The HIGHLANDS



Women Making Art

Page 11

March 5, 2021

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It Wasn't Him

After tip, local man investigated, cleared by FBI in Capitol attack

By Michael Turton

n Jan. 6, Tyler Ronconi and his wife, former Cold Spring resident Virginia Califano Ronconi, were watching the attack on the U.S. Capitol on television in their Beekman home.

Tyler recalls thinking, "I don't want to watch this; it's too crazy."

Things would soon get crazier for him. Two days later, on Jan. 8, Virginia received an Instagram message from an acquaintance in Cold Spring with a photo of a man and the question: "Does Ty have a twin?!!"

"I was confused because there was no context," Virginia said, adding she replied that Tyler wasn't a twin and thought no

In the weeks that followed, photos of men and women alleged to have been among the rioters — including the one sent to Virginia, which had been posted online by the FBI — were distributed on social media by amateur sleuths using tags such as #SeditionHunters

Locally, over three weeks, the PutnamCounty News and Recorder - where Virginia, a 2011 Haldane graduate, worked for five years as a reporter - published a

(Continued on Page 9)



CHANGING OF THE GUARD-

Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

Beacon

Shea, Leonard Will Leave **Town Board**

Van Tassel is Democrats' $candidate for \, supervisor$

ichard Shea, who has served as the Philipstown supervisor since 2010, said on Tuesday (March 2) that he will not seek a seventh term.

The Philipstown Democratic Committee a day earlier released its endorsements for the November election for town offices and named Deputy Supervisor John Van Tassel as its candidate.

The Democrats also endorsed Megan Cotter and Jason Angell to fill Town Board (Continued on Page 8)

Four of Six **Council Members** Will Not Run

> Zernike also plans to vacate Dutchess seat

▼ he Beacon Democratic Committee on Monday (March 1) announced its endorsements for the November election; four of the six members of the City Council, which is all Democratic, do not plan to seek re-election.

City Council members Terry Nelson (Ward 1), Air Rhodes (Ward 2), Jodi McCredo (Ward 3) and Amber Grant (at-large) will not seek new terms. Frits Zernike, whose Dutchess Legislature district includes Ward 4, will also

(Continued on Page 9)



Marleen Vogelaar, the founder and CEO of the Hudson Valley Mask Co. Photo by Natt McFee

Masks for the Masses

Newburgh company seeks approval to sell N95s

By Leonard Sparks

▼ he pandemic closed one door but opened another for Ziel, an activewear company with a factory in the City of Newburgh.

As hospitals, nursing homes and private companies scrambled to find personal protective equipment during the first days of the shutdown in March 2020, the firm began receiving requests to make masks. When Ziel and other "non-essential" businesses had to cease operations under a state order, it pivoted to producing hospital gowns and hand-sewn cloth masks.

One year and a \$390,000 state grant later, that early effort has blossomed into Hudson Valley Mask Co., an initiative created by Ziel that is using a \$250,000 automated production line that each month can turn fabric sourced from Italy into as many as 1 million N95-grade face masks, the gold standard used by doctors, nurses and other health care workers.

Hudson Valley Mask is selling its products to companies and individuals while it awaits N95 certification from the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which will allow for hospital sales. In addition to the Empire State Development grant, Ziel said it is investing \$1

(Continued on Page 7)

Draft of Beacon Police Reform Plan Released

City will hold public hearing on March 15

By Jeff Simms

eacon officials this week released the city's draft Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative Report, a 51-page document that, combined

with a series of policy changes adopted last year, is expected to satisfy Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order to update police strategies and practices.

His order, issued last summer, requires municipalities to study their law enforcement policies and issue reports by April 1 on reforms to, among other goals, "elimi-

(Continued on Page 3)



FIVE QUESTIONS: GILLIAN MURPHY

By Michael Turton

fter 21 years as director of the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, Gillian Murphy will leave in April for the Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz.

Will it be difficult to leave Cold Spring?

A few years ago, I realized I'd taken Butterfield Library as far as I could, but still have more to give. I'm a seeker. I wanted to go somewhere bigger, to grow. Here we serve about 2,500 people; New Paltz serves about 14,000. It's a college town, a hippie town, a big arts town. You can partner, do internships. Two years ago, I told my board I was going back to school and would leave when I finished. I recently completed my master's degree in library

and information

science at

Syracuse University. I've been through the emotional part and honestly, I'm not that upset. I'm ready. It's the right step.

How has Butterfield changed during your time as director?

The internet has been the biggest thing. Everyone thought it would kill libraries but it has helped us, especially smaller libraries. For example, it enabled me to get rid of our reference collection - encyclo-

pedia and dictionary sets that were costly, quickly outdated and took up so much space. We got rid of the Dewey Decimal System well over 10 years ago; I got rid of fines. Adding a passport service has been great. And we established "a library of things" people can sign out

thing from power washers, camping gear and vacuum cleaners, to sewing machines, metal detectors and passes to New York City museums. It serves so many people who don't think of themselves as readers.

What are you most proud of?

The votes to secure funding were probably the most important thing we've done; I don't think this library was sustainable otherwise. The Town of Philipstown contribution was never secure and varied from year to year. In 2006, district residents approved \$276,000 in annual funding from the town. And in 2015, the Haldane community approved \$73,150 in annual funding. I'm also proud of our increased usership. When I started in 2000, the annual circulation was 8,000 items. It reached 65,000 about three years ago.

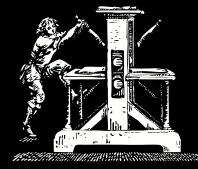
Has there been a positive side to the **COVID-19 pandemic?**

Totally. Our patrons have learned to use digital resources much faster. People started using Kanopy and Hoopla to access audiobooks, music, movies and TV shows. We've had famous authors visit our book groups remotely. That would never have happened. Helping patrons build their own website worked much better on Zoom. Also, our staff kept working the whole time. We ripped the library apart and redid everything, even stained the bookshelves. Everything looks shiny and new.

Has the success, or failure, of some programs surprised you?

We've tried a lot of things. I'm not afraid to fail. I'm still trying to establish a "human library" here: You sign out a person and they tell you their story. Usually it's someone who's had a struggle they've overcome, such as drug abuse. We've done a lot of good things over the years — the themed parties were fun. Big Truck Day was a surprisingly huge success for years, then just kind of fell off. Other libraries copied it, and when that happens, it's probably time for change. Everything has its life span.

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By Michael Turton

What is your idea of the perfect burger?

Toasted brioche bun, two smashed 4-ounce patties, medium rare, caramelized onions, bacon, sharp cheddar, pickles and ketchup



~ Albert Bloise, Beacon

Black-bean veggie burger, toasted whole grain bun, tomato relish, lettuce and tomato



~ Kaitlin Louvier, Cold Spring

Toasted onion roll, medium rare, American cheese, mayo, ketchup, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles and jalapenos



~Adam Moses, Beacon

Police Reform (from Page 1)

nate racial inequities in policing" following the videotaped killing in May 2020 of a Black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

The City Council will discuss the report. which is posted at cityofbeacon.org, at its workshop on Monday (March 8) and hold a public hearing on March 15. (All city meetings are being conducted on Zoom.) Beacon residents also may submit comments via email through March 16.

The council will hold a workshop followed by a special meeting on March 29 to adopt the reform plan, which was drafted by a 19-member Police Reform Planning Committee that Mayor Lee Kyriacou appointed in January. The committee. which includes eight community representatives, distilled its discussions into 10 recommendations (at right).

The report also describes Beacon's recent history of police reform - more than a decade of investigation and oversight by the federal Justice Department in response to citizen complaints — as well as the department's positive interactions last summer with Beacon 4 Black Lives and the other activists who organized weekly rallies to protest Floyd's killing and racial inequities.

As a result of the federal oversight, which ended in 2016, "the Beacon Police Department re-examined and reformed many of its policies and procedures, which allowed this small department to adopt early on some of the progressive reforms now being discussed in much larger departments, including significant revisions to the useof-force policy," the report notes.

While some of the study's recommendations cover the same ground as other municipalities' - adding social workers and civilian review boards — City Administrator Chris White said Wednesday that Beacon continued proactive reforms after the Justice Department's oversight ended, including the use of body cameras, which the department deployed in 2018. (Beacon patrol cars are equipped with cameras, as well.)

"There's this continuum of reform that the department has been on," White said. "Some cities may have started [working on the state-required reports] at the beginning of the continuum, but Beacon was already moving on it."

Two months after Cuomo's executive order, the City Council adopted a resolution calling for nearly a dozen policy changes at the Police Department.

Its resolution instructed the police chief,



Beacon will accept comments until March 16.

Sands Frost, who was appointed on Dec. 21, to begin his tenure "with a thorough review of police training, culminating in a data-driven set of recommendations" for improvements. It also directed him to examine Beacon's policy on psychological support for officers and called for a multi-year schedule for implicit bias training for all city staff, including police.

It also said the chief and city administrator should investigate "alternative responder" options and the department's disciplinary policy, and evaluate its arsenal while the City Council reviews police policies for transparency.

Where most municipalities, including Beacon, can improve is in having "regular and formal" opportunities for communication with the community, White said. He said those conversations should happen "in the places where the community already meets," rather than "saying 'we've got coffee and doughnuts at City Hall' and asking people to come to us."

White said he believes there's support for better community relations in the department. Going a step farther and creating a citizen advisory committee is "probably the greatest change" recommended by the committee "because we don't have that now."

Frost said after his hire that outreach will be the key to connecting with disillusioned community members following the high-profile killings of Floyd and others by police in recent years.

Suggested Changes

In its draft, Beacon's police reform committee made recommendations in 10 areas.

Community safety: Conduct a safety-needs assessment; explore hiring non-sworn neighborhood safety officers to bring concerns to police; continue training officers to "de-escalate" tense situations.

Addressing the needs of individuals:

Improve response to mental health and crisis intervention situations by hiring a social worker to assist the department; continue partnerships with addictionrecovery programs.

Criminal justice alternatives:

Explore initiatives that can keep people out of the criminal justice system when other options, such as mental health services, could better address root problems and reduce recidivism: continue initiatives that support crime victims or establish restorative-justice programs.

Communications: Hold regular community meetings; create a citizen advisory committee.

Hear officers' experiences:

Create surveys to ensure officers' perspectives are being heard; increase efforts to retain officers.

Data collection and reporting: Analyze data, such as use-of-force reporting, and make it available to the public.

Diversity: Recruit a more diverse police force by educating potential candidates about civil service exams, including the timing of upcoming tests; explore the idea of re-instituting civil service tutorials with Dutchess County.

Structure and patrols: Evaluate community policing initiatives with regard to the department's staffing limitations; rethink procedures for evaluating officers, which the committee said have historically been based on numbers such as traffic stops and arrests made.

Accountability: Improve city and community oversight of allegations of misconduct, including enhancement of the system for residents to submit complaints.

Youth security: Create internship and age-specific programs, as well as a police and teens athletic league; reinstitute, when COVID-19 guidelines allow, the youth police academy; consider creating a community center.



Market Report (January)

| | Bea | con | Philipstown | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | |
| New Listings | 6 | 10 | 7 | 9 | |
| Closed Sales | 8 | 9 | 7 | 14 | |
| Days on Market | 66 | 38 | 105 | 71 | |
| Median Price | \$369,500 | \$340,000 | \$853,400 | \$634,750 | |
| % List Received | 89 | 99.2 | 95 | 96.2 | |
| Inventory | 25 | 15 | 77 | 53 | |

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



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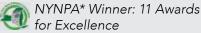
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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Vaccines

About 1.2 million of the 3.2 million people age 65 and over have received the vaccine, so stop with the freaking hype ("The Vaccinated Hope and Wait," Feb. 19). Those are lousy numbers. What do you think we unvaccinated are doing, besides hoping and waiting?

Alison Insinger, via Facebook

Want a vaccine? Call 833-697-4829, the state appointment hotline, every free moment you have until you get an appointment. People cancel their appointments constantly because they're ill, they got a shot already, they have to change times, etc.

Twelve of my relatives and I all got appointments. It took me four calls one afternoon, and others two days. Don't rely on the state website. Also, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens and some Walmarts are vaccinating. Ask your pharmacy if you can get on the list. Good luck.

Stephanie Hepburn, via Facebook

Research suggests that the vaccine is most effective from two weeks to three months after the second dose. So perhaps I can hug my parents sooner than I thought!

Debbie Brennen, via Facebook

More and more research continues to be released confirming that the rate at which vaccinated individuals may spread the virus is dramatically reduced, in addition to providing them protection. This is what scientists assumed would happen, but it couldn't be confirmed without more testing.

Ryan Biracree, via Facebook

I believe in science, the experts, facts and the power of vaccines. Thus I will be getting vaccinated in March. It took me three days and nights of constant vigilance, but I finally got an appointment.

Nannette Lipinski, via Facebook

Are people leaving their home county for vaccinations included in the percentage of that county's residents who have received shots?

Alana Sweeny, via Facebook The editor responds: Yes, according to the state. For example, if Dutchess residents receive the vaccine in Orange, they are included only in the Dutchess numbers.

Vaccines, etc.

This letter is to clarify a few things that I have seen going on in Philipstown and being written about in the newspapers.

Regarding the vaccine rollout, Putnam County and all its elected officials are aware of all the issues ("Vaccine Update," Feb. 26). There is a weekly county call that all local officials are invited to. Questions are answered and information is provided and passed on to the public. The Putnam County Health Department, and especially the public health nurses, are doing a first-rate job.

The vaccine pods throughout the county, including the Philipstown Recreation Center, are professional and organized. Vaccines come from the federal government to the state and on to the counties. Our Health Department and the county executive are advocating for Putnam every day. Anyone who thinks that every effort is not being made to secure vaccine doses is wrong.

About pharmacies: Neither the county nor the towns have any role in how they operate ("Drug World COVID-19 Update," Feb. 26). I do find it disturbing that a candidate for sheriff and Vinny Tamagna, a paid county employee, have inserted themselves into this process. It appears that in an election year, no tactics are too low. I do have to wonder why Mr. Tamagna is free to wander around at vaccine sites when he has no official capacity

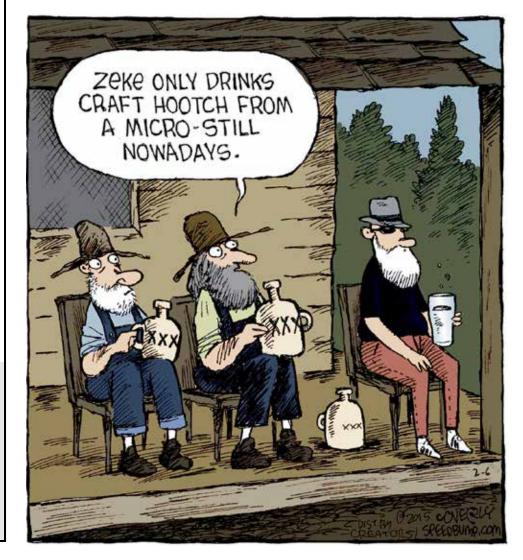
Regarding the sheriff: The Legislature needs to stop attacking the sheriff and start supporting him ("Putnam Says Sheriff Not Cooperating with Review," Feb. 26). Anyone who knows Robert Langley knows that he is a decent man and competent sheriff who cares deeply about the safety and wellbeing of the residents of Putnam.

For Legislators Ginny Nacerino and Neal Sullivan to berate the sheriff because he follows the law is wrong. Again, in an election year, people need to be aware that all tactics will be used to tear down an opponent. It seems that Sheriff Langley is not only running against an opposing candidate but most of the Legislature. The loudest and rudest voice in the room is generally the most dangerous, and Legislator Sullivan should cede this role and look for ways to support the Sheriff's Department. Our residents demand and deserve better.

Finally, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and the Garrison golf course (*Letters and Comments*, Feb. 26): The sky is not falling. Philipstown is known throughout the Hudson Valley as a place that takes planning very seriously. I have been an elected official and steward of the town for 20 years. During that time, I have seen many proposals for projects, some good and others that were doomed to fail.

The proposal put forth for the Garrison

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

golf course has the potential to be great. This is a multi-year, phased project that will go through intensive review, and I am confident that it will ultimately be a wonderful asset for the whole community.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*Shea is the *Philipstown supervisor*.

New York Health Act

I enjoyed the reader comments on the New York Health Act in response to 5 Questions (Feb. 12). A robust debate on our health care system is exactly what's needed. I'd like to address three of the questions raised.

How do we pay for it? The plan is funded through federal dollars and a progressive tax on income, replacing the regressive tax we pay now in the form of premiums, copays and deductibles. But the larger point is that the system we can't afford is the one we have now. We pay twice as much for health care as other major countries and get worse results. Multiple studies have concluded the act would cover more people more cheaply. Local governments and schools would save millions, and the state would save billions. Property taxes would go down because counties would no longer be required to contribute to Medicaid.

Won't rich New Yorkers leave if we raise their taxes? Tax flight is a perennial excuse (or threat) to keep taxes low on the wealthy and large corporations, but it is a myth. The rich can afford to live wherever they want. The top 1 percent does pay a large share of the income tax in New York, but not because they're overtaxed — several states tax them more — but because they claim a disproportionate share of the income. New York has the highest level of income inequality in the country.

How can government be trusted to handle this? In the last year we've witnessed the catastrophic failure of public health and infrastructure systems thanks to decades of bad policies and bad governance. The way to address these failures is through better policies and governance, not by continuing to allow the private insurance industry to put profit over patients.

To learn more, see nyhcampaign.org.

Jeff Mikkelson, Cold Spring
Mikkelson is the co-founder of Hudson
Valley Demands New York Health.

Great and small

Caring for the smallest creatures is just as important as caring for the largest. Thank goodness there are people like the Blakeslees to love snails and turtles ("Something You Don't Know About Me: Jennifer Sarah Blakeslee," Feb. 26).

Susan Sabo, via Facebook

'I am here'

As a young lieutenant in the Army, I listened to my commander espouse "caring the most, operating the best and covering ourselves with glory." He explained that caring for each of us strengthened us,

connected us and would make us successful.

Over the last decade, I have worked with veterans, using horses to mitigate the effects of combat, military sexual trauma and the stressors imposed by service. I have learned that most veterans bring invaluable skills, talents and leadership to the civilian world, resulting in successful, happy lives. But a few need a hand in their transition home.

The American Legion and the other organizations at the Memorial Building provide some of that connection. When we became soldiers, the Army taught us to traverse the civil-military divide and learn to function in the world of the martial arts and sciences. We learned to adapt, overcome and to improvise. We learned to function as a team of individuals that we could depend on unquestionably.

What we missed was that our transition back to the civil world was often an entry into a chaotic, unpredictable environment where motivations and rewards were different and unpredictable. Most civilians do not even know that there is a difference between the worlds, nor should they; most do not even know anybody who has served, and many disparage those who have worn the uniform.

In December 2019, my wife and I were guests of my old regiment in Germany. In a conversation with one of the squadron commanders, I was asked why we had come. Was it a case of trying to hold on to glory days? I explained that, through the work I was doing with veterans using horses, I had learned that connection and reconnection was key, that likely, in the dark of night, later in life, someone who has connected with a peer group might reach out from a dark place to a brother or sister, and that person will reach back and say: "I am here." A life will be saved.

Please reach out and join us for a socially distanced slice of pizza on March 16 at the Memorial Building at 1830 hours. Dragoon for life!

John MacEnroe, Beacon MacEnroe is a member of American Legion Post 203.

Shakespeare plans

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival plans to move and expand present an enormous impact on Philipstown ("Putnam Legislators Applaud HVSF Plans," Feb. 19). Why would such a significant change not require some kind of referendum of the citizens of Philipstown?

Cali Gorevic, Philipstown

It's an excellent idea but, as someone who lives half a mile away from the site, I think the traffic impact on Route 9 is problematic. When the weather is good and the economy is good, which it will be eventually, the highway is a dangerous racetrack during the evening commute — just when the theater guests would be arriving. Also, the property tax impact, particularly on the Garrison school, could be large.

 ${\tt Eric \, Erickson}, {\it Philipstown}$

Cell tower lawsuit

In the Feb. 26 issue, a Nelsonville resident claimed in a letter to the editor that the Village Board had misrepresented the village by defending it in the federal lawsuit brought by trustee candidate George Eisenbach and his co-plaintiffs.

I am 100 percent opposed to a cell tower over the Cold Spring Cemetery, feel enormous sympathy for the residents who would be most directly affected by it and am heartbroken about the trees that would be cut down and the bats that might be impacted.

But, in my view as a litigator with decades of experience, it is a mistake to say that the village could have chosen to do nothing in response to the federal lawsuit. The plaintiffs, including Mr. Eisenbach, allege the village acted illegally in violation of state statutes when it entered into the settlement with the cell tower companies. In my opinion, the village had no choice but to answer these serious allegations in court. Had the trustees ignored them, the consequence would likely have been a default judgment against the village. In my view, failure to respond to a lawsuit would be a reckless approach for the village.

Having attended many of the public meetings about the cell tower and heard the arguments from all sides, it is my view that the village had no tenable legal position to oppose the original cell tower litigation brought by Homeland Towers. The village would have been destroyed financially and would almost certainly still have lost. Federal telecommunications laws heavily favor the cell tower companies and leave villages little ability to fight them.

I sincerely hope that the litigation brought against Homeland Towers by neighbors in state court will succeed and stop this horrible tower from being built.

Heidi Wendel, Nelsonville

Senior center

For anyone to even suggest the Philipstown senior center is useless, you'd better know what you're talking about (*Letters and Comments*, Feb. 19). Even with this terrible pandemic, our senior center is a busy place. It furnishes 45 meals per day and offers a one-week supply of frozen

meals to shut-ins. Its staff does comfort calls and provides transportation to any senior who can't find a way to the doctor. (The vehicles are partitioned between the driver and passenger, and sanitized after each transport.) It has more than 50 remote classes per week. The staff is now working on remote programs to prevent falls.

We are thankful to have such a place. Philipstown has a large senior population and all are welcome. We can't wait until they are able to open so we can see our friends again. I thank Putnam County every day. FYI, the local number is 845-808-1705. When open, the center can serve up to 90 meals per day and, I must say, our cook, Laurie, is awesome. I sure miss her homemade soups.

Donna Anderson, Garrison

Boscobel path

The plan for a path to Boscobel sounds interesting ("Walking to Boscobel," Feb. 26), but aren't its trails closed to the public or accessible only with an admission fee?

Josh Parker, via Facebook

General consensus

In a story in your Feb. 19 issue ("Cold Spring, Nelsonville Fine-Tune Airbnb Rules"), Michael Turton wrote that "the general consensus" at a September 2019 meeting in Cold Spring on the regulation of short-term rentals had been to "allow them, with restrictions." Wow. Maybe I am nostalgic, but I wish *The Current* would bring back fact-based reporting on important issues versus articles where reporters are allowed to make broad and sweeping assertions with zero data to back any of it up.

How about reporting, instead of giving your opinion? Opinions are what editorials are for. If you are going to editorialize under the guise of reporting, call it a gossip mag and get on with it.

Travis Fyfe, $via\ Facebook$

Agreed. Apparently *The Current* is taking its cues from "respectable" tabloids like *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* when it comes to reporting. I guess they figure if the agenda-driven Pulitzer Prize-winners running those formerly great newspapers can get away with it, why can't we?

 ${\bf Jeff\,West}, via\,Facebook$

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit - March 14th, 2021

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

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

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on March 18th, 2021 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email CROCKETT@ PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on March 18th, 2021.

Putnam Debuts Vaccine Clinics for Seniors

Dutchess planning pop-up site in Beacon

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County held its first seniorsonly COVID-19 vaccination clinics this week and Dutchess announced its largest-ever allocation of doses and an effort to organize a pop-up site in Beacon within the next two weeks.

Clinics scheduled for Thursday (March 4) and today (March 5) in Brewster were

the Putnam County Department of Health's first for the 17,700 residents who are 65 and older since the state announced last week a collaboration with health departments to schedule clinics for seniors. The county said that 800 seniors will receive their first doses during the two days.

Before the announcement, health departments were told to prioritize essential workers, group-home residents, the disabled and seniors with certain medical conditions that make them vulnerable to becoming seriously ill.

Other seniors had to book their own appointments at pharmacies or the state's mass-vaccination sites — just one of which is located in the Mid-Hudson Region, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

On Monday, Putnam announced that it was told it would receive 1,170 of 3,000 doses it had requested for residents 65 and older. While Putnam hoped for more, the allocation represented a "big increase over the amount we had been getting," County Executive MaryEllen Odell said on Monday. "We are so glad the state made this important change."

Dutchess received 4,040 Pfizer-BioN-Tech and Moderna vaccine doses this week, including 500 designated solely for seniors 65 and older, who account for about 53,000 of the county's residents. It was the county's largest weekly allocation to date. Dutchess is also expecting 800 doses of the vaccine

made by Johnson & Johnson, which last week received emergency use authorization from the federal government.

CareMount Medical, Premier Medical Group and Sun River Health Care are receiving doses from Dutchess to administer shots to their patients who are homebound seniors or who have underlying medical conditions, County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday.

The county is also planning a clinic at a retirement community in Rhinebeck next week and is trying to organize pop-up clinics in Beacon, East Fishkill and Millerton, said Molinaro, although those may not be exclusively for seniors. The state is launching a clinic at Marist College today that will operate through Wednesday.

"Most of the pop-up clinics are going to be [administering] Johnson & Johnson doses," because of the difficulty of scheduling a second one for booster shots, said Molinaro. "We've been preparing for this," he said.

So have seniors.

People 60 or older account for more than 70 percent of the state's 38,660 deaths attributed to complications of COVID-19, a fact that has compelled many older residents to shelter at home, isolated from family, friends and social activities.

Although the state expanded vaccine eligibility to residents 65 and older in January, many of the 3.3 million people in that

age range have been left to compete with other eligible groups for available slots, a challenge aggravated by a shortage of doses and the difficulty of monitoring multiple websites and social media pages to sign up.

Last week, the Town of Philipstown announced that members of the Class of 2021 at Haldane High School would help seniors book appointments online. In addition, Dutchess County allows residents who register online to be notified when appointments become available.

"Individuals 65 and older are randomly pulled from the notification list and we contact them about scheduling an appointment, either by phone or email," said Colleen Pillus, the county's spokesperson.

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, both cited the difficulty seniors are having in a letter sent on Tuesday urging the state to create its own notification system and establish a mass-vaccination site at the former JCPenney space at Poughkeepsie Galleria. The Dutchess health department uses the space for its clinics.

Coronavirus Updates

For the latest news on the COVID-19 shutdown and vaccines, see **highlandscurrent.org**.

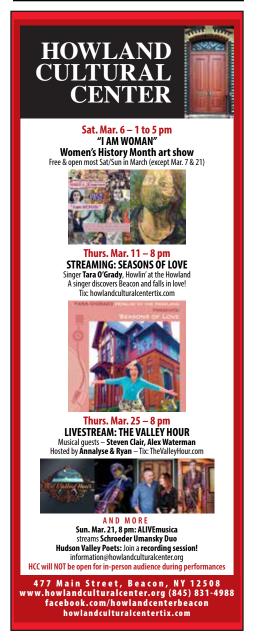


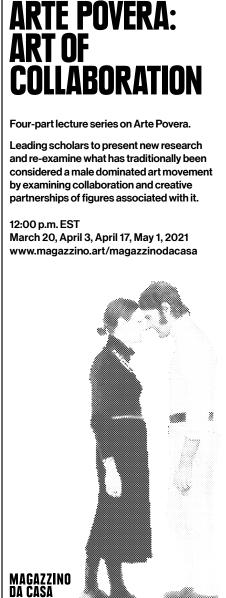
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Photos by Natt McFee (2) and L. Sparks

Photos from the Newburgh assembly line of the Hudson Valley Mask Co.



Is Your Mask Fake?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains a list of N95 masks that it has found to be counterfeit, including many sold on Amazon. See bit.ly/counterfeitmasks. Signs of fake N95 respirators include:

- No markings on the respirator
- No approval number (TC) on the respirator or headband
- No National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) markings, or NIOSH spelled incorrectly
- Decorative fabric or other addons, such as sequins
- Claims that the mask is "approved for children" (NIOSH does not approve any type of respiratory protection for children)
- A respirator that has ear loops instead of headbands

Masks (from Page 1)

million in the firm, according to its founder and CEO, Marleen Vogelaar.

The masks made in Newburgh are lightweight, water-resistant and capable of filtering 99 percent of airborne particles, she said. Certification makes a difference for the company in part because the pandemic exposed the country's shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and its reliance on products made in China and other countries. The sudden rush to find PPE early last year also led to price gouging and fraud, including the proliferation of masks labeled N95 that were not.

We want to show that it's made in America, it's made in the Hudson Valley and we're making actual, real masks.

"We want to show that it's made in America, it's made in the Hudson Valley and we're making actual, real masks," said Vogelaar, whose crew of eight employees is expected to grow by 20 as production ramps up later this year.

The firm's 60-foot production line was installed in a renovated room inside its 14,000-square-foot building on Broadway. The masks begin as four layers of two nonwoven fabrics: "melt blown" and "spun bond." The assembly line is composed of

stations that fuse the layers together, score the pattern for each mask, and add a nose bridge and ear loops. Finally, each mask is sterilized with ultraviolet rays.

A cloth mask "works great for not spraying things around," Vogelaar said, but when out in public, "you better wear something that actually protects you," noting the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month endorsed double masking.

Health workers have their own requirements. "They need something soft that doesn't hurt their face and doesn't create eczema and any kind of other problems when you wear them for a 10- or 12-hour shift," she said.

While Hudson Valley Mask awaits its N95 certification, a process that could take several months, the firm is lining up health care facilities as potential customers, Vogelaar said. She believes the demand for masks will continue even after the pandemic is under control and foresees adding more production lines.

"If you're in Singapore and you have a slight cold, you wear a mask," she said. "I think our society will go toward that."

Ziel is one of 28 New York companies receiving more than \$16 million from the state to produce ventilators, protective equipment and other supplies. Eric Gertler, the acting commissioner for Empire State Development, which distributes the grants, said the agency was "proud to have supported Ziel and other New York State manufacturers in pivoting to produce critical COVID-19-related equipment."

At least 30 percent of Hudson Valley Mask's production is earmarked for the state, Vogelaar said, noting that consumers and companies in New York will receive a 10 percent discount.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

8,460 (+216)

New Cases in Philipstown: 17

Tests administered:

168,564 (+5,687)

Percent positive:

5.0 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

86 (+0)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

22,678 (+980)

Active Cases in Beacon: 41

Tests administered:

543,696 (+18,637)

Percent positive:

4.2₍₀₎

Number of deaths:

410 (+4)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of March 3, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Feb. 25.

St. Philip's Nursery School

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St. Philip's is a nurturing morning preschool dedicated to giving children the best possible start to lifelong learning.

For details, visit www.stphilipsnursery.org



George Eisenbach

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- Control Spending and Full Transparency

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NEWS BRIEFS



Sheriff Arrests Beacon Man for Dumping

Resident takes photos of suspect in Philipstown

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department soid and a ment said on Monday (March 1) that it had arrested a Beacon man for allegedly dumping construction debris on Indian Brook Road in Philipstown.

In a news release, the department said that on Sunday (Feb. 28) at about 2:35 p.m., a resident called 911 to report that a man was dumping debris over an embankment near the Route 9D overpass. She also took photos, including the one above.

Deputies responded and located the suspect, who was arrested and charged with violating a town law against littering. In addition, because the area is state park land, the Department of Environmental Conservation issued tickets for two violations: "unlawful disposal of solid waste" and "depositing a noisome and unwholesome substance on or near a public highway."

The sheriff did not respond to a request for the suspect's name or employer, and the DEC declined to release his name.

Murder Suspect Must Keep Attorney

Court awaits psychological report

Putnam County Judge Joseph Spofford denied a request to replace the courtappointed attorney defending a Philipstown man charged with setting a fire that killed his father in 2019.

Louis Weber IV, 20, has been accused of causing the death of Louis J. Weber III, 72. His attorney, MaryJane MacCrae, said during a virtual hearing on Tuesday (March 2) that Weber had cited concerns about a delay in receiving discovery materials from her and her workload for other

Weber was arrested on Aug. 23 and charged with second-degree murder in the death of his father, who was found in the remains of his mobile home at 3 Fourth St. in Philipstown after it was destroyed by fire on Nov. 4, 2019.

Weber pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail at the Putnam County jail. MacCrae told Spofford that a psychological report should be ready by the time of Weber's next appearance, on April 6.

Putnam Gets \$6 Million for Upgrades

Money will fund towers, radio channels

Putnam County will receive a state grant of \$6 million for communications towers and radio channels to enhance communications between jurisdictions and agencies, New York State announced last month.

The system will enhance communications between emergency services, the Sheriff's Department, New York State Police, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police, county municipal departments, school districts, and town and village police, the governor's office said in a statement.

Former Judge Joins Fishkill Law Firm

Beacon resident now with Cuddy & Feder

Peter Forman, a Beacon resident and former Dutchess County judge, has joined the Cuddy & Feder law firm and will work from its Fishkill office focusing on mediation and arbitration cases, and

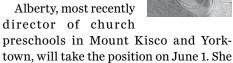
general practice, the firm announced on Monday (March 1).

Forman served as a judge on the county court from 2011 through last year after his loss in the November election to Jessica Segal. He also had been an acting justice on the Dutchess County Supreme Court since 2001.

St. Philip's Names Nursery **School Director**

Will take position on June 1

The nursery school of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison on Monday (March 1) named Betsy Alberty as its new director



succeeds JoAnne Chadwick. The school is operating this year under an interim director. Anita Prentice.

St. Philip's Nursery School is a morning program founded in 1960 for children 2 to 4 years old. Applications are being accepted for the fall at stphilipsnursery.

Maloney Introduces Bill to Revoke Benefits

Would deny former presidents convicted of felony

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose House district includes the Highlands, on Feb. 24 introduced a bill that would require former presidents convicted of a felony to forfeit any federal benefits.

Under a 1958 law, former presidents are granted a lifetime pension at the rate of a cabinet secretary, a budget for staff personnel, and furnished office space. Maloney said in a statement that the Restoring and **Enforcing Accountability of Presidents** (REAP) Act would revoke these benefits (excluding Secret Service protection) for presidents convicted of felonies during or after they leave office.

Philipstown Candidates

seats that will be vacated by Van Tassel and Michael Leonard, who also said he would not seek re-election. The Town Board consists of four members and the supervisor, who are currently all Democrats.

The Democrats on Monday also endorsed Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, and Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. for re-election.

The Philipstown Republican Committee, which also released its selections this week. did not name a candidate for supervisor but endorsed Neal Tomann and Sarina Tamagna for the two Philipstown board seats and Barbara Scuccimara to challenge Mont-

gomery. Scuccimara lost her bid in 2018 for a third term on the Legislature to Montgomery, who received 58 percent of the vote. Both are former Town Board members



Tamagna

In an email, Shea said that "having the opportunity to serve the community for 20 years has been a tremendous honor. I look forward to the completion of the renovation at Town Hall, building the new Highway Department facility, protecting our piece of the planet and continuing to improve services until the day I leave office." He noted he will continue in his construction business and that he recently became a grandfather. (The full statement is at highlandscurrent.org.)

Shea was elected supervisor after serving for eight years on the Town Board. His grandfather and uncle also had been supervisor. In Philipstown, where 45 percent of voters are registered Democrats, he ran unopposed in his four most recent campaigns.

Leonard, who is in his fourth term on the board, said he felt it was "time to step aside and allow others to serve. Unlike years ago, when it was very hard to find people, a number of talented and community-caring people have stepped forward."

Van Tassel, a lifelong Cold Spring resident, owns JVT Construction and is a longtime volunteer with the North High-

(Continued on Page 9)

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FBI (from Page 1)

selection of the photos, including the one of a man who vaguely resembles Ronconi, putting the faces in front a local audience.

The photo is labeled No. 39 by the FBI and #NauticalInsider by Twitter sleuths because of a windbreaker the suspect was wearing. The FBI this week added a red "Arrested" label to the image; the suspect has not yet been identified in court records but resembles Nicholas Burton Reimler, 28, of St. Louis, who was charged on Feb. 19 with two misdemeanors.

According to FBI accounts included in court records, many of the people charged have been identified by family members, co-workers or friends, or former co-workers and friends. William Pepe, a Beacon resident who has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges, was named by co-workers at Metro-North. Videos posted by Jake Lang of Newburgh were shared with investigators by a childhood friend.

At least one person who knows Tyler thought the FBI should be alerted that No. 39 might live in the Hudson Valley. Ronconi said he received a call on Feb. 11 from an FBI agent based in New York City who told him the agency had received a phone tip implicating him.

"I was so shocked I almost felt I could pass out," Ronconi recalled.

The agent said while it was obvious to investigators that he was not the man in the photo, he was obliged to tell Ronconi



Tyler Ronconi

Photo by M. Turton

the FBI had investigated him.

(Reached by phone, the agent referred *The Current* to the FBI's press office in Washington, D.C., where a spokesperson said she could not comment on its investigations or how many inaccurate identifications it has received.)

Although the agent was friendly, three weeks later Ronconi said he still feels "violated" by the call. "It was from so far out in left field — it was absurd, appalling. I would just never think of going down there" to protest on Jan. 6.

In a subsequent phone conversation, Ronconi said the agent told him the FBI had received as many as 1,000 tips based on the photo. He also said the agent laughed at

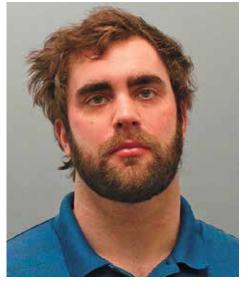


The FBI recently added an "Arrested" banner to Photo 39 but court documents have not been released that identify the suspect.

the comparison, saying the suspect "looked nothing like me and that they [the FBI] even knew my wardrobe and that I didn't own a cap or windbreaker like in the photo."

Ronconi said the agent told him the FBI had examined his social media posts, child-hood records and surveillance video from the riot. "He said I was nowhere to be seen in the Capitol building," Ronconi said.

Ronconi said he is finding it difficult to put the incident behind him. "It's unsettling that the FBI investigated my life," he said. "I



Nicholas Burton Reimler, 28, of St. Louis, was charged on Feb. 19 and may be the man in Photo 39.

did nothing wrong. What if the FBI investigation comes up in a background check if I'm applying for a job? I'm nervous about lingering effects."

He said he is also bothered by the Instagram message his wife received a month before the call from the FBI, wondering if it was meant as a joke or if the sender believed he was guilty and shared those suspicions with the FBI.

"Which is worse, a joke or a false accusation?" he asked. "A joke may be worse. This was not something to be joking about."

Philipstown Candidates

(from Page 8)

lands Fire Co., the committee said in a statement. The 1983 Haldane graduate was first elected to the board in 2009.

Cotter, who lives in Cold Spring and grew up in Philipstown, is a compliance officer for health care professionals and holds a master's degree in public health from New York Medical College. She also spent eight years at the Topfield Equestrian Center as its director of health care.

Angell is the co-owner of Longhaul Farm, created on his grandfather's land with his wife, Jocelyn. The couple founded a nonprofit that helped lead the effort to move Philipstown to a renewable electricity supply and also created the Philipstown Community Congress. Angell was a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper, but resigned on

Feb. 25, citing his decision to seek office.

Tomann, the director of facilities at the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, is a lifelong resident of Philipstown. "Since 2016 I've had the privilege of serving on the Philipstown Planning Board, a board that takes a serious approach to the development of our town," he said in a statement. "I appreciate the opportunity to run for a Town Board seat and serve the community."

Tamagna grew up in Continental Village

and returned to Cold Spring in 2009. She serves on the boards of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency and the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, and on the Pace University Lubin School of Business Advisory Board. She has been working in the technology sector for 25 years servicing the financial community.

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong contributed reporting.

Beacon Candidates

(from Page 1)

not be on the ballot.

The Democratic committee endorsed Molly Rhodes (who is no relation to Air Rhodes) for the Ward 1 seat, Justice McCray for Ward 2, Wren Longno for Ward 3 and Paloma Wake for one of the two at-large seats. Incumbent Dan Aymar-Blair will seek his second term representing Ward 4 and George Mansfield will run for his seventh term on the council as the second at-large representative. The council seat held by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, also a Democrat, will be on the ballot in 2023.

The Democrats endorsed Yvette Valdés Smith to succeed Zernike; they also backed two-term incumbent Nick Page, whose legislative district includes Beacon Wards 1. 2 and 3.

In addition, the committee endorsed public defender Greg Johnston to challenge incumbent Timothy Pagones as Beacon city judge, and incumbent Robin Lois for county



Beacon candidates, from top, left to right: Molly Rhodes, Justice McCray, Yvette Valdés Smith, George Mansfield, Dan Aymar-Blair, Paloma Wake, Nick Page and Wren Longno

comptroller

Pagones, a former county assistant district attorney and lawyer in private practice, announced his own bid on Thursday for re-election to his full-time term after running unopposed in 2011. Beacon has one full-time justice who serves for 10 years and one parttime justice who serves for six years. The outgoing Beacon council members said that time, stress and the COVID-19 shutdown contributed to their decisions not to run.

Nelson, the founder of the Beacon Independent Film Festival, who is now working on a novel, said he needs a break after a decade spent on the council or working with community organizations. "My mental health and well-being — I need to look out for that," he said. "I also want to focus on the career path I'm trying to take now."

McCredo, a small business owner, said that "like so many others, this year pretty much turned my life upside down. I've been working crazy hours and doing my best to help my kids and it's been increasingly difficult to give my position on the council the time and attention that it deserves."

Grant declined to comment, while Rhodes indicated that the desire to spend more time with family was a factor.

Like the others, Zernike attributed his decision to a number of reasons.

(Continued on Page 10)

Philipstown Achieves Climate Smart Certification

Also, pollinator garden suggested for Town Hall

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown has been certified as a Climate Smart Community, the state Department of Environmental Conservation announced on Thursday (March 4).

The town completed 16 actions to achieve certification, including a greenhouse gas inventory and a community choice aggregation program, it said. Philipstown also established an open space conservation overlay district.

"The town's community greenhouse gas inventory is one of New York State's most comprehensive and innovative reports completed by a local jurisdiction," the DEC said in a statement. "In the report, Philipstown moved beyond traditional approaches by including considerations for forests and land use along with household

consumption patterns."

The certification will allow the town to apply for state grants related to mitigating the effects of climate change.

The announcement came a day after the Town Board heard from its Climate Smart coordinator, Krystal Ford, about a plan to watch the coneflowers grow. Or maybe the dogbane or blazing stars, or other species proposed for a pollinator garden at a refurbished Town Hall.

Ford succeeded Roberto Muller, who last fall announced plans to move out of the area. She suggested the town join the Putnam Pollinator Pathway effort and replace a 250-to 500-square-foot section of the Town Hall lawn with flower-bearing plants to attract birds, bees and other insects endangered by pesticides and lawn chemicals, loss of habitat, climate change, proliferation of invasive species and other threats.

An initiative of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Putnam Pollinator Pathway links gardens sponsored by municipalities, conservation groups, institutions and private owners in a pollinator-haven network across the Northeast.

In a written report, Ford noted that pollinator plants sequester more carbon, which contributes to global warming, than turf grass. The garden would require less maintenance than a lawn, she added, and might even inspire residents to create their own.

Ford said that volunteers would care for the Town Hall garden, whose needs should decline after a couple of years as the plants "basically crowd out the weeds." She estimated that planting the garden would cost \$4.50 per square foot.

Supervisor Richard Shea called the project "a great idea" and advocated incorporating much or all of the lawn around Town Hall. Aside from defining lot boundaries, a lawn – especially a large one — is "kind of ridiculous. It gives you nothing," he said. He estimated that a larger pollinator garden would cost \$8,000 but predicted it would save money on lawn care and provide seed for birds in winter

Town Hall Nearly Ready

After 18 months of work, renovations to the historic Philipstown Town Hall, built in 1867 on Main Street in Cold Spring, just west of Nelsonville, should be completed by the end of March, Board Member John Van Tassel said on Wednesday.

The town government intends to start moving back into the building on April 1, he said. Its departments have been operating from the Old VFW Building on Kemble Avenue. It also has offices in a renovated house behind Town Hall.

and beauty in other times of year.

He also noted that the renovation of Town Hall has cost \$1.7 million. "I don't think \$8,000 will break us at this point," he said.

Beacon Candidates

(from Page 9)

Despite being in the minority, the Democratic members of the Dutchess County Legislature "managed to make our voice heard and actually get some things done," he said. But after two terms, "it's time to let some fresh talent join the effort. I'm confi-

dent that this seat can and should get filled by another Democrat, and it's my sincere hope that they'll be part of a Democratic majority after the next election."

The Beacon GOP did not respond to requests for its endorsements made through its Facebook page and in an email to its most recently identified chair, Michael Justice.

According to the Democratic Committee,

Molly Rhodes works for the nonprofit Teach for America and served on the police chief search committee; McCray has worked at the Howland Public Library and is an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives; Longno is a nonprofit professional who has worked at Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley; and Wake works at Flora Good Times and is vice chair

of the city's Human Relations Commission and an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives.

Smith is a former teacher and member of the county Environmental Management Council who is a board member of the Stonykill Foundation.

Jeff Simms contributed reporting.







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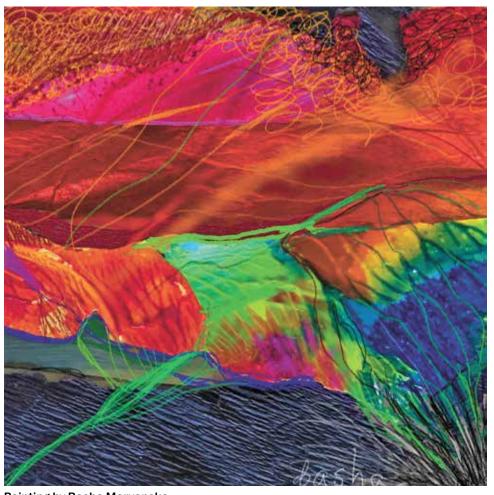
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The Calendar



Painting by Basha Maryanska

Painting by Alyssa Follansbee

Women Making Art About Women Making History

Annual exhibit to open at Howland Center

By Alison Rooney

his year feels different. After the election of Kamala Harris as U.S. vice president, the Howland Cultural

Center in Beacon dropped her name in its call for its annual women's history month exhibit.

"Many more women have stepped up in politics and business, and are at last taking their deserved place in the world," it said. "We would like to acknowledge our new vice president, Kamala Harris, in this exhibit, as well as other women. We are looking for a wide variety of artistic interpretation as it relates to women in our lives."

The exhibit, *I Am Woman*, which was open to artists living within a 25-mile radius of Beacon and opens on Saturday (March 6), was curated by Jan Dolan. She also organized last year's show. "I make a

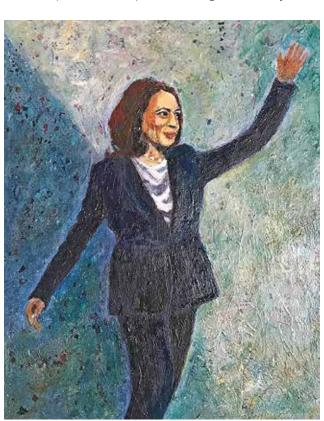
big pronouncement every year, saying it's going to be my last, but here I am again," she says.

Although Dolan did a painting of Harris for the show, she said she didn't want the art to focus solely on the vice president "but on women who have achieved things, with a

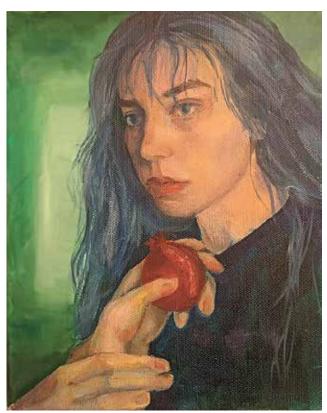
(Continued on Page 18)



Painting by Jodi Yeaple King



Painting of Kamala Harris by Jan Dolan



Painting by Dorian Skelton, a student at John Jay High School

THE WEEK AHEA

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org) For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

Maple Sugar Tours

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

Learn how maple sap is turned into syrup. Online registration required. Maple syrup will be sold only online. Also SUN 7, SAT 13, SUN 14. Cost: \$10 (\$8 members, children 5 and younger free)

Butterfield Book Club

7 p.m. Butterfield Library 845-265-3040

Register to discuss The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett, via Zoom.

THURS 11

History Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books 845-265-2080 splitrockbks.com

The group will discuss, via ${\tt Zoom}, Driving$ While Black, by Gretchen Sorin.



FRI 12

Are Bees for Me?

WAPPINGERS FALLS

3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm | stonykill.org

Beekeeper Jorik Phillips will discuss via Zoom everything about raising bees, from cost and time to honeybees' needs and harvesting honey. Cost: \$5 donation, or free

SAT 13

Fight Climate Change in Your Backyard

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Climate Smart Philipstown bit.lv/backvardclimate

Catherine Serreau-Thompson and Krystal Ford will share ways your backyard can help lower your carbon footprint.

SAT 13

Maple Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Taconic Education Center I 75 Mountain Laurel Lane bit.ly/itsmapleseason

Eat a breakfast of pancakes smothered in syrup and enjoy demonstrations of how sap is turned into syrup. Register for one of three timeslots.

Daylight Savings

2 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour.

KIDS & FAMILY

Exploring Stories Through Music and Art

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

FRI 12

Scattergories

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring your team and compete with your neighbors.

SAT 13

Intro to Babysitting

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Butterfield Library 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Students ages 10 and older will learn the basics of childcare from Amanda Lisk in this two-part workshop via Zoom.

SAT 13

Self Expression and Advocacy Through Street Art

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts | compassarts.org In this two-session class, students in grades 6 to 12 will learn lawabiding ways to express their ideas through street art. Cost: Sliding scale

VISUAL ART

SITE and Mentor Shows

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

The Mentor Show will showcase the works of students instructed by local artists, while the School Invitational Theme Exhibition is a collaboration between the art center and schools in five Hudson Valley counties, including Putnam and Dutchess, that began in 1994. 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.

I Am Woman

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. I howlandculturalcenter.org

Works by female artists from the Hudson Valley will be exhibited to celebrate Women's History Month. See Page 11. Through March 28.

Dialogues | Delineation

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

The gallery will host two group shows: Dialogues, with artworks that interact with each other stylistically, and Delineation, a collection of drawings



Ghost Fox Toys

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

TALKS

SAT 6

Brew Talk & Guided Tasting

COLD SPRING

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

Craig Gravina of the Albany Ale Project, co-author of $Upper\ Hudson$ Valley Beer, will discuss 400 years of brewing in New York. Cost: \$10



Marketing in the Age of Covid

The Mentor Show, March 6

1 p.m. Dutchess Tourism dutchesstourism.com/lunch-learn-series

Thomas Mooney of Fourthidea will discuss how to develop and implement a marketing plan in uncertain times at this Zoom meeting.

THURS 11

Smarten Up Your Home GARRISON

8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Learn about the conveniences and disadvantages of having smart devices connected to your home.

MUSIC

THURS 11

Seasons of Love

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center howlandculturalcentertix.com

In this streaming performance, the first of a series called *Howlin' at* the Howland, singer-songwriter Tara O'Grady will perform jazz standards accompanied by guitarist Tony De Paolo. See Page 16. Cost: \$15

STAGE & SCREEN

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. Cost: \$8

Living Art

OSSINING

8 p.m. Westchester Collaborative wctheater.org

Over four Saturdays this month, view live performances online of one-act plays inspired by artworks selected by the Ossining Arts

Council. Also SAT 13. Cost: \$25 (\$20 students and seniors)

Photo by Olivia Flanagan

FRI 12

Dragonfly Story Hour

COLD SPRING

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

Karen Kapoor will host this virtual slam for adults. Register to watch or participate.

CIVIC

SAT 6

Comprehensive Plan Info

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Via Zoom | bit.ly/PCP2030 Learn about the proposed

MON 8

City Council

Philipstown 2030 plan.

BEACON

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

MON 8

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom 845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

THES 9

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WED 10

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Via Zoom 845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

THURS 11

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via webinar putnamcountyny.com/legi

Because of pandemic restrictions, County Executive MaryEllen Odell will provide written materials in lieu of her State of the County address.

Details from Hickman's Counting, Still Counting...

Photos by George Potonovic Jr.

More Counting Will Be Necessary

Artist uses nails to mark life, death, time

By Alison Rooney

In this age of stretched-out time, not knowing if it's a Tuesday or a Friday, coupled with the inability to comprehend the numerical horrors of pandemic mortality, textile artist Pat Hickman's installation at the Buster Levi Gallery seems, well, timely.

Hickman describes *Counting, Still Counting...*, which runs, ribbon-like, across the walls of the Cold Spring gallery, as "a room full of marks, made by hand, of the hand, counting life, counting death, counting time." These marks are accompanied by rusty nails, on a narrow strip sandwiched between the type of skin membrane used to encase sausage.

Accompanying the strip are scattered piles of square nails collected from a friend's barn that date to the 1840s, suggesting, the artist says, "more waiting to be counted, more loss to be measured. There's that sense that more counting will be necessary."

Making marks has always resonated with Hickman, whose work is owned by the Smithsonian Institution, Denver Art Museum and Museum of Fine Arts Boston, among other collections. "There seems to be a universal human need to mark," she says. "I lived in Turkey for seven years and there you see, scratched on walls, the ways people make those marks: 1, 2, 3, 4 and then a diagonal. You see in other countries how people have marked days, how people in prisons count time."

In her notes for the show, Hickman expands on that thought: "Counting surrounds us ... recording, numbering, adding, tallying, measuring — a record of time. Archeological evidence suggests ancient cultures have kept track, too. We're part of a human continuum, but perhaps now, for us personally, we're counting more than ever before. It's impossible to truly grasp thousands or millions, yet we're hearing these numbers daily, of people who have fallen ill, of people who have died."

Hickman has been making art for decades, predominantly on the West Coast and in Hawaii, where she was a professor and head of the fiber program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for 16 years until 2006.



Pat Hickman

Photo by Amy Kubik





A view of the installation inside the Buster Levi Gallery

Photo provide

"The idea of this did not originate at this moment, but it came together in my mind in a way that felt right, right now," she says. "We're so surrounded by counting, hearing numbers every day. The time was right to put this piece in this configuration — I had earlier made strips of rusty nails but never presented them in one long linear strip. In many ways, it's a more successful installation."

Hickman studied design and textiles at the University of California at Berkeley and later the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, where she learned loom-weaving and other techniques. There she became "aware of native people using seal and walrus gut to make an outer protective surface, not against cold, but against water — they were worn when kayaking."

Although Hickman's father was a butcher, and as a child she was troubled when he killed animals, she saw these deaths from a different vantage point in Alaska. "I like the idea of giving a new life to something, like working with the membrane of sausage casing," she says. "I use it a lot, though never to duplicate what native peoples have used." (She found her first supply at a deli in Oakland and now

purchases it from sausagemaker.com.)

In recent years, Hickman has uprooted herself from life in Hawaii to be closer to her daughters and grandsons on the East Coast. "I wanted to be in the same time zone," she says, and near the galleries and

museums of New York City. Wherever she has lived, she's found a way to work with materials related to where she's living.

"In Hawaii, the plants were so different; I used what I found in nature and transformed it," she says. The same was true during a recent residency in Maine, where she discovered "river teeth," or "the part of a tree that holds a branch to the trunk."

"It's the last part of a tree to disintegrate," she explains. "I gathered lots of those and have done a lot of installations. Sailors would see them in the water and not know what they were, just that they looked like teeth. I gathered them in a path in the woods, these bits that are left. I had never worked with those materials before; I do like to respond to the environment of where I'm living. The sense of history on the East Coast is real, and I've responded to that, as well."

The Buster Levi Gallery is located at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring. Counting, Still Counting... runs through March 28. To make an appointment, email Hickman at phickman@hawaii.edu. A video is posted at vimeo.com/513398575.



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In our yearend campaign, when so many of you joined or renewed as members, we cited the words of media columnist Margaret Sullivan noting that one's local newspaper "ties a region together, helps it make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square." By informing and engaging you, our readers, *The Highlands Current* is your village square.

Thank you to all of you who have stepped up over the past year to help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of life in the Hudson Highlands!



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New Beacon resident to co-launch Howland series
By Alison Rooney

hile others might still be unpacking after a move to Beacon from New York City six months ago, Tara O'Grady is preparing to launch what she hopes will become a series of livestreams from the Howland Cultural Center.

Howlin' at the Howland is scheduled to debut at 8 p.m. on Thursday (March 11). O'Grady, filmmaker Jon Slackman and guitarist Tony DePaolo will share videos shot locally and perform jazz standards. Tickets are \$15 at howlandculturalcenter-tix.com. In future episodes, O'Grady and Slackman hope to showcase local artists and include a teaching component centered on each guest's expertise.

O'Grady came to teaching first, and singing second, but her affinity for vintage extended to both and has long been a part of her aesthetic.

"I always was obsessed with vintageclothing culture and retro lifestyle," she recalls. "I loved the Golden Age of Hollywood; my parents would play records from the 1940s and '50s. My brother played in the jazz orchestra in high school and exposed me to big-band music. Everyone was into U2 and Depeche Mode, and I was loving Patsy Cline and Ella Fitzgerald. When I was 14, I dressed up as a bobby-soxer for Halloween; it was with me all the time."

O'Grady managed to find like-minded souls. "All my friends were purposely dressing up in vintage, and we had milk and cookies at our parties. Yes, we were weird. Usually, kids want nothing to do with their parents' music. In high school, I performed in all the musicals — *West Side Story, Grease* — and I preferred to wear that stuff offstage, too. I connected with another time period and it brought me joy."

O'Grady sampled writing, drawing and dance before studying television and film production in college. After she graduated, she flirted with acting but says her parents sat her down and told her she needed to "get a real job, with benefits." She earned a master's degree in education and taught high school arts for three years. "But I was an artist and I wanted to perform, so I moved to Seville to learn flamenco."

Told by her teachers that she had the technique but not the requisite Spanish "passion," O'Grady returned to New York and switched to swing dancing. "I was swinging to all that stuff that Ella and Louis Armstrong were playing," but soon realized she wanted to be writing the songs, and singing them.

O'Grady describes her songwriting as eclectic. "I write mostly jazz, blues and folk. When I write a song, I run with whatever comes out of me; I'm not thinking of what



Tara O'Grady in front of the Howland
Cultural Center Photo by Jon Slackman

it can slot into. My [five] albums have country, zydeco and pop components. I tend to perform live in jazz clubs and at Irish festivals, but I'll sing an Irish song and swing it like Billie Holiday — it's basically American roots music."

While teaching, O'Grady forged ahead with forming a jazz band. They did monthly gigs until she was laid off from her day job in 2011 during the recession.

"I'm so glad I lost my job or I never would have taken the plunge," she recalls. "Every time we played in Manhattan, someone in the audience would hire us for another gig: a businessman from Denmark flew us to Copenhagen for a private party; we played jazz festivals in Ireland; a corporation brought us to Arizona."

All was going swimmingly until a year ago, when O'Grady contracted COVID-19 and was sick for five weeks, including three weeks spent in bed with a fever.

"It took me months to regain my strength and walk," she says. "By June, things were getting pretty desperate. My neighborhood felt dangerous, with so many people needing to survive. I didn't want to be in the city anymore, so I started driving my car up into the Hudson Valley. A friend in real estate said, 'Beacon is your town.' I drove up on July 9, drove past the Howland Center and immediately thought, 'I'm going to live here; I've found my home.'"

After renting an apartment, she says she began meeting musicians and artists immediately, including Slackman, who asked O'Grady if she'd like to make music videos of her songs. Soon they were posting them on social media, where they were spotted by folks at the Howland, who invited the pair to come up with something.

They decided on a format where O'Grady will write the episodes and perform, and there will be interviews in which she collaborates with local artists, makes some art with them and sings with guest musicians.

"I'm honored and thrilled that the Howland Center found me," O'Grady says. "I feel embraced because I moved here with nothing to do but wait out the pandemic. The fact that I can create my own show and get it up and out with local artists is thrilling."

Mouths to Feed

The Proof is in the Biscuit

By Celia Barbour

y favorite version of the "there are two kinds of people in the world" trope goes like this:

There are two kinds of

people in the world: those who divide the world into two kinds of people, and those who don't

I'd like to think I belong in the latter camp. I object to bluntly classifying human beings into categories that are totally irrelevant to our complexity.

Yet I have to admit that, when it comes to the recipe I'm sharing this week, there really are just two kinds of people: Those who know how much they like this type of biscuit, and those who haven't tried them yet.

Honest, those are your only options.

As proof of my assertion, I offer a single experiment. Although it was not exactly scientific in the strictest sense of the word, it did take place in a highly science-y setting, i.e., a hospital. Better yet, its subject, my obstetrician, was a very scientific man. Or so I thought.

My husband and I collected the data while I was in labor with our first son, George. After a long night of stay-at-home pain, we taxied to uptown Manhattan for what would be an even longer day of maternity-ward pain. Peter, bless him, had dutifully followed the advice in our pregnancy books and packed a go-bag featuring high-fiber snacks, including a box of British digestive biscuits. As I am one-quarter Scottish, I have a longstanding love for this delicious type of biscuit, which celebrates the natural nuttiness of whole grains, and has a perfectly balanced sweet-to-salty ratio. As I was just then in labor, however, I was not able to

indulge my affinity. Indeed, I would not be able to eat for another 10 hours.

Peter placed the box of biscuits on the windowsill.

After Dr. R, my obstetrician, concluded his first checkup of me, he spied the box, walked over and picked it up. But when Peter offered him one, he declined. And why wouldn't he? These biscuits look for all the world like something that oppressed peons would be fed in a dystopian novel: dry, uniform, dull.

During his next visit, however, Dr. R relented and tried a biscuit, then quickly accepted a second one. "These are actually pretty good," he said as I growled in pain nearby. After that, Dr. R showed up in my room every 20 minutes or so, not to check on my progress, but to help himself to another biscuit. By the time George arrived in the world, shortly after 3 that afternoon, the box was empty.

Of course I didn't care. George's astonishing sunrise beauty filled me with such extravagant joy that there wasn't room for anything else. By the time I grew hungry, Peter was happy to pop out to a nearby cafe for takeout.

As for my biscuit experiment, I have witnessed versions of Dr. R's metamorphosis from skeptic to fan dozens of times in the years since — especially once I started baking them from scratch. My version, inspired by a recipe from the Tartine cookbook, uses only oats for the grain. This gives them a quiet depth of flavor and also makes them somewhat more nutritious, as well as suitable for anyone who's gluten-averse.

In Britain, biscuits such as these are served at teatime. But in my house, they often double as a grab-and-go breakfast, perfect for rushing-out-the-door teens, and even $-\operatorname{gulp} - 20$ -somethings like the still-astonishing George.



Lovely Oat Biscuits

Though I like them
best plain, these tender
biscuits are also quite
nice with preserves sandwiched between them, or
dipped in melted chocolate. You can substitute
a low-cholesterol butter
alternative, such as Earth
Balance, for an equal
portion of the butter.

3 tablespoons whole milk or half & half

1 teaspoon molasses

41/4 cups rolled oats

¹/₃ cup brown sugar, firmly packed

11/4 teaspoons salt

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

3/4 cup cold butter (see note), cut into small pieces

Heat the oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with a nonstick liner or parchment. In a small bowl, combine the milk and molasses, and whisk to blend.

Place the rolled oats in the bowl of a food processor and whirr until nearly as fine as flour. Add the rest of the dry ingredients, and process until thoroughly combined. Add the butter and process until crumbly. Add the molasses mixture and process just until the dough comes together.

Turn out the dough into a large bowl and knead gently and briefly with your hands until evenly mixed.

Scoop up roughly 1 tablespoonful of the dough, roll into a ball and place on the lined baking sheet. Use the heel of your hand to press it flat. Repeat for the remaining dough.

Bake 6 minutes, rotate the pan and bake another 6 to 7 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

Photo by Henry Weed

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Jan Dolan

File photo by Ross Corsain

The Curator

Jan Dolan, whose paintings are on display at The Chocolate Studio in Beacon through April 5, moved to Beacon in 2014 and teaches classes through the Beacon Recreation Department. She grew up in Salford, England, near Manchester.

"I have been painting my whole life; I was very much encouraged as a small child. As a teenager I started taking classes. I was always sketching and painting. Funnily enough, a lot of the buildings in Beacon have similar architecture to Salford's. When I was a young teenager I started going to clubs in Manchester, where they sometimes played protest music — I listened to Pete Seeger. Pete's brother-in-law [Ewan MacColl] wrote a song called 'Dirty Old Town' that people always assume is about Dublin, but it's about Salford. Such a weird connection.

"At age 18, I came to Boston to work as a nanny. I wanted to get out of Salford. I was supposed to go to France and somehow a mistake was made and I got sent to Boston. I wound up working as a real-estate broker and often did illustrations of the houses I was selling. Now I paint mostly landscapes and waterfalls, and make collages. As a teacher, I encourage anyone to try making art. No matter what's going on in your life, you pick up a pencil and paints and it makes you feel good.

"I wound up in Beacon because I was looking to move out of the house I had near Boston and planning to move to the Cape. My daughter had lived in Brooklyn for a long time, and I came to visit and we went apple-picking in Fishkill and ate lunch in Beacon. I looked at the mountain at the end of the street and said, 'That's it, this is my town.' Not long after I looked at one house, and that's the one I bought. Having worked in real estate, I knew that feeling as soon as I walked in."



Photograph by Cindy Gould

Women (from Page 11)

focus on what they've accomplished."

Dolan tries to accept work from everyone who applies. "I'm a teacher, not a judge," she says. "This year there are around 90 works from 36 artists. I'm pleased that we had submissions from two teenagers. There's a great variety: sculpture, mixed media, photography, drawings, embroidery."

Last year's show took place on the last weekend before the pandemic shutdown. "It was a big hit, a great party, with people spilling into the corridors," she recalls. "But after that opening, everyone disappeared. We didn't think we'd be closed for so long, so we left all the art up before finally taking it down in May. So sad."

But the show has gone on. "We can't do live programming except art shows like these, where we can control the numbers of people viewing the work," she says. "It's important to keep going with these."

The Howland Cultural Center is located

at 477 Main St. in Beacon. I Am Woman will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. through March 28, except for two Sundays: March 7 and March 21.

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Puzzles

30

54

55

14

17

36

45

41

20

40

50

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

- 1. Peruke
- 4. Tousle
- 8. Labyrinth
- 12. Altar constellation
- 13. Isaac's eldest
- 14. Modern taxi alternative
- 15. World of organized crime
- 17. Dross
- 18. Earth (Pref.)
- 19. Poetic feet
- 21. Ohio city
- 24. Actress Long
- 25. Mentalist Geller
- 26. Candied veggie
- 28. Knight wear
- 32. Stagger
- 34. Gaiety
- 36. Flintstones' pet
- 37. Seoul setting
- 39. Fawn's mom
- 41. Dol. fractions
- 42. Bearded beast
- 44. Salsa scoopers
- 46. "La Mer"
- composer 50. 4, on a phone
- 51. Pre-diploma hurdle
- 52. Ruffian
- 56. Church area
- 57. Rochester's love
- 58. Citrus drink

- 12 13 15 16 18 22 32 33 38 42 47 48 56 59
 - 59. Privation
- 60. Source
- 61. At once
- **DOWN**
- 1. Witty one
- 2. A Gershwin brother
- 3. More like a string bean
- 4. Tune
- 5. "Born in the -"
- 6. Grit
- 7. Egypt's neighbor
- 8. Hot dog condiment

- 9. With skill
- 10. Gusto

- 29. State made of

19

39

49

24

44

53

23

34

43

52

57

60

- 11. Work units
- 16. "Gosh!"
- 20. Homeland org.
- 21. Ankara resident
- 22. Crunchy cookie
- 23. Klutz
- 27. Wet dirt
- two peninsulas
- 30. Aware of
- 31. Colonial seamstress

- example
 - 35. Dijon denial

33. Lentils, for

58

61

- 38. Reply (Abbr.)
- 40. Aerie newborn
- 43. Leading man?
- 45. Greek X
- 46. Transaction
- 47. Big fair, for short
- 48. Striped fish
- 49. Vacillate
- 53. Spanish gold
- 54. Hubbub 55. Just out

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combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle. **CLUES** SOLUTIONS

7 LITTLE WORDS

represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses

- 1 Flicka, for one (5)
- 2 take another look (10)
- **3** option (11)
- 4 ballet star Copeland (5)
- 5 "Survivor" challenge goal (8)
- 6 talks (11)
- 7 stuff in the real world (9)

| FI | IMM | ALT | REE | NATI |
|------|------|-----|------|------|
| UATE | DIS | LES | UN | TAN |
| ITY | IONS | MIS | ER | VAL |
| VE | GIB | LLY | cuss | TY |

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Feb. 26 Puzzles 5 6 8 3 5 3 8 4 9 2 6 ORAGE 9 8 2 3 1 6 5 2 8 5 3 9 6 4 9 3 6 2 1 5 8 4 2 6 4 3 9 5 8 2 4 5 6 8 9 1 3 R 0 В R A NCO lυ R A G lΕ Ο 7 8 9 3 4 6 2 5 Ε W 3 5 6 9

1. DOWNTIME, 2. PREHENSILE, 3. YOGURTS, 4. KINDLING, 5. TYLER, 6. TOSSES, 7. COBBLESTONE

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SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

Boys' Basketball

The undefeated Haldane High School squad picked up two more victories last week, dominating Croton, 68-47, and Pawling, 69-38.

But on Sunday (Feb. 28), the team learned that a Pawling player had tested positive for COVID-19, triggering a 10-day quarantine for both teams. The Blue Devils (9-0) will miss the final three games of their 12-game season and may not be able to practice before the playoffs begin on Wednesday (March 10).

Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo said he and his players were frustrated by the news but happy they have time to come back and compete for a regional title.

He said the team had a good practice on Sunday before learning it would not play again before the tournament. "We want to go back like there was no break," he said. "The kids have learned to be patient in this journey."

Against Pawling on Feb. 27, Matteo Cervone led the Blue Devils with 24 points, Dan Santos added 15 and Soren Holmbo had nine. A day earlier against Croton, Cervone had 16 points, Holmbo scored 13 and Ryan Irwin had 12.

"Christian Pezzullo gave us a spark off the bench," Virgadamo said. "Vincenzo Scanga, Giancarlo Carone and John Bradley also played well."

Haldane will compete in the regional tournament in a group that includes Lakeland, Peekskill, Walter Panas, Hendrick



The Beacon girls' team honored its two seniors, Dania Gillins and Lejdina Gecaj, on Monday (March 1).

Photo provide



Beacon's Jack Philipbar brings the ball up the floor on Wednesday against Poughkeepsie.

Photo by S. Pearlman

Hudson, Briarcliff, Croton and North Salem. A young Beacon High School team contin-

A young Beacon High School team continued to struggle this week, dropping four games by at least 26 points each to Poughkeepsie (twice), Ketcham and Lourdes.

In the first loss to Poughkeepsie, Dylan Howard led the Bulldogs with 10 points and Regan Ladue added seven. At Ketcham, Chase Green had 10 points and Gavin Ledoux added seven. At home against Lourdes, Darien Gillins had 16 points and Green had 11.

Coach Scott Timpano said his players, who include six juniors and six sophomores, understand they are building for next season. "There's a lot of high school basketball in front of them," he said, noting that Green has been playing well despite recovering from a sprained ankle and that Gillins "has a knack for scoring; he could be good for us the next few years."

Beacon was scheduled to visit John Jay East Fishkill today (March 5) and Lourdes on Sunday. The playoffs are scheduled to begin Wednesday with teams from Dutchess and Rockland counties.

Girls' Basketball

The Beacon girls picked up two wins over Poughkeepsie last week, while falling to Ketcham and Lourdes, to finish at 4-7 entering the playoffs.

In a 45-31 win at Poughkeepsie on Wednesday (March 3), eighth-graders Lila

Burke and Reilly Landisi and senior Dania Gillins each had 10 points. On Tuesday, the Bulldogs lost badly to a strong Lourdes team, 67-14, but on Monday defeated Poughkeepsie, 62-43, behind 16 points each from Tianna Adams and Landisi.

On Feb. 27, the team lost to Ketcham, 46-43, a big improvement over the first meeting in which Beacon lost by 27.

Coach Christina Dahl said her young players have shown progress. "Lila Burke — I knew she was capable," she said. "She did the job we needed her to do and was great under the basket. Gillins helped us pull away in the second half [on Wednesday] with a couple of big 3s, and Reilly has been managing games well at point guard. Her dribble penetration creates opportunities elsewhere."

Haldane, at 1-7, is looking for a second win before the playoffs next week. Its final regular season games are scheduled for Saturday, hosting Hendrick Hudson, and Tuesday, visiting Putnam Valley.

The Blue Devils — who have won seven consecutive gold balls — are in the unfamiliar position of hoping they're not the only team in their Putnam/Northern Westchester group not to get a playoff invitation.

Haldane faced a pair of challenging opponents last weekend, falling 62-31 to Putnam Valley and 53-34 to Croton. Maddie Chiera led the team in scoring in both games, with 12 and 10 points.

Despite the lopsided scores, Coach Jessica Perrone said it is good for her team to face tough competition. "They recognize the progress we're making," she said. "It's just a matter of being more consistent."

Indoor Track

You know it's been a different kind of winter when your season finale is at an underground parking garage.

The Beacon indoor track team put the wraps on its pandemic-shortened season with a frigid meet on Feb. 26 outside at Yorktown, followed by a Saturday matinee at the Palisades Mall.

They were happy to have it.

"The times weren't all that fast, but it was certainly a memorable experience in what is an otherwise forgettable year," Coach Jim Henry said of the mall races.

"Honestly, the coaches complain about the situations far more than the kids do. The kids just seem to have an 'if this is all we can do, let's get to it' attitude."

On Saturday, Sal Migliore and Jonah Mensch finished first and second in the 300 meters and Henry Reinke was second in the 1,600.

The spring track season is only weeks away. "We're giving kids a week to recover and thaw out," Henry said. "We have quite a few talented kids who haven't run in a real track-and-field meet in over a year and are pumped up to perform."