The HIGHLANDS CULTURE TO THE HIGHLANDS CONTROL TO THE HIGHLANDS



A Visit to Dragon Rock

Page 11

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Masks Stay On in School – For Now

Educators say it's time for 'off-ramp' plan

By Jeff Simms

ask confusion reigned again this week when a state judge on Monday (Jan. 24) struck down Gov. Kathy Hochul's mask-or-vaccine mandate in public places as unconstitutional.

Instituted on Dec. 13, the order required people to either wear a mask or provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 before entering public buildings and came after Hochul declared a state of emergency as the highly contagious Omicron variant began surging. She said the order would be re-evaluated on Jan. 15 but extended that to Feb. 1 as cases continued to multiply.

However, less than 24 hours after the Monday ruling, an appellate judge issued a stay, keeping the masked-or-vaccinated order in place at least until a hearing scheduled for today (Jan. 28).

The impact of the whiplash back-and-forth may have been negligible on local businesses because both Dutchess and Putnam County officials announced last month they would not enforce Hochul's mask order. But for public school students, teachers and staff, who have worn masks since returning to in-person classes in September 2020, the flurry of activity underscored the need for consistent guidance and a plan for the end of mandatory masks.

"If there's anything that's become apparent in the last 24 hours, it's that an 'off-ramp' is desperately needed," Matt Landahl, the superintendent of the Beacon City School District, said on Wednesday. "Like most people, I would like to see it based on some sort of metrics," although he acknowledged that "the data looks different based on the variant."

On Monday, Justice Thomas Rademaker, a state judge on Long Island, wrote that his decision wasn't meant "to question or opine on the efficacy" of masks as a preventive measure. But he said the fact that the governor had used the Health Department to enact the mask mandate made it unlawful without approval from the Legislature. He noted that the governor's office since March has not had the ability to issue executive orders by citing a state emergency.

(Continued on Page 7)



Nick DeMarco, Brendan Davis and Dave Lumia play the game they created. Photos provided

Game Changers

Entrepreneurs improve on 'quarters'

By Alison Rooney

ike the proverbial mousetrap, three friends — an elementary art teacher, a graphic designer and a school psychologist at Beacon High School — are attempting to improve on a simple but popular concept: the game of quarters.

Brendan Davis, Dave Lumia and Nick DeMarco, all natives of



The Change game challenges users to "master the bounce."

Wappingers Falls, have been friends since childhood. They are also now partners in We Play Change, a firm in Fishkill that has just released its first product, a table game called Change.

The hinged, wooden "convertible quarter game" can be configured in any variety of ways and weighs about a pound. The goal is to bounce the most quarters into its holes. It includes suggestions for 12 variations.

DeMarco, the school psychologist, says the three friends have played a lot of games together over

(Continued on Page 16)

Putnam Proposes \$400,000 for Golf Course

Money would come from federal COVID relief

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislative committee this week unanimously voted to use \$400,000 in federal COVID-19 relief for asbestos removal and repairs at the Putnam County Golf Course, clearing the way for approval by the full Legislature, which meets Tuesday (Feb. 1).

Convening by audio connection on Monday (Jan. 24), the three-man Audit Committee acted despite a protest from Legislator Nancy Montgomery and questions posed by Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley in a letter that the committee declined to consider.

Committee members and county officials said federal rules allow use of American Rescue Plan Act pandemic relief funds for the work, which must proceed immediately, before the golf season begins in the spring.

Putnam is expecting to receive \$19 million in ARPA assistance. It received the first \$9.5 million payment last summer.

Montgomery questioned spending federal aid for projects at a golf course

 $(Continued\ on\ Page\ 8)$

Reporter's Notebook

Are Evictions Coming?

Uncertainty returns as moratorium expires

By Leonard Sparks

erman McKinney stood before Beacon City Court Judge Rebecca Mensch on Jan. 18, his attorney by his side.

It was McKinney's fifth appearance before Mensch since Oct. 26,

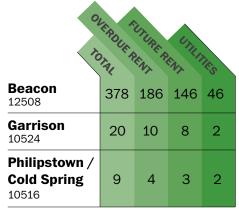
when the Beacon landlord first asked the judge to evict one of his tenants. But this appearance was the first since a state eviction moratorium had expired on Jan. 15.

McKinney said he rented a one-bedroom apartment, in a building he owns on South Avenue, for \$900 a month. The lease began on June 1, 2020. The tenant paid the first month, he said, but nothing afterward, and owes him about \$14,000.

McKinney's attorney told the judge that the tenant had applied for the state's federally funded Emergency Rental Assistance Program, been denied, and reapplied, although the program has distributed its allotted funding. While a tenant's application is pending, eviction proceedings are put on hold.

The state stopped taking applications in November, but was forced to resume on Jan. 11 following a lawsuit by the Legal Aid Society. "I can't rent it; I can't do anything," McKin-

Rent Relief Applications



Source: New York State

ney said as we talked inside the courtroom after the judge adjourned the hearing. His

(Continued on Page 8)



FIVE QUESTIONS: ROB LUNSKI

By Michael Turton

n 2017, Enrique "Rob" Lunski founded ABClatino, an online, bilingual magazine at abclatino.com that has grown into a multimedia platform. It is based in Poughkeepsie.

How did someone with the surname Lunski end up creating ABClatino?

My parents were Polish but migrated to Argentina, where I was born. Later, we moved to the U.S. - a true mix of cultures crafted who I am. In Argentina, I studied journalism and published a youth magazine called Grito, or Shout. In the U.S., I studied economics and the management of nonprofit organizations. I make use of both backgrounds; ABClatino is a nonprofit. I've lived in the Hudson Valley most of my life. I'm Argentinian by birth and American by choice.

What prompted you to launch the magazine?

It was born after the third Hudson Valley Latino Forum was held at Dutchess Community College; more than 300 community leaders from across the state participated. The forum uncovered the need for an organization, a hub, to bring together the growing number of Latino



voices across the region and state. We've held four Latino forums: the pandemic interrupted what was to be a biannual event. The magazine has grown to include radio, a TV show and a podcast.

Who is your audience?

We have 6,000 followers in the Hudson Valley; according to Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, the only widespread population that has positive growth in the region is the Hispanic community. We also have international followers, mostly in Latin America

or Latino communities in Europe. Readers use the magazine as a tool to learn English or Spanish and several schools use it as part of their tool kit. Many non-Hispanic people read it to learn about Spanish culture and traditions. In a sense, we see ABClatino as a bridge to bring communities together.

What do you cover?

News, education, wellness, Latin America, immigration, community. Our weekly TV programs are Mesa de Barrio, or Neighborhood Table, a mix of ideas, commentaries and analysis of events affecting Latinos. and Hablemos de Salud, or Let's Talk *Health*. We also produce health newsletters. Before COVID-19, we had a TV series, Conversaciones Con Nuestros Funcionarios Electos, or Conversations with Our Elected Officials. We cover Dutchess. Ulster, Orange and parts of Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan counties.

Why expand to so many platforms?

We try to reach a broad audience and people tend to get their information in many ways: print, digital, audio, video, radio, TV, YouTube, social media, podcasts. The magazine started as the hub, but after five years, each platform now has its own unique content.



What eating habit drives you crazy?

When someone isn't finished chewing but keeps talking



Sarah Bowden, Beacon

When people wrap pasta around their fork

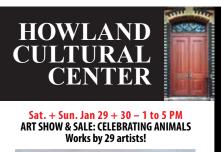


Matt Gaydar, Cold Spring

When people bite their silverware



Will D, Cold Spring



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Beacon Schools Expect More Aid

Could receive additional \$650K from state

By Jeff Simms

Based on preliminary numbers, the Beacon school district is slated for an increase in state aid for its 2022-23 budget, officials said on Monday (Jan. 24).

The district could receive as much as \$650,000 more than last year's \$30.7 million allocation, Deputy Superinten-

dent Ann Marie Quartironi told the school board. Most of the increase is expected to be unrestricted, rather than aid that repays the district for transportation, equipment and other specific expenses, she said. (The unrestricted allocation in 2020-21 was about \$600,000 higher than in 2019-20.)

Quartironi noted that the district's "taxbase growth factor," which accounts for the addition of new households, is the secondhighest in Dutchess County. That would allow the board to raise the tax levy by an estimated \$1.5 million and still remain under a state mandated tax cap on annual spending increases, she said.

Superintendent Matt Landahl said that while the 2021-22 budget was drafted in an effort to maintain programs and staff during the pandemic, the projected numbers for 2022-23 show that the district should be able to grow and work toward goals established by the school board.

The district also plans to create a capital reserve fund in the 2022-23 budget, which will need to be approved by voters on May 17.

Landahl said that voters should not expect to be presented with any sizeable

capital projects for five years following the approval in October of \$26 million in spending for improvements at all six district schools. Creating a reserve fund would allow the district to address smaller maintenance projects without borrowing money during the interim, he said.

Voters will be asked to approve the creation of the fund and an initial deposit, likely around \$2 million, much of which will come from federal American Rescue Plan money, Quartironi said. The plan would be to build the reserves to as much as \$10 million. The district would need voter approval to spend any of the money.

Nelsonville Has Two More Candidates

Residents announce for mayor, trustee seats

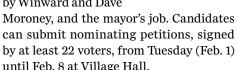
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

he race for Nelsonville's Village Board picked up this week when Rudolf van Dommele announced his candidacy for mayor and Tom Campanile launched a campaign for trustee.

Earlier this month, Chris Winward, currently a trustee, declared her candi-

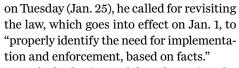
dacy for mayor, hoping to succeed Mike Bowman, who chose not to run for a second term.

At stake in the election, scheduled for March 15, are two trustee positions held by Winward and Dave



Van Dommele

Van Dommele, who operates two Airbnb units on his property and ran unsuccessfully in 2018 for a trustee seat, has been an outspoken opponent of a newly enacted law regulating short-term rentals. In a statement



He faulted Winward for advocating the law, which, he asserted, is based on "unwarranted fear and hysteria" and said that, if elected, "my primary goal will be to restore trust in our village's government, with a promise of transparency and accountability."

His other positions include establishing committees to oversee ethics questions and study the public use of a 4-acre, villageowned parcel along Secor Street.

Van Dommele claimed that a 2020 decision to include the Secor parcel in the Nelsonville Woods conservation easement overseen by the Open Space Institute made it "inaccessible to the public." As an alterna-

tive, he suggested an athletic field.

He also proposed that Nelsonville, the Cold Spring Fire Co., and American Legion confer over broader use of the surrounding site, which he termed "an ideal location for a new firehouse and public services campus."

Campanile kicked off his candidacy on Tuesday with a statement citing his record of involvement in the community and region, including leading Philipstown's Boy Scout Troop 437 and serving on the Greater Hudson Valley Scout Council's executive board, the board of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, a Haldane school committee and the Nelsonville Trails Committee.

He praised the Village Board for preserving Nelsonville's "unique and special" small-town character while navigat-(Continued on Page 8)

Cold Spring Asked to Endorse NY Health Act

Advocate says it would save village \$280,000 annually

By Michael Turton

Teff Mikkelson feels 30 years is enough. The New York Health Act, which proposes a retooling of how health care is provided in the state, was introduced in the state Legislature in 1992 but has never garnered the support needed for passage.

But the Cold Spring resident, addressing the Village Board during its meeting on Wednesday (Jan. 26), said the bill "has picked up a lot of steam."

"Last year it was introduced with majority support for the first time in both the Assembly and the Senate," he said. While it didn't come up for a vote in 2021, "we have an excellent chance of passing it this year."

Mikkelson, who is a co-founder of Hudson Valley Demands New York Health, wants the village to pass a resolution in support of the bill, an action he said has been taken by 22 municipalities, including Philipstown.

Before commenting on the bill, Mikkelson pointed to a 2018 study that showed half of New York residents have skipped or delayed medical treatment because of the cost. Another study that appeared in 2020 in *The Lancet* estimated a single-payer health care

system would save 68,000 lives annually in the U.S. and a third study, from 2019, found that 67 percent of bankruptcies were tied to high medical bills or time lost from work.

"These things are unheard of in the rest of the industrialized world," Mikkelson said.

If enacted, the bill would finance health care through a combination of federal funds that the state receives for programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, along with a progressively graduated tax on income from wages and investments.

"The first \$25,000 of income would be exempt from the tax, and for seniors the first \$50,000 is exempt," Mikkelson said. Other tax brackets would be steeply progressive, with the highest earners paying the most.

Mikkelson estimated the savings for local government would be \$280,000 for Cold Spring, \$800,000 for Philipstown, \$1.6 million for the Haldane school district and \$21 million for Putnam County.

"Every time a municipality passes a resolution like the one I'm asking you to consider, it makes that outcome more likely," he said.

Trustee Joe Curto said he agreed with the premise of the bill "1,000 percent," describing the health care system as "a mess." But, he added: "I'm not sure, at this point, that is the solution. It's pretty complicated, a complete revamping of the state economy and tax code."

The three members of the board (Mayor Kathleen Foley and Trustee Cathryn Fadde were absent) declined to immediately take up the resolution.

"It's a lot to take in," said Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods. "We will digest the information you've given us, talk about it, and figure out what the next steps will be."

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Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@ highlandscurrent.org or mailed to *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. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Short-term rentals

After reading about the Nelsonville Village Board decision to restrict certain types of short-term rentals, I wonder why there aren't any complaints about STRs mentioned ("Nelsonville Limits Short-Term Rentals," Jan. 21). I visited the Village of Nelsonville website and don't see any specific complaints there, either.

I have many friends who were suffering financial hardships during the Great Recession and were able to use Airbnb to monetize their homes and survive.

Others were able to monetize their cars driving for Uber and Lyft. These types of companies have helped to revolutionize many people's lifestyles, where one can quit their 40-plus hour, five days a week job and create income from things they already own. (I own a prop rental company and practice what I am preaching.)

Obviously there needs to be a check on making sure that neighbors are not affected by unruly guests. Maybe the regulations should have been created to target owners with multiple, legitimate complaints submitted by neighbors.

As far as choosing what can be considered a rental property, why should the Village Board be regulating a camper or

trailer on private property when both owner and tenant have an agreement? That seems like an overreach into private property rights, and that the board might be providing a solution looking for a problem. The fact that the mayor voted against this legislation is telling.

Stephen Wallis, Garrison

Mandates

Christopher Harrigan's Jan. 21 comment questioned my call in an earlier letter for a "unified, bipartisan voice to win what should be a winnable battle" against COVID-19. He correctly points out that "deaths and hospitalizations are way down." Clearly, we are making progress, but the numbers in Putnam County and New York state are much higher than in mid-December. It is premature to declare victory.

I sympathize because so many of us are so tired of this COVID slog. But we must work together by using the tools we have to defeat (not eliminate) this scourge. These measures are not just matters of personal choice but community responsibility. As Lily Essely pointed out in her comment, personal decisions not to utilize preventive measures present a real threat of spreading disease to others.

I agree that "zero cases of COVID is not going to happen." But I am optimistic that we will be able to bring this pandemic to a milder, more manageable form, such as the seasonal flu.

Mr. Harrigan asked: "Can we move on with our lives now?" The answer is: "Not now, but soon." Now is not the time to become complacent as that will allow the virus to continue replicating with variants.

Alan Brownstein, $Cold\ Spring$

The people who complain about their "rights" being violated and oppose vaccine mandates contradict every parent with school-age kids. Did your children get vaccinated at birth? Did you provide a vaccination record to the school district when they first enrolled? Did you have chickenpox but your child had the mandated chickenpox vaccine?

It's a shame communities have to discuss this. It makes you look differently at your neighbor.

Donna Adams, via Facebook

I don't think the mask mandate goes far enough. Looking at the data, cloth masks are barely better than not wearing a mask at all. Many countries require KN95 type masks and they are widely available. I wear a KN95 mask all the time.

 ${\it Michelle\ McCoy}, via\ Facebook$

It's a much better use of resources to have more testing and vaccination sites than to have people driving all over Putnam County checking stores to see if they can catch someone not wearing a mask. Let the state do it if it wants.

Patricia Burruano, $via\ Facebook$

On the Spot

When I was 4, a German shepherd bit my upper lip clean through when I tried to pet it ("On the Spot: Any bad encounters with animals?" Jan. 14). Fifteen stitches. The same thing happened when I was 11. Fifteen stitches again — on the other side of the lip! That time, it was a border collie. Needless to say, I grew a mustache as soon as I was able to.

Jon Lindquist, $via\ Facebook$

Putnam politics

Whether we stand on the left or the right politically we can agree that we want to know that our government is fiscally responsible and gets good value for the hard-earned dollars that we pay in taxes ("Putnam Legislature Picks Sullivan as Leader," Jan. 7). However, our Putnam County government has demonstrated fiscal irresponsibility. They recently voted themselves raises

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

while increasing our county income taxes and at the same time cutting mobile medical services and not adequately funding our Health Department.

As voters and taxpayers we should demand full transparency from our elected leaders. The practice of going into closed executive sessions must end and the proposed county budget should be available for all to see and comment on at least a month before it is voted on.

Steven Altarescu, Garrison

Leonora

Add me to the list of thousands who are already despondent over Leonora Burton's pending departure ("Leonora is Leaving," Jan 21)

I met Leonora eight years ago when I moved to Cold Spring. A friend told me she sold the best coffee around at The Country Goose. Upon entering her bewildering yet comforting shop, we bonded immediately and have been happily harassing each other ever since. She also agreed to feature some of my pottery in her shop — I was doing pottery at the Garrison Art Center — and has since sold more than 100 of my pieces. I am forever grateful to her for that opportunity.

We all wish her well, but I doubt that any of us want to see her go. She is a Cold Spring institution and a fixture of our community who will be sorely missed.

Larry Lebow, $Cold\ Spring$

We all want our Leonora to live happily in Great Britain with her grandkids and dogs and being cheeky with her sisters. Still, her move breaks our hearts! We hope someone worthy of The Country Goose steps into the shop. Leonora, however, is irreplaceable.

Jonathan Kruk, Cold Spring

There may need to be a parade ... Kelly House, *via Facebook*

I hope that splendid fellow, Ddraig Goch (the stuffed one perched atop a display rack) will be going home to its — as well as Leonora's — ancestral stomping grounds. T'wouldn't be right to leave him behind!

Anne Spoonhour, via Facebook

Leonora is probably the most beloved member of our community.

Shelley Gilbert, via Facebook

Thank you, Leonora, for being the heart of Cold Spring. The best days were walking down after school to get some treats. Thank you for providing those same memories for my children.

 ${\it Megan \ Cotter}, via \ Facebook$

What a run! Enjoy your time with your family.

Kendra Parker, $via\ Facebook$

Leonora, we will miss you so much, all of us! You've been our go-to for coffee, tea, digestive cookies, candy and so many trea-

Corrections

- A story in the Jan. 21 issue identified Dan Aymar-Blair as the Ward 3 council member in Beacon. In fact, he represents Ward 4.
- An advertisement that appeared in *The Current* in the Jan. 21 issue, "A Shakespeare Festival That is Right for Garrison," was signed "HVSF Locals." To clarify, HVSF Locals has no connection to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

sures, plus we always learn a little something fun or funny or important chatting with you.

Lara Eldin, $via\ Facebook$

Missing man

The article doesn't say why Aung Phone San thought he'd have to return to Myanmar ("Little Hope for Missing Crew Member," Jan. 21). It seems he had good reason to fear going back, but why did he feel it was so imminent and unavoidable that he would take such desperate measures?

Val LaRobardier, via Facebook

My son, your parents are wishing you good health and long life. [Translated from Burmese.]

Ko Sann Saw Lwin, $via\ Facebook$

Aung Phone San is my nephew. We look forward to his return. We are all grieving. Thank you to all who help.

U Naung Naung, $via\ Facebook$

COVID losses

One can become numb from the daily statistics of illness and death, but it's personal stories like this that bring understanding of the heartbreaking cost of this virus ("Devastated by COVID," Jan. 21).

Steve Laifer, via Facebook

I can only imagine how sad this time is for Maya Fasulo, losing her grandmother and mother. I lost my family at a young age. It is hard, but they are with you — you are not alone.

Catalina Perez, via Facebook

Hazards

The state never does anything that Nelsonville, Cold Spring or Philipstown ask for, yet take a ride on Route 9D into Beacon and you see new crosswalks and flashing lights ("The Slowdown Everyone Wants," Jan. 21). That's needed in our area but we get nothing.

Dave Cataldo, $via\ Facebook$

That's because the Dutchess County executive supports Beacon's growth and tourism by facilitating with the state Department of Transportation. The Putnam County executive couldn't care less.

Lynn Miller, $via\ Facebook$

We live on Route 301 and pulling out is

dangerous: There is a blind spot and we have had many close calls. It would be great if the speed limit was reduced. Since we've had our new sheriff, I do see more cars being pulled over, finally.

Debbie Giachinta, via Facebook

A crosswalk near Fishkill Avenue in Nelsonville is a great idea but I'm afraid it would give pedestrians a false sense of safety. We all know drivers do not acknowledge or yield for the current crosswalks.

Pamela Gunther, via Facebook

The cars are not the problem. It's the idiots walking around, not paying attention.

Chris Sklenar, via Facebook

I am not an idiot and, yes, I pay attention. The drivers are the problem.

Thomas de Villiers, $via\ Facebook$

Beacon's Main Street gets tons of pedestrian traffic these days, and that's a beautiful thing. I applaud efforts to slow traffic on our tiny streets.

Mary Fetherolf, via Facebook

We need this in Fishkill, too. My quarter-mile road has a 30 mph speed limit so everyone guns it as they cut through.

Becky Fifield, via Instagram

Main Street in Beacon needs to be 15 mph and maybe people will drive 20. Anything above that is dangerous.

Ritika Polotan, $via \ Instagram$

Even 25 mph is too fast. More important, how about enforcing the current limit? People regularly drive 30 mph to 40 mph through the school zone near Sargent Elementary, where the limit is 15 mph. I recently saw a police officer there in his squad car, texting.

This line from the story is a joke: "Last year, while installing 'bump outs' at six Main Street intersections, Beacon added signs warning drivers to watch for pedestrians." The signage is often obscured by trucks and cars, or drivers see it at the last second before they turn near the Howland Cultural Center or Hudson Beach Glass, and people ignore it anyway.

The Beacon City Council may need approval from Albany, but that's a smoke-screen for things they could do. How about flashing lights at every crosswalk? They did it in front of the new waterfront condos on Route 9D. How about an all-way pedestrian light at Teller and Main? Or why even allow left turns at that intersection?

 ${\it Harper Langston}, via {\it Instagram}$

The police should enforce all the other traffic laws on Main Street first. It's like the Wild West with poor parking, illegal parking, double-parking and U-turns. You can't drive 25 mph there most of the time anyway.

Tom Cerchiara, via Instagram

I would love to see some speed limit signs on Main Street.

Michelle Rivas, via Facebook

Beahive to Open Cold Spring Space

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon coworking firm expands

Beahive, which has coworking spaces in Beacon, Newburgh and Albany, plans to open a space in Cold Spring next month.

Scott Tillitt, the owner of Beahive, said the location, at 6 Marion Ave., will have seven resident studios starting at about \$550 per month.

Beahive opened in Beacon in 2009 in the Telephone Building on Main Street and added a space in Albany in 2012. Tillitt opened a second location in Beacon in 2019 and expanded to Newburgh in 2021.

Third Candidate Announces for Assembly

Westchester legislator joins field

A Westchester County legislator from Peekskill has joined the race to succeed Sandy Galef in the New York State Assembly.

Colin Smith, a Democrat who announced his candidacy on Tuesday (Jan. 25), is in his second term representing Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown. An attorney in private practice, he is a former member of the Peekskill school board and the city's Common Council.

Galef, a Democrat, announced this month that she will not seek re-election to her seat, which she has held for nearly 30 years. Her district includes Philipstown as well as Kent in Putnam County and Ossining, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson and Peekskill in Westchester.

The other two Democratic candidates who have announced are Andre Rainey, the former mayor of Peekskill, and Dana Levenberg, the Ossining town supervisor.

Nonprofits Receive Grants

Community Foundations distribute \$132K in region

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced on Wednesday (Jan. 26) that it has awarded \$132,000 in grants to nonprofits in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties.

The recipients in the Highlands were Common Ground Farm, Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, Desmond-Fish Public Library, Ecological Citizen's Project, Howland Chamber Music Circle, Land to Learn, Philipstown Aging at Home, Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Philipstown Depot Theatre and Putnam History Museum.

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, which administers more than \$100 million in assets, "works with donors to provide grants and scholarships, establish endowment funds for nonprofits and other charitable causes, and collaborate with government, private foundations and local leaders to address current and emerging needs."

Omicron Waning

Cases plummet; hospitalizations, deaths expected to follow

By Leonard Sparks

The record-setting wave of COVID-19 infections ignited by the Omicron variant is receding in Dutchess and Putnam counties, and health officials expect hospitalizations and deaths to follow.

Statewide, the number of daily cases fell to 17,305 on Wednesday (Jan. 26), from an Omicron-wave peak of more than 90,000 on Jan. 7. Daily positives dropped by 66 percent during that span, according to state data.

Locally, the average cases reported each day in Dutchess County plummeted by 67 percent and in Putnam by 77 percent between the first week of January and the week that ended on Wednesday.

In Beacon, active cases stood at 55 on Tuesday (Jan. 25), a drop of 78 percent from Jan. 5, while Philipstown had 84 cases, a decrease of 33 percent.

"We are on the other side of a peak - the question is how fast and how long will this decline in cases continue," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro during a briefing on Jan. 21. "We think that it does" continue.

It was just two months ago that the World

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases:

COVID-19

BY THE

NUMBERS

22,581 (+650) Active Cases in Philipstown: 84

Tests administered: 393.068

(+5,343)

Percent positive:

5.7₍₀₎

Percent vaccinated:

81.1 Percent in 10516: 95.1 **116** (+3)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases:

60,725_(+1,989) Active Cases in Beacon: 55

Tests administered:

1,217,173

Percent positive:

5.0 (+0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

Percent in 12508: 70.8

Number of deaths:

Number of deaths:

597 (+18)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Jan. 26, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose

Health Organization named Omicron a "variant of concern." The state had already been facing a rise in cases that began in July with the emergence of the Delta variant, but the highly contagious Omicron triggered a series of measures by New York as infections soared.

New York announced on Nov. 26 that it was ordering a "pause" on elective medical procedures that affected dozens of facilities when it took effect on Dec. 3. The state also mandated, beginning Dec. 13, that public spaces, including businesses and schools, require masks or proof of vaccination.

The number of people hospitalized statewide during Omicron peaked at nearly 13,000 on Jan. 11, but had fallen to 8,741 on

Data collected by the state shows local hospitals experiencing the same trend. In Newburgh, Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall



reported 62 patients on Wednesday after peaking at 92 on Jan. 8 and averaging 78 per day during the month. NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor reported 25 patients on Tuesday, its lowest total since Dec. 22 and its sixth straight day of a decline. The 13 COVID-19 patients at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel were its fewest since Dec. 17.

"Finally, our health care workers in some parts of the state can take a breath," said Gov. Kathy Hochul on Tuesday.

Deaths from COVID-19, which hit an Omicron high of 195 on Jan. 12, are expected to continue falling. Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie reported 55 deaths since the state announced the first Omicron case on Dec. 2: Montefiore St. Luke's has had 44: Hudson Valley Hospital, 32; and Putnam Hospital Center, nine. Nearly half of the deaths at Vassar Brothers occurred after Jan. 14.

Molinaro said 49 percent of Dutchess residents who died at local hospitals of COVID-19 between Dec. 1 and Jan. 20 were unvaccinated and 35 percent were vaccinated. Each of the vaccinated people who

What's Next?

In May, the World Health Organization abandoned its system of naming SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) variants as strings such as B.1.1.7 or B.1.351 and instead began to select letters from the Greek alphabet to make them easier to report and follow.

Along with five "variants of concern," scientists are watching two "variants of interest," dubbed Lambda (C.37) and Mu (B.1.621), and monitoring others that have not been assigned letters. Seventeen variants are no longer monitored.

If the 24 letters of the Greek alphabet are eventually all assigned, another series will be announced, WHO said.

died, and 79 percent of the unvaccinated, had "significant" pre-existing health problems, and the average age was over 70, he said. Another 7 percent of those who died had received only one shot, he said.

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING PUBLIC MEETING

Let's Talk About Garbage & Recycling

Join us for a public presentation by Royal Carting Service Company on their proposal to manage the Village of Cold Spring's garbage and recycling services by contract.

The Village has entertained privatizing garbage and recycling for a number of years. In November, the Trustees issued a Request for Proposals. Bids were received, with Royal Carting being the lowest bidder.

We encourage everyone to attend via Zoom to learn what a contract with Royal would means for residents, business owners and the Village, and to ask questions.

WHEN: Wednesday February 3, 2022

TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: Via Videoconference as per Chapter 1 of NYS Local Laws of 2022

The public is invited to attend the meeting as follows:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88983853791?pwd=NG1RWU5VVG9RVTRZ aStQaW9kMXBMZz09

or to **Join by Phone:** (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 889 8385 3791 **Passcode:** 365616



NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Sunday, January 30th, 2022

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, January 30th, 2022 at 9:30am to inspect the proposed new Snake Hill Road entrance of following site:

Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 2015 Route 9 Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 60.-1-59.2 & 59.3

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit-

Sunday, February 6th, 2022

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, February 6th, 2022 at 9:30am to inspect the following site:

Cedar Hill Landscaping-Depaolis, 18 East Mtn. Rd. North, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#17.-1-42

SCHOOL POSITIVES 2021-22

| BEACON HIGH SCHOOL | | GLENHAM EL | .EMENTARY | SARGENT EL | EMENTARY | HALDANE HI | GH SCHOOL | HALDANE ELEMENTARY | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Students | 52 (+18) | Students | 26 (+13) | 26 (+13) Students | | Students | 46 (+37) | Students | 66 (+51 | |
| Teachers | 3 (+7) | Teachers | 9 (+7) | Teachers | 4 (+3) | Teachers | 2 (+2) | Teachers | 3 (+3) | |
| Staff | 10 (+2) | Staff | 7 (+6) | Staff | 3 (+2) | Staff | 3 (0) | Staff | 12 (+10) | |
| ROMBOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL | | JV FORRESTAL ELEMENTARY | | SOUTH AVENUE ELEMENTARY | | HALDANE MIDDLE SCHOOL | | GARRISON SCHOOL | | |
| Students | 57 (+35) | Students | 21 (+10) | Students | 15 (+10) | Students | 36 (+30) | Students | 48 (+42) | |
| Teachers | 6 (+4) | Teachers | 1 (+1) | Teachers | 2 (+2) | Teachers | 2 (+2) | Teachers | 6 (+6) | |
| Staff | 4 (+1) | Staff | 5 (+2) | Staff | 3 (+1) | Staff | 6 (+4) | Staff | 2 (+2) | |

School Masks (from Page 1)

The court proceedings this week seemed to conflate two Hochul orders. Rademaker's decision invalidated, at least for a few hours, the December emergency order. But in August, on her first day in office after Andrew Cuomo's resignation, Hochul also enacted a "universal mask requirement" for schools. Cuomo's plan had been to leave the mask decision to each district.

By Tuesday afternoon of this week, superintendents in Highlands districts had issued statements confirming that, despite the Rademaker ruling, their mask mandates remain in effect.

"Our schools are operating quite differently than they were in September 2020," Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante wrote in an email to families. He pledged to "be as deliberate as we can be in making

shifts to our health and safety guidelines based on our observations, consultation with health care professionals" and state guidance and court rulings.

Despite statements from the state Health Department supporting mask-wearing in schools, both Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Dutchess Executive Marc Molinaro used the legal back-andforth as an opportunity to blast Hochul, who is a Democrat. Both Odell and Molinaro are Republicans.

Odell said in a statement that, although all Putnam school districts had notified parents that the mask requirement remains in effect, the rulings had caused disarray, "leaving children, in some cases, to bear the brunt of a misguided state policy." Odell also said she had "heard reports of children as young as 6 years old being forced to socially distance in class because their

parents sent them to school without a mask. That is heartbreaking and unacceptable."

The county executive noted that some Westchester County districts, such as Ossining, were allowing parents to make the decision on masks until a court ruling is clearer.

Odell's position prompted Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley in the county Legislature, to respond: "I have no idea what this means or why the county executive felt it necessary to make a statement. The county executive has no authority over our schools."

Molinaro chimed in on Monday in the private OPENDutchess Facebook group, saying that Rademaker's ruling "puts the state on notice." Dutchess, he said, "continues to make the case that this ought to be left to parents and their children."

In Beacon, Landahl said that he hopes the state will develop its "off-ramp" for masks using input from public health experts. "We'd prefer that medical folks are making the decision, not a judge," he said.

The superintendent credited the distribution of thousands of at-home rapidtest kits — including 1,500 the day before students returned from the holiday break in January — to district families for keeping schools open during the Omicron surge.

"Our Beacon parents really have taken this seriously," he said. "They've been testing their kids and keeping them home" if necessary.

The district planned to send home 2,700 additional test kits with students on Thursday (Jan. 27). It has also inoculated more than 1,000 students in a half-dozen clinics held in Beacon in partnership with the Village Apothecary of Woodstock.



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Charlotte Guernsey

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COMPASS

Eviction (from Page 1)

tenant isn't paying "because New York State says landlords can't put you out as long as COVID is going on. This was her excuse."

Data indicates that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program has helped not just renters who lost jobs and income because of the COVID-19 pandemic but their partners in suffering: landlords. Renters can apply for money to erase a year's worth of overdue rent, cover three months of rent to prevent an eviction and pay overdue utility bills. Once approved, the money goes directly to landlords and utility companies.

As of Jan. 18, the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the program, had received 296,511 applications and approved 108,242 payments totaling \$2 billion, including \$1.35 billion sent to landlords. Applicants from Dutchess County have received \$7.2 million, including \$5.3 million for rent arrears; in Putnam County, renters were approved for just over \$1 million. including \$777,000 for unpaid rent.

That was before the money ran out.

A notice overlaid on a bright pink background and with bold, capitalized headlines greets visitors to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program webpage. Visitors are told they can apply, but that no more money is expected from Washington.

However, the site notes that Dutchess is among five New York counties "projected" to still have funds. Under the rules governing the program, counties and municipalities with populations of 200,000 or more

received their own federal funding, separate from what came through the state. But Colleen Pillus, a representative for Dutchess, said on Tuesday (Jan. 25) that the county may well also be out of funds.

Determining the unmet need is difficult. Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Thursday (Jan. 27) that New York has asked for \$1.6 billion in additional ERAP funding from the U.S. Treasury. The money would cover 174,000 unfunded applications, said Hochul. The Treasury sent \$27 million in response to an earlier request for nearly \$1 billion, but that covered fewer than 2,000 applicants, she said.

New York's moratorium just ended, so it may be too soon for a proliferation of eviction filings, if they ever come. It is hard to determine how many renters facing eviction meet the criteria of a pandemic-related hardship, or how many are scofflaws. Just as bad landlords exist, so do bad tenants.

Last month Princeton University's Eviction Lab published an analysis of the impact of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a moratorium declared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was unconstitutional. It found that filings grew in the first two months after the Aug. 26 decision but dropped in the third month. The filings were "still far fewer than are seen in a typical, pre-pandemic year," it said.

McKinney's case was one of 11 landlordtenant cases on Judge Mensch's docket for Jan. 18. On Tuesday (Jan. 25), there was one; on Feb. 1, she is scheduled to hear four, including McKinnev's.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, via Videoconference per Chapter 1 of the NYS Laws of 2022, to consider the application by David Hottenroth, of Hottenroth + Joseph, 152 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 for the construction of a two story addition and screened porch on the rear facade of a residential building, and replacement of the existing window sashes. The subject property is 3 High Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-5-16. The property is located within the R-1 Zoning District and the Local Historic District.

Application materials are available to view on the Village website: https:// www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/public-hearings. Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Written comment on the application can be delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by Tuesday, February 1, 2022 to be included in the public record.

The Videoconference can be accessed as follows:

Weblink: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVp

VS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09

Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150

Passcode: 005635

$Golf Course \it{(from Page 1)}$

whose 2021 revenue exceeded predictions. "Let it pay for itself," she urged. "Why are we going into American Rescue Plan funds meant for critical infrastructure projects and supporting our communities?"

Officials in Dutchess County received similar pushback when they said in June they planned to spend 20 percent of its \$57 million in relief funding on improvements at Dutchess Stadium, which it leases to a minor league baseball team, the Hudson Valley Renegades.

"I'm a baseball fan but, please, let's not put this public money toward this," Nick Page, a Democratic county legislator whose district includes three wards in Beacon, said at the time. "Don't give our pennies to this when there are people who are still hurting" from the pandemic.

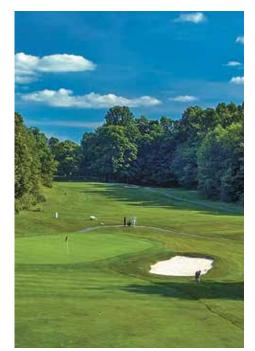
At the Jan. 24 meeting, Katherine Hanrahand, the Putnam golf course manager, reported that its 2021 budget anticipated income of \$1.22 million from golf but instead produced \$1.56 million. However, restaurant operations, expected to generate \$1.08 million, brought in only \$1.04 million. Nonetheless, Hanrahand stated, the golf and restaurant operation together realized a profit of \$271,667.

Aside from deploying income from its golfing and restaurant activities, Montgomery recalled that the golf course can tap a special account, with an undisclosed balance, into which the county annually dumps \$250,000 for the facility's projects.

"It is a good point," replied county Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin. However, he explained, for the upcoming work, "we just thought using American Rescue Plan funds would be easier" than dipping into other coffers. But if the Legislature "doesn't want to use ARPA, we don't have to." Carlin described the course as "a gateway to tourism and recreation in the county" and said its appeal is likely to increase since the closing last fall of The Garrison golf course. "We really need to reinvest in this facility," he said.

Montgomery, the lone Democrat on the otherwise all-Republican, nine-member Legislature, also asked how Putnam "is distributing these funds equally throughout the county for tourism." Her district covers part of Putnam Valley and all of Philipstown, including Cold Spring, a busy visitor attraction. Officials in both towns have asked about Putnam's plans, she said.

In her letter, Foley, who did not participate in the audio meeting, told the committee that she thought ARPA money was for "recovery from the economic impact of COVID-19, as well as for infrastructure repair." Towns and villages need "public water system upgrades,



The Putnam County Golf Course could receive \$400,000 in federal funding.

repairs to infrastructure — including areas heavily trafficked by tourism — and critical $\,$ storm-preparedness," she wrote. "How will constituents in Cold Spring benefit from the ARPA money the county received? What is the process for determining use of the funds? Who is making those determinations, and what part of the process will be open to public comment?"

When Montgomery attempted to discuss such concerns, Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac cut her off. Sullivan. who chairs the Legislature, presided at the committee session. The mayor's letter arrived at 4 p.m., too late for review that day, he said. "We will, I'm sure, have ample time to discuss these [local issues] with the administration" of County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

On another financial topic, Carlin reported that Putnam's 2021 sales tax revenue was \$78 million — the highest in 12 years, according to a county chart. Putnam had estimated \$59.7 million in sales tax in 2021.

"We had a phenomenal year, but we have to view it in context," Carlin said. He observed that sales tax boomed from May through October before dropping and that "we're cautiously optimistic for 2022."

Montgomery said the county should remember the sales tax haul "when thinking about how to support local municipalities and businesses." Unlike many other counties. Putnam does not return a portion of sales tax revenue to the villages and towns where it is generated.

In other business, the Audit Committee approved spending \$336,000 for COVID-19 testing in Philipstown and Carmel through February, although Carlin said testing might not be required that long.

Nelsonville (from Page 3)

ing some weighty issues. "Village meetings are welcoming to all and feel more like a discussion among neighbors than big government meetings," he said. "This board has set a great tone and I would love to have the opportunity to add my voice."

Campanile added that he is "not affiliated with any party or single-issue group and will approach any decisions or responsibilities with an independent perspective. I honestly don't view this as a political endeavor. I'm approaching it as an 'elected volunteer' opportunity that I hope my neighbors will consider me for."

Putnam Again Snubs Montgomery

Sole Democrat assigned to one committee

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

I istory tends to repeat itself in Putnam County, at least when it comes to appointments to county legislative committees.

Since 2019, when she joined the Legislature, Nancy Montgomery has asked to serve on the catch-all Health, Social, Education and Environmental Committee and the Protective Services Committee, given her career in health care, emergency services and government.

Four times her colleagues have said no. Montgomery, the sole Democrat on the otherwise Republican, nine-member Legislature, represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

In her first year, Montgomery was named to the Personnel Committee and the Economic Development and Energy Committee. Then, in February 2021, after the annual appointment-making occurred, away from public view, the Personnel Committee no longer included her.

That made her the only legislator limited to a single committee. The others were assigned to two or three committees each.

This week, it happened again.

Montgomery's latest request to serve on the Health and Protective Services committees went nowhere. She received no additional appointments but was reappointed to the Economic Development and Energy Committee.

At the Legislature's annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 4, Montgomery repeated her desire to join the Health and Protective Services committees. She renewed her plea on Jan. 20 in a letter to Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, the Legislature's new chair, who makes the appointments.

In it, she explained that her background includes, as a member of the Philipstown Town Board, successfully advocating installation of a used-medicine safe dropbox for Philipstown; establishing and funding the town's addiction resource coordinator position; and ensuring that local ambulance corps carry naloxone (an overdose antidote); and that, as a member of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney's area staff, she dealt with health care issues.

Further, said Montgomery, she has managed group homes for the developmentally disabled and handled case management; been a volunteer ambulance corps member; trained as an emergency medical technician; worked as a 911 dispatcher; undergone advanced training from the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in disaster preparedness and response; and organized Philipstown's Emergency Operations Center during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, when the county Bureau of Emergency Services could not reach the area.

Given that record, and what she termed the county's "erratically managed COVID response, bizarre methods of disaster preparedness and response, and complete lack of organized incident-management," she told *The Current* Tuesday that county officials "are clearly doing a disservice to the people of Putnam by not appointing me to the Protective Services and Health committees."

An email to Sullivan on Thursday (Jan.

27) asking for the reasons Montgomery was not named to her preferred committees drew no immediate response.

However, according to Montgomery, earlier this week Sullivan told at least one curious resident (who then alerted Montgomery) that "such qualifications that Legislator Montgomery is talking about might be positive should a person desire to become an EMT or ride an ambulance; however, they don't necessarily translate into making one the right legislator for a certain committee. Legislators make policy and financial decisions."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.





Philipstown Depot Theatre Youth Class:

Devised Theatre taught by Harper Levy

Join together to create and share theatre-making: short plays, scenes, monologues, poems, and more

Grades: 4–7
Begins Feb. 9,
Wednesdays from 3:30–4:30

Register at phlilipstownrecreation.com





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Premier medical experts close to home. Including top doctors from Columbia and award-winning Magnet® nurses. Offering you advanced medical technology and treatments. Affiliated with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, ranked #1 in New York. Care that is nothing short of amazing, here in Westchester.

Learn more at nyp.org/hudsonvalley

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Hudson Valley Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital as ranked by U.S News & World Report 2021-2022

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Eamon Wall Wants Your Computer

Sixth grader repairs donations for needy students

By Violeta Edwards Salas

amon Wall earned the nickname "tech wizard" at the Manitou School in Philipstown because he helped classmates with computer problems.

Now, he is branching out. Eamon, a sixth grader who loves computers and built his own in 2020,

is the New York state representative for The IT Club, an organization run by middle and high school students who repair outdated and broken computers and donate them to needy children and families.

He discovered The IT Club after he started following its founder, Ethan Zuo, on social media. Zuo, a high school senior in California, created the organization in an effort to decrease electronic waste, or e-waste, and help students who don't have



Eamon Wall

computers. There are five other branches, for northern California, southern California, Arizona, Minnesota and New Jersey.

Donations of electronic devices in any condition are accepted, even if they have missing keys or cracked screens. Eamon erases the data, installs a new operating

system and disinfects each device.

So far, residents have donated two laptops, and he is looking for more, convinced there is a lot of local e-waste.

"I realize that Cold Spring is not one of

the most problematic areas where a lot of students need computers," he said. "But I do think that in other areas in New York there are a lot of students who need computers. And I think I can help with that."

E-waste is a growing problem as the number of computers, cell phones, televisions and technology continues to grow. According to the United Nations University, 53.6 million metric tons of e-waste were produced worldwide in 2019, a 21 percent increase from 2014. The organization predicts e-waste will grow to 74 metric tons by 2030.

At the same time, according to The IT Club, 35 percent of households in the U.S. with school-age children and annual incomes of less than \$30,000 do not have access to adequate technology for learning at home.

"We found a problem and another problem, and we found a solution that solves both problems," said Eamon.

One of Eamon's duties as head of the New York branch is to organize a speaker series, so he asked Aaron Freimark, a Cold Spring resident who works in the tech industry, to speak to Manitou students about entrepreneurship.

In addition to collecting computers, Eamon is looking for volunteers to help refurbish them. To donate or volunteer, visit the-it-club.org.

 $Violeta\ Edwards\ Salas\ is\ a\ freshman\ at$ Haldane High School and a member of The $Current's \ Student \ Journalists \ Program.$

Reporter's Notebook

Drifting Away

Lost in social media's addictive pull

By Lily Zuckerman

et off your phone. I can see your brain deteriorating."

Most teens have probably heard something along the lines of this comment. From

TikTok, the video-sharing app, to Snapchat, there are a multitude of issues with the social media universe, from privacy concerns to the collecting of personal data. These apps also have a way of sucking in their users.

I find myself constantly scrolling through social media networks when I should be studying for that math test or walking my dog. I try to find a sense of entertainment usually something to bring me joy or make me laugh — that I can't get in real life. If I can't find it on one app, I move to the next.

On Jan. 4, after finishing six hours of instruction online because my high school began January remotely in response to the latest COVID-19 outbreak, I closed my computer and opened TikTok. I couldn't even tell you why I decided to go to that app instead of checking my messages, where at least I could communicate with people.

As I entered TikTok, I found myself at its "For You" page, which the app curates



for you. TikTok says its "system recommends content by ranking videos based on a combination of factors — starting from interests you express as a new user and adjusting for things you indicate you're not $interested\ in, too-to\ form\ your\ personal$ ized For You feed."

The first video I came across "for me" offered tips on hair growth. I ended up "liking" the video, which took me to another video about hair — this one about different types of cuts. I hit "like" again, then resumed scrolling. Next, I came to a video by TikToker itsbyalexis called "Day in the life living in NYC." How I got here, I couldn't tell you, but I had just spent 20 minutes of my day scrolling. I wondered how I was going to even get my homework done. I can easily spend an hour alone scrolling through TikTok's "For You" page.

The way TikTok describes the page, it

clearly seems to me that the company wants users spending long periods of time on the app. Recently, I have been interested in restaurants to visit in New York City. So my whole "For You" page lists restaurants in the city.

Ben Smith, the media columnist for The New York Times, confirmed my suspicions in a story published last month.

A document he obtained about TikTok's algorithm "explains frankly that in the pursuit of the company's 'ultimate goal' of adding daily active users, it has chosen to optimize for two closely related metrics in the stream of videos it serves: 'retention' that is, whether a user comes back - and 'time spent,'" Smith wrote. "The app wants to keep you there as long as possible."

I have watched social media platforms evolve, becoming more addictive and socially painful - whether it's seeing my

friends at gatherings without me or just seeing other people having fun.

Every year there is a new "trendy" app. Last year, the photo-sharing app

Poparazzi was hot. This app was basically Instagram, but with the photos of you posted by others. "Your friends are your paparazzi and you are theirs," according to the app's description. Poparazzi made me realize just how uncomfortable I was with growing up in such a technologically advanced society.

Poparazzi was a big topic of conversation with my friends - how this app hijacked our ability to enjoy each other. Some of us wouldn't get off our phones at all because we were so invested in who was "popping" a photo of us. I began to ask myself: "Is this how I want to spend my time?"

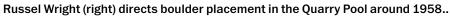
Often at gatherings, I find myself encouraging friends to take phone breaks. Everywhere I look, everyone is hunched over, looking at their phones. Do I want to remember my high school experience through a screen? No. But do I want to be that annoying mom-figure friend? The answer is also "no."

An easy solution would be to surrender our phones, pile them on the lunch table at school and leave them there until we are finished socializing, or simply hide them from each other. It's never easy, but I don't want to waste the time on my phone — time that could be used for making memories.

Lily Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison, is a sophomore at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry and a member of The Current's $Student \ Journalists \ Program.$

The Calendar







Russel and Mary Wright relax with their daughter Annie, circa 1951

Behind the Genius(es) of Manitoga

New book examines the lives and work of Russel and Mary Wright

By Alison Rooney

anitoga has a knack for confusing people. Some people know the Garrison site as a great place for a hike in the woods. Others, particularly those in the design and architecture worlds, are devotees of its creator, industrial designer Russel Wright.

A new, comprehensive book on Manitoga and its creators — yes, that's plural, as Russel Wright's wife, Mary Einstein Wright, is accorded her due — provides a canopy over Manitoga's diversity.

The book, Russel and Mary Wright: Dragon Rock at Manitoga, by Jennifer Golub, was published recently by Princeton Architectural Press.

It all began with a Greenwich Village shop window that Golub passed frequently. Intrigued by the dinnerware on

display, she succumbed to what was the first of many purchases of Russel Wright's ceramics. Years later, prompted by a *New York Times* article on Manitoga, which is a member of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, she made the trip to Garrison to see it for herself.

"My eventual visit to Dragon Rock [the Wright home] was an awakening," she writes in the book's preface. "In the era of TV dinners and mowed lawns, a culture of the suburban ideal, Russel and Mary Wright were artists."

In the lavishly illustrated chapters that follow, Golub explores what she calls the site's "binary factors: urbanity of New York City and the sublime landscape of the Hudson Valley, commercial mass production and the individual character of the hand, Japanese aesthetics and American ideals, cloistered bisexual attraction and family yearnings."

The book begins with an examination of the Maverick Festival, a bohemian arts festival which took place in Woodstock's woods from 1916 to 1931, where the Wrights met. It proceeds through chapters on stages of their life together, addressing their entrepreneurial design practice, book authorship, quest for

land on which to build a home and studio, construction of the home and the woodland

paths, and even the recipes they compiled. The text is amplified with hundreds of photos and documents.

Throughout, Mary's role as Russel's partner, designer and entrepreneur until her 1952 death from cancer is examined.

We caught up with Golub recently to ask her more about the book.

What was it about your visit to Manitoga that inspired you?

When I first visited in 2017, I was struck by the relationship of the Woodland Paths to the gardens of the Katsura Imperial Villa, Kyoto, and the Moss Temple, Kokedera. There were distinct echoes in the way in which a water feature was central, the paths had these

sensual curves, the resting spots where the grandeur of the valley was disclosed paired with more intimate spaces. I was met with a certain familiarity, down to the changes of materials underfoot, like, "I know this."

I was surprised that I hadn't heard of the house, particularly having served on the board of directors of Philip Johnson's Glass House [in New

Canaan, Connecticut]. I felt compelled to do something, similar to the way I felt compelled to write about [modernist architect] Albert Frey. When I met him for the first time in 1995 in Palm Springs, there were no publications about his work. Before even entering Dragon Rock, I thought: "Here I go again."

What audience did you see for the book: designers or architects, historians, landscape designers, foodies?

There are various points of entry, includ-

ing those you mention. I would add that Mary belongs among the pantheon of seminal 20th-century industrial designers and feminists. There is also a point of entry around sexual fluidity and tolerance. There are essential lessons around sustainable native vegetation and safe-bird migration pathways. And it's a story of ethics and individuality.



What sparked your interest in Mary?

Annie Wright [the Wrights' daughter] was only 2 years old when her mother passed. I felt if I had one job to do, it was to pull Mary into focus. I had no preconceived idea of her nature, or the nature of their relationship. I did know that she was a creator with her own line of work, and suspected she had personal charm and

moxie with an astute business mind.

At this point of history, women were to take a seat behind men. We never learned of Ray Eames' collaboration until decades after Charles Eames was introduced to the public. Anni Albers had aspired to be an architect but the Bauhaus only permitted women to be textile designers. It was Russel who went to lengths to ensure Mary's rightful attribution not only as a business partner, but a

(Continued on Page 14)



Russel Wright went to lengths to ensure his wife Mary's rightful attribution.

~ Jennifer Golub

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 29

Hudson Valley Motorcycle Expo

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. MJN Convention Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org

Vendors will showcase custom bikes and accessories, and there will be a swap meet and live music. *Cost: \$15*

CAT 20

Virtual Town Meeting

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Via Zoom

State Assembly Member Sandy Galef will discuss issues and listen to constituent concerns. Call 914-941-1111 or email galefs@ nyassembly.gov for a link.

SAT 5

Eagle Viewing

GARRISON

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638 boscobel.org

Constitution Marsh staff and local Audubon volunteers will help visitors spot south-migrating bald eagles that are roosting and feeding in the Hudson River Valley. Bring your own viewing equipment; it will not be shared. Also SAT 12. Masks required. Register for a time slot. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors; \$6 children; members, health care workers and ages 5 and younger free)

SAT 5

Hudson Valley Wingfest 15

POUGHKEEPSIE

5 – 9 p.m. MJN Convention Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org

Live music and chicken wings. *Cost:* \$30 to \$59



MUSIC

SAT 29

Philippe Lemm Trio

BEACON

8 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar 173 Main St. I reservabeacon.com

The jazz group will perform music from its latest release, *First Steps*.

SAT 29

The Best of the '70s

BEACON

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

The band will perform the top hits from 1970s artists such as Cat Stevens, Pink Floyd, The Eagles, Billy Joel and The Rolling Stones. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost:* \$25 (\$30 door)

FRI 4

Prezence

BEACON

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

Founded 14 years ago by Sal DeMeo (who portrays John Bonham), this Led Zeppelin tribute band will perform all the hits. SAT 5

An Evening of Balkan Folk Music

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-431-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

The group Dolunay and Choban Akoustik will perform music and dance from Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)

SAT 5

Stephane Wrembel & The Django Experiment

BEACO

8 p.m. Towne Crier 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The renowned gypsy-jazz guitarist will perform music from his most recent release, *The Django Experiment VI. Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 5

Reeya Banerjee

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St. 845-202-7500 | dogwoodbeacon.com

The singer and bassist will perform songs from her EP, *The Way Up*.

SAT

Sun Voyager

BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St. facebook.com/quinnsbeacon

The trio will perform, along with Will Brown as The Duke of Surl. *Cost: \$10*

TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 29

Stargazing: Winter Constellations

CORNWALL

6 p.m.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum 25 Boulevard | hhnm.org

Dress warmly and come out to the Wildlife Education Center to view the winter hexagon — the brightest stars in the Northern Hemisphere. For ages 8 and older. Register online. Cost: \$12 (members \$9)

SUN 30

Tracks and Traces in the Snow

OSSINING

11 a.m. Teatown Lake Reservation 1600 Spring Valley Road | teatown.org

Learn how to understand marks in the snow and become aware of the movement of animals in the landscape. Cost: \$8 (\$3 members)

TUES 1

Men Living With Loss CORTLANDT

7 p.m. Via Zoom | 914-962-6402 supportconnection.org

This facilitated discussion, hosted by Support Connection, is open to men who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. Registration required.

SAT 5

Winter Seed Sowing

BREWSTER

10 a.m. Via Zoom

putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Learn how to sow native plant, shrub and tree seeds to add to your landscape in an inexpensive way and support nature in this workshop organized by the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Register by SUN 30. Cost: sliding scale

SAT 5

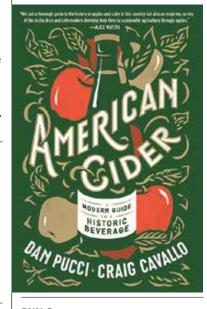
Hard Cider Talk & Taste

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Via Zoom

putnamhistorymuseum.org

The authors of American Cider: A Modern Guide to a Historic Beverage will discuss the history and evolution of hard cider, while Kimberly Kae, co-owner of Metal House Cider, will share tasting notes in this seminar sponsored by the Putnam History Museum. Cost: \$20 (lecture only; \$15 members), \$65 (lecture and cider pairine: \$60 members), \$100 VIP



SUN 6

Bird ID for Beginners

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge 2800 Route 9 | bit.ly/bird-ID-hubbard

In this program co-sponsored by state parks, the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and the Little Stony Point Citizens Association, learn how to use field guides, binoculars and field marks to become familiar with local birds. For ages 8 and older. Register online. *Free*



NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_stJfiHnfSeCJNuY0tGIUvg

Webinar ID: 826 7286 3393 **Passcode:** 9582999 **One tap mobile:** 1-646-558-8656,,82672863393#...*9582999# US

Register in advance for this webinar: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on February 8th, 2022.

If you are unable to join in person, the meeting will be viewable on youtube. com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board February.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cold Spring, NY 10516

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District of Philipstown will receive sealed bids at 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 until 3:00 PM on March 1, 2022 when same will be opened at the Business Office of the Haldane Central School, 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 for the following:

Haldane Central School District Campus Master Plan

Request for Proposals may be obtained by contacting twalsh@haldaneschool.org, or by contacting 845-265-9254, ext 170, available on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 8:00 AM. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Board of Education of Haldane Central School District of Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York By Anne M. Dinio, School Business Manager.



KIDS AND FAMILY

THURS 3

Chess Meet-Up

GARRISON

3:30 - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

All ages and skills are welcome to bring a board or check one out. Sign up to be paired with an opponent. Occurs weekly.

Introduction to Babysitting

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Amanda Lusk will teach the basics of child care to students ages 10 and older. Free

VISUAL ART

SUN 30

Free Admission

BEACON

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon 3 Beekman St. | diaart.org

On the last Sunday of each month, the museum waives its entrance fee for residents of the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam counties. Reservations required; call 845-231-0811 or email tickets@diaart.org.

SUN 30

Fellow Travelers

BEACON

2 - 4 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon 18 Front St. | loftsatbeacon.com

Laurel Shute curated this exhibit with paintings by Andrea Anthony, Celeste Baxter, Alana Burgos, Rose

Conlin, Teresa Eckerman-Pfeil, Erika Nathalia Ordoñez Mahecha, Segundo Malaver, Angie Mora, Vinay Munikoti and Clarence Perkins. Through Feb. 3.

Janice La Motta | Patricia Zarate

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

In A New Path to the Waterfall, La Motta's paintings and works were prompted by Mary Oliver's essay, "Of Power and Time." See Page 15. In All Together Now, Zarate uses abstract shapes in painting. drawing and installation to capture memory and sensation. Through March 6. There is no opening reception, but a closing reception is scheduled for March 5.

STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 29

Rigoletto

1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St. 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch Bartlett Sher's version of Verdi's opera set in 1920s Europe starring baritone Quinn Kelsey, soprano Rosa Feola and tenor Piotr Beczala in the Met's livestream high-definition broadcast. Proof of vaccination required. Cost: \$28 (\$26 members, \$12 ages 12 and younger)

Lit Lit

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

Donna Minkowitz hosts this monthly reading series for writers to share their work. All genres welcome.

John Pizzi

BREWSTER

5 & 8:30 p.m. Tilly's Table 100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840 tillystablerestaurant.com

The ventriloquist has been seen on America's Got Talent. He will be joined by comedian Meghan Hanley Price includes a buffet dinner. Ages 21 and older. Masks required if not vaccinated. Cost: \$45



CIVIC

TUES 1

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800 putnamcountyny.com

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School I 1100 Route 9D 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Town Board: Rescue Funds

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St. 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Town Board

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St. 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Feb. 5 – March 6, 2022

*Closing Reception: Saturday, March 5, 5–7 pm



Janice La Motta

A New Path to the Waterfall paintings

Patricia Zarate

All Together Now installation, paintings



*In the interest of safety, there will not be a reception opening day.



■ A Tuesday thru Sunday 10am-5pm garrisonartcenter.org

Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524



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NEED A FREE RIDE? Apply at uwdor.org/freerides

Remember, 211 is a 24/7/365 helpline that can always help.







United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

Start Reading

February book club selections

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

MON 14, 3:15 P.M.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J.K. Rowling Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 14, 7 P.M

All That She Carried, by Tiya Miles Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org.

Middle School Book Club (Grades 5+)

MON 28, 4 P.M.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, by Kelly Barnhill Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Fiction Book Club

THURS 24, 7 P.M.

The Anomaly, by Hervé Le Tellier Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom) Register at splitrockbks.com.

Beacon Book Club

THURS 24, 7:30 P.M.

Mexican Gothic, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia Register at meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

Manitoga (from Page 11)

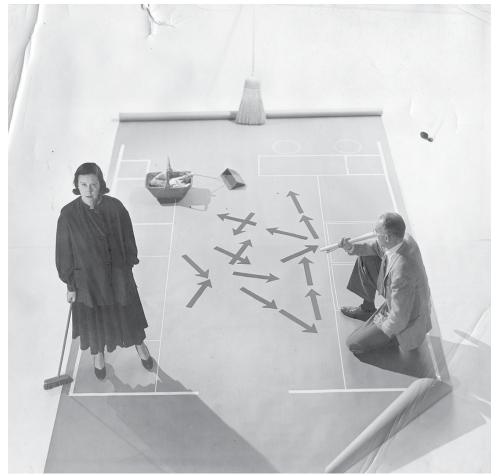
co-creator of their home and participant in their design practice.

While Mary sadly passed before the construction of Dragon Rock, she was steeped in the procurement of the site and the development of the home. Neither Russel nor Mary were certified architects, but they had both studied architecture and collaborated on the conception of the home. She imagined her future family and yearned for a certain tranquility.

What was the significance of the Maverick Festival?

It was an annual festival to celebrate and fund the summer-long Maverick Art Colony. It was held during each August full moon in Woodstock in the 1920s into the '30s and was a grand affair where thousands of artists gathered from far and wide for a spirited week of free creative expression.

Russel was the director of the theater and Mary attended as a guest and apprentice of the sculptor Alexander Archipenko. They met during the summer of 1927 and eloped that September, so one can only imagine how magnetic the experience was. The theater at the Maverick Festival was built on an abandoned bluestone quarry, which Russel and Mary clearly sought to emulate in Garrison. The inclusive, creative free expression of the festival, collaboration and quick iteration informed their design practice and nourished their spirit as funda-



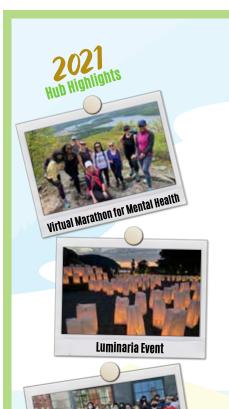
Mary and Russel Wright

Manitoga

mental principles for their lives.

The two miles of trails designed by Russel Wright at Manitoga, at 584 Route 9D in Garrison, are open daily during daylight hours for hiking. Dogs are not permitted. Public tours will begin in mid-May. See visitmanitoga.org.

philipstowr



THANK YOU PHILIPSTOWN!

Over 350 of our community members donated to the Hub in 2021 -- we are so grateful!

A special thank you to those who gave during our 2021 Annual Appeal. In the months of November and December alone, we raised over \$80,000.

These dollars stay in the community, bringing mental health and addiction programs and services right back to us all!



It's never too late to donate!

To donate to the Hub scan QR code or search @PhilipstownHub on PayPal or Venmo



Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub

5 Stone St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 www.philipstownhub.org 845-809-5050

Generous Donors

highlandscurrent.org The Highlands Current January 28, 2022 15

Untitled



"March"



Untitled



"Turn

Wearing Two Hats

Curator will share her own paintings

By Alison Rooney

ver the five years that Janice La Motta served as executive director of the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum, she set aside her own work.

"I hadn't given myself the time to be in the studio, but I was constantly thinking about it," she says.

La Motta has long juggled making art with overseeing spaces that hold it. Before her job in Woodstock, she spent 18 years at the helm of the Paesaggio Gallery (later La Motta Fine Art) in West Hartford, Connecticut, a position that she says helped her "understand the wearing of the artist's hat and allowed me to be more sympathetic and compassionate about understanding their talents. I embraced the two [roles] and applied one to another."

Now it's her turn to be the artist: An exhibit of her work, *A New Path to the Water-fall*, opens Feb. 5 at the Garrison Art Center.

Two years ago, amid the pandemic shutdown, La Motta was inspired to leave her job in Woodstock and dive back into creating art by "Of Power and Time," an essay on the creative process by Mary Oliver.

"Work poured out of me; it has been gestating for four-plus years while I was otherwise engaged," she says.

The Garrison show will showcase the results of that pent-up energy. "At a certain age, you are more reflective and want to give attention to the things you value; as you get older, you're more inclined to do that. This work happened because I gave it power."

The work proved to be quite different from La Motta's earlier pieces. "I worked figuratively, previously," she explains. "It served as armature for emotional content. After reading the essay, I started mucking around and, from left field, a bolt of lightning struck. I made one piece, then another.

"Your work can come from strange and disparate places," she says. "For me, right now, I care about the painting process informing the creation of the piece. Everything I'm absorbing through walking through the world is in there in subtle and

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit-Sunday, January 30th, 2022

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, January 30th, 2022 at 10:30am to inspect the following site:

Sadlon & Wenske Residential Site Plan, 825 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#71.-1-13.111 obvious ways. I want to push that idea, or I want to work with this shape; let's try making them on rolls of Yupo paper."

La Motta says she studied studio art in college and "had no thoughts to a specific career. In fact, I didn't take any painting classes. It was the tail end of the conceptual art period, so I got involved in mediums like video, a little bit of film. There weren't programs for curatorial studies or arts administration; everything was approached from the perspective of an artist."

She feels fortunate that she can "move easily between both hemispheres of my brain: the creative side and the analytical

side. As a curator, I try to be sympathetic to artists' voices, but it's also helpful for an artist to use the opportunity of seeing how someone else is reading their work.

"It will be inter

"It will be interesting to me to see how this show reads, especially



"Blue in Green"

working now with an abstract vocabulary," La Motta says. "We tend to look at visual art in a narrative way, but what a painting is

about is the process of how it emerges.

I'm sure I'll see things, once the show is up, differently than how they look in the studio. Paint isn't finite; exciting pieces can be unresolved. I like the tension of the mystery of it."

The Garrison Art Center, at 23
Garrison's Landing, is open 10 a.m. to
5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday. See garrisonartcenter.org. A New Path to the
Waterfall continues through
March 6, along with an
exhibit of works by Patricia Zarate titled All
Together Now.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, via Videoconference per Chapter 1 of the NYS Laws of 2022, to consider the application by Madeleine Sanchez, Architect, of 534 East Mountain Road North, Cold Spring, NY 10516 for the construction of a second-story addition on the rear facade of a residential building. The subject property is 2 Locust Ridge, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, designated as Tax Map Section 49.5-2-29. The property is located within the R-1 Zoning District and the Local Historic District.

Application materials are available to view on the Village website: https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/public-hearings. Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment to review the materials in person.

Written comment on the application can be delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by Tuesday, February 1, 2022 to be included in the public record.

The Videoconference can be accessed as follows:

Weblink: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVp VS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09

Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150

Passcode: 005635



Anne Bertram Endler

September 5, 1954 – January 2, 2022

After a quiet, valiant fight with cancer, Anne Bertram Endler, 67, passed away at her home in Garrison early on the morning of January 2, 2022 with her husband, Peter, by her side.

Anne grew up with her two sisters, three brothers, and cousin in Coconut Grove, Florida, attending Gulliver Academy and then high school at Everglades School for Girls. She loved music, and was an accomplished member of her high school's Glee Club as well as a popular singer in local cafes during her high school and college years. Having travelled extensively with her family, including summers on Martha's Vineyard, Anne attended Pine Manor College, and graduated from Boston University, where she and her husband met. Smitten at first sight, Peter repeatedly asked Anne for a date, and was repeatedly denied. Undeterred, he asked one last time to which Anne finally responded, "yes." She made him the luckiest man alive for the next 43 years.

Even more beautiful inside than she was outside, Anne engaged in all pursuits with a brilliant smile, a self-effacing demeanor, tremendous intelligence, an elegant grace, and a kind, caring generosity which put everyone else's feelings and well-being ahead of her own. She honed her considerable interior design skills while enjoying working with her mother, Pauline Bertram. Upon her mother's passing, Anne carried on her decorating firm, P.B. Interiors, completing several more projects in Garrison and New York City. In addition, her own house afforded a seemingly never ending decorative canvas. She also enjoyed working with her mother-in-law, Myra Endler, in a wide range of creative endeavors.

Anne was proud to be a long-time member and past President of the Philipstown Garden Club, where she expanded her knowledge of, and appreciation for sound environmental practices, gardening, and the art of flower arranging while reveling in the Club's sense of community. She had high regard for the Club's mission, but it was the many meaningful friendships she was so fortunate to make through her membership in addition to those which endured since childhood which immeasurably enriched her life, and for which she was most grateful.

A lover of animals, Anne could not bear their mistreatment or discomfort. Appreciative of all organizations which sought to care for the homeless or neglected, she adopted three cats from Mid-Hudson Animal Aid, and wished she could have adopted all of them. Each of these new family members has brought great joy, staying very close to her bed during her final days. Anne's many "pawed pals" over the years benefited mightily from her attentions, but not nearly as much as she did from theirs.

In addition to her husband, Peter, Anne is survived by her sisters Madelaine (Greg Osborne) of Denver, Colorado, and Caroline Bertram of North Palm Beach, Florida; her brothers Digby Bertram of Winter Park, Florida and Morgan Bertram of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; her cousin, Elizabeth Bartram of Palm Beach, Florida; Mother-in-Law, Myra Endler of Garrison, New York; Sister-in-Law Julie (Paul Heckert) of Garrison, New York; Nieces Lily Osborne of Denver and Eva Bertram of Palm Beach Gardens; and Nephews Hudson and Henry Heckert of Garrison and Cameron Bertram of Palm Beach Gardens. Anne was predeceased by her parents, Pauline and Richard Bertram, her brother, Colin Bertram, and her father-in-law, James Endler.

In lieu of flowers, Anne would be honored by any contribution to an organization such as Mid –Hudson Animal Aid (midhudsonanimalaid.org) promoting the comfort, care, and safety of animals in need.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home-Cold Spring

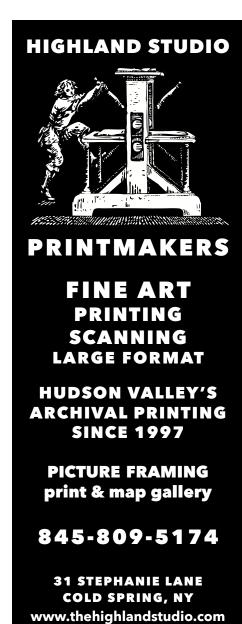


A version of the game called "Cricket on Dock"

Game Changers (from Page 1)

the years, such as cornhole and Kan Jam disc-throwing. "One day, hanging out, we thought, 'Let's try to make our own,' " he recalls. "We're all handy people — all of us had bought houses which required a lot of carpentry work — so why not?"

They spent about a month in a basement woodshop working on the concept. "We tried to address some of the issues we found with games on the market," DeMarco says. "For instance, we wanted a game that could be played anywhere. We also wanted something that anyone or any group of people could play, even people with physical limitations, or those who have problems throwing a Frisbee," such as in disc golf. In addition, they wanted a game that could change to avoid boredom.





A variation called "Baseball"

Photos provided

With those criteria in mind, the friends began tinkering. Since the first prototypes, the most significant challenge was finding "launching pads" that provide the right amount of bounce for the coin.

"We tried about 50 surfaces, making sure they were workable on a variety of the surfaces where the game might be played: sand, grass, dining-room table, etc.," DeMarco says. "Originally we were hand-making every one, weighing efficiency against consistency. We wanted it to be easy to transport, but didn't want it to fall apart. It was a lot of fine-tuning."

The tested their prototypes at festivals and street fairs. "Everywhere, the reaction was positive," he recalls. "We got a lot of, 'You guys should go on *Shark Tank*.' "It was enough to convince them to begin production.

That's when the learning curve got steeper. "There was so much that was new to us: the process of getting a patent, becoming an LLC [limited-liability company] — we're not business people," DeMarco says. "We searched long and hard for someone to make products that were durable and consistent."

They contracted with a Connecticut firm, E.W. Hannas, and switched from pine to birch, which they found more durable.

We Play Change placed its first order — for 1,000 games — in the spring of 2020, just before the pandemic shutdown. Because of supply chain issues, they weren't ready until November.

In the meantime, the friends prepared for launch. They hired a graphic design firm to redo the logo and packaging, and a social media company to strengthen their digital presence. They also began reaching out to retailers and organized tournaments at breweries. (Change is available for \$40 at weplaychange.com.) While "quarters" is most commonly an adult drinking game, DeMarco says they have been pleasantly surprised to see their product also appeals to children and teens.

One thing they're not doing yet is working on new games. "We're focusing on ideas connected with this game, trying to make it as fun and interesting as possible," DeMarco says. "We're trying to create a community. For instance, someone at one of our tournaments created a game for Change based on Skee-Ball, which we're regulating the rules for, and sharing."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Out There

Summiting Everest (in Beacon)

By Brian PJ Cronin

t's nearly midnight in the Mount Beacon parking lot and everything is frozen.

The sun went down hours ago. The wind chill is pushing the

temperature into negative double digits. One by one, five runners — Jay Lemos, Ryan Thorpe, Rae Baresel, Mike Diblasi and Steven Diblasi — make their way down the sheer glacier of the Casino Trail, the microspikes strapped to their running shoes scraping against the ice.

They've already gone up and down Mount Beacon multiple times, so the sensible thing to do on this night two weeks ago would be to start their cars and go home.

Instead, Lemos wolfs down a peanutbutter-and-jelly sandwich and chases it with a Mountain Dew. Thorpe stacks two pieces of pizza on top of each other so he can eat



Before the start: Rae Baresel, Mike Diblasi, Steven Diblasi, Ryan Thorpe and Jay Lemos get ready for their first lap.

Photo provided

them both at once. Then, one by one, the five runners return to the dark, steep trail. They still have 10 hours of 24 to see how many times they can run, hike or crawl from the parking lot to the Casino Ruins on the north summit.

You might forgive them for thinking that they didn't know what they're doing, but Thorpe, Lemos and Mike Diblasi don't have that excuse. They did it last year, too.

"We're always trying to do stupid stuff," explained Lemos.

In late 2020, after a year of canceled road

races, Lemos and Mike Diblasi began planning their own ultramarathon in Beacon, something low-key and unofficial. Lemos suggested a 100-mile race on the mountain, but the logistics of plotting a course seemed nightmarish. Then, after a few beers, everything came into focus.

How about a 24-hour race, up and down? It would be a minified version of "Everesting," a term applied to any endurance event with at least 29,032 feet of vertical gain. The math was not hard: The distance from the parking lot garbage cans to the casino ruins and back was 2 miles, with 1,000 feet of vertical gain.

Thorpe, once he heard about the plan, was intrigued. "You get to climb the tallest mountain in the world but without all the other stuff that usually comes with it, like equipment and cerebral edema," he said.

The three men had all run long, tough events but weren't sure they could conquer Mount Beacon. "Going up and down that mountain puts such a crazy beating on you," said Lemos.

But they persisted, and on Jan. 8, 2021, inaugurated The Great Beacon 24 Hour Everest 100 Endurance Challenge. It rained all night but each man completed at least 30 laps. Their sense of accomplishment was high. Their enthusiasm was low.

"We were wondering what would happen, and now we saw what happened, and it was stupid," said Lemos, whose knees "checked out" with several hours left. "We said: 'Never again.'"

That judgment didn't last the year. In October, Rae Baresel, who is Lemos' girlfriend, told him that she, too, wanted to run up and down Mount Beacon for 24 hours. "You don't have to twist my arm to go through with a terrible idea," he said. He contacted Thorne and Diblasi, who immediately agreed. "It was like they were just waiting for my text," said Lemos.

That was how, joined by Mike Diblasi's brother, Steven, who traveled from Alabama, the five athletes completed The Second Great Beacon 24 Hour Everest 100 Endurance Challenge. Thankfully, it did not rain. However, the route was covered in ice and

Current Classifieds

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FARMER — Position available beginning March 15. Looking for aspiring farmer to manage organic vegetable farm. Duties include planting, weeding, and harvesting. Must have own vehicle. Please send resume to davorenfarm@gmail.com.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR — Philipstown Depot Theatre/Philipstown Recreation seeks part-time technical director for 20 hours a week. Duties: Supervise and/or run lights, sound and projections at Depot Theatre. Instruct / supervise interns. Supervise/assist with set building / installation. Additional 5 hours/week possible for building maintenance. Contact: depotmembership@gmail.com. Send resume/letter of interest to: Philipstown Depot Theatre, P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524.

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the subzero temperatures made mundane tasks such as changing socks excruciating.

Surely, however, much was gained from the experience.

"I don't know that I gained that much," said Lemos, who managed to go about half a lap farther than in 2021. "Other than gratitude for having friends who are willing to be stupid with me."

Will there be a Third Great Beacon 24 Hour Everest 100 Endurance Challenge? Thorpe said Lemos told him during their laps, in language as precise as it was unprintable, that they were never. *ever* doing it again.

"But you should never take an ultrarunner at their word during an event," noted Thorpe.

Sure enough, last week Lemos said that since they've done the challenge two years straight, and always on the second weekend in January, they may as well make it an annual event.

Thorpe is already preparing. "I may plan a trip to South America for the month of January so I have an excuse not to do it," he said.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, via Videoconference per Chapter 1 of the NYS Laws of 2022, to consider the application by Madeleine Sanchez, Architect, of 534 East Mountain Road North, Cold Spring, NY 10516 for the construction of a second-story addition on the rear facade of a residential building. The subject property is **2 Locust Ridge, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, designated as Tax Map Section 49.5-2-29.** The property is located within the R-1 Zoning District and the Local Historic District.

Application materials are available to view on the Village website: https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/public-hearings. Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment to review the materials in person.

Written comment on the application can be delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by Tuesday, February 1, 2022 to be included in the public record.

The Videoconference can be accessed as follows:

Weblink: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVp

VS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09

Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150

Passcode: 005635

SPORTS

Tunnel (from Page 20)

played. We also rebounded well, and our bench also gave us some great minutes. Matteo was a beast on the boards, and Rvan Irwin has been great for us all season. Ben Bozsik and Will Bradley played well, and Tristan Reid played a great second half for us. I'm proud of our guys — that's a really good Beacon team."

Beacon won the first Battle of the Tunnel, 60-57, in front of a packed gym at Haldane in 2020. Haldane won last year, 70-55, in front of mostly empty stands at Haldane because of pandemic restrictions.

On Tuesday (Jan. 25), Beacon picked up a 54-46 win over Minisink Valley at home, with Jamel Sellers-Blackwell leading the Bulldogs with 15 points. Darien Gillins and Green each had 12, and Green closed out the game by hitting 8-of-8 free throws.

"We played a great fourth quarter," Timpano said. "The guys did a great job pulling away at the end."

Haldane defeated Franklin Roosevelt, 64-53, on Monday at home, with Irwin leading the offense with 21. Reid had 14 and Cervone added 13.

Holmbo had 20 to lead the Blue Devils in a 76-55 home win over Croton-Harmon on Jan. 21. In that game, Reid had 16, followed by Cervone (15) and Irwin (10).

Haldane is scheduled to visit Bronxville on Monday (Jan. 31) while Beacon will travel to Monticello today (Jan. 28) and host Washingtonville at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Haldane girls' team rode a 13-4third quarter run - and held off a Beacon surge at the end — to edge the Bulldogs by a point on Wednesday in a game played in Cold Spring.

After a low-scoring, but close, first half that saw Beacon leading 10-7 after one



Adrian Beato brings the ball up amid pressure from Ryan Irwin.

Photo by S. Pearlman

quarter and 17-14 at halftime, the Blue Devils were up 27-21 after three.

The Bulldogs outscored Haldane, 14-9, in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

"You know what you're going to get when we play Haldane, at Haldane: tough, scrappy and high energy, and that's exactly what we got," said Beacon Coach Christina Dahl. "They're an unselfish team, and came at us with a balanced scoring attack. But we didn't play our best game on offense. We had too many turnovers, and too many missed free throws. Defensively, we did a decent job, led by Daveya Rodriguez," who had 11 rebounds and five steals.

Reilly Landisi led Beacon with 15 points and Rayana Taylor scored six.

For Haldane, Molly Siegel led the team with eight points, followed by Marisa Scanga (7), Maddie Chiera (6) and Camilla McDaniel (6).

"It was a tough defensive battle," said

Haldane Assistant Coach David Tiru, who filled in for Coach Jessica Perrone. "We have a lot of heart and talent on our team. which was reflected by the way we were able to push through."

The previous Friday (Jan. 21), Haldane defeated Croton-Harmon, 48-46, on the road, led by McDaniel's 13 points. Moretta Pezzullo added 12 and Chiera had 10.

On Monday, Beacon fell, 46-43, to Marlboro at home. Landisi scored 16, while Shadaya Fryar had 14 and Devyn Kelly added 11.

"That was a well-coached Marlboro team," Dahl said. "We knew that we were in for a dogfight. We were able to compete for three quarters-plus, but ran out of gas."

Beacon (6-6) is scheduled to visit Washingtonville on Monday and host Minisink Valley at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Haldane (7-6) will travel to Pleasantville Monday and host North Salem at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

New guidelines

Haldane announced this week that spectator passes will no longer be necessary to attend home games, but that masks are required and fans must sit 3 feet from each other, except for members of the same family. No visiting team spectators are permitted.

Beacon also this week lifted spectator limits, although masks are required.

All Haldane home and some away games are livestreamed at events. locallive.tv. For Beacon games, see beaconk12.org/athletics or nfhsnetwork.com.

TRACK & FIELD

Beacon competed at the New Balance Games on Jan. 21 and 22 at The Armory in New York City.

Kyla Richardson recorded the best time among sophomore girls in the 55-meter dash in 7.72 seconds, while Isabella Migliore was second among sophomore girls in 1,000 meters in 3:23.04.

For the boys, Henry Reinke won the 1,000-meter run among sophomore boys in 2:44.76 and Evan LaBelle was 13th in the 1,000 meters in 2:40.96.

Haldane was at the Section I Northern/ Rockland County Championships on Jan. 23. also at The Armory.

Top finishers in competitions with athletes from Dutchess and Putnam counties included Eloise Pearsall, who was fourth in girls' 1.000 meters in 3:27.24: Andriea Vasconcelos, who was second in the girls' triple jump in 27-11.25; and Luke Parrella, who was sixth for the boys in the 1,000 meters in 2:51.07.

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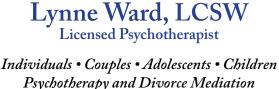
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

- 1. Shade
- 4. Frontiersman Crockett
- 8. Pocket bread
- 12. 100 percent
- 13. Dutch cheese
- 14. Pedestal occupant
- 15. Cowboy's sweetie
- 16. Do math
- 18. Slowpoke
- 20. Hydrocarbon suffix
- 21. Cushions
- 24. Persian Gulf emirate
- 28. Nutritional label info
- 32. Flamingo's color
- 33. Copper head?
- 34. Lauder of cosmetics
- 36. Summer on the Seine
- 37. Guns the engine
- 39. Toe of Italy's boot
- 41. Fashion
- 43. Hit with a stun gun 1. Crones
- 44. Ms. Thurman
- 46. Gossip
- 50. Baseball's "Iron Man"
- 55. Deluge refuge
- 56. Now, in a memo
- 57. Cowboy's neckwear

- 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 22 26 29 32 33 34 35 36 37 39 38 40 43 42 44 45 46 47 48 51 53 54 55 50 56 57 58 59 60 61
- 58. Luau bowlful
- 59. Quick swims

- 61. Novelist Rand

DOWN

- 2. Bator
- 3. First lady of scat
- 4. Proclaim
- 5. Nabokov novel
- 6. Batman portrayer Kilmer
- 7. Village People hit
- 8. Accumulate

- 10. Nanny's charge
- 11. Hearty quaff 60. Winter blanket
 - 17. German conjunction

 - 22. Platter
 - 23. Attack
 - 25. Coffin stand
 - 26. Con
 - 27. Furniture brand
 - 28. 2006 Pixar film
 - 29. Help a hood

- 9. Hollywood's Lupino

- 19. Wall St. debut

- 30. Tax
- 31. Actress Ward

- 35. "Calm down!"
 - 38. Drinks noisily
 - 40. Spell-off
 - 42. Brit. record label
 - 45. LAPD alerts
 - 47. Wine valley

 - 48. Helen's home
 - 49. Related
 - 50. Scoundrel
 - 51. "- was saying ..."
 - 52. Napkin's place
 - 53. -Tiki
 - 54. "Evil Woman" band

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CLUES SOLUTIONS

7 LITTLE WORDS

represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter

combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations

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

- **1** pools (11)
- 2 The Doors or The Who (5)

will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

- 3 gave a bit of a snicker (8)
- 4 beat in chess, perhaps (7)
- 5 capital city north of Rio (8)
- 6 stroll (5)

| 7 meaty | Italian sau | ce (9) | | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|-----|-----|--|--|
| AM | OVE | UP | AMA | CKL | | |
| GRO | LIA | ESE | BRA | BOL | | |
| SI | LE | OU | CHU | TES | | |
| ED | OGN | ALG | AMB | TM | | |

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Sudo Current

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

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Answers for Jan. 14 Puzzles

| | Н | | Р | S | | C | Α | R | Р | | \circ | Η | 0 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
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| 7 | 0 | Κ | L | Α | Н | 0 | М | Α | Ν | | М | R | Т | 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| | | | | Г | Α | G | S | | S | Т | Е | М | S | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| | М | Α | S | Κ | S | | | S | Т | Α | R | | | 4 | ^ | | | _ | _ | | | $\overline{}$ |
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| | М | Ε | D | Α | L | - | S | Т | | В | Α | R | ם | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| | | | П | D | Α | Μ | | | \subset | Г | Z | Α | Е | 0 | |) | _ | 9 | ′ | 0 | ı |) |
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| | L | Α | Ν | | D | Α | Υ | S | | S | Α | Т | Е | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 |

1. EDITS, 2. DEPTH, 3. MARV, 4. SOLO, 5. BOLDFACE, 6. ARISTOTLE, 7. TRINIDAD

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

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SPORTS



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Haldane prevails in games against rival Beacon



tandout defense and a clear rebounding advantage allowed the Haldane High School boys' basketball team to build a lead that it never relinquished to defeat Beacon, 53-39, on Wednesday (Jan. 26) in the third annual Battle of the Tunnel game.

The Haldane girls also won, holding off the visiting Bulldogs, 36-35.

The Haldane boys have been enjoying a terrific season, with only one loss in 13 games, while the much-improved Beacon team, at 8-5, is also having a strong campaign in its first year in Section IX. But by the second quarter of the game, which was played at Beacon High School, it was clear Haldane had an advantage on the glass, and the Blue Devils used second- and third-chance baskets to build a five-point lead at halftime, 28-23.

The Bulldogs cut into the deficit early in the second half but Haldane held on and led by eight, 39-31, at the end of three

with more intensity, going up by as many as 16 points, and Beacon couldn't get the

Soren Holmbo led the Blue Devils with 16 points, Tristen Reid and Ryan Irwin each had 12, and Matteo Cervone finished with nine.

For Beacon, Chase Green scored 12 points, Adrian Beato finished with seven and Jason Komisar had six.

"The difference was rebounding," said Beacon Coach Scott Timpano. "They were significantly better on the boards, getting second and third chances. We also had a lot of turnovers. We had a great first quarter, but they started playing more physical."

Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo pointed to his team's defensive effort, which limited Beacon to six points in the second quarter and eight in the fourth.

"Our goal was to hold them under 56 points," he said. "That was great defense, one of the lowest-scoring games we (Continued on Page 18)

