

# The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

Support us at [highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)



Dreams  
Come True  
for Elijah  
Hughes  
Page 24

By Leonard Sparks

SPECIAL REPORT

## Placed in Harm's Way

*Disproved suspicions land Philipstown girl in troubled facility*

The girl, then 12 years old, was supposed to be safe.

Taken from her mother three months earlier by the Putnam County Department of Social Services, she sat in an exam room at the Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents near Richmond, Virginia — a seven-hour drive from her home in Philipstown.

Every child admitted to the facility underwent what was supposed to be a standard initial exam by its medical director, Daniel Davidow. He counted the Philipstown girl's piercings and examined her

body for cuts and scratches, she said. The doctor was "way too handsy," recalled the girl, who is now 16, but the idea that his touches might have been sexual did not register until she began talking with other girls at the hospital.

"They told me the things that the doctor

did to them, and I remember being like, 'Oh, he did that to you, too,' " she recalled. "Then it clicked."

Four years later, those conversations between girls in 2016 have grown into an ongoing criminal investigation and a \$127 million class-action lawsuit filed Oct. 20 on

behalf of the Philipstown girl and 19 other former Cumberland patients who allege they suffered sexual and physical abuse at the hands of Davidow, staff members and other patients during their stays.

They have also fueled a mother's outrage.

Everything was triggered by a call from Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in Manhattan, where the woman took her daughter for treatment in February 2016. Instead, the mother found herself investigated for neglect and suspected of a controversial disorder known as Munchausen syndrome by proxy, in which a mentally ill caregiver causes illness or injury or invents

*(Continued on Page 6)*



**DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** — Susan Prazenka, an official with the Putnam Board of Elections, processes an absentee ballot on Wednesday (Nov. 18) in Carmel. Putnam has completed its tally of more than 11,000 mail-in votes. See Page 5.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Garrison Goes All-Virtual

*Schools anticipate virus restrictions*

By Chip Rowe

The Garrison School switched to an all-virtual model on Wednesday (Nov. 18) in anticipation of the state ending in-person learning at schools in Putnam County because of rising COVID-19 infection rates. Haldane also said it was preparing to go all-virtual, if necessary.

Garrison Superintendent Carl Albano said on Saturday (Nov. 14) that he was anticipating the county would enter the state-designated "yellow precautionary zone" because its 7-day rolling average positivity rate was on track to exceed 3.5 percent for 10 consecutive days and its new daily cases to exceed 15 or more on a 7-day average as of Thursday (Nov. 19).

Students have been attending Garrison, which has kindergarten through eighth grade, in-person, except for those whose parents or guardians opted to have them learn remotely.

"I am providing this advance notice so our students, families and teachers will have the opportunity to plan accordingly," he told parents. "Tuesday will mark our 49th day of in-person school this year," which he called a "remarkable accomplishment."

To stay open, schools in yellow zones must test at least 20 percent of students and staff each week. Albano said the Garrison district does not have the capability to do that immediately, but that it may not matter because the county is also on track to enter the orange precaution-

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## Can the Hemp Business Survive?

*Retailers say ban on bud may kill industry*

By Leonard Sparks

Soaps, deodorant, beard oil, pain relievers, lotion, hand sanitizer and an anti-anxiety tincture for pets.

The array of products Grant McCabe

creates using oil extracted from hemp he grows on a Marlboro farm to sell in his Beacon shop, The Leaf, could soon have an imprimatur: New York-certified.

Last month, the state Department of Health unveiled proposed regulations governing how the plant is processed to extract cannabidiol oil (CBD) and other cannabinoid substances from its leaves

and flowers. The proposals would set standards for products sold by retailers, including food and drinks.

But the regulations also would ban the sale of the smokable flower, or bud, of the plant, which retailers say is where they make most of their profits.

Although it's part of the cannabis family, hemp is low in THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana that produces its high. Demand has soared for products contain-

*(Continued on Page 21)*

# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: ERIKA RINCON

By Brian PJ Cronin

**E**rika Rincon is the farm-to-school coordinator for Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls.

## What is your job?

I was hired in January to help the Beacon school district with the 30% Initiative, which was started in 2019 by Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo as an incentive to get schools to purchase more New York state products for their lunch programs. As long as 30 percent of a district's purchases come from New York, it gets reimbursement from the state. For a small district like Beacon, which has about 2,000 students, that could equal about \$50,000. Since schools closed in the spring because of COVID, a lot of my focus has gone toward helping with the emergency food pivot to remote meals. I help make sure students are able to access that food, regardless of whether they're in school or learning remotely.

## How do you do that?

The Beacon district set up five distribution points where parents can pick up food for remote learners. It's also doing deliveries using school buses. It's trying to use as much local produce as possible, but there's



less produce now because of the time of year. However, just this month, when carrots were the "vegetable of the month," the district purchased more than 400 pounds. Farm-to-school programs don't just help kids eat healthier, they support regional farmers during the economic recovery.

## It is unusual for a school district to partner with a farm?

It's pretty unusual. We're lucky to have Common Ground so close. Beacon kids have been coming to the farm on school trips for years.

## Will Beacon reach the 30% Initiative this year?

A lot will depend on if we have in-class learning or suddenly go remote again and have to reshuffle. It's important that families sign up for meals at [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org); the district has a lot of set costs but gets reimbursed based on how many students receive meals. There are wonderful things being done in the cafeterias. The U.S. Department of Agriculture [which oversees school nutrition programs] signed a waiver at the beginning of the year that breakfast and lunch are available free during this school year to everyone, regardless of income.

## You were a farmer at Common Ground. Do you miss the fields?

I do! I love Common Ground Farm; it's such a beautiful farm to work at. But I enjoy this aspect of the work as well.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Do you have any superstitions?

“

I don't believe in superstitions. I just don't see it. I just see reality.

”



~ Tim Hynes, Cold Spring

“

Just black cats. I used to do a silly thing: I'd reverse my direction if I saw one!

”



~ Paola Herrera, Beacon

“

In Italy, numbers greater than 11 are considered unlucky.

”



~ Orazio DeVivo, Cold Spring

BEACON, NEW YORK

**artisan wine shop**

where food meets its match

**our web store: new look, new url**  
[www.artisanwineshop.com](http://www.artisanwineshop.com)

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic & low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

**marbled MEAT SHOP**

Introducing: Online Shopping  
For Same Day Curbside Pickup

**marbledmarket.com**

info@marbledmeatshop.com | (845) 265-2830

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**

Sat. Nov. 21 – 1 to 5 pm  
**HOLIDAY SMALL GIFT SHOW**  
 27 artisans' creations for sale!  
 Continues each Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon thru Dec. 21 plus 22 and 23

**HOLIDAY Small Gift SHOW**  
 NOV 21 - DEC 21  
 FRIDAY - MONDAY  
 Extended - DEC 22, 23  
 1 pm - 5 pm  
 Entry Show - DEC 12, 2020

Sat. Nov. 21 – 8 pm  
**LIVESTREAM: JAMIE SAFT, piano**  
 Presented by Elysium Furnace Works  
 Avant-blues, improvised musics of all kinds  
 Tix: [howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

**Jamie Saft**

Sat. Dec. 5 – 8 pm  
**LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR**  
 Musical variety show of the Hudson Valley features  
 Bruce Molsky and The Whispering Tree  
 Tix: [howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

AND MORE  
 Sun. Dec. 20 – 4 pm  
 Streaming: The Nutcracker, piano duo and narration  
 HCC will NOT be open for in-person audience during performances

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508  
[www.howlandculturalcenter.org](http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org) (845) 831-4988  
[facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon](https://facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon)  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)

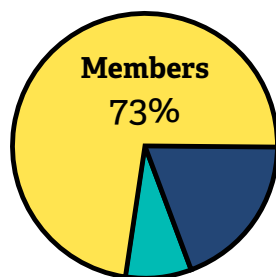
# THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT IS YOUR VILLAGE SQUARE

## DEAR READERS – WE NEED YOU!

As your independent nonprofit news source for Philipstown and Beacon, *The Highlands Current* relies on you, our readers, to help support coverage of all that matters to you..

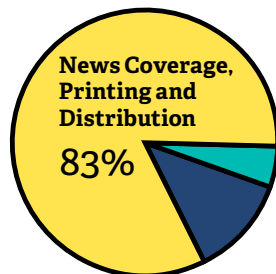
### Membership is the way you can help.

Gifts from our members represent nearly 80% of our revenue to allow our reporters to report, printers to print and Mike to distribute the papers to more than 40 locations for pickup throughout our communities. And there are benefits that will help us engage with you and you with us. It is our mission to serve you, for your local newspaper – as described by media columnist Margaret Sullivan -- “ties a region together, helps it make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, **serves as a village square.**”



### REVENUE

- Advertising 19%
- Foundations & Other 8%



### EXPENSES

- Fundraising 5%
  - Administration 12%
- Fiscal year 2019-20

**Join today, renew your membership or give a gift to honor *The Current's* 10th Anniversary!**

Just go to:

**[highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)**

Questions? Email:

**[membership@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:membership@highlandscurrent.org)**

### YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

From now through Dec. 31, membership gifts up to \$5,000 will be matched to a total of \$50,000 by a combination of funds from NewsMatch, a national campaign supporting nonprofit journalism, and from a community member dedicated to upholding quality community journalism.

GIFTS TOTALING  
**\$50,000**  
WILL MEAN  
**\$100,000**  
FOR OUR  
NEWSROOM!

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING ...

📷 I recently moved here and was so impressed by the quality of coverage. 📷 **STEVEN HIGASHIDE, COLD SPRING**

📷 I appreciate your effort at keeping me connected to our community.

**RICHARD STEINBERG, COLD SPRING**

📷 Great paper, awesome stories!

**SUZETTE SIMMONS, BEACON**

📷 Excellence in reporting and community spirit.

**DAVID RICH AND PAULETTE MYERS-RICH, BEACON**



The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

# The HIGHLANDS Current

## PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.  
142 Main St.  
Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819  
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

## FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

## EDITOR

Chip Rowe  
[editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org)

## SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

## BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

## ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney  
[arts@highlandscurrent.org](mailto: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](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org)  
[highlandscurrent.org/ads](http://highlandscurrent.org/ads)



Institute for  
Nonprofit News

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

November 20, 2020  
Volume 9, Issue 47

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. [highlandscurrent.org/delivery](http://highlandscurrent.org/delivery)  
[delivery@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:delivery@highlandscurrent.org)

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council

© Highlands Current Inc. 2020

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

**NYFA\*** Winner: 58 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

\* New York Press Association, 2013-19



NNA\* Winner:  
55 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

\* National Newspaper Association, 2016-19



NYNPA\* Winner:  
11 Awards for Excellence

\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017-19

## Tell us what you think

**T**he *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](mailto: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

### Sheriff overtime

Something's wrong when the Putnam County legislators consider spending \$45,000 to examine overtime for sheriff's deputies and there is \$28,000 already in the budget, in another account, to cover the overtime ("Putnam to Consider \$45K to Study Sheriff Overtime," Nov. 13).

The \$45,000 is new money that we can ill afford at this time. There must be a better way to determine, without the expense of a consultant, how to pay for overtime when we want full coverage and new hires are not an option.

Judith Lowry, *Garrison*

So it's OK to "defund the police" as long as the head of the police is a Democrat?

Brett Daigle, *via Facebook*

Overtime means you under-hired. Gotta have more part-time deputies.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

### Leaf blowers

Thank you, Pamela Doan, for asking why people seem to care so much about leaves on their lawns ("Roots and Shoots: The November Garden," Nov. 6). Even if we

ignore the environmental and health negatives of leaf blowers, the intrusion of these polluting machines into our lives is huge. The noise pollution is incessant and inescapable, even on Sundays.

Do we need a local ordinance to secure some peace and quiet? In my mind it is a sad commentary that consideration and regard for one's neighbors have become values that may have to be legislated.

John Benjamin, *Garrison*

Thank you, Pamela Doan, for your excellent column. I wholeheartedly agree with the holistic view of yard maintenance. My little hayfield of clover, milkweed, daffodils and other native weeds teems with life. Maybe a little more underachieving could actually help the natural world and improve our quality of life.

When it comes to leaf blowers, my slogan is, "Rake it, not racket." Or maybe, "Just leaf it!"

David North, *Garrison*

### COVID 2021

Thank you for the excellent issue covering the health and economic impact of the coronavirus in our area ("Business as

Unusual," Nov. 13). You do outstanding local journalism and we need you.

Donna Minkowitz, *Beacon*

### Virus surge

You reported that Dutchess recorded 65 positive cases of COVID-19 on Nov. 10 ("Virus Surges in Putnam, Dutchess," Nov. 13). There are nearly 300,000 people in Dutchess. Sixty-five people getting sick is not a blip on the radar. How many people in Dutchess got the flu or were diagnosed with cancer in the same time frame?

Charles Symon, *Beacon*

*The editor responds: During the week of Nov. 7, there were 7,279 specimens tested in New York state for the flu, and 162 positives (2.2 percent). Nineteen people were hospitalized. Dutchess accounted for about six confirmed flu cases that week and Putnam for five. In Dutchess, there were 1,756 diagnoses of cancer in 2016 (the most recent data available) and 537 deaths; in Putnam, there were 639 diagnoses and 165 deaths. Notably, there is a flu vaccine, and cancer is not contagious. We report when the number of cases rise because they usually translate into a higher number of hospitalizations or deaths a few weeks later.*

If you test thousands of people in a single day for anything you might get 65 cases. Young people die in greater numbers in car accidents, so take their keys away. Why don't we employ strategies that target the older folks and those with co-morbidity issues?

Gene Lawless, *Mahopac*

*The editor responds: You might get 65 cases, but everything isn't highly contagious and potentially fatal for many people, and young people can spread the virus to the more vulnerable. The response to people dying in traffic crashes wasn't to take anyone's keys but to mandate precautionary measures such as seat belts, which have saved thousands of lives — although the state estimates about 30 percent of the people killed each year weren't wearing them.*

We have failed our children. They'll have to suffer loss of schooling, just because we wanted to get drunk, feel tough and party.

James Carmody, *Carmel*

## Correction

A soccer player in a photo that appeared in the Nov. 13 issue was misidentified. He is the goalie for Ketcham High School, not Beacon's keeper, AJ Lucas.



# Local Election Update

*Absentee count completed;  
Forman files challenge*

By Chip Rowe

**D**utchess and Putnam county election officials said this week they had completed the unofficial tally of absentee ballots from the general election, with a Nov. 28 deadline to certify the local results.

Election officials were also processing about 1,800 “affidavit ballots” in Dutchess and 424 in Putnam; these are used when a person cannot immediately be verified as eligible to vote, such as because he or she went to the wrong polling place.

Mail-in and affidavit ballots were expected to be a factor in only one Highlands race, for Dutchess County judge. Republican incumbent Peter Forman was leading challenger Jessica Segal on Election Day by 8,299 votes but saw that advantage slowly disappear as absentee ballots were counted.

As of Thursday (Nov. 19), Segal appeared to have won the race by about 3,500 votes of some 140,000 cast, after winning 66 percent of the more than 31,000 absentee ballots.

With absentees counted, President-elect Joe Biden widened his lead in Dutchess County over President Donald Trump to 56 percent of the vote; Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney gained about 11,000 votes over his Republican challenger, Chele Farley; and Democrat Karen Smythe cut into state Sen. Sue Serino’s lead by 9,000 votes but was still far short of overcoming the incumbent Republican’s 19,430-vote advantage.

The turnout of registered voters in Dutchess was 78 percent, compared to 69 percent for the 2016 presidential election.

## Forman challenge

On Nov. 12, an Orange County court dismissed a claim by Forman that police officers should secure voting records at the Board of Elections in Poughkeepsie so they will be available to challenge the results if he loses.

Forman, who lives in Beacon, asked the judge to order police officers to “secure” absentee ballots and other election material, such as flash drives from voting machines. He filed his claim in Orange County Supreme Court on Nov. 10, saying “it is nearly certain” that Dutchess judges would have recused themselves from hearing it.

In the filing, Forman cited no evidence of irregularities in the count but raised the possibility that they could occur; he alleged that election machines “may have been defective” or that the board “may or will make errors” authenticating signatures.



Forman



**EYING THE VOTE** — Observers (at left) representing State Sen. Pete Harckham, a Democrat, and his Republican challenger, former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, watch as election officials count absentee ballots at the Putnam County Board of Elections on Wednesday (Nov. 18). Harckham’s district includes eastern Putnam.

He asked the court to prevent the Board of Elections from certifying the election results unless he wins, and to be ready to hear his appeal if he doesn’t.

In dismissing the motion, which named the Board of Elections and Segal, Judge Robert Onofry said Forman’s arguments amounted to “speculation” and that, regardless, he had not suffered any “injury” that needed remedy since the votes were still being counted. The candidate also presented no evidence, the judge said, that he would be “prevented or hindered from obtaining proper review of the process.”

## Putnam County

Election officials said on Thursday (Nov. 19) they had only a few absentee ballots from Southeast left to tally. The turnout was 80 percent, compared to 71 percent for the 2016 election.

With absentees, Biden cut into Trump’s lead by 4,465 votes (although the president still won with 54 percent); Maloney added 4,497 votes to his lead over Farley; and Smythe cut Serino’s lead by 1,547 votes.

## Other races

■ Kenya Gadsden, a former member of the Beacon school board and candidate for Dutchess County clerk, won a tight race to keep her seat on the Fishkill Town Board against Republican challenger Kevin McCarthy. McCarthy led after in-person voting with 55 percent of the vote but Gadsden overtook him in the absentee count and won by 101 votes of about 12,000 cast. Gadsden, a Democrat, was appointed to the board in January to fill a vacancy.



**WARM GESTURE** — A neighbor and her 2-year-old son shared coffee and hot chocolate with voters waiting in line on Nov. 3 at the Methodist Church in Cold Spring.

Photos by Ross Corsair

■ Only two of the state’s six minor parties appear to have retained their ballot lines for the 2022 election. Before this year, parties needed to receive 50,000 votes in the gubernatorial race every four years to remain on the ballot, but the state Legislature changed that requirement to 130,000 or 2 percent of the votes (whichever is higher) every two years in the races for governor and president. Only the Working Families

Party, whose presidential candidate was Biden, and the Conservative Party, which had Trump on its line, survived. The Libertarian, Green and Independence parties, which each ran their own candidates, did not receive enough votes, and the Serve America Movement (SAM) did not have a presidential candidate.

## Special Report *(from Page 1)*

medical problems for someone under his or her care.

Soon after, Putnam County took her daughter.

### A frantic search for answers

How did a child from Philipstown end up being treated — and allegedly abused — at a facility in Virginia?

As a 3-year-old, the girl had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Her body was failing to produce enough natural sugar-absorbing insulin. To counter that, she would need to inject insulin for the remainder of her life to keep her blood sugar level stable.

In January 2016, the girl began experiencing episodes of hypoglycemia, or low sugar levels, and seizures. The lows “were not the typical situation where you give a [diabetic] kid a juice box and 10 or 15 minutes later they start to come back up,” the mother recalled. Instead, her daughter “was continuing to crash out.”

On Feb. 15, 2016, the mother took her daughter to Westchester Medical Center, where she was found to have diabetic keto-acidosis, a life-threatening condition. The woman said she told the doctors that, during the preceding weeks, the girl had experienced “unexplained and serious episodes of hypoglycemia.”

“Then you have one doctor who met us for five minutes and who was like, shut it down, and made this call.

Much of that February was spent in hospitals or talking with and emailing doctors in an effort to figure out what was happening, the woman said. Someone suggested Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, and so, on the evening of Feb. 29, she drove her daughter to the emergency room. They brought along insulin pens, a glucose meter and orange juice, which she used to raise the girl’s blood sugar when it was low, according to the mother.

After an hours-long wait in the emergency room, tests determined that the girl had an unexplained surplus of insulin in her system and she was admitted to the hospital, her mother said. The next morning, endocrinologists saw her for the first time. Right away, the mother said, they confiscated the insulin she brought. Days of medical and psychiatric tests followed and she realized “they thought it was me” giving her daughter too much insulin, the mother said.

“Everyone was telling me, ‘That’s [Morgan Stanley] where she needs to be; that’s where the best care is,’” the woman recalled. “Then you have one doctor who met us for five minutes and who was like, shut it down, and made this call.”

The call was to the state’s child-abuse hotline.

### Reporting abuse

A single-page summary, dated March



The Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents is located near Richmond, Virginia.

3, 2016, of the report made to the State-wide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR), a hotline maintained by the Office of Children and Family Services, does not identify the person who called. But the number belongs to Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, part of the NewYork-Presbyterian system. (A representative for NewYork-Presbyterian did not respond to multiple requests for comment.)

According to the summary, the caller reported that the mother was “administering insulin when it is not needed” and the daughter “is having seizures because of it. The child is being placed at imminent risk by the mother’s actions.”

As in other states, New York designates doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers, police officers, dental hygienists, camp directors and other professionals who come in contact with children as “mandated reporters” who can be charged with a misdemeanor or be held liable for civil damages if they have “reasonable cause” to suspect physical or sexual abuse and don’t report it to the SCR, which was created in 1964.

The state explains in its materials for mandated reporters that “your suspicion can be as simple as distrusting an explanation for an injury.”

If the mandated reporters err on the side of caution and report suspicions that don’t turn out to be valid, the law provides them with immunity from civil and criminal liability, except in cases involving “willful misconduct or gross negligence.” The law also guarantees confidentiality to mandated reporters.

It is a system that encourages “over-reporting,” primarily against single, low-income mothers with few resources to fight back, said Christine Gottlieb, an adjunct professor at the New York University School of Law who directs its Family Defense Clinic.

Because of the minimal standard of proof, as many as 47,000 people are added to the SCR database in New York each year, she said. About 85 percent are allegations of neglect, rather than abuse.

For that reason, Gottlieb, said, “when a parent brings their child to the hospital, we shouldn’t be starting from, ‘Oh, they probably did something wrong.’”

There have been well-documented cases where parents have been found guilty of

intentionally harming their children to gain sympathy for themselves as caregivers. In Westchester County, a woman named Lacy Spears is serving a sentence of 20-years-to-life after being convicted in 2015 of killing her 5-year-old son by slowly poisoning him with salt; prosecutors said she craved attention from friends and doctors.

But there are also cases where caregivers, often single mothers, have been unfairly accused. In Los Angeles, a mother was awarded \$6 million in damages after she lost custody of her son when social workers accused her of intentionally starving him.

Some allegations of medical child abuse have led to “horrible miscarriages of justice” against parents who are merely in distress over their child’s health problems, said Eric Mart, a forensic psychologist and the author of *Munchausen’s Syndrome by Proxy Reconsidered*.

“Sometimes they’re just overwrought,” he said. “They think that there’s a problem, they’re misguided or they’ve been to some of the doctors who have more out-of-the-mainstream views of things, and they show up in the emergency room and somebody says: ‘Look, this is crap; this is medical child abuse.’”

“When a parent brings their child to the hospital, we shouldn’t be starting from, ‘Oh, they probably did something wrong.’”

He added, “just because you’re demanding or obnoxious or anxious, or don’t agree with everything doctors say, doesn’t make you abusive.”

Ten years ago, Michele Titus, then a Democratic member of the state Assembly and now a New York City Civil Court judge, introduced legislation requiring a Family Court hearing before a child could be taken from parents because of a Munchausen-syndrome-by-proxy allegation.

“Mothers who present the problem of their children in ways perceived as unusual or problematic have become entangled in legal battles that should have been resolved

clinically,” Titus wrote in the legislative memo. The bill would have allowed parents and guardians to speak at the hearing and bring in specialists and other witnesses to testify.

Last introduced in February 2019, Titus’ bill has never left committee.

### ‘I can’t imagine something worse’

A day after the hospital reported that it suspected abuse, a state child protective services worker interviewed the Philipstown girl at the hospital. During the interview, according to a Putnam County Department of Social Services (DSS) document provided by the mother, the girl was told her mother was suspected of “injecting her with insulin and making her sick.”

The girl “stated that is not true,” according to the document, and said that her mother was only concerned about the erratic blood sugar levels.

The mother said she stayed in her daughter’s hospital room each night but was not allowed to be alone with her. A guard sat by the door and a member of the hospital’s staff occupied a chair beside her daughter’s bed, she said.

Reports to the state child-abuse hotline are forwarded to county child protective services. In this case, the report was sent to the Putnam County DSS to investigate.

(Citing “strict confidentiality laws concerning child-welfare cases,” Faye Thorpe, the lawyer for the agency, said it could not comment.)

The magnitude of the doctor’s suspicions was realized when the Philipstown mother was told to come alone to Carmel for a meeting at the Putnam County DSS. As she drove in a rainstorm from the hospital in Manhattan, she recalled thinking it “was over” and she would only need to sign some documents.

She was asked to sign a document: a form consenting to the temporary removal of the child from her home. When she refused, Putnam filed a petition in Family Court to take her daughter.

“Being a mother defines who I am,” the woman said. “So, having the state say to me that they were taking custody of my child and that there was a restraining order — that they didn’t feel she was safe with me — I can’t imagine something worse.”

(Continued on Page 7)



Dr. Daniel Davidow, the former medical director of the Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents

(Continued from Page 6)

### Fighting back

While she fought to regain custody of her daughter, friends helped care for her other children and the family dogs. (The woman was not accused of abusing her other children.) A friend covered for her at work. Friends, neighbors and colleagues drafted letters of support. They described a mother with “bright, well-mannered, good-natured happy children” who organized birthday parties, donated clothes to people in need and once suggested her son give banana bread to “people he wanted to thank for being kind to him.”

“Someone chose the wrong person to accuse of wrongdoing,” one friend observed. Another wrote of her own problems getting a diabetic teenager to comply with her insulin regimen, calling it “a common issue among the teenagers and I don’t think the parents should be punished for this.”

Today, the woman says “the good of Philipstown saved us. I feel so bad for somebody who didn’t have what I had.”

The woman, who said she spent at least \$20,000 on legal fees, was still under a restraining order when her daughter was released from Morgan Stanley on March 24, 2016. The county recommended she be sent to a group home in Poughkeepsie, but after the mother protested, Judge James Rooney of Putnam County Family Court agreed to grant temporary custody to the woman’s landlord and his wife, who live in Philipstown.

Two days later, on March 26, the girl had an episode of hypoglycemia overnight, and the landlord and wife took her to the emergency room at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor. According to the mother, the girl was released after a few hours.

Ten days later, the landlord and his wife discovered a clogged toilet had been caused by a discarded insulin pen. It was the first evidence that the girl was misusing her

medication.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, many adolescents and adults with diabetes experience “burn-out,” growing weary of the regimented routine of managing insulin and diet, and begin skipping insulin doses, blood-sugar tests and medical appointments, or mismanaging their condition in other ways.

Moirá McCarthy, a medical journalist and the author of *Raising Teens with Diabetes: A Parent Survival Guide*, whose own daughter was diagnosed at age 6, told Healthline.com that her daughter “struggled on and off for a number of years” with regulating her insulin and ended up with diabetic ketoacidosis at 13.

“It’s kind of like the Scarlet Letter of diabetes,” McCarthy said. “There was all this shame around these struggles, when in reality all of these teenage hormones along with a diabetes burden is like a melting pot for trouble.”

**“The good of Philipstown saved us. I feel so bad for somebody who didn’t have what I had.”**

In an interview, the Philipstown girl described this as a tumultuous period in which she was having difficulty making friends and faced bullying and teasing.

“It started with me trying to get out of class; the nurse’s office was my safe place,” she said. “After that it just kind of exploded in my face.”

Despite the discovery of the flushed insulin pen, Putnam County refused to support returning custody to the mother. It claimed it had substantiated three other allegations of neglect against her: “inadequate guardianship,” “lack of medical care” and “inadequate supervision.”

Each allegation, the Philipstown mother

said, related to an incident when she was at work and her daughter, left alone but under the eye of a neighbor, had a seizure.

“I had to go to work; I had to support my family,” the mother said.

The girl was sent back to a hospital, this time to the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, where she underwent a weeks-long evaluation. A psychiatrist who met with her wrote in a report that he felt “very strongly that she does not need hospitalization in an acute inpatient psychiatric unit” and that “exposure to that setting would likely result in her getting worse.”

He presented two options: The girl could receive outpatient treatment, or she could be sent to an in-patient residential program. One of the two facilities he recommended was Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents in Virginia, which specializes in treating children with multiple medical issues.

The mother said that the Putnam County DSS, convinced that it was still unsafe to send the girl home, told her that no local facilities were equipped to manage her diabetes.

The mother said she did some research and found reports from the Virginia Department of Health that noted issues at Cumberland such as understaffing, mismanagement of medications, torn mattresses and access to potential weapons like wire hangers.

On April 16, 2019, Rooney signed an order to send the girl to Cumberland. A lawyer the mother hired said the order could be appealed but that he wouldn’t recommend it. Her daughter was driven by ambulance to Cumberland on May 2, 2016. The woman followed in her car.

“I knew that this place was no good,” she said, and her daughter described the long drive to Cumberland as “probably the worst day out of everything that had happened.” Her three-month stay at Cumberland would begin with Davidow’s examination.

## How We Reported This Story

*The Current* was approached by a Philipstown resident in 2018 about her interactions with the Putnam County Department of Social Services and Cumberland Hospital, but she was not comfortable sharing details. She contacted the paper again earlier this year, noting that a class-action lawsuit was about to be filed and that she and her daughter would be willing to speak on the record and provide documentation.

We are not printing the woman’s name because it would identify her daughter, who is still a minor and the alleged victim of sexual abuse.

Senior Editor Leonard Sparks interviewed the woman and her daughter at length. He also attempted to contact the agencies and medical professionals involved for clarification and their responses to the allegations. Thank you to WTVR, the CBS affiliate in Richmond, Virginia, for its reporting on the allegations against Cumberland Hospital.

**Chip Rowe, Editor**

### An abuse scandal

By the fall of 2019, former patients at Cumberland and the parents of patients had grown so concerned about allegations of abuse that they formed a private Facebook group to share their stories.

It was after joining the group that the Philipstown mom learned that journalists at WTVR, the CBS affiliate in Richmond, were reporting that the Virginia State Police had been investigating the hospital since 2017.

Asked by *The Current* about her own experiences at Cumberland, the Philipstown girl said that, in addition to Davidow’s “handsy” exam, she was bullied by older female patients and ogled by older boys. Her mother said she, too, observed some of these behaviors during a week-long visit to see her daughter at Cumberland.

The mother’s notes, shared with *The Current*, described fights, staff members chasing runaway patients and a girl who cut herself with a razor. Her daughter, she said, “called crying every day to get her home” during her stay. She also told her mother about the uncomfortable exam.

“She told me it happened to her and she told me that other girls were talking about it, as well,” the woman said. “It was like a well-known thing among the girls.”

In February of this year, the Virginia attorney general announced that Herschel “Mickey” Harden, 72, a former therapist at the hospital, had been charged with two felony counts of “object sexual penetration” of a former patient. (His trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 10.) That same month,

(Continued on Page 8)

## Changes Coming

Things will soon change in New York for parents accused of neglect, such as the Philipstown mother, whose names are placed on the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, said Christine Gottlieb, director of the Family Defense Clinic at the New York University School of Law.

Under a state law that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2022, the standard of evidence required to add a person's name to the registry for abuse or neglect will change from "some credible evidence" to "a fair preponderance of evidence." A search of the register is required for many jobs and professional licenses.

In addition, if a Family Court dismisses the charges, a parent will no longer need to take separate legal action to have the record sealed, as the Philipstown mother had to do. Finally, for those accused of neglect, records will be sealed after eight years for most jobs and 12 years for all jobs; under the old law, that only happened when the youngest child named in the report turned 28.

## Special Report *(from Page 7)*

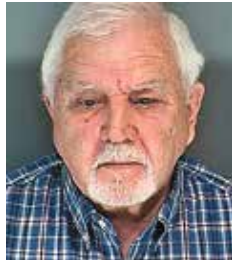
WTVR broadcast a story about a Florida teenager who alleged that Davidow had abused her at Cumberland.

Soon after the report aired, Davidow took a leave of absence, according to WTVR, and had his license revoked. In April, the hospital hired a new medical director.

The class-action lawsuit filed in state court in Virginia on Oct. 20 by a personal-injury firm based in Virginia Beach names Davidow and Harden, Cumberland and Universal Health Services, which owns the hospital. The alleged victims — all identified only by their initials — were as young as 9 at the time of their stays.

During Davidow's exams for girls, according to the lawsuit, he "fraudulently stated he needed to check the minor patient's femoral [inner-thigh] pulse" and "would then place his hand beneath the minor patient's undergarments." Some of the plaintiffs, including one confined to a wheelchair, accuse Davidow of abusing them in other parts of the facility, including in their rooms.

Along with the abuse allegations, Cumberland is accused of fraudulently keeping patients longer than necessary to increase revenues, ignoring reports about



Mickey Harden

abuse and giving "misleading information" to parents in order to maintain custody.

In a statement on Wednesday (Nov. 18), Michael Goodman, Davidow's attorney, said the allegations "attribute illicit behaviors to him by nameless parties" who have "chosen to disparage Dr. Davidow with unfounded claims and to lay ruin to the career of a caring and compassionate clinician."

"Dr. Davidow absolutely denies all allegations that he ever sexually assaulted or abused any patient at Cumberland," Goodman said. "We are confident that when these matters are tried in court, the evidence will clearly prove that these allegations are completely without merit."

Garrett Hamilton, Cumberland's chief executive officer, did not respond to a request for comment, nor did a spokesperson for Universal Health Services.

According to a New Kent County Sheriff's Office report obtained by WTVR, during an interview in 2017, Davidow said that he examined patients to check on their pubertal development, including feeling for pubic hair. A child protective services investigator determined the allegations were unfounded, according to the report.

WTVR also reported on the class-action lawsuit, and the Philipstown mother said that, while watching the segment online, she was struck when the reporter noted that, of the plaintiffs alleging abuse, the youngest were 12 years old at the time.

"I'm like, 'That's my daughter,' " the woman said. "Hearing the newsperson say it, that was the punch in the gut."

### 'There's no apology'

In June 2016, the Putnam County DSS said it would ask a judge to restore custody only if the Philipstown mother underwent a psychiatric evaluation. During her first appointment, the woman said she had to complete a "600-question true-and-false" exam. The second appointment ended up being a four-hour conversation with the psychiatrist, she said.

"He was the first and only person involved in the case to hear my side of the story," she said.

On July 15, after receiving the psychiatrist's report, Judge Rooney ordered the girl, who was still at Cumberland, returned to

**“** He was the first and only person involved in the case to hear my side of the story.

her mother. Fourteen days later, when her daughter was released from the hospital, the woman drove to Virginia to retrieve her.

In his order, Judge Rooney noted that the mother could challenge Putnam County's finding that there was "credible evidence" of neglect and have the record sealed. If she didn't, employers and licensing agencies searching child-abuse hotline records would see she had been reported for neglect.

On July 28, 2016, the state Office of Children and Family Services denied the Philipstown woman's request to have her record sealed. "There is no convincing evidence in the record to demonstrate that you would not behave as you did in the past in similar circumstances in the future," it said in a letter.

Many parents are not aware they can request a hearing to appeal such decisions, said Gottlieb. "If they request them, they have a good chance of winning," she said.

In this case, that is what happened. Although Putnam County DSS opposed her appeal, an administrative law judge ruled that the state agency had "failed to establish by a fair preponderance of the evidence" — the standard used at the administrative review level — "that the subject committed the maltreatment giving rise to the report." It would be sealed.

While relieved, the woman said, "there was no, 'We're sorry we took away a year of your life.' There was nothing."

Three years after the ordeal, the Philipstown mom says her daughter has matured into a "fabulous human," although she feels they were both scarred by the experience with Putnam County and Cumberland.

"With time and perspective, she can understand how little she was and what happened to her," the woman said. "She's always going to be on-guard — and me, too."

## The Hudson Highlands are More Popular Than Ever: Learn How HHLT is Responding and How You Can Help

DEMAND FOR HOUSING • INCREASED VISITATION  
EXPANDING PARKLAND • INCLUSION

Join us for two FREE webinars to catch up with HHLT on these topics.

**Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm**  
**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7pm**

Visit [hhlt.org](http://hhlt.org) or contact [ashley.rauch@hhlt.org](mailto:ashley.rauch@hhlt.org) for more info and to register.



# Help Us Help You!

Visit [highlandscurrent.org/survey](http://highlandscurrent.org/survey)

We'd like to learn more about our readers and what you like to read.

## TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY

and you'll have a chance to win free mail delivery for a year.

The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

# Metro-North: Should Everyone Pay the Same?

*Local commissioner pushing to ‘right an unfair burden’*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A Putnam County legislative panel on Tuesday (Nov. 17) endorsed a call for Metro-North Railroad to charge a flat fee for tickets between Grand Central Station and suburban destinations, including Cold Spring, Garrison and Beacon.

Under the commuter railroad’s current policy, as the miles from Grand Central Station increase, so do the costs of tickets, whether purchased for an individual trip or as weekly or monthly passes.

Fares for monthly peak tickets on the Hudson Line from Grand Central range from \$186 to Harlem/125th Street to \$521 to Poughkeepsie. The fare to Cold Spring and Garrison is \$427 monthly and to Beacon, \$475. Individual one-way fares range from \$8.25 to \$25.75. The fares are the same on the Harlem line, which serves eastern

Putnam and southeastern Dutchess.

The median fares are \$353 per month and \$16.13 per ride.

The unanimous vote by the three-person Physical Services Committee sent to the full Legislature a proposed resolution supporting the flat-rate initiative, championed by Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, which oversees the railroad.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district covers Philipstown, expressed her support for the idea, as did other legislators. Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast, which has a stop on the Harlem line, proposed the resolution.

Under Zuckerman’s plan, outlined in a memo to MTA officials, riders would pay the same for any Metro-North trip between Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties and Grand Central.

If the plan were adopted, “riders farther from Grand Central would pay less and those riders who are closer in will pay more,” he said. “The increase to those closer in would

be relatively modest, while those farther away and paying upward of two times more would see a significant reduction.”

In Putnam, Dutchess and northern Westchester counties, the annual cost of train tickets plus parking reached \$6,000, and commuters who need a MetroCard for trips within the city often paid an additional \$1,500, pre-COVID, he said.

Zuckerman said his alternative means “righting an unfair burden” and “eliminating a doubly regressive tax.” He said the latter arises because “the cost of commuting is higher the farther away one lives and there is a loose, if not perfect, correlation between wealth in the closer-in Westchester suburbs — e.g., Bronxville, Scarsdale — versus farther out Putnam and Dutchess communities.”

A flat price would also be more “democratic” and emulate the New York City subway system, which allows someone to travel from distant neighborhoods of Brooklyn or Queens into Midtown Manhattan at the same cost as a rider from the Upper East Side, Zuckerman said.

Finally, he maintained, flat-price ticket-

ing “is just easier to manage, administer and understand.”

He acknowledged that “the entire MTA is in severe financial straits” but noted that the MTA board is engaged in a periodic price-setting review, making it “the right time to consider how we can address historic imbalances.”

Montgomery, whose husband, James Lovell, was killed in a Metro-North derailment in 2013, said Zuckerman’s plan “shows how entities, especially government entities, need to change the way they do things, especially for an organization like the MTA, which was grossly mismanaged and has been very greedy over the years. To do something like this and to present it to them, to insist that they look out for the people they serve, is a great idea.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, another town on the Harlem line, said the current ticket pricing “hurts our economies here” because it can make living in Putnam difficult when commuters must spend so much money to reach their jobs as well as endure a longer train ride.

If approved by the full Legislature, the resolution would be sent to MTA Chair Patrick Foye.

## Consultant to Help Update Cold Spring Police Policies

*Mayor stresses public input as part of the process*

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring has hired Lexipol LLC, a California-based company that provides policy manuals and consulting services to law enforcement agencies, to help update Cold Spring Police Department policies and procedures. The Village Board approved the \$3,100 expenditure at its Nov. 10 meeting.

Earlier this year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all municipal police forces in the state to complete detailed reviews of their

operations by April 1. Cold Spring Police Department policies were last updated in 2013; Lexipol will provide a model ordinance that ensures CSPD operates in conformity with state guidelines.

Larry Burke, officer-in-charge of the CSPD, said Lexipol has worked with other local police forces, including those in Fishkill and Kent and the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, each of whom, he said, indicated the company provides excellent service.

Mayor Dave Merandy said he has been “getting the feeling” from some that the Village Board did not plan to abide by the governor’s rules in conducting the review. “That is not the case,” he said.

Lexipol’s work will provide “a policy we can work off,” he said. “We can tweak it the way we want to tweak it.”

He emphasized that public input will be an integral part of the process.

“What I’d like to make really clear is the Village Board is not going to ignore public comment,” the mayor said. “We’re going to have plenty of public meetings; everyone can have their say and input into the policies.”

Burke commented that “realistically, the governor’s rules are a guideline” and that each municipality determines its own policies.

**In other business...**

■ The Zoning Board of Appeals approved

a resolution drafted by Village Attorney John Furst denying an application to replace a small barn at 21 Parsonage St. with a single-family home.

■ The Historic District Review Board suggested reducing its fee for projects requiring a public hearing from \$80 to \$40 while increasing the general application fee from \$30 to \$40. No decision was reached.

■ Burke reported that the CSPD responded to 52 calls for service in October. Officers issued 103 parking tickets and 16 traffic tickets. Two arrests were made — one regarding motor vehicle registration and one under the mental health law. The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 21 alarms last month.

## Nelsonville Survey: Airbnb OK

*But residents say they want restrictions*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Most Nelsonville residents support the use of homes for short-term rentals, such as through Airbnb, but want them regulated, according to a survey unveiled Monday (Nov. 16) by the Village Board.

Conducted from mid-October to mid-November, the survey drew 58 responses from the village’s 270 households, a return of about 20 percent. Five respondents said they offer short-term rentals.

Nelsonville’s current code allows “the letting of rooms” to up to two guests at a time, as long as the owner lives in the house. It prohibits cooking facilities in guest rooms, although an owner can offer breakfast and

allow guests access to the kitchen.

Of the 58 respondents, 55 favored restrictions. Of those, 67 percent backed limiting the practice to homeowners, and 64 percent said renting should require a permit and safety inspection.

In addition, 75 percent said owners should be required to remain on the premises or be no more than 30 minutes away; 38 percent would ban the rental of second homes; and 73 percent of respondents would prohibit the purchase of a house to be used exclusively as a short-term rental.

Among the five respondents who operate short-term rentals, one wants “the flexibility to make extra income without any restrictions or village oversight,” while the other four said they would abide by regulations, Trustee Dove Pedlosky told the board, which met via videoconference.

Respondents who commented in the

survey frequently criticized short-term renting. They referred to parking problems, noise, drunken behavior and seeing, every weekend, “a new, random person living on our street [when] we don’t know them or their background.” One wrote of feeling “as if we are living next door to a business in a residential area.”

A former short-term rental owner referred to “worrisome guests,” including those who held “a raucous dance party that went on until the wee hours,” visitors’ use of illicit drugs and other troublesome behavior, contributing to “our decision to no longer host.”

Positive remarks cited the revenue homeowners can earn, the opportunities to meet “many wonderful people,” including guests who become friends or even neighbors, and the advantage of dealing with a loud, short-term occupant compared to a loud, long-term one.

COVID-19 influenced some responses.

One resident appreciated the presence of short-term rentals “when we want our

family to stay separate so they can quarantine or until they are tested.” However, another wrote that during the pandemic, owners “should not be allowed to rent to others. Our community can easily become infected.” A third advocated restrictions on all short-term rentals, “if not permanently at least until after COVID-19 has passed.” A resident also linked short-term rentals to more “hikers on the trails and walkers on the streets not wearing masks.”

Village Board members said the survey will help in drafting regulations.

“Nobody can say we’re going ahead on this without doing our homework,” said Mayor Mike Bowman. “In our public meetings, if we have four or five people in the room speak, it’s a lot. So 58 is a pretty large slice of resident households.”

However, “we’re definitely not legislating based on the survey,” said Trustee Chris Winward, who organized it with Pedlosky. For guidance, the board is reviewing laws passed by Beacon and other communities.



Dr. Anthony Fauci spoke with Mildred Solomon of The Hastings Center on Nov. 19

## Q&A: Dr. Anthony Fauci

**D**r. Anthony Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. He visited Philipstown on Thursday (Nov. 19) — at least virtually — to be interviewed over Zoom by Mildred Solomon, president of The Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute based in Garrison. Solomon’s questions and Fauci’s responses have been condensed.

**SOLOMON:** We are meeting at a perilous moment in our nation’s history, with a pandemic out of control and a highly polarized public. Yet, at the same time, it’s a moment of unprecedented opportunity because we have news of promising therapeutics and vaccines. There is also greater recognition of health inequities, which may create the opportunity for health justice and racial reckoning. Do you also see this moment filled with both peril and opportunity?

**FAUCI:** Oh, absolutely. We’re dealing with an explosive pandemic, the likes of which we have not seen since 1918. It’s also occurring at the most inopportune time, when there is this politicization. I’ve served six presidential administrations and I’ve been doing this as the director of the institute for 36 years and I’ve never seen a situation in which a public health issue has been thrust into divisiveness.

There is also opportunity. Just in the last two weeks we’ve had an extraordinary advance in highly efficacious vaccines with 95 percent efficacy. I would have gladly taken 75 percent efficacy.

With health disparities, we have a situation among minority populations, particularly African American and Latino, because they are suffering more than three times as many deaths. In part, that’s due to the reality that people of color are more likely to be in face-to-face jobs with others, so their chances of getting infected are far greater than for you and I, sitting in front of a computer, safely talking to each other.

The other thing is that underlying co-morbidities, namely diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, chronic lung disease,

kidney disease, put them at a significantly higher risk of not only hospitalization but death. That is not a racial issue — that is a social determinants issue. That goes back from the time you were born, the environment in which you grew up, the diet you were exposed to. That leads to the kinds of diseases that we’re seeing as co-morbidities. If anything comes out of this, when we get out of this, it should be a firm, decade-long commitment to doing something about the social determinants of health. Because if we don’t, they’re not going to spontaneously go away. And the next time we have an outbreak, it’s going to be the same thing.

**SOLOMON:** It is extraordinary that we’re seeing 95 percent effectiveness with the first two vaccines, but what does that mean? My understanding is that Pfizer and Moderna’s vaccines will protect people from serious illness; people who got the vaccine were much, much less likely to get symptoms, which is a great thing. But we don’t know yet if they will protect against infection or whether they could still be contagious. Do I have my facts straight?

**FAUCI:** We know two things. We know from the trials that the vaccines are efficacious in preventing infection that is clinically recognizable and effective in preventing severe disease. What we don’t know yet is whether it’s effective in preventing infection.

If I get infected but I don’t get symptoms, I count as a plus for the vaccine, but I’m still infected. The question that we don’t know, which is going to be really interesting — if I’m infected but vaccinated, is the level of virus going to be so low that I don’t infect other people? The open question is we don’t know yet how well it prevents infection. What impact is it going to have on transmission?

Getting vaccinated with a highly efficacious vaccine does not mean that you’re going to completely abandon public health measures, because it’s conceivable that even though you’re feeling fine, you still have the virus. Remember, the primary reason for wearing a mask is to prevent you from infecting others. The rationale is that you don’t want someone who has no symptoms infecting someone else.

The public health measures, the stringency of them that we are under now, can

(Continued on Page 12)

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**2,307** (+248)

New Cases in Philipstown: **4**

Tests administered:

**73,896** (+4,602)

Percent positive:

**3.1** (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

**64** (+0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**6,439** (+436)

Active Cases in Beacon: **35**

Tests administered:

**261,617** (+16,573)

Percent positive:

**2.5** (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

**177** (+4)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Nov. 18. New cases in Philipstown for the week ending Nov. 5, the most recent available.

## Schools (from Page 1)

ary zone on Sunday (Nov. 22), when schools would have to go all-remote. In the “orange zone,” a county has a 7-day rolling average positivity rate of 4.5 percent for 10 days and, in red, 5.5 percent.

To reopen from yellow or orange, Putnam would need to have a decline in the 7-day average positivity plus a rate below 3 or 4 percent, respectively, for at least three straight days.

During a videoconference on Tuesday, Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante said that he, too, anticipated Putnam would be designated as yellow and that the district would have to go all-virtual while it does not yet have the capability to test.

“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done, quite frankly, and we’re not there yet,” he said.

He added that “over the weekend, schools were informed that they can stop testing if our positivity rate within the school community is lower than the current 7-day positivity rate within the micro-cluster. But I don’t know if stopping testing is the best once you have the ability to test.”

At Haldane, students in the elementary and middle school attend class in person daily, except for those whose parents opted for all-virtual learning, while high school students are on a hybrid system, attending two or three days a week.

Asked if the state would close all schools in Putnam or only those in certain ZIP codes, Shanna Siegel of the Putnam County Department of Health, who was also on the Haldane videoconference, said the agency had been informed that the state planned to consider the county as a whole. “I don’t think our population density is enough to break it down further,” she said.

## Putnam County Rates

### 7-day rolling averages

11/07	<b>2.3%</b>	
11/08	<b>2.8%</b>	
11/09	<b>3.3%</b>	
11/10	<b>3.7%</b>	Yellow 10-day begins (3.5 or higher)
11/11	<b>4.1%</b>	
11/12	<b>4.2%</b>	
11/13	<b>4.7%</b>	Orange 10-day begins (4.5 or higher)
11/14	<b>4.8%</b>	
11/15	<b>5.1%</b>	
11/16	<b>5.3%</b>	
11/17	<b>5.3%</b>	
11/18	<b>5.4%</b>	

In Dutchess County, the positivity rate 7-day rolling average must reach 3 percent for 10 consecutive days before the county would enter the yellow zone. It was 2.6 percent on Wednesday (Nov. 18). New York City schools went to all-virtual learning on Thursday (Nov. 19) after the city hit a 7-day rolling average of 3 percent positivity.

# Q&A: Dr. Anil Vaidian

**D**r. Anil Vaidian, the Dutchess County health commissioner, spoke with Senior Editor Leonard Sparks on Wednesday (Nov. 18). His responses have been condensed.

## **We've seen an uptick in cases in Dutchess and the Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Are you concerned?**

Yes, but it was not unexpected. When the pandemic arrived on our shores, there were a lot of things that we didn't understand about its dynamics, such as how infectious it was. But those of us in public health understand from history how pandemics behave. They tend to be multi-modal, meaning they have multiple peaks. When you look at other pandemics, the second wave tends to have a greater magnitude and scope. In the spring, people in public health were warning: The fall is coming, winter is coming, we have to be prepared.

What is happening now is that people are congregating indoors, and there are more opportunities to run into people who may be infectious. When a cluster of infections is identified, we're fairly quick in our response, so we're not seeing them spilling over into the community. We're also seeing people getting fatigued [with the restrictions] and becoming lax. This is what I've heard from my contact investigators. People are getting together for parties, to watch football and so on.

We've talked so much about bubbles, but people are starting to broaden their social circles. You can have a small core, but if one person in that cohort has another network... If you introduce a pathogen into the network, over time it's going to filter through pretty much everybody. People can restrict the number of people they come into contact with, but how well is that network insulated?

## **What, if anything, can be done to convince those who believe COVID is a hoax or a plot that isn't real and dangerous?**

That's a tough one. When someone is so entrenched in a particular view, you will be met by equal force. It's an ongoing conversation; there's no point arguing with somebody about things that they're so fixed on. At the end of the day, what's important is that you're responsible for yourself. You're responsible for your actions, and your actions go a long way toward whether this virus gets into your household or reaches your loved ones.

## **When you talk about trying to limit community spread, what kinds of things should people be doing, especially as we approach Thanksgiving?**

I don't want to tell people, "OK, if you do

this, you're going to be protected." It's very, very infectious, and you can have young people who are totally asymptomatic and pass it on. When people congregate for a family gathering, you have no assurances what your brother or sister, who you haven't seen, has been doing, and whether they've been exposed. These types of gatherings are driving the numbers.

## **Is it safe to do routine shopping and errands?**

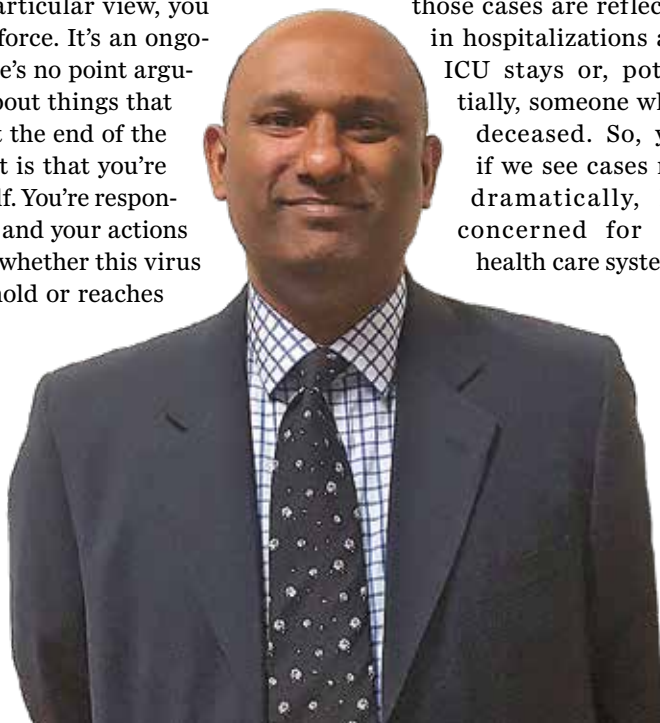
Risk is not dichotomous, meaning it's either no risk and lots of risk. Each measure that you employ reduces the risk. I plan my shopping. I go off-hours. I go late. I go at times when other people are not there. For the most part, New Yorkers have been wonderful in terms of trying to adhere to the guidance, yet we still see community transmission. I cannot stress enough the importance of mask-wearing. This is one of the best things you can do in terms of being able to have normal types of activities.

## **What populations are included in the Dutchess count? For example, are prisoners at Fishkill Correctional Facility included, or students at Marist?**

Yes, but we break out the cases to explain blips or increases. The number of cases may just be the tip of the iceberg because people usually don't get tested unless they're curious or they're symptomatic. There may be an undercurrent of cases in the community. Still, the numbers are valuable because they give you a sense of the trends. That's how we know that what's driving the numbers is community spread because we are able to tease it out. It's not from a nursing home; it's not from a college; it's not from a correctional facility.

## **Are the number of cases still a good indicator of coming hospitalizations and deaths?**

If you look at the rest of the country, whenever you see cases go up, there is a lag of two to four weeks before those cases are reflected in hospitalizations and ICU stays or, potentially, someone who's deceased. So, yes, if we see cases rise dramatically, I'm concerned for the health care system.



# Don't Be Fooled by Family

## *Virus can spread even at smaller gatherings*

By Melinda Wenner Moyer

**B**ecause of its rising positivity rates, Putnam County is on track to enter the coronavirus "orange" zone next week, which would limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer under the state's micro-cluster initiative.

But if people aren't careful at those smaller gatherings, they can easily be part of the problem, not the solution.

Officials at the Putnam and Dutchess health departments say that one key reason COVID-19 numbers are increasing is that people are socializing more now than they did over the summer, and that they are doing so in ways that spread the virus.

"The behavior that's generating most of it is small gatherings," said Andrew Evans, an epidemiologist with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. "Whether they get together at someone's house, or they go out somewhere to eat, or go on a hike together — it's not large groups of people, it's small gatherings of people that's driving most of it."

Shanna Siegel, a nurse with the Putnam County Department of Health, said the same is true in Putnam. "We are seeing that social gatherings, as well as travel sports, have contributed to a number of local cases," she said.

Clusters attributed to specific places have contributed, but not on the same scale. Over the first two weeks of November, Dutchess had 725 cases, but only about 58 were connected to Marist College and 41 to the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon. Most of the rest, the health department said, were fueled by get-togethers by families and friends and school extracurricular activities.

"The tendency is for people to congregate," said Dr. Anil Vaidian, the commissioner of the Dutchess health department, in a video posted online. People assume their friends and loved ones won't get sick, he said, although they might well be at risk.

Dr. William Begg, an emergency medicine physician at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, said "COVID fatigue" may be making people less careful. After being isolated for so long, people understandably miss seeing friends and family and making plans. Because they

trust their loved ones, they relax and don't always wear masks or stay socially distanced, he said.

Evans noted that contact tracing indicates COVID has spread not only indoors, but also at outdoor get-togethers.

One challenge is that a person infected with COVID-19 can appear to not have symptoms; some research suggests that as many as 45 percent of people with the virus never show symptoms. In addition, people who develop symptoms can be contagious for several days before they feel sick.

That local schools re-opened this fall may have contributed to a false sense of safety and normalcy, said Michelle Patrick, a pediatric nurse practitioner with the Children's Medical Group in Poughkeepsie. "People are letting their guard down a little bit, trying to get back into more typical school-year activities," she said. "They're saying, 'Oh, it'll be OK.'"

But school settings are often much safer than informal social gatherings because administrators and teachers enforce mask-wearing and social distancing. So far, Evans noted, there has been little transmission within local school districts.

When children take their masks off or get too close at social gatherings, by contrast, adults often let them be. Then, if no one gets infected, the risky behavior is reinforced and families are likely to be lax again.

But medical professionals are seeing coronavirus infections rising among children, too. Last week, Patrick said the Children's Medical Group administered 30 percent more tests than it had the week before, and the proportion of positive tests more than doubled.

The change was sudden "and very different from what we had been seeing for six weeks prior," she said. Evans noted that Dutchess County has documented transmission from children to adults and vice versa.

Health officials expect the coming holidays to be a challenge. They advise people to avoid large family get-togethers and use videoconferencing instead. Any social gatherings should be held outside. And whether inside or outside, people should stay at least 6 feet away from each other at all times and wear masks. (Masks are not a substitute for social distancing.)

"The risk is still very real and very present," Patrick said. "It's going to get worse before it gets better."



**GAME MAKER** — Dylan Gunther, a senior at Haldane High School and aspiring Eagle Scout, added socially distanced playscapes to the district's newly blacktopped playground. He also plans to expand the painted games and fitness activities. *Photo provided*

## Fauci *(from Page 10)*

be dramatically reduced as more of the population gets vaccinated and there's more of a veil of protection. But you don't want to abandon them completely until the level of virus in the community is so low that the risk of someone getting infected is minuscule.

**SOLOMON:** I've heard you estimate that we're going to need as much as 80 percent of the population to be vaccinated before we reach herd immunity. But there's a large number of people who say they wouldn't trust a vaccine, and the difficulty is their reasons for distrust are not all the same. What do we do to ensure that the system is trustworthy and that it's perceived as trustworthy?

**FAUCI:** You hit on something critical. If the reason you don't want to get the vaccine is you believe the process was opaque or slippery — namely some political person is going to want to get a vaccine out quickly or what have you — or that decisions are made behind closed doors, then there's a problem. Or you say, you told me five years ago that it takes years to get a vaccine and now you're telling me you have a safe and efficacious vaccine within a year.

People should know that the speed is a reflection of scientific advances — the technology of making a vaccine is not your grandfather's technology. It's taking a virus

“ Getting vaccinated with a highly efficacious vaccine does not mean that you're going to completely abandon public health measures, because it's conceivable that even though you're feeling fine, you still have the virus.

that you don't even have to grow — you pull the gene out and stick it into a vaccine platform and within days you're making a vaccine and you've saved a year there.

The other aspect is that the federal government has invested billions of dollars. It felt that the benefit of getting it quickly was worth the risk of the money. So that's what you have to explain. The speed has nothing to do with compromising safety or scientific integrity. The process is sound. However, there's a group of people who don't even believe that this is a phenomenon; they think it's fake news. That's where I have a big difficulty. How am I going to get to that group of people?

They don't think that this is a problem, despite a quarter million deaths, despite more than 11 million infections, despite 150,000 new infections a day.

**SOLOMON:** Many people who are opposed to mask-wearing and social distancing invoke a liberty argument. I've seen signs holding up Thomas Jefferson, but our founders were basing their beliefs on 18th-century political philosophers like John Locke, who said explicitly that liberty is not the same as license. How do we get that message across?

**FAUCI:** You can make analogies to something they understand. They don't want any encroachment on their liberties. What about seatbelts? What about speed limits? Are you allowed to go as fast as you want to go because, “I don't really care if I get hurt, that's my problem”? No, because you might hurt somebody else. The same thing with infection. You hear the attitude: “The vast majority of people, particularly young people, they're going to get infected and they're not going to get any symptoms, what do I care?”

Well, you should care because it might impact you. If you get infected, you could get seriously ill and/or you're propagating an outbreak. You might inadvertently infect someone else who might infect someone else and all of a sudden you have an elderly person or somebody on chemotherapy who is going to get seriously ill.

**TIM BRENNAN**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR



Building it Right  
for  
Over 40 Years

Check us out  
at  
brennanbuilt.com

845-265-4004

Putnam Lic # PC -58  
Westchester Lic # WC -01100-H 87



## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INVITES YOU TO CALL US FOR A THANKSGIVING FEAST.

Thank you for the tremendous support; your calls and generosity has been overwhelming as the community has come together in response to support St. Mary's Thanksgiving Day. Last week we asked for food donations, all the trimmings, and we are now overstocked with all that is needed to supply a feast to all who call. We asked for drivers and volunteers, and the time and talent of our community came shining through. We are indeed blessed with enough of everything to make the day a success. We are fortunate to be able to share thanks and giving with one another.

It is still up to you, the community, as many hearts and hands have prepared for the day, we need you to call to reserve your dinners. We are taking reservations through Sunday, November 22nd, at noon. All meals will be packaged and delivered or picked up as participants choose. Thanksgiving Day will be coordinated as follows: 10 am – 12 pm home delivery of meals, and 12 pm – 2 pm pick-up at a drive-through in front of the Church Parish Hall at 1 Chestnut Street. Directions for reheating will be included to warm the sumptuous bounty to be eaten at your convenience on Thanksgiving Day. We are taking all precautions to follow professional catering and Board of Health guidelines as all food is prepared and meals are packaged. Those who have previously volunteered to donate frozen or fresh turkeys, please deliver them to Riverview Restaurant no later than Wednesday, December 18th.

There is still time online for those who would like to contribute to support the cause at the link below; the deadline for making dinner reservations is Sunday, November 22nd, at noon; you may call us at (845) 337-0236 or use the link below to make an online reservation.

**bit.ly/cs-thanksgiving**

If you have any questions, please contact the coordinators' Tara Flagler or Vinny Tamagna. Thank you again for your generous support, and Happy Thanksgiving.

## BEACON FINE ART PRINTING

Specializing in digital fine art, large format and display printing, mounting, scanning, retouching and framing for artists, photographers and all fine art professionals.

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Follow the  
The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**  
on Twitter,  
Instagram,  
& Facebook

@highlandscurrent



# The New Face of Angelina's

*Pizza yes, but gourmet offerings as well*

By Michael Turton

It's been a long journey for Manuel "Manny" Morocho. Now 38, he began his working life at age 14 as a landscaper in his hometown of Giron in southern Ecuador. Two years later, he traveled more than 3,000 miles north to join other members of his family in the U.S., where he began a new life — and a new career in the restaurant business.

Today, Manny and his brother Patricio are the owners and operators of Angelina's Restaurant and Pizzeria in Cold Spring. Patricio works the front of the house while Manny is the self-taught head chef. Another brother, Victor, followed a similar path and owns La Famiglia Bar and Grill in Carmel.

Angelina's has long been a popular eatery in the village, specializing in pizza, but the brothers are making their own mark since taking over the business last summer from Kamel Jamal, who owns three Beacon restaurants.

It was a natural transition for Morocho, who worked in the kitchen at Angelina's even before Jamal purchased the restaurant about 13 years ago.



Manny prepares mussels marinara.

Photo by M. Turton

Manny and Patricio have kept Angelina's popular, traditional items such as burgers and pizza, including the "pizza from Mars," but, inspired by Victor's menu in Carmel, they have expanded their offerings to include more than a dozen new entrees.

New dishes include seafood Venezia, suppa di fish, blackened salmon, penne al

forno, veal Florentine and seafood marinara/fra diavolo.

Asked if he also enjoys cooking at home, Manny said, "I have no choice; I'm not married!" He enjoys making pasta, pork, rice and beef. "Whatever I cook, I want to make it the best," he said.

The brothers have applied for a liquor

license, but until it is approved customers can bring their own wine.

*Angelina's is located at 43 Chestnut St., near Foodtown. It is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Call 845-265-2065 for delivery.*



**PURPLE HEART HALL REOPENS** — A \$17 million expansion and upgrade of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor was completed this month, adding 4,300 square feet of exhibit space. The facility reopened on Veterans Day after closing a year ago for the renovations. Opened in 2006, it honors the estimated 1.8 million recipients of the Purple Heart, which is awarded to U.S. military personnel who were wounded or killed in action. The facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. See [thepurpleheart.com](http://thepurpleheart.com).

NY State Parks

## HOME HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT.



529 Route 9d, Garrison, NY  
**\$1,995,000**



22 Valkyria Cold Spring, NY  
**\$3,300,000**



20 Forest Farm Rd Garrison, NY  
**\$4,900,000**



58 Philipse Brook Rd, Garrison, NY  
**\$1,499,000**

ROBERT A.  
McCAFFREY  
REALTY INC.

**The Locally Owned Market Leader**  
OFFICE: 140 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY  
[www.mccaffreyrealty.com](http://www.mccaffreyrealty.com)

## AROUND TOWN



▲ **THANK YOU** — Beacon residents gathered at the city's Memorial Building on Nov. 11 for a Veterans' Day service to honor those who have served in the U.S. military. A ceremony also took place in Cold Spring. *Photo by Jeff Simms*



▲ **BACK TO BEACON** — Two Beacon High School graduates were recently hired by the district: Patrick Schetter teaches social studies at the high school and Catie Niebuhr-Oriani teaches math at the middle school. *Beacon Teachers Association*



◀ **HISTORY PRIZES** — The Beacon Historical Society presented its fourth annual Beacons of History awards in a virtual ceremony on Nov. 5. The individual honoree was the Coris family (shown here with Denise Doring Van Buren of the BHS), which has owned Dutchess Manor for nearly 75 years. The business honoree was the Alps Sweet Shop, which has operated on Main Street for three generations. *Photo provided*



◀ **FIRETRUCK TOUR** — Wendy Heintz and Jim Matero of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. visited St. Philip's Nursery School on Nov. 5. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

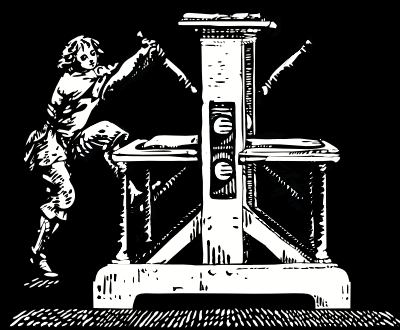
**PITH  
Khara Gilvey**  
Oil Paintings  
**Nov 14 — Dec 6, 2020**  
Open every day 12 to 6pm  
Sunday 12 to 5pm



*Night Swim, 11" x 14"*

162 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508 **845 440-0068**  
Open daily 12AM - 6PM, Sunday 12AM - 5PM  
[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](http://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



## PRINTMAKERS

**FINE ART  
PRINTING  
SCANNING  
LARGE FORMAT**

**HUDSON VALLEY'S  
ARCHIVAL PRINTING  
SINCE 1997**

**PICTURE FRAMING  
print & map gallery**

**845-809-5174**

**31 STEPHANIE LANE  
COLD SPRING, NY**  
[www.thehighlandstudio.com](http://www.thehighlandstudio.com)



## BOCHNER BOETTI FONTANA

Curated by Mel Bochner  
In collaboration with  
Magazzino Italian Art Foundation  
October 3, 2020 - January 11, 2021  
Magazzino Italian Art, Gallery 8

**MAGAZZINO  
ITALIAN ART**

# The Calendar



"Meditation on the Theorum of Pythagoras," by Mel Bochner



"Alternadosi e dividendonsi," by Alighiero Boetti



"Concetto spaziale," by Lucio Fontana

## Three-Way Mirror

*Magazzino's new exhibit joins three influential artists*

By Alison Rooney

Artists' influences on their peers — whether overt or subliminal, intended or happenstance — occur naturally. The latest exhibit at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown exemplifies this, using works from three conceptual artists to highlight the connections made from their affinities.

Mel Bochner is the sole American in the trio and the curator of the show, which runs through Jan. 11. The others are Alighiero Boetti, an Italian who died in 1994, and Lucio Fontana, an Argentine-Italian who died in 1968.

"It's amazing seeing the work in conversation with each other," says Juliet Vincente, who manages programs and external affairs for Magazzino.

Bochner and other conceptual artists who came of age during the 1960s and 1970s were "part of a group of people who started disassociating themselves from the way we think of artists making a painting," says Vincente. "They were thinking about the object, and what it meant when painting itself wasn't necessarily the most important thing in that object."

Although Bochner is a painter, "his intention is to give you an experience that it is completely your own; to take the emphasis away from the artist and put it on the experience," Vincente says. "He wants you to use your own objective knowledge to decode it. He started playing with words and measurement, putting a quantity to something abstract."

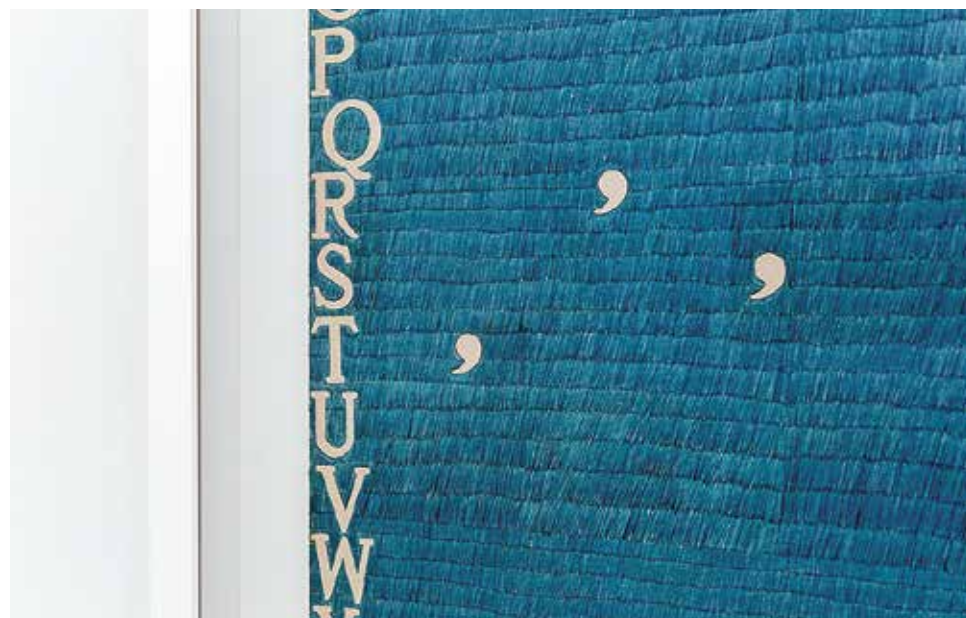
In doing this, Bochner broke away from

earlier Abstract Expressionism, drawn more to semiotic representation, or how depiction of language and objects generates and translates into meaning. In his paintings, a word is repeated, or synonyms follow it, or a phrase is translated.

"By putting it in a painting he's trying to unpack what the word means, or if it even has any meaning; he's prompting people to think about things they take for granted," says Vincente. "A word is also an abstract painting — a symbol that represents something else, two different worlds."

Bochner first found success in Italy; his first major show, in Turin, was curated by Gian Enzo Sperone, who is considered the father of Arte Povera, which is a Magazzino focus.

Boetti, a key figure of Arte Povera, "looked at mathematics, games and puzzles in the way Bochner was looking at words," Vincente explains. His work, made with a variety of materials, including stamps, textiles and ballpoint pens, reflects Boetti's fascination with alternative modes of art



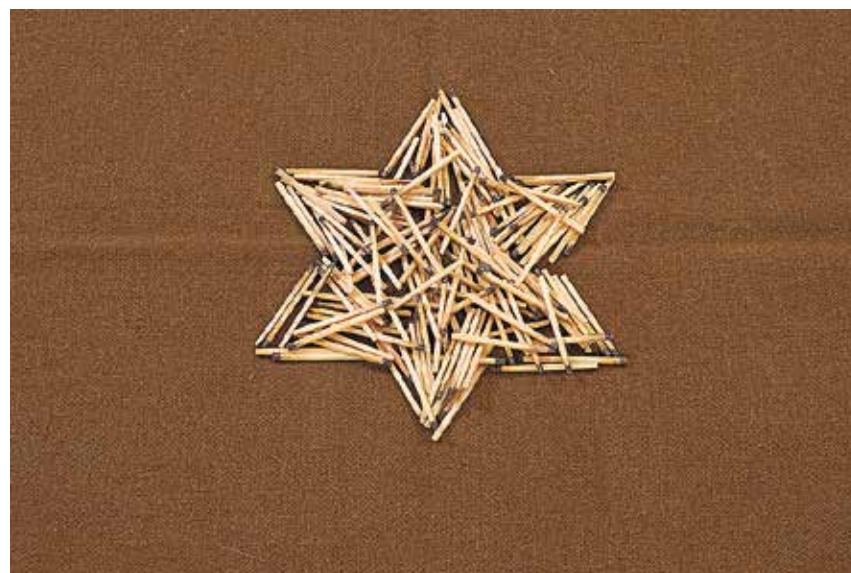
Detail from "Teresa Giancarlo Carlotta Beatrice," by Alighiero Boetti

production, she says.

Fontana was the founder of Spatialism. "I do not want to make a painting; I want to open up space, create a new dimension, tie in the cosmos as it endlessly expands beyond the confining plane of the picture," Fontana said in 1946. Vincente notes that he "frequently punctured the canvas

with buchi [holes] and cut slashes into his monochrome painted canvas to introduce a new spatial element."

*Magazzino Italian Art, located at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown, is open by appointment from Thursdays through Mondays. See [magazzino.art/booking](http://magazzino.art/booking). Admission is free.*



"Yiskor (For the Jews of Rome)," by Mel Bochner



"Concetto Spaziale, Attese," by Lucio Fontana

# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Pottery Show & Sale, Nov. 21

## HOLIDAY MARKETS

### SAT 21 Pottery Show & Sale

GARRISON

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

Visitors will find a range of sophisticated art objects as well as children's items created by more than 30 regional ceramicists, jewelers and artisans. Proceeds benefit the artists and the Center's programs. Also SUN 22, MON 23, TUES 24, WED 25, FRI 27, SAT 28 and SUN 29.

### 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.

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 21 Policing and Public Safety

BEACON

10 a.m. Zoom and YouTube  
cityofbeacon.org

Share your views during this community forum hosted by John Perez, chairman of the Beacon Human Relations Commission, and the Rev. John Rembert, a former councilman. Another forum is planned for Dec. 19.

### SUN 22 Thanksgiving Service

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
putnamhistorymuseum.com

During PHM's 62nd annual Candlelight Service, local personalities will read presidential Thanksgiving proclamations linked to local history in the years 1870, 1920 and 1970. Register to join the online event. Donations welcome.

### TUES 24 Managing the Highlands' Popularity

PHILIPSTOWN

1 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust  
845-424-3358 | hhl.org

The HHLT will hosts forum on how it is responding to the ever-increasing demand on local trails and parks. Register for the zoom link.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SAT 21 Story Walk and Take-Away Craft

COLD SPRING

Noon – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Walk the library's grounds and take home a bag of materials to make a craft. Open to all ages. Register in advance.

### SUN 22 Turkey Tales

CORNWALL

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

Learn 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)*

### SUN 29 Bird Feeding 101

CORNWALL

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

Learn how to identify commonly seen birds and what to offer them at a home bird feeder. *Cost: \$8 to \$10 (members \$6 to \$8)*

## VISUAL ART

### SAT 21 Let's Face It

PUTNAM VALLEY

Ongoing  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
tompkinscorners.org

The online art exhibit features portraits by Mujgan Agardici, Beth DeWit, Emmanuel Faure, Regina Gelfer, Goodness + Truth Studio, Barbara Masterson, Patricia



Turkey Tales, Nov. 22

McDermond, Jessica Miller, Ocean Morisset, Sharon Rubinstein, Roseanne Spano Swider, Ellen Saltzman and Maureen Winzig. It will be on view until Dec. 19.

## MUSIC

### 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.

## TALKS & TOURS

### TUES 24 Graphic Novel Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

The group will discuss *Watchmen*, by Alan Moore, via Zoom.

## CIVIC

### MON 23 City Council

BEACON

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

### MON 23 School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Central School District  
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

### TUES 24 Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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



Let's Face It, Nov. 22

# Classic Covers

*Father and daughter build following with tribute rock*

By Alison Rooney

“T took me a few months on and off to lay down all 43 tracks.”

This is noted by Jim Mechalakos in the YouTube description of his cover of “Roundabout” by Yes. And, yes, it is true: “Roundabout” is one of 112 videos (and counting) the Cold Spring resident has recorded from his home and posted on his channel, FridayNightLullaby, which has more than 4,300 subscribers.

In many of the videos, he partners with his daughter, Mary, whose full-throttle vocals drive home covers of songs like the Rolling Stones’ “Gimme Shelter” and Heart’s “Crazy on You.”

The duo performed together last year at the Beacon Hotel Restaurant and Lounge and will return for a three-hour encore that begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday (Nov. 21). Damian McDonald of Cold Spring handles the tech.

The set list is classic rock — and a few selected by Mary, 27, who works as a graphic designer and freelance illustrator and tends bar at the Beacon Hotel on weekends. “My dad doesn’t listen to anything but that,” she says. “For our gigs he tends to pick most of the songs. I throw in a few contemporary songs, to appeal to my generation.”

“Certain things are timeless,” says Jim.

The songs also tend to be suited to Mary’s vocal range. “They’re written for a lower female voice, which is less common nowadays,” she explains. “As you practice them, you get into them more.”

Jim reels off a list of well-known women singers of the era: Grace Slick, Janis Joplin, Heart. “I took Mary to see [Heart vocalist] Ann Wilson and I was shocked that she even wanted to go. Not too long after that we tried out ‘Crazy on You.’ It took a lot of work. She really worked on the sound; it represented a big jump for her. Also, Mary’s solo in ‘Gimme Shelter’ shook me — I was like, ‘Wow, she’s got the bluesy thing and can also belt out the high notes.’”

Mechalakos is not a professional musician — he has a doctorate in high-energy physics from Columbia University and is a medical physicist at a Manhattan cancer center. Still, the dream was there.

“My mother made me take piano from the age of 4,” he recalls. “My Russian teacher gave me an ear. He’d say, ‘Turn around, don’t look,’ and played something and asked, ‘What was that?’ That training was important. I was in the high school choir. I have a natural singing voice, but I didn’t start studying voice until I was in grad school, which is where I met my wife, Martha [a professional opera singer]. I did some music things here and there around that time, but work took over.”

When recording a song, Mechalakos sometimes tinkers. “There are certain songs I feel can’t be any better,” he says. “I feel like one of those guys who likes to take cars apart and put them back together. With others, I want to do a version of my



Mary and Jim Mechalakos performing a cover of “Substitute,” by The Who

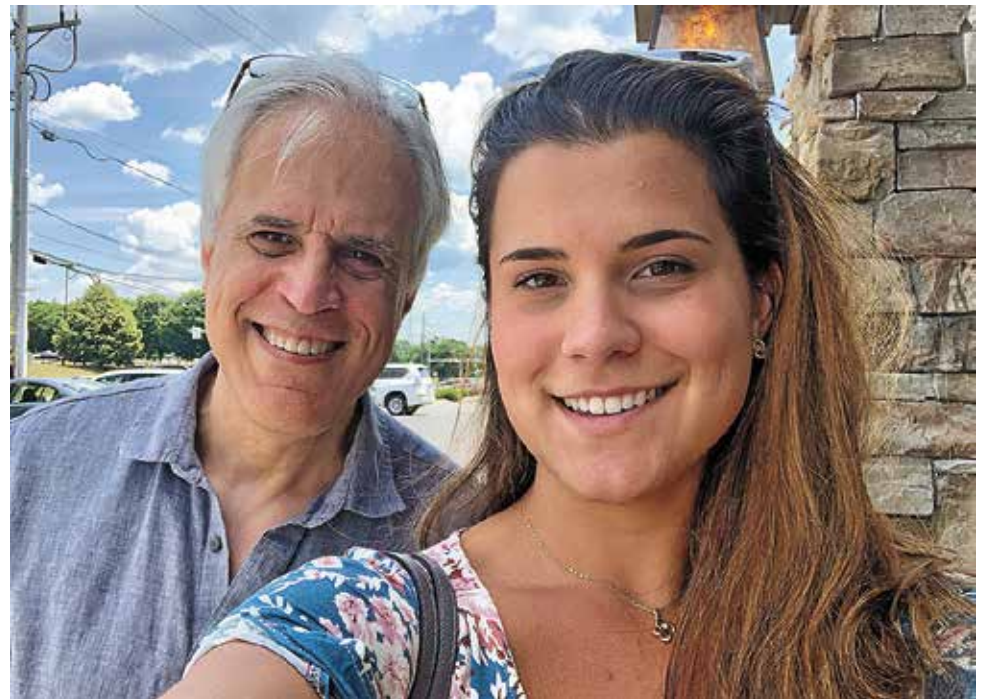
“There are certain songs I feel can’t be any better. I feel like one of those guys who likes to take cars apart and put them back together.”

own. For instance, I took the Crosby, Stills and Nash song ‘Southern Cross’ and did it more like a sea shanty. With certain songs, like ‘Bus Stop’ by The Hollies, I feel I have the liberty to make them mine.”

Like most bands, Jim and Mary admit to bickering. “She’s stubborn and there are times she just will not do something until she’s ‘feeling it,’ which can drive me crazy,” Jim says. “Mary has a good sense when she hears something isn’t working, and I tend to agree with her. Right now we’re working on Madonna’s ‘Ray of Light.’ Mary’s like, ‘Take that bass part out’ — and she’s right.”

“I try to explain myself carefully,” Mary adds. “I don’t want to overstep, but I have an ear to direct him where it would work. We tend to be perfectionists. Sometimes he’ll say: ‘Mary, stop.’”

*The Beacon Hotel is located at 424 Main St. Reservations are required because a limited number of people will be allowed in the space. Masks must be worn except when eating. See [beaconhotelhudsonvalley.com](http://beaconhotelhudsonvalley.com).*



Jim and Mary Mechalakos

Photo provided

## St. Philip's Nursery School

### Director Search

St. Philip's seeks an innovative and enthusiastic Director to lead the School in its next chapter.

For details, visit [www.stphilipsnursery.org](http://www.stphilipsnursery.org)



## Mouths to Feed

## Seeds of Change

By Celia Barbour



**H**olidays are time's anchors. No matter how topsy-turvy a year might have been, they give us an opportunity to ground ourselves in familiarity, take comfort from sameness.

Only — whoops — it's 2020! And if ever there's been a year hell-bent on upending our most reliable sources of familiarity and comfort, this has been it.

I know many of you have been forced to make major adjustments to your Thanksgiving traditions. I have, too. I'm already feeling pangs of sadness for the people we won't be celebrating with, the dishes we won't be sharing.

But, just between us, I also feel a wee smidgen of relief. Because the Thanksgiving feast is an exhausting meal to prepare, and the workload doubles if your house (like ours) is the place where folks gather. So even though our annual guest list has never included the proverbial blowhard uncle who picks political fights at the table; the maudlin, tipsy aunt; or the surly punk-rock cousin, I'm going to appreciate the chance for a quieter celebration.

At least that's what I keep telling myself.

The truth is, whenever I convince myself that I've adjusted to some big idea, I still find myself constantly tripping over its small, unexpected implications.

For example, I sat down to write this column last Monday, confident that I'd be sharing one of my favorite, go-to Thanksgiving side dishes. The story was already half-written in my head; all I had to do was bang it out. But midway through the first paragraph, I realized: If ever there were a year when no one needs a new Thanksgiving side dish, this is it. We have our hands full managing the old ones.

Instead, I'm sharing a favorite recipe for



## Spicy Maple-Ginger Pumpkin Seeds

If you already have the oven going, you can also combine all the ingredients in a bowl, spread on a sheet pan, and bake at 325 for 15 to 20 minutes.

1½ teaspoons smoked paprika  
¼ teaspoon ginger (or to taste)  
¼ teaspoon cayenne (or to taste)  
2 teaspoons maple syrup  
2 teaspoons butter  
½ cup raw, unsalted pumpkin seeds  
2 teaspoons sugar  
Salt

Stir together the paprika, ginger, cayenne and maple syrup in a small dish; set aside.

In a skillet over medium-low heat, melt the butter. Add the pumpkin seeds, raise the heat to medium, and add the sugar and a generous sprinkling of salt, and stir to coat thoroughly. Spread the seeds evenly in the pan, and cook without stirring until the seeds just start to pop, about 1 to 2 minutes. (As you cook, watch the heat closely so the sugar doesn't burn). Reduce the heat and cook another 30 to 40 seconds, until most seeds are puffed and golden-brown.

Remove pan from heat and allow to cool 1 minute. Stir in the maple-paprika mixture, and transfer to a plate to cool thoroughly. When completely cool, store in an airtight container up to one week.

something small but mighty: Spiced pumpkin seeds, which are quick, delicious and versatile. Perfect as a pre-meal nibble, they are also wonderful sprinkled over a roasted sweet potato or squash dish, a soup or a salad. And they're accommodating: You can make a batch now and store them until Thursday — or better yet, make a double batch, store half and nibble on the rest as you plan your new-old holiday. Doing so may even help you thrive this week.

Pumpkin seeds (or pepitas) are full of chlorophyll and polyunsaturated fat, and have zero starch and as much as 35 percent protein. And the chili pepper in this recipe is a superstar. According to brand-new research from the American Heart Association, "chili pepper consumption was associated with a 25 percent reduction in death from any cause and 23 percent fewer cancer deaths, compared to people who never or only rarely consumed chili pepper."

On top of all that, this recipe befits the season, since the main ingredients — pumpkin seeds, chili peppers (in the form of paprika and cayenne) and maple syrup — are all native to the New World, a land that continues to nurture and sustain us, despite the fact that so many of our forebears showed up uninvited to partake of

its bounty all those centuries ago.

Hopefully, these seeds will add a little zest and joy to your holidays, as they often do to mine, and still leave you with time and energy to focus on what matters most: Supporting and connecting with people you love — whether via Zoom, around an outdoor fire pit or by quarantining before gathering in person. At the very least, may they help you find a spot of sweet-and-spicy calm amidst all that overwhelms you.

## Holiday Pottery Show &amp; Sale 2020

November 20–29

Open daily 10–5pm  
Closed Thanksgiving

Open Black Friday! Enter raffle for three exceptional works by our wonderful teaching artists.

See website for COVID precautions and procedures  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)



Garrison Art Center



## Kringle's Christmas House

We Will Be Open Till 8pm  
On The Thanksgiving Weekend  
Also on Dec. 3rd and 4th

134 Main St Beacon  
765-0444

# A Cold Spring Romance

*Writer sets latest novel in the village*

By Alison Rooney

There's something to the notion of holiday-season romance in Cold Spring, with St. Mary's Episcopal Church crowning Main Street, over-night snowfalls, candles flickering in the restaurants — all thoughts of slushy sidewalks, frozen fingertips and ever-earlier darkness be banished.

"It's magical," says Courtney Giardina, a writer of romances. Her sixth self-published book, *For the Love of Gingerbread*, which was released on Wednesday (Nov. 18), is set in the village.

Giardina said she chose Cold Spring because "I wanted a small, quaint town where everybody knows everyone. My heroine works in New York City in fashion, and she's coming home for Christmas. She comes out of the train station and walks from the waterfront, past the flower shop, the pizza shop and the hardware store."

Also making appearances are the city

of Beacon, The Culinary Institute of America, Poughkeepsie's Overlook Drive-In Theatre and Mohonk Mountain House.

Giardina, a Rochester native who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, visited Cold Spring for the first time in 2006 during her final semester at Marist College, when she had an internship at Red Parlor Records, which later relocated to Connecticut.

From an early age, she says she has "always had a knack for writing stories" and attempted many novels that were left unfinished. With support

The cover of Giardina's new book, which is set in Cold Spring, and her forthcoming one

women's group in Charlotte, she wrote her first novel "based on real emotions. I was in the middle of a divorce, journaling, putting things out

there, and I got lots of Facebook messages saying how inspiring that was. This led me to consider whether I could turn this into something to help other women facing the difficult decision of holding on or letting go."

Giardina's second novel was a romance, followed by *Holding on to Georgia*, *Behind the Strings* and *Slow Dancing on Main Street*. Her next title is *Falling in London*. To promote them in a crowded marketplace, Giardina hosts a weekly YouTube show, *Coffee with Court*, blogs and offers giveaways.

"This year I focused a lot on building my newsletter," she says. "I advertise on social media, create Instagram stories and started a Facebook group for fans of my books."

There's no shortage of readers during the pandemic shutdown, she says. "With romance books now, there has to be a light at the end of the tunnel. All of my books have a happily-ever-after, to escape from everyday reality."

Giardina's romances are available at [courtneygiardina.com](http://courtneygiardina.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in paperback or for the Kindle reader.



Courtney Giardina

Photo by Magen Marie

“It's been three years since Addie Pine set foot in Cold Spring, and a lot has changed. Her family's bed-and-breakfast is unrecognizable, and her favorite coffee shop has a new baker named Drew. While Drew's good looks and charm are almost as delectable as his gingerbread cookies, it's the news he delivers that sends Addie reeling.”

~ From a summary on Amazon of *For the Love of Gingerbread*

## SOHO SALON OF COLD SPRING

### Where Safety Comes First!

But, we still want **Your Hair to Look its Best** during your next Zoom call

**50% OFF**  
FIRST RESPONDERS

Must Show AD and I.D.

### SAFETY PROTOCOL

All stylists must wear protective covering while working on clients.

This includes:

- Face Mask
- Face Shield
- Disposable Apron

### OPERATIONS PROTOCOL

- 50% Occupancy
- Dividers Between Stations
- Continuous Sanitizing
- Client Temperature Taken
- Masks Supplied
- Disposable Capes

**15% OFF**

NEW CLIENTS FIRST VISIT

With a complimentary **Olaplex Treatment** on their 2nd appointment if they pre-book before leaving.

In addition, **New Client Pack with 3 offers:**

- 10% off their next visit
- 200 loyalty points to write a good review on Google, Yelp or Facebook
- Bogo deal with 40% off second product

**FREE**

TO ALL EXISTING CLIENTS  
BECAUSE  
WE APPRECIATE YOU

Get 2 FREE travel size  
**Davines** or **Redken** products\*  
with this ad on your next visit

\*While Supplies Last

All offers are not to be combined with any other offer



Offer Valid Only at Cold Spring Location

EXP. 1/25/2021

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY

**COLD SPRING**

47 Chestnut Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
Tel: 845-265-2072

**davines**  
beauty + sustainability

**MONROE**

400 State Route 17M, Suite #9  
Monroe, NY 10950  
Tel: 845-781-4343

**CHESTER**

78 Brookside Avenue, Suite #136  
Chester, NY 10918  
Tel: 845-469-6006

**WARWICK**

11 First Street  
Warwick, NY 10990  
Tel: 845-544-7944

## Roots and Shoots

# What Did You Do in the Garden?

By Pamela Doan

It was a year of upheaval, unrest, staying close to home, and so many other things.



In *The Current's* first issue of 2020, I shared five ways that gardeners could support nature in their landscapes:

- Create a pollinator island of native plants that bloom in spring, summer and fall.
- Reduce your lawn by 20 percent.
- Make a rain garden to hold stormwater on your property and reduce run-off.
- Plant a tree.
- Make a compost pile for your kitchen scraps and other organic waste to use as natural fertilizer on your garden.

Email me at [rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org) and share your stories. I'll compile them for a New Year's column.

## Everyone needs a break

With the exception of that New Year's column, *Roots and Shoots* will be going offline and returning in February in time to dive into the planting season.

In the meantime, here are some seasonal gardening resources from past columns. You'll find links at [highlandscurrent.org/roots-shoots-11-20](http://highlandscurrent.org/roots-shoots-11-20).

## What's your zone?

Understanding a plant's ability to survive cold temperatures is a key factor in choosing what to grow. Climate change is making it necessary to understand a plant's ability to handle heat, as well, and research is underway on those limits. Knowing zone information lets gardeners experiment as our temperatures vary more than in the past to see what new plants will thrive here in the future.

In a 2019 column, I explained plant hardiness zones and microclimate growing conditions. Beacon is in Zone 6a (minus 5 to zero degrees) and Philipstown is in Zone 6b (minus 10 to minus 5 degrees). Microclimates within the zones will see those numbers shift slightly.

## Reading for long winter nights

When working in the garden is cold-prohibitive, reading books about plants is the next-best thing. Last year I shared several that I enjoyed. *Weedless Gardening: The Hassle-Free All-Organic System*, by Lee Reich, is a useful guide to methods



Deer browsing has been more intense than usual and it's very discouraging. Then I found this wintergreen plant in the woods behind my house, the first one I've seen there.

Photo by P. Doan

of easing up on the back-breaking aspects of gardening. Learn how to prepare and maintain landscape beds and vegetable gardens with less work and better soil.

*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, looks at indigenous ecological traditions and values through science. The book shows how indigenous peoples' deep understanding of and respect for nature were also standards for land and forest management that we should have been following all along.

## End of season notes

If you still have the energy and attention span after the brutal news cycle of 2020,

Understanding a plant's ability to survive cold temperatures is a key factor in choosing plants. Climate change is making it necessary to understand a plant's ability to handle heat, as well, and research is underway on those limits.


see my November 2017 list of projects that can still be done outside to prepare for next year's garden and optimize your resources. Winterize any watering equipment, including rain barrels. Clean and sharpen tools. Top-off the garden beds with aged animal manure to add soil nutrients.

## Can you name that tree?

In an interview with a forester in early 2016, I learned about ways to identify trees by their bark in winter. It makes any winter hike or walk so much more exciting when you can drop tree facts on your friends and family. This stuck with me: You can tell the difference between oaks based on the bark. We have four major oaks that are native to the Highlands. Red oak is the most prevalent. The bark has vertical lines like ski tracks that are rust-colored. Black oak looks like alligator skin. (Those two trees can hybridize and will show both characteristics.) White oak has a shaggier bark and will rub off. Chestnut oak has thick, corky bark, like a movie version of a dinosaur leg.

## Buried in snow, dreaming of spring

A column from 2015 shared tips on starting seeds indoors and covered growing mediums and ways to trap heat and moisture for germination. If bird-watching has become an interest, go to [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to join the Great Backyard Bird Count. It's an international effort to log sightings that become valuable data for conservationists and scientists.



**Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family**

86 Main St.  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
845-297-3786

**Store Hours**  
**WED. - FRI. 10:00a - 4:00p**  
**SAT. 10:00a - 5:00p**  
**SUN. 10:00a - 4:00p**

**Visit Us Online**  
[www.thegifthut.com](http://www.thegifthut.com)

**Instagram**  
[the\\_gift\\_hut](https://www.instagram.com/the_gift_hut)

**Facebook**  
[@UniqueFamilyGifts.Toys](https://www.facebook.com/UniqueFamilyGifts.Toys)

**Email**  
[gifthut06@aim.com](mailto:gifthut06@aim.com)



## NOTICE

The Village of Cold Spring seeks a volunteer to join the Historic District Review Board. This position is open to any resident of the Village who has demonstrated interest, competence or knowledge of preservation, and of the Historic District. More information about the HDRB can be found at

[www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board](http://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board)

Letters of interest must be received no later than Friday, December 4, 2020. Letters can be emailed to the Village Clerk at [vcclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcclerk@coldspringny.gov), or delivered to Village Hall at 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.



Beacon's thoughtfully curated General Store committed to providing a unique shopping experience for our diverse residents and visitors.



**Visit us at SolstadHouse.com**

**Visit our new location: 488 Main St in Beacon**  
 Curbside and in-store pickup available

Follow us!  
 @solstadhouse  
 SolstadHouse1

# Current Classifieds

## EVENTS

**LOCAL ARTISAN POPUP** — Textiles, hand woven, indigo hats, sweaters, repurposed fur, one-of-a-kind designs. Nov. 21 and Nov. 22, noon to 5 p.m., 75 Moffat Road, Cold Spring.

## FREE STUFF

**OAK CHAIRS** — Used for pews at the St. Andrew-St. Luke Episcopal Church, 15 South Ave., sanctuary in Beacon. Free for the taking. Small donations welcomed. For information, call 845-831-1369.

## SERVICES

### PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR WRITING AND STUDY SKILLS

— Local expert coach in writing and study skills offers guidance to students from middle school through graduate school. NYU MA, editor, writer, educator, experienced with kids and adult learners. Remote for now. Email [mrsgtutor888@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgtutor888@gmail.com).

### CARETAKER AVAILABLE

Caretaker with 20+ years' experience available to: manage operations of property; maintenance; repairs; gardening; landscaping; pool care; convenience services (errands); pet care, misc. Flexible to a variety of needs. Resume and references available. Contact Greg at 914-618-2779 or [gproth24@gmail.com](mailto:gproth24@gmail.com).

**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted?**  
Place your ad here for \$4.95.  
See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).

## Hemp (from Page 1)

ing its substances, especially CBD, which marketers claim can alleviate a range of health problems, such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and pain.

That industry has exploded. According to the state, New York growers cultivated 30 acres of hemp in 2016 — and more than 20,000 last year.

Jack Schinella, who grows and processes hemp in Wappingers Falls, is one of about 700 farmers participating in a state pilot program authorized by the 2014 federal farm bill. The farm bill passed in 2018 made revisions, such as removing hemp with up to 0.3 percent THC from the federal list of controlled substances.

Schinella — who also runs a program called Hemp 4 Heroes that provides hemp to veterans who are recovering opioid addicts and/or suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder — and McCabe said that selling the flowers to consumers is more profitable than selling the flowers and leaves to processors to extract the CBD.

In addition, Schinella said, the price of industrial hemp fell last year because the 2018 decriminalization of hemp triggered a rush of speculators. New York's proposal to prohibit the sales of buds will be a "death blow" to many "boutique" farmers, he said. "Without smokable flower, we will not survive," he predicted.

The federal government does not regulate the processing and manufacture of hemp products, resulting in a "market-place lacking basic consumer protections," the state said in announcing the proposed regulations on Oct. 28. "There are published reports of cannabinoid hemp products that do not contain any cannabinoids but contain unspecified or inconsistent levels of THC or are contaminated with harmful toxins," according to the state.

State lawmakers approved the creation of hemp regulations in January, with state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands; Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown; and Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, all voting for the legislation.

If approved, the regulations would establish a Cannabinoid Hemp Program under



Grant McCabe, the owner of The Leaf in Beacon, with some of his hemp products

Photo by L. Sparks

which processors would have to pay \$4,500 and manufacturers \$2,000 for two-year licenses, and retailers \$300 per location for a one-year license.

The regulations would also require that products be tested by an accredited laboratory, and prohibit hemp products containing tobacco or alcohol and products that can be injected or in the form of an inhaler, suppository or skin patch. The amount of

cannabinoids in drinks and food would be limited to 25 milligrams per product and items would have to be labeled with the amount of those substances and THC.

While a ban on flowers would cost growers, McCabe predicted the regulations will push phony products off the market and legitimize those made in New York. "I'm stoked," he said. "The market is going to change a lot, but for the good."

**PIDALA OIL CO. IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED, SERVICING THE COLD SPRING, GARRISON AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.**



**PIDALA**  
OIL CO., INC.  
OIL HEAT • PROPANE • DIESEL FUEL

3524 ROUTE 9 | PO BOX 249  
COLD SPRING, NY

- Automatic Oil & Propane Deliveries
- Budget Plans - Service Contracts
- Furnace / Boiler Installations
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- BBQ tanks filled at our site
- Licensed Technicians

[PIDALAOIL.COM](http://PIDALAOIL.COM) | 845.265.2073

Credit and debit cards accepted

PC3348

PC038



**Safely caring for you and your family's vision needs.**

Our office is open for ALL services by appointment, including routine eye exams and optical service.

Southern Dutchess  
**EYE CARE**  
discover the clear difference

969 MAIN ST. FISHKILL (845) 896-6700 [sdec2020.com](http://sdec2020.com)  
Optometrists Dr. Brian Peralta | Dr. Gary Weiner | Dr. Brian Powell | Dr. Weixun Wang

## SPORTS

Follow us at [twitter.com/hcurrentsports](https://twitter.com/hcurrentsports)

## Playoffs! (from Page 24)

flying colors.

"Because of injuries, we usually only had 12 or 13 players each game," he said. "They went out there masked up and never complained. A lot of people don't realize how hard it is to run in masks. What these girls did every game for 80 minutes should be a source of pride for them. I have always valued fitness on my teams, and seeing how these girls held up, without the benefit of a preseason, is one of the most impressive things I have ever been around."

The team has only two seniors, Essie Florke and Sydney Warren, whom Schweikhart called "the emotional spark-plugs" for the Blue Devils. "Having such a small squad this year should benefit the team next fall because every girl got a lot of game experience," he said.

## Boys' Soccer

Beacon Coach Craig Seaman felt the pressure was on his team in the Bulldogs' Section 1, Dutchess County playoff semifinal against Lourdes on Monday (Nov. 16). Beacon was hosting the game and had beaten the No. 3 Warriors twice during the regular season, so the Bulldogs had to be motivated.

Beacon escaped with a 1-0 victory thanks to Chase Green's first-half goal off a pass from Tommy Franks.

"It was not a pretty game," Seaman said. "Lourdes is a big, physical team, and they came out ready to play. It was cold and tough to pass, and we never got into a flow."

Seaman said Dillon Kelly played a key role at center back. "He held things together for us," the coach said. "The game had a messy feel, and he's very composed. He kept us organized."

The win put Beacon into the championship game today (Nov. 20). The team will travel to face No. 1 seed John Jay of East Fishkill for its first sectional final in 20 years. The Bulldogs missed a penalty kick



Haldane freshman Clement Grossman (21) got taken to the ground by a Putnam Valley defender on this play, resulting in a yellow card and a free kick. Photo by S. Pearlman

against the Patriots during the regular season and lost, 1-0.

"We have to be strong defensively," Seaman said. "They have a lot of quality forwards, and we have to keep possession and string passes together."

Haldane also won on Monday, defeating Putnam Valley, 3-2, in the Putnam-Northern Westchester small-school playoffs and advancing to the Wednesday quarterfinals at North Salem, where they fell short, 6-1.

In Wednesday's loss, freshman Tray McCarthy scored Haldane's lone goal in the second half, off a pass from Frank Bentkowski Jr.

The Tigers took a 3-0 lead at halftime and never looked back. The Blue Devils closed their season at 4-10.

"The field was not in great shape, and they're a big team," said Coach Ahmed Dwidar. "We're a small and young team, so this was not a good matchup for us."

Dwidar said he was satisfied with the season. "We picked up a couple more wins

than we did last year and won our first postseason game in five years. And it was great to even have a season."

Against Putnam Valley, Bentkowski scored two goals in the first half — both unassisted — and Matt Nachamkin scored in the second on a corner kick assisted by Matt Silhavy.

The Blue Devils will lose four seniors, including three starters, but Dwidar said that "we have a lot of returning young players and talent, and we also have a good keeper back for three more years."

## Cross-Country

The Haldane and Beacon cross-country teams competed at the Section 1 meet at Milton last week.

The Haldane boys set a school record, with all five top runners finishing in under 19 minutes on the 5-kilometer course, and the top three crossing the line in under 18 minutes. The Blue Devils placed third as a team, behind Briarcliff and Hastings.

Walter Hoess led Haldane in seventh

place in 17:25, followed by Everett Campanile (10th) in 17:32 and Luke Parella (15th) in 17:58. John Kisslinger was 21st in 18:55 and Rowen Kuzminski was 22nd in 18:56, both personal-best times.

"I knew John and Rowen would do well, but I didn't expect greatness!" said a pleased Coach Tom Locascio. "Our top three runners did what they have been doing all season, but the team scoring requires contributions from the bottom three runners as well. Today we got that."

The girls' team also finished third, behind Bronxville and Magnus. Shannon Ferri led the Blue Devils in seventh place in 21:30, followed by Caroline Cates (15th) in 22:54 (a personal best), Celia Drury (24th) in 24:08 and Helen Nichols (38th) in 27:19. Allison Nichols finished 40th and Elizabeth Nelson was 41st.

"The entire team continues to improve each week," Locascio said. "That starts with veteran leadership, which is provided by our seniors [Ferri, Hoess and Campanile]. Only one week remains and I already miss these kids."

Beacon, meanwhile, finished 10th of 21 schools in attendance and was second to Pearl River among Class B-sized teams.

Zach Cader finished fourth overall in 16:51, followed by Evan Labelle (6th) in 17:04, freshman Henry Reinke (17th) in 18:10 (a personal best), Stephen Schneider (20th) in 18:20 and Joey Baffuto (21st) in 18:28. The team's top-five average of 17:47 was a season best.

The final race of the season is scheduled for this weekend at Milton. Beacon will compete against Arlington, John Jay of East Fishkill, Ketcham and Lourdes.

While John Jay is the favorite to repeat as the county champion, the race for runner-up will be "extremely competitive," Beacon Coach Jim Henry said. "We'll probably need to get our team average down to the low 17:30s, which is possible but will require all five of our top runners to have their best day yet."

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

## Small Offerings

NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

Limited viewing Sat. | Sun. 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

## Lynne Ward, LCSW

Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children  
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation  
Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com  
(917) 597-6905

## Hudson Valley's Leading General Practice Law Firm



General Practice Law  
DWI | Traffic | Estate Planning  
Real Estate Law

845-896-1108 | [www.edmccormacklaw.com](http://www.edmccormacklaw.com)

1283 Hopewell Avenue (Route 52) Fishkill, NY



ALLENS  
DUMPSTER  
SERVICE  
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646) 772-2673

[allens-dumpster-service.business.site](http://allens-dumpster-service.business.site)DR. K  
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR

15 TIORONDA AVE.  
BEACON, NY 12508  
DrKimportedCar.com

Phone/ 845.838.0717  
Fax/ 845.440.7541  
E-Mail/ [drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com](mailto:drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com)

HAVE YOUR OWN  
BUSINESS CARD

You can advertise your  
business here starting at \$20.

For more information,  
email [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org).

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Flourish

6. *Rabbit, Run* author

12. Tearjerker

13. Construction piece

14. *Anna Christie* playwright

15. Coats

16. Lima's place

17. Father of Thor

19. Away from WSW

20. Style

22. LummoX

24. Most Wanted List org.

27. Elite alternative

29. Bart's sister

32. Lincoln's election year

35. Region

36. Location

37. Storm center

38. Inseparable

40. Osso buco base

42. A cont.

44. Level

46. Apiece

50. Boardroom props

52. Prophet

54. Half a storybook duo

55. "My heavens!"

56. Clothing

57. Unlike a rolling stone?

**DOWN**

1. Part of N.B.

2. Lecherous look

3. Poppy drug

4. Lubricate

5. Tunes

6. Wrinkly fruit

7. Challenge for Laurel and Hardy in *The Music Box*

8. Saharan

9. Obsession

10. *Show Boat* composer

11. Gaelic

12. Doo- — music

18. Fool

21. Make a choice, with "for"

23. "The Greatest"

24. Shriner's chapeau

25. Life story, for short

26. Unknowing

28. Waiting area

30. Pigpen

31. Nay canceler

33. Coop denizen

34. Multitude

39. Old anesthetic

41. Starts

42. Turkish potentate

43. *Animal House* group

45. Capri or Wight

47. Dogfight participants

48. 23-Down's old name

49. The lady

51. Sixth letter after 53-Down

53. See 51-Down

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

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 having the most height (7)

2 placed side-by-side (10)

3 star quarterback Patrick (7)

4 older ones (7)

5 southern greens (8)

6 "Paper Sun" band (7)

7 Greek cheese (4)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TA	RS	SED	EST	OM
APO	RDS	TA	CO	IC
LLA	FF	SEN	MAH	JUXT
ES	FE	LL	TRA	IO

© 2020 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



**Country Goose**

115 Main St.  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
845-265-2122

Answers for Nov. 13 Puzzles

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

1. CAUCASUS, 2. DIGNITARY, 3. COMBING, 4. PLEASED, 5. DRAGONS, 6. AGITATOR, 7. PERSPIRING

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

## SPORTS



Follow us at [twitter.com/hcurrentsports](https://twitter.com/hcurrentsports)

# Playoffs!

By Skip Pearlman

### Girls' Soccer

In 32 years, the Beacon High School girls' soccer team has never won a post-season game.

That changed Tuesday (Nov. 17), when the Bulldogs outlasted Ketcham in a marathon thriller that remained scoreless through 80 minutes of regulation and four overtimes before Beacon prevailed in a penalty-kick shootout, 4-2.

Beacon (7-5), seeded No. 4 in the Dutchess County playoffs, advanced to the semifinal on Thursday, where the Bulldogs were scheduled to face top-seeded Arlington. The winner moves on to Saturday's championship round.

With a cold breeze blowing at Beacon High School, both teams had opportunities on Tuesday but neither could cash in. In the shootout, Devyn Kelly went first and scored, Ketcham tied it, Beacon missed its second opportunity and Ketcham scored to take a 2-1 lead.

Chelsea DerBoghassian buried her shot to even the score, Ketcham missed its next shot and Maddie Bobnick put Beacon ahead. Keeper Elizabeth Reynolds came up with a huge save on Ketcham's next chance — the first save in the shootout by either keeper — setting up the clincher from Claire Derrenbacher.

"It was nerve-wracking, but I was ready for it and had a good feeling," Coach Hugo Alzate said. "Even when we went down, I knew we were fine. The girls were a little anxious, but not Claire or Chelsea. I knew our shooters

were money, and all three scored."

Alzate said both teams played well during regulation. "Ketcham outplayed us early," he said. "By the second half we were getting some good pushes. We changed our formation a bit and that led to some scoring opportunities. We had six corner kicks to their five, but we couldn't finish."

Haldane had less success, losing in the opening round of the Putnam-Northern Westchester small-schools playoffs to No. 7 Croton-Harmon, 3-0, on Tuesday.

Coach Steve Schweikhart said his team, which was seeded No. 10, played better than the score indicates. "It was even in terms of possession and territory, but Croton finished their chances and we did not. Their goals came on breakaways."

Keeper Ruby Poses stopped nine shots to keep the game within reach. "Ruby had another solid game in goal for us," Schweikhart said. "There wasn't much she could do on the breakaways. And I thought she did an outstanding job for us the entire year. Being a freshman made that even more impressive."

"Mazie Maxwell was all over the field for us," he said. "We moved her out of the backline to try to get more of a midfield presence, and it helped. Chloe Rowe and Bianca Harmancin worked hard on the wings. Most of our offense was built through them and they logged a lot of miles, covering huge swaths of the field every game."

He said that despite its 1-10-1 record, the team came through the unusual season, dealing with pandemic restrictions, with

*(Continued on Page 22)*



Beacon's Reilly Landisi (24) makes a run against Ketcham

Photo by S. Pearlman



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

Syracuse Athletics

## Elijah Hughes Reaches the NBA

### Basketball journey began at Beacon High School

By Chip Rowe

Elijah Hughes of Beacon made it to the NBA.

The standout basketball player, who attended Beacon High School for his freshman and sophomore years, was selected by the New Orleans Pelicans during the NBA draft on Wednesday (Nov. 18) as the ninth pick in the second round and the 39th of 60 picks overall. The Pelicans then traded him to the Utah Jazz for a second-round pick in 2022.

After his selection at about 11:30 p.m., Hughes posted on Twitter: "Glee," followed hours later by, "Wow. I can't stop shaking."

Hughes transferred from Beacon to Kennedy Catholic in Somers for his junior year and South Kent Prep in Connecticut for his senior year. He played for East Carolina University before transferring to Syracuse.

After sitting out a season, the shooting guard led the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring at 19 points per game and was named first team All-Conference. That caught the eye of NBA scouts.

Hughes, 22, told *The Current* in March that he felt "the time was right" to declare for the draft. Like most players, he said reaching the NBA would be the fulfillment of a childhood dream. "I always wanted to be one of the best and play against the best," he said. "It's exciting, but I am nervous with all that's going on with this pandemic."

He spent the last few months in Beacon with his family, trying to stay in shape.

In a video posted by the NBA, Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim said that Hughes was "one of the nicest kids I've ever had; he's never late, never misses an appointment, academic or basketball."

"He's truly a guy for the modern NBA," the coach said. "He shoots the three, he can shoot off the dribble and he can still get to the basket. At 6'6" and 215 pounds, he's strong and physical enough to play that way. The thing that separates the really good NBA player is someone who can put it on the floor and make a play, and I think Elijah can do that."

Second-round picks typically receive multi-year, guaranteed contracts at the league-minimum salary, which is \$898,310 annually. Many play in the NBA development league or overseas.