

The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

Lost
Landmarks
Page 16



Support us at highlandscurrent.org/joi

Dutchess Stadium Audit Slams County

Lots of loose ends as Renegades join Yankees

By Jeff Simms

A report released last month alleges that Dutchess County has cost taxpayers \$850,000 over the last five years while failing to properly plan for nearly \$8 million of improvements needed at Dutchess Stadium, the home of the Hudson Valley Renegades.

The 30-page audit, issued Nov. 13 by Robin Lois, the county comptroller, also charges that the Renegades, a minor league baseball team that has played at the stadium since its opening in 1994, breached its contract with the county by not paying rent in 2020. “The Dutch” is located on Route 9D just north of Beacon.

The Renegades have not played since the end of the 2019 season due to the COVID-19 shutdown, although the club did host summer camps this year after Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s emergency orders restricting public gatherings were lifted.

Released a few weeks before the county Legislature is expected to adopt the 2021 budget, the audit highlights the complexities of managing the stadium, which is considered a public park, and the divergent philosophies within the county for doing so.

The report found that “capital projects for the stadium have not been properly planned for and fully disclosed” in Dutchess County’s ongoing capital plans, Lois wrote in a letter to county officials and taxpayers that accompanies the audit.

The study comes two years after the Legislature approved spending \$2.4 million that, coupled with a \$600,000 state grant, was used to complete a first phase of improvements at the park, including new seating, repair of the concrete seating bowl and partial paving of the parking lot.

(Continued on Page 6)



Capital projects for the stadium have not been properly planned for and fully disclosed.

~ Comptroller Robin Lois



GIVING THANKS – A group of volunteers at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, organized by Tara Sweet-Flagler and Vinny Tamagna (shown here), assembled meals on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26) for families in need and homebound older residents. Local restaurants also donated meals, and volunteer drivers, many of them from the Knights of Columbus, delivered 66 meals. Another 70 dinners were picked up. Each meal included a card made by students at Haldane Elementary and a prayer. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Beacon Council Could Add Community Programs

Spending plan inches closer to cap following requests

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council could vote Monday (Dec. 7) to approve a 2021 budget that, after weeks of deliberations, would fund more community programs by raising taxes closer to the maximum allowed under a state tax cap.

The first draft of the budget planned to forgo about \$186,000 in revenue to keep property taxes flat, but after some residents urged the council to “go to cap,” its members discussed a compromise during a Nov. 30 workshop that would include a modest tax increase while funding the remainder of the add-ons from reserves.

Depending on what the council approves, the tax increase could amount to about \$35 per year on a home valued

at \$300,000, or less, based on if and how much the council draws from savings. The budget already anticipates taking as much as \$2.2 million from reserves to offset a loss in state aid and sales tax revenue due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou credited the previous mayor, Randy Casale, and councils for building a healthy fund balance for such unforeseen circumstances. “We’re in the middle of a rainy day, and next year is probably our rainiest of days,” he said. “It’s hopefully not ongoing.”

The council agreed during the workshop to add about \$159,000 in spending to the budget by funding:

- Grants to supplement food distribution programs already supported by Dutchess County (\$25,000);
- A survey to determine the commu-

(Continued on Page 9)

Cold Spring to Consider Parking Fees

Smartphone app enables flexible rates

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring may be moving closer to adopting paid parking on Main Street and at other locations.

At the Nov. 24 meeting of the Village Board, Deputy Mayor Marie Early shared information about a smartphone app offered by ParkMobile, a firm that provides its services nationwide, including in New York City and Cornwall.

“We should seriously consider ParkMobile if we want to go ahead with fees for parking on Main Street” and village-owned spaces at

(Continued on Page 3)

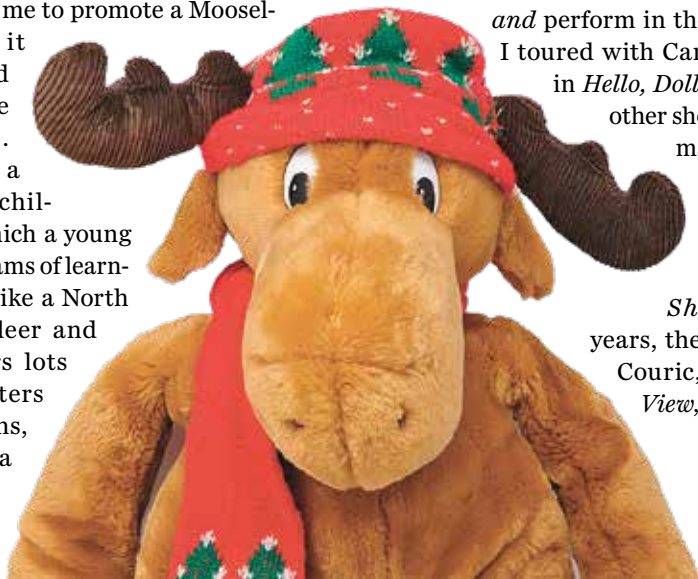
5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JIM SEMMELMAN

By Alison Rooney

Jim Semmelman is the co-producer, writer, director and choreographer of the children's musical *Mooseltoe* and the author of a book based on the show. The Garrison resident will host a virtual reading at the Desmond-Fish Public Library at 4 p.m. on Dec. 12.

How did this all begin?

A long time ago, when I was living in St. Louis, there was a store called Venture that asked me to promote a Mooseltoe doll it produced for the holidays. I created a show for children in which a young moose dreams of learning to fly like a North Pole reindeer and encounters lots of characters — penguins, elves, a snowman, a polar bear and



a walrus named Willie. We took the show to Dallas, Indianapolis and Chicago, performing it free for underprivileged children, who each received a Mooseltoe doll.

What brought you to New York?

I attended the Cincinnati Conservatory planning to become a performer but switched to the tech side. After graduating, I auditioned for a stage version of *Meet Me in St. Louis* but told them I was more interested in tech. A year later I got a call to come to New York to stage-manage and perform in the show. Later I toured with Carol Channing in *Hello, Dolly!* and lots of other shows as a stage manager. I went from there to NBC, where I worked on *The Today Show* for 13 years, then with Katie Couric, Dr. Oz, *The View*, lots of others.



What happened to *Mooseltoe* in the meantime?

Once I became established in New York, I decided to expand it. I got my Broadway and TV friends to record the voices. For example, Al Roker did the narration and Christopher Plummer was the Great Wise Moose King. During the holidays for the next 15 years, we traveled to various theaters all over the country and to Canada. I kept thinking we should have a companion book, so our set designer, Kelly Tighe, created illustrations.

Has COVID affected this year's tour?

We wanted to film it so theaters could stream it, but we couldn't get enough commitment. So we tailored it for Desmond-Fish. I will appear, along with two of the actors, Scott Lilly and Rebecca Montalbano, and librarian Karen Thompson. I'll read the story, there'll be a short clip shown with highlights of the show, and we'll talk about our experiences with the show. Scott, who plays Mooseltoe, is an incredible cartoonist, and he and I are trying to adapt *Mooseltoe* into an animated piece, so he'll share some of the animations.

Has the response to *Mooseltoe* by children changed in any way over the years?

No — for many children, it's their first experience with live performance and they are mesmerized by it. There's no experience that we have as humans that is the same as live theater. There's a moment in the show when Santa asks the children to stand up and look around for Mooseltoe, and they all jump up to help. That has never changed. The show is for children ages 3 to 9 — well, maybe 8-and-a-half — and, truthfully, kids in their late teens love it, too, as do parents and grandparents. I'll admit there's a certain age group — the in-betweens — which finds it just too silly.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How would you rate your karaoke skills?

“

I don't do karaoke, not even in the shower.

”



~ Cathryn Fadde, Cold Spring

“

It depends on the song. I have a limited vocal range; I'm a drummer!

”



~ Joe Dimilia, Beacon

“

I love doing “Mack the Knife,” primarily because of the sound effects.

”



~ Lena Petersen, Cold Spring

— BEACON, NEW YORK —

artisan wine shop

where food meets its match

our web store: new look, new url
www.artisanwineshop.com

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

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

SHOWROOM SALE EVENT

Inaugurating the Hudson Valley's new architecture and interior design studio

TWO WEEKENDS ONLY

Fri & Sat Dec 11 & 12
11 - 7

Fri & Sat Dec 18 & 19
11 - 7

35 Chestnut Street (Rt 9D)
Foodtown Plaza
Cold Spring

HHH
HUDSON
HIGHLANDS
HOME
RENOVATION
RESTORATION
DECORATION

Featuring a unique selection from our warehouse stock of vintage and new furniture, objects, tabletop and gift items

hudsonhighlandshome.com

Cold Spring Man Faces Assault Charges

Accused of attacking neighbor in her apartment

By Michael Turton

A Cold Spring resident faces assault charges after he allegedly attacked an elderly neighbor in the early morning hours of June 30, about six weeks after being released from prison.

Tyrell P. Jones, 42, whose address is given in court documents as 7 Rock St., was arrested Nov. 9 and arraigned in the Town of Kent because a judge was not immediately available in Cold Spring.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department did not report the arrest at the time but said in a statement on Wednesday (Dec. 2) that it "was the culmination of a months-long investigation by members of

the Criminal Investigations Division." The Putnam district attorney, Robert Tendy, and Jones' attorney, Stephen McCarthy, declined to comment.

Jones was charged with first-degree burglary, second-degree assault and second-degree strangulation, all felonies, as well as second-degree unlawful imprisonment, a misdemeanor, according to court documents. He was released after posting a \$100,000 bail bond and is scheduled to appear in Cold Spring Justice Court on Dec. 9. He was prohibited from having contact with the alleged victim, who is 82 and now living elsewhere. Prosecutors allege that Jones entered the

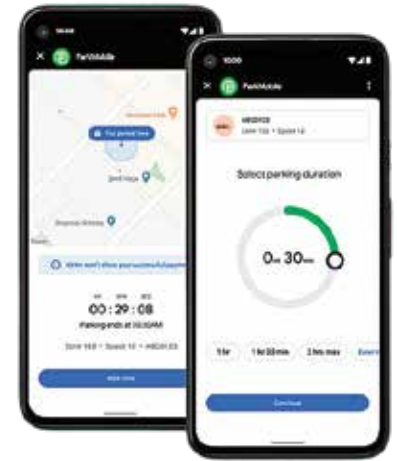


Tyrell P. Jones
PCSD

woman's apartment at about 1:30 a.m. and sat on her back "while forcibly covering her mouth with his hands, preventing her from being able to breath and causing abrasions to her mouth and facial area."

Jones was sentenced to four years in prison for an assault similar to the current allegations. According to a 2012 news account, he was arrested in August of that year and charged with breaking into a Pleasantville home around midnight and attacking a female resident.

Jones was convicted of strangulation and assault and sentenced to four years in state prison and five years of supervised release. He has been returned to prison twice on parole violations, according to state records. Jones was released in May from the Mid-State Correctional Facility in Oneida County.



Screenshots from the app

Parking (from Page 1)

Depot Square, Early said. At a previous meeting she said fees could also be considered for Fair Street adjacent to Mayor's Park.

Mayor Dave Merandy said the idea should be considered over the winter, once a parking committee is re-established.

Early said motorists would download the app and enter their license plate numbers to set up accounts and make payments. Drivers who do not have a phone or tablet would be able to call a toll-free number to pay the fee, she said.

Early said fees can be flexible. "You could have one fee on Monday and Tuesday, a different fee on Wednesday and Thursday and a separate fee on Friday, Saturday, Sunday," she said. The fees also can be progressive, with an increased per-hour cost for longer stays.

State Police Blotter

■ New York State Police troopers on Nov. 17 arrested a man in Putnam Valley who they said was a fugitive wanted in Louisiana. Joshua C. Allen, 19, of Brooklyn, is wanted in Bossier, Louisiana, on a felony warrant for allegedly stealing \$180,000, according to the police. After being detained following a traffic stop in a construction zone on the Taconic State Parkway, Allen was arraigned in

Putnam County Court and remanded to the county jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail or \$250,000 bond.

■ Officers from the Financial Crimes Unit on Nov. 16 arrested James G. Fitzmaurice, 51, of Poughkeepsie, on charges of felony grand larceny and falsifying business records. Police said an investigation determined Fitzmaurice stole, via misappropriation, more than \$150,000 from the Dutchess County BOCES Faculty Association while he served as its president from

2017 to 2020. He was ordered to appear in the Town of Poughkeepsie Court on Dec. 8.

■ Officers from Troop K, which patrols Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester and Columbia counties, issued 1,428 tickets from Wednesday to Monday over the Thanksgiving weekend, including 767 for speeding, 26 for distracted driving, 18 for child-restraint violations and 41 for not moving over for police lights. Troopers also detained 28 impaired motorists.

GIVE MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT

Support independent local news with a gift of membership in *The Highlands Current* to someone who cares about a free press and neighborhood news.

Bestow the benefits of being a

FRIEND PARTNER PATRON GUARDIAN

of *The Current*!

It's wonderful when a gift gives twice! And it's easy — go to:

highlandscurrent.org/membership

MORE DETAILS: [PAGE 7](#)



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

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

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

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

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



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

December 4, 2020
Volume 9, Issue 49

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 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

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Staying safe

On Nov. 21, several dozen members of Beacon Prison Action, the Release Aging People in Prison Group (RAPP) and the End the New Jim Crow Action Network (ENJAN) marched from Memorial Park in Beacon to the Fishkill Correctional Facility to raise awareness about the spread of COVID-19 and the unsafe conditions there.

We were a lively bunch. We chanted "We don't want no prison nation / Stop elder incarceration." We made enough noise outside the prison that inmates came to the windows, waved, held up fists and chanted with us. "We need masks!" yelled one. Prisoners at Fishkill are issued one flimsy mask per week and there is inadequate soap and hand sanitizer. We were told inmates are not allowed to receive face masks in care packages.

In such close quarters, it is almost inevitable that the virus will be spreading, turning a prison term into a possible death sentence for older and medically vulnerable prisoners.

Fishkill, with its elderly population, has had six deaths. We are asking Gov. Andrew Cuomo to grant clemency to medically vulnerable inmates of a certain age who are at high risk. In New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy last month ordered the release of more than

2,000 prisoners; Cuomo has released five.

Marie Edwards, *Beacon*

In a statement released just before Thanksgiving, Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. spoke of not wanting to separate families over the holiday because of the governor's order limiting gatherings to 10 people (*Letters and Comments*, Nov. 27). However, it's similar cavalier attitudes toward the pandemic that have kept my wife and I from seeing our family.

Because of our nation's lack of better judgment and short-sightedness, I was unable to say goodbye to my own father, who died in September, out of fear of risking infection and spreading it to my then-pregnant wife.

Now we are parents to a newborn. Because COVID-19 cases are once again on the rise, we're unable to safely see my family in California, or her family in Canada. As a nation, we are not using our better judgment.

We look to elected officials, such as Sheriff Langley, to give us the guidance to make the right call, the tough call. It is the duty of elected officials to think of the greater good. And despite how painful it was for our family, the right call is forgoing one of my own personal favorite holidays.

We need unity to survive this; we need leaders to lead. When rates in Putnam are rising, Sheriff Langley could have better protected citizens by simply saying nothing.

Patrick Biesemans, *Cold Spring*

Counting the votes

Your story about my postelection legal proceedings concerning the Dutchess County judge position requires clarification ("Local Election Update," Nov. 20).

My campaign counsel filed an action in Orange County Supreme Court asking a judge to adjudicate any challenges that could be forthcoming during the course of the tabulation of absentee ballots (more than 30,000 were at issue) by the Dutchess County Board of Elections. The action was no different from more than 20 similar election law proceedings filed in 20 counties across New York state using similar language contained in my complaint, seeking the same relief. The justice in Orange County was one of only two statewide who refused to issue an order to show cause that a candidate requested pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law.

There was never any intent to delay or hinder the counting of ballots, which was completed on Nov. 18. Once the tabulation of the absentee ballots was concluded, I promptly conceded to my opponent, Jessica Segal, and promised to assist her in an orderly transition. In fact, I have met with her twice to help accomplish that goal.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served the residents of Dutchess County for the past 21 years as a member of the judiciary. My wife, Anne, and I are blessed to have so many friends and family members, especially in our hometown of Beacon, who helped my campaign during this past year. Thank you.

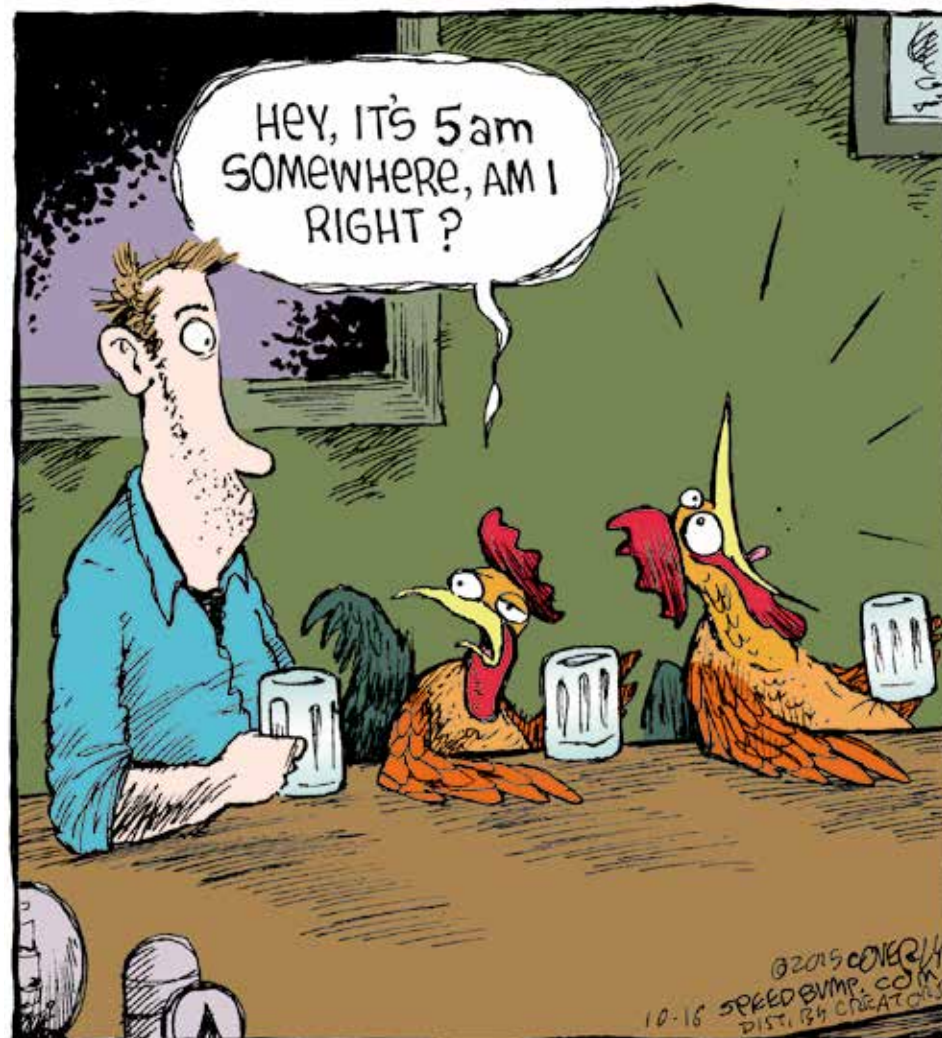
Peter Forman, *Beacon*

Thanks for your coverage of local races. Every election seems to illuminate that New York State has not done enough to modernize its voting infrastructure, and 2020 was no exception.

This year, our state's slow counting of mail-in ballots was repeatedly cited by commentators seeking to sow mistrust in democracy. The slow count also leaves local candidates in limbo in close races, delaying the opening of district offices and other tasks needed to hit the ground running and begin serving the people.

While there's much to be done to bring New York to the standards of other states, one common-sense step has been suggested by state Sen. Michael Gianaris: require local election boards to begin counting absentee ballots on Election Day, instead of a

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

week later. I hope Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, can cross the aisle, support this bill and strengthen the machinery of democracy in New York.

Steven Higashide, *Cold Spring*

Yard noise

I agree with the recent letters published regarding the overuse of leaf blowers (*Letters and Comments*, Nov. 20). I have neighbors who seem to like to mow the lawn, whack the weeds and blow every single leaf off their patio at dinner time. In the village, we live close together and, with more and more people working from home, it is important to open your eyes, look around and decide if you need to mow your lawn for the third time in one week.

I have had conversations about this behavior, but nothing changes. Creating ordinances is one way to go but may end up creating feuds that could make any neighborhood more toxic. That said, we all deserve peace and quiet. If there is a need for an ordinance, I will feel compelled to support it, sadly so.

Linda Weaver, *Cold Spring*

Giving thanks

Despite the pandemic, there is still so much to be thankful for this holiday season. We'd even contend that one of the

greatest gifts resulting from a challenging year was a new perspective on the common things we've taken for granted.

While many people are struggling this holiday season, we joined together to make each other's lives just a little bit better with the community Thanksgiving meal. For the lonely and isolated, reaching out brought the greatest gratitude, and maybe the message is as unassuming as "we are here, and we care about you."

Thank you, Father Tom Lutz and the Knights of Columbus Council No. 536, the bedrock for the delivery brigade. Thank you to the Philipstown Reform Synagogue and Haldane Elementary. Thanks to Tara Sweet-Flagler, the coordinator, and our senior warden, Vinny Tamagna. And thank you to Jim and Lori Ely at River-view Restaurant, who grew this event over the past decade and contributed their time and talent by cooking the turkey, stuffing, gravy and soup. We also acknowledge and thank the many other people and organizations in the village and town, too numerous to list here, who gave so generously.

As the German theologian, philosopher and mystic Meister Eckhart said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'Thank you,' it will be enough."

Father Steve Schunk, *Cold Spring*

Schunk is the priest-in-charge at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Current Launches Student Journalists Program

Will select two high school correspondents

The *Highlands Current* has launched a Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Beacon or Philipstown to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as paid correspondents for the nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. Students will primarily cover their high schools and issues related to young people.

The correspondents will be invited to attend editorial meetings and meet individually with editors and reporters to discuss story ideas, potential interview subjects and any issues that may be involved in their stories. (The staff is meeting remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.) They will be provided with the tools required to do their work, such as access to *The Associated Press Stylebook* and a

journalism textbook.

The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting. Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments.

Due to the generous support of our members, correspondents will be compensated on a freelance basis for each story and/or photo that we publish online and/or in print.

High school students who are interested in becoming a student correspondent for *The Current* are asked to complete the application at highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program. Students accepted into the program must agree to guidelines about how they present themselves on social media and how they are expected to represent themselves in their role as correspondents, and those who are minors must have a parent or guardian grant permission for them to participate.

The initial program will run from January to September 2021. The application deadline is Dec. 31.

WE'RE STAYING OUTDOORS!



JOIN US
EVERY SATURDAY
AT BOSCOBEL

NEW WINTER HOURS!
10:00-2:00



Retablo of José Cruz Soria, 1960, Oil on metal, Princeton University Art Museum 2020-270

MIRACLES ON THE BORDER

Retablos of Mexican Migrants to the United States

September 6—December 13, 2020

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm; Sunday 1pm–5pm; open late on Thursday to 8pm

Free Admission • Open to All • fillac.vassar.edu

La exposición es completamente bilingüe,
con todo el texto informativo en Inglés y Español.

Renegades *(from Page 1)*

Although county officials had been aware of the need for repairs since at least 2016, the request in November 2018 to the Legislature was “hurried and omitted from the budget,” while a repair schedule was never documented, the report said.

Members of the Legislature asked Lois, a Democrat who was elected in 2017, to prepare the audit at the time of the funding approval, she wrote.

At the same time, County Executive Marc Molinaro asked the Legislature to consider the funding request quickly so the repairs would be finished before the 2019 season began.

He said on Tuesday (Dec. 1) that the audit’s findings are “absolutely understandable, as a purely fiscal review.” The county “can be much more orderly” with its own capital projects, like roads and parks maintenance, but Molinaro, who is a Republican and three-term county executive, argued that Dutchess Stadium represents an abnormal landlord-tenant arrangement.

(The county owns the stadium but leases the 21-acre parcel on which it sits from the Beacon City School District. The Renegades in turn pay rent to Dutchess County for use of the stadium.)

“We had a negotiating moment,” with the Renegades in late 2018, Molinaro said. “We took the opportunity to gain a five-year commitment from the team, and they got the investment from the county.”

Nevertheless, all improvements at the



The view from the Dutchess Stadium announcer's booth in June 2019

File photo by Michael Turton

stadium should be included within the capital plan that’s presented to the Legislature as part of the annual budget process, Lois wrote.

While the Renegades are committed to staying through 2023, both Molinaro and team owner Jeff Goldklang said in 2018 that — once the first phase of improvements was funded — they expected to continue negotiating a second phase of stadium renovations and a long-term, likely 20-year, agreement to stay in Dutchess County.

Meanwhile, the Beacon school board has agreed to a series of one-year extensions of its lease to the county for the land, the most

recent of which expires at the end of 2021. The school board has discussed selling the land to the county, but no formal proposal has been made.

It gets even more complicated. The New York Yankees in November announced its new minor league affiliation structure, which will elevate the Renegades in 2021 from the short-season level to become a Single-A team that will play from April to September. The Renegades had been affiliated with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Dutchess Legislator Frits Zernike, whose district includes Ward 4 in Beacon, said this week that he fears, without a long-term lease on the land or with its tenant, another request for rushed funding could be coming. “It’s a pattern of coming to us late in the day, and it gets a little ridiculous,” he said.

Molinaro said there is no money for further renovations in the 2021 budget because he expects cost-sharing to be part of the negotiations with the Renegades. The county’s share would be reflected in the 2022 budget, he said.

Planning is one of the major issues raised in the audit. The other is the stadium’s financial impact as a county park.

In her report, Lois wrote that “the current lease terms [\$258,000 per year] are unfavorable to the county and do not fully compensate for the costs incurred.”

Although the stadium is considered a county park, “it does not provide public access for resident enjoyment and is operated by a for-profit entity.”

Over the audit period of 2015 to 2020, it has cost the county an average of \$170,000 more each year to operate the stadium than its lease brings in. “A fair and equitable lease would include remittance for operating expenses and allowance for anticipated increase in annual capital bond and interest costs incurred by the county,” the audit said.

Molinaro, on Tuesday, disagreed, saying that the comptroller’s audit suggests the stadium should be run like a business.

“We don’t take that approach, because it’s a county park,” he said, and it’s the only park “that generates even close to its expenses in revenue.” If the Renegades were to leave, the state Legislature would have to overturn the stadium’s park designation for the county to use it for anything else, he said.

Lois suggests that the county secure its asset and minimize the risk to taxpayers by purchasing the land from the school district. If that cannot happen, lease negotiations with the district should be expedited upon securing a long-term tenant.

Rent should be paid in accordance with contract provisions, she wrote, because any deviation becomes an unfair burden on taxpayers — in addition to a breach of contract. She estimates the rental revenue lost in 2020 is at least \$500,000. Team officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The report also recommends that all leases and activities at Dutchess Stadium should, at minimum, break even for the county.

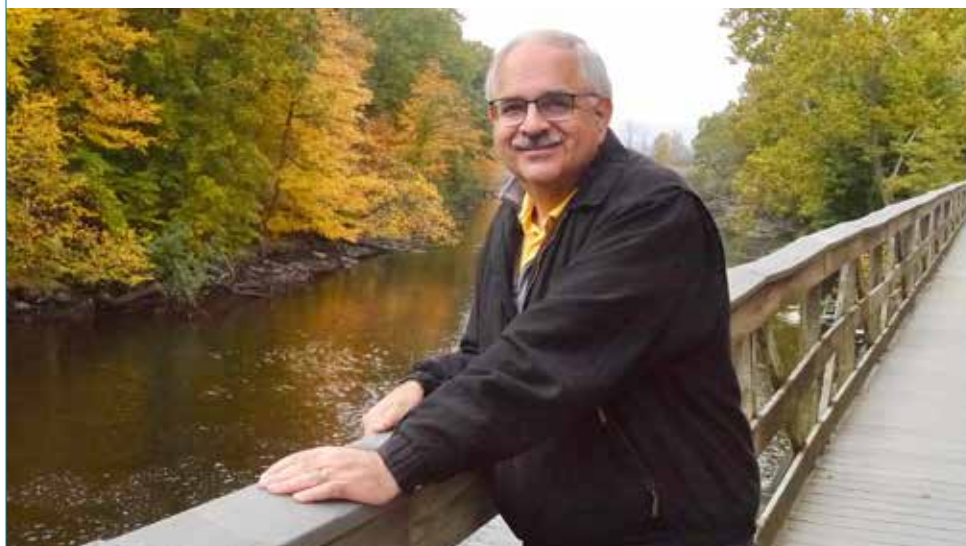
The comptroller and county executive agreed on at least one point. In her report, Lois wrote that negotiations for a long-term lease with the Renegades should “continue swiftly now that the team’s affiliation with the Yankees in 2021 has been announced and a long season will more than double the number of games at the stadium.”

That development heightens the need to move toward a long-term agreement, which will include additional renovations at the stadium, Molinaro said.

“We’re doing business now with the most successful baseball franchise in history,” he said, “and that is good news for us — exceptionally good news.”

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Beacon in 2021 with Mayor Lee Kyriacou



WEDNESDAY DEC. 9 | 7:00–7:45PM

Join us as we review 2020 and look toward the challenges and opportunities to come.

REGISTER TO ATTEND:

highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations



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
Also available: Curbside pick-up,
free shipping, free delivery in Beacon

Follow us!
@solstadhouse
SolstadHouse1

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Membership matters to us and to you. It is our primary means of support in our mission to provide a vital forum for your diverse interests, concerns and experiences. As a free, independent news source, *The Current* seeks to ensure quality journalism for all in Philipstown and Beacon.

To join, renew or give, go to:

highlandscurrent.org/join

Questions? Email:

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!

YOUR BENEFITS

Your membership in 2021 will entitle you to these benefits beginning next year in your enjoyment of *The Current*.

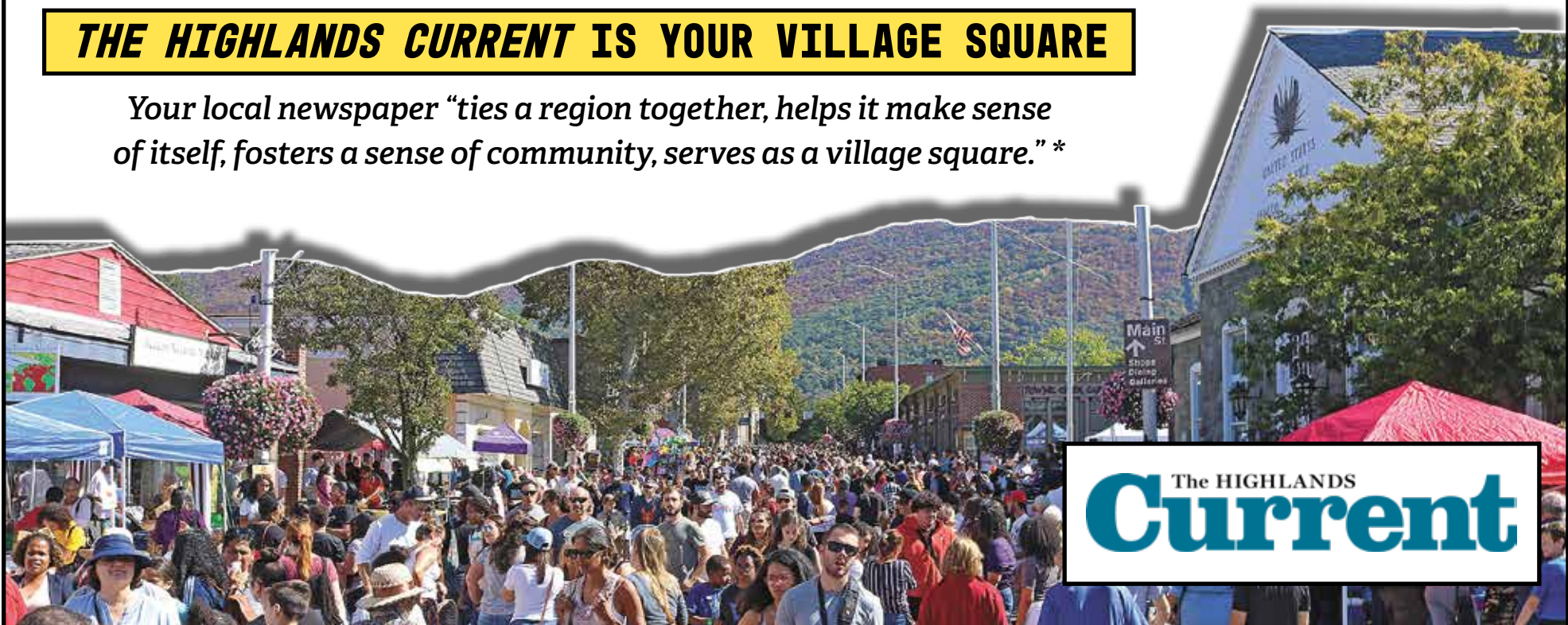
MEMBER BENEFITS	FRIEND \$24 to \$119	PARTNER \$120 to \$599	PATRON \$600 to \$1,199	GUARDIAN \$1,200+
A Current DIRECTORY of community resources	●	●	●	●
Our editor's exclusive CurrentPLUS newsletter	●	●	●	●
Priority Early Digital Delivery of Friday's print paper	●	●	●	●
Annual Member Recognition in the paper and online	●	●	●	●
Annual Discussion with editor and board members		●	●	●
Celebratory News Listing in 1/8-page ad			●	●
Gift Membership at Friend level to a non-member				●

BONUSES!

- The first 100 new members will receive *The Current* tote bag.
- Members who make a recurring gift of \$10 or more per month will receive free mail delivery of the paper through 2021 plus the appropriate benefits for the annual total of their gift.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT IS YOUR VILLAGE SQUARE

*Your local newspaper “ties a region together, helps it make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square.” **



The HIGHLANDS
Current

*From media columnist Margaret Sullivan in her recent book *Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy*.

No Free Delivery for Amazon Project

Firm seeks tax breaks for East Fishkill facility

By Leonard Sparks

Amazon and a developer are seeking millions of dollars in property tax breaks as a prerequisite to open a distribution center on a 124-acre site on Route 52 in East Fishkill that was abandoned by IBM in 2005.

USEF Tioranda and Amazon, which had \$281 billion in sales in 2019, say they would demolish the buildings on the southern portion of what used to be IBM's West Campus and construct a 629,186-square-foot warehouse, with 132 docks for loading and unloading, at a cost of \$135 million.

Construction would begin next month and be completed by June 2022, with Amazon leasing the warehouse as a distribution hub employing the equivalent of 500 full-time employees. Amazon has 1.13 million employees worldwide.

The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency approved a resolution on Nov. 12 authorizing a preliminary agreement with USEF Tioranda and Amazon, which are seeking a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement that would save them \$14.3 million in property taxes over 15 years.

The companies have also asked for \$2.6 million in sales tax relief and \$497,250 in mortgage tax benefits through the IDA.

At the IDA meeting, Brad Griggs, a senior member of Amazon's economic development group, said that tax breaks would be a "material factor" in whether the company decided to open a warehouse in East Fishkill. "But for these incentives, we would have to look at this project differently," he said.

According to Griggs, the facility would function as a receiving center where employees would take bulk shipments of high-volume products and break them down to fill orders.

(Continued on Page 20)

Putnam OKs Review of Sheriff Finances

Legislators also clash over County Charter panel

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After months of delay, the Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (Dec. 1) approved \$28,320 in overtime for Sheriff's Department patrols from last summer but also allocated \$45,000 for outside consultants to probe the department's finances and practices.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, voted against the consultants appropriation.

In other moves, again over Montgomery's opposition, legislative majorities approved raises for elected officials, including themselves, and established a committee to revise the Putnam County Charter.

Sheriff review

During the meeting, which was held by audioconference because of COVID-19 restrictions, Montgomery questioned the timing and scope of the consultants' work.

"It's a good idea to have professional support to look at all the county expenses and how we operate, across the board," she said. "Now is not the time to spend \$45,000 on just the Sheriff's Department."

She argued that during the continuing pandemic and ensuing economic distress, the funds could be better spent on COVID-19 testing and similar public needs, and that Sheriff's Department officials "can find efficiencies on their own."

But Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac contended that the analysis may reveal "if we can make changes that benefit taxpayers." He said legislators have long "wanted to understand the methods used at the Sheriff's Department to utilize our resources as efficiently as possible."

The issue of deputies' overtime pay has bounced back and forth from committee to the full Legislature over the past few months, although it involves no additional outlays because the Sheriff's Department wanted to transfer money from under-used jail accounts to cover the expense. But those transfer requests met with resistance from most of the Legislature.

In memos, the Sheriff's Department listed the reasons behind the overtime in July through September: two officers recalled to military duty, two at the police academy, COVID-19 complications and staffing demands for street protests. The memos also mentioned obligations under a new union contract and a \$104,000 cut to the department's expected funding for 2020.

On Tuesday, the Legislature voted unanimously to approve the fund transfers, with no further disputes.

Salaries

Although the Legislature has approved the 2021 budget, which includes funding for salaries, state law requires that the Legislature separately approve raises and pay for about 180 non-union employees.

On Oct. 29, five legislators voted to boost legislative pay by about 2.4 percent beginning in 2021, to \$41,809 annually. That night, Montgomery and Legislators William Gouldman of Putnam Valley, Joseph Castellano of Brewster and Toni Addonizio of Kent voted against the increase.

But on Tuesday, only Gouldman joined Montgomery in voting against the raises for legislators and County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell.

Subsequently, Montgomery alone voted against a long list of raises for managers, aides and other staff.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino defended the approach and objected to "cherry-picking" raises. "We are not a county of haves and have-nots," she said. Nacerino said that anyone who opposed pay hikes could refuse to accept one.

County charter

The seemingly arcane matter of forming a committee to recommend changes to the Putnam County Charter prompted debate when Montgomery objected to the panel's composition.

At least initially, it will consist of Addonizio; Sullivan, who heads the Rules Committee; Robert Firriolo, the Legislature's lawyer; and Jennifer Bumgarner, the county attorney. The charter establishes county government departments and their roles, sets terms of office and defines policies and procedures in numerous areas. The county is supposed to consider updating it every 10 years.

Montgomery noted that the committee excludes her, the Legislature's "minority party" member, and does not include delegates from town governments. "It's not an equal division of representation," she said.

Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel responded that "any changes to the charter will be voted on by all the legislators. So in that way we will all have input."

"This is not a town issue; this is a county issue," Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac added. "This is not a partisan issue."

Metro-North

The legislators united to support a proposal by Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents the county on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority

What They Will Make

On Dec. 1, the Putnam Legislature approved 2.4 percent salary increases for themselves and most other elected officials and non-union county jobs. Here is what select positions will pay in 2021.

Commissioner of Health	\$190,383
County Executive	\$166,125
Sheriff	\$156,492
Commissioner of Social Services	\$151,139
County Attorney	\$149,846
Director of Personnel	\$141,776
County Clerk	\$136,227
Auditor	\$115,094
Clerk of Legislature	\$102,363
Elections Commissioners	\$95,956
Tourism Director	\$81,900
Veterans Director	\$66,123
Legislative Chair	\$52,261
Legislators	\$41,809
Coroners	\$22,666 (from \$185 per diem)

board, to set a flat fare for Metro-North tickets instead of charging riders who live farther from New York City more than those who live closer.

Given the train system's decreased ridership and economic uncertainties in the COVID-19 crisis, Sullivan called Zuckerman's plan "a little premature" and "an effort in futility to correct decades of mismanagement and terrible budgeting" by the MTA.

Albano, though, said the concept "is not to cut money but to spread the expenses fairly" and make Metro-North "more equitable."

Castellano called the proposal "a fantastic idea" that "makes incredible sense" and said he is "so glad someone is thinking outside the box."

Legislative counsel

The Legislature approved a new annual contract for Firriolo, its legal counsel. He will earn \$80,000, or \$5,000 more than in 2020. Only Montgomery voted "no."

Firriolo, of Carmel, was appointed in 2017 after the Legislature dismissed Clement Van Ross of Putnam Valley, who had held the position for more than 30 years.

At an Audit Committee meeting on Nov. 19, Montgomery criticized the committee members for sending the contract to the full Legislature for consideration when they hadn't provided the document for review by the other legislators.

"This is a heads-up that I may have a comment at another time, and it may be during the full Legislature meeting, because I don't have the contract in front of me," she said.

Addonizio pointed out that the same contract has been approved for the past three years. "This is not a new contract," she said.

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN FOR THE YEAR 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Final Budget for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested party by appointment.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk
DATED: November 30, 2020

Dutchess Matches Single-Day High for Cases

Molinaro calls rise in hospitalizations 'alarming'

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County matched its one-day high for confirmed COVID-19 cases as infections surge and residents are hospitalized at a rate that will be unsustainable for local hospitals, County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday (Dec. 2).

Dutchess recorded 158 cases on Tuesday, matching its highest single-day total since the pandemic shutdown began in March.

The county also reported that 77 residents were hospitalized as of Tuesday, a marked increase from six on Nov. 1 and a number that doubled over the last two weeks of November. During the first wave of infections in the spring, hospitalizations in Dutchess peaked at 108 on April 9.

Molinaro described the rising hospitalizations as "alarming" because of the stress it places on medical facilities. "The pace of growth in hospitalizations is not something the system can sustain for a long period of time," he said during his weekly Facebook town hall session.

The state reported 1,947 infections in Dutchess for November and the first day of December — nearly five times the cases reported in October and seven times those from September. According to the state, about 70 percent of infections have been traced to households and small gatherings.

Putnam County is also facing a steep rise in cases. Nearly one in 12 Putnam residents tested on Tuesday — 89 out of 1,036 — was positive. There were 1,023 cases in November,

more than four times the cases in October and eight times the number in September.

Eight patients were hospitalized as of Nov. 24, double the number from five days earlier. On Oct. 1, Putnam had just one person hospitalized with the virus.

In Dutchess, Molinaro said he has asked the state to reopen a drive-thru testing site in the county. In March, Nuvance Health and the county opened a temporary site at Dutchess Stadium north of Beacon.

In addition to more cases, Molinaro said, some COVID-19 patients who otherwise could be discharged to nursing homes or other health care facilities are being kept longer because of the contagious nature of the virus, leaving fewer beds. Hospitals are also addressing a backlog of elective procedures that were canceled or postponed during the first shutdown.

Statewide, hospitalizations totaled 4,063 on Wednesday, a level last seen on May 26. Hospitalizations in the Mid-Hudson Region have nearly quadrupled since Nov. 1, from 120 to 545, as have the number of COVID patients in intensive care units, from 22 to 83.

Hospitals in the Mid-Hudson Region had, over a seven-day average, 30 percent of their total beds and 50 percent of their ICU beds available as of Tuesday.

On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a "winter plan" in response to the wave of infections, including the introduction by the state Department of Health of emergency hospital measures. Hospitals were directed to have plans to increase bed capacity by 50 percent, identify retired doctors and nurses who could be deployed and prepare for the use of field hospitals.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

3,038 (+422)

New Cases in Philipstown: 9

Tests administered:

85,280 (+6,162)

Percent positive:

3.6 (+0.3)

Number of deaths:

64 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

7,635 (+435)

Active Cases in Beacon: 40

Tests administered:

294,825 (+19,431)

Percent positive:

2.6 (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

192 (+7)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Dec. 2, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Nov. 26.

Beacon Budget *(from Page 1)*

nity's recreation needs and views on a community center (\$50,000);

- A study of a possible municipal broadband program (\$30,000);
- Weekend trash and recycling pickup at municipal parks (\$14,000);
- Bathroom maintenance at the parks (\$25,000);
- A voucher program for free taxi rides (\$10,000).

In addition, the council agreed to add \$5,000 to test a program for what Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair called "participatory budgeting."

"When we go out for feedback, we know there are large segments of the public who are not showing up," he explained. "The reason for that is because, in large part, they don't think government works for them. But everybody in Beacon has an idea about a little way that we can make Beacon better."

The council also appeared to lean toward adding the K-9 program back to the Police Department budget. If the city eliminates the program, it would have to pay for the dog's early retirement. If the program continues, the dog, Apollo, will be paired with a new officer and could work for another three years.

"The dog increases our capability," said Acting Police Chief Sands Frost, who recalled rescuing an older woman with dementia who wandered away from her home on a winter night. A police dog was able to follow her scent.

"That night, that dog probably saved her life," Frost said.

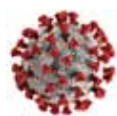
The acting chief said he would look for cuts to offset the program, which costs about \$24,000 a year, such as selling a rarely used police motorcycle.

With the add-ons, the budget calls for about \$22.3 million in general-fund spending. Water and sewer funds, which both show 2 percent increases, are budgeted separately.

Search Updates

■ Beacon has received 30 resumes for the city administrator position held by Anthony Ruggiero, who will leave in January to become assistant commissioner for administration with the Dutchess County health department. Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who will select the hire, said on Monday (Nov. 30) that he plans to ask City Council members to help him whittle down the applicants so he can make a selection "reasonably quickly."

■ Council Member Terry Nelson, who heads the committee overseeing the search for a police chief, said that the committee planned to interview candidates this week, and Nelson expected afterward to recommend two finalists to the mayor.



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Dec. 2), 3,038 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 7,635 in Dutchess; 52,418 in Westchester; 22,221 in Rockland; 3,606 in Ulster; and 17,496 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 674,093 positives and 26,955 deaths.

■ Putnam County had 167 active cases during the week ending Nov. 26, including nine in Philipstown, 107 in Carmel, 34 in Kent, 54 in Patterson, 18 in Putnam Valley and 57 in Southeast. Eight people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

■ On Wednesday (Dec. 2), Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante wrote that "as of today, we received notice of three members of the school community who tested positive for COVID. Given the timing of when these individuals were last on campus and when they became symptomatic, it is not necessary to close the school for additional cleaning or contact tracing."

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Dec. 2 that

New York expected to receive an initial delivery of vaccine doses from Pfizer for 170,000 people by Dec. 15 if safety and efficacy approvals are granted by the federal government.

■ On Nov. 24, Putnam County said it is trying to get more guidance from the state about whether the county would be designated as yellow or orange if cases and hospitalizations continue to rise or if the designation would apply only to specific areas or ZIP codes. The county has qualified for restrictions using two measures — the positivity rate on a seven-day rolling average and the number of cases per 100,000 residents — but the state also considers metrics such as hospital admissions; population density; the age of those testing positive; the effectiveness of contact tracing; and whether outbreaks involve facilities such as nursing homes, colleges or prisons. "The governor's mention [on Nov. 23] of Brewster 'nearing yellow-zone designation' confirms that our request to view Putnam County on a hyper-local level is a necessity," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell in a statement.

■ Despite the upswing in cases, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Town Board that he

hadn't heard anything from the county. "I don't see any action or public announcements," he said. He encouraged residents to continue taking precautions. "It's not going to be good if people start flouting" the restrictions designed to contain the spread of the virus. "And I feel that on the other side of the county there's been some of that," he said. "I know there's fatigue out there, but you get tired of being dead, too."

■ Specialist Bakim Alijaj of Beacon was among the members of the New York Army National Guard recognized this month with a commander's challenge coin for staffing 15 COVID-19 drive-thru test sites from Long Island to Buffalo over the past seven months. Alijaj, who is assigned to the medical command, worked at the SUNY Albany site.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

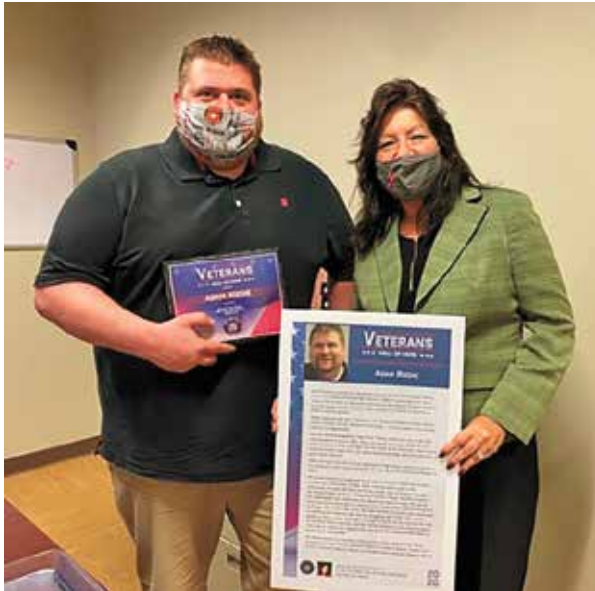
AROUND TOWN



▲ **MAP GIFT** — The Putnam County Historian's Office is offering a reproduction of an 1829 color map of Dutchess and Putnam counties — the oldest in its collection — for holiday giving. It was digitized by The Highland Studio in Philipstown, and proceeds will benefit preservation efforts and historical marker restoration. For information, call 845-808-1420 or email historian@putnamcountyny.gov.



▲ **ART IN A BAG** — The Compass Arts Creativity Project partnered with the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to provide art kits to 72 students at Sargent Elementary and Rombout Middle School in Beacon. The kits, which each include a journal, writing prompts and art supplies, were distributed during school lunch pickup.



◀ **DUTCHESS VET HONORED** — State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, on Nov. 24 named Adam Roche, director of the Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services and a former Marine, to the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. Roche, who is among 49 honorees for 2020, was formerly manager of the Vet2Vet program operated by the Mental Health Association of Dutchess County.



▲ **FRONTLINE TRIBUTE** — Dutchess County on Nov. 24 unveiled a statue by Nestor Madalenoitia called "The Nurse" outside the county office building in Poughkeepsie. The statue is designed "to commemorate the service and sacrifice of nurses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," the county said in a statement.

Photos provided

Exhibitions

December 5–January 3

smallWORKS:
biennial group exhibition
juried by Paulien Lethen



Jill Enfield:
New Americans
collodion photographs,
glass house installation



Garrison Art Center
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524
Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am–5pm
garrisonartcenter.org 845-424-3960

HOWLAND
CULTURAL
CENTER

Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon; Dec. 4 thru 7 – 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



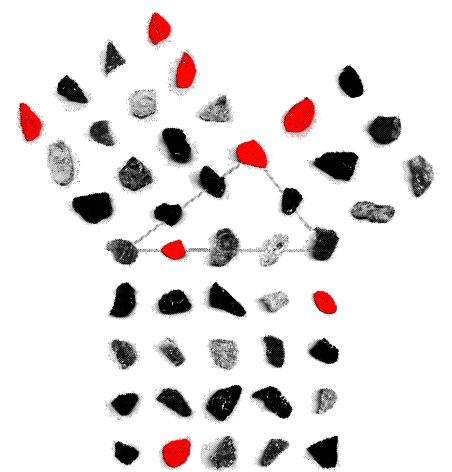
Sat. Dec. 5 – 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR
Musical variety show of the Hudson Valley features
Bruce Molsky and The Whispering Tree
hosted by Annalyse & Ryan
Tix: howlandculturalcentertix.com



AND MORE
Sun. Dec. 20 – 4 pm
Streaming: The Nutcracker, piano duo and narration
Sun. Dec. 20 – 7 pm
Livestream: Christmas, Chanukah + Kwanzaa at Café Sizzle

HCC will NOT be open for in-person audience during performances

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcentertix.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



A Bridge from Isolation



Ilse Schreiber-Noll in her studio

Photos provided

Beacon exhibit hopes to inspire 'turn of the heart'

By Alison Rooney

Last year Ilse Schreiber-Noll mounted an exhibit at the Beacon Artist Union gallery of her woodcuts — this year, for an encore that opens Dec. 12, she will have not only woodcuts but mixed media, an installation and handmade books.

She says she chose the show's title, *Bridging Solitude*, because she sees her work as “an invisible bridge constructed in times of isolation and loneliness. Amid war and peace, wildfires, state violence and a pandemic, this imaginary structure creates a dialogue between my inner experiences and the world.”

In addition, she invited H.D. Gölzenleuchter, a woodcut artist from Germany, to display six of his works. “The installation belongs in a huge space, but we'll figure it out,” she says.

Schreiber-Noll, who lives in Croton, prefers to work in a combination of forms, each informing the others. “I do love to have a painting and then make a book related to the painting and add other media, then mix them together,” she explains.

Her 2019 show included only woodcuts because it was dedicated to Antonio Frasconi, a Uruguayan-American woodcut artist who instructed her at SUNY

Purchase, where she received a master of fine arts degree after moving to the U.S. from her native Germany.

“He taught a class called The Art of the Book,” she says. “I took painting, but my heart was in printmaking. But then suddenly it changed, because I felt stifled by only doing one thing.”

Her artistic career has unfolded in the same way. “I could never stay with one style,” she says. “First I did paintings on sad things like war, hunger and the destroyed environment. For several years, I used to paint realistically, but then it became more abstract. Now, I do a lot of environmental paintings.

“At one point, I found my paintings too restrained, so I tried to paint like Jackson Pollack — I went out and bought cheap house paint and a linen drop cloth and I started dripping. It gave me a wonderful feeling of freedom. I switched to making paintings not enclosed, not on canvases. Now I take a paintbrush and paint on the wood. I try to draw directly and loosely, because you should use the beauty of the wood and not get tangled up in the details.”

Schreiber-Noll is known for her handmade books. She initially worked with poets and musicians such as Joseph Brodsky, John Cage, Galway Kinnell and Octavio Paz, incorporating woodcuts with the text. “Everybody loved them,” she says. “But they became so valuable, nobody could turn the pages, and they had to go

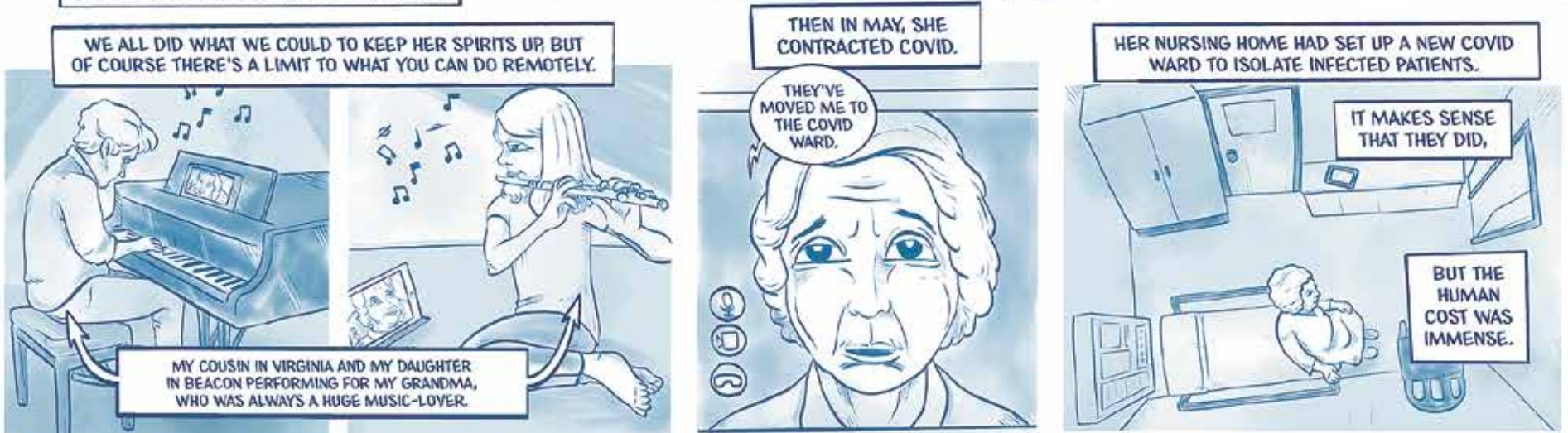
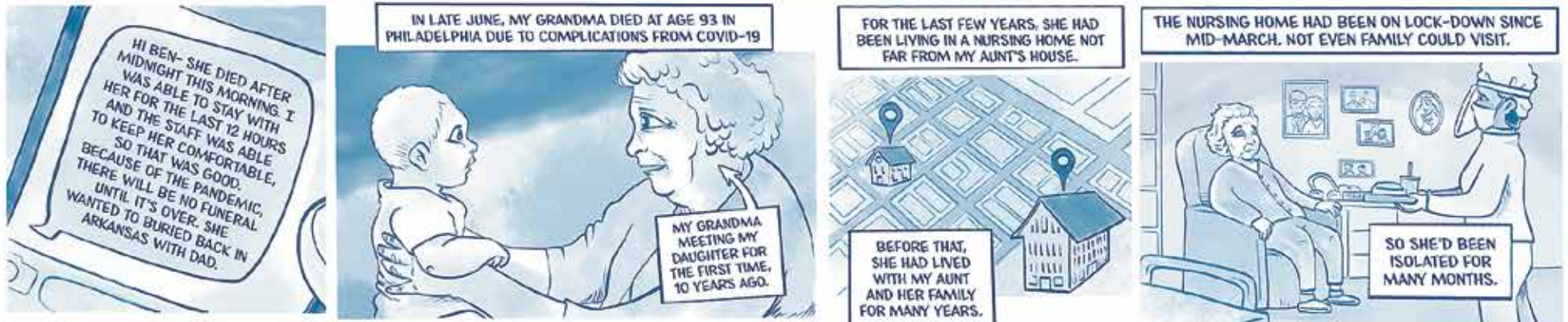
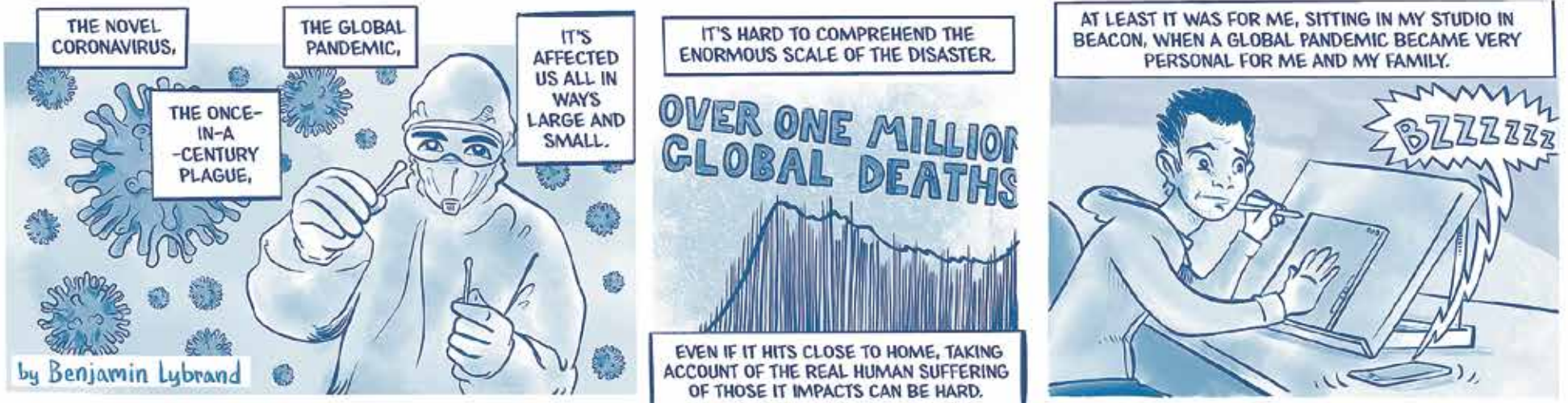
into a case.”

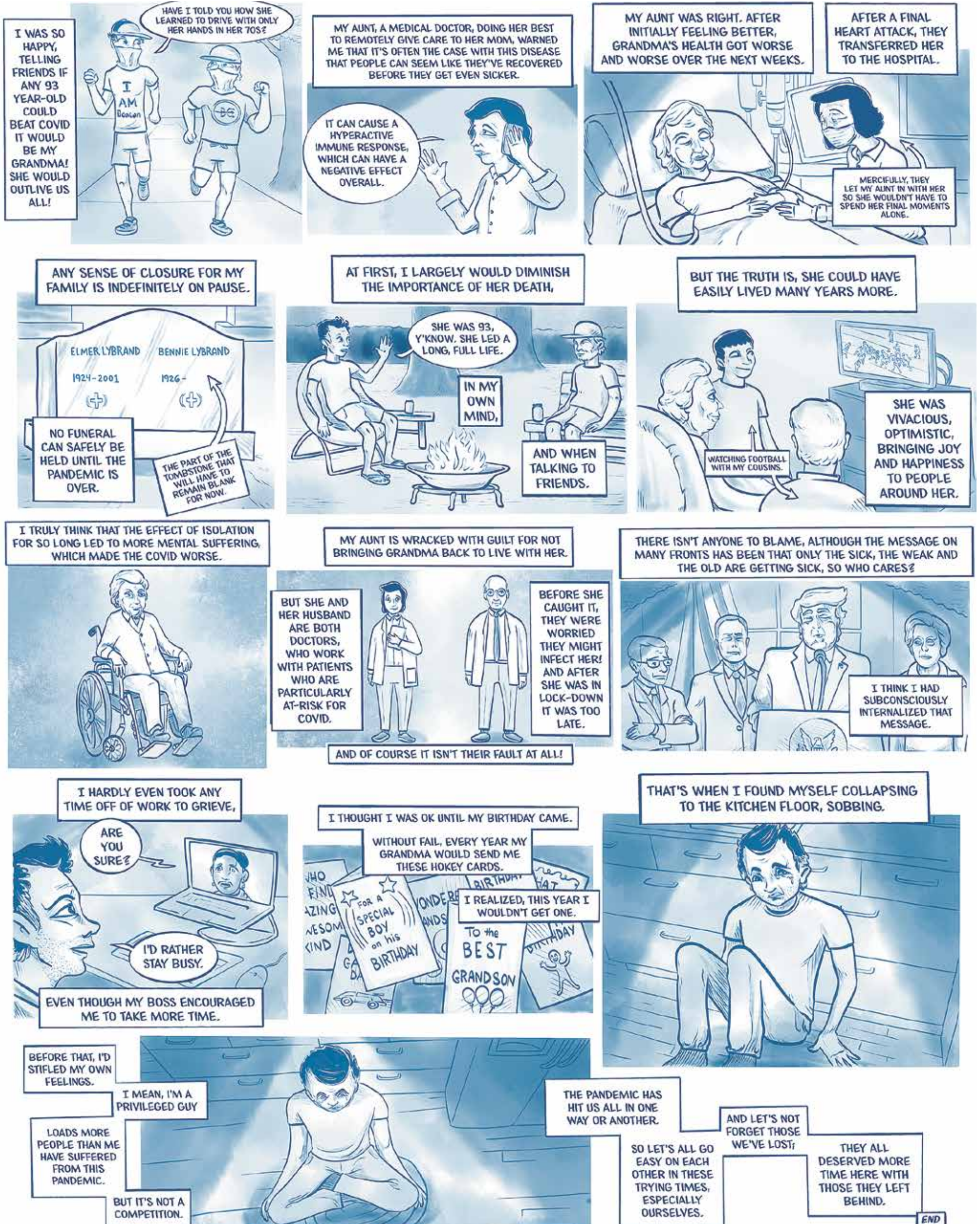
The books she makes now, “I want people to open, especially books about political issues. If you can't turn the pages, why bother?” On the densely painted pages, Schreiber-Noll adds wire, wood and photos meant to evoke the book's subject. “Sewing it together is a great pleasure,” she says.

When confined to her home earlier this year because of the pandemic restrictions, Schreiber-Noll created “spontaneous small gouaches, drawings, plus postcard-sized woodcuts. It's been incredible, actually. The images I did were very light. I'm not only thinking COVID, COVID, endlessly.” Yet, once she could return to the studio, she “felt very much the need to comment.”

“I didn't feel like making too many Trump statements,” she says. “I looked rather on the conditions he created — hunger is one of them, and the immigration issues. The [border] wall and the separation of children from parents moved me. I feel helpless except for my art — if one person understands my message and gets a little turn in her heart, that's what I'd like to accomplish. Everything I do is to make us feel empathy to something happening in the world.”

Bridging Solitude continues through Jan. 3. The Bau Gallery, at 506 Main St., is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. See baugallery.org.





THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



GIFT DRIVES

Helping Hands Kindness Drive

BEACON

Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

The library is collecting personal products for local food pantries. Drop off new and unopened soap, sanitizer, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, baby wipes and feminine hygiene products. Through Dec. 30.

Wee Play Coat Drive

BEACON

Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

Donate new and gently used children's coats, snow pants and boots that will be distributed through Mutual Aid Beacon. Through Dec. 5.

Philipstown Food Pantry

COLD SPRING

224 Main St.

Donations of new shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and dish and laundry detergent can be dropped off on the porch. Through Dec. 24.

Toys for Tots

BEACON

Edward Jones
284 Main St. | toysfortots.org

Drop off new, unwrapped toys by Dec. 21 for the annual Marine Corps program.

Toys for Tots

PHILIPSTOWN

toysfortots.org

Drop off new, unwrapped toys by Dec. 21 at C&E Paint Supply, Foodtown, Drug World or Downey Oil in Cold Spring, or Deb's Hair Salon in Nelsonville.

HOLIDAY MARKETS

SAT 5

Handmade Pop-Up Shop

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Trolley Barn
489 Main St. | 845-454-3222
artsmidhudson.org

Browse jewelry, decorations, prints, paintings, glasswork and textiles from more than 50 artisans. Also SUN 6.

SAT 5

Holiday Market

PEEKSKILL

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Peekskill Clay Studios
1000 N. Division St.
peekskillclaystudios.com

This annual sale of handcrafted pottery and jewelry will be held outdoors. Also SUN 6.

SAT 5

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 6, FRI 11, SAT 12, SUN 13. Continues through Dec. 23.

COMMUNITY

SAT 5

Silent Night Twilight Stroll

GARRISON

3 – 7 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Enjoy dusk and sunset on the grounds. Reservations required. Also FRI 11, SAT 12. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 senior, \$6 ages 5-18, free for healthcare workers, members and children under age 5)*

WED 9

Holiday Trivia

GARRISON

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

Test your smarts in this all-ages trivia contest about holiday history, culture and tradition over Zoom.

SUN 13

Make a Winter Wreath

GARRISON

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

Marcella Broe of the Parcel Flower Co. will demonstrate over Zoom how to make a festive holiday decoration. Purchase a kit in advance or gather your own materials.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 5

Santa Visits

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Take photos and talk with Santa from the porch of the historic mansion. Also SAT 12. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 senior, \$6 ages 5-18, free for healthcare workers, members and children under age 5)*



SAT 5

Santa Visits

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Bandstand
2 Main St. | coldspringny.gov

Santa will say hello and share a treat with children. Line up around North and West streets as Santa drives by and drop off wish lists in a North Pole mailbox.

SUN 6

Brunch with Santa

WEST POINT

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Thayer Hotel
674 Thayer Road | 845-446-4731
thethayerhotel.com

Reservations required. Also SUN 13. *Cost: \$46 (\$23 ages 5-12)*

FRI 11

Animal Crossing Meet-Up

GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

No matter what stage of the game you are in, share your designs, exchange items via Zoom and get feedback.

SAT 12

Mooseltoe

GARRISON

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

Jim Semmelman will read from his book and actors from the musical will perform highlights. See Page 2. *Free*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 12

Darkest Before Dawn

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Ethan Cohen KuBe
211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270
ecfa.com

The exhibit of international artists features works that address uncertainty in our collective history. Schedule an appointment to visit.

SAT 12

Bridging Solitude / Reflections

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org

Ilse Schreiber-Noll's multimedia work connects with loneliness and isolation, using art as a bridge. (See Page 11.) Eileen Sackman's ceramics explore how reflections echo in our lives. Through Jan. 3.

SAT 12

Gift Wrapped / Rampage Toys

BEACON

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

The gallery's annual holiday show includes art for gifting.

VISUAL ART

SAT 5

NADA Miami 2020

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

The show, which will feature work by Noel Anderson, Mark Barrow and Sarah Parke, Chie Fueki (below), Daniel Giordano and Athena LaTocha, is part of a three-gallery collaborative exhibit organized for the New Art Dealers Alliance 2020 global fair. A second part of the show will take place in Los Angeles, and a third in Garrison (below).



SAT 5

NADA Miami 2020

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. JDJ Gallery
17 Mandalay Drive | 518-339-6913
jdg.world

Lucia Love and Jenny Morgan will "incorporate an unsettling merge of the real and the surreal." Schedule an appointment to visit.

SAT 5

Glass House of New Americans

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

This is the opening reception for photographer Jill Enfield's exhibit of wet-plate collodion portraits of immigrants who have come to the U.S. since the 1960s. Through Jan. 3.

SAT 5

smallWORKS

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

This is the opening reception for a show of 70 works chosen by Pauline Lethen from more than 500 submissions. They are no larger than 12 inches long and high. Through Jan. 3.

SAT 5

Let's Face It

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
tompkinscorners.org

Bring your own wine or cocktail for this virtual reception with artists who contributed portraits for the online show, which continues through Dec. 19. Each contributor will talk briefly about his or her work.

STAGE & SCREEN

SUN 6

A Christmas Carol

POUGHKEEPSIE

3 p.m. Bardavon
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The Ulster Ballet will perform the holiday classic online. *Free*

FRI 11

Dragonfly Story Hour

COLD SPRING

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

Karen Kapoor will host as eight storytellers share 5-minute true holiday stories via Zoom.

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 6

Elizabeth Kolbert

GARRISON

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

The author of *The Sixth Extinction* will discuss, via Crowdcast, climate change and the future of the planet with David Gelber, co-creator of *Years of Living Dangerously*.

MON 7

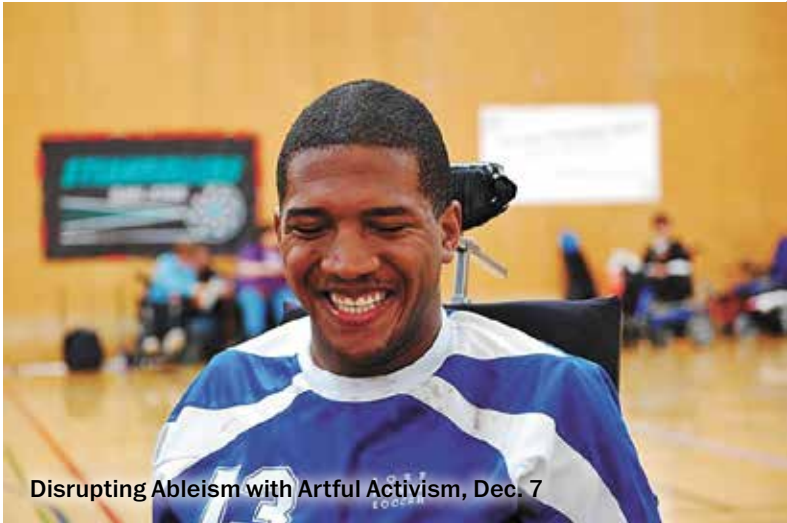
Disrupting Ableism with Artful Activism

GARRISON

3 p.m. The Hastings Center
thehastingscenter.org

In this webinar, Lateef McLeod (above, right) and D.J. Savarese will share their vision for a society led by people with disabilities and ways that communities are making it happen.

(Continued on Page 15)



Disrupting Ableism with Artful Activism, Dec. 7

MON 7
Butterfield Book Club
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
The group will discuss *Know My Name*, by Chanel Miller, over Zoom.

TUES 8
Howland Book Club
BEACON
1:30 p.m. Memorial Park
198 Robert Cahill Drive
beaconlibrary.org
The book club will meet outside to discuss *A Redbird Christmas*, by Fannie Flagg. The rain date is WED 9.

WED 9
Winter Wonderland No More?
MILLBROOK
7 p.m. Cary Institute | bit.ly/cary-winter
Peter Groffman and Lindsey Rustad will discuss over Zoom how climate change is transforming northeastern winters, with consequences for ecosystems and people.

WED 9
Current Conversation
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations
Jeff Simms will speak with Mayor Lee Kyriacou about the challenges and opportunities of 2020 and 2021. Register online.

SUN 13
Sharon Salzberg and Krishna Das
GARRISON
2 - 5 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org
In this virtual workshop, which is also a benefit for the institute, Salzberg and Das will lead meditation and chanting. *Cost: \$60*

MUSIC
SAT 5
Love for the Holidays
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier
showclix.com/tickets/darlene-love-towne-crier
This streaming holiday concert by Grammy winner Darlene Love will feature classics and her hits. The concert benefits the venue. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 5
The Valley Hour
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandculturalcenter.org
Annalyse and Ryan host livestreamed performances from the center by Bruce Molsky and The Whispering Tree. *Cost: \$12*

SUN 6
Holiday Concert
PUTNAM
7 p.m. Putnam Chorale
putnamchorale.org
The choir will perform selections



Valley Hour, Dec. 5

from Handel's *Messiah* plus new offerings over Zoom and YouTube.

SAT 12
A Celtic Family Christmas at Home
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy will perform and share moments around the Christmas tree and other bits of holiday chaos via livestream to benefit the Bardavon. Registration required. *Cost: \$20*

CIVIC
MON 7
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 8
Fire District Election
GARRISON
5 - 9 p.m. Firehouse
1616 Route 9
One fire commissioner position, with a five-year term, is on the ballot.

TUES 8
Fire District Election
PHILIPSTOWN
6 - 9 p.m. Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road
One fire commissioner for the North Highlands, with a five-year term, is on the ballot.

TUES 8
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 9
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

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

Village of Cold Spring
Visit from Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH*,
FROM 3:30 TO 4:30 PM.

Santa will be having a drive by Santa visit on Saturday, December 5th, from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Cold Spring Riverfront Bandstand.

Visitors should travel around North Street to West Street and around the Bandstand Loop to stop and say hello to Santa and receive a special treat.



Little ones are invited to drop their Santa wish lists off in the North Pole Mailbox during their drive by. Santa's special elves will respond to those children with Philipstown Zip Codes. (Please add the last name and address.)

*Rain Date December 12th.
Brought to you by the Village of Cold Spring, the Cold Spring Recreation Commission and the Cold Spring Fire Department.

Lost Landmarks

Mark Forlow, the historian for the Village of Cold Spring and the Town of Philipstown, owns a collection of more than 1,000 historic local postcards. We asked him to select a few of his favorite Philipstown landmarks that are no more. His comments appear with each image.

First Reformed Church

This church stood where the Butterfield library is now. In fact, the library was built on its foundation. Philipstown had a lot of churches. The old Methodist church was the building that now has C&E Paint. The tower is gone. But that's why it's called Church Street.



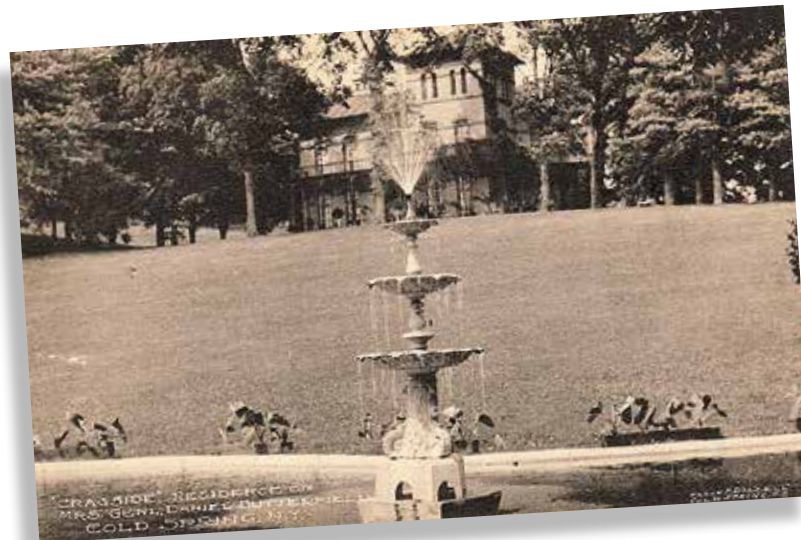
Methodist Episcopal Church

Another lost church. This stood near the intersection of Route 9 and Fishkill Road. The steeple was taken down after it was hit by lightning. Later, the church became a private home. Then, in 2006, the building was demolished to make way for a connector between Fishkill Road and Route 9. The dirt road in the foreground was Fishkill.



Julia Butterfield Hospital

This is a view of the hospital, which was later torn down, looking northwest. The site is now the Butterfield development.



Cragside

Julia James was left this country estate, along with \$500,000 and a home at 400 Fifth Ave., in New York City, when her husband, Frederick, died. She later married Gen. Daniel Butterfield. Built in 1852, the house was located where Haldane High School now stands. The street leading to the school is called Craigside, but that's a misspelling. It got its name because it was located near a large rocky crag.

Hill Country Hotel

This was a grand vacation hotel in Garrison; I'm told it would have been in the vicinity of the current Garrison School. [Ads promoting the hotel appeared in Brooklyn newspapers between 1906 and 1913.]



Undercliff

Before Route 9D went north to Beacon, Cold Spring had Main Street going east and west, Chestnut Street going south and Morris Avenue going north. Morris ended about where Route 9D now starts to go downhill. At the end of the avenue was this country home, which was owned by George Pope Morris [1802-1864], a co-founder of the New York Evening Mirror. His claim to fame is the poem, "Woodman, Spare That Tree!"

Haldane High School

This building was on the site of the Tots Park. It was built in the 1890s and taken down in the 1950s. The Lyons family found a film of it being demolished that is posted on YouTube, and it's heartbreaking, especially when the crane knocks off that beautiful peak. I've heard from old-timers that they used to slide down the fire escape in the back of the building like a huge slide. I also have photos of classes posing under the front archway.



Mary Powell

This is an example of a passenger boat that would have stopped at Cold Spring in the 19th century. The Mary Powell was one of the faster and more beautiful boats. After Gen. George Custer's body was brought east a year after his death at Little Big Horn, the Mary Powell carried it from Poughkeepsie to West Point for burial.



Mckeel Brothers Garage

This was a postcard advertising the garage in Nelsonville. You can see all its affiliations: Chevrolet, Buick, AAA, Sunoco.



Roroyare

This Italianite home was situated on the east side of the railroad tracks on the bluff above what is now the Depot Restaurant. It was owned by Gen. John E. Campbell [1821-1905] and later his widow.



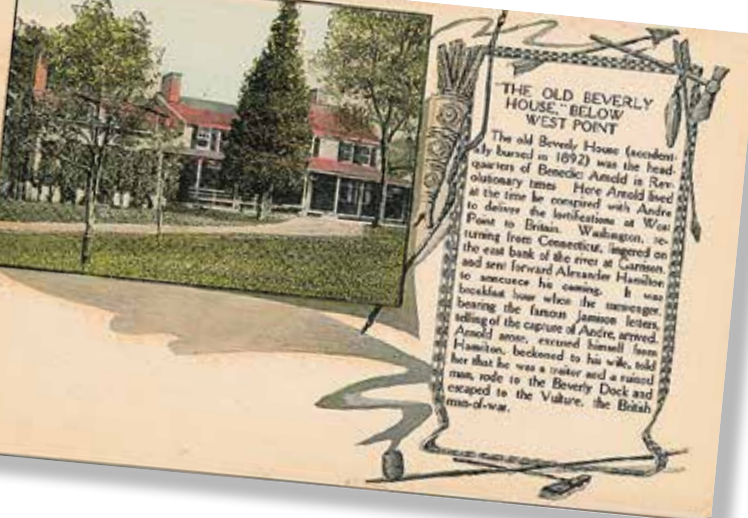
The Highlander

This was one of the ferries that ran between West Point and Garrison. There was another called The Garrison and one called The West Point. Until the Bear Mountain Bridge was built in 1925, this was the only way across. The nearest ferry north traveled between Fishkill Landing [now Beacon] and Newburgh.



Imperial Hotel

This hotel was on Division Street and owned by Harry Caskey of Nelsonville. It burned down in 1914.



Beverley Robinson House

The house, which stood on Route 9D in Garrison, was the headquarters during the Revolutionary War of Gen. Benedict Arnold, and it was from this house that he fled to the river after realizing that he was about to be revealed as a traitor. It burned down in 1892.

Mouths to Feed

Holiday Reset

By Celia Barbour

In the past seven days, my family and I have eaten:

- One birthday cake frosted with maple buttercream
- One whipped cream-filled chocolate-pecan Swiss roll
- One batch of my mother's spoon cookies
- One-half batch of my mother's pecan squares
- Eight ounces of homemade caramels
- One-half box of pecan pralines, sent by my sister in Texas



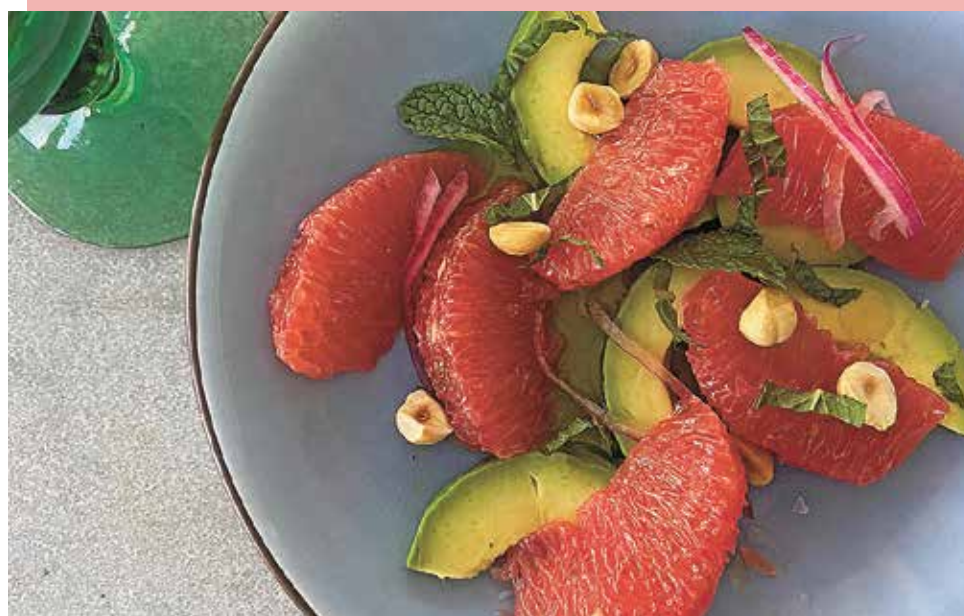
Nor is that a complete accounting, it being Thanksgiving and all — just the most ignominious items. At least we didn't have pie.

The act of writing up that list brought to mind Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, who, on a single, climactic Saturday, methodically eats his way through "one piece of chocolate cake, one ice cream cone, one pickle, one slice of Swiss cheese, one slice of salami, one lollipop, one piece of cherry pie, one sausage, one cupcake and one slice of watermelon."

As a list of phrases, Carle's passage has marvelous cadence and alliteration, and I used to love reading it to my kids when they were little.

As a menu, on the other hand, it's a bit worrisome, not least because it sets a bad example: Two fruits and/or vegetables; five desserts? Nonetheless, I'm afraid it's the pattern we've fallen into of late — though we did manage to spread our dietary peccadillos across a whole week. (What does it mean that I am comparing my family to a fictional caterpillar in order to justify our gluttony?)

The average American consumes between 3,000 and 4,500 calories during Thanksgiving dinner, so clearly we are in good company — or bad company, depending on what you think of the average Ameri-



Grapefruit Avocado Salad

Supreming grapefruits takes a bit of time and care but is important to the texture and flavor of this salad. Good, fruity olive oil and mild, flakey sea salt contribute key flavors, so use the best you can afford.

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup hazelnuts

2 pink grapefruits, supremed (see highlandscurrent.org/grapefruit for a how-to)

1 ripe avocado, peeled and sliced

1 tablespoon quick-pickled red onions (see recipe below)

10-12 mint leaves, sliced

Fruity olive oil (see headnote)

Sea salt

STEPS

Heat oven to 350 degrees, or use a toaster oven. Spread the hazelnuts on a small pan and toast until skins begin to blister and nuts are golden and fragrant, about 10 to 12 minutes. (Don't worry if some patches remain.) If using toaster oven, toast nuts 1 to 2 minutes at a time, tossing and removing any that turn brown, then returning the rest to the oven until all are golden and skins beginning to loosen.

Wrap hazelnuts in a clean dish towel to steam for a minute, then rub vigorously to loosen skins. Set aside to cool, then roughly chop.

In a medium bowl, combine grapefruit segments, avocado, onion, mint and toasted nuts. Toss very gently so the fruits don't disintegrate. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Eat right away or the avocado might turn brown.

can these days. Still, it does seem sensible to reset our gustatory expectations in the weeks ahead, if only to give our digestive systems a break before Christmas rolls in.

Many years ago, we visited family friends over Thanksgiving break. As lunchtime approached on the day after the big feast, I was suddenly overtaken by a craving for a salad of grapefruit and avocado. I had brought grapefruits; my friend had avocados. They were sitting together in a bowl, so while I'd never before encountered that combination, it suddenly seemed natural. I was certain they would taste good together. I tossed it with some fruity olive oil and sea salt. Perfect. I made a bigger version that night for our families, with a little pickled onion mixed in, and they all enjoyed it as much as I did.

I've tinkered with the recipe since then, adding toasted hazelnuts when I wanted a more substantial dish, and mint just for kicks.

Yesterday, out of the blue, I found myself craving this salad again. The clarity and specificity of my yearning made me wonder if perhaps flavor alone wasn't the draw. Maybe my body needed this combination of cleansing citrus and nourishing, supple avocado.

Carle's caterpillar pays for its day-long pig-out with a tummy ache and a gigantic physique. The next day, it eats one "nice green leaf" and feels better.

From now on, I will think of this dish as my version of that nice green leaf.

Quick-Pickled Red Onions

Soaking sliced onions in vinegar for even a few minutes breaks down their pungent, sulfuric bite, mellowing them without compromising flavor — perfect for almost any dish where raw onions are called for. Cider or coconut vinegar is good for this salad, but in a pinch, any type will work.

INGREDIENTS

½ small red onion, thinly sliced

¼ cup vinegar (see headnote)

¼ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon sugar

STEPS

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl, adding water if necessary to keep onions submerged. Set aside for at least 3 minutes. Onions will continue to mellow as they sit. Onions will keep, stored in a jar in the fridge, for up to 2 weeks.



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.



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



iGuitar®
Workshop

- Custom Guitars
- iGuitar USB
- Factory Direct Sales
- Expert Repairs & Setups
- USB/Synth Upgrades
- Lessons

Patrick G. Cummings

290 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
845•809•5347 x226

www.iguitarworkshop.com | sales@iguitarworkshop.com





Highland Baskets
One-stop shopping for the*
The Country
GOOSE
115 Main St.,
Cold Spring, NY
845.265.2122
highlandbaskets.com

marbled
MEAT SHOP
WHOLE ANIMAL BUTCHER
LOCALLY SOURCED SINCE 2014
FARMSTEAD CHEESE • CHARCUTERIE
PREPARED FOODS • CATERING
SPECIALTY GROCERY
3091 US 9, COLD SPRING, NY 10516 • (845)265-2830
marbledmeatshop.com

ARCHIPELAGO
AT HOME
Gifts † Wine Charms † Picnic Time † Marble Coasters
† Bath Gels † Table Top † Glass Ware † Wine Glasses
† Champagne Flutes † Martini Sets † Accessories †
Lighting † Candles † Aromatherapy † Furnishings †
Wall Tiles † Mirrors † Clocks † Tapestries † Kitchen
† Table Cloths † Spoon Rests † Pot Racks † Eclectics
† Garden † Torches † Sprinklers † Patio
119 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
845.265.3992

Hudson Beach Glass
Locally Blown
162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508 (845) 440-0068
Open daily 12PM - 6PM, Sunday 12PM - 5PM
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

**WISHING YOU A
JOYOUS
HOLIDAY**
**FROM GARRISON
ART CENTER**
Consider giving a gift of ART:
• smallWORKS opens Dec 5
• ArtED cards of any value
• DONATE in the name of a
loved one
WWW.GARRISONARTCENTER.ORG

**Kringle's
Christmas House**
*Bringing you the finest in
Europe heirloom ornaments*
134 Main St Beacon
765-0444

The Gift Hut
**Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles
for the Whole Family**
Shop in store or online at www.gifthut.com
86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516
Instagram [the_gift_hut](https://www.instagram.com/the_gift_hut)
Facebook [@thegifthutny](https://www.facebook.com/thegifthutny)

FRED ASTAIRE
FRANCHISED DANCE STUDIOS.
Give the Gift of
DANCE
Two private lessons for \$60.
Fred Astaire Cold Spring
3182 Route 9 Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 424-6353 | www.fredastaire.com/cold-spring



Amazon has proposed building a 629,186-square-foot warehouse on a former IBM site in East Fishkill.

Photo by L. Sparks

Amazon Project *(from Page 8)*

Salaries would range from \$15 to \$29 per hour, according to documents provided to the Dutchess IDA. Fifty of the jobs would be management positions paying an average of \$60,000 a year, and the other 450 would be production jobs. In addition, the firms said they would hire about 200 construction workers.

Both USEF and Amazon said the completed project would dramatically increase the property's assessed value, from \$5.2 million to \$95 million. Property taxes on the site, now at \$155,000, would be an estimated \$3.6 million once the PILOT agreement expired.

Asked by Timothy Dean, the IDA's chair, if Amazon could guarantee 500 jobs, Griggs said the company tends to be "conservative" when estimating its

potential hires. "What we're looking at is significantly more headcount than that long-term," he said.

For Amazon, part of the draw is the site's proximity to Interstate 84, which would provide for "easy-on, easy-off" truck traffic, said John DiCola, a partner with Bluewater Development Group, another company involved with the proposal.

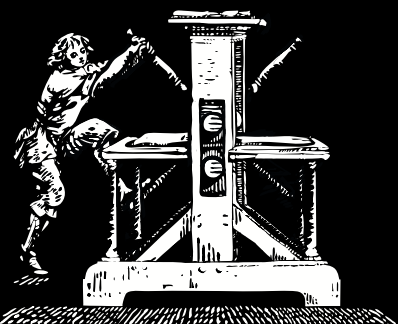
IBM bought the 158-acre property in 1983 and constructed five buildings as part of its Semiconductor Research and Development Center. It later moved its operations to the East Campus and put the West Campus property on the market. A succession of owners, and development ideas, followed.

In 2015, Hopewell Sportsdome Ventures bought a 34-acre parcel on the north part of the property and received town approval to build a recreational sports complex but the work has stalled.



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Gracelyn Woods and Peter Augello of Beacon shared this shot of their daughter, Hazel, with Nero. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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**

TIM BRENNAN GENERAL CONTRACTOR



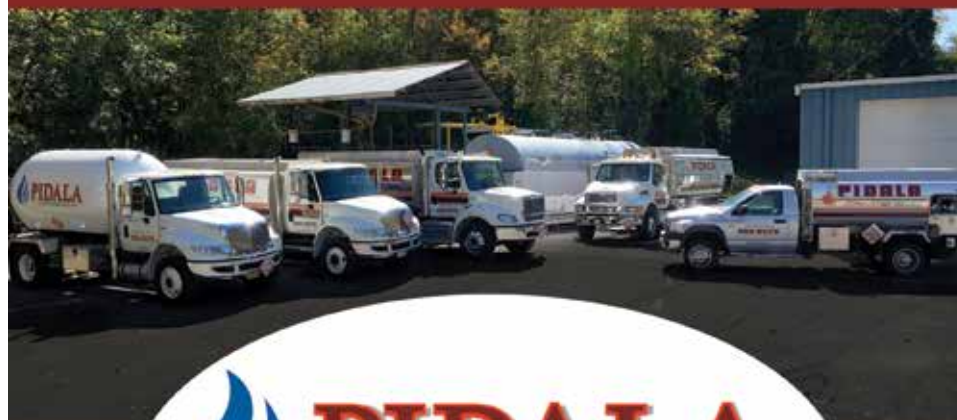
Building it Right
for
Over 40 Years

Check us out
at
brennanbuilt.com

845-265-4004

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

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 | 845.265.2073

Credit and debit cards accepted

PC3348

PC038

The HIGHLANDS Current STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

**The Current is looking
for a few good high
school journalists.**

The Highlands Current is initiating its Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments. Due to the generous support of our *Highlands Current* members, correspondents will be compensated for the stories and photos that we publish online and/or in print. If you are interested in becoming a student correspondent, you can review the requirements and apply at

[highlandscurrent.org/
student-journalists-program](http://highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program)

Chip Rowe

Chip Rowe, Editor
The Highlands Current



SPORTS

Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports

Beacon Cross-Country Takes Third at Sectional

Zach Cader wins 5K showdown

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys' cross-country team finished third behind John Jay East Fishkill and Arlington at last week's Section 1 tournament in Milton.

Coach Jim Henry said the boys' team competition was a race to see who would finish second to John Jay, which repeated as county champions.

Beacon's Zach Cader was the first runner to finish the five-kilometer course, in 16:29.4, edging John Jay's Louis Montano by a tenth of a second. Evan LaBelle was fourth in 16:48, a personal best.

Other finishers for the Bulldogs were Henry Reinke in 20th place (18:10), Jack Cleary at 23rd (18:25) and Joey Baffuto at 25th (18:39). Cleveland Wright took the 30th spot and Stephen Schneider was 31st.

"The highlight of the day was Zach's amazing finish to catch the John Jay leader at the finish, after trading the lead multiple times throughout the race," Henry said.

Henry said he was thrilled to get the season in, especially for his seniors, Cader and Schneider, although the season did not include the usual invitational meets,

so there were no opportunities to improve on their times at Bear Mountain, Van Cortlandt Park or Bowdoin.

"And yet, throughout the whole season, I felt a sense of purpose amongst my team that indicated that they recognized and appreciated both the opportunity that we were getting and the fragility of the season as a whole," Henry said. "After coaching a couple of decades, some of the seasons tend to blur into each other, but this one will stand out both for the unique circumstances and for the quality of the kids."

"Every week felt like a bit of a gift," he added. "I'm grateful to our athletic director and superintendent for believing in and supporting our athletes. It would have been far easier to pull the plug, but so much more would have been lost."



Zach Cader Photo provided

Banks Named All-Section, League MVP

Seven other players honored from title-winner

By Skip Pearlman

Three seniors on the Beacon High School boys' soccer team — Warren Banks, AJ Lucas and Dillon Kelly — were named on Wednesday (Dec. 2) to the All-Section team, following the team's first Section 1 title on Nov. 21.

Banks, who led the Bulldogs with 14 goals in 12 games, was also named league MVP. Besides Beacon, the league includes Hendrick Hudson, Lourdes, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie.

In addition, Chase Green was named an All-Section honorable mention and Derek Bilyeu, Tommy Franks, Javier Piguave and Alex Wyant earned All-League honors.

The selections are made by Section 1 coaches.

Coach Craig Seaman, who was named the league's coach of the year, watched his team elevate its play during an unusual season. He said Banks "had a brilliant senior campaign," and that Kelly and Lucas "anchored an exceptional defense" that allowed only seven goals. Kelly also scored five goals.

Seaman called his selection as coach of the year "a reflection of our team having a successful season. Coaching is a whole lot easier when you have talented, hard-working, coachable student-athletes."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



Warren Banks

File photo by S. Pearlman

Winter Sports (from Page 24)

tough. We'll see which towns are in yellow or orange zones," a state designation that would trigger restrictions.

"Wrestling will be one of the most difficult sports," he said. "Body-to-body

contact, sweat, and how do you wrestle with a mask?"

Romanino noted that "the athletes who participated in the fall were so grateful to be able to play. Students need to be involved in things like this; it's such a big part of their high school years."

SERVICE DIRECTORY

ELENI SMOLEN

DECEMBER 4 to 27th

BUSTER LEVI
GALLERY

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

Gallery hours: Saturdays, 1:00 - 6:00 PM
or by appointment, call 917.318.2239

[BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM](https://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

MCCORMACK LAW
KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

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

845-896-1108 | 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

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

HAVE YOUR OWN
BUSINESS CARD

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

For more information,
email ads@highlandscurrent.org.

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

- ACROSS
1. "Grand"
5. Letterman's network
8. Out of control
12. Suspend
13. Weeding tool
14. Wise one
15. Killer whale
16. Lineage
18. Astronauts' descent to Earth
20. Locations
21. Comic DeLuise
22. Satchel
23. "Forget it!"
26. Nation
30. Lawyers' org.
31. Sly one
32. Nay opponent
33. Racism, e.g.
36. Aden's land
38. Bill and —
39. Adams or Ameche
40. Clean software
43. Turducken, e.g.
47. Immoderate devotion
49. Met melody
50. Taj Mahal city
51. Trouble
52. Ring up
53. Lecherous look

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33				34	35				36	37		
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

54. Possess
55. Duel tool
9. Dillon or Damon
10. Shrek, for one
11. Jailer's janglers
17. Jacob's brother
19. Plaything
22. Carton
23. Apprehend
24. Japanese sash
25. Witty one
26. Coquettish
27. Scot's hat
28. Deli bread
29. Longing
31. To and —
34. Eye-related
35. Forum garment
36. Second person
37. Intertwine
39. Senior member
40. Soap brand
41. Advantage
42. Drill
43. Front of a ship
44. Snare
45. Irritate
46. New Haven campus
48. Pair

- DOWN
1. Valhalla VIP
2. Aesopian also-ran
3. Formerly
4. Landlocked African nation
5. Amulet
6. Skeletal
7. Moment
8. Delegate

© 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 | SOLUTIONS |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 button-up sweater (8) | _____ |
| 2 spot for a shave & a haircut (10) | _____ |
| 3 ancient Indian language (8) | _____ |
| 4 unearthed (10) | _____ |
| 5 begin once more (7) | _____ |
| 6 skedaddles (5) | _____ |
| 7 rounded, collarless neckline (5) | _____ |

CAR	COVE	RS	GAN	SAN
BE	STA	WEL	RED	ES
RE	FLE	IT	HOP	BAR
SKR	JE	DI	RT	DIS

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

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



Country Goose

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

Answers for Nov. 27 Puzzles

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

1. INDY, 2. PERPLEXING, 3. BRICKS, 4. PORCUPINE, 5. SOARS, 6. TOMATOES, 7. CLUMSINESS

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

SPORTS



Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports



Ken Dawson founded the Playmaker Academy in 2004.

Photos by M. Turton

For the Love of the Game

Coach works to make better players, and people

By Michael Turton

It's an understatement to say Ken Dawson, aka "Coach," is passionate about basketball. He loves teaching it to children. He's a competitor. He wants to win. He wishes he could still play. The game has been at the center of his life for decades.

Yet for Dawson, head coach and owner of the Playmaker Academy, a training facility in Hopewell Junction that helped shape Elijah Hughes, the Beacon prodigy who last month was drafted into the NBA, life is about much more than a round ball.

"It's more important to be a good person than a good basketball player," he said.

Dawson hopes to expand the academy's presence in Beacon.

"I went there to work with one kid — next thing I knew I had 10 kids wanting to join in," he said. "They're starving for it."

The academy recently closed for two weeks after a player tested positive for COVID-19. It's open again, but with a different look. Only 10 players are allowed in the gym at once, to allow for distancing. The training includes drills but no scrimmages.

A Poughkeepsie resident, Dawson was born on the Island of St. Thomas, moved to Puerto Rico and by age 5 landed in New York City, where he grew up in Harlem and the Bronx. He is retired from a career at Pitney-Bowes and UPS.

"Basketball was a release for me as a kid," he said. "When you play, you don't think of anything else."

Dawson spent a lot of time on concrete

urban courts and went on to play for the Manhattan Community College Panthers.

Coaching may have been his destiny, but it almost didn't happen.

Around age 28, Dawson swam at the McBurney YMCA in Manhattan while rehabilitating from an injury. A friend who directed the Y's after-school basketball program asked him if he'd coach one of the teams. He said no.

"If you won't coach, they won't have a team," his friend said.

Now 61, Dawson has been coaching ever since.

In 2004, after running the basketball program at Kinder Ring camp in Hopewell Junction, he established Playmaker Academy at the nearby Taconic Sport & Racquet.

Playmaker offers four seasonal programs. "The youngest kid I work with right now is 6 years old," Dawson said.

Players come from all over: Dutchess (including Beacon), Putnam (including Haldane) and even the Bronx.

Hughes, who attended Beacon High School for his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to a private school



You can score 40 points, but if your team loses all the time, it means four people on the court are not developing.

~ Coach Ken Dawson

and then playing for East Carolina and Syracuse universities, was the 39th pick of the draft and, after a trade, is now on the roster of the Utah Jazz.

He was in the third or fourth grade when he came to Playmakers, and Dawson remembers him well. "Elijah loved to work; he was coachable," he said. "And he was a very good person." He said that nearly every member of that team went on to play in college.

Five or six years ago, some 35 girls from the academy went on to play college basketball. Last year, one of his girls' teams went to the AAU Nationals in Indiana.

Players at the academy train within a group or play on an academy team known as The Pumas. The spring is the busiest, with as many as 160 players on travel teams in the AAU circuit. Fees range for \$400 to \$800 per season.

Asked what makes one player "good" and another player "great," Dawson said: "If you're willing to do the work, it's just what level you want to get to."

Players typically find the academy by word-of-mouth. "I get referrals from the kids who come here," Dawson said. "Or they see a kid who wasn't that good last year but has improved, and they want to know how that happened."

The academy emphasizes teamwork. "You can score 40 points, but if your team loses all the time, it means four people on the court are not developing," he said.

That philosophy extends to his staff, which includes seven coaches. "They are as much a team as the players," he said.

Dawson feels the academy can help children who are struggling off the court, as well. "There are some things you can't tell your parents; they'll tell me and we can talk it out," the coach said. "Myself, growing up, I just needed someone to talk to who could actually listen and not yell at me."

Virtual Meets, Outdoor Track

Athletic directors weigh options for winter

By Skip Pearlman

Just as high schools are feeling good about the recently completed fall season, a surge in COVID-19 cases has many athletic directors concerned about the already-postponed winter season.

Winter sports such as basketball, wrestling, indoor track, bowling and swimming were scheduled to begin Nov. 30 but have been pushed back to at least Jan. 4.

John Giametta, the Beacon High School athletic director, said he is thrilled with how smoothly the fall season went and is staying positive for January.

"Considering what we were authorized to do, I consider it a wonderful success for Beacon," he said. "We had an overwhelmingly positive response from our parents and student athletes."

Unlike soccer and cross country, indoor competitions will present more of a challenge, especially for contact sports such as wrestling and basketball.

"I'm confident we can work with athletes and coaches to create a safe environment," said Giametta.

The state is allowing coaches to lead offseason workouts as long as health and safety protocols are followed. "We'll be ready to go if we get the green light," Giametta said. "If we have to delay the higher-risk sports, we will do that."

Section 1 coaches and administrators are floating several possibilities, including virtual swim meets — in which each team is in a different pool — and outdoor track meets instead of the usual competitions at the Armory in New York City. Giametta says he feels that swim meets can be held safely and that, if outdoor, track competitions could involve only two or three teams.

"At this point I'm doing everything in my power to allow the kids to compete," he said.

At Haldane, Eric Romanino, a former Beacon athletic director who is serving as an interim while the district looks for a successor to Chris Salumn, said he's hoping that coaches and student athletes will be as successful following safety protocols in the winter as they were in the fall.

"The priority has to be the safety of the athletes," he said. "If we're given a chance to show we can follow the protocols, maybe we can get through the season. With the numbers rising, it could be

(Continued on Page 22)