# The HIGHLANDS

April 8, 2022

# **Beacon School Board Down a** Member, Again

May 17 ballot to include board seats, district budget

#### **By Jeff Simms**

eacon school board member Jasmine Johnson resigned on April 1, leaving, for the third time in two years, a school board with a membership gap to fill. Johnson did not announce a reason for

leaving. She had been appointed to the nine-person board in

September 2020 after the resignation of James Case-Leal, who wrote in a letter that he wanted the board to appoint two Black candidates-Johnson



and John Galloway Jr., who was seated a month later.

State law required Galloway and Johnson, as appointees, to run last year to keep their board seats. The top three votegetters in that election - Galloway, Johnson and Flora Stadler – won three-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher, Elissa Betterbid, completed the final year of the term of Michael Rutkoske, who had resigned earlier in 2020.

Because of the timing of Johnson's resignation, this year there will again be four seats on the May 17 ballot. President Meredith Heuer has filed to run for another three-year term; Antony Tseng has indicated that he plans to do so also.

Johnson's term, which ends in 2024, will now be up for grabs, and Betterbid said on Wednesday (April 6) that she is not running for re-election, so that seat will also be open.

(Continued on Page 7)

# How to Spend \$57 Million

Dutchess Stadium tops list of projects receiving COVID funds

#### **By Leonard Sparks**

utchess County is making national news lately for the wrong reason. Within the last month, both The *New York Times* and The Associated Press have published stories about controversial local projects being funded with money

from the federal American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package approved in March 2021 by Congress and President Joe Biden.

Both stories highlighted the decision by County Executive Marc Molinaro and the Legislature's Republican majority to allocate \$11.6 million of Dutchess' \$57.1



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million in ARP funding for renovations at Dutchess Stadium, a county park.

The ballpark, home to the Hudson Valley Renegades, a New York Yankees' minor league affiliate, will get a new clubhouse, pitching and batting facility and a premium club space and seating area. The Legislature also unanimously approved spending \$630,000 in ARP funds to buy the land beneath the stadium from the Beacon school district.

The stadium spending represents (Continued on Page 9)

# Where the **Money Will Go**

[Dutchess County Edition]

In the past two years, the federal government has issued six pandemic relief spending packages. Here's how the most recent, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), from March 2021 has been distributed.

# \$1.9 TRILLION

allocated by Congress



sent to states and local governments

**\$12.6 BILLION** 

sent to New York State



**\$57.1 MILLION** sent to Dutchess

[Detailed allocation on Page 9]



Cameras are mounted on the sides of school buses and activated with the stop arm.

# **Putnam Approves Traffic Cameras for School Buses**

Will record vehicles that illegally pass during stops

#### By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

he Putnam County Legislature voted 8 to 0 on Tuesday (April 5) to

equip school buses with cameras to

that have stopped to pick up or drop off students. Meeting in Carmel, the legislators agreed

identify vehicles that illegally pass buses

BusPatrol

to establish a program with school districts such as Haldane and Garrison to use the cameras to photograph or video-record cars that violate safety laws, helping police agen-(Continued on Page 7)

# **Family of Pedestrian Killed May Sue Beacon**

may sue the city.

Claims 'defective design' contributed to death **By Jeff Simms** 

he family of Carla Giuffrida, a Beacon resident who died after being struck by a vehicle on Dec. 1 near Main Street, has filed notice that it

A notice of claim filed March 31 in Dutchess County Supreme Court alleges that Giuffrida was killed "due to the defective design and mainte-

Carla Giuffrida nance" of the pedestrian

control signal installed at the intersection of

Main and Teller Avenue, "which rendered the intersection dangerous and unsafe." It does not indicate how the control signal was defective, although the documents say Giuffrida had a "walk" signal and the right of way.

The claim was filed by Mauro and Lindsay Giuffrida, who are Carla Giuffrida's children.

# FIVE QUESTIONS: LINDA CODEGA

#### By Chip Rowe

inda Codega, who lives in Beacon, is a reporter and reviewer for io9. com, which covers sci-fi/fantasy pop culture.

#### Much of your writing focuses on roleplaying games, or RPG. What do you find appealing about them?

I like stories — games, books, movies, podcasts — anything that tells a story. I enjoy having a commonly accepted framework for people to sit down and create a story together. You can have a game with just one player and the author, or there are massive multiplayer games — games so popular that collective fandoms have created an accepted canon, like, "Of course everyone knows that Bones knows that Kirk and Spock are lovers."

#### How did you encounter RPG?

I was introduced as a teenager through text-based role-playing online. When I was 13 or 14 we had the family computer and I found forums for Neopets and avatars and things like that where you could create characters. "My character does this. What does your character do?" My mother was in the military and we moved around a lot, so I didn't have a consistent group of friends



until I was in high school. It was easy to find communities online.

# With RPGs today, do you still roll dice? Or is it all digital?

You can play with your physical click clacks, like your magic rocks. Or you can use a calculator that comes up with a random number between one and 20. There is also software called virtual tabletops, so even if you don't have the \$50 rulebook or the \$20 dice or the \$30 character sheet, you can log on free to Roll20 or Astral TableTop and find a game.

# You write "speculative" fiction? What is that?

It's an umbrella term for fantasy and science fiction that includes niche genres such as "near-future fiction" and "magical realism." I love epic fantasy – the classic in that genre, of course, is Lord of the Rings. Recently I loved the Broken Earth trilogy by N.K. Jemisin. She's a Black woman, so she understands a wider scope of the world than I do. Another fun one is the *Serpent Gates* series by A.K. Larkwood. The main character is a lesbian orc assassin. In a fantasy world without bigotry, everyone would be bisexual. That makes sense to

#### You've written that you had to come out to your parents twice. What happened?

I had just moved to the Hudson Valley and my family was passing the LGBTQ Center [in Kingston]. My dad said, "I don't understand why all these letters are happening. Wasn't LGB enough?" And I said, "Well, T and Q are important." Later, at a cafe, just him and me, I said: "Dad, I don't know if you knew this, but I'm queer." And he said, "Oh, OK, cool." Then my mom comes over with drinks. My dad says, "Robin, did you know Linda is Q?" And my mom says, "Yeah, she is cute." So I had to explain. The second time was after I had become comfortable with the fact that I am non-binary and transgender. That was just

a phone call. "Hey Mom, I just wanted you to know I use they/them pronouns now. So I will be sending you a book in the mail. I love you. Bye."



By Michael Turton

Samantha Rathe, Cold Spring





Luke Riley, Beacon

I think it is. And I grew up in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where baseball began.



#### Lucy Smith, Cold Spring



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#### NEWS BRIEFS

### Man Charged in Overdose Deaths

Allegedly provided fentanyl-laced heroin

O fficers from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office on March 31 arrested a Poughkeepsie man who was charged with distributing heroin laced with fentanyl that killed four people in early 2020 in Putnam and Dutchess counties.

A criminal complaint alleges that Allen "Ace" Peloquin, 34, sold fentanyl-laced heroin that was linked to the deaths of a Carmel woman and a Poughkeepsie man. He also contributed to the deaths of a Poughquaq man and a Poughkeepsie woman, prosecutors said.

### Hudson Line Adds Trains

Repair of Dobbs Ferry culvert complete

The repair of a culvert in Dobbs Ferry that was damaged by Tropical Storm Ida in September has trimmed about 5 minutes from trips by Hudson Line commuters because trains no longer have to slow to 30 mph.

In addition, on March 27, Metro-North added 14 trains to the line, including two during the morning rush and three in the evening. Metro-North had been charging off-peak fares on all trains but resumed with peak fares on March 1 while introducing a 10 percent discount on monthly passes and a 20-trip peak ticket that costs 20 percent less than individual tickets.

# Dutchess Sales Tax Jumps

Comptroller issues report on revenue

The Dutchess County comptroller released a report on March 25 noting that sales tax collected by the county jumped \$50 million last year, accounting for 47 percent of revenue. The county collected \$200 million in 2020

and \$209 million in 2019, said Comptroller Robin Lois.

She noted that the elimination of sales tax on clothing and footwear costing less than \$110, proposed temporary cuts in the gas tax, and renegotiations of revenue sharing agreements with Poughkeepsie and Beacon could affect future collections.

The sales tax in Dutchess is 8.125 percent; 3.75 percent goes to the county, 4 percent to the state and 0.375 to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

### Cold Spring Man Joins State Police

#### Among 227 academy graduates

A Cold Spring man, Luke Rodzel, was among the 227 graduates on March 23 of the Basic School of the New York State Police Academy.

The graduates, selected from more than 1,700 candidates, reported on March 31 for

Current 1

10 weeks of field training. After training, Rodzel, a 2013 Haldane graduate, will join Troop K based in Poughkeepsie.

Other graduates included Nicole Dimaio and Emily Herlihy of Mahopac, John Rinaldi of Carmel and Reginald Donaldson, Johnathan Flores and Rolando Zapata of Newburgh.

### Beacon High Planning Career Fair

#### School looking for businesses to join

Beacon High School is planning its annual career fair for students and looking for businesses to participate.

Each participant will be assigned a table on May 27 at which he or she can display items that represent an industry or career and serve as conversation starters.

Contact Michele Polhamus at polhamus.m@ beaconk12.org or 845-838-6900, ext. 3025, to register. The deadline is April 22.

# Dutchess May Buy Boy Scout Camp

### Listed by group to pay judgment

The Dutchess County executive has asked the Legislature to authorize spending \$4.8 million to purchase the 272-acre Camp Nooteeming in Pleasant Valley from the Boy Scouts of America.

The board of the Greater Hudson Valley

Council of the Boy Scouts of America announced last year that it would sell the 90-year-old camp to pay part of its share of an \$850 million settlement by the national organization with former scouts who say they were sexually abused.

County Executive Marc Molinaro said Pathfinder FC, which leases the camp for soccer, would take over management. The spending would include \$4.2 million for the property and equipment such as canoes, archery gear, furniture and tractors, and \$600,000 to make safety and accessibility improvements. The Legislature is expected to consider the proposal on Monday (April 11).

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the HIGHLANDS



# Join us at the New Leaf Restoration Community Garden!

### Saturday, April 2 & Saturday, April 9 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Help us prepare our community garden for the 2022 gardening season, which begins on April 23.

#### RSVP to info@newleaf-restoration-org

New Leaf Restoration, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Philipstown. New Leaf Restoration's mission is to establish an intergenerational, collaborative garden and community resource at the intersection of Routes 9D and 403 in Garrison. For more information, visit newleaf-restoration.org.



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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

#### HVSF project

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival proposal to repurpose the former Garrison golf course as its permanent home is wellplanned to benefit all of Philipstown while being considerate of its neighbors ("HVSF Says It Will 'Narrow' Project," April 1). The primary activities — live theater during the summer months under an open-air tent and the Valley Restaurant and banquet facility — are public resources well-known to and greatly enjoyed by our residents.

The proposal is to continue what we already know and enjoy, and to make it better, while opening the former golf course site to the community as an environmentally sensitive natural space.

The public benefits are numerous. The number of theater seats is being reduced, lessening traffic, which is being moved closer to Route 9, where it already goes as it heads to points south, north and east. The proposal provides the opportunity to reconfigure the intersections of Route 9 with Snake Hill Road and Travis Corners, a well-known site of fatal accidents, while taking traffic off Philipse Brook Road, currently the safest way to cross Route 9 in the neighborhood.

Civic projects like the Shakespeare Festival, broadly supported by our community, are the hallmark of democracy in America recognized by Alexis de Tocqueville almost 200 years ago. Repurposing the golf course to host the Shakespeare Festival will realize the greater good for our community for decades to come. Joseph Mahon, *Garrison* 

Reducing the size is a start - now to get the huge tent off the ridgeline and protect the viewshed.

Zshawn Sullivan, via Facebook

Cutting the project back is a real loss to the community because of a bunch of rich NIMBY nonsense.

Ryan Biracree, via Facebook

#### **Cold Spring police**

I agree with Trustee Eliza Starbuck's suggestion in her April 1 letter that monthly police reports include how many of the calls to which Cold Spring police respond are coming from Nelsonville and Philipstown.

The idea that jurisdictions that themselves offer no police services get free services on demand, 24/7, from one that spends \$500,000 every year makes you wonder why this is called "mutual" aid.

If Cold Spring is required to provide mutual aid to adjacent jurisdictions, the village should be fully reimbursed. The Cold Spring police should identify, in its monthly report, not only the number of such mutual-aid incidents, but the fully



allocated cost to the village, and submit for trustee approval the invoices to be sent to Nelsonville and Philipstown.

Michael Armstrong, Cold Spring

#### Zeebuffo

Nice try, Mike Turton. You had me until I saw the drawing ("Reporter's Notebook: Zeebuffo Coming to Garrison," April 1).

Anthony Merante, Cold Spring

That was an excellent conversation igniter on April 1.

Steven C.F. Anderson, Cold Spring

The zeebuffo ranch also made headlines in *The Ungulate-Picayune* and *The Ungulate Chronicle*.

Howard Condyles, via Instagram

#### **Fjord Trail**

The recent public meeting about the Fjord Trail (aka, "Highline-on-Hudson") at the Philipstown Town Hall raised serious practical concerns ("Fjord Trail Plan Draws Praise and Concern," March 25).

The project lacks proper pro forma environmental and traffic studies that would have otherwise quickly derailed this fantasy. Traffic already inundates Cold Spring from spring through fall, to the extent that streets and sidewalks are snarled and impassable for entire weekends. The notion of drawing more traffic and redirecting it to the lower village is untenable, as the area already lacks parking and sidewalks.

The addition of 400 parking spots and creation of several parking lots alarms locals and first responders who depend on these single-lane, Revolutionary War-era carriage roads for reasonable conveyance. The promise of additional armies of tourists and hikers will be resented by all residents, excepting shopkeepers.

The Fjord team never consulted with the village regarding its expansion of the plan to include a river walkway thru Dockside to Little Stony Point. The function of the walkway is to divert foot traffic from heading north on Fair Street. This part of the project seems most ill-conceived and superfluous, and offers no benefit to the community other than to saddle our emergency responders.

Understand that adding an unnecessary and unwanted amenity that could exacerbate our already severely strained resources will change the fabric of the community forever. Before the Fjord megaproject loomed, weren't we all discussing ideas for how to decompress the onslaught, not exacerbate it?

I am confident the new Foley administration in Cold Spring, and other local governments, will not endorse the plan, and seek to abolish it. As a resident, attend the meetings as I did,

#### LETTERS AND COMMENTS

#### (Continued from Page 4)

and don't be afraid to voice your concerns, regardless of what any Philipstown or other official says.

Derek Graham, Cold Spring

#### **Kingdom Faire**

The description and scope of this event has evolved from how it was listed by Graymoor and is likely to get approval from Putnam Valley ("Pirate Fest Decamps from Graymoor," April 1).

If anywhere near as many people as Kingdom Faire said earlier on its website attended events at Graymoor each weekend, traffic would snarl, residents would be limited in their ability to leave home and emergency vehicles would not have access. This was the main concern expressed by residents on Philipstown Locals on Facebook, not the cherry-picked ones in *The Current*'s story that paint a narrative sympathetic to the parent company.

Add to this that Kingdom Faire didn't do the paperwork to get approval from Philipstown. Anyone who hosts large events knows this is necessary. How *The Current* presented this is very biased.

Krystyn Schaetzl, via Facebook

Shouldn't Graymoor have made the parent company aware of the need to file paperwork? The company, which would have leased private property, probably expected Graymoor to tell them. The traffic concern seems like it could have been solved.

Some of the opposition's reasoning was really out there. Clearly, some people have never been to a Renaissance Festival.

Kirsten Berger, via Facebook

If Kingdom Faire had mentioned shuttling visitors to Graymoor rather than having parking on-site, as will be done in Putnam Valley, it would have made a huge difference in how their plans were received.

Kendra Parker, via Facebook Editor's note: When Kingdom Faire intended to hold its weekend events at Graymoor, its website stated that it would have "shuttle services continuously running between the Garrison [train] station" and the site.

A resident complained to Kingdom Faire that its event would feature "Satanic-lite" shows — is that all the evil with one-third the calories?

Phil Clarke Jr., via Facebook

This is exciting — maybe I can avoid the craziness of the New York Renaissance Faire [in Orange County] and just attend in Putnam Valley. Blue Mountain in Peekskill would have been a fantastic spot, as well. Dave Mueller, *via Facebook* 

#### Composting

For the record, composting has been available in Beacon since 2017 through a subscription program started by Zero to Go, which is now run by the Community Compost Co. ("Beacon Wants More Compost, Less Trash," April 1). As the founder of Zero to Go, it is my hope that this municipal program helps

#### Clarification

• A story that appeared in the April 1 issue about the Cold Spring budget process requires clarification. It stated that security cameras requested by the Cold Spring Police Department for three locations in the village had been "taken off the table"; we should have made clear that was for the 2021-22 budget cycle, which ends May 31. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke suggested the money instead fund a partnership with the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub to provide resources to officers, and we reported the board had set aside \$8,500 as seed money. Mayor Kathleen Foley clarified that the amount to be allocated has not yet been determined, "as we need to explore options for how this kind of partnership can be properly and lawfully funded and structured." Finally, while the 2022-23 budget includes \$6,500 to buy four police body cameras, the purchase will not occur until at least January, after use policies are in place, Foley said.

to gain participation in composting through all methods — curbside pickup, drop-off and backyard. I've been waiting for the city to put effort into this for a very long time.

Sarah Womer, via Instagram



# AN UPDATE TO OUR Community



"Our goal has always been to be good, collaborative neighbors and thoughtful, intentional land stewards. To everyone who offered their thoughts and opinions about the project, we are so grateful for your feedback. We heard you. Scaling back our proposal will allow us to prove our commitment over time and assure our neighbors that we are steadfast in our promise to work collaboratively as part of this community."

#### **DAVIS MCCALLUM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Last week we announced that we will amend our proposal for our permanent home at The Garrison that is currently under review by the Philipstown Planning Board. The changes include the removal of the proposed indoor theater and 20room inn, additional greenery and trees to ensure further screening and limit any view of our permanent tensile theater from Route 9, and an adjustment to the placement of the proposed parking lot to eliminate any encroachment into the regulated wetland buffer zone.

The amendments will significantly reduce many aspects of the project several of which are presented in the charts below.

Original Propos		Updated Proposal	% Change	
<b>Gallons Per Day</b>	16,453	13,353	-19%	
Square Feet	75,590	45,990	-39%	
Max Visitors	1,124	853	-24%	

Item	Reduction from Previously Proposed
Proposed Buildings (Gross Floor Area)	Less 29,600 s.f.
Overnight Accommodations	Less 20 rooms
Domestic Water Demand	Less 3,100 gpd
Sewage Usage	Less 3,100 gpd
Number of Theater Seats	Less 255 seats (also includes reduction in tent seats)
Persons On-site (Theoretical max at on time)	Less 271 persons
Performance Season	Less 3 months (April, May, December)
Maximum Parking Demand	Less 116 vehicles

#### **HVSF Performance Calendar**



You can find a comprehensive list of FAQs on our website at hvshakespeare.org/newhome. If you are seeking any additional information or have concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us at questions@hvshakespeare.org.

#### QUESTIONS@HVSHAKESPEARE.ORG // HVSHAKESPEARE.ORG/NEWHOME

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

# UPDATE: Jan. 6 Arrests

#### By Chip Rowe

**F** ifteen months after the attack on the Capitol to disrupt the vote count that certified Joe Biden as president, 777 people face charges that range from trespassing to violent attacks on police officers. In court documents, the federal prosecutors refer to the case as the "Capitol Hill Siege."

By one estimate, about 140 police officers were injured during the riot. One protester was shot and killed by a Capitol police officer and the assault is believed to have contributed to the deaths of at least three officers.

Five men from Putnam County, two from southern Dutchess and two with ties to Newburgh have been charged. Here is the status of their cases.

**Robert Ballesteros, Mahopac** 

- Arrested March 15, 2021
- Pleaded guilty Oct. 28

Ballesteros, 28, posted a video on Instagram of himself inside the Capitol wearing a black mask. When asked online by another Instagram user if he had been inside, Ballesteros said he had "made my stand" and that "some kid told me he tipped off the [FBI] hotline." He pleaded guilty to "parading, demonstrating or picketing" inside the Capitol, a misdemeanor that has a maximum sentence of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 16; the defense has asked for 24 months of probation, 60 hours of community service and a \$500 fine.

#### Robert Chapman, Carmel

- Arrested April 21
- Pleaded guilty Dec. 16

Chapman, 51, drew the FBI's attention after a person with whom he interacted through an online dating service alerted agents to a remark and photo posted by someone with that name. In the message, "Robert" wrote that "I did storm the Capitol. I made it all the way into Statuary Hall." His potential date replied: "We are not a match." He conceded: "I suppose not." Like Ballesteros, he pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing. His sentencing is scheduled for May 18.

#### Edward "Jake" Lang, Newburgh

Arrested Jan. 16, 2021Remains incarcerated

The FBI said Lang, 26, can be seen in the crowd wearing a green-and-black gas mask and striking officers' shields with a bat. On Jan. 7, the day after the riot, Lang posted to Twitter, according to the charging documents: "I watched a woman die yesterday in front of my eyes. I saved two others from being trampled and suffocated by Capitol Police. They murdered her and tried to murder many, many more. This is an act of war by TYRANTS against the American people." At a hearing in December, a prosecutor said Lang had turned down a plea deal with a sentence of up to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years. Prosecutors have proposed a

### Cases by County

COUNTY	CASES	PER 100
1. Hutchinson, TX	5	23.68
2. Fulton, OH	4	9.46
3. Chisago, MN	4	7.15
4. Putnam, NY	5	5.12
5. Greene, MO	6	2.06
6. Sussex, DE	4	1.74
7. Marion, FL	6	1.67
8. Cumberland, PA	4	1.59
9. Dutchess, NY	4	1.35
10. Brevard, FL	7	1.18

Source: George Washington University Program on Extremism, as of April 6, with a ranking by The Current of counties with a minimum of 4 cases. The results may reflect arrests of people who traveled to the Capitol together, such as in three of the five Putnam cases.

### The Accused

Number of arrests

**39** Average age

87 Percent who are men

**3** Percent with military experience

**BO** Percent who have pleaded guilty

Source: George Washington University Program on Extremism, as of April 6

trial date in October. On April 5, Lang's defense filed a motion to dismiss one of the counts, obstruction of an official proceeding, arguing that the law applies only to a proceeding before a tribunal. Further, they argued, "his presence near the Capitol did not directly go after the vote counting."

#### Roberto Minuta, Newburgh

Arrested March 8, 2021

Released on personal recognizance

An FBI agent testified that Minuta, 37, was at the Capitol "equipped with militarystyle attire and gear," including ballistic goggles, a radio earpiece and radio, hardknuckle tactical gloves, bear spray and apparel emblazoned with a crest related to the Oath Keepers militia. He "aggressively berated and taunted" police officers before entering the building, the agent said. Minuta, who owns a tattoo parlor in Newburgh but lives in Texas, was indicted with 17 other alleged members of the Oath



Will Pepe of Beacon appears inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a news photo submitted as part of the FBI's charging documents.



An image from a video taken on Jan. 6 at the Capitol shows a man identified as Gregory R. Purdy Jr. of Carmel pushing on a barricade erected by police.

Keepers. He was indicted on Jan. 12 on five counts: seditious conspiracy; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of an official proceeding; conspiracy to prevent an officer from discharging any duties; and tampering with documents or proceedings. Minuta pleaded not guilty on Jan. 25 and a trial is scheduled for July 11.

#### Will Pepe, Beacon

- Arrested Jan. 12, 2021
- Released on personal recognizance

Prosecutors allege Pepe, Dominic Pezzola of Rochester and Matthew Greene of Syracuse acted together as members of the farright Proud Boys by coordinating travel and lodging, using earpieces and radios to communicate, dismantling barriers and breaking windows. All three pleaded not guilty. Following his arrest, Pepe was fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. He was indicted on four counts: conspiracy; assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers; entering a restricted building or grounds; and aiding and abetting. The next status conference is scheduled for May 4.

#### Gregory Purdy Jr., Kent

Arrested Nov. 10

- Released on personal recognizance
- A 2016 Carmel High School graduate, the

24-year-old was one of six candidates in May 2020 for two seats on the Carmel school board (he finished fifth) and in 2016 managed a campaign by his father, Gregory Purdy-Schwartz, a Republican who hoped to unseat longtime state Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown and Kent. Purdy Jr. was indicted on Jan. 14 on nine charges that included assaulting, resisting or impeding police officers and illegal entry. Purdy's uncle, Robert Turner, 39, of Poughkeepsie, who traveled with him and faces the same charges, was arrested Nov. 22. Both have pleaded not guilty. A status conference is scheduled for April 29.

#### Matthew Purdy, Kent

- Arrested Nov. 10
- Released on personal recognizance

Gregory Purdy's younger brother, 22 and also a Carmel High School grad, was indicted on Jan. 14 on four counts, including disorderly conduct and illegal entry. He has pleaded not guilty; a status conference is scheduled for April 29.

#### William Vogel, Pawling

- Arrested Jan. 26, 2021
- Released on personal recognizance

The FBI says Vogel, 27, recorded himself inside the Capitol and posted the video to Snapchat. He pleaded not guilty to unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and violent entry. The government has made a plea offer; his next hearing is May 25.

#### Anthony Vuksanaj, Mahopac

#### Arrested Sept. 30

Released on personal recognizance

Vuksanaj, 52, pleaded not guilty to charges of trespassing, disorderly conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing. An FBI agent said that police had detained Vuksanaj on June 6, 2020, in connection witha robbery at knifepoint. He denied being involved but a search warrant revealed that his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said. On Jan. 20, Vuksanaj pleaded guilty to a single count (parading, demonstrating or picketing) as part of a plea agreement. His sentencing is scheduled for April 29, and he faces up to six months in prison.

### **Beacon School Board**

(from Page 1)

In addition, district voters will be asked to approve the school system's 2022-23 budget.

District officials have proposed a \$78.7 million budget, a 2.7 percent increase over last year, but state aid, which has not been finalized, could impact the numbers, Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi told the school board on Monday (April 4).

The district is working with a placeholder figure of about \$30.3 million from the state close to what it received last year. However, "the governor's proposal did have an increase in foundation aid and, looking at the Senate and Assembly projections, it looks like they are going to further increase state aid," Quartironi said. The state budget is typically adopted by April a1 but has been delayed.

The state's tax cap, combined with an additional allowance based on residential growth, means that the Beacon district can increase its tax levy by \$1.7 million, or 3.87 percent. Last year's levy was \$42.6 million.

Quartironi said on Monday that she could not estimate the property tax impact on residents until the state numbers are finalized. The use of district reserves is expected to increase by \$550,000, to \$3 million, also depending on state funding.

### School Buses (from Page 1)

cies to find and fine drivers.

The cameras, installed on the exterior of the bus, work in tandem with the red stopsign arm that extends when the bus stops for students.

The images and recordings of suspected violations would be sent to the county and destroyed 90 days after resolution of a case. Fines range from \$250 for the first offense to \$300 for the third or subsequent violations within 18 months.

The legislative resolution authorizing the project did not state how much it would cost or whether the county would run the program directly or, instead, outsource its management to a private company.

However, in a presentation to the Legislature's Protective Services Committee in February, Jean Souliere, chief executive of BusPatrol, a firm that provides and moni-

Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K,	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
23,687	423,290	7-day average::	82.4	<b>121</b> (0)
(+137)	(+3,044)	<b>19.8</b> (+7.4)	Cold Spring (10516): <b>93.5</b> Garrison (10524): <b>86.1</b>	
DUTCHESS COUN	ITY			
Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K,	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
64,040	1,313,099	7-day average::	76.9	<b>655</b> (0)
(+255)	(+8,632)	<b>12_4</b> (+4.8)	Beacon (12508): <b>71.7</b>	

If approved, the budget will provide a new full-time pre-K staff person, which would allow the district to serve 72 pre-K students with a full-day program at each of its four elementary schools. A district-wide full-day program started this year but, although it serves about the same number of students, is housed exclusively at Glenham Elementary.

The district would also add a business teacher, a special education teacher focused on math and an English teacher at Beacon High School, which will transition to a nine-period day in the fall.

The budget proposal includes paying for an additional social worker (who has already been hired) shared by the high school and Rombout Middle School: a world language teacher for Italian instruction; and, tentatively, a part-time music teacher for the elementary schools and Rombout.

Three one-year special assignment positions - a restorative practices support person at Beacon High School: an elementary/middle response-to-intervention coordinator, who will work with administrators to support teachers and students; and an

elementary-level social/emotional coordinator - are being added and paid for with federal pandemic funding and will be re-evaluated after a year.

The May ballot will also include a  $545{,}124$ bus proposition that, if approved, would allow the district to buy three 72-passenger buses and three 20-passenger vans. The purchases would be financed over five years to coincide with state aid payments.

The school board will vote on the budget proposal during its April 21 meeting before putting the plan to voters.

tors school bus camera systems in several states and Canadian provinces, said that a camera program is "100 percent violatorfunded" by fines.

Citing data from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, Souliere said that an estimated 17 million school bus stop-arm traffic violations occur annually in the U.S. School bus camera systems discourage infractions, he added, and "98 percent of the violators who get a ticket don't illegally pass a school bus a second time."

BusPatrol, which launched a program in Dutchess County earlier this year, runs a pilot project in Westchester County and oversees cameras in 71 school districts in Suffolk County, he said.

In 2019, New York State adopted a law permitting school bus cameras. Eight months later, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that all states enact such legislation.

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville told the Protective Services Committee that "we support this effort 100 percent." Legislators were equally enthusiastic.

"These are tight roads in the county up here. It just makes no sense to pass a school bus that has a stop sign, flashing lights, etc.," said Legislator Joseph Castellano of Brewster. "This will put an end to it."

"This obviously is a win-win for everybody," said Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley. But she also urged that as Putnam prepares such measures it discuss them with leaders of the local jurisdictions. In this case, she said, school officials in her district did not know of the bus camera plans until she alerted them.

#### In other business ...

Montgomery similarly criticized Putnam's practice of having a small committee working behind the scenes to draft county charter amendments that are sent to the Legislature for ratification. "There is no bipartisan approach to this," said Montgomery, the Legislature's sole Democrat. "We should have community input," as well, when changing the charter, she said, before casting the lone "no" vote on a routine charter revision involving the finance commissioner's office.

Legislators unanimously approved the Putnam Arts Council's choice of 13 grant recipients, including the Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison (\$1.300 for "artist days"); Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring (\$1,000 for its Sunday afternoon music series); Garrison Landing Association (\$800 for the Aerv Theater Co. one-act play competition); and Butterfield Library in Cold Spring (\$800 for its writers reading program).



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# Garrison School Board Endorses 10 Percent Hike

Voters must decide whether to override cap By Joey Asher

he Garrison school board on Wednesday (April 6) unanimously adopted a proposed budget that includes a 10 percent tax increase, well above the state-mandated cap of 2.2 percent. On May 17, voters will decide whether to approve the budget and "override" the cap, which requires 60 percent of the vote.

Superintendent Carl Albano said the district needs the increase to fund \$12.36 million in spending for 2022-23, an increase of 6 percent from this year. The 2021-22 budget, which was below the cap, was approved in May by a 185-61 vote.

The board adopted the budget by a vote of 6-0. Madalyn Julian, the sole trustee not present at the meeting, expressed support for the budget in a message read by Board President Sarah Tormey.

"There is no magic pill that that will save the situation and prevent us from making tough choices," said Trustee Kent Schacht. "Without this override, we're going to have to fundamentally change the educational experience of the school."



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**31 STEPHANIE LANE COLD SPRING, NY** www.thehighlandstudio.com "The stakes are high," Albano told the board and about 50 members of the public who attended the meeting in the school gym.

Without the increase, Albano said, the district — which has 211 students from kindergarten through eighth grade and projects the same for next year — will need to cut programs and possibly limit the choice of high schools for its eighth graders. Garrison pays tuition 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.

If the override fails on May 17, the board can submit the same or a revised version of the budget for voter approval on June 21. The district could also adopt a contingency budget with no tax increase. Joe Jimick, the district business administrator, said a contingency budget would require \$1 million in cuts to avoid depleting the district's reserves.

About 10 members of the public spoke at the meeting, most expressing support for the override.

"Without this override, our kids, our community, our school will suffer," said Ned Rauch, president of the Garrison School PTA. Amy Kuchara, president of the Garrison Teachers Association, also spoke in support.

The lone dissenter heard at the meeting was former Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who urged the board to consider a 5 percent increase. "My concern is for the seniors in this community that want to stay in their homes and who are on a fixed income," she said.

Even if the district raised taxes to the 2.2 percent cap, there would be a \$1.3 million gap under the proposed budget, said Jimick. About 42 percent of the spending is driven by increases largely outside of district control, he said, such as health insurance, transportation and the tuition paid for its high school students, which Haldane has raised over the past two years to a state-determined maximum (expected to be about \$21,500 per student in 2022-23), rather than a negotiated rate in which the district charged \$13,980 per student in 2020-21. O'Neill also will charge its full rate, about \$17,000.

The Garrison property tax rate is \$9.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which means that a property valued at \$500,000 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. If approved by the voters, the budget would require a rate of \$10.72 per \$1,000, or \$5,360.

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 provide 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.

### \$57.1 MILLION sent to Dutchess

### COVID Funds (from Page 1)

Dutchess County's largest ARP-funded project, according to a report released by Comptroller Robin Lois, a Democrat, on March 31. Dutchess received its first installment of ARP funding, \$28.6 million, on May 24. The second installment, for the same amount, is expected next month.

Congress imposed two limits on ARP spending: It cannot be used to contribute to pension funds or to cut taxes. The U.S. Treasury also issued guidelines for local governments on acceptable uses, which include:

- To respond to the pandemic or its economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or to provide aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- To provide extra pay to workers who performed essential work during the pandemic;
- To pay for government services that had a reduction in revenue because of the pandemic; and
- To invest in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

"Large capital expenditures intended for general economic development or to aid the travel, tourism and hospitality industries — such as convention centers and stadiums — are, on balance, generally not reasonably proportional to addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic," the Treasury said.

As of Dec. 31, Dutchess had budgeted \$34 million of the funds and spent or allocated \$8.5 million, according to the comptroller's report.

"Investment in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure is surprisingly low at \$1.7 million, particularly compared to the stadium spending," noted Lois.

### YOUTH

#### Learn, Play, Create — \$3 million

Nine rounds of grants in 2021 went to nonprofits that work with children and teens, including the Beacon Performing Arts Center (\$15K), Beacon Soccer Club (\$20K), Howland Public Library (\$50K) and I Am Beacon (\$20K).

#### Summer Employment Program - \$100,000

This outlay offers funding for nonprofits, such as the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, the Art Effect of the Hudson Valley and Hudson River Housing, to hire underserved teens.

#### Youth Opportunity Center — \$10 million

These funds cover about 40 percent of the cost of a new \$25 million center in Poughkeepsie.

#### PARKS

#### Stadium Additions — \$11.6 million

Along with a \$900,000 state grant, this money will fund an \$8.4 million clubhouse; \$2.9 million club space and bullpen relocation; \$225,000 for a sign near I-84; and a \$975,000 pitching/batting facility for the Hudson Valley Renegades, who are affiliated with the New York Yankees. A 25-year lease agreement signed in June allowed the Renegades to back out if the Legislature did not provide \$12.5 million for stadium improvements.

#### Land Purchase - \$630,000

This money will be used to purchase the land beneath Dutchess Stadium from Beacon school district.

#### Parks Projects – \$5 million

This money will pay for more free amenities, such as splash pads, playgrounds and walking and biking trails.

#### **JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### Emergency Communications System – \$6 million

This money will fund the development, installation and deployment of a two-way radio system that will provide "a coordinated platform" for emergency services, according to Molinaro.

#### Micro-Marketing Program - \$284,250

These funds will provide aid to 45 small businesses that are mostly owned by disadvantaged and underserved populations such as women, minorities and veterans.

#### Build Now-NY - \$350,000

This money will be used to provide "shovel-ready certification" for high-tech manufacturing, warehouse/ distribution and business and technology parks near the Hudson Valley Regional Airport in the Town of Wappinger.

#### Leisure and Hospitality Skills Training - \$150,000

These funds will be used by Dutchess Tourism and New York State Technology to train displaced workers.

#### Skills Training Facility – \$1.2 million

This money will fund a 10,000-square-foot regional center at the southern Dutchess Community College campus in Fishkill.

#### High-Speed Internet/Broadband - \$1 million

This money will be used to hire a consultant to conduct a survey and gap analysis (\$350,000) and address the most critical needs it identifies (\$650,000).

#### Water Storage - \$730,000

This money will help pay for a facility for the Central Dutchess Transmission Line, Dutchess County Airport Water Line and Hudson Valley Regional Airport, and "extend the availability of potable water to more communities," according to Molinaro.

#### COMMUNITY

#### Agency Partner Grants – \$3 million

These funds will be distributed to nonprofits to provide "programs and services to residents who are most in need as a result of the pandemic," according to Molinaro.

#### Homeless Housing & Case Management – 6.07 million

This money will be used to purchase and rehab a Poughkeepsie building to provide emergency housing.

#### Municipal Investment Grants - \$1 million

This money will fund projects in the towns of Beekman, Dover, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, Milan, Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie and the Village of Millerton.

#### Behavioral Health RV - \$150,000

This money will help fund a mobile unit to provide health and behavioral health services.

#### Rehiring Public Sector - \$4.6 million

These funds will pay the salaries and benefits of employees hired over the next three years to replace those who left during pandemic budget cuts such as through early retirement offers. Ninety-six positions were kept vacant in the 2021 county budget.

#### Premium Pay – \$1.73 million

These funds will provide pay of up to \$13 per hour to a maximum of \$1,000 to county employees for essential work during the pandemic.

#### Administration - \$500,000

These funds will cover the work of employees to distribute and monitor ARP funding.

Sources: "The American Rescue Plan Act: State and Local Funding Breakdown," Rockefeller Institute of Government (rockinst.org), March 24; "Special Report: Dutchess County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update," Office of the Dutchess County Comptroller, March; "Dutchess Investis Investing American Rescue Plan Funds in Our Community," Dutchess County Executive, 2021



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#### Lawsuit (from Page 1)

According to police reports, Giuffrida, 75, was struck in the center of the crosswalk by a vehicle turning south onto Teller from Main Street. She suffered a head injury and died that night at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

The driver of the 2019 Jeep Wrangler that struck Giuffrida, whom police have not identified, told an officer that Giuffrida was not visible "due to a blind spot from the front left 'A' pillar of the Jeep's frame" and sun glare. The accident occurred at about 3:11 p.m. The driver, who passed a field sobriety test, was issued a ticket for failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, police said.

The notice of claim indicates that unless the family receives "adjustment and payment," it plans to sue "for conscious pain and suffering"; medical, hospital and funeral expenses; emotional trauma; and "loss of love, comfort and companionship."

Chris White, Beacon's city administrator, said on Thursday (April 7) that he could not comment on pending litigation.



BODY FOUND AT DOCKSIDE — A man's body was found on the riverbank at Dockside Park in Cold Spring on Monday (April 4). As of Thursday, the Putnam County Sheriff's Department had not released any further information. Photo by Michael Turton

# Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

### Village to ask Metro-North to keep Breakneck platform closed

#### **By Michael Turton**

ith the hiking season about to begin in earnest, the Village of Cold Spring said it plans to ask Metro-North to keep its stop at Breakneck Ridge closed.

Deputy Mayor Tweeps Woods, who chaired the Wednesday (April 6) meeting in Mayor Kathleen Foley's absence, cited the amount of time that first responders spend rescuing injured and stranded hikers from Breakneck's trails.

Woods said the request, which is also being made by the Town of Philipstown, will help bring to light safety issues at Breakneck, prompting further discussion with state officials.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck agreed that Breakneck rescues put "a crazy burden on our emergency service providers" but cautioned that with the Breakneck platform closed, hikers will walk there from Cold Spring up Route 9D, a situation she said is also unsafe. Woods said she supports keeping the platform closed "until the Fjord Trail is at least partially up and running." Trustees Joe Curto and Cathryn Fadde also expressed support for asking Metro-North not to reopen the platform.

The village has asked the Fjord Trail organization to provide an update to its plans at a public meeting at the firehouse in May. No date has been set.

#### In other business ...

■ A public hearing on the proposed 2022-23 budget is scheduled for Wednesday (April 13) at 7 p.m. via Zoom. After adjustments made over the last week, the estimated increase in the tax rate has fallen to 1.95 percent, from 2.16 percent. The final rate will be determined later this month after Putnam County updates the tax assessment rolls. No changes were made to the proposed water and sewer budgets, which are funded through usage fees.

■ Curto suggested that, with the public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel opening within days, the village discuss with the Chamber of Commerce long-term options for cleaning and heating the facility.

■ The removal of mold in the basement of the Cold Spring firehouse has been completed.

■ Village officials met with Metro-North representatives to discuss options for fixing persistent water leakage in the walls of the pedestrian tunnel under the tracks.



# **The Calendar**





"Flying People #8"

vivid color and concept, both of which have been central to his work. He says they also reflect the joyful anarchy he experienced at the pool.

"I had no idea what I was in for — just going for a swim was exciting for us," he recalls of the visit. "The diving board was completely unsupervised, with people jumping off in groups, having so much fun doing outrageous and dangerous behavior. It became a high point of the vacation. Looking at the images I took, later, I began to associate them with Southern California — there was something about that blue sky."

The sky framing the swimmers reminded Westphal of *Throwing Three Balls*, but he sensed there was more he could do. He decided to add "office dots" to the prints and photograph them, "throwing the viewer off-balance, further disorienting them and initiating a form of collaboration between the people, the balls and the sky." It all fit squarely into a lineage of pattern and color focus, particularly after he rearranged the images.

As Westphal puts it, his work is most often a "playful exploration of the visually incongruous. What I primarily do in photography is come to terms with what's happening, using different approaches to understanding. I had pretty fancy training in theory — Cal Arts has a reputation for that. I read and read all these ideas about art-making, but found there wasn't much time to make art. I was intimidated, but found it to be an interesting place with wild stuff happening all over."

After moving to New York City, Westphal became interested in performance art. "I lived on the corner of Broome and Center streets, big wide streets, old thoroughfares with tons of honking," he says. "I knew I couldn't win that fight, so I thought, 'Maybe it's time to embrace the noise.' I made a symphony out of the honking and shot video. I also had a show in a mini-storage space with art made from stuff I found on the street, so they dovetailed."

Another project came from drugstore observations.

"I'd stare at bottles and containers of mouthwash and tubes of toothpaste and think about the many meanings of, say, the color of toothpaste, how it's designed to be put in the mouth, then spat out," he says. "I love the idea of people out there trying to make things tempting for us, down to the names of nail polish. I started collecting them, finding them really photogenic.

"Flying People #1"
so I thought, "I decided to 'redo' Mondrian's paintings," he says. "I collected many [nailpolish] colors, poured them out, used a ruler, cut them into strips and rearranged them in Mondrian's shapes, proportions, colors. I was pointedly looking for shiny, fake things and recontextualizing; it's a

> "I get a lot of 'Hmmm, your work is so interesting now that I've spoken to you,' " he says. "I'm OK with that. A friend planted a seed in my head: The artist should stand in front of his or her work and be able to talk to people, defend the work. Put yourself in front: It's me, my work, I'm comfortable with it. You will learn stuff about how people perceive what you're doing."

mission I'm still exploring.



Dirk Westphal

Photos provided

"Flying People #5"

# Falling Into Space

# Garrison artist mounts online show

#### **By Alison Rooney**

hen Dirk Westphal headed to a public pool on a clear day in Freiburg, Germany, his family in tow, he had no idea that the excursion would inspire art.

His photographic series, *Flying People aka Love note to Johnny B*, is on view through April 25 at Artsy.com (bit.ly/westphal-show). Each of the 18 images captures a swimmer leaping from a 10-meter platform.

Westphal, who lives and works in Garrison, says the series, completed in 2021, pays homage to the late conceptual artist John Baldessari, who was among Westphal's teachers at the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita. The images themselves, taken with a mobile phone, are a tribute to one of Baldessari's best-known series, *Throwing Three Balls in the Air* to Get a Straight Line (Best of Thirty-Six Attempts), from 1973.

Westphal emphasizes his affinity for



"Back Porch, Screen Door, Black and Brown Paper Wasp"

"Dan's Porch Light, Evening, Green Stink Bug"

# Who's Bugging Whom?

### Beacon show focuses on microscopic portraits By Alison Rooney

f a portrait can commemorate a human life, how are other species presented? Not just documented, but honored? Photographer Daniel Kariko examines

that concept with his series of photographs, Suburban Symbiosis, some of which will be shown at the Garage Gallery in Beacon as part of a show called *Original Species* that begins with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday (April 9).

Through a process of his own invention that involves two microscopes, Kariko captures insects and other arthropods — the kind that land on windshields or get dusted off shelves. In a nod to northern European Baroque painters, he then creates portraits that reflect his "fascination with how people think of nature as a collection."

Kariko, a professor of fine art photography at the School of Arts and Design at East Carolina University, works largely in exploring connections between human relationships and the environment.

Some of his other projects — he usually works on several long-term studies concurrently — include surveying and documenting damage from Hurricane Ida, and, less broadly, photographing his family in Serbia, whom he left in 1994 at age 17. He was living in Thibodaux, Louisiana, while on a student exchange program and decided he wanted to stay in the U.S. After enrolling at Nicholls State University in Louisiana, he shifted his focus from mechanical drafting to photography. A microscope demonstration during an open house at the biology lab piqued his interest. "I immediately thought about how I could use them for art," he says.

Once exposed to the idea of an unseen world, he became more attuned to the insects around his house. Rather than swatting them away, he collected them and began photographing them using two microscopes: one that includes a scanning electron, which could pinpoint minute details in black and white, and a



"Front Porch, Doormat, Dryophthorine Weevil"

"Car windshield, Grape Leaf Skeletonizer "

"Backyard Shed Window, Ailanthus Webworm Moth"



more-traditional one that he uses for color and a laborious process of layering, often running 20 hours to complete a portrait and using multiple exposures.

"I was trained to use the microscope, then I sort of invented the process," he says. "I wanted to make individual, anthropomorphized creatures full of character."

"The intent was to demonstrate that we are not living in these hermetically sealed boxes," he has said. "These creatures are a reflection of the landscape we are occupying as humans. We think of them in terms of eliminating the threat of them, these bugs. We as humans have plopped our homes on the lands that have existed before us. We are the ones who are new to their environment."

Kariko's project, which began in 2011, wound up taking eight years. He made about 35 portraits, received a book contract, made about 45 more, and then 56 were included in *Aliens Among Us: Extraordinary Portraits of Ordinary Bugs*, which was published in 2020.

"I tend to do things the hard way," Kariko says. "For most scientists, spending 25 hours on a single image is ludicrous, but as artists, we're happy to do this. But not many artists have access to that sort of equipment." While making his portraits and speaking with entomologists, he says, "it became painfully obvious that a lot of insects are undergoing extinction. It's a silent disappearance. These insects are extremely important in our existence, not just as pollinators but because they get rid of bad things. That's something that I'm trying to put out."

Garage Gallery is located at 11 North Elm St., in Beacon. Original Species, which also includes paintings by Laura Gurton, runs through May 1. See garagegallery.com.



Daniel Kariko

Photo provided





"Inside Hallway Window, Green Lacewing"



"Under a Flowerpot Saucer, Pillbug"

# **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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



#### **TALKS & TOURS**

#### **MON 11** Building a \$100M **Business with Instagram** BEACON

6 p.m. Happy Valley | 296 Main St. hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com/ events

In this workshop sponsored by Hudson Valley Women in Business, Megan Brenn-White, who built a real-estate business on the social media site, will discuss how to maximize trends while being yourself online. Cost: \$15

#### **TUES 12**

#### **Veterans Financial** Health

POLIGHKEEPSIE 5:30 p.m. VFW Post 170 1 Violet Ave.

Dinner will be provided during this seminar, which will focus on income tax filing, budgeting and credit scores. Email comptroller@ dutchessny.gov to RSVP.

#### **TUES 12**

#### **Discussion for Men Living With Loss** YORKTOWN

7 p.m. Via Zoom | support connection.org Support Connection will facilitate this meeting for men who have lost spouses or partners to breast. ovarian or gynecological cancer. Register by calling 914-962-6402.

#### COMMUNITY

#### **Garden Restoration** GARRISON

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. New Leaf Routes 9D and 403 Help prepare the community garden for the 2022 season, which begins SAT 23. RSVP to info@ newleaf-restoration.org.

#### SAT 9

SAT 9

#### **Highland Lights** 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. Also SUN 10. Registration, masks and proof of vaccination required.

#### VISUAL ARTS

#### **SAT 16** The Politics of Labor in **Postwar Italian Art** PHILIPSTOWN

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

Adrian Duran, an art history professor at the University of Nebraska, will discuss the work of eight Italian artists while exploring the decade before the emergence of Arte Provera. Free

#### **SAT 16** Love as Substance BEACON

4 - 7 p.m. Fridman Gallery 475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com This exhibition of Hana Yilma Godine's paintings created during

her gallery residency will be on

# **Dare to Be Square**

5 - 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel lerv.com

Works by Shari Diamond, Norm Magnusson, Kathleen Vance and Tamara Rafkin will be on exhibit.



On SUN 10, the artists from *The* Narrative of Things will present a talk at 3 p.m. to close their exhibit.

#### KIDS & FAMILY

#### SAT 9

#### **Grasshopper Grove** CORNWAL

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 120 Muser Drive 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org

The outdoor natural play space, which encourages interaction with the elements, kicks off its 2022 season. Cost: \$5 (members and ages 2 and younger free)

#### SAT 9 Saturday Studio on the Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS 10:30 a.m. Common Ground Farm 79 Farmstead Lane

diaart.org/program/calendar This outdoor workshop of artmaking and exploration is offered in partnership with Dia:Beacon for ages 5 and older. Registration required. Free

#### SAT 9 **Easter Egg Hunt** COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Tots Park

Children ages 8 and younger can search for eggs at this event organized by the Knights of Columbus. Bring a can of food for the Philipstown Food Pantry. The rain date is SAT 16.

## Spring Egg Hunt

2 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Meet in the Reading Garden and bring a basket to collect eggs. Registration required. The rain date is SUN 10.

#### **TUES 12**

Poem in Your Pocket Day **COLD SPRING** 

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

In celebration of National Poetry Month, middle school students can read and discuss poems, then write their own to be read at an open mic.

#### **Easter Card Craft** COLD SPRING

**WED 13** 

workshop.

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org All the materials will be available to create a greeting at this all-ages

**STAGE & SCREEN** 

#### SAT 9 **Ariane Original One-Act Festival** GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900 philipstowndepottheatre.org

The program for the 10th annual festival will include Double Date, by Albi Gorn; Ode to Flannery, by Evelyn Mertens; In This Waterfront, by Nick DeSimone; The Patronizers, by Patrick Lennon; and Coaching Mozart, by Richard Knipe Jr. Also SUN 10. Cost: \$20

# SAT 9

#### **Comedy Variety Show** BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org Joev Dardano, an actor, comedian and TikTok star, will be the featured performer. Cost: \$20



#### **SUN 10 Poet's Corner** PUTNAM VALLEY

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

Michael Steffen will read from his collection, Blood Narrative, followed by an open mic.

#### SECOND SATURDAY

#### SAT 9

#### Sawdust Body / The Zoo BEACON

Noon - 6 p.m. Ethan Cohen KuBe 211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270 ecfa.com

This exhibition of sculptures made by Aleksandr Razin using industrial found materials will be on view through May 22.

#### SAT 9 **Original Species** BEACON

1 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

Photographs by Daniel Kariko and paintings by Laura Gurton will be on display. See Page 12.

# view through May 31. **SAT 16**

NEWBURGH

46 Chambers St. | hollandtunnelgal-



#### SAT 9 **Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West**

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

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

#### SAT 9 The Transylvania Effect BEACON

4 - 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery 150 Main St. | 845-831-6346 bannermancastle.org

K.P. Devlin's surrealist paintings of moonlit scenes will be on view through May 29.



#### **SAT 16 Farm to Table** BEACON

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

Karen Gersch curated this exhibit of work by 22 artists on "the bounty of Beacon and beyond."

### MUSIC

#### SAT 9 **KJ Denhert**

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org

The singer, songwriter and guitarist will play her signature style of urban folk and jazz with her band: Adam Armstrong, Eric Halvorson, Mark McIntyre and Nicki Denner. Cost: \$20

#### SAT 9 Lez Zeppelin PEEKSKILL

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

The all-female quartet founded by guitarist Steph Paynes in 2004 will pay homage to Led Zeppelin. Cost: \$20 to \$49



#### **SUN 10**

The Americana singer and

Johnny Dowd

will open.

BEACON

Ukraine.

songwriter and winner of Season

Tom Gogola's Midnight Cilantro

**Benefit for Ukraine** 

6:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar

173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

Hosted by Jen Malenke and

Broadway singers, international

musicians and other local acts.

Proceeds will benefit Razom for

Nicole Tori, this concert will include

#### **David Jacobs-Strain and Bob Beach** BEACON

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

The slide guitar player and singer will share the stage with Beach on harmonica as they go through blues to "swampy" rock 'n' roll. Cost: \$20

### **Geoff Vidal Rhythm** BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.

facebook.com/quinnsbeacon Bryan Ponton, Jongyoon Lee, Sam Minae and Guerin Williams will perform for the weekly jazz

#### BEACON

7 p.m. Two Way Brewing Co. 18 W. Main St. I twowaybrewing.com The soul-folk singer and songwriter will perform

#### **FRI 15 Daisy Jopling Band** BEACON

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

Brother Jax, April 15

The classical and rock violinist will perform with Jeff Miller (piano), Lavondo Thomas (bass). Simon Fishburn (drums) and Sal Lagonia (trumpet). Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)

#### **SAT 16**

#### **Jason Gisser Band BEACON**

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com The soul-rock band will play

music from its forthcoming album. Singer and songwriter Rob Cannillo will open. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)

**SAT 16** 

#### **Art Thief**

BEACON 9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St. facebook.com/quinnsbeacon The band, with Sam Smith, Andrew Jordan, Joe Spinelli and

Bryan Ponton, will take the stage.

### CIVIC

**MON 11 City Council** 

1 Municipal Plaza | 845-838-5011

#### **Dutchess Legislature** POUGHKEEPSIE

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

#### **WED 13**

#### **Public Hearing** NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall 258 Main St. | 845-265-2500 nelsonvilleny.gov Residents may comment on the proposed 2022-23 budget.

## EASTER SERVICES

#### **SUN 17** St. Philip's Episcopal

GARRISON 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. | 1101 Route 9D stphilipshighlands.org An egg hunt will follow at 11:15 a.m.

#### **Our Lady of Loretto** COLD SPRING

8:30 a.m. & Noon. | 24 Fair St. 845-265-3718 | ladyofloretto.org

#### **First Presbyterian**

BEACON 10 a.m. | 50 Liberty St. beaconpresbychurch.org

#### St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal

BEACON 10 a.m. | 15 South Ave. beacon-episcopal.org

# St. Mary's Episcopal

COLD SPRING 10 a.m. | 1 Chestnut St. 845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org An egg hunt will follow Mass.

#### **Tabernacle of Christ** BEACON

10 a.m. | 483 Main St. 845-831-4656 tabernacleofchristchurch.com

#### **First Presbyterian of** Philipstown **COLD SPRING**

10:30 a.m. | 10 Academy St. 845-265-3220 presbychurchcoldspring.org

#### **Highlands Choral** Society **COLD SPRING** 11 a.m. 216 Main St. highlandschapel.org

BEACON 7 p.m. City Hall beaconny.gov **MON 11** 

series. Cost: \$15

#### **FRI 15 Brother Jax**



Original Species (Laura Gurton), April 9 De Obox

#### music from his albums, including Flowers for You. Aria Anjali, a 13-year-old singer and songwriter, (\$25 door) will open. Cost: \$30 (\$35 door) **MON 11** Project

highlandscurrent.org



### A daily oasis for National Poetry Month

he Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison and *The Highlands Current* are back with another year of *One Poem a Day Won't Kill You!* 

Each day in April, a podcast recording will be posted at bit.ly/hear-poem-2022 featuring a community member reading a favorite published poem. Drop by to hear readings from Cathy Lilburne, Matt Clifton, Veronica Morgan and Beth Vardy. The 2020 and 2021 selections are also archived at the site.

Submissions are still being accepted. Visit the library and ask to read, or email a recording of yourself reading the poem to ryan@desmondfishlibrary.org. For technical assistance, see bit.ly/record-poem.

# Living Green The Big Waste Problem

By Krystal Ford

hen you clean out your fridge, you may notice leftovers gone fuzzy, or expired yogurt, or decaying fruit in the produce drawer. You may even feel

guilty, as I do, about throwing it away.

We all know how precious food is, even just subconsciously, but we may not realize how much we are wasting and how bad it is for the environment. By one estimate, nearly 40 percent of food produced in the U.S. is wasted, enough to feed more than 150 million people each year.

A huge amount of land and water goes into growing our food. Fossil fuels power the tractors and chemicals used to grow it, transport it, process it, package it, warehouse it and get it to the supermarkets. Our food system is energy-intensive and, according to a 2021 report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, produces the same carbon dioxide emissions as 42 coal-fired power plants, contributing to global warming.

The EPA estimates that food waste



makes up about 20 percent of municipal solid waste. The food that we toss into the trash is buried or incinerated. Burying food contributes to the creation in landfills of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Burning it contributes to air pollution.

Obviously, we need to stop wasting food. Growing your own food or shopping from local farms and businesses can reduce the emissions produced by trucking it over distances. Restaurants can offer smaller or half-portion sizes, and both grocery stores and restaurants can donate to hunger-relief organizations so that they can feed people in need.

Keep a list of the food you have on hand. Make a meal plan to minimize food waste and bring your shopping list with you when you buy groceries. Label and date items in the fridge. Freeze leftovers, food that you may not be able to use up in time, or bumper crops from your garden (just try to label with date and contents so you remember what it is). Experiment with scraps. Save your bones to make broth. Use kale stems to make kale stem pesto. SavetheFood.com is a great resource with tips on planning, recipes and storage.

Once you've prevented as much waste as possible, what's left can be composted at home, used as animal feed (chickens can be fed some table scraps) or sent to a recycling program for composting at a commercial facility.

The benefit of turning food scraps into



compost is that it won't produce methane and is a wonderful soil amendment. Not only does compost help plants grow, prevent soil erosion, reduce watering frequency and the need for chemical fertilizers, it can sequester carbon, as well.

Here's some great news: Beacon and Philipstown both plan to launch pilot foodscrap recycling programs.

We're taking away any barriers to composting — the cost of a bin, not knowing how to get started, not having your own yard. ~ Faye Leone

As Jeff Simms reported in *The Current* last week, Beacon is starting a six-month program on April 15 to provide free residential food-scrap recycling at three dropoff spots (the Churchill Street parking lot, the Recreation Department and Memorial Park). It also has distributed 100 bins to residents for home composting.

"We're taking away any barriers to composting — the cost of a bin, not knowing how to get started, not having your own yard," Faye Leone, the Climate Smart program coordinator for Beacon, told me. "People are enthusiastic about doing this as part of a collective. And once you start recycling your food scraps, you'll never see them as trash again."

Email questions to compost@beaconny. gov or visit bit.ly/beacon-sustainability.

Philipstown will be launching an eightmonth pilot program to provide residential food-scrap recycling drop-off for 200 families at the Town Recycling Center (59 Lane Gate Road) on Saturdays starting in May. Drop-off will be free but participants will be asked to purchase a startup kit. The pilot program "is an important first step," said Karen Ertl, who is a member of the town's Food Scrap Advisory Committee.

You can learn more about the food-scrap recycling program at the Earth Day Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 23 at Boscobel in Garrison. Or see philipstown.com or climatesmartphilipstown.org.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 10 – Palm Sunday 8:00 am - Holy Communion 10:00 am - Holy Communion

April 14 – Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm - Holy Communion

April 15 – Good Friday 12 noon - Ecumenical Good Friday Service, St. Mary's Church, Cold Spring 4:00 pm - Children's Service

April 17 – Easter Sunday 8:00 am - Holy Communion 10:00 am - Holy Communion with Easter Egg Hunt



with

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1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524 845-424-3571 stphilipshighlands.org THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

# The Yolks on You

By Joe Dizney

t started with a hesitant but desperate entreaty from my neighbor: "The

hens are producing like crazy. How many dozen would you like?"

Dozen? I do love me some fresh yard eggs, but I am a household of one. And although I recently found a local source that delivers a regular supply of multi-hued, orangeyolked wonders, free trumps the already low price I was paying. I acquiesced, thankful for one more of the small, welcomed blessings of living in a still-somewhat-rural Hudson Valley.

It's the time of year: increasing hours of daylight and warmer temperatures stir more than just human spirits. The same Austrolarps (one of the more prolific breeds of laying hens) had been, if not dormant for the winter months, certainly less ovogenerative. Seemingly, production had picked up exponentially.

Science insists that it is the rare hen who can lay more than one egg a day, but compared to recent history, the henhouse output belied that factoid. Then again, maybe it's less that laying picks up in the spring, rather than it drops off in winter.

Still, it's telling that spring's first major holiday is secularly observed by the wholesale dyeing and hiding of eggs (as if anyone actually ever eats them) among other festive observances of fertility and fecundity.

By definition, the egg, an ovum, designates the female reproductive cell of most any living creature. All God's creatures - aquatic, amphibian and terrestrial got 'em. Eggs have been around for 340 million years, while homo sapiens for a mere 300.000. We have been partial to the eggs of other species as a source of protein for almost as long.

The red junglefowl (Gallus gallus), native to Southeast Asia, is thought to be the earliest ancestor of our egg-laving chickens. which became Gallus gallus domesticus about 8,000 BCE. They were domesticated for fighting and ceremonies and not raised as food until 4.000 BCE.

Which came first? Chicken? Egg? Case closed.

The reproductive nucleus is a spot that is barely 1 percent of the yolk, the primary source of vitamin and mineral nutrients. The 6-to-8 grams of protein in a 70-calorie egg are spread equally throughout the yolk and egg white.

About those whites: About 90 percent is water. When eggs are fresh, the proteins and water are in a fairly uniform suspension. But as an egg ages, the white separates a bit, giving you a pretty handy way to judge how fresh your eggs are: the runnier, the older the egg.

Science aside, eggs are one of the most important culinary staples, capable of a headlining role.

Let's talk yolks. Honestly, if eggs were made only of whites, would you even be interested? Research suggests the cholesterol in eggs, mainly found in the yolks, does not impact blood serum cholesterol levels to the extent once believed. Those who still choose to err on the side of caution suggest a half-dozen eggs a week is acceptable.

Science aside, eggs are one of the most important culinary staples, capable of a headlining role but possibly most useful in combination with other ingredients to create wondrous sauces, souffles, custards and baked goods, both sweet and savory, any time, day or night.

This dish asks nothing but a pinch of salt and crisp toast spears - the Brits call them "soldiers" – to scoop out the good stuff and a small spoon to finish off the rest. Now, that's a celebration.



# **Soft-Boiled Eggs and Soldiers**

#### Serves 1

2 large free-range eggs, a fresh as possible, at room temperature

1 to 2 slices of good bread, your choice, crusts removed, toasted and cut into 1x4-inch batons ("soldiers")

1. Fill a medium saucepan with enough water to cover eggs by an inch or so and bring it to a steady medium boil. (You will wait for the water to boil before adding the eggs.)

2. Make a very small hole (I use a pushpin) in the wide end of each roomtemperature egg. (This will reduce the chances of the shell cracking as the white cooks and expands.) Carefully lower the eggs into the pot using a spoon.

3. While the eggs cook, toast the bread slices. Boil eggs for 5 minutes only to achieve a runny yolk. When the eggs are done, remove them from pan and drain quickly. Crack or slice the ½-inch or so from the small end of an egg. (A quick, definitive whack with a large, sharp knife makes short work of this in the absence of those cute little egg scissors that will just end up taking space in your kitchen drawer.)

4. Serve one at a time, preferably in a proper egg cup. Salt (and pepper if you must) to taste, dipping the soldiers in the yolk and finishing the rest with a spoon.







The Highlands Choral Society is nondenominational and welcomes people of all faiths or none at all. **Highlands Chapel-Cold Spring** services are Sundays, 11:00 AM. Services feature music, fellowship reflection and prayer. We also offer Sunday School and Junior Choi 216 MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING, NY (COLD SPRING METHODIST CHURCH) HighlandsChapel.org

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Alawa (left) and Nikai (near right), two of the center's "ambassador" wolves



# There's a Place for Wolves

Conservation center protects two species that neared extinction

#### **By Michael Turton**

he debate over the presence of mountain lions in the lower Hudson Valley can get intense, but there is no argument we have wolves.

In fact, there are at least 30 within 25 miles of the Highlands.

The Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem has 34 residents, including 21 Mexican gray wolves and 10 red wolves; both species are considered critically endangered.

The center is part of a federal recoveryand-release program that places wolves back into their native habitat: the Mexican grays in the southwest U.S. and Mexico, and the red wolves in the American Southeast.

Nearing extinction, the last Mexican gray wolves were found in northern Mexico. The few remaining red wolves were located on the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The tiny populations became the breeding stock for centers such as the one in South Salem.

Both species are kept away from human contact, in large, fenced areas within the 35-acre, wooded site, to prepare them for life in the wild.

The northern Westchester center, estab-

lished in 1999, also has three "ambassador" wolves - Zephyr, Alawa and Nikai - who were born in captivity and are visible to visitors for educational purposes.

Wolves have been demonized for centuries but Maggie Howell, the center's executive director, debunks the myth that casts the animals as villains and aggressive maneaters.

"Generally, wolves aren't even seen in the wild," she says. Like most wild animals, "they want to be safe. They're elusive and do not appear in front of people."

A 2018 study published in Wilderness & Environmental Medicine found that most human deaths caused by animal encounters are not from wild animals like mountain lions, wolves, bears or sharks, but from farm animals; bee, wasp and hornet stings; and dog attacks.

Howell also challenges the idea that wolves kill large numbers of cattle and sheep. According to data collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nine times as many cattle and sheep die due to bad health, severe weather, birthing and theft than from attacks from predators. Compared to wolves, dogs and poison kill



Maggie Howell, executive director of The Wolf Conservation Center

five times as many cattle and sheep. Not only are wolves not villains, Howell says, they are environmentally friendly.

"Wolves play an important ecological role as a keystone predator," she says. "They can have a trickle-down impact on other plant and animal species in an ecosystem. Like everything else in nature, it's all connected."

The best documented example, she said, was when wolves were reintroduced to the northern range of Yellowstone National Park. "The rejuvenation of the landscape was remarkable," she says.

The lesson from Yellowstone is that "we should not take any animal entirely out of its native environment," Howell says.

While no predators prey on wolves, they do have competitors. "They'll compete with mountain lions, bears and coyotes, but their biggest competitor would be other wolves," Howell says. "The neighboring pack could be the competition; it can be a kind of warfare."

Wolves form tight bonds. They hunt together, nap together, love together and sing together. "It's all about family," Howell says. "Probably everything they do helps build those social bonds."

Their howling, she feels, is about longdistance communication – and fun. "If they're looking for a mate, they may have a 'Hey, I'm single' howl," she says, adding that wolves also harmonize just for the fun of it, much as humans do.

"It's like us sitting around a campfire or going to a concert and we're all singing along," she says. "It just feels good."

So, what do you feed 34 hungry wolves? Howell says because wolves will eat almost anything, the menu is "flexible." but always includes meat. Much of the food is donated by hunters cleaning out their freezer or supermarkets providing food that can no longer be sold.

Howell says octopus has been the craziest menu item and that the three ambassador wolves reacted very differently. "Zephyr and Alawa ate it like they were slurping down oysters; it was gone!" she recalls. "Nikai wasn't so sure; he thought it was a toy and kept throwing it up in the air."

Something odd happened at the center during the pandemic, although Howell sees it as only coincidence. Wolves generally breed in February and March, with litters born in May or early June. The year



Zephyr, the third ambassador wolf

before the pandemic saw 22 pups born at the center. But the seasons during COVID produced none.

This past February, Howell says, "something was in the air," as three wolf couples bred enthusiastically for a week, so much so that she considered adding a "parental warning" to the site's livestream. Her fingers are now crossed for some bountiful litters later this spring.

There has been progress, but the restoration of both species to healthy populations is far from complete. Red wolves were declared extinct in 1980. Today, there are 12 known to be living in the wild. Only a handful of Mexican gray wolves remained in the mid-1980s. Today there are 196, mainly in New Mexico and Arizona. Seven wolves born at the center have been reintroduced to their native habitat.

The center welcomes about 15,000 visitors annually, and many, including students, often ask how they can help wolves. Most of the center's funding comes from donations (online at nywolf.org), or from visitors who are inevitably impressed when they see Zephyr, Alawa and Nikai up close. "They're good fundraisers!" Howell says of the trio. But she says what is needed in the long term is a change in people's attitude toward the animals.

# **Beacon Plans Community Forums**

# Will address police reform, budget, climate

### By Jeff Simms

he Beacon City Council plans to hold the first of a series of quarterly community forums at 10 a.m. on April 30 at the Tompkins Hose fire station.

The council agreed in January to hold public sessions, each with a theme, "to make government more accessible and participatory," at-large member Paloma Wake said on Wednesday (April 6).

The April forum will cover community safety and police reform; a second will be held in June to discuss the city's operating budget and capital plans; and the third forum, planned for September, will examine climate goals and green infrastructure. A topic has not been set for the fourth forum, which is tentative for December.

The forums are inspired by the Ecological Citizen's Project, which has run numerous community-engagement projects, including the Philipstown Community Congress, a 2017 initiative organized by Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello, who own Long Haul Farm in Garrison and are active in climate change and food security issues.

"The purpose here is we want to gather ideas and feedback from the public — not just pitch ideas that we as a council already have," Wake explained during the council's March 28 workshop.

On April 30, Beacon residents will be asked to consider the question: What is a key aspect of community and public safety that is missing or requires improvement and that the city should provide?

That could include law enforcement as well as health care, food, housing and recreational resources — elements that, together, "encourage critical community connections, a sense of unity and belonging that are critical to our shared safety," council members wrote in an outline for the forum.

Beginning tomorrow (April 9), residents or groups of residents may submit ideas addressing the question and, in one to two sentences, offer a solution that's within the scope of municipal government. An online submission form has been posted on the city's website at bit.ly/BeaconCQ; paper forms are available at the Howland Public Library, the Recreation Department at 23 West Center St. and City Hall. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on April 22.

Individuals or groups submitting ideas will then have three to five minutes during the April 30 forum to pitch their plans to the council.

Afterward, the council will publish a ballot online and in the same locations where submissions were collected. City residents, whether they attended the forum or not, will be able to vote on the best proposals for the city to pursue.

The April 30 forum was initially planned to cover recreational needs in the city before the council pivoted to the community safety idea.

During the March 28 workshop, Mayor Lee Kyriacou noted that the city has already held three public safety forums in conjunction with the state-required Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative Report and also created a citizen advisory committee. "I'm not sure if [another forum] is going to give us new material," he said.

"I don't think there's a limit to how many ways people can feel safe," Council Member Justice McCray responded. "I would like to make sure I'm hearing from everyone."

# Beacon Planning Board

The Beacon Planning Board has a stacked agenda for its Tuesday (April 12) meeting, which will take place at City Hall at 7 p.m.

- The board will continue a public hearing on the proposed three-story, mixeduse building at 364 Main St.
- It will continue its review of applications for a three-story development at 172 Main St., a 62-unit development on West Main Street and the redevelopment of the historic Tioronda Estate, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric center.
- It will review an application for an indoor and outdoor event space at 4 Hanna Lane, across the street from Memorial Park.

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# The Highlands Current presents **PETOGRAPHY** A COLLECTION BY JIM DRATFIELD

**Opening reception Friday, April 22** | 6-8pm at *The Current's* offices – 142 Main St., Cold Spring MERCANTILE GIFTS & FRAMING

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# NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 21st, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY **AND** virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, **please visit the following link:** https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_kXY0noTsTsaUd5PZI46hnw

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 Passcode: 553571

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

OR email crockett@philipstown.com or nzuckerman@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on April 21st, 2022.

If you are unable to join in person, the meeting will be viewable on youtube. com, search for Philipstown Planning Board April 2022.



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# **Current Classifieds**

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HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST – HHLT is hiring for two positions: a director of conservation and a conservation stewardship manager. HHLT is a communitybased, 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 hhlt.org/about/employment-opportunities.

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#### **REAL ESTATE**

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APARTMENT WANTED —Mature professional female psychoanalyst seeking apartment rental, preferably with a flexible lease. Financially secure, responsible, able to provide references. Email lgordon11@ verizon.net.

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

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2022-2023 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, as well as the Exemption Report, listing every type of exemption granted, as provided in Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 3, 2022, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District's schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

- A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education as follows:
   Three (3) members to the Board of Education for three year terms (commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025).
- One (1) member for a two year and six week term (commencing May 17, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2024)

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2022-2023 School Year (the Budget).

C. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 21, 2022 authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$546,000; authorizing the issuance of \$546,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said onds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

D. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund, to be known as the "2022 Facilities Capital Reserve Fund," for the purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the cost of capital expenditures, including but not limited to: the construction and reconstruction of additions, renovations, refurbishments, replacements and/or repairs to its facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, appartus, appurtenances and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith; as well as and to plan for future District-wide capital improvement projects and expenditures, in the ultimate amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 over a probable term of ten (10) years; and that such amount shall be raised from the unexpended and unencumbered general fund balance and such other available funds, of the Beacon City School District?

E. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the 2022 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 / POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL Description: First Ward, First and Second Districts

Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

### SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 / POLLING LOCATION: GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Description:

- Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.
- Bounded on the north by the common town line of the of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.
- Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, April 27, 2022. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District , shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or they can be downloaded from the district website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District's Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting the 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 calendar years.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a qualified military voter who is not currently registered can obtain a military personal registration form on the District's website, or from the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A registered military voter may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk in the same manner. Additionally, qualified military voters can contact the District Clerk to indicate their preference to receive a military personal registration form, absentee ballot application or absentee ballot via mail, facsimile or electronic mail. Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the election and vote. Military voter registration and absentee ballots shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Section 2018-d of the Education Law and Part 122 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Dated: March 21, 2022 / Revised: April 4, 2022 By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District

Kelly Pologe, School District Clerk

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# **SPORTS**



Liam Murphy takes a cut against Port Jervis on Tuesday (April 5).

### Varsity Roundup (from Page 24)

Bulldogs were especially hurt by errors in the field and balls from the mound.

"Our inability to get ahead in the count and throw consistent strikes hurt us," he said. "We gave up 12 walks — that's the difference in the game."

Heaton took the loss, going three innings, Chase Green went two innings, and Liam Murphy and Mateo Alvarado pitched the final two innings, including pitching out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the sixth.

Vollaro, Owen Bozsik and Ronnie Anzovino each had an RBI for the Bulldogs, who are scheduled to host Newburgh Free Academy today (April 8) at 4:30 p.m.

Haldane picked up a 17–0 victory in three innings on Tuesday at Palisade Prep in Yonkers. Trajan McCarthy picked up the



The Bulldogs opened their season with an 11-1 win over Monticello.

win with three strikeouts, while Dan Nakabayashi went two innings and struck out six.

Jeremy Hall hit a solo homer for Haldane, and John Kisslinger and Jake Hotaling each had two RBI.

"I like that we didn't play down to the competition," said Coach Simon Dudar. "Trajan and Dan pitched well. Jeremy did a nice job and Dan got his first varsity hit." Haldane is scheduled to host Croton-

Harmon today at 4:30 p.m.

#### HALL OF FAME

Haldane High School is accepting nominations for its Athletic Hall of Fame's 2022 class, which will be inducted on homecoming weekend in the fall.

According to the bylaws, up to five individuals and one team can be inducted each year. Athletes must have graduated at least five years earlier; teams are eligible after five years; and coaches and others must have been employed by the district for at least five years. Photos by S. Pearlman

The inductees are selected by a committee that includes three coaches, a school administrator, a community member, the president of the booster club, two alumni and a retired district employee. The committee is coordinated by the athletic director, who cannot vote.

See haldaneschool.org/athletics/hallof-fame for a nomination form, as well as information about applying to fill an open seat on the committee.



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SOLUTIONS

# Puzzles

10

14

17

# **CROSSCURRENT**

13

16

19

ACROSS	1	2	3	
1. Justice Dept.	12			
agency				
4. Physician's	15			
nickname	18			
7. Grating	18			
12. Vintage	20			21
13. Away from WSW				07
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16. Yosemite peak				
featured in Free	35			
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1. SUPERFICIAL, 2. NORTH, 3. WITHDRAWING, 4. AUSTERE, 5. BLATANT, 6. ASSUAGE, 7. CAPRICIOUS

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

# 7 LITTLE WORDS

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

#### **CLUES**

- **1** textile material (6)
- 2 brand catchphrases (8)
- 3 Inigo in "Princess Bride" (7)
- 4 large, finely divided leaves (6)
- 5 absence of emotion (6)
- 6 in a highly critical way (9)
- 7 burn with rage (6)

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# **SUDOCURRENT**

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**24** April 8, 2022

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# SPORTS



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Dylan Rucker (29) moves across midfield against Dobbs Ferry.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Rhys Robbins rolls around the crease looking for an opening against Dobbs Ferry.

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

#### By Skip Pearlman

#### LACROSSE

Liam Gaugler had four goals and Rhys Robbins and Jesse Hagan each added a hat trick on Tuesday (April 5) as Haldane raced to a 9-1 halftime lead on the way to a feelgood, 16-8 victory over Dobbs Ferry in Cold Spring.

"I was a little nervous going in," said Coach Ed Crowe. "Dobbs is usually a pretty athletic team. What I liked was the balanced scoring - seven guys scored, and [on April 2] against Carmel we had five guys score. Our defense, so far, has been pretty stout."

Keeper Jordan Hankel made 16 saves, and Frankie DiGiglio and Dylan Rucker combined to win 18 of 21 face-offs.

In addition to his three goals, Robbins handed out two assists. Evan Giachinta had two goals and four assists; DiGiglio scored twice and had an assist; Will Sniffen had a goal and four assists; and Rowen Kuzminski added a goal.

"Hankel has been our anchor on the defensive end," Crowe said, "And I'm seeing a total team effort; top to bottom, we're playing strong and with confidence. It's a beautiful thing to see to start the season."

At home against Carmel, the Blue Devils led 5-4 at halftime but came up on the short end of a 7-6 final.

Giachinta had two goals and three assists, Gaugler, Ryan Van Tassel, Sniffen and Kuzminski each had a goal. Hankel made seven saves.

"It's always tough playing a [Class] AA school, and this is the best Carmel team I've seen," Crowe said. "We came in fired up and did a nice job staying in the game. To play well against a school that's double or triple our size - I was pleased with that effort."

Haldane is scheduled to host Sleepy Hollow on Saturday (April 9) at 11 a.m., and O'Neill on Tuesday at 1 p.m.

The Haldane girls' lacrosse team played its first varsity game on Tuesday (April 5) at Ketcham, falling 16-0 to a strong Wappingers Falls team.

On Wednesday, Haldane scored its first goals at Eastchester but fell, 15-7. Mairead O'Hara and Amanda Johanson each had two goals; Ellen O'Hara, Kayla Ruggiero and Helen Nicholls each scored one; and Nicholls and Caroline Nelson each had an assist. Keeper Lola Mahoney had 12 saves.

"On Tuesday we didn't play our best," said Coach Keri Dempsey. "But on Wednesday we came out with intensity. Lola was amazing in the net, and we found our groove in the second half. The team is showing improvement already. Kayla was awesome on attack as an eighth grader, and O'Hara, Johanson and Nelson all played well."

Haldane is scheduled to host Arlington on April 20 and Keio on April 22.

#### **TRACK & FIELD**

The Beacon boys defeated Port Jervis, 85-41, in a meet on Wednesday (April 6) at Port Jervis.

Eddie Manente ran a personal best in the 100 meters at 11.4 seconds to win that event. He also anchored the winning 4x100 relay.

Against Goshen on Monday at Beacon, Evan LaBelle won the 1,600 and anchored the winning 4x800.

The Goshen meet was suspended due to darkness with Beacon one point ahead.



Joev Baffuto takes the baton from **Cleveland Wright against Port Jervis.** Photo provided

Since it will not be continued, it will go in the books as a victory for the Bulldogs, said Coach Jim Henry.

The Beacon girls lost to Goshen and Port Jervis. The Bulldogs will travel to Cornwall on Saturday (April 9) and Suffern on Thursday (April 14).

#### **SOFTBALL**

Beacon picked up a 15-2, five-inning victory in its season opener against Monticello on Monday (April 4) at home. On the mound, Olivia Ciancanelli recorded five strikeouts and Isabella White had one.

Christina Merola had three RBI and went 2-for-3 with a double for the Bulldogs, Olivia Spiak and Leanna Rinaldi each went 3-for-3 with two RBI, and Katherine Ruffy drove in a run and went 3-for-4.

"That was a nice home divisional win to open the season," said Coach Michael Carofano. "I'm proud of the way we approached our at-bats, and had a few girls with multiple hits. Defensively, Ciancanelli and White combined for six Ks and three hits, and we had their backs in the field with good team defense."

Beacon was set to visit Newburgh Free Academy today (April 8) and Port Jervis Saturday (April 9) before hosting Port Jervis on Monday.

#### BASEBALL

Beacon picked up its first Section IX win on Monday (April 4) at home, defeating Monticello, 11-1, in five innings at Memorial Park.

Joey Vollaro threw the first three innings, striking out four, and Owen Brown finished.

Derrick Heaton went 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and two RBI. Mikey Fontaine doubled, drove in two runs and went 2-for-2, Tyler Haydt was 2-for-3 with two RBI, and Liam Murphy drove in a run and went 2-for-3 with two stolen bases.

"Vollaro and Brown both did a nice job for us," Coach Bob Atwell said of his pitchers. "They battled and threw strikes.

"We played solid defense and got timely hits," he added. "In his first varsity start, Heaton was good, and Tyler also had a good start. It was a nice opener for others, as well. Fontaine did a nice job behind the dish, and Murphy did a good job getting on base."

On Tuesday, Beacon fell to Port Jervis, 10-4, at Memorial Park. Atwell said the