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)

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 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)
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 idea was: “Come to nature and you come to your 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.

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.

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. 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.

Details from Wade’s 1847 map showing Fishkill Landing and Beacon, Breakneck and Bull hills.
How to Explain a Riot

Educators, parents tackle insurrection

By Leonard Sparks

S cared. 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 Culturas.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: Culturas.us

(Continued on Page 5)
T he Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer’s full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

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 developing 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 item. 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 everyone. 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 Hombach, 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 McCownville, 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 full force of the justice system. 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 into a socialist state. Some of our 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. Showing 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 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

(Redacted 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. Mike Sher- rill 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. Showing 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.

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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 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.”
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 officers 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 84,191 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

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.

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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.

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.

By the end of the third week of May, about two and a half months into the pandemic, 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)

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.

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.

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.

By the end of the third week of May, about two and a half months into the pandemic, 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 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)
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 VFW.
Rich Garfein
Hudson Hills Restaurant
Ben and Art Hotaling
Glynnwood 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. Phillips 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 Nicapio
Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy
Hammond Family
Susan and Joseph Fitzgerald
Linda Lomanaco and Robert T. Hansler
Joan Crouch
Seth Guiness
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
Beverly 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

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.

Four-Story Beacon Project Could Get OK from Council

City also condemns Capitol attack

By Jeff Simms

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.

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, 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)
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.

“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.
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 results. 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 incompati-

The music and musicians of the Hudson Valley

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. & Sun. Jan. 23 + 24 and continuing
ASSIGNED VENUE:
The Beacon Photography Group
26 photographers works on display
Saturdays + Sundays until Jan. 30 – 1 to 5 pm

Sun. Jan. 24 – 9 pm
STREAMING: Piano duo
ALESSIO BAX and LUCILLE CHUNG
Prepared by ALIYeMUSICiCS, recorded at the
Howland Center
Stream at http://howlandcenter.org/2021Events_3House.html

Thurs. Jan. 28 – 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR
The music and musicians of the Hudson Valley
Featuring Rosalind Fino, Dan Zlotnick and hosts Annalise & Ryan
at TheValleyHour.com

AND MORE

Streamed concerts are being planned for your enjoyment
during January and February
Sat. Feb. 6 – 8 pm – ANTHEM: Jeremy Schoenholtz in concert
Contemporary music – In Our Lifetime, African American Art Show
Co-presented with – Hudsonville, Hoosick Street Boxing.

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

Photo by Henry Weed

For more info, visit our website.

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.

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.

Tortilla 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 spring fresh rosemary, minced
8 eggs*
4 ounces sharp provolone, grated
2 ounces parmesan, grated

*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.

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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.

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
newburysymphony.org
Music Director Russel Ger will discuss online the relationship between Shostakovich and Stalin.

TUE 26
Tips for Staying Fit Working at Home
COLD SPRING
Noon. Via Zoom
914-734-3159 | nyp.org/hudsonvalley
Therapist at NewYork-Presbyterian William McNamara, a staff attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, will discuss your rights when working or studying at home and learn to write a story in 75 words.

TUE 25
Know Your Rights with Unemployment Benefits
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org
In this Zoom presentation, William McNamara, a staff attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, will discuss your rights when working or studying at home and the equipment to use for fitness.

TUE 26
Flowers into Paint
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Joyce Raimondo will lead a discussion of Georgia O’Keeffe’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
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. Desmondfishlibrary.org
Pete Salamonsen 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
pickuptickets.eventbrite.com/o/cary-institute-of-ecosystem-studies-Tropical-Forests-31045605157
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
Paper Craft Workshop
GARRISON
6 p.m. 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. Desmondfishlibrary.org
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

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

SAT 23
Kids’ Craft with Mrs. Merry
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org
Evaluate Winslow Homer’s paintings and create your own work. Materials will be provided.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 23
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)

LITERARY

SAT 23
Rae Armantrout and Heller Levinson
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org
In this Zoom presentation, Armantrout, who won the Pulitzer Prize for her 2010 poetry collection, Profess, 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.

MUSIC

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WED 27
Van Morrison’s Moondance
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
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’apprèz-midi d’un faune* and Stravinsky’s *Petrushka*. Cost: $20 donation

FRI 29
Spanish Storytime
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org
Miss Yrma will teach Spanish basics through bilingual songs and stories.

(Continued on Page 13)
**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.

**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 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.

**City Council**

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

**School Board**

BEACON

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

**Board of Trustees**

GOLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**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

**Garrison Art Center**

23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison, NY 10524

Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am– 5pm

garrisonartcenter.org 845-424-3960

**HIGHLAND STUDIO**

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center
845-424-3960

**Tim Brennan General Contractor**

Building it Right for Over 40 Years

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Putnam Lic # PC 58
Westchester Lic # WC-0100187
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 about a week. (“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.”

Tiana's 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 and Ellis is a dean at a Bronx high school.

The happiest member of the family is Kaylynn. “She’s running around saying ‘Mommy’s going to have my last name...”

4/22/21

KAYLYNN OFFERS A SMOOCH AS HER PARENTS KISS OUTSIDE SOUTH AVENUE ELEMENTARY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY.

By Meredith Heuer

Photo by Meredith Heuer

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

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.

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 Molliot.

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 Molliot.

“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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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.”
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 Mohicans 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 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.

Hearing an earlier plea to visit the French Hill section, I went out looking at the ruins of an estate in the French Hill section. The ruins of a 1920s estate in the French Hill section can be safely visited during the pandemic, I discovered. 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 Heather Heyer, a young African American who fought for the colonies in the Revolutionary War and who, some historians believe, was Muslim.

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 parks renamed. A version died in committee but has been reintroduced in every session since, including the current one, by Brad Hoyman, 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.

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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 more optional for small cell units, the lower-power 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.

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.

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.
Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

| 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 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOWN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Brunch cocktails</td>
<td>5. Only Love actress Marisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Reply (Abbr.)</td>
<td>11. Court divider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Sea eagle</td>
<td>15. 500 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Chess piece</td>
<td>17. Right on the map?</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. On an angle</td>
<td>20. Dines</td>
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<td>26. Birth-related</td>
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<td>29. Exodus hero</td>
<td>30. Vitamin stat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Prior nights</td>
<td>32. Pvt.’s superior</td>
</tr>
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<td>33. Grant basis, at times</td>
<td>34. Seminary subj.</td>
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<td>35. Take to court</td>
<td>36. Smartens (up)</td>
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<td>37. Produce aisle display</td>
<td>40. Pan handler?</td>
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<td>41. Rookie</td>
<td>45. Boyfriend</td>
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<tr>
<td>47. Business mag</td>
<td>49. Press</td>
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<tr>
<td>50. Formerly, once</td>
<td>51. French vineyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Bandleader Puente</td>
<td>53. Makes lace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. “Dig in!”</td>
<td>55. Salty septet</td>
</tr>
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Answers for Jan. 15 Puzzles

| 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.

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**7 LittleWords**

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.

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<td>4 they accompany “movers” (7)</td>
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<td>5 summer lake activity (8)</td>
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<td>6 band member with a beat (7)</td>
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<td>7 toss (7)</td>
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Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
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, 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-League and a pair of newcomers — and said his swimmers are relieved to be in the water with competitive opportunities to compete safely. With temperatures hovering around freezing, 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.

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

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.”

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Tamar Adams return for the girls’ squad.

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.

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’s not 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 Piacicchio swam 56.67 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).