

The HIGHLANDS Current

Ball of
Beasts
Page 15



JUNE 25, 2021

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STEPPING UP — Eighteen kindergarteners graduated from Hudson Hills Montessori in Beacon on June 18. For more graduates, see Page 16.

Photo by Sana Siddiqui

New Trailheads and Parking Lots at Fahnestock

Projects improve access to park's northern half

By Brian PJ Cronin

In February 2020, the Open Space Institute announced an ambitious plan to add two parking lots, new trailheads and a new entrance to Fahnestock State Park in Philipstown with an estimated completion date of spring 2021.

At the time, no one had any idea that in a few short weeks the state, and the world, would be undergoing an extended lockdown because of COVID-19.

Nevertheless, the nonprofit, working with the state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, cut the ribbon on June 15 at the Big Woods Trailhead and a 25-car parking lot. Nearby, an Appalachian Trail lot with 15 spaces also opened near Lake Canopus.

The \$5 million project was privately funded with grants from the Topfield Foundation and conservationist Anne Cabot. "The fact that our parks are now

(Continued on Page 6)

The Sweet Life

Matcha Thomas is a teahouse about more than tea

By Brian PJ Cronin

Matcha Thomas, the teahouse that opened last month in Beacon, is a distillation of Haile Thomas'

many years of activism and public speaking, her experience founding and running a nonprofit organization, and the recipes from her cookbook *Living Lively*, which was published two years ago by William Morrow. She's 20.

"Food and being really creative with it has always been a core part of our family in general," she explained while sitting with her sister, Nia, 16, who has been her co-star

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Nia Thomas, 16, and Haile Thomas, 20, stand in the entrance of Matcha Thomas in Beacon, which opened last month.

Photo by B. Cronin

Sheriff Criticizes End of Patrols on Hudson River

Putnam executive tells state to reclaim boats

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As high summer looms, Putnam's scuttling of Sheriff's Department boat patrols on the Hudson River has sparked new friction in Carmel and an appeal to its neighbors to help with the situation created by the county's retreat to dry land.

The fracas stems from the decision last fall by Putnam County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell and the Putnam Legislature to remove \$45,000 from the 2021 budget to fund patrols on the river and Lake Mahopac.

Odell has justified the move as a way to save money, promote shared services and eliminate redundancies because other agencies patrol the Hudson, including the U.S. Coast Guard, New York State Police, state parks office, state Department of Environmental Conservation and volunteer fire departments, as she said on June 17.

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JACQUELINE FOERTSCH

By Chip Rowe

Jacqueline Foertsch lives in Philipstown and Denton, Texas, where she is a professor of English at the University of North Texas. Her most recent book is *Freedom's Ring: Literatures of Liberation from Civil Rights to the Second Wave*.

How did you end up splitting your time between Philipstown and Texas?

When my nieces came into my life in 2002, I wanted to be here as they grew up, so I rented my first apartment on Main Street in Cold Spring. I was tired of imposing on my sister and brother-in-law by sleeping on their dining room floor.

Several of your books focus on American culture after World War II. What draws you to that period?

The atomic bomb. I am compelled by what it meant for U.S. and world history. In literary studies, wars are often used as starting and stopping points because literature, art and culture change so much. The bomb was such a punctuation mark. In the U.S., it became a fad with the atomic cocktail and atomic-themed pop music but also a nightmare that clouded our happy days. Three or four of my projects took off directly from this ground zero and followed



the response to the bomb in literature, film, newspapers, magazines. In some ways that period is over-researched, but I try to find the nooks and crannies.

Your book examines the concepts of "freedom" and "equality." What's the difference?

There's a huge difference. In U.S. history,

they seem like two sides of the same coin of democracy, but, in fact, they're locked in mortal struggle. The Constitution is a freedom machine, because freedom is free. After the war, for instance, it didn't cost anything to let someone sit anywhere on a bus, or vote. More recently, it has become a flag-draped excuse for selfishness: My profits, my guns, my property. By contrast, equality has a huge price tag. It's expensive to let everyone attend a good college, have a nice house, a good-paying job. Politics has become our national pastime: pitched battles between moral opposites, the same formula for stage melodrama. We focus on that instead of sitting down together to address practical questions such as how to make health care more affordable or pay a living wage, which are complicated and technical problems.

Martin Luther King Jr. said all of this. He said, OK we have the vote, we have desegregation, we have public accommodation, and now we're going north, and what we're going to ask for is going to start costing. He was asking for big-ticket items [to achieve equality] at the same time that Lyndon Johnson was ramping up the Vietnam War. When King pressed for equality instead of freedom, society turned its back.

You write that it's incorrect to blame Donald Trump for "dividing the country." Why is that?

Because it reflects amnesia. The opposition party hates any popular president. The right loathed Obama and Clinton, while the left hated George W. Bush. When I want to blame someone for Trump, I look in the mirror because I haven't spent enough time as an American advocating for the disaffected millions who put him into office. We haven't had a functioning economy in 80 percent of the U.S. since the 1970s. Instead of red versus blue, how about the different realities lived by those earning an hourly wage versus those with an annual salary and benefits? That's the more important difference to me.

You describe the U.S. worker as being "forgotten." How so?

Our capitalist system insists upon the cheapest labor possible. At the turn of the 20th century, workers from central and eastern Europe occupied low rungs on the industrial ladder, until unionization helped them gain a solid footing. With the dissolution of unions in the 1970s, these workers lost their middle-class standard and towns throughout flyover America lost their factories and economic bases. The most common political outlook pits beleaguered urban minorities against middle-America Trump voters, but these folks are in the same boat. If they ever got together, we might be able to write better laws.

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Which summer vacation do you remember as the most fun?

Maine, 2019; I proposed to my girlfriend on Cadillac Mountain at Acadia National Park.



~ Matte Hayes, Cold Spring

With my brother at camp in Woodstock, Connecticut, when we were kids.



~ Hadley Quish, Beacon

Southern Germany two years ago; it's a culture that cares about aesthetics.



~ Levi O'Brien, Beacon

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Johnston Wins Primary Challenge

Will appear on fall ballot against incumbent judge

By Chip Rowe

Greg Johnston, who had been endorsed by the Democratic and Working Families parties for an open Beacon judicial seat but faced primary challenges from the incumbent, Timothy Pagones, prevailed in the Democratic contest while Pagones won the Working Families line.

In unofficial results posted by the Dutchess County Board of Elections on Tuesday night (June 22), Johnston won the Democratic primary, 1,067 to 171, while Pagones won the vote among registered Working Families Party members, 19 to 7.

Pagones, an independent who is seeking his second, 10-year term, filed with the Board of Elections to appear on the Republican, Conservative, Democratic and Working Families lines. That forced two primaries with Johnston, a public defender who filed for the Democratic and Working Families lines. Had Pagones prevailed in both, he would have been the only candidate for the seat on the November ballot.

Beacon has one full-time justice who

serves a 10-year term and a part-time justice who serves for six years. The court handles misdemeanors, traffic infractions, evictions and various small claims. As a Republican, Pagones won six-year terms in 1999 and 2005 and a 10-year term, running unopposed, in 2011.

In response to a question from *The Current* before the vote, Pagones said that he had “been told by members of the Beacon Democratic Committee that, even though I am the most qualified candidate, I could not be endorsed because I’m unaffiliated and that my opponent would be because he is a registered Democrat.” He also accused the Democrats of “personal attacks and lies.”

In a letter to the paper, a member of the committee, Amber Grant, responded that the vote to endorse Johnston had been unanimous and that the committee believed “his deeper and more wide-ranging courtroom experience makes him the most qualified candidate.”

There was also a Working Families Party primary for Dutchess County Family Court judge. Rachel Saunders, who lives in Beacon, won the ballot line over the incumbent, Denise Watson, 74 to 72. Saunders will also appear on the Democratic line in November and Watson on the Republican and Conservative lines.

Two Beacon Projects Named Funding Priorities

County plan includes 9D interchange rebuild, trail project

By Leonard Sparks

The rebuilding of the often-congested Interstate 84 and Route 9D interchange just north of Beacon and the conversion of a Metro-North rail line into a trail running from the city to Hopewell Junction are among eight projects identified as priorities for funding by the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC).

The council’s newly updated long-term transportation plan, posted at moving-dutchessforward.com and open for public comment until July 16, calls for using \$20 million to \$50 million in federal funds to replace the bridge carrying traffic on Route 9D over I-84, adding turn lanes on 9D, redesigning on- and off-ramps and making the area around the interchange more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

The DCTC, which is the county’s federally designated transportation planning organization, lists the interchange as one of the four most-congested areas in Dutchess. Chris White, Beacon’s city administrator, said commuters leaving the city’s Metro-North station can cause backups on Beekman Street, 9D and side streets.

“You’ll have times where lights will change and somebody can’t even move,” he said.

Non-drivers also get a nod — a 13-mile recreational trail between Beacon’s waterfront and Hopewell Junction carved out of a 41-mile dormant railroad line between the city and Brewster called the Beacon Line.

Metro-North owns the line and is seeking approval to abandon the segment. The DCTC estimates the cost of converting it to a trail at between \$20 million and \$30 million, and a timeframe for construction from 2025 to 2035.

“When you have multi-use trails like that that are off-road, people are more inclined to use it for running, for walking, for teaching their kids to ride a bike and it really becomes a vital part of the community infrastructure,” said White.

Metro-North filed on April 30 an application with the federal Surface Transportation Board to abandon the line, which it bought in 1995 for \$4.2 million under an agreement that gave the Housatonic Railroad Co. the exclusive right to move freight on the tracks.

Metro-North said that running commuter trains on the line “is not feasible.” In addition, the company said in its application, no freight has moved on the line “in decades” and there is “no record of any train movement — including freight — over any portion of the Beacon Line from 2014 to present.”

Housatonic is opposing the application and seeking to preserve its right to use the tracks.

The DCTC’s other priority projects are in the city and town of Poughkeepsie, Arlington and Hopewell Junction, as well as the expansion of public transit service into southeastern and northern Dutchess County.

Comments can be submitted to the DCTC by mail to 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601; by phone at 845-486-3600; or by email to dctc@dutchessny.gov.

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From JIM BOPP and PEG MORAN

Current members, Garrison

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~ Mark Goodman, Knight Chair in Scholastic Journalism, Kent State University

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The HIGHLANDS Current

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Cold Spring parking

When the Cold Spring Parking Committee presented its proposal for simultaneous implementation of metered parking and residential permits, it said the goal was to "reduce parking hassles" ("Cold Spring Reveals Parking Plan," June 11). However, its plan will greatly increase hassles for Main Street residents, business owners and employees and others who visit Main street regularly.

Speaking as a Main Street resident, we will be forced to pay for parking or to contend with tourists and others to park in distant, free parking spots. This proposal is unfair and creates a parking caste system: privileged landowners on the side streets and dispossessed pay-to-park residents, employees and visitors on Main.

I don't want to complain without offering alternatives. Here are a few:

■ Anything implemented should only be in effect on weekends and holidays. There currently is no parking problem on an average weekday, only minor inconvenience at times. Village parking on weekdays is mostly free and easy.

■ Do not implement meters and residential permits at the same time. Does the village want revenue or improved quality of life for residents on the privileged streets?

Pay-to-park people can use the side streets if there are meters or, if there are permits, we can continue to park on Main Street and use the Metro-North lot or other alternatives on the weekend. If both are implemented, there are a lot of people who will be dispossessed of usage of their vehicles.

■ The committee reported that 20 percent of spaces must be left free, but only 60 percent of the remaining spaces are needed for residences. If meters and permits must both be implemented, remove meters on all non-resident spaces on the side streets, move the resident spaces to the more distant areas and move the free spaces closer to Main to make it fair for everyone.

■ Delay part or all of this plan until application can be made and approved with New York State for Main Street (now a commercial district) to be included. Why wasn't this done in the first place?

■ Re-create the Parking Committee with representation for all affected parties; none of the members who made these recommendations are Main Street residents.

I hope that the board will consider how difficult these proposed changes will make life for many of us and amend them accordingly.

Bo Bell, *Cold Spring*

If the village is looking for more parking spaces, why doesn't it remove the "No Parking" signs across from the Old VFW Hall since town employees are back working in the newly refurbished Town Hall?

Brice McMasters, *Cold Spring*

Gun safety

I recently learned the eight members of the Putnam County Legislature have written to Gov. Andrew Cuomo asking him to veto a bill (S7196) that would require businesses in the gun industry to implement safety guidelines. I am disturbed that the legislators — only Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, did not sign — have repeated the gun lobby's misstatement of this legislation.

Whenever commenting on legislation, the minimum that constituents can expect is that each member of the Putnam Legislature carefully reads the text of the bill. It does not make businesses and individuals that comply with the law liable for the criminal misuse of firearms over which the business has no control. Only businesses that fail to implement reasonable safeguards to keep guns out of unauthorized hands are covered.

It is the failure to comply with the commonsense guidelines required for the sale of a potentially lethal weapon — not the actual misuse of that weapon by a third party — which subjects the business to liability. Food-service businesses in Putnam County are required to enforce health and safety protocols; why shouldn't the gun industry do the same?

Margaret Yonco-Haines, *Garrison*

Thank you

The Beacon High School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization would like to send a big thank you to ShopRite of Fishkill for donating ice cream sandwiches for our honor roll celebration. Students who made the honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year were treated to ice cream during lunch on June 16.

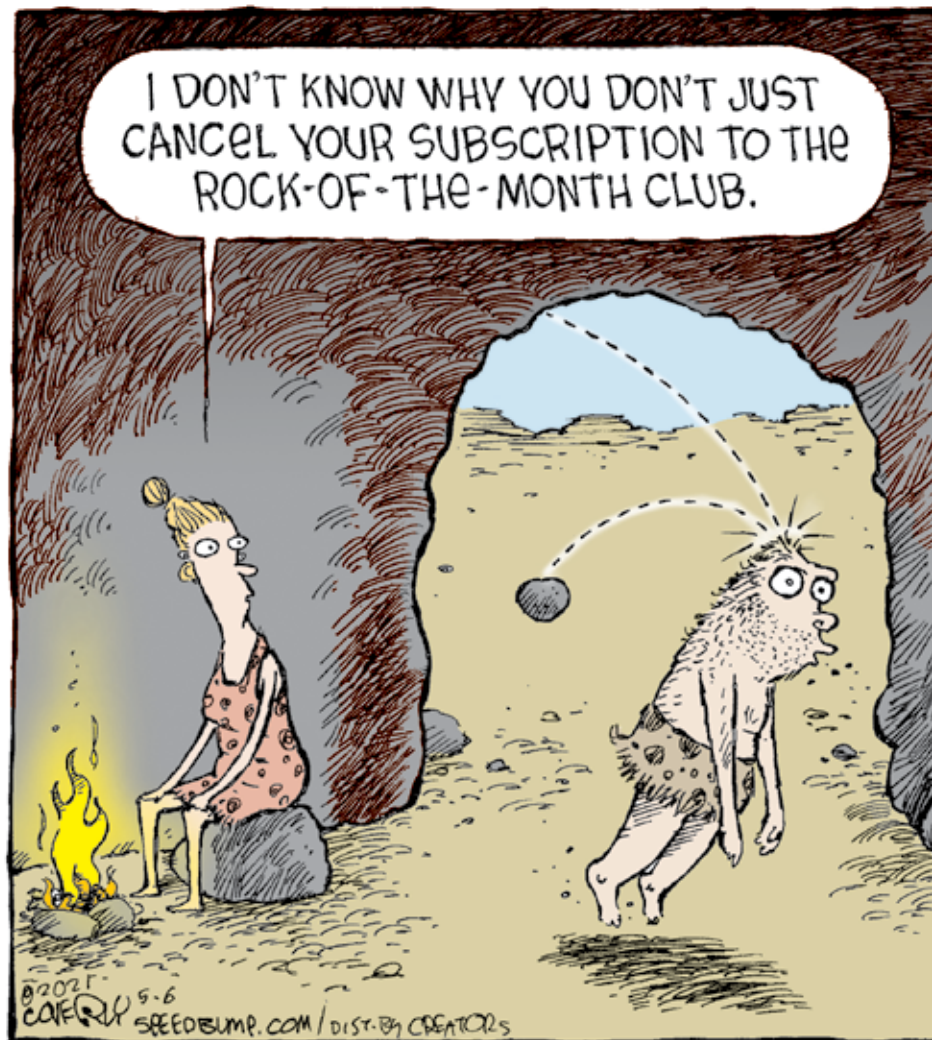
Donna Green, *Beacon*

Climate action

The science says we have only a few years to effectively combat climate change, but how we go about that is less straightforward. In New York State, we have taken the lead on this issue with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which sets bold standards for reducing emissions. We have codified the goal, but there is more to do. We need a roadmap.

The Climate and Community Invest-

(Continued on Page 5)



Beacon Names Police Advisory Committee

Nine-member panel will follow up on reform plan

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced on Tuesday (June 22) the appointment of a nine-member Police Advisory Committee, created in response to a state mandate to municipalities to review law enforcement policies and procedures.

The committee will develop recommendations that follow up on the city's Police

Reform and Modernization Collaborative Plan, which was released in March.

The committee will be led by the former co-chairs of the group that drafted the reform plan: the Rev. John Perez of Faith Temple Church and Mark Ungar, a political science and criminal justice professor at City University of New York. Its other members are:

■ Marcia Frahman, who has served as president of the Howland Public Library board, chair of the city's Human Relations Commission and was a member of the

Police Chief Search Committee.

■ Addison Goodson, a member of the Human Rights Commission who served on the Police Reform and Modernization Committee.

■ Lloyd Jones, the resident superintendent of Davies South Terrace for the past 27 years. A U.S. Army veteran, he has extensive experience liaising between the Beacon Police Department and the community.

■ Paula Lanier, a 1983 graduate of Beacon

High School and 20-year resident of the city.

■ Xavier Mayo, a founding member of Beacon 4 Black Lives.

■ John Rembert, who served in the U.S. Army for 27 years and was awarded the Bronze Star. Rembert, a minister, is a former City Council member and was a member of the Police Chief Search Committee.

■ Brooke Simmons, a founding board member of I Am Beacon who served on the Police Reform and Modernization Committee, Recreation Committee, City Charter Commission, Spirit of Beacon Day Committee and the Centennial Committee.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ment Act (CCIA) is part of the roadmap. The CCIA puts a surcharge of \$55 per ton on toxic pollutants produced. This is the real-world price of pollution. It would hold our worst corporate polluters accountable for the damage they cause and finance the repair. The bill provides direct assistance to ratepayers, offsetting most price increases, and invests in green energy infrastructure, helping us meet the goals of the CLCPA.

It is also why I support the New York Build Public Renewables Act. This bill would ramp up the New York Power Authority's ability to generate and sell utility-scale renewable energy. NYPA already sells power at a cheaper rate than most utilities across the state, has access to low-cost bonds, and generates 83 percent of its power from renewable sources.

This bill, along with the CCIA, would create robust mechanisms for community engagement and a strong renewable energy workforce across the state. A recent study from the Climate and Community Project at the University of Pennsylvania found that this bill could create between 28,410 and 51,133 jobs and between \$48.6 billion and \$93.5 billion of additional economic activity by 2030.

This legislation would make a difference. Climate change is not backing down, but neither are we. We have the obligation to combat climate change. We owe it to our children and grandchildren.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*

Galef's district in the Assembly includes Philipstown.

Four stories

Besides the fact that they are too large and massive, most of the "developer-style" buildings erected in Beacon in recent years share a common design fault: they attempt to contextualize with 19th- and early 20th-century buildings but fail ("You Call That a Park?" June 11).

A good building reflects the sum of its parts. These new buildings are all smoke and mirrors. Most of the developer buildings on Main Street and Route 9D were built using modern construction techniques and building materials and skinned with one course of bricks; dressed with a grab bag of architectural ornaments randomly selected from unrelated 19th-century styles; and capped with mansard or gabled roofs in a vain, simple and unsuccessful attempt to

look old and blend in.

Good architecture reflects the best building technologies available at the time of construction. Mansard roofs and corbels were cutting-edge and truly functional in 1865 but have no place on a modern steel-framed or cast-cement building.

Why not celebrate the modern materials and techniques utilized in today's construction? Beacon's building stock represents the linear evolution of architectural styles and construction techniques from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. Greek Revival, Gothic, Queen Anne, Art Deco, along with simple industrial structures, harmonize with each other because they are true and honest to their materials and intended function.

European cities have many successful examples of ultramodern infill between 400-year-old buildings. If the developers are creative, they could build better quality buildings for less money by eliminating the expensive cladding and bling.

James Kelly, *Newburgh*

Once there was a single 4-story building on Main Street. Then there were two more, across the street from each other. A fourth four-story building is under construction a block away from the second and third. Now a developer wants to put up a fifth 4-story building in the same block as the first oversized structure.

At this rate how long will it be before a developer wants to put up a five-story building now that a four-story structure is becoming the new norm? It is time to put the brakes on this trend before Main Street becomes a canyon between oversized buildings.

William Cornett, *Beacon*

Vaccines

I have three close friends who share Hope Ouderkirk's hesitancy and skepticism and are awaiting the Food and Drug Administration's final, unequivocal determination regarding the COVID-19 vaccines (*Letters and Comments*, June 18). It brings to mind another raging health crisis: the AIDS epidemic that rampaged throughout the homosexual community in the 1980s. That community, however, stormed the FDA to release therapeutics that were not yet approved to stem the tide of a then-fatal disease. Under pressure, the FDA did so and slowly the AIDS calamity was brought

somewhat under control, so that it became chronic and death rates plummeted.

I believe we are in the same circumstance. In the midst of uncertainty, that community chose life; I, at very high risk, chose life and was vaccinated.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

Marijuana sales

What's amazing about our politicians is how they approve selling of marijuana and at the same time tell people it is dangerous to smoke cigarettes ("Beacon Council Leans Toward Weed Shops," June 18). They tell us that health care costs so much because people smoke and do not take care of themselves and yet, to generate more money to sustain their spending spree, they approve another form of smoking. Smoking anything is harmful to the lungs and can cause long-term problems.

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

Town Board changes

In 2013, when Mike Leonard decided to run for the Philipstown board, he said he wanted to give back to the community that had given him so much ("Leonard Resigns from Town Board," June 11). He wanted to help residents and improve their lives. Mike is an exemplary public servant who worked with energy, dedication and without fanfare.

But fanfare is now due. Thank you Mike for all you have done for Philipstown. We are better off because of your work.

Julia Famularo, *Cold Spring*

Future homes

I had the pleasure, as a homeowner and architect, to work with Ben Fiering and the crew of Third Floor Construction on our experimental, net-zero-ready home in Nelsonville. A dedicated crew of carpenters, masons and mechanical subcontractors worked in concert with The Figure Ground Studio to create one of the most comfortable, energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive homes in the Hudson Valley using novel techniques, assemblies and materials.

Your article ("A Home Attune with Nature," May 28) did a disservice to the craft of building and to the complexities of Passive House design. While there are material trade-offs and energy mix considerations, these are all being actively considered — those interested should attend a meeting of the Passive House Alliance Hudson Valley (pha-hv.org).

Furthermore, airtight construction coupled with mechanical ventilation, far from creating odor issues, brings fresh, conditioned, filtered air into the home at all times of year, even when the windows are closed.

The readers of your paper live in an area replete with architects, builders, mechanical engineers and subcontractors who have experience and expertise in Passive House and high-performance building. Anyone interested in occupant health, comfort and safety as well as the survival of our planet is encouraged to learn more and utilize the technologies and techniques being developed both locally and internationally.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

Judge race

The Beacon Democratic Committee would like to clarify that its endorsement of Greg Johnston was decided by a unanimous vote ("Beacon Judge Candidates Square Off in Primary," June 18).

In addition, the letter to the editor referenced by Timothy Pagones to *The Current* from our chair was in consent of and on behalf of our committee. In our view, Johnston's deeper and more wide-ranging courtroom experience makes him the most qualified candidate for the role of Beacon City Court judge.

Amber Grant, *Beacon*

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A HAMMERMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Fahnestock *(from Page 1)*

viewed as appropriate beneficiaries of philanthropic giving is quite extraordinary, and not to be taken for granted," said Erik Kulleseid, the state parks commissioner, who grew up in Philipstown.

Over the past 25 years, OSI has doubled the size of Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park by purchasing and donating 7,000 acres over 16 transactions. The park is now more than 14,000 acres.

The new lots improve access to the less-traveled trails in its northern section and eliminate the need to park along the narrow shoulder of Route 301. Both can be accessed from 301 and are marked with ample signage. The Big Woods lot sits near the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, at the intersection of the white Cabot Trail and the yellow Perkins Trail.

"Fahnestock is a difficult park to access if you're not familiar with it," said Kulleseid. "These trailheads get people off the road and to a safe place where they can get out of their car."

The park road also has several culverts that pass beneath it to provide crossings for amphibians between the wetlands that the route curves to avoid.

Evan Thompson, the manager for Hudson Highlands State Park, including Fahnestock, credited contractor Rob Alfredo of Brewster for being one of the reasons the project was completed on time. "He found problems that we wouldn't have even noticed and he fixed them," he said.



The view from the new parking lot at the Big Woods trailhead

Photos by B. Cronin



State and OSI officials cut the ribbon at the trailhead on June 17.



The Perkins Trail intersects with the new Big Woods trailhead



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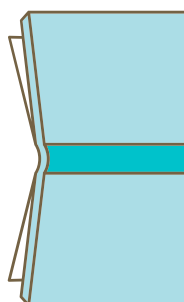
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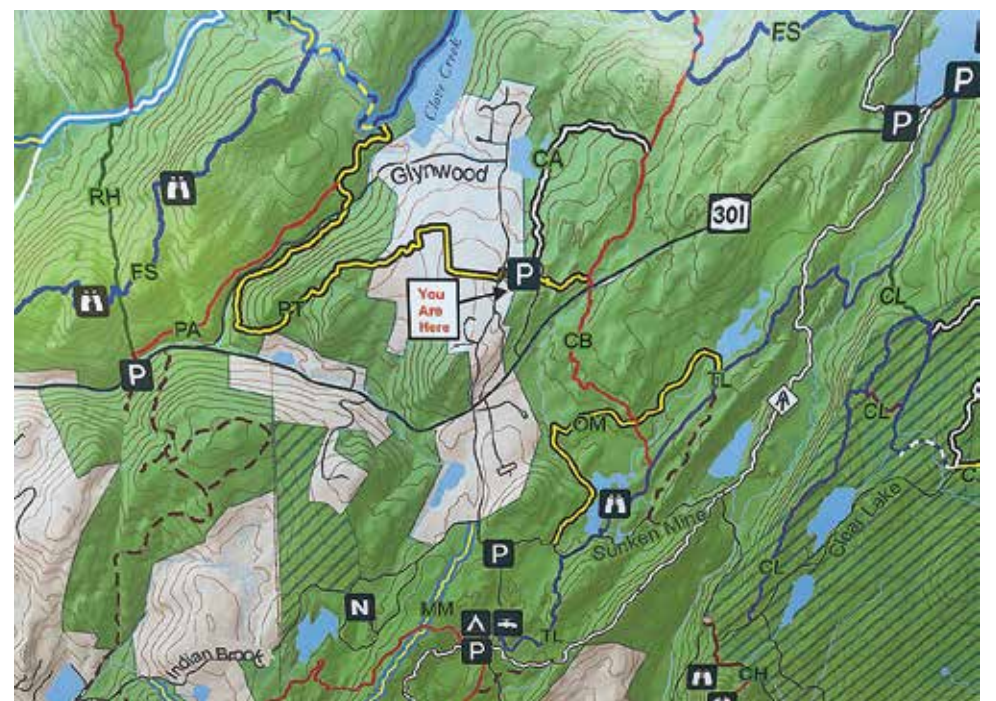
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Who was Clarence Fahnestock?

Fahnestock was a physician on the staff of the Presbyterian Hospital and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York City who, in May 1917, volunteered to treat soldiers in France during World War I. He died of pneumonia at a field hospital near the front in October 1918 at age 44.

The son of a prominent banker, Dr. Fahnestock made many trips to Africa and Alaska to hunt big game. He lived on Madison Avenue but, during the

years before the war, purchased large tracts in Putnam County, including a country estate, Clear Lake, near Cold Spring. In 1929, Dr. Ernest Fahnestock donated about 2,400 acres once owned by his brother to create a state park named for him.



The Big Woods trailhead is located off Route 301.

Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (June 23), 10,623 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 29,494 in Dutchess; 129,781 in Westchester; 46,987 in Rockland; 13,921 in Ulster; and 48,372 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 2,095,576 positives, including 938,921 in New York City. Statewide, 42,947 people had died.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of June 23 stood at 442; the number in intensive care was 103; and the number of intubations was 60.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the state disaster emergency he declared on March 7, 2020, would end today (June 25). Among other changes, local boards and legislatures can now meet in person rather than by Zoom or audio conference. It also ends the ability of restaurants and bars to sell to-go alcoholic beverages.

■ Six of Dutchess County's eight senior centers, including the one in Beacon at 1 Forrestal Heights, reopened for the first time since the pandemic began. The centers are open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and offer a hot lunch each day, as well as recreational activities and fitness and health programs.

■ Three students tested positive for COVID-19 during the week of June 13 at the Garrison School and were placed in quarantine, along with six students who were "in close or proximal contact" with the individuals.

■ Beacon's Recreation Department is requiring that anyone wanting to use the city's public pool at the University Settlement Camp sign up for an account, provide proof of vaccination if eligible for the shots and reserve, in advance, a slot for one of multiple two-hour sessions that will be available. No walk-up paid admission will be accepted. The city hopes to open the pool on the July 4 weekend.

■ The Haldane school district is accepting comments on its plan to use \$194,212 in fund-

ing from the federal American Rescue Plan approved in March and \$86,476 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act approved in December. The plan includes funding an elementary school "interventionist" for two years who will administer assessments, assist parents and track student performance and engagement during remote learning. A draft of the plan is posted at bit.ly/haldane-rescue-plan. Comments may be emailed to Superintendent Philip Benante at pbenante@haldane-school.org until Wednesday (June 30).

■ New York State said on June 23 it will distribute \$25 million in child care scholarships to essential workers with money from federal relief funds. Costs will be covered for essential staff whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., \$79,500 for a family of four) for children ages six weeks to 12 years. The CARES child-care scholarships end June 28 and those receiving the funds will need to reapply. See on.ny.gov/3vLoe45.

■ The COVID-19 testing site at the Anthony Wayne Recreation Area off the Palisades Parkway in Rockland County is one of four state-run locations that closed on June 18. Another five sites are scheduled to close today (June 25). Demand for testing fell by 88 percent between January and May, the state said.

■ Children eligible for free school meals will receive \$132 in food benefits for every month they were remote for 12 days or more during the 2020-21 academic year, Cuomo said on June 14. Children who learned remotely for at least one but no more than 12 days in a month will receive \$82 for that month. The \$2.2 billion program is being funded by the federal government. Families do not have to apply, but will have the benefits posted to their EBT cards or receive a letter explaining how to access payments.

■ The New York State Fair will open at full capacity outdoors from Aug. 20 to Sept. 6 in Syracuse. Indoor spaces will have limits for social distancing.

■ As of Wednesday (June 23), New York had administered at least one vaccine dose to 11.4 million people, or 57 percent of the population, and had fully vaccinated 51.4

Vaccination Rates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week released vaccination rates among the total population by ZIP code.

NEW YORK STATE

59.2

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Rhinebeck: **76.4**
Pawling: **61.8**
Wappingers Falls: **61.8**
Hopewell Junction: **59.3**
Fishkill: **57.8**
Beacon: **53.4**

PUTNAM COUNTY

Cold Spring: **71.8**
Garrison: **66.6**
Putnam Valley: **64.1**
Brewster: **61.9**
Carmel: **60.4**

ORANGE COUNTY

Newburgh: **47.7**
Highland Falls: **46.9**
Fort Montgomery: **43.8**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Yorktown Heights: **65.4**
Cortlandt Manor: **63.4**
Buchanan: **61**
Peekskill: **59.9**
Mohegan Lake: **57.7**

Source: CDC

See covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code. Data as of Wednesday (June 23).

percent, according to the state. Among those 18 or older, 71.3 percent had received at least one dose and 63.7 percent were fully vaccinated, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

■ Dutchess County had fully vaccinated 79.6

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,623 (+7)

Active Cases in Philipstown: **≤5**

Tests administered:

240,269 (+2,531)

Percent positive:

4.4 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

61.3

Number of deaths:

93 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

29,494 (+19)

Active Cases in Beacon: **≤5**

Tests administered:

786,802 (+7,757)

Percent positive:

3.7 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

57.3

Number of deaths:

446 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of June 23, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of June 18. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.

percent of its residents 65 or older and Putnam 77.9 percent as of June 24, according to data from the CDC. Among adolescents ages 12 to 15, 32.6 percent in Dutchess and 32.7 percent in Putnam had received at least their first dose since becoming eligible on May 12.



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River Patrols *(from Page 1)*

Later that day, the issue provoked intense debate during a meeting of the Putnam Legislature's Protective Services Committee, held by audio connection.

During the session, Capt. Harry Tompkins, who leads the Sheriff's Department's patrol division, accused Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the committee, and Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac of "spewing" misinformation about the marine patrols. Nacerino angrily "took offense" while Sullivan interrupted Tompkins, termed the exchange "a waste of time," and demanded that the committee meeting — so it did.

In a statement released on Wednesday (June 23), Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. described some of Nacerino and Sullivan's comments as "disturbing," including their proposal that Marine Unit resources be redirected to drug investigations and mental health programs.

Redirecting money that way "is the exact definition of defunding the police," Langley asserted. More support for anti-addiction and mental health aid is crucial, he said, but "reducing the Sheriff's Department budget at the expense of public safety is not the correct mechanism to address these social issues."

Langley also challenged the idea that other jurisdictions would fill in for Putnam on the river. "The Sheriff's Department not only has the jurisdictional authority but



The Putnam County sheriff's patrol boats include two provided at no charge by the state.

PCSD

the obligation to provide emergency and law enforcement services throughout all of Putnam County," including waterways, he said. While other agencies have marine units, "they are not dedicated to Putnam County and there is no overlap of services."

The sheriff observed that the department's Marine Unit was established 23 years ago; uses two boats provided at no charge by New York State, including one docked in Cold Spring; and is funded by overtime pay, although the state reimburses half of that expense.

The unit has operated on the river and Lake Mahopac, as well as Lake Oscawana.

The policy change by Odell and the Legislature limits patrols to Lake Oscawana, with a county-owned boat.

The return of the two boats to the state "absolutely has an effect on public safety on the waterways of Putnam County," Langley said.

Over the last several weeks, in memos, Odell has defended her position. On June 11, she directed Chris Fallon, director of the Marine Services Bureau of the state parks department, to work with the deputy county executive, Thomas Feighery, to retrieve the state vessels from Putnam. But Fallon had earlier informed Odell that

he would coordinate the boats' return with the Sheriff's Department.

Five days later, Odell ordered Langley to relinquish the boat keys to "my staff" so they (not Langley) could present them to the state soon, perhaps on July 1. She described the boats as "clearly surplus and unnecessary" and said the state can offer them "to another agency with the need for same."

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, wrote to Odell on June 17 criticizing efforts "to defund the Marine Patrol Unit." The same day, Odell appealed to the county executives of Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Westchester to "continue a conversation" about "mutual aid arrangements" on "marine unit emergency responses in the Hudson along the shores of Putnam County."

Langley expressed doubts about the efficacy of the request. "Without the Sheriff Department's marine patrol vessels, what police agency will respond to emergency calls on the Hudson River in Putnam County?" he asked on Wednesday.

Odell, Nacerino and Sullivan maintain that the decision to stop the river patrols was laid out when the county prepared the 2021 budget last fall.

According to Langley, though, "this cut was made unilaterally" and "without any constructive dialogue" with the Sheriff's Department.

In April, the county proposed selling the patrol boats while Tompkins revealed

(Continued on Page 22)

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. July 3 – 1-5 pm
RiverWinds Gallery Exhibit
 17 Artist represented by the RiverWinds Gallery
 Weekends thru Aug 1 - Free



Sat. July 3 – 8 pm
Courtyard Concert w/ MV Carbon + Ka Baird
 Co-presentation by Fridman Gallery & HCC
 (Weather permitting) Free

Now thru - July 7
Singer TARA O'GRADY - Howlin' at the Howland
 "The Fabric of Our Lives" Watch the Full Hour
 OnDEMAND - TIX: howlandculturalcentertix.com


Sat. July 10 – 8 pm
The ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series
 WE'RE BACK! In-House & Livestream
 TIX + Info: artichokeshow.com

Beginning Week of July 12
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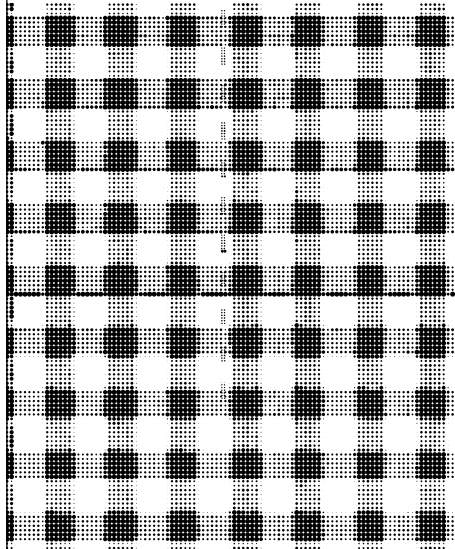
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Sunday, June 27, 2021, 8pm
Sulle Tracce di Maria Lai, 2020
 Maddalena Bregani, Italy

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THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

Is there something about you that most people in the community aren't aware of? Alison Rooney is looking for new subjects for her "Something You Don't Know About Me" series. Email her at arts@highlandscurrent.org.



Nelsonville Resumes Discussion of Short-Term Rentals

Mayor promises revised draft law after comments

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Nelsonville Village Board this week resumed discussion of a possible law on short-term vacation rentals while residents either challenged the need for regulation or welcomed it so private homes don't become full-time businesses.

Members of the board took up the issue on Monday (June 21) at their first formal monthly meeting held in person in more than a year because of pandemic restrictions. Their discussion coincides with one in Cold Spring on short-term rentals (STRs), which are typically arranged through Airbnb or similar services.

The Nelsonville board has considered the subject intermittently for more than three years and in February conducted a public hearing on a draft law. That version would have limited the number of short-term rentals to 12 units in the village, or 5 percent of 234 taxable residential properties; required owners to pay \$250 for a permit, renewable annually for \$150; restricted the number of days that a unit could be rented to 100 annually; required owners to occupy the premises 185 days a year; and banned the use of trailers, campers, tents, garages or

storage sheds as short-term rentals.

With two new trustees — Maria Zhynovitch and Kathleen Maloney — joining the five-member board after the March election, Nelsonville returned to short-term rentals this spring. Trustee Chris Winward said suggestions now being weighed include allowing owners to rent out their homes for a week or more if they're on vacation or during extended events, such as West Point graduation, and requiring that homeowners live in their house for a year or two before opening an STR.

"The impetus is to make sure people don't turn over their homes quickly" for resale as STRs, Winward said.

David Herman, who said he had moved to Nelsonville 18 months ago, emphasized the importance of preserving village "safety and community-mindedness" and retaining enough residents to staff volunteer-dependent local organizations.

He expressed concerns about the village's fate if affluent New Yorkers purchase homes, live in them half the year, and rent them during the remainder while they decamp to their city residences. "The more the real estate market turns into one that doesn't foster families, the more there's going to be, long-term, an adverse effect," he said.

Jay Nicholas told the board that he has offered both short- and longer-stay rentals at his house, although "we're taking

a break." At one point, he said, "we really needed the income. It kind of comes down to need" economically, for many STR operators. He added that "I was always on the site, with my Airbnb."

Rudy Van Dommele, who lives on the property where he and his wife provide two Airbnb units, including an Airstream trailer, said "I question the whole initiative of this proposed law. Where is the necessity to do this now?" A real estate agent, he refuted the notion that buyers will scoop up homes to use as businesses. "It's not profitable to run an Airbnb if you don't live there," he said.

Dave McCarthy pointed to differences between "absentee landlords" and owners who dwell on the premises. "When the residents are there, it should count for something big," he said.

As the discussion wound down, Mayor Mike Bowman said that "what is coming out of this is that there's a middle ground here." He said the board would consider the approaches and bring a fresh draft law to the public for comment.

Nelsonville code currently allows "the letting of rooms" to up to two guests at a time, but only if the owner lives in the house. It prohibits cooking facilities in guest rooms, although an owner can offer breakfast or other "board" and allow guest access to the home's kitchen.



NEW CLERK — The Nelsonville Village Board on Monday (June 21) appointed Melissa Harris (left) as village clerk. She will take over on July 1 for Pauline Minners (right), a former clerk who returned to the job temporarily to fill the vacancy. Harris previously worked for the Garrison school district. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Cold Spring Airbnb Law All But Complete

Number of rentals allowed would increase

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board at its Tuesday (June 22) meeting made what could be final revisions to a proposed law to regulate short-term rentals such as Airbnbs.

No major changes were made on Tuesday and no vote was taken because Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustee Tweeps Woods were each on vacation and not in attendance. The draft is expected to be discussed again at next week's board meeting.

The debate over what many residents see as a proliferation of short-term rentals in the village began in earnest in September 2019 at a standing-room-only public meeting at the firehouse. More recently, on May 6, about 50 residents attended a hearing held via Zoom.

The original proposal limited the total number of short-term rentals to 34 and included restrictions such as prohibiting STRs from operating within 300 feet of each other, limiting rentals to owner-occupied buildings, and allowing a maximum of 60 rental nights per year, with two-night minimum stays.

Based on feedback from the mayor and trustees, as well as from residents before the public hearing closed on May 18, the

board made revisions to the draft.

As revised, the law would permit 49 STRs, or 7 percent of the 655 properties in the R-1, I-1 and B-1 districts. Of those, 33 "hosted" STRs, in which the owner lives in the residence, would be allowed, along with 16 "unhosted" STRs.

The revised law also would allow for one-time, annual rentals of up to 14 days for events such as West Point graduation.

Property owners would need to carry at least \$500,000 in liability insurance, a decrease from the \$2 million coverage in the previous version.

The requirement that no STR could operate within a radius of 300 feet from another short-term rental was revised to prohibit STRs from operating within 300 linear feet of another rental on the same street.

Some other highlights from the law:

- All STRs would require a permit, valid for one year, with applicants selected by a lottery.
- Owners must occupy the structures for at least 260 nights per year.
- Rental can only be offered to one party at a time.
- In R-1 and I-1 zoning districts, one off-street parking space must be provided.
- Properties owned by corporations or LLCs cannot be rented as an STR.

- Parties and gatherings are not permitted.
- Check-in will not be permitted between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- The fine for operating without a permit will be \$2,000 for the first offense and loss of ability to apply the following year; the second offense is a \$5,000 fine and no use of the site as an STR for four years.

■ Appeals would be adjudicated by the Village Board.

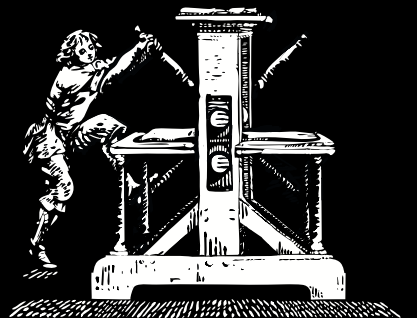
In other business ...

■ The former Whistling Willie's restaurant at 184 Main St. will soon reopen with a new name and ownership. Kostas Koustoubekis, who operates Juan Murphy's Pub in Poughkeepsie, told *The Current* he hopes to open J. Murphy's in August in the historic building, which has been a tavern since before the Civil War. The Village Board waived the 30-day waiting period for filing for a liquor license.

■ Trustees accepted the resignation of Officer Ed Boulanger from the Cold Spring Police Department, effective June 29. Boulanger joined the department 34 years ago and is its most senior officer.

■ The mayor will sign an agreement with the Town of Philipstown to install two electric vehicle charging stations on Main Street west of the Metro-North tracks, adjacent to the pedestrian tunnel.

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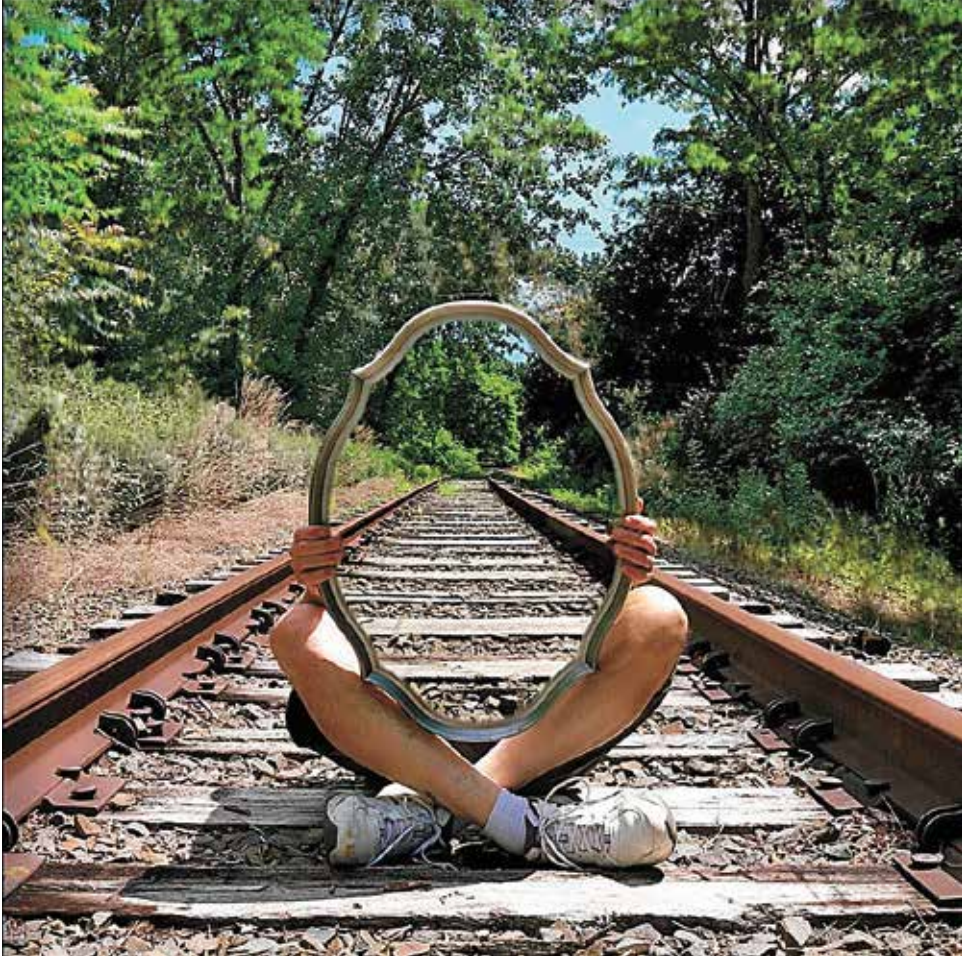
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AROUND TOWN



▲ **PARALLEL UNIVERSE** — Beacon photographer Robert Titka shared this digital art composition on Facebook, drawing admiration from 565 members of the Beacon, NY group. "Sometimes you just gotta stretch the imagination," he wrote. "This was taken at Madam Brett Park just before the tunnel to get into the park."



▲ **NEW GARDEN** — Members of Climate Smart Philipstown installed a pollinator garden at Town Hall on Monday (June 21). Earlier, they planted a similar garden at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Both were designed by the Hudson Garden Studio.



▲ **BIG HEART** — Beacon High School physical education teacher Larry Collins was feted on June 7 during the last faculty meeting before his retirement. A colleague, Cindy Pomarico, said on Twitter that "human anatomy says that a person's heart is as big as their fist, and if you know Larry, his is much bigger."

◀ **PULL!** — Sargent Elementary in Beacon hosted a week of field days, with kindergarten and first-grade students kicking off the competition on June 14.

Photo by Mike Carofano



▲ **GREAT SEASON** — Cathryn Biordi, the assistant principal at Rombout Middle School in Beacon, shared this photo on Twitter of the Girls on the Run team after its last race of the season. The program is designed to use activity and discussion to build social, emotional and physical skills.

Photos provided

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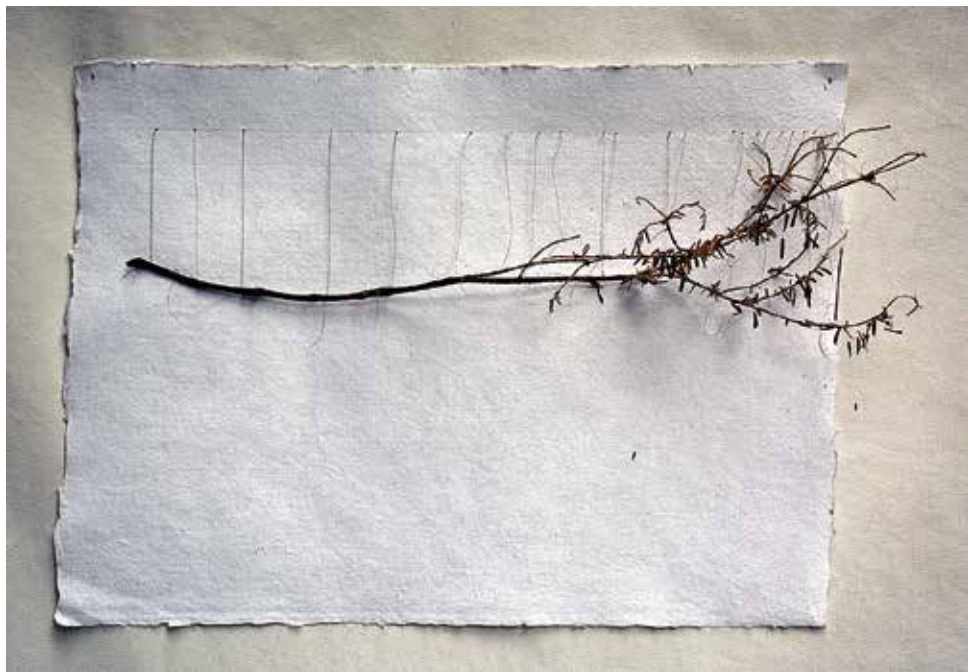
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The Calendar



"Suspended Hemlock," by Alison McNulty

Memory as a PARALLEL DIMENSION

New Beacon gallery to mount its second show

By Alison Rooney

After featuring the work of three artists from farther afield in its debut exhibition in May, Fridman Gallery in Beacon will show the work of Hudson Valley artists in its second show, *Time Lapse*, which opens July 3 at its Main Street space.

Although its home base is Manhattan, it's important for the Beacon gallery to have an independent identity, said founder Iliya Fridman.

"The idea of Beacon, or the Hudson Valley, or upstate, being distanced from New York City in a cultural, geographical, autonomous sense, and not as driven or rushed as in the city, gives us an idea to think about the shows we curate here," he says. "These are artists who pursue their own singular world, but we can almost use the Beacon location as a lab for ideas, a curatorial playing field."

According to the gallery notes, *Time Lapse* "looks at memory as a parallel dimension, in which it is possible for objects, events and stories to travel through temporal and physical spaces to a setting where they are perceived in a different light."

Karlyn Benson, who directs the Beacon gallery, says the show came about organically. "We were not intending to have a theme, but we found things [while visiting artists] that connected their work: an interest in memory, time, history, materials, the transformation of materials."

Fridman adds: "It's important to keep

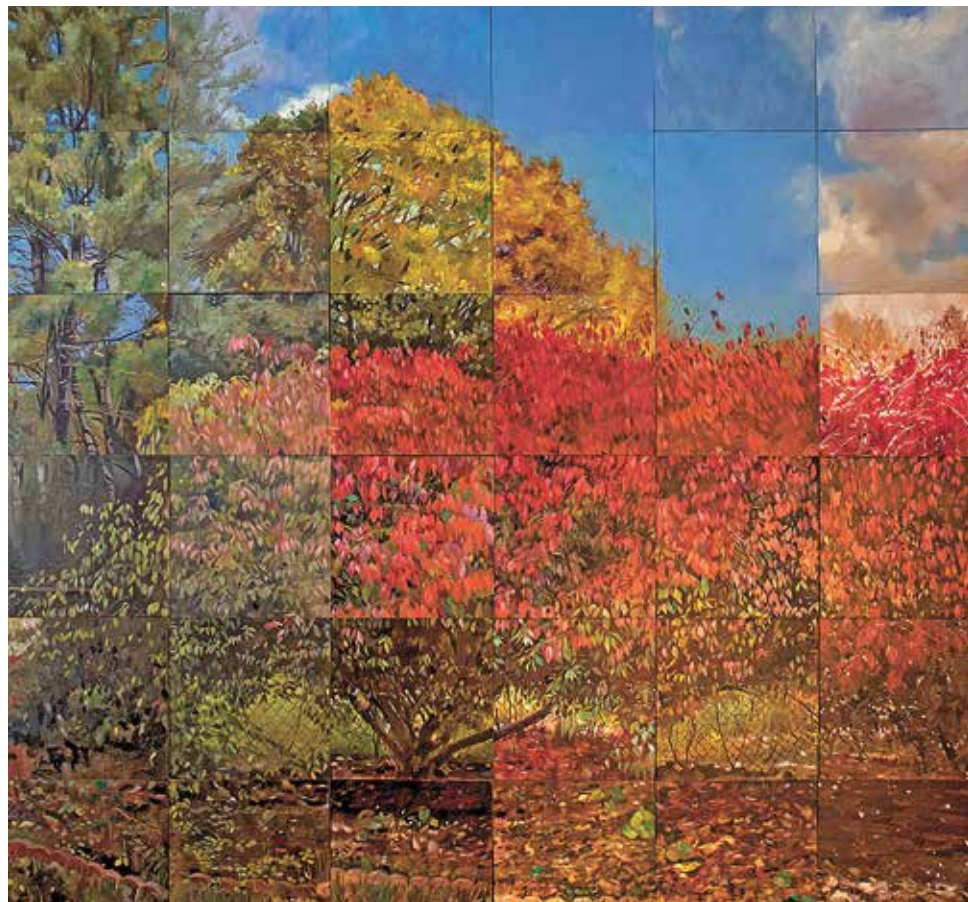
an open mind as a curator and allow your own ideas to shift. This show fits that frame of mind. We wanted to make it about the capacity that art as a discipline has to look beyond the everyday. Art has the unique capacity to allude to the hidden nature of things. Ideally the show will dance together not just conceptually but visually."

Benson recalls that when curators visited, some artists would show "work they thought we wanted to see. But we wound up asking, 'Oh, what's that over there?' about what may have been a side project that we found powerful and strong. When you're in the studio, you never know what you're going to find. So many connections came about as we built the show and became more aware of how one piece would go with another."

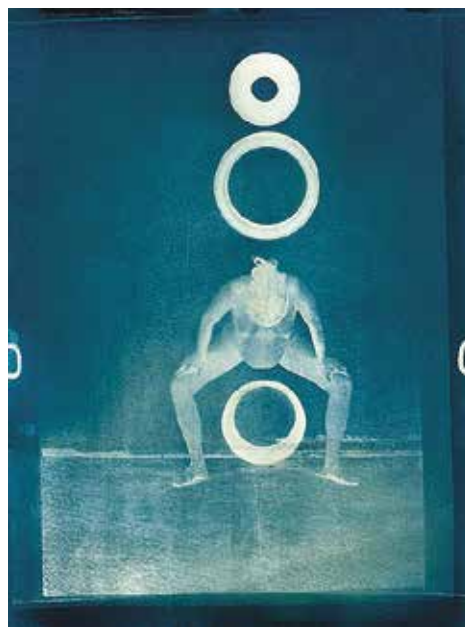
The artists featured in *Time Lapse* are Gerardo Castro, Carl Grauer, Shanti Grumbine, Meg Hitchcock, Liz Nielsen, Mollie McKinley, Alison McNulty, Alison Sikelianos-Carter, Jean-Mark Superville Sovak, Kazumi Tanaka (who lives in Beacon) and Millicent Young.

Benson, the former owner of the now-closed Matteawan Gallery in Beacon, says she has been pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm for the Fridman, both from people from New York City "who come in and say, 'Wow, you're here, too'" to a group of local teenage boys she invited to visit. "Things like that are what we want: to be open to people," she says.

The Fridman Gallery, at 475 Main St. in Beacon, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday to Monday. See fridmangallery.com or call 646-345-9831. Time Lapse will be on view through Aug. 16.



"Burning Bush" by Carl Grauer



"Resonate," by Shanti Grumbine



"A Place to Return," by Alisa Sikelianos-Carter



"Shaman," by Gerardo Castro

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

FOURTH OF JULY

SUN 4

Declaration of Independence

BEACON

11 a.m. City Hall (Courtroom)
1 Municipal Plaza

The city will host its annual reading of the founding document after canceling it in 2020 because of the pandemic shutdown. This year will mark the 11th year of the readings, which began in 2011.

SUN 4

Independence Day Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Mekeel's Chapel
Routes 301 and 9
putnamhistorymuseum.org

This outdoor ceremony at the historic 1867 chapel will include patriotic songs and hymns and readings from founding documents.

COMMUNITY

SAT 26

Free Fishing Weekend

NEW YORK

The state is allowing residents to fish without a license. Also SUN 27.

SAT 26

Record & CD Fest

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | bit.ly/record-cd-fest

Browse vinyl, CDs, DVDs, cassettes and ephemera from 15 tri-state vendors.

SAT 26

Crafts Festival

RHINEBECK

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dutchess Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave.
artrider.com/rhinebeck-crafts-festival-2021

Find handmade artisan works from nearly 100 exhibitors. Also SUN 27. *Cost: \$10 (\$9 seniors, \$4 ages 6 to 16)*

SAT 26

Family Pride in the Park

PEEKSKILL

1 – 5 p.m. Pugsley Park

1036 Main St. | peekskillpride.org

At this free event, families can enjoy a drag queen story hour, music, a pet photo contest and craft activities.

SUN 27

Open Sunday

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. & 12:30 & 3 p.m.
Stonecrop Gardens | 81 Stonecrop Lane
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Register for a two-hour visit; tea and cake will be available for



International Mud Day Celebration, June 26

purchase. The gardens are also open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday through October. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 seniors, children; under 3 free)*

SAT 3

Used Book Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
desmondfishlibrary.org

The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library are hosting their annual fundraiser this year at the school's outdoor pavilion. Search through thousands of titles, many priced at \$2. The children's section will have its own tent. Use the Nelson Lane entrance. Continues daily through SUN 11.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 26

International Mud Day Celebration

CORNWALL

10 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
845-534-5506 | hhnrm.org

Dress to get dirty. Registration suggested for 45-minute sessions. *Cost: \$5 (members free)*

SUN 27

Fairy House Hunt

POUGHKEEPSIE

10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Locust Grove
2683 South Road
eventbrite.com/e/fairy-house-hunt-tickets

Search for elusive fairy houses on the estate grounds. *Cost: \$10*

MUSIC

SAT 26

Cuarteto Guataca

PEEKSKILL

2 p.m. Charles Point Park
givebutter.com/feelgoodmusicpeekskill

The Feel Good Music Series continues with bassist Josh Levine (New York City), percussionist

Jainardo Batista (San Juan), flautist Jeremy Bosch (Puerto Rico) and tres player Itai Kriss (Tel Aviv), who will perform salsa and Són Monuno classics.

SAT 26

Drew Young Band

PUTNAM VALLEY

4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The New Orleans southern roots band will perform some of the 27 songs it recorded during the pandemic shutdown. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 26

Sloan Wainwright

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and songwriter, who is a member of an acclaimed family of artists — brother Loudon Wainwright, sister-in-law Kate McGarrigle, nephew Rufus Wainwright and nieces Martha

Wainwright and Lucy Wainwright Roche — will perform while you dine. Reservations required.

SUN 27

Marianne Osiel

BEACON

1 p.m. Beacon Farmers Market
223 Main St. (DMV parking lot)

The singer and songwriter plays the oboe and blues guitar. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

SUN 27

LGBTQ+ Pride Evensong

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com

This sung prayer service will celebrate the closing of Pride month with vocalists Drew Minter (bass), James Ruff (tenor) and Rachel Walker (messo-soprano) directed by Luca Cantone. *Free*

THURS 1

Ukulele Gathering

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

Wendy Matthews of the Educated Fleas will host this gathering of enthusiasts and aficionados. Free while you dine. Reservations required.

SAT 3

The PreZence

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This Led Zeppelin tribute band, founded by Sal Demeo 14 years ago, has just completed taping of *The Clash of the Tributes*. *Cost: \$35 (\$30 advance)*

SUN 4

Pops & Patriots

KATONAH

4 p.m. Caramoor | 49 Girdle Ridge Road
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

The Westchester Symphonic Winds, conducted by Curt Ebersole with baritone Jorell Williams and soprano Candice Hayes, will perform music by Gershwin, Ellington, Sousa and others. *Cost: \$40 to \$92*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 26

The Freedom Project Part 3

PHILIPSTOWN

Philipstown Depot Theatre
845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Sherwood Anderson's 1940 play, *Above Suspicion*, directed by Donald Kimmel, and Craig Lucas' 2021 play, *More Beautiful*, directed by Alice Jankell, will be streaming through SUN 27. The performance is part of *Then is Now*, a series by the Putnam Theatre Alliance. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 students)*



SAT 26

Pee-Wee's Big Adventure

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

Paul Reubens plays the lead in this 1985 family comedy about a lost bike. Also SUN 27. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

SAT 26

Homemade

PHILIPSTOWN

8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9
magazzino.eventbrite.com

The documentary by Domenico Palma features interviews with the artists whose work was exhibited in Magazzino's 2020 exhibit, telling the story of creativity during the global pandemic. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 students, seniors)*

SUN 27

Sulle Tracce di Maria Lai

PHILIPSTOWN

8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9
magazzino.eventbrite.com

Maddalena Bregani directed this exploration of the artistic practice of Sardinian artist Maria Lai and her place in 20th-century events. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 students, seniors)*

WED 30

Jaws

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

A shark terrorizes beaches in this 1975 classic thriller. Also THURS 1, FRI 2, SAT 3, SUN 4. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*



Marianne Osiel, June 27



SAT 3
National Treasure
WAPPINGERS FALLS
6:30 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D | 845-838-0094
milb.com/hudson-valley
Watch an outdoor screening of the 2004 thriller starring Nicolas Cage, followed by a fireworks show.
Cost: \$15

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 26
Pollinators in the Garden
WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Adrienne Papazian will lead a tour of the Verplanck Memorial Pollinator Garden for visitors ages 16 or older. *Cost: \$5*

TUES 29
How to Go Solar in 5 Minutes
CARMEL
7 p.m. Sustainable Putnam
sustainableputnam.org
Joe Montuori of Sustainable Putnam and Corinna Ricard-Farzan of Ampion Renewable Energy will explain in this webinar how homeowners and small businesses can go solar and save 10 percent on electricity.

SPORTS

SAT 26
Hudson Valley Renegades
WAPPINGERS FALLS
6:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D | 845-838-0094
milb.com/hudson-valley
The minor league baseball team will face the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Also SUN 27. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 2
Westchester Fight Night 5
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The venue will host 12 live bouts of kickboxing and Muay Thai. Email losmuaythaiinc@gmail.com for tickets.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 26
A (re)Introduction to Watercolors
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Supplies for Creative Living
165 Main St.
suppliesforcreativeliving.com
Learn basic techniques and ways to develop a practice. For ages 8 and up. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 26
Time Capsule, 1970
POUGHKEEPSIE
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Loeb Art Center
124 Raymond Ave. | flac.vassar.edu
The exhibit will feature Robert Rauschenberg’s *Surface Series* from *Currents* screen prints that captured world events. Through Sept. 19.

SUN 27
Artist Talk: Athena LaTocha
BEACON
3 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com
LaTocha, one of the three artists



participating in a show called *Land Escape* that ends today, will speak about her works on paper.

FRI 2
Affinities
COLD SPRING
6 - 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St.
busterlevigallery.com
This exhibit will be a celebration of the life and paintings of Lynn Kotula, who died of cancer in February, with additional work by seven other artists who were friends and shared her passions. Through Aug. 1.

SAT 3
RiverWinds Gallery Artists
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The gallery has closed on Main Street but its members, including Paola Bari, Deb Heid and Maryellen Siegel, will show their work through Aug. 1.

SAT 3
MV Carbon and Ka Baird
BEACON
8 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com
The sound artists will perform their sets on the lawn next to the gallery in the third part of the series co-sponsored by the Howland Cultural Center.

CIVIC
MON 28
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BEACON
7 p.m. via Zoom
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

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Mouths to Feed

Go Nuts

By Celia Barbour

In just the past week, two people have said to me, "Don't go crazy."

The circumstances were different, but in both cases I was performing a task for that person, and what they meant was: Don't go all-out on their behalf. Don't pull out the stops. Take it easy.

In other words, they meant well. Yet in both cases, I chafed slightly at the entreaty — Me? Crazy? — and wondered how far they wanted me to take their thoughtful suggestion.

(An aside: Much as I love food and cooking, I care even more about language. And I am aware of the movement to do away with the word *crazy*, at least to refer to the moments when a person's cognitive capacity is scrambled or diminished, as this stigmatizes mental illness. Yet this is not the word's original meaning. And in the five centuries since crazy appeared in the language, it has acquired such a rich breadth of definitions and connotations, including "wild with joy," that I wish it could now be used for everything but mental illness.)

One of the people who admonished me not to push myself was my mother. She was coming for a visit, and whenever she

does, she likes to be offered a few things: A glass of prosecco, some nice nibbles to go with it, the company of her grandchildren, a few piano pieces performed by Henry, a fire in the fireplace if it's cold outside, and some flowers or evergreen branches from our garden to take home with her. It's not much. Indeed, it's a trifle compared to the help and support she gave us when the kids were little. But it's not nothing.

Because she's my mother and has already made her mind up about me, I never plan an elaborate menu for her; I don't, in other words, go crazy. But I also don't just rip open a bag of chips and toss them down in front of her. I put the chips in a bowl first. This keeps her busy while I finish making whatever special dish I've dreamed up for the occasion. Because for me, my mother's visits, frequent as they are, give me a chance to prepare recipes that are a bit out of the ordinary. Doing so makes me happy.

Life eventually teaches those of us lucky enough to live one that making a finished product appear effortless, elegant and breezy generally takes a lot more work than making it look challenging. A corollary to this maxim is that, once we've honed certain skills, it's deeply satisfying to put them to use. In other words, pulling out the stops often feels better than doing a slapdash job. Going crazy can mean tapping into our best selves.

That said, summer has officially arrived, bringing with it enough sunshine and humidity to ramp up the crazy on even our breeziest endeavors. To that end, I believe everyone deserves to have a stash of keep-your-cool dishes and recipes on hand at all times. Last Saturday, those consisted of 2 quarts of beet soup in the freezer (see my recipe at highlandscurrent.org/beet) and a jar of coconut-peanut satay sauce in the fridge.

This sauce, once a familiar stalwart of catered hors d'oeuvre trays, is wonderfully subtle when made fresh, as well as being super versatile. It dresses up grilled chicken, shrimp or tofu, and turns boiled noodles into supper on days when that's the best you can muster. It also marries nicely all kinds of odds and ends from the garden: peas, spinach, hot and sweet peppers, bean sprouts, cucumber, bok choy, cabbage and cilantro, to name a few. If you live in Holland, it apparently also belongs on french fries, but clearly that's just weird. Not that anyone around here is in a position to judge.



Keep-Your-Cool Coconut-Peanut Sauce

Note: I developed this recipe after stashing a batch of homemade coconut-peanut satay sauce in the fridge and expecting it to keep all season, only to discover that it developed mold after a couple of weeks. I now make up large quantities of the non-perishable peanut sauce portion (delicious by itself) and add some or all of the perishable coconut-mixture ingredients just before serving. Coconut milk goes bad quite quickly once the can is opened, but you can freeze any unused portion in a resealable plastic bag.

PEANUT SAUCE

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1/3 cup peanut butter (made with nothing but roasted peanuts and salt) | to taste |
| 1 tablespoon tahini | 2 teaspoons sambal or sriracha |
| 3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil, plus more for serving | 1 tablespoon sugar |
| 1/3 cup tamari or soy sauce, plus more | 1 teaspoon rice vinegar |
| | Coconut mixture (recipe below) |

FOR SERVING: Cooked and cooled udon, soba or linguine noodles tossed with sesame oil and tamari; grilled chicken, shrimp or beef; fresh sliced red pepper, cucumber, scallion, cilantro and/or chopped peanuts, as desired.

Combine peanut butter, tahini, sesame oil, tamari, sambal, sugar and vinegar in a blender and whirr until smooth. Store refrigerated in a covered jar up to three weeks. Or, if serving immediately, add the ingredients for the coconut mixture, below, to blender and whirr together until completely smooth. Toss with chilled noodles, meat, vegetables and/or herbs and serve immediately (noodles will turn gluey if allowed to sit in sauce for a long time).

COCONUT MIXTURE

| | |
|--|--|
| 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk | 2 stalks lemongrass, outer layers removed, tender inner core chopped |
| 1 to 2 tablespoons fresh chopped ginger, or to taste | 1 tablespoon tamarind paste (optional) |
| 1 clove garlic, chopped | |

Combine all ingredients in a blender and whirr until smooth. Store any unused portion in a resealable freezer bag in the freezer for up to six months.



Streaming On Line Putnam Theatre Alliance: Freedom Project #3

"Above Suspicion" by
Sherwood Anderson, and More
Beautiful by Craig Lucas

Tickets at
philipstowndepottheatre.org

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board

will hold a special meeting on **Thursday June 24th, 2021 at 7:30 pm** virtually via Zoom to discuss:

**Alice Curtis Desmond & Hamilton Fish Library,
472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 71.6-1-12&71.6-1-13**

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

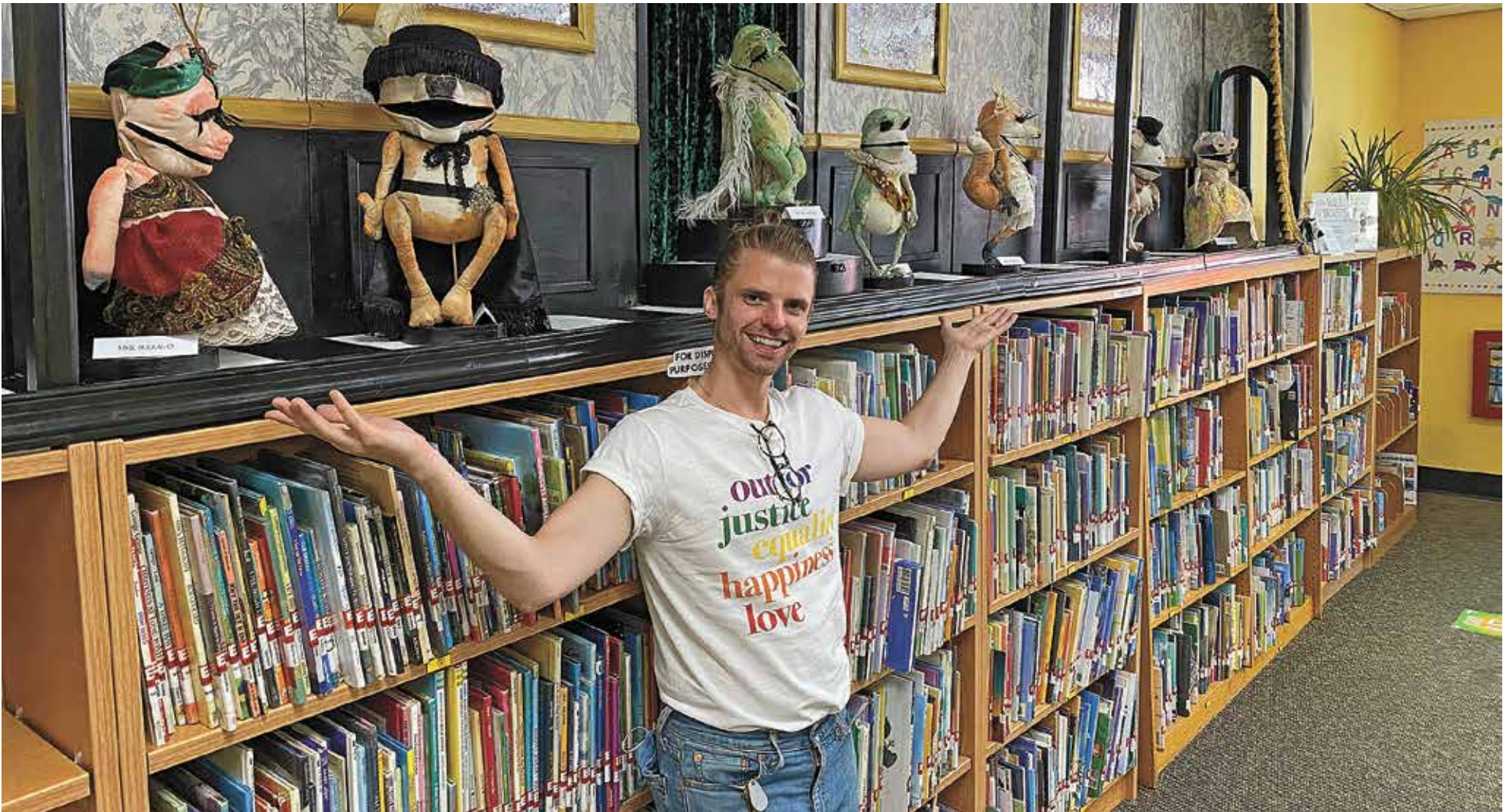
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_0MF1DB1bRpm5_XzyLeDB1A

Webinar ID: 896 4878 0726 | **Passcode:** 041744

One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,89648780726#,,,041744#

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

OR email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM or NZUCKERMAN@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on June 24th, 2021.



Adam Izen with his puppets at the Howland Library

Ball of Beasts at the Howland

By Alison Rooney

Years ago, Adam Izen created two 6-foot-tall ostriches and mounted them on the wall of his Brooklyn living room.

About the time of the start of the

Library invaded by fantastical creatures

pandemic shutdown, Izen and his husband, Tyler Bush, a creative director at a design firm, moved to Beacon. This past March, Izen says, he fell into a funk from the isola-

tion. “We were here for nearly a year, and we weren’t making any connections to people,” he says. “Tyler pushed me back to creating the creatures. I wanted to put a

collection together.” Looking for a place to mount an exhibit, he reached out to Ginny Figlia, the youth services librarian at the Howland Public Library, who told him that the summer reading theme happened to be *Tails and Tales*.
(Continued on Page 21)



Mme. Squeal-o



Squeakertins



Professor Hopkins



Colonel Croaker

Photos provided



▲ Oscar Schilling graduated on June 17 from the eighth grade at the Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon. He will be attending the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie.



▲ The St. Philip's Nursery School in Garrison graduated 11 students on June 16. From left, Gunnar D'Agostino, Charlie Stephens, Catherine Cooper, Benny Donaldson, Addalie Van Amburgh, Leonardo Stelluti, Dylan Wynn, Lillian Levy, Megan Bunora, Luca Innocenti and Freddie Stephens.
Photo by Erin Wik



▲ Laurelai Graef graduated from kindergarten at Hudson Hills Montessori in Beacon.

COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL (COLD SPRING)



Cash Amato



Miya Beltran



Griffin Burgoon



Wyatt de Sousa



Dakota Dubiel



Rodney Lim



Rosemary Sanchez-Thompson



Nicky Taylor

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

GARRISON SCHOOL

Kim Alvarracin
Caleb Anderson
Jillian August
Hunter Erickson
Martin Garnier
Tozai Kawabata
Molly Kelly
Frank Lanza
Bryan Marulanda
Jude Morrison
Morgan Murphy
Lola Rosenberg
Charles Rowe
Shaun Russell
Theresa Timmons
Sarahi Torres Nieves
Jayden Treloar
Eleanor Walker
James Wynn

HALDANE

Amelia Alayon
Anatoliy Alhov
Ivan Antonio
Domenica Awananch
Dahlia Beck
Dustin Berkley
Claire Bolte
Alexandra Cairns
Emilia Cardoso
Brody Corless
Christopher Coronel
Judine Cox
Seven Crofts
Kira Drury
Edwin Dubroff
Violeta Edwards Salas
Christian Ferreira
Louis Ferreira
Patrick Ferreira
Marc Firpo

Josephine Foley-Hedlund
Sienna Fredricks
Robert Freimark
Andalou Frezza
Ethan Hall
Scotia Hartford
Leif Heydt-Benjamin
Frederick Hohenberger
Jake Hotaling
Helen Hutchison
Tyler Hyatt
Zohra Kapoor
Sophie Koch
Nigeli Stephanie Lazo
Rain Lee
Patrick Locitzer
Thomas Locitzer
Lorelai Luoma
Martha McBride
Mary McBride
Micah Morales
Aleksander Noormae
Chase Nugent
Joel Paramo
Milo Pearsall
Gabriela Perilli
Oliver Petkus
Jake Powers
Gabriel Reyes
Wilson Robohm
Laurel Sassano
Brendan Shanahan
Keira Shanahan
Matthew Silhavy
Ashley Sousa
Dana Spiegel
Nathaniel Stickle
Isabella Tavares
Jake Thomas
Crystal Timmons
Shania Vasconcelos
Wyatt Weppler
Sidonius White

ROMBOUT

Riley Adnams
Nicholas Albra
Kendall Alston
Christopher Amon Ortega
Beckett Anderson
Matthew Apostolou Jr.
Anabelle Arginsky
Isabella Baffuto
Kekoa Baysa
Taryn Beardsley
Jessica Belgrave
Jude Betancourt
Sally Betterbid
Armani Boney
Angelina Bottiglieri
A'Jah Bradshaw-Washington
Jeiden Brereton
Daniel Bridges
Chrisanni Brown
Mason Brown
Noelle Brown
Isabel Bunker
Ahmaria Bunn
Lila Burke
Carmelo Bynum
Devin Byrne
Jayleen Cabrera
Jaidyn Caccamo
Shyla Camacho
Elizabeth Carbone
Liana Carpio
Christopher Carton Jr.
Malia Celestin
Christine Chen
Aiden Claudio
Parthib Das
Avery Davis
Danica del Puerto-Vitti
Krystal Dembo
Ayanna Dennis
Sofia Marie Diaz
Evelina Diebboll
Denitre Dorsey-Walls

Jordan Dortch
Dante Dyer
William Echevarria
Bryan Espinoza
Chiara Fedorchak
Amadea Ferris
Amir Figueroa
Tayler Finley
Lucas Foret
Tori Foster
Willa Freedman
Anthony Fryar
Tamel Galimore-Rhodes
Cheyenne Gantt
Messiah Gardner
Aidon George
Justin Gerardes
AvaMaria Gianna
Javon Gilmore
Antonio Gonzalez IV
Graham Goodman
Shane Griffin
Fallon Groza
Noelle Haase
Janai Holloway
Mackenzie Harman
Omavetaqua Harvey-Semple
Derrick Heaton
Amaya Hernandez
Bailey Hernandez
Jayson Hibbert
Autumn Hoppe
Grace Hudson
Hunter Humeston
Lee Humphreys
Chloe Hylton
Cayden Irizarry
Sarah Jaafar
Cashmier Jackson
Jalen Jackson
Jeannae' Jean-Francois
Ernesto Jenkins
Londyn Jones
Mercer Jordan

Brady Juhn
Angel Jurado
Avneet Kaur
Kaden Kearns
Makayla King
Charlie Klein
Vincent Komer
Luke Kozlik
Alex Labodin
Rory LaDue
Joseph Lamothe
Reilly Landisi
Azari Lane
Rowan Lane
Amira Lawrence
Lani Lopez
Ela Lyons
Ethan Maignan
Ariana Maldonado
Sheza Malik
Josephine Mallon
Mark McCabe
Paige McCredo
Allen McKay
Jada Medley
Emma Merola
Ryann Meyer
Madison Mianti
Joshua Mickel
Addison Miller
Ajani Mitchell
Elijah Mitchell
Izaiah Mitchell
Julianna Montero
Darryl Montgomery Jr.
Ronan Moran
Zoe Moreno
Lance Morgan
Rory Mowen
Connor Murphy
Megan Nicholson
Sophia Osoba
Amelia Padilla
Jada Patterson

Sariah Paulin
Lindsay Pedersen
Brianna Perez-Sample
Mackenzie Phillips
Josue Pintado
Anjani Powell
Albion Qelaj
Alexander Quinci
Erika Ramos
Matthew Reeves
Michael Reeves
Codie Reinoehl
Shilo Reynolds
Nathan Richardson
Pedro Rivera III
Christine Robinson
Daveya Rodriguez
Santiago Romero
Bethany Rudolph
Breanna Rudolph
Katherine Ruffy
Fia Rumnit
Mehr Sagri
Gabriel Salcedo
Nixon Salinas Jr.
Karla Sanchez
Alana Santana
Alexi Santana
Anastasia Santise
Bianiris Santos Hernandez
Jenna Serino
Sabina Shafi
Kayli Shand
Kayleigh Sheehan
Chloe Sheffield
Jacob Signorelli
Kyla Smith
Makhi Smith
Ryan Smith
Serenity Smith
Jean Solano
Craig Solcz
Emma Soltish
Azryella Soto

Jayla Soto
Kristine Soto
Travis Spencer
Noa Spodek
Deja Stallings
Serena Stampleman
Natalia Sulsona
Mason Supple
Mika-Gisselle Tates
Rayana Taylor
Jessica Testa
Amya Thompson
Brody Timm
Sierra Tobar
Sophia Tonyes
Sortia Tripaldi
Valeria Tropeano
Jake Urban
Michael VanBuren
Sierra VanDemark
Morgan Varricchio
Daniel Vasquez
Cirsten Vaughan
Ryan Verdesi
Xavier Wade
Rayan Wandji Nzwessa
Stan Wandji Nzwessa
Devin Webb
Christopher Weise
Sevana West
Jazziah Whitted
Holly Whittemore
Leilani Wilkerson
Joseph Williams
Saniyah Wiltshire
Zachari Wood
Eric Yanqui
Charles Zellinger
Ava Zeoli
Francis Zezza

2020-21

COLLEGE DEANS' LISTS

The following students were named to deans' lists in the fall or spring semesters. Those marked with an * were named to both, although many spring lists have not yet been released.

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK Charlotte Dinitz, Garrison | Ronan Marrinan, Cold Spring | SUNY FREDONIA David DeCaro, Cold Spring* Ronan Wood Gallagher, Cold Spring | Evan Pohlchuk, Cold Spring* Maria Popik, Beacon* Aaron Reyes, Beacon Molly Robinson, Beacon* Isabel Robles, Beacon* Chelsea Rothstein, Beacon Justin Santana, Beacon Emma Schiffer, Beacon* William Speziale, Cold Spring* Harley Squires, Garrison Katherine Webster, Beacon* | UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY Ellery Harvey, Beacon Sarina Matalon, Garrison Daniel Moore, Beacon Savannah Mora, Beacon Tyler McLoughlin, Garrison Ellis Osterfeld, Cold Spring Riley Palermo, Garrison Juliana Plimley, Beacon Sophia Sburlati, Garrison Sara Shields, Beacon |
| BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY Shianne Twoguns, Cold Spring Kyle Zimmermann, Cold Spring | ITHACA COLLEGE Joshua Abrams, Garrison* Amanda Erickson, Garrison* | SUNY MORRISVILLE Aaliyah Browne, Beacon George Pinkhardt, Beacon Lamont Watson, Beacon* | SUNY ONEONTA Jennifer Andrews, Beacon Amber Butler, Beacon Samantha Yanqui, Beacon | UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Ethan Mensch, Beacon Melissa Rodino, Cold Spring Anna Tomasini, Garrison |
| BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE Austin Gilligan, Garrison Donovan Murray-Green, Garrison Victoria Singleton, Cold Spring | LE MOYNE COLLEGE (SYRACUSE) Annalise DiGiovanni, Beacon | SUNY NEW PALTZ Sarah Abdo, Beacon Christian Bach, Cold Spring* Laura Bach, Cold Spring Madeleine Barkman, Cold Spring* Colin Battersby, Beacon Fiona Brady, Cold Spring Esteban Carmona, Beacon* Caroline Casparian, Cold Spring Velianna Catalano, Garrison Eelaaf Choudry, Beacon* Melinda Cuello, Beacon Thyra Eysselinck, Beacon* Joshua Fleming, Beacon* Jessica Gdoviak, Cold Spring* McCray Gehret, Beacon Alexa Glusker, Beacon Dalia Kropf, Garrison* Alexander Kubik, Cold Spring Elina Lopez, Beacon* Justin Markey, Cold Spring Clarissa Molina, Beacon Amber Morrison, Beacon Christopher Moschetti, Beacon Rebecca Oberle, Beacon Rhiannon Parsaca, Beacon David Paschal, Beacon Michael Perricone, Cold Spring | SUNY POTSDAM Wesley Hall, Cold Spring* Grace Romer, Garrison* | UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Grace Tomann, Cold Spring* |
| CENTENARY UNIVERSITY (NEW JERSEY) Raina Hemberger, Garrison | ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Dan Sabrula, Beacon | | SUNY PURCHASE Selena Ayala, Cold Spring Victoria Banks, Beacon Amanda Fultz, Beacon Kaelin Martin, Garrison Leora Matalon, Garrison Dante Nastasi, Cold Spring Hali Traina, Cold Spring Samantha Tutas, Beacon | UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND Tanner Asaro II, Garrison |
| CLARKSON UNIVERSITY (POTSDAM) Autumn Lennon, Beacon | SIENA COLLEGE Nicole Carlucci, Garrison | | SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY (PENNSYLVANIA) Alexandra Angelopoulos, Garrison Madelyn Correllus, Beacon | UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA Brett Schwartz, Cold Spring |
| COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON Anna Rowe, Garrison | SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY Aidan Campbell, Cold Spring Felicia Marrero, Beacon Jessica O'Connell, Cold Spring | | | UNIVERSITY OF UTAH Miranda Musso, Cold Spring |
| COLGATE UNIVERSITY (HAMILTON) Nicholas DiBrita, Beacon Nicole Mitchell, Cold Spring | SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE (MASSACHUSETTS) Anthony Sinchi, Cold Spring* | | | UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT Bridget Goldberg, Cold Spring* Benjamin McPherson, Garrison* Risa Repetto, Garrison* |
| COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE (ALBANY) Samuel Giachinta, Cold Spring Che Intaganzwa, Beacon Jacob Scofield, Beacon* Elizabeth Urbanak, Beacon | SUNY BINGHAMTON Devin Heanue, Garrison | | | YORK COLLEGE (PENNSYLVANIA) Willa Fitzgerald, Cold Spring* |
| GETTYSBURG COLLEGE Roisin Daly, Cold Spring | SUNY CANTON Krystal DeLaRosa, Cold Spring | | | |
| HOLY CROSS (MASSACHUSETTS) Liam Marrinan, Cold Spring | SUNY DELHI Karli Wylde, Beacon Kelly O'Dell, Beacon Maria Theodore-Leiter, Cold Spring | | | |

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Roots and Shoots

Support the Pollinators

By Pamela Doan

It's International Pollinator Week, a time to honor the work of the bees, butterflies, moths, flies, bats and beetles who intentionally or accidentally carry grains of pollen from male to female plant parts.



Without this service, 85 percent of the world's flowering plants would be at the end of their line and our food supply would dwindle.

Pollinators unfortunately earned their week by losing their habitat, being killed off by insecticides and facing stunning population declines. The insect Armageddon that has been in the headlines for years refers to studies indicating that overall, insects are in trouble.

Gardeners can play a supporting role for pollinators by cultivating host plants used by species to lay eggs and feed on. Eliminating or limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides is also vital to long-term insect health.

I started nurturing milkweed in my landscape a decade ago. Like many others, I was introduced to the relationship between pollinators and their plant partners through the plight of monarch butterflies. Monarchs are beloved and hold a special attachment for humans to the butterfly world. Their population has fallen 80 percent since the 1990s at their wintering sites in Mexico and 99 percent at locations in California.

In the eastern U.S., there are six species



Butterfly weed fits into most garden aesthetics and is important for the survival of monarchs.

Photo by P. Doan

of milkweed that monarchs use to lay their eggs and for their larva to feed on. That's it! Only six types of plants out of all the plants in the world. When I grew up, milkweed grew in our field and on roadsides. It was such a memorable plant with the white sap oozing out of the leaves. Now milkweed sightings are so uncommon, I take note whenever I see it.

The availability of milkweed is directly related to the monarch population. While the reasons for its disappearance are many, including the use of herbicides in agriculture and land development, the focus on exotic, ornamental plants for landscaping has contributed, too.

Asclepias tuberosa, or butterfly weed, is one of my favorite landscape plants. The orange blooms are a pop of color and it fits in nicely with any landscape aesthetic. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is the ubiquitous roadside plant. It's a good fit for a wild-flower landscape. What you'll also discover,

if you cultivate it, is its wonderful fragrance. It is blooming now in my yard and the lovely scent will greet me outdoors for weeks.

For wetter areas, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*) will thrive with its bright pink blooms. The other species are harder to find in garden centers and include whorled milkweed, purple milkweed and poke milkweed. Research indicates that tropical milkweed (*Aclepias curassivica*), a plant that is not native to the U.S., can disrupt the monarch's life cycle and should be avoided.

Here are other pollinator and plant relationships to consider supporting in your landscape.

If you want to see:

- *The black swallowtail*
Plant golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*). These are easy to grow and will multiply fast if you let them go to seed. They

bloom early in the spring, making them an important nectar source, too.

- *The silvery checkerspot*
Plant blackeyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). This flower is common in nurseries and spreads out. To keep it contained, dead-head the flowers.
- *The viceroy*
Plant black willow (*Salix nigra*). This willow likes wetter conditions and can be an effective sponge in marshy spots.
- *The red admiral*
Plant false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*). This plant lacks the stinging hairs of other nettles and appreciates part-shade and wetter soils.
- *The eastern swallowtail*
Plant dill, fennel, parsley, rue or Queen Anne's lace. All of these herbs are easy to grow from seed. Just plant a few extras to offer the larva.
- *The painted lady*
Plant asters, ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*) and hollyhocks. Native asters bloom in the fall and also support pollinators as nectar sources after most plants are finished for the season.

There are many more relationships than I could share, but let this be a guide to getting started in landscaping with host plants.

Be aware that cultivars of a species might not have the same impact as the straight species. The Xerces Society, a nonprofit advocate for invertebrates, recommends avoiding cultivars. Research has shown that creating double blooms or changing the flower's color makes the plant unviable as a host or nectar source. In other cases, not enough research has been done to understand the implications.

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TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Something You Don't Know About Me

Travis Biro

By Alison Rooney

Years ago, when Travis Biro, who lives in Cold Spring, imagined the New York where he would be relocating from Florida as a culinary apprentice, he pictured taxicabs and skyscrapers.

When he instead arrived in New Paltz for three years of training at the Mohonk Mountain House, “it was pickup trucks and woods,” he recalls, with a smile.

His parents both worked in the restaurant industry, and Biro figured he’d do the same. Yet, since completing the Mohonk program, he has barely spent any time in a restaurant kitchen.

“I loved cooking as a hobby, but was more drawn to the business side, and the community that goes along with it,” he says. “It’s a tough lifestyle: the hours are grueling. I needed a more stable income and a way to contribute to my family while my wife finished her education.” (He met his wife, Sasha, at Mohonk, where she was working while pursuing a doctorate in philosophy.)

On top of everything else, there was a recession at the time, although Biro says he hardly noticed. “I was working up on the mountain with no car,” he says. “I was

out of the loop. It put my parents’ restaurant out of business in Melbourne.”

Biro took off his toque and shifted gears, becoming a car salesman.

“There are some interesting misconceptions that persevere, stemming from a lack of transparency years ago,” he says of the industry. “It’s a stigma that gets in most customers’ way. Even when you see a good deal, you’re suspicious. I always said to customers: ‘If you love this car, let’s go online and find the absolute cheapest way, and let’s get you into this car. Maybe you could scour the earth and save eight bucks a month, but if it’s right in front of you and you love it, let’s figure it out.’”

By 2016, Biro was ready for another change. “My wife was teaching at Marist so I was eligible for free tuition.” Rather than sell cars full-time and “take 10 years to get a bachelor’s degree,” he decided to work four nights a week as a server at the Red Line Diner in Fishkill — “I recommend the corned beef hash and fried eggs” — and attend Marist full-time.

At Marist, Biro pursued a business degree with a focus on entrepreneurship. “In the 1950s, my dad raised tropical fish for fish tanks,” he says. “His most recent project is manufacturing fish food based on his fish farm recipes. It’s one of the oldest



Travis Biro

fish farms in the country, with a big field of concrete bathtubs.

“When I wonder why I’ve bounced around so much, I realize my parents set a good example,” Biro says. “About 15 years ago, they spiraled off their farm recipe, which is like a special sauce for fish, to sell to people to feed their fish at home. It’s been a lot of things like that!”

During his time at Marist, Biro studied abroad for a semester in Florence. “I was the only undergraduate at Lorenzo di Medici with a 3-year-old,” he recalls. “The challenge was that Maggie spoke no Italian, so things like her saying, ‘I have to go potty’ had to be worked out.”

Maggie, 7, now has a sister, Lila, 3. And dad has a new occupation.

“Marist was the missing piece that put the portfolio together,” he says. “I knew I wanted to work at IBM. My wife loves teaching at Marist, we love the Hudson Valley, I’ve gotten involved in the town by doing things like becoming the director of youth sports at the Rec. I work as an election coordinator.

We wanted to be here.”

At IBM, he works to modernize the mainframe, “connect it to other technologies outside the system. I’m a product manager, which means I’m a bit of an entrepreneur who works with customers.”

He joined IBM in January 2020, spent two months in Texas being trained, flew back during the second week in March, went to the Poughkeepsie office to get his key and then immediately went remote amid the pandemic. During an early Zoom meeting, he predicted everyone would be back at work by June 15. “I was right, but off by a year,” he says.

Biro hasn’t been able to resist taking on a side gig.

“I’m the captain of our IBM chess team, which plays in an IBM corporate chess tournament,” he says. “IBM has a chess legacy from the 1980s when Deep Blue beat [world champion Garry] Kasparov. I told the team I would handle the paperwork while they won the games, because if you’re not the best cook, get out of the kitchen.”

“In the 1950s, my dad raised tropical fish for fish tanks. His most recent project is manufacturing fish food based on his fish farm recipes. It’s one of the oldest fish farms in the country, with a big field of concrete bathtubs.



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~ The Volunteers of the Philipstown Food Pantry

Matcha Thomas *(from Page 1)*

in instructional cooking videos aimed at children, and who helped her develop the vegan recipes for Matcha Thomas' brownies, cookies and other sweets.

But for the first years of their lives, eating healthy was not part of the equation. While they credit their immigrant Jamaican parents for instilling in them a love of creative food, when they were growing up the family philosophy was, as Haile puts it: "This tastes good, so we're going to eat it."

Then, when Haile was 8 and Nia was 4, their father Hugh was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. The possible side effects from the medicine Hugh was prescribed, including internal bleeding and diarrhea, sounded like they would be worse than the disease.

After their mother, Charmaine, read that Type 2 diabetes could be treated through dietary changes, the four of them made a commitment to rework the family's diet. The sisters played a big role, helping to remix and change the recipes the family had been cooking with, while incorporating more plants and reducing red meat. Within a year, the family had reversed Hugh's diabetes without ever having to use medication.

"It was so eye-opening to see the power of food," said Haile.

The sisters knew theirs wasn't the only family dealing with health issues that could be addressed by a change in diet. They started a YouTube cooking channel aimed at teaching children and young adults to cook and founded a nonprofit, The HAPPY Organization (Healthy, Active, Positive, Purposeful Youth), which runs plant-based cooking and nutrition summer camps. Along the way, the family converted to veganism.

“What we want to do is offer this: Respecting the ingredient and its origins but also sharing the joy we've had with it.”

~ Haile Thomas

"That was the natural progression," said Haile. "I started to learn that so much food is interconnected with so many different elements of our world, of course environmentally, but also ethically."

The family discovered *matcha*, a Japanese green tea powder that's high in antioxidants, a few years ago. Haile writes in her cookbook that she had become so obsessed that she started an Instagram account at @matchathomas, although there were no plans at the time to open a teahouse.

However, she was frustrated with the quality of the matcha being served at coffee chains. "Oftentimes it's bitter or the color



The strawberry and mango bobs from Matcha Thomas

Photo provided

is super yellow-green," she said. "Matcha is this super-vibrant bright green. It's got such a mellow, delicious, umami flavor."

Last year, when the Thomases, who live in Chester, were picking up food from Isamu in Beacon and noticed a for-rent sign across the street, they decided it was time to share what they've learned about matcha.

The sisters felt they were walking a fine line featuring an ingredient that comes from a culture other than theirs. "Nothing can compare to a traditional Japanese tea ceremony," said Haile. "But what we want to do is offer this: Respecting the ingredient and its origins but also sharing the joy we've had with it."

Everything the Thomas family has done since their father's diagnosis 12 years ago has been about challenging the stereotype of the vegan as an affluent white person and making a healthy lifestyle accessible to all, Haile said.

"There are systemic barriers to eating fresh fruits and vegetables and having that readily available," she said. "At the same time, it's not impossible. A lot of Indigenous cultures around the world have always embraced plant-based living."

One wall at the Main Street shop has "Matcha for the People" painted on it. With a nod to Lagusta's Commissary in New Paltz, patrons at Matcha Thomas can purchase a drink or a sweet for someone they don't know and post it on the wall with a message such as "A boba tea for a student struggling with finals," or "A matcha latte for a single parent."

"We were thinking, 'How can humans see each other and remind each other that they are worthy, loved, or accepted or even just acknowledged?'" said Haile. "It's such a simple way to put a few dollars toward someone having a better day."

The teahouse has been busy since the day it opened, but Charmaine believes the best sign of its success can be found on the street. "People come in and say, 'I want that drink I see everyone on Main Street with,'" she said.

Matcha Thomas, at 259 Main St. in Beacon, is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See matchathomas.com or call 845-467-5677.

Start Reading

July book club selections

History Book Club
THURS 22, 7 P.M.
The Unwomanly Face of War, by Svetlana Alexievich
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Reading with Writers
WED 28, 7 P.M.
The Art of Memoir, by Mary Karr
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Beacon Book Club
THURS 29, 7 P.M.
So Big, by Edna Ferber
Register at
meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

Puppets *(from Page 15)*

“It was meant to be,” Izen says.

Izen, a branding professional who describes himself as a “soft-sculpture artist and creator of haute couture creatures living in fairy tale worlds,” populated the bookshelves in the children’s room with puppets such as the Duchess of Raconia, Squeakertins and Miss Fiona LeFoxxé, all dressed to the nines, for *Ball of Beasts: A Fantastical Fest*. On the occasions that Izen has stopped by, he says parents seem to be as taken with the sculptures as the kids.

To develop his puppets, Izen says he starts by creating a list of animals “that, for me, feel storybook-like.” He builds with fabric, initially, rather than foam, which he admits is challenging because it doesn’t hold its shape as well. Then he adds costumes and accessories to give each puppet personality.

Throughout the process, he says that “the animal guides me, telling me to go for a more graphic shape, or simplify. It’s a conversation I’m having with them. Some challenge me until I have a ‘That’s who you are!’ moment.”

Izen grew up in Texas. “I have two older sisters and when I was 4 or 5, one of them had to create a diorama of *James and the Giant Peach* for school,” he recalls. “I threw a fit and wanted to make my own. In my spare time I used to make Sculpey clay creations, which got more and more elabo-



HRH Queen Liz



El Oso

“The animal guides me, telling me to go for a more graphic shape, or simplify. It’s a conversation I’m having with them. Some challenge me until I have a ‘That’s who you are!’ moment. ~ Adam Izen

rate. I still laugh at how I want to have kids so that I can do those elaborate, unnecessary school projects.”

By middle school, Izen had taught himself to construct puppets and to sew. In high school, he launched a business to make

them for puppeteers around the world, all the while pursuing musical theater. But he decided, at Emerson College, that he was more interested in “developing and executing ideas,” particularly in costume design, noting he was fascinated by what people wore and why they were wearing it.

After graduating, and spending six months teaching English in Prague, Izen moved to New York City but found he wasn’t interested in “being a starving performer; I was a little lost.” He landed a job working for a menswear trade show, which he helped rebrand. “I found that having daily tasks and regular paychecks satisfied the Capricorn side of me,” he recalls. “I fell into it, and it became this niche which developed whether I liked it or not.” More recently, Izen became a brand director for a fine arts and furniture design gallery.

He and Bush have, over the past couple of months, finally made connections in their new home, Izen says. “It’s kind of impossible to go anywhere here and *not* connect,” he says. “Having this opportunity at the library, plus other involvements I’ve had with some freelance floral design, and at the Makers’ Market — people want to talk with you. I’ve been happy to see how easy it is, masks off.”

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon. Ball of Beasts can be seen daily through Sept. 3; visit beacon-library.org for library hours. For more of Izen’s work, see adamizen.com.

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Two Beacon Principals to Leave

District hopes to name replacements next month

The principals of Beacon High School and South Avenue Elementary in Beacon each announced this week that they plan to leave for other jobs.

Elisa Soto, who has been the principal of the high school since 2018, was appointed an assistant superintendent in the Newburgh district, while Laura Cahill, who has been the South Avenue principal for five years, will become an elementary school principal in the Hyde Park district.

Superintendent Matt Landahl said the Beacon district plans to fill the vacancies over the summer. Stakeholder committees culled from parent-teacher organizations and employee groups will conduct interviews after school officials review applications. Landahl said he hopes the district can begin interviews in mid-July, with appointments possibly by the end of the month.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



FACE TO FACE — The Beacon City Council met in person Monday (June 21) for the first time since March 2020. The city asked unvaccinated audience members to wear masks. The 35-minute meeting was also broadcast via Zoom and YouTube. Photo by Jeff Simms

River Patrols *(from Page 8)*

that the Sheriff's Department had scraped together enough reserve funds to continue the river patrols.

Nacerino said on June 17 that the Sheriff's Department served "as a support services agency, not a primary agency" on

the river and that "the decision to cease patrols in no way jeopardizes the safety and welfare of those out on the waterway."

She added that "our intent was distinctly conveyed to the Sheriff's Department. We had hoped they would have acted in good faith. The Legislature was blatantly defied."

Before his call to shut down the meeting, Sullivan disparaged the Sheriff's Department actions as "unprofessional." He said agencies involved on the river include one "right in the Village of Cold Spring," which he only learned of recently: "We were never told the Cold Spring Fire Co. has a marine unit and boat in the Hudson for safety activities," he said. "All we kept hearing was how we're defunding the police and leaving people without service." He noted that the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. also has a boat.

"They respond faster, and have more people readily available to do that, than the Sheriff's Department," Sullivan said. "The Sheriff's Department is not, and never was, a 24/7 operation. The river has a tremendous amount of security on it, and personnel, with towns, counties and fire departments readily available."

Langley lauded the two volunteer fire departments but said "the Sheriff's Department is the primary agency for law enforcement on the waters on the Hudson within the borders of Putnam County. The volunteer fire departments have no police authority and cannot conduct police investigations into boating accidents, drownings, criminal activity or [similar] incidents."

Tompkins on June 17 accused Nacerino and Sullivan of "spewing things out that you're calling facts. And you're the ones who are actually being unprofessional."

Nacerino replied, "I take offense. We feel very confident and secure in our decision and do not feel in any shape or form that

the health, safety and welfare of any residents is being jeopardized." She likewise rejected the term "defunding the police. It's reallocating resources," she said.

Like Tompkins, Montgomery observed that Philipstown's fire departments consist of volunteers. "We can't guarantee that we're going to have the manpower to respond to calls on the Hudson with volunteers from Garrison and Cold Spring," she advised the committee. The memo she sent to Odell that day also said that "when the Cold Spring and Garrison fire boats are dispatched on the Hudson River, the sheriff's Marine Unit is also dispatched as part of the Putnam County Mutual Aid Protocol."

Montgomery argued that Putnam should have obtained written agreements with other counties and governments on river patrols before ending the Sheriff's Department role. "You say that you know it's all covered," she told Nacerino. "Show me the facts, the details. Have we asked" other agencies about filling in?

"Yes," Nacerino responded. "They're there."

In a May 19 letter to Odell, Fallon, from state parks, said deployment of the two state boats is "one of the primary methods" New York uses to "provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for boaters. To that end, it is unfortunate that these boats would not be needed" in Putnam any longer.

Before his office reassigns the boats, "I ask the county to reconsider," he wrote.

Odell replied that he should come and get the boats.

Dan Keefe, a state parks spokesperson, said Wednesday that "vessels are periodically reassigned as local governments decide to expand or reduce law enforcement coverage" and that the state remains available to assist Putnam "with patrols in the future."

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Puzzles

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1. "Sad to say ..."

5. Armed conflict

8. Folksinger Joan

12. Jet speed measure

13. Greek mountain

14. Big name in scat

15. Docking site

16. Leftovers carrier

18. Screenwriter's creations

20. Reddish horses

21. "I'm not impressed"

22. Martini liquor

23. Skilled

26. Flood protection

30. Gun the engine

31. Witty one

32. "As I see it," to a texter

33. Sleazy hotel

36. Be nosy

38. Train lines (Abbr.)

39. Aunt, in Acapulco

40. Part of Hispaniola

43. Iced desserts

47. Cinched

49. October birthstone

50. Words to a back-stabber

51. In the style of

52. Alpha follower

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53. Couturier Christian

54. "Of course"

55. Appear

DOWN

1. Band boosters

2. Secular

3. Computer brand

4. Tempura choice

5. Shoebox datum

6. Big fusses

7. Cleaning cloth

8. Past

9. Jessica of *Dark Angel*

10. Flair

11. Turns sharply

17. Beam

19. Favorite

22. Joke

23. Canine cry

24. N.J. neighbor

25. First lady?

26. Droop

27. Life story

28. I love (Lat.)

29. Republicans

31. Existed

34. Camelot king

35. French cheese

36. — Lancelot

37. Bigwigs

39. Roman robes

40. Wasted no time

41. Con

42. "Suffice — say ..."

43. Shopper's delight

44. Fencing sword

45. London gallery

46. Bridge coup

48. Inlet

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 second-place metal (6)

2 tears up (5)

3 degeneration (7)

4 rubbed the wrong way (9)

5 pens (8)

6 schoolyard, perhaps (10)

7 best-selling UK author Lisa (6)

SOLUTIONS

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SI | COM | ATR | ER | HY |
| EPS | QU | ELL | POS | LE |
| ES | ANG | ITA | OP | WE |
| IRR | JEW | LV | ADR | TED |

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for June 18 Puzzles

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

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

1. REPORTER, 2. BANKSY, 3. BOIL, 4. GENEROSITY, 5. FLEECE, 6. VIADUCT, 7. UNDERWOOD

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



The Philipstown Little League Orange Crush softball team just finished a spring of learning about the game.



The Giants held off a late charge on June 19 by the Mets to win the Philipstown Little League minor league title.

Philipstown Little League Returns to Fields

Organization revived softball program for girls

By Skip Pearlman

The Philipstown Little League softball program made a return this spring after an absence of 10 years and board member and softball coach Megan Cotter said the program was a smashing success.

"We had 75 girls, more than ever," she said. "The response we've gotten has been pure joy. After the year we've been through, to see the girls come out in numbers and

support the program, having the games and seeing community members come together, has been something special for both people who are new to the area and people who have lived here."

The program included six teams, with one for kindergarten and first grade (junior minors); two for ages 7 to 9 in which the coaches pitch (the Red Ravens and Hudson Hawks); an instructional league team for ages 10 to 12, coached by Carmen Pagen; and a fast-pitch team for girls in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

The fast-pitch minors team went 13-2,

and the two coach-pitch teams each won at least 10 of their 15 games.

Philipstown Little League also fielded 11 baseball teams during the spring, with players ranging in age from 5 to 12 years.

The league held its closing celebration at Perkins Field on Saturday (June 19), capped off with a minor league championship game in which the Giants held off a late charge to defeat the Mets, 8-7.

"It was a fantastic season for our teams," said the league's president, Paul Tomizawa, who is also a coach. "We had a lot of young players and a lot of inexperienced coaches,

and we learned a lot together, and can grow the game together. We want the kids to be successful and love learning the game. A lot of these coaches and parents played here as kids, so they really love it."

Philipstown has two teams involved in the Williamsport Little League Tournament: an All-Star team of players ages 10 and younger and another made up of players ages 12 and younger. The 12U team was scheduled to play Thursday (June 24) at the North Highlands Fire Co. field in Philipstown and will continue tournament play next week.



Coach Megan Cotter works with the "coach-pitch" softball teams during the spring season.



The Hudson Hawks softball team

Photos provided