

The HIGHLANDS Current



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Pharmacies Expand Vaccine Role

CVS, Walgreens to start with 40K doses a week

By Leonard Sparks

The federal COVID-19 vaccination effort is expanding to CVS and Walgreens stores and grocery-based pharmacies, as many residents, especially seniors over 65, face difficulty in trying to book appointments.

CVS began administering 20,600 vaccine doses in New York today (Feb. 12) at 32 locations outside New York City under the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. The program will initially send 1 million doses of the Moderna vaccine directly to 6,500 pharmacies nationwide each week, bolstering what each state is already distributing to pharmacies.

Walgreens also began administering doses today under the program, allocating 18,600 doses to 187 of its pharmacies in New York City and 10,700 doses to 107 stores in the rest of the state. Retail Business Services LLC, which operates pharmacies at five East Coast grocery store chains, including Stop & Shop and Hannaford, is also vaccinating at some of its New York locations.

Under state guidelines, hospitals are prioritizing their vaccines for health care workers
(Continued on Page 7)



STORM SENTRY — As the snow kept falling, the farmers at the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Philipstown had to ensure the animals were safe and fed and that their tunnel homes didn't collapse under the weight of the snow. This shot was taken last week during the first storm. "Pigs are naturally playful and curious and ours do seem to enjoy rooting around in the snow," said Liz Corio of Glynwood. "They are more cold-hardy than they might look because of their hefty fat layer."

Photo by Nicole Scott/Glynwood

Dutchess Approves More Stadium Funding

Long-term agreement with Renegades said to be close

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess County Legislature this week approved \$1.43 million in bond funding to install energy-efficient LED lighting at Dutchess Stadium while taking another step toward a long-term agreement with the stadium's tenants, the Hudson Valley Renegades.

The Renegades, a minor league baseball team, have played at "the Dutch" since its construction in 1994 on Route 9D just outside of Beacon. After Major League Baseball began restructuring its minor leagues in 2019, the team last year dropped its affil-

iation with the Tampa Bay Rays to become a farm team of the New York Yankees.

The team also moved up in the minors to Single-A and extended its season to 66 games, from April to September, although it's not clear how the 2021 season will be impacted by the pandemic. The 2020 season was canceled because of the shutdown.

The vote, which took place on Monday (Feb. 8), was 23-2, with both Nick Page, whose district includes Wards 1, 2 and 3 in Beacon, and Frits Zernike, whose district includes Ward 4, voting yes.

Legislator Michael Polasek, who represents LaGrange, suggested before the vote that the expanded season and Yankees

(Continued on Page 21)



Police Reform Plans Released

Putnam, Dutchess focus on body cameras, training

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam and Dutchess counties each released recommendations on Feb. 5 for reforms for their sheriff's departments under an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The order, issued June 12, requires municipalities to study their police policies and issue reports by April 1 on reforms to, among other goals, "eliminate racial inequities in policing" following the videotaped killing in May 2020 of a Black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in Minneapolis. Beacon and Cold Spring are still working on their plans.

The 194-page report issued by Putnam

County's Police Policy Review Panel capped a five-month process that began with a meeting in August and involved County Executive MaryEllen Odell, county legislators and police and elected officials, including Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke.

The 21-member panel, chaired by Odell, also invited residents to provide input by joining any of nine subgroups to represent the interests of people of color, educators, LGBTQIA+ residents, veterans and other constituent groups.

The public can read the plan and submit feedback at putnamcountyny.com/police-reviewpanel until Wednesday (Feb. 17), when a virtual public hearing is scheduled, and register to speak during the hearing, which will be livestreamed. The full Legislature

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JEFF MIKKELSON

By Jeff Simms

Jeff Mikkelsen of Cold Spring is a co-founder of Hudson Valley Demands New York Health.

What is the New York Health Act?

It's a bill before the Legislature that would guarantee comprehensive health care to every resident and full-time worker in the state. It would cover primary and specialty care, as well as mental and reproductive health, dental, vision, hearing, prescriptions and long-term care. It

would operate as a single-payer system, with no network restrictions, no premiums and no fees at the point of service.

How would it differ from the health insurance marketplace?

It would be infinitely simpler. The system we have now is a mix of hundreds of public and private insurance plans, each of which has its own network and terms. Under the Health Act, everyone would be covered by the same comprehensive plan. Funding would come through money that the state gets from the federal government for Medicaid, Medicare and other programs, and a progressive tax on income. Right now, I pay the same for a given health care plan that a billionaire would. Under the Health Act, your contribution would be based on your ability to pay.

It sounds too good to be true.

That's a natural reaction because

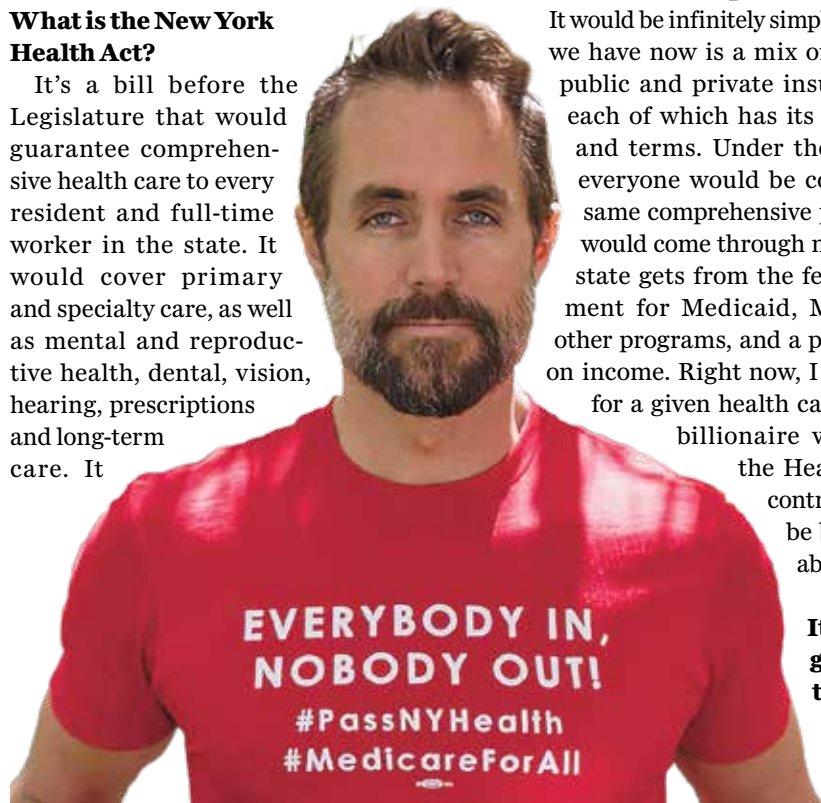
we've lived under this dysfunctional system for so long. Almost every developed country in the world covers its residents better than we do, and more cheaply. Medicare is the closest thing that we have to a single-payer system. It runs more efficiently than the private system, with administrative costs that are a fraction of the insurance industry's. Two large-scale studies concluded that the New York Health Act would cover more people better than we do now, cost less for individuals and save the state billions of dollars each year. In addition to lower administrative costs, we would be bargaining collectively for better prices.

Why are you passionate about this?

My mother had many health problems at the end of her life and was constantly trying to figure out whether she was covered for this procedure or that. I developed a deep sense of the injustice of our system. I wanted to work toward change that I thought was possible in the midst of the chaos we have in this country. If we could get this passed, it would impact every single New Yorker. We could become a model for the rest of the country. I'm also a small-business owner, and for many years, at the beginning of my career, I didn't have health insurance. I was lucky because I didn't get seriously ill.

The bill was introduced in the Assembly in 1992 and has been reintroduced many times since. Why do you think this year will be any different?

It's picked up steam in recent years. It's passed the Assembly by large margins four times and last year was one vote shy of a majority in the Senate. A lot of proponents of the Act were elected in 2020, so we have people coming in who want to see it get done. If you look at the bigger picture, the pandemic has underscored the need for fundamental change in the way we administer health care. A lot of the inefficiencies in our system have been multiplied, especially in communities of color and disadvantaged areas. New York is facing a big budget crunch and the Health Act could become attractive to municipalities unable to meet their budgets in coming years.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

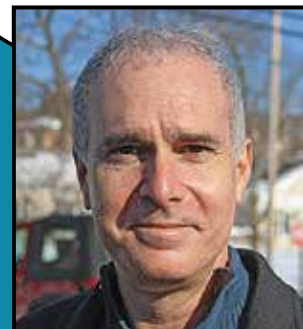
What's the longest you've had to wait in line?

“Three to four hours for tickets to Summer Jam in New York City when Chris Brown headlined. It was worth it!”



~ Lamerica Smith, Beacon

“My buddy and I waited three hours to get into the Star Wars prequel.”



~ Michael Del Monte, Garrison

“I slept overnight on the floor at JFK airport for a flight to Puerto Rico. There was a mechanical problem.”



~ Elsa Bernardi, Cold Spring

Pilates Instructor Sues Beacon

Alleges mistaken identity led to detainment

By Leonard Sparks

A woman working as a Pilates instructor in Beacon is alleging in a federal lawsuit that her civil rights were violated last year when she appeared in court to contest a parking ticket and was mistaken for a suspect with an outstanding warrant and led out of the courtroom in handcuffs.

In a lawsuit filed Feb. 2 in federal court in White Plains, Lisa Mazochi said she “was mortified with embarrassment, and extremely nervous and frightened” on Jan. 13, 2020, when Beacon police officers took her out of the courtroom and downstairs to the Police Department, which shares the building at 1 Municipal Plaza.

At the Police Department, according to the lawsuit, she was handcuffed to a wall while officers checked the records. They discovered that neither her face, the spelling of her last name nor her date of birth matched the suspect’s, who police said had burglarized a residence and had a history of drug use, the lawsuit said.

Three officers apologized to Mazochi, and the court dismissed the parking ticket, according to the filing, which names the

City of Beacon and several officers who are identified as “John Does.”

City Administrator Chris White declined comment. Jeffrey Rothman, an attorney who is representing Mazochi, said “she’s a law-abiding person” whose last name sounded the same as the suspect’s but whose other identifying information should have been checked by police before they detained her.

“It was a very difficult experience for her, to have her liberty be taken from her, put in handcuffs, and walked in police custody through this courtroom in a community where she works,” said Rothman.

Mazochi said that when told by a female officer that there was an arrest warrant for her, she responded that “they must have the wrong person,” according to the lawsuit. Despite her willingness to go with the officers, Mazochi was told that police procedure required she be handcuffed, according to the lawsuit.

She became “visibly upset at the prospect of being handcuffed and walked in handcuffs through the courtroom,” the lawsuit said, telling the officers she “had family and clients” who lived in Beacon and “that people she knew might be in the courtroom,” according to the filing.

At the police department, Mazochi said the female officer asked her if she “had been in any bar fights.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Man Charged with Driving Prostitutes to Putnam

FBI says suspect had 383 contacts in Brewster

A Queens man was charged on Jan. 29 with being a driver for a prostitution ring that served Putnam County, specifically Brewster.

In a complaint unsealed on Feb. 3, an FBI agent testified that Teodoro Rojas Lopez arranged appointments by text messages or WhatsApp. Federal prosecutors said Lopez had been driving prostitutes from Queens to Putnam County for seven years and had contact information for 383 Brewster residents on his iPhone.

In messages, he described the women as being from Mexico or Costa Rica. The FBI said Lopez told one client that the charge would be \$100 for 30 minutes.

When interviewed by the FBI in August, Lopez admitted his involvement and said he was aware that many of the women he transported were being coerced or forced into prostitution, the agency said.

Riot Defendant Pleads Not Guilty

Accused of taking part in Capitol attack

A Beacon man accused of being a member of the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 has pleaded not guilty in federal court.

William Pepe, 31, appeared by video at his arraignment on Tuesday (Feb. 9) before a

federal judge in Washington, D.C. He pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy; civil disorder; unlawfully entering restricted buildings or grounds; and disorderly and disruptive conduct in restricted buildings or grounds. Prosecutors accuse Pepe of being a member of the Proud Boys, a white nationalist group.

A co-defendant, Dominic Pezzola, also pleaded not guilty. Their next court date was scheduled for March 26. Pepe remains free with travel and firearm restrictions; Pezzola was ordered held without bond.

In another case, a federal prosecutor on Monday (Feb. 8) asked a judge to keep Jake Lang, a Newburgh man accused of taking part in the riot, incarcerated until trial. Lang was indicted on charges of assaulting officers, civil disorder and violent entry.

According to the George Washington University Program on Extremism, which is tracking prosecutions related to the riot, as of Wednesday (Feb. 10), 201 people had been charged from 40 states and D.C.

Carmel Board Member Pleads Guilty

Convicted of illegal sewer hookup

Michael Barile, a member of the Carmel Town Board, pleaded guilty on Feb. 8 to secretly hooking his restaurant to the public sewer system so he wouldn’t have to pay for using it, according to the Putnam County district attorney.

Barile, who co-owns the Blu Restaurant in Carmel, had been served with multiple cease-and-desist orders by the town, the DA said in a statement. He agreed to pay a \$105,000 fine.

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING



“We live part-time in Cold Spring, and, as a media professional, I admire the responsible, fair and relevant news reported about our community. We adore the ‘Looking Back’ feature; we read it aloud. Thank you!”

**KAY MURRAY AND PARTNER
BEN YARMOLINSKY,
COLD SPRING**

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Committee assignments

The article in the Feb. 5 issue, "Montgomery Reveals Ouster from Committee," provides no explanation for why Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery was surprised she did not get the committee assignments she wanted. Does it surprise anyone? She has created the adversarial relationship with the county executive and the Legislature.

Has she received what she sowed in her first two years in the office? Why would she have earned a leadership role with a board she continually criticizes? Ms. Montgomery has rendered herself ineffective and needs to learn what her role is; instead of decrying county government as broken, she needs to develop better negotiating skills and learn to work with others, regardless of party affiliation. What is broken is her ability to bring consensus to issues.

It takes five votes — a simple majority — on the nine-member Legislature to accomplish most things. There is also a benefit from advice from the county executive and department heads. If her goal, as she states, is to get the county government to help Philipstown, she needs to develop support and allies.

By her admission, she admits she has not worked well with others in the county

government and keeps on fighting instead of compromising. Perhaps it is too late, and she has already done irreparable damage. Nancy's issue is that she challenges everyone and has lost so much for the residents of District 1, such as more than \$15,000 in reimbursement for the Village of Cold Spring, which was her oversight.

I served in the Legislature for six years and accomplished a great deal for Philipstown. I worked alongside many department heads and know how hard our county employees work. Forming trusting relationships and building consensus is something I enjoyed, quite the opposite of today's representation. Anytime I had a question, my approach was first to listen, second to analyze, communicate and, finally, advocate for the need. I had six successful years and it brought a senior center, prevented the post office from leaving, fought the war on drugs and underage smoking and vaping, and added a host of environmental protections to our Hudson River Valley efforts.

Nancy needs to learn that leading requires understanding and compromise, working toward solutions and solving problems, regardless of party affiliation. It should never be about red or blue. We are one community. Sam Oliverio did a fine job

and worked well with all Republicans on the Legislature for many years as the sole Democrat when he represented Putnam Valley.

In the end, we must remember that we need to come together to benefit the people who live in Putnam County. The county is not broken, but the turmoil continues. The divide is widening between the eastern and western sides of the county because of an unwillingness of our legislator to cooperate. I know we are better if we work together, and I am considering running for the seat again this year.

Barbara Scuccimarra, *Garrison*

Nancy Montgomery, who was removed from one of her two committees by her colleagues, is being marginalized. Could it be that she is being discriminated against as the only Democrat on the Legislature?

When a person has been elected from their district to represent them, that person has the right to be treated equally and fairly by their fellow legislators, regardless of party affiliations. It is time for the Legislature to reset its thinking.

Phyllis Hoenig, *Mahopac*

No matter the party affiliation, the status quo, no accountability, authoritarian arm of the Republican Party punishes those public servants who question the dogma. Though a Republican, Dini LoBue received the same contemptible treatment during her tenure as a legislator, gradually being removed from one committee, then her chairmanship of the Rules Committee, and then from all committees, relegating her role to that of an annoying fixture on the sidelines during meetings.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

Isn't this something that the state has power and process to investigate?

Sara Dulaney, *Cold Spring*

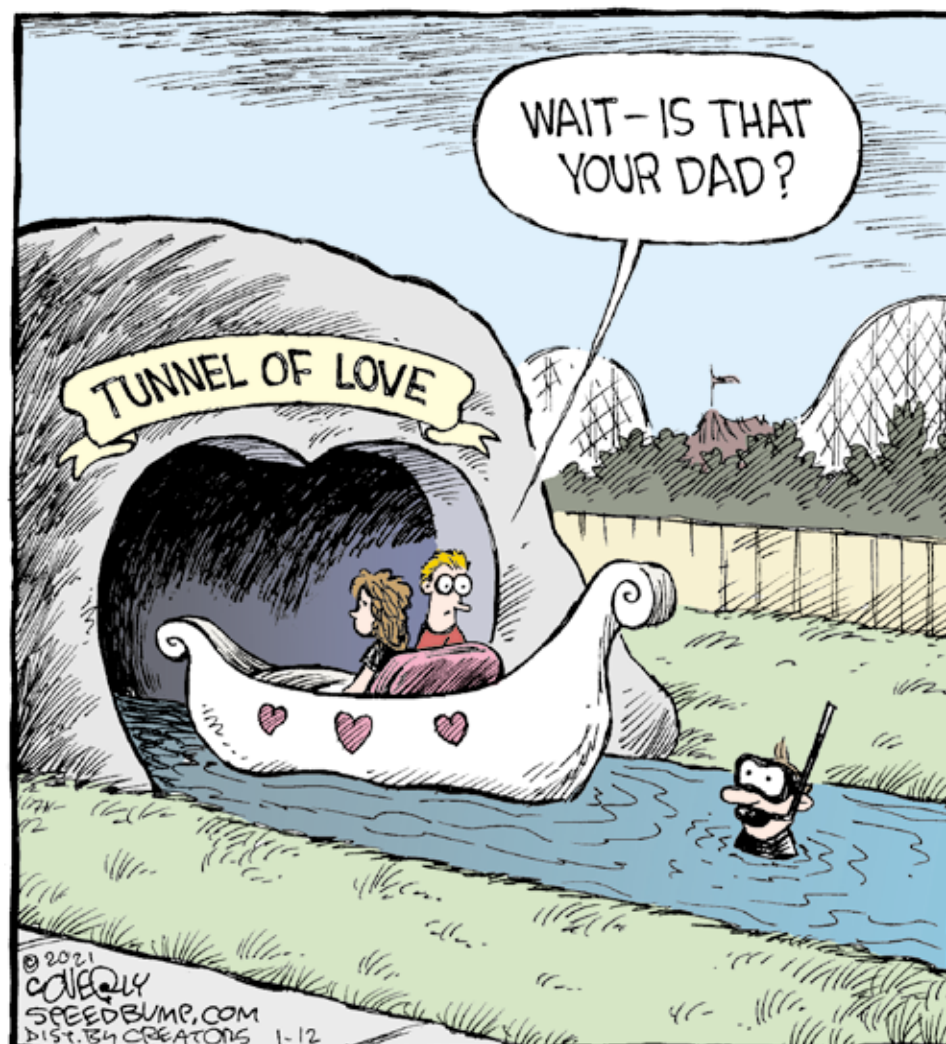
Black Lives Matter

I'm 75 years old and have lived in Putnam Valley for 24 years. I love Putnam County. I love my neighbors. I still believe that the Statue of Liberty was put there to welcome everyone and includes those who were already here when Europeans arrived and those who were forced to come here beginning in 1619. They and their ancestors are all my neighbors.

On Feb. 6, I attended a Black Lives Matter rally at the historic county courthouse in Carmel. One of the things that made me do this was that my neighbor began flying a Trump flag on Jan. 6, the day of the Capitol riot.

We have been neighborly for all these years; I won't stop being his neighbor. But on Feb. 6, I stood for nearly two hours listen-

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ing to the diverse group of intelligent, caring, young people who organized the rally, and older people like me, asserting that Black lives matter. I also needed to be there because I still can't get over watching the police officer with his knee on George Floyd's throat, or that on Jan. 6 my fellow Americans tried to terrorize Congress and all of us.

On Feb. 6, most people driving by — including a few in pickups — honked in support. But some drivers and passengers — including a few in pickups — bellowed, “Go home!” “Trump 2020!” “Blue lives matter!” and “All lives matter!” These people are my neighbors, too, but each of us is anonymous to each other.

I'm writing because I want to be a good neighbor and am forever hopeful that if I keep the lines of communication open during this time of polarization, it is better than closing down or ugly confrontation. I am also writing because I was in Carmel to be public about my opposition to the values that my neighbor's flag represents and to name the empathic terror I feel when he flies it. I needed to support and stand with those who stand up for the yet-unfulfilled dream. I need to do both! That's America to me.

Mark Weiss, *Putnam Valley*

Bird & Bottle

Fine reporting by Jeff Simms on the renovations at the Bird & Bottle Inn in Garrison (“Another Go for Bird & Bottle,” Feb. 5). Is the George Perkins mentioned briefly as a supporting figure in the life of this notable site the same George Perkins who was the “father” of the Palisades Parkway?

People are often curious why the Bird & Bottle is so remote when compared to other landmarks. The fractured Highlands explains the urgent goal of finding the least-tortured stagecoach route from New York City to the north. Thus, the Albany Post Road was the superhighway of its day.

William Harris, *Cold Spring*

The George Perkins mentioned in the story was the son of George Walbridge Perkins (1862-1920), the first president of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. In 1929, George Jr. purchased the land that is now Glynwood farm, which was named using a combination of his first name and that of his wife, Lynn. Like his father, he also served on the Palisades commission. See Page 19.

So, so happy this property has found an owner who appreciates its history and value to the community. Can't wait to visit again.

Darryl Morrison, *Houston, Texas*

My husband and I were engaged at the Bird & Bottle on Valentine's Day in 1992 and have been married for 28 years. So happy to hear it will be open again.

Liz Meier, *Shrub Oak*

The vaccine

Rumor has it that unless “connected,” there is a slim chance of getting the vaccination or even an appointment (“More Vaccines Promised,” Jan. 29). Even if the distribution has been equitable it sure doesn't feel like it.



WE ARE CRUSHED — Sadly, our bench did not survive the Feb. 2 storm.

Photo by Teresa Lagerman

As a resident of Chestnut Ridge senior housing in Cold Spring, we were once again invaded by non-residents when the vaccine distribution was administrated in the basement of Building No. 1.

I am grateful that Drug World has taken the lead in our community, but a safer, more sensible location needs to be found. I'm concerned the safety of Chestnut Ridge residents may be in jeopardy with this mass influx of non-residents. It was impossible to find parking in our lot. I met a woman who left her car in our lot and walked to Foodtown! Strangers were milling around, socializing in groups. Using the building's laundry facility was out of the question. While most were wearing masks, many weren't.

June Heller, *via Facebook*

I'm an essential worker and it is impossible to get vaccinated in Putnam County. I live here and I've been trying for weeks.

Michelle McCoy, *via Facebook*

Seniors are increasingly feeling overlooked in priority in the vaccine rollout. The Putnam County Health Department states that it is constrained in being limited to providing vaccine only to essential workers, yet the Dutchess County website announces locations in area schools and health centers that are not restricting access.

It would be important to explain why Putnam County cannot do the same. I have noticed that there were no posts on Putnam County websites between Jan. 28 and Feb. 4. In a time of crisis, this is inexcusable. Regardless of any constraints on their ability to deliver all needed doses, County Executive MaryEllen Odell and the Department of Health would still be able to alleviate some of the distress. I recommend that they begin posting daily on their websites and provide whatever information they have about vaccine availability in drugstores or medical practices — the only vaccination locations available to local seniors.

Currently, it is only possible to find such information by relentless tracking of area newspapers, Facebook and neighborhood blogs. The county information technology staff, or tourism, which is not too busy these

days, should be able to log on to similar sites and share the info. For many seniors, accessing social media sites is not accessible, and we shouldn't expect them to do so.

A central source of reliable information is essential. I have noticed that other county health departments have provided such information for their residents, e.g., Dutchess, even Greene that provides a registration form online which not only eases the vaccination process, but also facilitates health department outreach when vaccine is available.

Without similar facilitation, our seniors are being left to their own, often adequate, devices. I am sure anyone would agree that, in times of crisis, the lack of information can be as crippling as the threat itself.

Both the county executive and Health Department and Legislature could do a better job at telling seniors how to access the available vaccine slots they report. We don't need any more of their reporting on what they have already achieved. We want to stay alive.

Kathleen Hoekstra, *Putnam Valley*

Piazza pieces

I own a few of Virginia Piazza's pieces (“The Artist Next Door,” Jan. 29). I admired them for years but was waiting for her to make bowls of a certain size. Finally, it occurred to me that a smaller bowl might encourage smaller portions. (Also, I just got tired of waiting!) I use the bowls every day. I love holding them and using them, and the size turned out to be just right.

Richard Butensky, *Cold Spring*

Prison vaccines

Vaccinate the corrections staff and civilian employees; the prisoners can get vaccinated after the seniors and persons at risk (“Should Prisoners Get Early Vaccines?” Jan. 29). It would be disgusting if prisoners got vaccinated before our seniors, nursing-home patients, essential workers and others at risk.

Tom Ciero, *Cold Spring*

The state Department of Corrections has yet to roll out a plan to get all of its parole officers, correction officers, other essen-

tial staff and inmates vaccinated. Parole officers have had to rely on the kindness of the New York State Police and county sheriffs to get vaccinated. Downstate officers are scrambling to find an appointment to get vaccinated, while other prison staff and inmates sit and wait. It's unacceptable. There are vaccines but no plan.

Tony Perez, *Bronx*

Perez is a retired senior parole officer and president of the New York State Fraternal Order of Police Parole Lodge 027.

I have always been of the camp that feels prisoners should be forced to perform heavy and hard work — breaking boulders into small gravel, so to speak — and therefore, hopefully, not want to revisit prison. However, prisoners, like nursing-home residents, are sitting ducks for COVID-19. And that puts the guards at risk of infection. Not good! My wife and I are 82 and not in the best of health, and await our number to be called. But we have the relative safety of our home and are able to take great precautions when out, although there's no guarantee. Still, I just wish that New York State knew how to make things work.

Leonard Lindros Jr., *Garrison*

Beacon parking

Keep the traffic away from residential areas, please (“Main Street Beacon: Add Parking, Not Asphalt,” Jan. 29). With the parking on both sides of our narrow residential streets, cars cannot safely move in either direction. The city needs to rethink all this. How about visitor parking at the train station and provide transportation into the city? Or requiring any new building that houses more than two families to provide underground parking instead of leaving it up to the city to make it happen?

Visit any street within a two-block radius of Main during busy weekends, instead of a Wednesday morning with lattes, and see what we are dealing with. Closing off Main to cars isn't fair. Don't turn my street into a parking lot.

Joe Zukowski, *Beacon*

A park-and-ride system would work well, with a shuttle bus running between the train station and maybe some space just outside Memorial Park. I don't know why we'd encourage more cars into the city, or why parking gets greater priority than biking. A bike-share system might even be feasible and safe if cars were discouraged from the center.

Mark Hall, *Beacon*

Galef forum

I'm happy Assemblywoman Sandy Galef is listening to local residents' concerns about the impacts of tourism on Philipstown and Cold Spring (“Galef Forum Touches on Tourism, Taxes,” Jan. 29). I appreciate the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to assist in keeping the public bathrooms open during times of heavy tourism, but it's sad that so few have volunteered to maintain them.

However, Ms. Galef ought to know that charging a fee to use a bathroom is illegal

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NOTICE

Request for Proposals Pursuant to NYS Energy Law § 9-103 For Solar Energy System for Town Recreation Center

Pursuant to New York State Energy Law § 9-103, the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, is soliciting proposals for installation of a Solar Energy System for the Town Recreation Center located at 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York 10524.

PROJECT:

The Town of Philipstown requires a vendor to enter into a 20-year Solar Power Purchase Agreement for the provision and installation of a solar panel system on the Town Recreation Center located at 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York 10524.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT:

Provision of a turn- key Ballasted Solar Photovoltaic System on either a sale, rental or lease-to-own basis (proposal may include any or all three of the said options) installed on the roof of the Philipstown Recreation Center using an array of approximately 306 solar panels or the equivalent. The system should be at least a 120,870 kw system.

Please note that this is a prevailing wage project in regard to any installation or construction work, and that vendors must be Equal Opportunity Employers and conform to the Town's Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN PROPOSALS:

All proposals must in writing and include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, address, phone and email contact of the vendor and, if available, the vendor's website address;
2. A description of the proposed Solar Energy System and the manner in which it will be installed on the Town Recreation Center Roof;
3. A copy or summary of the proposed Solar Power Purchase Agreement, including the warranties provided;
4. A statement of the proposed contract pricing;
5. A brief statement of the vendor's background and experience in solar power;
6. A list of representative purchasers of solar energy systems from the vendor in New York State.
7. A statement confirming that the applicant is an Equal Opportunity Employer and conforms to the Town's Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

The Town reserves the right to request additional information or clarification from those submitting responses as the Town may see fit.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The selection process will be based on responses to this RFP. However, the ultimate decision on an award of the contract will be wholly within the discretion of the Town Board and in accordance with the Town's procurement policy.

The Town reserves the right to reject all proposals received, as well as the right to waive any inconsistencies or omissions in proposals received. The Town further reserves the right to communicate and negotiate with any and all vendors in regard to terms and conditions of the proposed Solar Power Purchase Agreement.

DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS:

All proposals must be submitted to and received by the Town of Philipstown Town Clerk, P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516 no later than **2:00 p.m. on the 24th day of February, 2021.**

Questions regarding this request for proposals may be addressed to Richard Shea, Town Supervisor, Town of Philipstown, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, NY, 10516, Tel. No. (845) 265-5200; email: supervisor@philipstown.com.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

in New York. If she wants to help us, she should work to make sure this ill-informed law is rescinded as soon as possible.

Putnam County sees huge financial benefits in the form of sales tax revenue from Philipstown business owners. It's despicable that county legislators (other than Nancy Montgomery) refuse to assist us in managing the significant impacts on our infrastructure from tourism.

It's doubly shocking that so few Main Street merchants are willing to put any effort into assuring that some portion of the tax revenue they generate is returned to the town and village.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

Cold Spring water

The Clove Creek aquifer already supplies water to three municipalities, including Beacon and Fishkill ("Cold Spring Weighs Water Options," Feb. 5). Is there sufficient water for four municipalities?

Thomas de Villiers, *via Facebook*

Continental Commons

After all that has been expressed and fussed over, does the developer not feel like he is in someone's backyard and refusing to leave because there is no money in leaving ("Continental Commons Sues Fishkill," Jan. 29)?

Wayne Theiss, *Glenham*

What a balanced story! (Sarcasm.) The Town of Fishkill will never extend a water district that contains unknown and unmapped water and sewer mains, as confirmed by the Dutchess County Department of Health. Also, maybe *The Highlands Current* should know that legal counsel for Continental Commons declared at a public meeting that it would file a lawsuit before it ever heard the town's reasons for declining to extend the water and sewer district.

Correction

In "Cold Spring Weighs Water Options" (Feb. 5), we reported that the Village of Cold Spring is responsible for repairing leaks in the water distribution system that occur between the main water line and the "curb cock," or valve, while residents are responsible for repairing leaks between the curb cock and the building. In fact, the village is only responsible for repairing leaks in the main line. Residents are responsible for fixing leaks between the main line and the building.

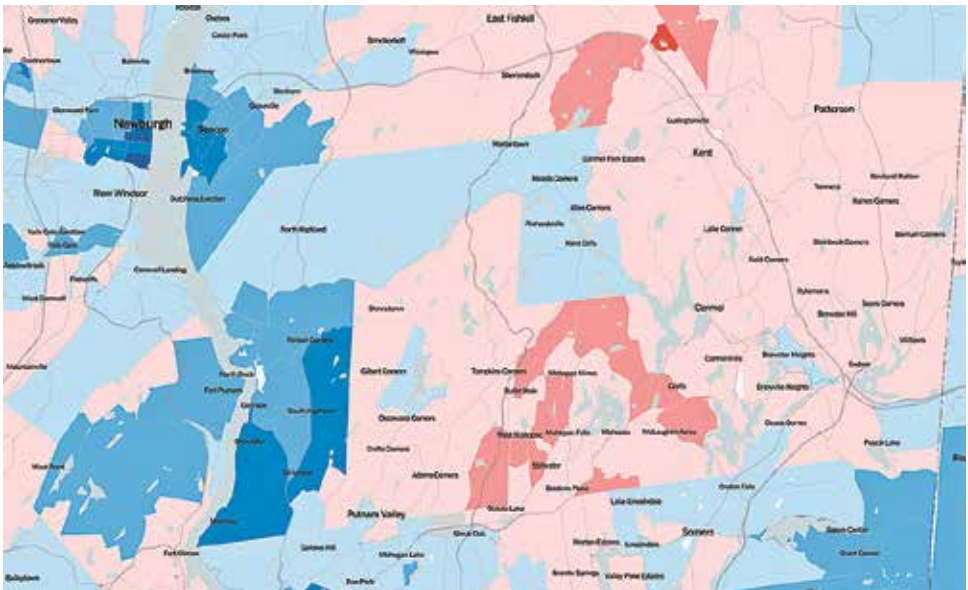
So bottom line is Continental Commons was destined to file suit no matter what. Watch the recording. Feel free to ask the town supervisor for my cell number if you want some truth in your article instead of a one-sided, developer-driven article that doesn't tell the reader the whole story. Seems to be a trend in Dutchess County: Good journalism is dead.

Brian Nugent, *Nyack*
Nugent is the Fishkill town counsel.

Inauguration coats

Truly love the inauguration coats, the creativity and the exciting story ("Fashion Moment," Feb. 5). However, sourcing fabric from Hobby Lobby seems like a huge misstep for iloveplum, particularly for this client and administration, given the company's history.

Suzanne Murray, *via Facebook*
Editor's note: In 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of Hobby Lobby's owners, who are evangelical Christians, not to provide contraceptive health coverage for their employees because of their personal beliefs.



How We Voted
Map shows precincts won by each presidential candidate

This is a map of the Highlands and surrounding areas created by *The New York Times* that reflects the vote in each precinct from the 2020 presidential election, with blue for Democrat Joe Biden and red for Republican Donald Trump; the darker the color, the larger the margin of victory. You can see specifics by entering your ZIP code at bit.ly/highlands-vote.

Finding an Appointment

Vaccines are given at no cost. Pharmacies will bill insurers; the fee for those without insurance is covered by the federal CARES Act Provider Relief Fund.

CVS

Go to bit.ly/cvsvaccines and click on "New York" to find locations and available appointments. Those without internet access can call 800-746-7287. As of Feb. 11, the site said that its locations in Carmel, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Stony Point were "fully booked" but that there were openings in counties in western and northern parts of the state.

Walgreens

Residents must create an account at walgreens.com, or log in using an existing account. A check on Thursday using ZIP codes from the Highlands said there were no available appointments "coming up within your area."

Stop & Shop

Visit bit.ly/stopandshopvaccine to find a location and register for available appointments. As of Thursday, the site said there were no available appointments within 50 miles of the Highlands, Poughkeepsie or Peekskill.

Hannaford

Visit bit.ly/hannafordvaccines. As of Thursday, only stores in and near Albany, Cairo (in Greene County) and Glens Falls were offering vaccinations "in limited supply" and no appointments appeared to be available.

Drug World of Cold Spring

Visit drugworld.com to check for availability and to make an appointment.

Rite Aid

For information, visit riteaid.com/covid-19. While the pharmacy is administering vaccines in many states, usually in partnership with local health departments, the chain says its local stores in New York do not book appointments.

Walmart

See walmart.com/COVIDvaccine. The chain says it has no immediate plans to offer the vaccine in New York.

Pharmacies *(from Page 1)*

and local health departments are focused on essential workers such as first responders and teachers. New York also operates 13 mass-vaccination sites, including at the Westchester County Center in White Plains and the Javits Center in New York City, that are open to anyone who is eligible and can book an appointment. (As of Thursday, only SUNY Potsdam had openings, about a six-hour drive from the Highlands.)

But pharmacies have been tasked with vaccinating an estimated 1.4 million New York residents who qualify because they are 65 and over, which is the largest group eligible now for shots.

Select chain and independent pharmacies, including Drug World in Cold Spring and Rite Aid in Beacon, had already been receiving a portion of the state's allocation of Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, both of which require two shots given weeks apart. Dutchess County's vaccine webpage lists four Walgreens and six Rite Aid pharmacies that have been giving vaccines, with each location receiving 100 doses each week from the state.

The federal program represents a significant expansion.

Putnam County Health Commissioner Michael Nesheiwat, addressing the Legislature's Health Committee on Wednesday (Feb. 10), said that seniors have the best chance of getting vaccinated through their primary care doctors or pharmacies. He said his department received one-time state approval to accept 100 vaccines from a pharmacy and used those doses to inoculate seniors.

"We are always gladly willing to accept, if the state of New York allows us, vaccine allotments to immunize our seniors," he said. "We feel what they're going through."

Both CVS and Walgreens require that people book appointments through their central websites, not at individual stores, and both are only vaccinating people eligible under state guidelines. In New York State, health care and essential workers, residents 65 and older and those with underlying conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease are eligible.

About 6,500 of an estimated 40,000 pharmacies are participating in the first phase of the federal program, with addi-

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

7,746 (+290)

New Cases in Philipstown: 19

Tests administered:

149,959 (+6,139)

Percent positive:

5.2 (0)

Number of deaths:

84 (+2)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

20,477 (+965)

Active Cases in Beacon: 29

Tests administered:

487,341 (+21,562)

Percent positive:

4.2 (0)

Number of deaths:

388 (+16)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Feb. 10, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Feb. 4.

tional ones to be added as vaccine production increases, said Kathleen Jaeger, a pharmacist and senior vice president for pharmacy care and patient advocacy for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

She said pharmacies selected for the first phase have "per capita the largest footprints" of people who are "most socially vulnerable to COVID."

Together, the country's pharmacies "have

the capacity to do 100 million doses in 30 days," but are limited now by the shortage in supply, Jaeger said during a news conference on Feb. 5. "We certainly are urging everyone out there, especially those that really want to get this vaccine, to have patience."

Patience, however, is also in short supply, especially for seniors competing for limited doses.

A woman who answered the phone for the pharmacy at Rite Aid in Beacon on Wednesday said the store was booked into March for vaccine appointments and was not offering new slots. Drug World, one of the few independent pharmacies approved to give shots, announced on Monday that it would have no additional first doses for the week.

Putnam County's website crashed on Wednesday when the Health Department posted a link for appointments available the next day. The slots filled in about 30 minutes, said Kathy Percacciolo, the supervising public health nurse for the Health Department.

Putnam County receives 200 first doses to distribute each week, plus another 100 designated for facilities serving people with developmental disabilities. The county has administered first doses to 1,519 people and second doses to 593, said Percacciolo, but could "easily" vaccinate 500 people an hour, she said.

"People just have to keep trying," she said. "I wish there were a better way for us to do this, but there just isn't right now."

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit – February 14th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, February 14th, 2021 at 9:30 am to inspect the following site:

**Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival,
2015 US Route 9 Garrison, NY
TM#60-1-5-2&59.3**

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McConville Announces for Sheriff

Will seek Republican line to challenge Langley

By Chip Rowe

Kevin McConville, a Cold Spring resident and former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department, announced on Feb. 4 that he plans to challenge Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. for his job in the fall.

McConville, 63, said in a statement he plans to pursue the endorsement of the Republican and Conservative parties. He is the chair of the Philipstown Republican Committee. Langley is a Democrat.

McConville retired from the MTA in 2008. During his tenure overseeing the 770-member force, he created the Inter-agency Counter Terrorism Team to address terrorism, according to his announcement. He also served as a member of the governor's Homeland Security Team. For the past 12 years, he has been the director of security emergency management at a local health care facility. He began his career in law enforcement as a Cold Spring police officer.

"It is time to have a responsible, accountable and efficient law enforcement leader, one that manages the budget and the department," he said in the statement. "The role of the sheriff is not about politics, it is a hands-on job that requires the knowledge of how a law enforcement

agency works and how to do it effectively and efficiently, provide support and training to your personnel and excellent service to your communities."

"Let's give our deputies and corrections officers a leader, one who isn't afraid of transparency and fiscal accountability," he said. "You have to be accountable, responsible and able to work with everybody. [The MTA police] worked with everybody — local and county police departments, as well as state and federal agencies, during my time as chief."

The financial management of the Sheriff's Department will likely be an issue in the race. Langley has been under fire from Republican members of the Putnam County Legislature for overtime spending, although his predecessor, Don Smith, also spent heavily on overtime. In 2013, McConville criticized Smith for his financial management, accusing the then-sheriff of increasing overtime spending over the previous decade by 120 percent.

The Putnam County Democratic Committee on Jan. 10 endorsed Langley for election to a second, 4-year term. A resident of Philipstown, he was elected in 2017, narrowly defeating the Republican incumbent, Smith, who had been sheriff for 16 years.

McConville has run for Putnam County sheriff twice. He was the Democratic candidate in 2009 against Smith and challenged Smith again in 2013 in the Republican primary. In 2017 he endorsed Smith in his



McConville announced his campaign on Feb. 4 in Carmel. The county clerk, county executive and Republican members of the Legislature stand behind him. Campaign photo

race against Langley.

McConville said in 2013 that he has always been a Republican but switched

parties in 2009 "because I felt I would have gotten lost running as a Republican with so many other people vying for the line."

Police Reform *(from Page 1)*

will consider the plan at its monthly meeting on March 4.

The Putnam panel's recommendations touch on several areas of concern raised about police forces nationwide: the use of body cameras; how police respond to incidents involving people with mental illnesses; bias and diversity training; and the general lack of diversity among officers.

In addition to recommending that the Sheriff's Department rewrite its use-of-force policy to match language in state penal law, Putnam's panel said the agency should, in the interest of officer safety and transparency, review the costs of equipping deputies with body cameras, although "funding may be an obstacle." Its patrol cars are already outfitted with dashboard cameras.

The panel also acknowledged that while "it is neither safe nor practical to completely remove law enforcement" from incidents involving people with mental illnesses, deputies should "collaborate, where feasible, with other agencies and mental health professionals" when responding to incidents involving people in crisis.

In response to the panel's call for Spanish-speaking deputies, the Sheriff's Department said it recently gave a civil-service exam in Spanish and plans to recruit at college fairs in Rockland and Westchester counties to reach more bilingual applicants. About 16 percent of Putnam's residents are

Latino. Deputies who don't speak Spanish use Google Translate and a service called Language Line that they can call for translations, the agency said.

The department also said it will track the number and types of arrests it makes, and the discharge of firearms, and post the data to its website.

"I want to thank everyone on the panel for their hard work in putting together such a thorough report in such a short time," Odell said in a statement. "I am especially grateful for the meaningful feedback we got from the public."

While Odell praised the citizen input, some recommendations from the subgroups did not make the final list, such as the creation of a court to handle defendants who are veterans, or the establishment of a community panel to review complaints against deputies.

In addition, in an addendum to the report, some subgroup members said that more than two of the nine subgroups should have represented people of color, and that the committees were prevented from reviewing data related to the Sheriff's Department budget and inventory and had limited access to policies, procedures and other information. The report fails to say which recommendations will be put up for adoption by the Legislature, they said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday (Feb. 9), members of three subgroups said they were encouraged that Odell agreed to have a permanent, "community-appointed" Public

Accountability Committee comprised mostly of people of color, but were pushing to ensure the committee be provided access to materials and involved in decisions on policing issues.

Dutchess County

Like Putnam, Dutchess County created a panel to "guide the process" and solicit feedback for its report, which was released by Sheriff Butch Anderson.

The Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative had two committees: one made up of residents, religious leaders, nonprofit leaders, prosecutors, public defenders, educators, elected and government officials and mental-health practitioners, and another of municipal leaders and police chiefs.

The panel also gathered feedback at seven virtual forums in September and October hosted by the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights. The county said its December report was designed as a guide for municipalities as they develop their reforms.

Among its recommendations were having officers wear body cameras, establishing a civilian review board and expanding the involvement of social workers and other non-police staff in drug overdose and mental health-related calls.

Anderson's 42-page plan is available at bit.ly/dutchesspolice-reform. Comments will be accepted by email at dcsopublicinput@dutchessny.gov through Feb. 26, after

which the sheriff will send the plan to the county Legislature.

In the plan, Anderson noted the Sheriff's Office was "the first and only local agency in Dutchess County" with an Internal Affairs Bureau to investigate complaints against deputies. He called that and the agency's accreditation by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services since 1997 "the foundation to not only review what we already do, but to create plans for the future."

Dutchess already had plans to equip sheriff's deputies with body cameras; legislators last year approved funding and the sheriff said he is working with local governments and police agencies to make a joint purchase, according to the report. (Beacon officers have worn the devices since 2018.)

Anderson said his department will waive a requirement that officer candidates have 60 college credits to take its police exam in hopes of diversifying its pool. New hires will instead be given five years to complete 60 credits and two years to complete crisis intervention training, according to the report.

The Sheriff's Office said it would "explore" the creation of a Civilian Review Board as a "review and advisory committee" to the county's Criminal Justice Council. It also will begin reporting arrest data by demographics, such as ethnicity and race, and to host meetings so residents can air concerns and ask questions.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Ambulance Corps Dispute Flares Anew

PVAC says town wants to kill agency; board decries 'lies'

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The cancellation this week of a Town Board workshop to discuss a contract with the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps led to renewed acrimony, with the PVAC again accusing the Town Board of seeking its demise and board members assailing the spreading of “lies” and “misinformation.”

The board announced on Wednesday (Feb. 10) that it had canceled a meeting by Zoom with PVAC members scheduled for that evening. It set no new date.

“We don’t negotiate contracts in a circus environment,” Councilor John Van Tassel told *The Current* on Wednesday, though he cautioned that he was “speaking for myself, one member of the board.”

Chris Tobin, the PVAC president, questioned in a statement whether Philipstown has “any desire, or indeed, any intention to seek a positive solution to this impasse”

over the contract. He accused the Town Board of “stall tactics, part of their continued effort to force us to close,” although his statement did not address why the PVAC believes the board would want that to happen.

Van Tassel, a paramedic and former PVAC captain, said in an interview that he had “a lot of heart and sweat and tears” invested in the organization. “The last thing I or anybody on the Town Board would want to see is the demise of Philipstown Ambulance,” he said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Supervisor Richard Shea said it was a “complete fallacy” that the town wants to shutter the PVAC. He pointed to proliferating local “misinformation” and noted that “the internet is often used to spread lies and confusion” among the public, including, apparently, in Philipstown, where he lamented online attempts “to block even the most basic oversight of taxpayer money and how it is used by the PVAC.” (The full statement is posted at highlandscurrent.org.)

Van Tassel said the board had heard concerns from PVAC members as well as county emergency services personnel about

some of the agency’s practices.

As the stalemate dragged on, the members of at least one Facebook group criticized the town government. One message, posted by ambulance corps members, said the Town Board’s arguments “are wholly unsubstantiated, simply incorrect and absolutely counterproductive” and that meeting such “untenable and unreasonable” propositions “would substantially interfere with our ability to operate.”

The former town clerk, Tina Merando, said of the board: “Shame on them. But it doesn’t surprise me. I’ve witnessed this behavior for many years. It’s their way or the highway. Shame on them again. Ugh.”

Since December, the town and PVAC have been at odds over the town’s attempts to revise a longstanding annual contract to allow more municipal control of the ambulance corps, which covers northern Philipstown. Normally, a new annual contract takes effect on Jan. 1.

The PVAC’s counterpart, the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps, which serves the southern end of the town, is — according to Shea and Van Tassel — poised to sign an identical, revised contract, after initially

questioning it.

Town Board interest in oversight grew with the discovery that the PVAC had, in 2020, supplied ambulance services to Kent for five months and also assisted Putnam Valley.

Van Tassel said that when the PVAC received a call from Kent, “our ambulance would sign on immediately and start responding,” which represented “an abuse of our resources,” since Philipstown taxes provide for professional EMTs to staff the PVAC on a 24/7 basis.

“This is about what’s right and what’s wrong,” he said. “And what’s wrong was that the crew, which the Town of Philipstown was paying, was covering calls in another town and not following the mutual-aid plan.”

According to Van Tassel, under mutual aid, a town’s ambulance corps receives three urgent summonses, and only if no response ensues are other towns’ corps dispatched.

“We’re more than willing to help our neighbors,” he said. “We *have* helped our neighbors, throughout this entire pandemic.” But a pact like the one with Kent “is not helping neighbors. This is enabling our neighbors” to avoid funding necessary services. Oversight “is not a personal attack” on the PVAC, he said. “This is a town board doing its due diligence.”



A rendering of the path and “solar ribbon” the Desmond-Fish Library would like to install in Garrison.

Desmond-Fish Shares Plans for Landscape

‘Discovery Path’ to wind through the grounds

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Desmond-Fish Public Library hopes to enhance its landscape in Garrison with a pathway that meanders through diverse habitats and a solar array that will lessen its reliance on fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

The Philipstown Planning Board, which has been reviewing the details of the “Discovery Path” proposal, scheduled a public hearing via Zoom for Thursday (Feb. 18) to get reaction from residents.

The Desmond-Fish director, Jen McCreery, told the Planning Board in December that the library intends to create a “solar ribbon” of panels on poles that blends into the natural landscape, for what project

architect Laura Pirie called a form of “light floating above the ground.”

Plans call for the 3-foot-wide, wheelchair-accessible Discovery Path to wind through a pollinator garden, a dry meadow of grasses, young forest, wet meadow and wetland, and established woodland. The update would also include a readers’ garden. The library property covers 11.5 acres, with a small stream.

Overall, the project reflects the belief that the library “is at the heart of the community and takes that responsibility seriously,” Pirie said.

Route 9 warehouse

After several months of scrutiny and public feedback, the Planning Board last month voted 5-2 to approve a 20,340-square-foot warehouse and offices planned for Route 9 about a third of a mile south of the Route 301 intersection. The two Planning Board members who voted “no” cited concerns about traffic safety.

A Philipstown firm, CRS International, which imports and distributes fashion brands, said last year it would employ about 30 people at the location and expects one or two tractor-trailers and four or five box trucks to enter and exit the site each day.

Two More Candidates in Nelsonville

Eisenbach and Potts make four for two seats

By Chip Rowe

Two additional candidates have announced for the March 16 Village Board election in Nelsonville, bringing the total to four for the seats held by Trustees Dove Pedlosky and Lisa Mechaley, who do not plan to seek re-election.

George Eisenbach, a retired civil engineer who has lived in Nelsonville for nearly 20 years, and former Trustee Alan Potts filed nominating petitions with the village. The deadline was Tuesday (Feb. 9).

Last week, Maria Zhynovitch, a state appellate court attorney, and Kathleen Maloney, who has held a variety of clinical, corporate and research roles, announced their candidacies.

In a statement, Eisenbach proposed to bring his professional experience to the planning and cost-management of projects such as road repaving. “I’ll make sure the roads are done right and on budget,” he said. “I was shocked to learn Nelsonville’s budget last year grew 25 percent. I know how to find waste in bloated budgets and how to cut it.”

He also said he would bring his “scientific knowledge to the debate about 5G and make sure we have a full and open public discussion that isn’t cut short by the telecoms or politics. As a community we can no longer afford to conduct our debates with the lack of transparency and division we saw during the cell tower debacle.” 5G refers to newer wireless technology that uses smaller, shorter poles and similar structures installed more closely together, instead of relying on cell towers that cover a broader area.

Eisenbach said he decided to get involved “after watching telecoms threaten our Village Board into agreeing to a cell tower that violates local zoning laws, my neighbors’ property rights and the state fire code.”

Eisenbach and his son, David, were among the plaintiffs who filed a federal lawsuit in October to invalidate the court settlement.

The fourth candidate will be Alan Potts, who served on the board from 2017 to 2019 before finishing third in a three-way race for the seats won by Pedlosky and Mechaley.

“As a Nelsonville resident for more than 16 years, I know firsthand how important it is to have cost-effective fire protection, trash collection, street/sidewalk maintenance and snow removal,” he said in a statement. “Nelsonville is also facing important choices around sewer versus septic, Airbnb, budgeting, etc.”

“In addition to being a reliable steward of Nelsonville’s resources, it’s essential to solicit resident input on Nelsonville affairs, as well as their needs and interests,” he said. “I would ensure Nelsonville’s interests are represented with neighboring Cold Spring and Philipstown. I am committed to dealing with our village concerns in an honest, unbiased and transparent manner and would hit the ground running, drawing on my experience serving as a trustee.”

Jeff Rossi also filed a petition but withdrew it on Feb. 9, telling *The Current* that “time constraints that will preclude me from giving the board the time the role deserves” drove his decision. He said he would support any candidate who had “the best interest of the natural beauty of Nelsonville” in mind and who “specifically opposes the development of the cell tower behind the Cold Spring Cemetery.”

AROUND TOWN



▲ **LOOKING SPIFFY** — The bust of James Haldane (1818-1887), namesake of the Haldane school in Cold Spring, recently received a thorough cleaning — and a mask. The statue is located in the middle school. Haldane was an iron importer who founded the school with his brother, John. The original building was located on what is now the Tots Park.

Photo by Megan Shields




▲▼ **EAGLE EYES** — The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society hosted an Eagle Watch at Boscobel on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Scott Silver, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, said that when it opened in 1970, there was one breeding pair of eagles in the entire state because of overhunting and the effects of an insecticide called DDT; there are now more than 400. The birds, whose nests can weigh 2,000 pounds, roost near the Hudson because the river provides an abundant supply of dining options as the current flows past.

Photos by Ross Corsair



▲ **DANCE CHAMPS** — In a weeklong national competition held virtually last month, Carolyn Fadden of Philipstown and Yuriy Herhel, the owner of the Fred Astaire Dance Studios on Route 9, took first place in rhythm (rumba, cha-cha and swing) and second place in smooth (waltz, foxtrot and tango).

Photo provided



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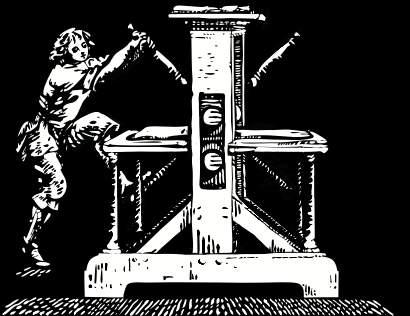
BLAQ•IT: Representing Blackness in Italy
A conversation with Fred Kuwornu

Curated by Ilaria Conti
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. EST

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The Calendar



The Artist Next Door

Kim Pitt-Foster

By Alison Rooney

Kim Pitt-Foster discovered the Garrison Art Center through her children. A ceramicist, she is now a board member and cheerleader for the center and helped organize its *Chairs Revisited* exhibit last fall.

“My son [now 20] has texture issues and I wanted to see if he would touch clay,” she says. “He doesn’t like the rain, but he loves to swim, so there are ways he can find his outlets. I looked at a couple of places and I didn’t like them, then I found the Art Center and the kids fell in love with Lisa [Knaus, the pottery studio manager there], because she was so enthusiastic without any sternness. Lisa was just so effusive, loving and encouraging to my two so-different-to-each-other kids. She can find something magnificent and special about your piece, no matter what.”

Knaus also drew Pitt-Foster back into the studio after many years away. “She made me feel safe to return to pottery,” she says. “I needed a safe, happy outlet.” Pitt-Foster was so impressed, in fact, she joined the Art Center board. “It’s a very nice place, in that you’re appreciated, acknowledged



and encouraged to continue,” she says.

After growing up in Manhattan, highlighted by six years spent as a child performer on *Sesame Street* [see Page 18], Knaus attended the High School of Music & Art in New York City while spending her summers in the Aaron Copland Music and Arts program in North Salem. “The person who ran it was an ex-colonel, and ran it military-style, but it was liberal at the same time, and that mix was fun,” she recalls.

At Bennington College, Pitt-Foster double majored in photography and theater lighting design, with minors in ceramics and literature. It wasn’t as frenetic as it sounds, she explains. “When you’re being creative all the time, it’s easy. My lighting project

was influenced by my outdoor photography; the colors

I might have used in my pottery then always came through in the stories I wrote for literature. I was loud and funky and one of three Black people on campus,



Kim Pitt-Foster, at her home and in the studio (below)

Photo by Senator Bjorge

which is still always the case.”

She never felt that she would become a visual artist, especially since her family’s businesses had been medicine and law. “I toyed with acting, but I wasn’t talented,” she says. “I was shy, a little weird, bossy and loud-mouthed.” Following graduation, she worked behind the scenes in film and theater and then for photographer Arnold Newman and designer Vera Wang. “I herniated two discs — wedding dresses are heavy,” she says.

She continued to make pottery but set it aside after she met and married her husband, a marketing executive, becoming a preschool teacher and, then, for 20 years, a stay-at-home mother. “I was the world’s best and worst mother,” she says. “Anything I did, I did it twice: class mom, PTA — the works.”

After following her children’s lead and enrolling in ceramics at the Garrison Art Center, Pitt-Foster jumped back into her pottery.

During the pandemic shutdown, she says she discovered “the wonderful world of hand-building. I had been a thrower; it’s the most therapeutic thing, to throw a pot. I don’t have fine motor skills, so my pots are not delicate: They carve their space through the world. I work with certain colors. I like them to kind of glisten and have movement

(Continued on Page 18)



THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 13

Washington's Birthday

NEWBURGH

Washington's Headquarters
facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters

View presentations about Revolutionary War history, and George and Martha, and enjoy live music. The schedule is online. Also SUN 14, MON 15.

TUES 16

Cooking for a Cause

CORNWALL

6 p.m. Hudson Valley Eats
hudsonvalleyeats.com/
cooking-for-a-cause

Ric Orlando will make Everything Mardi Gras Gumbo to benefit the Food Bank for the Hudson Valley in this virtual cooking class. *Cost: \$50*



FRI 19

Blood Drive

BEACON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St.
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org
Register or walk in to donate.

ANIMALS & NATURE

SAT 13

Great Backyard Bird Count

HUDSON VALLEY

birdcount.org

Share bird sightings in this conservation event organized by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Record and report online the species and numbers of birds seen at any location.

SAT 20

Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnm.org

Learn how maple sap is turned into syrup. Online registration required. Maple syrup will be sold only online. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members, children 5 and under free)*

MUSIC

SUN 14

Violintine's Day Concert

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Dramatic Hall Theater
bit.ly/BeMyViolintine

Daisy Jopling and her band will celebrate Valentine's Day with a livestreamed performance. The evening begins with virtual cocktails at 5:30 p.m. *Cost: \$25 (free for members)*

SAT 20

Last Minute Soulmates

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandculturalcenter.org

The band will perform during a livestream from the center. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 21

MET Orchestra Musicians

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandmusic.org/ALIVEmusica.html

In this livestream performance sponsored by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, musicians from the Metropolitan Orchestra will perform Saint-Saëns' *Fantaisie in A Major, Op. 124*, Massenet's *Meditation from Thaïs*, Frank's *Zapatos de Chinchá* and Beethoven's *String Trio in C Minor, Op. 9 No. 3*. *Cost: \$20 or pay as you wish*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 13

Story Walk and Crafts

COLD SPRING

Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Enjoy a Valentine's Day-themed story in the garden around the library and take home a craft to make later. Also SUN 14.

SAT 13

Global Rhythms, Sounds and Songs

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts | compassarts.org

Gwen Laster and Damon Banks, co-founders of Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble, will lead this webinar for students in grades 6 to 12 with beats from around the world. *Cost: Sliding scale*

SUN 14

Sound Drawing: Color

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Audra Wolowicz will lead this workshop for families and children ages 5 and older. Register online. *Free*

WED 17

So You Wanna be a Vet?

BREWSTER

4 p.m. Putnam 4-H
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

This six-part online program will introduce Putnam County students from ages 8 to 12 to the importance of animal health. Registration required. *Cost: \$10 to \$50 (pay what you can)*

THURS 18

Family Scavenger Hunt

COLD SPRING

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

Be the quickest team to find objects in your home.

SAT 20

Meet Winky!

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLwinky

Winky is an opossum who serves as an animal ambassador for Teatown Lake Reservation, a nature preserve in Ossining.



SAT 20

Creating Movement to Tell a Story

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts | compassarts.org

Chelsea Acree will lead this workshop for elementary school students on creating a dance that tells a story. *Cost: sliding scale*



BLAQ•IT: Blackness in Italy, Feb. 16

VISUAL ART

SAT 13

Emergence

BEACON

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

This annual juried show with works by artists from the region was curated by Samantha De Tilio.

TUES 16

BLAQ•IT: Blackness in Italy

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art

Ilaria Conti will speak online with Fred Kuwornu, whose film, *Blaxploitation: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema*, will be accessible for viewing at the website SUN 14, MON 15 and TUES 16.

THURS 18

Gallery Talks: Dan Flavin

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

In this free webinar, Dia educators will discuss Flavin's objects and installations, which mostly involve fluorescent light.

SAT 20

Glow Show / Zard Apuya Solo Show

BEACON

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

TALKS

SAT 13

Thomas Machin and His Chains

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Bevis Longstreth will discuss the real-life story behind his latest historical novel, *Chains Across the River*. *Cost: \$10 (free for members)*

TUES 16

The Life of James F. Brown

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
beaconhistorical.org

Elaine Hayes, executive director of Mount Gulian Historic Site, will lead a discussion via Zoom of James F. Brown, who was born a slave in

Maryland and escaped to New York, where he became master gardener at Mount Gulian. Register online or email beaconhistorical@gmail.com.



WED 17

COVID-19 School Update

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/
current-conversation

Carl Albano, the superintendent of the Garrison school district, will discuss its plans and approach at the midpoint of the school year. Register online.

THURS 18

Hudson Valley Support for the Union

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Michael Barrett, executive director of the Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy and Mark Forlow, an expert on the West Point Foundry, will discuss via Zoom the contributions of the iron works and foundry to the Union effort during the Civil War. Register online. *Cost: \$10 (free for members)*

CIVIC

TUES 16

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUES 16

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 16

Public Hearing: Short-Term Rentals

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenyny.gov



The entrance to Boscobel



The visitors' center at Boscobel

Photos provided

Boscobel to Develop Master Plan

First major review since 1959

By Alison Rooney

Boscobel, the historic site in Garrison, is conducting the first comprehensive review of its master plan since 1959, two years before it opened.

Everything from parking and the entrance to conference rooms, restrooms and gallery space will be scrutinized at the site, which is known for its Federalist mansion, gardens and views of the Hudson River.

Boscobel officials have reviewed elements such as traffic and utilities over the years, but the new study will be the first major review in more than 60 years. The effort has been both challenged and assisted by the pandemic, said Jennifer Carlquist, Boscobel's executive director and curator.

"The curtailing of our seasonal programming has helped us laser-focus on master planning," she explained. "We've been able

to look around at the site and think, 'We can do so much more than this.'"

One goal is to make sure all buildings on the site "always reference the landscape," Carlquist says. "After all, glass is used in a third of the house, which shows us how important the landscape was to the people who lived here. Plus, landscape is featured on so many objects in the house — on ceramics, on canvases."

Boscobel's membership grew to record numbers in 2020, Carlquist says, which she saw as evidence that people "don't sign up to get a discount [on admission], they sign up because they want the place to be healthy and to support a place they love. We were right to focus on the landscape but we realized just how much during the pandemic. People would come on the grounds and just weep, tearing up seeing neighbors at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market [held every Saturday in the parking lot] or doing yoga or painting — it's a whole new level of appreciation."

She said Boscobel plans to update its visitors' center and make it more accessible to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also said Boscobel needs to figure out how "to leverage its beauty as a tool to talk about things like the American Revolution or sustainable practices in history and landscape, with the goal of broadening our audience. We need to take in this sweeping majesty and determine how it connects to everyday humans, on a personal scale. It's about using design to connect to human dignity."

"Our house and collection have been updated, but our landscape hadn't been given to curatorial devotion," she added. "Landscapes always change, but the question is, Is it a cultural change, a created change or a climate change? We're also looking for the best place on-site to introduce a native meadow and at how we can expand

the Pollinator Pathway [which connects green spaces for native pollinators], which the Philipstown Garden Club began."

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, which has offered summer performances under a tent erected near the Boscobel lawn for more than 30 years, plans to depart in 2022 for new digs. Carlquist said Boscobel has expanded its partnership with the nearby Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary and is exploring others with schools, dancers and organizations wanting to hold conferences.

Carlquist said Boscobel is trying to make "data-driven, thoughtful choices," but the pandemic has created financial



challenges. Although it received federal pandemic-relief funding and grants from the Museum Association of New York, the Greenway Heritage Conservancy and the Preservation League of New York, Boscobel had to cut staff. "It was heartbreaking to have to furlough and lay people off, some after many years," she said.

The grounds at Boscobel, located at 1601 Route 9D, are open during the winter on Saturday from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m., with online reservations. Admission is \$12 (\$10 for seniors and \$6 for children and teens, free for members, health care workers and children under 5). See boscobel.org/visit.



Jennifer Carlquist

“Landscapes always change, but the question is, is it a cultural change, a created change or a climate change? ~ Jennifer Carlquist

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Love IS IN THE Air

TO: Tree / FROM: Acorn

I take Metro-North to the city / To see Linda, Spanish for pretty / Though she's just Mom to me / I do find her lovely / Which is true since I was itty-bitty / I go often to stroll & kibbitz / Tête à tête and the best laughing fits / We drink coffee for days / Which is how I was raised / While we tell all our pieces & bits / And while in this rich life there are others / Don't worry mom, next's An Ode to my Brothers / I can't fathom the worth / Appreciating since birth / I'm sold on the love between daughters & mothers.

FOR
EVER

CALL
ME

TO: Jamie / FROM: Julie

To my husband on our first Valentine's Day as husband and wife — and our first living in Cold Spring! I love you today and every day, and look forward to many more adventures together.

TO: Bob / FROM: Pepper

Happy Valentine's Day, Loveypool! Every day with you brings me joy, laughter, and love. I am one lucky lady. Love, Preppy

ONLY
YOU

TO: Gregg / FROM: Helen

I'm still your sugar plum, by gum; you're still my sugar beet

TRUE
LOVE

TO: Kelly / FROM: Nettie

You will always be my Valentine!

BE
TRUE

TO: Camembert / FROM: Bobby

Angelface, you are my French fry forever. You are a whole beef shank with its spicy beefy goodness and I love you! I want to be with you always.

TO: Janie / FROM: Bob

You turn quarantine into a honeymoon. Love you, sweetie.

BE
MINE

TO: Da da / FROM: Autumn

Happy Valentine's Day to the best daddy ever, and happy birthday!!!

TO: Darien / FROM: Krystal

17 years ago I met you at an Anti-Valentine's Day party, and we've been happily married for 14 years. Love U.

TO: Sam / FROM: Sarah

Twenty-seven valentines in and you're still my favorite. There's no one I'd rather live through a pandemic with, babe!

LOVE
YOU

TO: John / FROM: Irene

To my Valentine, in the words of Mr. Porter: It's very clear / Our love is here to stay. / Not for a year, / But ever and a day. / In time the Rockies may crumble, / Gibraltar may tumble, / They're only made of clay, / But our love is here to stay. Love you even more after a whole pandemic year together.

LOVE

TO: PengM / FROM: PengL

A Haiku for you: My wife, my partner / Will you be my valentine. / Your Zboyz love you.

TO: Coffee Mate / FROM: Dairy Queen

Au Courant / We start out our days with the news / What's the word? Ooh - a Valentines ruse / Will you know she is me? / Je t'adore, mon chéri / Watch me close / Ice ice baby blues. / The Current said "Hey — for posterity" / And, I thought, maybe some clarity / I'd jot down some lines, some "Baby Be Mines" / And come V-Day in black and white / There I'd be. / If my reading's been drawing you in / And your coffee's concealing a grin / Come refill my cup / While I butter you up / Be my Valentine, handsome. FIN

IT'S
LOVE

TO: Sierra Jean & her mom & dad

FROM: Nana and Baba
Happy Valentine's Day!!!
We love you. xoxoxoxo

BE
SWEET

TO: Mom / FROM: Mike and Sara

Happy Valentine's Day! We are excited to explore the Hudson Valley with you more! Love you lots, thanks for everything

TO: J / FROM: C

17 Valentine's Days ago I asked you to be mine. This year, I say what has always been true. I'm yours.

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Your place or ours!

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RIVERDINING.COM

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45 FAIR ST, COLD SPRING, NY 10516



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TO: Guillermo / FROM: Vanessa

Dear Babycakes, what better way to show you my love than having it permanently in words written in print. I can watch you for a single minute and find 1,000 things that I love about you. But it's only when you smile that I'm yours over and over again. Happy Valentine's Day "Chunky."

TO: Angelo, Dominique, Adriana, Anthony, Aliyah, Andrew
FROM: Grandma Bev

Happy Valentine's Day to my wonderful grandchildren! Love you lots!

TO: Mike Barber / FROM: Your kids

Dear Dad, Happy Valentine's Day! You'll hear it from us on WhatsApp, but know that we love you.



TO: Harry

FROM: Your Secret Admirer
Do you have a pen?
Let's do the crossword.

TO: VMP / FROM: HML

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.—Wayne Gretzky"—Michael Scott. Let the Wookiee win! Love your forever, Valentine.

TO: Cory / FROM: Kari Jo

Coffee is important, / the marsh has grown beautiful to us; / the wildlife amuse and / the children stretch us — / and i am so thankful for every day we / walk together; this past year, and the / 24 previous. / And i look forward to as many more as we will be given: sipping, thinking, walking, observing, praying, deciding, waiting, acting and loving. / Happy Valentine's Day, my love. xx

TO: Newcastle / FROM: Keighley

Roses are red / Violets are blue / I'm mad about lads / But I propa love you.



TO: Eleanore, Charlotte & Noah
FROM: Lou

How lucky we are to have found love in the time of COVID! Thanks for being the best friends and Valentines a gal could ask for. Milk cheers to many more milestones, celebrations, and messes together. OK, G2G pretend babble so my parents think they're the ones in control. You know the deal. Xox. P.S. I know we talked about a nap strike on the afternoon of 2/14, but in the name of Cupid, let's go down easy.

TO: Emily / FROM: Lauren

I love you to the moon and back Kit Kat. Thank you for being such a light in my life. I'll always listen to your dreams and close the blinds.

TO: Beth / FROM: Brian

You make my heart rise like a sourdough starter left on a warm spot on the stove.

TO: Mike / FROM: Sara

Yoda best! Love you so much! So grateful for all you do for me and excited for our next chapter together!



TO: Pat / FROM: Lindsay

Happy Valentine's Day, babe! I hope this makes up for not writing you a letter on our wedding day (although I think my excuse was valid under the circumstances)! I'm ready for any adventure with you by my side. Thanks for all the laughs, the endless love and our two beautiful creations. I'll stop the world and melt with you...



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Small, Good Things

A Fish Worth Its Salt

By Joe Dizney

It's not a pretty fish, the cod. But it is without a doubt one with the oldest and largest economic and cultural/culinary foot- (or better, fin-) print.



Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) was fished and enjoyed long before the Vikings began economic trade in Scandinavia and its abundance in the coastal waters on both sides of the Atlantic established a cultural acceptance and range far beyond its spartan Norse beginnings.

But it was the preserving of fresh cod by drying and salting that transformed a primarily regional industry into the international marketplace. Salt cod has a potential shelf-life of years, and the cultures and cuisines that had embraced fresh cod adapted their cooking to the dried fish: Scandinavian countries, England, France, Spain and Portugal all have notable and distinctive recipes that celebrate the singular charms of such a humble but useful food.

And by becoming a major commodity in

the triangular trade between the Old and New Worlds, salt cod extended its range far beyond the North Atlantic — to the south and east in the Mediterranean and African continent, and again to the south and west in the Caribbean and South America.

The initial preparation and rehydration is easy but requires time: the surface salt must first be rinsed off and the cod submerged in cool, clean water to soak for a couple of hours. The water is changed and the process repeated five or six times to both remove excess saltiness and restore the flesh to the firm, white flakiness that makes it so useful in stews and casseroles.

The soaked and rehydrated fish is then poached briefly in water (or milk) before being finally used in some by-now classic preparations. France's *brandade de morue* is a silky puree served on toast. The Greeks flip that equation: the meaty fish is fried and topped with *skordalia*, a thick sauce made from lots of garlic, pureed with bread, olive oil and almonds.

America is rife with regional recipes for red and white chowders featuring salt cod. In Jamaica, saltfish and ackee (a native savory fruit) is the national dish; in Bermuda, breakfast is saltfish fritters, served with potatoes, avocado, banana and boiled eggs.

Portuguese, Basque and Spanish stews feature bacalao in a tomato sauce with peppers and olives, among other ingredients, as do Italian recipes — particularly those traditional on Catholic holidays, such as the Feast of the Seven Fishes for Christmas or

many meatless Lenten meals. Potatoes are a recurring ingredient in many recipes.

This week's recipe (just in time for Lent!) is a cream-based non-traditional casserole of *baccalà* and cauliflower with a classically Sicilian spin: the combination of currants, pine nuts, citrus zest and saffron is an enduring legacy and reminder of the Saracen-Arab invasion of the island in

the ninth century. The whole lovely mess is topped with breadcrumbs and baked briefly for a golden crust, and is perfect for these endless snowy days. Serve with a green salad for comfort food of a different kind.

Sourcing note: Salt cod is available at Adams Fairacre Farms in Wappingers Falls and Key Food in Beacon.

Baccalà con Cavofiore alla Siciliana
(Sicilian Salt Cod and Cauliflower)

Serves 4 to 6

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 pound salt cod filets, desalted* | ½ cup flat leaf parsley leaves |
| 1½ cup heavy cream | Finely grated zest of one lemon |
| ½ cup milk | ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes |
| 1 bunch scallions, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces | ½ cup dried currants plumped in water (or white wine) for 30 minutes, drained |
| 6 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed | ½ cup pine nuts, oven-toasted at 350 degrees until fragrant and lightly browned |
| 2 bay leaves | |
| 2 to 3 pinches saffron threads | |
| 1 small head cauliflower trimmed into small florets (about 4 cups) | ½ cup Panko bread crumbs |

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees. Place the desalted cod in a large saucepan with milk, cream, scallions, garlic and bay leaves and bring to a simmer. Cook, simmering gently, for about 15 minutes, until cod is tender and easily flaked. (Test a small piece.) While cod simmers, combine cauliflower, parsley, lemon zest, drained currants and pine nuts in a large bowl.

2. Remove cod from simmering cream with a slotted spoon to another bowl. Allow the cream to simmer, add the saffron, and continue to cook, thicken and reduce. Flake the fish into smallish bite-size bits and add to the bowl with the cauliflower.

3. When the cream has thickened to a heavy sauce, pour it over the cod-cauliflower mixture, toss gently to combine and dump all into a 3-quart casserole. Top with breadcrumbs and bake in preheated oven for 20 to 30 minutes, until lightly browned. Serve warm with a green salad.

* This task is simple but will take a day. Rinse the surface salt from the cod under cold running water. Soak the filets in cold water in the refrigerator for at least two hours, drain and repeat in fresh cold water. Repeat at least four to five times before draining and patting the cod pieces dry.

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NOTICE

Town of Philipstown

Town Hall

PO Box 155, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue,
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Separate sealed bids for the **Highway Garage - Installation of PBS Facilities** will be received by the Town of Philipstown at the office of the **Town Clerk, PO Box 155, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516** until **11:00 o'clock AM** local prevailing time on **Thursday, March 4, 2021** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

A prebid meeting will be held at **10:00 O'clock AM** local prevailing time on **Tuesday, February 23, 2021** at the Philipstown Highway Garage at 50 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following location:

Office of the Town Clerk, PO Box 155, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Copies may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk located at Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue upon payment of **\$25.00** for each set. An unsuccessful bidder or non-bidder shall be entitled to a refund of this payment in accordance with Section 102 of the General Municipal Law upon the return of such sets in good condition as determined by the Town.

Each bid shall be accompanied by acceptable form of Bid Guarantee in an amount equal to at least five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid payable to the Owner as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and the Payment Bonds within ten (10) days after the award of the Contract.

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Town of Philipstown hereinafter called the OWNER, reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any informality or technicality in any Bid in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

Bidders on the Contracts are required to execute a non-collusion bidding certificate pursuant to Section 103d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

The Town of Philipstown hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in regard to any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to equal employment opportunity and all other Federal, New York State and local requirements.

Attention of bidders is called to the requirement that all employees engaging in work on the project under the subject contracts must be paid prevailing wages as recited in the proposed contract documents. Bidders are required to comply with minimum wage rates and legally required workplace conditions and must comply with the provisions of Section 291-299 of the Executive Law of the State of New York.

As required by New York State Finance Law SS 139-I, Bidders are required to submit the following statement subscribed by the Bidder and affirmed by the Bidder as true under the penalty of perjury. "By submission of this Bid, the Bidder and each person signing on behalf of the Bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, and the Bidders has and has implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy meets the minimum requirements of section two hundred of one-g of the Labor Law." If a Bidder cannot make the foregoing certification such Bidder shall so state and shall furnish with the Bid a signed affidavit setting forth in detail the reasons therefor.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

DATE: 02/10/2021

Tara Percacciolo, Town Clerk



Kim Pitt-Foster, at far left, appeared on some episodes of Sesame Street with her arm in a cast.

She Did Get to Sesame Street

Kim Pitt-Foster was one of the first child cast members of the long-running PBS children's program, *Sesame Street*, and appeared on the show for six years. Here's how that came about, as told to Alison Rooney:

"My mother, the queen of never stopping, was a research scientist. Back in the 1960s, she was walking to work, carrying a bunch of textbooks, when she was mugged. The mugger grabbed her purse, but she chased him down. She got her purse back but the books were gone.

"She had written her name in the books and got a 'We found your books' call, which turned out to be from the person who founded *Sesame Street*. They met up, the books were handed over, and the woman asked my mother if she had any children. My mother said, 'Not yet.' Then the woman said: 'We're just starting this thing called *Sesame Street*, and when you have a child, get in touch with me.' *Sesame Street* started two years after I was born and, at some point, my mother remembered to call, and she was told they were looking for children.

"They were trying to do ethnic diversity and I happened to be very good at sitting quietly, like when Maria [played by Sonia Manzano] was telling the story. I sat and listened to direction, even though I was a wiggler. Then I broke my arm — and that was a jackpot because they liked to show children facing challenges — so I was on it with the broken arm every week. Every cast member signed my cast in their character names; Oscar said something mean but funny.

"I was pulled out of school constantly for the show, even as I got older — I became the older kid who wrangled the younger ones. You'd see kids sitting on other kids' laps; I was that kid. I was a cast member from age 3 to 8-and-a-half.

"When my kids were little, I looked into finding the programs. I thought it would be funny for them, but my kids didn't like it. I still have Big Bird's feathers — when he walked, he shed. My favorite memory is when something went wrong with the lighting and I got bored and went missing. They found me asleep in Big Bird's nest."

Pitt-Foster (from Page 11)

— almost tactile properties — grab your eye a bit, drip, ooze, swirl two glazes which work well and create a third, interesting thing. I like making quirky mugs, with wonky handles which swirl and curl and you have to grab one which fits your hand.

"I'm also doing a lot of hand-building of petals — I make them singly, but put 30 of them together and you get one beautiful rose. I learned the basics of this from my grandmother, Agatha Pitt, who designed wedding cakes and who always had me piping the rosettes. Now I've discovered the world of manipulation with my hands: patterning,

seeing how the glaze goes into crevices."

Pitt-Foster's designs were sold at six stores and galleries before the shutdown; now only two remain open: Archipelago at Home and Kismet at Caryn's, both on Main Street in Cold Spring.

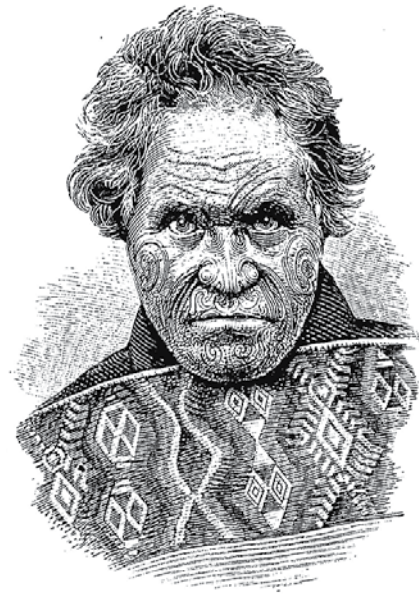
"Kismet has the flowers and ring holders, which are sold under the name The Potted Moose," she says, "while Archipelago has lidded things, vases and bowls. I never make duplicates. I'm prolific but I've slowed down [because of the pandemic]. I am considering things more. I'm making things for friends and family, while looking forward to what's next."

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (February 1871)

J.C. Bates, who was traveling through the southern U.S. looking for a place to start a business, had his article about the Maori of New Zealand, "Life in the Cannibal Islands," published in two parts in *Scribner's Monthly*.



A Maori chief in New Zealand, from an article by J.C. Bates that appeared in *Scribner's Monthly* in 1871

Eugene Allis, 14, the son of Sylvester Allis, the Cold Spring postmaster and editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder*, accidentally shot and killed a classmate, Debbie Speedling, inside the post office after his father had stepped away and left him in charge. The teenager testified that when Debbie came by at about 10 a.m., "I held the pistol up to the light and she wanted to see it." He attempted to remove the cartridge but it was stuck. When he set the gun on the mail drop box, it fired and the bullet hit her in the forehead. "Father did not know I had the pistol," Eugene said. "He had forbidden me to use pistols. Some time ago I went to E. Baxter's to buy a pistol and he would not sell me one unless I had a written order from my father." Eugene instead purchased the weapon and bullets from a friend.

A search warrant was issued for the home of Benjamin Ireland in the Highlands, where the constable allegedly found an assortment of stolen articles squirreled away, including handkerchiefs, laces, beads, buttons and neckties. Mr. and Mrs. Ireland, their daughter, Mary, and an Irishman named John Maheady were arrested.

The rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church singed his hair and beard when he opened the furnace doors at the church and there was an explosion of coal gas.

Samuel Austin carried the furniture for the new Cornell Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church chapel down Main Street in Cold Spring on its way to Garrison.

A shell contract was completed at the West Point Foundry on a Thursday at noon and the workers dispatched, sending a small army of men into the streets.

125 Years Ago (February 1896)

A one-mile race was proposed from Stony

Point to Breakneck between the Empire State Express operated by the New York Central and a five-man bicycle given a running start.

Thieves broke into St. Mary's Church and stole altar ornaments and vestry articles — all gifts from wealthy residents with summer homes in Philipstown — and a pair of richly carved, hammered brass vases given to the church by a sister of the rector, the Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones. It was surmised that the criminals were tramps who escaped on a passing freight.

On an evening before the Philipstown election, the Democrats convened in the main hall of Town Hall and the Republicans in its jury room. After each selected their candidates, the caucuses created a joint committee to see if they could produce a unanimous union ticket. That ticket included Democrats for supervisor, assessor and highway commissioner and Republicans for clerk and collector, with positions such as constables, election inspectors and justice split evenly.

100 Years Ago (February 1921)

Col. Rhinelander Waldo of Garrison, a former New York City police commissioner who owned a large amount of property in Philipstown, including the former Warren's Tavern (now the Bird & Bottle), was appointed by Gen. J.J. Pershing to the general staff of the U.S. Army.



Col. Rhinelander Waldo

A performance of the *Pedler's Parade* was presented at the Methodist Church, with residents portraying characters such as the Hurdy-Gurdy Man, Dr. Corn Curer, Cake Seller, Pop Corn Vendor, Indian Girls and Irish Apple Woman. The event raised \$75 for the church.

A number of children suffering from whooping cough, measles or severe colds were sent home from school.

The Cold Spring basketball team won an exciting contest against the Garrison Reserves at the parish house in Garrison, 9-5.

The euchre tournament between the Odd Fellows lodges of Cold Spring and Beacon ended with a feast of clam chowder, frankfurters, rolls and cocoa.



A poster for *Double Danger*, which was shown at Town Hall in 1921

Frank Dalzell, one of five brothers born and raised in Cold Spring, died at age 68. He became a drug clerk at age 16 at Boyd & Co. and in 1885 opened his own drugstore at Main and Garden streets. Frank had been an honor graduate of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, taking first prize in pharmacy and third prize in all branches. He was also the local agent for the Mechanics Savings Bank of Beacon and a teller in the Cold Spring National Bank. His wife planned to take over as druggist.

The Knights of Columbus presented a three-act "Western comedy," *The Stubborn Motor Car*, followed by dancing to Shine's orchestra of Peekskill.

Several silent moving pictures were presented at the Philipstown Town Hall, including *Shipwrecked Among Cannibals*, a "7-reel super special" billed as an educational travel documentary; *The Mad Marriage*, starring Carmel Myers, which was said to be "especially pleasing to women"; and Hoot Gibson in a 2-reel Western, *Double Danger*.

Rep. James Husted of Westchester proposed a new federal judicial district that would include nine Hudson Valley counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. Without their own district, the counties had to send bankruptcy and other litigation to New York City, where it

was often held up for a year or more.

The steamboat Poughkeepsie made six trips each way through the ice above Constitution Island to free a tug and four Erie barges that had been frozen in place for a week.

The Philipstown Lodge of the Masons held its first annual banquet. Ticketholders arrived at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. to form a line, then marched in time to the music to their seats. A performer from New York City told "bright and wholesome" stories, followed by the Rev. Walter Reid of Tarrytown, who argued for more restricted immigration to improve the quality of those admitted into citizenship.

The menu for the Washington's Birthday Supper at the Methodist Church included roast lamb, gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, cabbage salad, pie, cheese and coffee.

With Garrison being one of the last places in the state without electric lights, residents lobbied Peekskill Light & Heat to extend its wires from Annsville. They had earlier asked Cold Spring Light & Heat to extend its wires without success.

The Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones applied the honorary match that started the fires under the boiler at the new Cold Spring Textile Co.

The Putnam County almshouse reported it had received 24 inmates during the previous year, discharged 16 and had 10 deaths, leaving it with a population of 29.

W.T. Glover of the Internal Revenue Service announced he would station himself at the Cold Spring post office to assist taxpayers beginning Feb. 28.

75 Years Ago (February 1946)

Gov. Thomas Dewey nominated George W. Perkins Jr., who had a home in Cold Spring, for reappointment to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. [Perkins had served on the commission since 1922 and was its president when he died in 1960 at age 64. In 1949, he was appointed by President Truman as the U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He had also served as president of the Haldane school board.]

50 Years Ago (February 1971)

The Putnam County Historical Society dedicated the Rogers Studio, which had

(Continued on Page 20)

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Looking Back *(from Page 19)*

been constructed in the early 19th century, probably as a schoolhouse, on the Garrison property of Daniel Haight. (During the Revolutionary War, Haight ran a tavern; tradition has it that Gen. George Washington visited and, after hearing a maid trip on the second floor, quipped: "I've heard of people falling down stairs, but never upstairs.") By the time Marquerite Walker Rogers bought the property in 1912, the small building had been turned into a chicken pen. When she sold the land, she had the structure moved to a spot on Route 9D. When she sold that land, she moved the building to Cold Spring, where she converted it into a bookbinding studio. In 1969, she donated the structure to the Putnam County Historical Society (now the Putnam History Museum), which affixed it to the north side of the newly completed addition to its building, the former Foundry School.

The George A. Casey Post 275 of the American Legion celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance at Dutchess Manor.

About 50 parents from the North Highlands met with officials from Haldane and the Our Lady of Loretto school to discuss student behavior on school buses.

Kathleen Daly, 48, of Garrison, died in an afternoon fire at The Homestead on Route 9D south of Upper Station Road. The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. extinguished the flames with water from the home's pool and



Workers prepare to move the Rogers Studio in 1969.

Putnam History Museum

the Highlands Country Club but did not discover Daly's body until the next morning. The three-story home dated to 1760. The coroner ruled the death accidental.

Three members of the Girls Friendly Society at St. Mary's Episcopal Church — Sheri Heins, Myretta Weise and Rosemary Fleming — visited Mary Carrigan at the

East Point Nursing Home in Cold Spring to celebrate her 95th birthday.

Raymond LeFever, the Independent Party candidate for Cold Spring mayor, issued a statement decrying "ugly rumors" about his conduct while serving as a police officer in the village. He denied he had ever been "given to bullying and strong-arm coercion of our young people."

Angel Guaragna, 14, of Garrison, was struck by a car and fatally injured while walking with traffic on Route 9D after getting off her school bus north of Snake Hill Road. A 58-year-old New Hamburg man was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

The Haldane school board denied a request, 3-1, from the Student Association to change the Pledge of Allegiance recited at the school from "with liberty and justice for all" to "seeking liberty and justice for all." At an earlier meeting, the faculty adviser to the Student Association, Charles Fredrickson, had started to read a statement accusing Board Member Hugh Villegas of "harassment and violation of privacy" over the issue but was stopped by

the board president. The board went into closed session, after which its legal counsel issued an "opinion" that the charge by Fredrickson had been "rash and unwarranted."

25 Years Ago (February 1996)

The actor James Earl Jones read selections from the Bard at the 10th anniversary benefit of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival at the Boscobel mansion.

A 23-year-old man visiting his aunt in Cold Spring at 55 Main St. was struck and killed by a Metro-North train on a Sunday morning about 200 feet south of the platform. His aunt said he had a history of mental illness.

Residents complained at a Philipstown Town Board meeting about how the Highway Department had responded to a January blizzard and the subsequent flooding. After a resident from East Mountain Road North complained that the road had not been plowed for four days after the storm, Supervisor Bill Mazzuca said that the Town Board deserved some of the blame because the highway superintendent had requested more trucks but the board didn't want to spend the money.

The Garrison fire company received a new tanker that carried 3,680 gallons of water, twice the capacity of the previous tanker.

The Putnam County News and Recorder announced it had created an email address at 103513,3505@Compuserve.com for readers to submit letters to the editor.

Geraldine Baldwin, the founding director of the Desmond-Fish Library, resigned.

Caroline Smith, 33, was fatally injured when her car skidded on slippery pavement on Route 301 in Nelsonville east of Fishkill Road and collided with a truck. Her two young children, in the back seat, suffered minor injuries. Smith's organs were donated, including a kidney to one of her husband's uncles.

A 21-year-old Cold Spring man was arrested following an argument in which he allegedly punched the sunroof on a car and pulled off a side mirror.

A 40-year-old Philipstown man was arrested by Putnam County sheriff's deputies and charged with fencing stolen stereo equipment, jewelry, CDs, telephone equipment and tools from his business, Poli's Diner, on Route 9.

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Opening night at Dutchess Stadium in 2017

Dutchess County photo

Stadium *(from Page 1)*

affiliation could add upward of \$10 million to the local economy. “There’ll be numerous employment opportunities, tourism opportunities and increased spending at hotels, restaurants, delis, gas stations, retail stores and the list goes on,” he said.

The Legislature will be asked to approve funding for Dutchess Stadium three more times this year, for a total of \$10 million, to complete a series of upgrades to the 4,500-seat stadium that began two years ago. In return, Jeff Goldklang, the president of the Goldklang Group, which owns the Renegades, said Wednesday that a new lease keeping the club in Dutchess County is close to completion.

“The T’s need to be crossed and I’s dotted, but we anticipate presenting a full lease within the next several months,” he wrote in an email.

The Legislature in 2018 approved spending \$2.4 million that, along with a \$600,000 state grant, financed the first phase of

improvements at the park, including new seating, repairing the concrete seating bowl and partially paving the 1,000-space parking lot. Renegades management at the time agreed to a lease extension that runs through 2023.

The second phase of upgrades includes the new lights, as well as the construction of a team clubhouse. The Legislature will be asked in the spring to approve an additional \$3.1 million to fund those projects.

Phase 3, to come later this year at a price of \$5.5 million, will include new umpire locker rooms, a new strength and conditioning facility, a new visitors’ clubhouse, a new family meeting room and a marquee sign along I-84.

In a five-year audit released in November, Dutchess Comptroller Robin Lois criticized the county’s management of the stadium, calling the current lease at \$258,000 per year “unfavorable to the county” because it does not “fully compensate for the costs incurred.” Although the stadium is considered a county park, “it does not provide public access for resident enjoyment and is

operated by a for-profit entity,” she charged.

From 2016 to 2020, the stadium cost the county an average of \$170,000 more annually to operate than the lease payments, Lois said, suggesting that “a fair and equitable lease would include remittance for operating expenses and allowance for anticipated increase in annual capital bond and interest costs incurred by the county.”

The comptroller may get her wish. The 20-year agreement being negotiated by the county would increase the team’s rent every five years, topping out at \$338,000 annually beginning in 2036.

Under that structure, the county would recoup its \$10 million commitment to the Renegades, along with debt and maintenance expenses, in 14 years. By 2040, county officials estimate realizing a \$750,000 profit from the ballpark over the life of the lease.

Page said he felt “competing emotions” after the vote on Monday. He said he feels good about the county’s ongoing relationship with the Renegades, but was “not

feeling good about spending a significant amount of public money on a public facility that serves a private entity.”

While the county has provided legislators with a blueprint for its future relationship with the Renegades, Page said he’s not ready to give Dutchess officials the green light on the \$10 million package just yet.

“I don’t see our vote on Monday as a commitment for approving subsequent phases without a significant conversation at the very least,” he said.

The county is also expected to continue negotiations this year to purchase the land beneath the stadium, which it has leased from the Beacon City School District for decades. (Dutchess County owns the stadium.) Under its most recent agreement with the school district, the county pays roughly \$29,000 annually for the land.

Meredith Heuer, who is president of the Beacon school board, said Thursday that it will discuss the negotiations at a meeting next month. The district has had the land appraised but its value has not been disclosed.

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Kid Friendly

Cook or Clean?

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

It was Tuesday but actually Wednesday. Saturday would be Second Saturday in Beacon, followed by Sunday Valentine's Day and Monday's President's Day. The impeachment trial started on Tuesday, right?

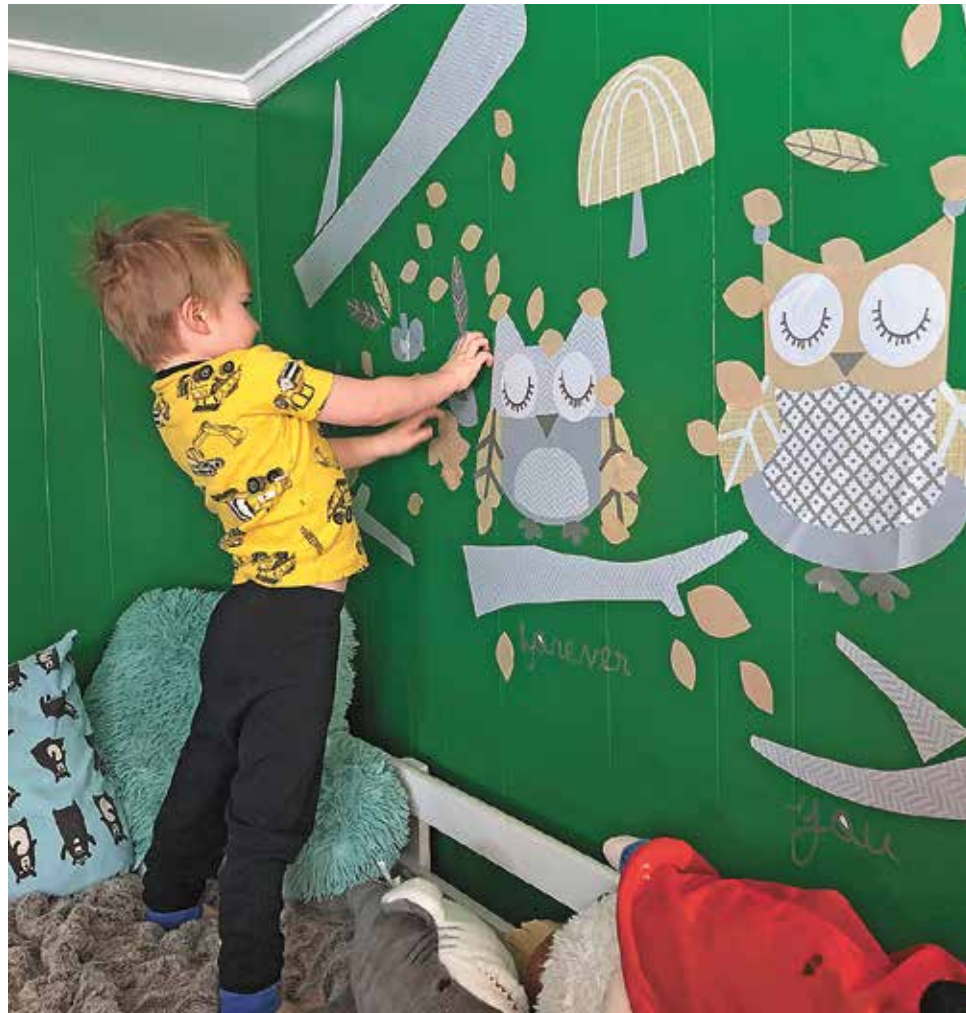
Last Friday was emotional. It was a typical pandemic weekend night of nothing. I was just sort of ... done — again — at that moment when I turned and faced a table with three full plates of abandoned burgers and fries.

I hadn't cried yet but that could happen at any hour or day, which turned out to be the Tuesday that was a Wednesday. But only for a second. Tuesday, it turns out, was a Snow-Day-Not-a-Snow-Day Wednesday schedule for Beacon schools, which meant that, instead of having classes canceled, the children flip their brains to the Remote Learning schedule designed for every Wednesday and follow the schedule of several logins per day.

This is actually good — it gives them something to do and allows them to connect with whoever else shows up. But the struggle to get into that zone can bring a mother to her knees. Literally.

Meanwhile, mothers were buzzing about a *New York Times* piece from Feb. 6 known as "Primal Scream." It was about mothers taken out of the workforce by the pandemic to help their children through Remote Learning. A crushing topic.

I haven't brought myself to read it. I was going to borrow it from a friend (I prefer reading newsprint) but the Snow Day happened, and I killed the battery in my



Wall-art application — because in the grind, stopping the balancing act to do nothing with your kids gets you both out of the Depths of Despair.

Photo by K. Martin

car while working inside it the other night so that I could focus.

My favorite journalist and professional girl crush, Molly Wood of *Marketplace Tech*, was asked for her reaction to the *Times* piece. Molly said she was "missing the rage" in the reporting of the story. She needed more rage. "I'm a fighter," I thought. "I can get behind this."

But get behind what? And where is my rage? When I read headlines like this, my instinct is to double-down. Get smarter.

Work harder.

Maybe I'm just living in the sunken place, but this pandemic stuff is par for the course. It's bad. I've been stuck in a house unable to work before, when I was nursing my babies and my partner was outside, fancy-free, mowing the lawn, picking up snakes while mulching, asking me why I didn't pick up my gardening tools. That I can rage to. But for this pandemic piece, my rage isn't there. Why?

My body is sore from snow-blowing 2.5 feet of snow (twice) because it fell for 24

hours straight. And then it fell again on that Tuesday, which triggered the Depth of Despair (re: *The Princess Bride's* Pit of Despair, which is a torture chamber beneath the roots of a tree).

And then the City of Beacon robocalled residents, telling us to do a better job clearing our sidewalks because strollers can't fit through the narrow paths, on threat of a fine.

Strollers? Fines? There was my rage! My rage found me! I have been a stroller-pusher after 10 years; I bought a three-wheel jogger so it can get over mounds of snow. I cannot — nor all of my neighbors in Beacon — shovel 2.5 feet of snow better and do my best at work and feed my kids and keep a clean house and love my kids.

So I rage-wrote a piece about it which, for the first time, criticized the city's plowing style and its threat of fines.

Before writing this column to make deadline, I had to make a tough choice: (1) Finish the column (which is paid work) or (2) shovel the slush off my driveway while the sun is partially shining so it doesn't freeze overnight, get snowed on again, and make for even tougher shoveling.

There are no right answers. Cook dinner? Clean the salt tracked into the house? Regular household pickup? Shovel? Earn a salary? Love my children? Cuddle with them?

And then this headline: "Rising TikTok Star Dazharia Shaffer Dies by Suicide at 18: 'I Wasn't Prepared to Bury My Child' "

Done. I'm out of the Depths of Despair and back into the sunshine, listening to the music I need to keep me bouncing or pounding or typing and smiling.

I love my kids. My kids love me. My kids need my love, and their dad's love. My focus is on making the path for that love to go back and forth. Showing them support during Remote Learning. Hearing their struggles. Communicating that to their teachers and letting my kids know I did that. I want them to feel heard and seen, and to feel alive, pandemic or not.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. To boot

5. Tummy muscles

8. Writer Rice

12. Appeared suddenly

14. Earth

15. Regatta

16. Pout

17. “— a Camera”

18. Decisive moments

20. A Musketeer

23. Prejudice

24. Reddish horse

25. Lake activity

28. CCV x X

29. Pre-diploma hurdles

30. Dig in

32. Straw hats

34. Carton sealer

35. School orgs.

36. Used a sponge

37. Stir-fry veggie

40. Crony

41. Slanted type (Abbr.)

42. Yacht lover’s event

47. French 101 verb

48. Veteran

49. Easy targets

50. Ballot marks

51. Whig’s rival

DOWN

1. NYPD alert

2. Brit’s restroom

3. Hotel amenity

4. Choice

5. Leading man?

6. Tampa Bay NFLer

7. Dishes not on the regular menu

8. Home of St. Francis

9. Entre —

10. Egyptian river

11. BPOE members

13. Historic times

19. “Phooey!”

20. Branch

21. Pyramid, maybe

22. Saintry ring

23. Wild pigs

25. Challah holder

26. Tide variety

27. Be slack-jawed

29. *Beetle Bailey* dog

31. Danson of *Cheers*

33. Granny Smiths

34. Mild cheese

36. Bulb measure

37. Slapstick arsenal

38. Jazzy James

39. Seniors’ org.

40. Cushions

43. Flamenco cheer

44. Med. plan option

45. Not ’neath

46. Like some humor

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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 processed food additive (9)

2 raging fire (7)

3 writer Ingalls Wilder (5)

4 takes a direct route (8)

5 pamphlet (8)

6 “Sense & Sensibility” crush (10)

7 fling (8)

SOLUTIONS

FLA

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Feb. 5 Puzzles

A	R	A	B		O	S	H	A		K	G	B
G	U	R	U		F	L	U	B		E	E	E
U	S	E	D		F	O	B	S		N	N	E
A	T	A	D		E	T	C		H	O	E	S
				Y	E	N		A	L	E		
B	U	S	H	E	D		P	O	L	L	U	X
A	S	T	O	R				B	L	A	K	E
H	A	U	L	I	N		A	B	O	D	E	S
						L	E	A		C	Y	D
F	U	R	Y		R	S	T		O	R	E	S
A	R	E			A	N	N	O		L	O	L
M	A	D			L	I	A	R		L	U	A
E	L	S			L	A	P	S		Y	E	L

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

1. ESPADRILLES, 2. PIGHEADED, 3. BREAKABLE, 4. EDVARD, 5. OUTCLIMB, 6. BANGS, 7. FLANNEL

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

SPORTS



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Preview: Girls' Basketball

By Skip Pearlman

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL

With the OK for high-risk winter sports coming early this week, the Haldane High girls' basketball team is anxious to get back on the court in search of its eighth consecutive championship.

The state tournament for winter sports has been canceled due to the pandemic shutdown, so the Blue Devils will not be able to chase a sectional title. Instead, they will have a chance to win a regional championship, with match-ups arranged to minimize travel.

But that's not until next month. Coach Jessica Perrone said the immediate challenge for her team will be getting into game shape on short notice.

"So far we've been having open gyms twice a month," she said this week. "Everyone has been distancing, just working on skills."

The Blue Devils — who last season went 12-10 before losing to Millbrook in the first round of the regional tournament in a gym emptied of spectators — will miss starters Bela Monteleone, Liv Monteleone and Shianne Twoguns, along with Abigail Platt, who all graduated.

The other two starters, juniors Maddie Chiera and Molly Siegal, do return. Also back are Ella Ashburn, Essie Florke, Marisa Scanga and Sydney Warren. Sophomores Amanda Johanson, Mairead O'Hara, Moretta Pezzullo and Chloe Rowe and freshman Ruby Poses are newcomers from the junior varsity.

Chiera and Siegal will play important roles because "they know the plays, know what we need, so they'll set the tone," Perrone said. "We'll still be a high-intensity team. Even though it looks like a rebuilding year, we can be competitive with other teams in the league," which includes Putnam Valley, North Salem, Pawling and Croton-Harmon.

Perrone said the approval last month to start the basketball season, and the quick preseason, has been a bit of a surprise, "but



Tianna Adams is one of five returning players for the Bulldogs.



Maddie Chiera is one of two returning starters for Haldane.

File photos by S. Pearlman

the girls are mentally prepared. They've been hoping for this; now it's a matter of getting ready." Playing in masks will be a challenge, she said. "We may need to have 30-second mask breaks. Girls who played soccer know how hard it can be, but they also know it beats not playing at all."

Teams in Section 1, which includes Dutchess and Putnam counties, are planning a 12-game schedule. The Blue Devils will play at Beacon today (Feb. 12) and host the Bulldogs on Saturday, followed by home and away games next week against North Salem. Spectators will not be allowed.

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

The Beacon girls' basketball team is filled with youth, potential and enthusiasm, said Coach Christina Dahl.

The Bulldogs finished 9-12 last season,

losing to Harrison in the first round of the playoffs. The squad graduated six seniors, including All-League selections Dior Gillins, Grace Affeldt and Analiese Compagnone.

Dahl said seniors Lejdina Gecaj and Dania Gillins are her captains and both "phenomenal student-athletes, at the top of their class, and very coachable. They are great leaders, great players and great kids."

The team also returns freshman Devon Kelly, sophomore Tianna Adams and junior Claire Derrenbacher.

The newcomers are eighth-graders Reilly Landisi, Rory Ladue, Lila Burke and Daveya Rodriguez, freshman Kiarra Rodriguez and junior Madeline Bobnick. She noted that the middle school team was undefeated last season.

"The girls [returning] have played together, and the younger group that's

coming up has played together," Dahl said. "So it's a matter of bringing them together."

The Bulldogs, both junior varsity and varsity, will be playing against larger schools, "so we will be battle-tested," Dahl said. "They're young and inexperienced, but there's no lack of tenacity and effort. We will get better as the season goes on."

She said the season has the potential to be a "day-to-day scheduling nightmare" for teams because of potential cancellations due to quarantines. "But it's some kind of sense of normalcy for them, and it's a great way to transition the [younger] girls."

Beacon's 12-game schedule is to begin today (Feb. 12), with the Bulldogs hosting Haldane, followed by a visit to Cold Spring on Saturday. Next week the Bulldogs will play Arlington twice (home and away) and host John Jay East Fishkill. Spectators will not be allowed.

Beacon Wrestling Pinned by Virus

Track and field also on hold because of snow

By Skip Pearlman

Basketball teams got the green light to start their seasons with pandemic restrictions, but the news was not as good for Beacon wrestlers.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams from Haldane and Beacon are scheduled to open their seasons today (Feb. 12) and tomorrow against each other, which will serve as their second annual Battle of the Tunnel contests.

But the Beacon wrestling season has been canceled, a victim of the shutdown and low turnout, said Athletic Director John Giametta.

Coach Ron Tompkins said the news was disappointing but not a surprise. "I didn't think we had any chance this year," he said. "The parents were not up for having the kids wrestle. We'll build it back up and have a team next year."

Wrestling teams throughout Section 1, which includes schools in Dutchess and Putnam counties, have been struggling to get up and running. "There is so much paperwork, physicals, tests, so many approvals," Tompkins said. "And the days

are going by quickly. I'm amazed any sport is allowed to play right now."

Track-and-field teams had hoped to have some outdoor competitions, but most, including at Beacon and Haldane, have struggled to accomplish anything. The Bulldogs managed to have one meet before the snow came. The Haldane team has had none so far.

Bowling and swim teams have been able to compete. The winter season is scheduled to end March 6, followed by a weeklong regional tournament.