

The HIGHLANDS Current



Goat-Infused Pottery
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VA Proposes Closing Castle Point

Care would shift to community providers, Montrose hospital

By Leonard Sparks

Local residents and elected officials expressed alarm at a U.S. Veterans Affairs recommendation to close Castle Point, a nearly 100-year-old medical center off Route 9D in Wappingers Falls that provides inpatient, nursing home and outpatient services to former military personnel. A report released by VA Secretary Denis McDonough on March 14 endorsed closing Castle Point, concluding that the facility is underutilized; needs more than \$100 million in upgrades and repairs; and is projected to see its number of Dutchess County enrollees fall by 2029 to 5,688, or 20 percent less than in 2019.

Noting that only three of Castle Point's 26 inpatient beds were occupied on an average day in 2019, the VA's report proposed shifting care to hospitals and other community providers. Nearly all of its 28 nursing home beds are consistently filled; those services would move to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt VA Hospital in Montrose, which is south of Peekskill. At the same time, Veterans Affairs wants to build a facility in Fishkill to provide outpatient services.

Anthony Lassiter, a U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran who lives in Beacon, said

(Continued on Page 7)



DEPOT DANCE — New Muse 4tet, a string quartet assembled by violinist Gwen Laster of Beacon (left), performed at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison on March 19. This piece, "Cigarette," was part of a Black Lives Matter suite written after the 2015 death of Sandra Bland in a Texas police holding cell. The dancer is Lia Lewis and the other musicians are Alex Waterman, Melanie Dyer and Dara Blumenthal-Bloom.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Fjord Trail Plan Draws Praise and Concern

Residents weigh in as construction nears

By Leonard Sparks

Residents expressed both praise and concern on Wednesday (March 23) about the proposed Hudson High-

lands Fjord Trail, a long-planned 7.5-mile pathway between Dockside Park in Cold Spring and Long Dock Park in Beacon aimed at relieving hiker congestion on Route 9D.

More than 50 people filled the boardroom at Philipstown Town Hall to hear a two-hour presentation by Amy Kacala and MJ Martin of Hudson Highlands Fjord

Trail Inc., the nonprofit set up to oversee the design and construction and serve as its operator and manager in collaboration with the state parks department.

The first phase of construction, envisioned more than 15 years ago, will begin this fall when work starts on a new station

(Continued on Page 8)



A photo taken from security camera footage at Key Food on March 2, 2020, shows Alvin Medina Jr. on the floor, along with store employee Willie Cole (top), manager Moufaq Dabashi (center) and Emad Dabashi, who was charged with assault.

Key Food Confrontation Proves Costly

Beacon grocery settles suit two years after assault

By Jeff Simms

The owners of the Key Food grocery store on Main Street in Beacon paid \$95,000 earlier this month to settle a civil suit stemming from an assault in the store two years ago.

Alvin C. Medina Jr., of Beacon, filed a lawsuit in March 2020 naming Key Food manager Moufaq "Mo" Dabashi and his brother, Emad Dabashi, after Emad Dabashi slammed Medina to the floor inside the store following a confrontation.

The assault, which was captured in security camera footage and recently posted by Medina on social media, came about two hours after employees called Beacon police to the store when Medina began cursing loudly and threatened Emad Dabashi, who was an employee at the time.

According to court documents, Medina and his mother entered the store around 3:15 p.m. on March 2, 2020. While his mother waited in a checkout line, Medina walked to the deli counter, where Emad Dabashi was working. Medina asked if Dabashi would mix two premade salads in one container.

Dabashi said he could not, because the

(Continued on Page 9)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: AARON LEONARD

By Michael Turton

Aaron Leonard, a retired U.S. Army officer and president of the Cold Spring Fire Co., manages the Sierra Club's Military Outdoors Program, which specializes in therapeutic adventures for veterans.

You served during the first Gulf War and in Iraq. Did the outdoors help you cope with the aftermath?

It did. That was how I started working in this field. When I was getting close to retiring from the Army, I went on an Outward Bound expedition for veterans — a dog-sledding trip in Minnesota. That's what hooked me on the possibility of this being my second career.

What's your role in the program?

I'm one of about 900 full-time employees. We offer a wide range of activities, from hikes, multi-week back-country expeditions and mountaineering, rafting, canoeing on flatwater or whitewater, scuba diving. We have about 7,000 volunteer outdoor leaders. In some parts of the country, we partner with American Legion posts or other veterans service organizations. Tomorrow morning I'm leading a hike myself, to Breakneck Ridge.



Are the effects of the outdoors on veterans obvious or subtle?

We recently completed a study at the University of Utah that showed, even after a single, three-day backpacking trip, a decrease in a veteran's sense of loneliness, an increase in their sense of belonging and an increase in their sense of well-being. I've seen dramatic changes — people who tried to participate for months but were just too anxious to leave their apartments in the city, when they finally get the courage to go on a short group hike, they get hooked and we see them once or twice a month. That's transformative for somebody who was so stressed. Human beings need physical, social and emotional health to be fully functional. Even if veterans are not in need of therapy for PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], depression or anxiety, they still benefit.

The benefits of a tranquil natural setting are understandable. But do combat veterans really need more "adventure?"

Remember, not all veterans are exposed to combat. A Navy sailor on a submarine or an Air Force mechanic working on jet engines has a different experience than a

Marine Corps pilot flying a Cobra gunship. But we all become veterans. If I work with a woman of color who retired in the 1980s, her experience was completely different from mine. The actor Adam Driver was a Marine and says he loved every minute of it. But I can find other veterans who had horrible experiences, their service tainted by everything from sexual harassment or rape, to negative leadership, to falling into the rabbit hole of drugs and alcohol.

Is enough being done to ensure the physical, emotional and mental health of veterans?

Most veterans are doing fine. About 70 percent of the population is doing great. The [federal] Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to meet veterans needs. It is always changing how it recruits veterans, but only about half are enrolled in the system. Some don't want to be part of it, some don't qualify for full care, some don't have a positive experience. But some states, including New York, are doing an excellent job filling the gap. Every county in New York has a veterans service officer whose sole responsibility is to ensure veterans who move into that county are able to transition into a healthy civilian lifestyle.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

It's 11 p.m. at the diner; what do you order?

“Depends on my mood. Last night, a French dip; usually, some greasy sandwich.”



Matt Hughes, Beacon

“A full Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and cranberry sauce.”



Natalie Ely, Cold Spring

“Banana pancakes, because Jack Johnson told me to.”



Peter Hoffmann, Cold Spring

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Haldane Budget Includes 3.69% Tax Hike

District spending would grow by 5 percent

By Joey Asher

The Haldane superintendent is proposing a \$27.2 million budget for the 2022-2023 school year, a jump of 4.81 percent over this year. It includes a 3.69 percent property tax rate increase, just below a state-mandated cap of 3.7 percent. The district would use the additional

funds to maintain its student-teacher ratios and invest in academic, arts and athletic programs, said Superintendent Philip Benante. “We have some of the most competitive class sizes in the region and this budget maintains that,” he said. The school board has scheduled a vote for April 19 and a public hearing for May 3. The budget and two trustee seats will be on the ballot on May 17. There are more details at haldaneschool.org/board-of-education/

annual-budget. Benante highlighted several key investments in his budget: ■ An expanded Artist-in-Residence Program for elementary students that will cost \$30,000. He said that the district would bring in five or six people to work with students in kindergarten through fifth grade. ■ A review of the district’s special education programs that would cost \$25,000. The programs serve 12 percent of the

student population, he said. ■ Literacy and intervention training for teachers that would cost \$30,000. The program had been curtailed during the pandemic because teachers were focused on maintaining safe learning environments, he said. ■ Hiring 11 assistant coaches — for varsity basketball, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball, softball, baseball, cross-country and football — at a cost of \$40,000. ■ Spending \$20,000 on master scheduling and planning, which will maximize teaching time, Benante said.

Garrison Schools Weigh 10% Tax Hike

Request would surpass state-mandated cap

By Joey Asher

A preliminary budget prepared by the superintendent of the Garrison school district to send to voters in May would require a property tax increase of 10 percent, well above a state-mandated cap of 2.16 percent.

The budget still must be approved by the school board, which has scheduled a vote for April 6 and a public hearing for May 4. There is more detail at bit.ly/gufs-budget-22. If the increase remains over the cap, state law requires that the budget be approved by at least 60 percent of voters, who will decide on May 17.

The Garrison superintendent, Carl Albano, said the district needs the cap override to fund his proposed \$12.36 million budget for 2022-23, an increase of 6 percent from this year. The 2021-22 budget, which was below the cap, was approved by voters last year, 185-61.

Sarah Tormey, the school board president, said its nine members want to hear from the public before making a decision. “We have the option to make cuts,” she said. “We have the option to do an override. We have the option of doing a combination.”

If the district raised taxes only to the 2.16 percent cap, there would be a \$1.3 million shortfall under the proposed budget, said Joe Jimick, the district business administrator.

Much of the jump in spending is driven by increases largely outside of district control, said Jimick, such as health insurance (up 14 percent), transportation (up 12 percent) and the tuition paid for its high school students. The district — which has 211 students from kindergarten through eighth grade — sends its graduating eighth graders to Haldane in Cold Spring or O’Neill in Highland Falls; it has 59 high school students this year and projects that will grow to 87 by 2024-25. Haldane raised the tuition it charges Garrison by 32 percent over the past two years. Philip Benante, the superintendent at Haldane, said tuition it charges for Garrison students is now being calculated using a state formula rather than being negotiated. “We feel that the program we offer has a particular value to it and that the state

Potential Taxes

	+2.16%	+10%
\$300,000 property	\$2,988 (+\$63)	\$3,216 (+\$291)
\$500,000 property	\$4,980 (+\$105)	\$5,360 (+\$485)
\$1 million property	\$9,960 (+\$210)	\$10,270 (+\$970)

Source: Garrison school district

GUFFS Rainy-Day Fund

- 2014 / \$3.105 million
- 2015 / \$3.501 million
- 2016 / \$3.245 million
- 2017 / \$3.715 million
- 2018 / \$4.425 million
- 2019 / \$4.194 million
- 2020 / \$3.354 million
- 2021 / \$2.464 million*

*Estimated

rate best reflects that value,” he said. For the 2021-22 school year, Haldane charged \$13,980 per student, although it could have charged about 25 percent more under the state formula. It raised the rate to \$16,264 for this year and will charge an estimated \$21,500 in 2022-23. O’Neill charges its full rate of about \$17,000. Assuming 19 former Garrison School students in 2022-23 will be attending Haldane and 10 students will be at O’Neill, Garrison will need to find another \$272,000 for 2022-23, the district said. The proposed budget includes the loss of four positions: two teachers, a clerk and a facilities manager. Jimick said one retiring elementary teacher will not be replaced and a contract with a support teacher will not be

renewed. He added that the district could save about \$91,500 by cutting bus service for students who live within 2 miles of the school. Garrison could close the gap by drawing \$1.3 million from savings, but that could undermine the fiscal stability of the district and leave it vulnerable, said Jimick. “If we deplete all of our rainy-day funds and it rains, we’re stuck,” he said. “We don’t think that’s responsible.” The Garrison property tax rate is \$9.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which means that the owner of a \$500,000 property pays \$4,875. If the district stays at the 2.2-percent cap, that rate would rise to \$9.96 per \$1,000, or \$4,980. Albano’s proposed budget would require a rate of \$10.72 per \$1,000, or \$5,360. Even with increased taxes, Garrison’s rate would be substantially lower than every other district in Putnam County,

Albano said. The next-lowest rate is levied by Haldane at \$17.01 per \$1,000. Brewster has the highest rate, at \$27.74 per \$1,000. Another factor that has impacted the budget is a proposed change to the formula used to determine state aid that would cost Garrison nearly \$100,000, or 9.58 percent less than it received this year, because it’s a relatively wealthy community that is not considered “high need,” Jimick said. By contrast, the median increase in aid to districts in Westchester and Putnam is expected to be 17 percent, including 11 percent at Haldane and 18 percent in Putnam Valley. Garrison said it has appealed to state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and state Sen. Sue Serino for assistance. As of March 23, the district had reduced the gap by booking a \$121,000 energy-efficiency rebate as revenue; negotiating with Haldane to reduce its special education tuition to save \$174,000; and, to save \$59,000, negotiating a lower rate for vocational students who attend O’Neill for a half day. At the same time, it added \$144,000 for a new special education student to the expense line. In its presentation on March 23, the district said the proposed Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival project that would take the property off the rolls because HVSF is tax-exempt would have no bearing on the amount of taxes the school collects, although it could affect individual tax bills. It noted that a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement would decrease the levy but that would be negotiated by the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency.

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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

Cold Spring police

Re: the letter from Cold Spring Trustee Eliza Starbuck in the March 18 issue on whether the village needs to continue paying for a police force.

In 2017, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress did a study that looked at the cost of policing in Beacon, the Town of Fishkill and the Village of Fishkill. Just like Fishkill, Cold Spring is small village where crime is low. Its expenditures seem generally in line with ours (\$583,822 in 2017, for a population of 2,127 people, or \$274 per capita; versus \$387,500 in 2017 in Cold Spring, a population of 1,834 people, or \$211 per capita).

That could mean there is pressure by police everywhere or that costs keep going up. It's a real issue, especially when the cost of living is out of hand.

Joanne Kenna, *Cold Spring*

The amount of people moving up the line on the train would amaze you. We're adding a walkway to and from Beacon that can't possibly be policed without the Cold Spring Police Department on our end. We have a Village Board that believes the dock is safe enough without lighting at night; wait until it gets 10 degrees or so warmer. The village is going to experience quite a bit under a clueless administration when

it comes to safety and infrastructure. It's already happening: Getting rid of this and that and raising the salaries of the mayor and trustees are right around the bend.

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

If the people in Cold Spring feel so unsafe, they may need to hire a fourth police agency of some sort, besides the village, county and state police. Maybe private security guards for the most crime-ridden parts of the village?

Patty Villanova, *via Facebook*

Everything in America is up 30 percent. Why would a police budget not be the same?

Gregg McGinley, *via Facebook*

Many of the comments online about Starbuck's letter make me wonder if they actually read it. Nowhere does she say, "Defund the police." Nowhere does she say the police aren't needed. What I read is: We are a low-crime area but have 24-hour policing. We spend this much on policing, did you know that? We are about to invest even more with cameras, and all input on these expenditures comes from the Police Department. If you want to weigh in on this issue, please attend meetings or write to the board. P.S. I am happy we have a police department and

happy to pay for it.

Joanne Murphy, *via Facebook*

What I got reading it was that the board is swaying toward not spending any more money on the police, the rising costs of policing, or their equipment like cameras, etc. Her language is clearly stating the budget is too much and that the board should look at cutting back, aka "defund." The undertone is clear, with the town being probably 80 percent progressives; we can clearly see where that is headed. You can isolate all the points you like, but we both know what this is about.

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

Challenge for churches

I enjoyed reading your series on churches (*The Challenge for Churches*). For me, the reason behind the huge fall-off of regular attendance at houses of organized religion starts with the origins of organized religions, or at least Christianity. Life being brief and filled with suffering, the church offered a better life after the one being painfully experienced.

Who could resist such a promise — a quid pro quo that the people couldn't prove wrong. This led to indulgences and various forms of corruption, for as Lord Acton said of the pope's declaration of infallibility: "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Sexual abuse of choirboys is the most recent form of corrupt power wielded by priests. That famous comment by the Nobel Prize-winning scientist Steven Weinberg (recently deceased) captures the exercise: "With or without religion, good people can behave well, and bad people can do evil; but for good people to do evil — that takes religion."

As the absurdity of an afterlife became widely evident, the promise of immortality in exchange for supporting organized religion became an empty vessel and people turned to other forms of human engagement such as bowling, sports, watching football on TV, etc. Now, with social media, the iPhone has become the organized religion of choice among many people. (Consider a photo in the news recently of Russians lining up to get their money out of the bank. Every single person in line was staring at — or praying to — his or her phone.) Compared to the cost of heating St. Philip's church, the cost of an iPhone is peanuts.

Bevis Longstreth, *Garrison*

Longstreth is a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper.



(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Corrections

- A story on an exhibit of paintings by Ann Provan at the Garrison Art Center included an incorrect date for the opening. It is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday (March 26).
- A story in the March 18 issue said the Howland Public Library trustee and budget vote will be held May 17. In fact, it is scheduled for April 28.
- Due to an editing error, the fourth installment of *The Challenge for Churches* in the March 18 issue stated that the Rev. Thomas Lutz of Our Lady of Loretto had visited the wife and children of a parishioner, Kenn Sapeta. In fact, Sapeta had only one child. It also said that Father Lutz was helping to plan the funeral; in fact, the funeral took place today (March 25) at a church in Ossining, not at Loretto.

(Continued from Page 4)

Snowy parade

Great for Beacon for holding the St. Patrick's Parade of Green "rain or shine or snow" (March 18). I wish I had a mini-violin emoji for the complainers.

Wayne Theiss Sr., *Beacon*

Beacon loves a parade.

John-Anthony Gargiulo, *via Facebook*

Beacon tough.

Tom Murphy, *via Facebook*

Rising waters

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for Krystal Ford's *Living Green* column in the March 11 issue, which put into words the sense of doom that so many of us feel when we hear about floods, tornadoes and wildfires in far-off places and experience immediate signs of climate change such as mosquitos in March, thunderstorms in January and trees that are still full of leaves late into November.

In reading Wilbur Foster's letter to the editor in response (March 18), I reacted with jealousy that someone could ignore all these signs of impending doom and point to other people's individual choices as a reason to say: "This is fine." Every time I feel dread for the future that climate change is bringing in, I've coped by reminding myself that the problem is systemic, complicated and not the burden of individuals to solve.

But it is real, and it makes me angry on behalf of the future generations that won't have the same quality of life I did in my lifetime. Reading about other people who are feeling this anxiety gives me comfort that we are not alone. I will hold on to my anger and use my voice to remind anyone who will listen that this world and the people inhabiting it are worth fighting for.

Carolyn Bennett Glauda, *Beacon*

The HIGHLANDS CurrentPODCAST

In a bonus episode, we revisit a conversation in 2017 by reporter Michael Turton with Anthony Mancinelli, a Newburgh native who was then 106 and the world's oldest working barber.

Visit highlandscurrent.org/podcast



NEWS BRIEFS

Landlords Sue Over 'Good-Cause' Law

Joins Albany case in asking for repeal

A group of landlords last month sued the City of Newburgh and its City Council for enacting a "good-cause" eviction law in October.

The landlords asked an Orange County judge to nullify the law because, they allege, it is pre-empted by state laws that protect tenants' rights.

The Beacon City Council adopted a good-cause measure on March 7 against the advice of its counsel, which had said the law is an overreach of municipal authority.

The Newburgh landlords also contend that the law there illegally limits the rents they can charge and essentially amounts to a "taking" of private property without just compensation, which the U.S. Constitution forbids.

The landlords are represented by a Troy-based law firm that also represents a group of Albany landlords that last year sued over that city's good-cause law.

Frontier Adds Two New Routes to Stewart

Will fly to Raleigh-Durham and Atlanta

Frontier Airlines announced March 9 that it will offer nonstop service to two more U.S. destinations from New York Stewart International Airport.

The airline began offering service last fall from the New Windsor airport to Miami, Orlando and Tampa in Florida. Beginning May 26, it will offer nonstop service twice weekly to Raleigh-Durham,

North Carolina, and three times weekly to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta.

American Airlines offers flights from Stewart to Philadelphia while Allegiant flies to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; and four cities in Florida.

Central Hudson to be Audited by State

Study will look at storm response, billing

The state Public Service Commission said last week that it plans to commission a comprehensive audit of the management and operations of Central Hudson focused on its response to a Feb. 4 storm and its billing practices.

Central Hudson said it had upgraded to a new billing system that has caused many customers to not receive regular invoices. The February storm left more than 67,000 customers without power, some for as long as four days.

"It's high time Central Hudson got the bugs out of its new billing system," said Jonathan Jacobson, whose district in the New York State Assembly includes Beacon, in a statement. "All winter I have been hearing from constituents who either received an enormously high estimated bill that doesn't correspond to actual usage or no bill at all for months on end."

Central Hudson also has asked the Public Service Commission for the OK to increase its electric delivery revenue by 17.6 percent to \$1.2 billion and its natural gas delivery revenue by 28 percent to \$500 million. The commission has scheduled hearings for Tuesday (March 29) and Thursday (March 31); to attend virtually, see on.ny.gov/3K7eYP1.

Highland Falls, West Point Sign 10-Year School Deal

Academy will continue to send students

The Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery school district has reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to continue to educate students who live on the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

About 40 percent of the students in the district live on-base, and the federal government contributes about 10 percent of the district budget as part of a longstanding agreement that renews every five years. Last year, the U.S. Department of Defense said it would put the contract to bid, raising concerns that the district would need to make drastic cuts if it didn't win the renewal.

This week the federal government said it had come to a 10-year agreement with the district to continue the relationship. The Garrison School, which goes through the eighth grade, sends many of its graduates to the district's O'Neill High School.

State Enacts 'Circuit Breaker'

Creates property tax credit for some

The current state budget established an annual "circuit breaker" credit for taxpayers with annual incomes of less than \$250,000 whose property tax burdens exceed 6 percent of their income.

Homeowners will be able to claim a credit on their state income tax return starting with 2021 for taxes they pay on their primary residence, said Sandy Galef, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown. The credit will be provided on a sliding scale and capped at \$350.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

Each year *The Current* compiles a list of scholarships available to students who live in Beacon and Philipstown. Each listing includes who qualifies to apply, the amount of the award and the application deadline.

The 2022 version of the guide has been posted at highlandscurrent.org/scholarships

Don't delay: Many applications are due April 1.





Julia Butterfield



Barbara Impellittere



Antonia Maury



Susan Warner



Anna Warner



Aileen Osborn Webb

Notable Women of Philipstown

*Accomplishment, service
define six lives*

By Violeta Edwards Salas

In the spirit of Women's History Month, we are reminded in March of the Philipstown women who have not only impacted the world but also our very home.

Sarah Johnson, former Putnam County



historian and past director of the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring, said that the experiences of women have historically been overlooked and underappreciated. Now, because digitization has made more information readily available, "we have this unique opportunity at this moment in time to look at a much broader spectrum of people's different historical experiences," she said.

"The only real way that we can grow as human beings is to look at people whose opinions and experiences are different from our own," said Johnson. "For a long time, there was a very finite set of people controlling the narrative."

There are many women who have lived and worked in Philipstown and are not mentioned. Yet the following deserve recognition for what they have done.

Julia Butterfield (1823-1913)

Butterfield moved from New York City to Cold Spring in 1852 and lived in a gorgeous property known as Cragside, now the site of the Haldane campus.

She spearheaded the creation of Butterfield Hospital in 1925 with a \$150,000 bequest, after her death in 1913, to build and equip the facility, and the Cold Spring library that also bears her name was built using \$60,000. She helped fund the construction of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in 1868 and bequeathed \$10,000 for the construction of the St. Mary's parsonage, which was completed in 1916.

She loved to host parties at Cragside and invited many high-profile guests to her beautiful residence, such as the grand duke of Russia and the count of Paris. Her parties put Cold Spring on the map.

Barbara Impellittere

She was the first woman elected as Cold Spring mayor when, at 27, she defeated Joseph Perpetua, a former Haldane school board president, in 1973. By law, the mayor also served as the police chief.

Impellittere, the daughter of a former heavyweight boxer whose family owned a local Ford dealership, told *The New York Times* in 1973 that her victory "had nothing to do with women's liberation" but with her desire to prevent Perpetua from running unopposed.

"I felt that the people would want a choice," she said, adding: "I want to make Cold Spring a more unified, homey place."

Antonia Maury (1866-1952)

Maury, an astronomer, was born in Cold Spring in 1866 and graduated from Vassar College. She worked in the Harvard College Observatory, where she was a member of the Harvard Computers, a team of women astronomers. She discovered a binary star,

and its orbit and evolution. Unfortunately, her male director took credit for the discovery, causing her to leave Harvard in 1891.

She taught at the Gilman School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and at the Castle School in Tarrytown, and also lectured at Cornell University. She returned to the Harvard College Observatory as an adjunct professor in 1918, teaching there until retiring.

In addition to astronomy, Maury advocated women's right to educate themselves, writing many pieces on its benefits to society.

Susan Warner (1819-1885)

Anna Warner (1827-1915)

The Warners, sisters and writers, grew up at their family's home on Constitution Island. They were popular authors who earned a lot of praise for the religious fiction and theological books they wrote. Susan Warner's first book, *The Wide, Wide World*, was a commercial success. Anna Warner's books included *Dollars and Cents*, a memoir about the family's descent into poverty.

Over about 40 years, the Warners wrote 67 novels. They also taught Sunday School to West Point cadets, including future President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and they are the only two civilian women buried in the West Point cemetery.

Aileen Osborn Webb (1892-1979)

Born in Garrison, she was the daughter of William Church Osborn and the granddaughter of railroad tycoon William Henry Osborn. Her mother was Alice Clinton Hoadley Dodge, the daughter of mining baron William Dodge Jr.

Webb, an enamel-maker, potter, watercolorist and wood-carver, became a leader in the American craft movement and a noted philanthropist. She founded Putnam County Products, a craft cooperative, during the Great Depression, so that craftspeople could earn money from their handmade wares.

She also founded the American Craft Council and the American Craft Museum and the School for American Craftsmen, which is now part of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

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

Hudson Valley Community Power Electricity Supply Program

Municipalities considering joining the program:

Town of Gardiner Town of Rhinebeck
Village of Nelsonville Village of Saugerties

If your municipality joins the program, eligible residents and businesses will receive a letter in late summer/early fall 2022 with their choices and info about how to opt-out.



The Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) electricity supply program through Hudson Valley Community Power, enables municipalities to leverage the collective buying power of their residents and small businesses to secure more favorable terms on their electricity supply, protect consumers, and choose renewable generation sources.

With CCA, eligible residents and small businesses will have:

- Automatic access to renewable electricity at a fixed, competitive rate
- No individual contact and no additional bill

If you have an electric utility account in one of the listed municipalities, we invite you to attend an upcoming public info session: [hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/events](https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/events)



www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com
or call us: (845) 859-9099

Nelsonville Welcomes Revenue-Sharing Plan

Village slated to get \$64,000

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville’s Village Board on Monday (March 21) welcomed Putnam County’s proposal for sharing sales tax and federal COVID-19 relief funds with towns and villages.

But allocating the federal funds requires planning, said Trustee Chris Winward. Joined by Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, the board discussed the matter at its monthly meeting, held via Zoom.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell announced the sharing proposal March 10 in Carmel. It would adopt a “share the growth” concept developed by Philipstown Councilor Jason Angell and Cold Spring Trustee Eliza Starbuck and calls on the county to share its sales tax revenue with municipalities in years in which Putnam’s intake tops that of the previous year. In the past, suggestions that Putnam return some sales-tax income to localities went nowhere.

Putnam’s willingness now “is amazing,” said Winward, Nelsonville’s mayor-elect following the March 15 election. “We’re grateful to the county for recognizing and fulfilling the need.”

Odell’s initiative would set aside \$5 million in county sales tax revenue and combine it with \$5 million from the county’s \$19 million in federal COVID-related American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money, to create a pool of \$10 million for distribution in towns and villages on a per capita basis.

As the smallest municipality in the county, Nelsonville would get about \$64,000, split evenly between sales tax-sharing and ARPA relief. Yet even that much “is great,” Winward said.

She pointed out that no restrictions would accompany use of the sales-tax money, but under federal rules ARPA dollars should be used for such infrastructure projects as water, sewer or broadband upgrades, or to support small businesses and others in need, and for related purposes. Thus spending ARPA “does take a little more figuring out,” she said.

County legislators must approve Odell’s idea, but the Legislature, eight of whose nine members are Republicans like Odell, typically supports her moves. “I’m confident the Legislature will go for all of this,” said Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley and is the lone Democrat. “I’m so glad help is coming. I’d like to see more money go to our towns and villages, but this is a start.”



Real Estate

Market Report (February)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	3	7	4	9
Closed Sales	3	2	10	6
Days on Market	46	81	74	66
Median Price	\$362,000	\$542,500	\$460,000	\$595,000
% List Received	97.1	93.6	100.5	99.8
Inventory	14	11	42	17

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



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Pat Ryan, the Ulster County executive, and Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive (at left), on March 19 called for Castle Point to remain open. Photo provided

Closure (from Page 1)

it takes him 10 minutes to reach Castle Point, compared to having to travel to Westchester County. Castle Point is also home to his primary care doctor, and is where he fills prescriptions and replaces eyeglasses.

“It would be devastating to the area,” said Lassiter, who belongs to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666 and American Legion Post 203 in Beacon. “I have nothing but high praise for the doctors who I’ve been affiliated with and the facility itself.”

Castle Point opened in 1924. U.S. Rep. Hamilton Fish Sr., acting Beacon Mayor Marcus MacLaughlan and other elected officials attended the dedication.

In addition to treating wounded and

disabled veterans — at one time Castle Point specialized in spinal-cord injuries — the medical center became a major employer for residents, including many Blacks who relocated to the Hudson Valley from the segregated South.

Castle Point’s mission has also been social. Its grounds overlook the Hudson River and have been the site of barbecues, sports and other activities for patients, while students and service organizations visit with gifts and entertainment.

Veterans Affairs submitted its recommendations to a special Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, which will make its own recommendations to President Joe Biden in 2023.

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, in a joint



Veterans Affairs has recommended that the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls be closed. Photo by L. Sparks

letter with U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado, wrote McDonough on March 16, saying Veterans Affairs “must ensure that any veteran who utilizes the Castle Point Medical Center as a primary point of care maintains equally obtainable and high-quality care through a VA facility in the Hudson Valley.”

Maloney, whose father was a U.S. Navy veteran, said the Veterans Affairs recommendations left unclear how Castle Point’s outpatient services would be replaced by a Fishkill facility.

“Closing the Castle Point VA Health Center without an operational replacement facility in the nearby area would be an unacceptable proposal for our veterans,” wrote Maloney, a Democrat who lives in Philipstown.

Harold Delameter, a retired Beacon

police officer who was stationed with the Marines at a U.S. military base in Thailand during the Vietnam War, called the care he received at Castle Point “outstanding,” noting an eye exam there identified a problem that an outside doctor missed.

He pointed out that Veterans Affairs upgraded Castle Point in 1989, with a \$2 million laboratory and a 45,000-square-foot wing.

“They pumped millions of dollars into that place and now they’re starting to scale back,” said Delameter, who is the commander of VFW Post 666. “The government works in mysterious ways.”

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Fjord Trail (from Page 1)

for trail stewards at Breakneck, an overlook and a stone staircase, said Kacala, executive director of HHFT.

Early next year, construction will start on a Breakneck connector and a pedestrian bridge over the Metro-North tracks. The state parks department, which will build the bridge, is overseeing an environmental review of that segment. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2023 or early 2024, said Kacala, adding that the design is 80 percent complete and the permit process underway.

Subsequent phases call for a 2-mile shoreline trail connecting Dockside Park with Little Stony Point to begin in 2024 and be completed in 2027; a pathway through a forested section from Dutchess Manor to Dennings Point; and a trail through marshland from there to Long Dock Park in Beacon.

The project will be accessorized with new parking areas; sidewalks and designated crossings across Route 9D; bathrooms and benches; “trail banks” (widened areas where users can stop to rest); and a shuttle from train stations to the pathway.

The main goal is to ease the congestion and safety problems created by the visitors who flock to Breakneck, parking along a narrow shoulder on 9D and walking in the roadway. Initially envisioned as a single trail, the project has expanded into a multi-use pathway with features designed to give visitors more options than Breakneck.

“There was an understanding that, to deal with the Breakneck issue, we needed to spread and circulate visitation in the area,” said Martin, director of development and community engagement for HHFT. “We were not going to solve the Breakneck problem by just focusing on Breakneck.”

The plans, which can be found at hudson-fjordtrail.org, also include a parking area for emergency responders, who are frequently called to rescue lost, injured or stranded hikers.

Kacala said HHFT has also been talking with local businesses and educators from the Beacon, Garrison and Haldane school districts about how they would use the trail.

Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel said he would like Metro-North to close its Breakneck stop, which is scheduled to open on Memorial Day, until there is access to the trail, but otherwise called it “a great plan” that will “alleviate a lot of problems for first responders.”

Claudio Marzollo, a member of Philipstown’s Recreation Commission, also expressed support, saying that visitors are going to keep coming and “what we have to do is try to figure out how to deal with it.”

“Let’s try to work with the people who are trying to do something,” he said.

Others attending the meeting shared a range of worries, however.

Ned Rauch, who lives in Garrison, said he is concerned that the plans for the trail are more extensive than what was originally proposed. Kenneth Levine of Nelsonville said he believes the parking plan, which calls for about 400 new spots, will not be enough.

Rebeca Ramirez and Dar Williams, Cold



A view of the proposed Breakneck Connector and bridge, at lower right



The plan includes "forest nets" that would offer an "immersive forest experience" and native plants.

Spring residents who support the project, encouraged HHFT to work with the Philipstown Climate Smart Task Force and Metro-North to encourage more visitors to use public transportation.

“People will come and there’s going to be more cars,” said Ramirez.

Jack Goldstein, chair of the Cold Spring Planning Board, also raised concerns about how the trail’s new concept differs from the original and said that HHFT has failed to consult with Cold Spring officials on the design.

Cold Spring residents will be “profoundly” impacted, said Goldstein. “There are major issues that will need to be put before the public,” he said.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



An aerial view of the proposed pedestrian bridge that would extend over the Metro-North tracks

HHFT (3)

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average::	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	23,464	417,525	8.2	82.3	121
	(+57)	(+2,541)	(+1.4)	Cold Spring (10516): 93.4 Garrison (10524): 86.1	(0)
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average::	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	63,628	1,294,971	7.3	76.8	655
	(+150)	(+8,059)	(+1.4)	Beacon (12508): 71.5	(+2)
Source: State and county health departments, as of March 23, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.					

Key Food *(from Page 1)*

salads were priced differently. Medina responded with a vulgarity and made an obscene gesture before walking away, according to court documents.

Dabashi followed Medina to the checkout line and told him to leave the store. Medina continued shouting, cursing and “muttering to himself” that he was going to punch Dabashi, court documents said.

The police were called to the store, but, according to the incident report, Medina left before officers arrived. Medina returned to the store alone shortly after 5 p.m. the same day. Before returning, according to court documents, he drank at least one bottle of beer and took prescription medication for depression and high blood pressure.

Inside, Medina walked to the dairy aisle and picked up a half-gallon of milk. Upon

seeing him, Emad Dabashi told him that he was not allowed in the store. “I don’t want you here,” he said.

Medina ignored Dabashi and walked past him, keeping his left hand in his coat pocket, which Mo Dabashi and Emad Dabashi later said in depositions led them to believe Medina may have been carrying a weapon.

A 20-second clip from the security video shows Mo Dabashi attempting to take the milk jug from Medina, who responds by throwing it on the floor, where it burst open. Emad Dabashi, who was walking behind Medina, immediately picked him up and slammed him, face-first, to the floor, where he lay motionless.

Key Food employees called the Beacon police again. According to the incident report, Medina suffered a cut around his eyebrow. The officers attempted to question him, but “had a difficult time understand-

ing [him] due to his speech and appearing to be under the influence of alcohol.”

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps took Medina to Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh to have his eyebrow stitched.

Asked by officers if they wanted to press charges against Medina, the brothers declined. But Emad, 26 at the time, was arrested and charged with second-degree assault. He pleaded guilty to third-degree assault, a misdemeanor, and was sentenced to three years of probation. He said in a deposition that he acted in self-defense but conceded that, based on the video, “everyone doesn’t see it that way.”

Medina’s lawsuit, filed four days later, alleged that Key Food, the parent company, and Alameda Meat Corp., the franchise that owns the Beacon store, failed to properly train and supervise its workers. The

attack left Medina with “serious, severe and permanent personal injuries, causing him to become and remain sick, sore, lame and disabled, causing him great pain and agony” and “preventing him from enjoying the normal fruits of his activities,” it said.

A hearing had been scheduled in Dutchess County Supreme Court for this week before the settlement was reached.

Junior Dabashi, one of the store owners and Mo and Emad Dabashi’s brother, said on Wednesday (March 23) that the incident was out of character for his family.

“What my brother did was wrong,” he said. “But it happened because of all the other problems we’d had all day with [Medina]. We don’t have these problems [normally]. We respect every single person. We’re here for everybody.”

The settlement was paid by Alameda’s insurance company, he said.

Planning Board Ends Hearing on HVSF Project

Critics voice concerns about water use, size, trails

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After two hours of ardent public testimony, the Philipstown Planning Board last week closed a multi-month hearing on the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s plans for a new home at the old Garrison golf course.

Despite the conclusion of the hearing, which lasted seven hours over three sessions that began in January, scrutiny of the project continues and the board’s tentative agenda for April includes a discussion with HVSF of the public comments.

The listening process was part of the Planning Board’s state-mandated oversight of the environmental implications of HVSF’s proposal to transform 98 acres into a cultural-theater campus with an outdoor tent; indoor theater; actors’ housing; a visitor center and box office; outdoor pavilion; backstage structure; 54-room inn; paths; picnic lawns; a landscape with meadows, woods, parkland and wildflower gardens; parking; and reconfigured access to Snake Hill Road and Route 9, with a possible traffic light at their intersection. It also would retain The Garrison’s restaurant and banquet hall.

All that sounds like too much, said residents (including avowed HVSF fans) at the final hearing session, held on March 17 at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom. Several asked the Planning Board to issue a “positive declaration” that the plans would have a significant environmental impact.

HVSF estimates that completing its vision will take more than a decade; the first phase, through 2024, will entail installation of a permanent outdoor tent, the box office, paths, lighting and landscaping.

For more than 30 years, before philanthropist Chris Davis donated the golf course land, HVSF rented the lawn at Boscobel in Garrison for its summer productions. While Planning Board deliberations continue, HVSF has asked Philipstown Supervisor John Van

Tassel for authorization to install its seasonal tent from Boscobel for the 2022 season.

Van Tassel said Wednesday (March 23) that he received letters from the Garrison fire protection and ambulance services, as well as the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, confirming that they could respond to emergencies at the site; he had requested the verification to issue the permit.

However, he said, because the Sheriff’s Department advised HVSF to hire “an independent flagging service” for traffic control, he would issue the permit after seeing a copy of the festival’s contract with the traffic-control firm.

Some attendees at the hearing called for tests to determine the effect of the HVSF campus on the aquifer that supplies homes in the area. Already in Philipstown, such resources “seem to be at risk from climate change, etc.,” said Betty Stafford of Travis Corners Road. “Additional usage will tax the aquifer. We must be good stewards. An adequate water supply is foundational to our life here.”

Suzie Gilbert, an environmental and wildlife advocate, said that she was “appalled at the size” of the HVSF proposal. “It is one of the biggest potential developments Garrison has ever seen. Shakespeare has suddenly become a big developer.” She asked the Planning Board “to issue a ‘positive declaration,’ not to stop this project but to shrink it.”

“The approach taken to this is very much the same as a massive development,” said Alex Clifton, a former HVSF volunteer. “The Shakespeare Festival is near and dear to my heart,” he said, but its proposal “is just way too big.”

Gracie Oakes questioned HVSF’s plan to put its tent on a hillside with expansive views of the Hudson and the mountains that line the river. “This town has advocated this is a viewshed that’s important. This is a special place,” he said. “It’s embarrassing” to think of allowing anyone to alter it. “It’s disappointing to me that it’s something we would consider. Protect the ridge.”

Robert Cutler concurred. “The tent could

be anywhere. It doesn’t have to be up there,” he said. “Putting a tent up there is not preserving natural beauty,” while protecting ridges is a tenet of environmental law, he observed. Cutler also said that about 75 percent of the wildlife is nocturnal: owls, skunks, opossums, porcupines, bats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons. “They have a much stronger claim on that hillside” than actors and audiences, he said. “Leave the hillside alone.”

Along with the 98 acres he gave HVSF, Davis is donating 74 acres to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. At the March 17 hearing, some cautioned that if HHLT maintains trails there while paths also exist on the HVSF campus, more walkers could appear and spill over onto other sites. Randi Davis, of Philipsebrook Road, noted that trails from the old golf course could connect to trails that extend into the Garrison school forest, which might suffer from overuse. “It must remain a safe, protected resource for our schoolchildren and our community,” she said.

We have a new home.

216 MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING, NY (COLD SPRING METHODIST CHURCH)

The Highlands Chapel is pleased to announce it is moving Sunday services to Cold Spring.

Beginning on April 3 at 11:00 AM, please join us for a program of music, worship, and reflection.

MUSIC · WORSHIP · SUNDAY SCHOOL · COFFEE HOUR

The Highlands Choral Society is nondenominational and welcomes people of all faiths or none at all. Our Highlands Chapel services feature music, fellowship, reflection, and prayer.



Highlands
Choral Society
AT HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

HighlandsChapel.org

AROUND TOWN

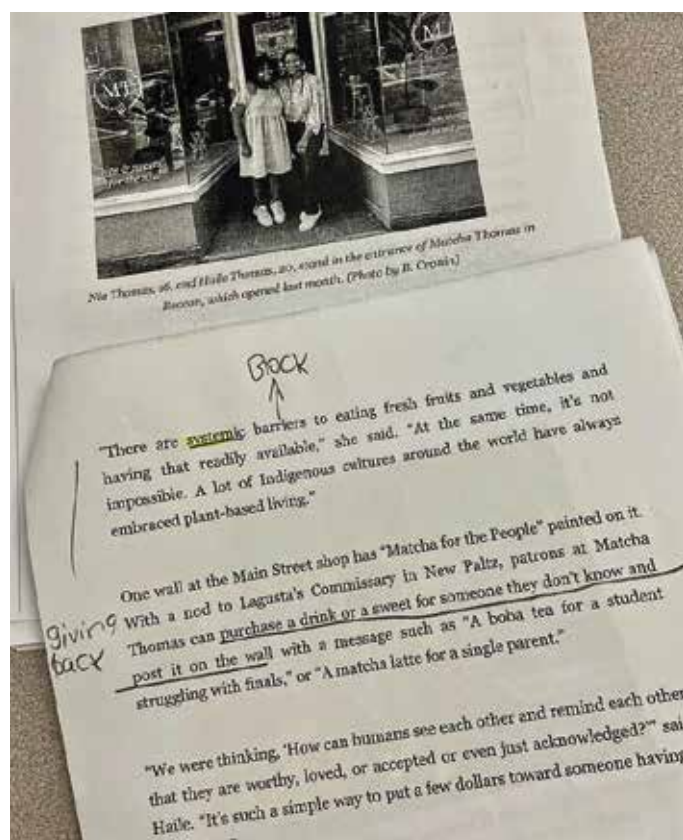


◀ **SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE** — Caryn Cannova of Kismet at Caryn's in Cold Spring created this balloon installation outside her shop.

Photo by Teresa Lagerman

We are also collecting letters for Ukrainian children at *The Current's* office (142 Main St. in Cold Spring) and this drop box at the Howland Public Library (313 Main St. in Beacon) through Wednesday (March 30).

Photo by Michelle Rivas



▲ **ROLE MODELS**

— Andonia Karnavezos, who teaches literacy at Rombout Middle School in Beacon, used a *Current* story about Matcha Thomas, a Black-owned business on Main Street, as a class reading. "Students loved reading about Haile Thomas and her success, and thought of their own ideas to bring to Main Street," she said. "It's super-important for students to see the impact that young people can have and how much success they can find."

Photo provided



▲ **GRAND ENTRANCE** — Lucas Vladimiroff took the wheel in a scene from *A Little Night Music*, staged by Haldane Drama last weekend.

Photo by Ross Corsair

◀ **IN MOTION** — It was the first indoor performance at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in many months — and it snowed. On March 12, the Weather Women presented an evening of music and dance with Georgia Sackler and Cayla Mae Simpson (shown here), and a short film by Jessica Ray and Simpson.

Photo by Ross Corsair

The Calendar



Bricks made by Lisa Knaus



Knaus holds Nigel and Teardrop.



A vase and bricks made by Knaus

Photos provided

Here's Looking at You, Kid

Goat-infused pottery at Buster Levi show

By Alison Rooney

Goats are having a bit of a moment. From jumping-goat videos online to fine cheeses, lawn maintenance and cozy sweaters, goats are considered by many people to be the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) when it comes to farm animals, putting cows and sheep out to pasture.

Lisa Knaus, who runs the ceramics studio at the Garrison Art Center, owns four goats and spend hours on many days walking with them. “They really relate to their people,” she says. An exhibit of her work about the animals, *A Potter's Life with Goats: Ceramics, Photographs, Goats and Eggs*, opens at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 2.

As a ceramicist, Knaus has apprenticed to and assisted many studio potters for decades, and now works from her own studio. After 25 years of traveling to craft fairs, she settled down and started teaching at the Garrison Art Center. This gave her more time to spend at home and allowed her to adopt goats — what she calls “a lifelong dream.” She has integrated growing food, throwing pots, caring for her goats and chickens and photographing them along the way.

One shot of Knaus with her goat Teardrop will fill a tall, narrow window at Buster Levi. Also featured are farm eggs in unusual colors and jars Knaus fashioned to hold goat cheese. “I can make jars all day,” she says. “I love the way the lids fit and how they contain something special.”

There are also vases in pale blue and white, and handmade, rough-hewn bricks made by Knaus from remnants of reclaimed clay and glaze wiped from buckets that she tossed aside while making her ceramics. She's stacked them to simulate a part of a kiln.

Knaus and her husband live near the Wallkill River. Around five years ago, her father suggested they get goats. “I had empty-nest syndrome,” she recalls. “I impulsively got two females, brought them home and

found them to be a handful. They immediately became attached to me, so much so that I almost tried to find them another home.”

Deciding instead to increase their numbers, Knaus rented a male goat. “We wound up loving him so much that we wanted to keep him, but after five months, his farmer wanted him back,” she says. The females gave birth two weeks apart but, when one began attacking the other, they found a new home for one. The goat that stayed is Alma, and her kids, Teardrop and Nigel.

The baby goats were such lookers that Knaus increasingly devoted more time to capturing them in photos. Eventually, there were more goats than pottery on her Instagram account at lisaknauspotttery.

Alma is a pygmy goat, a friendly breed originally from Nigeria. “They came down off the hills and were bred down to Nigerian dwarfs, which are bred for milk,” Knaus explains. “Alma has no milk, and she likes to sit down on her udders.”

Knaus didn't grow up on a farm; her parents were educators (her father taught high school art). Her mother said yes to any pet. “Chickens, ducks — I embraced that lifestyle,” Knaus recalls.

As an adult, she began again. “Four years ago, my husband raised a Canada goose, and, when she had one egg left [in the nest], we put it under one of our chickens,” she says. “It worked — call of the wild — we got another goose. This one rules the neighborhood, and eats the neighbor's garden, but is

sweet and never attacks people — she's looking for a friend all the time.”

Amid all the animals — the couple also owns 10 chickens — it's the goats that Knaus says bring the most connection.

“I had met many goats in my lifetime before I got them,” she says. “Once you live with them, you come to understand their beauty, their mythology, how they look into your eye and see into your soul. Goats have fascinating eyes; their pupils are horizontal, not vertical. They always make eye contact with me; it feels profound.”

“I can't imagine a goat farm where people have hundreds of goats because you'd have to remove yourself from sentimental thought or you'd never get anything done. The goats cry. They can be mournful, but they respond to calming. They're in my thoughts all the time. They can look at me in a certain way and I know whether they need attention, food, a walk.

“Once, Teardrop needed to get away from Nigel, her brother. She stared at me and led me to a corner of the field. Milka is the smallest and she often gets bumped away. Then, she stares at me to say, ‘I need a treat now and not to be bothered when I eat it.’ My pygmy goats communicate with their horns. When they want me to feed or pet them, they stick their horns in me.”

Knaus says she wants with her art “to communicate how beautiful these animals are. They're rarely aggressive; even an unneutered goat is pretty easygoing. They gravitate toward people in a way that is surprising to those who don't know them. That's probably how they got domesticated — it was so easy.”

The Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. See busterlevigallery.com. A Potter's Life with Goats continues through May 1.



“Knaus says she wants with her art ‘to communicate how beautiful these animals are. They're rarely aggressive; even an unneutered goat is pretty easygoing.’

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 26

White Elephant Sale

GARRISON

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571
stphilipshighlands.org

This annual sale, which benefits the church nursery school, will take place in the parish hall.

SAT 26

Pet Rabies Vaccine Clinic

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road
845-808-1390 x43160
putnamcountyny.com/health

Bring a dog, cat or ferret along with proof of residency and prior rabies vaccination. Sponsored by the Putnam County Health Department.

SAT 26

Highland Lights Workshop

GARRISON

11 a.m. & 2 p.m. The Garrison
2015 Route 9 | highlandlights.org

Staff from the Processional Arts Workshop will lead sessions to create and build lanterns for a community celebration of light on SUN 17. This weekend will focus on ideas and wire frames. Also SUN 27, SAT 1, SUN 2, SAT 9, SUN 10. Registration required. Masks and proof of vaccination required.

SUN 27

Soup4Greens

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. DMV Lot | 223 Main St.
beaconfarmersmarket.org

This sixth annual fundraiser

will benefit Greens4Greens, which increases the spending power of farmers market customers using federal assistance. Soups donated by local businesses include gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options in quarts or unique ceramic bowls. *Cost: \$5 (bowl), \$16 (quart), \$25 (handmade bowl), \$60 (all plus insulated bag)*

SUN 27

Maple Syrup Day

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Enjoy pancakes, local maple syrup and live music. There will be free parking and a shuttle from the former Dutchess Manor sponsored by the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The rain date is SUN 3. *Free*

SAT 2

Passport Saturday

CARMEL

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Clerk's Office
40 Gleneida Ave.
845-808-1142 x49301
putnamcountyny.com

Make an appointment with the Putnam County clerk to apply or renew.

TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 26

Guided Bird-Watching Walk

CROTON

7:30 a.m. Croton Point Park
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Look for early spring migrators and raptors during this Putnam Highlands Audubon hike. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 26

Backyard Beekeeping

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St. | putnamvalleygrange.org

Abbot Fleur of Hudson Valley Beekeepers will discuss sustainable methods and bee biology, equipment and gear. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door, members free)*

TUES 29

Imperfect Gardening

COLD SPRING

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

In this webinar hosted by the Butterfield Library, Pamela Doan, *The Current's* gardening columnist and a garden coach, will discuss how to make the best of whatever you have to work with and what to do when things aren't exactly what you expected. *Free*

WED 30

The Talk: Sex Ed 2.0

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing
facebook.com/gufspta

This event is for adults who want to share meaningful information with their children about bodies, gender, identity and consent. Registration required. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 2

All About Eels

BEACON

11 a.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive
845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Eels are an important part of the Hudson River ecosystem. Learn about them from Benjamin Harris of the state Department of



All About Eels, April 2

Environmental Conservation and get involved with a community-monitoring project. *Free*

SUN 3

Exploring Clove Creek

PHILIPSTOWN

2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2800 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Lauren Martin will lead a creekside presentation about macro-invertebrates and their role in fresh water ecology. For ages 9 and older. Registration required. *Cost: \$5*

STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 26

Don Carlos

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Watch a livestream of the Metropolitan Opera's French version of Verdi's opera with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Élisabeth de Valois and Jamie Barton. *Cost: \$28 (\$26 members, \$21 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 26

Night Train Storytelling

GARRISON

6 & 8:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Hosted by Joe Charnitski, the storytellers will include Joe Stracci, Samantha Spoto and Sandi Marx, a seven-time *Moth StorySLAM* champ. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 26

Bert Kreischer

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Convention Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The comedian and author will perform as part of his Bert Boy Relapse Tour. Also SUN 27. *Cost: \$35*

SUN 27

Oscars Watch Party

BEACON

7 p.m. Story Screen
445 Main St.
storyscreenbeacon.com

Watch the 94th Academy Awards on the big screen with other movie fans. Enjoy trivia, voting sheets and a glass of something bubbly. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 1

Lit Lit

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | litlitseries@gmail.com

Writers can read any genre of original work for up to 5 minutes at this monthly series. Proof of vaccination required with photo ID.

FRI 1

Vic DiBitetto

PEEKSKILL

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

The comedian and actor will bring his viral video characters to the stage. *Cost: \$25 to \$55*

SAT 2

Comedy Night

BREWSTER

6:30 p.m. Tilly's Table
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840
tillystablerestaurant.com

Joey Kola will be joined by Tim Gage and Evan Weiss. Tickets include a buffet dinner. Ages 21 and older. *Cost: \$45*

SAT 2

All-Star Comedy Night

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St. | 845-337-6509

Gene Trifilo and Jeff Norris will hold the stage in this benefit for Guardian Revival Boots & Paws, which provides veterans with trained companion dogs and veterinarian coverage and food for one year. Call for tickets. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 2

Smart Mouth Comedy Tour

BEACON

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

The featured comedians will be Ophira Eisenberg, Christian Finnegan and Pete Dominick. See Page 14. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SUN 3

Jeffrey McDaniel

COLD SPRING

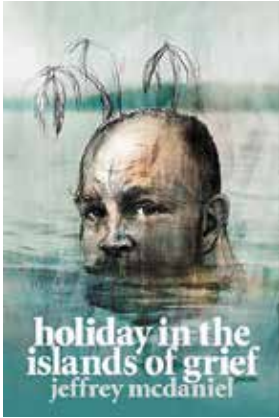
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The Sunset Reading Series returns. The poet, who lives in Cold Spring, will read from his latest collection,



Maple Syrup Day, March 27

Holiday in the Islands of Grief. Proof of vaccination required. *Free*



KIDS AND FAMILY

SAT 26
Story Walk
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | 845-486-2555
dutchessny.gov

Take a self-guided reading tour of the children’s book, *Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse*, during Maple Syrup Weekend. Also SUN 27.

TUES 29
Animal Adventures Science Night
GARRISON
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

At this outdoor event, children can make a bumble bee simulator, spin a spider web and build an edible beaver dam.

WED 30
Trivia For All Ages
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Test your knowledge and compete for prizes.

SUN 3
Young Writers Workshop
COLD SPRING
12:15 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | butterfieldlibrary.org

Spring will be the focus of this all-ages program to engage the five senses and write and illustrate a book.

VISUAL ART
SAT 26
Leslie Fandrich | Ann Provan
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Fandrich’s sculpture and collage will be on view in the Balter Gallery and Provan’s show, *Inner Window*, features her paintings using geometric forms. Through April 24.

SAT 2
Make Art, Not Soup
PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

Silvia Bottinelli of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University will discuss artists who reassemble images and objects to examine women’s domestic work. *Free*

SAT 2
116th Annual Meeting
COLD SPRING
4:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Baseball historian Bob Mayer will discuss the sport’s legacy in Putnam County and attendees can tour the new community room and view a portrait exhibition by Annette Solakoglu, *Faces | Graces*. Join in person or via Zoom. *Free*

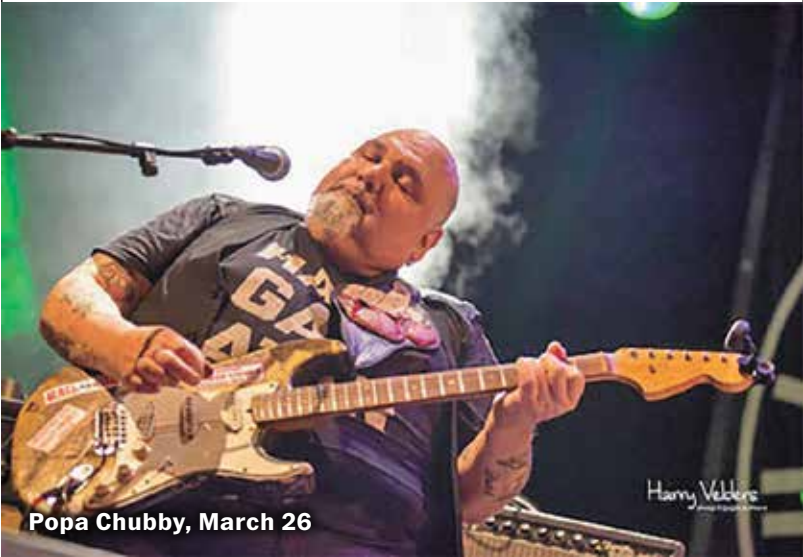
MUSIC
SAT 26
Mary Courtney
PUTNAM VALLEY
7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

This season-opening concert will feature the Irish music of the singer, guitarist and bodhran player, who will perform music from her latest album, *Love from the 33rd County*. *Cost: \$20*



SAT 26
The Long Shadow
NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Newburgh Free Academy
201 Fullerton Ave.
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a program of Shostakovich and



Popa Chubby, March 26

Tchaikovsky works inspired by Beethoven. *Cost: \$35 to \$50 (\$25 seniors, students free)*

SAT 26
Popa Chubby
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The blues guitarist will perform his signature style of hard-rocking sets. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 26
Century of the Blues Concert
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Joe Louis Walker, Guy Davis and Professor Louie and the Crowmatix will perform accompanied by a visual retrospective by Joseph Rosen. *Cost: \$25 to \$40*

SUN 27
Tannahill Weavers
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The traditional Scottish band will perform music from its 18th album, *Orach*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 27
The Wailin’ Jennys
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org

Ruth Moody, Nicky Mehta and Heather Masse will perform songs from their latest release, *Fifteen*, celebrating the length of time they’ve made music together. *Cost: \$36 to \$53*

MON 28
Bob Meyer
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnnsbeacon

For Quinn’s weekly jazz night, the drummer will celebrate his 77th birthday with many musical guests. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 1
Joe Crookston
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and songwriter is a multi-instrumentalist with a talent for telling stories. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 2
Tupelo Honey
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

This Van Morrison tribute will include selections from his extensive songbook. *Cost: \$25 to \$35*

SAT 2
Joe Louis Walker
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The six-time Blues Music Award winner will perform songs from his most recent album, *Blues Comin’*

On. Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)

SAT 2
David Kraai
BEACON
9 p.m. Two Way Brewing Co.
18 W. Main St. | twowaybrewing.com

The country folk artist will perform songs from *North Mountain Rambling*.

SAT 2
The Freejays
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/QuinnnsBeacon

Nu Expressions is also on the bill.

SUN 3
New York Polyphony
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The Howland Chamber Music Circle presents the vocal chamber ensemble, which will perform a repertoire ranging from Gregorian chants to modern compositions. *Cost: \$40 (\$10 ages 25 and younger)*

SUN 3
A Tribute to Connie Hogarth
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This musical celebration will remember the Beacon resident and “tireless champion for human rights and the environment.” Dinner reservations required. *Free*

SUN 3
Queensrÿche
PEEKSKILL
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The band, which has 11 gold and platinum records, will perform new songs as well as its hits. Black Dawn and Hittman will open. *Cost: \$49 or \$79*

CIVIC
MON 28
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 28
Budget Workshop
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | nelsonvilleny.gov

WED 30
School Board
GARRISON
6 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689
gufs.org

The board will hear a final budget presentation before its vote on April 6.



Queensrÿche, April 3

Ophira Eisenberg

Christian Finnegan

Pete Dominick

Ophira Eisenberg, Christian Finnegan and Pete Dominick are putting their heads together to make you laugh.

Under the banner, "Smart Mouth Comedy: A Three-Headed Comedy Tour," they are heading to the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on April 2 to bring yuks into what's been a wearying two years.

They presented the show elsewhere before the pandemic, with Dominick as host and Eisenberg and Finnegan doing stand-up but hope to experiment at the Howland by adding a group set with some audience interaction, Finnegan says. The members of the trio will be familiar to Beacon audiences from *The Artichoke* storytelling series.

The show — originally scheduled for January but postponed by the omicron strain — also will pave the way for more comedy at the Howland Cultural Center. Serious Comedy Theatre, formerly at the Beacon Theater, will begin an every-other-month comedy and variety show with comedian Joey Dardano on Second Saturdays, starting April 9.

Eisenberg, Dominick and Finnegan met 20 years ago through stand-up. Dominick became an audience warmup for late-night TV shows, such as *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*, before hosting his own show, *What the Week*, on CNN. He later launched *Stand Up With Pete Dominick*, a daily radio show on Sirius XM, and that led

COMEDY RETURNS WITH THREE HEADS

Howland to again echo with laughter

By Alison Rooney

to a podcast that mixes issues of the day and comedy.

"His focus is largely on politics," Finnegan says. "But he sometimes has comedians on, to dumb things down." Finnegan was a guest on the podcast, followed by Eisenberg, and then they became Friday regulars.

Eisenberg hosted National Public Radio's syndicated comedy trivia show, *Ask Me*

Another, which ended a nine-year-run last fall. The Canadian has hosted *The Moth* many times, as well as told stories on the show. "We both have done *The Artichoke*, in part because we were looking for friendly venues which weren't straight-up comedy," Finnegan says.

"Ophira is just so, so smart," he says. "She has that Canadian niceness, but underneath, she's got teeth. She has an acerbic take on motherhood and delivers the kind of material on being a parent you don't usually hear but will relate to."

Describing himself, Finnegan says that, as a child, he wasn't a class clown. Instead, "I would stew a lot about ways I felt I had been wronged, and I feel like I

entered [comedy] from that perspective. I went to college as an actor and hated it, shifted to playwriting, then to other types of writing, but I had no discipline. I got into stand-up as a hybrid of the two: acting and writing. When it went well, I wanted to try it again, and when it went poorly, same thing. That's when I knew."

Finnegan was one of the original panelists on VH1's *Best Week Ever*, has made many Comedy Central appearances and is frequently seen on *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*.

"I like to say that I have a lot of smart takes on stupid topics and vice versa," he says. "People who enjoy what I do are smart people who are maybe a little drunk."

He adds: "Places like the Howland Center are great if you want to do more storytelling humor, rather than boom, boom, boom, landing a joke."

The lockdown was tough for comedians, he said, before comparing the genre to a cockroach. "It's hard to kill it," he says. "Actually, it felt like the comedy community was being singled out — like for a long time you could have trivia nights in venues, but not comedy shows. It led to many trivia nights without much trivia being played. There were times early on in the pandemic when people, often younger comics, were freaking out because they thought they would forget how to do stand-up. I told them to relax."

When clubs and other comedy venues closed, comedians migrated to Zoom and Instagram, or to giving free shows at local parks, he says. "As a comedian, a lot of your self-worth is based on doing comedy, so it feels unnatural not to be doing it. You go on a quest for spaces to perform."

Smart Mouth Comedy will perform at 8 p.m. on April 2 at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon. Tickets are \$15 (\$20 at the door) at onthestage.tickets/howland-cultural-center.

Places like the Howland Center are great if you want to do more storytelling humor, rather than boom, boom, boom, landing a joke.

— Christian Finnegan



Night Train: Storytelling

March 26 at 6pm and 8:30pm

Ariane One Act Play Festival

April 8-10

All tickets at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

NOTICE

The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees will hold a Budget Workshop on **Monday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Village Hall, 258 Main Street.**

NOTICE

DISH Wireless L.L.C is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 2 Forrestal Heights, Beacon, Dutchess County, NY 12508.

The new facility will consist of collocating antennas at various heights not to exceed +/- 108ft. AGL on 82ft. tall building (to top of parapet, 108-feet to top of existing antennas).

Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to:

Project 6122002291 - KMG EBI Consulting,
21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or via telephone at (781)265-9221

Summer camp is an American institution that dates to the late 19th century. There are more than 12,000 that operate in the U.S., from day camps to multi-week sleep-away programs. Millions of children and teens enjoy everything from astronomy, debate, backpacking and scuba diving to digital photography, magic, farming and aviation.

But the s'mores around a campfire are still there.

A few Highlands residents recently shared their memories from years gone by.

Fifty-five years ago, 6-year-old Pete Smith attended Camp Aleluia, a day program near Waterbury, Connecticut. He must have liked it. He returned every summer until he was 14, including stints as a junior counselor.

"It had a very 'kumbaya' vibe, and lots of nuns with guitars," he recalls.

A self-described "camp runt," he found that his stature didn't limit him. "I won the pie-eating contest two years in a row!" he said.

But it was the beauty of the camp music and art that affected him most. "I'm sure it inspired me in my later life in the performing arts."

Not every 10-year-old relishes going to camp. In 1964, Carol Filmanski's Sunday school teacher gave her a brochure for Quinipet Bible Camp. She made sure her mom never saw it.

"We thought our parents wanted to get rid of us, and torture us with the Bible!" Carol recalls.

The church paid each kid's camp fee, and Carol was off to Shelter Island, like it or not.

"It was nothing like what I anticipated," she admits. "We all had a fabulous time."

Her days included swimming in Peconic Bay, while dodging the Portuguese man-o'-wars.

"And we had hikes to see the island's abundant, large osprey," Filmanski said.

She did have to attend vespers but that proved "pretty painless," she recalls.

Filmanski said there was a sense of adventure at camp, sometimes in unusual forms. "All I could think of was that I could sleep on the fire escape!" (It was on the third floor of the old house that served as her cabin.)

One memory has lasted a lifetime, thanks to her friend Maureen.

"She had a boyfriend at camp; they were 'an item,'" Filmanski recalled with a laugh. "We still talk about him to this day."

For Melanie Leonard, summer camp was "everything horses," for three summers until



Highlands residents share fond memories

age 12. Her routine at Pony Farm, in Lacomia, New Hampshire, meant getting up at 5:30 a.m. to muck stalls and feed the horses.

"You got a horse for the week; you'd take care of it like it was your own," she recalled nearly 25 years later. "It was amazing."

After chores, she got to ride. Campers could choose activities such as dressage, jumping and showing, but one adventure topped the list: riding to the swimming hole.

"We rode bareback, no bridle, just holding onto the mane," Leonard said. "And you'd swim with your horse!"

There was more to camp than horses. "It grew so far beyond that," she said, "It was the camaraderie; people came there from all over the country, and the world."

"It was the first place I ever sang in public, or did a theater performance," she said. "It was the first time I had the confidence to do those things."

It was day camp at the Garrison Art Center that impressed 14-year-old Caitlan Chadwick.

"It wasn't a typical art camp," she recalled of her experience a quarter-century ago.

"Even though I went to a great high school in Westchester County, I was exposed to a lot of new things."

GAC had a particular vibe, she said. "It was a breath of fresh air, like I had entered another world," with programs such as printing on copper and paper-making.

Chadwick has a favorite memory: sitting by the river on a summer day, taking in the beauty of Garrison's Landing. She captured the scene on a copper print that she still has.

Camp did present one difficulty — the commute from Westchester. Each morning she walked a mile to catch a bus to the Metro-North station, and took one train and then a second to get to Garrison. "It was a big commute for a 14-year-old," she said.

Her perseverance paid off. She was asked to come back the next summer as a junior counselor and a year later as a counselor.

Michael Vierra was an away-camp "major leaguer," attending both four-week sessions at Camp Wonposet in Litchfield, Connecticut, for three summers in a row, until age 14.

"It had everything," he said, including

equestrian activities, woodshop, drama, archery, riflery and waterskiing.

Certain camp traditions, such as the Saturday night fire, were considered "sacred," Vierra said. "The owner had a vision, to connect people from around the world. My waterskiing guy was from Australia; the woodshop was run by a woman from Finland and a guy from Scotland."

He remains especially fond of his second and third summers. Seniority meant extra privileges.

"There was great camaraderie; we got to eat together, stay up later and see a blockbuster movie every week," he said. "I remember one was *Men in Black*; it was the '90s."

He also developed his social skills. "I learned if I was nice to the girl who did the juice call, I got an extra juice!"

A major highlight was the competition between the blue and red teams, culminating with the war-canoe race.

"There were 14 kids in each canoe," Vierra said. "I remember paddling so hard, and winning two years in a row."

Camp Wonposet closed after a 99-year run. Vierra has come to appreciate its history and belongs to a Facebook community for alumni.

"It's amazing to talk to people who went there in the 1960s," he said. "They sang the same songs, did many of the same activities; it's really cool."

Lori Moss experienced camp from a very different perspective. As assistant director of the Manitoga/Russel Wright Design Center in Garrison, she supervised its Nature and Design day camp for 5- to 12-year-olds from 2007 to 2014.

One of her fondest memories was seeing children learn.

"Watching them make the connections between nature and design, gaining insight into Russel Wright's design of Manitoga, was beyond words," she said. "Kids get it!"

Safety was paramount on the camp's rough terrain and Moss has one especially vivid memory: A timber rattler showed up, followed by a copperhead. A "speed dial" call to a local reptile expert kept everyone safe.

She is passionate about what young people gain from attending camp.

"I firmly believe it instills a real respect for nature," Moss said. "And the biggest benefit is learning how to work with others as part of a collaborative team."

SUMMER CAMPS GUIDE ➡



Carol Filmanski, age 10



Melanie Leonard



Lori Moss



Pete Smith



Michael Vierra


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27-
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2022

SUMMER CAMPS

★ ★ ★ GUIDE ★ ★ ★

4th Wall Theater Camp

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

845-702-1190 | 4thwallproductions.org

Improv, musical theater and acting day camps will be held from weeks of July 4 to Aug. 1 for grades 1 to 8 with nightly high school acting camp the week of July 25.

Cost: \$145 (night), \$295 (day)

All Sport Camp Fit

FISHKILL

845-896-5678 | allsporthealthandfitness.com

 Ten weekly camps will be held from June 27 to Aug. 29 for ages 4 to 12. **Cost: \$295 per week (members \$265)**

Army Sports

WEST POINT

845-938-7223 | armysportscamps.com

The U.S. Military Academy offers a variety of athletic camps for children and teens, including those for baseball, soccer, ice hockey, basketball, lacrosse, rugby, wrestling, softball, cross-country, track and field and volleyball.

Arts on the Lake Music

KENT

845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

 The nonprofit arts center will host three camp weeks for students in grades 6 to 12 devoted to band (July 11), chorus (July 11) and orchestra (July 21) and taught by Carmel school district teachers. **Cost: \$100**

Ballet Arts Studio

BEACON

845-831-1870 | balletartsstudio.com

The studio will offer weeklong workshops in ballet, pointe, modern dance, theater dance, contemporary and hip hop beginning June 27.

Beacon Music Factory

BEACON

845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

The school will offer a teen songwriting camp, teen percussion ensemble camp and 5-week adult rock camps.

Be Creative as Possible

BEACON

845-905-2338 | becreativeaspossible.com

 Seven weekly camps will be held from June 27 to Aug. 8 for ages 3 to 6 (storytelling, space, water, nature, fantasy worlds, dinosaurs, farm). **Cost: \$300 per week**

Black Rock Forest

CORNWALL

845-534-4517 | blackrockforest.org/education/summer-science-camp

 Five weekly sessions of summer science will run from July 11 to 25 for students ages 11 to 15. **Cost: \$425 per week**

Camp at the Camp

BEACON

845-765-8440 | bit.ly/camp-at-camp

 The city's Recreation Department plans to hold two 2-week sessions for children ages 5 to 11 and counselors-in-training ages 12 to 15, the first starting July 11 and the second July 25. Registration opens April 5 for Beacon residents and April 6 for everyone. **Cost: \$500 per session (\$625 non-residents)**

Camp Kinder Ring

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

845-221-2771 | campkr.com

This camp, which was founded in 1927 and operates June 26 to Aug. 14, has a waiting list.



Camp Nabby**MOHEGAN LAKE**

914-528-7796 | campnabby.com

The camp offers eight sessions starting June 27. There is a three-week minimum and fees start at \$2,400 for the preschool program and \$3,150 for junior (ages 4½ to 8½) and senior (ages 8½ to 13) camps. There are also leadership and counselor-training programs for ages 14 and 15.

Clearpool Camp**KENT**

825-225-8226 | greenchimneys.org

Three sessions starting June 27 for preschoolers to Grade 8. There are also leaders-in-training and counselors-in-training programs. **Cost: \$310 to \$345 per week**

Common Ground Farm**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Eight weekly camps will occur from July 5 to Aug. 26 for ages 4 to 12. **Cost: \$325 per week**

Compass Arts**BEACON**

917-648-4454 | compassarts.org

There will be four weekly camps for ages 3½ to 6 for \$180 to \$220 per week; a photography camp for ages 11 to 14 (July 25) for \$335 and a two-week performing arts camp (Aug. 22) for students entering the fifth to ninth grades for \$600.

The Foundry Montessori**COLD SPRING**

foundrymontessori.com

The school will offer weeklong programs for children ages 4 to 6 from July 5 to Aug. 12.

Garrison Art Center**GARRISON**

845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The art center offers two camps: Summer Arts on the Hudson, which runs for two or four weeks starting June 27 for students entering kindergarten through the eighth grade (\$825 per session), and the two-week Summer Art Institute for high school students (\$1,125) that begins July 25.

Hudson Hills Montessori**BEACON**

845-831-1100 | hudsonhillsmontessori.org

The school will have camps for children ages 3 to 6 from late June through August. Call for information.

Kiwi Country Day Camp**CARMEL**

914-276-2267 | kiwicountrydaycamp.com

Kiwi has a camp for students entering the first through 8th grades for up to eight weeks, as well as preschool and counselor-in-training programs. Camp begins on June 27 and continues through Aug. 19. The minimum session is 4 weeks for about \$5,000.

Manitou School**PHILIPSTOWN**

845-809-5695 | manitouschool.org/summer

The school will offer camps from July 5 to Aug. 12 for children ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 11, as well as a counselor-in-training program for students ages 12 to 17. **Cost: \$375 per week (\$300 for July 5 week)**

Philipstown Recreation**GARRISON**

845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Camps for preschoolers to Grade 12 run weekly starting June 27 and include sessions devoted to sports and theater and the Junior Fire Academy. Registration opened March 21 for residents and will open Monday (March 28) for non-residents. Although most camps are full and have waiting lists, there are still openings in sports and theater camps, the free fire academy (July 25) and for some grades in the day camps. **Cost: \$155 per week (\$170 non-residents)**

Renegades Baseball**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

renegadesbaseballcamps.com

The minor-league Hudson Valley Renegades will offer a basic skills camp for ages 6 to 14 starting July 18, a pitching and hitting camp for ages 8 to 14 starting Aug. 1 and an advanced skills camp for ages 8 to 14 starting Aug. 15. **Cost: \$275**

Rose Hill Manor**BEACON**

845-831-4847 | rosehillmanorschool.com

The school will offer day camps for children ages 5 to 12 for nine weeks beginning June 27. Call for information.

School of Rock**BEACON**

845-835-0001 | beacon.schoolofrock.com

Five weekly camps will take place from July 11 to Aug. 8 for ages 7 to 18, including modern indie rock, classic rock, best of the '90s, pop legends and '80s rock. **Cost: \$500**

St. Philip's Nursery School**GARRISON**

845-424-4209 | stphilipsnursery.org

The school will host five weekly camps from June 20 to July 22 for children ages 2 to 5. Daily from 9:05 a.m. to noon. **Cost: \$140 to \$175 per week**

Surprise Lake Camp**PHILIPSTOWN**

845-265-3616 | surpriselake.org

Camp opens June 28. Tours for prospective campers are scheduled for April 3 and April 10. **Cost: \$395 to \$9,000**



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For Information and Registration
ArtsontheLake.org

845 228-2685

Arts on the Lake is a non-profit arts center located on Lake Carmel at 640 Route 52, Kent, NY. 10512

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Connie Perdreau grew up in this house at 68 Beekman St. before it was demolished in 1971.

Photo provided



This building stood at the corner of Beekman and Ferry streets before urban renewal.

Beacon Historical Society

URBAN RENEWAL REVISITED

Project will recall Beacon neighborhoods lost to development

By Leonard Sparks

Connie Perdreau's childhood home extended beyond the doors of the large house her parents owned at 68 Beekman St. in Beacon.

The four-story was part of something bigger: the largely Black west end that filled an area between the industrial waterfront and Bank Square. Perdreau remembers a neighborhood where adults and children not only lived, but shopped and worshipped and played.

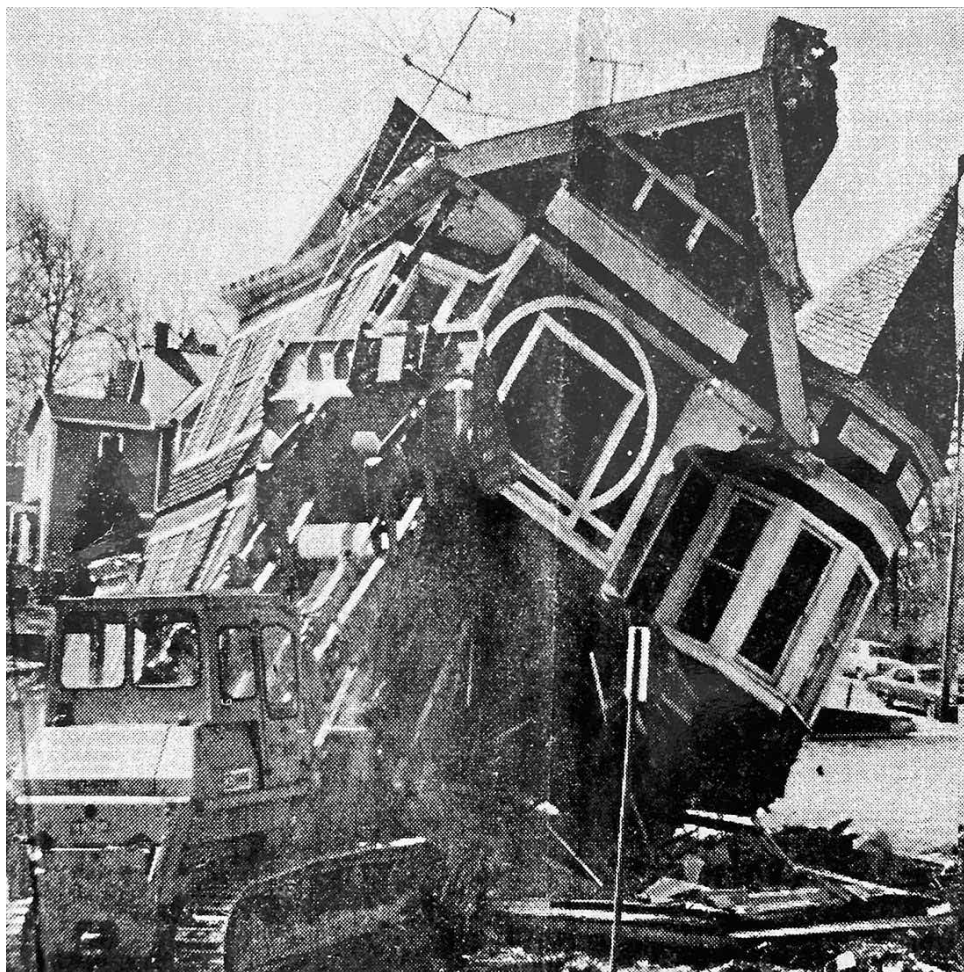
"It was a great community," Perdreau said last month on the *I Am Beacon* podcast. "There was the camaraderie, the friends, the family, the church — all of that."

The demolition of most of the area's structures under the federal government's urban renewal initiative in the 1960s and early 1970s is the subject of a project that Perdreau is collaborating on with the Beacon Historical Society, Howland Public Library, *I Am Beacon* and *The Highlands Current*.

An estimated 142 buildings were demolished after Beacon launched its version of urban renewal in 1964 and the City Council approved, in 1965, a five-phase plan calling for the large-scale demolition of so-called "blighted" properties and the construction of new replacement housing and commercial space.

Large swaths of Beekman, Ferry and River streets, and parts of Main Street, were among the neighborhoods in which buildings were demolished, including, in 1971, Perdreau's childhood home.

It was a program that, as in other cities, spurred charges of classism and racism, angered preservationists seeking to protect historic buildings and left unfinished projects as funding dried up. Others used the



This west end house was bulldozed to make room for a development. Beacon Historical Society

program's incentives to move to new apartments or buy houses in other areas of Beacon.

The project, *West End Story: Urban Renewal in Beacon*, will tell both those stories.

It will partly rely on historical materials, including documents and pictures, held by the historical society and the library, said Diane Lapis, the BHS executive director. The project is also looking for contributions — oral histories, photographs, documents, artifacts — from Beacon residents, she said. Anyone wishing to contribute can visit beaconlibrary.org/westend.

"We hope to hear the voices from the past

to tell what happened, why, and its impact," said Lapis.

Henry and Mazie Whitener, Perdreau's parents, are part of that history.

Both were born and raised in South Carolina, where they met. Henry came north in 1936, landing a job as a chef at the Castle Point VA Medical Center, where many Blacks would work. Mazie, a teacher in the South, followed. Unable to find a job as a teacher with local school districts, she became a domestic at a hotel, said Perdreau.

They bought the home at 69 Beekman St. in 1945 and moved to 68 Beekman in 1959.

Perdreau's memories include worshipping at St. James AME Zion Church, founded by free Blacks in 1847 in what was then called Fishkill Landing; sitting in her home's bay windows to watch people going to and from the ferry and train station; and riding a bus with her mother and other local residents to the March on Washington in 1963.

"Where I grew up does not exist anymore," she said during the *I Am Beacon* podcast. "They couldn't just save the nicer houses. They had to wipe out everything — the good, the bad and the ugly."

Once the homes were demolished, several projects were built: Forrestal Heights, the public housing complex for seniors and families on Wolcott Avenue; the Davies-South Terrace Apartments; a new post office on Main Street; and the Hammond Plaza condominiums at Beekman and Ferry streets.

Beacon residents dislocated by urban renewal were generally given priority for units at the developments. Others used cash assistance to buy homes. Perdreau said her mother bought a house in the Mount Beacon Park community.

"It was a double-edged sword," she said of urban renewal. "It destroyed our community; at the same time, it allowed a lot of people to have better, more recent housing."

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Kid Friendly

Kid Activated

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

School buses drive all over Beacon — up and down the side streets, Verplanck, Route 9D — for many blocks. But not all children from Beacon can be on the buses. If students live within a measured radius from school, they must walk or be driven.

Two of my children are walkers (to South Avenue Elementary and Rombout Middle School). The other child qualifies for busing because the school (Glenham Elementary) is outside the radius for our address. My walkers are old enough to walk by themselves. I've been training them to be careful crossing the road (and myself not to hyper-ventilate, because every Beaconite knows about the crosswalk problem, with most cars not stopping).

My middle-school daughter happily walks to school. In the spring and fall, she rides her bike. Glorious and free, she meets up with friends, and they fly like birds. This winter, she experienced walking in the ice, slush and rain, and was not having it.

Old-school Beaconites are like: "Yeah, so did I! You're close enough to walk!" But



her friends have hills to climb. She did not think it fair for them to have to walk. I can't drive her, and a neighbor offers to drive her, but the fact remains: The option to hop on the bus as it drives by them is not there for many kids. Bus stops are all over Beacon and Glenham, but school buses don't do house deliveries, they drop students at appointed intersections.

My daughter told her principal that she wanted busing for all. He gave her an answer that might have amounted to a shoulder-shrug emoji. I knew this was a larger decision than the principal's, and that she needed to "go to the board" — the Beacon City School District Board of Education. They have a public comment part of every meeting, during which anyone can speak on any school-related topic, in a polite manner.

Without blinking, she asked me when the next meeting was. Thanks to the pandemic, the meetings are streamed on Zoom and YouTube. She could call in remotely, raise her hand and deliver her talking points. She wanted to improvise, but I strong-armed her into writing down bullet points. "You don't want to forget your most important point — it's easy to do in the moment," I said.

On Feb. 7, she logged on, was called on by President Meredith Hauer (huzzah!) and calmly spoke her piece. She mentioned the single mother who walks her daughter with special needs to Rombout up and down the hills in any weather, while her son needs to get himself to the Beacon High School. She



Ruby Martin, 11, gets ready to make her points during a virtual school board meeting.

Photo by K. Martin

spoke of her sixth-grade friend who slipped several times on the ice. She spoke of me, who can't drive her to school on the super-cold days because I have younger kids sleeping at home and can't leave the house.

She was so good. So brave! The superintendent, Matt Landahl, thanked her for speaking, and said it was good timing, as February and March is budget time, when they debate spending ideas. Busing for all involves more money, coordination and responsibility. He said that the principal at Rombout had been asking for busing

for all. (Huzzah!) After years and years of restrictive busing, maybe this is the year for change?

A week later, my daughter came to me, pouting. "They didn't change it! Nothing happened! We still can't ride the bus!" I knew that a change like this takes a long time and requires a big push from the community. It can start with one person voicing a wish, but it needs momentum.

Advocating something — anything — takes a while. It takes consistency and dedication. And it can be scary if you are advocating a cause for your child, or for yourself. My pre-K child is advocating to be able to walk around the room at "rug time," when everyone else is sitting. But he is afraid to tell his teacher.

I had already told her via the teacher app ClassDojo and she was amendable. But he felt like he also wanted to tell her. I told him: "Tell her: 'I need to get my wiggles out!' That's what one of Beacon's most famous kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Fabia, tells her kids!" He responded: "I'm scared, mommy." Advocating in a small community is intimidating because we all know each other and have to spend time with each other in different spaces.

Here are some tips for advocating what you think is right:

- Organize friends to write emails to the person who makes the decision.
- Encourage others to also speak publicly. Gently nudge them by telling them the date of the next meeting.
- Follow up. Listen to the next meeting, and the ones after that, to see if change is progressing.

■ Send the story idea to your local news outlets, like *The Highlands Current*, *A Little Beacon Blog*, the *Beacon Free Press*, *The Poughkeepsie Journal*. You need the media coverage to build the momentum.

The theme song for writing this column was "Chasing Pavements," by Adele. It's a long road to crack the code of change. You might want to give up. Should you keep chasing pavements? Actually, sometimes, you're breaking the pavements.

You're breaking the pavements to make them new. You're not wrong. But that's why it's so hard. Keep going.

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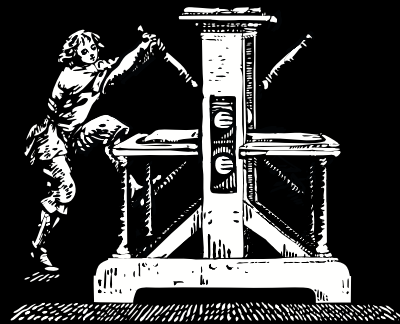
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Out There

Ghost Cats

By Brian PJ Cronin

You didn't just see a mountain lion — probably.



Whether mountain lions roam the Highlands is a perennial hot-button issue; Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong wrote a thorough piece about it for this paper eight years ago. But, because there have been a rash of unconfirmed sightings reported on Facebook over the past few months, it may be time for a refresher.

If you think you saw a mountain lion, it was a bobcat.

If you think you saw a bobcat, it was a housecat.

If you think you saw a housecat, it was three chipmunks in a trench coat.

Case closed, go ahead and flip to the crossword puzzle (Page 23).

Hang on, I'm being told this needs more nuance. Let's dig a little deeper.

Mountain lions (aka pumas, panthers, cougars) have not had a native population in New York state since the late 19th century. The odds of seeing one here are *very* low, although not zero. More on that in a moment.

Bobcats, which are much smaller than mountain lions and sport a short, "bobbed" tail, do live in the Highlands. Like mountain lions, they are stealthy and secretive, so seeing one is quite unlikely. I still have never seen one myself in New York, although I did many years ago near Point Reyes Station in California, sitting patiently on the side of Route 1 as if it were waiting for a bus.

Bobcats are most active at dawn and dusk, but during the winter they also hunt during the day, since that's when the mice and other small meals are out and about to take advantage of the relatively warmer daytime hours. The uptick in big cat sightings during the past few months isn't coincidence; bobcats are more likely to be spotted when the weather is cold.

However, if you think you saw a bobcat, not a housecat, consider that bobcats are much smaller than you probably think they are. The average female weighs 15

to 30 pounds, with a length between 28 and 32 inches. My housecat, a longhaired Norwegian Forest Cat, weighs 22 pounds and is 30 inches long. If his outdoor activities were more than napping on the porch, there might be a few panicked calls to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Fifteen years ago, he was a stray under a Beacon porch, so there may be some of his ample, girthy kin still wandering about.

As it turns out, humans are not the greatest at estimating the size of an unexpected animal, which is why you read occasionally about the Beast of Barnet, the Beast of Bodmin Moor, the Pembrokeshire Panther and the Crystal Palace Puma. Practically every hill and dale in England has been the hangout for a mysterious, black, jaguar-like creature, despite the fact the island has not had a population of big cats since the saber-toothed tiger.

(Continued on Page 21)

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST — HHLT is hiring for two positions: a director of conservation and a conservation stewardship manager. HHLT is a community-based, accredited land conservation organization devoted to protecting and preserving the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. To learn more and apply, visit hhl.org/about/employment-opportunities.

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TURF CARE — Seasonal, full-time position open in Garrison. Primary focused on turf care; mowing, trimming, edging, weed whacking,

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(Continued from Page 20)

Thousands of these sightings are reported each year, not just by people leaving pubs but mayors and police officers, game wardens, farmers and zookeepers. The Welsh government created a Big Cat Sightings Unit. The Royal Marines have been deployed, helicopters have scanned the countryside, trail cameras and traps have been installed, and so far there has not been a single photo, paw print, tuft of fur or pile of scat. One beast hunter spent two days stuck in a cage of his own making; he survived on the raw meat he had set as bait. The only cats that any hunters have managed to document have been black house cats.

What’s going on? George Monbiot, who examined the British big-cat fallacy for his book *Feral*, has two hypotheses. The first is that people overestimate size if they are startled because they focus on the animal and not the surroundings such as trees, rocks and landmark that provide context.

His other hypothesis is that when we see a cat in the wild, something primal is triggered in our brains that alerts us that a big cat is dangerous and that we should err on the side of caution. “We lose little by seeing cats that do not exist,” Monbiot writes, “but lose a lot by failing to see those that do.”

In other words, if your brain has to make a split-second decision between being teased on social media for claiming you saw a mountain lion or being mauled in the woods, it opts for the former.

Like the big-cat reports of Britain, mountain-lion sightings persist in the Highlands despite the absence of photos, paw prints, scat or eviscerated deer carcasses. There are also some who will swear that the Department of Environmental Conservation has seeded the area with mountain lions to control the deer population. The DEC insists



The author’s Norwegian Forest Cat is comparable in size and weight to a female bobcat.

it is not doing this — an explanation that satisfies no one since it’s exactly what the DEC would say if it were secretly releasing mountain lions. I would suggest that the reason we know it’s not true is because putting mountain lions in a heavily populated area is a hilariously terrible idea and there are far better ways to kill deer.

Mountain lions are territorial and solitary; a male tends not to travel more than about 100 square miles. They average a deer kill every two weeks, so each would kill about 26 deer a year, which seems not

worth the trade-off with the panic that would ensue if a contraband cougar were discovered in an area swarming with hikers. Instead the DEC continues to encourage hunters to shoot does, which contribute more to overpopulation than bucks.

Like most conspiracy theories, the mountain lion myth springs from a kernel of truth. Thirty years ago, the state did release 89 lynx — which are similar to bobcats but slightly larger and a different species — in the Adirondacks. The goal wasn’t deer management (lynx mostly eat snowshoe hares) but to restore a

native population driven out at the same time as mountain lions in the 19th century.

This plan did not go well. Some lynx starved because the snowshoe hare population wasn’t robust enough, some were shot by hunters during bobcat season, some fled to Canada and many got hit by cars.

That failure is one reason why the state has so far resisted calls to attempt a similar effort in the Adirondacks with mountain lions. One of its studies, done before the lynx experiment, concluded that even the “forever wild” Adirondacks has too much vehicle traffic to allow mountain lions to establish themselves, although some field biologists argue they could survive in the high peaks.

It’s not impossible for a mountain lion to show up in New York to stake out new territory in search of a mate it will never find, but it takes a Herculean effort. The biologist John Laundré called them Dead Cats Walking. “They are almost all Adams with absolutely no chance of finding an Eve in the promised land,” he wrote.

The last documented loner was spotted in 2011. It walked from South Dakota to the Adirondacks, an astonishing 1,500-mile journey. After it had crossed into Connecticut, it was killed by an SUV.

That is why I feel confident declaring there are no mountain lions in the Highlands. If there were, somebody would have run over it already.

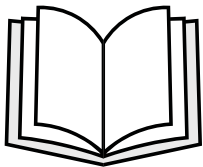
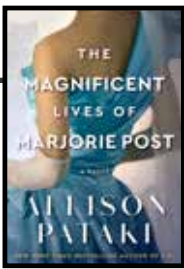
Mountain lions, and wolves, are a touchy subject with those who work in wildlife and land management. They have strong feelings but rarely want to go on the record to share them. The idea of cougars and wolves in the Adirondacks has a thrilling and romantic appeal, but I live 150 miles away. I would be interested to know how Adirondacks residents feel about the idea; not everyone is comfortable with the same amount of wild in their wilderness.



Baby and Dog



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Doreen Bliss Derry of Philipstown shared this photo of her grandson, Beckett, with Hudson. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



Local Bestsellers



Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for January and February by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.

	ADULT		TITLE	AUTHOR
	Position	last month		
	1	-	<i>The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post</i>	Allison Pataki
	2	-	<i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i>	Robin Wall Kimmerer
	3	-	<i>To Paradise</i>	Hanya Yanagihara
	4	-	<i>The Sentence</i>	Louise Erdrich
	5	-	<i>Devotions: Selected Poems</i>	Mary Oliver
	5	1	<i>Dawn of Everything</i>	Graeber and Wengrow
	1	1	<i>Cat Kid Comic Club Perspectives</i>	Dav Pilkey
	2	-	<i>The Brightest Night (Wings of Fire 5)</i>	Tui Sutherland
	3	-	<i>Katie the Catsitter Book 2</i>	Colleen AF Venable
	4	-	<i>The Little Snowplow</i>	Lora Koehler
	4	-	<i>I Love You Because I Love You</i>	Muon Thi Van
	4	-	<i>The Snow Day Board Book</i>	Ezra Jack Keats

SPORTS

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(Continued from Page 24)

Leading the Bulldogs will be Leanna Rinaldi, Olivia Spiak and Haleigh Zukowski; each was named to the All-League team last season.

"They're like an extension of the coaching staff," Carofano said. "They all have a great attitude and will lead by example."

Returning on the mound is senior Olivia Ciancanelli. "She's mentally tough, she can handle adversity," Carofano said. "She'll roll with the punches, she doesn't get too excited or too down. She did well against Section IX teams last season."

Other returning starters are Christina Merola, Kyla Richardson, Makkaila Caputo, Briana Jones and Tess Wills. Newcomers include ninth graders Sally Betterbid and Katherine Ruffy, sophomore Isabella White and juniors Hope Cleveringa, Mikayla Sheehan and Juliana Sulsona.

Carofano said he's looking for production from his veterans. "I'm expecting a lot from our returning seniors. We need them to produce at the plate and play good defense. It's nice to see that we finally have some depth. This group is more well-rounded than we have been."

The Bulldogs open their season April 4, hosting Monticello. Beacon plays in a league that includes Minisink Valley, Washingtonville, Monticello, Cornwall, Goshen and Port Jervis.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Last year's Beacon High School girls' lacrosse team found wins hard to come by in Section I, but this year the Bulldogs have more experience and the move to Section IX should allow the team to be more competitive.

"I'm challenging my team to build confi-



The Beacon girls' lacrosse team

Photo by S. Pearlman

dence and cohesiveness as a unit," said first-year coach Taylor Modica, who took over from Brian Lange. "Hopefully we can learn from our mistakes early. I have high hopes for this group of girls because they're strong, confident and determined to make a name for themselves."

Beacon will look to seniors Lucy Diebboll and Maddie Bobnick, junior Anaya Camacho and sophomore Kasey Senior to guide

the flow of play and to work with less experienced players.

"Lucy and Maddie are key players in maintaining a strong defense and keeping the defensive players in a calm state," Modica said. "They both have great field awareness. Anaya is a well-rounded attack player who has the ability to make quick decisions on the field. I can rely on her to be the playmaker. And Kasey is a younger player but

stands out. She has so much talent."

Keeper Isabella Boswick also returns. Rounding out the Bulldogs' lineup are Josalyn Pagan, Bethany Rudolph, Rory Mowen, Kailey Mesorana, Chloe Sheffield, Janelle Lagunda, Julissa Manso, Ava Gianna, Olivia Del Castillo, Gaby Kuka, Olivia Lapaz, Kiarra Rodriguez, Jacqueline Griesing and Shilo Reynolds.

Beacon is scheduled to open its season tomorrow (March 26), hosting Pawling.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Slander in print

6. L-P link

9. Old map letters

12. Fred’s dancing partner

13. Goal

14. Salt Lake athlete

15. Lightweight wood

16. “Lust for Life” punk rocker

18. Duration

20. Sea predator

21. “I’m not im-pressed”

23. Poseidon’s home

24. Serpentine

25. “— a roll!”

27. Lent a hand

29. Live-in nanny

31. Mine vehicle

35. Call on

37. Activist Parks

38. Island porch

41. Stitch

43. Resistance unit

44. “Oops!”

45. Proverbial burg

47. 1987 Peter Weller film

49. Hotel posting

52. CBS logo

53. Group of two

54. Said something

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55. ISP alternative

56. Norm (Abbr.)

57. Plains shelter

9. Toyota model

10. Inventory

11. Settle a debt

17. There

19. Bike components

21. Ms. Farrow

22. Ostrich’s kin

24. Sun. talk

26. Arizona tribe

28. Fawned (on)

30. Jr.’s son

32. Stove work space

33. Fireplace residue

34. Zodiac animal

36. 14-legged crustacean

38. Enticed

39. Greetings at sea

40. Prestigious prize

42. German sausage

45. Sulk

46. Scruff

48. LPs’ successors

50. Scrape (out)

51. Observe

DOWN

1. Science room

2. Writer Tarbell

3. Hotel staffer

4. Otherwise

5. Inclines

6. Rum cocktail

7. At hand

8. Texter’s “Wow!”

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 lacking professional polish (10)

2 vegetable spear (9)

3 span from point A to point B (8)

4 newbie (8)

5 in a phony way (11)

6 uniform for Simone Biles (7)

7 Nirvana singer Cobain (4)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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Answers for March 18 Puzzles

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R A I N A I R R O N A
D I M S U M B A R M E N
A M A Y E P
M U S S T E N N Y S O N
A N O T O E O N A
S O N A T I N A S N O B
G R R T R E
P T B O A T N E P H E W
S H I M A B E T A D A
S E R A T I S E R I N
T A D S A B S T E T E

8 4 2 3 9 1 7 5 6

7 1 3 8 5 6 2 4 9

5 6 9 7 2 4 8 3 1

1 3 8 2 6 9 4 7 5

6 2 7 5 4 3 9 1 8

4 9 5 1 7 8 3 6 2

3 8 6 9 1 7 5 2 4

2 7 1 4 8 5 6 9 3

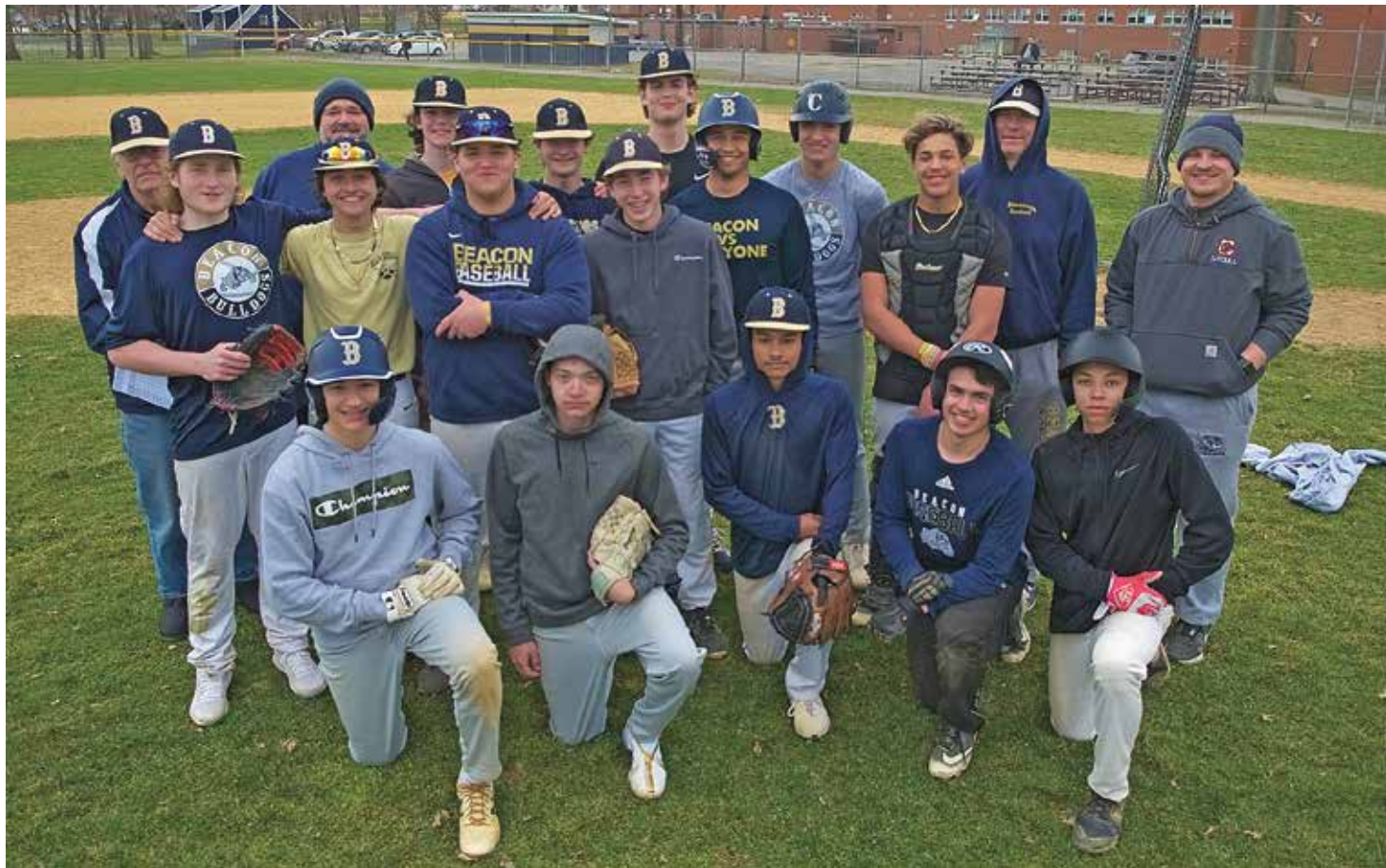
9 5 4 6 3 2 1 8 7

1. MINKS, 2. SNEAKY, 3. CAPITOL, 4. RASHLY, 5. SPIKIER, 6. SCHMALTZ, 7. NIXED

SPORTS



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The 2022 Beacon High school baseball team at a recent practice

Photos by S. Pearlman

| BEACON PREVIEWS |

By Skip Pearlman

BASEBALL

After finishing 9-11 and losing to Tappan Zee last year in the Section I playoffs, Beacon is ready to see what it can do in its new neighborhood.

The Beacon district moved to Section IX last fall, and so far its teams have been more competitive.

Beacon lost a few players to graduation — including outfielder Mike Lapere and pitcher Matt Manzoello, who were named to the All-County team — but Coach Bob Atwell sees potential in the 2022 Bulldogs.

“We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores,” he said. “But we do have some experience returning.”

Baseball starts with pitching, and Beacon returns a pair of right-handers: junior Joey

Vollaro and senior Owen Brown. “We need them to take the lead,” said Atwell. “They both had a good preseason.”

Stepping onto the varsity mound for the first time will be senior Chase Green, sophomore Mikey Fontaine and freshman Derrick Heaton.

“Green is a great athlete and a good leader; Derrick was one of our top junior varsity pitchers, and Mikey has thrown a little bit,” the coach said. “They all need experience. Guys will be trying to attack the [strike] zone, and that can be difficult at the varsity level.”

The returning position players include senior first baseman Tyler Haydt, along with Brown (outfielder/designated hitter), Vollaro (shortstop), Green (infielder) and Fontaine (catcher). Joining the Bulldogs are senior outfielder Owen Bozsik and sophomores Ronnie Anzovino (pitcher/outfield), Jackson Atwell (outfield), Liam Murphy (pitcher/infielder) and Heaton.

Atwell says his club's defense has been solid. “We can run out nine guys who can handle the glove, and the top of our [batting] lineup should be strong,” he said. “At the bottom we have some guys who haven't played.”

Atwell is eager to see how his team will compete in Section IX. “We have a lot of good kids that are fun to be around; hopefully we can become a cohesive unit,” he said. “Winning games is always nice but it's more about learning and improving every day.”

The Bulldogs are scheduled to open the season April 4 hosting Monticello.



Liv Vilella

Haldane Student Commits to Georgetown

Liv Vilella, a junior at Haldane High School, this week verbally committed to play soccer at Georgetown University in 2023. The formal signing of athletic commitments takes place in November.

Vilella, a defender, played on the Haldane varsity team as a freshman and for the past two seasons has competed with World Class FC, a travel team based in Rockland County.

Beacon Players Honored

The Basketball Coaches Association of New York on March 21 named their top 50 girls' players in Section IX, including, among Class A schools, Reilly Landisi of Beacon.

The Dutchess County Basketball Coaches Association earlier this month named Jason Komisar of Beacon to its boys' All-County team and Chase Green and Simrat Mann of Beacon to its All-Academic team.

SOFTBALL

Beacon went 18 games without a win last year, closing the season with a first-round playoff loss to Nanuet. It hopes for better results after the move to Section IX.

“The move has been good for other programs” at Beacon High School, noted Coach Michael Carofano. “We're hoping for the same, although we'll go into every game as an underdog.”

“Going 0-18 was a tough year,” he said. The team returns nine players — eight seniors and a sophomore — “and they don't want the season to be like last year. So far the attitude and atmosphere has been great, and that's been a testament to our captains.”

(Continued on Page 22)



The Beacon softball team