

The HIGHLANDS Current



MARCH 11, 2022

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Scam Encounters

Residents snared by fake stories, phony landlords

By Leonard Sparks

It started with a daytime call in January to Mary Sue Kelly's house.

A man identifying himself as a police officer spun a tale: The Beacon resident's son had been in an accident in Hartford, Connecticut; he admitted being on his cellphone while driving; a pregnant woman riding with him had been hospitalized; and her son could be charged with reckless endangerment.

Kelly was instructed to gather \$9,500 for bail and given a number to call back. Distraught and shaking when she entered her

bank, Kelly told an employee there that her son had been in an accident and she needed cash right away. A teller was about to hand over the money when Kelly's phone rang. It was her son — safe and calling from his home.

"I just broke down; I started crying," recalled Kelly, 77. "It was such a release that he was OK."

She was lucky.

In a world gone virtual, grifters have transitioned from analog schemes to digital ones, wielding modern tools that allow them to easily create fake profiles, instantly reach millions of people and steal or buy people's personal data, all without leaving their keyboards.

(Continued on Page 6)



LET THE CHIPS FALL — Ice sculptor Bill Bywater adds detail to his emerging fish at a gathering last month to honor the education staff at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall.

Photo by Ross Corsair

'Good Cause' Passes in Beacon

Council adopts measure after months of discussion

By Jeff Simms

Beacon became the fifth municipality in New York state on Monday (March 7) to enact "good-cause" eviction legislation.

The council voted 6-1 to adopt the law after a nearly four-hour public hearing that began on Feb. 22 and continued into Monday night. Residents who addressed the council about the measure voiced support by a 3-to-1 margin. Mayor Lee Kyri-

acou, who is a member of the council, voted "no," saying he felt it would not help the renters who need assistance most.

Beacon joins Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Albany in adopting the legislation. Officials in Albany are defending a lawsuit from landlords; Hudson adopted a law last year but its mayor vetoed it a month later.

The law exempts landlords who own fewer than four apartments and live on-site.

Among other provisions, it will require landlords to demonstrate "good cause" before a judge can begin eviction proceed-

(Continued on Page 21)

THE Challenge FOR Churches

PART THREE



By Brian PJ Cronin

It's Thursday morning at Cold Spring's United Methodist Church, and the prayer shawl ministry is in session. More than a dozen women are crowded around tables. Their handiwork will be donated. Some weeks it's caps for infants, others it's blankets for a veteran's hospital. Whatever's being made is "infused" with prayer by the women so that, the Rev. Micah Coleman Campbell explains, whoever receives it will know someone is praying for them.

Not everyone who shows up on Thursdays shows up on Sundays. The prayer shawl ministry wasn't created to attract members; it's a way to spread good work and build community, Coleman Campbell said. There are practical benefits. One week, a member of the group fell in her home. She was rescued because an alarm was raised when she didn't show up to crochet.

Still, a few members of the group have started attending services. When you are only seeing a dozen congregants, a handful of new faces are noticed. It's a welcome boost for a church that only exists because of a merger. A few years ago, Cold Spring United Methodist merged with South Highlands United Methodist because of low membership in both congregations. The South Highlands church is now rented out. Other churches in the Highlands, including the Episcopal and Catholic churches in Beacon, also have merged to survive.

Many churches 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, as surveys show, fewer Americans are defining themselves as Christians — or religious at all — what does that mean for the church in general?

In the first two parts of this series, we looked at the struggles of the Reformed Church in Beacon, which closed last year because of a lack of congregants; St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, which nearly closed; and philosophical differences that fueled a split at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison. This week, we examine churches that are surviving by building community through acts of service and by fighting for social justice, hoping to counter misconceptions about who is welcome in the pews.

The Bible and the newspaper

Church attendance has fallen sharply nationwide over the decades but perhaps, Coleman Campbell suggests, the golden age of packed pews wasn't so golden.

"It's not like back in the day, everybody loved being in church and everybody believed 100 percent," he said. "It was just that those who didn't believe or didn't love being there didn't feel like they had a choice. They couldn't opt

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DANIELLE PACK MCCARTHY

By Michael Turton

Danielle Pack McCarthy is stepping down as executive director of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub at 5 Stone St. in Cold Spring, which she helped establish in 2019.

How important has it been for The Hub to have its own space?

The fact that people know there's somewhere they can go and meet in person is so beneficial. When I was working just eight hours a week through the Town of Philipstown [as substance abuse prevention and treatment coordinator], people were calling me for help. We'd meet in the filing room of Town Hall just to find a quiet space. Sometimes, local therapists would lend me space, but I was dealing with people in crisis, people wanting to talk in private about hard things. Now, people know that they can come in and meet with someone face-to-face. It's been incredible. And much more professional.

What are you most proud of?

The team I've built. I started off as one person, just a couple of hours a week. Now we have a full-time and part-time care coordinator and a development manager. I wanted to develop a model for an organi-



zation in which anyone who walks through the door gets the same level of care, no matter who is behind the desk. You don't find that in a lot of places; sometimes treatment can be hit-or-miss. What makes this model different is that it's local. It's for Philipstown residents. If we got too big, we'd lose that quality of care we're so proud of. Eventually, we hope to hone this model and

see it replicated in other communities. I'm also proud of the support the Town of Philipstown has given us, that it has increased and goes directly to The Hub and won't be lost when I move on.

Have you succeeded in getting people to use The Hub's resources?

We've proven this resource is needed in this community. People have been coming in, people have been calling, even in the middle of a pandemic. Thank God they had somewhere to go, a number to call. People are still getting comfortable with being able to walk in and see someone. But the fact that our doors are still open, 2½ years later, says a lot.

Has the mental health landscape changed since The Hub Opened?

Depression, anxiety, substance abuse and self-medication are still the biggest issues. Addiction blew up due to the pandemic. People couldn't get to their treatment, groups and medications. We've done a lot of work locally to destigmatize mental health. That's also happening at the state and national level. Even at events like the Super Bowl, viewers saw ads for teletherapy. We're getting the word out there that you are OK, you are not alone and that there are resources.

What's next for The Hub — and you?

I will stay on until a new director is hired. The challenge will be to take The Hub from startup mode to the next level. That means securing sustainable funding. The American Rescue Plan Act and opioid settlements from the pharmaceutical companies can help. And we need Putnam County to step up. The Hub's mission is close to my heart, so I'm not going anywhere. I'm teaching mental health first aid for Haldane's ninth and 10th grade students. The curriculum ties in mental health and addiction nicely. It covers things like self-worth, self-esteem and bullying. Kids look to their friends more than adults. It's about checking in on your friends and what to do when someone is in crisis or feeling left out.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

You order a rare steak. It's medium. What do you do?

I'd send it back; it's not what I ordered.



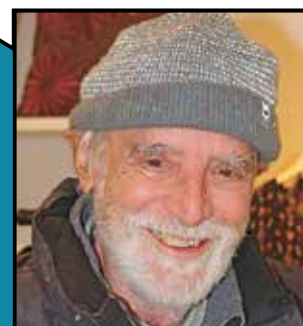
Jeff Kaufman, Cold Spring

I'd have my boyfriend send it back; I could never do that!



Jackie Cimmino, Beacon

I'd eat it, not send it back, unless it had insects in it!



Jake Holmes, Beacon



Cayla Mae Simpson: "Weather Women"

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NEWS BRIEFS

Galef Endorses Former Chief of Staff

Says Levenberg best person for her Assembly job

In an email to supporters this week, Sandy Galef, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, endorsed her former communications director and chief of staff, Dana Levenberg, to succeed her after she retires this year.

Levenberg, the Ossining town supervisor, is one of four Democrats hoping to succeed Galef, who joined the Legislature in 1993. The others are Vanessa Agudelo, a former member of the Peekskill Common Council; former Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey; and Colin Smith, a member of the Westchester County legislature whose district includes Peekskill.

Galef said in a statement that she knows and respects all of the candidates but that “no one else will work as hard or as effectively for the 95th Assembly District as Dana. I know this because I’ve seen her do it. She knows this district and the Assembly.”



Levenberg

State Buys Four Parcels to Expand Parks

Land preserved at Fahnestock, Scofield Ridge

New York State announced on March 3 that it spent \$9.7 million to preserve nearly 1,200 acres of new parkland, including 946 acres of Scofield Ridge at Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve in Dutchess and Putnam counties; 33 acres at Fahnestock State Park in Putnam; and 179 acres at Schunnemunk State Park in Orange County.

The Scofield Ridge parcel, purchased from Scenic Hudson, links Breakneck and Fishkill Ridges and includes portions of the Wilkinson Memorial, Notch and Breakneck Ridge Trails. In addition, a 20-acre parcel will provide a connection between Arden Point in Garrison and Hudson Highlands State Park.

The 33-acre property at Fahne-

stock provides a buffer to the Appalachian Trail from future residential development. It and the Orange County property were acquired from the Open Space Institute.

City of Beacon Opens Community Funding

Application deadline is April 1

The City of Beacon is accepting applications for its 2022 Community Funding Program for nonprofits or community-based organizations with a fiscal sponsor to support projects that “enhance the city’s quality of place and/or address critical community needs.”

The City Council allocated \$20,000 in December to fund the program, which supports groups that offer programs and services in the areas of arts, culture, heritage, recreation, environment, health, public safety and other human services. Grant requests between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be considered.

See bit.ly/BCF-app for more information. The deadline is noon on April 1.

Dutchess to Host Household Waste Disposal

Scheduled for April 9; registration required

Dutchess County will hold a household hazardous waste disposal and electronics recycling collection on April 9 in Poughkeepsie.

Registration is required and limited to 380 Dutchess households. See co.dutchess.ny.us/HHW/Register.aspx or call 845-463-6020. See the site for a list of acceptable items, which includes products marked hazardous, flammable, poisonous or corrosive.

Philipstown, HVSF in Funding Bill

Earmarks would pay for highway garage

A bill that includes funding for a Philipstown highway garage passed the U.S. House on Wednesday (March 9) and is expected to be approved in the Senate.

The bill includes \$19.5 million in earmarks from Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands. Among the 10 projects he championed were \$1.79 million to construct a garage for the Philipstown Highway Department (the former garage has already been demolished) and \$3.5 million for the “ecological restoration” of nearly 40 acres at the former Garrison golf course by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

Putnam Hospital Suspends Labor & Delivery

Hoping to recruit new team of doctors

The Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel suspended labor and delivery services on March 1 after CareMount said its physicians would no longer provide deliveries there.

The hospital said it plans to recruit a new team of obstetricians and gynecologists as soon as possible. Other women’s health services are still being offered, and Caremount physicians will continue seeing patients at the hospital and providing gynecological surgery.

Groups Launch Survey

Addresses racial equity, social justice

Four local groups — the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, the Julia Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, the Garrison school district and the Haldane PTA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee — have crafted a survey on issues of racial equity and social justice.

The sponsors hope that the survey results will help guide programming at the schools and libraries. See bit.ly/PhilipstownDEI.

Dutchess Reappoints Poet Laureate

Lucia Cherciu will continue in role

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro this week reappointed Lucia Cherciu as the county’s poet laureate for 2022.

In the role, Cherciu organizes readings and other events to promote poetry. Born in Romania, she came to the U.S. in 1995 and

has been an English professor at Dutchess Community College for 20 years.

“These are difficult times, when people around the world understand how important it is to work together, support one another and use writing in order to communicate, show compassion and help in the process of healing,” she said in a statement. “The crisis in Ukraine has demonstrated to us how words can be used to show solidarity and work toward making peace.”

Rent Relief Program Comes off Pause

\$624K available in Dutchess County

A rental assistance program in Dutchess is again accepting applications, the county announced this week.

The COVID-19 Emergency Rent and Utility Relief program for low- and moderate-income households was announced in April but placed on pause while the state distributed funds through its Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Because the allocation for Dutchess residents appears to be exhausted, the county partnered with Hudson River Housing to reopen its relief program.

To be eligible, household income must be below 80 percent of the area median income, with a priority for households at or below 60 percent. In Dutchess, for a four-person household, 80 percent is household income of \$71,950 or less and 60 percent is \$60,300 or less.

Applicants must also demonstrate a pandemic-related impact and have cooperation from the landlord. Apply online at bit.ly/dutchess-rent-relief.

Dutchess Seeks Applications

Human rights panel has openings

The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights is seeking candidates to fill four vacancies in September.

Applications are available at dutchessny.gov/humanrights. The deadline is March 31. The commission has 14 volunteer members who serve three-year appointments and meet monthly.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Cold Spring, NY 10516

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

DISTRICT WIDE SIGNAGE/WAYFINDING

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by contacting twalsh@haldaneschool.org, or by contacting 845-265-9254, ext 176. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Board of Education of Haldane Central School District of Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York By Anne M. Dinio, School Business Manager.



2022

ANNUAL SPRING DINNER

Saturday, March 19 | 5:00pm

LOCATION: Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Social hour, Silent auction, Full dinner
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In-Person or Online Option

For info, and to register

www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Nelsonville election

With real issues to address such as speeding, pedestrian safety, the sewers and collaboration with Cold Spring, it was disappointing to see continued mischaracterizations of the village's short-term rental regulations ("Questions for Candidates: Nelsonville Mayor," March 4).

Many residents, like us, are glad Nelsonville has adopted common-sense short-term rental regulations, the result of what we saw firsthand was an open, transparent and extended process that invited and considered resident input. We support Chris Winward for mayor and Dave Moroney for trustee as people we trust will continue to focus on the issues important to preserving and improving our village.

Alexis Dean and David Herman,
Nelsonville

Nelsonville is fortunate to have Chris Winward as a candidate for mayor. She is well-informed about the many issues Nelsonville faces and will bring intelligence, experience and — importantly — thoughtfulness and her truly lovely demeanor to address them. After seeing her in action as a village trustee and knowing her extensive professional background, I was so grateful when I learned she was running.

I am certain Chris will make an excellent

mayor. The role requires someone who is willing to invest significant time and energy into understanding a broad range of topics, including but not limited to budgeting, promoting public safety, addressing infrastructure needs and building community. With her substantial professional experience, Chris will bring significant knowledge as well as the ability to dig in and learn more when needed.

She has also demonstrated a willingness to elicit and listen carefully to different opinions, and then to make decisions that she believes will benefit the village as a whole. Sometimes these decisions don't satisfy everyone, but I expect Chris will continue to listen, learn and move the village forward in productive and cost-effective ways.

If you have the chance, ask Chris why she is running and you'll hear the enthusiasm and generosity of spirit she will bring to the work. Please join me and my family as we vote for Chris Winward for Nelsonville mayor on Tuesday (March 15).

Peggy Clements, *Nelsonville*

Rudolf van Domele is correct that the Nelsonville Village Board, including his opponent, took a back seat in the fight to stop Homeland Towers from erecting a 95-foot cell tower over historic Cold Spring Cemetery.

Neighbors repeatedly alerted the Village Board that the settlement with Homeland

violated their property rights. The Village Board turned a deaf ear and left it up to the homeowners to battle it out in court on their own at a cost of more than \$100,000. Last month a judge ruled in our neighbors' favor against Homeland.

The Village Board also approved a building permit despite the fact that the cell tower and its rambling access road would destroy an endangered bat habitat and result in a dangerous fire access road that violates the state fire code. *The Current* has fully reported all of the Village Board's failures to protect our property rights, history and environment.

Nelsonville needs leaders like Rudolf who will stand up to defend our rights and our community.

David Eisenbach, *Nelsonville*

To me, and many other Nelsonville residents who walk daily in our woods, a hugely important issue in the mayoral election is the candidates' plans for our beautiful woods.

I love and highly value the woods and do not want to see any part of it cut down, including "to create a clearing on the wooded Secor Street parcel for a village green or a playground," as proposed by one of the mayoral candidates. I strongly prefer that the woods be left alone for residents' enjoyment, to walk and hike and enjoy the birdsongs.

Chris Winward would not only support preserving the woods, but has attended every village event involving native-species plantings in the woods to make it better for birds and pollinators, including the event at Cedar Street where the Boy Scouts pulled out aggressive invasive plants and put in plants that create habitat for birds and pollinators. She also helped with planting Nelsonville's pollinator garden at North Pearl and siting the bee houses near the kiosk at the trailhead. She is totally dedicated to the preservation of our woods.

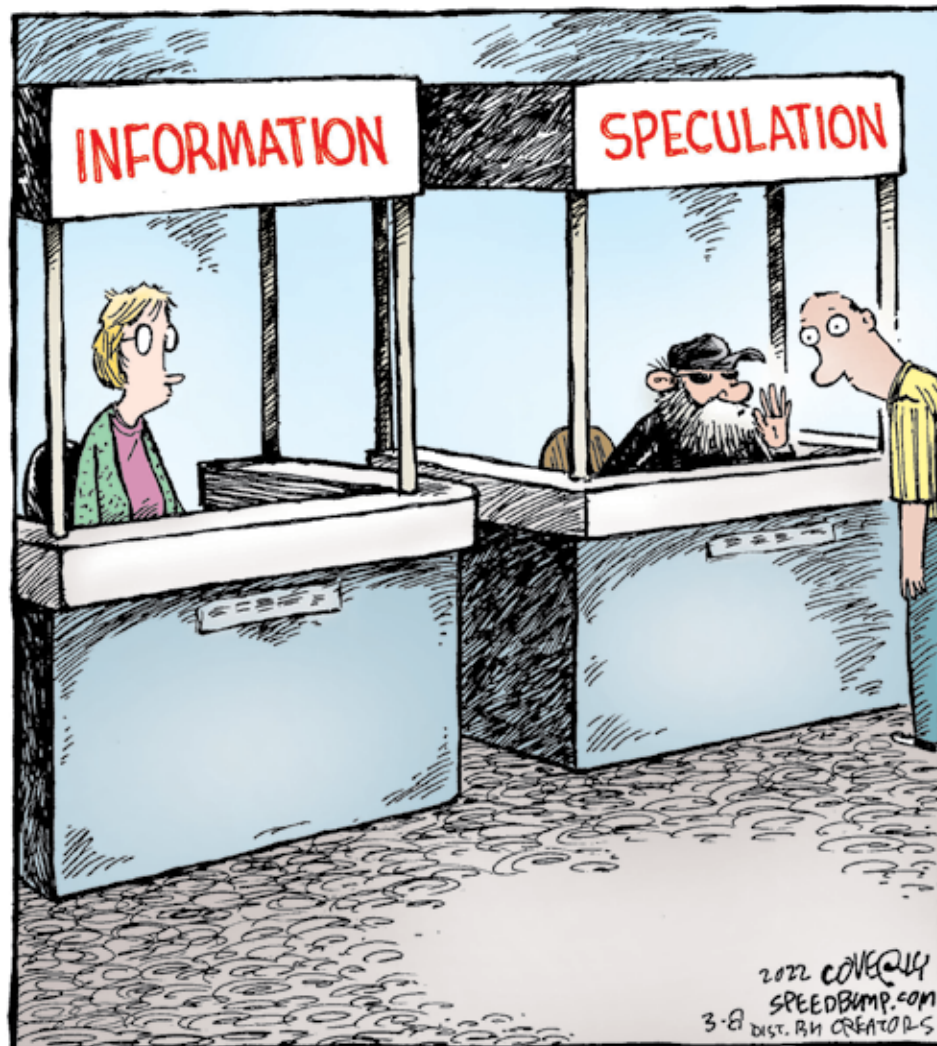
In other ways, she has also shown herself to be forward-thinking about the village from an environmental perspective. She supports the effort to solarize the Village Hall in an attempt to reduce the high energy costs for the village. She has met with our state Assembly member, seeking funding for work on our trails.

For me, these issues are very important and I encourage anyone who cares about the woods to support Chris Winward for mayor.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

Nelsonville needs a diversity of thoughts and opinions on its board to ensure that the rights of individuals are protected from government overreach. Rudolf van Domele has seen firsthand how the reliance on hearsay and faulty data can obscure motives and allow for onerous legislation to be enacted.

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Correction

A *Roots and Shoots* column in the March 4 issue said that a second lead test ordered by Aaron Wolfe on the soil in his Cold Spring garden returned results of 500 ppm to 600 ppm of lead. In fact, the results were 1,500 ppm to 1,600 ppm.

(Continued from Page 4)

Because I trust that he will talk to all residents and hear their opinions on the various matters facing our village, I recommend a vote for Rudolf for mayor of Nelsonville.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

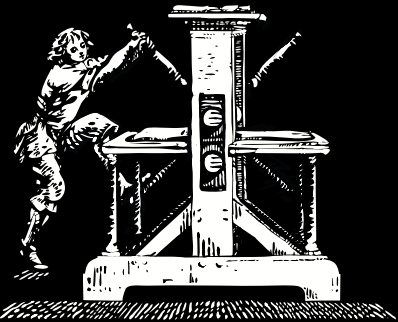
Good-cause eviction

The *Current* reported that, at a public hearing, “residents, by a 3-to-1 margin, expressed support for the measure” (“Good-Cause Debate Rages On,” March 4).

Did all 30-plus people in the audience live in Beacon and pay property taxes? A 3-to-1 margin of 30 people does not represent the 14,000 residents of Beacon. Let’s not look for another way to have legal action waste our hard-earned tax dollars for a cause that “may” benefit a few undocumented, isolated cases of possible landlord abuse. We already have a legal system in place that protects people who rent.

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

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Ukraine:
How to Help

■ Dutchess County has partnered with the Afya Foundation, which gathers medical supplies to distribute to those who need them, to collect donations of necessities at the former JCPenney site in the lower level of the Poughkeepsie Galleria at 2001 South Road (Route 9).

Donations will be accepted on Saturday (March 12) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; March 18 from 1 to 5 p.m.; and March 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Only new, unopened and non-expired goods will be accepted from this list: flashlights and flashlight batteries; baby and adult diapers; first-aid kits; face masks; hand sanitizer; personal hygiene kits (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, deodorant,



The Fred Astaire Dance Studio on Route 9 in Philipstown is collecting donations to support Ukraine.

Photo provided

shampoo, razors and shaving cream); and basic health supplies (aspirin, acetaminophen, cough medicine, oximeters, Ace bandages and compression bandages).

■ The Afya Foundation, which is based in Yonkers, also has an Amazon list at amzn.to/3q7hUE7.

■ The Fred Astaire Dance Studio at 3182 Route 9 in Philipstown is a collection point for medical and tactical supplies.

■ Financial contributions can be made to established groups such as the Ukrainian Red Cross (redcross.org.ua/en/donate); Razom for Ukraine (razomforukraine.org); United Help Ukraine (unitedhelpukraine.org); Voices of Children (voices.org.ua); and the World Central Kitchen (wck.org). Be cautious about solicitations received via email or text; instead, go directly to the charity’s website. The National Bank of Ukraine is also collecting donations for the armed forces at bank.gov.ua/en.

Albano Drops Out of County Executive Race

Two Republican candidates want his legislative seat

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The race to be the Republican candidate for Putnam County executive has ended: Legislator Carl Albano confirmed Wednesday (March 10) that he has folded his campaign, eliminating the need for a primary.

His opponent, state Assembly Member Kevin Byrne, won the endorsement last month from the county Republican committee.

At the same time, a primary battle for the Republican line for the District 5 legislative seat held by Albano, who cannot seek re-election because of term limits, may be brewing after Greg Ellner, a Carmel resident, announced his candidacy on Wednesday (March 9). Patricia Sheehy, former director of the county’s Office for Senior Resources, who also lives in Carmel, launched her campaign last month.

As of Wednesday, the Putnam Democratic Committee had not announced a candidate for the seat, which represents parts of Carmel and Kent.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, a

Republican, also cannot run again because of term limits. Byrne and Albano each announced their candidacies in late 2021.

After Byrne won the Republican committee’s endorsement, “I decided to back out,” Albano said on Wednesday. “It breaks my heart; I could’ve done a good job [as county executive] but, you know, there’s a lot of different moving parts in this world.”

He said that Byrne, whose Assembly district includes eastern Putnam, “has a lot of momentum. I want to keep the party together, work as a team. I’m going to support Kevin and we’ll move forward.”

Albano was caught in a feud pitting Anthony Scannapieco, the longstanding chair of the Republican Committee who is also one of two county election commissioners, against dissident members. Scannapieco backed Albano and accused Byrne of “dishonor and disloyalty” and having “brought the party to the brink of broken.”

“There was a lot of stuff behind the scenes,” Albano said. “I don’t know if you can pick any particular thing” that hampered his campaign against Byrne. In the days following the vote, “tons of people” urged him to compete in a primary. “Everything is just timing and the way this stuff plays out,” he said.

Albano said being term-limited out of the Legislature “was one of the reasons I was running for county executive.” He doesn’t rule out future involvement. “I have a lot more energy [to devote], so I would probably want to do something either with the county or in the town.”

Sheehy oversaw the Office for Senior Resources from 2011 to 2017, when she retired. An Odell ally, she advocated establishing a county-supported Philipstown senior citizen center at the Butterfield complex in Cold Spring.

In statements, she has said that while “Putnam County has long prided itself as a community with deep-seated core values of democracy and freedom ... The current progressive movement in America threatens those very values on our own doorsteps,” and that as a legislator she would “call out tyrannical leaders who would threaten our Second Amendment rights or infringe on our civil liberties.”

Ellner said that, among other goals, he wants to “eliminate unethical and/or corrupt practices in government” as well as “wasteful government spending,” freeze the pay of elected officials and “reform government to make it more user-friendly.”

The internet has at least one thing in common with a spider web: Both can be a trap.

A Philipstown couple learned that the hard way last month.

The couple, who asked to be identified only with fictitious names because they fear being targeted again, are both in their late 70s.

Fred was surfing the web on his iPhone when he clicked on an unfamiliar website and his phone froze. A window appeared with an 877 phone number and two options: call or cancel.

"I clicked 'cancel,' because I knew nothing good was going to come from this, but nothing happened," Fred said. He tried to turn his phone off, but it did not respond. "I had no control over anything," Fred said. So, he called.

"A man with a foreign accent started berating me; he wanted my passwords," Fred said. When the man asked for his phone number, Fred made one up.

"He knew right away it wasn't my number," he said. "He had all kinds of information; he recited my Social Security number. I was scared."

The man issued threats, telling Fred that if he didn't get the information he wanted, "the Russians will be in your bank accounts before you know it."

The man also knew June's name and told Fred something bad would happen to her if he didn't get the information he

was demanding.

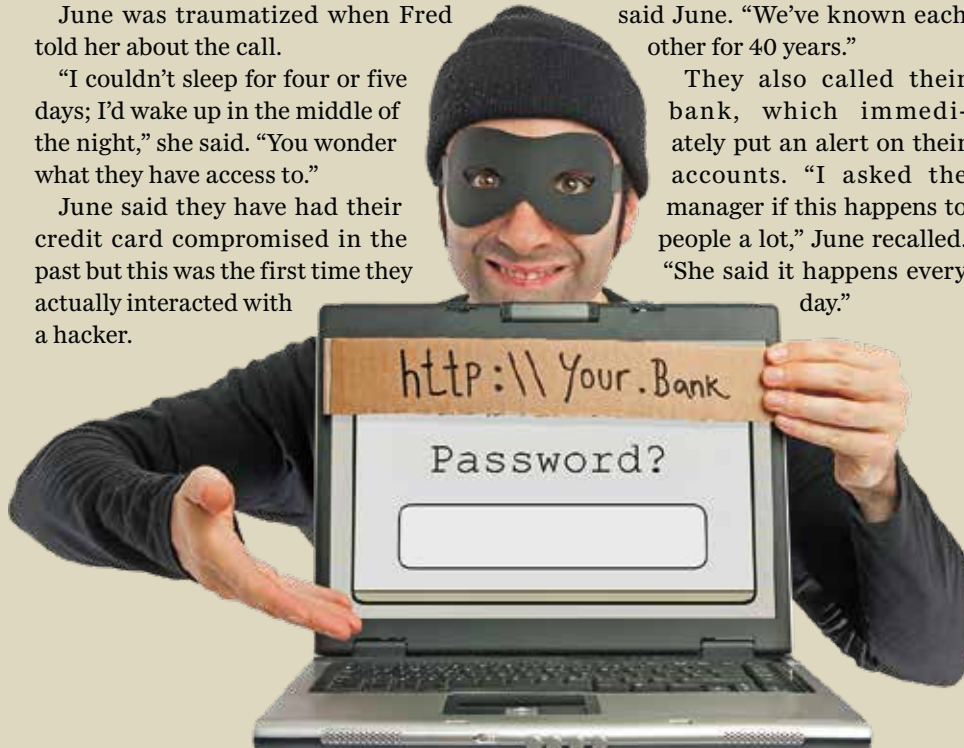
Fred hung up.

"I just didn't know what to," he said. "I felt sick to my stomach; it felt like this was serious."

June was traumatized when Fred told her about the call.

"I couldn't sleep for four or five days; I'd wake up in the middle of the night," she said. "You wonder what they have access to."

June said they have had their credit card compromised in the past but this was the first time they actually interacted with a hacker.



Internet Scare for Highlands Couple

Threats and demands for passwords

By Michael Turton

After the call, they contacted their stockbroker, who assured them their accounts were safe. "He said no one can get a penny out of any of our accounts without talking personally to him," said June. "We've known each other for 40 years."

They also called their bank, which immediately put an alert on their accounts. "I asked the manager if this happens to people a lot," June recalled. "She said it happens every day."

Soon after the threatening call, a bogus \$300 charge appeared on their credit card. The credit card company tagged it as suspicious and didn't process it. A few years ago, a \$5,000 or \$6,000 charge had appeared for a diamond necklace; the credit card company caught that attempt right away, as well.

A few months ago, June was having trouble logging in to her credit card account when a chat window appeared with a man, saying he was from her bank. "He said if he could take over control of my computer he could fix the problem," she said.

She hesitated. "I almost did it," she said. "But I thought, 'This doesn't feel right.'" She contacted her bank, who told her it had been an attempted scam.

What Fred experienced is all too common. "The criminal was using a classic tactic: fear and intimidation to get their target into a heightened emotional state," said Kathy Stokes, who directs fraud prevention programs at AARP. "Anytime you receive a communication of any sort — phone, email, text, online — and it causes a strong emotional reaction, disengage immediately."

AARP has a Fraud Watch Network at aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork that provides advice, email alerts and emotional support for people who have been victimized. It also operates a week-day hotline at 877-908-3360.

Scam (from Page 1)

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received reports of fraud from more than 2.8 million people last year. Their losses — \$5.8 billion — were 70 percent higher than in 2020 and nearly half came from "imposter" scams like the one that nearly hooked Mary Sue Kelly.

The scammers are actors playing a variety of roles — besieged relatives who need money wired because they are in trouble; online romantic suitors asking for a loan or passwords to financial accounts; government officials demanding payment for an overdue bill; IT professionals requesting access to your computer; and lottery officials who need fees and taxes to release a prize.

"It happens to so many people," said Kelly.

A Long Island man was sentenced in November to 7½ to 15 years in prison after being convicted of stealing more than \$100,000 over six months from an 85-year-old Cold Spring woman by claiming he could get refunds from companies that were allegedly overcharging her.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office said on Thursday (March 10) that it received two reports on Wednesday from residents who received voicemails about an "urgent matter" from someone identifying himself as "Sgt. Jason Mark."

On Jan. 25, the state Division of Consumer Protection, part of the Department of State,

warned residents about scammers trying to steal personal information by getting recipients to click on harmful links in emails and texts offering free at-home COVID-19 testing kits. (A federal government site, covidtests.gov, is the only official site for ordering free at-home testing kits.)

That same day, the Rev. Steve Schunk of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring emailed a warning to parishioners after one of the congregation's members received a text message in his name asking: "Let me know if you available to take care of an errand for me?"

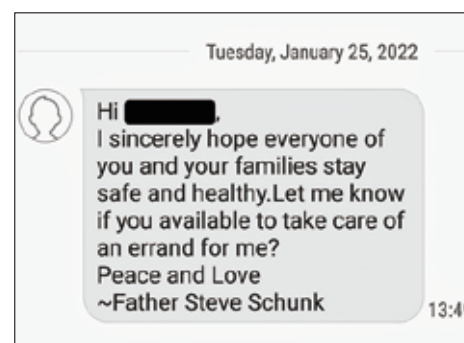
The text was sent from a number that was not his, and it contained grammatical mistakes, said Schunk.

The parishioner "had sense enough to say, 'I don't think this is from you,'" he said.

Social media is the top vehicle for cons, according to the FTC. The agency said in January that more than one in four people who reported being defrauded last year said it started with an ad, post or message.

The internet is "a low-cost way to reach billions of people from anywhere in the world," the FTC notes. "It's easy to manufacture a fake persona, or scammers can hack into an existing profile to get 'friends' to con."

In the last three months, scammers have used Craigslist and Facebook to pretend to be renting two houses that were actually for sale in Beacon, said Stephanie Dignan, an



This text message received by a parishioner at St. Mary's was a scam.

agent with Gate House at Compass Realty. The grift is simple: convince people to pay money upfront to view a property.

Dignan discovered that someone had copied a picture of a house for sale on Henry Street and advertised it as a rental property on Craigslist when she was contacted by someone who had paid a \$100 fee to view the property and then "stopped hearing from the guy." She called the number posted on Craigslist and a man answered, agreeing to show her the property the next day.

"I wasn't about to go there; I can't imagine that he was going to go there, either," she said. "He answered the phone and was willing to really run with it, which I thought was pretty bold."

Last month, Dignan said, a woman contacted her after someone called "Donald Gomez" responded to her Facebook post

about needing a rental in Beacon, claiming to be the out-of-state owner of a house for sale on Zias Drive. The woman grew skeptical after discovering the property was also listed for sale, said Dignan.

One red flag, she said, was the too-real-to-be-true rental price: \$1,400 a month for a three-bedroom, two-bath house, and just a \$700 security deposit.

"We have a lot of people looking [for housing in Beacon] from out of state," she said. "Someone could really get screwed and think they have an apartment waiting for them."

To avoid real-estate scams, Dignan said people can do two simple things: Search the property's address online or contact a local real estate agent. Most agents are willing to answer questions about properties advertised for rent, she said.

"It costs nothing; we can always verify a legitimate rental," she said.

Kelly is hoping that talking about her ordeal also helps.

She never considered herself susceptible to a scam but said she now knows better after experiencing what she described as a "nightmare." Recovering from the incident took a while, she said, but it was a "lesson in humility."

"I'm going to be very, very cautious in the future," she said.

Reporter's Notebook: How This Journalist Got Scammed

By Michael Turton

One of the 10 commandments for reporters is, “Thou shalt not be part of the story.”

Unfortunately for me, in this case, I am the story.



I have great empathy for Fred and June, the couple I wrote about this week, who were victims of nasty online threats and bullying by a scammer bent on bilking them out of their hard-earned money.

Recently I was also a victim, but not as a result of bullying. I fell prey to believability, cleverness and empathy. At no time did I feel threatened or paralyzed with fear. In fact, I felt damn good — until I didn't.

I lead a creative writing group at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring that has been meeting by Zoom. Rick, who lives in Ossining, joined more than a year ago and fit in right away. He's a likable and easygoing guy with a wealth of life experience that he draws upon to produce eclectic, original material.

The group has gathered socially a few times since the pandemic has eased and Rick has always made the effort to come up

to Cold Spring to take part. That helped me get to know him better; he became a friend, not just a fellow writer.

So, when Rick emailed me around the New Year to ask if I could help him out, I didn't hesitate to reply, “Happy to, if I can!”

Our group uses email regularly; it set off no alarms to get an email from a member and friend.

Rick explained he was sick with COVID-19 and had to isolate. His cousin's birthday was the next day, and he wanted to send her some Google Play cards but couldn't go out to buy them. He asked if I could do that for him, and to let him know how he could reimburse me.

I had no clue what Google Play cards were but agreed to help, to the tune of \$300.

I got the cards, photographed the codes on them as instructed (so he could just share them with his cousin rather than sending the physical cards) and resumed our back-and-forth. Rick was extremely grateful, and again asked how he could pay me back as soon as possible.

“Don't worry Rick, we'll figure that out later,” I replied.

There was a glitch. Rick couldn't open the photos I had emailed. It took a couple extra emails but eventually I resent them.

At one point, I suggested calling him but

he said his phone had died and had to be recharged. Not unusual. I've said the same thing all too often.

During the exchange, I asked Rick how he was feeling. He said he was cold, extremely tired and just wanted to get past the isolation.

I felt bad for him.

He again asked when he could repay me.

After a pause, I emailed Rick one last time to confirm he had received the Google card images.

“I don't know anything about any Google cards, Mike,” Rick wrote. “My Yahoo email was hacked and I just restored it a few minutes ago.”

My heart, my stomach and my wallet all sank.

Rick was not sick. He had no cousin about to celebrate a birthday. His phone was working fine.

I had been completely duped. I had fallen for the scam, hook, line, sinker and fishing boat.

I experienced a rather narrow set of emotions. Anger. Boy, did I feel stupid. Embarrassment. Boy, did I feel stupid. Anger.

Despite having nothing to do with the scam, Rick offered to pay half my loss. I was appreciative, but declined.

Rick's offer said a lot about him. It was the friend I had wanted to help. His emails sounded like him. The hacker had access to his emails and probably picked up on Rick's language patterns. His use of words such as “kindly” and “grateful” fit with the Rick I know. His polite manner and concern over reimbursing me ASAP had the ring of authenticity.

I absolutely believed it was Rick, and that was my downfall.

Looking back, I did miss little things. Some of Rick's grammar and punctuation were slightly off. Rick is a writer. But then again, he was “sick with COVID.” I don't write well when sick either.

So, what's my takeaway? I refuse to feel bad about trying to help a friend. The lesson is in the money. When money is mentioned, triple your intuitive radar. Become a skeptic.

If either of my two sisters were to email me today, asking for financial help, I would verify the request before acting, and I know they would not be offended.

Just before I got scammed, between the two of them, they sent me \$300 as a nice thing to do for a brother at Christmas. It was painful to tell them I had been scammed for exactly that amount.

Be careful out there.

How to Avoid Getting Taken

By Chip Rowe

1. Be cautious about sharing personal or financial information online or over the phone, especially if you receive an unsolicited call. If in doubt, call the service provider directly using a number you trust, such as from a printed statement.
2. If you encounter a suspicious link in an email, hover your mouse over the link to see if it matches the sender, e.g., an email from UPS should display ups.com. Or, as with Tip No. 1, call the provider directly. These fake emails and text messages are known as “phishing” scams. A variation will have a fake invoice attached and claim you have made an expensive purchase; don't open the file.
3. When doing financial transactions online, look for a lock in the browser address line that indicates the site is secure. The web address should begin with https.
4. When creating passwords, make them at least eight characters in length and use a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. Don't use the same password repeatedly because, if it's stolen, a crook could gain access to multiple accounts.
5. Whenever possible, add “multi-factor authentication” to your online accounts. When you log in, you will be asked to enter a code sent to your phone or to offer your fingertip, retina or face. Never give a code to a stranger who calls or texts and claims to need it.
6. Update the operating system on your phone whenever prompted.
7. Install antivirus software such as that made by AVG.com. You can download a free version or pay for a premium service that alerts you to fake websites and dangerous emails and verifies the security of your Wi-Fi network. The free software also scans for viruses and malware.
8. Back up your data regularly to an external hard drive. This can mitigate the damage from a “ransomware” attack in which a crook takes control of your computer and demands payment.
9. If it sounds too good to be true ...



COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	23,360	412,286	6.5	82.1	121 ⁽⁰⁾
	(+45)	(+2,664)			
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	63,357	1,279,174	7.2	76.6	650 ⁽⁺¹⁾
	(+148)	(+8,306)			
Source: State and county health departments, as of March 9, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.					

Churches *(from Page 1)*

out of going because of societal pressure or whatnot. Now people feel more free to make that choice. That's a good thing. I don't want anyone forced to their faith."

He speaks from personal experience, despite — or perhaps, because of — being the son of two Methodist pastors, and his father being a fifth-generation minister. Coleman Campbell had no intention of following in those footsteps. His goal was to be a high school history teacher. He had seen, up close, how hard it was to be a pastor and wasn't sure that he had it in him.

"There are a million ways in which we are broken," he said. "And we are called, as pastors, to wade into that brokenness. That's a rewarding call, but it's scary. And sometimes we're not entirely sure that we're up to the challenge."

Yet, after graduating from college, Coleman Campbell realized that fear wasn't a good enough reason to resist the call. Today, he serves as a pastor both in Cold Spring and at Fishkill United Methodist Church.

As in Cold Spring, the Fishkill church has found itself increasing in membership over the past two years. Unlike Cold Spring, Coleman Campbell hasn't been able to figure out why.

"It's not like we had some awesome new initiative," he said. "For whatever reason, the spirit led them through the doors there." He credits the welcoming nature of his congregation for bringing curious new attendees back.

As to why more people aren't coming through the doors, Coleman Campbell thinks it's not just because of the lack of societal pressure. The Christian church in general, he allows, has not done a good job of confronting the issues of the 21st, or even the 20th, century. It has tried to ignore the philosophical ramifications of advancements in science and our understanding of the universe. In his view, instead of trying to reconcile the worlds of science and miracles, the church has pushed them apart, and set them in opposition to one another.

"If I had grown up in a church or been around Christians who had told me to shut off my mind, in some ways, I hope I would have also walked away," he said. "A faith that's not willing to think critically is not appealing to me, either."

This past fall, Coleman Campbell was among seven Philipstown clergy members who issued a joint statement urging the public to consider joining them in increasing their efforts in fighting climate change as part of the Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign.

"We realize that in this worldwide calamity, no one is safe until everyone is safe, that our actions really do affect one another, and that what we do today affects what happens tomorrow," read the statement, in part. "May we not waste this moment! We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations."

"How we treat the Earth is vitally important to God, and to our continued existence," said Coleman Campbell. "Being faithful stewards of God's creation is bound up in our call as Christians. You can't



The Rev. Micah Coleman Campbell at the Cold Spring United Methodist Church

Photo by Ross Corsair

disconnect that from our faith."

Climate change isn't the only issue Coleman Campbell is addressing from the pulpit. As part of an initiative put forward by the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he's begun addressing issues of racial justice.

Reactions have been mixed. At any congregation in which Coleman Campbell has brought up such issues, some members have told him that they feel addressing climate change and race is long overdue. Others have told him that the church should stay out of politics, a view he describes as "hogwash."

Far from it being an inappropriate topic, Coleman argues that white pastors in predominantly white congregations are in a unique position to address issues of race. If those uncomfortable conversations can't happen in the house of the Lord, then where are they supposed to take place?

"It's usually people who are, like me, white people or people in privileged positions who don't want to deal with race," he said. "They're uncomfortable with it. But they're more inclined to listen to somebody like me, than somebody not like me. And it is both my obligation and my duty to try and bring those people in. I try hard to push people, but in a way that is not condemning or judgmental. A lot of times when people shut down and don't want to talk about race, one of the reasons is because they feel like they've been condemned. They're more willing to wade into uncomfortable waters if they feel like the person inviting them into that difficult space is not condemning and believes in their capacity to do right."

He is not the only local clergy member to feel this way.

"When you preach each Sunday, you need

Talking About Race

- 41%** Christians who believe there is racism in the church
- 59%** Non-religious Americans who say this
- 17%** Christians who say churches talk about racism to make people feel bad about themselves
- 44%** Christians who say talking about racism divides people
- 75%** Black Americans who say fighting racism is essential to their faith
- 73%** Percentage who say believing in God is essential to their faith

Sources: (1) "Jesus in America," a survey of 3,119 Americans conducted by Ipsos for The Episcopal Church, released March 9, (2) "Faith Among Black Americans," Pew Research Center, 2020

to have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other hand," said Erik Simon, the interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon, citing the theologian Karl Barth. "If you're not engaged in what's going on in your society, you're not doing what Jesus asked you to do."

A welcoming table

Simon had no intention of taking a pastorship in Beacon.

A writer and communications consultant

who was called to the ministry in middle age, he had just finished serving as an interim pastor in Yonkers and had been offered an assignment at a church that he was looking forward to being a part of.

But he was invited by the regional presbytery to speak with the session, or governing body, of the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon. He knew the church was going through a bumpy transition, having recently lost a beloved pastor to a move, and it hadn't found the right person to replace him for the long term. The first replacement pastor hadn't worked out. Members of the congregation who were ordained had been filling in. It was in a tough spot. Simon certainly couldn't turn down their invitation to meet, but he expected nothing to come from it.

Likewise, the session in Beacon was warned that Simon was "about two minutes away from taking a position at another Presbyterian church with more resources than us," recalled Dan Rigney, a Beacon resident and member of the session. It seemed unlikely he would agree to be a "bridge" pastor for them.

Simon said his views changed when he met the members of the session. Rigney said he knew something special was happening when he realized that for the first time in a while, the session was able to talk about theology and how they viewed the role of their church in the community instead of logistical challenges.

Simon, for his part, thought the session members were being too hard on themselves. Unlike other Presbyterian churches in the area, they were not only growing, but the growth was largely younger people and families. And the reason First Presbyterian

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

was growing was because it was doing something that Simon found unusual.

“The reasons so many churches are losing money and losing members is because they’ve lost the Gospel and they’ve lost relevance,” he said. “They stopped caring about the things we’re supposed to care about, and this church is pulling people in because they’re relevant.”

Part of that relevance was about the church’s early embrace of Beacon’s burgeoning artistic community after the opening in 2003 of Dia:Beacon. The church runs its own art center from its basement and its Sunday services feature a variety of local musicians. But the driving force behind the growth was its focus on residents who are struggling or marginalized, a mission that Simon believes is integral in attracting younger members focused on social justice issues.

It also attracted Simon, who forsook his plans and became the church’s interim pastor after realizing how closely his own theology matched that of the congregation.

“I do have a passionate and committed theology and it’s focused more on this world,” he said. “I’m not that interested in the next world, and I don’t think Jesus was, either.”

Like many churches, First Presbyterian hosts 12-step programs for those battling addiction. And like participants in the prayer shawl ministry at United Methodist, some 12-step attendees have started to show up on Sunday. Then there is the Welcome Table, a feeding program on Fridays and Saturdays. It has been shut down during the pandemic but, with the stability of a new pastor, the church is looking forward to restarting it.

“No questions asked,” said Rose Quirk, the member of the session in charge of the program. “I don’t care if you’re poor, I don’t care if you’re homeless, I don’t care if you’re old. I don’t care. The only thing I care about is that I have a plate and if you want that plate, you can have it.”

There’s more being offered than food. Members of the nonprofit Hudson River Housing sometimes help attendees who are struggling with finding or maintaining a home. The congregation collects coats, toiletries and other items to dispense to those who need them. But most of all, the Table offers fellowship and community to people who are, as a result of their struggles, lacking in those things.

“It allows them to socialize in a safe environment,” said Quirk. “And a lot of the people who were in there, be they elderly or low-income or homeless, their biggest problem was, nobody saw them. So many people don’t hear or see them. But we saw them.”

Beyond the doors

Rachel Thompson, a parish associate at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, believes the Christian church’s problems attracting members are not new. Previously, she was a member of session at a Presbyterian church in Bedford that was celebrating its 325th anniversary. She read the session minutes from meetings in the 19th century and found them familiar.

“It was like, ‘Oh, we need to get more families and children to come, how do we do this?’”

Like Erik Simon, Thompson said she



Rachel Thompson, a parish associate at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, with the Rev. Brian Merritt, its interim pastor

Photo by Ross Corsair

came to the ministry “late in life,” as she puts it, graduating from seminary in her 50s. She was active in the Presbyterian church of her youth, but a trip to the Holy Land when she was 16 with a more conservative Christian organization turned her away. “I was already questioning my faith at that point, but that trip put the nails in the coffin of my Christianity for about 20 years,” she said.

Throughout the next decades of her life, she longed to be part of a group that gathered together on a regular basis to do good, but every time she returned to church, she found that wasn’t its focus.

“It felt like they were dragging me back to the 1950s, and I wanted to run screaming to the nearest exit,” she said. But at a Presbyterian church in Dobbs Ferry, she found what she had been missing. “It turns out, what I needed was inclusivity,” she said. “I wanted a church that said, ‘Yes,’ rather than a church that draws boundaries and excludes people.”

Her return to the church, and then into the ministry, was full of revelations, she said. She had a feminist Old Testament teacher in the seminary. She learned about the Jefferson Bible: Thomas Jefferson’s adaptation of the New Testament in which all the miracles and supernatural occurrences have been removed. All of this was in sharp contrast to the conservative Christian churches she would read about in the news, with their hardline stances against evolution and homosexuality.

“Nobody I know would want to embrace that kind of theology or community,” she said. “I do think that’s been a factor in driving people away who might otherwise have been inclined. But I also think progressive theology has not been well publicized. I don’t

think people know what the alternatives are.”

So how does one let people know about the alternatives? How do you draw people into a community who are wary of what they think the church is, based on what they see in the news?

Thompson thinks it’s important to blur the line between *congregation* and *membership*, that someone can “belong” to a church without showing up for services every week.

What has attracted people to First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, she thinks, is the works of service that the church does for the community. Many people volunteer at the church’s food pantry, which feeds about 50 families a week. Many take part in the Midnight Run, founded by Thompson’s late husband, Joe Gilmore, in which people drive food and supplies into New York City at night to distribute to the homeless.

“That was, for him, what Christianity meant, which was actually loving your neighbor,” she said. The church recently put in a pollinator garden with community help. That’s even before you get to the church’s nursery school, meditation group and book club.

Thompson said this may be the key to growing churches in the 21st century: Instead of worrying about bringing more people inside the doors of the church, the focus should be on pushing the congregation outside the doors and demonstrating their mission to the community.

“There are many people who are associated with our various communities who are not officially ‘members,’” she said. “But we are all enjoying internal spiritual work and inspiration, as well as the many different ways we find meaning and peace by helping others.”

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 is examining 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 me at editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Chip Rowe, Editor

TO OUR MEMBERS: THANK YOU!

On New Year’s Eve, *The Highlands Current* published its 500th issue, a major milestone achieved with the help of all of you, our readers and supporters. Today we have our eye on issue 1,000 as we ambitiously pursue the stories that will **inform**, **inspire** and **involve** everyone in our communities of Philipstown and Beacon.

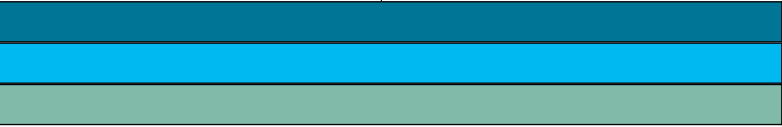
To that end, *The Current* has from the start been free to all. As a nonprofit print and online publication, the paper depends on our members for nearly 70 percent of our revenue, and we are deeply grateful to all for your trust in *The Current* to bring you the news and views that are important, interesting and illuminating.

Member Robert Calderisi, of Cold Spring, praises the paper as:

“Independent, highly
informative and in tune
with the community.”



Our gratitude to all for your support in this past year!



Friends (\$24-\$119)

Anonymous (62)
Genie Abrams
Lori Adams
Kari Addington
Ertan and Vasso Akbas
Harold E. and January Akselrad
John and Susan Allen
Kevin Allison
Thomas Amisson
Tammy and Michel Amsalem
Jan and Ron Anderson
Steve and Vasso Anderson
Mr. Raymond Andrews
Dwight Arthur
Ballet Arts Studio
Sarah and Doug Banker
Patricia Barber
Celia Barbour and Peter Weed
Kathleen Barnes
Gary Barrack
The Barrett/Tomaino Family
Mary Bates
Dr. Joanna Batstone Suits
Jeffery Battersby
Andrew Bell
John and Tam Benjamin
Deborah Bigelow
Janice Bortree
Watson Bosler
Izak Breslauer
Ginny Buechele
Team Burke-Smith
Helen Butler and Jennifer Howse
Butterfield Library
Virginia Butterworth
Robert Calderisi

Peter and Martha Callaway
Joe and Anne Carbone
Abbie Carey
Thomas B. Carrigan
Yvonne Caruthers
Michael Casale
Cory and Kari Jo Cates
Anna Ruby Cenicola
Gary and Kathleen Chapman
Ira Chavis
John Paul Christy
Maureen and John Clancy
Michael and Jeanne Clemente
Chuck and Michelle Clifton
Emily and Matt Clifton
Gerard Coffey
Cynthia Cohen
Lauri Cohen and Manuel Molina
Susan Coleman
Adrian Coman
Gabrielle Conway
Pamela Cook and Erik Brown
Kay and Frank Corkrum
Christopher Cring
Caroline Danford
Deb Davidovits
Jay and Janice Dean
Patricia and Alex de Sousa
Wendy DeGiglio
Harold and Anne Delamater
Gerry Dempsey and Ann Marie Carley
Ron and Barbara DeSilva
Deborah Dichter
Dan and Cathy Dillon
Alanna Dolan
Jan Dolan
Matt and Linda Donachie
Rhonda and Morgan Donohue

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Downing
Ben Drew
Kathleen Duffett
Charles Dunn
Marie Early
Edith Ehrlich
Ruth and David D. Eisenhower
Priscilla and John Eng-Wong-Angelo
Eric Erickson
Dorothy Estabrooke
Ellen Fabian
Julia Famularo
Ann Fanizzi
Deirdre Farabaugh
Martha Fateman
Wilma Feliciano and Jack Foster
Steve Feyl and Sarah Burns Feyl
Ginny Figlia
Peter Fisher
Annette and Robert Flaherty
Lawrence Fleischer
Irmela Florig-Rowland
Julian Friedman
Sarah From and Rusty Stahl
Laney Gahagan
Sandy Galef
Katherine Gambino
Rich and Adie Garefein
Michael Gatto
James and Carol Geist
Suzie Gilbert
Dottie Gilman
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Hilary Hart
Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi
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Bryan Hickey and Corinne Chateau
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Connie Hough
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Anne Impellizzeri
Sue Infante
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Esther Jackson & Clark Frankel
Kate Jacques
Lillian Jagendorf and Dan Shannon
Peggy and Todd Janus
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Beverly and Richard Kelly
Thomas Kenny
Ethan Kerr and Stephanie Diamond
John Kinnaird
John Kyle Kiphart
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Joseph Krummel
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Nicholas Kuvach
Arthur and Stacy Labriola
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Nancy LeVine
Cynthia Ligenza
Catherine Lim
David Limburg
Vivian Linares
Carolyn and Dave Llewellyn
Denise Loatman-Owens
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Donald MacDonald
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Jessica Mandy
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Bruce Mather
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Richard Butensky and Judy Cohen
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M. G. Collins
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Valerie Cortalano
Mary McCaffrey Costantin
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Michael Emerson
David and Maeve Eng-Wong
Joel Erickson
Cory Ethridge
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Cathryn Fadde
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Aaron Freimark and Sandy McKelvey
Mark Fuerst
Janet Gain
Mark Galezo
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Bruce Geller
Stacey Gibson
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Jinny and Robert Goff
Jack Goldstein
Janet Goodman
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Cali and Roger Gorevic
Amber Grant
Jacqueline Grant and Chris Nowak
Danielle Greenberg
Maia Guest and John Plummer
Erin and John Giunta
The Hackett-Zorzis
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John Haines and Margaret Yonco-Haines
Gail Greet Hannah
Matthew Hart
Juliet Harvey and Luc Stampleman
Phil Heffernan
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Keith Hershberger
Michele Hilmes and Bruce Croushore
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Paula Susan Jordan
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Sara Kozak
Sergei Krasikov
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Michelle Kupper
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Florence Northcutt
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Deidre M Raver
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Placito and Luchrezza Sgro
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Richard Shindell
Christine Shostack
Shelley Simmons-Bloom and Matt Bloom
Linda and Tom Simms
Reka Simonsen and Tim Hall
David and Amy Small
Michelle Smith

Karen Smythe
Christian and Flora Stadler
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Susan and Tom Stenovec
Kenneth Stern and Marjorie Slome
Peter Stevenson and Sarah Dunn
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Joni Sweet & JLPV
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Maria Szulc and Allan Wernick
Bev Taylor
Tony Thesing and Larissa Miller
Rachel Thompson
Scott Tillitt
Nell and Ted Timmer
Joan and Henry Turner
Alan Vardy and Shasta Crombie
Ellyn Varela-Burstein and Jeff Burstein
Benjamin Vise
Kenneth Vittor and Judith Aisen
Christina Volz-Bongar
Melissa Vuernick
Bao Vuong and Steve Rush
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Theresa G. Waivada
Selina Wang and Michael Levine
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Gwynne Watkins
David Watson and Marianne Sutton
Wesley Weissberg and David Goldberg
Heidi Wendel and Joseph Hirsch
Elizabeth Werter and Henry Trevor
Shirley H. Wick
Dar Williams
Suzanne Willis
Anne and Thomas Winner
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Craig Wolf
Dawn Young and Jon Pousette-Dart
Gregg and Helen Zuman

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Peter Davis
Billy and Galelyn Fields
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Priscilla Goldfarb
Heather and Derrick Hopkins
Marit and Lars Kulleseid
Robert K. Lanier
Mike Meeropol
Judy Mogul and Dan Kramer
Deborah Needleman and Jacob Weisberg
Robin and John Scheuer
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Victoria Shannon
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Byron and Siew Thye Stinson
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Barbara Tierney and Jeff Grocott
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Marianne and R. Dyke Benjamin
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Ruth Bilodeau
Christine Bockelmann and Floyd Norris
Gwendolyn Bounds
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Christopher Buck and Hara Schwartz
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Pepper Evans and Bob Lieber
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Todd and Angela Haskell
Laurence and Diana Henriques
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David Kimelman and Kevin Burke
Mel and Anat Laytner
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The Upham-Smith Family
Zanne Stewart
Terry and Bonnie Turner

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Allen Alter and Racine Berkow
Celia Baczkowski
Marianne and R. Dyke Benjamin
Wendy DeGiglio
Charles Dunn
Barbara Eliran and Peter Goetz
Kelly Ellenwood
Erin and John Giunta
Priscilla Goldfarb
Kyle Good
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AROUND TOWN



◀ **TOP SCOUT** — Allen McKay, 14, a freshman at Beacon High School, recently became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts. For his project, Allen and more than 30 volunteers constructed two picnic tables and painted the fieldhouse, six dugouts and a snack stand at Memorial Park in Beacon’s school colors. Allen is the son of Allen and Maria McKay of Fishkill.



▲ **AUTHOR VISIT** — Doug Brown, the author of *The Polar Bear, Chicken Soup and Friends*, visited the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison last month to read and sign his book, which was given to each child who attended.

Photo by Ross Corsair

CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT — ▶ Hudson Shackelford of Cold Spring prepared this week for the Pinewood Derby, which Cub Scout Pack 137 will host on Saturday (March 12) at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison. Prizes will be awarded for the funniest, most realistic, fastest-looking, most creative and most colorful car — and maybe bonus points for recycling?

Photos provided



March 12th — April 9th, 2022

Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West

COWGIRLS

RONNIE FARLEY

A photographic collection of women who make their living as ranchers or participate in the rodeo circuit. Ronnie Farley traveled throughout the American west from 1992-93, documenting cowgirls and oftentimes working on the ranches she photographed. Published by Crown in 1995, and reprinted by Thunder’s Mouth Press in 1998, this exhibition toured the United States from 2007-2011 as part of the national exhibits USA museum show roster.

3/12

ARTIST TALK 3:00 PM & RECEPTION 4:00 - 6:00PM

The Lofts at Beacon Gallery
18 Front St Beacon NY , 12508

845-202-7211
www.loftsatbeacon.com

The Highlands Current presents

IN THE WILD

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS CROCCO

Opening reception Friday, March 18 | 6-8pm
at *The Current's* offices – 142 Main St., Cold Spring

The Calendar



Helen Hutchison



Amelia Alayon



Lucas Vladimiroff



Elaine Llewellyn

Are triangles ever harmonious? That question, which can be applied to mathematics, emotions and music, is at the core of Haldane Drama's spring musical, Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, which will be performed at the school next weekend (March 18-20).

Based on the Swedish film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, and set in 1900, the show was developed by Sondheim with his frequent producing and directing partner, Hal Prince. They initially wanted a work that combined an operetta-like feel with darker undertones. The story and music were to mirror each other as a deck of cards, shuffled and reshuffled, with three endings.

The book writer, Hugh Wheeler, felt this was too somber and instead scripted a story with more humor, taking cues from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, reducing the sets of three lovers to two. The story takes place over the course of a bucolic, city-to-country weekend filled with "Oh, what fools these mortals be" transformations.

The mortals include an actor and her suitors: a lawyer and a count. Their jealousy and suspicion of each other extends to their wives and servants and, in turn, to other characters in a round-robin of the follies and wisdom of human behavior when it comes to love.

All this merriment and outrage is set to one of Sondheim's greatest scores, which contains his most well-known song, "Send in the Clowns." A key component of the music is a vocal quintet that comments throughout the proceedings. To add to the vocal challenges, most of the music is composed as waltzes, in triple time.

The Broadway production, which opened

A TRIBUTE TO *Sondheim*

Haldane Drama tackles 'A Little Night Music'

By Alison Rooney

in 1973, ran for more than 600 performances and won six Tony Awards, including best musical, book and original score.

For Martha Mechalakos, the Haldane Drama director, selecting the musical each year is "really very simple. What do I have the cast for? *A Little Night Music* has six female singing roles and three singing male roles that are interesting and have rich and varying personalities and voice types. There is also the quintet, a singing Greek chorus that wind their way through the show. It was a good fit this year.

"I also, personally, love Sondheim and his passing away [on Nov. 26] made it a good choice," she says. "Sondheim is always a challenge. He doesn't write traditional melodies and then there are always many, many words to learn. There's also the fact that he doesn't double the vocal line in the orchestra. The singer needs to know the notes and rhythms. Most of the cast did not know this show, but they have fully embraced it and are enjoying how witty and funny the material is."

The Current posed a few questions to four cast members: ninth graders Amelia Alayon and Helen Hutchison; sophomore Elaine Llewellyn; and junior Lucas Vladimiroff. Their responses have been edited for brevity.

Was learning a Sondheim score difficult?

AMELIA: Working so intensely on every piece made me realize how much thought Sondheim put into every song. Like Mrs. Mechalakos said in rehearsal: "Everything he does has a purpose: every note, every lyric, every bar."

ELAINE: It is challenging but more than worth it. The intricacy of these songs is so beautiful and, especially after his death, it is a joy and an honor to learn and perform them.

LUCAS: I read one of the final interviews he gave; the way he talked about music and his approach to writing made his music make so much more sense. He emphasized the importance of harmony and how harmony affects a listener. Although the harmonies can be difficult, it is rewarding to have that feeling when you finally sing it musically right and capture the emotion he intended.

Although the harmonies can be difficult, it is rewarding to have that feeling when you finally sing it musically right and capture the emotion he intended. ~ Lucas Vladimiroff

What do you think will surprise audiences about this production?

ELAINE: How the humor is maintained throughout an increasingly dramatic and convoluted plot line. I think the audience members will find themselves laughing at events they perhaps wouldn't find so funny in real life — which is part of what theater is all about!

LUCAS: The musical has quite a few characters who are middle-aged to elderly. I am surprised and impressed with how convincing my fellow cast members are at acting ages other than their own.

What has Haldane Drama meant over the course of the pandemic?

AMELIA: The pandemic made me realize how much I love theater. This is everyone's first Haldane musical since our canceled show of *Fiddler on the Roof* [in March 2020]. I think the absence of theater has made everyone sing and act with more motivation and reason.

HELEN: Having theater still go on through this odd time helped everyone feel a sense of normalcy, and gave us something to rely on, and people to talk to.

LUCAS: Haldane Drama has helped me a lot through these past few years. I have formed strong bonds with friends who are also involved and it gets all of us out of the house and creates something fun and productive for the community.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



UKRAINE

SAT 12

USA for Ukraine Benefit NEWBURGH

Noon – 8 p.m. Karpeles Museum
94 Broadway | bit.ly/newburgh-benefit

The concert is scheduled to include David Patrick Wilson of Eddie & The Cruisers, Dr. Magneeto, the Midnite Image Band, WitchHunt, Richard Berretta, the Gotham Jazz Ensemble, Fred Zeppelin, Steve Black, Steel, RockSlyde, Ronald Pucino, Jerry Ebert, Alice Leon, Jim Gagliano and Kingsley Blue.

SAT 12

Vigil and Interfaith Service

COLD SPRING

Noon. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St.

The vigil on the Great Lawn will be followed by an interfaith service at 1 p.m. led by the Rev. Steve Schunk and a discussion in the parish hall.

COMMUNITY

SAT 12

Hunter Education Course

COLD SPRING

8 a.m. Firehouse
154 Main St. | 845-256-3164
register-ed.com/events/view/178239

This daylong course is required to receive a state hunting license, including the one for bowhunting, and covers firearm safety, techniques and ethical practices.

SAT 12

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). Also SUN 13, SAT 19, SUN 20. Reservations required. *Cost: \$11 (\$9 members; ages 5 and younger free)*

SAT 12

Parade of Green

BEACON

Noon. Main Street
facebook.com/paradeofgreen

Celebrate and show off your Irish pride for St. Patrick's Day during the first in-person parade in Beacon since before the 2020 pandemic shutdown.

SUN 13

Daylight Savings

Set your clocks ahead one hour or you're going to be late for everything.

SUN 13

Maple Sugar Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN

8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
bit.ly/taconic-maple

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and see how syrup is made. Register online for 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. seatings. *Cost: \$12 (\$7 ages 6 to 18; ages 5 and younger free)*

SAT 19

Build a Bluebird Box

GARRISON

10 a.m. & Noon. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

Materials will be provided to create a nesting place for local bluebirds with help from Boscobel and Constitution Marsh Audubon. Learn about habitats and other ways to attract and care for feathered friends. *Cost: \$60 (\$30 members)*

SAT 19

Putnam Highlands Audubon Dinner

PHILIPSTOWN

5 – 8 p.m.
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

The annual benefit will include a silent auction. *Cost: \$75 (\$25 remote)*

SAT 19

Stories at Sunset

GARRISON

6 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

Celebrate spring with a sunset, science and stories on the Great Lawn led by Lisa DiMarzo and featuring storyteller Jonathan Kruk. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 5-18; children under 5, health care workers and members free)*

STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 12

Weather Women

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This show —the first inside the theater since before the pandemic shutdown — will feature Cayla Mae Simpson, Jessica Karis Ray and Georgia Sackler in a performance that includes dance, film and music. Spectators must be vaccinated and wear masks. *Cost: \$20*

TUES 15

Clan na hÉireann

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Crowdcast
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Performers from the School of Irish Dance will perform in this annual Desmond-Fish library program.

FRI 18

A Little Night Music

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigsides Drive
showtix4u.com/event-details/62431

Haldane Drama will perform the Stephen Sondheim musical. See Page 13. Also SAT 19, SUN 20. *Tickets: \$15 (\$8 students, seniors free)*

SAT 19

Little Annie Rooney

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

The Butterfield Library's Silent Film Series continues with this 1925 feature written by and starring Mary Pickford. Cary Brown provides live musical accompaniment.

SUN 20

Poet's Corner: Mary Newell

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The Garrison-based poet will read from her chapbooks, *Re-SURGE* and *Tilt/Hover/Veer*, followed by an open mic.

TALKS AND TOURS

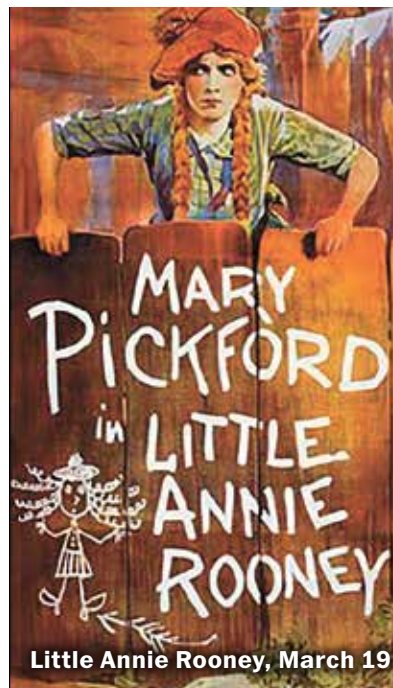
SUN 13

The Life and Work of Rembrandt

COLD SPRING

Noon. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St.
presbychurchcoldspring.org

The Rev. David Harkness, a lifelong art historian, will present a slideshow and talk about the Dutch painter.



WED 16

Climate Action For Everyone

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Community members will discuss the Philipstown Fights Dirty: How Low Can We Go? campaign and actions to reduce the town's carbon footprint in this weekly webinar hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

WED 16

The Life of Gen. Daniel Butterfield

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

James Pula will discuss the Cold Spring resident's life and his role in U.S. history. This presentation is hosted by the Butterfield Library and the Putnam History Museum.

THURS 17

Love and Loss with Amy Bloom

GARRISON

1 p.m. Via Zoom | thehastingscenter.org

The author of *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* will discuss her husband's Alzheimer's diagnosis and his decision to seek assisted dying in Switzerland.

THURS 17

The New Economic Paradigm

GARRISON

2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
In this Pathways to Planetary

Health Forum, Eric Beinhocker, executive director of the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the University of Oxford, will discuss an inclusive and sustainable model that builds ecological civilization.

THURS 17

Maus, Vol. 1

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

In the first meeting of the Banned Book Club, anyone ages 13 and older can join a discussion of Art Spiegelman's graphic novel based on his father's experiences as a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust.

THURS 17

The Ecology of Segregation

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Via Zoom | bit.ly/cary-forest
Urban ecologist Steward Pickett, landscape architect Anne Whiston Spirn and urban planner Marccus Hendricks will discuss redlining, the connections between segregation and environmental pollution and how social data can be used for social justice in urban planning in this webinar hosted by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

THURS 17

Schooner Apollonia

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Capt. Sam Merrett will explain the mission of his carbon-free freight delivery on the Hudson River in this event organized by the Beacon Sloop Club.

SAT 19

Amor Towles

POUGHKEEPSIE

2:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* will discuss his work and his most recent novel, *The Lincoln Highway*. *Free*

SUN 20

The General's Lady

NEWBURGH

2 p.m. Via YouTube
facebook.com/washingtonshheadquarters

In this annual program, presented by the Washington's Headquarters historic site, Jessie Serfilippi will discuss Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the wife of Alexander Hamilton.

SUN 20

One Dime at a Time

GARRISON

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

Susan Delson will discuss her book about the three-minute precursors to music videos known as "soundies," with a focus on Black performers. The films debuted in the 1940s and featured Dorothy Dandridge and Duke Ellington, among others. Gwen Laster of Beacon, a musician and scholar of Black musical heritage, will join the discussion in the program, hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library and Split Rock Books.



Maus, Vol. 1, March 17

VISUAL ART

SAT 12

Larry Bell

BEACON

11:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Curator Alexis Lowry will speak with the artist about his sculptures, including "Standing Walls" (1968) and "Duo Nesting Boxes" (2021), that will be on display beginning today. *Cost: Free with museum admission (\$15 or \$12 for students, seniors, disabled people; ages 12 and younger are free)*

SAT 12

Cowgirls

BEACON

3 p.m. The Loft at Beacon | 18 Front St.
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

Ronnie Farley, who will speak before a reception from 4 - 6 p.m., photographed women who work as ranchers or on the rodeo circuit.

SAT 12

Bloom

BEACON

6 - 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

This member show will reflect "bloom" as both a noun and verb. In the Beacon Room, Stephen Derrickson curates a photography show with works by Ernest Shaw, Adie Russell, Stephen Laub and Charles Purvis. Through April 3.

SAT 12

Urban Legends | Nature Calls

BEACON

6 - 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
139 Main St. | clutter.co

More than 50 artists will pay homage to the art collective Skewville's iconic custom wooden sneakers. New work by Sad Salesman also will be on view.

SUN 13

High School Mentor Exhibition

GARRISON

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

See work created by local students through the School Invitational Theme Exhibition program. Through March 20.



Chris Crocco: In the Wild, March 18

FRI 18

Chris Crocco: In the Wild

COLD SPRING

6 - 8 p.m. Highlands Current
142 Main St. | highlandscurrent.org

Crocco, a partner in the Beacon Daily, is also a wildlife photographer. Some of his best shots will be on view at *The Current's* offices.

SAT 19

Art, Labor and Language in Postwar Rome

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

In this lecture, the first in a series called "Notes on Making" that will explore artistic labor as defined by the Arte Povera movement, Katie Larson, an art history professor at Baylor University and the Magazzino scholar-in-residence, will discuss the themes in the works of five artists. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 12

Tom Chapin & Friends

BEACON

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

The three-time Grammy winner will celebrate his birthday with friends and family sharing songs and stories. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 13

Analog Jazz Orchestra

BEACON

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

The 18-piece ensemble, which includes members from the West Point Band and former members of the West Point Jazz Nights, will perform big-band classics. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 14

MF Drome Trio

BEACON

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

Michael Formanek, Chet Doxas and Vinnie Sperrazza are scheduled to perform at the weekly jazz night.

THURS 17

Flash Company

BEACON

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

Jim Pospisil, Bryan Maloney and Eric Garrison will play traditional Irish and Celtic music, along with originals. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

FRI 18

New MUSE4tet

BEACON

7 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

The improvisational string quartet — Gwen Laster, Hsinwei Chiang, Melanie Dyer and Alex Waterman — will perform compositions and songs from its latest release, *Blue Lotus*. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 18

Murali Coryell Band

BEACON

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

The guitarist and vocalist will perform music from his ninth album, *Made in Texas*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 19

New MUSE4tet

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The jazz quintet will perform music from their debut album. *Cost: \$20*



MUSE4tet, March 18 & 19

SAT 19

Rose Stoller

BEACON

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

SAT 19

Spyro Gyra

BEACON

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

The contemporary jazz band from Buffalo has been performing for nearly 50 years. *Cost: \$55 (\$60 door)*

SAT 19

Telepathic Moon Dance

BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com

The funk, jazz, EDM and world music band will perform.

KIDS AND FAMILY

SAT 12

Imagination Movers

PEEKSKILL

11 a.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The band, based in New Orleans, performs alternative rock music for preschoolers. *Cost: \$23*

WED 16

Music and Movement for Toddlers

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Miss Gabi returns with her program of song and dance. Masks and registration required.

WED 16

St. Patrick's Day Story Time

COLD SPRING

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

A librarian will share *The Leprechaun's Gold*, by Pamela Duncan.

SAT 18

Girl Power Story Time

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The focus will be stories about women from history. For older preschool and elementary school students.

CIVIC

MON 14

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 14

Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

TUES 15

Election Day

NELSONVILLE

Noon - 9 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | nelsonvilleny.gov

The ballot will include two candidates for mayor and three for two seats on the Village Board.

TUES 15

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane (cafeteria)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 16

School Board

GARRISON

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

JOB POSTING



POSITION:

Executive Director

ORGANIZATION:

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub

Please inquire & see full job description at

www.philipstownhub.org/employment

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Cold Spring, NY 10516

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

MAIN BUILDING WINDOW SCREEN FABRICATION

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by contacting twalsh@haldaneschool.org, or by contacting 845-265-9254, ext 176. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Board of Education of Haldane Central School District of Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York By Anne M. Dinio, School Business Manager.

Small, Good Things

Upping the Ante

By Joe Dizney

It started out as a convenience, the byproduct of two manufacturing technologies.

First, Otto Frederick Rohwedder of St. Joseph, Missouri, somehow transformed the skills he'd learned as a jeweler into a legacy as the father of sliced bread by inventing the first commercially viable slicer.

Processing refinements, compliments of Gustav Papendick, a baker from St. Louis, allowed for uniformly sliced and perfectly aligned loaves to be uniformly and perfectly wrapped, prolonging shelf life and increasing marketability, a trajectory that reached a questionable zenith with the advent of Wonder bread in 1930, for better or for worse.

“If you have another favorite (this is about *your* comfort), have at it.

On a parallel track, the J.L. Kraft & Bros. Co. marshaled a pasteurizing process into the scalable production of “processed cheese” that could itself be transported long distances and kept seemingly indefinitely. This disruptive American ingenuity and innovation culminated in the introduction of, again for better or for worse, Kraft Singles, individually wrapped slices of processed cheese.

The genius who thought to marry these two concurrent histories into what must be recognized as a grilled cheese sandwich is lost to history.

But this recipe is really not about that sandwich.

It's more about the ideal of that sandwich, a sandwich that the unimpeachably correct

chef and food pioneer Alice Waters could refer to as one of the great comfort foods.

The ingredients of Ms. Waters' sandwich would, of course, harken back to classic French (croque monsieur) or Italian (mozzarella in carrozza) archetypes: layered slices of artisanal cheese and lovingly crafted whole wheat or country levain, toasted (or better, pan fried) in olive oil, in a lovingly seasoned cast-iron pan until just browned on both sides.

Served with naught but a pickle and a handful of greens on the side, the oil from the bread and melty cheese the only salad dressing, food doesn't get more simple or more comforting.

On a cold, early March night, blindly messing with convention, I made a version using aged Gouda I had bought for the occasion. The cheese you use should have some presence — Waters suggests a cantal — but any other Alpine or mountain-type cheese (comté, appenzeller, Gruyere, emmentaler or even fontina) works. If it's soft like fontina, a short period in the freezer will make it easier to grate. And grating is nonnegotiable — it makes for an airier, more constituent melt. Just leave the Wonder bread to the kids.

If you have another favorite (this is about *your* comfort), have at it. I've made a more than enjoyable sandwich with a farmhouse cheddar. Likewise, the bread is optional but uniformly sized and textured slices make for a less-messy plate.

Having no cornichon in the pantry, I thought to up the ante a notch or two by substituting chopped kimchi for pickles. The pleasant but unexpected surprise was that the oozy cheese mellowed the tangy funk of the Korean pickle, which in turn brightened the sandwich. I suppose you could call it a “kim-cheese” sandwich, but please don't ...

A thin slice or two of apple (or a schmear of apple butter instead of the final swipe of mayonnaise) were further modifications that occurred to me — but this is supposed to be simple, right? The substitution of other pickled vegetables — sauerkraut, Italian giardiniera or pickled peppers, even Japanese *tsukemono* — and alternate cheese pairings open up a wide world of possibilities, and you can certainly take some small comfort in that.



Kimchi Grilled Cheese Sandwich

INGREDIENTS

2 uniform slices of good whole-grain or seeded country bread

Unsalted butter, at room temperature

Mayonnaise

2 to 3 ounces cheese, grated on the large holes of a box grater

¼ to ½ cup kimchi, room temperature, drained and chopped

Olive oil

A generous handful of salad greens

Lemon wedge

Salt and pepper

1. Liberally butter one side of each slice of bread. Place one slice butter side down on a cutting board and spread the unbuttered (up-facing) with a less generous schmear of mayonnaise. Mound half of the grated cheese evenly over that slice. Press it down a bit, and mound the kimchi over the cheese, topping it evenly with the remainder of the cheese. Spread the unbuttered side of the remaining bread slice with mayonnaise as before, and place that side down over the layered cheese and kimchi and, using your hand, firmly compress the whole.

2. Warm a tablespoon of olive oil in a cast-iron skillet over medium to medium-low heat. Place the prepped sandwich in the preheated pan and press down, not too firmly, with a spatula. Cook it undisturbed for 4 to 5 minutes, checking to make sure it's browning, not burning. When the one side is done, flip it and repeat for the second side.

3. Remove to cutting board and cut into halves. Serve as is, plated with a handful of salad greens topped only with a light squeeze of lemon, salt and a grind or two of pepper.

PHILIPSTOWN DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION SURVEY



bit.ly/PhilipstownDEI
bit.ly/PhilipstownEspanolDEI



A shared project of the
Haldane PTA EDI Committee Julia Butterfield Library
Garrison Union Free School District
Desmond-Fish Public Library
to help us with our programming

PUBLIC NOTICE

Holiday and non-conforming decorations must be removed from graves/plots by

Friday, March 25, 2022.

Thereafter such items will be considered abandoned and removed by cemetery personnel.

Cold Spring Cemetery Association INC.
P.O. Box 30, Cold Spring NY 10516-0030

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.

Two-Minute Tales

Foundation hosting film fest for Beacon students

By Alison Rooney

For budding Ava DuVernays, Christopher Nolans and Chloé Zhao, or for students looking for something new to explore, The Foundation for Beacon Schools is planning a student film festival for productions up to two minutes long.

Films suitable for a general audience made by Beacon City School District students must be submitted by April 19 for a screening scheduled for May 14 at Beacon High School. There will be separate screenings for submissions from elementary school and middle and high school students.

"We want students to have free rein with their imaginations," the organizers say. "Films could include documentary topics such as local history, surviving the pandemic or other life challenges. Narrative films could include comedies, dramas, fan fiction, spoofs or stop-motion animation with Legos. Non-narrative films could include abstract or figurative work set to haunting music."

Maureen Neary, the director of the foundation, says a film festival "ticks all the foundation boxes: Everyone has access to a screen, and the two-minute limit is doable. Nowadays, every kid seems to be making

five-minute movies on YouTube. Kids these days are native to the technology; their lives are very screen-based and they like to express things that way.

"This is an opportunity to show off a little, get parents involved and then the community," she says. "That it's taking place in a pandemic lets them show their perspective. It's new and something everyone can join, which lines up with the foundation's goal to have access to every Beacon public school student. There are also lots of resources to them, including media kits in all the schools and at the Howland Public Library."

The inspiration for the festival, she says, was the P.S. 187 Film Festival founded and co-produced by Michael Bridenstine, a middle school teacher in New York City, at his son's school. It has screened more than 350 films.

In Beacon, a parent or guardian must register online and agree to take responsibility for overseeing the project, especially when filming outside. Family members, friends and teachers can help but should be credited. Students should also sign up for the festival's email list at bit.ly/FBS-film-fest.

Organizers say they expect most students will make their films with a smartphone. Several professional filmmakers from Beacon have been sharing their expertise



Budding filmmaker Madelein Devin

Photo provided

through online help sessions. At one, Ana Joanes provided examples of taking seemingly small ideas and making them big.

Next up is a session on editing a film, on Monday (March 14) for elementary students and Thursday (March 17) for middle and high school students. See foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival.

Neary says she sat in on a workshop because she wondered what the interest level would be among students for a film festival, particularly in the elementary grades. She was pleasantly surprised.

"We had 10 or 12 really enthusiastic kids brimming with ideas, who wanted to tell us all about them," she says. "It was really heartening. These were big imagination kind of ideas."

One elementary participant, Madelein



Devin, who is 6 (although she noted she'll be 7 in May), said she was contemplating "a monkey-bars movie" called *Monkeys at Work*. "People watching will be scared, then not scared," she says.

Bridenstine, who has been advising the Beacon organizers, offers encouraging tips for students, families and teachers on how to make a short film at 187ff.com. "The passive act of viewing becomes the positive act of creating," he says.

Neary has a 7-year-old and a 10-year-old who are involved, and she says her second grader, in particular, is "taking off in a way we didn't dare to hope."

Some ideas put forward thus far by the nascent filmmakers include, according to Neary, "a dragon fight; a stop-motion; a big conflict which is then going to be resolved; a situation with dolls; fitting in; a karate match"; and one described as "top secret."

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Haldane School Auditorium
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
Tickets sold at the door: \$15
Students \$8, Seniors Free
Produced by arrangement with Music Theatre International

Scan to purchase tickets online 

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (March 1872)

Following the March election, the Cold Spring Village Board was made up of three Democrats and two Republicans and the Nelsonville Village Board of three Republicans and two Democrats. The Cold Spring ballot also included races for clerk, treasurer, collector, street commissioners, assessors and fire wardens.

Drs. Lente and Murdock amputated the right lower leg and left toes of Edward Calanan, a moulder employed by Paulding, Kemble & Co., who had been run over by six or seven wheels of an Albany freight as it pulled into the Cold Spring station. It was surmised the young man had walked up North Market Street and was rounding the tank house when he was surprised by the engine.

The expenditures in the 1872-73 Cold Spring budget included 330 feet of drainage on Main Street; 675 feet of gutters below Town Hall; 437 feet of gutters on Duffy Street; 426 feet of 2-inch iron pipe from the Market Street pump to the dock; and a safe for important books and papers.

A lawsuit filed by James Hennessy against the Rev. Joseph Caro over an unpaid invoice had been called twice in Fishkill Landing [Beacon] and four times at Cold Spring but the defendant never appeared, citing various illnesses. A mediator entered a judgment for \$894.17; given Father

Caro's necessary poverty, the presumption was that there was no money to collect. However, Hennessy's persistent counsel, Owen and Nelson, discovered that the deed to a Market Street lot donated to the Catholic Church by the West Point Foundry had been recorded in Father Caro's name and it was put up for auction.

A mill on Hutchinson Island, near Savannah, Georgia, owned by former Cold Spring resident T.L. Kinsey, was set ablaze by an arsonist who was briefly held at gunpoint by the night watchman but escaped as the flames spread and demanded the guard's attention.

William Hill was chopping wood in the Highlands when he cut his foot. He began to walk home but was so weakened by the loss of blood after 2 miles that he stopped at the home of Hezekiah Dykeman, who sent a messenger for the surgeon.

A bulldog named Smart attacked Lillie Nichols, 8, and her sister, Carrie, 6, while they were jumping rope on the sidewalk outside Truesdell's market. Smart bit Carrie on the cheek and Lillie on the leg; a passing carpenter managed to get the dog to release his grip on Lillie by hitting it with a plane. Mr. Truesdell, when he heard about the incident, had Smart poisoned.

The first steamboat of the season, the River Queen, passed the village at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16.

Sylvenus Mekeel reported that one of his sows had birthed 66 piglets in a year.



A second ferry boat was added in 1922 between West Point and Garrison in anticipation of the opening of the Storm King Road.

While sweeping the ceiling of the upper hall of her newly constructed home, Cornelia Secor fell down the stairs, which did not have a bannister, and was knocked unconscious. Family members downstairs said they heard a thud but did not immediately investigate.

125 Years Ago (March 1897)

Eugene Barton, the village clerk of Nelsonville and a member of the Village Board, disappeared two days before the election, which he lost by a wide margin. An investigation by the village treasurer found that Barton had, over the previous eight months, forged the signatures of five trustees on nine checks totaling \$42.50 [about \$1,400 today]. He was arrested soon after in Connecticut.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Frederick Hoffman, a former rector at St. Philip's Church in Garrison, died at the Jekyll Island Club Resort near Brunswick, Georgia, at age 67.

The Cold Spring Recorder noted in passing that "considerable money changed hands on the result of the fight at Carson City." [This was a reference to the first licensed prize fight to occur in the U.S., which took place in Nevada on March 17. The winner in 14 rounds received \$15,000 (\$500,000) and the loser \$9,000 (\$300,000). Bets were placed by telegram.]

The Recorder reminded village candidates that they were required to file a statement of election expenses within 10 days after the vote.

At West Point, two drummers fought bareknuckle over the affections of Nellie McCaffrey, the daughter of Sheriff McCaffrey, who lived with her parents in Cold Spring. The musicians would cross the frozen river to visit her, *The Recorder* said. The bout ended in the seventh round when a signal to march was given.

Elvin Hopper, a former Garrison resident who was a guard at Sing Sing, visited the hamlet on a Sunday afternoon to watch the trains and ferry for an escaped inmate.

The trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring voted to close to new burials the cemetery on the left side of the road leading from Town Hall to the James estate. The editor of *The Recorder* called it a wise move because during a recent visit he had found a skeleton that had been disinterred to make room for a new body and

26 human bones scattered on the ground.

The tumblers on the lock at the Perry & Reilley grocery at Main and Market got out of order and an expert safe man had to be called in from New York City.

Philipstown voters approved propositions allowing the sale of liquor consumed on premises (413-279); takeout sales (318-250); liquor prescribed by a physician (346-215); and liquor sales at hotels (388-229). In Putnam Valley, all four propositions were defeated.

A check mailed from New York City five years earlier and addressed to A.J. Hopkins in Carmel was finally delivered. It had been sent to Carmel, Ohio.

The Cold Spring Village Board appointed Peter Wood as lamplighter.

The Conley Comedy Co. performed a week of shows at Town Hall.

A large oak on a Main Street lot owned by T.F. Doron was cut down but, by miscalculation, crushed a storehouse owned by his neighbor.

Mrs. T.N. Cheeseman had a lawn tennis court constructed at The Briers, her Garrison estate.

100 Years Ago (March 1922)

An extended downpour caused more damage to the Philipstown roads than even the oldest residents had seen, although in Cold Spring only Northern Avenue had to be closed because of a 4-foot-deep rut.

In anticipation of the opening of the Storm King Road, the Garrison and West Point Ferry Co. planned to add a second boat that was 70 feet longer than the Highlander and could carry up to 20 cars.

Andrew Phillips, an Italian resident of Cold Spring, was shot and killed on the railroad platform at 8 p.m. on a Sunday. Archangelo Congionti, a fellow countryman employed by the Walker estate in Garrison, was arrested.

The Philipstown Electric Corp. applied to the Village Board for permission to install poles through Cold Spring to carry electric current to Garrison.

Two patients from Philipstown and one from Southeast were using the three beds endowed to Putnam County at the Bowne Memorial Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

Surveyors began to plot out a state highway from Mekeel's Corner [the intersection of ...]

(Continued on Page 19)

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Marion "Mamie" Fish

The Gilded Age

One of the characters on HBO's new series, *The Gilded Age*, is based on Marion "Mamie" Fish, whose family had a home in Garrison as well as mansions in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island.

Mamie (1853-1915), was the aunt of Hamilton Fish III, the founder of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, which has posted a page about her at bit.ly/mamie-fish as part of Women's History Month. It notes that she was known for her "creative parties with unusual guests and themes" and for "being direct, outspoken and possessed of a quick wit."

Ashlie Atkinson (center) portrays Mamie Fish in HBO's *The Gilded Age*.

Photo by Alison Rosa/HBO

(Continued from Page 18)

tion of Route 9 and Route 301] to the Cold Spring village line. At the same time, New York Telephone Co. workers began installing poles from Cold Spring to Fred Mosher's place in the North Highlands.

The Philipstown Garden Club won two prizes — for dinner and luncheon table decoration — at the New York Flower Show.

75 Years Ago (March 1947)

Roland Jones moved from Pine Plains to the 1,100-acre Sunk Mine Farm in Cold Spring to become its machinery foreman.

Ralph Taylor of Poughkeepsie, upon his retirement after 36 years with the New York Central Railroad, most recently at Harmon as chief clerk of the car department, recalled an incident in which a passenger train headed for New York City had just negotiated a curve south of Cold Spring when the entire track slid into the river. As a result, the line was moved farther east, setting up the "S" curve familiar to passengers who, if sitting far enough back on the train, can see the engine ahead as it rounds the curve.

A 36-year-old Brooklyn man who jumped into the river at Garrison, where the water was about 4 feet deep, and began walking into the depths was pulled to shore and committed to the Hudson River State Hospital for a 30-day observation.

50 Years Ago (March 1972)

The Loretto School said it would have to reduce the number of students or close because of rising costs and the difficulty of finding teaching nuns.

Hudson River Sloop Restoration announced a program called Clearwater Polluter Reports to document industrial waste being dumped into the river.

Robert Gilliam III of Market Street in Cold Spring, a former first lieutenant in the Marines who was studying at Columbia University, was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

Wayne Stelfelson of Haldane High School won the state championship in the shot put at the winter track finals at Cornell University with a heave of 58 feet and 1 inch.

A 13-year-old Garrison boy was killed



Bruce Simon (center) of Garrison with his 1978 F-Production 1500 Triumph Spitfire, in a photo taken in 1992

Photo provided

when he was struck by a car on Route 9 south of Snake Hill Road.

Edward Collard, the last living member of the first Haldane school board, died at age 83. He also served as Philipstown clerk for 22 years.

Howard Zeliph of Nelsonville, who had been a rural mail carrier for 41 years, moving from a horse to a Model T Ford, died at age 95.

A home owned by Delmar Karlen off Route 9D, about 500 yards from the Garrison firehouse, was severely damaged by a fire. Water was pumped from the Highlands Country Club.

A 16-year-old Haldane High School student died at a hospital after she stumbled and fell 350 feet into an abandoned rock quarry in Philipstown. About 30 Cold Spring firefighters used ropes and formed a human chain to rescue her.

Students from Haldane junior and senior highs volunteered to help at the understaffed Letchworth Village, a residential facility in Rockland County for the profoundly retarded. The students spoke with patients, helped them move their belongings to a new ward and mopped and disinfected a dormitory that housed 150 older men supervised by two attendants. [The institute closed in 1996.]

25 Years Ago (March 1997)

Officials from Philipstown, Nelsonville and Cold Spring met to discuss how to spend a \$100,000 state transportation grant.

About 50 people attended a presentation at which Scenic Hudson outlined its plans for the 85-acre West Point Foundry and Foundry Cove.

The Philipstown Town Board approved a \$1.2 million project to scrape sediment and corrosion from 5 miles of water pipes in Continental Village and line them with cement.

A fundraiser was organized for Bob Sampogna, co-owner of the Foundry Cafe, whose home in Verplanck burned down while he and his family were vacationing in Florida.

The architectural work of Margo Neri, a Cold Spring resident, was featured in an issue of *W Magazine*. She had recently completed the renovation of the Cherry Lane Theatre in Manhattan.

The Haldane girls' basketball team won the Section I title for Coach Ken Thomas' 200th victory but later fell in the Class D state final to Pine Valley to finish 23-2.

The Garrison school board was told that Putnam Valley would be interested in discussing a joint high school, perhaps at the former Capuchin property [now the site of the Philipstown Recreation Center], which would need \$1 million to \$2 million in renovations.

The Philipstown Town Board discussed the proliferation of cell towers. "There are already four towers in place, four applications on file and seven to eight more anticipated," said Board Member Steve Rosario. "I urge our consideration of a moratorium and a public hearing." Board Member Andy Merante commented: "We should strive for the least obtrusive apparatus and minimal numbers required. When more advanced technology is available, have the companies remove the towers."

At the next meeting, Rosario reported on his attendance at a workshop for local officials on "how not to become 'road kill' on the information superhighway." He reported: "The most important point is to work with the companies to prove that the towers that are approved provide sufficient coverage for cellular phone service and not to argue the locations."

Bruce Simon of Garrison won the North Atlantic Road Racing Championship of the Sports Car Club of America with his F-Production 1500 Triumph Spitfire.

The Garrison school board voted 5-1 to offer students a third choice for a high school, along with Haldane and O'Neill, by adding Yorktown. It had earlier rejected a proposal to add Briarcliff Manor, citing its tuition costs.

A 33-year-old woman was found in her Rock Street home in a semi-conscious state, the apparent victim of a drug overdose. Upon her release from the hospital, she was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

The Philipstown Town Board held a two-hour discussion in response to a petition from 15 residents of Horton Road about the alleged unlawful construction of a multi-family residence on land purchased in a tax sale.

A parent at a Garrison school board meeting said his eighth grade son and other students had been pelted with nails during a visit to see O'Neill High School. In response, another parent who had children at O'Neill questioned the claim, citing "these Garrison kids coming back with their fallacies." The first parent responded, "You're calling our children liars?" The eighth grader, who was at the meeting, later wrote in a letter that he had gone with his father to the meeting to "see how adults discuss issues together in a democracy."

Living Green

Climate Anxiety

By Krystal Ford

It happens when I see a red sun in the sky, knowing the cause is from wildfires burning 2,000 miles away; or when I read about ice sheets melting; or when I hear about pipelines being built: a tightening in my chest, my stomach feels queasy, my heart races, I feel tense and go from anger to despair to resignation in an endless loop, to the soundtrack of “It’s too late and I’m not doing enough and doesn’t anyone care?” It can be lonely.

As carbon emissions keep soaring, many people are struggling with emotions around climate. You don’t even need to experience climate-related disaster firsthand to experience “climate anxiety” — just reading about it can be triggering.

In a presentation at a Climate Town Hall hosted by Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, clinical psychologist Eric Lewandowski of New York University defined climate anxiety as bouts of worry, grief, despair, panic, sadness, anger and/or hopelessness about the deteriorating environment or future.



Illustration by Antonio Rodriguez

“Climate change is a real threat,” he said. “It is rational to be worried. In this case, anxiety is an adaptive emotion signaling danger.”

During a conversation, Heather Zuckerman, a psychotherapist in private practice in Garrison, shared her own take with me. She noted, first, that “a lot of the younger generation are a little doom-and-gloom with the environment and the world.”

A survey published in the *Journal of Lancet Planetary Health* backs this up. More than 10,000 young people around the world between the ages of 16 and 25 were surveyed, and 59 percent said they were very or extremely worried about climate

change, while 84 percent were at least moderately worried. In addition, 7 in 10 described the future as frightening.

Of course, young people aren’t the only ones with deep concerns. Zuckerman said she has noticed that among people of her generation — with older children who are leaving the house — there is anxiety about where to retire.

“I had friends who moved inland in Florida because of climate change,” she said. “They went from, ‘I can live anywhere,’ to ‘Oh my God, where am I going to live?’”

According to a landmark report by the American Psychological Association, the

mental responses to climate change, such as “conflict avoidance, fatalism, fear, helplessness and resignation” are growing stronger and prevent us from addressing the causes and solutions or from achieving “psychological resiliency.”

While it may seem counterintuitive, maybe a little climate anxiety is a good thing. It can motivate people. But you don’t want so much that you feel paralyzed. It’s about finding a way to harness anxiety and stay productive.

There are strategies for dealing with climate anxiety. Here are my takeaways from *Turn the Tide on Climate Anxiety*, by Megan Kennedy-Woodard and Patrick Kennedy-Williams, the co-founders of a U.K. firm called Climate Psychologists: (1) Understand and accept the facts about climate change; (2) Immerse yourself in nature; (3) Practice self-care; (4) Take individual and collective action; and (5) Celebrate success.

For action items, Philipstown Fights Dirty (philipstownfightsdirty.org), a campaign I spearheaded with the Ecological Citizens’ Project, provides more than 80 pledges you can take, including many that are low-hanging fruit. Climate Smart Philipstown also will be hosting workshops starting Wednesday (March 16) on how to take climate action. And Earth Day is approaching on April 22 — a time to celebrate and refill your cup!

Climate change isn’t your problem alone to solve, but we all have a role to play. Take care of yourself, so you can help take care of this beautiful world we call home.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – March 17th, 2022

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a continuation of the public hearing regarding review under the State Environment Quality Review Act of the below described project on Thursday, March 17th 2022 at their regular monthly meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 and virtually via Zoom to consider the following application:

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

SEORA review of: Major Site Plan & 3-lot Subdivision; Modifications to the GGC PDD to permit relocation of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to the site, new theaters, outdoor pavilion and housing for artist and visitors (existing banquet/restaurant facility to remain).

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

If you would like to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom, see information below to register, or email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on March 17th, 2022.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XiaWuFleQN6XcSXQaNTp6w

Webinar ID: 846 6651 7716

Passcode: 703823

Please note if you plan to attend this meeting in person masks will be required. Also be aware that due to ongoing COVID changes and restrictions this Public Hearing may be rescheduled or moved entirely to Zoom. Please check the town website at philipstown.com for any scheduling updates.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of December, 2021.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – March 14th, 2022

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 14th, 2022 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Betsey Haddad, 15 Lake Celeste, Garrison, NY TM#72.17-1-15

The applicants are seeking: (1) a Special Permit per 175-23(B) of the Town Code for the enlargement of a pre-existing non-conforming structure, (2) a variance, pursuant to 175-23(B)(2), to allow for an increase in floor area by more than 25%; (3) a variance to Town Code 175, Attachment 2, to permit the construction of an addition that shall be set back 27.67’ from the side yard lot line where 30’ is required, and (4) a variance of Town Code 175 Attachment 2, Dimensional Table, Maximum Impervious Surface Coverage, in order to increase the maximum impervious surface coverage to 10.56%, where 10% is required. The property is located in the RC Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated February 14th, 2022

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Notes from the Town and Village

■ Philipstown is hopeful about pooling federal aid with Putnam County to fix Garrison Landing Water District problems that include a new mystery — a total lack of water twice in half a month, Town Board members reported on March 3 at their formal monthly meeting at Town Hall. The town engineer estimated that the overhaul would cost \$860,000, far more than Philipstown can pay on its own. “Let’s see what

happens. I’m confident we’ll get some assistance,” Supervisor John Van Tassel said. The water problem “is bleeding the town dry.”

■ Carl Frisenda, the superintendent of the Philipstown Highway Department, plans to resign on March 31 for health reasons, and his departure raised the question of whether to keep the job as a partisan, elective office or make it an appointed position.

■ The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (March 9) meeting, passed a resolution in support of universal health care in New York state, but it stopped short of endorsing the New York Health Act being considered by the state Legislature. If passed, the state bill, first proposed in 1992, would pay for health care for all residents through a combination of federal funds the state receives from Medicare and Medicaid and a progressively graduated tax on income from wages and investments.

■ Charlotte Mountain, the village code enforcement officer, resigned to take a full-time supervisory position with the City of Newburgh. Cold Spring will seek help from the Philipstown Building Department until the position can be filled.

■ For more on the most recent board meetings in Philipstown and Cold Spring, see highlandscurrent.org.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Good-Cause *(from Page 1)*

ings. Those causes could include 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.

If those circumstances don’t apply, the law requires landlords to allow leases to renew, potentially creating “forever” tenants.

Council members said that by establishing those provisions, the law would protect renters from intimidation and arbitrary eviction or rent increases following the end of the state’s moratorium on pandemic-related evictions on Jan. 15. One tenant testified on Monday that her landlord had, without warning, tried to raise her rent \$750 after her comments in favor of the law at the Feb. 22 hearing.

City attorneys warned the council that they believe state law supersedes local tenant-landlord regulations, but several members said the benefits outweigh the risks — which include having to hire outside counsel to defend the city in the event of a lawsuit because its current attorneys said they would not participate.

Landlords argued that the law will lower property values while unfairly limiting what they can charge tenants when faced

How Many Eviction Filings?

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beacon	83	51	48	24
Dutchess	1,997	749	557	118
State	262,402	108,968	69,193	21,230

Source: New York State Unified Court System; through March 7

with rising costs such as maintenance.

There’s been debate about whether the law establishes rent control.

While it does not explicitly cap annual rent increases at 5 percent, in most cases, conditions must be met to exceed it. To go above that threshold, which the law describes as “unconscionable,” a landlord and tenant could agree to an increase or the landlord must demonstrate to a judge that it’s necessary.

The circumstances that warrant more than a 5 percent jump will include when a landlord has made capital improvements or insurance and taxes have increased significantly. A judge could also consider the most recent consumer price index for the northeast U.S., the frequency and amount of past increases, and/or the sales price if the building changes owners.

The city will not track rent prices,

City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday. Landlords and tenants will have to provide documentation in court.

After debating for months, the council remained divided on the efficacy of the law before the Monday vote.

Kyriacou said he was saddened that the arguments have done little to improve landlord-tenant relations. “If we’re picking a way to help renters, pitting one part of the community against the other is the wrong way to do this,” he said. The mayor said he would prefer a “means-tested” subsidy plan, such as the Dutchess County pandemic-relief program that provides rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households. “That is the correct approach. It’s something that we all, as a community, pay taxes to support,” he said.

But Beacon’s popularity has brought premium apartments to the city, where “there are plenty of renters who are fully

capable of paying the full rents that are out there now,” he said. “That’s why those rents are out there. If we afford them the same rights [as low-income renters], they will push low-income renters out.”

Council Member Justice McCray, who represents Ward 2, disagreed, saying the good-cause law “is crucial to bringing racial justice to housing.” McCray noted that Black families rent more than whites and have historically been more vulnerable to eviction. “You don’t even have to look back 10 years to see the Black population of Beacon decrease,” he said. “It’s a painful reality, but that is a reality right now.”

George Mansfield, an at-large council member, said he would have preferred to see the Albany lawsuit resolved before the Beacon vote, but that could take months. Given the urgency, Mansfield said “my decision will be based on helping as many people and hurting as few” as possible.

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair, of Ward 4, said on Tuesday that he hopes the city can move quickly to address other laws affecting affordability. He said he wants to increase the 10 percent below-market-rate component required of new developments of 10 or more units. The council could also investigate launching its own income-based subsidy program, developing affordable housing on city-owned property or adjusting zoning laws for creating accessory dwelling units.

The council will review the good-cause eviction law in June 2023.

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.

DON'T LOSE POWER — Generac standby generators provide backup power during

utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value). Request a free quote today. Call for additional terms and conditions. 631-498-7851.

HELP WANTED

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING MANAGER — The Garrison Art Center seeks an individual to increase brand awareness, attract attendees & deepen engagement with key audiences. 20 hrs/week, flexible hrs. Qualifications: 2 to 4 years in a marketing or communications capacity. Knowledge of non-profits, digital fundraising & marketing. Experience w/ social media ad tools. Ability

to analyze data. Basic graphic design skills photo/video editing skills are a plus. Email director@garrisonartcenter.org.

GARDENER — Looking to hire an experienced gardener for work on a Garrison private property. Should have 3-4 seasons of experience. Solid grasp of skills in planting, weeding, thinning, deadheading, grooming, staking. Hardworking, thorough, detailed, focused, professional able to take direction while working as a team and on one's own. Able to lift 50 pounds and work in all types of weather. 3 days weekly, March-October. Pay commensurate with experience. Driver's license and English-speaking needed. Email tbielaczyc@gmail.com.

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2 Cross St. Proposal Returns in Beacon

Would develop popular corner on west end of Main

By Jeff Simms

A development proposal for Main Street in Beacon, shelved since 2019, is back.

First submitted to the Planning Board about four months before the pandemic shutdown, the 2 Cross St. project called for integrating the building at 172 Main St. and the brick building at 4 Cross St. with new construction and an undeveloped lot that sits between the buildings.

On Main Street, developer Joe Donovan wanted to construct a four-story building with retail on the ground floor, nine units of affordable senior housing on the second and around 10,000 square feet of office space on the top two floors. The back side of the complex, on Cross Street, was to be three floors. A portion of the undeveloped lot, which has been used in recent years by the Green Teen gardening program, would remain as a park.

The development returned to the Planning Board this week and, citing previous comments from city officials and market changes, now proposes a three-story building enveloping much of the corner of Main and Cross. It would include retail on the street level and 18 apartments for seniors, split evenly between market-rate and below-market-rate, on the top two floors. The building will be constructed using energy-efficient “passive” design standards, including a green roof.

172 Main St., the current home of Ronz-World Guitars and part of the city’s historic district, will retain its facade and be integrated into the new building, according to materials submitted to the board, while 4 Cross St. will be demolished and replaced

with new construction. A much smaller, paved, publicly accessible “plaza” at the corner of Main and Cross will remain.

The project will provide 19 of 27 parking spaces — two behind the building, eight in a lot at 10 Cross St. and nine more in a public parking lot at 152 Main St. Planning Board members, however, on Tuesday recommended that the developer conduct a parking study to determine whether the two lots are routinely available.

The board members also warned project officials that their proposal may not be popular. Board Chair John Gunn recalled walking through the community garden space with his daughters, and how proud they were of growing strawberries there.

“You will see a visceral response; I need you to be prepared for that,” he said.

“The area fills with people,” added Board Member Len Warner. “It’s probably the most joyous, crowded area in warm weather on a Second Saturday. It is a magical neighborhood.”

Gunn also said he hopes the design for the proposed building can be improved. “This building could be in any other similar city elsewhere in the United States,” he said. “There’s nothing distinguishable about it.”

1113 Wolcott Ave.

The Planning Board continued its review of plans to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon on Route 9D into a 350-person capacity event space with restaurant and bar but only 32 of the required 136 parking spaces.

Project officials on Tuesday said they’d removed a proposed loop driveway in front of the church and will instead use a two-way “main” driveway along with a one-way, exit-only driveway connecting to the parking area behind the proposed hotel. Planning Board members liked those changes, although they said they’d prefer to see the two driveways

simplified to one way in, one way out.

But much of the discussion, as in previous meetings, was about parking.

Project officials have said they hope to make up the shortfall with a combination of nearby public lots, Beekman Street, the Metro-North station and perhaps an as-of-yet unapproved proposal to the City Council to restripe and add spaces to sections of Wolcott Avenue. The 30-room hotel planned for what had been the church’s parsonage and the event/restaurant space will not require parking at the same time of day, eliminating some of the need, said project attorney Taylor Palmer.

But “there’s a theoretical nature to what you’ve proposed that we have to look at closely, because we don’t want to be in the position of having to impose this potential burden on the city and its residents” if a parking lot that’s currently available, such as the 66-space city lot behind the Tompkins Hose Fire Station, is eventually developed, Gunn said. Planning consultant John Clarke also noted that the spaces on Beekman Street may be unavailable once commuters return to a more normal sched-

ule on Metro-North.

Project officials said they expect the event space to reach its full capacity on “very limited occasions.” They also intend to install two dozen bike racks and encourage walking to and from the venue.

364 Main St.

The Planning Board directed its attorney to begin drafting approval documents for the three-story mixed-use proposal at 364 Main St.

The developer is proposing retail on the ground floor and 20 apartments on the higher stories. Cars would enter the site through a narrow driveway on its east side and exit through a parking lot in the rear. An addition to the building would be set back on the west side with benches and landscaping in front of the red brick building.

On Tuesday, board members continued to express concern with the Main Street driveway to the building. It could create a hazard for pedestrians, but, if eliminated, would allow the developer to increase the landscaping and public space surrounding the building, they said.

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.

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.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Taj Mahal city

5. Chatter

8. Pugilist's weapon

12. Regrets

13. Half of bi-

14. Bygone Peruvian

15. Diamond parts

17. Miles away

18. Thai or Korean

19. Oscar contenders

21. Leaves

24. Medit. nation

25. Buckeye State

28. Take five

30. Yoga pad

33. Mafia boss

34. Emulate Lincoln

35. Bedazzle

36. Dict. info

37. Nick and Nora's pet

38. Arm bone

39. Fireplace residue

41. Luminary

43. Charlton Heston film

46. Seraglio

50. Aware of

51. Endless time or space

54. Burning heap

55. Automobile

56. Sci-fi fleet

57. Declares

58. Lock opener

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

DOWN

1. Met solo

2. Weaponry

3. Mortgage again, for short

4. Italian cheese

5. Actor Brynner

6. Moreover

7. Galileo's birthplace

8. Decrees

9. Casual

10. Cicatrix

11. Old salts

16. Rock's Brian

20. Refer to

22. Messes up

23. Plane assignments

25. Peculiar

26. Garden tool

27. Foot soldiers

29. Sports figure?

31. Bristle

32. Chai, e.g.

34. Diamond Head locale

38. Seventh planet

40. Loafers, e.g.

42. Sashimi fish

43. Conks on the head

44. "May It Be" singer

45. *Casablanca* cafe owner

47. Teeming

48. Harrow rival

49. Island in a computer game

52. Scot's refusal

53. Saute

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Answers for March 4 Puzzles

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

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

1. TURNS, 2. CONTACTLESS, 3. EQUIPMENT, 4. FOREHEAD, 5. AEROPHOBIA, 6. RUSSELL, 7. PUMA

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 insightful (4)

2 purposely ruffles feathers (8)

3 friends of the Flintstones (7)

4 capital of Nova Scotia (7)

5 having poor posture (8)

6 Italian infant (7)

7 where boaters wait (8)

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HALDANE DROPS HEARTBREAKER IN TITLE GAME

Blue Devils upset for second year in a row

By Skip Pearlman



Tristen Reid avoids a defender late in Saturday's loss to Hamilton.

The points that came easily for No. 1 Haldane early became nearly impossible to find late in Saturday's Class C championship game at Yorktown High School.

The second seed, Alexander Hamilton, shook off a slow start and dodged a bullet at the end to break the Blue Devils' hearts with a 53-51 win.

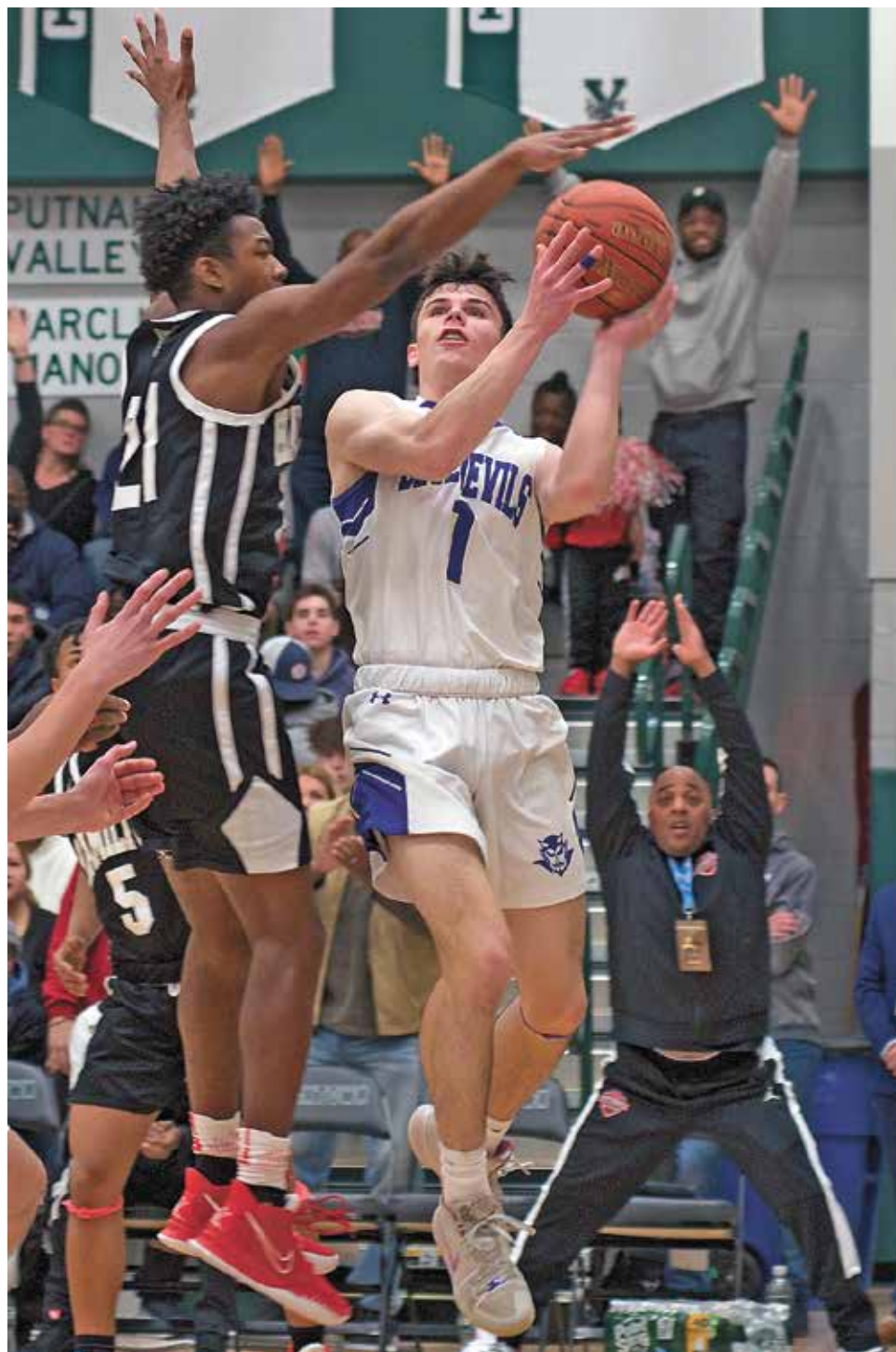
It was the second year in a row that Haldane lost a heartbreaker in the tournament. In March 2021, the top-seeded Blue Devils were 10-0 when they hosted No. 5 Lakeland in the Putnam-Northern Westchester playoffs for smaller schools. Lakeland won, 51-50, on a desperation three-pointer that banked in with 1.5 seconds left.

Haldane (19-3) jumped out of the gate with energy on Saturday, building a 15-2 lead with 3:12 left in the first. But a 15-4 Hamilton run made it a one-point game, and things stayed close from there.

Hamilton took its first lead, 28-27, in the second, and the game was tied at 37-37 at the end of three. The Raiders had a three-point lead with 6:00 to play, and upped the lead to five with 4:04 left.

A pair of free throws by Chris Ward gave Hamilton a 53-48 lead with 12 seconds left, but Haldane's Robert Viggiano answered quickly with a clutch three from the corner to make it 53-51 with 3.8 seconds remaining.

Ward was fouled and sent to the line with a chance to extend the lead to four. But a pair of missed free throws left the door open for Haldane, and junior guard Matteo Cervone was fouled on a desperation three-



"We came up just short," said senior captain Ryan Irwin.

Photos by S. Pearlman

point attempt with 0.3 remaining. But he missed the first two free throws, and was forced to miss the third, which the Raiders rebounded to end the game.

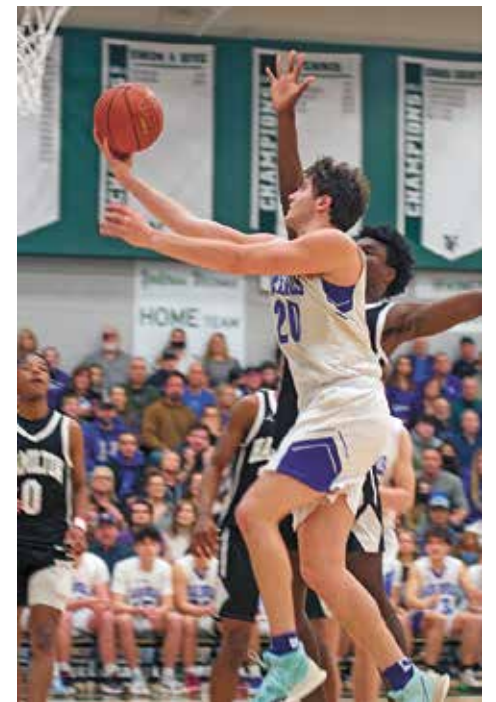
Jaylen Savage had 22 points and was named Tournament MVP for Hamilton (17-5), which moves on to face Section IX champion Chester on Wednesday (March 16) in a regional semifinal at Yorktown High School.

Viggiano had 14 points for Haldane, and

Haldane's All-Section duo of Cervone and Soren Holmbo were limited to 13 and 12 points, respectively.

The Blue Devils were looking for their first sectional title since 2016.

"That was one of the tougher losses we've had," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "I feel so badly for the guys; they had high hopes of bringing home a title. But they gave it all they had, so we have no regrets.



Matteo Cervone goes to the rim during the title game.

"Our defensive intensity was great," he added. "We held them to 19 in the first half. They doubled and focused on Matteo, but we've had balanced scoring all year. We valued the ball and had some good opportunities."

"We came up just short," said senior captain Ryan Irwin. "We worked so hard all year for this. This is not the way we wanted to come out of it. We never thought this would happen; we thought we were the better team."

"Our transition in the beginning was working well," he added. "Then when the threes weren't falling, we were trying to work the ball inside, and it just wasn't working for us. But this was a great year, and this is a great group of guys. I love them all, and it'll be sad to go. But I'll always remember this."

Track Results

Three Beacon High School athletes competed in the state championships this past weekend.

Evan LaBelle ran the first leg for the 1,000-meter intersectional relay team, which finished eighth and earned a medal. Sal Migliore competed in the 600 meters, placing 20th in 1:26.64, and will compete on Saturday (March 12) at the New Balance Nationals in New York City in the Emerging Elite 400-meter race. Damani DeLoatch finished 21st in the triple jump at 39-03 and was the top sophomore in the field.