual grass, which is shallow-rooted, needs to be pulled or cut before it can set seed, and last fall I didn't handle it. So many regrets as I've spent much of my summer pulling it.

This year the stiltgrass grew back in thick mats, blocking the perennials from coming up. It's discouraging, but some plants have returned as I weeded.

Bare spots need to be planted before it comes back, and I get the chance to tweak the layouts. I'm including more warm-season native grasses now.

I started with a little blue stem in one planting area and love the way it hides the stalks of taller plants and its gracious coloring. In winter, the grasses shape the snow and it's picturesque to see birds perched on them. Fall is a perfect time for planting perennials. The plants get settled and then are ready to grow in spring. Given that native plants are on a 3-year cycle to reach their full development, even if I plant small plugs, the plants are essentially starting in Year 2 next spring.

Improve soil

Vegetables, flowers and fruit trees benefit from well-prepared soil. Just about any site can be improved with wood chips and compost left to settle over the winter. For tough-to-plant sites that have a lot of weed pressure or really tenacious weeds like mugwort or stiltgrass, a thick 6-to-12-inch covering of wood chips will become a planting site in spring, with fewer or no returning weeds.

Seeding with traditional cover crops improves soil health, too. I used winter rye in my vegetable garden last year and it added a layer of green mulch this spring. Tilling radish seeds can still be sown this fall and the 30-inch-long taproots break up compacted soil and the plants add organic matter. As a bonus, thickly growing crops like buckwheat cover bare soil to suppress weeds.

Plant garlic, shallots and bulbs

Homegrown garlic is juicy, which isn't how I'd describe the cloves I get from the store. While I'm missing my annual stock-up on both seed and cooking garlic from the Saugerties festival that's been canceled, I've ordered favorite varieties and some new ones. Garlic is a simple pleasure to eat and grow and even the foliage scapes are edible.

Shallots, small and mild as they are, didn't seem high-priority for limited garden space, but I've been using them more frequently in dishes and will try it out now. Plant them in rows with garlic before the end of October.

Fall flower bulbs should be planted soon. Too, while I've usually only considered spring blooming bulbs, there are some summer flowers like alliums and grape hyacinth. The frost date for our region is Oct. 15, but many bulbs can be planted up until the ground freezes.

Don't prune anything

Unless something causes a hazard, avoid pruning woody plants and trees until late winter. If pruning a tree is unavoidable this fall, wait until it has gone into dormancy. Opening up a wound in bark before winter can cause a range of problems.

Take care of tools

I neglect this too often and then have to spend more time rehabbing and restoring my gardening tools. Wipe down, sharpen and repair pruning shears, shovels and blades before storing them for the winter.

By Pamela Doan

Setting garlic goals for next year while missing the annual Saugerties festival this fall where I usually stock up and buy seed garlic. Photo by P. Doan

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Mouths to Feed

The Partial Enchilada

By Celia Barbour

Two of our boys went back to college last week. After dropping the second of them off in Vermont, I secluded myself up north for a quiet sojourn. The day I got back, I sat down at the kitchen table with our still-at-home youngest.

“You know what I’ve really missed?” said Dosi.

“What?” I asked, leaning forward. When a mother is gone for more than a few days — more than a few hours, to be honest — she hopes her loved ones will have missed her wisdom, compassion, kindness, humor, grace, et cetera, et cetera, as much as she has missed their lovely, particular selves.

“You enchilada caseroler.”

“Huh,” I said.

“You haven’t made it since Henry became vegetarian.”

True that. As it happens, our middle child, Henry, not only turned vegetarian but also developed a keen political and social conscience his first year at college, and brought it all home with him in March, when — well, we all know what happened in March.

The next conversational turn was therefore no surprise. I told Dosi that said dish confused me; that I had in fact mentioned it no surprise. I told Dosi that said dish...
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (September 1870)

After John Gallagher and Jerry O’Neill, who had been drinking together, began to quarrel, O’Neill drew a revolver and shot Gallagher in the face. The bullet entered the lower part of his chin and came out the back of his neck but did not mortally wound him. The editor of The Cold Spring Recorder noted the assault had been reported in the Newburgh papers and suggested that “unless Cold Spring becomes a more orderly and temperate village, we must expect that business will flee away to better regulated places.”

The Recorder declared Morris Avenue to be the village’s “finest street” after an unnamed individual paid to have it topped with gravel.

James Y. Dykeman opened a hat and shoe store in the former post office.

Professor King, who ascended in a hot-air balloon to 10,000 feet from Newburgh, reported looking down at Cold Spring and West Point but that “the great sensation comes when, with the naked eye, 60 miles away, I discerned the city of New York … alone, bricks and mortar, a muddled mass with a smoky haze.”

After returning from a quick errand, storeowner Sidney Patterson was informed that a young man named Willie Robinson had taken money from behind the counter. Constable Travis found the culprit in Nelsonville with a large supply of fruit and candy, found guilty and sent to the State Reform School on Randall’s Island.

Constable Travis arrested Isaac Ryder of Highland Falls on an allegation of bastardy made by Mary Fitzgerald of Cold Spring. He was released after agreeing to pay child support.

An inquest was ordered in the death of Hiram Odell, 60, whose body was found by a passerby at about 2 p.m. after he saw Odell’s hat in the street and then saw Odell’s legs protruding from a well. When Odell’s body was pulled out, his head was in the pail. Officials surmised that Odell, who had been drinking, became thirsty and leaned too far while lowering the pail.

125 Years Ago (September 1895)

William Southard found a carrier pigeon with the tag C23933 that had been killed by a hawk.

William Ladue Jr. won the Putnam County bicycle racing championship, taking home $25 and a silver cup.

The Fish estate hosted a Labor Day baseball game in which each team was comprised of five women and four men. When the contest ended in a 7-7 tie, a rematch was scheduled for the next Labor Day.

Professor H.C. Wilson, who was traveling the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie to New York City on a pneumatic [inflatable] boat, passed by Cold Spring.

A New York Central train traveled from New York City to Buffalo in a record 407 minutes, at an average speed of 64 mph. It reached Cold Spring in 53 minutes.

While the keeper at Town Hall was out on an errand, his wife heard a knock on the door leading to the jail. Samuel Van Tassell, who had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly, asked for a glass of water, but when she turned to fetch it, he knocked her down and escaped. Van Tassell turned himself in five days later and was fined $10.

A horse pulling a wagon owned by Mrs. Edwards Pierpont of Garrison ran away near Indian Brook. It broke the guard rail and tumbled down the embankment, breaking its neck, but the wagon became stuck on a tree at the edge of the precipice, saving the driver.

The Village Board approved the purchase of 70 street signs.

(Continued on Page 16)
Looking Back (from Page 15)

James Ruddiman, who came to the U.S. from Scotland around 1865 to work at the West Point Foundry and later opened a saloon, died at age 63.

Alice Moffat presented a framed portrait of George Washington to the Mekeel’s Corner school.

The Haldane school announced its tuition rates for non-residents: $15 annually for the academic department, $30 for the grammar department, $8 for intermediate grades and $5 for primary grades.

Harry Lockwood, who had moved to Ohio six years earlier, returned to the village by horse and wagon. The trip took four weeks.

Although somewhat hard to believe, John Barrett, 25, of Putnam Valley, had never seen a steamboat or ridden on a train until a recent visit to Cold Spring. The Recorder assured readers that “the above is a fact; we know of people in the same town, now well along in years, who have never been 3 miles from home.”

An 18-foot rowboat named Ethel and belonging to Anna Warner, author of the novel The Wide, Wide World, was stolen from her boathouse on Constitution Island.

It was the fourth boat pilfered from Miss Warner in five years.

100 Years Ago (September 1920)

The New York Times noted that “more than 100 undersized, pale East Side boys” were preparing to attend Surprise Lake Camp, one of 92 institutions run by the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies. The paper noted that Surprise Lake had been a summer camp but now also operated from October to June. The boys were instructed by three teachers provided by New York City.

75 Years Ago (September 1945)

The locomotive of a troop train derailed a short distance north of Cold Spring at 6:40 p.m. on a Saturday night. About 475 soldiers returning from Europe and headed to their homes in the West were aboard. The GIs had a long wait in Beacon, where Red Cross workers served coffee.

After the Japanese surrendered to end World War II, Pvt. 1st Class Douglas Knapp of Nelsonville, a former machinist at the Dutchess Tool Company in Beacon, revealed that he had been stationed since May at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where scientists developed the atomic bomb.

Joseph Costello of Graymoor Manor in Garrison, who had been the rear gunner on a B-29 that was shot down over Tokyo, began his trip home after being kept in solitary confinement for three months as a prisoner of war. He was freed on Aug. 15 when Japan surrendered. Writing from the hospital ship USS Benevolence, he told his family that the guards forced the prisoners to sit in small cells on hardwood floors from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. without moving or talking. “They were always jabbing at us and spitting,” he wrote. Costello lost 40 of his 141 pounds during the ordeal. Once he reached San Francisco, he said he planned to fly home with his brother, Arthur Costello, a flight clerk on a B-54 transport in the Pacific.

Robert Patterson, of Garrison Road in Cold Spring, was appointed the secretary of war by President Harry Truman. Patterson succeeded Henry Stimson, who resigned. Patterson, a former judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who had earned the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism during World War I, had worked under Stimson since July 1940 as an assistant and then deputy secretary. He moved to Philippstwon in 1938 and resided on the 68-acre Fair Oaks Farm on Route 9D south of the village. That same year, Patterson’s name also came up as a candidate to fill a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy created by the retirement of Owen Roberts. [In a bipartisan gesture, Truman instead nominated Harold Burton, a Republican senator from Ohio.]

The local Selective Service Board was instructed by state headquarters to send 12 men to Carmel for induction, but because the Army and Navy no longer took draftees older than 26, only four men went, including William Le Mon of Cold Spring.

1st Lt. Robert Grindrod of Cold Spring was among the military police officers who broke up a criminal ring in Belgium run by two deserters who sold rations on the black market. While making inquiries at the post exchange, Grindrod noticed a pile of PX ration cards on the counter. Thumbing through them, he found that a name was duplicated. Two officers were assigned to tail whoever picked up the rations, and an investigation revealed the men were receiving 130 cards each week by presenting false purchase orders for a fictitious unit.

Anton Chmela of Yonkers, the president of General Quartz Laboratories, which specialized in radio and television technology such as crystal oscillators, bought Dick’s Castle on Route 9D, which had sat empty for 34 years. The Garrison house, which sat on 100 acres, was the unfinished dream of Mr. and Mrs. Evans Dick, who began construction in 1908 on what would become the world’s largest concrete structure. However, in 1911, after spending $1.25 million [about $34 million now], they abandoned the project with only the main walls (with 150 window openings) and roof complete. Mr. Dick, who was a member of the stock firm Dick Brothers, had died in 1934 at age 75. Chmela said he planned to use the house as the headquarters of his firm and suggested he might launch a TV station that would beam its signal to an 80-mile radius.

Edward O’Keefe of Parrott Street won 14 first prizes at the annual show in New York City of the American Dahlia Society.

Col. Jacob Ruppert, the owner of the New York Yankees, the Ruppert Brewing Co. and the 194-acre Garrison estate known as Eagle’s Nest, left an estate worth about $9.5 million [or about $337 million now] when he died in 1939, according to a state tax appraisal. Earlier reports had estimated his estate would be worth $50 million [$720 million].

50 Years Ago (September 1970)

St. Philip’s Church in Garrison held a service and dinner to celebrate its 200th anniversary. The organizing committee was Mort and Adele Williams, Mrs. Fred Polhemus, Dorothea Reeder, Nanette Gordon, Mrs. Alexander Saunders and the Rev. William Reisman.

Putnam County opened its first public park, on Gipsy Trail Road in Carmel.

John Dow held a champagne concert and art auction at Dick’s Castle to raise funds for his campaign to reclaim a seat in Congress representing a sprawling district that included the Highlands. The Democrat was elected in 1964 and reelected in 1966 but lost his seat in 1968 to Republican Martin McMahon. [Dow defeated McMahon in 1970 but was voted out again in 1972 and never returned to the House, losing races in 1974, 1982 and 1990. He died in 2003 at age 97.]

Early on a Sunday morning, fire (Continued on Page 17)
destroyed the Viking Village restaurant on the Albany Post Road. The 75 volunteer firefighters on the scene drew water from the Graymoor monastery with a hose relay.

James Bailey, a Cold Spring native who served as a state Supreme Court justice for 21 years, died at age 80. A Navy veteran, he served as Putnam County district attorney for eight years and a county judge for 15 years. He also was a charter member of the Cold Spring Lions Club and the village’s American Legion post.

Herbert Johansen, a writer who lived in Nelsonville, died at age 64. Born in Sweden, he wrote a memoir about setting out at age 17 to find the headwaters of the Orinoco River in Venezuela. He also was a reporter for The New York World, the editor of several weekly newspapers and a staff member at Popular Science for 21 years. Johansen won a Peabody Award for his scripts for the Columbia School of the Air, an effort by the university to offer instruction by radio.

The Loretto parish agreed to sell Chapel of Our Lady, erected in 1833 overlooking the Hudson River, for $10,000 to a group of residents who hoped to preserve what had been the first church built by the New York Archdiocese outside New York City. (Six earlier churches were all built below 14th Street.)

25 Years Ago (September 1995)

A replica of a Parrott gun built and donated by blacksmith Norm Champlin of Nelsonville was dedicated on the waterfront. Giachinta Brothers provided the base concrete and Jack Allen and Jim Erichson did the formwork.

A group called Philipstown Economic Progress, headed by John Zenz, asked the Town Board to throw out the recommendations of a three-year study of Route 9 from Annsville Circle to the Dutchess County line, saying they would hurt local businesses.

Vinny Tamagna, who represented Philipstown on the county Legislature and was chair of the Philipstown Republican Committee, asked the county Board of Elections to censure the Philipstown Conservative Party for “misleading or even fraudulent” advertising during the primary campaign for town judge. The conservatives, whose candidate was Stephen Tomann, claimed in an advertisement that the Republican candidate, Lou Liotti, was not a member of the party.

Two Cold Spring residents were arrested and charged with selling and shipping marijuana by UPS from an apartment on Fair Street. Putnam sheriff deputies said they seized 10 pounds of weed, as well as cocaine and $6,500 in cash.

T.C. Boyle, a Peekskill native, signed copies of his new novel, Tortilla Curtain, at Salmagundi Books on Main Street.

Tom Rolston, owner of the Cold Spring Depot restaurant, was named executive director of the newly formed Putnam County Visitors Bureau, and Maurie Webster of Cold Spring was also named to its six-member board. The county and state provided about half of the organization’s $207,000 budget.

Badey & Watson Surveying & Engineering, which was founded in 1973, waived the fee for its 10,000th project, which happened to be for work done on the residence of Herbert Cavanaugh at 30 Garden St. [In December 2019, the firm waived the fee for its 25,000th project, for Maria Ricapito of Cold Spring.]

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Heather Davies and James Morhous of Beacon shared this photo of mom in the Hudson River with Sirius, age 8 months, and Obi (Wan Kenobi), age four months, who belongs to a friend. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.
High-Risk (from Page 20)
Season II, and teams will be allowed to schedule their first practices on March 1. Baseball, softball and other traditional spring sports will be pushed to April 19, with those teams allowed to begin practices on that date.

“This continues to be the most challenging situation educators have ever addressed,” said Julie Bergman, the NYSPHSAA president. “I, along with my fellow officers, believe the participation experiences for football, volleyball and competitive cheer athletes will be more beneficial in the spring than in the fall.”

Low-Risk (from Page 20)
Giametta said the payoff could be big if sports are allowed to continue. “It will be a really exciting time,” he said. “I think the protocols will be a small piece of it. As long as we can provide athletics in a safe environment, that’s essential. It’s so important for the young athletes to get back to some kind of normal, to get out on the field. That’s our bread and butter — it’s what we love to do.”

Girls’ Soccer (from Page 20)
of his captains. “I have confidence in all four of them, and they’re all well-respected by the team.

“We’re hoping our youth is a strength,” he said. "The protocols will be a small piece of it. As long as we can provide athletics in a safe environment, that’s essential. It’s so important for the young athletes to get back to some kind of normal, to get out on the field. That’s our bread and butter — it’s what we love to do.”

Process has been tough. Everyone is happy, and a little relieved. Football, volleyball and cheer have been in a holding pattern. At least now we have the information.

“There are still a lot of unanswered questions,” he said. “But our guys are excited, not disappointed. Now we know the goal. They’re excited to make the best of the situation. Yes, there will be challenges — possibly the weather, the timing, overlapping of another season. But those things are out of our control. Everyone is working hard and keeping the athletes in mind. Now we have a plan — a defined schedule and a chance for games.”

“Right now we hope to hit the ground running on the 29th,” he added. “But the prospect of practicing without having games was not appealing to them, stayed positive the whole time,” he said. “But the prospect of practicing without having games was not appealing to them, stayed positive the whole time,” he said.

“You’re looking at someone to win the starting goalie job.”

“Right now we hope to hit the ground running on the 29th,” he added. “But the prospect of practicing without having games was not appealing to them, stayed positive the whole time,” he said. "But our guys are excited, not disappointed. Now we know the goal. They’re excited to make the best of the situation. Yes, there will be challenges — possibly the weather, the timing, overlapping of another season. But those things are out of our control. Everyone is working hard and keeping the athletes in mind. Now we have a plan — a defined schedule and a chance for games.”
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

Across
1. Drink heartily
5. Coffee, in slang
8. Snatch
12. Maze option
13. Possess
14. Elderly
15. Not all one kind
17. Clinton’s Arkansas hometown
18. Delivery co.
19. Source
21. Song of praise
24. East of Eden character
25. Charged bits
26. Lit into
30. Explosive letters
31. External
32. Eisenhower
33. Lent a hand
35. Appear
36. Dud
37. Familiar form of address
38. 1954 doo-wop hit for The Crew-Cuts
41. Pirouette pivot
42. Deserve
43. Transferred, in law
44. Elderly
45. Not all one kind
46. Clinton’s Arkansas hometown
48. List-ending abbr.
49. Mad Hatter’s party drink
50. Continental coin
51. Say it isn’t so
52. Listener
53. Unforeseen problem
54. Problem

Down
1. Hot tub
2. Existed
3. Part of FWW
4. Grave robbers
5. Writes quickly
6. Have bills
7. Backed
8. Sesame paste
9. Quite eager
10. Military visored hat
11. Paradise
12. Spinning stat sample
13. Pocket bread
14. Half of the offspring
15. Convert to computers
16. Spinning stat sample
17. In the right direction
18. Convert to computers
19. Told a tale
20. Bellow
21. Pocket bread
22. Told a tale
23. Picnic invaders
24. — in the right direction
25. Charged bits
26. Lit into
27. Told a tale
28. — out (supplemented)
29. Showroom sample
30. Explosive letters
31. Norwegian capital
32. Eisenhower
33. Lent a hand
34. “I wish”
35. Prolonged attacks
36. Dud
37. Familiar form of address
38. 1954 doo-wop hit for The Crew-Cuts
39. Loathe
40. Cereal choice
41. Despot
42. Deserve
43. Transferred, in law
44. Elderly
45. Not all one kind
46. Clinton’s Arkansas hometown
47. Pooch
48. List-ending abbr.
49. Mad Hatter’s party drink
50. Continental coin
51. Say it isn’t so
52. Listener
53. Unforeseen problem

SudoCurrent

Answers for Sept. 4 Puzzles

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

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Country Goose

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SPRINTS  

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Low-Risk Teams Prep For Fall

Masks, social distancing must be used, state says

By Skip Pearlman

New York State’s latest health guidelines allow Section 1 “low-risk” sports squads (boys’ and girls’ soccer, cross-country, swimming, field hockey, gymnastics, golf and tennis) to begin practices on Sept. 29. High-risk sports (football, volleyball and cheerleading) will be moved to the spring, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association announced Wednesday (Sept. 9).

State officials last week released detailed instructions for resuming the fall sports that have been given the go-ahead.

New protocols include social distancing and changes in formations, such as set plays in soccer, which will be changed to avoid crowding. Soccer goalies will not be allowed to spit on their gloves (if they do, the gloves will be removed) and sidelines will be spread apart. Perhaps the most challenging of the protocols — and there are many for each sport — will be the use of masks during all games.

Dave Goddard, Haldane High School’s interim athletic director, said the challenges will be plenty, but the reward will be worth it.

“The challenges are certainly there,” Goddard said. “Masks, distancing — and schools are very sensitive about groups getting together. Everyone has different opinions, which makes things more difficult. Some schools may not open until October in their hybrid situation, while others are opening already. There are lots of different plans, and opinions, and that’s created some anxiety and difficulty behind the scenes. While some opinions may differ, everyone has the same goal — to make sure the kids compete safely.

“No doubt it will be a challenge, but it’s certainly worth it,” he continued. “If we can provide kids with a positive experience, it doesn’t matter how hard it is. That’s our job as educators, coaches, teachers — to provide a positive experience to the kids. The structure helps guide them, helps them grow as individuals.”

The new guidelines will also restrict spectators to two per athlete. “Some schools may screen spectators,” Goddard said. “These are tough times, and we need to get this right. We need to think through decisions. Make sure the kids are safe.”

Beacon High School Athletic Director John Giametta said the school’s athletes will do whatever they need to in order to play.

“The first priority is safety,” Giametta said. “Everyone is concerned about a [COVID-19] relapse. Then everything would be shut down.”

By Skip Pearlman

Wednesday (Sept. 9) that the fall seasons for football, volleyball and competitive cheerleading will be postponed until March 1, 2021, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to reverberate through the state’s schools.

The season will be dubbed “Fall Sports Season.”

(Continued on Page 18)