Connie Hogarth, Peace Activist, Dies at 95
Highlands resident fought for justice, the environment
By Alison Rooney

Connie Hogarth, a longtime peace, justice and environmental activist, died Feb. 11 at her home near Beacon. In her 95 years, Hogarth worked to ban the nuclear bomb, stop the Vietnam War, end racism, abolish the death penalty, impeach a president (Nixon), end apartheid in South Africa, close the Indian Point nuclear plant, create a Palestinian state, defend the Bill of Rights and slow global warming as a founding member — 18 years ago — of the Climate Crisis Coalition.

A longtime Democratic organizer who guided Jesse Jackson through two presidential runs and helped revive the Southern Dutchess NAACP, she co-founded and served for 23 years as director of the Westchester People’s Action Coalition until her retirement in 1996 at age 69. In that time, she was arrested at protests about 20 times, in both New York state and Washington, D.C.

Soon after her retirement, Manhattanville College in Purchase established the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action. Her second husband, Art Kamell, died in 2010.

I interviewed Hogarth for The Current in July 2019. Our conversation, edited for clarity and brevity, is below.

What was your first experience with activism?
I was 7. My father was a film projectionist and his union was picketing. My mother sat in the car with my younger... (Continued on Page 19)

Beacon’s Paper Streets
Roads in name only irk some landowners, benefit others
By Jeff Simms
Paul Montalvo has a street running through his property. It’s been that way since he purchased the land and built his Beacon home in 1999. Now the street belongs to him — or at least half of it does — although he isn’t sure he wants it.
Montalvo is one of a handful of city residents who gained ground — a few feet here, an extended boundary there — when Beacon officials last year abandoned several undeveloped “paper” streets that only appeared on maps.
The situation isn’t unique to Beacon. Typically, a developer or landowner will register the intent to dedicate land to the public for use as a roadway as part of a building or subdivision plan. In Beacon, some of these maps date to the early 20th century. But if a municipality never formally accepts the land, and the road is never built, a “paper street” is created. The street appears with its name on official maps but doesn’t actually exist. As decades pass, it’s easy to imagine budgeting, maintenance and liability issues arising.
Paper streets could also lead to lot-line complications if a property owner wants to sell or build something, such as a shed or an accessory apartment.
Beacon’s paper streets have no ease-ments or utilities, and they don’t provide the sole means of access to any abutting parcel, City Administrator Chris White told the City Council last year after conducting a survey. Beacon determined... (Continued on Page 9)

Robber Hits Garrison Gas Station
Shows revolver and demands cash at Gulf
By Leonard Sparks
The Putnam County Sheriff’s Department on Sunday (Feb. 13) said it was searching for an armed man who robbed the Gulf gas station on Route 9D across a narrow lane from the Garrison School.
Saif Saleem, who was filling in for his cousin, station manager Eealaf Najam, said he had opened the Gulf at 1122 Route 9D at 7 a.m. Thirty minutes later, a white male wearing a face covering entered, grabbed a Red Bull energy drink from a cooler in the rear of the store and approached the register. The suspect asked for the price of the Red... (Continued on Page 3)

Did Officers Respond Appropriately?
Video of Beacon arrest prompts debate
By Jeff Simms
Three minutes of cellphone footage posted to Facebook earlier this month shows four Beacon police officers converging upon and taking down a man who was apparently intoxicated or suffering from mental illness.
The officers’ body camera footage and a security video shed more light on what happened.
The video posted to Facebook on Feb. 6 shows a Black man and white officer in an apparent argument around midday at the busy intersection of Fishkill Avenue (Route 52) and Main Street. It’s difficult to discern much more because there is little sound and passing cars intermittently block the camera’s view of both men.
The man walks up Fishkill Avenue, in the road and away from the officer, who follows him, before turning around and bat ting his arms at the officer and making contact. Within seconds, a second police officer runs into the frame and hooks the man’s arms from behind. (The video can be viewed at highlandscurrent.org; the person who took the video blurred the man’s face.)
The second officer trips the man, who takes him down, and, together, the two officers attempt to handcuff the man, who is struggling. Two more officers arrive and hold the man down while he’s cuff ed.
After he is searched and helped to his feet, an officer can be heard saying: “We’re gonna get you help, all right? We’re gonna get you medical help today,” as he leads the handcuffed man to a police vehicle.
... (Continued on Page 8)

An image captured by a City of Beacon security camera shows officers restraining the man on Fishkill Avenue.
Adam Kendis of Beacon is a college admissions counselor. He will lead a free Zoom discussion on the process at 6 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 24). Register for the event, which is sponsored by the Howland Public Library, at bit.ly/HPL-college.

What will you talk about?

We’ll have a panel of admissions officers from Bard, Dutchess Community College and SUNY New Paltz so students can hear directly how they read applications and what they’re looking for. It’s designed to help students breathe a little easier by emphasizing that this is a very human process. Admissions officers like working with students and are looking for their best qualities. They want to admit students. It’s designed for 11th graders, but anyone is welcome.

With many colleges dropping SAT and ACT scores as requirements, what is important for a student to focus on?

This is the No. 1 question I get. Many studies have shown that the SAT and other tests are not good predictors of student success, in college or after. Even before the pandemic, there were at least 1,000 colleges that had gone test-optional. Now only about 20 still require it.

I tell students: “If testing comes easily, go for it. If not, don’t sweat it.” I recommend students do a practice test, then decide. Colleges care much more about grades and how you’ve challenged yourself. If your school had options to do honors or AP [Advanced Placement] classes, did you take them? Ninth graders need to understand that colleges look at grades for all four years. But they understand there may be rough patches. There are places to explain things.

For students who are the first in their families to go to college, I emphasize that “you can 100 percent do this and you will be wonderful. College is for you.” It can feel like that’s not the case because the process is confusing. Finding a mentor is key: It’s not easy to navigate on your own.

How important is it to attend a well-known school?

With technology and social media, there’s a lot more pressure on kids these days to focus on “name” colleges, but they are not determinant of life and success. The vast majority of people did not go to those schools and they do great. A book by Frank Bruni, Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be: An Antidote to College Admissions Mania, is illuminating. The percentage of people who go to college has increased, which affects admissions. There are also wonderful pathways in the trades, with good earning power. But there is still this expectation that college is a necessity.

Is everyone likely to be writing essays about the pandemic? Should a student choose another topic?

There’s a question on the Common App [common application] that invites students to share how the pandemic has influenced them, so you can write about the pandemic but not have it be your main essay. Colleges are looking for kids who are going to be members of the community, so give them a window into something in your life. Remember that the transcript equals about 75 percent of the decision, and the remaining 25 percent will vary by school and include the essay, teacher recommendations and resume.

What drew you to this field?

I love transitions in life. They’re fascinating. My biggest times of growth have been when I’ve gone from one phase to another. Having the good fortune of going to college and graduate school opened doors for me and also opened my mind. This doesn’t have to happen through college, though; there are lots of different ways to challenge yourself and grow. It’s more about: “What do you want to become and how do you get there?”
Central Hudson Warns of Higher Bills

Projects average increase of 29 percent for gas, electric

By Leonard Sparks

Central Hudson is warning customers that their gas and electric bills are expected to spike by nearly 33 percent because of the winter cold, higher demand for natural gas and reduced production of electricity generated by renewable energy sources during the winter.

The company projects that its customers, who include residents and businesses in Beacon and Philipstown, will see their bills increase by an average of 46 percent for electric and 19 percent for gas, with combined bills rising by an average of 29 percent.

Temperatures for January were 11 percent colder than average and 16 percent lower than January 2021, driving up demand for both electricity and gas, the company said on Feb. 11. In addition, it said the energy it buys is costlier because of other factors, including constrained pipeline capacity, higher natural gas exports to Europe and the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

Prices for natural gas rose by 33 percent in February and have more than doubled for electricity, Central Hudson said.

The increased usage, coupled with international and domestic factors, has caused the market price of natural gas and electricity to rise here in our region and around the world,” said Anthony Campagiorni, a representative for the company, in a statement.

On Thursday (Feb. 17), Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, called on the state to suspend its taxes and fees on energy bills.

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Beacon streets

In “The Slowdown Everyone Wants” (Jan. 22), I noted that Beacon’s Main Street Access Committee, which I chair, has pushed for a speed limit of 20 mph on Main Street and the two blocks on either side of Main. The worldwide “20’s Plenty for Us” campaign (20splenty.org) — endorsed by the United Nations — is making great strides. For example, Wales is on course to implement a 20 mph (30 km/h) baseline for residential roads, and Portland, Oregon, has moved to 20 mph in residential areas. In that case, getting drivers to follow the new speed limits hasn’t been easy. A study found that, on average, drivers reduced their speed by 1.4 mph, and police found it hard to enforce the law. But the number of cars driving more than 30 mph went down by about a third.

It may take years to make a dent in drivers’ behavior. And it may require traffic cameras at every intersection. The design of the streets, which were created for the efficient flow of cars, not pedestrians, may need an upgrade, as well. The sidewalk bump-outs on Main Street in Beacon are part of that needed redesign, but we need more traffic-calming such as raised crosswalks at intersections and extended signal timing to allow pedestrians to cross at busy intersections with all cars in all directions stopped.

It’s important to remember the difference between 20 mph and 25 mph. Studies have found the average 30-year-old pedestrian struck by a driver traveling 20 miles per hour has about a 93 percent chance of survival; at 25 miles per hour, those odds plummet to 75 percent, and they only get worse from there.

There is one last factor in street safety that can’t be countered by speed regulations or redesigns: The shift from sedans and compact cars to SUVs and trucks has been linked by the Governors Highway Safety Association to increased fatalities. In 2019, 8,800 pedestrians were killed in the U.S., a 45 percent increase from a decade earlier. Working to get those tank-sized behemoths off residential streets with regulations will take a long time. Lowering speed limits is just the first step in a multistep process to make the streets safer, but a necessary first step.

Stowe Boyd, Beacon

Induction risk

There was an important fact missing from Krystal Ford’s Living Green column about induction stoves (“Cooking with Magnets,” Feb. 11): The cooktops can be dangerous for anyone who has a pacemaker and gets close enough.

I speak from personal experience. We bought an induction cooktop and discovered at my doctor’s office that the magnets had fouled up the settings on my pacemaker. We swiftly gave the cooktop to our son, who was renovating his kitchen.

My doctor said I was lucky not to have had a much worse result. These products should come with a warning label attached. Few doctors are aware. Bevis Longstreth, Garrison

Editor’s note: Medical professionals recommend that people with pacemakers stay at least 2 feet from an induction cooktop when cooking.

I found induction to work good for some foods but awful for others. It was inconsistent between pots: Some worked great, some barely heated. I also found them easily damaged by cast iron. We ended up going with gas in our renovation because of those reasons and experiences. We finally got off oil heat, though!

Tom Cercheira, via Instagram

Good-cause eviction

There is a pattern for the creation of poor public policy, and once you know it, it’s easy to identify a proposal that does more harm than good. Is it addressing a well-worn issue? Are professional advocates pushing for it? Is it too good to be true? The Beacon good-cause eviction proposal checks all of these boxes, and — true to form — this well-intentioned law would bankrupt small-business owners who rent property in Beacon, reduce the city’s affordable housing stock and ultimately hurt the very tenants it claims to help (“Against the Advice of Counsel,” Feb. 4).

As proposed, the legislation would limit evictions and prohibit rent increases of more than 5 percent. That’s simple for the renter, but housing is a system. A law that inhibits the ability of landlords to operate their business will either drive them out or force them to seek ways to cut costs, and that’s bad for tenants.

From a political standpoint, fighting eviction is a no-brainer. Even the word conjures the worst imagery of families being tossed into the cold by a heartless landlord. The reality is that eviction is already rare and extremely difficult.

In 2019, New York passed the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act, which significantly overhauled rental laws, limiting landlords’ ability to evict tenants. Among other things, HSTPA requires landlords to notify tenants if a lease will not be renewed or if rent will be increased by 5 percent or more. It permits a judge to
stay the issuance of a warrant to evict a tenant for up to one year if the tenant shows substantial hardship in finding new accommodations.

Instead of helping tenants, Beacon’s proposal will reduce affordable housing and discourage investment, adding to the struggles already present in an industry that has been hammered by the pandemic. It will strip landlords and property owners of their rights by guaranteeing leases for life for tenants. It will force smaller landlords to get out of the business, leaving corporate landlords — who may not be as attentive to tenants and less willing to work with them — as the only ones who can afford to be in business.

The city attorney has said that Beacon doesn’t have the legal authority to enact a good-cause eviction bill. The New York Conference of Mayors confirmed that legal reasoning. Why would the City Council continue to move forward with this proposal if the legal ability to do so is dubious, at best?

Landlords have struggled through the pandemic as much as anyone else, and they’re working with tenants despite having their own income impacted by state-mandated moratoriums that have been in place for more than a year.

Kelly Campbell, Beacon
Campbell is a member of the Dutchess County Association of Realtors.

In the Feb. 11 issue, we reported that Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro had asked Gov. Kathy Hochul to recommend to the state Senate that Undersheriff Kirk Imperati be appointed to succeed Sheriff Butch Anderson, who died in September. Imperati, the acting sheriff, announced on Feb. 3 he is running as a Republican for the job, which will appear on the November ballot. Molinaro, also a Republican, said this week that he has more recently asked the governor to take no action since the party selection process has begun.

A sentence in a letter from Leo Sacks in the Feb. 11 issue about the closing of the Foundry Cafe in Cold Spring contained an error and should have read: “The Philipstown gentry that gathered on Saturday mornings in the back room was living testimony to changing times.”

A chart in the Feb. 11 issue stated that there had been 64,462 COVID-19 cases in Dutchess County through Feb. 9, an increase of 2,623 from the week before. In fact, there were 62,462 cases, and an increase of 623.

I’m usually a fan but shame on The Current for the insanely biased framing of the report about the results of bail reform (“Bail, or Baleful?” Feb. 11). You reported the report about the results of bail reform (“Bail, or Baleful?” Feb. 11). You reported that “20 percent of the defendants released before their original prosecutions were charged again with other crimes but don’t get caught? I bet that’s closer to it would be prison.

Richard Shea, Philipstown

Bail reform

I’m usually a fan but shame on The Current for the insanely biased framing of the report about the results of bail reform (“Bail, or Baleful?” Feb. 11). You reported that “20 percent of the defendants released since the state eliminated cash bail for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies were charged again with other crimes before their original prosecutions were completed, but only a small number with violent felonies.” So that means 80 percent weren’t.

Only 20 percent! What a win for bail reform.

Gina Klein, via Facebook

The fact that they were charged again does not mean that bail reform is wrong. People should not be jailed before being convicted of a crime. Prisons harm people further, and if I had to design a system guaranteed to make people more violent, it would be prison.

Donna Minkowitz, via Facebook

What about the people who commit a new crime but don’t get caught? I bet that’s closer to 50 percent. What about those who are arrested and released and never heard from again?

Robert McCarroll, via Facebook

Coming soon

It’s called Waze (“Putnam Sheriff Promises Alert System,” Feb. 11).

Carmen Nieves, via Facebook

Fishkill senior project

There has been a great amount of disinformation surrounding our proposed

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The Highlands Current

(Continued on Page 6)
Shoring Up Dockside Park

Concern raised over possible impacts
By Michael Turton

Representatives from the parks and environmental conservation departments updated the Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Feb. 16) on a riprap shoreline protection project underway at Dockside Park. More than 40 residents also attended the meeting, which was held via Zoom.

Dockside Park is owned by the state parks system but has been managed by the village since 2018. While no one questioned the need to combat shoreline erosion in the 26-acre park, some residents expressed concern about the project’s potential impact on the village, which continues to struggle with a shortage of parking and, at times, overcrowding.

Coyle Industries, based in Hopewell Junction, began work on the $1.86 million project last year. It is being funded entirely by the state.

Initial work has included removal of riprap, slabs of concrete and other debris. When complete, the rehabilitated shoreline will be regraded into terraces protected by boulders and planted with native vegetation to help reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

The project will also include restoration of the badly decayed boat ramp and creation of a walking path that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dan Miller, the project manager at the state Department of Environmental Conservation, has worked along the Hudson River since 1990. He described Dockside as “an absolute jewel ... one of the most amazing, beautiful spots on the river.” But, he added, “it is actively eroding; the property is mostly fill. The river is continuously trying to take that land.”

Miller said that in the early 2000s, the DEC started to consider how climate change will affect the river.

We wanted ways to build in resilience to large storms and rising sea levels that not only take into account the river’s ecology and health, but also how people use it,” he said.

John Blair, an engineer with the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, said even though Coyle’s work on the shore must be done during low tide, the contractor’s schedule is aggressive.

The intent, he said, is to add vegetation during the spring planting season. If construction is not far enough along, planting would have to wait until fall.

Blair said residents can continue to use parts of the park during construction but that somehow will be restricted for safety reasons. There may also be times when the park is closed.

Village Trustee Joe Curto asked about Cold Spring’s role in maintaining the shoreline protection once the project is complete.

Linda Cooper, regional state parks director, said there may be a need to recruit local volunteers to help with tasks such as removal of invasive species. The village, she said, will continue basic maintenance such as mowing.

Miller added that because Dockside is a demonstration project, state agencies will carefully monitor the shoreline seasonally and after major storms.

Even though it includes no major improvements to the park, “it’s a big project from a planning perspective,” said Jack Goldstein, chair of the Planning Board, because of its effect on parking and tourism.

Cars are not permitted in Dockside Park nor is there a plan to add parking. The restored boat ramp will be for carry-in vessels only, such as kayaks or paddle boards.

But Goldstein described the area near the park entrance and the corner of North- ern Avenue and West Street as already crowded at times and “restrictive for off-loading boats.”

He also said Cold Spring “has changed significantly” since 2013, when residents expressed support at public meetings to restore the boat ramp.

“We don’t want to lose what is becoming a scarce living environment: A village with people who work here, whose kids go to school here, but still has the capacity to share it with others,” he said. “It’s not an easy formula.”

Goldstein called for greater collaboration between the state parks department and the village, especially in light of the proposed Fjord Trail.

Cooper said that she wasn’t convinced that rehabilitating the shoreline or upgrading an existing boat ramp would bring more visitors to Cold Spring. But she agreed with the need for collaboration, noting that “there is plenty of time” because construction on the Fjord Trail is not expected to begin before 2027. She noted that the path proposed for Dockside was realigned to better link with the trail.

MJ Martin, director of development and community engagement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, said on Thursday (Feb. 17) that its plans call for Dockside Park and Long Dock Park in Beacon to be the southern and northern gateways for the trail, with four other access points along the route.

Martin said a public meeting on plans for the Fjord Trail will likely be held in March. Cooper said a parking study “is expected in the months ahead, adding: “I want to remind people the reason the project is there is because without it, Dockside Park might not exist. Sea-level rise is coming; this project will hopefully allow Dockside to be a park for many years.”

In other business ...

■ The board passed a resolution awarding the contract to collect garbage and recyclables to Royal Carting.

■ It approved Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke’s request to hire three police officers: Kraig Davenport, Robert Barclay and Mike Christiansen.

Letters and Comments

(Continued from Page 5)

Wesley Residence (“Fishkill Senior Project to Try Again,” Feb. 4).

Churches work from a mission model, and that can include day cares, schools, health care, counseling, job training and addiction programs, to name a few. These ministries may at times create inconveniences, such as when a church school lets out for the day. But no one would doubt the value of the services.

The team at Wesley Residence has spent a great deal of time, with experts in the field of traffic engineering, to come up with a plan that was accepted by the Department of Transportation during the state-mandated review process. Based on their advice, we reduced the number of driveways from three to two. Leaving the property, you will be able to turn right onto Route 52. We also have made arrangements with the medical offices next to us and put in a right-of-way from our property to access the stoplight that will allow a left turn onto Route 52.

The engineers took into consideration the projected use of the project. The Wesley Residence is designed as an independent senior living center. The target population will be people 62 and older, many of whom will be retired and won’t have a need to travel during rush hours.

A portion of the population will be people who have spent their lives in our community and own homes here but no longer have the desire or ability to maintain them. But they also don’t want to leave their families and friends.

The most recent revised plan before the village leadership has been designed in compliance with the comprehensive plan. The building is within the height regulations of three stories; it meets the requirements of density and parking; all fire, safety and noise issues have been addressed and provisions provided for.

The proposed fuel cell is not a controversial or experimental technology. It has been used throughout the world and at five campuses of the University of Connecticut and in corporate facilities in the area. The state proposed that we create a model community based on this technology and gave us $866,000 grant. The village building inspector and the fire department vetted the system.

The Church of the Nazarene has been in this extended community for nearly 115 years.

We have allowed the village to use our facility for meetings, as a polling space and to construct its water pumping station on our property with no compensation. We have responded to community concerns by reducing the size and scope of the development.

Our team is willing to have open and honest discussions with anyone who is truly interested in the factual discovery of the truth regarding our project. The project will next be discussed at the Tuesday (Feb. 22) meeting of the Village Board.

The Rev. Ronald Pankey, Fishkill Pankey is the pastor of the Fishkill Church of the Nazarene.

Beacon Falls Cafe

The earmark of bad legislation is a law that applies to one specific person, business or entity (“Law Would Allow Liquor License for Cafe,” Feb. 11). Rewrite the original law (that prohibits the sale of liquor within 200 feet of a place of worship) so that it works better and doesn’t require another law to exempt someone.

Tom Herring, via Facebook

Selling liquor near a church doesn’t bother me. I am sure most people have alcohol in their homes, so who is this restriction protecting? I would probably be for some zoning restrictions, however: I don’t think I’d like to see a strip club across the street from a day care, although some might find that convenient.

Mark Tippett, via Facebook

The owner knew the church was there when he opened the cafe. If a law is in place but a “one-and-only” exemption can be given, what’s the point in having the law?

Erin Giunta, via Facebook

Redistricting

As a lifelong Republican, I don’t see why anyone truly gets upset by redistricting in New York state (“Republican Voters File Redistricting Lawsuit,” Feb. 11). Democrats far outnumber us and, until they have an epiphany, it’s going to be the way it is. If a politician wants a secure job, find something else or move to another state where your side has a better shot. No one should look to politics as a career, anyway. Get in, do a good job for our citizens and get out. It’s supposed to be an honor, not a lifetime appointment.

Leonard Lindros Jr., Garrison
Spending ARPA

Garrison Water System and Behavioral Hub Seen as Priorities

Residents also suggest transportation network

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

J

oined by consultants and residents, Philipstown Town Board members on Wednesday (Feb. 16) traded ideas for spending the town’s share of relief from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) approved by Congress last year to help states, counties and communities recover economically from the COVID-19 shutdown.

The town expects to receive about $730,000. High on Supervisor John Van Tassel’s list: eliminating the Garrison water district system, he said. The town continues to truck in water to supply Garrison’s Landing residents and businesses, while efforts to find new sources have failed. “It’s costing us a lot of money,” he said.

Potentially, the Garrison district could link to a water tank at the Recreation Center, about a mile away, but that could cost $800,000, Van Tassel said. Yet, he noted, “over the past three years we’ve spent nearly that much buying water.”

Putnam County has asked for suggestions from municipalities for joint projects to undertake with ARPA money; Van Tassel expressed hopes that Putnam could cooperate with Philipstown on a hook up with the Rec Center system.

He also said that he had met earlier that day with Mayor Kathleen Foley of Cold Spring and Deputy Mayor Chris Winward of Nelsonville to consider projects all three municipalities could tackle with the aid. The topics included sewers for Nelsonville, he said, which relies on septic systems and underground cesspools to collect sewage and wastewater.

The Cold Spring sewage treatment plant has enough capacity to serve both villages, and Cold Spring pipes tap water to Nelsonville.

Also at the Wednesday session, a resident proposed that Philipstown find a way to provide mobility to non-drivers. “Philipstown has no public transportation,” she said, adding that “we’re particularly concerned about seniors. We have a lot of people who live on back roads. It’s difficult to get out” and county assistance is limited.

Van Tassel said the town would consider joining with the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville to address issues relevant to all three — even, perhaps, Nelsonville’s lack of a sewer system.

During the discussion, held at Town Hall, other board members suggested helping town programs, such as those run by the Recreation Center, that lost revenue during the pandemic shutdown, while audience members proposed town-wide transportation to help residents without cars meet basic needs.

Van Tassel said Philipstown received half of its ARPA payment in 2021 but hasn’t spent any of it. The remainder is due this year.

“We have some infrastructure issues that, in my mind as supervisor, we definitely need to correct because we’re bleeding money,” primarily at the faltering, 20-year-old Garrison water district system.

For ARPA-related updates and latest information, visit highlandscurrent.org.

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

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SHARPERHARPER.COM
Beacon Police (from Page 1)

Some people on social media criticized the police, saying the situation — which took place around 12:15 p.m. on Feb. 2, a Wednesday — would have been better handled by Lashaveous Dicker, the department’s behavioral health specialist, who was in Poughkeepsie for training at the time of the arrest. At the City Council’s Feb. 7 meeting, Council Members Dan Aymar-Blair, Justice McCray, Molly Rhodes and Paloma Wake all took issue with the police response.

Each indicated that they realized the police were likely acting as they’d been trained. But “after somebody is completely apprehended, I don’t think that their face should be stuck against the cold pavement,” Aymar-Blair said. McCray added that “I also watched a Black man get swiped [and] kicked to the ground, and that’s not something I want to see happen in the city I live in.”

City Administrator Chris White, however, backed the police, saying the council members were commenting on something “that you have not investigated and you know very little about.”

“Our police were measured, they were professional and they were proficient,” he said. “I stand by what our police did, and I think they probably saved that guy’s life.”

After seeing the footage this week, Andrew O’Grady, the CEO of Mental Health America of Dutchess County, the agency that supplies the specialists to the Beacon and Poughkeepsie police departments, agreed that the officers responded appropriately.

“There’s a place [for the specialist] to engage someone, but there’s also a place that’s not appropriate for that,” O’Grady said. “That [scene on the video] is not the time to have an intervention.” It would be appropriate, he said, for the specialist to help the man — who later admitted he had been smoking PCP — when “he is in a more lucid space, but not when he’s actively high on a hallucinogen.”

O’Grady also defended the officers’ use of force when subduing the man, including one officer who held the man’s head to the pavement for 20 seconds as he was cuffed. “What if the guy were to smash his own head into the ground? I’ve seen that,” O’Grady said.

A municipal Main Street security camera, along with officers’ body camera footage, which the department allowed a Current reporter to review, filled in gaps about what happened.

As the man crossed Main Street, he stood in the middle of Fishkill Avenue before walking away from the officer, who had arrived after a 911 call, Chief Sands Frost said on Wednesday (Feb. 16). The man then leaned against the driver-side door of a car sitting at the stoplight at Fishkill and Main.

The officer was able to coax the man out of the traffic lane, Frost said, but the man twice squared off with the officer, as if to punch him, while muttering profanities. That point is where the cellphone video begins.

The second officer pulled into the Valero gas station on Fishkill and, from behind, punched him, while muttering profanities. That point is where the cellphone video begins.

The second officer pulled into the Valero gas station on Fishkill and, from behind, punched him, while muttering profanities. That point is where the cellphone video begins.

As they’re cuffing him, body camera footage picks up an officer exhorting the man to breathe, then telling him: “We’re gonna get you to the hospital, all right man?” Another officer says “watch his face,” as they roll the man over to search his pockets.

Sgt. Tom Figlia, the department’s training coordinator, arrives as the man is being placed in a police cruiser and begins speaking with eyewitnesses. An officer can be heard calling out to notify the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps to meet them at the police station. The entire interaction lasts less than 10 minutes.

“You could use this video as a use-of-force training aid,” Frost said on Wednesday.

The man, who is around 50 years old, was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. He was sent that day to Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie after speaking with Dicker, the behavioral health specialist, at the Beacon station.

He was released from jail last week and is staying in Poughkeepsie, Frost said. He was already a past client of Mental Health America and the agency has reached out to him regarding addiction treatment, which the man has refused, the chief said.

The man has 46 prior convictions, including five felonies, Frost said. All video footage of the incident has been turned over to the county district attorney.

The chief and Dicker spoke in executive session with the City Council for about an hour on Monday (Feb. 14), reviewing the body camera and Main Street footage.

On Wednesday, Aymar-Blair called the incident “a sad, sad story.”

“The police acted in accordance with their training, policies and procedures,” he said. “But the fact remains this Beacon resident has been failed by our system for decades and will continue to be. The only way this could have ended was with an arrest, further complicating his recovery.”

Visit highlandcurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Hollywood in the Highlands

Here’s an update, courtesy of the Hudson Valley Film Commission, of recent productions that have filmed scenes in Beacon and Philipstown. The nonprofit’s founder, Laurent Rejto, said that in 2021, crews operating in the region rented 42,686 hotel rooms, filmed at 264 locations, spent 471 days in production and hired 631 local technicians, 72 actors and 4,048 extras.

BEACON

- Severance, a sci-fi series starring Adam Scott and directed by Ben Stiller, premiers on Apple TV+ today (Feb. 18). It filmed scenes on Main Street.

- Others include The Adults, a film with Michael Cera; an HBO series, The White House Plumbers, starring Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux; the Hallmark movie, Redemption in Cherry Springs, which premieres March 2; and Pumpkinhole, a horror thriller that will include scenes shot in Cold Spring and Beacon, as well as inside the Breakneck Tunnel.

PUTNAM VALLEY

- Life & Beth, a Hulu comedy series starring Amy Schumer, Cera and Michael Rapaport, includes scenes shot in Putnam Valley.

PHILIPSTOWN

- A car stunt for The Endgame, directed by Justin Lin (Fast & Furious, Star Trek Beyond), was filmed at Glywood Farm. The series premiers on NBC on Feb. 21.

- Others: Crumb Catcher, a film expected this year, shot an exterior scene at St. Basil Academy in Garrison; New Me, a thriller starring Emma Dumont, filmed scenes at a location on New Me in Cold Spring.
Paper Streets (from Page 1)

it had no need for the land and would make no claim. Instead, the property would be given to the landowners, or split between neighbors, as necessary.

At Montalvo’s Wilson Street residence, the invisible road borders both his property and a neighbor’s. Long overgrown with trees, the land contains a gnarled chain-link fence installed years ago by the city. The boundaries of the paper street, which continues up a hill, are located about 20 feet on either side of the fence. Deer, possums and other critters are the only ones that use it now.

The trees were what prompted Montalvo to speak up in a public hearing last fall, before the city’s abandonment. One tree on the paper street, he said, had fallen on his son-in-law’s car. Another, rotted and leaning, seemed poised to topple over. Who was responsible for cutting it down?

“I’ve been hauling [dead] tree limbs away every year for probably the last 10 years,” Montalvo said this week. The city eventually agreed to cut down the dangerous tree. Of his paper street, Montalvo said: “I don’t want anything to do with it. I know it will involve having to get a new survey if I ever sell my home. There’s two grand right there.”

Some of the paper streets in the area, on Beacon’s east side, were once part of a 19th-century community that grew up around the employees of the Groeveille Carpet Mill, now the Lofts at Beacon apartment complex. Some, such as Aldridge Street, a paper street that runs behind Montalvo’s property, served a former cottage neighborhood that may have been part of a Jewish settlement camp.

City Attorney Drew Gamils said that Beacon began investigating its paper streets after receiving requests to abandon the most foreboding tree, so I can’t really complain.”

Paul Montalvo rests his foot on the stump of a tree Beacon agreed to cut down on the paper street adjoining his property. Photo by J. Simms
HOMEMADE CARDS — The Desmond-Fish library in Garrison hosted a valentine-making workshop on Saturday (Feb. 12). It was also a chance for kids to meet the new children’s librarian, Veronica Morgan.

CELEBRITY SIGHTING — Karen Shea (right) was dining at her favorite restaurant, Riverview in Cold Spring, on Valentine’s Day when she spotted her favorite celebrity chef, Lidia Bastianich, at another table. The Italian chef hosts Lidia’s Kitchen on Amazon Prime, has written 13 cookbooks and owns Becco and Eataly in New York City, among other restaurants.

LESSON FROM A PRO — Alison Rooney, the longtime arts editor of The Current, visited the journalism class at Haldane High School on Feb. 8 to discuss interviewing techniques and writing feature stories. Her talk was part of a partnership between The Current and the high school newspaper, The Blue Print, funded by a grant from the Haldane School Foundation.
Bunny to the Rescue
Beacon couple crafts stories about adopted pet

By Alison Rooney

Bunny, the star of a series of children’s books, doesn’t hop. Don’t feel too bad for her, though. Among other skills, she can fly.

Bunny is a creation of Matt Bloom, who writes books about her, and Shelley-Simmons-Bloom, who shapes the stories and edits and markets them, including on Instagram, where Bunny has 15,000 followers. The couple are recent transplants to Beacon, which will be the setting for a forthcoming Bunny book.

And, oh, nearly forgot, Bunny is no bunny — she’s a cat inspired by a real cat of the same name who also recently moved to Beacon.

Bunny, a small, green-eyed tuxedo charmer with beguiling whiskers, was adopted by the couple from a Petco store in Union Square in 2014, when they were living in Brooklyn. “We’d had various pets, but never a cat or dog,” Bloom says. “Shelley really put the pressure on.” They had chosen the name Bunny even before the adoption.

The couple envisioned Bunny as the center of a series of vignettes designed to appeal to children ages 6 to 10, whom they saw as “underserved, being between picture books and Harry Potter.” Indeed, the books have “found a sweet spot in kids around 8, 9, 10 years old — plus adults love them,” Bloom says. “My job as a writer is to channel Bunny’s personality.”

Bloom’s other books are novels such as *Salt of the Nation* (“A working class guy punches out a politician and it goes viral,” he explains), so Bunny is a different kind of protagonist.

Not that there isn’t action in *Hello, My Name is Bunny!* After Bunny escapes from the clutches of a mean janitor, she and her pals (a mouse and a pigeon) in New York City grapple with other fearsome challenges. In the end, Bunny comes to the aid of an exploited carriage horse, saving him from the hardships he was enduring.

The second book moves the setting to London and is more sedate, introducing a young girl who accompanies Bunny as they work to eliminate fox-culling.

The couple recruited a family member — his nephew’s wife, Pippa Mayell, who is based in London — to illustrate the books. The next titles in the series will be set in Paris and Tokyo, and Beacon is also on the list.

The two volumes were self-published, but Adelaide Books, Bloom’s adult fiction publisher, has picked up the series and plans to re-release them. They have won several awards, including Best Early Chapter Book in the Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards. The stories include lessons on kindness, empathy and teamwork. “We try to impart the message without being too heavy-handed,” Bloom says. “But we’re always working toward this common goal.” With each book sold, he and his wife donate $5 to an animal shelter.

The couple moved to Beacon in March 2021; Bloom lived in Cold Spring in the early 1990s. “After years in New York City, it was time for a change,” he says. “Bunny loves it. She looks out the window at birds, deer and groundhogs and is over the moon.”

Five prints of Pippa Mayell’s drawings of Bunny are on display at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon, as part of its Celebrating Animals exhibit that is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday (Feb. 19), Sunday (Feb. 20) and Saturday (Feb. 26). Proceeds from the sale of the prints will benefit Mid Hudson Animal Aid.
During his first year living and working in Qatar, Alex Wilcox Cheek played tourist. “I took all the typical photos, in an ‘Orientalism’ way — carpets and belly dances — all the things that an American who grew up in New York state would find exotic,” says Wilcox Cheek, who lives in Cold Spring. It took a year in Qatar’s capital, Doha, he says, before he got past the surface to “the markets, the road signs, the Arabian Deco architecture, the vastness of the desert.”

Wilcox Cheek studied industrial and visual design and gravitated toward technology. “I’m interested in human experiences,” he says, “how to make things that are meaningful and useful to people, whether business strategies, service experiences, apps. Working as a designer in tech is not always about innovation. It’s often about putting the right pieces together, creating a bridge across many disciplines.”

For more than 10 years, until 2017, he taught at Carnegie Mellon University in its School of Design and Department of Information Systems. Most of those years were spent at the CMU campus in Qatar, where he headed an undergraduate track that blended design, architecture, the humanities and technology. He committed to a semester but found Doha so interesting and unusual that he stayed on. “It appealed to me because it felt like a startup brought to higher education,” he says. “The students loved design and architecture because I was able to make it relevant to them; they were designing and redesigning their country overnight. Governmental changes were taking place, as was a shift to modern experiences.”

As a photographer, Wilcox Cheek found Qatar his perfect subject. “Doha was a rapidly changing city, old and new at once,” he explains. “The architecture was getting replaced by glass and steel towers, which were less interesting than some of the Arabian Deco architecture that dates to the mid-20th century.

Wilcox Cheek captured the waning days of how people once lived. He went to “the dirt roads where there was a feeling of being transported back 20 or 30 years. Those streets that aren’t there anymore. It was possible to get a stranger to spend time with you by communicating, coming to know them.”

Meanwhile, Wilcox Cheek was coming to understand better, as well. “A lot of times people cluster the Gulf countries together, even though they have real differences,” he says. “Qatar was progressively minded, had an emir, had a vision to provide Qatari education in-country. They weren’t the first to invite American and European universities, but they were the first to set it up in a modern campus format, issuing degrees and built things like the post office. By the 1980s, Qatar was hitting its first boom of wealth, which continued in the ’90s, when natural gas took it to a new level.”

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from brand-name institutions.”

That progressive openness did not extend to photographing women, which Wilcox Cheek learned he should not attempt. “The level of access goes down, the higher up the ladder you go,” he says. “With females, you don’t even try, because it will create a problem.”

Instead, he focused on workers, most of whom were South Asian. Some had lived in Qatar their entire lives, while others were drawn by the economic boom.

He says his photos, which have never been shown publicly except on his website at arwc.xyz, started as snapshots “but turned into journalism, dare I say? I wanted to capture my experience there, and I spent the final months furiously taking pictures. How do you design a community or society in a way that can achieve the goals of growth for a city? What are we doing here together? We’re crafting the fabric of society.”

“ I used a Nikon D750; I love my 24mm fixed lens. Sometimes you need a real wide angle, but the 24mm does go wide, and gives you the sense of the street; it’s not too cropped in.”

–Alex Wilcox Cheek
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

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**SAT 19**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

Birdcount.org

This annual international count helps with conservation efforts. Take 15 minutes to count the birds in your yard or at a feeder and share your findings. Also SUN 20.

**SAT 19**

**Free Fishing Days**

dec.ny.gov

New York residents can fish without a license. Also SUN 20.

**SAT 19**

**Washington’s Birthday**

**NEWBURGH**

2 p.m. Via YouTube

845-562-1195 | bit.ly/Palisades-TV

The staff of Washington’s Headquarters has organized six events over three days to mark the general’s birthday. Today at 2 p.m., Mary Thompson, the research historian at Mount Vernon, will speak about the enslaved people Washington brought to Newburgh; the Salmagundi Consort will perform at 6 p.m. and again on SUN 20; Martha Washington (below) will discuss her life at 2 p.m. on SUN 20; and Gen. Washington and Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne will engage in conversation at 2 p.m. on MON 21. In addition, students will interpret history through theatrical performances as part of the Washington Project 2022 at 4 p.m. on MON 21. Free

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**SAT 19**

**Spring Celebration of Light**

**BEACON**

5:30 p.m. Pough Park

facebook.com/beaconspring

Bring lanterns to light up the darkness and walk east on Main Street with music. The parade concludes at The Yard with refreshments, a bonfire and dancing.

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**SAT 19**

**Party for Human Rights**

**BEACON**

6 – 9 p.m. District Social

511 Fishkill Ave.

districtsocial.com/beaconliveremusic

Tara Simmons plans to bike and run this summer from Death Valley to Beacon to raise awareness of human rights. This fundraiser will support her journey. Admission includes two drinks, a game card and raffle ticket. Cost: $40

**SUN 20**

**Mid-Hudson Reptile Expo**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MUN Convention Center

midhudsonivicccenter.org

Reptiles, amphibians and arachnids will be available for sale, along with food and supplies. Cost: $20 ($5 ages 7 to 12; ages 7 and younger free)

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**SUN 20**

**Winter Wellness Expo**

**FISHKILL**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Comfort Suites

835 Route 52 | hudsonvalleyleisuremarket.com

At this event, organized by the Hudson Valley Holistic Market, practitioners will showcase their talents and wares.

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**SUN 27**

**Nature on Ice**

**CORNWALL**

4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive

845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org

At this benefit in honor of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum educators, enjoy ice carvings and a demonstration by artist Bill Bywater. Warm up by the fire pit and with refreshments. Adults only; dress warmly. Cost: $75 to $300

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**SUN 27**

**Do The Right Thing**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

7:30 p.m. Bardavon

35 Market St. | 845-473-2072 bardavon.org

The 1989 Spike Lee film, with Martin Lawrence, Rosie Perez, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Danny Aiello, explores race and violence in a Brooklyn neighborhood on the hottest day of the year. Cost: $6

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**SUN 27**

**Prescription: Murder**

**CARMEL**

7:30 p.m. Drew Methodist Church

28 Glenidea Ave. | brewertheatercompany.com

The Brewster Theater Company will stage the play that preceded Columbo, the iconic detective series. Cost: $22.50

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**SAT 19**

**Liar**

**BEACON**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

In this evening of wine, music and lies, the audience members will participate in a game of truth and fiction. Cost: $25 ($10 door)

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**MON 21**

**Winter Break Workshop**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960 garrisonartcenter.org

Kids in grades kindergarten to 8 will explore art techniques and styles. Also TUES 22. Cost: $75 per day

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**MON 21**

**Alies: Escape from Earth**

**BEACON**

3 p.m. Via Zoom

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Howland Public Library will stream this Talewise experience about two children who use science experiments to get to know a visitor from outer space.

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**TUES 22**

**Black History Month Reading**

**COLD SPRING**

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library

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

Students in grades 2 to 4 are invited to hear poems by Langston Hughes and discuss his work.

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**WED 23**

**Kindergarten Registration**

**GARRISON**

9 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

Garrison School | 1100 Route 90

845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Check the website for forms to enroll children who will be 5 years old by Dec. 1. Also THURS 24.

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**THURS 24**

**Advice for College Admission**

**BEACON**

6 p.m. Via Zoom

bt.ly/HPL-college

The Howland Public Library will host this panel discussion about the application process and financial aid. See Page 2.

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**SAT 26**

**Polar Bear, Chicken Soup and Friends**

**GARRISON**

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3200 desmondfishlibrary.org

Doug Brown will read and discuss his book for children ages 2 to 8 about friendship.
**TALKS AND TOURS**

**MON 21**
**Business Lessons & Living Your Intentions**
**BEACON**
6 p.m. Via Zoom
hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com
In this workshop sponsored by the Hudson Valley Women in Business, Merritt Minnemeyer from Master of One Coaching will discuss the lessons that influenced her and how to live and work with conscious intention. Cost: $15

**TUES 22**
**On the Politics of Visibility**
**GARRISON**
Noon. Via Zoom
bit.ly/pensiero-plurale
Magazzino Italian Art will present this discussion with artists Alessandra Ferrini and Rinta Diaw; cultural producer and curator Johanne Africott; and researcher and writer Simone Frangi as part of its Pensiero Plurale initiative focused on cultural and social justice and the arts across Italy and the U.S. Register online.

**THURS 24**
**Sustainable Enterprise in the Private Sector**
**GARRISON**
2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
Tensie Whelan, a New York University professor and former president of the Rainforest Alliance, will discuss with Jonathan F.P. Rose, co-founder of the Garrison Institute, how business can contribute to a healthy planet. Register online.

**THURS 24**
**Slavery and the Jay Family**
**KATONAH**
6 p.m. Via Zoom
johnjayhomestead.org/events
The John Jay Homestead will explore slavery through seven generations of the Jay family. John Jay argued for abolition in New York in 1772 but kept slaves in his household for another four decades.

**THURS 24**
**Black Environmental Professionals**
**BEACON**
6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
bit.ly/ClearwaterFebProgram
Clearwater will present this panel discussion with representatives from the Billion Oyster Project, the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Groundwork Hudson Valley, Outdoor Afro and Scenic Hudson to amplify the work of Black people in the environmental field. Register online.

**FRI 25**
**Neanderthal**
**GARRISON**
6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
bit.ly/neanderthalFeb25
The Desmond-Fish library will host this screening of a 2018 PBS documentary about the decoding of the Neanderthal genome, followed by a discussion. Register online.

**MUSIC**

**SAT 19**
**Vance Gilbert**
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The folk singer and acoustic guitarist will perform live from his prolific career and 13 albums. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

**SAT 19**
**Vomit Fist**
**BEACON**
9 p.m. Quinn’s 330 Main St. | 845-202-7447 facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon
This “blackened grindcore trio” includes the father and son who founded the band. Cost: $10

**SUN 20**
**Stella Blues Band**
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Together since 2009, the group recreates the experience and music of a Grateful Dead show. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

**MON 21**
**Duoscope**
**BEACON**
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s 330 Main St. | 845-202-7447 facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon
Eric Person and Bob Meyer will perform this week for jazz night.

**THURS 24**
**Charles Richard-Hamelin**
**BEACON**
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-765-3012 howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music Circle piano series continues with this program of works by Chausson, Still, Franck and Chopin. Cost: $40 ($10 students)

**FRI 25**
**Chris Smither**
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter is praised for both his voice and guitar playing. Milton will join him. Proof of vaccination required. Cost: $35 ($40 door)

**FRI 25**
**Clara Cavalcante Ferreira**
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar 173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com
The Brazilian singer will perform her own music and covers.

**SAT 26**
**Concert of Concertos**
**NEWBURGH**
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College 330 Powell Ave. | 845-945-5000 newburghsymphony.org
Orchestra will perform a program at Aquinas Hall of Dvorak and Prokofiev with soloists Alan Murray and Mo Xu. Cost: $25 (students free)

**SUN 27**
**Blue Chaser**
**BEACON**
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The witty duo will perform songs from their decades-long career. Jesse Terry will open with songs from his latest release, When We Wander. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

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Let’s Get the Meatball Rolling

By Celia Barbour

A great rivalry arose in my childhood home between my big sister and me over the question of which was better: spaghetti and meatballs or macaroni and cheese. I preferred the former, she the latter. In fact, spaghetti and meatballs was probably the first dish that I ever truly, deeply loved — which, in retrospect, seems a small tragedy, because my mother was an outstanding cook; yet the spaghetti, like the mac, came from a box.

“A box?” says my husband, Peter. “Don’t you mean a can?”

Lord, no. Back in those days, Chef Boyardee marketed a “complete spaghetti dinner” in a box: A tall can of tomato sauce with “8 meaty meatballs,” a small can of grated parmesan, and dried noodles that you boiled yourself “to make tender or firm — as you like it.” Nothing, in other words, like the slimy, overcooked, overly sweet canned goo that the company also foisted on America’s families.

As it happens, Chef Boyardee was an actual Italian chef. His name was Ettore “Hector” Boiardi, and his family had emigrated in the late 1800s to Cleveland, where they opened a successful Italian restaurant. The boxed dinner came about because customers wanted to take Boiardi’s delicious meals home with them.

Informal research suggests that this culinary hearthrob of my early years was not sold anywhere beyond our small corner of the upper Midwest. (If you have evidence to the contrary, please let me know by posting a comment at highlandscurrent.org.) At any rate, Hector Boiardi changed my life. I remain convinced to this day that there is no happier meal than spaghetti and meatballs.

I have situated meatballs from other culinary traditions atop various culturally suitable noodles. I once made Chinese-style lamb meatballs flavored with cumin, anise and ginger, for example, and served them atop saucy rice noodles to a group of fellow cooks. I’ve dunked Vietnamese-style fish meatballs in a noodle-filled broth. And I’ve piled Finnish meatballs atop mountains of buttered egg noodles more times than I can count.

I thought I was being clever with these dishes, tangling up diverse threads of culinary influences to create fun, trompe l’oeil variations on an iconic meal. I’ve since realized that my variations were probably no less “authentic” than the original. After all, most of us know that spaghetti and meatballs was found nowhere in Italy until American tourists demanded it; it’s a thoroughly Italian-American dish, invented in this country by immigrants. I also learned in grade school that pasta comes from China, not Italy (a lineage food scholars have since debunked). But meatballs, too, originated outside of Italy. Some say they came from the Middle East, as an ancestor to Turkey’s köftes and Lebanon’s kaftas, while others suggest they probably sprung up in various kitchens around the world, wherever cooks found themselves with little scraps of meat and starch on hand, moistened them and pressed them into balls.

A mutt, a mix, an improvisation: It’s what every cuisine is made up of if you trace it back to its roots. That and the unending desire to roll food into little balls, and to fight with your siblings over it.

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Let’s Get the Meatball Rolling

By Celia Barbour

A great rivalry arose in my childhood home between my big sister and me over the question of which was better: spaghetti and meatballs or macaroni and cheese. I preferred the former, she the latter. In fact, spaghetti and meatballs was probably the first dish that I ever truly, deeply loved — which, in retrospect, seems a small tragedy, because my mother was an outstanding cook; yet the spaghetti, like the mac, came from a box.

“A box?” says my husband, Peter. “Don’t you mean a can?”

Lord, no. Back in those days, Chef Boyardee marketed a “complete spaghetti dinner” in a box: A tall can of tomato sauce with “8 meaty meatballs,” a small can of grated parmesan, and dried noodles that you boiled yourself “to make tender or firm — as you like it.” Nothing, in other words, like the slimy, overcooked, overly sweet canned goo that the company also foisted on America’s families.

As it happens, Chef Boyardee was an actual Italian chef. His name was Ettore “Hector” Boiardi, and his family had emigrated in the late 1800s to Cleveland, where they opened a successful Italian restaurant. The boxed dinner came about because customers wanted to take Boiardi’s delicious meals home with them.

Informal research suggests that this culinary hearthrob of my early years was not sold anywhere beyond our small corner of the upper Midwest. (If you have evidence to the contrary, please let me know by posting a comment at highlandscurrent.org.) At any rate, Hector Boiardi changed my life. I remain convinced to this day that there is no happier meal than spaghetti and meatballs.

I have also spent my life convinced that I could never make a version that lives up to my happier meal than spaghetti and meatballs. To compensate,

2 plain rice cakes, such as Lundberg’s
1 4-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled
5 garlic cloves, peeled
1 jalapeno, stem and seeds removed
1 large bunch of cilantro
¼ cup fish sauce

7 to 10 ounces rice noodles

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment or a silpat.
2. Break the rice cakes into a few pieces and pulverize them in a blender. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside.
3. Prepare the rice noodles according to package directions, rinse in a strainer with cool water and set aside to drain.
4. Finely mince the ginger, garlic, jalapeno and cilantro — setting aside a few cilantro leaves to use as garnish; transfer to a small bowl and stir in the fish sauce. (If you have an immersion blender, you can instead puree these ingredients in a mug or small bowl.)
5. Transfer half of this cilantro mixture to the large bowl with the rice cakes.
6. Meanwhile, place the remaining half of the cilantro mixture in the blender. Add the ground turkey, season with 1 to 2 teaspoons salt and mix to combine. Using your hands or a small ice cream scoop, form the meat into 1½-inch balls and arrange on the baking sheet. Bake 14 to 16 minutes, turning the pan halfway through, until the meatballs are 165 degrees in the middle and turning slightly crisp at the edges.
7. Just before serving, heat the cilantro-coconut mixture to a bare simmer. Turn very hot tap water over the rice noodles in the strainer; drain, then toss with the cilantro-coconut mixture in the pot, along with the lime juice and zest. Serve at once, topped with meatballs.

*Once opened, coconut milk goes bad quickly. I store it in a freezer bag, laid flat, then break off pieces as needed.
A NIGHT OF PEACE IN HARMONY WITH GRAMMY-AWARD WINNER

Amy Grant

THURS, MARCH 10
DOORS OPEN @ 6 PM
EVENT BEGINS @ 7:30 PM

OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT CHAPEL AT GRAYMOOR
(40 FRANCISCAN WAY,
GARRISON, NY 10524)

This free event is part of the Atonement Franciscan Assembly at Graymoor, March 7-11, 2022. A limited number of seats are being made available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to make reservations, visit atonementfriars.org/amymgrant or call 845-424-2113.

In order to protect members of our community, attendees will be required to present proof of vaccination against the COVID-19 virus or proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event. Masks also may be required in accordance with local and state health policies.
Art Briefs

Beacon Players to Present Free Show
Tickets available for April performance
The Beacon Players, the student drama group at Beacon High School, will present a free performance in April of the first half of its spring musical, Into the Woods.

“The first act is the ‘happy act’ that ends with all the characters in a very upbeat position, so we are offering that for our younger audiences,” explained Director Anthony Scarrone. The performance is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 30 and will be free for children ages 12 and younger. An adult must accompany every four children. Reservations are available at beaconplayers.org. The site also has tickets for Into the Woods, which will be presented April 29, April 30 and May 1.

Artists Can Apply for Guaranteed Income Initiative to award $1K a month to 2,400 people
Artists who live in New York state and have financial need can apply for a $1,000-a-month guaranteed income for 18 months. Creatives Rebuild New York, a three-year, $125 million initiative, is offering the monthly stipend to 2,400 artists as well as jobs that pay $65,000 annually to another 300. See creativesrebuildny.submittable.com. The deadline is March 25.

Crafts Fair Registration Open
Art center also hiring organizer
The Garrison Art Center is accepting applications for its 52nd annual Riverside Crafts Fair, which is scheduled for Aug. 20 and 21.

Fifty or more artists and artisans will be selected to exhibit and sell their work based on originality, quality and booth presentation, among other criteria. See garrisonartcenter.org/fair-prospectus. The deadline is March 31.

Countdown to Seed Sowing
By Pamela Doan
As the snow and ice melt off the vegetable beds this week, I'm going to seize the moment to prepare a couple for planting. In just a few weeks, although it feels hard to believe, I can plant seeds of cold-hardy vegetables. Imagine eating freshly picked peas, lettuce and spinach in May and June.

Recently, I covered methods in Roots and Shoots for growing plants outdoors in winter using hoops and fabric and creating mini-greenhouses out of plastic milk jugs. Now it's time to consider when and how to sow seeds in the garden.

The last frost date in our area is May 15. On average, that means temperatures would be high enough that outdoor plants are out of danger from freezing temperatures at night that could kill or damage them.

If you're a leafy green and root vegetable fan, mid-March can be an ideal time to start the growing season without any other implements. Some vegetables grow more optimally in cooler, damp weather, including peas, fava beans and greens like spinach and arugula. Cold-hardy characteristics include being tolerant of frost, freezing temperatures and germination at temperatures as low as 40 degrees. When temperatures soar in June and July, their growing season is finished until fall.

Seed packets for early season crops use the phrase “sow directly when soil is workable.” To a farmer, workable soil means the tractor won't get stuck in the mud. For gardeners, the soil should be relatively dry. If you squeeze a clump in your hand, water shouldn't come through. Raised beds offer an advantage here by generally draining well.

Soil temperature, soil moisture and air temperatures affect seed germination and determine when to plant, too. Peas, spinach, arugula, mustard greens, rutabagas, chicory, scallions, early harvest onion sets, turnips and fava beans all can be sown directly in the garden when soil temperatures are at least 40 degrees. Germination will be affected by weather, as all things go in the garden, but with a bit of luck, the harvest will go mostly as planned.

Check individual seed packets for information about the cultivar or variety you've chosen since some seeds are bred or hybridized for different traits. The guidelines for species shared here are general.

For my own garden, I've organized seed packets for direct sowing on March 15 for seeds that can be planted “when soil is workable”; April 15 for “to 2 to 4 weeks before last frost”; and May 15 for “after final frost date.” That gives me a two-month range to get the garden moving.

To prepare the raised beds, I'm going to top-dress the soil with my own compost. The organic matter will contribute to drainage and nutrients. An at-home soil pH test kit will indicate if I've managed the right level — a neutral 6 to 7 pH — for nutrient uptake. Shredded leaves and straw go on top as mulch after the seedlings sprout and are thinned.

I neglected a couple of beds last year and all sorts of weeds happily took up the space. As a first step, I need to assess what I'm dealing with. I tried hard not to look but I think an Oriental bittersweet vine showed up. An aggressive, invasive weed, the bitter-sweet drops a lot of seeds and is difficult to eradicate. Since I've caught it early, I have a good chance, but I'll be chopping it back for at least a couple of years, I'm sure. I'll hand-pull and dig out the roots of any vines from last season as a first step.

If the rest of the weed issues are mostly run-of-the-mill, annoying but not garden-destroying weeds, I'll try solarizing the beds. Using clear plastic left over from indoor painting, I can cover each bed and let the sun heat up the soil for 4 to 6 weeks beneath it. The longer I leave it on, the more effective it will be at killing all the weeds. If the weather cooperates, I can plant the beds by July; a great time to think about what I want to harvest in September and October.

Hand-pulling the weeds in the raised beds would break up the soil surface, bringing a whole new set of weed seeds up from below and making the problem worse. I'd rather sacrifice a month or two of planting time and try to reset the weed issues.

Plant Sales
Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam Tree and shrub seedlings; pickup on April 22-23
putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen

Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College Minimum order $225; through March 15
nativeplantcentershop.org

NY Department of Environmental Conservation
Free seedlings for stream buffers; any homeowner with at least 50 feet of land on a waterway is eligible.
dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html

Notice
Wappingers Falls Village
1st floor one bedroom apartment located in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls. Rent is $950.00 a month including heat/hot water, electric, water, sewer, and trash removal. Rent excludes phone and cable. Security deposit of $950.00 required. Off-street parking. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.
Hogarth (from Page 1)

brother while I walked the line. That early experience of walking the picket lines of a strong union made a real impression. There was always union talk at dinner. The whole concept of unionism was so deeply imbeded in the fabric of my life that it has stayed there for my whole life.

Your organizing has ranged from marches with millions to vigils with a handful of participants. Does the small stuff count?

For both Pete [Seeger] and [historian] Howard Zinn, there was the concept that every little thing you do is important. Even if it’s five people in a Hiroshima Day peace vigil on Route 9D, you feel the power of doing something. There is a strength that motivates and turns these activities into larger ones. From age 7 to nearly 93, with much in between, at many points you begin to wonder. Yet there’s a sense of never giving up. Change is possible, but it’s not that motivates and turns these activities.

I don’t want to be in your way. If I can’t dance, I don’t want to be in your revolution.” It encompasses the struggle for a happier, better life. If it’s grim, what the heck? There’s too much that’s good.

Is it important to strategize for both the short and long term?

Closings Indian Point was a major concern of mine, and it’s amazing that it will close. We all have this power. Letting go and non-violence. One action moves on to another. I’ve been arrested more times than I could count. Not long after, Toshi called and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones and said there was a sign outside a house that was designed with all natural stones.

Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

NOTICE

BEACON: Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence

One (1) bedroom apartment available for immediate occupancy. Rent is $1,150.00 and a month security is required. Tenants are responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (air conditioner provided) as well as cable and telephone. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

NOTICE

BEACON: Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence

Two (2) bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy. Rent is $1,200.00 and a month security is required. Tenants are responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (air conditioners provided) as well as cable and telephone. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

Real Estate

Market Report (January)

Beacon

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

SPOONS BY

ELAINE THOMAS | CENTURY 21 ALLIANCE REALTY

CELL: 845-590-6450 EMAIL: elainethomasrealestate@yahoo.com
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (February 1872)

One of Asa Truesdell’s dogs attacked Brian Daley’s pigs and had to be chocked to release his hold. The cries from passersby frightened a horse ridden by Richard Condey, which took off up Main Street, where it collided with a coal wagon driven by John Brewer, breaking its rear axle. The runaway was caught on a sidewalk at Furnace Street; Condey was not injured.

Some porters on the drawing-room cars on the Hudson River Railroad were reportedly charging passengers 10 cents each for newspapers that could be purchased in New York City for 1 to 4 cents.

Undersheriff Butler fell and broke his arm while attempting to arrest James Cailhiff for public intoxication; he asked bystanders for help but only S.B. Truesdell stepped forward to grab Jimmy and put him in the police sleigh.

Two wagonloads of gypsies stopped at the Sandy Landing bridge and built a campfire for lunch.

Mahlan Coe, a clerk at Geo. McCabe & Co. at the corner of Main and Rock, could not unlock the door in the morning to open the store. He retrieved a key to the adjoining Masonic rooms, ascended to the second floor and lowered himself by the elevator.

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There he found thieves had stolen silks and ribbons valued at $500. The lock on the door had been damaged when they picked it.

A member of the Methodist Episcopal Church wrote to The Cold Spring Recorder to complain about a group of rude women whom he said had interrupted the baptism of converts at the shore of the Hudson River. He noted that in the time of Caesar, persons who disturbed religious ceremonies were hacked to death.

The ironwork was completed on the bridge over the pond at the foot of Paulding Avenue.

The residence of Stephen Davenport burned down 2 miles east of the village. The fire was discovered by his granddaughter, who went upstairs to the room she shared with her mother and found it filled with smoke. When no flames could be located, not even a warm spot on the wall, Davenport circled the home and spotted a thin stream of smoke coming from where a newly built addition joined the home. The attic space between the ceiling and roof had been ignited by a kitchen exhaust pipe. Water was applied but the ceiling collapsed and the drafts fed the flames. Neighbors were able to save furniture from the lower level but the home was a loss. Davenport had an insurance policy with Lorillard, but the firm went bankrupt because of claims from the Chicago fire in 1871 and he had not bought another. The home had been built by his father, William Davenport, in 1806.

The old Rees house, the former site of the post office and news depot, was demolished, to be replaced by a brick building.

Charles Spellman, a native of Cold Spring, was severely burned in Covington, Tennessee, in a gasoline explosion.

Two Kemble Avenue boys played a dangerous trick when they whipped Miss Warner’s horse as it stood with a cart near the sidewalk outside Schoenfeld’s. Mr. Roberts managed to get outside before the horse could dart.

Charles Bros. took S.B. Truesdell to court on a charge of assault-and-battery at the Garri son dock “on the occasion of the Potato Excitement” in December, when a barge wrecked with 2,000 barrels aboard. A jury found Truesdell guilty and fined him $50. Bros. had secured the vessel, which townpeople began to loot; Truesdell was dispatched by the county to claim the cargo as jetsam.

Sarah Ellen Grace, who lived on Market Street, was diagnosed with smallpox, prompting hundreds of residents to swarm the office of Dr. Lente and Dr. Murdock to receive vaccinations.

James Bailey, driving the store wagon of grocer George W. Purdy, had stepped inside Henry Griffin’s home in Nelsonville when the three children of Mary McArthur — Martha, Nettie and Johnnie — climbed aboard the wagon. That spooked the horse, which took off, chased by townspeople. When it reached Morris Avenue, the wagon snapped an iron lamp post and a wooden tie-post, causing the shaft and springs to break and throwing the children onto the sidewalk amid broken jugs, bottles and food. They were not seriously hurt, nor was the horse.

gotlieb Schneck, who had earlier returned to Cold Spring after an absence, was arrested at the train station by a New York City detective on charges of stealing the money and madam of a German friend.

125 Years Ago (February 1897)

The Recorder observed that residents and merchants were largely ignoring a village ordinance that keep the sidewalks clear of snow.

A lamp exploded in the cabin of the schooner John Jones while it was in winter quarters south of the Foundry dock. The Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1 managed to get a stream of water on the blaze and save the ship.

Mrs. Horatio Lyons of Springfield, Massachusetts, left property valued at $1 million to her only direct heir, Chalmers Dale Jr., a 15-year-old grandson whose family had a summer home in Philipstown. When the will was read, however, it was revealed that shortly before her death, Mrs. Lyons had signed a codicil leaving her estate to distant relatives. Chalmers Dale Sr. hired three law firms to contest, arguing undue influence.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Odell of Continentvalt were surprised to see their sons, Harry, who had left home 14 months earlier to join the Navy. They said they would object to his return to the service because he was a minor.

Bike racks were installed in the luggage cars of the Central Hudson Railroad.

The executor of the estate of William and Mary Tompkins auctioned their farm at Tompkins Corners in Putnam Valley.

John Groundwater, who came to the U.S. from the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland in 1838 and worked for years at the West Point Foundry, died at 81. He was the oldest member of the Presbyterian Church.

Thieves cleared the henriettes of the Rev. Dr. Wheatley and Elisha Nelson, and also the kitchen cellar of Kate Haight, during a Saturday night windstorm that kept everyone inside.

(Continued on Page 21)
Mrs. William Osborn of Garrison left for a three-month trip through Japan and China.

The Haldane Debating Club presented the questions: “Resolved, that the government should build a ship canal from Albany to Buffalo” and “Resolved, that a man learns more by traveling than by study.”

Anthony Bursaile, who stole $1,800 from a saloon keeper at Breackneck, was arrested with the money in Rome, Italy.

A cat owned by Emily Tompkins in Putnam Valley died at age 27.

The household furniture of Rev. Cleo Foote, the new pastor of the Baptist church, arrived and was taken to the parsonage on Parsonsage Street.

In celebration of Washington's Birthday, a group of residents installed a water pump at the corner of Main and Market that had a porcelain lining and a nickel-silver drinking cup.

100 Years Ago (February 1922)

The state Conservation Commission [later the Department of Environmental Conservation], which planned to grow up to 30 million seedlings to reforest idle farmland, received requests from Stephen Chase of Garrison for 50,000 and from the Friars of the Atonement in Garrison for 900.

The Village of Cold Spring budget had an appropriation for concrete sidewalks. It also included money for extra police officers because of the force of workmen expected to move to the village over two or three years to build the New York City aqueduct. (See above right.) A tractor steam shovel sat on the railroad siding, waiting to be moved to Nelsonville for the project.

The Nelsonville board placed a referendum on the ballot to fund 10 fire hydrants.

Irene Gill, mother superior of the Order of Ursuline Nuns, visited Cold Spring to inspect properties for a possible move, including for its academy for girls. The sisters' home in Fishkill had been destroyed in a fire. (The order eventually purchased a property in Beacon called Hiddenbrooke.)

The Public Service Commission in Albany received a complaint from a group of Cold Spring residents upset with the minimum rate charged by the Cold Spring Light, Heat & Power Co. and its price for meters.

Edward L. Post & Son of Cold Spring offered a free, nickel-plated Fittsgerald euchre tournament.

and the Odd Fellows began a seven-match series followed by a dance.

A minstrel show at Town Hall organized by the Odd Fellows raised $50 for Near East Relief, which had been founded in Syria in 1915 to aid Armenian and Assyrian refugees.

The Recorder offered this tip: “To freshen the flavor of canned fruit, open the can several hours before the fruit is to be used, drain the syrup and reheat it, adding a little more sugar. Pour the syrup, boiling hot, over the fruit, and let it chill before it is served.”

The Speedling & Smalley dealership in Nelsonville advertised its latest arrivals, including a 60-horsepower, 5-passenger Studebaker Big Six sedan that sold for $2,700 ($45,000 today) and a Model F.B. Chevrolet coupe or sedan for $1,575 ($26,000). The Model 490 Chevrolet touring car or roadster was also available for $525 ($9,000).

A reader wrote to complain that while he held members of the Board of Assessors in high esteem, “never before in the history of Philipstown has the assessed valuation been so unequally apportioned,” particularly in rural districts.

Louis Gent asked the Village Board to curb the traffic from over the street. The Cold Spring health officer reported over 30 residents had contagious diseases, including lobar pneumonia (2), diphtheria (2), influenza (6), mumps (5) and whooping cough (18).

75 Years Ago (February 1947)

Mr. and Mrs. George Morse of Cold Spring were driving on Albany Post Road about 2½ miles south of Fishkill at 5:45 p.m. on a Sunday when they came across the body of a man in the traffic lane. The deceased was identified by state troopers as Edward Mosher, 65, whose welfare ID card said he lived in New York City public housing. Mosher was apparently the victim of a hit-and-run.

Montgomery Angell, a Garrison banker, was appointed to the Taconic State Park Commission. He succeeded Vanderbilt Webb, who had been a member of the commission since it was created in 1925.

The Garrison school board approved 30 percent pay raises for its teachers, which in some cases made their salaries higher than what the state recommended in small communities.

50 Years Ago (February 1972)

Anthony Mazzuca was named as mayor of Nelsonville, citing personal reasons, after three years in the position. Trustee Jack Meyer was appointed to fill the vacancy and Edward Cleary, the manager of Cold Spring Paint and Hardware on Main Street, was appointed to succeed Meyer.

Helen Hayes, who won the 1970 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Airport, announced at a luncheon held at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York City that she would spearhead a fund-raising campaign to restore the 137-year-old Chapel of Our Lady in Cold Spring.

The Haldane boys' basketball team won their first two games of the season, over Dover, 50-47, and Dover Plains, 72-33, to finish 2-2.

The Putnam County Historical Society reopened its exhibit, "Quilts, Coverlets and Counterpanes," after being closed in January due to a flu epidemic.

George “Bus” Loughran, 58, a longtime resident of Manitou Road in Garrison, died of gunshot wounds suffered during an attempted robbery at his liquor store on Ninth Avenue in New York City.

Dr. Louis Genesse, who had a dental practice on Locust Ridge in Cold Spring for 36 years until he retired in 1960, died at 78.

25 Years Ago (February 1997)

Joe Percacciolo, a former county legislator, resigned as Philipstown highway superintendent. "I have enjoyed most of my time in public service," he said.

The Haldane girls' basketball team, the defending Class D state champions, finished 17-1.

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The Village of Cold Spring budget had an appropriation for concrete sidewalks. It also included money for extra police officers because of the force of workmen expected to move to the village over two or three years to build the New York City aqueduct. (See above right.) A tractor steam shovel sat on the railroad siding, waiting to be moved to Nelsonville for the project.

The Nelsonville board placed a referendum on the ballot to fund 10 fire hydrants.

Irene Gill, mother superior of the Order of Ursuline Nuns, visited Cold Spring to inspect properties for a possible move, including for its academy for girls. The sisters' home in Fishkill had been destroyed in a fire. (The order eventually purchased a property in Beacon called Hiddenbrooke.)

The Public Service Commission in Albany received a complaint from a group of Cold Spring residents upset with the minimum rate charged by the Cold Spring Light, Heat & Power Co. and its price for meters.

Edward L. Post & Son of Cold Spring offered a free, nickel-plated Fitzgerald heater with any order for a house to be wired for electricity.

John Williams, who said he was homeless, was sentenced to 90 days in jail for vagrancy.

The thermometer at Perry & Reilley's store, considered the most accurate in the village, fell to 16 degrees below zero overnight on Feb. 16.

Despite the cold, someone attempted to break into Andrew Davey's store through the back window with an iron bar.

The St. Luke's Tennis Club of Beacon presented A Couple of Million, a comedy in four acts, at St. Mary's parish house, followed by a dance.

Members of the Old Homestead Club and the Odd Fellows began a seven-match euchre tournament.

A 1905 map of the route planned for the New York City aqueduct through the Highlands.

(Continued from Page 20)
Roundup (from Page 24)

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

Beacon is on a four-game win streak, defeating O’Neill, 32-13, on Feb. 10; Monticello, 50-15, on Monday (Feb. 14); Goshen, 42-20, on Tuesday and Minisink Valley, 39-18, on Wednesday.

Reilly Landis had 20 points in the victory over Goshen, while Shadaya Fryar added eight and Rayana Taylor had seven. The Bulldogs had lost at Goshen, 36-31, on Jan. 6.

“After losing to Goshen at their place last month, we came out with a game plan and executed it,” said Coach Christina Dahl. “We were able to manage the game defensively, holding them to eight second-half points.”

Against O’Neill, Landis had 10, Lila Burke added nine and Devyn Kelly had eight. “We got a strong defensive effort from Daveya Rodriguez (nine rebounds); she caused havoc with her length,” Dahl said. “Offensively, Lila Burke came in and gave us great minutes.”

Beacon (11-8) is scheduled to travel to Spackenkill on Wednesday (Feb. 23) and then will await its seeding in the Section IX playoffs.

In other news, Lauren Schetter, a 2017 Beacon grad who is in her fifth season playing for Pace University, had a career night on Feb. 5, scoring 33 points for the Setters (19-5).

In a win at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, Perrone. “The girls feel good about where we are.”

Is the team feeling the pressure of being seven-time champions? “It’s in their heads,” Perrone said. “No one wants to be the team that breaks that streak. But I’d rather have the streak than not have it, and hopefully it’s a good kind of motivating pressure.”

Against Putnam Valley, Maddie Chiera had 11 points, Marisa Scanga added eight and Betsy Cates had five rebounds. Amanda Orlando had 25 points and Eva DeChent scored 20 for Putnam Valley. Against Westlake, Camilla McDaniel led Haldane with 12, Chiera added nine and Scanga had eight.

At North Salem, Haldane played well defensively, recording 16 steals. The team got 15 points and five rebounds from Molly Siegel, and nine points, 10 rebounds and five steals from Mairread O’Hara. The Blue Devils had lost on Feb. 2 to North Salem at home by two points.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Beacon competed at the Section IX divisional championships at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on Staten Island on Feb. 12. The boys finished second and the girls were fourth.

The Bulldogs had two individual champions: sophomore Kyla Richardson won the girls’ 55-meter dash in 7.72 seconds and senior Sal Migliore took the boys’ 600 meters in 1:24.95. His time was the fastest in any division and ranked him No. 1 in Section IX headed into the state qualifiers on Feb. 26 at The Armory in New York City.

“I was excited to see Kyla drop a few more hundredths off her personal best,” said Coach Jim Henry. “This is her first indoor track season, and there are plenty of technical things to work with her on. It’s possible that she becomes one of the section’s top sprinters over the next two years.”

“Sal’s race was one of the two best 600-meter races I’ve seen out of a Beacon runner,” Henry added. “He positioned himself beautifully, ran a wise tactical race, and finished strong. It’s great to see kids put together their best efforts at this point in the season.”

BOWLING

The Beacon boys’ team (9-5) defeated Monroe-Woodbury, 5-2, on Feb. 20 behind a 654 series from Will Hockler; the girls (6-9) also won, 7-0, behind Cadence Heeter and Keira Istvan. The boys lost to Middle- town, 7-0, on Tuesday (Feb. 15) and both teams were scheduled to take on Washingtonville on Feb. 17.

WRESTLING

Lou DelBianco, at 215 pounds, finished fifth in Division II at the Section IX tournament on Feb. 12 by defeating Chris Betcher of Wallkill. DelBianco had defeated wrestlers from Monroe-Woodbury and Cornwall earlier but lost to Ethan Gallo of Middle- town, the eventual champion.

Jude Betancourt defeated Joe Torres of Middletown in the Round of 16 at 118 pounds and Tyler Haydt defeated Zane Grant of Saugerties in the Round of 16 at 285 pounds, but both fell in the quarterfinals.
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Fine, to NASA
4. Misery star James
8. Garbage barge
12. ___-mo (replay speed)
13. Taj Mahal city
14. Ocean motion
15. Sunbather’s goal
16. Insect organ
17. Oklahoma city
18. Patsy Cline song
21. Shoe width
22. Little rascal
23. Brilliance
26. 8 on a phone
27. Gaiety
30. “Dream on!”
31. Ginormous
32. Flintstones’ pet
33. Abolish
34. Curse
35. Summoned with a beeper
36. Frenzied
37. Jewel
38. Words of empathy
39. Made into lumber
40. Drescher or Tarkenton
41. TV schedule abbr.
42. Currier’s partner
43. Plane-related
44. Made into lumber
45. Debussy’s “La –”
46. Antitoxins

52. Lincoln in-law
53. Farm pen

DOWN
1. Wine region
2. Norwegian saint
3. Hawaiian coast
4. Pill variety
5. Marble type
6. Woody’s son
7. Taking a siesta
8. Precipitous
9. Title akin to POTUS
10. Garfield dog
11. Marries
12. Piece of lettuce
13. “As I see it,” via text
14. Hearing thing
15. Ocean motion
16. Sunbather’s goal
17. Oklahoma city
18. Patsy Cline song
21. Shoe width
22. Little rascal
23. Brilliance
26. 8 on a phone
27. Gaiety
30. “Dream on!”
31. Ginormous
32. Flintstones’ pet
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52. Lincoln in-law
53. Farm pen

Sudocurrent

Answers for Feb. 11 Puzzles

7 Little Words

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

CLUES
1. exult (8)
2. intertwined (9)
3. overheated (6)
4. in an obnoxious way (11)
5. in a hospitable way (6)
6. Nice love
7. strike out (6)

SOLUTIONS

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For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
Elijah Hughes Traded to Trailblazers

Beacon native leaves Jazz after two seasons

By Chip Rowe

Elijah Hughes, the Beacon native and former Syracuse star who has been playing in the NBA for the Utah Jazz, was traded on Feb. 9 to the Portland Trailblazers as part of a three-team deal.

“Thank you, Utah Jazz, for believing in me and giving me an opportunity to live out my dream,” Hughes wrote on Twitter. “I’m beyond grateful.”

Hughes had been playing sparingly for the Jazz, appearing in 32 games over two seasons and averaging 2.3 points and 5.5 minutes per game. He also played for the team’s G League affiliate, the Salt Lake City Stars.

After joining the Blazers, he scored five points in 11 minutes in his debut in a win over the Knicks on Feb. 12 and had two points in 16 minutes in a loss at Milwaukee on Feb. 14.

Joe Ingles, a star for the Jazz who is out for the season with an injury, also went to Portland, along with a second-round draft pick in 2022. The Jazz received a player from the Blazers and another from the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs received a player from the Blazers and a second-round pick in 2027 from the Jazz.

Because of health and safety protocols and injuries, Hughes started for the Jazz on Jan. 7 against the Toronto Raptors, scoring 26 points in a 122-108 loss. He shot 60 percent from the floor and 56 percent from three-point range.

Hughes, who attended Beacon High School for his freshman and sophomore years, transferred to Kennedy Catholic in Somers for his junior year and South Kent Prep in Connecticut as a senior. He played for East Carolina University before transferring to Syracuse, where he led the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring at 19 points per game and was named first team All-Conference.

That caught the eye of pro scouts and he was selected by the New Orleans Pelicans in the NBA draft in November 2020 as the 39th of 60 picks overall. The Pelicans traded him to the Jazz for a second-round pick in 2022.

BOYS’ BASKETBALL

Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

Varsity

The Beacon modified boys’ basketball team finished its season without a loss. Coach Christina Dahl outlines strategy for her team, which has won four straight games.

Soren Holmbo scored 26 points against Pawling in a Haldane win last week.

File photos by S. Pearlman (2)

Its modified team of seventh- and eighth-graders finished the season undefeated. “What an incredible ride this season has been with this team,” said Coach Thomas Zehner. “Going 13-0 is not an easy feat and they made it look that way. I’m excited for what the future holds for this group.”

Haldane closed its regular season with a 70-45 win on Feb. 10 over Pawling and a 58-53 win Monday (Feb. 14) at Putnam Valley.

In Monday’s win, Matteo Cervone led the Blue Devils with 23 points and Soren Holmbo added 16. Holmbo dropped 26 on Pawling, with Ryan Irwin adding 12 and Julian Forcello 11.

Haldane (18-2), the No. 1 seed in the Section I, Class C tournament, is scheduled to host No. 4 Leffell (7-13) at 5 p.m. on March 1. The winner will advance to the championship game on March 5 at Yorktown High School against No. 2 Hamilton (14-5) or No. 3 Tuckahoe (9-11). The Blue Devils returned to the New York State Sportswriters Association rankings this week at No. 5 among Class C teams.

(Continued on Page 22)