

The HIGHLANDS Current



Cozy Tales
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Police Turn to Home Surveillance

Putnam sheriff says devices helped solve Garrison robbery

By Leonard Sparks

Home security cameras from Amazon's Ring, Google's Nest and other companies are filming more than the escapades of bears, bobcats, foxes and other wild animals. The electronic eyes are also capturing people breaking into residences and vehicles, and stealing packages from porches, making them a technology that police agencies are turning to with increasing frequency and

privacy advocates are watching with heightened concern. Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville said he was surprised that the department did not have an account set up with Neighbors, the networking app that allows Ring users to share footage with each other. In June, Ring announced that police agencies would be allowed access to Neigh-

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ART WITH HEART — Earlier this week, with schools on break, the Garrison Art Center hosted two days of workshops for students. For more photos, see Page 17.
Photo by Ross Corsair

No Way to Right of Way Changes, Says Judge

Stops cell-tower work based on access question

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

New York state court judge on Wednesday (Feb. 23) stopped Homeland Towers from transforming a right of way it needs to reach a Nelsonville cell tower site and predicted opponents of the company's access plans would prevail. The action by Putnam County Supreme Court Judge Thomas Davis, who issued a preliminary injunction against Homeland,

came less than 24 hours after Mayor Mike Bowman told the Village Board that the cell tower firm expected in June to start construction of a 95-foot tower disguised as a fir tree. Located off Rockledge Road, a private, dead-end lane intersecting Moffatt Road, the 9.6-acre site overlooks the Cold Spring Cemetery. Homeland's parcel can be accessed through a right of way that runs through the property of neighbors. Homeland wants to remove trees and widen and resurface the pathway and dig trenches for hundreds of

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THE Challenge FOR Churches

PART ONE



By Brian PJ Cronin

Is a church a building or the people inside? It was the building that first drew Emily Murnane to the Dutch Reformed church on Wolcott Avenue. A lifelong Beacon resident and board member of the Beacon Historical Society, she had long admired the handsome brick building from 1860, one of the oldest churches in Beacon. But she had never seen the interior, so one day, in early 2019, she decided on a whim to attend a service. At the time, Murnane didn't consider herself religious. She was raised Catholic, but her connection to the church was mostly cultural: She went because it was what her grandparents did. "I put my time in, and once my time was in, I was done," she recalled. So it was curiosity instead of spirituality that led her there on a Sunday morning. She figured she'd get a chance to see the inside of the building, maybe mention the Beacon Historical Society, and be done. She stayed for nearly five hours. The architecture had nothing to do with it. "They fed me some great casserole," she said. After the service, the dozen congregants in attendance invited Murnane to stay for fellowship: a potluck in the hall behind the altar that they held every week. When they learned that she was from the historical society, the stories began to unfurl about the history of the building, the congregation, and the lives

of the 12 people who still came every week to worship. "It was like this little secret," she said. "Who would have known that this warm and wonderful group of people were hiding inside this building?" Murnane didn't have much in common with the congregation. In her late 20s, she was the youngest person there by several decades. Also, she technically wasn't Protestant. But she said she felt welcomed in a way she hadn't felt in a church before. When she finally did leave, a member casually said to her that if she had enjoyed herself, she should consider coming back some time. She came back every week. "I never felt like I was being preached to, or that they were trying to convert me," she said. "But I was inspired by their faith and how deeply they believed." One of those 12 congregation members was Pat, whom Murnane had seen around Beacon almost her entire life but had known nothing about. Pat, with his beard and long hair, for years spent his day walking slowly from one end of Main Street and back, flashing the peace sign at every person he passed. Through the church, Murnane learned a bit about Pat, about his time serving in Vietnam and some of the hardships he'd experienced. But what struck her over time was realizing that, in the part in the service when congregants would

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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: ROBERT CALDERISI

By Chip Rowe

Robert Calderisi, of Cold Spring, is the author, most recently, of *Cecil Rhodes and Other Statues: Dealing Plainly with the Past*.

For the unfamiliar, can you introduce us to Rhodes?

He was born in 1853 and died in 1902, at age 48. He arrived in southern Africa from England in 1870, at age 17, created the De Beers diamond monopoly and bought up gold mines and in 1890, at age 37, was named prime minister of the Cape Colony [South Africa]. He had a tremendous impact in his day.

How did neighboring Rhodesia come about?

In 1890 Rhodes invaded the 750,000 square miles that would become Rhodesia — he didn't name it — and is now Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, without firing a shot. He told the local king he was interested in mineral rights, then sent in hundreds of "pioneers" to add the region to the empire. He didn't do it for the money but because he genuinely believed British rule would benefit everyone. It's not very different from how many, if not most, people in the West still regard Africa. We have things



to teach them, rather than things to learn from them.

You were a Rhodes scholar. Is that what brought you to the topic?

As a benefactor of the man, I was interested in knowing more about him. I'd heard him described as a "white supremacist" or "warmonger" and decided during the pandemic shutdown to see what actually was true. I found those descriptions to be an exaggeration. Also, I've been exasperated, like a lot of people, with the way political discourse has deteriorated into a big

shouting match, and I resent people who make up convenient facts to suit their case. History, like human beings, is much too complicated to sum up in a few words.

Denouncing Rhodes today as an "imperialist" is like denouncing an American for being a "patriot." It was part of being British, French or German at the time — large countries felt they had a right to invade countries where the people didn't look like themselves. Rhodes didn't believe that Africans were subhuman. He felt the British were superior because of their favorable history. It was paternalistic, but he thought Africans just needed time, education and a good example before taking their rightful place in society.

There were efforts in South Africa and at Oxford to remove statues of Rhodes. How should we handle statues of contested figures?

I don't believe everybody in the past should be exonerated. Standards change, but some moral values are eternal. I was looking for evidence that Rhodes was a blatant racist but I could not find examples of where he was unkind to anyone because of the color of their skin. At the same time, I'm not sure I would want to spend an evening with him. He was a hard-driving, sometimes ruthless businessman, and a bit of a megalomaniac. When asked how long he expected to be remembered, he said, "4,000 years." Yet he was generous throughout his life. It was a mix that you'd expect in a complex, busy man of his day.

You lived in Africa for 30 years. What took you there?

I was interested in international development, in particular, fighting world poverty. Most of the poorest countries, despite all the efforts that have been made over the last 60 years, are in Africa. I worked with the Canadian government and then for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., which is the largest foreign-aid agency in the world. I love Africa and its people, but its governments are atrocious. The people have never been exposed to anything else. They don't know, in a sense, what to expect.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What was the first car you owned?

"A '95 Ford Escort. It got me out of the house, and it always broke down, so it taught me about cars."



Rob Giordano, Nelsonville

"A red '70 Karmann Ghia. It was pretty, stick shift, fun, cool. I changed the oil and plugs."



Pat Kennedy, Cold Spring

"A '74 Mustang. It was ugly — brown with a tan roof — but it was my car!"



Pat McElduff, Beacon



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Arrest Made in Garrison Robbery

Suspect is Newburgh man on parole

By Chip Rowe

A City of Newburgh man was arrested last week in the armed robbery of \$228 from the Gulf gas station on Route 9D and transferred to U.S. Marshalls for prosecution on federal charges.

The Sheriff's Department said David M. Peres, 23, was arrested on Feb. 18 after a joint investigation by the Sheriff's Department, Newburgh Police Department, New Windsor police and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Sheriff's Department said in its statement that after consulting with federal prosecutors, "it was determined that federal prosecution would be most appropriate."

Peres was turned over to U.S. Marshalls and arraigned on Feb. 18 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of White Plains on two charges: Hobbs Act robbery and brandishing a firearm. He was denied bail.

An affidavit filed by an FBI agent as part of Peres' prosecution said the license-plate reader on Route 9D near Boscobel first captured a black Hyundai hatchback passing the Gulf station while driving toward Cold Spring at 7:07 a.m., roughly 30 minutes before the robbery.

Two minutes later, according to the affidavit, surveillance footage from the Sunoco at Main Street and Route 9D in Cold Spring showed a man later identified as Peres buying Swisher Sweets cigars from the station. Peres showed the clerk a picture of his identification on his phone and lowered his face covering before completing the purchase and leaving at 7:13 a.m., said the FBI.

The license-plate reader captured the Hyundai driving back toward the Gulf station at 7:15 a.m., and footage from a home surveillance camera north of the gas station showed the same car driving south on 9D at 7:21 a.m., and 15 seconds later, driving north again. The home surveillance also caught someone walking south toward the Gulf at 7:37 a.m., about one minute before the robbery, and then running north again at 9:40 a.m., according to the FBI.

After responding to the Gulf, deputies deployed a K-9 dog and followed footprints in the snow from the station to an area off Route 9D and Snake Road, ending at tire tracks that "appeared to back into a parking spot and then pull straight out onto Snake Hill Rd," said the FBI.

The car's registered owner was traced to a woman living in Fort Montgomery. Shown the surveillance footage, she identified Peres, saying he was her daughter's boyfriend, according to the affidavit. The woman also said the clothing worn by Peres belonged to her daughter and she gave investigators permission to search her house. The FBI said the search led to a container of zip ties.

A man named David Peres of the same age was released on parole in November from state prison after serving a sentence for burglary. David M. Peres, then 17, of Highland Falls, was arrested in 2015 with two others for breaking into farm stands in Orange County.

Saif Saleem, who was filling in for his cousin, station manager Eelaaf Najam, said that he was threatened with a revolver before handing over cash from the register and being ordered to zip-tie his own hands together.

After using scissors to cut the zip tie and free his hands, Saleem called 911. "I thought he was going to shoot me," he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Woman Involved in Fatal Crash

Connecticut teen killed in early-morning accident

A Beacon woman was involved in an early-morning crash on I-684 in Westchester County on Monday (Feb. 21) in which a 15-year-old Connecticut girl was killed, according to the New York State Police.

Troopers said they responded to the northbound lane in the Town of Harrison at 1:24 a.m. For unknown reasons, a Hyundai Sonata driven by Tyanna A. Spalding, 19, of Waterbury, Connecticut, struck the median guardrail and was disabled in the left lane.

Spalding and her passenger, Destiny Coleman, 15, also of Waterbury, exited the vehicle, which was struck by a Toyota Prius driven by Elaine M. Montleon, 38, of Beacon, and pushed into Coleman, who

died at the scene.

Spalding and Montleon were transported to Westchester Medical Center for non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

Putnam Valley Donates Land

Adds 28 acres to Granite Mountain

Putnam Valley has donated 28 acres to expand the Granite Mountain Preserve, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust said on Feb. 18.

The land trust said it will assess the 28 acres — as well as 91 acres it manages adjacent to the preserve that are owned by Putnam County — for trail opportunities and connections.

The Granite Mountain Preserve was created in 2017 when the land trust purchased three parcels containing 358 acres. It grew to 400 acres in 2018.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Veterans redesign

You may have noticed some changes to the Memorial Building on Main Street in Beacon. The veterans' organizations of the building have more plans in store. The building committee, comprised of leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Marine Corps League, have embraced Mayor Lee Kyriacou's beautification of Main Street initiative.

Our first foray was artistic. Art, particularly public art, often engenders strong reactions; indeed, that's one of its purposes. Our first entrée into public art, the eagle, has received universal praise, and we are gratified.

You may have noticed that the decaying coats of arms of the military services, formerly on the building's pediment, have been replaced with simple, elegant letters identifying the building by name. In the coming months, in collaboration with the city, we hope to develop a more elevated landscape leading the way to a more elegant and inviting Main Street corridor. We are also looking to upgrade the universal accessibility of the front portico of the building.

Less visible is the professional kitchen, and the restroom upgrades that we installed during the pandemic. We are now Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Hopefully, we will introduce these

to the residents of Beacon at our inaugural comedy night on April 2. Look for the announcement of what will surely be an exciting and fun evening.

John MacEnroe, *Beacon*

Thank a teacher

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to subside, it is a good time to thank the educators in our community for their perseverance, creativity and commitment. Throughout the Hudson Valley, we saw a number of schools respond in a variety of ways to pandemic impact. In our own community, our children largely were present in the classroom over the last two years even as their teachers' own children may have had completely different experiences.

Amid the rapid anti-school rhetoric dominating the media, we ought to be reminded that our teachers are there for us. They are there for our children, our grief, our funerals, our dysfunction and our sickness. They celebrate our joys, but they carry the burden of our family's emotional, economic, health and psychological distress. As quick as we are to criticize and as valuable as good criticism is, we must never lose sight of their service, humanity and the value of their work.

It is no accident that the long anti-public school sentiment that pervades much

political discourse has eventually led to the diminishment of funds and support for educators. This discourse has led to a steady increase in the number of early retirements and a steady decrease in the number of individuals entering the profession. Simply put, the profession is not valued. Thus, we are witnessing the erosion of a system that, although it has its issues, has served this country well. A democracy depends upon a level of competence and participation in order to find its validity.

This latest current of anti-educator rhetoric has manifested itself in verbal and physical attacks on teachers and school boards who merely seek to provide an informed, healthy and safe learning environment. It's sad to think that, even as teachers carry the weight of our lives during one of the most trying times in our country's history, we still permit a culture of uniform disregard for the contribution educators make. While the lack of gratitude is shameful, the impact on our democracy is dangerous.

If you can, please take some time to thank a teacher and encourage young people to consider the profession, or at least don't deride those who pursue it.

James Hoch, *Garrison*

Hoch is a former member of the Garrison school board.

Nelsonville sewers

As a resident of Nelsonville, I was pleased to read that Philipstown is considering sharing some of the federal funding they are going to receive with Nelsonville ("Garrison Water and Behavioral Hub Seen as Relief Priorities," Feb. 18).

The article specifically mentions sewers for Nelsonville. Yes, the system in Cold Spring was designed to include Nelsonville and it has been a topic for every incarnation of the Village Board. When I was a member of a previous Village Board, we investigated the issue thoroughly and even solicited estimates for a sewer connection to Cold Spring.

Our investigations came to the same conclusion every time: The project is cost-prohibitive for a village the size of Nelsonville. We received estimates from \$7 million to \$10 million for the installation of sewers connected to Cold Spring's system. That would include only the homes closest to the line (maybe three blocks from Main Street) and does not include the costs that would be incurred by homeowners to connect to the system and decommission their current septic systems.

We investigated getting a bond for the project but found that paying the bond every year would be far more than the village's current yearly budget. Nelsonville

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The HIGHLANDS CurrentPODCAST



This week Senior Editor Leonard Sparks speaks with Maya Fasulo, 20, a Beacon native and Haldane High School graduate who recently lost her grandmother and mother to COVID-19 within weeks of each other.

Visit highlandscurrent.org/podcast to listen and subscribe.



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

residents would very likely see their taxes increase at least three- to fourfold. Nelsonville would not receive any revenue as that would be paid to Cold Spring. Grants were sought but \$7 million to \$10 million grants are not easy to find.

I am on record as saying that I completely support the construction of a sewer system but not at the cost of bankrupting Nelsonville or putting financial hardship on the residents. Again, I thank Philipstown for wanting to share the largesse of funds with the villages but I think that the money would be better used for other pending projects.

Alan Potts, *Nelsonville*

Potts is a candidate for a trustee seat on the Nelsonville board.

Beacon arrest

Police Chief Sands Frost will have his hands full in the months ahead with the current Beacon City Council, no matter how the police handle any situation ("Did Officers Respond Appropriately?" Feb. 18). In this case, they conducted themselves with admirable honor, only to face hostile individuals, none of whom ran with any opposition. Shame on us.

Herbert Simon, *Beacon*

I have been a resident of Beacon since 1993 and retired after 30 years as a psychiatric social worker with the state Office of Mental Health, with assignments with mobile crisis intervention in Putnam County as well as at mental health units at the Downstate and Fishkill correctional facilities.

I have been an expert reviewer for *Psychiatric Services Journal*, have conducted training on the management of disturbed behavior, and have been a critical reader for a text on the management of mentally ill inmates.

The comments by the city administrator, Mental Health America and the Beacon police in response to this videotaped arrest are all well-taken. The concept of a mental health professional attempting to intervene with an acutely disturbed individual who is wandering in traffic would pose an unacceptable, in fact negligent, level of risk to that individual as well as to others.

It appears from the reporting that this particular individual, like many others, has had extensive contact with treatment programs. Unfortunately, and obviously, these programs don't always work, particu-

larly with noncompliant individuals.

There is always room for improvement in mental health, addiction and law enforcement agencies that are, in fact, staffed by human beings. My opinion on this particular case: The only alternatives to what happened would be an inappropriate and risky "mental health" intervention with an acutely irrational individual, and/or abdication of society's obligation to protect this individual.

Joseph Steinfeld, *Beacon*

A clinical social worker police officer should be at every mental-health or substance-abuse arrest. They are schooled in how to evaluate and de-escalate a situation. Beacon has yet to hire one.

Terry Hockler, *Beacon*

The unilateral closing of mental hospitals in favor of so-called community health centers has been a disaster for the mentally ill and society at large. The jails have become the repository of the mentally ill and the police custodians constantly under the microscope of the "you should have done thus and such" town officials.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

They only used force when the man started hitting an officer. Good thing he didn't have a knife or a gun. It's sad that law enforcement has to wait until their lives are in jeopardy to do anything.

Damian Schwartz, *via Facebook*

It's ridiculous that we even have to put the police under a microscope, but this is the environment in blue states these days. With constant video surveillance and a general disdain for law enforcement, it's amazing that we even have anyone signing up for the academy. Kudos to the officers.

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

This is a great job by these police officers. They brought the man to the ground in a method very unlikely to result in injury and immediately and consistently checked on his well-being.

Dan Olsen, *via Facebook*

Hindsight is always 20/20. These men do what is absolutely necessary 99.1 percent of the time, while making split-second decisions. Stop trying to make trouble.

Michael Caruso, *via Facebook*

Why would you ask the general public a

question that an untrained person couldn't possibly answer? Stop trying to stir up trouble.

Tom DiCastro Jr., *via Facebook*

Maybe the City Council members who "took issue" with the way the police handled the issue should apologize. Stop making everything a Black-and-white issue; we'd all be in a better place. Our police are here to protect all of us, no matter what race we are, and they do a great job in Beacon. These days, that's not easy. Shame on those council members.

Diane Butler, *via Facebook*

I respect police work enough to know that it's irresponsible for untrained individuals to determine how well they stuck to their training. The question in the headline of this article is a divisive binary that you either support the police or criticize them.

One of the biggest challenges around this issue is that it is difficult for council members or residents to ask how we can handle a mental health crisis most effectively using the newest tools available without someone trying to veer the conversation to whether we are anti-police. It is not anti-police to ask for a well-funded fire department to put out fires, or an ambulance service to take people to hospitals, or social services with the training and expertise to handle mental health.

It's a reasonable and very responsible question for our city to ask.

James Case-Leal, *via Facebook*

I'm appalled and embarrassed! The City Council sets the tone for issues in Beacon.

They dropped the ball on this. They looked at one video and put it out there that an investigation is needed because they hated to see his face pushed to the pavement. Instead of waiting to see what happened, they stirred the pot, causing drama. I realize you are new, but do better. Applause to City Administrator Chris White for setting the record straight.

Susan Pagones, *via Facebook*

The people who judge these officers should try to gently restrain someone who appears to be having a psychotic episode. I have worked in the prison system for more than 25 years — a place that has become a dumping ground for the mentally ill. I have seen countless inmates have psychotic episodes, pick up and throw officers, kick and bend their cell bars and dive headfirst from their bunks into steel toilets and not even flinch. The next time you see one of these videos that media instigators show the public, maybe you will realize that the officers are trying to save this person from harming themselves or some innocent citizen. They are showing compassion.

Dennis Crawford, *via Facebook*

After clicking through on Facebook to read your article, the answer is apparently, "Yes, they did act appropriately."

Unfortunately, not everyone reads the articles. I am sure you are aware that a less-alarming headline would result in fewer clicks. Such is life and media in 2022. I was hoping for better from a local paper, but it is what it is.

Tom Guzzi, *Putnam Valley*

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'My Heart Was Broken'

Friends remember
Philipstown author
David Poses

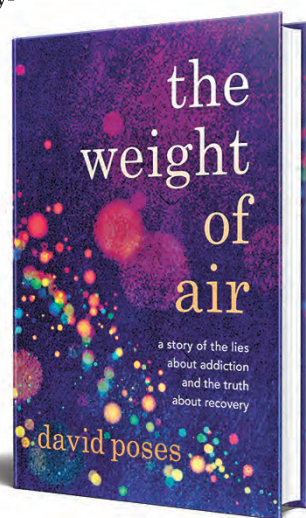
By Leonard Sparks

After Alex Colyer lost her best friend to addiction in January 2020, she found David Poses. It was Poses' book, *The Weight of Air: A Story of the Lies About Addiction and the Truth About Recovery*, she read after launching the Albertus Project, a nonprofit formed to help addicts in honor of her friend. Soon, she was inviting Poses to be a guest on the organization's podcast and befriending the Philipstown author.

Together, they spent the afternoon of Feb. 15 on the phone with an aide to U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, lobbying for the congressman's support of proposed legislation to expand access to methadone amid a continued spike in overdoses, said Colyer.

"To me, that synthesizes exactly who David was," she said. "He just spent all that time trying to help other people."

Other witnesses to his generosity have also been pouring out similar tributes on Facebook



and on Twitter, where the author and activist had built a following of 13,000, in response to his sudden death on Feb. 16, less than eight months after his book's release. He was 45 and is survived by his wife and two children; a Go Fund Me campaign for the family has been created at bit.ly/david-poses.

In *The Weight of Air*, Poses detailed how the federally approved addiction medication, buprenorphine, led to his recovery from the abuse of heroin, which he started using at age 16 as an antidote to depression. He also used its pages to criticize tight federal restrictions on the dispensing of buprenorphine and other addiction medications.

It was a crusade Poses also waged on television, and in newspaper op-eds and radio and podcast interviews, on social media and in *The Current*. He used those platforms to advocate harm-reduction-based

addiction strategies — a menu that includes needle exchanges, safe-injection sites and addiction medications — instead of the traditional focus on complete abstinence.

He was also a founding board member of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub in Cold Spring, which helps people access addiction and mental health resources.

"I don't think he realized how many people he was



David Poses

helping with his story," said Sandra Jonas, his Colorado-based publisher. "People are, understandably, very, very upset."

In 2017, when *The Current* asked for ideas about what should be done to counter the opioid addiction crisis, Poses submitted a response about his own experience with the disease that we have reposted at highlandscurrent.org. Two years later, he wrote an op-ed for *The Los Angeles Times* that he later called his national "coming out party."

"As the opioid crisis started to be a thing that was in newspapers, I saw so much misinformation," he said. "I realized my silence was sabotaging what I was trying to accomplish."

Poses wrote a draft of *The Weight of Air* and said he expected wholesale rejection. But Jonas said she was "intrigued" by his story when he contacted her in late 2020.

"Number one, he's a really good writer and, also, he had a different take on things,"

she said. "He wanted to raise awareness about the connection between mental health and addiction, and even before the book came out, he was helping people."

Jennifer Hornak is one of those people.

She met Poses on Twitter and found support after her son, Quincie Berry, died of an overdose on July 23, 2020. Quincie returned to using fentanyl after a half-way house refused to admit him unless he stopped taking buprenorphine, said Hornak, who lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Poses told her "we'll do whatever we can do to get this out there," she said. Although never meeting in person, they talked often, sometimes several times a week, said Hornak. It was a senior editor for *Vice News*, who interviewed Hornak for a story about federal restrictions on buprenorphine, who broke the news of Poses' death, she said.

"I cried as hard as I cried when my son died of an overdose," said Hornak, who is among the people Poses acknowledged in *The Weight of Air*. "My heart was broken."

The book was released on July 6, with a launch five days later at Split Rock Books in Cold Spring. Poses, initially wary of how his book would be received, said he found the positive reactions "extraordinary."

Colyer said that Poses' book taught her "so much about the truths of addiction" as she sought information following her friend's death. On Monday (Feb. 28), the Albertus Project (albertusproject.org) is hosting a vigil on Instagram at 5 p.m., she said. People are invited to share something about Poses or read an excerpt from his book.

"It's just absolutely heartbreaking," she said.

Surveillance (from Page 1)

bors to request footage while investigating crimes, and to warn people about incidents in their areas.

On Feb. 13, the day an armed robber stole \$228 from the Gulf gas station on Route 9D in Garrison, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office used Neighbors to gather leads that led to the arrest of a City of Newburgh man, said McConville. (See Page 3.)

Footage from a home surveillance camera at a residence north of the gas station captured the suspect's car, and him walking to and running away from the station.

"Since this incident, we have created accounts on there [Neighbors] so that we cannot only push information out as needed, but we can receive it as well," he said. "This allows us to hit a broader group of people in a more-rapid manner."

Under Ring's policy, law enforcement agencies can set up accounts allowing them to send "request for assistance" posts to users in a specific area, either to notify them of a crime or to help with an investigation.

Ring says its guidelines prevent "overly broad" requests, and that customers can choose whether police requests appear in their feeds. Any video shared with a police agency is private, said Ring. The company also notifies camera owners when a police agency has joined Neighbors.

Police can also seek subscriber informa-

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	23,259 (+105)	407,205 (+3,273)	5.7 (0)	81.9 Percent in 10516: 95.1 Percent in 10524: 88.3	121 (0)
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	63,041 (+237)	1,263,234 (+9,956)	5.0 (0)	76.4 Percent in 12508: 70.8	646 (+2)
Source: State and county health departments, as of Feb. 23, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose. Local vaccination rates as of Jan. 26.					

tion, documents and video from Ring by producing "valid and binding" court orders, search warrants and subpoenas. The company will only release video content, however, in response to court orders and search warrants and says it "objects to legal requests it determines to be overbroad or inappropriate."

Ring, in reports on its website, said it processed 1,884 court orders, search warrants and subpoenas in 2020, providing full or partial information in 1,090 of those cases. Last year, according to Ring, 3,115 such requests were processed, but the reporting did not include the number of requests that were fulfilled.

Google Nest's privacy policy notes that

the company "may disclose information in response to legal process and lawful requests by public authorities in the United States and other countries, for the purposes of law enforcement and national security."

The proliferation of the devices, and access by law enforcement agencies, has alarmed privacy advocates. At Amazon's shareholder meeting in May, a group of faith-based investors proposed that the company commission a third-party study of whether its technologies, including Ring and the Neighbors app, contributed to human rights violations.

"The relationship between police and Ring leaves communities of color and all communities vulnerable to discriminatory

and unjust surveillance in the absence of clear guidance, oversight and accountability over potential misuse," said the shareholders.

Beacon's officers, while canvassing neighborhoods where an incident has occurred, often knock on the doors with cameras and ask homeowners to share footage, said Det. Sgt. Jason Johnson.

Most people are "more than willing to share footage," he said, and Beacon police have "used them in a multitude of cases — burglaries, package larcenies from your porch, or even possibly somebody walking by or driving by."

"They want a safe community just as much as we want to solve the crime," said Johnson.

Packed House for Good-Cause Eviction

Beacon council to discuss law once more Feb. 28

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council held a marathon, two-and-a-half-hour public hearing Tuesday (Feb. 22) on a proposal that would require landlords to demonstrate “good cause” before a judge would consider eviction proceedings.

Forty-eight people spoke, in person or via Zoom, with 3-to-1 favoring the proposal, which Beacon council members modeled on laws adopted recently in Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and a handful of other municipalities.

The standing-room-only crowd was, by far, the most to gather for a meeting in City Hall since the pandemic shutdown began nearly two years ago.

The hearing was adjourned at 10:20 p.m., by a 5-2 vote, until March 7, when the council could vote to adopt the law or elect to take more public comment. If the council makes substantive changes to the draft law during its Feb. 28 workshop, it would not be able to vote until March 21, City Attorney Drew Gamils said.

Council Members Justice McCray and Paloma Wake, advocates of the law before their election in November, voted against adjourning the hearing, saying they wanted to continue the discussion and potentially vote that night.

“I didn’t hear anything in this hearing that changed my mind enough to say that I would change anything substantial in this law,” Wake said. “But I also recognize that if my other council members need more time to digest what we heard, I want to give you the space that you requested to do that.”

Dozens of people, not all of them from Beacon, urged the council to adopt the law. Many brought signs advocating tenants’ rights or wore stickers that read “Housing is a Human Right.” Some speakers told stories of landlords evicting tenants with no warning, leaving single parents and chil-

The Arguments

YEA

DANIEL ATONNA: “I have a leaky roof, a moldy basement, but I’m worried if I complain to my landlord that I could get evicted. The people most opposed to good-cause eviction are a few greedy landlords who want to maintain a system of double-digit rent increases and arbitrary evictions.”

JAHEEME GRIFFIN: “This is about community. This is about keeping the people who care about Beacon in Beacon. It’s nice to see new faces, but it’s disappointing to see those faces replace people as opposed to joining them. It’s not just people coming in to buy homes to live in. There are hedge funds, investment companies who are buying these homes with the purpose of creating profit. It’s not going to do anything for your city as far as creating community.”

GISELLE MARTINEZ (Newburgh City Council member): “I had families that were coming to ask for help because their rent was raised suddenly from \$850 to \$1,350. Tenants who came home from work one day and their locks were changed and their belongings were thrown out into the street. Many of these were tenants of color, came from an immigrant background and/or had a language barrier. To say the least, they were taken advantage of.”

NAY

THERESA KRAFT: “Why would we force our small-time landlords, who are trying to make a living out of the equation [to abide by this law], when in turn they could sell to a bigger investor, who will only complicate it further? We need to focus on building true affordable housing and not continue with the 10 percent below-market-rate [requirement] in any further development. That formula is not working to the benefit of the residents who actually need it. The city should not allow Airbnbs and stop allowing developers and their silent partners to continue hiding behind LLCs.”

NANCY ROSALER: “What has brought us to this [place] is poor planning on the part of our city. The city has created, through the planning process, these luxury buildings that have come to town. It is upon the city to remedy some affordable housing options for tenants, but good-cause eviction is going down the wrong path of hurting the right landlords.”

GAIL WAUFORD: “We’re not against people getting assistance if they feel like they’re being unjustly evicted [but, as landlords,] we will have to incur the cost of hiring an attorney if we need to raise rent because we need to do a major repair. It is our business, it is our livelihood. It supplements our low-wage jobs.”

dren homeless, while others cautioned that tenants everywhere are vulnerable since the state’s moratorium on pandemic-related evictions expired Jan. 15.

On the flip side, the owners of rental units in Beacon made the case that they

shouldn’t be lumped in with “greedy, corporate” management companies. Small landlords who rely on rent income will be penalized by the law, which would require them to hire attorneys to justify rent increases brought on by rising costs such as

What Would Change?

- All landlords would register their properties with the city;
- Annual rent increases would be capped at 5 percent, except in certain instances, such as when a landlord makes capital improvements or the housing market changes significantly. A judge could also consider the consumer price index, the frequency and amount of past increases, and building sales price when an increase above 5 percent is requested;
- Landlords would need “good cause” to evict someone, such as nonpayment of rent; violation of the terms of tenancy; interference with other tenants’ comfort or safety; health-and-safety violations; use of the apartment for an illegal purpose; refusal to grant a landlord access for repairs; or a landlord’s need to use the property for a family member or personal residence;
- Only landlords who own fewer than four apartments who also live on-site would be exempt;
- The law would be reviewed by the City Council in June 2023.

insurance or taxes outside of their control.

The council appears set to move ahead despite attorneys’ warnings that the city lacks the authority to enact a good-cause law.

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis told the council in September that he believes a 2019 state law supersedes local regulations. On Jan. 31 he told the council that his firm could not defend the city if it adopts the good-cause law and is sued by landlords, as happened in Albany.

A statewide good-cause law was introduced in the state Senate in 2020 and similar bills are being considered in the Legislature now.

Defense in Murder Case Wants DA Removed

Accuses Putnam office of misconduct and bias

By Leonard Sparks

A Lake Carmel man who served more than 20 years in prison for the killing of a 12-year-old girl before being granted a new trial is asking a judge to replace the Putnam County District Attorney’s Office with a special prosecutor.

Andrew Krivak was convicted, along with Anthony DiPippo, in 1997 for the rape and murder of Josette Wright three years earlier.

DiPippo, who was twice convicted of the crime, spent 20 years in prison before being released following his acquittal at a third trial in 2016. He sued Putnam County and settled for \$12 million, all but \$200,000 of which was paid by insurers.

A key difference between the prosecu-

tions is that Krivak implicated himself in a statement that the defense contends was a false confession coerced by Sheriff’s Department investigators. He is being retried before Westchester County Judge Barry Warhit because the state judges based in Putnam recused themselves.

Krivak’s attorneys, Oscar Michelin and Karen Newirth, filed a motion in December to replace District Attorney Robert Tendy’s office as the prosecutor in the case. They allege his office withheld evidence and is pursuing Krivak despite the recantations of three eyewitnesses and the admission by a fourth, Denise Rose, that she lied about “significant details” during a deposition.

Tendy is also accused of failing to investi-



Josette Wright

gate a claim by an inmate, Joseph Santoro, that a convicted sex offender named Howard Gombert confessed to him that he killed Wright. (Gombert, who lived in Carmel and knew Wright, is serving a 30-year sentence for assaulting an 8-year-old girl.)

The evidence the defense says was not provided includes investigators’ notes in which Wright’s mother accused Gombert and also said that rings found in Krivak’s van were too big to be her daughter’s.

“This is not the behavior of an objective and disinterested prosecutorial office intent on seeking justice,” said Michelin and Newirth. “Rather, it is the behavior of one that is so biased against Mr. Krivak that it is willing to do anything at all to secure a conviction.”

Larry Glasser, the assistant district attorney who is prosecuting the retrial with Tendy, said in a response to the motion this month that it “contains outrageous and inflamma-

tory accusations” and that many of the claims had been rejected during Krivak’s first trial.

Glasser described Santoro as “a career criminal who bragged that he has zero soul,” and who attempted to make deals with the DA’s office for a reduced sentence and with Krivak’s lawyers for cash.

In September, Santoro pleaded guilty in federal court to threatening to recant his testimony about Gombert if he did not receive a share of DiPippo’s settlement. He insists, according to *The Journal News*, that his claim about Gombert is true.

Glasser also said that Rose “consistently described” watching Krivak and DiPippo rape and kill Wright inside a van and that one of Wright’s friends testified at trial that a ring found in the van was a gift from her.

Each of Krivak’s allegations was either raised at trial or had not previously been alleged, said Glasser. “The complete history of this proceeding makes clear that we have fully upheld our ethical obligations as prosecutors and public servants,” he said.

Why This Series?

The number of people who attend or associate with Christian denominations has been falling steadily in the U.S. for decades. As a result, many churches have closed or merged or are struggling financially, including in the Highlands. The pandemic shutdown did not help, although churches quickly adapted by broadcasting services online.

Repeated social surveys have found that, as the churchgoing population ages, younger generations are not replacing them in the pews. A growing segment of the population has been labeled “nones” — they are not atheists or even agnostics. They just don’t have religion in their lives. Sundays are the second day of the weekend.

This series will examine how this trend is affecting churches in Philipstown and Beacon, and how their leaders are attempting to grow their flocks. When Beacon, Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Garrison were founded, community life centered on the churches. What changed? What should change? What must change? If it survives, what will the church of the future look like?

Your thoughts and reactions are welcome. Email editor@highlandscurrent.org

Chip Rowe, *Editor*

The “Halo Effect”

Should you trust surveys about church membership? While about 40 percent of Americans have consistently said in the Gallup poll that they are “regular churchgoers,” studies that extrapolate from head counts in the pews put the figure closer to 20 percent. Researchers suspect that people exaggerate their attendance, just as they exaggerate how often they vote and downplay how much they drink.

Shifting Beliefs

78% Americans in 2007 who identified as Christian

▼ **63%** in 2021

16% Americans in 2007 who identified as “nones”

▲ **29%** in 2021

Source: Pew Research Center



The Rev. Steve Schunk inside St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring

Photo by Ross Corsair

Churches *(from Page 1)*

offer up the names of people to pray for, Pat never asked for prayers for himself or someone he was close to. Instead he would ask the congregation to pray for someone in town who had just lost their mother, or a family he’d read about in the paper that was experiencing hardships, or someone else he’d heard about via word-of-mouth. “He was probably the most Christ-like person I ever met,” she said.

But there is only so much that a small congregation can do in terms of fundraising, of serving the community, of finding members. Their ministry work in the community had dwindled down to feeding Pat every day.

When the Reformed Church was built 162 years ago on what was then known as Fish-kill Landing, churches were the centerpiece of communities. The Reformed Church was designed to hold 200 people. Even before the pandemic shutdown, members of the congregation would look up at the cavernous space around them and ask themselves: How much longer can we keep this up?

Their pastor, Jan Fritzinger, remembered congregants telling her that in the 1950s, every pew would be full. But now? “You put 10 people in a seating capacity of 200, they’re lost,” she said.

The heart of the village

One doesn’t have to be religious to appreciate what a church brings to a community. “You have all these wonderful buildings, historical structures, they’re beautiful and add such character to any village,” said Mark Forlow.

But as Forlow knows from his time as a vestry member of St. Mary’s Episcopal

Church in Cold Spring, taking care of those structures can be a trial. St. Mary’s was built in 1867, a few years after the Reformed Church in Beacon. Like that structure, St. Mary’s was the second church built by the congregation. The Reformed Church started in 1813 and St. Mary’s was founded in 1840. Both congregations left their first churches to build the larger, grander ones that still stand.

They were built to inspire. They were not built to be energy efficient.

“The furnace was 40 years old, so every year, we put money into the furnace,” said Fritzinger about the Reformed Church in Beacon. “It was all on one zone. And when you have an old church like that, there are lots of repairs.”

Historic churches “are a huge suck in terms of your resources, heating them, the electricity, the maintenance,” said Forlow. “They are very, very needy structures.” One of the first projects that he took part in upon joining the church was getting the steeple repointed. The congregation had to raise \$250,000.

“We got it done — great,” he said. “Now you got the rest of the building. Then you’ve got the parish hall.” The church isn’t insulated, and its windows aren’t tight. “It seems like the oil burner is on all day long, and the heat just goes right up through the roof,” he said.

When the organ needed repairs, parishioners had to learn how to do the costly work themselves. Both churches predate the Americans with Disabilities Act by at least 120 years, and had to be brought up to code.

These are daunting enough projects for a large congregation. For a small one, they become impossible. The financial crash of 2008 hit the St. Mary’s endowment hard,

and the church spent the next 10 years flirting with bankruptcy. There was discussion of how much the church could get if it were to sell its rolling 1.5-acre lawn in the heart of the village to a developer. The assessment came back at just under \$3 million.

In 2018, in order to survive, they had to let go their full-time rector, Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, who had been with the church since 2002 and had rebuilt the congregation from an average of seven members at Mass to 50. A statement from St. Mary’s at the time called the decision to do so “difficult and without pleasure, but it was a necessary decision in order for the parish to continue.”

This was the environment that Rev. Steve Schunk, the part-time priest-in-charge at St. Mary’s, came into: The pain of a popular rector being let go, and the constant worry about the church’s dire finances.

“I thought St. Mary’s was on the brink but not just from money,” he said. “There was a lot of hurt in the parish. That’s what I thought not only in the parish, but I think even in the community. So I think my first thing to do was simply to love them. And just lead them out. I hope and I think we’ve stopped the leak in the boat. I think we’re on a positive cash basis.”

Still, he wonders why more people from the village aren’t spending their Sundays here. And because he’s only in the village part-time, he worries that he’s not in the community enough to figure it out.

“I think St. Mary’s is being taken for granted,” he said. “But how do I tell that story? If St. Mary’s is important to you in the community, you have to be like our parishioners and pledge. How do I get that story across?”

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

Forlow remembers an Australian couple a few years ago who were visiting the Hudson Valley, happened to attend a service at St. Mary’s because they were walking by and were charmed by the building. They enjoyed themselves so much that they flew back to Cold Spring every other month to attend services.

“I loved the story, but it was hilarious,” he said. “Where are the people in the village? If we had 100 to 150 people in the village come to St. Mary’s? I have no doubt that there would be a different experience.”

Both Forlow and Schunk worry that the Christianity that the public sees in the national media — the scandals, the exclusion, the rise of Christian nationalism — is keeping people away from local churches, “especially people who are not churched, people who don’t have the experience,” Forlow said. “Liberty University, give me a break. And they associate St. Mary’s or the Methodist church or the Presbyterian with Liberty University. We’re not that, you know, and that’s the hardest thing to overcome. But how do you say that to somebody? How do you expose them to religion and community and worship and have it be meaningful to their lives? This culture that we have could certainly benefit from people just stopping, taking a step back, and looking at what’s important.”

Even harder than bringing the unchurched into the flock is getting people who have left to return. St. Mary’s prides itself on being an inclusive and welcoming community, but Schunk knows that there are those who have been “spiritually wounded” by traumatic experiences with other religious institutions. “The church became anti-women, anti-gay, all this,” he said. “Sometimes if a person feels bad, and they go to a lot of therapy, they ask, ‘Why did the church make me feel this way?’ How am I ever going to get that person to come back?”

Exile and return

In Beacon, Emily Murnane tried to convince her friends to attend services at the Reformed Church, hoping that an infusion of young members could sustain the congregation. “It’s a free breakfast, just come in, meet the people,” she remembers telling them. “You’re going to be inspired.”

No one joined her. Some needed those Sunday mornings to catch up on sleep. Others were put off by the religious aspect, “which kind of sucks when you’re trying to convince people to come to a church,” she said. “But there was that overarching specter of organized religion that was making them believe that ‘this is going to be boring, it’s going to be a responsibility, it’s going to be spooky.’”

Finally, a few months into the pandemic, the congregation realized that they could not afford to keep going. They held a final service in May 2021. Past members and former pastors returned. The theme of the service was the resurrection. They spoke of exile from Egypt, the uncertainty of the wilderness, and then finally finding the promised land. They spoke of Jesus revealing himself to his disciples three days after being crucified, when all hope had been lost. And they performed the Rite of Passage to New Forms of Ministry, in which the congregants were urged to find a new place of worship where they may be encouraged in their faith.

For Murnane, that hasn’t happened. She hasn’t gone to another church. Instead, she’s been busy scanning and digitizing the church’s historical records for the Beacon Historical Society. The church is in contract to be sold and transformed into a venue for live performances with a bar and a hotel.

She has not lost hope. She’s encouraged that the developers have been speaking with her about the site’s history and ways in which they can preserve it. They plan to restore the historic cemetery, which is over-

grown and inaccessible. “They care about that property, and they have the motivation and the resources to take care of it,” she said. “If it has to be a music venue, then it couldn’t have ended up in better hands.”

And both Munrane and Pastor Fritzinger are glad to see that, until the sale is finalized, another religious group is using the church. Goodwill Church, an evangelical organization with three churches in Orange County, has been renting the space since June.

Fritzinger, who is serving as a part-time pastor in Hyde Park, was shocked to learn that Goodwill is bringing in 70 people every week. Larger churches can afford the marketing and other resources it takes to grow. In this case, she learned that the members attending weren’t local. They were “church plants” from one of the other three churches on the other side of the river.

“They take people from other congregations of theirs that are willing to go to a new church, and they plant them in there for a few weeks, and then spread the word out,” she said. “That’s the marketing.”

Murnane worries about the stories that will now be lost. Once the records she’s handling have been digitized, the originals will be sent to the governing body of the Reformed Church and they’ll lie dormant until someone else comes looking for them. Then there are the practical considerations of what happens to a city when a community within it dissolved.

“That was a community of open, welcoming, warm people who did everything in their power, what little power they had for their community,” she said. “Here’s a place where you can talk about what’s going on in your life. We’re not going to ask any questions. We don’t demand that you be a certain way. You just, you know, just come in, say what you need to say, spend some time with us. We don’t care who you are, we don’t care what you are, we don’t care why you are. Just come in and join us. We’re short on places like that, in Beacon and in the world.”

The Reformed Church and St. Mary’s are not unique. Many churches in the Highlands struggle with filling pews, raising money, patching walls, figuring out the spiritual and logistical needs of their congregation, and discovering the role of religion during a time of polarization and pandemics. If fewer Americans are defining themselves as Christians — or religious at all — what does that mean for the church in general?

Over the next few weeks, *The Current* will look at some of the problems local churches are dealing with, and some of the solutions they’ve discovered. When we conceived this series before the pandemic, the working titles were *Are Churches Dying?* or *The Church in Crisis*. But in the process of reporting, it became clear that neither title was accurate. Churches do close. Congregations disperse. But on the whole, many churches are dealing with their challenges by changing what it means to be part of a church.

In some ways, instead of a decline, the church may be getting back to its roots.

“Christ didn’t have a megachurch,” said Fritzinger. “He had 12 ragged disciples.”

How Diverse is the Hudson Valley?

In a study released last year, the research firm PRRI ranked each county in the U.S. for religious diversity. The index is calculated so that a score of 1 would indicate that every religious group is of equal size, while a score of 0 indicates that one religious group comprises the entire population. The average score in the U.S. is 0.625. Diversity is highest in urban areas and lowest in the South and rural areas.

Rockland.....	0.869
Orange.....	0.846
Westchester.....	0.842
Ulster.....	0.824
Dutchess.....	0.800
Putnam.....	0.776

Christian Portrait

White Christians
Dutchess 53%
Putnam 53%
Lynn County, Iowa 87%

White Evangelical
Dutchess 7%
Putnam 3%
Marion County, Alabama 64%

White Protestant
Dutchess 17%
Putnam 12%
Pope County, Minnesota 37%

White Catholic
Dutchess 29%
Putnam 38%
Dubuque County, Iowa 45%

Black Protestant
Dutchess 6%
Putnam 1%
Holmes County, Mississippi 68%

Hispanic Protestant
Dutchess 2%
Putnam 3%
Hidalgo County, Texas 21%

Hispanic Catholic
Dutchess 5%
Putnam 7%
Zapata County, Texas 59%

Nones
Dutchess 26%
Putnam 26%
San Juan County, Washington 49%

Source: The American Religious Landscape in 2020, PRRI (July 8, 2021) The other counties shown are those with the highest percentage.



The Rev. Jan Fritzinger, the last pastor at the Reformed Church of Beacon, is now serving a congregation in Hyde Park. Photo by Ross Corsair

Rival Accuses Maloney of Promoting Illegal Drug Use

At issue: Statement on MSNBC talk show

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Congressional hopeful Colin Schmitt last week used a sentence from a long MSNBC interview of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney to accuse the latter of celebrating illegal drug use.

A Republican who's now in the New York State Assembly, Schmitt wants to oust Maloney in the November election.

Maloney, a Philipstown resident, was a guest on the *Morning Joe* talk show on Feb. 17 in his capacity as chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Before he arrived, the *Morning Joe* panelists bantered about memorable years, music, movies and pastimes, including

questionable behavior, of their youth.

When Maloney joined them, he was asked to contribute his recollections. He recalled 1986, when "I was at UVA [University of Virginia]. The MDMA [Ecstasy, an illegal hallucinogen] was really pure, and we enjoyed [the band] R.E.M., and I went to all kind of places."

Schmitt, in a news release, claimed that "instead of setting an example for our children, Maloney is now appearing on national television and bragging about his use of hard drugs" and "has turned his back on the families he was elected to represent and become a caricature of what a member of Congress is supposed to be."

Schmitt also faulted Maloney's comments on inflation, saying "Joe Biden and Sean Maloney's failed leadership has made everyday items more expensive across the

Maloney on Ukraine

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, released a statement on Thursday (Feb. 24) on the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

"This invasion is part of a larger, dangerous pattern of Russian efforts to undermine democracies across Europe. As Russia's advance into Crimea proved, if this invasion is allowed to proceed unchecked, Russia will continue its attacks and aggression. I support rushing further support to Ukraine and implementing severe sanctions on Russia, including sanctions which directly target [President Vladimir] Putin, his financial institutions, and his oligarch supporters.

"I spent the past week in Europe as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Munich Security Conference. After many discussions with our allies, I am confident in the strength of the transatlantic partnership and certain that the best path forward is working cooperatively with them in this moment of crisis."

board."

On the show, Maloney advised political leaders to focus on the basics. "Talk about the price of a gallon of milk. Talk about the price of a gallon of gas. What's a pound of hamburger cost? And if you don't get the cost of groceries and gas down — yeah,

it's a problem. And there's no excuse when you're in power. So we've got to do something about that."

Mia Ehrenberg, Maloney's press secretary, said Thursday (Feb. 24) that "the Maloney team opted to not comment" on Schmitt's news release.



A 2020 report included a rendering of how the proposed 95-foot Nelsonville cell tower, disguised as a tree, would look from the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Cell Towers *(from Page 1)*

feet long for cables and conduits.

Homeland contends that it can proceed because its deed to the parcel, which it purchased two years ago, does not limit it to using the right-of-way path merely for entry and exit, or "ingress and egress," in legal parlance.

Richard Villella and Courtney Tarpley and their neighbors, Jeff Rossi and Melissa Gillmer and Michael and Rosemarie Olshakoski, sued in 2020, seeking a permanent injunction against Homeland's intended alterations to the right of way.

The deed for the parcel refers to "a right of way in common with others over lands," wording that "bolsters the position of the plaintiffs [the neighbors] that the right of way is only for ingress and egress *over the land*," Davis emphasized in his ruling.

The judge cited decisions from the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest judicial panel. In 1959, he noted, the court declared that "the reservation of a mere 'right of way' " in existing jurisprudence "included only the right of passage over the surface of the land."

Seven years later, in a case involving

a property owner who sued after a utility company laid gas lines under a right of way, it found that if the utility continued its activity, the landowner's right "to the fruit of the soil ... would be taken away, diverted and appropriated for the purposes of a corporation."

Based on such precedents, Davis declared that the Rockledge homeowners "are likely to succeed on the merits of the main legal issue" they raise, "that the right of way benefiting the Homeland parcel is for ingress and egress only, to pass over the land," and "that the trench-digging and installation of these materials is not permitted."

Davis acknowledged that an unsettled question remains: Whether Homeland might avoid the more disruptive elements of its plan and widen the right of way.

However, he added, "it is clear" that road-widening is secondary "to its main goal of digging trenches and installing underground conduit and cables in the right of way to service the cell tower it proposes to build on its lot. To be sure, without the underground conduit and cabling, the cell tower will be inoperable, and constructing the cell tower was the very purpose for



On March 28, 2021, Homeland Towers and Verizon began cutting down trees on a parcel off Rockledge Road in Nelsonville to make room for a cell tower. "The devastation is pretty significant," Courtney Tarpley, who with her husband filed a lawsuit, said at the time. "They don't even have the go-ahead to build the tower." *File photo by Ross Corsair*

which Homeland purchased the property."

He noted that the neighbors likewise "assert they will suffer irreparable injury" if Homeland proceeds, "creating substantial, additional surface disturbance" and otherwise "irreparably changing the right-of-way and the bucolic nature of the area."

Homeland asserts "the alleged harm can be compensated with money damages," the judge observed, but "Homeland's arguments are unavailing." He explained that the company's proposed changes to the landscape, and their effect on homeowners' ability to control what happens to their properties, "in which they have vested rights, and over which Homeland has a limited right to pass for ingress and egress, cannot be compensated with money damages."

Davis also discounted the tower builder's claim that gaps in cellphone connectivity threaten to harm the public, including emergency first-responders.

"This court is not persuaded that the public's general desire for better cellphone coverage outweighs the real property rights

of individuals," he wrote. Moreover, he suggested that any hardship to Homeland from delays to its project "is self-created. It forged ahead" with its plans, assuming it would succeed, "rather than proceeding cautiously and, perhaps, seeking court intervention on the issue of the right of way *before* spending hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Davis ordered attorneys for both sides to appear in court in May to discuss the status of the case, after submitting any comments regarding his ruling.

A federal judge in November dismissed a separate suit, involving U.S. environmental law, that other residents had filed. An earlier federal case that Homeland Towers brought against Nelsonville, after the village refused to grant a permit for the proposed cell tower, resulted in a 2020 settlement allowing the tower to be built.

Villella said on Thursday (Feb. 24) that the legal battle with Homeland has cost at least \$60,000 — so much that he and his wife launched a fundraiser at gofundme.com/f/stop-the-cold-spring-cell-tower.

Reporter's Notebook

What is 'Local' News?

By Michael Turton

All politics may be local, but I wonder if that's true of all news as well.

It was all local when I began reporting for the *The Putnam County News and Recorder* 15 years ago. The publisher and editor, Brian O'Donnell, said my job was to be a "fly on the wall" at school and municipal meetings and tell people what happened. My journalistic horizons never extended beyond Nelsonville — well, maybe Garrison during a heavy news week.

It struck me recently how drastically that has changed since joining *The Current* 12 years ago. In fact, if the paper had the budget to send me to all the places involved in my stories, I'd be a world traveler.

It was recent emails to and from Enrique "Rob" Lunski in Argentina that brought that realization home. Rob lives in South America during our winter. I was writing about his Poughkeepsie-based, bilingual, online magazine, *ABClatino*, that has readers from across the Spanish-speaking world. I wished I was down there now, enjoying Argentina's 75-degree weather. Rob rubbed it in a little.

My first virtual overseas travel was to Germany in 2013 when I wrote about Brooks Bowman, a rising musical star whose songs have been performed by everyone from Billie Holliday to Diana Krall. Bowman died in a traffic accident in Garrison in 1937. Largely forgotten for decades, his story was revived by a German musician, Hans-Martin Fleischer, who traveled here to retrace Bowman's life. A few years later, Fleischer and I communicated by email. He was in Germany, and I admit, thoughts of Black Forest beer gardens danced in my head. I settled for a bottle of Paulaner from Foodtown.

In 2019, I wrote about something that came as a surprise: Two TV news programs, *La Verdad Internacional* and *Punto Vida*,



produced in Bolivia and broadcast to Latino countries around the world, originate from a studio in Philipstown and are hosted by my friend and fellow journalist, Carlos Salcedo. I had never envisioned Philipstown as home to international television programming.

Reporters aren't supposed to be part of the story, but Carlos returned the favor and interviewed me and *Current* Editor Chip Rowe via Zoom for one of the shows. We discussed the challenges of publishing a local weekly newspaper. It was fun to have the tables turned and be interviewed rather than doing the interview. However, I know exactly three words in Spanish: por favor, cerveza and gracias. So, it was bizarre to see us speaking Spanish in the translated version of the broadcast and to realize viewers from Chile and Paraguay to Columbia and Spain were tuned in to hear what we had to say.

Last year, I wrote about Tomiko Morimoto West, who, as a 13-year old girl, survived the bombing of Hiroshima. She lives in Dutchess County now, but her descriptions of what she experienced 76 years ago were so vivid she took me back to that day in Japan. She made the unimaginable very imaginable. Despite the death and destruction she described, her wisdom, kindness and lack of bitterness left me with a good feeling.

Not all stories do.

In January, I covered the story of Aung Phone San, a 26-year-old Myanmar national whose backpack was found along the banks of the Hudson River in Cold Spring. He had

phoned his mom from near Albany in December, telling her that he would jump ship from the bulk carrier he worked on rather than return to Myanmar, now ruled by a military junta that was punishing political activists. Seeing the clothing, personal documents and photographs from Aung's backpack was chilling. I tried to imagine the desperation he must have felt as he plunged into the icy water. His body has not been found.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been equal parts local and global. It's no surprise that I'd write about its impact here in the Highlands, but early in 2020 I was amazed to find myself interviewing Dong Xin Gong,

via Zoom, as he sat in Xuzhou, China, a city I had never heard of despite its population of 8.6 million. I've always found China fascinating, but thanks to the coronavirus, I was happy that visit was only virtual.

Most of my internationally tinged articles haven't resulted from in-depth research on my part. Most have somehow found me, although I did produce one international story all on my own. And it wasn't virtual.

In 2018, I was in Australia visiting my son, Drew, and his wife, Kim. What's a reporter to do while on vacation Down Under? Look for a story! We drove about an hour inland from Brisbane to the small town of Boonah, Queensland. There I spoke with Wendy Creighton, who had 33 years under her belt as editor of the *The Fassifern Guardian*, the local weekly newspaper, with circulation similar to *The Current*. Interestingly, she told me that in Australia, the Liberal party is actually conservative and the Labor party is liberal.

I'll always remember my last question to Wendy: "I love your accent; but why is it so strong?"

"I don't have an accent, you do!" she replied.

Tomorrow, I hope to contact a former resident of the Highlands who has been stranded in the Ukraine since the start of COVID. I think his observations will be of interest locally.

So, yes, all news is local. But at *The Current*, at least, some stories have tentacles that stretch way beyond Main Street, transcending time zones and even oceans.

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 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.

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on March 3, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against

A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A Local Law To Amend Town of Philipstown Town Code Chapter 82, entitled 'Energy Conservation' to update the provisions thereof regarding the State Energy Conservation Construction Code".

A complete copy of the Local Law is available for inspection upon request sent to townclerk@philipstown.com and is also available on the Town's Website, Philipstown.com.

Dated: February 23, 2022

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD | Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

NOTICE

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

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mJHR-kmpRTin8DjuatXXSA

Webinar ID: 853 0451 5348 **Passcode:** 057409

One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,85304515348#,,,057409#

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

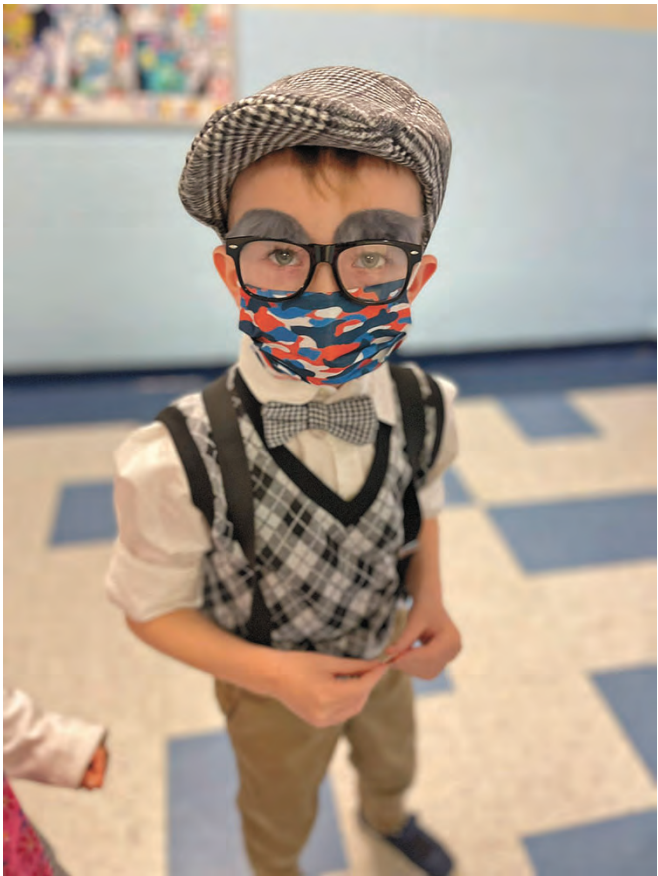
OR email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on March 8th, 2022.

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

AROUND TOWN



▲ **100 DAYS** — Students at Haldane celebrated 100 days of school with more than 100 donations for the Philipstown Food Pantry. Some students also dressed up as 100-year-olds and shared what they would do with \$100. Students at Glenham Elementary in the Beacon school district also dressed up (right) to celebrate their 100th day.



◀ **ICE ON THE HUDSON** — Tania Steele shared this photo she took at Long Dock Park in Beacon.

BREAKNECK RESCUE ▶

A New York State Police helicopter was called in on Wednesday morning (Feb. 23) to rescue an injured hiker. The hiker was hoisted and transported to a landing zone at Mayor's Park in Cold Spring, where the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps. was waiting. Cold Spring and North Highlands firefighters responded to the scene.

CSFC



◀ **CHAMBER MEETING** — More than 50 people attended a Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Boscobel on Feb. 15, including elected officials from Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Philipstown and Putnam County. Jeff Consaga, the owner of the Foundry Cafe, which closed last month, was recognized.

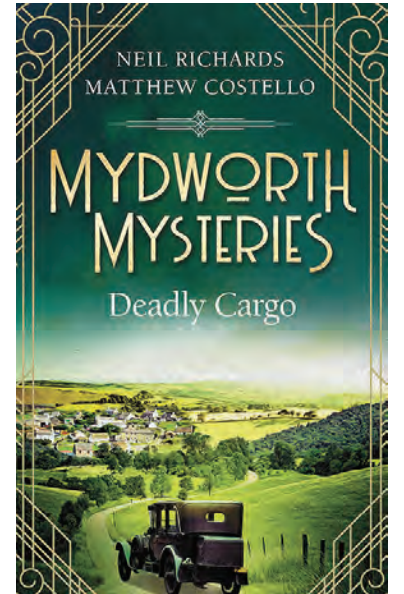
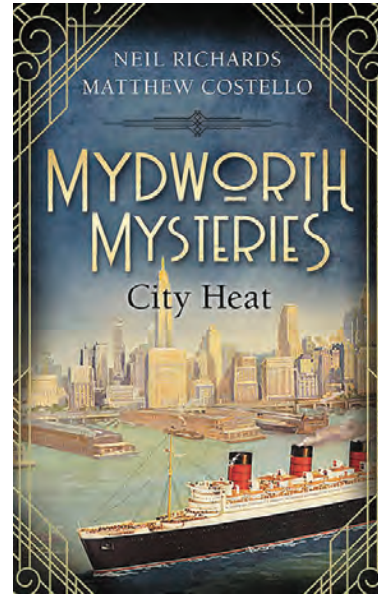
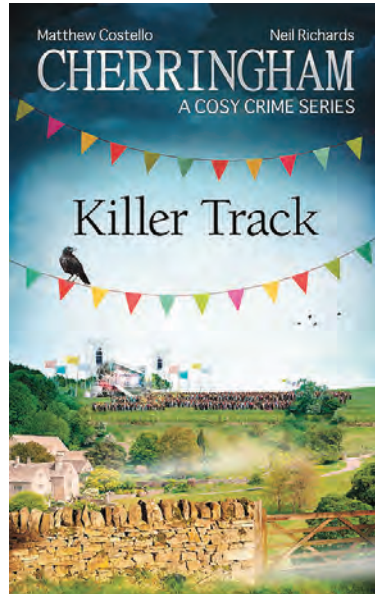
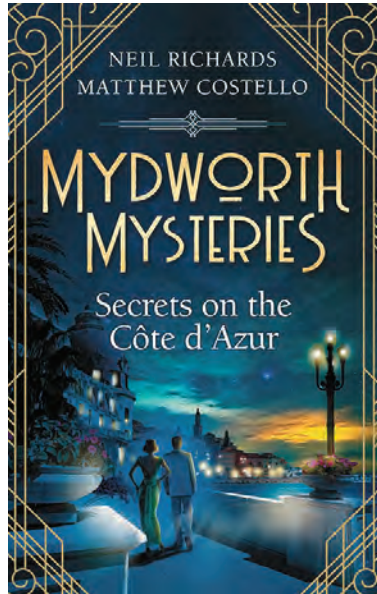
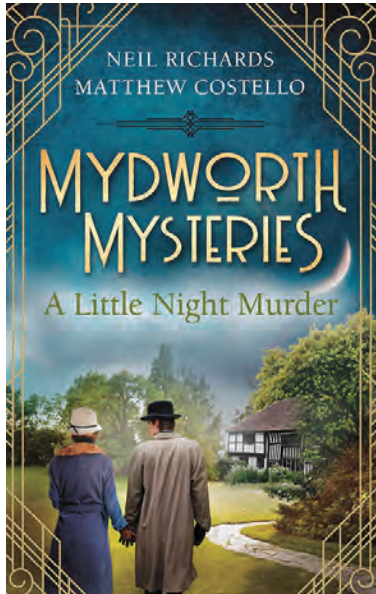
Photo by Caitlin Chadwick



◀ **NEWS BREAK** — Savana Kush and Kylee Graff are the anchors of *AM Rombout*, a morning news show produced at the Beacon middle school. Sargent Elementary School also has a news program called *Sargent Stars*, and Haldane Middle School students recently published a new issue of *The Haldane Scoop*. See highlandscurrent.org for links.

Photos provided

The Calendar



The Writing Life

Cold Spring novelist crafts video games and 'cozy' mysteries

By Alison Rooney

Matt Costello is one of those tick-off-all-the-boxes type of writers. “You spend enough time on the planet and it accrues,” says Costello, who began writing professionally in 1987. His output includes everything from action and horror fiction to a bestselling puzzle book to video game plots to popular “cozy” mysteries set in England.

A recent transplant to Cold Spring from Katonah, Costello attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute planning to become a science writer. But when he learned the program wasn’t available to freshmen or

sophomores, he switched to philosophy while editing the RPI literary magazine. All this was “during the ’60s, so it was focused around protest coverage: Eldridge Cleaver, Timothy Leary, that sort of thing,” he recalls.

After graduating, Costello became a teacher, which he loved, but “always in the back of my head I wanted to write,” he says. At age 30, he wrote a novel that didn’t sell, and from there, began reviewing board and video games.

“A mentor of mine came into my class one day with something like an Atari [video game player], which was the first time I had seen something like that,” he says. “Later [in 1988], I wrote a book called *The Greatest Puzzles of All Time* that sold 3 million copies and brought me lots of royalties.”

While making forays into game design, Costello continued writing. “I worked my way up the journalistic food chain, writing pieces for *Playboy*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Los Angeles Times*, plus lots more,” he says. “Through journalism I found my voice, and then I went back to writing a novel. That one sold.”

His resume brims with a long list of video game writing, everything from *Doom3*, where he is credited for “additional story and dialogue,” to *The 7th Guest*, as “game screenplay and novelization writer,” to *Clifford*, *the Big Red Dog: Reading*, for which he wrote the story and served as game designer. He once discussed the difference between a story and a “set of sequential events,” namely that “there must be a mission involved, with something at stake: Close encounters, dangerous environments and completely isolated characters are ways to raise those stakes.”

Although Costello’s passion has always been writing books, “games paid way more than the fiction,” he says. “Novels rarely earn royalties, unless you’re James Patterson.”

That changed when Costello tried his hand at the gentle, largely pastoral style of British mystery novels known as “cozies” that he writes with Neil Richards. At 140 pages each, they are meant to be quick reads.

He and Richards had worked together on some BBC shows over the years. They chose a contemporary setting in the Cotswolds, home to rolling hills and thatched roofs, and plotted out the characters. They visited the region, “checking out the pubs, trains, museums; soaking in the local atmosphere.” They wrote 25 pages each, then edited each other.

“We’re not delicate with each other — you can’t be,” he says. “The rules are simple: There’s a corpse, but you’re not going to see the knife. There’s nothing graphic; it’s ‘No sex please, we’re British.’ While there’s a mystery, the characters are still enjoying life: stopping into the pub for a pint and talking about a suspect.”

The books of their first series, Cherringham, were bestsellers, selling 750,000 copies. They followed with the Mydworth Mysteries, set in 1929.

Their audience has grown through the pandemic. “People were looking for escape,” Costello says. “In these days and times, cozy writing is terribly soothing.”

The men complete a book every two months and so far have published 42 volumes in the Cherringham series and 10 in Mydworth.

Costello says his typical day in Cold Spring starts with a cup of coffee and a long walk or run. Upon his return, he begins writing, without even a glance at his email.

“I’m fast, so those first seven to 10 pages come quickly, even in longhand, which is how I write,” he says. “I take a break, check emails, and the rest of the day is editing, revising and planning for the next day while listening to music. Afternoons are



Costello wrote story and dialogue for *The 7th Guest* video game.



A game created by Costello based on the *Planet of the Apes* series



Matt Costello

Photo provided

for shopping, going for a walk with my wife and cooking — I like to cook. If I’m working on a game, I don’t have to be as religious about the work. It doesn’t require the degree of craft that fiction does.”

“There must be a mission involved, with something at stake: close encounters, dangerous environments and completely isolated characters are ways to raise those stakes.”

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 26

Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive

845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

Discover the process of making syrup during a Sugar Bush Tour (1-mile hike) or a Maple Lane Tour (short walk). Continues on weekends through March 20. Reservations required. *Cost: \$11 ages 6 and up (\$9 members; free ages 5 and younger)*

SUN 27

Winter Wellness Expo

FISHKILL

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Comfort Suites

835 Route 52

hudsonvalleyholisticmarket.com

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

SUN 27

Nature on Ice

CORNWALL

4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive

845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.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 \$500*

KIDS AND FAMILY

SAT 26

Polar Bear, Chicken Soup and Friends

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

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

SUN 27

The History of Me

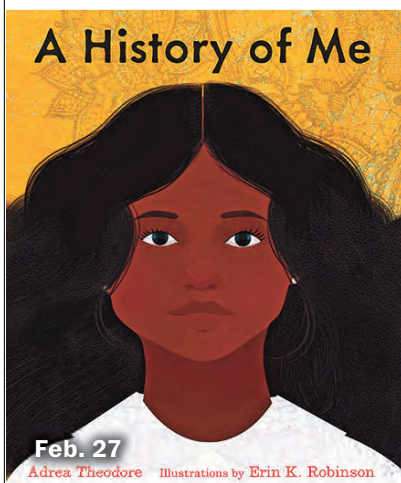
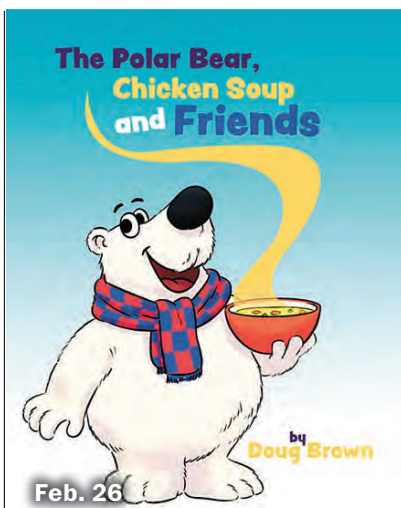
GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Via Crowdcast

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Author Adrea Theodore and illustrator Erin Robinson will read and discuss their picture book about a child's experience being the only Black person in her school. Hosted by the Desmond-Fish library and Split Rock Books for Black History Month. Designed for children ages 4 to 8.



TUES 1

Smart Money for High Schoolers

PATTERSON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

campherrlich.org/events

Roy Paul from Cents Ability will discuss financial literacy in this event sponsored by Camp Herrlich, the nonprofit learning-and-leadership center. Register online.

WED 2

Blippi the Musical

POUGHKEEPSIE

6 p.m. MJN Convention Center

14 Civic Center Plaza

midhudsonciviccenter.org

The children's performer will sing and dance and teach children about the world, making the YouTube show come alive. Best for children ages 2 to 7. *Cost: \$32.50 to \$84*

STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 26

Rigoletto

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.

845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch the Metropolitan Opera's live screening of Bartlett Sher's take on Verdi's tragedy with the action set in 1920s Europe. Baritone Quinn Kelsey, soprano Rosa Feola and tenor Piotr Beczala are in

the leading roles. *Cost: \$28 (\$26 members, \$21 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 26

Jim Gaffigan

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Convention Center

14 Civic Center Plaza

midhudsonciviccenter.org

The comedian, actor, writer and author will perform his stand-up routine as part of his We All Deserve This Fun tour. *Cost: \$36.75 to \$160*

SAT 26

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 will participate in a game of truth and fiction. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

THURS 3

Lit Lit

BEACON

7 p.m. Happy Valley | 296 Main St.

Sign up to read work from any genre at this monthly series. Email litlitseries@gmail.com.

FRI 4

Storm Lake

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

The 2021 documentary marks the return of the Depot Doc series with a focus on local journalism through the story of a family-run newspaper in Iowa and the changes it has experienced over four decades. The film was edited by Beacon resident Rachel Shuman. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 4

Grand Concourse

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players

2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491

countypayers.org

The CP2 Readers Theatre series will stage the Heidi Schrek play about faith and forgiveness through the interaction of women in a church's food pantry. Also SAT 5. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 5

Uncanny Valley

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players

2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491

countypayers.org

The CP2 Readers Theatre series will perform Thomas Gibbons' play about the relationship between a neuroscientist and her artificial intelligence creation. Also SUN 6. *Cost: \$10*



Irish Comedy Tour, March 5

SAT 5

Irish Comedy Tour

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039

paramounthudsonvalley.com

Derek Richards, Mike McCarthy, Damon Leibert and Derrick Keane will create the atmosphere of an Irish pub with their sets. *Cost: \$24, \$29, \$35*

TALKS AND TOURS

TUES 1

The Rules for Grief and Loss: There Aren't Any

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

7 p.m. Via Zoom

914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290

supportconnection.org

This webinar, hosted by Support Connection, is open to any adult who has lost a loved one to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer.

THURS 3

The Life of Madame C.J. Walker

BEACON

Noon. Via Zoom

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Rick Feingold will discuss the first Black female millionaire in the U.S., who founded a line of beauty products for Black women. Sponsored by the Howland Public Library for Women's History Month.

SUN 6

The Audubon Sanctuaries of the Hudson Valley

GARRISON

4 p.m. Via Crowdcast | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Scott Silver, the director of the

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, will discuss bird conservation sites with land steward Dave Decker in this event organized by the Desmond-Fish library.

VISUAL ART

SAT 5

Works on Paper

COLD SPRING

Noon – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery

123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

Drawings by John Allen, Pat Hickman, Grace Kennedy, Nancy Steinson, Lucille Tortora, Ada Pillar Cruz, Bill Kooistra, Jenne Currie, Grey Zien, Barbara Smith Gioia, Ursula Schneider and Tim D'Acquisto will be on view through March 22.

SAT 5

The Narrative of Things

NEWBURGH

5 – 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel

46 Chambers St.

hollandtunnelgallery.com

Shari Diamond, Norm Magnusson, Kathleen Vance and Tamara Rafkin will exhibit work on the relationship of narrative and objects. Through April 10.

MUSIC

SAT 26

Concert of Concertos

NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College

330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157

newburghsymphony.org

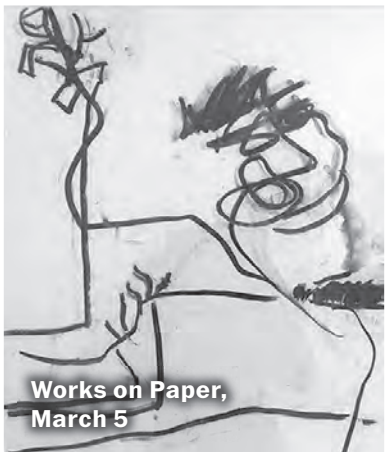
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a program at Aquinas Hall of Dvorak and Prokofiev with soloists Alan Murray and Mo Xu. *Cost: \$25 (students free)*



The Life of Madame C.J. Walker, March 3



**The Narrative of Things,
March 5**



**Works on Paper,
March 5**

SAT 26
Buskin & Batteau
BEACON

8 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)*



Chris O'Leary Band, March 4

SUN 27
Blues Chaser
BEACON

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

Big Thursty, Tom "The Suit" Forst, Tony Delisio and Joey Primo will play songs from their three albums. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 28
Jazz Night
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon

Joe McPhee, Steve Swell and Chris Corsano are scheduled to perform.

FRI 4
Chris O'Leary Band
BEACON

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

The blues band will perform

music from its latest release, *7 Minutes Late*, which was nominated for Best Contemporary Album at the 2019 Blues Blast Awards. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 4
Enter the Haggis
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Canadian band combines rock rhythms with fiddles and bagpipes to create singalong melodies. *Cost: \$25 to \$37.50*

SAT 5
Loudon Wainwright III
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

The author, actor, composer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist

will perform hits from his decades-long career. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*

SAT 5
Amazing Sensationals
BEACON

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

The band encourages dancing and will be joined by The Freejays.

SUN 6
Beppe Gambetta
BEACON

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

The Italian-born performer will bring together his American and European influences with a unique approach to times, periods and places. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC

MON 28
City Council
BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 1
School Board
COLD SPRING

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

TUES 1
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL

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

WED 2
School Board
GARRISON

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

WED 2
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

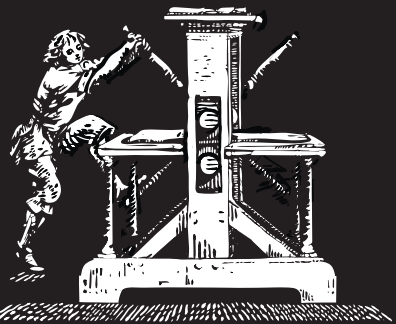
THURS 3
Public Hearing
COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St. | philipstown.com
The board will hear feedback on updating the State Energy Conservation Construction Code.

SAT 5
Voter Registration
NELSONVILLE

Noon - 5 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | nelsonvilleny.gov
Open to those not already registered in Putnam County. Use the Pearl Street entrance.

HIGHLAND STUDIO



PRINTMAKERS

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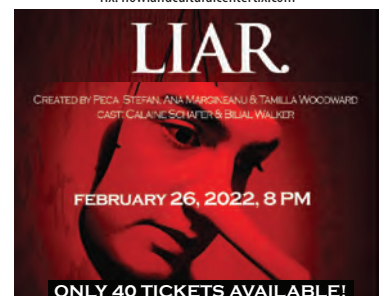
Is there something about you that most people in the community aren't aware of? Alison Rooney is looking for new subjects for her "Something You Don't Know About Me" series. Email her at arts@highlandscurrent.org.

The HIGHLANDS
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mhmmusic.together.com
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Depot Theatre Returns Indoors

Weather Women among first performances

By Alison Rooney

The Philipstown Depot Theatre will soon be open for business — inside. The Garrison theater has scheduled three indoor events next month, including one on March 12, when a collective known as Weather Women combines its talents.

Dancer, choreographer and filmmaker Cayla Simpson will be joined by filmmaker Jessica Karis Ray and musician Georgia Sackler for a collaboration in which Simpson will dance, Ray will screen her work as a backdrop and Sackler will sing between dances.

The other events are a Depot Docs screening of *Storm Lake* on Friday (March 4); violinist Gwen Laster's New MUSE4tet on March 19; and two Night Train storytelling shows on March 26. They mark the return of indoor performances for the theater after a two-year absence because of the COVID-19 shutdown. (In warmer months, some performances were staged outside.)

The seeds were planted for the Weather Women show when Simpson met Garrison residents Kevin Green and Kevin Hershberger through a mutual friend who had a grant to make a film.

At that time, Green and Hershberger were living in Brooklyn. When the weather became too frightful to shoot the film outdoors, the couple invited the filmmaker to shoot inside their spacious home.

Later, after Green and Hershberger had moved to Garrison, they welcomed Simpson, who had not long before relocated from Texas, to stay with them while she became familiar with New York City. "They're almost like adoptive dads," she says.

Simpson, who grew up on a small farm in New Mexico, says she has embraced New York City while also discovering more about her hometown, to which she gratefully returned at the height of the pandemic.

"I was excited to be immersed in a culture with more diversity," she says. "I'm loving the mix of being home, but also getting to tour, then coming back to New York City. Moving there, I've lived the hustle to make it, but I've also found a part of myself in where I come from: bare feet, soil, watching the sun rise and set every day. It's something I've come back to and it's returning to my art."

Shortly before the shutdown, Simpson posted a video of a collaborative performance on Facebook. The Depot's executive director, Amy Dul, saw it and asked if Simpson would be interested in doing a performance in the spring.

Rather than try to coordinate many dancers in the relatively small space, Simpson collaborated with Ray, whom she had met while working on a dance and film



Photo by Nico Reano

Cayla Simpson in performance



Photo by Willie Baronet



Georgia Sackler

Photo by Rachel Ansley

project in Oklahoma City.

Simpson thinks the Depot will be just the right setting, although she admits some initial hesitation. "My first impression was, 'This is a bit small,' but for a solo work it's quite nice," she says. "It holds the space better, and the seats are raked, which is so helpful for dance."

Simpson majored in dance performance and film/media at Southern Methodist University, and says the disciplines "have run alongside each other. I feel fortunate that I haven't had to choose one form or another."

Within dance, Simpson says that while she is a contemporary artist, she is "trying to move away from the forms of modern and ballet. Some words that apply are *fluid*, *dance-theater*, *expressive* and *grounded*. The work I'll be doing at the Depot is a narrative work. There's always a journey to the pieces I choreograph."

Ray, who lives in Brooklyn, is a filmmaker and video editor, as well as a choreographer, dancer and visual artist. Recently, she collaborated at the Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center on *Notes On Survival*, a show about Black female and gender-neutral artists.

Simpson describes the film Ray will show as "asking questions about what is it to be authentic to the body of a woman of color. How does it feel to experience life? The film expands on a lot of emotions. It's experiential and asks what it's like to truly embody oneself. Often, it's a question of being safe, to exist as you are."

Sackler, who also lives in Brooklyn, says her songs "rely heavily on natural imagery to evoke the seasonality of emotion and time. My work explores the concept of memory: how we cultivate, preserve, indulge in and become dispossessed of it. I draw inspiration from collective emotion — though we bear heavy burdens, we need not suffer alone or in silence." Her debut EP, *Where Once Grew Green*, is available on most platforms.

"I'm excited to have all of us together," Simpson says. "We're all channeled in our work, energy and emotion to be shared in that space with the audience."

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison's Landing. Weather Women will perform at 7 p.m. on March 12; tickets are \$20 at philipstowndepottheatre.org. Spectators must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks.

Start READING

March book club selections



Reading with Writers

WED 2 & WED 23, 6:30 P.M.

The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life, by Twyla Tharp
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

MON 14, 3:15 P.M.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 28, 7 P.M.

Klara and the Sun, by Kazuo Ishiguro
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org.

Middle School Book Club

WED 30, 3:30 P.M.

Nimona, by Noelle Stevenson
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Email community@beaconlibrary.org.

History Book Club

THURS 31, 7 P.M.

Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital, by David Oshinsky
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit- Sunday, March 6th, 2022

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 6th, 2022 at 10:30am to inspect the proposed new Snake Hill Road entrance of following site:

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

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING GARBAGE UPDATE

Starting March 1, 2022 Royal Carting will be collecting garbage and recycling in the Village of Cold Spring on a full-time basis. Here are the important things to know:

- **Garbage pick-up will change to Thursdays starting March 10th**
- Recycling will continue to be picked up on Fridays
- Continue using your existing garbage and recycling containers for now

The Village will be sending information in the next couple of weeks with more details on the changes, when to expect new garbage and recycle containers, how to select a size and how to dispose of your old containers.



Cutting Class

Photos by Ross Corsair

On Monday (Feb. 21) and Tuesday (Feb. 22), with local schools on break for President's Day, the Garrison Art Center hosted workshops for 37 students.



Lars I Kulleseid

(1935-2022)

The Kulleseid family mourns and celebrates the remarkable life of Lars Ivar Kulleseid, who died on February 17, 2022 at his home in Garrison, New York, aged 86 years. He was a husband, father, patent attorney and fanatical athlete, outdoorsman and fox trotter.

Lars was born June 5, 1935, in Lakewood, Ohio, to Brynhild and Olav Kulleseid, Norwegian nationals living and working in the U.S. at the time. Shortly after his birth the family (including older brother Hans) returned to Norway. Following the German invasion in 1940, Lars's father returned to the U.S., he thought temporarily, to be able to work and send money to his family. The war persisted, however, and upon America's entry into the war Lars and his brother came to the attention of German authorities because they were American citizens by birth. Heroically, Lars's mother secured forged travel papers, and she and the boys were able to cross the border to Sweden by train on a winter night in December 1942. They spent the balance of the war in Sodertalje, near Stockholm — memories of which were happy and bright.

In 1946 the three came to America and were reunited with Lars's father. They settled in Sea Cliff, Long Island, where Lars rapidly acclimated to life in the U.S. Soccer and his keen intelligence drew the attention of Yale, where he matriculated in 1953. He studied electrical engineering and graduated in 1957 with highest honors.

After graduation, Lars traveled by steamship to Norway where he would spend a year on a Fulbright scholarship. As the ship sailed past the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor he met Marit Gundersen, a Wellesley College student headed to the Oslo Summer School. They quickly fell in love. The two were married in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on August 27, 1960, after his second year at Harvard Law School. He graduated in 1961.

He accepted a position at the NYC patent law firm of Fish & Neave as a litigator. He took a leave of absence to work for famed U.S. Attorney Robert Morgenthau, returning to the firm in the late '60s where he became partner in the early 1970s. One of his seminal cases was representing Polaroid successfully against Kodak when the latter tried to get into the instant camera business. At the time it was the largest patent infringement case in history. He remained at Fish & Neave through its merger with Ropes & Gray in the '00s.

Having grown up with instability and dislocation, Lars prioritized putting down roots. He loved land and open space, so he and Marit moved to Garrison in 1964, despite the daily hour-plus commute to his work in New York City. He and Marit raised three children there, with a strong diet of sports, activities and family. His love for land continued, and he was instrumental in building the Hudson Highlands Land Trust into a dynamic force for conservation in the Hudson Highlands.

The fire of life burned bright in Lars. On any given winter day, conditions permitting, you would find him playing hockey with his hockey crowd on whatever pond in the area had the best ice. Thin ice was always something to be tested, not avoided. During summers spent at the family cabin on Canada Lake in the Adirondacks, he would head off into the woods with his faithful golden retriever companion, Loki, to bushwhack for hours around the North Branch of the West Branch of the Sacandaga River. He was passionately interested in people and the world, and traveled to Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, South America, Europe and the Caribbean. He was an insatiable consumer of news and devoured The Economist weekly.

Lars maintained and instilled in his children a love for Norway and all things Norwegian, returning to visit relatives there many times over decades. He always honored guests at the Kulleseid dinner table by leading a raucous rendition of a traditional Norwegian toast, "Og dette skal være."

The final seven years of life saw him afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and reduced heart function. Those years were spent mostly in the company of Marit and other family. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his wife and three children.

Lars is survived by Marit, his wife of 62 years, and their children Erik, Sara and Nils, along with three children-in-law and seven grandchildren. He is predeceased by his beloved older brother and protector, Hans Olav Kulleseid.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Lars's memory to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (www.hhlt.org).

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



The manager of the Beaconcrest Hotel hoped in 1922 to build a road to the foot of the mountain.

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (February 1872)

The Matteawan Enterprise distributed its first issue, noting it was the fourth newspaper to be published in the village following the demise of the *Herald*, the *Chronicle* and the *Review*.

It was reported that John Booth of Fishkill Landing inherited \$8 million [\$23 million today], supposedly from a relative in England. [This was almost certainly an "unexpected money" scam, in which a grafter claimed a distant relative overseas had left a fortune accessible with an upfront fee.]

During the previous 12 months, Lewis Tompkins had built 13 homes in Matteawan, as well as the stores opposite the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Mr. Andrews, a revivalist, preached at the Matteawan Baptist Church and administered the rite of baptism by immersion to five people.

On a Sunday morning, James McGarvey of Matteawan hid behind a screen in his store to thwart past burglars. At 1 p.m., he grabbed a person who crawled through the rear window, thrust the flat of a screwdriver against his cheek, cautioned the culprit it was a revolver and bound his arms. Soon after, a second culprit appeared, and then a third. Their names were McKane, McClary and Turner, and they were 11, 13 and 14 years old.

A proposal to build a horse-drawn railroad from the river to Matteawan was revived and a bill drafted for its incorporation. It was to extend from the westerly end of Long Dock to the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad in front of the Methodist Church, be completed within five years, have capital stock of up to \$50,000 and charge a fare of 10 cents or less.

John Ginley, the ringleader of a group of boys who stoned the house of Patrick McGinnis at Dennings Point and threw rubbish into his well, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail.

125 Years Ago (February 1897)

Prof. James DeGarmo, of the DeGarmo Institute at Fishkill Landing, was appointed grand representative of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Mexico. (No more explanation was provided.)

The minstrel organization of the St. Luke's Cadet Corps gave a performance at Town Hall in Philipstown.

The Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association in Fishkill-on-the-Hudson faced a dilemma when the president who served during its first year in existence was re-elected, making her past president and president. Since the past president installed the new president, a branch officer had to be deputized to give her the oath.

After Thomas Wood died in Fishkill, Undertaker Battell of Fishkill Landing retrieved the body and secured a burial permit. But the widow Wood was a relative of the wife of Undertaker Donahue of Newburgh, and he understood he would handle the arrangements. At the same time Battell announced the funeral in the Fishkill Catholic Church, Donahue prepared for services at St. Patrick's in Newburgh. Because Donahue did not have a permit, he could not take the body across the river, so he and his lawyer pressed their case with the Town Board. Wood finally had his funeral, in Newburgh, five days after his death.

Daniel Decker, convicted of watching an illegal boxing match, was fined \$25.

An unnamed Italian from Fishkill Landing was fined \$200 for violating the Raines law. [The law, which was enacted in 1896 and repealed in 1923, raised the drinking age from 16 to 18 and banned the sale of alcohol on Sundays except in hotels with at least 10 rooms that served free food.]

After a passenger aboard the Newburgh-Fishkill Landing ferry felt something strike him in the chest, he noticed a small hole in his coat. He pulled his leather-covered notebook from his vest pocket and in the leaves found a .32-caliber bullet. It apparently had been fired by a hunter a long way off.

Two convicts at the Auburn state penitentiary who had become "insane through idle-

(Continued on Page 19)

Current Classifieds

FOR SALE

1973 SATOH TRACTOR — Runs very well with 4-cylinder Mazda engine. Tires have 2 or 3 hours on them. Replaced rims 4 years ago and the tires 3 years ago. Rear tires have a CAO liquid for weight and non-freezing. All hoses new. Front lift with a 1,200-pound capacity. Two ranges, high and low, three forward speeds and one reverse, each at both ranges. Over \$3,000 in tires, rims and hoses. Body needs TLC but doable. Left front ball-joint needs repair; if used at higher speeds, should be replaced. Parts and repair manuals included. \$4,500. Email leonard.lindrosjr@gmail.com.

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

(Continued from Page 18)

ness” were transferred to the Matteawan asylum, *The New York Times* reported in its Telegraphic Brevities column.

Fannie Nearing, a science teacher at the Matteawan school, caused a ruckus when she dissected a kitten. The cat had been supplied by a star student who said it was subject to fits; Nearing chloroformed the kitten in a wash bin in the basement. The superintendent said the dissection had been legitimate and denied that each student received a bit of skin as a souvenir, although he conceded some may have taken organs. He noted that the students' physiology grades had improved dramatically.

Lawrence Glynn, the oldest inmate in the state, died at age 100 at the Matteawan Asylum. He had been accused in 1875, at age 73, of arson but was never tried because he was declared insane. His minders said he spoke of ghosts and goblins and hidden wealth.

100 Years Ago (February 1922)

Irving Byrnes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Byrnes of Beacon, sailed on the USS America for England, France and Germany, representing the interests of the General Electric Co. He specialized in the wireless telephone and had been assigned to operate and test the transatlantic instruments.

The Tioronda Council No. 124, Degree of Pocahontas, held a banquet to celebrate its first anniversary. It was entertained with a recitation by Mrs. Traver of Cold Spring, “a talented elocutionist who was greeted with a storm of applause.”

Cyrus Duroy, the Internal Revenue Service collector for the 14th District of New York, noted that 1040 forms could be picked up at the post office in Newburgh. The forms were six pages: two for the return, two for a duplicate and two for instructions. The deadline was March 15.

Herbert Webb, who had enlisted at age 16 in the French army to fight in World War II because the U.S. Army turned him away, returned to Beacon with his Australian bride, Sylvia Kershaw. He met her while

traveling after he graduated from Oahu College in Honolulu.

Edward Coffey, the 65-year-old superintendent of the Budd brickyard at Dutchess Junction, dropped dead at his mother-in-law's funeral. The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* said “his affection for his mother-in-law” may have contributed.

The mysterious Thomas E. Shannon, who had testified on warrants that he purchased illegal whiskey at Beacon establishments that were then raided by the state police, returned to the city looking for \$45 from the mayor, who, he said, had hired him for \$5 a day to gather evidence. “If Mayor Stafford does not pay me that money, I am going to start something,” said the Orange County resident.

J.B. Lodge, manager of Mount Beacon, planned to build a crushed-stone road from the foot of the incline to the Beaconcrest Hotel. The only other way up the mountain was by cable car.

The Trinity Five of Beacon dropped out of the fledgling Central Hudson Valley semi-pro basketball league, citing a lack of home games. It also complained that, during a loss at undefeated Wappinger, the Bleachery's star fouled out but refused the referee's order to leave the game. The league president said the result would stand because the Trinity Five had not filed a formal protest.

A basketball team from the American Legion in Poughkeepsie showed up for a benefit game but discovered the Beacon post member who had invited them was out of town and no one knew anything about it.

75 Years Ago (February 1947)

At the first meeting of the Beacon chapter of the American Cancer Society, Dr. Turiga spoke about the Dutchess County Tumor Clinic at Vassar Hospital. He said that, since it opened in 1939, the clinic had treated 1,541 people with malignant cancers, 77 percent of which were skin cancers that are highly curable in early stages. Of the other 362 patients, about 1 in 5 were still alive after five years.

The Beacon Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to study the feasibility of opening a youth center.

Pianist Jose Echaniz, a native of Havana, performed at the high school at the invitation of the Beacon Civic Music Association.

Police said they found no evidence of foul play in the death of Charles Lucas, 57, a bartender who lived and worked at the New Haven



Echaniz

House on Beekman Street. He had been found in a hallway with a fractured skull. The owner of the hotel said Lucas told him he felt unwell and left for his room; soon after, the owner heard a thud and found the bartender on the floor near the stairs.

A late-model sedan stolen in College Park, Maryland, was found abandoned on Tioronda Avenue by a patrol officer. It was missing its radio, fog lights and spare tire.

Charles Atwell, a Beacon resident who was a junior at Purdue University, was among 250 students injured when a bleacher collapsed at halftime during a basketball game against Wisconsin. Three students were killed.

50 Years Ago (February 1972)

A state report included Beacon among 54 school districts that needed to submit reports about how they planned to end “racial imbalance,” defined as the minority population at one or more schools being at least 10 percent higher than the district average. In this case, South Avenue Elementary had a minority population of 51.4 percent compared to 25 percent for the district.

The Poughkeepsie boys' basketball team defeated Beacon, 102-96.

Police were searching for a 54-year-old disabled veteran who had been missing more than a week after leaving work at the Technical Tape Co. Police suspected he had drowned in Fishkill Creek while walking his dog, which was found two days later. The dog crouched on the creek bank while rescue squads used grappling equipment to search the creek near where a man's glove was found.

25 Years Ago (February 1997)

Metro-North said it would study the feasibility of running passenger trains between Beacon and Brewster.

The school board said it would spend \$18,000 to \$20,000 to design additions to the Glenham and Sargent elementary schools. The Glenham principal said the school was so crowded that art classes were held in the cafeteria.

Eric Warren, a new resident of Beacon, was rummaging through a trunk in the attic of his father's home in Cold Spring when he found 75 copies of *Harper's Weekly* from 1861 and 1862. He spent the next year reading through them, which he said gave him a deeper appreciation of the Civil War. The newspapers weren't that valuable because many were saved and they were printed on wood pulp, which helped preserve them.

Luke Dysard of Beacon High School won the Section I wrestling title at 220 pounds.

The Committee to Restore the Mount Beacon Incline Railway hosted a fundraiser to build support to reopen the mountain, which Scenic Hudson had purchased in 1995. The committee said it hoped to restore an abandoned ski lodge as a local history museum.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit- Sunday, March 6th, 2022

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

Sadlon & Wenske Residential Site Plan, 825 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#71-1-13.111

Out There

Tree's a Crowd

By Brian PJ Cronin

At first glance, it looks like whoever printed Eli Roberts' business cards was drunk. There's a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch notch missing from the top of every one of them.



But Roberts is a farmer and forest manager, and the notch on his card is an angle gauge to measure the density of a forest to see if it's overstocked. You close one eye, hold the card in front of you about as far as your arm can stretch, and see how many trees around you are wide enough to fill the entire gap.

You can then calculate if the forest is reaching what's known as "the zone of imminent competition mortality," or the point at which less-established trees will die because there aren't enough resources to support them.

I recently received an email from a reader who wanted to know why there are so many trees on the ground in the Nelsonville Woods. Anytime I need help unraveling tree mysteries I turn to Roberts and Nicole Wooten from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, who went to forestry school together and forget more about trees in a day than I've learned in my life. Which is how, on a snowy day a few weeks ago, we ended up half a mile down the green trail off Secor Street, each with one eye closed and Roberts' business card in hand, spinning in circles.

It's easy to imagine the forest as timeless, but the Nelsonville Woods, and many of the Highlands' forests, are relatively young. The stone walls point to a past as farmland. We know the land was cleared at



Nicole Wooten and Eli Roberts examine a fallen tree in the Nelsonville Woods.

Photo by B. Cronin

least twice, first by European settlers and again in the sheep-rearing craze of the early 1800s. Many of the trees wound up in the furnaces at the West Point Foundry.

Roberts estimates that the dominant trees in the Nelsonville Woods are more than 100 years old, but many of the trees around us were less than 50. Still, enough trees were wide enough to fill the gap in Roberts' card and lead to some troubling math. The zone of imminent competition mortality was, well, imminent.

The evidence was all around us, on the ground. Winter days are the perfect time to look for fallen trees; you can see deeper into the woods and the snow helps the trees stand out. The lack of leaves also makes it easier to follow the paths trees take as they wend their way toward gaps in the canopy, straining to reach the light.

In some cases, you can see where a trunk makes a hard turn. That's usually the result of a space in the canopy opening because

a larger tree nearby fell. The ghosts of the forest shape what we see.

It would seem that the many fallen trees around us was no cause for alarm. The young forest was working itself out, reaching a state of balance in which the number of trees in the forest is equal to the number of trees the forest can sustain.

"That's a somewhat rosy picture of it," said Wooten when I explained my hypothesis.

In the woods, there's always more to see. The open spaces in the canopy aren't making room for more oaks, whose acorns support squirrels and bears. Instead, oak saplings are getting eaten by the deer, who are flourishing because wolves and mountain lions were driven out of the Northeast. That just leaves room for plants that deer don't eat: invasive species such as Japanese barberry and Tree of Heaven, which provide habitat for Lyme-infected ticks and the spotted lanternfly.

At the same time, ash trees are being felled by the emerald ash borer, hemlocks

by hemlock woolly adelgid, and all the trees' roots systems by invasive earthworms plowing their way through the leaf litter, leaving fewer nutrients. The changing climate is producing more intense storms, droughts followed by deluges and increasingly warmer temperatures. If one species of plant or insect fades, the species that depend on it for food and shelter also die.

The forest may be working itself out, but it's doing so in the face of new and mounting pressures. "We're losing some things that we may never get back," Wooten said.

The arc of the forest may be long, but land management practices can bend it toward stability. That doesn't just apply to professionals like Roberts and Wooten, but anyone who cares about the woods, from amateur naturalists to people who hike often enough that they notice when something's wrong and write to the local newspaper.

"I have hope that we'll achieve a balance so that future generations can walk around the Nelsonville Woods and not see potential indications of global problems, but rather a forest that's sustainably thriving at all levels," Wooten says — even as it constantly changes and adjusts every time a tree falls.

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.

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Grade 12

Principal's List

Ella Ashburn, Robbie Baker, Ezra Beato, Maya Beck, Tim Ben Adi, Owen Carmicino, Caroline Cates, Madison Chiera, Shea DeCaro, Mia DiLello, Patrick DiNardo, Kylie Falloon, Eden Feinstein, Kyle Frommer, Stefano Hammond, Bianca Harmancin, Rose LaBarbera, Jaclyn Landolfi, Betsy McBride, Matthew McCoy, Emma McGillicuddy, Elijah McKelvey, Emilia Osborn, Jesse Osterfeld, Luke Parrella, April Ransom, Stephen Robinson, Katie Shields, Molly Siegel, Meghan Tomann

High Honor Roll

Hannah Benson, Blake Bolte, Katrine Buslovich, Giancarlo Carone, Helen Chiera, Kimberly Edge, William Etta, Jeremiah Gaines, Camille Maglio, Mizzie Maxwell, Sydney Monroe, Maya Osborn, Sophia Scanga, Felix Schmidt, Marcel Schwarz, Robert Viggiano

Honor Roll

Zoe Harris, Ryan Irwin, Per Sandlund

Grade 11

Principal's List

Julian Ambrose, Samuel Bates, Kate Bolte, Zachary Cannova, Elizabeth Cates, Aleksander Danilov, Celia Drury, Sara

Haldane High School Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

Ferreira, Elliott Goldberg, Matthew Junjulas, Rowen Kuzminski, Nathaniel McPherson, Mary Mikalsen, Mairead O'Hara, John Perricone, Daniel Phillips, Rhys Robbins, Josephine Russell-Jarmusch, Sophie Sabin, Roy Smith, Aidan Sullivan-Hoch, Jackson Twoguns, Lucas Vladimiroff

High Honor Roll

Edward Bauer, Matteo Cervone, Jude Columb, Chase Coulson, Ryan Eng-Wong, Megan Ferreira, Maya Gelber, Jesse Hagen, Dylan Horan, Raunaq Kapoor, Charlie Keegan, Andrew Kubik, Albina McFadden, Kate Meisner, Caroline Nelson, John Peters, Kaelyn Powlis, Thomas Rockett, Aidan Sabatini, Fiona Shanahan, William Sniffen, Sean Brennan Spruck, Andreia Vasconcelos-Meneses, Liv Villella, Sofia Wallis, Jillian Weinpahl, Conrad White

Honor Roll

William Bradley, Carmela Cofini, Olivia Flanagan, Gael Frezza, Diego Haskell-Ramirez, Amanda Johanson, John Kisslinger, Jakob Schmitt

Grade 10

Principal's List

Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Liliana Cappello, Quinlynn Carmicino, Luca DiLello, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Madeleine Hutz, Finola Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Mac Lake, Elaine Llewellyn, Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Emily Tomann, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Mackenzie Warren, Max Westpahl

High Honor Roll

Grace Bradley, Alissa Buslovich, Frankie DiGiglio, Oscar Donahue, Sarah Jones, Mary Junjulas, Lola Mahoney, Jacqueline Muth, Henry O'Neil, Simon Pieza, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon

Honor Roll

Alexandra Busselle, William Busselle, James D'Abruzzo, Liam Flanagan, Emily

Gilleo, Colin Hopkins, John Mangan, Michael Murray, Peter Ruggiero, Dashiell Santelmann, Olivia Scanga, Emil Schweizer, Ivan Siciliano, Marlena Slokenbergs

Grade 9

Principal's List

Amelia Alayon, Domenica Awananch, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Judine Cox, Violeta Edwards Salas, Hunter Erickson, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Helen Hutchinson, Zohra Kapoor, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Brandt Robbins, Charles Rowe, Julian Schwarz, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Caroline Sniffen, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Stickle

High Honor Roll

Claire Bolte, Alexandra Cairns, Kira Drury, Frederick Hohenberger, John Illian, Sophie Koch, Rain Lee, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Oliver Petkus, Jake Powers, Brendan Shanahan, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons

Honor Roll

Christopher Coronel, Edwin Dubroff, Christian Ferreira, Tyler Hyatt, Lorelai Luoma, Wilson Robohm, Laurel Sassano

Grade 8

Principal's List

Nadeen Ahmed, Alianna Alijaj, Farhana Antora, Patrick Apmann, Mira Bagriyanik, Alexander Browning, Parker Capawana, Skylar Clair, Christian Clay, Peter Cohen, Tye Elias, Marisah George, Zenia Haris, Dylan Hetrick, Alina Joseph, Oren Kelleher, Gabrielle Khalil, Aidan Kinsley, Savana Kush, Brayden Manning, Alma Mart, Oscar McKible, Nolan O'Malley, Liliana Rybak, Juan Tutasi Jr., Addison Zittel

High Honor Roll

Logan Blum, James Bouchard III, Samuel Callan, Mirianjelis Chavez, Lola Ciccone, Erin Cleary, Alistair Cunningham, Kiera D'Ippolito, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Emmanuel Dickinson Case Leal, Teo Fairbanks, Christina Hernandez, Daisy Herrera, Ruby Hotchkiss, Milo Isabell, Everly Jordan, Griffin Kitzrow, Carlos Lampon III, Aron Li, Frankie Lin, Anthony Lopez, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Anselm McKee, Aiden Montleon, Adrien Okoye, Alexander Pascal, Jonathan Richards, Mikaela Sanchez, Zachary Schetter, Kayla Selander, Thomas Senior, Desirae Smith, Aiden Spiecker, Matthew Tumidaj, George Walker

Honor Roll

Emanuele Bagala, Grace Beston, Ella Brill, Lacianna Brown, Piper Bruno, Sofia Domanski, Isabella Galbo, Ayden Gilleo, Jazmine Gonzalez Aguilar, Kylee Graff, Kayla Hammond, Tyler Horton, Vincent Joao Jr., Shay Kane, Taylor Kelliher, Maceo Koerner, Kiran Kumar, Ryan Landisi, Jahsaia Monelle, Silena Negron, Jaiere Newton, Aiden Nieves, Annabelle Notarthomas, Richie Omira, Roman Proft, Michael Ramos, Angelina Richards, Jaiden Rivera, Jalaysia Robinson, Katrina Skorewicz, Kyan Spirig, Jonathan Trentacosta, Marcos Velasco, Ri'Kya White, Mya Wright, Alexander Young

Rombout Middle School Honor Roll

Beacon students recognized for second-quarter grades

Grade 7

Principal's List

Mikayla Acevedo, Cecilia Allee, Maayan Alon, Savannah Brace, Juniper Breault, Danica Brennen, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Theodore Concepcion, Mateo Cruz, Haziell Decena Meran, Victoria Diaz, Travis Dickston, Ka'Dera Elliott, Fionn Fehilly, Hailey Fish, William Flynn, Khloe Franklin, Kayla Gerardes, Emilio Guerra, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Abigail Haydt, Madeleine Hayes, Miguel Herrera, Reinabelle Jaafar, Shaun Jabar, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Lily Mack, Asha Marcus, Victoria McKay, Lily Murr, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Stella Reinke, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Livia Simons, Tabitha Smith-White, Elliott Thorne, Gavin Troiano, Isaac Tschang, Farrah VanCott, Nolan Varricchio, Rudolph Vergolina, Jesse Vermeulen, Aslynn Way, Lila Welsh, Parker White, Julie Whittemore

High Honor Roll

Lauren Antonucci, Emma Bellis, Casey Brandstrom, Anthony-Joseph Cathers, Angeleah Decker, Elijah Epps, Tyler Evans, Khordae Facey, Adriana Fazioli, Hudson Fontaine, Brandon Fremer, Valeria Garcia, Cole Heath, Richard Johnson Jr., Gabriel Khan, Bria Lopez, Yadriana Manzano Cabello, Ethan Maxaner, Isaac McKible, Shyanne McNair, Ryan Mowen, Ray Noble IV, Lilly Pendley, Lyris Pennock, Nicholas Perry, Brady Philipbar, Olivia Reynolds, Julian Rivers, Noah Sanderson, Katherine Sendelbach, Caeleb Smith, Januario Stageman, Harper Strang, Jesiah Swani-

gan, Kiarra Tice, Vincent Tonyes Jr., Fabiola Vogrincic, Slater Way

Honor Roll

Savannah Acuti, Jay Adams, Lily Amundson, Molly-Rose Archer, Dakota Barden, Tamirnesh Bernstein, Hartley Brickman, Myasia Burch, Michael Cahill, Jason David, Christopher Diaz, Naim Dika, Abigail Getter, Ayham Ghazzawi, Austin Halley, Julian Hannah, Elidonya Hudson, Aaliyah Iciano, Hailee Jennings, Syeira Kozlik, Jayden Lassiter, Gianna Mercer, Lakota Newman, Brianne Papo, Selena Perez-Sample, Amari Powell, Abbey Premuto, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Za'layni Shand, Jazier Smith, Samirah Smith, Madison Thompson, Andrew Whittemore, Ny'el Woods, Piper Yewchuck

Grade 6

Principal's List

Kendall Adnams, Owen Allee, Jesse Apostolou, Breannah Brace, Skye Brooks-Brown, Gavin Bruno, Noa Buckland, Engel Cabrejo, Skylar Carr, Claire Cumming, Vaughn Davis, Jake DeLuise, Evelyn DePalma, Maysie Doyle, Abilena Eriksmoen, Saoirse Fehilly, Annabel Goodman, Henry Greenberg, Mckenna Griffin, Henry Gute, Maeve Haley, Alejandro Herrera, Fareed Iddris, Drew Kelly, Maximilian Kong, Christopher Lee, Heidi Maeng, Justin Mann, Josue Martell, Victoria Maruggi, Claire Morgan, Henry Mulligan, Sigil Netboy, Zora Nicholls, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Mohammad Rahman, Nour Raouf Said, James Reyes, Maeve Rinaldi, Giana Rodriguez, Mackinley Roland, Isabella Ruffy, Nathan-

iel Salvati, Evangeline Santise, Benjamin Seaman, Shane Signorelli, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Caellum Tripaldi, Derek Waltke, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Owen Youatt, Trey Zapencki, Josefine Zezza

High Honor Roll

Mark Aakjar III, Jacqueline Albra, Caden Balfour, Kiersten Barber, Lily Berry, Michai Brown, Wyatt Burgos, Hawah Camara, Sarah Camara, Henry Cerchiarara, Piper Clark, Lia Cosentino, Zooey Dedring, Chanel Dickey, Ryan DiNobile, Joseline Duran, Leah Fahlman, Kyle Fairbanks, Kareem Fandi, Liani Garcia, Christa George, Zoe Hammond, Jayden Harrison, Troi Harvey Semple, Gauge Heeter, Enid Hernandez, Mikayla Jolly, Daniel Lamothe, Mia Lentini, Melody Longino, Ziryab Malik, Ruby Martin, Oliver Meyer, Braelyn Milligan, Gabriel Montleon, Elise Moran, Ismael Munoz, Catherine Musorofiti, Payton O'Connell, Brandon O'Dell, Caleb Ramirez, Luis Ramon, Daimon Rivera, Khloe Roci, Thalia Rodriguez, Antonio See, David Segarra Jr., Hunter Smith, Sophia Tomasik Dume, Julie Vogrincic, Eliot Waterman, Jude Williams, Hayden Wilson, Luna Yawman, Nicholas Zippo

Honor Roll

Femmie Akinwunmi, Ericka Arce, Benjamin Betancourt, Jayla Bunch, Janyia Burch, Erica Cabrera, Anthony Castano, Jennifer Chacon, Andrea Delgado, Kaileigh Edie, Kaemani Facey, SaRiah Faust, Lilliana Fish, Patrick Gara, Trinity Gill, Tania Griffin, Peyton Hockler, Brianna Hunt, Odell Lowery, Bethlee Manzano Cabello, Edwin Martinez Jr., Shayne Maxaner, Olivia Ortiz, Stephanie Ramon, Delano Rigby Jr., Angel Silva, Joshua Tonyes, Eliza Verdichizzi, Cayden Williams

Byrne Wins Putnam GOP Endorsement

Republican chair objects, accusing him of 'dishonor and disloyalty'

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Kevin Byrne last week won the Putnam County Republican Committee's endorsement for county executive, following an extended war of words — though not with his opponent for the GOP line, Legislator Carl Albano.

Instead, Byrne, a state Assembly member whose district includes eastern Putnam, clashed with Anthony Scannapieco, the longtime head of the committee, who also works as one of two county Board of Election commissioners.

Despite Scannapieco's misgivings about Byrne, which he expressed in correspondence to the party faithful, the state lawmaker won the endorsement, 148-76.

Albano has the backing of County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who cannot run because of term limits. If neither Byrne nor Albano drops out, they will compete in a June 28 primary. Party organizations must tell the state by Monday (Feb. 28) whether they need to hold primaries.

Campaigning as a candidate for "a new generation," Byrne announced his plans in November to pursue the county job.

Albano, who cites his 45 years of local business experience and more than a decade on the county Legislature, declared his candidacy in December, saying he wants to continue the policies and practices of the Odell administration. His district includes Carmel and parts of Patterson and Lake Carmel.

Putnam hasn't had rival Republican contenders for county executive since 2010,



Kevin Byrne, a three-term state Assembly member, received the Republican endorsement in his campaign for Putnam County executive.

Campaign photo

when Odell lost a primary to then state-Sen. Vincent Leibell, who won in the general election but never took office after being accused and subsequently convicted of violating federal anti-corruption laws. In 2011, Odell won a special election for the position and was elected to full terms in 2014 and 2018.

In 2015 and 2016, Scannapieco and Byrne worked together on the Republican Committee; Scannapieco as chair and Byrne as vice-chair.

Whatever comity they then shared apparently no longer exists. Writing to Republican committee members on Feb. 4, Byrne complained that Scannapieco had been undermining his candidacy. "Running for county executive, apparently against the wishes of the man with whom I served as vice chairman, may seem a failure to 'kiss the ring,'" he protested.

Nonetheless, he continued, "politicians

and party chairs don't get to anoint candidates. We can win the county executive election this November, but we won't win if we don't choose our best candidate through honest competition within a vibrant and active Republican Party."

He said a poll his team conducted before he decided to run "put me 41 points ahead" of any other likely Republican hopeful and that he also "has demonstrated the crucial ability to raise funds" and keep Putnam under Republican control.

A day later, at a campaign event, Byrne blasted "an establishment that's working against us." He promised that "I will not be dissuaded by those in power or others who are creatures of the establishment. I took on the establishment in Albany and if I have to take it on in my own backyard, I'll do that too."

On Feb. 10, in a letter to Republicans, Scan-

napieco responded that Byrne has "brought the party to the brink of broken with this primary" and that "it is his dishonor and disloyalty that is the destructive force here." Describing Byrne as "a career politician" who has "lived his adult life from photo op to photo op," Scannapieco asserted that in three terms in the Assembly, Byrne has "offered no help in any way, shape or form to our local government."

In a second letter the same day, Scannapieco disparaged Byrne's poll, arguing that in 25,000 phone calls, the pollster reached 240 individuals and only 139 of them favored Byrne — "a meaningless result." Scannapieco urged Republicans to "not be fooled by a snake-oil salesman of the 'new generation' of supposed leadership."

Albano has tried to steer clear. "I just want to emphasize that letters from our Republican chair regarding the campaign are not from me," he said in a message to committee members before the vote.

Along with the Republican endorsement, Byrne has obtained the backing of the Putnam Conservative Party; former U.S. Rep. Nan Hayworth, for whom he worked as an aide; former County Clerk Dennis Sant; and former county Legislator Roger Gross.

Disclosures filed with the state Board of Elections show that as of Jan. 17 Byrne had collected \$122,672 in contributions and other receipts and spent \$4,108. Contributions included \$1,000 from the Molinaro for Dutchess campaign; \$1,000 from Hayworth; and \$500 from Tern Construction, operated by Ken Kearney, who built the affordable-housing West End Lofts in Beacon and owns the vacant former Marathon property in Cold Spring.

Albano's state filing Jan. 16 reported that he had loaned his campaign \$52,900 and spent \$231.

The Putnam County Democratic Committee has not yet endorsed a candidate.

Big Events to Return to Mayor's Park

Also, Cold Spring police review underway

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (Feb. 23) meeting, gave conditional approval to two events to be held at Mayor's Park this summer.

Organizers must still confirm the availability of parking at the Haldane campus and provide site maps.

On July 16, Hops on the Hudson plans to host Brews with Views II, a festival featuring craft beers and ciders from New York State. Organizer John Scherer estimates 1,500 people will attend.

The Putnam County Wine and Food Fest, scheduled for Aug. 6 and 7, is expected to draw up to 500 visitors both days, according to organizer Lauren Drummond.

The village had prohibited such large scale gatherings during the height of the pandemic shutdown.

The organizers will pay the village \$3,000

per day for use of the park, as well as fees to use the pavilion, use of the Highway Department garage for vendor parking and use of the park during setup and breakdown.

During the public comment period, Mayor Kathleen Foley was asked if the events benefited the village beyond the revenue they generate.

The question reflected comments by Planning Board Chair Jack Goldstein at the previous Village Board meeting, when state park representatives outlined a shoreline protection project at Dockside Park that will also include a walking trail and boat launch. Goldstein questioned if the improvements would draw more visitors to the village, which he said already faces overcrowding and parking shortages during the tourist season.

"I do have concerns about the impacts," Foley said. "As a board, we have spent a decent amount of time talking about striking a balance."

The mayor said recent increases in the event fees helps ensure that funds are avail-

able to maintain the park.

"We haven't had really large events in some time," she said. "It's important for us to see what impact encouraging public transportation has."

Earlier in the meeting, Foley urged event organizers to work with Metro-North to increase the number of visitors who come by train.

"There's no question the village is crowded on weekends, and it can be very frustrating for residents," Foley said. "It's also an economic driver, not just for village revenues, but also for Main Street."

Police review

The committee conducting a state-mandated review of police department policies and procedures met for the first time on Wednesday (Feb. 23). When asked if its meetings will be open to the public, the mayor said she expected the committee would discuss the issue at its first meeting.

"It is an ad hoc committee, not a standing board," she said. "I want very much for that committee to drive its own bus."

Foley said analysis of a 2021 survey of village residents regarding the Cold Spring

Police Department will be among the committee's first tasks, followed by recommendations to the Village Board stemming from the data.

In other business ...

■ The mayor was authorized to sign a renewal of the franchise agreement with Cablevision of Wappingers Falls. The agreement is not exclusive and does not prevent other cable providers from operating in the village.

■ The board approved the 2021 Firefighters Record, a document that lists the hours of service by each Cold Spring Fire Co. volunteer, data required for their pensions.

■ Discussion continued on a request by Jim and Lori Ely, owners of the Riverview Restaurant, to purchase a narrow, 665-square-foot strip of village-owned property adjacent to the northern edge of the restaurant's lot line. The request was initiated but not finalized during the previous administration. Trustee Eliza Starbuck suggested, and Foley agreed, that the \$4 per square foot price charged for such purchases in recent years should be reviewed.

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Atlas page

4. Ivy League University

9. Science room

12. GPS suggestion

13. Haunting

14. Docs' org.

15. 1989 Al Pacino film

17. Decks in the ring

18. Small battery

19. Yard tools

21. "Understood"

24. Membership

25. Tolkien beast

26. Civil War soldier

28. Pulitzer category

31. Abound

33. Narc's org.

35. Dr. McGraw

36. Anticipate

38. Chips go-with

40. Sugar suffix

41. Mark Harmon TV series

43. School break

45. Shun

47. Owned

48. Sashimi fish

49. New York City's — Park

54. Decay

55. Ryan or Tatum

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59

56. Gaiety

57. Sauce source

58. Actions

59. Turf

9. Sierra Nevada resort

10. Cupid's specialty

11. Low range

16. Granola grain

20. John Irving hero

21. Teeny bit

22. Got bigger

23. Maryland beach town

27. Nap site

29. Avoid

30. Pub orders

32. Lansing's st.

34. Dunce

37. Steering system part

39. Gems from oysters

42. Pigs

44. LPs' successors

45. Jug handles

46. "Scram!"

50. Churchill gesture

51. Conditions

52. Pair

53. Conclusion

DOWN

1. — *Miniver*

2. Packed away

3. Shell-game item

4. "No cheating!"

5. Akin

6. Acapulco gold

7. *The First* — *Club*

8. Required

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 creamy mother sauce (11)

2 measure for race distances (9)

3 cuddle lovingly (8)

4 cumulus, cirrus and stratus (6)

5 wilderness area (11)

6 uniquely moving chess piece (6)

7 Las Vegas football team (7)

SOLUTIONS

HOLL DS TER AISE OOD

OME OUNT ERS BA HT

CKC KNIG CL CAN KIL

LE RAID AND RY OU

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Feb. 18 Puzzles

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

1. JUBILATE, 2. ENTANGLED, 3. BURNED, 4. OFFENSIVELY, 5. WARMLY, 6. AMOUR, 7. DELETE

SPORTS



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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon wanted to end its regular season on a positive note and did just that on Feb. 17, scratching out a 59-58 win over host O'Neill High School of Highlands Falls on a free throw by Chase Green with two seconds remaining.

In a game that the Bulldogs led most of the way, O'Neill chipped away and tied it, 58-58, with 30 seconds left.

After a Beacon miss, Green forced a turnover, with the ball going to teammate Joe Battle. Moments later, Battle passed the ball back to Green, who missed a shot but was fouled. He hit one of two free-throws. O'Neill got off a potential game-winner from midcourt but it didn't drop.

"Chase had an absolutely tremendous game," said Coach Scott Timpano. "He gives us endless hustle. And Joe had a lot of big rebounds and did a lot under the basket. Jason Komisar was also phenomenal again; he had a big dunk early that energized us."

Darien Gillins and Green each finished with 14 points, Komisar had 13 points and seven rebounds, and Battle pulled down nine rebounds to go with two points.

"That was a great win for our guys," Timpano said. "We were coming off two losses to Goshen, which will probably be the top seed, so we wanted to go into the playoffs with some momentum."

The Section IX, Class A tournament begins Saturday (Feb. 26); the Bulldogs (12-8) are expecting the No. 3 seed and a home game against Washingtonville (10-10). Saturday's winner advances to the semifinals on Tuesday. First-round matchups are expected to be announced today (Feb. 25).

After finishing 1-11 last year as a member of Section I, Timpano said the Bulldogs' work ethic hasn't changed, but they're older and smarter and playing more equitable competition in Section IX.

The Haldane boys (18-2), seeded No. 1 in the Section I, Class C tournament, will host No. 4 Leffell (7-13) at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. 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).



Reilly Landisi drives around a Spackenkill defender on Wednesday (Feb. 23) in Beacon's regular-season finale. The Bulldogs open the playoffs on Saturday.

Photos by S. Pearlman

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon put the wraps on an impressive regular season on Wednesday (Feb. 23) at home, getting strong play from its roster of freshmen and sophomores to defeat Spackenkill, 39-27.

With the win, the Bulldogs finished the regular season at 12-8 and are hoping for a home game when the Section IX, Class A playoffs begin Saturday.

Coach Christina Dahl said she likes the way her young team has progressed in its first season playing in Section IX. "We'd love to make some noise in the postseason," she said.

The victory over Spackenkill was the team's fourth straight. Beacon got 10 points from Reilly Landisi, and Devyn Kelly and Shadaya Fryar each added eight. Lila Burke recorded six points and 11 rebounds and Daveya Rodriguez had five points.

"Lila's energy and aggressiveness on the boards set the tone," Dahl said. "Reilly did a good job attacking the hoop and we also had shooting contributions from Daveya and Devyn from the outside and solid post play from Lila and Shadaya."

In a win at Minisink Valley on Feb. 16, Fryar scored 12, Rayanna Taylor had 11 and Kelly added six. "We lacked some intensity on offense, but our defense led us," Dahl



Rayana Taylor had 11 points for Beacon in a win last week over Minisink Valley.

said. "Shadaya played great down low and Rayana hit some big shots in the fourth quarter to seal the win."

Haldane (9-11), seeded No. 3 in the Section I, Class C tournament, is scheduled to play at No. 2 Yonkers Montessori Acad-

emy (12-8) on Tuesday (March 1). The Blue Devils defeated YMA by seven points early in the season. The winner will advance to the title game on March 5.

BOWLING

The Beacon boys defeated Washingtonville, 7-0, on Feb. 17 to finish their season at 10-5; the girls also defeated Washingtonville to improve to 7-9.

Dan Gilleo had a record-breaking season: He broke the Beacon High School record with a 760 series, tied the school record with a 289 game and finished with a 208 average and All-Section honors. He will bowl in the state tournament in Syracuse on March 12.

BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon finished 18th of 20 schools in the Section IX tournament at Valley Central High School last weekend.

The relay team of Imroz Ali, Bryce Manning, Ronnie Anzovino and Hunter Ingold finished 14th in the 200-yard medley in 1:58.74 and 13th in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:44.34; Ali, Manning, Anzovino and Fionn Fehilly were 15th in the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:01.25; and Ingold was 15th in the 50-yard freestyle in 24.21.