

The HIGHLANDS Current

Snail Tale
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FEBRUARY 26, 2021

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Metro-North To 'Abandon' Beacon Line

*Could be converted to join
rail trail network*

By Jeff Simms

Metro-North earlier this month announced its intention to discontinue use of a 41-mile segment of the Beacon line, a dormant railway running from the city to the Connecticut border.

If the commuter railroad's request is granted by the federal agency that regulates freight rail, it could open the door for transforming the inactive railway spur into a publicly accessible trail, joining not only a growing network of walking paths in Beacon but perhaps connecting to the newly opened, 750-mile Empire State Trail, as well.

Metro-North plans to submit its application to discontinue use of the line within the next month, according to a notice filed Feb. 8.

A paved trail already runs parallel to more than half of the Beacon line — the Maybrook section from Brewster to Hopewell Junction — and has been incorporated into the Empire State Trail, which stretches from lower Manhattan to Canada, or, if you head west, to Buffalo.

(Continued on Page 7)



THE ROAD TO FREEDOM — As part of a national tour, a bronze statue of abolitionist Harriet Tubman will be on display in downtown Peekskill until Sunday (Feb. 28), when it will be moved to its next stop in North Carolina. Tubman, who was born into slavery around 1822, was best known for rescuing about 70 slaves on 13 missions through the Underground Railroad. She died in 1913 in Auburn, New York. The sculpture, by Wesley Wofford, had previously been exhibited in Newburgh; Cape May, New Jersey; Cambridge, Maryland; and Montgomery, Alabama.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Putnam Says Sheriff Not Cooperating with Review

*Montgomery accuses
Republicans of
election-year politics*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislators last week accused Sheriff Robert Langley of shirking responsibility in drafting Putnam's police review report, claiming he has not provided them with updated Sheriff's Department policies or otherwise been cooperative.

Langley replied that an executive order issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo assigned the chief executive of each municipality — not law enforcement — to conduct the review.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley and, like Langley, is a Democrat, urged the three-person Protective Services Committee to not politicize the process.

The acrimony occurred during the committee's Feb. 18 meeting, held by audio connection.

Langley, a Philipstown resident who took

(Continued on Page 17)



This is the first high-resolution color image sent back from Mars by the Perseverance after it landed on Feb. 18.

NASA

The Highlands' Martian Connection

*Haldane grad will analyze
samples from surface*

By Michael Turton

Michael Thorpe, a 2008 Haldane graduate, may have the coolest job title of any alumnus in the school's history: Mars Sample Return Scientist.

Thorpe works at Jacobs Engineering, a major subcontractor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

His job is every bit as interesting as his title — he's preparing to analyze the first samples brought back from the surface of Mars.

The samples will be collected by Perseverance, nicknamed "Percy," the car-sized, nuclear-powered rover that reached Mars last week after a 1.4-million-mile journey.

On July 30, while Thorpe held his 10-day-old daughter, Eliana, in his arms, he and

his wife, Danielle, watched on NASA TV as a rocket sent Perseverance on its 5½-month flight from Cape Canaveral. ("I don't tell her I love her to the moon and back," he said of his daughter. "I tell her I love her to Mars and back.")

Watching the launch was "absolutely nerve-wracking and a bit eerie seeing it go up," recalled Thorpe, who has a doctorate in geoscience from SUNY Stony Brook. "The engineering behind these missions is incredible; you don't want to see it explode on the launch pad."

Seeing the rover land on Mars on Feb. 18 was just as poignant, he said.

"It was surreal," he said. "It brought tears to my eyes when it touched down safely in

(Continued on Page 16)



Michael Thorpe

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DWIGHT GARNER

By Brian PJ Cronin

Dwight Garner, a book critic for *The New York Times* and former Garrison resident, is the author of *Garner's Quotations*.

In the introduction, you write that *Garner's Quotations* is an edited version of a "commonplace book" of quotes you've been compiling since high school. How long is the full version?

God, it's enormous. Embarrassingly so. It's 40 years of quotations broken down into categories like Education, Illness, Social Class, Revenge, Drinking, etc. Printed and bound, it would probably be as large as the fat M and O volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

What defines a good quote?

Brevity, usually. Wordy isn't witty.

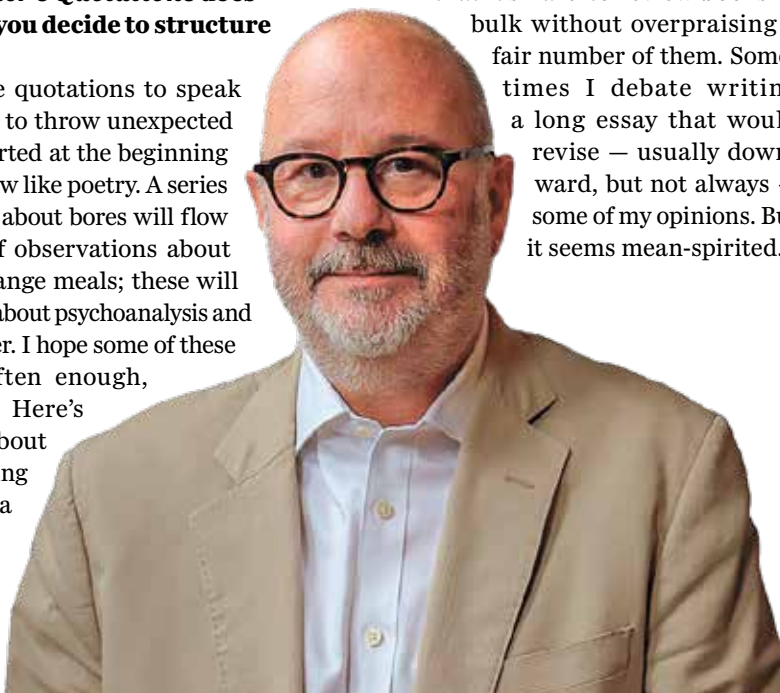
Are there great writers who aren't particularly quotable?

Dostoyevsky is one. If he were a better writer, though, he'd be a worse one. He catches

you up in the landslide of his thinking.

Your commonplace book has categories, but *Garner's Quotations* does not. How did you decide to structure the book?

I wanted the quotations to speak to one another, to throw unexpected sparks. So I started at the beginning and let them flow like poetry. A series of observations about bores will flow into a series of observations about memorably strange meals; these will crash into lines about psychoanalysis and airplane disaster. I hope some of these transitions, often enough, seem natural. Here's the bummer about writing something that reads like a book of poetry: It sells like a book of poetry.



Have you ever changed your opinion about a book after a review?

George Orwell was right when he said that it's hard to review books in bulk without overpraising a fair number of them. Sometimes I debate writing a long essay that would revise — usually downward, but not always — some of my opinions. But it seems mean-spirited.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What will tell you spring has finally arrived?

“

When the little purple crocuses appear.

”



~ Kristina Cruz, Cold Spring

“

When people start wearing boat shoes again.

”

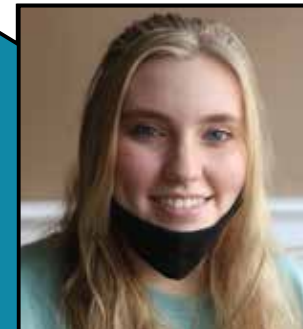


~ Brunson Stafford, Cold Spring

“

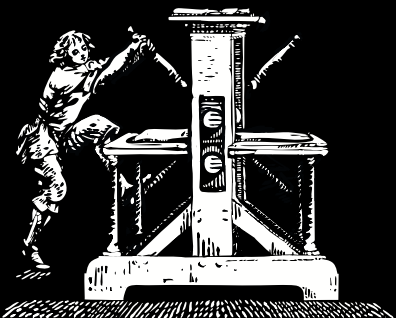
When the trees on Main Street show their white blossoms.

”



~ Alexia A., Beacon

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Walking to Boscobel

Trail Committee outlines three options for path

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board reviewed a proposal on Wednesday (Feb. 24) to create a path from Cold Spring to Boscobel, the historic estate on Route 9D about a half mile from the edge of the village.

The proposal was submitted by the Philipstown Trails Committee, which presented it as a way to reduce traffic congestion and promote environmental and personal health and community interaction. The meeting occurred via teleconference.

The Trails Committee evolved in 2018 from the Philipstown Community Congress initiative to gauge residents' concerns. A 2017 study by the Community Congress pinpointed hiking and biking trails across Philipstown as the top priority. To assist with the effort, the Trails committee secured a National Park Service grant and eventually hopes to see a path from Cold Spring to the Garrison train station.

Although located in Garrison, Boscobel is within walking distance of Cold Spring and Nelsonville. However, anyone intent on reaching Boscobel on two feet or two



The third option presented by the committee would create a path to Boscobel that extends through the village.

wheels must navigate the shoulders and blind spots of Route 9D, a narrow two-lane state highway.

The Trails Committee outlined three alternate routes for a trail, each beginning at the Cold Spring Metro-North station near the Hudson River but accessible at other locations as well. (The presentation can be downloaded at highlandscurrent.org.)

Option 1 would go through the West Point Foundry Preserve, using an old carriage route from behind the foundry's 1865 administration building to Gilbo Lane and Route 9D and the Manitou School, located across the highway; pick up Inverugie Lane, a dirt track, and continue to Boscobel, crossing back over 9D to enter the estate. Its total distance would be about 2 miles.

Option 2 would follow the curve of the shoreline around the Preserve and Constitution Marsh and follow the old carriage road; it would be about 1.3 miles.

Option 3 would run up Main Street and through the village to Bank Street and on to Boscobel via a Route 9D sidewalk extension. It would be about 1.7 miles.

The committee said its next step will be a feasibility study, which will cost \$35,000 to \$45,000, to determine the best route.

Jason Angell, a member of the committee, said its members "recognize the challenges and how difficult it could be" to complete a trail.

But the concept received enthusiastic backing from board members, although some in the audience expressed skepticism about a path along Route 9D because the road crosses Foundry Brook on a narrow bridge. Supervisor Richard Shea offered optimistic advice: "Don't aim low," he said. "Who's to say there couldn't be a pedestrian walkway attached to that bridge?" Some ideas may seem big, he added, but "big things can still be done."

Meeting Shut Down After Zoom Attack

The Town Board's meeting by Zoom on Wednesday ended after 45 minutes when a hacker replaced the on-screen discussion with a pornographic video accompanied by loud music and a swastika. After about two minutes, organizers shut down the meeting.

It was not immediately clear how the attack occurred. Supervisor Richard Shea said Thursday that he intended to file a police report.

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison suffered a similar attack on Jan. 2 when a hacker interrupted an event for children with racist, sexist and lewd language. To counter video-conference hijackers, Zoom in April changed its default settings to require meetings to either have "waiting rooms" or passwords. Desmond-Fish had a waiting room in place but the person slipped through by impersonating recognized users, the library said.

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Shakespeare plans

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's plans for developing 90 acres of the Garrison Golf Club property include striking its Boscobel tent and replacing it with another, this one to be set permanently on the crown of the golf course ridge line.

That, however, is but a small part of the HVSF vision to transform itself into a cultural center with the avowed goal of becoming a year-round regional attraction. Its 30-odd permanent structure plan is wildly out of physical proportion for Philipstown, intends to draw thousands of visitors each week and would eradicate forever a sweeping view of the Hudson, the Highlands and the Shawangunks.

The festival's design plans, contained in documents sitting with the Philipstown Planning Board, include installation of a permanent theater tent on the ridgetop (seating 520); construction of a back-of-house building; construction of a year-round theater (seating 250); artist accommodations (about 20 structures); hotel accommodations (up to 40 rooms); continued operation of the bar and restaurant (about 40 tables); continued operation of the wedding/special event hall (200-plus capacity); and an outdoor pavilion.

There are also plans for a box office and welcome center; picnic lawns and gardens; a public park; administrative offices; restructuring and widening of the Snake Hill Road driveway and associated on-site bridge/culvert to 20 feet; reconfiguration of and additions to internal driveways (20-foot width); installation of additional parking (471 spaces); construction of a single-family residence; reduction of the golf course from 18 to nine holes; and relocation of the pro shop, cart barn and course parking to Snake Hill Road.

Analysis and discussion of the many details — traffic density and safety; noise pollution; light pollution; impact on flora, fauna, Philipse Brook and Constitution Marsh; pressure on the aquifer; handling of septic; loss of tax revenues caused by shifting 90 acres of taxable property to tax-exempt status — is taking place under the aegis of the Planning Board.

Love it or hate it, all of us in the community can agree that this is a very, very large project, and that it's going to have consequences — planned and unintended — that will reverberate down the years.

It's most unfortunate that with ramifications this extensive, it's been ignored by this publication (nothing on the December Plan-

ning Board session, two site walks or the January special meeting devoted to this topic).

HVSF is a cultural gem, and our open space is irreplaceable. That is a tough nut. It's hard to make good decisions on issues as complex and consequential as this one without knowing all the facts. What Abraham Lincoln (just turning 212, by the way) said to Stephen Douglas in 1858 is as true today as it was then: "In this age, in this country, public sentiment is everything."

I hope this paper is able at some point to locate for itself a role in assembling and delivering the facts and fresh developments as this most consequential of development plans unfolds.

Tim Nolan, *Garrison*

Taliesin is the name of a sixth-century Welsh poet and bard. It means "shining brow," which Frank Lloyd Wright used as a guiding principle when deciding where to place a building on a hill. Never on top. Always under the brow, so it fits comfortably and at ease with its neighbors — the trees and ridges and hills.

I hope and pray that the HVSF will listen to that good advice and not site their permanent new tent on top — like a carbuncle — of one of the most beautiful ridge lines in the eastern U.S. On that ridge line now sits the 11th hole of the Garrison golf course, with a glorious view looking north up the Hudson, to Storm King Mountain, and beyond, on a clear day, to the Catskills. If we have to lose one of the top 100 best-designed golf courses in the U.S., at least let us not desecrate the land while we're at it.

HVSF promises to be sensitive. OK, HVSF Please, live up that promise. Taliesin!

Robert Cutler, *Garrison*

I live about three minutes from the golf course. We have 38 acres here which we have made forever wild pursuant to a conservation easement and have struggled to preserve. It is probably the largest wetland in our area, teeming with all kinds of wildlife.

I have also been on the Hudson Highlands Land Trust board and a participant in and supporter of preserving the Fort Defiance Hill area, which through the hard work of many has expanded to more than 150 acres.

I am aware of how fragile our natural environment is and how much constant pressure there is on the wild things that live here. I see every day how much climate change is a negative impact and stressor.

Like many, we came here for the rural character of the area and, like many, we do not want to bring the city to us.

The HVSF project sounds lovely in many

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

respects — the theater, the potential for a community focal point. In many ways it has more appeal to us than does a golf course. Nonetheless, our greatest concern is the scale and environmental impact.

We moved here with our children the same year that the planet became more urban than rural. Being connected to nature has had profound impact on my kids — hopefully, on my grandkids — and to everyone who visits this place, as it does on all of us.

I am monitoring, as closely as my time permits, just how large HVSF wants to make this. I appreciate that it wants a permanent home but am concerned what it might do to many of our permanent homes. What will it do to water, air, noise, traffic, wildlife (I know how many foxes, raptors, bobcat, etc., call this their home)? Will it suddenly send a neighborhood of Canada geese over here to muddy up what is one of the largest wetlands in our area?

We worry about traffic on Route 9 and traffic lights. I know that many like the idea of a light at Travis Corners and Route 9; we don't. It will be an annoyance every day.

We worry about the unintended consequences of an expansion of Route 9. When we purchased this property 24 years ago, a big criterion was silence. You cannot hear Route 9 from our home and we want to keep it that way.

Thank you to all for everyone's focus and attention on making sure that this project is, indeed, a net plus for our special human community, and the wild, non-human part of it.

Susan Coleman, *Garrison*

Vaccine pipeline

I agree with state Sen. Sue Serino and her leadership calls for answers in the delay of COVID-19 vaccines. I thought a petition would help and ask you to join me in supporting efforts to expedite overdue vaccines.

Along with many others, I went on the Drug World website to volunteer for the Jan. 15 vaccine clinic. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. More than 30 people have volunteered and the community-driven clinic has given 637 first doses and 215 second doses through the nine clinics held. These vaccines went to persons 65 and older. The clinic was a case study in how to do this public provision effectively.

Alas, it's a shame that there is an unstable pipeline of vaccine available. We have had to cancel at least three clinics and have halted operations when we could have doubled the number of vaccines distributed. Failing to distribute vaccine is not an option, as we are serving the most vulnerable demographic: our senior citizens. If leaders at the top would expedite supply, we could reopen and protect our community.

I cannot sit idle and watch this continue, and plan to present federal, state and local leaders with a petition to release as much vaccine as needed as expeditiously as possible. We cannot afford delay or the loss of one more life due to COVID-19. This effort has demonstrated we are

better together. Please sign the petition at change.org/p/27450199.

We need to collectively focus on the need for a supply of vaccines for Putnam and our citizens.

Barbara Scuccimarra, *Garrison*

Meeting before the meeting

The Open Meetings Law is central to our democracy, more so at the county and town levels, where citizens have the greatest opportunity to influence the outcome of decisions ("Editor's Notebook: Meeting Before the Meeting," Feb. 19). You don't need to be a Democrat or a Republican to see the benefits of this law, and the diminishing of the political process when it is violated.

J. Carlos Salcedo, *Philipstown*

New York's Open Meetings Law was adopted in the 1970s, when the Government in the Sunshine Act was being passed in the U.S. Congress — an effort spearheaded by Sen. Lawton Chiles of Florida.

At the federal level, congressional committees and independent agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission were subjected to sunshine laws requiring them to conduct policymaking in public. Openness was the word of the hour, supported by the famous quip by Justice Louis Brandeis that sunlight "is said to be the best of disinfectants."

Most good policy ideas, when implemented, have unanticipated side effects, often adverse to the public interest. Such was the case with sunshine laws. In congressional committee mark-up sessions, before those laws appeared, members could take positions they thought best, even if contrary to opinions held in their district or by big financial supporters. With those laws in effect, the public watched, with the front rows filled with lobbyists wanting to see their investments rewarded.

The same thing happened at the SEC and other independent agencies, except the Federal Reserve, where the chair, Paul Volcker, resisted all pressure toward sunlight. The sunshine laws greatly enhanced the role of lobbyists and their bags of money in the formulation of public policy. Too much sunlight produces cancer — in this case the role of money in politics. For me, this is an ongoing tragedy.

Bevis Longstreth, *Garrison*

Longstreth was an SEC commissioner from 1981 to 1984 and is a member of The Current's board of directors.

I have a bone to pick with the editor: namely, the omission of Republican Legislator Dini LoBue, who received the same treatment as Nancy Montgomery from her colleagues. The column leaves the impression that this kind of secrecy and exclusion is the price paid because Montgomery is the sole Democrat. Not so. This goes beyond party affiliation. Whether Democrat or Republican, it is the tool of absolute power to squash dissent and dissenters. It is routinely used by those who wish to maintain the facade of unanimity respecting executive policies and proposals.

(Continued on Page 6)

Voter Ups and Downs

The New York State Board of Elections this week released figures showing the number of active voters by location and party as of February 2021.

Compared to the figures before the presidential election of 2016, the number of voters jumped 12 percent in Dutchess and 10 percent in Putnam. Democrats led the charge, with an increase of 21 percent in Dutchess, 25 percent in Beacon, 17 percent in Putnam and 24 percent in Philipstown.

Republican registrations rose 7 percent in Putnam and 6 percent in Dutchess. They were flat in Philipstown and Beacon.

The percentage of voters with no party affiliation grew by 10 percent in Dutchess and 13 percent in Putnam but only 5 percent in Beacon and 7 percent in Philipstown.

The figures do not include registered voters who have not cast a ballot in the last two federal elections.

DUTCHESS	Nov. 2016	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	% 1 Year	% 4 Year
Democrat	60,383	67,832	73,260	8	21
Republican	51,863	52,219	54,902	5	6
Conservative	3,619	3,621	3,785	5	5
Other*	11,898	11,809	12,181	3	2
No Party	48,974	48,232	53,752	11	10
Total	176,737	183,713	197,880	8	12

PUTNAM	Nov. 2016	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	% 1 Year	% 4 Year
Democrat	18,504	19,911	21,613	9	17
Republican	21,925	22,123	23,382	6	7
Conservative	1,930	1,765	1,795	2	- 7
Other*	4,224	4,126	4,032	- 2	- 5
No Party	16,311	16,413	18,428	12	13
Total	62,894	64,338	69,250	8	10

BEACON	Nov. 2016	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	% 1 Year	% 4 Year
Democrat	4,264	4,839	5,311	10	25
Republican	1,330	1,222	1,244	- 2	- 1
Conservative	114	94	102	9	- 11
Other*	549	521	550	6	0
No Party	2,239	2,089	2,356	13	5
Total	8,496	8,765	9,563	9	13

PHILIPSTOWN	Nov. 2016	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	% 1 Year	% 4 Year
Democrat	2,762	3,194	3,437	8	24
Republican	1,678	1,654	1,689	2	1
Conservative	163	141	137	- 3	- 16
Other*	378	378	368	- 3	- 3
No Party	1,744	1,733	1,873	8	7
Total	6,725	7,100	7,504	6	12

Source: New York State Board of Elections
*Combined enrollment for Green, Independence, Working Family and other parties

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

There are legislators who firmly believe that they were elected to implement executive policies and proposals, fearing that any challenge is a dereliction of duty. Therefore, cracks of dissension in the facade must be covered up, prohibited, so that the air of collegiality is maintained at all cost. The means to this end, as the editor writes, includes loopholes in the Open Meetings Law respecting caucuses. I am not confident that this state Legislature will ever do the right thing and upgrade the Open Meetings Law.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

The editor responds: LoBue did not respond to an email seeking comment for the column. A key difference between her experience and that of Nancy Montgomery is that, as a member of the Republican majority, LoBue attended all the secret caucus meetings, so nothing would have been a surprise to her.

Remembering Debbie

Thank you so much for the *Looking Back in Philipstown* column. In the Feb. 12 issue, there was a mention of the accidental shooting 150 years ago, on Feb. 7, 1871, in the Cold Spring post office of 14-year-old Debbie Speedling by a classmate, Eugene Allis.

I am a devoted researcher of my family ancestry, and Deborah Ann Speedling was a first cousin, four times removed, of mine. My great-grandmother was named for her. She was the daughter of William Andrew Jackson (A.J.) Speedling (1818-1860) and Eliza Wood (1817-1898), surnames that I'm sure will be recognized in Cold Spring.

Debbie's gravestone is in the cemetery near the Haldane school. The inscription reads: "She hath gone in the springtime of life / Ere her sky had been dimmed by a cloud / While her heart with the rapture of love was yet rife / And the hopes of her youth were unbowed."

The Current is read with relish every week by me and my family, both the "old" and new news.

Dennis Boland, *Cold Spring*

Comp plan

I am writing to encourage your readers to express their aspirations for the future of Philipstown at the public meetings about the new comprehensive plan scheduled for Monday (March 1) and Saturday (March 6).

Following a short presentation, participants can ask questions and provide feedback on the vision laid out in the plan.

To read a draft and register for these meetings, visit philipstown2020.org. Questions or comments can be directed to natprentice@mac.com.

Nat Prentice, *Garrison*

Prentice is the coordinator of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Nelsonville candidates

Thank you, George Eisenbach, for running for Village Board ("Two More Candidates in Nelsonville," Feb. 12). I did not feel represented when I presented data for the illegal

switchback for the cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery. I did not feel represented when I noted the 40 percent increase in large trees being taken down. I did not feel represented when we were not given a public town hall meeting after the switchback and trees were changed.

These were large changes to "the plan," which many of us were not in favor of. I attended a few Zoom meetings and was told to propose my suggestions in writing for the new 5G policy. Of the many suggestions I proposed (which were taken from other New York and Connecticut codes), only one was addressed and I never received answers to the rest.

I am aware that I am not the only citizen who feels bamboozled, confused and unrepresented by the board. I am taking a class in how to be an effective citizen participant. While I am growing confident, I hope to gain an effective voice.

Dana Carini, *Nelsonville*

I would like to respond to previous comments on Eisenbach's candidacy. I cringe at the hypocrisy of laying the blame for the present lawsuit against the village at the feet of our neighbors. This outcome was a known risk of allowing the tower company to bully the board into settlement. In succumbing to the pressure, the board divided our village.

The residents of Nelsonville have a right and, in fact, a responsibility, to respond to Homeland Towers and Verizon forcing an unwanted settlement upon our village. Why aren't our representatives refusing to allow our tax money to be spent defending a settlement they told us they felt forced to accept? Our neighbors are bravely attempting to protect the history, beauty and wildlife of their village after their own elected officials failed to do so.

I welcome Eisenbach's candidacy and his pledge of transparency and honesty. We need strong candidates who will insist on protecting our village and representing us, their neighbors.

Eliza Nagel, *Nelsonville*

Close calls

What an incredible idea ("Reporter's Notebook: We All Could Have Died," Feb. 19). So many of us became brutally aware of our mortality at a young age and that moment is so vivid in our memory. The writing conveys how quickly it all happens, and that shock is still very much alive every time the story comes back in our mind. A very unique study about one of the million moments that makes us who we are. Thank you, Michael Turton, for this unexpected and fascinating read.

Jacqueline Azria, *Cold Spring*

That experience of others has made it clear how our lives teeter on a very fine line. These stories could have ended very differently but for, to quote Bob Dylan, a simple twist of fate. And now, with death come knocking daily on our doors, it is more important than ever to tell those we know that we cherish them.

Lynne Cherry, *Cold Spring*

Should This Be a Law?

Bills focus on Beacon sewage, mobile polling, Indian Point

By Leonard Sparks

Nearly two months into the 2021-22 session of the state Legislature, which began on Jan. 6, Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, has introduced 71 bills; Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, 20 bills; and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, 34.

Below are a select few. Each bill was introduced for the first time or introduced in 2020 and resubmitted.

Galef is proposing bills that would:

- Require that Holtec, the Florida company that will decommission the Indian Point nuclear power plant over the next 12 to 15 years, pay employees the prevailing wage rate and abide by collective bargaining agreements in effect for the plant's current workers. The plant is scheduled to be shut down in April (A02684). The prevailing wage requirement was included in a bill that passed the Assembly and Senate during the 2019-20 session but Gov. Andrew Cuomo declined to sign it, effectively vetoing it.

- Give counties the power to establish mobile polling locations for at least three consecutive days during early voting. The limit on mobile sites would be based on population as determined by the state Board of Elections and counties would be prohibited from allowing a mobile site to "replace or otherwise decrease" the number of polling places. Galef said the legislation would allow counties to expand voting access in hard-to-reach locations (A04568).

- Allow counties, municipalities and school districts to pass laws placing a moratorium for up to five years on tax lien sales and tax foreclosures caused by the pandemic (A05314). The clock would start with the end of state executive orders that have placed restrictions on businesses and gatherings. Galef said the bill would provide relief to property owners whose taxes are delinquent because of hardship during the pandemic.

Jacobson is proposing bills that would:

- Allow Beacon to sell its excess sewage capacity to private companies and individuals outside city limits. Beacon lost the ability to do so in 1993, when its law was amended to free it from the obligation of having a Plumbing Board, according to Jacobson. Regaining that authority will give the city a source of revenue, he said (A05399).

- Require that employees or indepen-

dent contractors who test positive for COVID-19 notify their employers either within three hours of getting the result, by 10 a.m. on the next business day or three hours after the employer or contractor's business opens if they open after 10 a.m. Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor and/or a \$1,000 fine for each day they do not give notice (A05616).

- Require the state to reimburse municipalities and volunteer fire companies for the costs of medical treatment and lost time when firefighters are injured after responding to mutual-aid calls. The bill also requires that the state reimburse municipalities for overtime costs. Jacobson cited the costs to Newburgh's fire department when it lost firefighters to injuries after they responded to an explosion and fire at a New Windsor cosmetics factory in 2017 (A00283).

- Require that sellers of property provide a certificate of occupancy issued within 30 days of the transfer of ownership. The law would not apply in certain conditions, such as transfers made to a relative of the owner or those made by court order (such as in foreclosures), by a municipality or by an executor of an estate. Jacobson said the law would force owners to keep their properties up to code and, when the property is a rental, protect tenants (A00360).

- Allow part-time students attending college or a training program, including BOCES, to apply for aid through the state Excelsior Scholarship Program. The program now is only available to full-time students attending the State University of New York and City University of New York (A601A).

Serino is proposing bills that would:

- Reverse part of the bail reform law passed in 2019 by giving judges discretion to set bail in domestic abuse cases for offenses such as third-degree assault; stalking in the second, third and fourth degree; and criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation (SB3842).

- Require that the state Department of Labor provide at least five years of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection to residents whose information was "inappropriately disclosed" by the department in March and April 2020 (SB3847).

- Require that the state Department of Health establish "step-down" facilities where COVID-19 patients can recuperate until it is safe for them to return to nursing homes, adult-care facilities or assisted-living residences (SB4828).

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Beacon line *(from Page 1)*

Trails advocates have long eyed the Beacon line as a key piece in establishing regional connectivity, and now, with the Empire State Trail open, a connection between Beacon and Hopewell Junction, where the Dutchess County Rail Trail (also part of the Empire State Trail) begins, could be a natural fit. Right now, bikers traveling the 11 miles from Beacon to Hopewell must ride on narrow shoulders along Routes 52 and 82.

"There's a lot of potential there," said Thomas Wright, the chair of Beacon's greenway trail committee.

Railroad companies have abandoned thousands of miles of track since the Great Depression of the 1930s as Americans and manufacturers became less reliant on train travel.

In its notice, filed with the federal Surface Transportation Board, Metro-North noted that no trains have moved on the Beacon line in at least two years, although a company called the Housatonic Railroad Co. has the right to use the tracks under an agreement that dates to 1995.

The filing indicates that when Metro-North acquired the Beacon line, also in 1995, the Interstate Commerce Commission exempted it from most of the regulations that come into play when a line is abandoned. It is requesting a waiver from its contractual obligations with Housatonic.

Housatonic, in its own filing on Feb. 12, said that it would oppose Metro-North's application to abandon the line.



The Beacon line rails run through the city and continue east to Connecticut.

File photo by Jeff Simms

In 2016, Metro-North put out a call for proposals to develop the nearly 28 miles of rail from Beacon to the Dutchess-Putnam county border. At the time, then-Mayor Randy Casale said he hoped to see the line used for light-rail trolley service and to connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said this week that he thinks the Beacon-to-Hopewell stretch is best suited for trail usage. He said city officials met with Metro-North last year to discuss the railroad's plan to abandon the line. If it's approved, the mayor said he's hopeful that Dutchess County will assist

the city in creating the Beacon-to-Hopewell connection.

"This is a really natural addition" to the state's public trails system, Kyriacou said.

On the other side of Beacon, city officials are also working on the Beacon Hudson River Trail, a path of just over a mile that would connect the Metro-North station to the pedestrian lane of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. From its southern end, the Hudson River Trail would be a short walk from the Beacon-to-Cold Spring Fjord Trail, which is scheduled to begin construction this year.

Wright, the city greenway committee chair, presented a preliminary design for the Hudson River pathway to the City Council on Jan. 25.

The trail would pass through a wooded area and offer "dramatic views of the river and the bridge overhead" before emerging at West Main Street, near the train station, Wright said. "This is an exciting time for trails in Beacon."

He proposed that the city pursue grants for further design while recruiting volunteers to create an informal "social trail" running from the bridge to a bluff overlooking the Hudson, or about half the length. The plan would require obtaining an easement from the New York State Bridge Authority, Wright noted.

When the Beacon Hudson River Trail was conceived in 2015, the Town of Fishkill planned to connect it from the north side of Interstate 84 to its own trail system, but those plans are on hold, Wright told the council.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF NELSONVILLE RESIDENTS

If you are not yet registered to vote, please register on Saturday, March 6th 2021, at Nelsonville Village Hall – Pearl Street entrance between the hours of noon and 5:00pm. If you are not sure if you are registered, please call the Village Clerk at (845)265-2500 so she can check.

If you would like to request an absentee ballot application, they are available on the Village of Nelsonville Website, or by calling the clerk. Last day to turn in an application is Tuesday March 9th.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on March 8th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AikrvZS0Tvyo-ohOGAe1Rg

Register in advance for this webinar:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on March 8th, 2021.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – March 8th, 2021

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeal for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday March 8th 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. via zoom to hear the following appeal. If you would like to attend, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on March 8th, 2021.

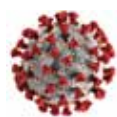
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, March 8th, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom.

John McCann & Renee Perodeau-McCann, 14 Oak Rd, Garrison, New York TM# 60.18-1-38

(Applicant is seeking to build 42" feet from the property line the zoning code is 50" feet. The property behind the house is a forest area that belongs to the Winter Hill Property)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and vother related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated February 8th, 2021 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Feb. 24), 8,244 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 21,968 in Dutchess; 106,129 in Westchester; 38,138 in Rockland; 9,898 in Ulster; and 36,334 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 1,606,520 positives, including 698,751 in New York City. Statewide, 38,227 people had died as of Feb. 24. For the latest numbers, see highlandscurrent.org.

■ Putnam had 259 active cases for the week ending Feb. 18, with 37 new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 729 since March. There were 89 new cases in Carmel, 34 in Kent, 23 in Patterson, 25 in Putnam Valley and 30 in Southeast. Nine people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital in Carmel.

■ As of Wednesday (Feb. 24), the state reported a positivity rate in Dutchess County in February of 4.2 percent, compared to 7.4 percent in January. In Putnam, the positivity rate in February was 4.2 percent, compared to 7.6 percent in January.

■ As of Feb. 24, Putnam was averaging 36 new cases a day in February, less than half the 79 average daily cases for January. Dutchess County was averaging 112 cases a day in February compared to 223 daily for January.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of Feb. 24 stood at 5,703; the number in intensive care was 1,124; and the number of intubations was 774. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 44 percent of hospital beds were available and 42 percent of ICU beds.

■ Dutchess County reported its first case of the "U.K. strain" of the virus on Sunday (Feb. 20) and Putnam County on Tuesday (Feb. 23). Statewide, 154 cases had been confirmed, including 83 in New York City. The state's first case of the "South African strain" was identified in a Nassau County resident, the state said on Sunday. Both strains are considered more contagious than the version now dominant in the U.S.



Medical Reserve Corps and Putnam County public health nurses posed with Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat on Feb. 4 before the doors opened at the first second-dose clinic held in the county, at the Carmel senior center. Photo by Susan Hoffner/Putnam County

■ Beacon's St. Patrick's Parade Day of Green, scheduled for March 13, has been canceled due to the pandemic. Entry fees and donations will be credited toward next year's event. "Although we made some preparations with hopes of going forward, the reality is that the most sensible step is cancellation," organizers said.

■ Nursing homes can resume allowing visitors, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Feb. 19, under guidance issued by the state Health Department on Monday. It recommends visitors be screened for COVID-19 using rapid tests, which the state said it would provide to nursing homes at no charge.

■ New York City restaurants were allowed to expand indoor dining to 35 percent of capacity as of today (Feb. 26) to match New Jersey's limit.

■ As of Feb. 24, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 27 students and 14 teachers/staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported six students and seven teachers/staff; and Beacon reported 70 students and 36 teachers/staff.

■ New York is extending the open enrollment period for its health insurance exchange to May 15. Residents needing coverage can find plans and enroll at

nystateofhealth.gov or call 855-355-5777.

■ Cuomo extended his state of emergency order through March 16, allowing public meetings to continue to be held remotely.

■ Indoor family entertainment centers and places of amusement will be allowed to open at 25 percent capacity beginning March 26, and outdoor amusement parks will be allowed to open at 33 percent capacity beginning April 9, Cuomo announced on Feb. 17. The governor also said summer camps can begin planning to reopen.

■ Along with bars and restaurants, gyms, fitness centers, casinos, pool halls and other businesses with liquor licenses were allowed to remain open until 11 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. under an executive order that took effect on Feb. 14.

■ The Beacon Wellness Pharmacy at 333 Main St. is offering rapid COVID-19 tests. Call 845-765-8878 to make an appointment.

■ Brides and grooms can resume holding wedding receptions starting March 15. Events must be approved by local health departments and be limited to 50 percent of capacity and no more than 150 people. Each guest must be tested for COVID-19.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

8,244 (+220)

New Cases in Philipstown: **37**

Tests administered:

162,877 (+7,414)

Percent positive:

5.1 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

86 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

21,698 (+476)

Active Cases in Beacon: **38**

Tests administered:

525,059 (+19,555)

Percent positive:

4.2 (0)

Number of deaths:

406 (+6)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Feb. 24, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Feb. 18.

■ The federal government extended a temporary moratorium for most evictions until May 31. To be eligible, renters must have experienced a "substantial" loss of household income, a layoff or "extraordinary" out-of-pocket medical expenses and can't expect to earn more than \$99,000 in 2020 (or \$198,000 for married people filing their tax returns jointly). A declaration form is required.

■ The state has established a COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 844-863-9314 for mental health counseling and resources. Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services. For more information, see omh.ny.gov.

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



AERY 20/20 SO-OVER-COVID One-Act Play Festival

2 nights of selected one-acts (mature content) to view online and vote for your favorites! Winners will perform in the Depot's Pop Up Patio Series in the spring!

ONLINE Performances:

February 27 at 8pm & March 6 at 8pm

philipstowndepottheatre.org
for tickets and play titles

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on March 9th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8wa8XNbMRoOcfills_FHKA

Register in advance for this webinar:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email **CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM** to request login information before 7 pm on March 9th, 2021.

Sen. Serino Tests Positive for COVID-19

Comes seven months after she revealed cancer diagnosis

State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, announced this week that she tested positive for COVID-19 after recently experiencing symptoms.

Serino said in a post on Twitter that she was sharing news about her positive test because “while the vaccine has us all looking toward the future, it’s important to remain vigilant.”

“I am feeling good today, but I have been experiencing many flu-like symptoms and want to reiterate that we cannot take this virus for granted,” Serino said on Monday (Feb. 22).

The diagnosis comes seven months after Serino revealed that she had been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer and was beginning four weeks of treatment.

Serino was diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a form of non-invasive breast cancer. While the lumpectomy was successful, the tumor began to spread before it was removed, she said.



Vaccine Update

■ As of Thursday (Feb. 25), 88 percent of the 4.5 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines received from the federal government had been administered in New York state. Both require two doses given weeks apart.

■ The Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties, had administered 82 percent of the 446,000 first and second doses received, as of Feb. 25. It was the lowest rate among the state’s 10 regions. In New York City, the administration rate was 88 percent and on Long Island, 85 percent. The North Country had the highest rate, at 95 percent.

■ As of Feb. 25, 11.4 percent of Dutchess County residents had received first doses and 5.7 percent had gotten second doses. In Putnam County, 12.9 percent of residents had received a first dose and 6.8 percent had gotten the booster.

■ Philipstown announced on Feb. 23 that Haldane High School seniors are volunteering to help older residents who are having difficulty getting appointments online. Residents can email their phone number and consent to be contacted by a student to Philipstown Town Councilwoman Judy Farrell at jfarrell@philipstown.com.

■ Putnam County on Monday (Feb. 22) received a shipment of 500 Moderna doses

that had been delayed by winter storms. Two hundred will go to people waiting for their second dose; 100 to residents with developmental disabilities; and 200 for essential workers and residents with eligible underlying medical conditions.

■ Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, called on the state to establish permanent vaccination sites in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie and to simplify its “haphazard and frustrating signup process” for vaccines. The state held “pop-up” clinics at the Newburgh Armory and a church in Poughkeepsie but “residents need reliability and consistency,” he said. He said the state needs a “user-friendly” system where people can sign up by phone or online and receive an alert when an appointment is available nearby.

■ Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is lobbying the state to open a mass-vaccination site at the former JCPenney space at Poughkeepsie Galleria, which is now being used by the county health department to administer vaccines. In a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Molinaro said the space, at 185,000 square feet, is “currently operating well below its capacity.”

■ Dutchess had to cancel about 500 appointments because a link the county sends to school districts, fire departments, police agencies and other employers was shared publicly on Feb. 16. “I understand you got an appointment, it was canceled, it’s unnerving, but equally unnerving was the fact that there were 500 people who were already told they were getting an

appointment and they couldn’t schedule them,” Molinaro said.

■ The federal government is doubling its vaccine allocation to pharmacies to 2 million doses and increasing the doses sent weekly to states by roughly 2.5 million, the White House said on Feb. 16.

■ The percentage of hospital workers vaccinated in Putnam County rose to 60 percent as of Feb. 15, compared to 54 percent two weeks earlier. The rate is still the lowest among the seven counties in the Mid-Hudson Region. Dutchess had 85 percent of its hospital workers vaccinated as of Feb. 15.

■ Residents of any age with certain medical conditions, including cancer, diabetes, heart conditions and pulmonary disease, as well as pregnant women, were eligible as of Feb. 15 to book appointments at am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov. People with underlying health conditions account for about 92 percent of the state’s 36,000 deaths.

■ Nancy Berlinger, a research scholar with the Hastings Institute in Garrison, was interviewed by *The New York Times* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about “queue-jumping,” in which people ineligible for vaccines in their home states travel to other states to get their shots. Other people are using money, connections and deception to bypass eligibility guidelines, according to the reports.

■ Sports and entertainment venues seating at least 10,000 people were allowed to open at 10 percent capacity as of Feb. 23. Staff and spectators must have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of an event.

■ Dutchess County has replaced the online form residents fill out to receive email notifications about upcoming vaccination appointments, a change that requires the roughly 25,000 people now receiving updates to complete the form again. The new form asks residents to identify their eligibility category. Anyone without internet access can call 845-486-3555 for updates.

■ New York earlier this month began vaccinating the 1,075 prisoners in state prisons who are 65 or older.

Drug World COVID-19 Update

Vaccine in short supply; quick test available

By Michael Turton

In the past six weeks, Drug World in Cold Spring has administered 637 first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and 215 second doses but it has received no new first doses in three weeks, according to owner Heidi Snyder.

The independent pharmacy plans to give 400 people their second doses today (Feb. 26) at the North Highlands Fire House in Philipstown and on Wednesday (March 3) at the Chestnut Ridge senior apartments in Cold Spring. New York State currently only allows pharmacies to vaccinate people who are 65 or older.

Snyder said she recently applied for 1,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and will consider asking for the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine once it is available. “We get whatever the state decides to give us,” Snyder said.

She said those who are able to book appointments via drugworld.com are placed in a schedule program similar to the state system. “About a half-hour before our scheduler goes live on our website, we announce it on Facebook,” she said. The appointment slots typically fill within 10 minutes, she said.

Besides herself, the only person who has access to the scheduler is her son, Mark, who is the chief operating officer, and no one is added by request, she said. There is a waiting list that has about 130 names, however, and if doses remain at the end of a clinic because of cancellations or because “we were able to squeeze an extra vaccination out of a batch,” she makes a call.

But you’d better be close. Because the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines can only be kept at room temperature for a short time, “you have to come immediately,” she said. “You have to be within about a 10-minute drive. If I draw a dose at 2 p.m., I have to use it by 8 p.m. I don’t want to waste that extra dose; I want to get it into an arm.”

Getting added to the waiting list requires a visit to Drug World. “If someone can’t get to the store to be put on the list, they won’t likely be able get there for a vaccination, either,” Snyder explained. The waiting list is not available online.

She noted that Drug World also began selling the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 test this week.

After buying the \$65 kit, a customer applies a nose swab while sitting in his or her car. The swab is returned to the store and “within an hour you receive your results via text,” Snyder explained. Tests can be booked at drugworld.com on a smartphone by clicking on “COVID-19 Services” and then “Antigen Test.”

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit – March 7th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 7th, 2021 at 9:30 am to inspect the following site:

**Mark Conn, 242 Route 403
Garrison, New York
TM# 71-2-10**

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

AROUND TOWN



◀ **BE CAREFUL** — The snowfall earlier this week created slippery road conditions on Monday (Feb. 22) that led to this single-vehicle accident on Route 9. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office did not respond to an email asking if anyone had been injured.

Photo by Lydia JA Langley/PCSO



▲ **GIVE BLOOD** — With the blood supply in the U.S. at a critically low level, Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring was the site of a drive on Wednesday (Feb. 24) that drew 47 donors, said Kathryn O'Hara, the coordinator.

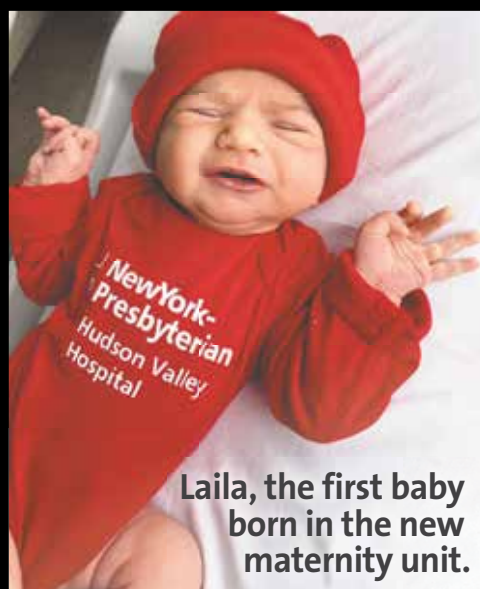
Photo by Ross Corsair

◀ **CHICKEN VISIT** — The Beacon Hood Chicken, aka The Mayor, paid a visit this week to Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, who is rumored to have named her the county's "poultry laureate."



◀ **NEW HELPER** — Putnam Service Dogs has placed its first four dogs; recipients include a woman with brain cancer, a woman with mobility problems, a girl with epilepsy and a boy who is deaf. The dogs — one is a poodle and the others mixed breeds — retrieve dropped items and help people navigate. Putnam Service Dogs is seeking volunteer puppy-raisers; see putnamservicedogs.org or call 917-449-5359.

Photos provided



Laila, the first baby born in the new maternity unit.

The region's newest maternity center for your newest addition.

Designed with mothers and babies in mind, our new Maternal & Newborn Care Unit features modern amenities that reimagine the birthing experience. With Columbia doctors and award-winning nurses, you'll receive comprehensive, personalized services in a certified Baby-Friendly® hospital. And our family-focused private rooms are spacious and comfortable so you can enjoy those first sweet moments in comfort together.

Discover more at nyp.org/hvmaternity

NewYork-Presbyterian
Hudson Valley Hospital

1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor

The Calendar

Rediscovering Susan Weil

Ice House will mount solo show by 90-year-old artist

By Alison Rooney

It's not as if Susan Weil has slipped by unnoticed over the course of her 70-year career as a painter, printer and book designer. After all, her work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York City), the Getty Museum (Los Angeles), the Menil Collection (Houston) and others around the world.

But somehow — perhaps because of the lack of a spotlight on work by women during her younger years — she had never had a major solo show in New York City. That added impetus to Jayne Drost Johnson's desire to turn the spotlight on the 90-year-old artist with a solo exhibition that will run from Saturday (Feb. 27) through April 17 at JDJ | The Ice House in Garrison.

Many people know of Weil only because of her marriage to Pop artist Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008) from 1950 to 1952, after they met as art students in Paris. MoMA acknowledged her influence on Rauschenberg in its 2017 retrospective of his work.

"In some ways she was in his shadow, but the retrospective explained the origin of the

'blueprints,' " a method of exposing blue-print paper to light and using objects and people to make impressions; some consider it a foundational development in Rauschenberg's early work, Johnson explains.

"She played a major role, which wasn't credited enough," she adds. "People started looking at the work and revisiting her. There's so much more that should, and hopefully will, happen with her work. She had a career that was her own. I want her work to stand out for her."

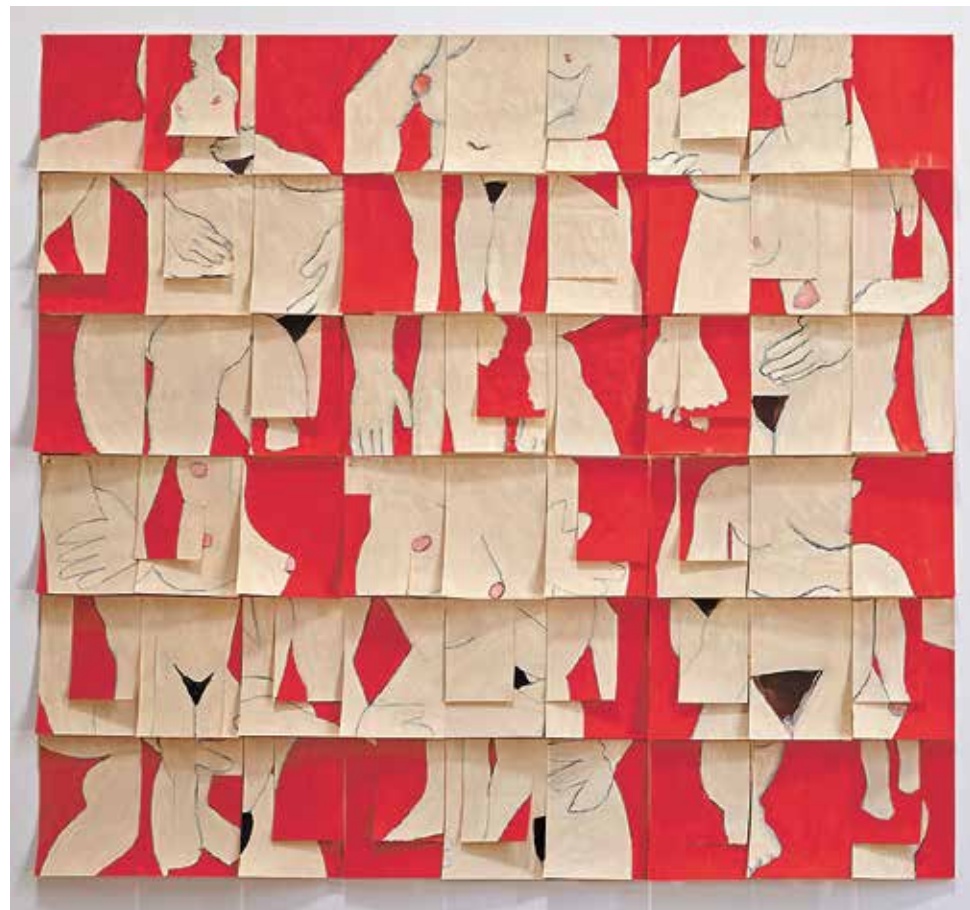
Weil had more of a career in Europe than in the U.S. during the 1970s and 1980s, Johnson says. "That happened and still happens a lot for conceptual artists. Figuration, or the body moving through space as a way to mark time, has always been important to her, and it was not necessarily fashionable with that crowd. But she found a way to march to the beat of her own drum; now, it feels really fresh."

She also faced challenges because of her gender, Johnson says. "Being a woman artist in that time, having a child, you got shut out of things. Her career is long, and it had moments balancing child care and art-making — something relevant to this moment as well. She has such a creative, unique perspective on making art, and with this show I wanted to help people get into her world a bit."

The Ice House show includes four "bodies of work," Johnson says. "They're all related, and there's a push/pull between figuration and abstraction. There's no strict chronological time frame, though she does work in series. Rather than being done with something, she's taken the ideas along for the ride, and this is an overview of the way she thinks things through by using a lot of different media and materials. You end up seeing forms from the 1950s appear again in pieces from the '70s, and it's such an interesting hearkening."

During a "browse" through Weil's studio, Johnson discovered pieces that will be on display. "In a flat file were these incredible spray paint drawings: a hip, an elbow — the female body," she says. "Susan told me she had forgotten about them — they'd been there for about 50 years. I'm very excited to be debuting them."

There were also "incredible handmade books, some of which unfurl into spectacular forms, she made in collaboration with the Vincent Fitzgerald & Co., which was a



"Color Configurations 2 (Red)," 2000



The exhibit includes handmade books Weil made in collaboration with the Vincent Fitzgerald & Co.

Photos provided

publisher of art books in New York in the 1980s and '90s. Literature and language has been an important aspect of her life and career. Her father used to read James Joyce to her when she was a child. She has a practice of writing poetry every day, which she pairs with images and mails to friends and family."

The Ice House, located at 7 Mandalay Drive in Garrison, is open by appointment, with COVID-19 protocols in place, for up to five people at a time. See jdj.world.

“Being a woman artist in that time, having a child, you got shut out of things. Her career is long, and it had moments balancing child care and art-making — something relevant to this moment as well.

~ Jayne Drost Johnson, on Susan Weil



Susan Weil with "Flower Folds," from 1991



A blueprint made by Susan Weil and Robert Rauschenberg was reproduced in LIFE Magazine in 1951.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 27

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 28, SAT 6, SUN 7. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members, children 5 and younger free)*

SAT 27

How Animals Survive

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Hubbard Lodge

2880 Route 9 | bit.ly/animalsurvive

Educators from the Taconic Outdoor Education Center will discuss how local wildlife survive the winter weather.

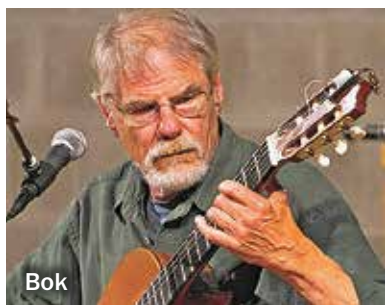
THURS 4

Spirit of the Hudson Gala

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
clearwater.org/events/gala-2021

At this virtual fundraiser, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater will honor Karl Coplan, director of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, and the Beacon Sloop Club. Gordon Bok will provide entertainment with songs and stories, and there will be a virtual auction. *Cost: \$20 or \$250*



Bok

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 27

Draw a Dance, Sing a Shape

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts
compassarts.org

Gina Samardge will lead this workshop for students in grades 1 to 5 on using dance, music and art to make accompaniments to a song. *Cost: Sliding scale*

SUN 28

Sound Drawing: Collaboration

BEACON

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

Audra Wolowicz will present this

workshop for families and children ages 5 and older. Register online. *Free*

SAT 6

Exploring Stories Through Music and Art

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts
compassarts.org

Children in preschool, kindergarten and first grade will use music and art to create stories. *Cost: Sliding scale*

VISUAL ART

SAT 27

Susan Weil

GARRISON

The Ice House

7 Mandalay Drive | jdj.world

A solo show by the 90-year-old artist opens today and will run through April 17. See Page 11. Visits by appointment only.

MON 1

Driven to Abstraction

PUTNAM VALLEY

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
tompkinscorners.org

This virtual exhibit will include works by Cindy Booth, Carla Goldberg, Will Hanlon, Bob Madden, Karen Madden, Barry Mason, Ilse Schreiber-Noll, Arlene Seymour, Jane Soodalter and Linda Winters. Through April 3.

SAT 6

Mentor Show 2021

GARRISON

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

This show will feature the works of students who were mentored by local artists. Through SUN 14.

SAT 6

Alone Together

BEACON

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

Art by Benjamin Degen and Hope Gangloff will be on view through April 11.

SAT 6

I Am Woman

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Works by female artists from the Hudson Valley will be on view to celebrate Women's History Month. Through March 28.

TALKS

SUN 28

Moving Toward Zero Waste

MAHOPAC FALLS

2 p.m. Via Zoom | sustainableputnam.org

Kei Reing of Sustainable Putnam will discuss simple steps to reduce household waste. Register online.

MON 1

History of Gospel Music in the Hudson Valley

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Via Zoom | artsmidhudson.org

Ciesta Little-Quinn of the Department of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz will discuss gospel singers who performed in the Hudson Valley, including Mahalia Jackson, at this Arts Mid-Hudson event. Register online.

TUES 2

Reimagining Tourism Partnerships

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 p.m. Via Zoom
dutchestourism.com/lunch-learn-series

During this virtual lunch-and-learn, Dawn Hopper, director of tour and travel for Dutchess Tourism, will discuss business partnerships to attract customers.

TUES 2

Grandmasters of Comedy

BEACON

2 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Brian Rose, professor emeritus in the department of communications and media studies at Fordham University, will discuss the work of Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to join the Zoom presentation.

TUES 2

Conversation with Putnam Farmers

BREWSTER

6 p.m. Via Zoom
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello of Longhaul Farm and Lydia Langley of Cat Rock Egg Farm, both in Garrison, are among the farmers who will participate in this forum organized by the Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Langley



Alone Together, Mar. 6

WED 3

Astronomy for Everyone

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Astronomer Kevin Manning will lead a virtual journey into the cosmos, including the recent Perseverance Rover landing on Mars.



SAT 6

Brew Talk & Guided Tasting

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Craig Gavina from the Albany Ale Project will discuss 400 years of brewing in New York at this lecture sponsored by the Putnam History Museum. Participants can order four sample pints from Industrial Arts Brewing for home-tasting. *Cost: \$10 or \$75*

MUSIC

SAT 27

Dead End Beverly

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. NY Talent Media
facebook.com/DeadEndBeverly

Dead End Beverly — retirees Angela Devine and Daniel Rayner — will perform via livestream.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 27

Race: The Power of An Illusion

GARRISON

1 p.m. Via Zoom
desmondfishlibrary.org

The Desmond-Fish Public Library will host this online screening and discussion of the final episode of the documentary series *The House We Live In*. Register online.

SAT 27

Aery 20/20 So-Over-COVID One-Act Play Festival

GARRISON

8 p.m. Via Zoom | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Viewers can watch online and

vote for their favorite plays, which will be performed live in April as part of the annual festival hosted by the Philipstown Depot Theatre. Also SAT 6. *Cost: \$8 (\$12 for both)*

SAT 6

Living Art

OSSINING

8 p.m. Westchester Collaborative Theater
wctheater.org

Over four Saturdays this month, view live performances online of one-act plays inspired by artworks selected by the Ossining Arts Council. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students and seniors)*

CIVIC

MON 1

Comprehensive Plan Info

PHILIPSTOWN

1 p.m. Via Zoom | bit.ly/PCP2030

Learn about the proposed Philipstown 2030 plan. Also SAT 6.

MON 1

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 2

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

TUES 2

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 2

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via audio
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

WED 3

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

The meeting will include the first budget presentation for 2021-22.

THURS 4

Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Nelsonville's New Restaurant

Food-truck owner opens eatery with wide menu

By Alison Rooney

Suppose you want something beyond the everyday for dinner, while your dining partner just wants a burger with the trimmings?

A new restaurant in Nelsonville, Mone's Eatery (pronounced Mon-ay's) has plenty of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Its menu was honed by owner Octavio Sandoval, who has worked in the kitchens of several restaurants and for the past three years has operated Octavio's Food Truck.

The name is all in the family: M is for Melissa, Sandoval's wife, who helps out often; O is Octavio; N is for their daughter, Naomi; E is for their son, Edgar; and S is for Sandoval.

The restaurant opened on Jan. 20. The space, which has been home to Pete's Hometown Deli, the Village Market Pizzeria and, briefly last year, the 349 Main St. Market, is adjacent to the Homestyle Creamery ice cream shop and bakery near the junction of Fishkill Road and Route 301.

Breakfast prices range from \$4 to \$6; lunch from \$10 to \$15; and dinner from \$17 to \$23, with most including vegetables and potatoes or rice.

While the lunch menu includes Cuban, chicken and grilled-cheese sandwiches, all served with hand-cut fries, the dinner menu gets ambitious, with beef bourguignon, seafood paella and a casserole containing duck leg confit, sausage, pork ribs on slaw, navy beans and vegetables, along with grilled half chicken, broiled teriyaki-glazed salmon, and New York strip steak with chimichurri sauce over potato puree and sauteed broccoli rabe.

Two soups, butternut squash and split pea, and two salads are

always available.

Reflecting Sandoval's native Guatemala, there are South and Central American favorites, including six varieties of tacos, a chicken tinga quesadilla and pork carne asada.

For breakfast, standbys such as bacon, egg and cheese on a roll are available alongside French toast tres leches, served on brioche bread, and huevos Perico, a Colombian dish of scrambled eggs with tomatoes, peppers and onions on waffles.

“Opening now is something I had to think hard about.”

~Octavio Sandoval

Sandoval says the only cooking he did growing up was occasionally helping his mother. After moving to New York, where he had family, in 1999, he worked as a landscaper but found it too cold — he saw snow for the first time in 2000 and says he couldn't believe how it felt. He switched to kitchen work, beginning as a dishwasher, and spent a decade living in Mount Kisco and working at restaurants there.

In 2017, after getting a good deal on a vehicle, he branched out on his own with a food truck. “I learned what people eat a lot of,” says Sandoval, who lives with his family in Putnam Valley. “I always wanted to open a restaurant, even before buying the truck, but the rent was always scary.”

Many of his food-truck customers have found their way to Nelsonville while the truck takes the winter off. “With COVID, the sports bars and places where I often ran the truck [in the colder months] closed down,” he says.

Two years ago, Sandoval began looking for a spot to open a restaurant. “Last year the truck was pretty successful, so I was able to take this chance,” he says. “Of course, opening now is something I had to think hard about.”

He said business has been OK so far. “Of course, any restaurant owner would like to have more people come in, but I'm happy with the way things are going,” Sandoval says. Because there was not much work to be done on the turnkey space, the opening “happened so quickly.”

Mone's, at 349 Main St. in Nelsonville, is open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. There are a couple of small tables and chairs for dining in, or the full menu and beverages are available for takeout. Call 845-666-7276.



Octavio Sandoval at Mone's

Photo by Alison Rooney



Mone's offers 15 tacos for \$35 on Taco Tuesdays.

Photos provided

Burgers and fries at Mone's



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The Shovels of Beacon

Once you start looking for snow shovels, you can't stop seeing them, as Allen Alter found during an afternoon walk on Sunday (Feb. 21) on Mountain Lane.

Something You Don't Know About Me

Jennifer Sarah Blakeslee

By Alison Rooney

Jennifer Sarah Blakeslee, by her own admission, has “a propensity for weird animals.”

The Beacon resident says this nonchalantly, which is less surprising when you learn she keeps snails as pets — she gushes over them on Facebook — and says her favorite creature is the turkey vulture.

She acquired the snails after reading *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey, which had been recommended by a friend. It tells the story of a woman who was bedridden and isolated for months and found solace in a garden snail kept in a tank nearby.

“The way it was written pierced through my inability to focus [because of the ongoing pandemic] and I was enchanted by this notion of just this one tiny organism coming to symbolize so much,” Blakeslee says.

Blakeslee went online and discovered that snails can be purchased as pets. “I ordered a terrarium and researched how to create a habitat for them,” she recalls. “You can create an ecosystem in these small, contained spaces. I have a little ceramic house and hollowed out bones. You have to put moss on any hard surface, because if the snail falls, it could crack its shell.”

“The snails are hermaphrodites, tiny little prehistoric beings, carrying their houses on their back,” she notes. “They’re like a supernova of how amazing nature is.”

She initially ordered two, then added three more, of a “bred version of a garden snail — there are lots of kinds, including African land snails which are bigger than a human hand and that’s a whole other level of caring for a creature.”

She also found other snail lovers on Instagram and a pet snails group on Facebook that offers guidance and advice.

“I learned about the different kinds of food snails need, and how a bowl of water can drown them, so instead you spritz water with a mister onto the interior sides of the terrarium so they can glide around in the



A visit with a turkey vulture

condensation,” Blakeslee says. “I love it, because any politics or drama is completely separated. In this group, all we talk about is snails.”

She has given some thought to why the snails appeal to her. “The notion of nesting is important, creating a home where people feel welcomed and comfortable,” she says. “Here I am, 51 years old, building a fairy garden, thinking ‘I’ll put this bit of moss here.’ It’s a little like Japanese ikebana [floral arranging], creating a beauty until you say, ‘OK, I’m done.’”

“It’s very Zen for me,” she adds, “a coping mechanism, creating these spaces for the snails, being able to make a contained bio-active system, of which snails are a part. Scouting around, being able to easily find everything they need in that little world, that’s comforting to me, to provide them with that.”

“Growing up, I could never have people over. When I was young, my home situation was such that we didn’t have a social life, so the notion of taking a negative I’ve experienced and making it a positive — all of it is just so engrossing.”

The snails themselves aren’t behaving as Blakeslee expected they would.

“I was expecting a nonstop interactive pet, but they’re slow, kind of sluggish,” she says.

“Part of it is winter: They may sleep for a week,



Jennifer Sarah Blakeslee with one of her snails

Photos provided

and that’s OK. Also, they’re nocturnal. But it’s always nice to know that they’re here and to have what they need. They’re a great pet for kids because they are low-maintenance and half the fun is creating their little world.”

Are her three cats a threat? “The cats couldn’t care less,” she says.

Blakeslee said she has not always been a keen animal lover. “When I was a little girl, I had a hamster and a little bird, Tweety. I came home from school one day and asked my mom, ‘Where’s Tweety?’ She said, ‘I was waiting for you to notice. He died three weeks ago.’”

But she does remember roly-poly bugs. “When I went to sleepaway camp in the 1980s, they called me ‘the bug lady’ — I’d pick them up gingerly from inside the cabins and bring them outside.” And mice. “In college, friends had mice, and while others were skeeved out by them, I loved having them run up and down my arms.”

And the turtle. “Five or six years ago my husband Jeff and I were asked to turtle-sit for our landlord. The turtle was brought to us in his tank. My husband is a voracious knowledge-seeker who loves aardvarks and tapirs and speaks Esperanto. We did some research and discovered it was a rare Malayan box turtle.

“Their habitat is aquatic but this one was being kept in a dry environment, so I got out my lasagna dish and filled it with water and a rock — and the turtle, his name is Norman, took to the water quickly. The landlord asked us if we could keep the turtle, and of course we did.”

And the turkey vultures, Blakeslee’s greatest joy? “They’re magnificent,” she extols. “I adore them — they’re the quintessential examples of evolution. They have red heads with no feathers, because they burrow into carrion and other putrefaction, and if they had feathers on their heads, they



The terrarium

would turn into bacteria. They can eat *E. coli* and anthrax, and they’re profoundly important environmentalists — they clean the area of the Earth that could be fatal to humans.

“They take death and turn it into life. Their defense method, projectile vomit, could fell a horse. There are just lots of cool facts about turkey vultures.”

Blakeslee’s admiration for the birds is such that for her 50th birthday, she and Jeff booked a private, hour-long visit with the birds at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (vinsweb.org/private-experience).

“For me the turkey vulture thing is the embodiment of animals you might overlook and not realize they have unusual sources of beauty,” she says. “At a time when everything feels so dark, so gray — these things are there, waiting for you to notice them.”

What’s next? A recent Facebook post by Blakeslee offers a clue: “Brood X cicadas: Yayayayay! (Seriously, these guys are the best.)”



This is the first panorama taken by a pair of cameras aboard NASA's Perseverance rover. It was stitched together from 142 images taken on Feb. 21.

NASA

Mars Scientist *(from Page 1)*

the Jazero crater and we saw all instruments were working appropriately."

Because the Perseverance landing is only the first part of a three-part mission, it will be several years before Thorpe gets to see the Martian rock and soil samples up close.

"Perseverance will collect the samples," each of which, he said, will be about the length of a ballpoint pen and the thickness of a nickel.

The second mission will retrieve samples from 35 "depots" established on Mars by Perseverance and put them into orbit. The third mission will grab the orbiting samples and return them to Earth.

The rocket launches for each mission must be timed precisely to ensure the spacecraft and Mars are at the same place at the same time. The "launch windows" occur every two years.

As a result, the three missions together will take 10 years.

Thorpe won't be sitting around waiting. He is currently conducting remote analysis of surface samples collected by Curiosity, which has been on Mars since 2012.



Thorpe visited Iceland to conduct research on basalt soil similar to what might come back from Mars.

Photo provided

The rover is told daily to send data. An instrument Thorpe works with drills into the surface, picks up drill finds and X-rays them. "I look at the X-ray patterns to determine the

mineralogy" of the samples, he explained.

To better understand the samples from Mars' crust (which is mostly basalt) that he will eventually analyze in person, he looks first to planet Earth.

His research has taken him to places that have a lot of basalt and tend to be volcanic, including Iceland, Hawaii, Idaho and Washington state. He also hopes to explore Costa Rica and the Canary Islands.

"I do this across the globe to see how climate impacts weathering," Thorpe said. The information he gathers can increase understanding not only of the Earth's climate but that of ancient Mars.

"My work has shown climate plays a big role in altering sediments," he said. It indicates Mars may have been Earth-like in the past and possibly looked like Iceland early in its evolution.

Between his work and having a newborn in the house, Thorpe said there isn't much time for relaxation.

"I wish I could go hiking at Breakneck, like I used to," he said. "But we're lucky to have a group of friends here who also graduated from Haldane. We're big foodies and enjoy exploring Houston's cuisine."

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The stream on the Faircloth property in 2019, five years after the Trees for Tribes planting



Wildlife returned to the tributary on the Faircloth property in 2019.

Photos provided

Free Trees (Must Provide Stream)

Deadline approaches for tributary program

By Brian PJ Cronin

When Cliff Faircloth moved into his Fishkill home 23 years ago, the stream that ran through his property was pristine.

"My neighbors told me that when they were kids, they used to swim in it," he said. But that changed a few years later, when 16 new homes were built at the top of the hill that his home and the unnamed stream, which flows into Fishkill Creek and then the Hudson River, sit at the bottom of.

Sediment and grass seed came down the hill every time it rained, changing the water flow and choking the stream. It certainly wasn't fit for swimming anymore.

Then a friend in New Paltz who manages

a parcel of land mentioned a tree-planting party he had held alongside the stream that runs through the land. He told Faircloth that the state Department of Environmental Conservation provided the trees, shrubs and planting material at no charge.

His friend suggested the DEC would do the same for the Fishkill property, but Faircloth was skeptical. He had only a few hundred feet of creek. But after calling the DEC, he soon had state employees show up at his house with dozens of native plants and shrubs as part of the agency's Trees for Tribes program, now in its 14th year.

Faircloth and his family planted over the course of a weekend. That was seven years ago. While the stream hasn't quite recovered to the point of being swimmable, Faircloth said he has noticed an improvement in the water quality.

"I didn't think the program was for resi-

dential owners, but it makes a lot of sense," said Faircloth. "A riparian buffer is a riparian buffer."

More commonly known as stream buffers, riparian buffers refer to vegetated areas alongside a stream or river, explained Anna Palmer, a stream buffer educator who works at the DEC as part of the Student Conservation Association.

A healthy buffer is able to "capture runoff, filter nutrients, shade the stream, prevent erosion, provide habitat for different birds and improve water quality," she said. Unhealthy buffers feature non-native plants, not enough vegetation and/or impermeable barriers, such as thick concrete walls or pavement.

Trees for Tribes is open to any landowner, land manager or municipality with a tributary of the Hudson River running through its property. (Outside the Hudson watershed, the DEC administers a "Buffer in a Bag" program, which operates on a smaller scale.) Some volunteer conservation groups

participate after getting the permission of landowners or municipalities.

If selected, DEC representatives visit the site and take soil samples to determine which plants will thrive. If erosion control is the most pressing issue, fast-growing plants will be provided. If the site owners are more concerned about aesthetics and are willing to be patient, slow-growing species such as oak trees will be sent. Some site owners prefer "food forests" with fruit and nut-bearing trees.

So far, the program has planted 57,000 trees and shrubs at 375 sites in the Hudson Valley.

Some owners organize tree-planting parties by corralling volunteers, although since the pandemic shutdown, this has been done only by small groups. But since the plants come potted, Palmer said as long as they're watered regularly, they don't need to immediately go into the ground.

The Trees for Tribes application deadline is March 1 for a spring planting and Aug. 1 for a fall planting. See dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html.

Sheriff *(from Page 1)*

office in January 2019 after narrowly defeating the longtime Republican incumbent, Don Smith, is seeking re-election in November. He faces a challenge from Kevin McConville, another Philipstown resident and a former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police. McConville ran for sheriff against Smith as a Democrat in 2009 and as a Republican in 2013.

To address perceived racial injustice in policing, Cuomo in June ordered municipal governments to scrutinize their enforcement practices by April 1 and report suggested reforms to the state.

Putnam established its review panel of elected and appointed government officials that met for the first time in August and released a 194-page draft *Police Policy Comprehensive Review* this month. Langley, who serves on the 22-person panel, assured legislators that the Sheriff's Department "is on board 100 percent in this process." Other panel members include Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke. Subcommittees of stakeholders with specific interests in policing were convened to assist,

although some have complained they were not allowed sufficient input.

Among other measures, the draft advocates revisions to the Sheriff Department's policy on use of force to better reflect New York law, which states an officer "may use physical force when, and to the extent he or she reasonably believes to be necessary, to effect the arrest" of a suspect "or to prevent the [suspect's] escape from custody, or in self-defense, or to defend a third person."

The shorter Sheriff's Department policy says an officer "may use reasonable physical force to effect an arrest, prevent escape of a person from custody, or in defense of self or others from imminent physical force."

Further, the report proposes equipping deputies with body cameras — a move endorsed by both the sheriff and Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, the committee chairperson; greater efforts to make the department more ethnically and demographically diverse; support of higher education for deputies; and enhanced training for officers in various subjects. (As examples, the citizen groups/stakeholders cited de-escalation tactics; crisis intervention; inclusion, cultural sensitivity and bias; and mental health concerns.) The report includes

78 pages of Sheriff's Department policies.

"We want to know what you have done" to align those policies with the draft, Nacerino told Langley. "I don't see in the Sheriff's Department plan any of those recommendations." Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, a committee member, voiced similar criticism.

Langley said his department has been releasing texts of policy changes but that the state "requires the county executive to write this document, not the sheriff."

"These are your policies," Sullivan responded. "We need an action plan from the sheriff."

"The onus is not on the county executive," Nacerino said.

Langley noted that Cuomo instructed the "chief executive" of a municipality to conduct the review. The only person named on the cover of Putnam's draft is Odell.

Montgomery said a draft cannot be confused with Sheriff's Department policies. The draft "is the roadmap for those policies that we hope the Sheriff's Department is going to revise," she said.

Committee members also argued that Langley refuses to engage in openness and to recognize the role of the Legislature and

Odell administration.

Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac, the third committee member, said the comments by the review panel's citizen groups shows "the public is really crying for transparency from law enforcement."

"The sheriff thinks he can do whatever he wants and is not accountable to anyone," contended Sullivan, who accused Langley of "mismanagement" and said numerous requests for information, on such matters as misconduct in the department, "have never been complied with. We need a sheriff who understands our needs" and transforms the department "to match our community," he said.

The sheriff explained that if a legislator wants material on an incident it can't always be legally provided. "Those who enforce the law must obey the law," he said.

Montgomery advised her colleagues to proceed carefully with the review and "not just give your pitch to get some other sheriff elected" [McConville, who has been endorsed by Odell and many of the legislators] who "will just rubber-stamp everything you want. That's what this is all about," she said. "Let's get this right for our people and stop throwing politics into it."

SPORTS

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Renegades Release 2021 Schedule

Will play in 'High A' East League

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the minor league baseball team that plays at Dutchess Stadium just outside of Beacon, announced its 2021

schedule on Feb. 18 — its first as a full-season, Single-A-level team.

If COVID-19 protocols can be worked out, the Renegades hope to play their first six home games, beginning May 11 against the Aberdeen Ironbirds (Maryland), after six games on the road, starting May 4 at the Jersey Shore Blueclaws (New Jersey).

Before moving this year from short season to Single-A, the Renegades played 36 games annually from June to early September as part of the New York-Penn League, which has disbanded. They will now play 60 games in the 12-team Single-A East League through a final home game on Sept. 19. The season normally begins in April but has been delayed.

Besides Aberdeen and Jersey Shore, the Renegades' opponents will include the

Brooklyn Cyclones, the Greensboro Grasshoppers and Winston-Salem Dash (North Carolina) and the Wilmington Blue Rocks (Delaware).

The team changed its affiliation this year, from the Tampa Bay Rays to the New York Yankees, and added pinstripes to its logo.

Single-game tickets are not yet available, but the team is offering 30-game "flex" packages through March 4. See hvrenegades.com or call 845-838-0094.

Varsity (from Page 1)

cials. "And it's a shame we have no regional tournament. I don't know why some sports can have championship events and others can't. The kids are happy to compete, but confused as to why other sports are going for the next two weeks. It's been a rough winter."

Beacon Coach Jim Henry said he also liked the way coaches and schools came together to organize the meets at Milton and the Palisades.

"After losing the New York City Armory indoor track to a vaccination center, and the heavy snow, we were looking for any place to hold a meet," he said. "Thankfully, the Beacon athletic director and superintendent felt the same way and stepped up to front the money to rent the Milton facility and sponsor the meet. Other area schools, including Haldane, stepped in to share the

costs. It's an excellent example of schools working together to accomplish something that no school could pull off individually."

At Milton, Beacon's Sal Migliore won the 600 meters and Zach Cader and Evan LaBelle were first and second in the 1,600 meters. Nathalia Thomas took first in the 55-meter high hurdles.

"The feeling of being able to race was fabulous," Henry said. "I was pleased with how our athletes raced after endless parking lot workouts."

Beacon was hoping to compete today in what Henry called a "kind-of" league meet against Hendrick Hudson and Peekskill outdoors at Yorktown, before closing its season at the Palisades Mall.

BOWLING

The Beacon High School boys' team finished fourth and the girls' team finished

fifth at the regional tournament held Wednesday at Fishkill Bowl with teams from Arlington, John Jay, Carmel, Mahopac and Ketcham.

Dan Gileo led the boys with a high game of 237 and was named to the All-Section and All-League teams. Will Hockler and Mike Juzfyk also bowled well, said Coach Brian Mahon.

"As a team, we got off to kind of a slow start," he said. "But our scores got better in the afternoon. Our last game was our best."

The girls were led by Cadence Heeter, Vanessa Campanelli and Maura Lane.

"Cadence finished at around 800 for the day," Mahon said. "She's a first-year bowler but was the best bowler of the day for the team. Vanessa is also new and has improved the most this season. And Maura had a solid day."



Beacon's Zach Cader (1) and Evan LaBelle (far left) placed first and second in the 1,600 meters at Milton. Haldane's Luke Parrella (3) placed fourth, and John Kisslinger (9) was eighth. Photo by Jim Henry

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. June honoree

4. Say it's so

8. Pretzel topper

12. Past

13. Travel permit

14. Done with

15. Brock of baseball

16. Alaskan city

18. Heron's kin

20. Army address

21. Dalai —

24. Slow, in music

28. Right to vote

32. Cash advance

33. 201, in old Rome

34. Heat to near boiling

36. GOP org.

37. Priestly vestments

39. Cheap ride section

41. "Yum!"

43. Novelist Hunter

44. Steal from

46. Cowboy's workplace

50. Spur on

55. Tic-tac-toe win

56. Nerd's kin

57. Hostels

58. Hooting bird

59. Big wind

60. Track tipster

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

61. Carrier to Amsterdam

9. Selma director DuVernay

31. Mountain ht.

35. Most loved

38. Painter's motion

40. Genetic letters

42. Thee

45. Telly watcher

47. Cranny

48. Batman's hood

49. Actress Celeste

50. Early bird?

51. PBS funder

52. Cartoon frame

53. Yucatan year

54. Wildebeest

DOWN

1. Valley

2. Awestruck

3. Gloomy

4. Online images

5. Sportscaster Scully

6. Computer key

7. Stadium cheers

8. Reddish-brown horse

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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 rest (8)

2 able to grasp things (10)

3 Fage products (7)

4 newspaper, perhaps (8)

5 Mary Moore's middle (5)

6 throws out (6)

7 paving pebble (11)

SOLUTIONS

DOW NG SILE IME UR

HEN TOS ONE TY BL

LER COB KIN YOG PRE

TS EST NT SES DLI

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Feb. 19 Puzzles

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

1. REPEL, 2. NOCTURNAL, 3. DEVITO, 4. DILAPIDATED, 5. RESUME, 6. PITCHFORK, 7. BIRDIES

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

SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' SWIMMING

The Beacon High School 200- and 400-meter freestyle relay teams performed well at the regional championships on Tuesday (Feb. 23), according to Coach Larry Collins.

The Bulldogs hosted the meet at their pool. Two other teams competed in-person, while 17 others from Section 1 submitted times from swims at various sites. The meet was scheduled to conclude on Thursday.

The relay team of Lucas Vermeulen, Hunter Ingold, Justin Piciacchio and James Patino finished 14th in the 200 freestyle and 15th in the 400 freestyle.

"That was their best swim of the year in the 200 by six seconds," noted Collins. "In the 400, they bettered their time by eight seconds. That's significant improvement. It was a great job by Bottino and Justin, our senior captains. Lucas gave us a fantastic lead off and Hunter did a good job holding the spot."

Collins said he's been impressed with the success and progress of the team in this shortened season. "We've had some personal and team bests," he said. "It's amazing how they got in shape in such a short time."

BOYS' BASKETBALL

The Haldane boys continued their sizzling play on Wednesday (Feb. 24), cruising past Croton Harmon, 58-42, to improve to 7-0. The Blue Devils also edged Beacon on Saturday, 47-44, and North Salem on Tuesday, 74-59.

"I can't say I'm surprised, because I knew we had good players and the potential to do it," Coach Joe Virgadamo said of the undefeated start. "The guys have a will to win, which is big. It's impressive to see how well



Haldane's Dan Santos gets a shot up in a crowd Tuesday against North Salem.

we're playing, sharing the ball, seven games in. Hopefully, we can continue as we start to see better teams."

Against Croton, Dan Santos led the Blue Devils with 15 points, Ryan Irwin had 11, Matteo Cervone had nine and Darrin Santos added eight. Against North Salem, Dan Santos had 22 points and Cervone added 21. Soren Holmbo scored 14 points and Irwin had eight.

Against Beacon, Cervone led the way with 19, Holmbo had 16 and Dan Santos had seven. Virgadamo said Vincenzo Scanga provided "phenomenal defense and rebounding."

For Beacon, Darien Gillins led the Bulldogs with 20 points and Dillon Kelly had nine. The Bulldogs had a chance to tie the game at the buzzer, but a three-point shot didn't fall. On Feb. 12, Haldane also narrowly defeated Beacon, 60-57.

The Bulldogs lost another tough game on Tuesday at home, falling to John Jay, 64-53.



Beacon's Dillon Kelly (11) battles for possession in a Bulldogs loss Tuesday to John Jay.



James Patino anchored the 200 and 400 relays for Beacon at this week's Section 1 championships.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Gillins led the scoring with 20 points and Kelly added 14.

The Blue Devils were scheduled to visit Croton today (Feb. 26) and host Pawling on Saturday before traveling to Putnam Valley on Monday. Beacon was set to host Lourdes today, visit Poughkeepsie on Monday and host Poughkeepsie on Wednesday. Spectators are not allowed, although select games are streamed online.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The Haldane girls' team picked up its first victory on Saturday (Feb. 20), coming from behind to defeat Peekskill, 48-33.

Peekskill led by four points at half-time and stretched its lead to 10 during the second half, but "we played the right way and stuck with it" for the win, said Haldane Coach Jessica Perrone. Marisa Scanga made two 3-point shots to swing the momentum, she said.

Maddie Chiera led the Blue Devils with 20 points, seven rebounds and six steals, and Ruby Poses added eight points. Amanda Johanson had six rebounds. "We finally put it all together with rebounding and ball movement," Perrone said.

Haldane (1-4) had a tougher game at Croton on Wednesday, losing 61-24. Chiera led the way with nine points and seven rebounds, and Molly Seigel added four points and seven rebounds. Croton is scheduled to visit Cold Spring for a rematch today. Haldane travels to North Salem on Saturday (Feb. 27) and hosts Putnam Valley on Sunday. Spectators are not allowed, but select games are streamed online.

INDOOR TRACK

It's been a frustrating winter for track teams, which lost their indoor venues because of pandemic restrictions, then saw repeated snowstorms wipe out any chance to compete outside.

In response, coaches organized a meet at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton on Saturday (Feb. 20) for athletes from Haldane, Beacon, Hendrick Hudson and Poughkeepsie high schools.

For the Haldane boys, Chase Colson took eighth place in the 55 meters; Luke Parrella was fourth in the 1,000 meters and 1,600 meters; and John Kisslinger took eighth in the 1,600 meters and 11th in the 1,000.

Daniel Phillips and Roy Smith finished 14th and 16th, respectively, in the 1,000, and senior Ben McEwan finished 12th in the 55-meter and 600-meter races.

For the girls, Caroline Nelson took sixth in the 600, Helen Nicholls was sixth in the 1,000 and Celia Drury was fourth in the 1,000 and fifth in the 1,500.

"They've been working so hard every day with no competition in sight," Coach AJ McConville said. "The meet was a last-minute thing — for some it was their first competition; for others, it's been over a year since they've been in a meet. They all did very well."

With time running out on the season, McConville said some Rockland County coaches devised a plan to compete on Saturday (Feb. 27) at the Palisades Mall underground parking garage, where a 300-meter track has been constructed.

"It's awesome to see the creativity from our area coaches," McConville said. "This weekend is our last date for competition and the section has refused to extend our season two weeks as it did in other sports. We have no regional tournament. Milton was our first meet. Hendrick Hudson let us come down and scrimmage [in the Sailors' mini-dome] and I can't say enough about their staff for having us."

McConville said he was happy to "salvage something" for the season, but that there has been no guidance from regional or state offi-

(Continued on Page 18)