

The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 22, 2021

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Why Can't I Get a Vaccine?
Page 6



South Avenue Romance

They met in second grade, and married on Monday

By Alison Rooney

Corey Ellis and Tiana Wilkins both remember, as 7-year-olds, an exchange they had in a second-grade classroom at South Avenue Elementary in Beacon.

"You said something to me, and I said, 'What are you looking at?'" Corey says.

"I was looking at you because I thought you were super-funny and super-cute," Tiana recalls, "but then you embarrassed me!"

That was the spark of a romance that has spanned more than two decades and culminated in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day wedding.

The couple had hoped to be married at the school where they met, and where their daughter, Kaylynn, 6, is now a student. But the pandemic complicated getting permis-

(Continued on Page 14)



Tiana Wilkins and Corey Ellis with their daughter, Kaylynn, outside South Avenue school in Beacon, where they met in the second grade
Photo by Meredith Heuer



The FBI says the man in the gas mask in this photo taken at the Capitol is Jake Lang of Newburgh. He was arrested on Jan. 16.
Photo by Shannon Stapleton/Reuters

Newburgh Man Arrested by FBI

Accused of assaulting officers at Capitol during riot

By Chip Rowe

FBI agents on Saturday (Jan. 16) arrested a Newburgh man they say participated in the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6 and assaulted police officers.

Edward Jacob "Jake" Lang, 25, was detained at his home and charged with assaulting officers, civil disorder and violent entry. Four days earlier, a Beacon man, William Pepe, had been arrested and charged with unlawful entry after being photographed in the Rotunda of the building. Both cases are pending.

(Continued on Page 16)

Out There

A Park by Any Other Name

Galef calls to rename Trump State Park

By Brian PJ Cronin

Donald J. Trump isn't out of the woods yet.

With a looming impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate and ongoing investigations by the New York attorney general, the former president also may soon find his name removed from a local state park.

The Donald J. Trump State Park consists of the 282-acre Indian Hill section that straddles the Putnam-Westchester county line in Jefferson Valley and the 154-acre French Hill section in Yorktown Heights. They are 7 miles apart.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, noted that separation in a letter dated Jan. 15 addressed to the state parks department, calling for both parks to be renamed. "Like his park," she wrote, "Mr. Trump seeks to divide."

Galef contends that in light of Trump's second impeachment and his efforts to



New signage at Donald J. Trump State Park
Photo by B. Cronin

overturn the election, residents no longer feel comfortable visiting parks named for him. "His name will discourage the public from enjoying all our state has to offer," Galef wrote. "This is part of our democratic renewal."

(Continued on Page 17)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: ROGER PANETTA

By Brian PJ Cronin

Roger Panetta is a professor of history at Fordham University and a co-author of *The Hudson: An Illustrated Guide to the Living River*, which on Jan. 15 was released in its third edition. Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is hosting an online lecture series on the book that continues on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3. See clearwater.org.

What's new in the third edition?

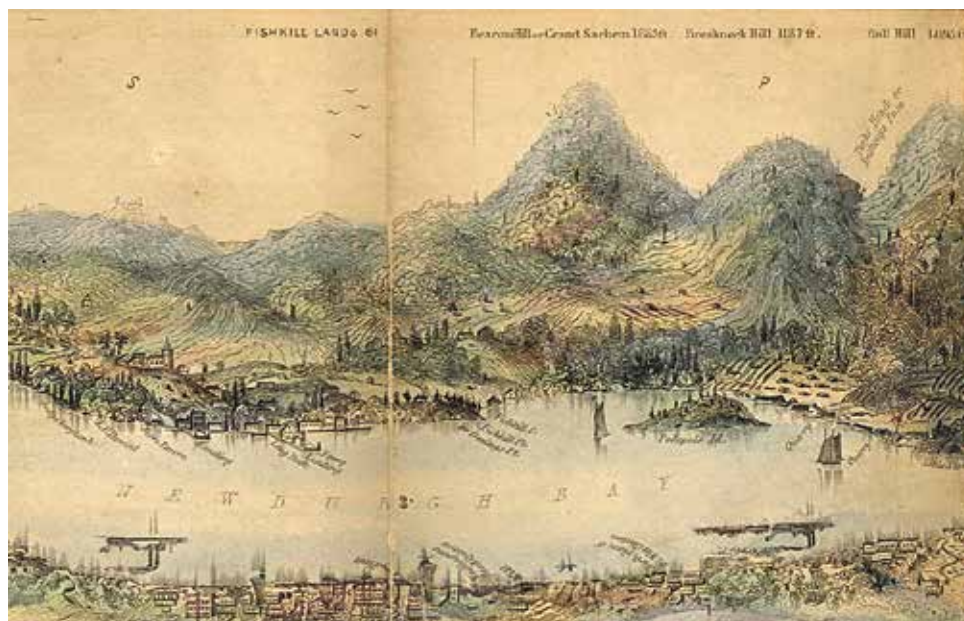
There's been a lot of new historical interpretation. We look at the river now — or at least I do — less as a conflictual place, where we have good guys versus bad guys. There's a much more nuanced sense about what the art of the Hudson River School means, about how the art is used as a tool, how our history of that has changed. Because that's the business of history, the revisions. It's the lifeblood of history, and the same is true of the river.

For example, if I'd had time, I would have written more about William Wade's 1847 panorama of the Hudson River, because I know more and my perspective has changed. But as Steve [Stanne, another co-author] says, that's not the intention. He keeps us focused by saying, "Our view is shallow, but wide." What we hope is that it invites people to look deeper.

Why was that 1847 panorama so important?

As the U.S. expanded, people wondered: In what way can I represent that vastness? There were panorama buildings in New York City. You climbed up the stairs, you stood in the middle of a platform and you looked around at the [painted] panorama. The idea was to make you think it was real, to fool your eye. People paid admission; it was a principal form of entertainment.

The 1847 panorama was a folded map, about 4 by 6 inches, that you could buy when you boarded a steamboat in Manhattan. It scrolled out to about 7 feet. As you went up the Hudson, you could use the panorama map to follow the river. It was based on a sketch of the river, both sides



Details from Wade's 1847 map showing Fishkill Landing and Beacon, Breakneck and Bull hills.



from the middle. Like the panoramas in buildings, his key was the horizon. He was helping America learn about America, which was very important, because you had immigrants coming into the country and they wanted everyone to have the same baseline of knowledge.

In the second edition, you wrote about how after the War of 1812, America turned to the landscape as something to unite the country. We are again at a tumultuous time. Does the landscape have the potential to unite us?

Yes. It has a long history of doing that.

For example, during the Depression, there was an explosion of books on the American landscape, about nature, including several about the Hudson River. The idea was: "Come to nature and you come to our origins. You touch the foundations. If you want to get over the anxieties of the Depression, take a trip to the Adirondacks." That was the goal of all the "see America" books: See who we are not by reading the history but by going back into nature, visibly feeling America.

On the 1847 map, Mount Beacon is referred to as Grand Sachem. Do you know why?

I don't. But if you look at the river, and river towns, and at the number of names associated with native populations, I'm always startled by the failure of the public, and myself, to connect those to native peoples. In the 1847 map, there's never much of a connection besides that name, even though he'll write: "This is where that battle in the American Revolution was." And he'll sketch it in, even though there may not be any sign of that in the landscape. So when he wants, he adds, and when he can't see, he forgets. I think there's a great forgetting. Where is the reckoning here? And it's going to come with the hidden history of the Hudson. Where is that? Where are the Black communities and native legacies?

What will that historical reckoning look like?

I don't know, but I know it's going to happen. As a historian, I can feel my brain has been tweaked in the past five years to ask questions that I didn't ask before, to be more sensitive to those things. And to assume I'm missing something. One of the things I love about the panorama is that you can study it and study it and always see new things. You never come to a set position, because it keeps revealing itself. If I look at it now I see different things than I saw five years ago. And I've been playing with the thing for 20 years.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What food or drink did you hate as a kid but love now?

“Brussel sprouts. As a kid, if I didn't eat them I got in trouble.”



~ Jay Hwang, Beacon

“I hated coffee, but now I love it. And I work at the Cold Spring Coffee House!”



~ Lidija Slokenbergs, Cold Spring

“Believe it or not, broccoli. Now I can't stop eating it.”



~ Angelo Broccoli, Cold Spring

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Police officers fend off members of a mob on Jan. 6.

Photo by Leah Millis/Reuters

How to Explain a Riot

Educators, parents tackle insurrection

By Leonard Sparks

Scared. Shocked. Disgusted. Those were the most common responses when, a day after a mob of rioters broke into the U.S. Capitol hoping to overturn the presidential election in favor of then-President Donald Trump, four dozen Haldane High School seniors were asked by teachers how they had felt while watching coverage of the insurrection.

Haldane High School Principal Julia Sniffen had mustered teachers on Zoom that morning to quickly plan a discussion about the riot in that day's history and social studies classes, which were being held virtually.

Knowing that "some students are going to come in having watched the news all night," Sniffen called the chair of the Social Studies Department and said that "we need to get together tomorrow morning before school."

In their classes, teachers played a clip from the PBS *NewsHour* coverage of the insurrection and also asked children to identify two credible news sources. "That's incredibly challenging when social media has such a presence," Sniffen said.

Teachers also asked their students to write about their emotional reactions to what they watched and their thoughts on what it means to be a citizen and the long-term impact of what happened, said Sniffen. Most of the school's students "knew what was going on," she said.

"It was important to provide some context as to what transpired and what happened — to educate them on finding trustworthy and reliable news sources and to state 'Here is what happened,' and from there, 'What is the historical importance?'" Sniffen said.

Robyn Moreno and Bernard Bunye, who co-chair the Haldane PTA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, shared tips online from Cultur.us, a site for "Black, Indigenous [and] people of color."

Bunye, who has a daughter in the first grade at Haldane and a son who will start school in the fall, said that he and Moreno "felt like we wanted parents who were just as lost as us" to have some guidance.

"When presented with something that is so out of the norm, in the digital age where our kids have so much access to current events and things, it can be impactful," he said.

The videos and pictures were frightening and ubiquitous. A man smashing a window with a shield stolen from a Capitol police officer and rioters rushing past barricades and shooting streams of pepper spray. The shooting of a California woman as she climbed through a broken window. Symbols of white supremacy and anti-Semitism; a noose and gallows erected outside.

Moreno, who has two daughters, ages 6 and 8, said she was trading texts with other

Tips for Parents

- Know the facts.
- Acknowledge that we don't have all the answers.
- Accept that there may be initial confusion.
- Keep it age-appropriate. Emotions and responses can vary.
- Don't wait for children to ask the questions. They don't always have the right language or emotional awareness.
- Offer hope.

Source: Cultur.us

“It was important to provide some context as to what transpired and what happened.

~ Haldane High School Principal Julia Sniffen

(Continued on Page 5)

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING



VIRGINIA SOLE-SMITH, COLD SPRING

“The Highlands Current's COVID coverage was indispensable in 2020. As a journalist myself, I'm pretty passionate about the need for strong local journalism, to share information, to hold our elected officials accountable and to tell our neighbors' stories. We're so lucky to have this resource in our community.”

“It's such a good paper!”

MARY COSTANTIN, ST. LOUIS, MO*

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The HIGHLANDS
Current

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The HIGHLANDS Current

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

January 22, 2021
Volume 10, Issue 4

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

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Police review

As someone who has been professionally and personally involved with policing and criminal justice reform for several decades, I was particularly interested in the recent debate by the Cold Spring trustees about our local police force ("Mayor, Trustee Clash Over Police Review," Jan. 15).

Is it policy over process, or the reverse? At the moment, it's neither. We need more data on what the Cold Spring Police Department does before we can discuss how well it is doing and what needs to change, if anything.

Some of the questions include: How many calls does the CSPD respond to monthly, and for what reasons? How many traffic tickets does it write weekly, and for what? How many arrests does it make annually, and for what reasons? Do the arrests end in convictions? Do the police collect demographics in these categories? Are there salient trends? Does recruitment jibe with the tasks at hand?

We could all learn a lot from these numbers, and then we can have a robust and helpful discussion about the public's perceptions and proper policies.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

I support the idea of an initial survey of our community to assess police reform. The relationship between the police and public they serve is foundational to their success, and a survey would allow the village to understand how residents relate to police officers. This provides the public not only an opportunity to raise any concerns, but to share what we value about the Police Department and its officers.

Lucas Groth, *Cold Spring*

It would be beneficial to reach out to the community now rather than at the end of the process. It's a reasonable course of action, demonstrated by the fact that neighboring towns such as Kent are conducting their reviews this way.

Lauren Groth, *Cold Spring*

The mayor referred to "putting the cart before the horse," but it's not clear what is the cart and what is the horse. If public opinion is not allowed to inform public policy, will policy stifle opinion? To me, a better analogy is walking and chewing gum at the same time. Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order was clear that "local government shall convene ... stakeholders in the community" when devel-

oping the reform plan.

His order was issued on June 12. Seven months later, village trustees are still debating how to begin. The April 1 deadline is not the deadline for reluctantly taking the first step. It is the date by which the local administration must have finished the process: collecting community input, drafting a plan to "reform and reinvent" the police, collecting community responses to the plan, revising it accordingly and passing it into law.

Given Cold Spring's failure to act so far, we can't waste more time. Let's walk (solicit public input with a neutral survey that encourages the expression of all points of view) and chew gum (work with the consultants hired by the village to research policy options).

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring*

Like former President Trump, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy seems to feel no ownership of the words he uses, nor does he admit to their impropriety. I was gobsmacked in learning of Merandy's position toward establishing policy as it relates to policing, which reeks of top-down imposition rather than the kind of process Gov. Cuomo has recommended, and which newcomers to the board of trustees, Kathleen Foley and Heidi Bender, seem to support and have experience with.

And then to read he used a profanity during the meeting and declined to apologize. One needs to hold those who don't hold themselves accountable, accountable. Brava, Trustee Bender and Trustee Foley, for your persistence!

Andrea Roth Kimmich, *Cold Spring*

The best thing that Cold Spring could do with regard to its unnecessary Police Department would be to follow Putnam Valley's lead and abolish it.

I will never understand why some residents feel that they need three police departments (village, sheriff and state police) to patrol their tiny, crime-free village. It would make perfect financial sense to get rid of this expensive budget line. If they seek public input on the Police Department, maybe they should ask residents if they even want one.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

I don't think it's unreasonable for the community to provide input sooner than later. I also think our mayor should exercise a little more patience with new perspectives being presented in an ever-growing and evolving community.

Patrick Biesemans, *Cold Spring*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Thanks to Drug World

In the confusion and frustration of the COVID-19 vaccine roll out, there's a bright spot that deserves to be mentioned. Heidi Snyder, the owner of Drug World in Cold Spring, took the initiative to secure as many doses as she could for our community and, along with Mark Snyder and Father Steve Schunk from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, organized a team of community volunteers to administer it ("Busy Signals for Vaccine," Jan. 15).

As a result, hundreds of Philipstown seniors and others received this lifesaving medication on Jan. 15 and 16 at a pop-up clinic at St. Mary's. Given the highly constricted supply, Heidi wasn't able to get enough doses for everybody. But she got as many as she could. Although there's more to do, Heidi is a person who's going out and getting it done. Her efforts are just one more example of the importance of small business in our community.

John and Eva Humbach, *Cold Spring*

In the midst of all that we have weathered during the pandemic, I had the privilege to see how a small group with a vision can come together to bring hope and heart to our community.

Thanks to the initiative of Janice McConville, Kevin McConville, Heidi Snyder, Mark Snyder and Vinny Tamagna, Drug World established a site and administered vaccines. I volunteered to help and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I am not medically trained but was able to contribute to the administrative tasks. The operation was well-designed, well-organized and flawlessly executed. Those who came for their appointment were appreciative of the care and comfort provided, as well as the easy process. To see this small team of volunteers in action is truly something to behold.

What was most noticeable, however, was not so much what is going on — distributing vaccines — but the feeling that everyone is in this together. We are all here to help each other move forward and this is an important step to getting us there.

Thank you to all the people in the community who have been so wonderful to meet during your appointments. I can't wait for my next volunteer day.

Stacey Gibson, *Garrison*

Capitol arrest

As horrifying as the events of Jan. 6 were, I can't help feeling a bit sorry for this young fellow ("Beacon Man Arrested by FBI," Jan. 15). If William Pepe helped organize the pathetic insurrection or engaged in looting and vandalism, he should face the music. But if he was simply swept up in a moment, I would hope the mistakes he made don't ruin his life.

It is important that we not simply condemn Mr. Pepe but make an effort to help him and others like him to understand that what happened at the Capitol was wrong and that the motivation for it was terribly misguided. Joe Biden won

the election, fair and square. Your country is not being stolen from you. Democracy means living with the consequences of losing an election.

The burden of citizenship is to lose with grace and humility while working to win the next round. No single campaign or candidate is more important than allegiance to the system of laws that must govern a democratic system if it is to survive. Those who advocate breaking those laws are not patriots, and the result of their actions is not freedom.

Democracy is not easy. It requires a long-term commitment to the hard work of convincing a majority of the people about the direction the country should take. Mr. Pepe, I urge you to take a look at your actions, admit your mistakes and rejoin society with a commitment to being a good citizen.

Rob Abbot, *Croton*

As tempting as it is to be gracious and turn the other cheek, did you listen to the speakers at the rally — including then-President Trump — before the armed insurrection that killed five people on Jan. 6? The crowd was deliberately whipped into a violent frenzy and directed to storm the Capitol before it arrived that morning, and the rally speakers gave them marching orders.

I have no sympathy or kindness for people who have been brainwashed to believe that at least half of this country are baby killers threatening to turn the U.S. into a socialist state in the style of so many South American countries we have broken by meddling in their politics. These followers have heard people refute their ideas and they don't want to hear it. They have made their choices clear and they should face the full force of the justice system.

Law enforcement locked up hundreds of protesters during the Black Lives Matter movement this summer, and I did not flinch then, either. Publicly fighting for what you believe in is a bold move with potentially fatal consequences, and this young fellow needs to learn that lesson, too. And if he gets a felony on his record with jail time, I will not shed a tear for the insurrectionist who attempted a coup intended to overturn our democratic process. He should have run for office, not violently stormed the Capitol.

Steve Smith, *Beacon*

Getting the vaccine

I would love to know where and how appointments were made for COVID-19 vaccinations— and how the people who got them were notified. I was on the Putnam County Health Department site every day this week and there was no information. I talked to County Executive MaryEllen Odell's office yesterday (Jan. 13) and was told they did not have a shipment or any information yet about vaccines or appointments.

I have been on the state site regularly since Saturday and the Philipstown Recreation Center was never (and still isn't) listed as a location. Yet today (Jan. 14), a

(Continued on Page 6)

Showdown on Capitol Hill

Nicolle Wallace is an anchor for MSNBC. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney is a Democrat who lives in Philipstown and whose district includes the Highlands. Rep. Lauren Boebert is a first-term Republican who represents a district in Colorado and has boasted that she carries a Glock.

Early in the morning of Jan. 6, a few hours before the riot at the Capitol, Boebert tweeted, "Today is 1776." On Jan. 12, after the Capitol Police had installed metal detectors, Boebert set one off but refused to allow officers to search her bag. A handful of other Republican representatives also set off the alarm or stepped around the devices.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

WALLACE: We heard from one of your Democratic colleagues [Rep. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey], who shared with her constituents last night there was a tour the day before for some of the insurrectionists. Can you confirm that, or what can you tell us about the state of the investigation?

MALONEY: I can confirm that. I don't have firsthand knowledge of it, but I spoke to a member who saw it personally and he described it with some alarm. Some of our new colleagues, the same ones, of course, who believe in conspiracy theories and who want to carry guns into the House Chamber, who today — today — have been yelling at Capitol Police. I saw it earlier when I went to vote. Shoving Capitol police who a week ago right now were risking their lives to save ours. This conduct is beyond the pale and it extends to some of this interaction with the very people who attacked the Capitol and that's why the issue of making sure every member of Congress now goes through a metal detector, which has never happened before, is so important for the security of the inauguration and for our proceedings. And it's a sad reality that we find ourselves at a place where the enemy is within and we cannot trust our own colleagues.

WALLACE: Can you tell us who the member is?

MALONEY: I'd rather not disclose it but I'd be happy to send them your way.

WALLACE: Please do.

MALONEY: If you mean the member giving the tour, again, I want to make sure I know the facts, but I think you'll find that's going



Maloney



Boebert

to be a real story.

Thursday, Jan. 14

In a letter, tweet and press release, Boebert accused Maloney of making "false and baseless conspiracy claims about me that led to death threats and hundreds of vile phone calls and emails. His comments were extremely offensive, shameful and dangerous" and "an embarrassment to the House of Representatives." She condemned his "dangerous disinformation campaign" and "lies and partisan behavior that showed a lack of respect for the safety of my team and me."

MALONEY REPLIED ON TWITTER: "Um, I've never said your name in public, @RepBoebert. Never. Not once. (If you're going to be a gun nut, you probably shouldn't go off half-cocked.) I'll tweet the transcript so you can see... but that might be like 'a fact,' so might not help you."

BOEBERT TWEETED IN RESPONSE: "A thousand apologies @RepSeanMaloney. I'm glad you clarified you were not making any remarks about me whatsoever. Please clarify that with the people making death threats and also MSNBC so they can set the record straight."

Riot (from Page 3)

parents while watching the news coverage, which "looked right out of a movie." She was concerned that it could create "a lot of fear in a kid if they happen to see it."

Two days after the riot, the National Association of School Psychologists said in a statement that children are "looking to adults for reassurance and help making sense of the chaos."

"Help them express their feelings and concerns in productive ways. Help them — and ourselves — genuinely understand

the history and current realities of racism in this country," it said. "We must do this, because complicity and complacency have contributed to the current state of our country, and silence is not an option."

At the Garrison School, Superintendent Carl Albano notified parents that he and Principal Allison Emig expected teachers "to cover this historically significant event during class in a developmentally appropriate way." Christine Valvano, the social-studies teacher, led the discussions with middle school students, said Krista DiDi-ego, a counselor with the district.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

press release named the Rec Center as a vaccination site for Jan. 14 for people who have appointments. All on the same day! Something stinks. There are elderly people in our community who need vaccines. Why aren't they being notified about how to get an appointment?

Suzanne Murray, *via Facebook*

Trying to get the vaccine is worse than a 14-day quarantine.

Carol Herring, *via Facebook*

Why isn't Philipstown notifying seniors? We need more organization. The vaccine doesn't do any good unless it is injected into those most vulnerable. I am 74 years old and have been on the phone constantly and have signed up wherever I can. The Putnam website is of no use and the same for the state website. How many seniors out there have no idea how to use a computer? The town knows who the seniors are from the tax roll. They should be offering assistance.

Marian Monteleone, *via Facebook*

You reported that people got vaccinated at a clinic hosted by Dutchess County on Jan. 15 and at a clinic held on Jan. 14 at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Where did people register to get an appointment? How did they know how they should register to get an appointment in these centers?

As it happened, it was by word-of-mouth that we learned how and where to get an appointment. Many people don't have the word-of-mouth connection. In fact, older people who are not computer-literate or don't speak English or those with no computer are kept out of the loop. These are the people who need it the most. You must not only inform us of vaccination progress but more important of the channels by which people can get appointments. Every community center or library should have a volunteer who can help people register to get an appointment.

Pascale Berner, *Cold Spring*

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends following the model adopted by Florida [prioritizing residents age 65 or older], which has 3 million more people than New York does. Gov. Cuomo had to dispose or trash vaccinations due to his ridiculously strict guidelines.

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

Putnam sheriff

Putnam County's Republican legislators are continuing their years-long effort to undermine Sheriff Robert Langley. Most recently, they've been going after him for trying to keep his deputies and staff safe after COVID-19 exposures ("Should Deputies Work After Virus Exposure?" Dec. 25).

This is nuts. In a county where infection rates continue to climb, legislators and the county executive should be working with and supporting Sheriff Langley so the offi-

cers and employees he oversees can stay healthy and continue protecting Putnam's residents. Instead of spending their time dreaming up new ways to hamstring the sheriff, legislators and the executive should focus on responding to this health crisis in ways that benefit all the residents of Putnam.

Ned Rauch, *Garrison*
Rauch is vice chair of the Philipstown Democratic Committee.

Affordable housing

I'm fine with four-story buildings on Main Street in Beacon and even four or more off Main, such as on Wolcott/Route 9D ("Reporter's Notebook: Does Beacon Have Enough Affordable Housing?" Jan. 15). That being said, besides trying to limit them based on historical zoning, why not add a restriction that they must include 50 percent below-market units for 20 years? The city gets what it wants with more affordable units and the developer gets what they want with a four- or more story building.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

I have a workforce unit and I am so grateful to be able to live and work in my community. I facilitate a community-based housing program for people with mental illness. Without workforce housing, I would be in a very different situation.

Jackie O'Halloran, *via Facebook*

State budget

It is no secret that New York is facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis. While we certainly need responsible fiscal help from Washington — which I have joined my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in actively advocating for throughout the pandemic — the reality is that New York had a spending problem long before the COVID-19 crisis struck ("Governor Presents Agenda for 2021," Jan. 15).

While I was heartened to hear that the state fully recognizes the need to help support the industries that it hit the hardest with its closures, like bars, restaurants and the arts, I was sorely disappointed to see that the governor's budget presentation on Tuesday (Jan. 19) came without a single mention of the need to seriously reevaluate our spending. I was even more disturbed to hear mention of legislative pay raises — something that should be off the table when the state is facing a fiscal crisis.

Now, more than ever, we have to redouble our efforts to cut waste, increase efficiency and make smart spending the top priority. The legacy we leave for our children and grandchildren in the wake of this devastating pandemic will depend on the decisions we make today, starting with this budget. We cannot mortgage their futures to pay for the decisions made solely by the governor over the past 10 months.

Sue Serino, *Albany*
Serino is a Republican state senator whose district includes the Highlands.



Why Can't I Get the Vaccine?

By Leonard Sparks

At this early stage, it's a matter of supply and demand: Much demand, much less supply.

The federal government is rationing the COVID-19 vaccine doses it has purchased. The limited doses that New York State receives are then rationed to its counties.

"The federal administration essentially opened up a floodgate while cutting our supply — leading to confusion, frustration and dashed hopes," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Monday (Jan. 18).

Cuomo noted on Jan. 16 that while more than 7 million New York residents are eligible to receive the vaccine, the state only expected this past week to receive 250,000 doses from the federal government.

As of Thursday, about 976,000 state residents had received a first dose and 108,500 had received a second dose, according to the state's vaccine tracker. The Mid-Hudson region had received 111,925 doses and administered 94,191 of them, or 84 percent.

Cuomo said the state was on pace to run out of vaccines today (Jan. 22). On Monday, he wrote Pfizer to ask if New York can buy its vaccine directly, bypassing the federal

distribution program. But Pfizer responded that it does not have approval from the federal government to sell directly to states.

Because of the limited supply, the only places getting vaccines now are hospitals, local health departments, some pharmacies that signed up in advance, such as Drug World in Cold Spring, and some community health centers such as Cornerstone in Newburgh and Sun River Health in Peekskill. Hospitals are supposed to prioritize health care workers while local health departments focus on essential workers and pharmacies on people 65 or older.

Last week, Cuomo announced that New York's "Am I Eligible" website and hotline (833-697-4829) would only book appointments for the state-run mass-vaccination sites, which include the Westchester County Center in White Plains and the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City. Even residents who manage to book an appointment should expect a wait of 14 weeks or longer for an appointment with the current rate of vaccination distribution, Cuomo said.

Residents looking for appointments at non-state sites — local health departments, hospitals, pharmacies, urgent care centers, etc. — have to contact those providers directly, he said.

New York residents are allowed to get vaccinated outside of their home counties. As of Thursday afternoon, the state's "Am I Eligible" website said appointments were available at two of its clinics: the Field

(Continued on Page 7)

How Many Are Eligible?

Dutchess County had vaccinated about 1,300 people as of Jan. 20, and Putnam County and Drug World in Cold Spring had vaccinated about 1,100. Here are the estimated numbers of people eligible, based on census and school data.

	DUTCHESS	PUTNAM
65 and older	53,000	18,000
First responders	2,900	2,600
Teachers	3,000+	1,300+
Health care	10,680	3,900

Where to Check Online

- drugworld.com
- dutchessny.gov/covidvaccine
- putnamcountyny.com/covid-19-vaccine-information
- covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov

Hope Comes To Battered Nursing Homes

But facilities struggle with vaccine refusals

By Leonard Sparks

The pandemic brought sickness, death and isolation to the state’s roughly 85,000 nursing home residents. At the same, time, about 15 percent of nursing home residents in the Mid-Hudson Region, and 34 percent of staff, have refused the vaccines, in many cases citing safety concerns. That, in turn, has created concerns among family members that the ability of nursing homes to again allow visitors will be delayed. By the end of the third week of May, about two and a half months into the pandemic,

Wingate at Beacon had reported 36 cases of COVID-19 among its residents, along with 87 suspected cases. Eighteen residents have died. The Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon was also hard-hit. As of Wednesday (Jan. 20), 80 residents had been infected and 14 had died since the pandemic began, and 87 staff members had been infected, according to data posted by the facility on its website. Dutchess County nursing homes overall have had 84 confirmed COVID-19 deaths and nine presumed deaths as of Monday (Jan. 18), and Putnam County had 18 confirmed nursing home deaths, according to the state Department of Health. Now, two vaccines have brought hope for residents, their families and staff.



Fourteen residents have died of COVID-19 at the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon. Photo by L. Sparks

At least 105,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines had been administered to residents and staff at the state’s 611 nursing homes as of Monday, according to state officials. CVS and Walgreens employees are administering the shots under a federal program for nursing homes. About 7,000 of the 10,289 nursing home residents in the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties, had been vaccinated as of Monday, according to the state, along with 6,120 of 16,000 staff members. But significant percentages of residents and staff have been refusing the vaccine, whose creation and distribution has been accompanied by misinformation and concerns about safety. About 1,500 residents at nursing homes in the Mid-Hudson Region, 15 percent of

the total, have refused a vaccination, the third-highest rate among the state’s 10 regions. About 34 percent of staff, or 5,513 people, have also refused, the third-highest regional rate in the state. The vaccinations not only protect residents and staff from becoming seriously ill with the virus but represent a step toward relaxing bans on visitors. One study concluded that nursing home residents have died not only from the virus but because of “neglect or failure to thrive” because of COVID isolation, said Richard Mollot, executive director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition, an advocacy organization for patients and families. “Human beings need to be touched in their lives, and when you’re not touched for 10 months, you die,” said Mollot.

(Continued on Page 15)

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
6,670 (+603)
New Cases in Philipstown: **72**

Tests administered:
130,444 (+7,842)

Percent positive:
5.1 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:
75 (+5)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
17,182 (+1,693)
Active Cases in Beacon: **90**

Tests administered:
426,646 (+23,121)

Percent positive:
4.0 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:
324 (+39)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Jan. 20, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Jan. 14.

Vaccine (from Page 6)

House at SUNY Potsdam in St. Lawrence County and Plattsburgh International Airport in Clinton County. In a statement on Wednesday (Jan. 20), Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell noted that the county has more than 30,000 people who are eligible for the vaccine. At the same time, the county Health Department received 200 vaccines last week for essential workers and Drug World received 200 vaccines for seniors. “If you can’t get an appointment for a vaccine, that’s why,” Odell said. The county Health Department has vaccinated about 1,000 people in five weeks, she said, but, because it is only authorized to vaccinate essential workers, it does not schedule appointments online, she noted. “We recognize there is concern about the wait for vaccines,” said Dr. Michael Neshei-

wat, the Putnam commissioner of health, in a statement. “One thing that is important to realize is this was not completely unexpected. We need to look at vaccine implementation as the long-term project it is — more of a long-distance race and not an all-out sprint. It is an enormous undertaking and not physically possible to roll out large numbers of vaccines in an instant.” Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday that Dutchess’ allotment for the week was 600 doses, and that the 600 appointments were booked within “moments” of the announcement they were available. He noted that residents can subscribe to email updates on appointment availability at dutchessny.gov/COVIDvaccine. The county has received more than 7,000 calls about vaccinations in the past week. “Please don’t call the health department looking for an appointment,” he said.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

COVID-19 School Update

Q&A with Beacon and Haldane



BEACON: FEB. 3, 7:00-7:30PM
Live Zoom event with Superintendent Matt Landahl



HALDANE: FEB. 10, 7:00-7:30PM
Live Zoom event with Superintendent Philip Benante

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations



To All of Our Community

We are so grateful for your continuous support during this past year of uncertainty. Because of you we have been able to provide food to all those who came to the door and will be able to do so again in 2021. Apologies for anyone who might have been forgotten, your gift was not.

- Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church

St. Phillips Episcopal Church

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maloney

Carlie Hughes

Julie Erickson

Ann Sims

Boy Scout Troop 437

Thomas and Erica Kivel

American Legion George A. Casey Post 275

James Harvey Hustis Post 2362 V.F.W.

Rich Garfein

Hudson Hills Restaurant

Ben and Art Hotaling

Glynwood Farms

Clare Staples

Girl Scouts of the Hudson Highlands

Chris Radko

Lisa O'Rourke

Heather Schroeder

Donna Pidala

Eric and Carly Arnold

Jack and Linda Weinstein

Lisa

L. Kissack

Owen and Z. Shawn Sullivan

Friends of St. Philips Episcopal Church

Fire Bread Company

Theresa and Ralph Carlson Sr.

Haldane Central School

Peter Mell

Tom Goodrich

Richard and Madeline Shields

Anonymous Donors who gave to the Town Board who then provided Food Town Cards
- Long Haul Farm

Ms. Cindy Cohen

Second Chance Foods

Santa Warren

Barry Rosen and Sandra Scott

Joseph and Carolyn Ricapito

Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy

Hammond Family

Susan and Joseph Fitzgerald

Linda Lomanaco and Robert T. Hansler

Joan Crouch

Seth Guinness

Mr. Nastasi

Melissa Green and Tim Hall

Maryanne Robinson

Maris Helbock

Valerie Bok

Joseph Lomanaco

Marie Early

Desmond Fish Library

Paula Coleman

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Allen

Ginny Pidala

John Merante

Davie and Maggie Gordon

Barbara and Ray Moore

Wendy De Giglio

Karen Tangen

Folkes Home Services

May Brawley Hill

Bev and Bruce Taylor

Cat Guthrie

Delmar Karlen in honor of Irene Karlen

WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Volunteers of the Philipstown Food Pantry



A shanty discovered in the Nelsonville Woods has since been demolished but the debris remains. Photo by Michael Bowman

Nelsonville Tears Down Shanty in Woods, Plans for March Election

Trustees Pedlosky and Mechaley will not run for new terms

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville officials this week dismantled a shanty in the village woods and laid plans for a March election that promises to bring two new faces to the Village Board.

At the board’s monthly meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 19), Mayor Mike Bowman said that a resident reported a hideaway in the village-owned Nelsonville Woods that appeared to contain evidence that it was being used for drinking and drug use.

“We went up and checked it and dismantled it,” the mayor said, although “probably a good 10-yard Dumpster’s worth of garbage” remained. “It’s going to take kind of a Herculean effort to pull this stuff out.”

(Continued on Page 18)

Four-Story Beacon Project Could Get OK from Council

City also condemns Capitol attack

By Jeff Simms

A Main Street development proposal in Beacon appears close to receiving the special-use permit it needs from the City Council to build four floors, although the project must still get its final approval from the Planning Board.

The proposal, a mixed-use building at 416-420 Main St., was the subject of the first of two public hearings held by the council via videoconference on Tuesday (Jan. 19).

If approved, it would encompass the existing Kitchen & Coffee cafe, adding office space on the second and third floors and a single apartment on a recessed fourth floor. A two-story live/work residence would be built at the back of the parcel, with a public mini-park in between.

The council now requires Main Street projects seeking four floors to include at

least one public benefit in exchange for the special-use permit; in this case, the park and office space would satisfy the condition.

In response to comments during a hearing last month, the developer’s representatives said Tuesday they had more than doubled the size of the park, to 4,231 square feet, and that it will feature a “rolling lawn” with low-maintenance “eco-grasses.” In addition, the live/work building has been reduced in size, and decorative plantings have been added along the perimeter of the proposed four-story building, which also includes a “green roof.”

Two residents spoke during the hearing Tuesday. Both also commented last month and continued to oppose the project.

The proposal is “unacceptable in both scale and design,” and its green space is deceptive, with only a third likely to be available to the public, said Theresa Kraft.

Council members, however, seemed pleased with the proposed changes during

(Continued on Page 18)

The Calendar

Fragments of Personal History

Painter finds inspiration in snapshots

By Alison Rooney

When Elise Church begins a painting, she hasn't fixed on an idea. "I like to catch myself off guard," the artist explains, "It always starts by looking through a stack of photos. Often I'll take a piece of paper and block out what I'm not interested in. What's left I cut up, or frame in some way, and that becomes what I'm going to paint."

The results of Church's most recent explorations — a series of large paintings called *Blue Like an Orange* — will be exhibited at the Garrison Art Center starting Saturday (Jan. 23), with a socially distanced reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

A photo album from the 1960s that Church discovered at the Brooklyn Flea in 2013 has influenced her work ever since. "It looked like it could have been my own album, although it clearly featured a boy who is maybe a few years older than me," she says. The photos depict rites of passage such as getting a dog and a first car.

"I looked at it and thought, 'Am I really going to spend \$80 on this?' But it was beckoning me, and I just had to have it," Church recalls. "I would pore over every page for years afterward. It started this path for me." Church has since found other random scrapbooks from the 1960s that she uses as source material.

Church does not paint scenes from the photos. Instead, she deconstructs and rebuilds them. "I always cut the subject out," she says. The remaining fragments inspire the paintings, which are often done on household linen or other fabrics.

Once the fragments morph into paintings, it's hard to discern the inspiration. "The less recognizable, the better," she says. "I work intuitively and directly."

"Most people talk about the color and the shapes, in which case I describe how they're just cut from the pictures and I'm not interested in corners, in 90 degrees; I'm interested in how they work in the space," Church says. "In the Art Center show, the pieces will be mostly unframed and placed up high and on the floor with the idea of engaging with the space and navigating around them."

Church moved around a lot as a child and says she has few of her own childhood photos. Her art "is retracing that time through other people's photographs. I have a giant Ziploc bag with heads and bodies [cut from found photos] — I can't seem to throw them away."

The personal photos she does have from the 1960s and '70s have "such a wonderful color palette: fuchsia, oranges, fantastically loud." The colors changed after her mother married a man from Bermuda. "I realized at some point that my palette is from growing up there: the blues, the pinks, the connections with water," Church says. Most of her time now is spent in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, where she lives, and Dumbo, where she has long shared a studio space.

A Skidmore College graduate, Church spent three years in Paris as a young adult, where she studied and worked in graphic design. On the heels of the 2008 recession, seeking a steadier income, Church studied dental lab technology at the New York City College of Technology and learned to work with ceramics to build crowns and dentures.

At her first dental job, she was asked if she could mix colors, because the practice needed someone to create facial prosthetics, or anaplastology. That is now her specialty.



"Cloaked"

"When I make a silicone prosthesis, it has to be an exact color match, and precise anatomical form — there's no room for 'Ah, a little drip here, not a straight line there,'" Church says. "That technical skill, say to make an ear, is exacting and it takes tight observation [and] concentration, which relates back to when I started out in school as a painter. Also, there's this irony in that I cut away any human form when I'm looking for imagery to paint, and here I am giving someone their form back."

The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison's Landing. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday. *Blue Like an Orange* will run concurrently with Mison Kim's solo exhibition of works on paper. Both shows continue through Feb. 28. See garrisonartcenter.org.



"Globe"



"Fruit Bowl Poinsettia"



"Cake"



A table in Elise Church's studio holds the fragments she builds her paintings on.



"Woolly"



Elise Church in her studio

Photos provided

Mouths to Feed

Something from (Almost) Nothing

By Celia Barbour

A handful of times in my cooking life I've experienced what I've come to think of as loaves-and-fishes moments:



Moments when there was hardly anything remaining in the cupboard; when someone said, "There's literally nothing to make for supper." And yet somehow we sat down an hour or two later not only to sustenance, but to a really wonderful meal.

I suppose I could instead call these my necessity-is-a-mother moments, except that I never felt as if I invented the resulting dishes. They arrived instead like gifts, surprising even me.

This potato cake is a favorite from among them. The first time I made it was on a tiny, 60-year-old gas stove using potatoes and onions that had likewise seen better days. Forgotten, neglected, they were the only foods left in the farmhouse, apart from a few random condiments.

But considering that said farmhouse was situated in a meadow on the edge of the White Mountain National Forest, a half hour from the nearest grocery store, and that the afternoon sunlight just then was incompatible with spending even two minutes in a car,

I was determined to make do. A dairy just down the hill sold eggs and cheddar; some herbs grew by the rock wall. Done.

I didn't realize, as I cooked, that I was recklessly mixing up culinary traditions. My filler ingredients were a nod to the Tortilla Espanola, a dish composed of layered potato and onion slices bound by eggs and often served room temperature, as tapas. ("Tortilla" translates as "little cake," and, in Spain, the word refers to this dish rather than to the burrito and taco wrappers we know by the same name.) My technique, meanwhile, borrowed from the Italian frittata, which traditionally includes various combinations of sauteed vegetables, meats, herbs and cheese, and is finished under a broiler. As for the cheddar? I confess that idea probably came from a cowboy-style skillet breakfast of hash browns and eggs I'd had as a kid.

Another thing I didn't realize, as I pottered around the kitchen on that late summer afternoon, was that one of the people I was cooking for hated eggs. Not just a little bit; they made her retch. This was my aunt-in-law Fourgie, one of my favorite people in the whole world, and since childhood, she hadn't been able to so much as smell an egg without her throat seizing up.

A more sensitive cook might have noticed the growing urgency to her politeness:

"I'd be happy to drive into town," she offered.

"It's OK."

"No, really. I don't mind."

"I'm good."

"Well, but—"

I cooked on, in blissful ignorance. And that night, after dinner — after the wine was drunk, the ice cream (procured from that same nearby dairy) consumed, and the plates cleared — Fourgie confessed her life-long egg aversion. I was mortified. But, she admitted, this was the first egg-based dish she'd not only tolerated but actually loved. To this day, she still brings it up.

Since then, I've done research, consulted recipes and made various iterations of this potato cake at home, more carefully and authentically. But my family and I still prefer this mixed-up version, which borrows a few ideas from one tradition and a few from another, and throws in a dash of the magic that always hides at the bottom of an empty cupboard.

“My filler ingredients were a nod to the Tortilla Espanola, a dish composed of layered potato and onion slices bound by eggs and often served room temperature, as tapas.”



Photo by Henry Weed

Tortatta Farmyola

This recipe borrows the Spanish technique of poaching the potatoes and onions in a cup of olive oil, which you then drain off (and can strain, save and re-use). It results in a meltingly wonderful texture. But you can instead sauté the vegetables in less oil, frittata-style; just be sure the potatoes are cooked through and the onions caramelized before adding the egg mixture.

1 cup olive oil (see headnote)

3 cloves garlic

1½ pounds Yukon gold or other medium-textured potatoes*

1 large onion*

Salt and pepper

Leaves from 1 sprig fresh rosemary, minced

8 eggs*

4 ounces sharp provolone, grated

2 ounces parmesan, grated

Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Warm the olive oil in a 12-inch cast iron skillet over low heat. Add the garlic cloves and leave them alone to poach gently while you prepare the rest of the ingredients (remove them if they start to turn dark brown).

Peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Slice the onion in half lengthwise then lay each half flat, and thinly slice into half-rings.

When the garlic is golden, remove from the oil and set aside. Raise the heat to medium, add the sliced potatoes and onion and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Once the oil starts to shimmer, reduce the heat to the lowest setting and allow the vegetables to poach until soft, about 20 minutes, turning them gently once or twice as needed.

Meanwhile, mash together the rosemary and caramelized garlic. Break the eggs into a large bowl and whisk well, then mix three-quarters of the provolone, the rosemary-garlic paste and salt and pepper into the egg mixture.

When the potatoes and onions are cooked, pour off most of the olive oil. Raise the heat to medium, add the egg-cheese mixture and allow to cook until the edges start to set, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer to the heated oven and cook until the middle barely wobbles, 12 to 15 minutes. Sprinkle the remaining provolone and Parmesan over the surface and set the pan under a broiler just until the top turns golden and begins to bubble. Serve warm or at room temperature.

*This recipe can be easily adapted to accommodate different proportions of onions and potatoes — aim for between 2 and 2½ pounds combined total — and anywhere from 6 to 10 eggs.

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



Sat. + Sun. Jan. 23 + 24 and continuing

ASSORTED VISIONS:

The Beacon Photography Group

26 photographers' work on display

Saturdays + Sundays until Jan. 30 – 1 to 5 pm



D. Wood

J. Noack

C. Gould

Sun. Jan. 24 – 8 pm

STREAMING: Piano duo

ALESSIO BAX and LUCILLE CHUNG



Presented by
ALIVEmusica
recorded at the
Howland Center

Stream at http://howlandmusic.org/ALIVEmusica_Stream5.html

Thurs. Jan. 28 – 8 pm

LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR

The music and musicians of the Hudson Valley

Featuring RoseAnn Fino, Dan Zlotnick

and hosts Annalyse & Ryan

Tix: TheValleyHour.com



AND MORE

Streamed concerts are being planned for your enjoyment during January and February

Sat. Feb. 6, 8 pm – ANTHEM: Jeremy Schonfeld in concert

Coming in February – In Our Lifetime,

African American Art Show

Coming in March – Howlin' at the Howland

with singer Tara O'Grady

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

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
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Cookies for Good

Garrison entrepreneur develops 'social ventures'

By Alison Rooney

Bryan Janeczko, who lives in Garrison with his partner, Terry Young, and their 6-year-old son, is a social-venture entrepreneur. His most recent firm, Nunbelievable Cookies (nunbelievable.com), donates meals to food pantries for every cookie sold.

Were you that kid who always came up with money-making ideas?

I turned to entrepreneurship out of necessity when I was entering high school. I was too young to get a job at McDonald's, so I got a paper route and sold candy bars at school. I built a network with students selling at other schools. It worked great for a semester, but then the principal called me in. He said I had to stop because "it could lead you down a path to sell other things that we don't want you to." When I turned 16, I got a job in fast food so I could save for college.

What was the first big lightbulb idea?

NuKitchen. I had my MBA from New York University and was working for Morgan Stanley. I realized that there were many busy professionals like me running around and not eating healthily. You could never know what ingredients were in takeout food. I had spent time traveling in Europe, where I became aware of the Mediterranean diet. A business partner and I created an online model in which breakfast, lunch and dinner could be delivered to you any day of the week.

It was the first local online order system for meal deliveries, and it grew it into a multimillion-dollar business. We partnered with different organizations, but particularly with women's housing and economic development in the Bronx, helping the women eat healthier. We operated it as a for-profit business that folded in nonprofit elements.

Eventually we sold the company to Nutri-system. After the sale, it became clear to me that my mission was "social venture," that is, doing good while running a business, and how important that aspect is in attracting and retaining talent. I firmly believe this is the business model for the future. If you buy something, you want to know that your dollar has purpose.

What's the story behind Nunbelievable?

Over the last couple of years, I've been identifying investment opportunities and putting together business models for backers. One of those backers brought the Nunbelievable story and name to me [the brand is inspired by a group of San Francisco nuns who run a soup kitchen]. We launched in 2019 with four varieties, including gluten-free double chocolate. We have two more coming soon: a sugar-free, keto-friendly snickerdoodle and chocolate chip. Some of our cookies are snack-size, including a shortbread made with baobab from Africa, which has a subtle, tangy, citrusy taste. We're testing the business model, and whether it's scalable, as well as retail. We just began selling through Walmart.com.

Because Nunbelievable is a food brand, we work with food banks to provide meals and figure out how to get people out of soup kitchens. Building a brand that's sustainable means the bigger we become, the more we can do. One of our charities, House of Mercy, has a soup kitchen and many other services: shelter, clothing, drug addiction services, a plethora. The root may be food insecurity, but we can give them a leg up in other ways.

Is there an entrepreneurial personality?

Yes, but there are variations. There are idea generators who have the resiliency to see them to fruition. There are problem-solvers who figure out how someone else's idea can serve a need. A third type acts out of economic necessity. That was me. I wanted to buy things and pay for college, and entrepreneurship was a path to economic independence. One might fall into all three, or just one of the three. The critical thing is, no one can do it alone.

Entrepreneurship does inevitably take someone who is on the riskier side of the spectrum. For instance, some of my darkest days were about a year or so into NuKitchen. I was living in a fourth-floor walk-up in Hell's Kitchen. I had liquidated my 401K. I realized my calling was social venture, but I wasn't a foodie or a techie. We were losing money. I got a loan from



Bryan Janeczko, holding a variety of Nunbelievable cookies. Photos provided

the New York City Investment Fund that I had to personally guarantee. Those kinds of decisions stem from a combination of things, including calculating risk. Later in life, I wouldn't have done it.

How are you enjoying life in Philipstown?

We're loving it. We bought our home in early 2016. With the birth of our son, we moved here for the quality of life — the hiking, fresh air, the friendly people and a commutable distance. It's such a wonderful community. It's all new to me; I grew up in suburban Milwaukee — not the part of Wisconsin with the rolling hills and farms.

Any other ideas waiting to hatch?

There's so much one can do in the world! Serving others is a lifelong choice. We're trying to instill that idea in our son. It can be hard convincing him that, "Hey, you have toys you're not using and maybe other people can use and enjoy them." We try to make it an experience, having fun packing them up. Also, I try to meditate every day, and sometimes he participates in the giving-thanks closing. That's a beautiful thing to see. I hope the practice will stick with him.



Shelley Boris

Cook for a Cause

A social venture called Hudson Valley Eats, in which restaurants work with nonprofit organizations that tackle hunger, organized a program called Cooking for a Cause that will include, on Feb. 9, a session with Shelley Boris of Dolly's in Garrison.

Participants are sent a shopping list of ingredients and a Zoom link for a livestreamed cooking show. They can cook with the chef, ask questions or watch and cook later. (Each session is recorded for later reference.)

The cost is \$50 per session, with the proceeds going to a charity chosen by each chef. Boris' session, in which she will cook risotto with her son, Philip Lewis, will benefit Second Chance Foods, based in Carmel, which rescues "unsold, unserved, aesthetically imperfect food" for distribution to food pantries and banks.

Diana Polack, who lives in Garrison, worked with Hudson Valley Eats founder Janet Irizarry on the project. Other sessions ahead include chef Leslie Lampert on transforming neglected leftovers (Jan. 26), to benefit Feeding Westchester, and Denis Whitton, owner of Pier 701 in Piermont and Autumn in Sparkill, on preparing *coq au vin*, to benefit Meals on Wheels.

Tickets can be purchased at bit.ly/cooking-for-a-cause.

“Building a brand that's sustainable means the bigger we become, the more we can do. One of our charities, House of Mercy, has a soup kitchen and many other services: shelter, clothing, drug addiction services, a plethora.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 23

Sandy Galef Town Hall

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Via Zoom

914-941-1111 | galefs@assembly.state.ny.us

Call the assemblywoman's office if you live in Philipstown and don't receive an email with a Zoom link and phone number to participate.



THURS 28

Paper Craft Workshop

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Pick up a crafting kit at the library and learn how to collage a cigar box.

THURS 28

Adult Trivia

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring a team or play solo and win prizes for correct answers. Register to join the Zoom event.

THURS 28

Healthcare for All New Yorkers

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/NYHealthActJan28

A panel of legislators and medical professionals will discuss via Zoom how the New York Health Act could be passed this year to provide health care to all New Yorkers. Register online.

FRI 29

Trivia Night

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Via Zoom

haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Teams of one to eight players will compete online at this annual competition to raise funds for the Haldane School Foundation. *Cost: \$35 per player*

TALKS

MON 25

Flash Writing

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Register to join this Zoom event with *Current* reporter Mike Turton and learn to write a story in 75 words.

MON 25

Dancing with the Devil

NEWBURGH

7 p.m. Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra

newburghsymphony.org

Music Director Russel Ger will discuss online the relationship between Shostakovich and Stalin. *Cost: \$20*

TUES 26

Tips for Staying Fit Working at Home

COLD SPRING

Noon. Via Zoom

914-734-3159 | nyp.org/hudsonvalley

Michael Del Grosso, a physical therapist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, will explain the best ways to position your body while working or studying at home and the equipment to use for fitness.

TUES 26

Know Your Rights with Unemployment Benefits

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

In this Zoom presentation, William McNamara, a staff attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, will discuss your rights when it comes to unemployment benefits.

WED 27

Flowers into Paint

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Joyce Raimondo will lead a discussion of Georgia O'Keefe's

work during a workshop about creating a flower-painting project.

ANIMALS & NATURE

SAT 23

Owl Prowl

CORNWALL

7 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hnm.org

Learn about owls and their history, meet the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's owl ambassador and take a nighttime hike to call for owls. Also SAT 30. Registration required. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 members)*

SUN 24

Spotting Winter Birds

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Pete Salmansohn of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will teach participants via Zoom how to identify winter birds. Registration required.

WED 27

Reflections on Teaching About Hudson River Fish

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Sloop Clearwater

clearwater.org

Register to watch the last of a four-part online series by contributors to the third edition of *The Hudson: An Illustrated Guide to the Living River*. *Cost: \$7 (members free)*

THURS 28

Restoring Resilient Tropical Forests

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

eventbrite.com/o/cary-institute-of-ecosystem-studies

Ecologist Sarah Batterman will discuss how tropical forests store carbon, enhance biodiversity and are resilient to future climate conditions.



Owl Prowl, Jan. 23



Hudson River EagleFest, Jan. 30

SAT 30

Hudson River EagleFest

GARRISON

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D, Garrison

845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Register in advance for two-hour slots to view eagles from the grounds overlooking the Hudson River and Constitution Marsh as part of the annual event organized by the Teatown Lake Reservation. Staff members from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society volunteers will be on hand to assist. Also SAT 6. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 5 to 18, free for children under age 5)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 23

Dream Out Loud Poetry Workshop

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts | compassarts.org

Poet Gold will lead a two-part workshop for students in grades 6 to 12. Also SAT 30. *Cost: Sliding scale*

TUES 26

Kids' Craft with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Pick up the materials in advance and then join the Zoom meeting. Register in advance.

FRI 29

Spanish Storytime

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Miss Yrma will teach Spanish basics through bilingual songs and stories.

LITERARY

SAT 23

Rae Armantrout and Heller Levinson

GARRISON

3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

In this Zoom presentation, Armantrout, who won the Pulitzer

Prize for her 2010 poetry collection, *Versed*, will read from her latest collection, *Conjure*, while Levinson will read from *Seep*. Mary Newell will lead a discussion with both poets.

SUN 24

Poetry, Songs and Stories of Radical Trust

GARRISON

8 p.m. Garrison Institute

garrisoninstitute.org

Jennifer Bloom will perform original songs, poems and stories with a guided meditation on the theme of radical trust on the Sunday before every full moon. Register online

THURS 28

History Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books

845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

The group will discuss, via Zoom, *The Open Veins of Latin America*, by Eduardo Galeano. Register online.

MUSIC

SUN 24

Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

howlandmusic.org

This four-hands piano performance by Bax and Chung will be livestreamed as part of a Howland Chamber Music Circle series. The program includes Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka*. *Cost: \$20 donation*

WED 27

Van Morrison's Moondance

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon

845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

On the 51st anniversary of the album, watch tribute performances by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Rickie Lee Jones, Tom Chapin, BoomKat and others curated with commentary by the Bardavon producer and director. Donations welcome.

(Continued on Page 13)



THURS 28
A Face for Radio
POUGHKEEPSIE
6 p.m. Via Instagram
music.vassar.edu/concerts

The music department at Vassar College will kick off Modfest with a video hosted by Sarah LaDuke of WAMC Northeast Public Radio in which she speaks with artists and faculty who will participate in the annual festival. At 7 p.m. on SUN 31, Brian Quijada and Nygel Robinson will record the seventh track of their musical *Mexodus*, which is inspired by the 4,000 to 10,000 enslaved people in the southern U.S. who pursued a journey to Mexico instead of looking north.

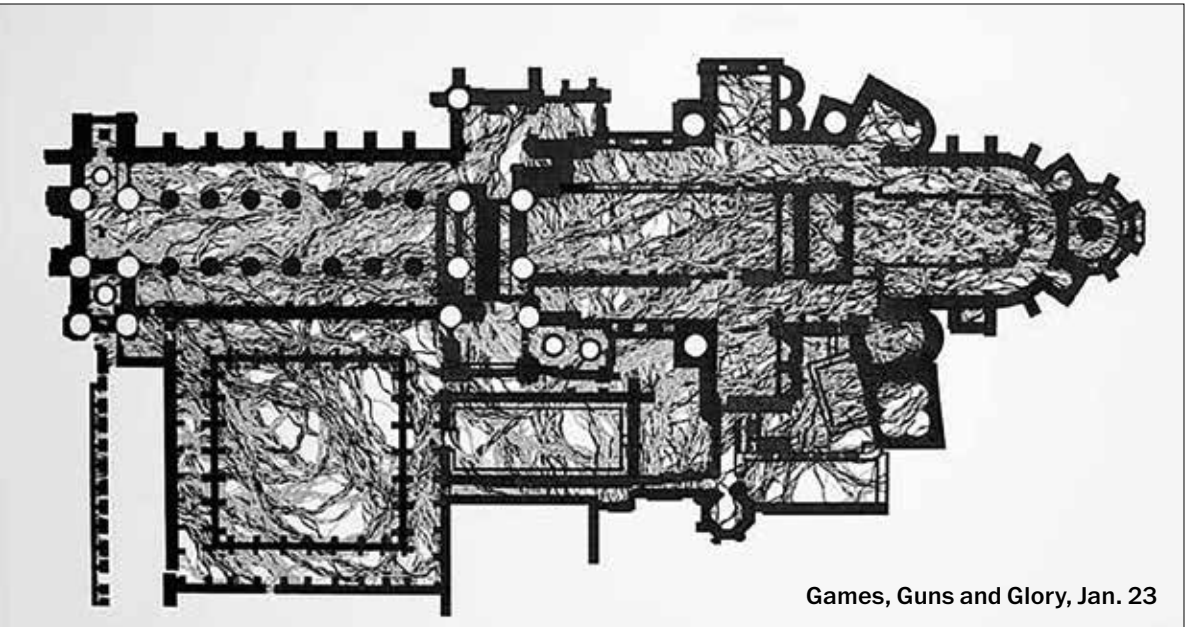
THURS 28
The Valley Hour
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
845-831-4988 | thevalleyhour.com

Annalyse and Ryan host RoseAnn Fino and Dan Zlotnick for an evening of songs and stories. Donations welcome.

VISUAL ART

SAT 23
Blue Like an Orange / Games, Guns and Glory
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

This is the opening reception for



Games, Guns and Glory, Jan. 23

exhibits of Elise Church's still-life and interior paintings (see Page 9) and Mison Kim's exhibition of diagrammatic works on paper.

CIVIC

SUN 24
Planning Board
PHILIPSTOWN
9:30 a.m. The Garrison
2015 Route 9 | philipstown.com

The public is welcome to participate in a site visit to the proposed future home of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

MON 25
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 25
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 26
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 28
Planning Board
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

This is a special meeting to discuss the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival development at The Garrison. Email kmacintyre@philipstown.com to join.

Two Exhibitions
January 23–February 2021



Elise P. Church:
Blue Like an Orange
Paintings

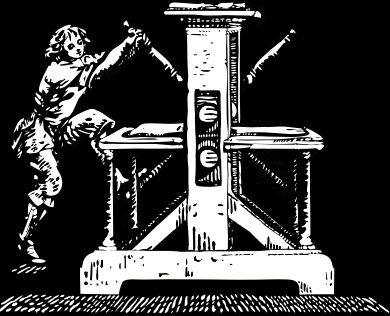


Mison Kim:
Games, Guns, and Glory
Ink drawings on paper

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South Avenue *(from Page 1)*

sion to use the school, and with temperatures falling, they decided the ceremony should be held inside.

At the last minute, Tiana's brother, Andre Rainey, who is the mayor of Peekskill, arranged for the couple to use City Hall for a socially distanced ceremony with about a dozen guests. There was also a livestream for friends and colleagues — Tiana works for the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs and Ellis is a dean at a Bronx high school.

The friendship that began in Mrs. Lassiter's classroom continued through the fifth grade, when Tiana's family moved to White Plains.

She didn't forget Corey, however. Twelve years later, when she was 19 and living in Ossining, she found him on Facebook on a whim and wrote him a message. "He was probably my biggest childhood crush, so when milestones came around — sweet 16s, prom, etc. — I kept thinking of him and wondered if he still lived in Beacon," Tiana says. When she saw a photo online of Corey at age 19, she was pleased. "He just looked like a handsome, older version of what he used to."

Corey didn't respond to her message for two months. ("I was barely on Facebook," he volunteers sheepishly.) Once he read Tiana's message, he said his first thought was, "Oh my God — God sent me my wife."

They met soon after and spent every weekend together for a year. Tiana said



Kaylynn offers a smooch as her parents kiss outside South Avenue Elementary on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Photo by Meredith Heuer

her second first impression (or first second impression) was, "He was still silly." And his was, "She was still shy and quiet and, you know, beautiful."

The romance blossomed. "I felt it would be forever," Corey recalls. Tiana adds, "I thought so, too, but we were young and not ready for forever."

"We had a long road," Corey says. They had Kaylynn but then split. Each moved on to other relationships, "which was not what I expected," he says. He took it as "a sign from God" that Tiana was not who he was supposed to be with.

They continued to co-parent, and eventually both relationships ended. On Valentine's Day last year, the couple went on a date for the first time in 10 years. They say they both quickly realized they wanted to be together, and Corey even took Tiana ring shopping.

The pandemic shutdown that followed weeks later "was a blessing for us, being quarantined," Corey says. Tiana agrees. "It

was a silver lining, because it gave us ample time to get to know each other again."

On a trip to Los Angeles, Corey proposed in Griffith Park, overlooking the city, after convincing Tiana they were going to take photos for her 30th birthday. "He got me good," she concedes.

Tiana says they initially planned to wait until 2022 for a wedding, "but when the new year hit, and we knew we want more children, and didn't want any more out of wedlock, we changed our minds. We thought of significant dates in January and realized Martin Luther King Day was perfect. We put it all together in three weeks.

"My mom and my family are so excited for me, partly because I never stopped talking about Corey," Tiana says. Corey says his mother, brother and grandmother are also "ecstatic."

The happiest member of the family is Kaylynn. "She's running around saying 'Mommy's going to have my last name



Corey Ellis, top left, and Tiana Wilkins, center right, in the fifth grade at the South Avenue school.

now," Tiana says. "She wants a sibling, so she's super happy."

Asked to choose three words to describe their spouse, Tiana offered: "Provider, thoughtful, funny" and Corey decided on "Compassion, beautiful, love."

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NOTICE

KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Kindergarten registration process for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have a child who will be turning five on or before December 31, 2021 and you live in the Haldane Central School District, please complete and print the registration forms from our website www.haldaneschool.org. Click on Quick Parent Links, Registration then Kindergarten Registration.

Parents are invited to attend the Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Registering for attendance is a 2 step process. Please visit our website and click on the Orientation Link to get started.

Registration will take place on Monday, February 8th - Friday, February 12th. Please contact Sue Hylka in the Elementary Office to schedule your appointment, 845-265-9254 ext 122. Parents who are registering incoming children must bring all completed Registration and Health Forms along with copies of their child's Birth Certificate, Immunization Record, and required Proof of Residency Documents indicating that the family resides in the Haldane School District.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess Caps Delivery Fees

Grubhub, Door Dash limited to 15 percent

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro on Sunday (Jan. 17) signed an emergency order that temporarily caps service fees charged by third-party food delivery companies to no more than 15 percent of the order.

Molinaro said in a statement that while apps such as Grubhub and Door Dash are important for restaurants during the COVID-19 shutdown, their fee structures can mean that restaurants must pay as much as 30 percent on delivery orders.

The order also prohibits delivery services from publishing restaurant menus and increasing the price of items to include a delivery fee.

Molinaro thanked Legislator Nick Page, a Democrat whose district includes three wards in Beacon, "for bringing this important issue to our attention."

Philipstown Completes Resource Inventory

Includes chapter on local impact of climate change

Philipstown has completed a Natural Resources Inventory with 40 maps and chapters on geology and soils; water resources; habitats and wildlife; historic, scenic and recreational resources; and land use.

Each section of the report includes suggestions for further study, policy development and community action. The report also includes a chapter that describes the potential impacts of climate change and suggests the town prepare a Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan.

The inventory was prepared by Max Garfinkle, the town's natural resources review officer, and Roberto Muller, coordinator of Philipstown Climate Smart, with oversight by the Conservation Board and guidance from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the state Department of Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program.

The report, which was funded in part



State Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, was sworn in at his Newburgh office for his second term on Jan. 7 by state Supreme Court Judge E. Loren Williams.

Photo provided

by a state grant, can be downloaded at climatesmartphilipstown.org/nri.

Haldane Superintendent Tests Positive

Also, some Garrison students quarantine

Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante said on Tuesday (Jan. 19) that he was quarantining after testing positive for COVID-19.

In an email to parents, Benante said he was tested after being informed on Saturday (Jan. 16) that he had contact outside school with a person who tested positive. Anyone he was in direct contact with at Haldane on Jan. 14 or 15 has been notified, Benante said.

"I share this information with you in the spirit of remaining candid about my absence from campus," he wrote. "My symptoms are very mild thus far."

On Sunday (Jan. 17), the Garrison School announced that some students in the fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth grades would quarantine for 10 days because an employee at the school had tested positive.

Real Estate

Market Report (December)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	3	6	6	7
Closed Sales	4	12	10	15
Days on Market	77	42	79	66
Median Price	\$406,250	\$427,500	\$628,750	\$490,000
% List Received	90.3	100.1	96.3	99.3
Inventory	27	16	64	56

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

Nursing Homes *(from Page 7)*

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines each require two shots given weeks apart. Under the federal program, CVS and Walgreens employees began administering doses at nursing homes on Dec. 21 under a three-visit system: the first to deliver the initial dose; the second to deliver second doses along with first doses to anyone who missed the first visit; and the third to give any remaining shots.

The Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, whose administrator did not respond to a request for comment, completed its second visit on Jan. 13, according to a post on its website. The first took place on Dec. 22.

Overall, the "vast majority" of nursing home residents have agreed to be vaccinated and many facilities have, like the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, completed their second visit from the pharmacies, said Stephen Hanse, president and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association.

"That's progressing very, very well, and we're very optimistic," he added.

But while the vaccinations continue, "family members we've been hearing from

are concerned that [vaccination refusals] may delay their ability to go back and visit their family members," said Molloy.

Both he and Hanse say the state and federal governments have failed to create an effective education campaign aimed at people skeptical about the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines.

The administration of Gov. Andrew Cuomo also "planted seeds of doubt" last fall when it raised concerns about the quality of any vaccine approved by the Trump administration and formed a state panel of doctors, scientists and health experts to vet whatever vaccines the federal government authorized, said Hanse.

Some residents and staff were first waiting to see if those getting vaccinated have a reaction before agreeing to the shots, said Hanse and Molloy.

"Now that they're seeing real positive results, in that there's no real side effects in a majority of the cases, we're seeing the numbers go up on those second visits," said Hanse.

Cuomo on Monday cited the vaccine refusals in announcing that about 65,000 of 120,355 unused doses that had been set aside for nursing homes would be reallocated to vaccinating other people who are eligible.

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Lang allegedly added a cartoon hand and "This is Me" to a video posted online.

FBI Arrest (from Page 1)

Agents over the past two weeks in New York also have arrested residents of New York City, Long Island, Cheektowaga (near Buffalo), Rochester, Syracuse, Utica and Round Lake (Saratoga County). One hundred and seventeen people from 35 states and D.C. had been arrested by the FBI as of Jan. 20, according to a tally by the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

According to a criminal complaint filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Lang posted photos and videos on social media documenting his participation in the riot. One video shows Lang striking officers' shields with a bat, the FBI said.

Lang allegedly added a cartoon finger pointing to a figure repeatedly banging a police shield with the caption, "This is me." The FBI said Lang could be seen in the crowd wearing a black leather jacket and green-and-black gas mask.

On Jan. 7, the day after the riot, Lang posted to Twitter, according to the charging documents: "I watched a woman die yesterday in front of my eyes. I saved two others from being trampled and suffocated by Capitol Police. They murdered her and tried to murder many, many more. This is an act of war by TYRANTS against the American people."

In the charging document, the FBI said Lang was asked by a user on Instagram what would happen next and replied: "Guns.... That's it. One word. The First Amendment didn't work, we pull out the second."



A video posted by Lang on social media.

On Jan. 14, two days before his arrest, Lang allegedly said in a video on Instagram: "I want to use this time to say thank you for all the people who have been reaching out, calling me a patriot... Been really amazing to have this impact on the community, going to keep on fighting for you guys, we got some big things planned."

The Sullivan Times reported on Jan. 12 that Lang grew up in Narrowsburg, a hamlet in Sullivan County with a population of about 430 people, and that a Facebook page belonging to his mother includes many "Stop the Steal" posts. The paper reported on Jan. 19 that Lang was being represented by a New York City defense attorney but had not yet appeared in court. He was expected to have a preliminary hearing in federal court in White Plains.



Nature 40, Tennis Courts 15



The ruins of a 1920s estate in the French Hill section

Photos by B. Cronin

Out There (from Page 1)

She asked that the parks be renamed for George Pataki, a Garrison resident and former Peekskill mayor who was the Republican governor of New York from 1995 to 2006 and is known for championing conservation.

Galef, who has served in the Legislature since 1993, is not the first (or second, or third) lawmaker to call for the Trump parks to be renamed. But she is the first to do so with possible legal — as opposed to only moral — justifications.

In an interview, Galef said that the deed to the Indian Hill property was never signed by a representative of the state, and a check by *The Current* of the deed on file at the Westchester County Clerk's office confirmed this. (The deed for the French Hill property was signed by a county attorney.) As a result, she argues, the state would be within its rights to change the name.

Galef's campaign is only the latest chapter in a saga that, like their bombastic namesake, has been filled with broken promises, exaggerations, petty feuds, unpaid bills and paperwork of questionable legal provenance.

Trump bought the Indian Hill parcel in 1998 and the French Hill section in 2000. He spent about \$2.75 million and planned to turn the lots into golf courses. Indian Hill was named for the Mohegans who lived there in the 18th century after being forced out of every other part of what is now Westchester County (a Native American burial ground has been discovered just south of the park). French Hill is so named because French troops who fought for America in the Revolutionary War camped in the vicinity.

Trump soon discovered why the 436 acres was such a bargain: They contain marshlands that drain into nearby reservoirs that provide drinking water. That made it impossible to get the necessary environmental approvals to create golf courses, although Trump pressured then-Yorktown Supervisor Linda Cooper to grant them anyway. Cooper told the *Journal News* in 2002 that Trump acted "like the bully on the playground," who "just didn't want to go through the rules."

Since Twitter had yet to be invented, Trump had to settle for berating Cooper in a letter: "You have done a terrible disservice



New trail blazes at the French Hill section of Trump State Park

to your constituents who have sadly lost out on a tremendous opportunity." He threatened to sell the land to housing developers.

Today, Cooper is the director of the Taconic Region for the state parks department, which includes the Highlands and Westchester and puts the two Trump parks in her jurisdiction. (She declined to be interviewed for this column.)

In 2006, Trump abruptly decided to donate the land to the state as parks, with the condition that they be named for him. The state agreed — an unusual move since the parks department does not typically name parks for living people. Trump took a \$26.1 million tax write-off on the land, according to a list of charitable contributions published by *The Washington Post*.

It was a miraculous increase in value for land that had not been improved in any way. Tim Miller, an environmental consultant with offices in Cold Spring who worked with Trump on three projects that included the land that became the two parks (and who said he had to settle for a \$95,000 golf course "credit" instead of \$140,000 Trump owed him in fees), noted that without any approvals, the parcels were worth about what Trump paid for them. "There is no legal or economic foundation" for a \$26 million appraisal, Miller said on Thursday.

Although Trump said at the time that he hoped "these 436 acres of property will turn into one of the most beautiful parks anywhere in the world," his generosity

stopped short of providing for the maintenance or development of the brambled marshlands. They have sat neglected for years. Although signs touting the parks appear on the Taconic State Parkway, there are no signs directing visitors to an entrance, and signs on local streets keep disappearing. The parks also are not listed anywhere on the state parks website.

The parks are maintained by the volunteer group that on its website sometimes refers to itself as The Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Donald J. Trump State Parks. The site lists how and where to visit the Trump parks and notes that "birding opportunities abound for birders who are intrepid enough to venture into the expanse of invasive plants." However, a representative of the group, who asked not to be identified, said it has actually not been involved in any maintenance in either Trump park for lack of "bandwidth."

The state parks department has showed some recent attention to the properties. In 2018, it began a \$385,000 capital improvement project that involved the demolition and removal of a few abandoned, asbestos-ridden structures and adding new parking lots, new wooden fencing and two new blazed trails at French Hill. The parks department declined to comment on whether more improvements are in the works.

Having spent last weekend exploring both parks, I can report that they are not without their discreet charms. Indian Hill has a lovely field with ample views, perfect for kite-flying or, judging by the fresh, circular tracks, ripping doughnuts in an ATV. The ATV trails that run through the brambles are thick with multiflora rose and bitter-sweet that, while being invasive species, probably make the paths quite beautiful when they bloom in the spring and summer.

French Hill includes the elegant stone ruins of a 1920s estate and a tennis court that is in the process of being aggressively reclaimed by nature. The newly blazed trails are short, marshy hikes that are perfect for small children who enjoy getting their feet wet, and the tennis court would make an ideal photoshoot backdrop for a black metal band or goth teenagers getting ready to have a terrible time at their prom.

Despite such riches, and despite the public's hunger for "less-traveled trails" that can be safely visited during the pandemic, I

The Campaign for Change

In December 2015 — six months after Donald Trump announced his campaign for president — then-state Sen. Daniel Squadron, a Democrat from Brooklyn, introduced the Anything but Trump Act to have the park renamed. It stalled in committee but has been reintroduced in every session since, including the current one, by Brad Hoylman, a Manhattan Democrat, and in the Assembly by Nily Rozic, a Democrat from Long Island.

The bills do not suggest who would be honored besides Trump, but Squadron said the communities near the parks should choose the names. Rozic suggested Heather Heyer, a young woman who was killed by a white supremacist in 2017 during protests in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose House district includes the Highlands, suggested in 2015 they be renamed for folk legend Pete Seeger, a longtime Beacon resident, while Assemblyman Charles Lavine, a Democrat from Long Island, suggested Peter Salem, an African American who fought for the colonies in the Revolutionary War and who, some historians believe, was Muslim.

did not encounter another person at either location. Although Trump hoped the pair would become "one of the most beautiful parks anywhere in the world," they are not even the most beautiful parks on the block, as the Danner Family Preserve is around the corner from Indian Hill. For what it's worth, the Danners were inspired by Trump to donate their land, as well.

If Galef does not succeed with the latest effort to rename the Trump parks, perhaps critics could campaign to simply call them what they are. The Donald J. Trump State Parks are clearly not living up to their potential, but the Donald J. Trump Invasive Species Refuges would already be a bigly success.

Shanty (from Page 8)

He said whoever built the shanty used a screw gun to assemble it in a small valley amid trees that shield it from view, except in winter. The interior contained chairs and patio furniture, candles, "a case of beer" and other items, the mayor said.

Bowman asked residents to "be on the lookout, if you're in the woods, for this kind of thing," and said he plans to confer with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, which runs a substation in Nelsonville, "so they can keep an eye out, too."

The board scheduled elections for March 16 for the trustee seats held by Dove Pedlosky and Lisa Mechaley, neither of whom plans to run for a second term, according to Bowman. They cited various reasons, he said, including the volume of work involved in dealing with issues such as the recent legal fight over an application to build a cell tower. Pedlosky said she also planned to step down for family reasons. Mechaley was not at the meeting to elaborate.

Their departure "is going to be a gigantic loss to the village" and leave "a big hole on the board," the mayor said.

Any resident who wishes to run for a seat has until Feb. 9 to file an independent nominating petition with at least 15 signatures of registered Nelsonville voters, said Village Clerk Mindy Jesek.

Beacon (from Page 8)

a workshop a week earlier.

"The public element of this is very strong, just looking at the open space component," said Mayor Lee Kyriacou. "There are commercial floors, as well, but that seems like gravy."

Wireless facilities

A second public hearing Tuesday focused on a proposal that would combine two laws adopted in 2018 and 2019 regulating wireless telecommunications facilities

In other business ...

■ The board scheduled a public hearing for Feb. 15 to hear feedback on a proposed law that would regulate short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb. Trustee Chris Winward said the provisions under consideration include requirements that rental operators live on the premises, a limit on each rental to 100 days per year and annual health and safety inspections.

■ Jeff Domanski, director of the Community Choice Aggregation program, reported that everything appears to be on track for Nelsonville to join Philipstown, Beacon, Cold Spring and seven other Mid-Hudson municipalities this summer in the CCA. The program allows homeowners to obtain electric power from renewable energy sources, at competitive prices, through cooperation with Central Hudson.

■ The board agreed that volunteers who care for the Nelsonville Woods can replace blue plastic tubes with non-toxic biodegradable mesh tubes to protect seedlings from deer. Bowman noted that the blue tubes often "are all over the forest when a big storm comes through." The mayor also proposed that a section of the woods be protected and turned into a natural nursery for cultivating seedlings and saplings.

and small cell wireless units. The new law would also shift the approval of both to the Planning Board.

The Planning Board would be required to hold public hearings for all non-small cell wireless proposals but hearings would be optional for small cell units, the lower-powered antennas typically affixed to buildings or poles to fill gaps in broadband coverage.

Two residents who spoke during the hearing both said they felt the city was making too many concessions to the wireless industry.

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Capitol attack

The council on Tuesday adopted a resolution condemning the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and supporting "all actions to ensure accountability for those inciting and conducting the attack." The accused rioters include a resident of Beacon.

Several council members spoke before voting on the resolution, saying it does

not condemn any political party or seek to suppress the constitutional right to protest, but that the attack on the Capitol and Congress was far over the line.

"I recognize we are a lowly city council and we should rarely take stands on national issues, but I feel it's my obligation under my oath of office to do so tonight," Kyriacou said.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Wordsworth work

5. Spasm

8. Billie — King

12. Against

13. Granada gold

14. Sea eagle

15. 500 sheets

16. Chess piece

17. Right on the map?

18. On an angle

20. Dines

22. Donald Duck's outfit

26. Birth-related

29. Exodus hero

30. Vitamin stat

31. Prior nights

32. Pvt.'s superior

33. Grant basis, at times

34. Seminary subj.

35. Take to court

36. Smartens (up)

37. Produce aisle display

40. Pan handler?

41. Rookie

45. Boyfriend

47. Business mag

49. Press

50. Formerly, once

51. French vineyard

52. Bandleader

Puente

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			

53. Makes lace

54. "Dig in!"

55. Salty septet

DOWN

1. Law firm aide, for short

2. Till bills

3. List-ending abbr.

4. Brunch cocktails

5. *Only Love* actress Marisa

6. Lyricist Gershwin

7. Monarch's spouse

8. Army vehicles

9. Test-paper smudges

10. Reply (Abbr.)

11. Court divider

19. Chum

21. Swiss canton

23. Beer type

24. Nantes notion

25. Tiny amounts

26. Soft ball?

27. Say it's so

28. Put on the air

32. Be enough

33. Blockheads

35. That lady

36. Golfer Michelle

38. Closes

39. Full-length

42. Party cheese

43. Greek vowel

44. Seth's son

45. Wager

46. Historic period

48. Big D.C. lobby

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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 rebuke (8)

2 critical situations (6)

3 highest singers (8)

4 they accompany "movers" (7)

5 summer lake activity (8)

6 band member with a beat (7)

7 toss (7)

SOLUTIONS


DEN	SWI	SOP	CE	OS
SES	DR	RD	MM	DIS
ING	ER	AK	RAN	CRI
SH	CA	OUN	UMM	ERS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Jan. 15 Puzzles

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

1. SHIPWRECKED, 2. BANKS, 3. FRIES, 4. DISCARDED, 5. STICKY, 6. THYME, 7. ENERGIZE

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

SPORTS



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Preview: Beacon Track

Bulldogs hoping for mild weather, no hitches with outdoor season

By Skip Pearlman

Sure, the Beacon High School indoor track and field team is happy to have a season. But that doesn't mean there won't be challenges.

The Bulldogs have been practicing outside to get accustomed to the cold weather, in hopes of getting in as many meets as possible.

But colder temperatures and snow or ice — not to mention wind — could all become huge factors at possible outdoor meets in January and February.

Coach Jim Henry said he and other coaches are trying to adapt to fewer events and shorter meets.

"We have no plans for virtual meets — yet," Henry said this week. "I'm less concerned with the team scoring of meets this season than I am with getting kids opportunities to compete safely. With temperatures hovering around freezing,



Members of the Beacon High indoor track and field team get in a workout Wednesday at Hammond Field.

Photo by S. Pearlman

I'm not interested in having kids outside for the duration of a typical track meet.

"I expect to schedule some teams that are willing to contest a meet consisting of a sprint race, a distance race, a jumping event, a throwing event and perhaps a relay," the coach said. "Maybe two hours maximum, as opposed to the three-hour usual meet."

Returning for the Beacon boys' team are: seniors Zach Cader (an All-League/All-Section/state qualifier) and Mark Guzman (All-League); and juniors Evan LaBelle,

Ed Manente and Sal Migliore, each an All-League selection last year.

All-League seniors Nathalia Thomas and Tamar Adams return for the girls' squad.

With the New York State Indoor Championships already cancelled, Cader (a state championship qualifier in 2019 and 2020) will be unable to make a return trip to compete at the state level.

Henry said the team's goals have shifted toward "having a safe and competitive season of some kind; using the indoor

season as preparation for the (May/June) outdoor season, when conditions are more amenable to good performance than January; and to post a few times among our junior boys that will assist in building a 'resume' that will lead to post-high school track and field opportunities."

Henry added that he's impressed with the way Bulldog athletes have handled the difficult situation. "Thus far the kids have been pretty resilient," he said. "We're 10 months into this pandemic in New York, and kids have had to sacrifice a lot of opportunities that they may have taken for granted before this year.

"I've been impressed with their attention and commitment to practicing and competing safely," he said. "I hope the adults in our community have appreciated their maturity in handling this unique situation. In some ways, a case could be made that these kids are adapting to things better than many adults have."

Barring setbacks, Beacon is hoping to open its season Jan. 27 at Hendrick Hudson. Beyond that, the team will schedule week-to-week, and according to the weather, Henry said. The team hopes to face John Jay of East Fishkill, Ketcham and Arlington for dual meets in February, and Henry said Section 1 officials are discussing potential dates with the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton.

Preview: Beacon Swimming

Boys' team thrilled to be in the water

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys' swim team is one of the lucky few squads — so far — to be able to compete this winter, opening its season this week with a loss to Arlington.

Coach Larry Collins has a diverse team — including three All-Leaguers and a pair of newcomers — and said his swimmers are relieved to be in the water with competitions scheduled.

Some will be virtual; some will be in-person.

"They're very happy to be able to have a season," Collins said. "Even when I'm yelling at them, I think they're happy to be here."

Added to the challenges presented by the pandemic will be the test of moving into a more competitive division.

"This season, because we have moved to a new division (with Arlington, Wappingers, Suffern, Pelham, Mamaroneck and Ossining), and because we lost a lot of talent from last year, if we can finish .500 I'd be very happy," Collins said. "It will be much more challenging for the team."

This winter's team includes senior

co-captains James Patino (All-League), Justin Piciacchio and Jacob Welsh, juniors Hunter Ingold (All-League), Lucas Vermeulen (All-League) and Owen Browne, freshmen Imroz Ali and Bryce Manning, and eighth-graders Kieran Kumar and Jordan Mercer, who are both new.

"With James and Justin, I'm looking for great leadership, and to be very competitive," Collins said of his captains. "James is trying to qualify for sectionals, maybe in the 100 [meter] backstroke, and to do well in the 50 [meter] freestyle as well. And I'm looking forward to Justin being able to come back this year. He missed part of last year because of an injury, so he's trying to finish the things he started.

"Lucas is returning as our freestyle specialist in the 200 and 500 meters," the coach continued. "He's looking to set some personal records this year, to get below 2 minutes in the 200. And Hunter, a returning junior, I'm hoping he can do well in all four strokes."

Collins likes the way Mercer has taken to the sport. "This is the first time he's swum, and he's sort of like a natural to the water," he said. "So I'm hoping he develops into a great swimmer over the next couple of years."

Collins is looking for his team to gain experience, compete strong and have fun this winter, and his swimmers are apprecia-



Junior Hunter Ingold works out at the Beacon pool this week. The Bulldogs opened their season Tuesday.

Photo by S. Pearlman

tive of the opportunity they have.

The team has had no issue with COVID-19 protocols so far. "Our sport should be fine," Collins said. "I've been coaching since June with my club program, and we have not had any incidents related to the virus."

Beacon is hoping to swim six meets — two in person and four virtual (with times fed into a computer to determine results). "It isn't exactly ideal," Collins said. "I don't like it, but I don't think it will be that big of a deal."

The Bulldogs struggled to score points in their first meet, a 111-49 loss to Arlington on Tuesday at home.

Beacon earned first place in the 100-meter backstroke, with Patino recording a 1:05.99,

and in the 100-meter freestyle, where Piciacchio swam 56.07 for the win.

Vermeulen took second in the 200- and 500-meter freestyle; Ingold finished second in the 50-meter freestyle; and Patino placed second in the 200-meter individual medley.

"It was kind of rough," Collins said. "We are a much smaller team. Some of our swimmers are still developing and some are seasoned veterans. Justin swam a personal best in the 100-meter freestyle, which was a very nice job by him. And Hunter did a nice job for us in the 50-meter free."

Beacon is scheduled to swim a virtual meet against Ossining and Mamaroneck today (Jan. 22) and host Wappingers on Tuesday (Jan. 26).