



Vaccines: Who Goes First?

Hospital workers, nursing homes at top of list

By Leonard Sparks

After a spring and summer filled with death, the Fishkill Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Beacon is about to get a shot of life.

Eighty-six residents at the facility have tested positive for COVID-19, and 12 have died. The center also had 65 staff members test positive.

On Tuesday (Dec. 22), its residents and staff will receive the first of two doses of a vaccine created by Pfizer and BioNTech and approved a week ago by the federal Food and Drug Administration for emergency use.

The FDA approval launched a new phase in the pandemic — the effort to vaccinate more than 300 million Americans, beginning with frontline health care workers and the residents and staff of nursing homes and other congregate-care facilities before moving to first responders and other groups and then the general public.

New York has received nearly 88,000 of 170,000 doses it is due from Pfizer for the first phase of the state’s vaccination plan, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday. About 19,200 doses are designated for the Mid-Hudson Region, the third highest in

the state behind New York City (72,000) and Long Island (26,500).

Cuomo said the state also expects to receive 346,000 doses of a vaccine made by Moderna once the drug receives FDA authorization for emergency use. The state Department of Financial Services has told insurers to cover the costs of vaccinations, and a website with information about the vaccination program has been created at ny.gov/vaccine.

Public health officials say at least 75 percent of U.S. residents will need to be vaccinated in order to reach “herd immunity,” the point at which the virus is unable to easily spread from person to person.

Cuomo also on Wednesday named 10 hospital systems that will serve as regional hubs to coordinate distribution for Phase 2, which prioritizes paramedics and public health workers; first responders; workers who interact with the public, such as pharmacists and grocery store employees; school staff and child care workers; and people who have health conditions that increase their vulnerability to dying from COVID-19.

The hub for Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties in the Mid-Hudson Valley will be Westchester Medical Center Health, whose system includes MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

(Continued on Page 8)



Scientists search for Laricobius beetles in Harriman State Park. Photo by B. Cronin

THE FADING FOREST

Ash, beech and hemlock trees are being threatened by causes known and unknown, changing the forests of the Highlands in drastic, and dangerous, ways

PART 2 OF A SERIES

By Brian PJ Cronin

“This,” says Nicholas Dietschler, displaying a photo to a half-dozen volunteers (including me) on a gray, misty autumn morning in Harriman State Park, “is what we’re looking for.”

The photo is of a black beetle, *Laricobius nigrinus*, which is native to the Pacific Northwest and would normally not be found in the Hudson Valley.

And yet, if we find any of the beetles, it won’t be a cause for alarm but for celebration. In fact, after we search two areas of the park for Laricobius, we’re going to release 843 more of them.

That’s because *Laricobius nigrinus* eats one thing: hemlock woolly adelgids, another non-native species that showed up in the Hudson Valley in the mid-1980s and has been ravaging the Eastern Hemlock population.

Dietschler and his colleague Marshall Lefebvre are from the New York State Hemlock Initiative, an organization founded at Cornell University in 2014 by Mark Whitmore, a forest entomologist. Whitmore has been studying adelgids for nearly 40 years. Over the phone,

(Continued on Page 6)



WINTER WONDERLAND — Stefan Danicich of Cold Spring shovels outside his Garden Street home at 8 a.m. on Thursday (Dec. 17) after the first snowstorm of the season dumped 12 to 18 inches on the Highlands. For more photos, including from readers, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Michael Turton

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JEVON HUNTER

By Jeff Simms

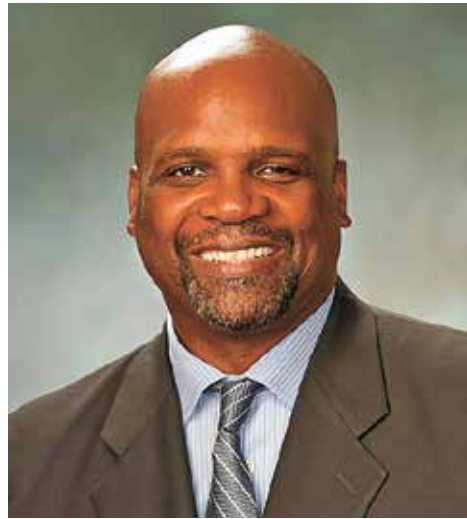
Jevon Hunter, a professor of urban education at SUNY Buffalo State, spoke to the Beacon school board on Monday (Dec. 14) about creating a “culturally relevant curriculum.”

What is a culturally relevant curriculum?

It's a curriculum that speaks to the lived experiences of young people. Often, the curriculum is disconnected from their lives or tends to privilege one ethnic or racial group. We're trying to interrupt that and provide additional voices and identities within education. It's important to recognize how different ethnic groups were able to persist — even resist — and thrive in environments that were set up to prevent their success.

Does that mean rewriting history?

It's not so much that we need to rewrite history, but when we look at historical events, we need to be able to say that the curriculum, as it stands, is here for a particular reason. We need to talk about why a particular history was written in a certain way. We also need to bring in other voices. So often, history in the U.S. is shown as “great white men” doing things to advance



the country, but what's left out are the roles of ordinary citizens, women and communities of color. It's like doing a curriculum audit, so our students see themselves in it and gain a more robust understanding of history and society.

What do you see happening in Beacon?

I was invited by Dutchess BOCES [Board of Cooperative Educational Services], the Beacon school district and others in your region to engage in these types of conversations. We're at a moment in this coun-

try where it's something that students and communities are craving.

Why is that?

To be blunt, school does two main things: It helps construct the identities of young people, and it helps build empathy. This work gives us a chance to ask important questions: Do I see you as a human being who is worthy of being treated fairly? In 2020, the presidential election, COVID-19 and the murders of Black and brown people — these are the topics we should be talking about in school, today and beyond. We need to ask fundamental questions about our identities as Americans and our capacity to care for one another, particularly in times of distress.

Does a culturally relevant curriculum impact white students?

Absolutely. It presents them with an understanding of the lives of people of color and how they have contributed to the building of this country that goes beyond the standard narratives. It speaks to the idea of a pluralistic society, because it's also about how some people were complicit in other peoples' marginalization. Curriculum shouldn't just be about celebrating; it should be about examining negative aspects of human behavior so we don't repeat them again.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What posts on social media irritate you?

“All of them! I delete the app but reinstall later and send my mom some love.”



~ Vanessa Viglietta, Beacon

“The nasty political comments.”



~ Terry Thorpe, Philipstown

“Advertising for things I have no interest in.”



~ Jeanne Grant, Cold Spring

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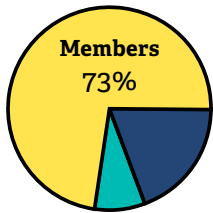
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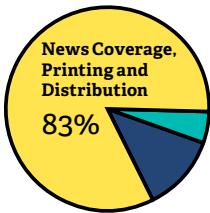
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Media columnist Margaret Sullivan,
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142 Main St.
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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

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

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

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

Virus response

I want to thank Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery for continuing to advocate the public health of our county ("Putnam Officials Tussle over COVID," Dec. 11). She is right: The Putnam County Health Department is underfunded and understaffed.

The department's budget is about 3.5 percent of the county budget. Meanwhile, the Sheriff's Department receives about 20 percent. The Health Department is not providing enough timely and detailed data so schools and businesses can make data-informed decisions. It needs more person-power for contact tracing, data analysis and health education and communication.

I'd like to thank the nurses and contact tracers at the Health Department for all of the hard work they are doing and to share our recent experience. My son had a contact with a positive case at school. Though the school told us on Day Five after the exposure (as soon as they knew), we did not hear from the Health Department until several days after that. I am sure this is because they are so busy due to the increasing number of cases for which they need to do contact tracing. However, delays like this limit our ability to control the virus.

The county should be more transparent

about its response to the epidemic, communicate more effectively with the public about where transmission is occurring, provide daily town-level data (ideally with age breakdowns) and support schools to implement testing so the schools can stay open.

These problems can only be solved by the leadership of the county and the Health Department. Its staff is clearly doing what they can with limited resources.

Marianne Sullivan, *Garrison*
Sullivan is a professor of public health at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey.

It looks like Philipstown is doing a good job against the virus spread. Carmel and Southeast are not. County Executive MaryEllen Odell needs to answer questions regarding Putnam's response to the sharp spikes in cases, but it seems all she does is make excuses and blame anyone who asks questions.

Mary Alice Boyle, *via Facebook*

It's a shame that the governor has to police us because we don't know enough to protect ourselves. I received an email from my sister-in-law yesterday; she's a cardiac nurse at a hospital in Rockland County:

"FYI, we are flipping to full COVID fast. All elective surgery is canceled. We are heading into the storm. Expecting peak on the 17th. People are not taking this seriously. Please get your paper supplies and stock what you use. Let the kids know, please, and your friends."

Betty Ann Tommasini, *via Facebook*

I'm disgusted with the Republican legislators who are playing politics over public health. It's clear from Legislator Ginny Nacerino's childish and underhanded comment ("It's fortunate, I guess, that out of nine legislators, the other eight don't have the same issues"), that it was personal. Nancy Montgomery is doing her job; I'm in Carmel and wish she was my legislator. The incompetence from Odell and company is a sight to behold.

Jamie Anders, *via Facebook*

Rock Street

While 29 Rock St. did come before the Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals in October 2019 for construction of a third residence on the property, the application was withdrawn and the ZBA never held a public hearing for a variance ("Neighbors Oppose Rock Street Excavation," Dec. 11). The property is in the industrial district, which does not allow a use of multiple residences. It is not correct to say that the ZBA denied a request for a variance.

Aaron Wolfe, *Cold Spring*
Wolfe is the former chair of the ZBA.

Go to cap

I bet none of the Beacon residents urging the City Council to "go to cap" own property here ("Beacon Council Could Add Community Programs," Dec. 4). In a bad year the council should be looking at ways to reduce the tax burden, not for ways to spend money on studies. Just because the state has a cap on tax increases doesn't mean you should look for ways to increase property taxes to meet that cap.

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

This homeowner would gladly pay \$35 more per year to fund studies such as a look at Beacon's recreation needs. Many of the people who called upon the City Council to "go to cap" are, in fact, property owners.

Erin Giunta, *Beacon*

COVID in prisons

Instead of releasing criminals from prison because they don't have clean masks or hand sanitizers, just provide the damn products ("Staying Safe," *Letters and Comments*, Dec. 4). Releasing convicts is insane.

John Giametta, *via Facebook*



Q&A: Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy

Mayor Dave Merandy spoke with reporter Michael Turton on Wednesday (Dec. 16) about the challenges that faced Cold Spring in 2020 and those that will follow in 2021. His responses have been condensed.

How has COVID-19 been most difficult for you, as a person and as mayor? I know your son is a nurse in New York City.

He contracted COVID and was pretty sick but pulled out of it. He gives me insight into what's going on at the hospitals, what those people are dealing with, the deaths they face every day, how serious this is. I don't think the media has presented what we're facing very well. I don't envy governors who have had to make huge decisions. I did my best to try to control what I could, which wasn't much. We limited visits to the office, closed off the dock area in the spring, later eliminated big events. But I felt pretty helpless and overwhelmed.

Officer Scott Morris resigned earlier this year from the Cold Spring Police Department because of an incident years earlier involving the death of a young man in New York City. Could that situation have been handled differently? Would a community-wide conversation have reduced the tension?

The tension is still there. The Village Board did the right thing; I'm not sure what could have been handled differently. I wish people had looked into it more, not just reacted, but gotten all the facts. The way it came to the fore was not ideal. It was negative and forceful and, with the climate at the time, there was nothing to do other than have him resign.

You are reviewing Police Department policies under a statewide order by the governor. Are you confident the board can work with its consultant, Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke and the community?

I have all confidence in Larry. With the consultant's help, the board we have now and with the community involved, I'm confident we'll come up with good policies. Our police deal with different issues than large cities, but the policies will have to address things like chokeholds and the use of deadly force. There has to be policies to handle bad situations. I've thought a lot about whether we need a full-time police force. It's needed in the good-weather months. We could possibly shorten the night shift, especially in winter. I'd need to have a long, hard conversation with everyone involved before I did anything.

What do you think of Zoom versus in-person village meetings?

Zoom is great for enabling people to attend and for more community input. But



Mayor Dave Merandy outside Village Hall

Photo provided

we're social animals and I miss the interaction with the trustees, the public and my boards. Is there a place for Zoom after COVID? I think so, for things like public meetings when there's a big topic. Zoom can help get the message out.

Any updates on village parking?

The new parking committee will have its first meeting in January. It will probably be a five-person committee, with input from others along the way. I'm all for looking into a parking app that [Deputy Mayor] Marie Early described. Cornwall uses it and

a trip there could sort out pros and cons. The committee needs to look at residential parking permits. Twenty percent of village parking spaces must be available to the public. That's where we run into trouble, finding those spaces. How residential permits would be divvied up is a big piece of the puzzle — considering multi-family houses, families with three cars, residents with and without driveways.

What's happening with short-term rentals?

It's being considered in parallel with the code update. We'll break it off as a topic and move ahead on it before the update is complete. Limiting the number of people that can stay in a rental is key. People have tried to fit as many people as possible in a house; that's a problem. How rentals affect neighborhood character is also important. How many rentals should be allowed on one street?

What are your thoughts on managing weekend crowds?

This was the worst year I've ever seen. The number of people was incredible, parking on every street, even above 9D. You feel powerless. I can't stop people from coming to the village; it goes back to how we regulate parking. Some people park for the whole day and go hiking. The large number of people going up and down streets is hard to control. A lot of residents don't even leave their houses on weekends. I'd like to survey residents, determine what they want Cold Spring to be. Do we want to be a Cape Cod? There's a lot to that question. Policing is part of it, but not the biggest part.

Are events such as beer, food and wine fests good for the village?

Last year was the first time we've allowed them. We now have a better idea of the pros and cons. They bring in revenue, but there are a lot of headaches. Does it make sense to bring in more people on weekends that are already busy? Are the events good for residents? Good question.

Have you given up on Putnam County

providing funds to help deal with tourism?

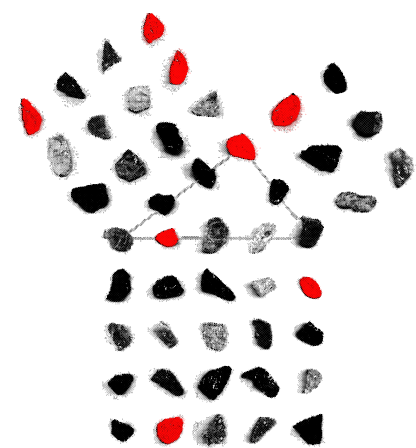
I don't think Putnam County likes us very much, and I don't think they're going to give us anything. In a year when you have to be fiscally responsible, the legislators give themselves raises. We ask for \$7,500 for garbage collection and they cut it. They didn't even have the courtesy to say, "We cut it to make ends meet."

The comprehensive plan recommended the Cold Spring Boat Club integrate more with the community; some residents have complained about how the club operates. Should public input be part of the lease renewal process?

The club wants a long-term lease, but they now pay nothing to the village. We'd like rent that's not equal but close to market value. You're spot-on about how some residents perceive the club. The tricky part is if the village receives monthly revenue, how much can we ask the club to do about being more a part of the community? These are questions for the new board. Where do they want to go with the lease? Would they like public input?

What are your priorities for 2021?

The code update is top priority, although it will probably be the death of me. Second is getting the parking committee together. Also, the review of the Police Department. I'd love to do the survey, get answers from the whole village, and understand what residents want the village to look like.



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The white, woolly, egg masses of the hemlock woolly adelgid



Mark Whitmore of the Hemlock Institute recording data in the Adirondacks NY DEC (2)

THE FADING FOREST

(Continued from Page 1)

I asked him how the hemlock woolly adelgids in New York state have changed over the course of that time.

"They've been very happy," he says. "And that's concerning to me."

Nevertheless, there had never been a statewide initiative to deal with the problem. "We need eyes out there, looking, to help us," Whitmore says. "So I figured, aw, what the heck. We'll just try this. It's important for people to realize that they don't have to sit around and watch the trees die."

Like the ash trees afflicted with emerald ash borer beetles that I described last week, hemlock trees can be injected with insecticides that kill hemlock woolly adelgids. Unfortunately, as with ash trees, the treatment is too expensive and labor-intensive to be adopted on a large scale. Eastern Hemlock trees are the third-most common tree in New York, and the state has more hemlock trees than any other state in the country. A large-scale remedy is needed, and that's what the Hemlock Initiative is rolling out, even if it centers on something very small.

The field of "biological controls," or combating a pest by introducing a predator to its environment, can be dangerous to navigate when the predator being introduced is not native to the region. Extensive research must be done to confirm that the predator won't wreak havoc.

William Schuster, the executive director of Black Rock Forest in Cornwall, has elected not to proceed with biological controls there.

"We decided to take the conservative stance," he says. "I admire the other places that are doing it, but we decided not to bring in something we don't already have. Every once in a while that goes really bad."

Bugs vs. bugs

The textbook biological out-of-control took place in Hawaii in 1883, when sugar cane farmers imported mongoose from



Searching for *Laricobius* beetles after beating a hemlock at Harriman State Park

Photo by B. Cronin

Asia to deal with rats. Unfortunately, the rats slept during the day, while the mongoose slept at night. Since the species never ran into each other, the mongoose instead ate the islands' birds.

Modern researchers put much more thought into the process than 19th-century colonizers. For instance, in the battle against emerald ash borer beetles, certain species of wasps have been found effective, and two types of silverfly (which feed on eggs in the spring), as well as the *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles (which feed on adults in the fall), may be able to control hemlock woolly adelgid.

The 843 *Laricobius* beetles sitting in two cardboard boxes in the back of Dietschler and Lefebvre's pickup truck on this day in October were collected from Western Hemlock foliage in the Pacific Northwest in their pre-pupae

stage, sent to the Hemlock Initiative in Ithaca and placed into a pupation medium.

"Which is a nice term for dirt," quips Dietschler.

"Expensive dirt," adds Lefebvre.

Once the beetles emerge, they're ready for release. So far, the Hemlock Initiative has freed *Laricobius* beetles at 21 sites across the state. Since the beetles prefer warmer temperatures, most of the sites are in southern New York or near bodies of water such as the Finger Lakes. The institute began releasing the beetles at Harriman, which is located in Rockland and Orange counties, in 2018. Overall, more than 2,250 have been set free in the park since the program began.

Today's plan is to check at the two sites where Dietschler and Lefebvre released beetles in 2019 to see if they've established a population. Then, Don Gabel, the direc-

tor of plant health at the New York Botanical Garden, who's here as a volunteer, will lead us off-trail and deep into the heart of Harriman to release the beetles in a stand of hemlock trees he's picked out.

Looking for the beetles in the wild is like looking for a needle in a haystack when the needle is in constant motion and the haystack covers 47,527 acres. The most efficient method so far, and the one we will be using, involves a "beat sheet," a large square of canvas supported by a wooden X. More than one hiker, upon seeing the sheets, asks if there's a kite festival nearby.

To find the beetles, you hold the X under a hemlock tree. Then, using a ski pole borrowed from the park's lost-and-found, you beat the tree. After all manner of things fall from the branches, you hold the sheet

(Continued on Page 7)



The coolness in the summer if you hike through a hemlock grove, with their branches hanging over the waters of a local lake... I can't fully describe it other than that they can't be replaced by any other tree.

~Mark Whitmore

(Continued from Page 6)

to your face to look for black specks that might be *Laricobius* beetles.

If one of the specks looks promising, an aspirator is deployed. This is a glass vial with a rubber tube running through it. You place one end of the tube in your mouth and the other tube against the speck and suck. (Lefebvre demonstrates how to make sure the filter is in place so the beetle doesn't end up in your mouth instead of the vial.) Once encased, the speck can be identified.

A foundational species

If there's any tree that could inspire people to tromp around the woods early in the morning to suck beetles up through a tube, it's hemlock. Whitmore considers them the "Labrador puppies" of trees.

"There's something about them," he says. "The coolness in the summer if you hike through a hemlock grove, with their branches hanging over the waters of a local lake... I can't fully describe it other than that they can't be replaced by any other tree."

Mineral Springs, on the southern border of Black Rock, is surrounded by hemlocks that are one of the only old-growth parts of the forest that remain. When European settlers began turning the forest into farmland, they were so awed by Mineral Springs that they left the hemlocks unscathed. (They were less awed by the springs, from which they took water to bottle and sell.)

Hemlocks play a pivotal role in the forest. Red squirrels and other species eat their seeds. Deer huddle under their branches during foul weather. Schuster has found the trees to be an invaluable component in the effort to reintroduce native brook trout because their dense branches keep the water cool. "They create, because of their shade, their own microenvironment," he says.

Jonathan Rosenthal of the Ecological Research Institute in New Paltz refers to hemlocks as a foundational species that structure their ecosystem.

"Hemlocks determine the microclimate, the nutrient cycling — everything that's there," he explains. "When you remove hemlocks, that changes everything."

Since hemlocks surround many upstate reservoirs, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is especially



Marshall Lefebvre and Nick Dietschler of the New York State Hemlock Initiative on a mission at Harriman State Park Photos by B. Cronin

concerned with their fate, because of fears that losing them would adversely affect the quality of the water flowing to more than 18 million people.

Stopping the spread

If the *Laricobius* beetles are at the first site we search, they must be dieting. Branch after overturned branch reveals swarms of fuzzy white hemlock woolly adelgids, and after we beat every hemlock in sight, no beetles appear. The ones that were released the year before appear to have failed. These trees will die.

At the second site, Dietschler finds a beetle with his first thwack. Everyone swarms around to look, and the mood turns from funereal to upbeat. "It's usually not this easy," he says. As the group continues to examine the hemlocks, the beetles are found with increasing frequency.

It's not the first time released beetles have established themselves, but their sheer abundance here is particularly encouraging. "This is a huge thing," says Dietschler. "I guess we should have brought streamers."

As Gabel from the New York Botanical Garden leads us off-trail to the isolated release site, the discussion turns to how hemlock woolly adelgid treatments are evolving. Warming temperatures from climate change are increasing the spread of the adelgids northward. This year, the bugs were detected along the southern foothills of the hemlock-rich Adirondacks.

One of the day's volunteers is Nick Marcet, who works for the state parks department and spends a lot of his time treating trees. In addition to the insecticide injections used on hemlocks near water sources, the department has started using a basal bark spray on larger groups of trees. Other state agencies are also stepping up



A jar of *Laricobius* beetles, ready for release

their efforts. In October, the Department of Environmental Conservation individually sprayed 2,500 hemlocks and injected 80 more in the Adirondacks, and the Hemlock Initiative released 600 *Laricobius* beetles.

"Tree awareness and management is getting better," says Dietschler. "Down south there's a lot of robust treatment programs, and New York is catching up."

Once we reach the site where we will release today's army of beetles, 21 jars are taken from the two cardboard boxes, each containing a hemlock branch and around 40 beetles. Beat sheets are held under the branches as the jars are emptied on the trees, to catch any beetles that fall so they can be deposited back on the tree.

"They'd probably be fine in the soil, but



Stricken hemlocks at Mineral Springs in Black Rock Forest

we do that just to be nice to them and give them the best chance of survival — and to reassure ourselves we're not stepping on them," Dietschler says.

And then it's over. The beetles have been freed. The equipment is packed. The trees will be checked next fall to see if the beetles established themselves. With this site so far off the beaten path, we'll probably be the last humans to see these trees until then.

To the naked eye, the trees seem the same as any others. But they represent the hope that hemlocks can be preserved.

"It is kind of anticlimactic," says Gabel. "But it'll sink in later."

Next week: *Darwin's last laugh.*



Dr. Maqbool Murtuza, an intensive care physician at MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, receives a COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday from nurse TJ Oltz.

Photo by Lauren Asselmeyer/WMCHealth



Donna Selwa-Selig, an emergency-room nurse, was the first health care worker at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital to receive the vaccine. Photo provided

Vaccine (from Page 1)

Cuomo said he expects vaccines will be available for the general public by March or April. “As the vaccinations go up, COVID will come down,” he said. “But it’s a foot race, and it’s a foot race over a six- to nine-month period.”

Hospitals on Monday began administering the first shot of Pfizer’s two-dose vaccine to high-risk hospital workers — emergency room, intensive care unit and pulmonary department staff.

Sandra Lindsay, an ICU nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, was the first person in the state, and possibly the country, to be vaccinated. The next day, Maqbool Murtuza, an ICU doctor at MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, became the first person vaccinated in Dutchess County. On Thursday, emergency-room nurse Donna Selwa-Selig was the first to receive the vaccine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor.

Nuvance Health (whose system includes Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie) also began vaccinating health care workers this week but as of Thursday had not yet vaccinated anyone in Putnam, the county said.

While hospitals are administering the vaccine to their own doctors and nurses, nursing homes will rely on two pharmacy chains, CVS and Walgreens, under a federal vaccination program that New York and other states have joined.

Each of Dutchess County’s 13 skilled nursing homes has been scheduled to have residents and staff vaccinated in December and January, said Colleen Pillus, a representative for the county.

Wingate Healthcare, which operates the Wingate at Beacon and Wingate at Dutchess nursing homes, is coordinating its vaccination program with CVS. Residents will be administered the two doses three to four weeks apart.

“We are very, very enthusiastic about being first, getting residents and staff vaccinated,” said Scott Schuster, Wingate’s CEO, in a statement. “We think that’s an enormous step forward for reestablishing the consumer confidence that we’ve always had with families in the community.”

Drug World Chases COVID Vaccine

Owner confident of state and federal approvals

By Michael Turton

If Heidi Kantor Snyder has her way, Drug World will be a source for COVID-19 vaccines.

Snyder, who has owned the Cold Spring pharmacy since 2002, said as part of the Good Neighbor group, a cooperative of more than 4,000 independent pharmacies nationwide, Drug World should be able to receive the vaccines now being distributed through the federal government.

AmerisourceBergen, a health care company that connects drug manufacturers with health care systems, physicians, clinics and pharmacies, and is affiliated with Good Neighbor, has helped independent pharmacies gain access to the vaccine distribution program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Snyder said.

In addition to the CDC, Drug World is seeking approval from the state Department of Health and the state Immunization Information System.

Snyder said she is ready to start vaccinating. Drug World has freezer space that’s “empty and waiting,” she said, but “vaccines in our freezer won’t solve the problem; we need to get them into the arms of eligible people. I will add staff if needed.” She said she has reached out to health care professionals who could help.

Which vaccines Drug World would receive, and who will be eligible to receive them and in what order, will be determined by the CDC and state.

“Pfizer is the only vaccine on the market, with Moderna hopefully coming on board this week,” she said. “I don’t think we’ll get to choose, but we’re ready to receive whatever we get and to begin vaccinating promptly.”

Snyder said she has been working on the approval process since October and has “put many hours each week into webinars, educational papers, surveys, training, meetings and strategic thinking.”

Snyder filed her applications in November but has received no indication when she might get the green light. “My understanding is as more vaccines come to market and manufacturing increases, our turn will come,” she said.

Snyder is also working to have Drug World designated a Limited Service Laboratory, which would enable the pharmacy to test for COVID-19 on-site.

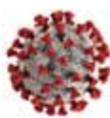
New York Vaccination Priorities

PHASE 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Healthcare workers (clinical and non-clinical) in patient care settings<ul style="list-style-type: none">ICU, ED, EMS top priorityLong-term care facility workers who regularly interact with residentsMost at-risk long-term care facility patients
PHASE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First responders (fire, police, National Guard*)Teachers/school staff (in-person), childcare providersPublic health workersOther essential frontline workers who regularly interact with public (pharmacists, grocery store workers, transit employees, etc.) or maintain critical infrastructureOther long-term care facility patients and those living in other congregate settingsIndividuals in general population deemed particularly high risk due to co-morbidities and health conditions
PHASE 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Individuals over 65 and individuals under 65 with high-risk
PHASE 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All other essential workers
PHASE 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Healthy adults and children

* Members of the New York Army and Air National Guard who serve as part of the state’s COVID response efforts will be eligible under a Department of Defense pilot program.

New York Vaccine Prioritization Matrix

High Risk Population / Essential Healthcare Workers	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2
Lower Risk Population / Other Essential Workers	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4
General Population	PRIORITY 5	PRIORITY 6

 **Coronavirus Update**

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Dec. 16), 3,975 (+56 from the day before) people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 9,800 (+158) in Dutchess; 61,111 (+571) in Westchester; 24,787 (+232) in Rockland; 4,614 (+67) in Ulster; and 20,324 (+210) in Orange. Statewide, there have been 815,469 (+10,914) positives, including 369,385 (+3,627) in New York City. Statewide, 28,222 people had died.

■ Beacon had 62 active cases as of Dec. 15 and Putnam had 203 for the week ending Dec. 10, with 20 new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 217 since March. There were 203 new cases in Carmel, 69 in Kent, 41 in Patterson, 60 in Putnam Valley and 114 in Southeast. Fifteen people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who were hospitalized in New York state as of Dec. 16 stood at 6,147; the number in intensive care was 1,095; and the number of intubations was 611.

■ On Dec. 11, the Department of Health revised its criteria for Yellow Zone restrictions. A geographic area will be eligible if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day aver-

age) over the preceding 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the prior week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions.

■ As of Dec. 16, the 7-day rolling average positivity rate in Dutchess County was 6.2 percent and the average in Putnam was 6.7 percent.

■ As of Dec. 16, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 11 students, teachers and staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported three; and Beacon reported 24.

■ The Dutchess County health department is hiring for temporary positions to assist staff with data entry, call-taking and COVID rapid testing. The positions, which offer up to 30 hours of employment per week, require either graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma/GED; for a COVID testing assignment, preferred qualifications include experience as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, nurse, or training in first aid and/or medical training. See bit.ly/dutchess-hire.

■ The governor extended his state of emergency order through Jan. 1, allowing public meetings to continue to be held remotely.

■ Effective Dec. 14, the Dutchess County

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

3,975 (+415)

New Cases in Philipstown: **20**

Tests administered:

97,607 (+6,238)

Percent positive:

4.1 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

66 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

9,800 (+1,171)

Active Cases in Beacon: **62**

Tests administered:

330,352 (+18,738)

Percent positive:

3.0 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

210 (+8)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Dec. 16, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Dec. 10.

Sheriff's Office in Poughkeepsie changed its in-person lobby access to Civil Bureau, Pistol Permit Bureau and Records Bureau services. Access is by appointment only between 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

■ The state has a COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 844-863-9314 for mental health counseling and resources. For more information, see omh.ny.gov.

■ 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 coronavirus.health.ny.gov, which is also where to find a testing site. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov.



A WINDOW WAS BROKEN
BUT
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IT WAS A REVELATION OF LOVE.
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AND EMBRACE MY THANKS.

THERE ARE THINGS THAT EXIST IN YOUR LIFE
THEN THERE ARE THINGS THAT DEFINE YOUR LIFE

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2 DEPOT SQUARE, COLD SPRING, NY
chapeaucoldspring.com INSTAGRAM @chapeaucoldspring

Dutchess Manor Sold to Fjord Trail Project

Will undergo 'historically sensitive rehab'

By Brian PJ Cronin

After spending a year on the market, Dutchess Manor, the 1889 home on Route 9D that has operated as a catering hall for decades, was sold to the Hudson Valley Fjord Trail on Dec. 10. The \$3.44 million deal includes the 16,000-square-foot facility and 6.6 acres, as well as a house next door on 5.6 acres.

Amy Kacala, the executive director of the Fjord Trail, a project that will connect Cold Spring and Beacon and is slated to begin construction in the fall, said that the manor would undergo a "historically sensitive rehab" and would be part of a visitors' center. Beyond that, Kacala said other uses for the site are "open to suggestion."

"We'll be soliciting proposals and seeing who comes to the table with some ideas and interest on working with us on re-envisioning and repurposing activities there," she said. "We're looking to get clear on the best way forward in the next couple of months, so that next year we know where we're going with the property."

There are no immediate plans to use the site as paid parking for Breakneck Ridge, she said, which its former owners were doing throughout the fall on busy weekends.



Dutchess Manor was formerly a stately home.

Photo by Daniel Case

Kacala said the Coris family, which had owned the property since the 1940s, approached her a few years ago about the site being used as part of the Fjord Trail, but that discussions only began in earnest last year.

It's the second significant structure near Breakneck Ridge to be sold to a nonprofit this year: In April, the Open Space Institute bought the Chalet on the Hudson just south of the Breakneck tunnel that was also being used as a catering hall. OSI confirmed this

week that it plans to transfer the property to the state parks department next year.

The central building on the Dutchess Manor site was constructed by Frank Timoney, an Irish immigrant who grew wealthy operating three brickyards at Dennings Point. George Coris, a furrier from New York City, bought the property at a tax sale in 1944, according to the Beacon Historical Society, and operated it as a hotel, restaurant and bar from 1948 until the early 1970s.

NEWS BRIEFS

Man Indicted for Route 9D Crash

Accused of driving drunk on wrong side of road

A Putnam County grand jury has indicted a man involved in a crash in June on Route 9D in Philipstown on charges of felony aggravated vehicular assault and aggravated driving while intoxicated, according to the county district attorney.

Elmer Medina is accused of injuring a woman and two of her children in the crash, which occurred during the evening rush hour on June 29. He was driving without a license and on the wrong side of the road while intoxicated, the DA said.

The driver of the vehicle required neck surgery and two of her three children suffered injuries and burns, the DA said.

If convicted, Medina faces 5 to 15 years in state prison.

Road Project Completed

Nearly 8 miles of I-84 resurfaced

The state highway department this month completed resurfacing 7.7 miles of Interstate 84 in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

The \$11 million project, which began in the spring, stretched from the Taconic State Parkway in East Fishkill to the Bowen Road overpass in Kent.



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MORE DETAILS: [PAGE 3](#)



The Calendar

The Art of Film Editing

Emmy winner discusses her latest project

Toby Shimin, a film editor who lives in Cold Spring and in September won an Emmy for her work on the documentary *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops*, most recently edited *Baby God*, which is streaming on HBO Max. The film's title refers to Dr. Quincy Fortier, a fertility specialist in Las Vegas who used his own sperm over 30 years to impregnate unwitting patients. Shimin spoke with Alison Rooney.

How are you approached by a director about editing a film?

Every film I have edited has been at a different stage of production. Sometimes it's just a concept, such as *Ernie & Joe*, or sometimes there is a sample reel that has been shot to raise money, such as with *Baby God*. In 35 years, only twice was there a script; both were historical documentaries directed by Steve Ives [a filmmaker who lives in Garrison].

The conversations often begin with the director giving me a "log line," or brief summary, that is not necessarily what the story is. So, I like to find out what drew the filmmakers to the subject, why they chose the characters they followed or plan to follow and what the dramatic arcs could be within each character's story.

How do you decide if you will take on a project?

It's essential to see some raw footage. It's a bit like a first date to see if there's chemistry between me and the main subjects of the film. Obviously, it is a one-sided relationship, but it will usually last between seven and 12 months, so if I'm not engaged, interested and somewhat enchanted, I won't do the creative service the film deserves. There have been times when a film has been offered that has immense value and vitality but I don't connect with the characters.

What are your favorite types of films to edit?

Cinema verité — that is, a film that unfolds in front of the camera, as opposed to retelling a story. Of course, with a cinema verité film, there are often sequences that give the backstory and context for what is unfolding, but the main part of the film is what is captured as the camera is rolling.

With those films, I prefer to come on when enough footage has been shot that I can go on that first date and know whether my interest is piqued. I love being able to start shaping the initial footage while planning with the director what to continue to film.

What was the situation with *Baby God*?

When I came on, about 30 percent of the



Toby Shimin

Photo provided

film was shot. It was the directorial debut for Hannah Olson, and we had many conversations about how to best tell the story.

I was so impressed with her dedication to focusing on the children who were the result of Dr. Fortier's crime — and not the crime itself — that I felt it necessary that we choose one child as a guide of sorts. Wendi Babst was one of the people who Hannah first filmed, and because Wendi is a retired detective, with a natural curiosity for discovery, I felt she was the key to bring an audience through the story. Each time Hannah went to film with her, Wendi's search uncovered something that deepened her own story and allowed us to explore other characters and themes.

A development that arose during filming in some ways altered the story-line. Does that influence how you edit earlier sections?

The plot-turns in *Baby God* were carefully considered and reworked for months and months. As I edit, the question I try to keep fresh is: "How is the audience experiencing this story?" As in any storytelling, you want to have your audience thinking, "Wow, I didn't know that," or asking, "What happens next?"

In *Baby God*, after the hook of "I can't believe this happened," we wanted to give enough backstory of the early days of fertility work to offer context about why Dr. Fortier did what he did. It's not a justification, but an understanding. The goal was to keep the audience's mind as open as possible, ruminating on many ethical questions, until the more definitive plot point arises.

Is a documentary more challenging to edit than a feature film?

In a scripted film, the story is created in the writer's imagination and realized in the acting out of that imagined story. In verité documentaries, the raw material is



The image from the *Baby God* film poster

HBO



Retired detective Wendi Babst is a central figure in *Baby God*.

HBO

reality, usually between 200 and 400 hours of it. Reality is an ongoing continuum. In making a film, you have to put brackets

around pieces of that reality, create context and shape within those brackets in order to bring a story to life.

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

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.

Stockings for Veterans

BEACON

Libby Funeral Home
55 Teller Ave.

Libby is collecting personal products for veterans who reside at nursing homes or V.A. hospitals. Drop off hand sanitizer, masks,

candy, gum, vitamins, moisturizer, lip balm, shampoo, eyedrops, gloves, scarves, playing cards and puzzle books. Through SUN 20.

Philipstown Food Pantry

COLD SPRING

224 Main St.

New shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and dish and laundry detergent can be dropped off on the porch. Through THURS 24.

Toys for Tots

BEACON

Edward Jones
284 Main St. | toysfortots.org

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

Toys for Tots

PHILIPSTOWN

toysfortots.org

Drop off new, unwrapped toys by MON 21 at Foodtown, Drug World or Downey Oil in Cold Spring or Deb's Hair Salon in Nelsonville.

STAGE & SCREEN

SUN 20

A Christmas Carol

GARRISON

4 p.m. Boscobel
jonathankruk.com/a-christmas-carol

Watch live on Facebook as storyteller Jonathan Kruk performs all of the roles in this performance filmed in the historic mansion. *Cost: \$15*



The Nutcracker, Dec. 20

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 19

Santa Visits

FISHKILL

10 a.m. – Noon. All Sport
17 Old Main St. | 845-896-5678
allsporthandfitness.com

Drive up to talk to Santa in a safe, socially distant visit. Every family will receive milk and cookies.

SAT 19

Santa Visits

GARRISON

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

Santa Claus will welcome children from the front porch of the historic mansion. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 senior, \$6 ages 5-18, free for healthcare workers, members and children under age 5)*

SAT 19

Winter Solstice Celebration

CORNWALL

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive
845-534-5506 x204 | hnm.org

On the longest night of the year, enjoy a scavenger hunt for a yule log and celebrate the start of longer daylight hours around a bonfire. Call to register. *Cost: \$8 (\$6 children; \$6/\$4 for members)*

SAT 19

Drag Queen Story Hour

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | bit.ly/DFPLdragqueen

Children 12 and younger and their families can enjoy Angel Elektra reading holiday stories, singing and crafting. Register online.

SUN 20

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. *Cost: \$46 (\$23 ages 5-12)*

SUN 20

Skating with Santa

BREWSTER

12:45 p.m. & 3 p.m. Brewster Ice Arena
63 Fields Lane | 845-279-2229
brewstericearena.com

Register to join one of the two sessions.

SUN 20

The Nutcracker

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandmusic.org/ClassicsForKids.html
Pianists Stephen Joven-Lee

(Continued on Page 13)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SAT 19

Blue Christmas Service

BEACON

Noon. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St.

Take a moment to acknowledge pain, grief and loss, and point to the coming of the Light. See facebook.com/FPCBNY for link or come to the church at 5 p.m. to light a candle.

SUN 20

Christmas Pageant

BEACON

10 a.m. First Presbyterian
A performance of "Good News Goes Viral — A Virtual Nativity Play," by Gwynne Watkins. See facebook.com/FPCBNY for link.

SUN 20

Christmas Pageant

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. First Presbyterian
Email lpresbyterian@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

MON 21

Longest Night Service

GARRISON

7 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal
See stphilipshighlands.org for YouTube link.

MON 21

Longest Night Service

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian
See presbychurchcoldspring.org for Zoom link.

TUES 22

Candlelight Service

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Church on the Hill
245 Main St. | jesusonthehill.com

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Mass

COLD SPRING

4 & 6 & 8 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto
24 Fair St. | 845-265-3718
ladyofloretto.org
Call office for tickets.

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Mass

BEACON

4:30 & 6 p.m. St. John the Evangelist
35 Willow St. | stjochim-stjohn.org
The later service will be in Spanish.

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Mass

BEACON

4:30 p.m. Church of St. Joachim
51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Service

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. United Methodist
See facebook.com/csshumc for link.

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Service

GARRISON

5 & 11 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal
See stphilipshighlands.org for YouTube link.

THURS 24

Community Caroling Service

BEACON

5 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist
60 Union St. | 845-831-0365
beaconmethodist.org

THURS 24

Christmas Eve Service

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. First Presbyterian
See presbychurchcoldspring.org for link.



Children fill in the hay around the creche on Dec. 13 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison.
Photo by Ross Corsair

and Michelle Wong will perform Tchaikovsky's music and Gina Samardge will narrate. Register online and watch on YouTube through Jan. 4. *Cost: Pay as you wish*

HOLIDAY MARKETS

SAT 19

Holiday Artisan Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Yard

4 Hanna Lane

facebook.com/RiverValleyGuild

Meet local artisans and enjoy sweets and the fire pits while shopping for the holidays.

SAT 19

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 20, MON 21, TUES 22, WED 23.

MUSIC

SAT 19

Handel's Messiah Sing-A-Long

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon

845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The recording of a 2019 performance by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, broadcast



Cherish the Ladies, Dec. 19

on YouTube, will include on-screen lyrics and guest conductor Christine Howlett providing commentary. A portion of the donations will benefit People's Place and Dutchess Outreach.

SAT 19

Cherish the Ladies

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The 12-piece ensemble of musicians, singers and dancers will perform classic carols on Celtic instruments over livestream. A portion of ticket sales benefits the venue. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 20

Austin Charnis

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

crowdcast.io/e/austin-charnis-/register

In this guitar performance,

Charnis will mine a classical and contemporary repertoire that ranges from Bach to Eric Clapton.

SUN 20

Home for the Holidays

WEST POINT

2 p.m. West Point Band

westpointband.com/holiday-show

Watch on Facebook or YouTube.

WED 23

Not Exactly Christmas Show

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Israeli singer-songwriter David Broza will perform over livestream with Jay Beckenstein, Julio Fernandez, Francisco Centeno and others. *Cost: \$10 to \$40*

COMMUNITY

SAT 19

Beacon's Memory Keeper

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Beacon Bath and Bubble

458 Main St. | beaconhistorical.org

Pick up a copy of an anthology of articles on the history of Beacon by the late Robert Murphy, former president of the Beacon Historical Society.

SUN 20

Honoring Amy Lipton

PHILIPSTOWN

10:30 a.m. Livestream

j.mp/sustainwhatsundays

The Sustain What Arts & Hearts show hosted by Andy Revkin will celebrate the life and work of the curator and former Garrison resident who championed ecology-focused art. The show will feature a livestreamed performance by Jaanika Peerna of *#Glacier Elegy Cold Spring* from Little Stony Point.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 26

Explore Masterpieces at the Met

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

bit.ly/2KvoQsu

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe, an art and museum educator, will lead an online tour of the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

SUN 27

Painting with Regina

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

bit.ly/3r0fyvH

Pick up a kit at the library with materials to join this virtual workshop and create a birch painting.

CIVIC

SAT 19

Community Forum on Policing

BEACON

10 a.m. | Via Zoom

See cityofbeacon.org for link.

MON 21

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

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MON 21

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NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

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TUES 22

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Mouths to Feed

A Jolly Roll

By Celia Barbour

In a time of global uncertainty, one thing has become irrefutably clear: The Brits know how to bake.



Indeed, I have come to realize that the first step any aspiring pastry chef must take in an effort to become a top-notch baker is to be born across the pond. Step two is to pursue a demanding career in something other than baking — become a neurosurgeon, architect, fashion designer, aerospace engineer or television star. Bake on the side, just for kicks. That way, on the day when someone approaches you asking if you'd mind creating a cake that looks like a Christmas present, with a three-dimensional surprise cake-object baked inside it, using multiple flavors, fillings and decorations, and more-over to complete the task in four hours, you can be like, sure, no problem.

Alternatively, you can be born here in the U.S. of A., watch *The Great British Baking Show* and wonder who tricked you into believing that whipping up a batch of snickerdoodles warranted praise.

I have been thinking of *The Great British Baking Show* quite a bit these last few weeks, ever since I made the Swiss roll I mentioned in my previous column. Delicious

as it was (and it was very), it came out looking like something I might have unearthed under the wood pile: cracked, broken, oozing cream and chips of hardened ganache. Forget Britain. If anyone from Switzerland had laid eyes on it, they would have demanded I renounce its name on the spot.

No matter. We polished off the evidence of my ineptitude/citizenship in a few hours.

Then, a couple nights later, on this year's holiday episode of the *GBBS* featuring the cast of the Derry Girls, I watched actress Nicola Coughlin make a perfect Swiss roll, fill it with strawberry-rhubarb jelly, slice it up, and use it — oh, you know, yawn — to form the underlayer of a trifle that also featured homemade custard, whipped cream, sliced strawberries and gold leaf. And she pulled it off in two-and-a-half hours.

I wish I could say that I decided then and there to rise up undaunted and re-make my Swiss roll, but that would be a lie. I felt extremely daunted; I always do when trying to create picture-perfect desserts. Nonetheless, with Christmas right around the corner and most traditional sources of merriment in short supply this year, I decided to take another stab (or two) at this cake. After all, special foods are a hallmark of every celebration, no matter where on the globe you live or which holidays you observe. Moreover, we need all the joy we can muster this year, in whatever form, even log-pile-style. Best of all, here at my Hudson Valley home, the only judges are my husband, three kids and me, and anyone who steps up to bake in our Good-Enough American Baking show is declared an automatic winner.

Chocolate-Pecan Swiss Roll

You need to pre-roll the cake while it's still warm or it will crack when you try to roll it up around the filling. Use a knife warmed in hot water and wiped dry to cut the cake into slices for serving.

FOR THE CAKE

- ½ cup pecan halves
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, plus more for dusting
- ½ cup plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons warm water
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs, separated
- 2 large egg whites
- Pinch cream of tartar

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the pecans on a baking sheet and toast until fragrant and starting to color, about 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to the bowl of a food processor and allow to cool. Line the baking sheet with parchment paper, allowing an inch or so overhang at each end. Dust the parchment with cocoa powder.

When the pecans are cool, add the flour and process until finely ground.

Melt the butter, and keep warm. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the cocoa, ½ cup sugar and salt. Add the hot butter, warm water and vanilla, and mix well (the batter will be thick). Add the egg yolks, and mix until thoroughly combined. Set aside.

Place the 5 egg whites and cream of tartar into a clean, dry mixer bowl, and mix on medium speed until soft peaks form. Slowly sprinkle in the ⅓ cup sugar, turn the mixer to high, and whip until stiff but not broken.

Fold about a quarter of the egg whites into the cocoa-butter mixture. Add the remaining egg whites and ground pecans to the bowl and fold together gently just until combined.

Spread the batter onto the lined baking sheet. Transfer to the oven and bake until a fingertip pressed into the top of the cake doesn't leave a permanent divot, about 10 minutes.

Set the pan on a rack to cool. After about 15 minutes, while the cake is still warm, lightly dust the surface with cocoa. Lay another sheet or parchment on top and, starting at one short end, gently roll up the cake (I used a rolling pin as a spindle to help form the cake). Set aside to cool another half-hour or so. Meanwhile, make the filling.

FOR THE CREAM FILLING

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 tablespoons sugar, agave, or pure maple syrup

Combine the cream and vanilla in a chilled bowl. Whip until the mixture begins to thicken, then add the sugar or sweetening, and continue whipping until stiff. Do not overmix.

TO FORM THE CAKE

Gently unroll the cooled cake (it doesn't have to be completely flat). Spread the whipped cream evenly over the whole surface, then roll up again, starting at one short end, and using the parchment to help. Wrap the parchment around the outside of the cylindrical cake, tie in place gently with string if desired, and transfer to the refrigerator to cool for 2 to 3 hours. About 10 minutes before removing it from the refrigerator, make the glaze. Unwrap the cake roll, place it on a cooling rack set over a baking sheet (to catch drips) and pour the glaze over the whole surface, spreading gently if needed to cover. The glaze will harden as it cools, forming a crisp shell.

FOR THE GLAZE

Don't begin making this until after the rolled-up cake has cooled in the fridge for a few hours. I used a Swiss chocolate bar, rather than baking chocolate which tends to be grainier.

- 6 ounces bittersweet (not unsweetened) chocolate
- ½ cup heavy cream

Finely chop the chocolate and place in a medium, heatproof bowl. Warm the cream over medium, stirring frequently, until it just begins to simmer, then pour over the chopped chocolate. Allow to sit for 30 seconds, then stir until smooth.



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Something You Don't Know About Me

Eugenie Milroy

Eugenie Milroy, who lives in Cold Spring, is a conservator and collections manager. She spoke with Alison Rooney.

How did you first learn of the conservation field?

I was lucky. I was an art history major at Barnard, where I focused mostly on medieval work, and did a semester in Paris and Burgundy, which was cool. But as graduation got closer, I started thinking about what I would do with an art history degree. I'd done internships in art galleries, but it felt too much about the money.

This was before the internet, so I went to the career services office to research, and it was there that I found art conservation. It sounded perfect: hands-on, with a science component. But there was a long list of prerequisites for graduate school. This is actually something they're working to change, to make the field more accessible, and there's a clear lack of diversity in museum staff.

My adviser connected me with the head of the conservator program at New York University. I did internships for a few years, met people in the field, particularly in museums, and finally went to grad school at the NYU Conservation Center.

What exactly did you study?

My specialization was objects, which encompasses all sorts of 3D items, from archaeological collections to contemporary sculpture. You can specialize in a range of materials: paintings, paper, objects, photos, textiles. I did an internship at The Cloisters, where I worked on stoneware and wood, while at the same time I worked for a private conservator doing taxidermy on a collection damaged in a fire.

I've loved the spectrum of the job. For instance, while I was working on an object for the New York City Transit Museum, I was also working on a medieval polychrome sculpture. As a conservator, I never view utilitarian artifacts or other objects of cultural heritage as lesser than the fine art objects because they are all part of our collective material heritage. Conservators are trained to treat all objects in a collection with the same standard of care, regardless of financial value.

Your first job was at the American Museum of Natural History. What did you do?

There was an exhibit, *Body Art: Marks of Identity*, which featured everything from prison tattoos to linoleum that people in Africa use to make jewelry. I also re-shaped an Egyptian headpiece, did surveys of totem poles and worked on ephemeral paper pieces from Vietnam.

Do you work mostly behind the scenes?

Usually it's in the museum. For the totem poles, I worked *in situ* in the hall and they closed off that section. For a diorama job at



In 2017, Eugenie Milroy helped restore the elephants at the Field Museum in Chicago

Photo by John Weinstein/The Field Museum



Milroy holding a bin of leaf litter removed from the Black Bear diorama at the State Museum of Pennsylvania to access the background paintings

Photos provided

the State Museum of Pennsylvania, in the Mammal Hall, the exhibits were popular so they didn't want to close it off. They were also aware that people are interested in the process, so they closed off half of each diorama and left openings so people could look in and see the work we were doing. Sometimes, teaching happens while we work. While we restored the elephants at The Field Museum in Chicago, educators talked to visitors about our work.

Each project seems so different. How do you educate yourself?

It's learning about materials and their properties and knowing if something seems out of your depth. I've been in private practice since 2009, working with a partner, Rachael Perkins Arenstein — we'll probably add a third person soon because we have more work than we can handle. Sometimes the work is collaborative. For example, for a project at Federal Hall in New York that involved documenting, cleaning and re-touching or repainting the interior architectural ironwork, including stair

rails, balusters and doors, my partner and I worked with a painting conservator. In this case the object was the metal, which was painted over. At the State Museum of Pennsylvania, we worked with taxidermists. We team up.

Some conservators spend their career in one place. There are about 70 conservators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They become expert in the materials of one region, and sometimes a specific era within that region. With our practice, we only treat things we feel comfortable with. We've learned about materials — how they degrade, their properties — so it extends to a wide range. We also keep studying. For instance, I've done heritage and emergency response training, which connects first responders with cultural heritage. We learned about safety and triaging materials in the event of flooding, fire and other emergencies. We were able to put it into action quickly: There was a fire in January at the Museum of Chinese in America [in New York City], and we were able to go and get things safely off-site.



Milroy with a Northwest Coast mask she was restoring at the American Museum of Natural History

What's a typical year like?

In a typical year — not this one, when everything has been postponed — Rachael and I work on maybe 20 projects. Some things are a couple of days, some go on for months. A lot of our work is documenting: writing reports, creating a trail so that in the future people know what we used, so things can be re-treatable. Now there's much more of a focus on preservation: maintaining the correct environment, keeping pests away, prolonging the life of the object. We aren't the last word, though, and what we do shouldn't prevent someone else from doing it better, later.

Milroy recommends that people interested in preserving their own collections, from family memorabilia to fine art, consult the American Institute for Conservation (learning.culturalheritage.org/public). For more background on the field, see the presentation at bit.ly/conservator-intro that Milroy gave in 2018 to Haldane High School art students.

Kid Friendly

My COVID Journal

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

MONDAY

8 A.M. — My husband, who is tested regularly as a preventative measure at his job, had felt achy but calls to say his results from previous Friday were negative. Go about day.



lets us know we need to quarantine for 14 days.

10:15 A.M. — Confirm with principal that children will be marked absent. I don't like this rule. She says they have been reconsidering it.

TUESDAY

6:30 A.M. — Wake up achy, especially behind the kneecaps, and super thirsty. The feeling lasts all day. Push through to cook dinner.

2 P.M. — Drive to urgent care to get tested. There is no line. Yay. Leave with ice pops and login information for lab results.

WEDNESDAY

7 A.M. — Wake up achy but not as thirsty. Wallow in sickness feeling.

4 P.M. — Learn from editor that Garrison Middle School closed for an exposure. Also learn this column can wait a week and I won't be marked absent.

7:30 A.M. — Husband calls to say his Monday test came back positive. I feel three distinct emotions: Anger, remorse and, "Oh, shit." Domino effect is engaged. No picking up the car from the mechanic. No shipping of presents. Bribe my older two children to babysit the toddler by approving the early opening of one present each so I can work.

7:45 A.M. — Cancel babysitter for the foreseeable future. Text neighbor whose daughter came over Monday. Cancel volunteering at school holiday shop. Cancel rescheduled dental appointment. Cancel hair appointment.

8 A.M. — Give up on day. Email editor: "Don't worry! Column is coming!" No idea what to write about. [Editor's note: COVID, maybe?] Cancel photo shoot for clients and gift-guide article for blog. A co-worker is quarantining for something unrelated and can't take photos.

10 A.M. — Cry a little at the thought of not knowing how to return to work. I work for myself, but I can't work with a 3-year-old running around and am mentally not OK when he's watching YouTube and *Siren Head* all day.

7 P.M. — Turn away little neighbors who knock on the door wanting my son to play. Feel weird telling them we are quarantining for 14 days. They look confused.

10 P.M. — Contact teachers through Bloomz and ClassDojo to say children won't be coming to school on Thursday or Friday.

THURSDAY

8 A.M. — Put my cutest clothes on to pump myself up to work. Get my kids onto virtual classrooms. Learn that despite attending remotely, they will be marked absent because they are missing in-person days. Still feel slightly achy.

10 A.M. — Receive call from school nurse, who is concerned, of course, and

FRIDAY

7 A.M. — My son walks into my room, crying. He has been achy since 2 a.m. and couldn't move his legs. He got flashbacks from February when he and I were sick and he couldn't move his legs and I couldn't get out of bed without fainting. I give him Tylenol and a backrub, and he goes back to bed.

8 A.M. — Blow dry hair and receive call from pediatrician, asking if my sons have symptoms. The office heard we tested at urgent care. The question triggers me to cry a little more. I sit on the side of the tub and make a note to call in overdue prescriptions for inhalers for my kids, who have asthma cough.

9 A.M. — Call Vogel Pharmacy to see if they can deliver inhalers and vitamins, and cry a little more. The pharmacist, Anthony, tells me it's all going to be OK.

10 A.M. — Text friends with the update and take them up on their offers to help. Think about which friends shop where and begin piggy-backing on their errands.

SATURDAY

10 A.M. — Nebulize my youngest after a night of coughing.

11 A.M. — Start making eggs for breakfast. Visit with friend who brings over kids to have a porch-sidewalk, 15-foot social distance hello shout/wave visit.

11:30 A.M. — Call from husband; his best friend had a heart attack. The friend had been one of many mourners at a funeral in Ohio where 20 people contracted COVID, although he tested negative. He is a smoker. He received a stent. My biggest COVID fear for my husband is a random heart attack or stroke.

11:50 A.M. — Finish making breakfast.

12 P.M. — Start making lunch: box mac-and-cheese. Look for screwdriver to open Nerf gun battery door. Melt powdered cheese in milk.



My daughter collapsed on her "gymnastic mat" (aka a mattress) after learning that she is in mandatory 14-day quarantine for family COVID exposure.

Photo by K. Martin

1 P.M. — Take call outside to get results for middle child. Positive. Come back in and call husband so we can give son the results together. Son covers his mouth as his lips nervously turn up in a smile. He turns somber. His best friend, whom he's been Facetiming with for hours, calls, and son declines the call. I go upstairs to log in to find daughter's results. Negative. Mine and the youngest: Not posted yet.

1:30 P.M. — Another request for the Nerf gun to work; I head to the basement to find the power drill.

2 P.M. — Stir the box pasta cheese. Still salvageable. Whoops.

2:30 P.M. — Continue texting with friends and family about everyone's symptoms and condition. Phone becomes ever-more an extension of my brain.

5 P.M. — Stretch in backyard. Grocery order arrives. The kids take it inside. I jog up and down driveway in the dark for 15 minutes.

5:30 P.M. — Son cooks his first box of ramen. He feels proud and liberated.

6:30 P.M. — Dodge Nerf gun bullets.

SUNDAY

7:30 A.M. — Wake up feeling better. Texts come in to see how everyone is doing. Run the driveway again, between the swing set and the soccer goal. Attend birthday party on Zoom.

1 P.M. — Feel like water gushed up my nose, into my brain, and drained back out, yet no runny nose. Just swollen head and random pain in collarbone.

2 P.M. — Children have been great with boredom, but new measures required. Elves deliver No. 1 requested gift to daughter to enable her to draw and design stickers for her new business.

3:30 P.M. — Put on the Christmas music.

4:30 P.M. — Have video call with doctor to get inhaler prescription. Neighbor kids begin texting videos of games they are playing in their houses, including a pully-swing system around a Christmas tree.

9 P.M. — Crawl into bed with fully swollen head and shoulders while kids play Roblox. Luckily, Advil keeps head throb at bay.

MONDAY

4 A.M. — Wake up when toddler has a bad dream. Feel my own asthma, and measure oxygen. It's 94 — a number they like you to call the hospital about. I wait. Maybe everyone has low oxygen while they sleep. Use daughter's inhaler.

9 A.M. — Call Vogel to get them to deliver my inhaler. Oxygen back to 98.

4 P.M. — Answer texts from neighbor and mother about oxygen levels and asthma.

10 P.M. — Pull an all-nighter writing session and string lights on the tree. Inhalers make me jumpy.

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M. — The results are in. The youngest is negative. I am positive. Take to bed because I'm dizzy. Take inhaler.

8:30 P.M. — Kids fix themselves goldfish and ramen for dinner. I cut them oranges and yellow peppers. At least there's a theme: orange.

WEDNESDAY

11 A.M. — Lungs are good. No tightness. Jog in driveway. Finish this column.

Katie Hellmuth Martin is the publisher of A Little Beacon Blog and owner of Tin Shingle and Katie James Inc. She is happy to be raising her family in Beacon.



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SEASON

HOPE

It's been a rough year for magic, but Santa Claus managed to pay socially distanced visits to the Cold Spring bandstand on Dec. 5 and to Boscobel in Garrison on Dec. 12. The Village of Cold Spring, the Recreation Commission and the fire department arranged for the appearance at the waterfront; Vera's Market in Philipstown provided the trees and wreaths; volunteers hung the lights; and Ruthanne Cullinan Barr and her granddaughter, Parker Fyfe, handed out candy canes. At Boscobel, the canes were placed on a chain for children to take while Santa waved from the porch.

Photos by Ross Corsair





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.

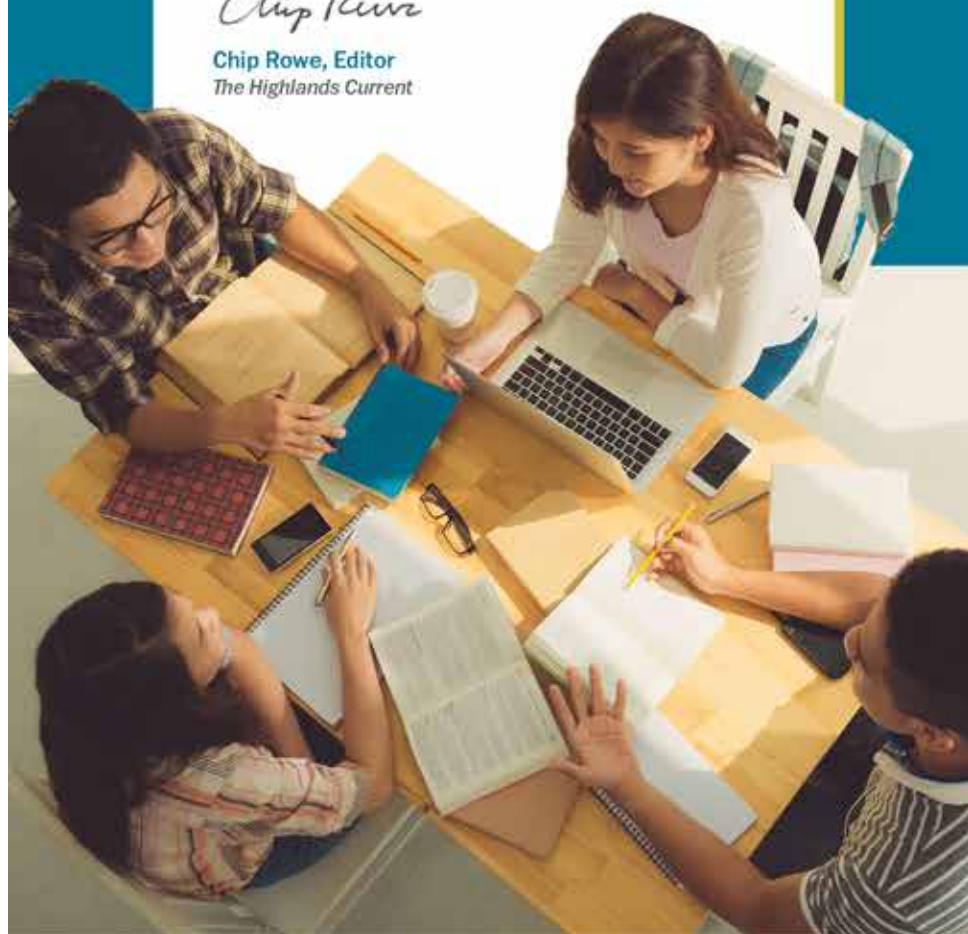
The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

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



Beacon Mayor to Name Police Chief Next Week

Also, Dutchess releases report on police reform

By Jeff Simms

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said this week he planned to name Beacon's next police chief during the City Council's meeting on Monday (Dec. 21).

Council Member Terry Nelson, who headed the committee charged with overseeing the search, will also speak about the process and the recommendations it made to Kyriacou. After sorting through applications and conducting interviews, Nelson said earlier this month that the committee expected to forward the names of two finalists to the mayor.

The position has been held by interim chiefs — first, by retired Beacon officer William Cornett and, since August, by Lt. Sands Frost — after Kevin Junjulas retired from the force in July.

At the same time, Dutchess County this week released a report by its Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative that outlines reforms designed to eliminate racial inequities and address community needs.

The county said it believes the report could serve as a guide for municipalities that must, under an order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, create reform plans by April 1.

"This was a highly constructive process that produced great areas of consensus," said County Executive Marc Molinaro in a statement. "The collaborative has created a strong menu of options for municipalities and police departments to consider as they enact their own reforms."

The report includes a summary of county resident and stakeholder priorities culled from several months of public meetings and other forums.

Among the most common recommendations were the increased involvement of social workers and other non-police staff in drug overdoses and mental health-related calls, and the creation of civilian review boards and oversight committees to increase transparency and police accountability.

The Dutchess report also cites best practices and provides guidance for training, building community trust and developing diversity within police ranks.

It recommended that all law enforcement agencies adopt a policy of having patrol officers wear body cameras. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the City of Poughkeepsie will require the use of body cameras beginning next year; Beacon officers have worn the devices since 2018.

The Beacon City Council in August adopted a resolution with nearly a dozen police policy changes, some of which will be implemented after Kyriacou names the new chief on Monday. Many of the recommendations made this week in the Dutchess County report echo those going into effect in Beacon.

The Beacon resolution called for the chief to begin his or her tenure "with a thorough review of police training, culminating in a data-driven set of recommendations" for improvements. It also directed the new chief to examine Beacon's policy on psychological supportive care for officers and called for a multi-year schedule for implicit bias training for all city staff, including police.

In addition, it called for the chief and city administrator to write several reports, including on "alternative responder" options, the Police Department's disciplinary policy and its weapons arsenal. Meanwhile, the City Council will review police policies for transparency and strengthen support for mental health services, child care, community assets, digital equity and food and housing options.

Policing Forum

Beacon will hold its third community forum on policing and public safety on Saturday (Dec. 19) at 10 a.m. via Zoom. It will be moderated by the Rev. John Perez, the chairperson of the city's Human Relations Commission, and former Council Member (and minister) John Rembert. Registration is recommended for residents who would like to offer comments. See cityofbeacon.org.

Beacon Launches Grant Program

Designed to assist small businesses

The City of Beacon has partnered with Community Capital of New York to offer "stabilization grants" of up to \$10,000 to small businesses.

To be eligible, the business must retain, rehire or create at least one full-time position for a person whose annual salary is less than \$54,950; the owner's household

income must be below a certain threshold (e.g., \$78,500 for a family of four); or the business must be located in a low- or moderate-income area and primarily serve local residents.

In addition, the business must have five or fewer employees, including the owner; operate outside of a home; and have been in operation for at least three years. Nonprofits are not eligible. To apply, see bit.ly/beacon-grant.

County Drops \$7,500 for Trash Collection in Cold Spring

Blames state for cut of tourism-related funds

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Each year since 2011, Putnam County has provided Cold Spring with \$7,500 to help pay for trash collection, a tacit recognition of the village's role in drawing visitors who contribute to Putnam's sales-tax revenue.

The funds will not be provided in 2020 or 2021, however, a move that Bill Carlin, the county finance commissioner, attributed to a change in state sales-tax policy.

In a *Current Conversation* on Wednesday (Dec. 16), Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy said, "I don't think Putnam County likes us very much, and I don't think they're going to give us anything." He noted that Putnam legislators voted this month to give raises to themselves and other top officials, including the county executive, but cut a relatively modest \$7,500 and didn't inform the village until after the fact.

The issue came up on Dec. 9 when the Legislature's Health and Environment Committee met by audio connection.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and is the panel's only Democrat, noted that Cold Spring

now receives no financial support from the county to offset the costs of tourism. "Their only measure of support is being taken away," she said, "Why?"

Unlike most counties in New York, Putnam does not share sales-tax revenue with the towns and villages in which it is generated. Carlin said that early this year, the state reduced sales-tax revenue for counties and instead transferred the money to the Aid for Municipalities program, which benefits communities such as Cold Spring.

This "purported state aid is really a withholding of county sales tax," he said. In 2020, "having had that [occur], and realizing that we don't provide money for trash services to any other municipality, we eliminated" the trash-collection funds for Cold Spring.

Michelle Ascolillo, the Cold Spring accountant, confirmed Wednesday that "the state withholds an equivalent amount from Putnam County's sales-tax revenue in order to pay the village."

In addressing legislators last week, Carlin said that for 2021, the state "doubled down and took even more of the county sales tax revenue for a distressed-hospital fund, which costs the county about \$800,000 a year." Consequently, he said, Putnam kept the Cold Spring trash-collection money out of the budget. "The state continues to

assault the county revenue base."

He said that because the budget is posted online, "I didn't know nobody knew about" the change for Cold Spring.

"I feel bad about this," said Legislator Carl Albano, who represents parts of Carmel and Patterson. "I wish somebody would've noticed this." But, he added, "I don't know that it [trash-collection assistance] should be" offered just "in one particular spot."

Montgomery said village officials had informed the county that "we're bombarded and we need some help" in dealing with a crush of visitors, including to Breakneck Ridge, which can attract 1,200 hikers on a pleasant Saturday or Sunday, and by car or train to the village, even with COVID-19 restrictions.

Despite Montgomery's pleas, other legislators observed — as they have in the past — that while Putnam does not share sales-tax revenue, it covers defaulted property taxes and community college charges for its municipalities, as well as the costs of holding elections.

Legislator Toni Addonizio pointed out that Kent, which she represents, doesn't receive money for trash collection, and Legislator Ginny Nacerino, whose district includes Patterson, said "we don't get anything" for the Thunder Ridge ski resort.

Montgomery noted, however, that Thunder Ridge is a private business.

Jeff Vidakovich, the Cold Spring clerk, said on Wednesday that the village would not receive its state aid until the spring but that village officials do not expect the funds will compensate for the funds lost from the county.

Current Classifieds

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Advent at The First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Door

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Every Sunday Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20 at 10:30.

Christmas Pageant:

via ZOOM at the Dec 20th service!

The Longest Night Service:

One of the greatest acts of pastoral care in the Advent season is to offer a service known as a Longest Night Service. It is a worship service scheduled around the winter solstice (the longest night of the calendar year), so it is on December 21 at 7:30pm. The long nights just before Christmas can be a hard time for some. For the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss of any kind, we offer this service.

Christmas Eve

A family oriented service with Rev. Rachel Thompson and Rev. Joseph Gilmore filling the pulpit. Music for the holiday featuring a mix of traditional and jazz themes by Tom McCoy.

Dec 24th, 5:00 PM

All services will be live on Zoom. Link information will be posted on our website: presbychurchcoldspring.org.

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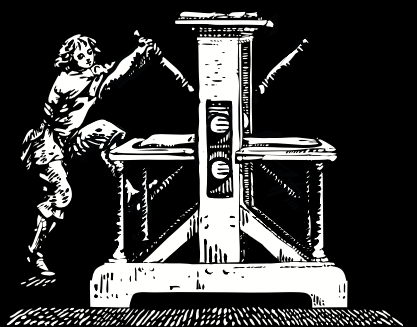
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More Paycheck Protection Data Released

Federal loans can be forgiven if jobs were retained

By Chip Rowe

Nearly \$36 million in forgivable payroll loans were requested by businesses and nonprofits in the Highlands this year to save at least 3,252 jobs, according to data released this month by the Small Business Administration.

The SBA provided some data in July about its Paycheck Protection Program but did not share the amounts requested for loans of less than \$150,000 and only gave a range for those over \$150,000. The new data, which includes the amount of each requested loan, was released following a

court order. The payroll program ran for four months beginning April 4.

About 87 percent of the companies that made requests nationwide asked for \$150,000 or less, according to an analysis by *The New York Times*, but 1 percent of borrowers received a quarter of the funds.

The Paycheck Protection Program was established to provide businesses and nonprofits with 500 or fewer employees with low-interest loans to pay workers who might otherwise lose their jobs. If the borrower didn't lay off employees or reduce salaries, the loan could be forgiven. The SBA noted that recipients who appear on its list must still be found eligible for loan forgiveness.

In the Highlands, loan requests totaled

\$35.6 million.

In Beacon, 363 businesses requested \$19 million, including \$2.24 million by the Dutchess and Northern Westchester regional headquarters of the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York (229 jobs); \$1.5 million by HVEA Engineers (77 jobs); and \$1.8 million by three Healey auto dealerships (120 jobs). The range of the other requests was \$500 to \$617,300, and the median was \$17,300.

In Cold Spring and Philipstown, 144 businesses requested \$8.67 million, with a median request of \$20,900. (Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper, received \$42,350 to retain five jobs.) T.Webber Plumbing & Heating requested \$1.27 million for 82 jobs and Scanga Wood-

working asked for \$1.16 million for 64 jobs. The remainder ranged from \$900 to \$418,200.

In Garrison, 62 businesses requested \$7.93 million, including \$2.2 million by Wood Pro 2 installers and \$1.78 million by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and St. Christopher's Inn. The range of the remainder was \$1,100 to \$578,500, with a median of \$16,250.

For the full lists, see highlandscurrent.org. The data was collected by the SBA from banks and has not been independently verified. For example, the SBA data says the loan to Wood Pro 2 Installers would save four jobs, but in fact it kept 60 to 70 people on the payroll, said owner Denis Dillon. In addition, a representative for the Franciscan Friars and St. Christopher's Inn said the organizations applied for but decided not to take the funds.



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? *Current* reporter Michael Turton shared this shot of his first grandchild, Adelyn, the daughter of Drew and Kim Turton, with Luna and Sadie. They all live in a suburb of Brisbane, Australia. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



Market Report (November)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	7	8	8	15
Closed Sales	11	8	5	9
Days on Market	43	17	51	148
Median Price	\$308,000	\$555,250	\$401,000	\$770,000
% List Received	98.5	101.8	98.2	85.6
Inventory	34	16	96	69

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

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Porter’s burdens

5. Before

8. Dull sound of impact

12. Enticement

13. Blend

14. Abundant

15. Opera showstopper

16. U.K. broadcaster

17. Black, in verse

18. Fight

20. Like a lot

22. Solid ground

26. Entire

29. Smack

30. Zilch

31. Bees’ home

32. Parsons or Gaffigan

33. Slangy negative

34. — out a living

35. One of the Brady bunch

36. Grown-up bug

37. Brownish orange

40. Warmonger

41. Barbershop tools

45. First victim

47. Luau bowlful

49. American —

50. Ring out

51. Barn bird

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			

52. Alaskan metropolis

53. Vortex

54. — Aviv

55. Get larger

DOWN

1. Spill the beans

2. Emanation

3. Determination

4. Birthplace of Starbucks

5. Fireplace bit

6. Cage component

7. Cry out

8. Italian fountain site

9. Ireland

10. Venusian vessel?

11. Lair

19. Appomattox surrenderer

21. Frequently

23. Serengeti beast

24. Chinese dynasty

25. Choir member

26. Sharpen

27. Raise

28. Above

32. Lotto win

33. Incredible

35. Mandible

36. Call — day

38. Make a comeback

39. Warble

42. Bloodhound’s clue

43. Quarterback Tony

44. Dispatched

45. Mimic

46. Foundation

48. Didn’t pay yet

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 many are “smart” these days (6)

2 green character of 1950s TV (5)

3 as many people are saying (10)

4 3x Oscar-winning director (9)

5 not like the BFG (10)

6 Fargo’s banking partner (5)

7 mattress option (4)

SOLUTIONS

1 many are “smart” these days (6) _____

2 green character of 1950s TV (5) _____

3 as many people are saying (10) _____

4 3x Oscar-winning director (9) _____

5 not like the BFG (10) _____

6 Fargo’s banking partner (5) _____

7 mattress option (4) _____

PHO	UN	ORT	GUM	LY
REP	ND	RM	FR	LS
IE	WEL	ELB	ED	BY
SPI	FI	NES	LY	ERG

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Dec. 11 Puzzles

B	U	M		J	A	B						
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B	R	O	I	L	A	R	G	E	N	T		
B	O	S	T	O	N	T	E	R	R	I	E	R
C	W	T		D	O	O	Z	Y		V	A	N
			L	I	O	N			S	E	R	A
	S	N	A	C	K		Z	E	A	L	S	
S	H	A	D		B	E	V	Y				
I	O	U		H	O	U	R	I		Y	O	U
B	O	S	T	O	N	R	O	C	K	E	R	S
	T	E	R	R	A	N		T	A	S	T	E
		A	U	D	I	T			E	Y	E	S
			E	E	R				D	O	S	

1. FRONTIERS, 2. ORANGUTANS, 3. CELLULAR, 4. STREISAND, 5. MOSSY, 6. CREDITS, 7. HOME

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

SPORTS



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Sophomores Isabelle Ray and Farrah Jaafar were among five Beacon players named All-League.

File photos by S. Pearlman

Five Named All-League for Beacon Tennis

By Skip Pearlman

It was a season of improvement for the Beacon High School girls' tennis team, which last week had five players named to the All-League team.

"It was an absolutely great season," said Coach David Ryley, noting the 4-4 campaign included the school's first win over Hendrick Hudson in many years. "We're expecting bigger things in 2021,

with eight of 11 players returning."

Junior Maura Lane (first singles), sophomores Farrah Jaafar and Isabelle Ray (second and third singles) and juniors Emma Sandison and Lindsay Darcy (first

doubles) earned All-League honors.

Ryley said his team handled difficult COVID-19 protocols well, and players valued the time together. "We had a lot of cancellations and some quarantines," he said. "But the whole thing was a blessing. We completed our schedule, had a great time, and the girls — even though it was a shorter season — were happy to be able to play."



PRO DEBUT

Elijah Hughes, a Beacon native who signed last month with the Utah Jazz, made his NBA debut on Saturday (Dec. 12) in a 119-105 preseason win in Salt Lake City over the Phoenix Suns, scoring 9 points in 12 minutes. He had eight points in a 111-92 victory over the Suns on Monday. "The beauty of this team is there's so many great vets, people I can just lean on and talk to," Hughes told the *Deseret News*. "They also help me not look bad in practice, so it's good to have them around." Utah has 20 players on its preseason roster but must cut that to 15 before the team begins the condensed, 72-game regular season on Dec. 23 at Portland.

Photo by Melissa Majchrzak/NBAE via Getty Images

Winter Sports Playoffs Canceled

*Second season in a row
with no state tournament*

By Chip Rowe

The association that governs high school sports in New York announced on Dec. 11 that there will be no regional or state tournament for winter sports for the second year in a row because of the pandemic, although sectional competition may take place.

The spring tournaments were canceled for boys' and girls' basketball, which affects both Haldane and Beacon high schools, as well as ice hockey at Haldane (where students play on the Hendrick Hudson team), indoor track at Haldane and Beacon, and bowling, boys' swimming and wrestling at Beacon.

"When examining the feasibility of winter state championships, it became apparent

that travel and overnight accommodations would create a unique challenge for our member schools," said Robert Zayas, executive director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, in a statement. "At this time, we must prioritize maximizing student participation without a focus on championship events."

The NYSPHSAA said its decision was guided by the recent surge in COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates across the state.

The association is waiting for guidance from the state about whether contact sports such as basketball and wrestling can begin on Jan. 4, as scheduled. The fall season for football, boys' lacrosse and volleyball, also considered by the state health department to be high-risk, was delayed until at least March.

If winter sports take place, there may be sectional competitions such as those held last month for soccer and cross country.