

The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

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... ***THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT*** **IS YOUR VILLAGE SQUARE**

When *The Highlands Current* lands on the newsstand every week – or in your inbox or mailbox – the news it is conveying brings our readers to a common place.

Just as people gather in a **village square** to greet others, share stories and exchange views, *The Current* is where readers meet fellow citizens, discover their adventures and hear many community voices on topics that range from Main Street to the mountaintops.

This is *The Current's* **10th Anniversary** serving our Hudson Valley communities, and we have sought to broaden and deepen our coverage every year. Our reporters tackle issues that matter to you, including in the latest three editions the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on many aspects of our lives in Philipstown and Beacon.

The paper is **free** to allow all in the community to share in the news that shapes the community. And that can happen because of the **support** of readers like you.

Last year, *The Current* began a **membership program** that is now our primary means of support. With a gift of as little as \$2 a month, you can become a member, and the benefits you receive will help you engage more actively with us and us with you. Those benefits, plus details for making your membership donation online, are on the next page of this special four-page section of your *Current*.

The Current is fortunate this year to once again participate in the News-Match program funded by major foundations in support of nonprofit journalism. We will also receive a generous match from a local donor who believes in the value of quality community journalism. With these matches, membership gifts totaling **\$50,000 will mean \$100,000** for our newsroom operations.

The role of a local newspaper is, indeed, a vital one, writes media columnist Margaret Sullivan in her recent book *Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy*, for the local newspaper “ties a region together, helps it make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, **serves as a village square.**”

By becoming a *Current* member today, you help us in that role – informing our readers, engaging them and making their voices heard. We look forward to **welcoming you** as a new or renewing member!

With gratitude,



Christine Bockelmann,
Board Chair



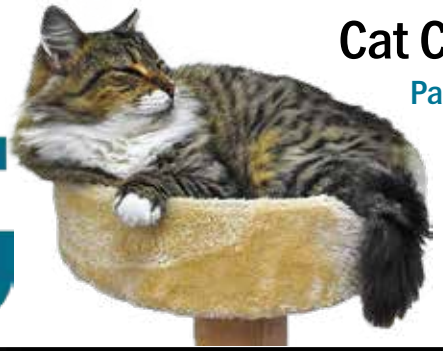
Kyle Good,
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The HIGHLANDS Current

Cat Cafe

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NOVEMBER 13, 2020

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Virus Surges in Dutchess, Putnam

State orders business curfew, limit on gatherings

By Leonard Sparks

With COVID-19 cases surging statewide, including in Dutchess and Putnam counties, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday (Nov. 11) ordered bars, restaurants and gyms to close between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and restricted gatherings at private residences to 10 people as Thanksgiving approaches.

On Tuesday (Nov. 10), Dutchess recorded 65 cases, the county's highest daily total since May 18; it had 59 on Wednesday.

Putnam had 30 cases on Monday — the highest of any day since May 6, when Putnam was testing about twice as many people — 26 on Tuesday and 29 on Wednesday.

Dutchess and Putnam's positivity rates, or the number of cases divided by the number of tests, are also rising. Dutchess' daily rate has averaged 2.1 percent in November after averaging 0.8 percent in October.

(Continued on Page 20)



VICTORY LAP — Supporters of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, including these noisemakers on Main Street in Beacon, took to the streets on Saturday (Nov. 7), when unofficial results showed Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, securing enough electoral votes to defeat the Republican incumbent, Donald Trump.

Photo by Alejandro Lopez

Upgrade for Renegades

Team will join Yankees system and play full season

By Chip Rowe

The Hudson Valley Renegades will change their affiliation starting in 2021 from the Tampa Bay Rays to the New York Yankees. The Renegades also will move up a level in professional baseball's minor leagues, from short-season to Single A, and begin their season in April instead of June.

The Yankees made the announcement on Saturday (Nov. 7). The team signed player-

development deals with the Renegades and the Somerset Patriots, a team in central New Jersey, while ending their affiliations with minor-league teams in Trenton and Staten Island.

The Renegades, who have played at Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D just outside of Beacon for 26 seasons, had been part of the Class A, short-season league, the fifth of six levels in the minors. They had partnered with the Rays since 1996, but their most recent contract expired this year. There were no games played in 2020 in the minor leagues because of the pandemic shutdown.

The Renegades will now play in April and May for the first time in their history, jumping from about 75 games beginning in mid-June to something closer to 140. The season will still end in early September.

The changes are part of an agreement

(Continued on Page 21)

COVID2021 WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Business as Unusual

Local merchants hunker down for winter

By Jeff Simms

A year ago tomorrow (Nov. 14), Joe Robitaille finalized his purchase of Homespun Foods in Beacon after its longtime owner, Jessica Reisman, retired to Seattle.

By taking over the restaurant in the fall, Robitaille, who had worked for nearly a decade at high-end Manhattan restaurants, knew he had several slow winter months ahead. His approach was to take things one day at a time, he said this week, noting that he set no goals other than to make it to the first anniversary.

The first four months went well, he recalled. The staff of seven full-time and three part-time employees — many of whom had stayed after the sale — knew the business.

"The team was in a great place," Robitaille said. "I was excited for the busy part of the year."

Then came the shutdown because of COVID-19. On March 16, the same day schools shuttered statewide, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered restaurants

and bars to close to diners, permitting only takeout and delivery.

Unsure that he could keep his employees or customers safe, Robitaille opted to close entirely. He recalled "sleepwalking" out of the bakery Homespun rented across the street from the restaurant and pretending to take a phone call so he could walk outside in silence.

"It was absolutely terrifying," he said. "One of the things that scared me was knowing that all the businesses in Beacon were at the lowest point of our cash flow for the year because we'd just used our resources to get through the wintertime. I had no idea what to do."

The timing wasn't good for anyone.

"April is the first month that things start turning up for businesses," said Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of Flowercup Wine in Cold Spring. "People couldn't even respond. If your business isn't online, you can't just throw a website up and start selling in a week."

(Continued on Page 6)

■ ABOUT THIS SERIES

COVID-19 has upended the world, the nation, our state and the Highlands. In the nearly eight months since the pandemic began, New York residents managed to bring the infection rate under control, with statewide infections on average at less than 2 percent, among the lowest in the nation.

As we approach the cold winter months, we decided to take a closer look at the effects of the pandemic on three important aspects of daily life.

On Nov. 6 we examined its impact on mental and physical health, specifically the psychological effects of isolation, damage to relationships and the prospects for a vaccine. Last week we looked at the effects on education by checking in with local schools to see how their hybrid and virtual models were working six weeks into the year. (See highlandscurrent.org for both.)

This week we explore how the pandemic is affecting the local economy, including employment rates, how businesses such as restaurants and gyms will fare and whether the commuting culture will ever be the same.

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: LAVONNE COOPER

By Michael Turton

Lavonne Cooper of Beacon recently retired after 32 years as a probation officer in New York City and Dutchess County.

What led you to become a probation officer?

I always wanted to do something that would help people. I wanted to be a nurse, but the science was more difficult than I cared to tackle. I earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Elmira College. That made me eligible to take the civil service exam and to become a probation officer.

What does a probation officer do?

We supervise individuals who need a little guidance, a little encouragement to get on the right track in life. Probation is a sentence issued by the courts, as opposed to parole, which is for people who have served time in prison. When someone is sentenced to probation, which can

be from one to five years, they don't go to jail. We ensure that clients obey the orders and conditions set by the court, including regularly reporting to a P.O.

Did you ever feel threatened or in danger?

I never felt threatened, though some clients might have tried to intimidate me.

Some people are more difficult to deal with. They don't want to change or don't want someone telling them what to do. And sometimes they didn't want a woman telling them what to do, let alone a Black woman. That's something I encountered more in Dutchess than in New York City.



Do any cases stand out?

I remember one young man who overdosed and died. I had been at his house almost every day trying to help him. It was very hard on his mom. We've had a lot of people overdose and die. There are success stories, but not as often as we'd like. I've had doctors, psychologists, prominent people on probation who had good careers but who made just one mistake. With those people, you know they'll be successful. They had a foundation to work with. For some younger people it can be hard to succeed if they don't have that foundation, don't have a support network. The highlight for me was when the lightbulb went off in someone's head, when they realized they are in control of their life, that their decisions can help them change and be on a different path. That was fun; that was good when you'd see that lightbulb go off.

What does it take to be an effective at the job?

You need to be flexible, sensitive to people who need sensitivity, firm with people who need that. You cannot be gullible. They will try! I had someone forge a doctor's note saying she had cancer, so we shouldn't put her in jail. You can't let clients think you want them to be your friend. You're not their friend. I tried to let people be who they are, meet them where they are. My big thing was to get them to understand that, while I'm not the enemy, we have rules they must follow, things they need to accomplish. I think clients would say I was fair. Even when I had to take them back to court for noncompliance, they understood it was based on their actions, not because I was trying to jam them up. And don't take your work home with you, which can be hard here in Dutchess because you see your clients on the street.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What was last movie you watched in a theater?

The Joker at Story Screen in Beacon — way before the pandemic.



~ Louisa Uribe, Beacon

I watched *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* late last year at Story Screen. It started slow but got exciting.



~ Meghan E, Beacon

In October I saw *The Blair Witch Project* at Story Screen's drive-in.



~ Bill Coelius, Cold Spring

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Two Beacon Schools Flagged for Improvement

State says test scores show insufficient growth

By Jeff Simms

Two Beacon schools — Sargent Elementary and Rombout Middle School — have been targeted by the state as needing improvement based on the year-end test scores of African American students in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The schools were identified by the state Education Department in February, but the Targeted Schools for Improvement (TSI) program, which was launched in 2019, was paused a few weeks later at the onset of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Both schools must now create action plans using data culled from surveys and focus groups, while the district must design a plan to support that work, Superintendent Matt Landahl told the Beacon school board on Monday (Nov. 9).

The school board must approve the plans, which may include measures such as staff development, new learning materials or assisting specific students, before they are submitted to the state in January.

If you look at the district's diversity statistics, "we have disproportionality in just about everything we do," Landahl said. "We're starting to close the gap in some areas, but we have a long way to go. This is an opportunity to get some help with that."

The schools and district will each receive \$50,000 (for a total of \$150,000) from the state to help cover the cost of the work.

There were 118 African American students at Rombout, or 18 percent of its enrollment, during 2018-19, and 22 African American students at Sargent, or 8 percent of its enrollment.

Statewide, the Education Department has identified 125 schools, including several others in Dutchess County, for the program, and 245 schools for its Comprehensive Support and Improvement program. Schools in the CSI program are monitored by the state; TSI schools are self-monitored by their district.

On Monday, Landahl said it's challenging to gauge where African American students

at the schools stand because the test scores cited by the state are several years old.

In addition, the rate at which parents and guardians decline to have their children take the annual state tests is more than 30 percent at Rombout and between 20 percent and 30 percent at Sargent. The Education Department canceled year-end tests last spring but said they will resume in 2021. If they do, Landahl predicted that opt-out rates would be high.

There will be Zoom meetings to go over next steps for Sargent on Nov. 16 and for Rombout on Nov. 17. The principals of both schools are expected to attend the Dec. 14 school board meeting to discuss the testing data.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Putnam to Consider \$45K to Study Sheriff Overtime

County executive and sheriff spar in dueling statements

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In a meeting punctuated by Putnam County legislators' clashes with each other and the sheriff, the Protective Services Committee on Tuesday (Nov. 10) endorsed spending \$45,000 to examine law-enforcement overtime practices.

Meeting by audio connection, the three-person committee also approved the transfers of \$28,320 from county jail accounts to the Sheriff's Department for overtime paid from July through September. But it blocked another transfer from one account to another to cover overtime anticipated for the remainder of 2020.

On Nov. 4, the Legislature had declined to act on the \$28,320 transfer, triggering an additional go-round at the committee level.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell recommended both the \$45,000 study and the consultants to conduct it, public accountants Bonadio & Co., of Pittsford. According to Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin, who participated in the committee meeting, the county had previously hired Bonadio to uncover Medicaid fraud.

Carlin and some legislators observed that

the overtime issue did not originate with the current sheriff, Robert Langley Jr.

"We've been going back and forth regarding Sheriff's Department overtime" since at least the days of Sheriff Robert Thouboron, who left office after being defeated in 2001 by Sheriff Don Smith. (Langley beat Smith in 2017 and faces reelection in 2021.) "We never seem to get past the arguing and bickering about what is right. So we thought we'd bring in an independent analysis."

Carlin said the move meshes with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order that municipalities and counties review their law-enforcement practices.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the nine-member Legislature, and is its only Democrat, said that "while it's a good idea to look at efficiencies in the Sheriff's Department," the county might also look at other departments' finances. She questioned spending \$45,000 during the economic downturn and COVID-19 threat and recommended the county instead spend the money on the Sheriff's Department marine unit, which was eliminated in the 2021 budget.

Montgomery also raised concerns about the hiring of the consultants. "It's clear that during the budget process this was a done deal, and we weren't aware of it," she said.

Several legislators expressed their support for the study. "The Sheriff's Depart-



Odell



Langley

ment overtime budget always seems to be a very large number," said Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel. "It's very possible that maybe it's the way it has to be. But we can't go wrong having an outside group give an opinion. We might find some surprises. We might even find that there is no answer, that this is the way it has to be."

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson said lawmakers should be receptive to "any overture to improve efficiencies."

Langley said he looks forward to working with Bonadio. However, he said, "there's one solution" to the overtime crunch: "Hire more deputies."

Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac urged Langley to provide a cost-benefit analysis on doing that, but Montgomery noted that Odell had forbidden any new county hires in 2020.

Langley remarked that sometimes it's less

expensive to pay overtime because of the cost of benefits such as health care for new employees. He also said a national standard for a suburban county is to have one officer for every 1,000 residents, while Putnam has one officer for every 8,567 residents. (A 2016 study by the U.S. Justice Department found that police agencies serving 50,000 to 249,000 people have an average of 1.7 full-time officers per 1,000 residents.)

Sheriff's Department requests for the fund transfers for overtime pay from July through September consistently listed the reasons that deputies were racking up extra hours: Two deputies recalled to military duty, two in police academy training, COVID-19, staffing demands during street protests and a cut of \$104,000 to the department's budget request for 2020. In addition, new police union contracts provided for salary raises.

The discussion intensified when the committee weighed a Sheriff's Department request to transfer \$101,192 from its accounts at the jail, which Langley oversees, to cover patrol deputies' overtime through the end of the year.

"Your choice, as a legislator, is to approve the transfer or go on the record as cutting patrols to areas in Putnam that have no police coverage" without his department, he said. "Is it the intention of the individual legislators to reduce police services to those communities?"

(Continued on Page 21)

Philipstown Clears Path for HVSF Relocation

Plans for donated site now go to Planning Board

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival took the first step on Tuesday (Nov. 10) toward relocating to 53 acres on the Garrison Golf Club property when the Philipstown Town Board agreed to consider zoning revisions to make it possible.

The board acted at a workshop meeting. HVSF's plans now go to the Planning Board for review.

Five days earlier, Chris Davis, who owns

the country club property, and HVSF officials shared their plans with the Town Board during its Nov. 5 meeting at the Recreation Center.

The requested zoning change would allow HVSF to build a theater arts complex and park. The festival has operated at the Boscobel site in Garrison since 1988 but would like to move in 2022 to land donated by Davis, whose property contains an 18-hole golf course that would be reduced to nine holes.

On the property, bordered by Route 9 and Snake Hill Road, HVSF wants to construct an open-air, 530-person theater, as well as an indoor theater with 225 seats and

rehearsal space; rental cabins for artists or visitors; a box office; a concession; a production-rehearsal facility; administrative headquarters in a converted cottage; an outdoor pavilion; gardens, trails and parkland; and parking lots.

When Davis announced the donation in August, the nonprofit HVSF said it would create a for-profit company to run the club restaurant and facilities, and expand a four-room inn into a hotel.

On Nov. 5, Davis said he bought the tract in 1999 to save it from developers who presented "terrifying schemes" of "the worst suburban sprawl." He retained the

existing country club, which once had been home to a mansion-like training center for wealthy physical-fitness buffs.

Davis told the board that when he moved to Philipstown, he realized it had "somehow escaped the suburban sprawl and the vitriol and all sorts of things that plague the world. I wanted to do everything I could to protect or preserve but also to celebrate this peculiar place." He said he had envisioned the golf club as a "self-sustaining, functional nonprofit" and "resource in the community."

The COVID-19 crisis prompted him to seek "a permanent solution of how this [property] could go on" long-term. At the same time, HVSF was pondering its options. "They needed a permanent home,

(Continued on Page 20)

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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan • Deb Lucke
Skip Pearlman

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads



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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Putnam budget

In attempting to defend their self-serving budget proposals, Putnam County Executive Mary Ellen Odell and Legislative Chair Toni Addonizio, both Republicans, revealed the mantra that the Legislature will wield against Sheriff Robert Langley, a Democrat, when he runs for reelection next year ("Putnam Legislators Lock Up Sheriff's Funds, Give Themselves a Raise," Nov. 6).

Addonizio accused Langley of "budget mismanagement" and Odell attempted to paint a portrait of sheriff's deputies as overpaid, overtime-grabbing police officers.

Overtime in law enforcement is not planned. When stuff happens in law enforcement, you better be ready to plug the holes if you wish to maintain proper public safety. You do not send one less fire engine to a blaze because you might be down a driver.

These two Republican politicians, along with their cohorts on the Republican-dominated Legislature, do not seem able to recognize the fact that a Democrat can perform a superior, competent job in Republican Putnam. In the process, these folks put us on a much less safe foundation with their budget cuts and party-over-county perspectives.

We need to perceive the partisanship for what it is and how it should have no place in the application of law enforcement in our county.

Phil Bayer, *Carmel*

Legislator Ginny Nacerino asked, "Is it not incumbent on this Legislature to save money?" The answer is yes, but apparently in every area except when it comes to legislators' salaries.

Legislator Carl Albano noted, "The Hudson is not in this county, it is next to it." And yet the Legislature in the past has expressed opinions about things well outside the county purview, such as CSX ethanol trains traveling along the west shore of the river.

Be consistent. To do otherwise suggests you are looking to use the defunding of public safety agencies in order to fund the raises you voted for yourselves.

Unlike the Legislature, public safety is not a part-time obligation. Police patrols and corrections staffing, along with support from 911 and dispatchers, must be maintained at every hour of the day, every day of the year. I know this from firsthand experience of some 15 years.

At the same time, staff are contractually permitted days off, the use of vacation and sick days. Shifts at the jail, on the road or in support of same, must be covered 24/7, 365 days a year. And a legislator actually claimed not to know why "overtime is required."

If these are indeed difficult financial times, forgo your own personal gain and benefit to at least the same degree you ask it of your constituents and county employ-

ees, particularly (though not exclusively) in the vital area of public safety.

Bob Ridpath, *Verbank*

I want to be clear that the raise given to me by the county Legislature was not requested by me. It was put into the budget by the county executive. I believe no elected official should receive a raise for 2021 and that all raises for elected officials should be done in the form of a public referendum.

Robert Langley Jr., *Philipstown*
Langley is the Putnam County sheriff.

Voter death

How dare you report the address of the deceased ("Voter Dies at Polls," Nov. 6). If the house is burglarized, I hope the family sues you.

Tom Ciero, *Cold Spring*

Family photos

Nancy LeVine, thank you for this beautiful project ("Beacon in Quarantine," Nov. 13). And thank you to *The Current* for publishing it. It's great journalism. During this long quarantine, we've all been stuck in our respective bubbles. We can only imagine how others are getting along. These touching sketches humanized the impact of the virus for me. I wish I could give everyone a giant hug.

Peter McFadden, *Nelsonville*



NEWS BRIEFS

St. Mary's to Organize Thanksgiving Dinner

Volunteers will deliver food or provide at drive-through

Beacon City Administrator to Leave

Accepts job with Dutchess health department

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, with support from other local congregations and community groups, plans to serve a community Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 26 through home delivery and a drive-through lane.

The community meal, which was first organized by Tina Merando at the Our Lady of Loretto parish more than 20 years ago, continues under the leadership of Tara Flagler and Vinny Tamagna, a senior warden at the church.

"This year may be different, as we ask you to bring a [donated] cooked turkey to the Parish Hall," Tamagna said. "The need is there and we will deliver." The menu will include stuffing, soup, cornbread, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, green vegetables and dessert. Reservations are required by noon on Nov. 22 at bit.ly/cs-thanksgiving.

Volunteers will deliver meals from 10 a.m. to noon on Thanksgiving Day and there will be a drive-through pick-up from noon to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

Besides cooked turkeys delivered to the church on Thanksgiving morning, organizers are looking for drivers and coordinators, as well as financial donations. To volunteer, call 845-337-0236 or email stmaryinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Anthony Ruggiero, the Beacon city administrator, announced on Nov. 5 that he plans to leave the position in 2021 to become assistant commissioner for administration with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health.

He will continue as city administrator until Jan. 29, he said.

Ruggiero was hired by Beacon in 2015, succeeding Meredith Robson, who became the Ardsley village manager in Westchester County. Ruggiero previously was the city manager for Peekskill and Putnam County's commissioner of planning, development and public transportation.

Clothing Shed Reopens

Drop-off had closed due to pandemic

The clothing shed at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, which closed due to concerns at the spread of COVID-19, is again accepting donations.

St. Pauly Textile, the company which provided the shed, partners with a network of organizations to distribute items in 44 countries, including the U.S. Residents can also donate shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases and stuffed animals.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Covid-19 in Dutchess



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Join us in conversation with Dr. Anil Vaidian, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health

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Foodtown, 49 Chestnut
Foundry Cafe, 53 Main

Garrison
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Garrison Cafe, 1135 Route 9D*
Garrison Gulf, 1122 Route 9D
Garrison Post Office, 1145 Route 9D
Garrison Restaurant, 2534 Route 9

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

Nelsonville
Juanita's Kitchen, 289 Main

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

Garden Cafe, 116 Main
NYP/Hudson Valley Hospital, 1756 Route 9D
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Fabiola Diego Herrera and Hannah Ashburn fill empanadas at Homespun made from Fabiola's recipe.

COVID 2021

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

(Continued from Page 1)

Scott Tillitt, the founder of the Beahive coworking space in Beacon, said that rentals for meetings and events “went to zero overnight,” dropping monthly revenue by 10 percent to 15 percent. “Flex” desk rentals to freelancers and remote workers decreased, as well.

Beahive attempted virtual member lunches, coffee breaks and other gatherings, he said, but Zoom fatigue quickly set in.

“We’re so physical space-based,” he said. “I don’t know any other way to pivot. We’re biding our time until people feel comfortable coming back.”

Robitaille reopened Homespun for four days per week on June 19. By then, Beacon officials were allowing Main Street restaurants to place tables in curbside parking spots to create “parklets” for outdoor dining.

Homespun put three tables on the sidewalk, each 8 feet apart, and kept eight tables in an enclosed backyard.

But reopening wasn’t as simple as dragging a few tables out front, Robitaille said. Every aspect of the business — from food prep to delivery to customers and cleanup at the end of the night — had to be revised to meet state health protocols aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

“I was completely exhausted from



Joe Robitaille

Photos by Meredith Heuer

getting us reopened,” he said. “And it just wasn’t busy. We were nowhere near breakeven numbers.”

As the Mid-Hudson Region neared Phase 3 of its reopening, which would allow indoor dining at 50 percent capacity, business suddenly turned around for Homespun. Robitaille decided to stay cautious and stick with outdoor dining, while permitting no more than seven people inside for pickups.

That was at the end of June. But with cold weather on the way, restaurants and their employees and customers must now grapple with how to navigate winter during a pandemic.

“Restaurants, which require a full staff to operate, have struggled to find employees brave enough to take on the kinds of safety demands basically taken by essential workers,” Starbuck explained. “Their incomes are partially made up of tips. What happens when the tables are reduced?”

Starbuck said she thinks some restau-

rants will utilize outdoor heaters to keep patio dining spaces open as long as possible.

Robitaille isn’t sure that would work at Homespun, so he’s planning to revamp his takeout menu while looking into delivery, as well, although that would add insurance costs. Selling frozen prepared foods could be another option.

He plans later this month to reopen on Mondays (Homespun was open seven days a week, pre-pandemic) to allow employees to pick up extra shifts.

At Beahive, the state’s phased reopening was challenging this summer “because none of the guidelines apply” to coworking spaces, Tillitt said. Fortunately, some long-time members have continued to pay rent even while they haven’t been in the building.

With that level of commitment, Tillitt said, “I’m confident that we’ll rebound strongly, it’s just a matter of when.”

Starbuck hopes Beacon and Cold Spring’s Main Streets can make it to Christmas without another shutdown.

“Holiday gift sales are the bread-and-butter that get independent retail businesses through the winter,” she said. “The best thing people can do to support small retailers is start their holiday gift shopping now, under the assumption that another shutdown could happen in December.”

Even though Robitaille knows business will slow once he cuts outdoor dining, he insists he’s not dreading the winter.

“I came into this expecting a struggle,” he said. “If anything, it’s pretty amazing to be here still and to be in the position we’re in now. Any feelings that I’m feeling are cautious — that you don’t know what to expect; to check yourself when you think you know what’s coming.

“It’s sincerely how I feel,” he added. “In the summertime, it wasn’t the same, though. I thought we were going down.”

COVID2021

Closer to the Edge

For many, shutdown has made bad situation worse

By Victoria Shannon

With unemployment in the Hudson Valley much higher than it was a year ago because of the ongoing shutdown, state and federal bans on evictions imposed earlier this year have allowed many tenants to stay in their homes even if they can no longer afford the rent.

But that won’t last. Housing advocates fear a flood of evictions after state and federal moratoriums expire next month, possibly causing a large spike in homelessness in early 2021 while the pandemic still rages.

It’s another consequence of the high cost of living in Putnam and Dutchess counties, where more than 33 percent of residents were one emergency away from financial ruin even before COVID-19, according to research by the United Way.

In a series called *Living on the Edge* published last year, *The Current* reported on Highlands residents who were living on “survival budgets” despite being employed. Two in five residents of Beacon and Cold Spring, according to the data, did not have more than \$400 in savings.

According to the most recent United Way report on “asset-limited, income-restrained, employed” residents, which relies on data from 2018, a family with two adults and two children in the Hudson Valley needs to earn at least \$99,242 annually to get by, while a single adult must earn \$35,510.

To support those budgets, a single person would have to earn at least \$17.55 an hour, far more than the \$11.80 minimum wage in this part of New York state.

Beyond the ban on evictions, another buffer could disappear at the end of the year when two federal pandemic unemployment programs are scheduled to expire unless Congress acts. More than 1.9 million New York residents receive payments from the two programs, which were designed to extend benefits offered by the state.

As of September, about 11,600 people in Dutchess County and 3,800 people in Putnam were receiving state jobless benefits — far fewer than in April at the height of the shutdown but far more than in September 2019, when only 1,100 people were receiving benefits in Dutchess and 500 in Putnam.

HOUSING

Paying for a roof over your head, of course, is usually a large expense, eating up nearly half of the income of a single person on a survival budget in Dutchess, according to the United Way study.

That has people like Maureen Fox, chief development officer of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, concerned about bills that will come due in January.

(Continued on Page 7)

Unemployment in the Highlands

	SEPTEMBER 2019			APRIL 2020			SEPTEMBER 2020		
	RATE	RECIPIENTS	BENEFITS PAID	RATE	RECIPIENTS	BENEFITS PAID	RATE	RECIPIENTS	BENEFITS PAID
DUTCHESS	3.5	1,100	\$1,410,000	14.2	15,700	\$20,250,000	6	11,600	\$12,770,000
PUTNAM	3.6	500	\$580,000	14.4	5,300	\$7,400,000	5.6	3,800	\$4,450,000
HUDSON VALLEY	3.6	19,000	\$13,210,000	14.4	117,600	\$154,600,000	6.5	103,200	\$118,400,000

Source: Department of Labor

The Edge (from Page 6)

“Although the rental moratorium is in place, it doesn’t mean you don’t *ever* have to pay your rent,” Fox said, noting that the moratorium on evictions is not the same as forgiveness of overdue rent. “That’s our fear — that there will be this tsunami of people who get eviction notices all at one time because they haven’t been able to pay the backlog.”

Christa Hines, executive director of Hudson River Housing, which manages affordable housing and homeless shelters in Dutchess County, said her group estimates that at least 36 percent of renters across the state are at risk of eviction.

“It’s given people false hope,” she said of the moratoriums. “They’re using that [unpaid rent] money to pay for other things, and they’re getting deeper and deeper in the hole. That’s the case even if their income hasn’t changed because of COVID.”

Homelessness in the area is already on the rise, Hines said. The Dutchess County shelter in Poughkeepsie has been averaging about 100 people a night, up about 20 percent from a year ago, and she estimates that around 20 percent come from the Beacon and Wappingers Falls area.

“Anecdotally, we’ve always known that some people live precariously, with family or friends or couch-surfing,” Hines said. “The pandemic presented a lot of challenges with that. People were scared to

open up their homes as much as they might have in the past.”

The groups suspect the Dutchess facility is serving clients from Putnam County, as well, which doesn’t have any shelters. “Because our shelter provides good services and we don’t turn anyone away, we wonder if folks come up here from other counties,” Hines said. “It’s something that we’re looking at.”

At the start of the shutdown in March, Hudson River Housing began dispensing \$90,000 it had received from a federal grant to help people with their rent, Hines said. Unfortunately, they had \$350,000 worth of requests.

Based on data collected by the organization, most renters in Dutchess are “severely cost-burdened,” which means they spend more than half of their income on housing. Renters would need to earn an average wage of \$26.87 per hour, or work 2.3 minimum-wage jobs, to afford the average two-bedroom apartment.

At the same time, the vacancy rate in Dutchess apartment complexes was 1.5 percent last year, the lowest it’s been since 2000. (In Beacon, the rate was zero percent.) In addition, the median home price in the county jumped by more than 20 percent between 2015 and 2019.

FOOD

After the shutdown began, food pantries in the Highlands began to serve a growing



Where is
‘The Edge’?
\$35,100

This is what a single person in Dutchess or Putnam needs to earn annually to survive, according to the United Way. It equates to \$17.55 per hour.

\$101,724

This is what a family with two adults and two young children in Dutchess or Putnam needs to earn annually to survive. It equates to \$50.86 per hour.

Source: ALICE in New York:
A Financial Hardship Study, 2020

number of people.

Amy Richter, an assistant at the Philipstown Food Pantry in Cold Spring, which is

open Saturday mornings, said it has seen up to a 150 percent increase in demand some weeks. Lines have formed hours before the 9 a.m. opening as people try to get the first crack at limited supplies of fruits and vegetables, although pantry organizers say they have discouraged that.

“What is striking to me are the people who come who I always thought were in my peer group,” Richter said, referring to middle- and higher-income levels. “It’s scary. Many, many are those who lost jobs. What we hadn’t seen before was a lot of single men. People in the arts have lost jobs, and we’ve seen them here.”

“People are doubling up,” she said. “There are extended families living together who weren’t before.”

She said the donations to the pantry so far have kept up with the demand.

“We’ve had a huge influx of money and food items from the community,” Richter said. “We are able to serve everyone who comes, and then some. But about 70 percent of our clients are Latino, and we’re constantly running out of things like white rice.”

Because of financial donations and the work of the Philipstown Town Board, the pantry was able to distribute gift cards from Foodtown in Cold Spring, as well as fresh and packaged foods.

“People were hurting so much that they began to cry when I handed them the gift cards,” she said.

COVID2021

Will It Work Out?

Gyms struggle as clients exercise on their own

By Leonard Sparks

Gym owners around the state launched a vigorous lobbying campaign — as well as a class-action lawsuit — before Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s administration allowed them to reopen as of Aug. 24, five months after the shutdown began.

But three months later, local gyms are struggling to get clients to return and facing a winter when the virus is expected to surge as people are forced indoors by the weather. During the shutdown many of their clients purchased their own fitness equipment and

have continued working out at home.

Zoned Fitness in Beacon and Cold Spring Fitness in Philipstown dropped group classes to focus on private training. Keith Laug, the owner of Zoned Fitness, located on Main Street, said this week that his schedule was about 70 percent full, enough to pay the bills.

Business at Cold Spring Fitness is down 90 percent from a year ago, said owner Dawn Scanga. She reopened on Oct. 1 but said many of her clients are older and hesitant to work out indoors.

“It’s been a struggle to just pay my rent,” said Scanga, who has sublet half of her space to Flex Physical Therapy. “People aren’t as eager as I thought they would be to come to the gym. If it doesn’t start opening up, it’s not going to be sustainable.”

Preparing to reopen involved “redesigning our entire business model,” she said. “We had to figure out 33 percent capacity for physical distancing and we had to close the shower. All our trainers and instructors are wearing face coverings and maintain 6 feet distance.

(Continued on Page 8)



Dawn Scanga, the owner of Cold Spring Fitness on Route 9, reopened on Oct. 1 but is struggling to keep her business going. Photo by L. Sparks

COVID2021

From Chords to Discord

Musicians, venues squeezed as pandemic marches on

By Leonard Sparks

Sara Milonovich, a Beacon resident who is a professional fiddler and violinist, has survived the shutdown with the help of a part-time job at a wine store, while singer and songwriter Dar Williams, who lives in Cold Spring, has delayed for at least a year the release of a new album because she cannot tour to support it.

Phil Ciganer has reopened his Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon, but under state guidelines cannot advertise the performances or sell tickets and the music must be “incidental” to dinner service. The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon has shifted to livestreaming performances that must take place without an audience other than the performers and technicians.

Musicians have recorded performances at home that they post online, but it’s a far cry from the atmosphere of a live show, said Williams, who believes the music industry is facing an “existential threat” as the pandemic continues.

When performing live, “you feel the energy of the audience, you feel their mood, you feel the material more, you feel the message of it more,” she said.

Williams was finishing a tour when the shutdown began in mid-March, and considers herself lucky because only the last two shows were canceled. Income from that tour, plus an advance for a book she is writing, cushioned her from the immediate financial toll the pandemic inflicted on other musicians.

Milonovich, by contrast, immediately felt the pain. On the eve of the shutdown she was substituting as a violinist for the Broadway show *Come From Away* and looking forward to a year of gigs both as a freelancer and a member of the band Daisy Cutter, which had finished a tour in November 2019.


She last played on Broadway on March 10, two days before theaters announced their closing for what initially was to be month. Musicians then watched as gigs at venues and festivals were scuttled, as well as summer music camps where they had planned to teach.

“It was immediate and catastrophic,” said Milonovich. “Financially, it’s been nothing short of devastating.”

Ciganer, with the Towne Crier’s restaurant and two performance stages closed, in June launched an online fundraising campaign that has brought in about \$31,000.

The restaurant has reopened for indoor and outdoor dining, with musicians playing several nights a week on a small stage located just inside the entrance. Ciganer noted that pandemic restrictions are hurting not just venues and musicians but sound and lighting technicians, agents and managers. “It’s a devastating blow to the industry,” he said.

The Howland Cultural Center has turned

 You feel the energy of the audience, you feel their mood, you feel the material more, you feel the message of it more.

~ Sara Milonovich



The Judith Tulloch Band performs on the small stage at the Towne Crier on Nov. 6.

Photo by L. Sparks

to livestreaming performances with a production outfit handling audio and video. The Beacon duo Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn are hosting *The Valley Hour*, a monthly music series, and the center on Saturday (Nov. 14) will stream a performance of *The Artichoke*, a storytelling series. Craig Wolf, who is president of the nonprofit’s board, said in some cases the venue has been able to sell more tickets to online viewers than it would have with a live audience.

That demand demonstrates that livestreaming has legs, he said, and that the technology will be part of Howland’s future. “We’ve always known that there are people who couldn’t come to a live concert

— they couldn’t come because the time was not right for them or they don’t drive at night or they can’t get a babysitter,” he said.

While Williams had been able to survive through 2020, “next year, if it continues, that’s going to be a different conversation and if this goes through 2022, that’s also a different conversation,” she said.

Milonovich has played a few livestreamed shows and has another scheduled for Nov. 22 from Cafe Lena in Saratoga Springs. She is also a member of the Wynotte Sisters, who finished recording an album of “obscure holiday music” that will be released through the streaming site Bandcamp. “These revenue streams are important now that we’re not able to tour,” she said.

Gyms (from Page 7)

“We needed to install a new air-handling system to meet [state] standards; disinfect every surface while documenting the time and scope of cleaning products; post signage and complete the safety plan, including daily screening conducted for employees plus members, with a log of everyone who enters, including a designated site safety monitor to ensure compliance.

“We were pushed so far and expected to comply with so much,” she said.

Scanga said she surveyed her members and found they had two concerns: working out while wearing a mask and exercising indoors.

Laug said he has gained a few clients who belonged to larger gyms but felt more comfortable exercising in a private space. Both he and Scanga hope the winter months will bring more people indoors when outdoor classes end.

“I do see a lot of people, though, sticking with what they did when we shut down — doing a lot of home training,” said Laug.



Weekday ridership on Metro-North is down about 80 percent from before the shutdown.

File photo by M. Turton

COVID2021

What Happens to the Commute?

Workers grow accustomed to being home

By Michael Turton

Since March, there have been plenty of seats on the rush-hour trains to and from Grand Central and Beacon, Cold

Spring and Garrison.

Last year, Metro-North recorded 1.84 million round trips from Beacon, 382,220 from Cold Spring and 220,722 from Garrison. A month into the COVID-19 shutdown in April, those numbers had fallen by 98 percent.

Ridership has bounced back some-

what in recent months, but the number of passengers across the system is still down nearly 80 percent on weekdays and about 57 percent on weekends from a year ago, according to the railroad.

Metro-North has instituted 24-hour off-peak fares to lure commuters back, but a representative for the railroad said the impact on ridership is not yet clear.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates Metro-North, the Long Island Railroad and the New York

(Continued on Page 9)

Commute *(from Page 8)*

City subway and bus systems, has asked the federal government for \$12 billion in aid to offset what the state comptroller has called the worst financial crisis in the agency's history.

Last month, Patrick Foye, the chief executive officer of the MTA, said that, without federal funds, the agency may have to eliminate more than 7,000 jobs and cut service on Metro-North in half.

For people who bought homes in the Highlands just before the shutdown, "it never occurred to them they were buying a house that would become a remote workplace," said Bill Hussung, the owner of McCaffrey Real Estate in Cold Spring. "They had assumed they'd commute — and now they just don't."

Travis Fyfe and his wife, Molly Admana-Fyfe, who moved to Cold Spring 13 years ago, both commuted before the shutdown. Travis took Metro-North daily to Manhattan for his job as a construction project manager. Molly, an apparel designer, drove to Secaucus, New Jersey.

When the shutdown began in March, Molly began working from home, while Travis changed his commute to driving into the city once a week. By July, Molly had returned to work in New Jersey twice a week and Travis began driving to his work-site on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Working remotely has affected them differently.

Travis said he works more hours but is more available to his family. "I can take my daughter to school, pick her up and stay connected to work by phone," he said. "It's a small amount of time with her but a huge plus for me."

Being in the village more has also enabled him to join the Cold Spring Fire Co. "Working at home means I can respond to calls," Travis said. "If work gets interrupted, I get it done later."

By contrast, Molly said working remotely has not translated into more family time, noting she now works 12- to 16-hour days.

Both believe that once COVID-19 is conquered, they will resume working full time at their jobs.

But Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who is Putnam County's representative on the MTA board, wonders if commuting patterns will ever be the same.

"We may not work in New York City five days a week the way we used to," he said. He wondered if Putnam County offers enough office space, coworking opportunities, digital access and ways to gather and socialize "that can make up what was the commuter's work life."

Putnam, he said, has "a great opportunity to reinvent and blur that line between 'work' and 'home' for the betterment of our community."

Through the Roof

When the shutdown began, many New York City residents fled to second homes in the Highlands or began looking to buy. That pace has slowed, but the market "continues to outperform anything we could have expected," said Bill Hussung, the owner of McCaffrey Real Estate in Cold Spring.

The initial alarm has given way to careful thought. "People are no longer in a rush," he said. "There's no panic to purchase a house before the next wave. It's now a well-thought-out lifestyle change; buyers see this area as having a better quality of life."

Demand for houses in Philipstown and a limited supply have pushed prices up. Properties that sold for \$400,000 last year now go for \$500,000, Hussung said, adding that sales volume in dollars has increased by 40 percent over last year while the number of sales has remained about the same.

"Sellers are happy but inventory is down," Hussung said.

Agents who usually only dealt with properties in the Highlands are now

looking farther afield. "We used to be a very narrow, Philipstown brokerage; we're not anymore," he said.

Now, if a suitable house isn't available in Philipstown, Hussung said, buyers are increasingly willing to relocate anywhere within the Hudson Valley.

In Beacon, broker Daniel Aubry said things have quieted slightly after "the craziest summer I've ever experienced," and, like Philipstown, inventory there is limited.

While a number of houses are "for sale by owner," Aubry said they are often overpriced, causing buyers to shy away. "When properly priced, properties here go in one weekend," he said, pointing out that standard ranch-style homes can receive multiple offers.

Beacon has a considerable supply of new condominiums, ranging in price from \$350,000 to more than \$1 million, although Aubry said until 51 percent of a building's units are sold, lenders require a down payment of 25 percent to 30 percent, which slows sales.

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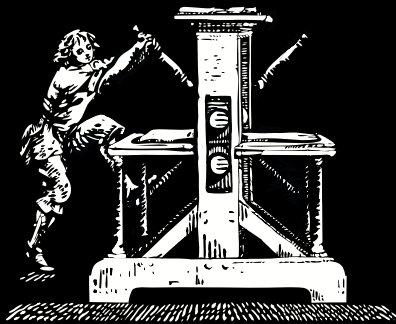
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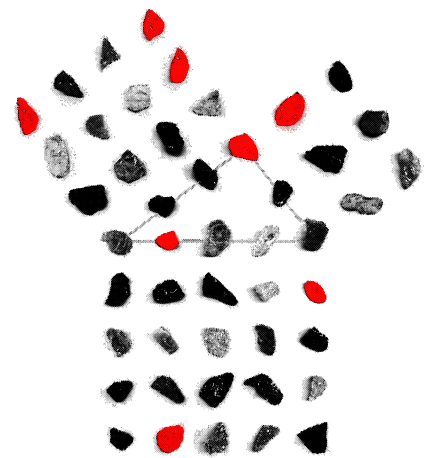
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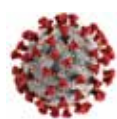
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Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Nov. 11), 2,059 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 6,003 in Dutchess; 43,292 in Westchester; 19,414 in Rockland; 2,717 in Ulster; and 14,803 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 545,762 positives, including 276,976 in New York City. Statewide, 26,055 people had died as of Nov. 11.

■ Beacon had 10 active cases as of Nov. 11 and Putnam had 71 for the week ending Nov. 5, with four new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 148 since March. There were also 26 new cases in Carmel, five in Kent, six in Patterson, four in Putnam Valley and 20 in Southeast. Two people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

■ In Dutchess County, there were 2,240 tests conducted on Nov. 11, with 59 positives reported, and in Putnam, there were 701 tests and 29 positives. The percentage of positive results in the Mid-Hudson Region was 3.7 percent.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of Nov. 11 stood at 1,677; the number in intensive care was 308; and the number of intubations was 136.

■ The Garrison School closed on Thursday (Nov. 12) and Friday (Nov. 13) after an individual who had been on-site earlier in the week tested positive. Superintendent Carl Albano said the closure allowed time for contact tracing and to clean and disinfect the building.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended his state of emergency order through Dec. 3, allowing public meetings to continue to be held remotely.

■ Cuomo announced on Oct. 28 that counties, through their health departments, can impose mask mandates in public and private schools.

■ The Story Screen Beacon Theater is again showing films. Tickets are available only online, patrons must wear masks whenever they are not seated and social distancing will be maintained between each party attending a movie together.

■ Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie said it would limit visitors for adult patients effective Nov. 6 because of an increase in COVID-19 cases in the Hudson Valley.

■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley awarded \$258,600 in Pivoting to Respond grants to nonprofits contending with COVID-19. In Dutchess, the recipients included the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Common Ground

Farm, Dutchess Outreach and Hudson River Housing. In Putnam, recipients included CoveCare Center, the Ecological Citizen's Project, Garrison Art Center and Second Chance Foods.

■ Cuomo on Nov. 2 questioned a requirement by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all states agree to provide the name, address, date of birth, ethnicity, race, gender and a unique personal identification number for anyone who receives a COVID-19 vaccination if and when one is available.

■ The state on Oct. 31 announced new rules for travelers coming into New York to allow them to "test out" of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours must obtain a test within three days of departure from the other state and quarantine for three days. On Day 4, they must obtain another test. If both tests are negative, they may exit quarantine.

■ The nonprofit Correctional Association of New York on Oct. 22 released a report from two days its representatives spent in July visiting the Fishkill Correctional Center in Beacon. "Many of the incarcerated people [we] spoke to seemed unaware of how COVID-19 tests are administered, proper mask usage and even the signs and symptoms of COVID-19," the report said. "The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision has made some good progress in keeping people safe through a variety of policy changes, but overall, incarceration itself undermines those outcomes."

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

2,059 (+163)

New Cases in Philipstown: 4

Tests administered:

69,294 (+4,000)

Percent positive:

3.0 (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

64 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

6,003 (+334)

Active Cases in Beacon: 10

Tests administered:

245,044 (+13,906)

Percent positive:

2.4 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

173 (+7)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Nov. 11. New cases in Philipstown for the week ending Nov. 5.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.



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The HIGHLANDS
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Detail from "In Our Hands," a copper etching by Eliza Fichter



Linoleum prints by Fichter

The Artist Next Door

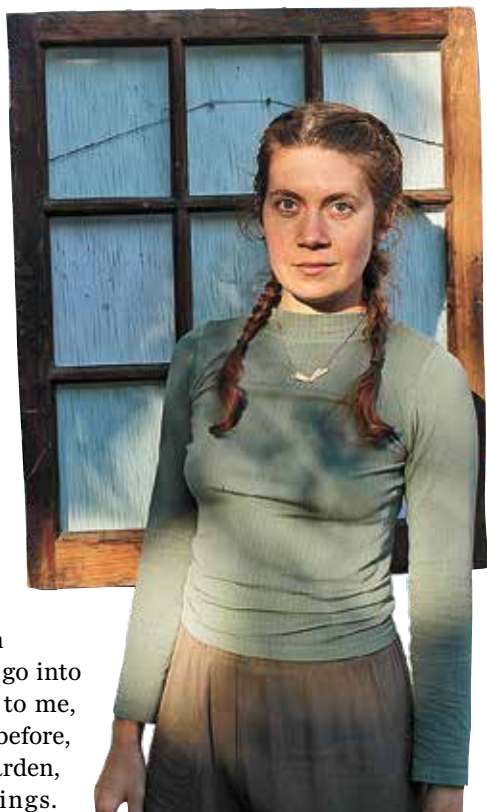
Eliza Fichter

By Alison Rooney

Reading up on printmaker Eliza Fichter, whose work was included in this year's Beacon Open Studios, I got confused, thinking maybe there were two people by the name, one of them an actor and the other a visual artist. A few more clicks revealed they are one and the same, and an arts educator to boot.

Visual arts came first: Printmaking was a family tradition, something "always present in my house when growing up. We'd make prints which we'd send out various times a year. They were strewn all over the kitchen. Printmaking feels more like something I've always done, rather than anything formalized," Fichter says.

Now, as then, she appreciates that "every time you roll that paint onto the paper it's a slightly different tint, or something else individualized." Fichter's woodcut, linoleum and copper-etching prints, which she sells at heartwoodprints.com, are done by employing a process in which she "will often go into an environment new to me, a walk I haven't done before, or just sitting in my garden, observing small things.



That has helped me notice, in theater, how small a choice can be that will have a big impact on the audience."

Fichter, who has shown her work at the Atlas Winter Market and the Garrison Art Center's Riverside Crafts Fair, will have some of her designs in the Howland Cultural Center's *Holiday Small Gift Show* that begins Nov. 21.

Growing up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fichter took her first formal printmaking classes while attending Boston University. By then, theater had become an equal focus — she earned a BFA in acting there. Then, as now, she continued creating in both forms.

"Printmaking is generally pretty isolated, while theater is really collaborative," she observes. "Financially, they have strengthened each other and have helped me see things in one that I hadn't seen in the other, in a balanced way." As an example, Fichter cites her process during rehearsals for the Bedlam theater company's 2019 Cambridge production of *The Crucible*.

"In that production, there is this section of text where the character I was playing was imagining a profoundly devastating image," she says. "I was having difficulty visualizing such a traumatic and painful loss but when I spent hours looking at a tree or a grasshopper — that takes



"Joy," a linoleum print by Fichter

a real level of visualization, and it engages the imagination — the specificity is what allows for that honest engagement and response in the body."

Fichter's career as an actor began right after college, when she spent a year traveling with the National Players, the education arm of the D.C.-based Olney Theatre Center. "Ten of us traveled with three plays in rep, moving every three nights or so, bringing theater to places like South Dakota and West Virginia, where it's presumed that great theater doesn't take place and also that great theater doesn't *need* to take place," she says.

Fichter and her partner, David Keohane, moved for four years to Chicago, before returning to Cambridge, where Fichter earned a master's in arts in education at Harvard, with a focus in "death education."

"I had, as we all have, by that point some close experiences with death and dying in my family and I was thinking about how art can connect with our relationship to mortality," she says. "I had worked at a printmaking studio in Chicago, as well as teaching theater, and I noticed students grappling with big important questions about living in the present, what it means to grieve and how to use art to mend our relationship with death.

"With so much medicalization of death, I entered grad school with a focus on exploring our relationship with end of life through art. I spent a lot of time being with women



Fichter in *The Crucible*

Photo by Nille Scott

who worked in health care and in end-of-life systems and support, and learned from them how they help folks come to terms with their mortality."

With the success of the Boston production of *The Crucible*, it was set to open off-Broadway in March. Keohane is also in the cast, and the couple spent a couple of months housesitting in Cold Spring before moving to Beacon just before rehearsals began. On March 12, the pair found themselves unemployed.

Fichter says she initially found it hard to meet people until she joined the protest marches. "I've become involved with Beacon 4 Black Lives, which is a joyful organization but one that is holding our community responsible. I am imagining and reimagining what the future will look like, and hopefully will come to it with a renewed sense of intention. Finding connection between far-apart endeavors is where I feel most alive."

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SUN 15

Artist Market Festival

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Lofts
18 Front St. | rivervalleyguild.com

The River Valley Guild presents artisan crafts with live music.

THURS 19

Public Trust in Science

GARRISON

11 a.m. The Hastings Center
thehastingscenter.org

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease official, and Mildred Solomon, the center's president, will discuss via Zoom the ethical issues raised by the loss of trust in science and explore how to improve public understanding. Register online.

THURS 19

Remote Work

GARRISON

8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Editor and writer Sarah Crow, who has worked remotely for nine years, will discuss via Zoom resources to find an office-less job, the benefits and how to set up a home office. Register online.

SAT 21

Holiday Craft Fair

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D
milb.com/hudson-valley

Shop from dozens of artisans and vendors while enjoying live music and refreshments from food trucks.

SAT 21

Small Gift Show

BEACON

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

Find handmade and artistic jewelry, ceramics and other gifts priced at \$100 or less. Also SUN 22, FRI 27, SAT 28, SUN 29. Continues through Dec. 23.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 14

The Artichoke

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
845-831-4988 | artichokeshow.com

Drew Prochaska will host this livestream of the storytelling series with John Blesso, Kambri Crews, Christian Finnegan, Jim O'Grady, Michele Carlo and Martin Dockery. Cost: \$15



Mario Merz, Nov. 20

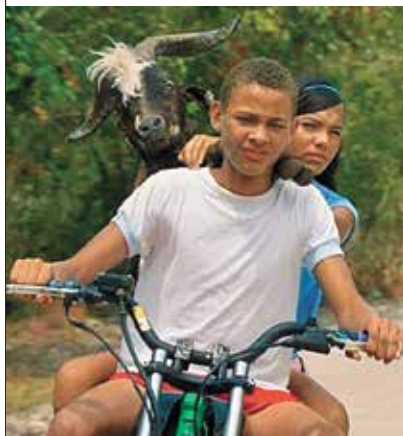
FRI 20

Bad Lucky Goat

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

An accident with their father's truck and a goat takes teen siblings on a journey. Register online to watch this 2017 film via Zoom.



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14

Make Your Own Grapevine Wreath

BREWSTER

10 a.m. – Noon.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Register to pick up materials and join a Zoom workshop. Cost: \$10 to \$30

SUN 15

Revolutionary Tarrytown

TARRYTOWN

2 p.m. Warner Library | rw250.org/events

Erik Weisberg, the historian for Revolutionary Westchester 250, will discuss "traitors, spies, patriots,

allies, British boats and Hessian ghosts" via Zoom.

SUN 15

Bountiful

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
bit.ly/charityshumway

Charity Shumway, who lives in Garrison, will discuss her new novel over Zoom with Melissa Inouye.

TUES 17

How to Get Your Photos into the Media

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLpress | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Doug Cunningham, editor of the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, will give a tutorial over Zoom on how to choose and submit the best photos to media outlets.

WED 18

Current Conversation

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations

Dr. Anil Vaidian, commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, will discuss the fight against COVID-19 and answer questions. Register online.

THURS 19

Fiction Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

Join the Zoom group to discuss *The Other*, by Thomas Tryon.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 14

Teen Mandala Workshop

COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Pick up paint and tools after registering and learn how to make a mandala using rocks.

TUES 17

Genre Teen Book Club

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

This month the group discusses their horror selections.

THURS 19

Teen Book Club

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Email community@beaconlibrary.org to register for a Zoom discussion of *Eleanor and Park*, by Rainbow Rowell.

SUN 22

Turkey Tales

CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive
845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

Learn about how to spot signs of wild turkeys and then take a guided hike to test your knowledge. Cost: \$8 to \$10 (members \$6 to \$8)

VISUAL ART

SAT 14

Chairs Re-Created

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
garrisonartcenter.org

Chairs donated by supporters and re-created by 44 artists as a fundraiser for the art center will be on exhibit.

SAT 14

Transposed

BEACON

Noon – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org

Pamela Zaremba's photographs, created during the pandemic, explore domesticity.

SAT 14

Kik.Kake Toys

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

FRI 20

Mario Merz

BEACON

11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

This exhibit by the Arte Povera artist is his first institutional show in the U.S. in three decades. Register online to visit.

MUSIC

SUN 15

Jesse Mills and Rieko Aizawa

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandmusic.org

As part of the AliveMusica series, the violinist and pianist will present a livestreamed program that includes Messiaen's *Theme and Variations*, Beethoven's *Sonata No. 10* and Chihara's *Storm* and Ravel's *Violin Sonata No. 2*. Cost: \$20 donation

SAT 21

Jamie Saft

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
845-831-4988
our.show/howland-cultural-center/75277

The pianist, producer and composer will perform via livestream. Cost: \$15

SAT 21

Tall County

GARRISON

8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Garrison residents Liz and Ned Rauch will perform on violin and guitar via Crowdcast. Register online.



CIVIC

MON 16

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 16

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 17

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 18

School Board

GARRISON

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

THURS 19

Budget Town Hall

6 p.m. Dutchess County
facebook.com/DutchessCoGov

Zip Ono, Buddhist Detective

TV writer introduces sleuth with audiobook

By Alison Rooney

From grizzled and hard-boiled to sarcastic and cheeky, fictional investigators come in all stripes, and now there's a new one in town: Zip Ono, Buddhist detective.

That the sleuth is "in town" is literal, because the newly released audiobook in which Zip Ono stars is set in Philipstown.

Available exclusively through Audible.com, the novel is the first by John Christian Plummer, a Cold Spring resident who is better known as a writer for television, including his series *Granite Flats*. He's currently a writer for Hallmark Signature Mysteries and a theater director.

"I wrote this to be published, but my TV background gives me a strong ear for dialogue, which translates well to audio," Plummer says. "For me it's all about how can we reach the most people, and Audible [which is owned by Amazon] is massive."

Plummer hopes the book will promote Soka Gakkai International Buddhism, a form of the international Nichiren Buddhist system that he practices. "And what better way than through a mystery? The protagonist is this openly spiritual person. The kind of Buddhism we practice is a process. It's practical and pragmatic, and you apply it to your work. Zip Ono uses it to be a better detective."

The plot centers on the death of a media mogul, "Big Bill" Argosy, which appears to be a suicide. But his widow, Laila, is suspicious, and when authorities decline to investigate, she turns to Zip Ono.

Plummer says the broad strokes of the story came to him while chanting. "They came in a flash, which happens a lot when

you're chanting," he explains. "You're observing your mind."

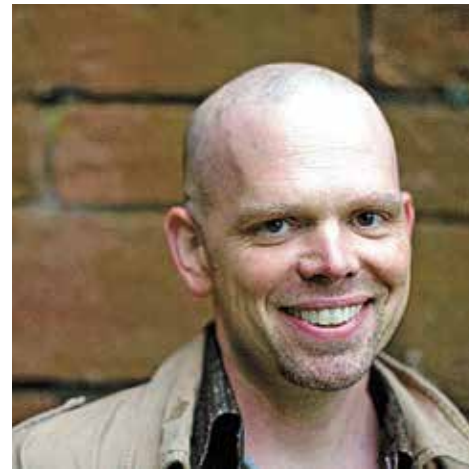
"In some of the jobs I do, we create an outline which we revise and revise before going to script," he adds. "But outlines don't allow me to listen to the characters and follow them. I didn't know 'whodunit' when I started the story. It's so much more fun that way. Let the characters talk — they tell you things. I have come to learn that what comes out at the end is much better and more truthful if I allow the process of uncovering and discovering. If I know the way it's going to end, I'm not as aligned or allied with my character. In this book, she and I joined."

The Philipstown setting is more than just local color, Plummer says. "It's so generative to me, this environment. Cold Spring and Garrison aren't merely the backdrop; they are embedded deep into the characters. For locals, it's fun to hear a story where you're talking about 9D and South Mountain Pass, Indian Brook, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, the single traffic light in Cold Spring. It tickles me to hear it spoken — how people hearing it in, say, California, will become familiar with it."

"I love this place," he adds. "It's not perfect, but in a lot of ways this book is a low-key love letter to our wonderful low-key place." [Full disclosure: According to Plummer, *The Current* "gets a favorable mention."]

Though the only actual person named in the book is Juanita Rincon of Juanita's Kitchen in Nelsonville, "Big Bill" — a media mogul living in a small village — may strike many locals as familiar.

"Obviously this is a refraction of Roger Ailes," the late Fox News chairman who lived in Garrison, Plummer says. "I never met the guy, but he was, of course, a big figure in this community and in the



John Christian Plummer Photo by Will Marsh



The audiobook

national landscape. I was interested in investigating how you deal with a person like that, especially if they died ignominiously, or at the hands of another human being. That was part of it for sure. I'm interested in humanity, fundamentally, and not just the parts of humanity that I might disagree with."

Plummer took a leap creating Zip Ono, whom he describes as a 24-year-old who is three-quarters Japanese American. "I gave the manuscript to some young women to read," he says. "I gave it to a lot of friends. From the Buddhists I wanted to know, 'Do you think I got it right and do you find the characters true?' From the non-Buddhists, I wanted to know, 'Is the terminology too confusing, and is it too much Buddhism?"

Does it feel like an ax to grind?"

He says there were few changes to the manuscript when it was recorded by narrator Alison Hiroko. "Maybe it's because I read the book aloud when I'm writing and rewriting," Plummer says. "The voice tells the truth. The voice does the Buddha's work; you can tell if it's overwritten or confusing. Dickens, Twain and many other authors would go on book-reading tours to supplement their income, so they would have to know that it sounded good. I think Audible is based on an old idea: tell me a story. With *Zip Ono* I was able to lean into all these things I love: whodunits, mysteries, the Hudson Highlands. It all wound itself together."

“ I have come to learn that what comes out at the end is much better and more truthful if I allow the process of uncovering and discovering.

~ John Christian Plummer



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Chuck Burleigh	James Murray
Peter Bynum	Chantelle Norton
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Marylyn Dintenfass	Kim Pitt-Foster
Thomas Donahue	Diana Polack
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Justin Feimer	Kelly Preusser
Marcy B. Freedman	Sheila Rauch
Barbara Smith Gioia	Melissa Schlobohm
Kyra Hazou	Ursula Schnieder
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Irene Karlen	Carinda Swann
	Coulter Young

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to see auction



Garrison Art Center

PO Box 4, 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524

garrisonartcenter.org

Small, Good Things

Beet Surrender

By Joe Dizney

Irwin Goldman, a horticulture professor at the University of Wisconsin, recalls bringing his children to agriculture field trials.

He would cut pieces of raw beets for them to taste, begging for a positive verdict.

What he heard instead was: “It’s like eating the playground!” or “It’s like eating mud!”

Beets do have a dirty secret: that distinctive, earthy aroma and taste — a major turn-off for many people — is the result of an organic compound, geosmin, produced by bacteria in the soil.

But what Goldman discovered in his research on beets was that the roots of the plants were also making geosmin. To appease picky kids and adults, he began propagating low-geosmin variants.

The result was the fire-hued Badger Flame Beet, which was bred for sweetness, color and texture. It was brought to market in 2018 by Row 7 Seed Co., a cross-pollination between Goldman and chef Dan



Barber of Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Tarrytown.

The Badger Flame is absolutely capable of being eaten — and enjoyed — raw. I came across them at Stone Barns and have seen them offered from Baldor Foods’ home delivery. The thought of these beauties raw reminded me of a recipe by another “vegetable whisperer,” chef Joshua McFadden, in his cookbook, *Six Seasons: A New Way with Vegetables*.

In his recipe, a slaw of raw grated red and yellow beets and carrots is brightened by lemon and sweet garlic-and-vinegar-macerated raisins. The kick of dried chile flakes is modulated by mint and parsley, and McFadden allows the beets to absorb all these flavors before adding any oil.

The surprise is a slathering of pistachio butter on the salad bowl just beneath the slaw. As juices from the salad dissolve the butter’s nutty layer, the result is a wildly satisfying vinaigrette, crossed with a creamy Asian peanut sauce. Toasted and chopped pistachios scattered over all accentuate taste and texture.

Badger Flame beets were made for this treatment, but to be sure, a more garden-variety beet and carrot (see note at the end of the recipe) is more than satisfying. There’s so much tasty goodness going on that a little geosmin is not going to spoil the party.



Badger Flame Beet Salad with Mint, Golden Raisins and Pistachio Butter

From *Six Seasons*, by Joshua McFadden

Serves 4

Pistachio Butter

Makes 1 cup+; store refrigerated up to about 10 days

- 1 cup lightly toasted pistachios,
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 3 tablespoons pistachio oil (or extra-virgin olive oil)

Salad

- 1/2 cup pistachio butter
- 1/2 cup shelled pistachios
- 2 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1 1/4 pounds Badger Flame Beets, peeled*
- 1/2 cup (packed) flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 1/4 cup (packed) mint leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon dried chile flakes
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Pistachio or extra-virgin olive oil to finish

* If you can’t find Badger Flame beets, substitute a combination of 3/4 pounds grated regular beets (red, yellow or both) and 3/4 pound grated carrots. Be sure to keep them separate until tossing to keep the colors as separate as possible.

1. To make the pistachio butter, chop pistachios as fine as possible in a food processor. With motor running, add water, vinegar and salt. Process, scraping sides occasionally, until smooth. With motor still running, drizzle in oil. Blend in salt and more oil or vinegar as needed, adjusting to taste. Reserve. (Can be made ahead.)
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine garlic, raisins and vinegar in a large bowl and let sit 1 hour. Remove and discard garlic from raisins; reserve. Spread out pistachios on a small rimmed baking sheet; toast in preheated oven, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, about 6 to 8 minutes. Cool and chop coarsely and reserve. Grate beets on large holes of a box grater, in a food processor with a medium shredding disc, or cut into fine julienne.
3. In a mixing bowl, lightly toss grated beets, 3/4 of the mint and parsley (saving the rest for finishing), chile flakes, reserved raisins in vinegar and lemon juice. Season with about 1/2 teaspoon salt and lots of black pepper. Toss and let sit about 5 minutes and then taste — the slaw should be tart, spicy, peppery and sweet. Adjust seasoning, if necessary, then add a healthy glug of oil (about 1/4 cup). Toss and taste again.
4. To assemble, using a flexible spatula, coat a wooden salad bowl with 1/2 cup pistachio butter. Mound the salad into the prepared bowl, garnished with the reserved mint and parsley. Scatter the chopped pistachios over all and finish with a light drizzle of more oil. At table, toss to incorporate the pistachio butter with the other ingredients; serve.

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Maeve Gilchrist

Cold Spring musician stands up for instrument

By Alison Rooney

Though most Americans think of the harp as a large instrument played while seated, in Scotland and Ireland it's a different instrument in name, size and sometimes stance.

If the musician is playing a smaller instrument that resembles a lyre, it's likely a Celtic harp, aka a Gaelic harp, or *clarsach* (Scotland) or *clairseach* (Ireland).

All of these terms resonate with Maeve Gilchrist, a Cold Spring resident and Celtic harpist of Scottish and Irish parentage who has just released her fifth album, *The Harpweaver*.



The album takes its name from a 1923 poem, "The Ballad of the Harpweaver," by Edna St. Vincent Millay, and far from being wholly ethereal and lulling, it pulls in electronic manipulation and Millay's own recitation of her poem, which is about a mother and son facing bleak circumstances.

"This poem described beautifully how the mother sat down and wove from the strings," Gilchrist explains. "I found an archival recording Millay made, in her wonderful charming transatlantic accent, and it evoked the same nostalgic feelings as the melodies I was playing. In this time of pandemic, I hope it can give everyone a suspended reality for a little while."

Gilchrist, a native of Edinburgh, describes

her instrument as "an ancient version, much smaller, with a brighter tone, using levers at the top, whereas with the classic harp you use pedals at the bottom." In North America, "there is no traditional harping culture, so people come to it here usually from classical routes. The price [of the instrument] eliminates whole groups of people. In Ireland and Scotland, it's much more accessible. Often in North America people aren't aware of the Celtic harp as a separate instrument, with its own repertoire."

Gilchrist attended Berklee School of Music in Boston to study voice but explored many musical subjects. "They allowed me to take the harp into guitar labs," she recalls. "I was surrounded by unique musicians who came from all sorts of cultural backgrounds. It taught me to learn to listen deeply to others and listen for the space for me and my instrument."

She says of the harp, "it can do ethereal well, but it also has a range similar to a piano and it can produce driving, rhythmic sounds. The golden age of harp is yet to come."

Gilchrist often stands while she plays. "My spine feels free and also it gives the harp presence onstage," she says. "I often stamp my boot when I play — in an unthinking way, I'm keeping time. I'll admit, though, that since COVID, I've been a lazy lump and sitting."

She was drawn to Cold Spring, like many others, because of its trails. "I grew up hill-walking — that's what we call it in Scotland. It's a way to think in an uncluttered way," she says. "I was hiking in September [2019] on Storm King when I got a Zillow alert about a cottage available in Cold Spring." After moving in, she wrote most of the string arrangements for the album there.

"The release does feel different — a project of my heart," she says. "A lot of the melodic material was inspired by old melodies my grandparents might have had on the radio — melodies I've loved, often dripping in sentimentality. I'm interested in honing in on the idea of a nostalgia inherent in the music of the Celtic, even if you don't have a literal

connection to that part of the world."

Above all, Gilchrist says, "I'm more interested in building an aesthetic than being known as a technically masterful musician, though you can and should be both. I love the idea of creating a space full of new colors and sounds. Especially in the current climate, sometimes we lose focus of the power of art to allow for people of all

different backgrounds to come together in a space."

The Harpweaver is available on streaming services and vinyl. To view a video of the album's title track, "The Harpweaver," that features the Aizuri Quartet and Kyle Sanna and was filmed in part at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring, see bit.ly/harpweaver.



Photos by J. Goodman

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Morning Math requires heat be turned on and blankets for occasional Morning Naps on the floor (he's waking up too early)

Photo by K. Martin

Kid Friendly

Quiet Time

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

In college, I was not the type of person with 30 friends. I was a solitary type who fiercely loved those friends that I did have, even if they were connected to other webs of friends. And I needed alone time. That meant that sometimes I closed the door to regain peace in the day. But in a pandemic with Remote Learning, working from home with three little kids and a private childcare person for my toddler (we call her our Pack Leader), that's not possible.



At the College of Charleston, living off-campus was the norm, so three of my friends and I rented an affordable house in a "crime-watch zone," which I now recognize is a racist designation that does something weird to the neighborhood. As a solitary person, I lived well with my friends; we all closed our bedroom doors when we needed to, and carried on.

I love doors. However, the following year, after I moved to a beach house on Folly Beach, my roommate across the hall was offended when I would close my door at the dimming of the day.

We worked through the conflict. Closing my door wasn't intended to offend her. It had nothing to do with her. I just needed peace and quiet to realign.

Later that year, I visited her home in New Orleans. There were no doors! Her bedroom didn't have a door, nor did her brother's bedroom. No doors on her parents' room. No wonder she couldn't handle the door!

I continue to have trouble setting boundaries for my alone time, which today we would call an ingredient of "self-care." Working from home with my little ones, I rarely close the door. When the Pack Leader is here and Remote Learning is done,

I retreat to my bedroom office or studio shed or attic space. Or I bounce around the house cleaning, mitigating toddler wars or scheduling the kids' appointments.

During Remote Learning hours, I am tech and emotional support to my two older ones and failed keeper of the calendar for classes that rotate every other week, all while the toddler pandemic pod runs around downstairs with plastic swords.

When our Pack Leader goes home, I don't close any door. It's not safe. What if I can't hear when someone needs me? What if someone climbs onto the counter? What if someone's hair is being pulled out?

I started to realize that I'm not sure if I'm cut out to live with all these people. I want to live alone! But I'd be lonely if my house weren't sometimes busier than Grand Central, or if I weren't there when my toddler pinned me to the couch with his tiny arm and warm hand so that we can watch kid warriors hunt each other with Nerf guns on YouTube.

We had a mom friend hang out this weekend for the first time in forever. She told me: "I don't have any brain space. We are all here all of the time. They always need something. Why do we need to eat three meals every day?" What a relief. I wasn't the only one.

So I write this for you — the parent with younger children whom you seem to bump into constantly throughout the day. We need to designate Quiet Time in front of our children so that they, too, can learn to carve their own boundaries.

Mornings used to be my safe zones. I didn't need to block anyone out — until my 8-year-old began asking that I wake him so he can do his math homework. He uses the time to recount to me all of his dreams, his realizations about the world, everything. Hearing this is important, but...

My 10-year-old daughter used to rise early, too, about three years ago. When I told her about Morning Time and Quiet Time, she didn't like the concept, but I held fast. And she got to used it. Now, if I ask something of her in the morning, she tells me she is in her Quiet Time. I blow her a kiss and bow out.



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? Joe Gilmore and Rachel Thompson of Beacon shared this photo of their grandson, Jack Fernando Galeas, with Leo. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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A twin-engine Beechcraft similar to the one that crashed on Mount Beacon in 1945.

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (November 1870)

The Odd-Fellows of Matteawan "were sorely exercised," according to *The New York Times*, "by the receipt of a letter from a prominent brother who was supposed to have died some time previously and for whom they had gone to the trouble of hanging their lodge room with emblems of mourning, and engrossing elaborate resolutions, etc."

125 Years Ago (November 1895)

Oliver Curtis Perry, a notorious train robber, was returned by train to the Matteawan asylum for insane criminals from the state prison in Auburn. He had been sent upstate the previous June after being judged to be sane. But at the prison, he attempted to put a needle into his eye in an apparent bid to be returned to the asylum. He was brought in a sleeping car attached to a mail train watched over by two guards and shackled by his hands and feet to another inmate on his way to Sing Sing. The group changed to the local train at Poughkeepsie. "Perry was on his good behavior, but was peevish, and the curious crowd that stared at him on the platform annoyed him," reported a Buffalo paper.

O.V. Sage, the warden at Sing Sing, said he would replace the kerosene lamps in cells with electric lights to prevent inmates from setting fire to their beds in an attempt to be judged insane and sent to a hospital or the Matteawan asylum. He said the system would allow guards to turn the lights off and on rather than relying on prisoners to light and extinguish their lamps.

100 Years Ago (November 1920)

The day after the general election, the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* reported the vote totals for Dutchess County with the exception of Beacon, where it reported that as of 3 a.m. the count was still "badly muddled."

When the self-starter on a touring car owned by Howard Schofield of Beacon

was not working properly as he prepared to leave a ferryboat to Highland, he stood in the front of the vehicle to crank the engine. It started, and then plunged through the boat's gates and into the river, taking Schofield with it. Schofield, who worked at the Merchants Saving Bank in Beacon and was on a hunting trip, was pulled from the river as he struggled to swim in his hip boots and overcoats but lost his two hunting dogs and guns worth \$250, along with his vehicle.

Ferdinand Hoyt, of Beacon City Court, said he believed he had set a Dutchess County record for officiating at marriages after performing 48 in 13 months.

A jury awarded real-estate broker John Knox Sr. \$425 after he filed suit against the owner of a Beacon home, Samuel LaMont, who sold the house on his own but refused to pay the 5 percent commission.

James Eroh, who had served in the French army for four years, returned to Beacon with a French wife.

Because of a shortage, John Cronin, the commissioner of public safety, ordered the city attorney to draft an ordinance restricting the sale of coal. One firm, the Long Dock Coal Co., had refused to cooperate in rationing. Cronin said coal could only be sold to residents and that no one could buy more than 1 ton at a time.

The Decker Press at 537 Main St. was offered for sale, including its machinery and stock.

John Gantvoord, a Glenham resident and president of the National Oven Co., was towing a car with his 14-year-old son at the wheel when the boy lost control on Fishkill Avenue and struck two pedestrians.

The Glenham Embroidery Co. near Beacon announced it would close its stitching department because of the decline in demand from New England woolen mills. The decision was expected to put 200 people, mostly girls, out of work.

75 Years Ago (November 1945)

Police said a 12-year-old boy was responsible for splashing black printer's ink on Halloween on the freshly painted white doors of a Verplanck Avenue merchant.



John Wayne and Fishkill Landing native Robert Montgomery in *They Were Expendable* (1945)

Robert Montgomery, a Fishkill Landing native and Oscar-nominated actor who left the industry in 1941 to become a naval officer, returned to his family farm between Pawling and Brewster. He said his first postwar film would be *They Were Expendable*, with John Wayne.

An agricultural census found that Dutchess County had the largest increase in farms in the state since 1940, with a gain of 668. Beacon had 39 farms, which was more than Fishkill (22) or Poughkeepsie (25).

J. Lewis Bolton was elected mayor of Beacon, defeating Reginald Conklin. He

succeeded Wheaton Avis, who decided not to run for re-election but was one of four Republican candidates who won seats on the five-member City Council.

Three Beacon residents were the first searchers, at 3 a.m., to locate the site of a plane crash on Mount Beacon that killed six Navy men and officers. The twin-engine transport had crashed about noon the previous day (Nov. 11) in heavy fog on Bald Rock ridge. More than 200 Navy men arrived in buses to clear a path through the underbrush to carry each body on a stretcher 2.5

(Continued on Page 18)

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Commodore Dixie Kiefer

Looking Back *(from Page 17)*

miles down the mountain. Among the dead was Commodore Dixie Kiefer, 49, who had been so frequently wounded in two World Wars that James V. Forrestal, a Beacon native who was then secretary of the Navy, called him “the indestructible man.”

Police recovered a gold retirement watch presented to the late City Judge Thomas Hassett that had been stolen during a burglary in August, but the inscription inside had been removed.

The Beacon Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association held its 15th annual dance on a Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Beacon High School gym, featuring Bob Cronin and his NBC Orchestra.

A 27-year-old Beacon man was arrested by state troopers on charges he stole \$20,000 worth of diamond rings and other jewelry from a Glenham home where he had been hired to paint. Police said they found spots of paint on the dresser drawers in the bedroom.

A 31-year-old Beekman Street resident who had recently been discharged from the Army was killed when a pot stove exploded in his cellar. His father-in-law survived with head injuries. The medical examiner said the victim died of shock after his left leg was blown off. Police said that the men apparently neglected to open a valve in the stove after lighting the wood inside.

50 Years Ago (November 1970)

Two prisoners described as “extremely dangerous” escaped from the Matteawan State Hospital after sawing through the bars in the dining hall window. (A third patient was captured after he fell while scaling a fence and broke his leg.) Robert Barteski, 38, of Long Island, was a convicted rapist charged in the shooting of a New York City police officer, and Joseph Famiglietti, 32, of the Bronx, was an accused robber. [After their escape, the men stole a car and drove to Atlanta. Barteski was arrested in December after a gunfight with police, but mistakenly discharged from the hospital; he was re-arrested in January. Famiglietti was arrested in Florida in January while using an alias — and with \$42,000 in cash — but released on bail before being

identified as a fugitive. In July, Famiglietti was shot dead after he wounded a highway patrolman in Tennessee.]

The Forrestal Heights housing project filled the last of its 71 high-rise apartments.

Lionel Frank, a director of the Beacon Chamber of Commerce, said a “sensible compromise” was being pursued on the fate of the Van Wyck house near Interstate 84. Frank said the Chamber felt the home should be moved away from the freeway but members of the Fishkill Historical Society wanted it to remain.

Robert Musgrove, superintendent of the Beacon school district, said the most likely site for a new high school was a 65-acre tract on North Road across from the Fisherman’s Inn. The district considered an area near the Rombout School, to the left of the entrance gates of the Matteawan State Hospital, but Matteawan said the property was not for sale. A 20-acre parcel the district owned adjoining the Craig House property was not large enough, Musgrove said.

The Beacon school board voted to create girls’ sports at the high school, starting with basketball and volleyball. It also voted to ask the state Education Department for permission to allow girls to compete with boys in “non-body contact sports” such as tennis, skiing, cross-country, track, golf and bowling.

Murray Milligan, a former Beacon High School football standout, was leading the undefeated Marist College club team in rushing with 550 yards and seven touchdowns.

The City Council approved the construction by the Beacon Urban Renewal Agency of a 123-unit low- and moderate-income housing development at South and Davies avenues. The proposed rents were \$102.90 to \$157.02 per month.

Planners said as many as 200 homes and 60 businesses could be displaced by a north-south arterial highway being proposed to run from the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge to Dutchess Junction. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* noted that conservative residents such as H. Mortimer Brockway and liberals such as Pete Seeger joined forces to oppose the plan. “If a cyclone wiped out 200 homes, it would be called a disaster,” Seeger said. “Now we’re asked to call it progress.”



Jessica Cruz-Strika with Marley



Charlie at the Bean Cat Cafe

Photos by B. Cronin

Where the Cool Cats Go

New coffee shop combines the best things in life

By Brian PJ Cronin

Although Beacon's latest cafe hasn't opened yet, owner Jessica Cruz-Strika has the regulars figured out.

There's Charlie, who's warming up after a hard life on the streets of Newburgh; Marley, who's smart and outgoing; Autumn, who's shy and prefers to hang out in the back of the cafe. Louisa is a runner, along with the one nicknamed Uptown Boy who is sitting in the corner, quietly licking his butt.

These five — along with Becky, a dead ringer for Louisa — are the founding cats of Beans Cat Cafe, a combination coffee shop and cat adoption agency that opens Saturday (Nov. 14) at 325 Main St.

The concept isn't unique; Cruz-Strika estimates there are at least 120 "cat cafes" in the U.S. But it's a perfect fit for the former restaurant manager, who was smitten in 2017 when her husband brought home two kittens.

"I wasn't allowed to have cats as a kid," she explains. "So I dove headfirst into crazy cat lady."

In March, about a week before the COVID-19 shutdown, Cruz-Strika quit her job to focus on opening the cafe. The pandemic slowed that process but also gave her time to navigate the regulatory and logistical challenges of opening up an eatery populated by animals, she said.

First up was finding a landlord willing to allow multiple cats in a commercial space, and then convincing the city to permit it.

The "cat lounge" is separated by a glass wall, keeping the felines away from the food and beverage operations. The space, formerly the Sexy Nails salon, already had a robust ventilation system.

After making a purchase, customers will be able to sit at a table outside the lounge if they want to observe the cats. If they want to hang with the cats, it's \$7 for a half-hour or \$12.50 for an hour, with a limit of six people and health restrictions in place, including masks. The brave or foolish can bring in their laptops and attempt to work — just like at home. When a cat needs a break, it can retreat to an "employees-only" section of the lounge.

A bulletin board has details about the history and personality of each cat, who come from the Hudson Valley Animal

Rescue Sanctuary in Poughkeepsie, which handles any adoptions. Cruz-Strika says her goal is to help 300 find new homes by this time next year.

Since the cats moved in earlier this week, the display windows have often been filled with the faces of passersby. As Uptown Boy continues his rigorous cleansing, two young women pause at the window and point at him. He stops and bounds up to the ledge, inches from the women on the other side of the glass, kneading his paws on a pillow.

The women shriek like teenagers and pull out their phones to take pictures.

"This is why I opened this place," says Cruz-Strika, watching the scene. "I would have 100 percent been those girls."

Beans Cat Cafe will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Call 845-630-9195. Customers can make reservations at bit.ly/beans-cat-cafe to visit the cat lounge, although there will also be walk-in slots.

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Virus Surge *(from Page 1)*

Putnam has averaged 3.2 percent this month compared to 1.5 percent in October.

On Oct. 17, Cuomo announced a “micro-cluster” strategy to identify COVID-19 outbreaks and target testing and enforcement of masks and social-distancing.

Hot spots are designated by their average positivity rate and number of cases, with metrics differing by size of the county. If cases increase, the area progresses through yellow, orange and red zones.

There were eight yellow zones in the state as of Nov. 11, including one in Orange County, and four orange zones, in Brooklyn and Rockland, Westchester and Chemung counties.

In Dutchess, a yellow designation would be triggered with a seven-day rolling average case rate of 3 percent or higher over 10 days and 12 or more new cases per 100,000 residents (i.e., about 36 cases) on a 7-day average.

In Putnam, it would be a seven-day rolling average case rate of 3.5 percent or

higher over 10 days and 15 or more new cases per 100,000 residents (i.e., about 15 cases) on a 7-day average.

On Wednesday (Nov. 11), the 7-day rolling positivity rate in Dutchess was 2.4 percent and the average in Putnam was 4.1 percent.

One of the restrictions for counties in the yellow zone is a requirement that a school test at least 20 percent of its students and staff weekly. At the Garrison School, Superintendent Carl Albano said the district does not have the capability to do that, so that school would go to 100 percent virtual learning if Putnam enters the yellow zone.

Other restrictions in the yellow zone would include limiting worship services to 50 percent capacity and restaurant dining to four people per table. The restrictions get tighter in the orange and red zones.

Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive, said the county is preparing for a rapid response to any areas that appear on the verge of becoming a micro-cluster.

“That’s what we are prepared for next:

that we will have a ZIP code or two that exceeds the state threshold,” he said.

On Tuesday, nearly 5,000 people tested positive for COVID-19 statewide, a threshold last reached in late April, although the state was testing far fewer people then. The number of people hospitalized statewide has been rising steadily since Sept. 5; the 1,677 patients admitted on Wednesday constituted the highest total since June 13.

On Sept. 14, Cuomo announced that New York had its 38th straight day with a positive rate under 1 percent. On Wednesday, the rate was 2.95 percent.

The governor and local officials say the increase has been expected as the weather cools and people spend more time indoors.

“If you do the contact tracing, you’ll see they’re coming from three main areas: establishments where alcohol is served, gyms and indoor gatherings at private homes,” Cuomo said, explaining his restriction order.

Molinaro said during his weekly Face-

book town hall on Wednesday that 30 cases have been confirmed among residents and staff at the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon, and that two people have died.

Marist College in Poughkeepsie is also battling an outbreak, with 80 cases, he said. The college said on Tuesday that it was extending until today a campus-wide “pause,” with all classes held remotely and all other activities, including sports, canceled.

By Wednesday, Dutchess’ active case total had grown to 381, compared to 107 on Sept. 15. The total included 10 cases in Beacon.

The majority of the cases in Dutchess, Molinaro said, are from “ordinary socialization,” particularly family members infecting each other. “We’re moving toward the same pace of new cases that we were experiencing earlier during the year,” he said.

Putnam County, which updates its dashboard weekly, showed 71 active cases as of Nov. 5, compared to 20 on Sept. 25.

HVSF *(from Page 3)*

and I needed a permanent solution” for maintaining the site, Davis said. “It was just this incredible confluence. I’m delighted to be gifting them the land.”

Calling HVSF “a community institution,” Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said that “it’s incredibly exciting to see all the synergies” in the project. He predicted it would have little impact on its surroundings.

Councilor John Van Tassel observed that a play staged “from that spot, with that view [of the Hudson River valley], is going to be spectacular, unreal.”

Other business

■ Resident Greg MacGarva reported that since the town banned parking on Indian Brook Road in Garrison, “we’re seeing just hikers, which we welcome.”

But another resident, Krystal Ford, spoke

of “how sad I am not being able to access Constitution Marsh” and the Audubon preserve. She said the lack of nearby parking makes visits with children difficult and suggested that a van or trolley might run from Cold Spring.

Shea said that, “ultimately, it needs a pedestrian-friendly solution,” such as a sidewalk from the village, although that would require state Department of Transportation involvement and take time.

■ Shea and Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, reported meeting with a representative of Optimum after customer complaints about spotty service. Montgomery said they learned that Optimum plans to bring fiber-optic systems to Philipstown, although it said other areas are higher on its list.

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The Renegades play at Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D outside Beacon.

HVR

Renegades *(from Page 1)*

between major- and minor-league baseball that will shrink the number of minor-league teams from 160 to 120 nationwide, with many short-season and rookie teams being absorbed into what will be known as the Prospect Development Pipeline.

The short-season New York-Penn League, in which the Renegades played from 1994 through 2019, has been eliminated.

The Renegades in 2018 agreed to a five-year extension of their lease with Dutchess County of the 4,500-seat stadium after the Legislature approved \$2.4 million in bond funding to make repairs and upgrade the facility. In 2019 the club unveiled new stadium chairs with backs and, in some sections, seat cushions, and the concrete seating bowl and other surfaces were repaired throughout the ballpark.

The Beacon school district, which owns the 21 acres of land beneath the stadium, earlier this year extended its \$29,000 annual lease with the county through August 2021. The board is expected to discuss selling the property, which it has rented to the county for more than two decades.

The Yankees, in a statement, said they considered moving their High Single-A affiliate to Staten Island instead of the Hudson Valley. "However, as the number of our minor-league affiliates have been limited, we did not have the confidence that the organization could continue to allow us to develop our players in the best possible way, especially since the team

Yankee Minor-League Teams

AAA: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, Pennsylvania, since 2007

AA: Somerset Patriots, Bridgewater, New Jersey, beginning 2021

High A: Hudson Valley Renegades, Dutchess Stadium, beginning 2021

Low A: Tampa Tarpons, Florida, since 1994

would have to transition into a full-season Single-A affiliate," it said.

"The determination was made that the Hudson Valley would be best for our players, especially given the long-term and tremendously beneficial relationship we have had with Marvin Goldklang [owner of the Renegades], who is a longstanding partner and associate of the Steinbrenner family and the Yankees," the team said. "The Goldklang Group operates Charleston — our Low Single-A affiliate from 2005 through last season — which will no longer fall under the Yankees' minor-league umbrella. Additionally, Rookie-Level Pulaski [Virginia] will not be part of the Yankees' minor-league system."

The Yankees will keep their affiliation with their top-level minor-league team in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. At the Double-A level, the Yankees are moving their affiliation after 18 seasons from Trenton to Somerset.

Sheriff Overtime *(from Page 3)*

Are we cutting patrols: Yes or no?"

"We all want police protection," Nacerino responded. "I take offense to this scare tactic." She argued that Langley should return with comprehensive data on overtime needs through Dec. 31. "It's just keeping a vigilant eye on where the money is going and how it's being spent," she said.

Sullivan added that "the taxpayers are electing us to do what we're doing."

Legislator William Gouldman of Putnam Valley echoed Langley's comment that some towns rely on the Sheriff's Department. He also reminded his colleagues that Langley's request simply moves dollars from one place to another, at no additional cost to taxpayers. He urged the committee to "please put this through for a vote" by the full Legislature.

Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast, who chairs the committee, attempted to do so but neither Nacerino nor Sullivan, the other two members, supported the motion, and the \$101,192 transfer failed.

Outside the Legislature, Odell, a Republican, and Langley, a Democrat, issued dueling statements. The county executive asserted on Monday (Nov. 9) that she and the legislators must "see that taxpayer funds are spent wisely. Our focus on overtime spending has never been more necessary, especially due to the devastating economic effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic."

She said that last year, deputy sheriffs

and corrections officers received \$2.8 million in overtime, that 48 of the top 100 highest-paid county employees in 2019 were deputies who earned an average of \$128,430 with overtime and that three deputies made more than the sheriff.

"I am not disparaging the efforts of the hardworking men and women of the Sheriff's Department, but overtime costs need to be managed in every department or they continue to grow," she said.

Noting that the Sheriff's Department operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Langley responded that "to ensure public safety and the safety of our deputies, a minimum number of patrols" must be maintained, which often means deputies work overtime.

Addressing supposed salary anomalies, he said "the fact that deputies made more than the sheriff," an elected official who holds a salaried position, "says that these outstanding members of the department are dedicated to serving the community and this agency."

Langley also claimed his administration follows the same practices as his predecessors but "it seems that standard business practices acceptable under past administrations now raise questions by the county when the duly elected sheriff does not share the same party line." The Sheriff's Department "puts the people first to ensure their safety and constitutional rights," he wrote. "This sheriff does not play personal politics with public safety or any aspect of the office of sheriff."



THANKSGIVING PLANNING CONTINUES AT ST. MARY'S

The calls have been overwhelming, and the community has come together once again to assist one another. We need more help and appreciate your efforts this year as we plan for a drive-by and delivery gift of a Thanksgiving Feast. Riverview Restaurant is again at the helm and steadfast support of Jimmy Ely will be roasting them to perfection. Last week we asked for cooked turkeys, but with Jimmy in the kitchen for the community once again, we are asking for frozen, or fresh turkeys.

On the menu for the day are donated turkey's (please call Tara, we need 12-14 fresh or frozen turkeys delivered to the Riverview Restaurant on or before November 18th). Also, on the menu is Riverview's butternut squash soup. Now it is your turn and where we need community support. All the holiday trimmings are needed; yes, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, frozen peas, your favorite stuffing recipe, and pumpkin and apple pies. All will be picked up and delivered from your kitchen to the community to share thanks and giving with your friends and neighbors anonymously. Please call Tara to discuss our remaining needs for food donations, and, of course cash contributions are always welcome.

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by Sunday, November 22nd at 12 noon. Turkeys need to be delivered no later than Friday December 19th. Please call ahead to confirm all participation or donation of food; we are already over limit with cranberry sauce, **thank you again for your generous support**.

NEWS BRIEFS

Granite Mountain to Close Nov. 21 to 29

Will allow deer hunters to cull herd

The Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley, which is owned and managed by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, will be closed to visitors from Nov. 21 to 29 for its annual deer-hunting program.

Only deer hunters with a valid state Department of Environmental Conservation license and a permit from the land trust will be allowed access during the closure. Much of the preserve is experiencing deer-browse damage to its understory vegetation. For information, email nicole.wooten@hhlt.org.

Dutchess Names Inclusion Officer

Tasked with increasing diversity in workforce

Dutchess County on Oct. 30 announced it had named a new equal employment opportunity and inclusion officer.

Josayne Anderson-Tejera, who began Nov. 2, is responsible for increasing the diversity of the county government's workforce and at the 73 municipal workforces the county oversees.

She succeeds Jody Miller, who will continue as chair of the county's Human Rights Commission. Most recently, Anderson-Tejera was the acting equal opportunity specialist in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

OBITUARIES

Ray Champlin (1931-2020)

Raymond H. Champlin, 89, a lifelong resident of Nelsonville, died Nov. 4 at the New York State Veterans' Home at Montrose.



He was born April 30, 1931, in Cold Spring, the son of Norman and Mabel (Mekeel) Champlin. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, the former Anne Hopper.

Ray graduated from Haldane High School in 1948 and attended the University at Albany, where he majored in education. After earning his degree, he joined the U.S. Army and served as part of the peacekeeping force in Germany after World War II.

After returning home in 1955, he began teaching math and science at Haldane. He also was an assistant football coach for 15 seasons and launched the tennis program in 1964, coaching for 26 years until his retirement.

In 1989, after 34 years at the school, Ray retired on the day his son Jon graduated. In 2018, he was elected into the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame for his coaching tenure. Not being one to sit around, after his retirement he taught part-time at Marist College and IBM and conducted SAT preparation classes and tutoring.

He was a lifetime member of the Cold Spring Baptist church (now Church on the Hill) and served for many years as a trustee for the Butterfield Library.

In addition to his wife and son, Ray is survived by his grandchildren, Michael Champlin and Matthew Champlin.

A service will be held in December at the Church on the Hill. Memorial donations may be made to the Blue Devil Booster Club, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 or the Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516 (butterfieldlibrary.org).

Rose Immorlica (1932-2020)

Rose M. Immorlica, 88, a lifelong resident of Cold Spring, died Nov. 4.

She was born May 29, 1932, in Garrison, the daughter of John and Maria Immacolata (Devarti) Verlingieri.



Rose worked for Sonotone/Marathon Battery in Cold Spring for many years. She was a longtime parishioner at Our Lady of Loretto Church, a member of the Philipstown Senior Citizens and a poll worker.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Immorlica, her children, Mary Gumina (Paul), Joseph Immorlica Jr. (Bridget), Angelo Immorlica (Lisa), 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 10 at Our Lady of Loretto, with burial at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation (alz.org).

Rich Lucchesi (1952-2020)

Richard J. Lucchesi, 68, of Cold Spring, and formerly of New Windsor, died Nov. 3 while he waited outside the Methodist Church for the polls to open.



He was born in New York City on Jan. 24, 1952, the son of Anthony and Ann Marie (Barresi) Lucchesi.

Rich, who was known to co-workers as "gadgetman," was a retired master electrician with IBEW Local No. 363 in Harriman. He enjoyed hiking, kayaking and riding his Harley Davidson.

He is survived by his mother; his wife, Nanci Sobier-Maier; his children: Thomas Lucchesi (Elizabeth) of New Windsor; Dawnmarie Busweiler (Michael) of the Town of Newburgh and Maryann Williams (Dennis) of Highland; his former spouse and the mother of his children, Kathleen Lucchesi of New Windsor; his brothers, Michael Lucchesi (Patricia) of East Meadow, New York, and John Lucchesi (Laurine) of Sea Cliff; his grandchildren: Kristina, Joseph, Faith, Katelyn, Landon and TJ;

and a great-granddaughter, Olivia.

A funeral service took place on Nov. 8 at White, Venuto and Morrill Funeral Home in Newburgh, followed by burial at Mount St. Mary Cemetery in Queens.

Memorial donations may be made to the Vails Gate Fire Co., P.O. Box 101, Vails Gate, NY 12584.

Mary Ellen Scofield (1959-2020)

Mary Ellen Scofield, 61, who grew up in Beacon and worked at Gallagher Deli, Fisch's Jeans, Beacon Sneaker and Bob's Corner Store, and was known for her Halloween parties and holiday decorations, died Nov. 5.



She was born June 23, 1959, the daughter of Michael and Maryann (Antalek) Davis.

Mary Ellen had a deep love of the arts, her family said. In her youth, she was a passionate fashion designer. During her downtime, she enjoyed tending to her garden, sitting by her pool in the screen house that her sons built for her, and going to the beach any chance she could get.

She is survived by husband, Kevin Scofield; her sons, Jason Fisch (Chrissy) and Jack Fisch (Faye Guarneri); and her grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Michael, Naomi and Nathan. She is also survived by her siblings: Michael Davis (Ann), Kevin Davis (Karen), Timmy Davis (Terri Anne) and Terry Davis (Andrea), as well as an uncle, Fred Antalek.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 13 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

Fr. Pius Caccaville, 97

Betty Durlacher, 77

Ruth Gallagher, 89

Doris Riccoboni, 73

Frederick Rosa, 65

Mike Solicito, 78

Maria Stephens, 97

Current Classifieds

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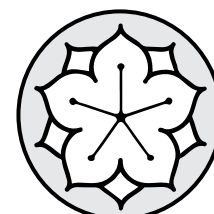
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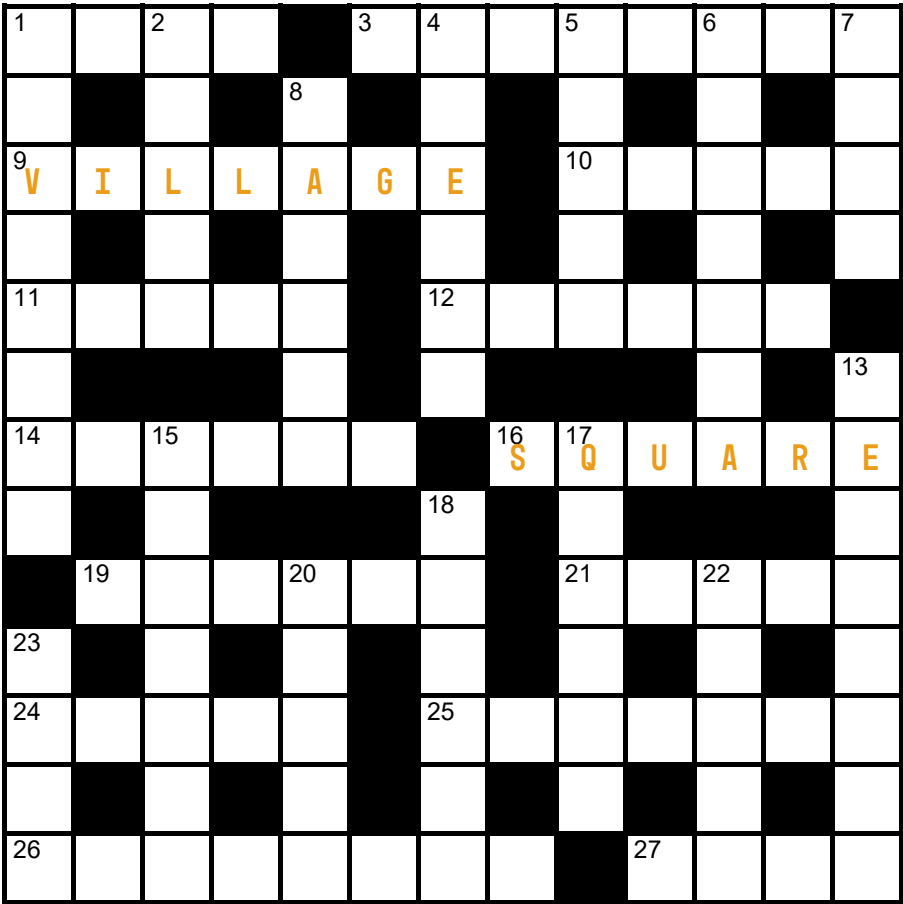
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT



- ACROSS**

 - 1. Get together
 - 3. Intensify
 - 9. Cold Spring ID
 - 10. Meeting place
 - 11. Quiet
 - 12. Religious study
 - 14. Get cozy
 - 16. Four corners
- 19. Duck walk
 - 21. Cast member
 - 24. Errand boy
 - 25. Favorite newspaper
 - 26. Animal preservation
 - 27. Grayish
- DOWN**

 - 1. Here to there
 - 2. Bravura
 - 4. Holmes
 - 5. Stroll
 - 6. Lost past
 - 7. Bounce back
 - 8. Summer shoe
 - 13. How lovers meet
- 15. Oration station
 - 17. Rock store
 - 18. Computer eye
 - 20. Senior member
 - 21. Recipients of hugs
 - 23. Confab

Answers for Nov. 6 Puzzles

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

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

1. PADS, 2. CLASHES, 3. KIEV, 4. HERBIVOROUS, 5. GOULDING, 6. SKIPPING, 7. SASS

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 range of Mount Elbrus (8)
 - 2 bigwig (9)
 - 3 removing tangles (7)
 - 4 made happy (7)
 - 5 winged reptiles (7)
 - 6 one who stirs the pot (8)
 - 7 sweating it out (10)
- SOLUTIONS**

 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

CAUC	AGO	CO	DIG	NG
ARY	TA	ING	NS	RS
AGI	PE	SED	MBI	NIT
PLEA	PIR	ASUS	TOR	DR

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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The Ketcham keeper corrals a loose ball in the box during Beacon's win.

Boys' Soccer

Beacon Suffers First Two Losses

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys' soccer team suffered its first two losses of the season last week against larger schools but picked up a 3-1 win over Ketcham on Monday (Nov. 9).

The Bulldogs, who are in Class A, fell at home on Nov. 5 to Class AA North Rockland, 2-1, and on Nov. 6 to John Jay of East Fishkill, 1-0.

Against Ketcham, the Bulldogs (7-2) trailed 1-0 at halftime but Chase Green scored for Beacon 12 seconds into the second half, converting a pass from Warren Banks to tie it. Banks scored 10 minutes later, assisted by Green, and Dillon Kelly closed out the scoring on a corner kick off a pass from Miguel Ruiz.

Coach Craig Seaman said that while his team dominated possession in the first half, "we adjusted our alignment slightly" in the second half by using two forwards. Ruiz moved to defensive midfield and sophomore Jack Philipbar "gave us some good minutes off the bench," the coach said.

The 1-0 loss to John Jay was "probably our best game of the year," Seaman said. "It could have gone either way; we missed a penalty kick that would have tied it. I was pleased knowing that we can compete with them."

In the game against North Rockland, Green scored, assisted by Banks. Lucas had 10 saves in goal for the Bulldogs, who were playing their first game in nine days.

Beacon was scheduled to face Hendrick Hudson on Thursday (Nov. 12) and Arlington today (Nov. 13) to finish the season before the playoffs begin. The Bulldogs will likely receive a first-round bye in the five-team Dutchess County bracket and advance to the semifinals on Wednesday (Nov. 18).

Girls' Tennis

Beacon Defeats Hendrick Hudson for First Time

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School girls' tennis team, with a come-from-behind, 4-3 victory on Tuesday (Nov. 10), defeated rival Hendrick Hudson for the first time. The match was finished after being suspended on an earlier date. Hendrick Hudson won a second match against the Bulldogs also played on Tuesday, 5-2.

In completing the suspended competition, Beacon fell behind 3-1 before winning the final three singles matches. Junior Maura Lane won at first singles, 8-5; sophomore Farah Jaafar won 8-6, and sophomore Isabelle Ray won 8-7 (10-6).

On Nov. 6, the Bulldogs defeated Haldane, 6-1. In the singles matches, Lane defeated Mairead O'Hara, 8-6; Jaafar lost to Caroline Nelson, 8-1; and Ray defeated



Farah Jaafar

Amanda Johnson, 8-2.

The doubles team of Lindsay Darcy and Emma Sanderson picked up an 8-4 win over Maya Osborn and Fiona Shanahan; Kelly Murphy and Alex Moroch defeated

Haldane's O'Hara and McBride, 8-3; and Gretta Anderson and Tamar Adams defeated Isabella Crofts and Shields, 8-0. Brianna Moleano and Lina Ahmed of Beacon won at fourth doubles, 8-4.

The Bulldogs (4-4) were scheduled to play their final match on Thursday (Nov. 12) against Brewster; the team did not send anyone to last week's regional tournament.

"We had a tough schedule, but we split with Hen Hud, and that's good," Coach David Ryley said. "Lourdes is on another level, but we're gaining on them. I'm happy with how they finished." He noted that most of the team will return next season, and Beacon has a strong junior varsity.

"This year the wins and losses didn't mean nearly as much as getting to play," Ryley said. "I'm so glad for the girls that we got to have some kind of season."

Girls' Soccer

Haldane Gets First Win

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School girls' soccer team picked up its first win of the season Tuesday (Nov. 10) at Beacon, avenging an earlier loss to the rival Bulldogs.

Sydney Warren's second-half goal, assisted by Bianca Harmancin on a corner kick, was the difference in the Blue Devils' 2-1 victory. Beacon had defeated Haldane in Cold Spring by the same score on Oct. 24.

The Blue Devils (1-7-1) scored first, just under 15 minutes in, when Chloe Rowe finished a pass from Maddie Chiera. Gabby Del Castillo answered for the Bulldogs (4-5) on a free kick.

"It was great to pick up our first win against a solid Beacon team," said Haldane Coach Steve Schweikhart. "When Beacon equalized in the second, the girls didn't hang their heads, they kept fighting. Beacon had just suffered what looked like a serious injury, and I think their minds were with their teammate a bit when play restarted."

Del Castillo, a team captain and top defender for the Bulldogs, broke her fibula and will miss the rest of the season. "I thought we had momentum on our side," said Beacon Coach Hugo Alzate. "But the girls were devastated after the injury."

After Haldane took the lead, Beacon



Haldane's Essie Florke (5) controls the ball with Beacon's Devyn Kelly (21) in pursuit.

Photos by S. Pearlman

scrambled for opportunities.

"We pressed and pressed, but couldn't break through," Alzate said. "They defended us well."

On Monday (Nov. 9), Beacon lost at Walter Panas, 2-0. "It was a pretty even game, we possessed phenomenally and outshot them," Alzate said. "The mask break [midway through each half] has been killing us at times. We've been playing well and have to stop and the opposition gets to regroup."

Haldane lost to Arlington, 2-1, on Nov. 6, and on Wednesday fell 6-0 at Lourdes,

whom Schweikhart called "probably the best squad we've faced all year — very technical, very organized and lots of speed. We gave up a goal in the first two minutes and never recovered."

The Bulldogs were scheduled to face Ketcham on Thursday (Nov. 12) and Hendrick Hudson on Saturday. Haldane is set to close its season at North Salem on Saturday.

Beacon will play in the sectional playoffs next week in the Dutchess County division and Haldane against other Putnam and upper Westchester teams.

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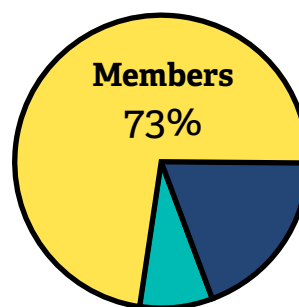
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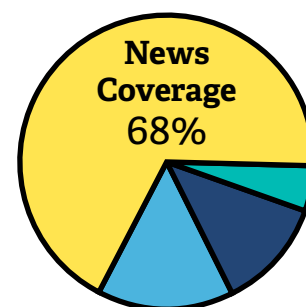
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