End of the Line
Beacon Incline Railway society shuts down
By Brian PJ Cronin

The world’s steepest incline railway has encountered a hill that it couldn’t climb.

This week, the nonprofit Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society, which had worked since 1996 to reopen the attraction, announced its closure.

The railway, built in 1902, carried millions of passengers to the summit of Mount Beacon during its 76 years in operation. It was damaged by fire and rebuilt several times before finally closing in 1978.

After voting to dissolve, the society’s board donated its remaining funds and archive to the Beacon Historical Society, said President Jeff McHugh. A selection of the material will be on display at BHS, 61 Leonard St., from May 14 to July 30.

The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society grew from a grassroots group of volunteers who in 2009 created a board of directors and named President Jeff McHugh. A selection of the material will be on display at BHS, 61 Leonard St., from May 14 to July 30.

But McHugh said the project encountered numerous obstacles. It needed approvals from the state parks department and Scenic Hudson, which owns the land. McHugh said that the group also quickly realized that $20 million would not be enough to provide for long-term maintenance.

HELLO AGAIN — Ailee Debberman gets a muzzle from Duke, one of the therapy horses at the Topfield Center in Philipstown, which reopened on Saturday (April 23) after being closed for two years because of the pandemic. See Page 14.

The city was also changing. When the society formed, Dia:Beacon was still years away. (Continued on Page 21)

LIGHTS OUT — Beacon’s iconic “dummy light” — one of only a handful still in use in the U.S. — was damaged Tuesday afternoon (April 26) when a city truck accidentally backed into it while a crew prepared Main Street for paving, which starts Monday. The city plans to restore the light as soon as it can get replacement parts, said City Administrator Chris White. (Provided by Leonard Sparks)

Putnam Chair Withdraws From Race
Judge tosses nominating petitions for re-election
By Chip Rowe

Neal Sullivan, the chair of the Putnam County Legislature, has dropped out of the race for his seat after an error on his nominating petitions prevented him from appearing on the ballot as a Republican.

A state judge in Carmel ruled on Tuesday (April 26) that Sullivan had not submitted enough valid signatures on his nominating petitions. The decision precluded a primary against a Republican challenger, Erin Lee Crowley.

Sullivan, who was seeking his third term representing the Town of Carmel and Mahopac, submitted valid petitions for the Conservative Party and would have appeared on that line on the November ballot but said in court he will not run for his seat or serve if elected. There is no Democratic candidate for the seat.

John Murtagh Jr., a White Plains attorney who represents the Crowley campaign, did not return phone messages but told The Journal News that allegations of fraud and other defects — such as a charge that signatures had been faked — were not addressed by the decision and that Sullivan had agreed not to run to avoid further litigation.

In a statement on Thursday (April 28), Sullivan said he was proud of his accomplishments in the Legislature “but issues involving the arduous and highly subjective process prevented him from appearing on the ballot as a Republican.” (Continued on Page 3)

Still Have Your Catalytic Converter?
Thieves target vehicle part for precious metals
By Leonard Sparks

April Fool’s Day was no joke for Kelly and Jose Garcia of Beacon. When Jose, heading to work, started his Honda Accord that morning, it sounded like a “race car,” he said. He looked underneath the vehicle and discovered what (Continued on Page 19)

Court Strikes Down Democrats’ Maps
Congressional, state Senate districts to be redrawn
By Leonard Sparks

New York’s highest court ruled on Wednesday (April 27) that congressional and state Senate districts created by Democrats violated the constitutional process for redrawing boundaries and a ban on gerrymandering, and must be redone.

The Court of Appeals sided with Rep-
What is BOCES?
They're a unique institution in New York that serves public school districts. Every county has a BOCES, although some serve more than one county (such as for Putnam and Northern Westchester). On our campus in Poughkeepsie, we have pre-K through eighth grade disabled students; we have an alternative high school; we have a career technical institute and an adult learning institute. We're able to get districts in the county better rates and better quality services from vendors, and we also offer training around new standards or innovative teaching. A lot of what we offer would be fiscally impossible for districts to handle on their own.

What has been happening lately?
One of the first people I met here was Peter Jordan, the new president of Dutchess Community College. We've developed a partnership to create a continuum for BOCES students to transition to DCC and its Fishkill campus and we're going to have similar programming and machinery and feed them qualified students. It also has a new program for aviation mechanics, so we plan on creating a pipeline there. We've been working with the Dutchess Chamber of Commerce and the county to fill industry needs around manufacturing. We're also planning a heavy equipment training program and will tie that to the federal program to produce drivers with commercial licenses, because there's a truck driver shortage around the country.

By Jeff Simms
Jason Schetelick, who lives in Beacon, is superintendent of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

What is BOCES?
They're a unique institution in New York that serves public school districts. Every county has a BOCES, although some serve more than one county (such as for Putnam and Northern Westchester). On our campus in Poughkeepsie, we have pre-K through eighth grade disabled students; we have an alternative high school; we have a career technical institute and an adult learning institute. We're able to get districts in the county better rates and better quality services from vendors, and we also offer training around new standards or innovative teaching. A lot of what we offer would be fiscally impossible for districts to handle on their own.

What has been happening lately?
One of the first people I met here was Peter Jordan, the new president of Dutchess Community College. We've developed a partnership to create a continuum for BOCES students to transition to DCC and then to a high-paying industry career. For example, the college is launching a mechatronics/advanced manufacturing center at its Fishkill campus and we're going to have similar programming and machinery and feed them qualified students. It also has a new program for aviation mechanics, so we plan on creating a pipeline there. We've been working with the Dutchess Chamber of Commerce and the county to fill industry needs around manufacturing. We're also planning a heavy equipment training program and will tie that to the federal program to produce drivers with commercial licenses, because there's a truck driver shortage around the country.

How has trade education evolved over the years?
Industry drives it. You're also seeing the high cost of college and universities causing families to think differently. People are rediscovering community colleges, which are hidden gems where kids can get a wonderful education at half the cost of a four-year university. We can predict, using data, what fields are going to need employees and what fields are going to provide students not just with jobs, but with fruitful careers. That's a big change. Four years of college isn't your only option — you can go to a community college and into a career or BOCES to community college and into a guaranteed industry job. I think you're going to see education continue to move in that direction.

How is BOCES funded?
We're supported by the school districts. We don't operate like a typical district, such as in Beacon, that sets a budget, people vote on it and the funding depends on property taxes and state grants. We don't carry over funding each year; we spend everything and start over. We do have industry funding for some programs. For example, local construction companies such as Amity loan and lease us equipment at friendly rates. In mechatronics, we've been getting equipment from companies as they upgrade through a partnership with Haas Automation. Many programs we can start at little to no cost.

How did you adapt during the pandemic?
It threw everybody for a loop, because the beauty of career and technical education is it's experiential. We sent kits home to students in our carpentry program. We're working with a company called 2 Space to allow students to explore careers virtually. So we had options, but we also had to get creative. We're trying to make our services more portable, where we're bringing training to people or schools, especially in districts like Beacon, that are 45 minutes away. Technology has been a godsend with virtual reality and artificial intelligence because it allows us to do so much with students in a portable space.
Sullivan (from Page 1)

tive petition process will unfortunately prevent me from pursuing another term in office.” He said he would continue to be “an active member of our community to keep Putnam County moving in a positive direction” and thanked his colleagues in the Legislature for “their hard work and collegiality.”

To appear on the primary ballot, candidates had to submit petitions by April 7 to the county Board of Elections with a specified number of signatures from registered voters in the district. For Sullivan’s seat, that number was 149. Each page has room for 15 signatures and a space at the bottom for the person who gathered them to sign and date it.

After Sullivan’s petitions were filed, they were challenged by the Crowley campaign. For a signature to be thrown out, both of the two county election commissioners must agree it is invalid. (The commission—ers—one Democrat and one Republican—are county employees nominated by their party organizations and appointed by the Legislature.)

In an affidavit filed in Putnam Supreme Court on Monday (April 25), the Demo-
cratic commissioner, Catherine Croft, char-
erized most situations where she and her counterpart, Anthony Scannapieco Jr., diverge as “ordinary disagreements,” such as whether to allow a signature that has an incomplete address. During a review of Sullivan’s petition on April 19, they agreed that 54 signatures should not be allowed, leaving Sullivan with 156, or seven more than required.

However, 15 signatures remained in dispute. They were among 30 gathered by Scannapieco, the longtime head of the Putnam County Republican Committee. One page was dated March 26 and the other April 26 — or 19 days after the deadline.

According to the minutes of the meeting, Croft ruled they should be invalidated based on the incorrect date, while Scannapieco recused himself. His deputy, Kelly Primavera, also recused herself, saying the matter should be decided in court, according to Croft’s affidavit. Because neither agreed with Croft, the signatures remained valid.

The Crowley campaign filed a legal challenge to Sullivan’s petition the next day, asking Judge Victor Grossman to invalidate the 15 signatures, which would drop Sullivan’s total to 141, below the required limit.

Scannapieco did not return emails seeking comment.

In a statement on Wednesday (April 27), Crowley thanked Sullivan for his service; offered her support for Kevin Byrne, the Republican candidate for county executive; and said she was “inspired to run for office and my conviction that our public servants should be dedicated to the best interests of every citizen guides me every day.”

Who’s On the Ballot, So Far

PUTNAM COUNTY

Legislative 5
This seat, which represents part of Lake Carmel, the hamlet of Carmel and part of Patterson, was held by Carl Albano, a Republican who cannot run because of term limits.
- Greg Ellner or Pat Sheehy (R)
- Pat Sheehy (CON)
- Maureen Fleming (D)

Legislative 6
This seat represents Southeast. Jonke is seeking his third, 3-year term.
- Paul Jonke (R/CON)

Legislative 9
This seat represents the Town of Carmel and Mahopac.
- County Executive
  - Kevin Byrne (REP/CON)
- County Clerk
  - Michael Bartolotti (REP/CON)

PHILIPSTOWN

Highway Superintendent
This seat is open because of the resignation on March 31 of Carl Frisenda for health reasons.
- Adam Hotaling (D)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Sheriff
Imparati is the acting sheriff following the death in September of Butch Anderson. Hanlon is a retired deputy who, if elected, would be the first openly transgender sheriff in the country.
- Jillian Hanlon (D/WF)
- Kirk Imperati (R/CON)

STATE

Assembly 95 (Philipstown)
There are four Democratic candidates to succeed Sandy Galef, who will retire after 15 terms. She has endorsed Levenberg, her former chief of staff.
- Vanessa Agudelo, Dana Levenberg, Andra Rainey or Colin Smith (D)
- Vanessa Agudelo (WF)
- Stacy Haiper (REP/CON)

Assembly 104 (Beacon)
- Jonathan Jacobson (D/WF)

Senate, District 41/43
Because of redistricting, Beacon and Philipstown may no longer be represented by the seat held by Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican. Instead, they could become part of a district in which the incumbent is Sen. James Skoufis. See Page 1.
- Sue Serino (R/CON)
- Jamie Cheney (D/WF)
- James Skoufis (D)
- Ronny Diz (R/CON)

FEDERAL

U.S. House, District 18
- Sean Patrick Maloney (D/WF)
- Colin Schmitt (R/CON)

Senate
- Charles Schumer or Khaled Salem (D/1)
- Charles Schumer (WF)
- Joseph Pinion III (REP/CON)

1 A primary on June 28 will determine who will appear on the line.
2 Salem’s nominating petitions have been challenged.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

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Tell us what you think

Removing books

As you reported, the Wappingers school board last month voted to remove Gender Queer from the library at John Jay High School (“Removing Books from Schools,” April 22). The board of a neighboring district, Arlington, voted 7-1 to keep the book on its high school shelves. In both cases, the complaint was submitted by a woman named Pat Whalen, who has been jumping from district to district to challenge the book.

With the support of two other students in our district, I launched a petition at change.it/BqWNYHYB asking the district to reconsider. It received more than 1,000 signatures in the first week from students, parents, peers, teachers and librarians, mental health professionals, authors, activists, Dutchess County Pride and Dutchess County Youth Council members, the New York Library League, the New York State English Council and the National Council of Teachers of English. The author, Maia Kobabe, offered her support on the Instagram page of Oblong Books in Rhinebeck.

While the book raises potential concern for some, we feel it is an important resource for students going through similar experiences in life. It also provides a unique opportunity for students who wish to learn about others and gain empathy. It is a parental duty to determine what is suitable material for their children and to enforce those decisions, but it is not appropriate for one parent to determine what is suitable material for all other families and students. In other words, if you don’t want to read the book, don’t check it out. But don’t take away that resource from other students, as it could be highly useful for them.

Mandy Zhang, Wappingers Falls
Zhang is a junior at Ketcham High School and a member of the Dutchess County Youth Council.

I wish you had spoken to LGBTQIA+ students or other LGBTQIA+ individuals about what the removal of Gender Queer means to them — means to us. The lack of open and honest voices in the article means we are only spoken about as something controversial or upsetting and never heard from directly.

When I was a 16-year-old lesbian, it meant that being gay was a mental illness or morally heinous, on par with being a murderer. That being gay was a mental illness or morally heinous, on par with being a murderer.

I feel that the decision we are talking about someone like me. It also makes me wonder if we are talking about someone like me. It also makes me wonder if we are singing open and honest voices in the article means we are only spoken about as something controversial or upsetting and never heard from directly.

When I was a 16-year-old lesbian, it meant that being gay was a mental illness or morally heinous, on par with being a murderer.

I felt terrible to read the numerous homophobic books in our school library that claimed that being gay was a mental illness or morally heinous, on par with being a murderer.

Finally, you mention that “a sex act” is depicted in Gender Queer, the book that was removed. I thought you should have included, for context, whether there are any books in the school library depicting heterosexual, cisgender sex acts. I can think of at least one that I have read in English literature, including popular young adult graphic novels, I suspect there are.

Donna Minkowitz, Beacon

Thanks to our local librarians for fighting this censorship. Aren’t these the same people screaming about “cancel culture.”

Brian Cookstra, via Instagram

Your story quoted Tom McMahon, president of the Mahopac Teachers Association, who said that “books in schools are not randomly chosen. They are chosen by trained professionals who have completed years of schooling and have even more years of experience in ensuring well-rounded libraries based on student need and interest. These professionals, our school librarians or library media specialists, should be trusted to do what they have been trained and hired to do.”

The message conveyed to me by that statement is that teachers and parents have no business expressing their opinions about which books should be in schools — that is the domain of government employees, who are “trained professionals.” Taxpayers and parents have no say in the matter but must instead trust those government employees, and accept whatever they decide. Or, more simply, shut up, and genuflect before the experts.

These government employees are not entitled to anyone’s unquestioning trust. Taxpayers and parents should instead feel free to exercise their right to express their own judgments and opinions about which books should be in schools. No “trained professionals,” even those with “years of schooling” and “even more years of experience” can preempt that right. That is how it goes in a democratic republic.

Wilbur Foster, Garrison

There is an insidious argument taking place in schools around Putnam County, the Hudson Valley and nationally. It is new in terms of its target and old in terms of its goal, which is to silence.

On the one side, parents ostensibly object to explicit sexual content being made available to children via school libraries. On the other, parents, students and community members make a number of arguments. No one is even checking the book in question; the book is educational; LGBTQ+ teens deserve access to such books; parents and community members are misrepresenting the role of such books in education — they are not part of the curriculum, and to take one book off the shelves is a slippery slope that could lead to many others being under threat.

(Continued on Page 5)
What is getting lost on both sides of the debate is the true value of the book itself, and, by extension, the many other books, past present and future, that have been, are being, or will be targeted for similar reasons. Gender Queer is described by the publisher as a “journey of self-identity, which includes the mortification and confusion of adolescent crushes, grappling with how to come out to family and society, bonding with friends over erotic gay fan fiction, and facing the trauma and fundamental violation of pap smear.”

There are scenes in the book that deal with sex, and there are graphics that depict sexual acts. But the book is not about sex. In fact, the main character ultimately identifies as asexual. But like The Color Purple, The Bluest Eye, Lolita, Lady Chatterley’s Lover, Tropic of Cancer, Sula and on and on, the book includes sex and sexuality — and rape and incest and other sexual violence — because they are inextricable from life.

Children are thinking, wondering about and trying to figure out these topics from a very early age. Anyone who has ever had extensive conversations with a 5-year-old knows this. By the time they are middle- and high-school age, there is no number of books we could ever ban that would keep kids from actively engaging in a quest to learn more about sex and sexuality. To deprive them of access to well-intentioned and educational sexual content so that their sole source becomes the internet is ill-advised.

Trans and non-binary kids do not see broad representations of their sexual identities on TV, in movies, in books, etc. Cisgender kids — and even gay and lesbian kids — do. It is so pervasive, in fact, that parents barely even see it. Instead, they see this book not because of its graphic content but because its title made that first parent who knows this. By the time they are middle- and high-school age, there is no number of books that include any reference to sexual acts? What is getting lost on both sides of the debate is the true value of the book itself, and, by extension, the many other books, past present and future, that have been, are being, or will be targeted for similar reasons. Gender Queer is described by the publisher as a “journey of self-identity, which includes the mortification and confusion of adolescent crushes, grappling with how to come out to family and society, bonding with friends over erotic gay fan fiction, and facing the trauma and fundamental violation of pap smear.”

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We write to urge approval by voters on May 17 of the 2022-23 Garrison school budget as proposed by the Board of Education (“Garrison School Lowers Tax Request to 9.2%,” April 22).

As past presidents of the Garrison school board, we have collectively served the district for nearly 50 years and overseen the development of more than 30 annual budgets, all of which passed with strong voter support. We recognize the challenges inherent in delivering an excellent education for our students while at the same time being careful stewards of taxpayer resources.

It is with that experience, and from that perspective, that we have studied the administration’s budget presentation, questioned its assumptions and projections, and listened to the concerns of our neighbors. As Garrison taxpayers, none of whom have children any longer at school in the district, we too would be reluctant to pay more in taxes were there not a compelling need or a manifest benefit.

However, this year the board confronts a “perfect storm” of reduced state aid and sharply increased costs over which they have little or no control. Among the biggest cost drivers: high school tuition, special education, health care insurance and transportation. The plain fact is these are all essentially vendor costs that must be paid out-of-district and they are almost entirely resistant to economizing.

Where economizing has been possible, we believe the board has been diligent in containing costs without sacrificing educational quality. Instruction, by far the biggest line item, is actually down 5 percent in the proposed budget, thanks to retirements and the resultant strategic staff realignments. Administrative costs are up slightly year-over-year, largely because one staff position has been moved over from the instruction line.

Moreover, we believe it is important that voters maintain a proper perspective on the costs of running the district. Garrison school taxpayers have long enjoyed the lowest true tax rate in Putnam County, far lower than in surrounding counties, as well. To be specific, the average true tax rate for the five other Putnam school districts over the last six years has been $32.44 per $1,000 of full property value. Over the same period, the average in Garrison was $9.56, some 60 percent lower.

We remind voters that while they enjoy a lower school tax burden than in neighboring districts, they also realize unrivaled educational value for their dollar. Garrison students consistently excel by every measure of academic performance. The relevant data on standardized tests and state Regents scores, as well as class size and student/teacher ratios, are carefully scrutinized by prospective homebuyers on the many online school-rating sites. Those buyers will pay a sizable premium for homes in a highly rated district like Garrison.

In sum, we believe the board and administration of the Garrison school district have addressed a uniquely difficult set of circumstances with a budget that is fair and responsible — one that maintains educational quality and preserves the substantial advantage taxpayers enjoy relative to other districts.

Raymond O’Ronke, Garrison
This letter was also signed by Marit Kulleseid, Stan Freilich, Cathy Liburne, Anita Prentice and James Hoch.

Correction
• In a story that appeared in the April 22 issue, we stated that Kent Schacht was appointed to the Garrison school board last year. In fact, he was elected to complete the final year of the term of a member who resigned.

• In a story in the April 22 issue on $20 million being awarded by the state to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, we reported Phase I of the project “will involve the construction of a vehicle lot that will allow hikers to park between the river and the train tracks and a pedestrian bridge to cross over the tracks to a trailhead that will not be accessible from Route 9D.” In fact, according to MJ Martin, director of development and community engagement for the Fjord Trail, Phase 1 will involve “the construction of more than 100 spaces adjacent to the Breakneck Ridge trailhead, along with bathrooms and other amenities, and a pedestrian bridge to cross over the tracks to the Shoreline segment of the trail, a 2-mile riverfront promenade heading south toward Little Stony Point, and ultimately Dockside Park. The Shoreline segment is planned as Phase 2 of the project.”
Main Street Beacon, Re-Envisioned
Committee proposes more green space while reclaiming parking
By Jeff Simms

A bbey Road crosswalks, like on the Beatles album. A “re-energized” tree-planting campaign, along with a network of biking routes and plenty of parking — but no new lots.

The volunteer Main Street Access Committee, created in 2020 by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, presented its final report to the City Council on Monday (April 25), outlining its vision of Beacon as a walkable, pedestrian- and bike-friendly city.

The committee chair, Stowe Boyd, and John Clarke, the city’s planning consul-
tant, who served as an adviser, detailed the report’s recommendations.

Some, such as redesigned signs that direct drivers to public parking lots, have been implemented. Others, like reclaiming parking spaces through more efficient restriping, are on deck or being done this week as part of the Main Street repaving.

City Administrator Chris White said that he expects another recommendation, to convert the Veteran’s Place block into a public park, to come before the City Council this year.

For longer-term proposals, “we’re going to identify what seems most important to the council members and see where we can match those proposals to available funding and staff capacity,” White said.

Notable recommendations are described below.

- Restripe crosswalks using bold, parallel bar stripes — the “Abbey Road” look — at all Main Street intersections. Discourage displays or tables that make sidewalks less than about 8 feet wide. The committee also recommended a “re-energized” planting program to improve tree cover along Main.
- The committee recommends a 20 mph speed limit on Main Street so bikes can safely travel in the same lane as cars. Separate bike lanes are not feasible, it said, because too many on-street parking spaces, valuable to businesses, would be lost.
- Implement use of “lead pedestrian interval” stoplight systems at the Teller Avenue and Chestnut Street intersections with Main, which give pedestrians a 3-to-7 second head start before vehicles are given a green light.
- Open public bathrooms in at least two buildings, such as the Memorial Building or the Visitors Center at Polhill Park.
- This area is owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and The Roundhouse. The committee suggested the city work with both to create a public park overlooking the Fishkill Creek waterfall. The space is in a federal floodway, so development isn’t an option.
- The height of streetlights should be reduced to a uniform 12 to 14 feet. Some lights should be removed from the west end of Main, where there’s too much lighting, and moved to the center stretch.
- Three-way stop signs should be installed near the dummy light, where Main Street is excessively wide and drivers often get confused. Trees should also be added.
- Clarke called the Fountain Square area “a nice urban place that has been lost to parking.” The committee’s plan would convert the parking spaces at the convenience store into green space with a fountain, while replacing the spots with new parallel street spaces.
- Churchill Street is the “most troublesome” intersection on Main, the committee said. It recommended curb extensions on both sides of the street to improve pedestrian visibility. That also would allow vehicles to turn right or left onto Main. (Right turns are not permitted now.) The city should build a sidewalk with steps along the south side of Churchill, it said, with a pedestrian ramp leading to a pocket park.
- The committee suggested converting Cedar Street, which intersects Verplanck Avenue on the north side of Main and Rombout Avenue on the south side, into a bike boulevard with temporary barriers. “Bikes are an easy way to get around the city, if you feel safe,” Clarke said. Traffic would be allowed for residents living on Cedar, but the barriers would prevent use as a thoroughfare. Afterward, the committee said, the council should hire a consulting firm to create a biking plan for the city. The committee also recommended adding more inverted U-shaped bike racks on Main Street.
- The city’s 2007 and 2017 comprehensive plans suggested creating seven pocket parks; and reconfigure the rear lot at the Dutchess County building to add 37 spaces; and add 25 spaces on Wolcott Avenue (Route 9D) near City Hall.

If needed, the second phase of the committee’s parking plan would implement paid parking, which would create revenue to finance the third phase — parking structures — if paid parking does not sufficiently control the demand.
Cold Spring Considers Software to Manage Rentals

By Michael Turton

A firm that makes software to manage short-term rental registrations, regulations and complaints assured the Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (April 27) that it was the solution to the challenges it faces.

A representative from Granicus said its product is used by many municipalities, including Dutchess County, to track short-term rental operations. The Village Board voted in July, 3-2, to begin regulating STRs.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck researched occupancies, financial transactions, a lot of intelligence to survey our community,” he said. “It might be premature to purchase the soft-term rental in the village, said he thought go from property to property to confirm time-consuming. Most compliance officers encourage tourism but that manually monitoring the owner is not present.

Bonsu said STR providers are often “less than excited” about helping municipalities manage compliance. “Most STR organizations, such as Airbnb and VRBO, won’t even give you the address of units they have in your community.”

Mayor Kathleen Foley said the village has identified more than 35 STRs operating in Cold Spring but that only four have applied for permits.

Trustee Cathryn Fadde, who along with Trustee Eliza Starbuck researched the company’s services, said it would cost $4,300 for a one-year contract to identify all STR addresses, monitor operator compliance with regulations and operate a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints.

“STRs become problematic for a lot of communities when growth isn’t met by regulation,” said Kester Bonsu of Granicus. “Our data shows that about 10 percent of STR operators voluntarily comply with ordinances, which typically leads to friction in the community.”

A preliminary scan of Cold Spring identified 35 active STRs, he said. The Cold Spring law allows the village to issue permits for up to 33 sites where the owner lives on the premises and 16 sites where the owner is not present.

Bonsu said STRs can be an asset if they encourage tourism but that manually monitoring their operation can be expensive and time-consuming. Most compliance officers go from property to property to confirm STR operations.

Phil Heffernan, who operates a short-term rental in the village, said he thought it might be premature to purchase the software. “It’s awfully expensive, and somewhat offensive in that it employs artificial intelligence to survey our community,” he said. “I’m not sure the company could track occupancies, financial transactions, a lot of things that really aren’t legal.”

Bonsu said that while the monitoring might feel intrusive to STR operators, “it would be completely understood” for a hotel with 120 to 200 rooms to open in Cold Spring but refuse to get a permit or pay taxes.

“You’re dealing with a commercial interest that is active in the community, generating revenue, but not necessarily complying with regulations,” he said.

Bonsu said STR providers are often “less than excited” about helping municipalities manage compliance. “Most STR organizations, such as Airbnb and VRBO, won’t even give you the address of units they have in your community.”

Mayor Kathleen Foley said the village has identified more than 35 STRs operating in Cold Spring but that only four have applied for permits.

Trustee Cathryn Fadde, who along with Trustee Eliza Starbuck researched the company’s services, said it would cost $4,300 for a one-year contract to identify all STR addresses, monitor operator compliance with regulations and operate a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints.

Heffernan asserted that the Granicus software was created for major metropolitan areas such as New York City, not small communities. “I’m not saying this is a bad product, but we have no real experience under an open-permitting program, as opposed to the draconian law proposed by the previous board,” he said. “That has never been tried; just tell everybody, get a permit if you want to do business.”

Foley said a draft of proposed revisions to the STR law should be ready for public review in the next few weeks. She voted against the law in July when she was a trustee on the board, as did Woods. The former mayor and two former trustees accounted for the “yes” votes.

On Thursday (April 28), the mayor said the village has earmarked funds that could go to a contract with Granicus. She said the software would “professionalize the regulation of STRs and greatly expand our capacity for assessing and mitigating their impacts.”

In other business...:

The board approved the 2022-23 general fund budget, including spending of $2.85 million and a tax increase of 1.89 percent.

The water and sewer budgets, which are funded through usage fees, were also approved, with spending of about $836,000 and $810,000, respectively.

The board passed a resolution asking Metro-North to postpone reopening the station at Breakneck Ridge until infrastructure for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail “is at least partially functioning.” Metro-North says it plans to open the platform in late May. A spokesperson for the railroad said as many as 600 people showed up at the station during peak periods.

The board authorized the mayor to sign a parking easement agreement with the owners of 40 Main St., the former Ellen Hayden Gallery, which is being converted to office space and storefront retail. The agreement was negotiated because parking required in the village code does not exist on Main Street. The owner will rent 20 spaces in the municipal lot on Fair Street at a cost of $25,000 per year for use by office workers Monday through Thursday, a period when village metering data has shown the lot to be underutilized. The owner will also pay the standard $250 waiver fee for seven spaces required for the retail space.

For health reasons, Ed Currelley resigned as chair of the ad hoc committee on police reform. Victor Burgos now chairs the group. The committee is expected to make recommendations to the Village Board by the end of June.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases: 24,224 (+197)
Tests administered: 431,460 (+2,610)
Cases per 100K, 7-day average: 7.7 (-0.1)
Percent vaccinated: 82.8
Number of deaths: 122 (0)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases: 65,335 (+562)
Tests administered: 1,335,584 (+8,003)
Cases per 100K, 7-day average: 7.4 (+0.7)
Percent vaccinated: 77.2
Number of deaths: 657 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of April 26, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.

GOT A PHOTO OF MOM?

For Mother’s Day (May 8), we’d like to share your favorite photo of yourself with your mom.

Send the image to editor@highlandscurrent.org (the higher resolution, the better) with your mom’s name, your name, names of anyone else in the shot, your city/town/village and approximately when the photo was taken.

The photo can be from present, immediate past or distant past; throwbacks welcome!

DEADLINE: 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
Beacon Names High School Principal
Promotes assistant principal to job

The Beacon school board on Tuesday (April 26) named Corey Dwyer as the principal of Beacon High School, effective July 1.

The Beacon High School graduate began his career in 2012 with Teach for America at a charter school in Philadelphia. He became the principal there in 2016 until returning to Beacon in 2021 to become assistant principal.

Vanessa DeFonce, an interim principal appointed in August, will continue until the end of the school year, the district said. She succeeded Elisa Soto, who left to become an assistant superintendent in the Newburgh district.

Four Candidates for Four Seats in Beacon
School board election will have no challenges

There will be four candidates for four open seats on the Beacon school board when voters go to the polls on May 17 to elect trustees and decide on a budget proposal for 2022-23 that includes $76.9 million in spending.

Meredith Heuer and Antony Tseng will be unopposed for re-election, while Yunice Heath and Alena Kush are newcomers.

The three candidates who receive the most votes will serve three-year terms (including the seat of Elissa Betterbid, who did not seek re-election) and the fourth candidate will serve two years and six weeks beginning May 17 to complete the term of Jasmine Johnson, who resigned on April 1.

Heuer and Tseng are seeking their third terms. Kush is director of parent engagement at Mount St. Mary College and president of the Rombout Middle School PTO. Heath is an access/equity counselor at Mount Saint Mary College and a community that means so much to me and in which I have built so much presence, Rhode Island, a move that she said will allow her to be closer to family. HVSF also serves as president of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival since 2015, plans to depart at the end of the 2022 season, the festival announced Tuesday (April 26).

Liberman will become executive director at the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island, a move that she said will allow her to be closer to family. HVSF said it will begin a search for her successor on May 1.

“It is incredibly difficult to leave an organization and a community that means so much to me and in which I have built so many lasting relationships,” Liberman said in a statement.

Liberman also served as president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018.

Managing Director to Leave HVSF
Festival will begin search for successor

Kate Liberman, who has served as the managing director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival since 2015, plans to depart at the end of the 2022 season, the festival announced Tuesday (April 26).

Liberman will become executive director at the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island, a move that she said will allow her to be closer to family. HVSF said it will begin a search for her successor on May 1.

State Provides $10.7M for Warehouse
Will serve 400 regional food banks

New York State will provide $10.7 million to construct a food distribution warehouse for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on Monday (April 25).

The 40,000-square-foot warehouse will be located in Montgomery and provide space for cold storage and sorting for 400 food banks in six counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. It will serve about 179,000 residents in the region who receive food assistance, the state said.

The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley is contributing $1.9 million to the project and $800,000 will come from private donations.

Garrison School Explores Pre-K
Approved for state funding

The Garrison school district has been approved to receive state funding to create a pre-kindergarten program in September for 18 students and is gauging interest.

Parents are asked to complete a survey at tinyurl.com/gufs-pre-k. Children who will turn 4 by Dec. 1 would be eligible for the 2022 program, which would be five hours on school days.
Putnam Will Cut Gas Tax

Applies to first $2 per gallon

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A t a special meeting in Carmel on Monday (April 25), members of the Putnam Legislature unanimously agreed to reduce the county sales tax on gasoline by limiting it to the first $2 per gallon.

The rollback, which affects diesel, too, takes effect June 1 and ends Dec. 1. Putnam charges a 4 percent tax on gas sales.

New York State recently cut its gas tax by 16 cents a gallon from June 1 to Dec. 31, and Dutchess County dropped its tax by 3.75 percent of the sale to 8 cents per gallon from June 1 to Dec. 1.

At an Audit Committee session that preceded the meeting, Neal Sullivan, who represents Carmel-Mahopac and chairs the Putnam Legislature, said that Putnam's reduction amounts to about 10 cents a gallon. With the state rollback and a possible federal cut, he said that drivers could save 35 cents to 40 cents a gallon. "I'm glad we're all united on this," he said. "I think it will be a good thing."

As of Monday, according to federal records, the average price of a gallon of gas in New York was $4.21 and the national average was $4.10.

Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin said Putnam could see a decline of $1 million to $1.5 million in sales-tax revenue from the reduction. Moreover, "we're going to be short this year in just about everything, across the board, due to inflation."

Putnam's 2021 sales tax revenue exceeded expectations by $17.6 million, according to information provided to the Audit Committee. The data also showed that the county received over $2 million in sales-tax revenue from the first quarter of 2022.

Because of rising fuel prices, the county is "collecting a lot more from the gas tax than we ever budgeted for, or even expected," Sullivan noted.

PHILIPSTOWN: Close Hiker Stop Until Fjord Trail Arrives

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

T he Philipstown Town Board last week asked Metro-North to keep the Breakneck Ridge train stop closed until the first stretch of the Fjord Trail debuts and gives hikers an alternative to the sometimes treacherous mountain.

In a resolution unanimously adopted at an April 20 workshop at Town Hall, the board declared that postponing resumption of train service would "greatly alleviate" the burden borne by emergency responders called to aid injured or lost hikers.

The station closed in 2020 when the COVID-19 shutdown began. Metro-North said it should reopen in late May.

The completion of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, "at least partially," the resolution says, should provide options to hikers beyond Breakneck. The Fjord Trail, a path for walking and bicycling along the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon, recently received $20 million from New York State.

Construction is expected to begin this fall. "If you take the train and get off at Breakneck, there's no place to go but up the mountain," which "is overwhelmed already," said Supervisor John Van Tassel.

Like the mountain itself, rescuers feel the impact. "It just seems that the more access people have to Breakneck, the more rescues they're going to have," he noted. The Fjord Trail will also bring public restrooms, information sites and other resources.

Van Tassel downplayed suggestions that keeping the station closed would divert crowds to Cold Spring. He said people wanting to visit the village will do so anyway, while others intend on reaching Breakneck will stay away, deterred by the mile-long walk between the village and trailhead.

On a related matter, the board passed a resolution to back the New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act, a bill that would set aside $50 million to restore watersheds, including the Hudson River's, that contribute to the New York-New Jersey ocean harbor.

The board also voted 4-0 (one member missed the meeting) to share the town's full-time building and code enforcement department with Cold Spring, whose part-time building inspector recently left to take a full-time job with the City of Newburgh.

Under the agreement, the village will pay the town $1,600 monthly ($19,200 annually) to review building applications and plans; inspect construction; issue permits, notices of violations, stop-work orders and other documents; appear in court as required; enforce the village zoning code and related laws, state code and flood plain regulations, and report regularly to village officials.

Village Hall would continue to maintain records pertinent to activity in Cold Spring. From June 2018 until August 2020, the municipalities shared the town's Building Department, until Cold Spring opted to go its own way. Now, according to the Philipstown resolution, the two have decided that a reinstated merger makes sense in order to reduce expenses for both, offer the most efficient service and promote "the best interests of the public."

"It works well for the village, because it's eight hours a day, five days a week" of coverage, Van Tassel said. "And it works well for us because the building inspector recently left to take a full-time job."

At the same time, the board renewed agreements with Croton, Buchanan, Peakskill and Cortlandt to share trucks and other equipment.

Putnam Will Cut Gas Tax

Applies to first $2 per gallon

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Fri. Apr 29 – 8 PM
CONCERT EVENT - Jeremy Schonfeld & Friends
Music from: THE FATHER WHO STAYED
Howland Chamber Music Circle

An evening of music from
The Father Who Stayed
A concert event

Songs by Jeremy Schonfeld
Featuring: Daniel Rowan
Jon Melanke, Christian Campbell
Kelly Eileenwood, Rinde Eckert, Ryan Dunn
Hannah Cornish and Annalyse McCoy

Special Live Performance Art
by Artist Donna Mikkelson

Sat. Apr 30 – 1 to 5 PM
ART EXHIBIT “Farm to Table:
The Bounty of Beacon and Beyond”
View works by 22 artists - Free
Continues weekends through May 29

Sun. May 1 – 4 PM
THE ATTACCA QUARTET
Howland Chamber Music Circle

Trios in Kansas

Sat. May 7 – 8 PM
THE LAST OF THE MO’RICANS
Authentic Puerto Rican Jibaro Music
The Howland Cultural Center

Follow our web media for more info and events

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

Vases for Spring

Hudson Beach Glass
AROUND TOWN

NEW GARDEN — The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County plan this spring to create a pollinator garden on the library lawn that will be a linchpin for Pollinator Pathways (pollinator-pathway.org). Shown are team members Tony Bardes, Grace Kennedy, Taro Ietaka, Nancy Young and Libby Anderson.

NEW ELM — The Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board is planning an Arbor Day ceremony at 5 p.m. today (April 29) near the Methodist Church at 216 Main St. Members will plant a disease-resistant American elm that will eventually replace a nearby Callary pear, which is a highly invasive tree that has started to take over the former Marathon Battery site on Kemble Avenue, at left. Photos provided

NEW CHERRY — Pete Bailey (right), along with Mark Price, Beacon’s recreation director, planted a cherry tree on April 22 on Main Street in Beacon to celebrate Arbor Day. Photo by Cindy Gould

PARK CLEANUP — Members of Philipstown Cub Scout Pack 137 were among the volunteers at Little Stony Point, outside Cold Spring, who helped on April 22 to pick up trash, including five tires.

AROUND TOWN

GILARDI: TAPPETO- NATURA Curated by Elena Re May 7, 2022 - January 9, 2023

THE POLITICS OF LABOR IN POSTWAR ITALIAN ART

April 30, 2022, 3-5 pm
Material Matters: Artistic Labor in Giuseppe Penone’s Sculpture
Elizabeth Mangini, Chair and Associate Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture Program at California College of the Arts
Tickets available on magazzino.eventbrite.com

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845 - 265 - 9246
The Cake

Cake is both a near-universal pleasure and a frequent subject of ritual. The Cake, a play that opens at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Friday (May 6), is both.

The play, by Bekah Brunstetter, was presented at the Depot as a reading in 2019 but plans for a production were scuttled by the pandemic. With four actors, it seemed a good way to venture back into live performances inside the Garrison’s Landing theater, says Executive Director Amy Dul. “It’s relevant, funny and has a small cast which makes it doable in the age of COVID.”

The Cake’s storyline reflects the discussion around a 2018 legal case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court over the right of a Colorado baker to refuse to create a wedding cake for a gay couple, citing his religious beliefs and First Amendment rights. The court ruled, 7-2, in his favor.

The fourth character is the baker’s easygoing husband. Set in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the play doesn’t trade in finger-pointing but instead centers on the emotional clashes of deep-seated moral beliefs.

For director Christine Bokhour, The Cake “is a story about connection and how we need that and work to make that happen. Post-pandemic, this has become even more important: how we work to stay connected to people we love. It has a gay-marriage central theme, which makes it doable in the age of COVID.”

“The gentleness of the play has become more acutely understandable,” says Evan Simone Frazier on the set of The Cake Photo by Amy Dul

The Cake’s scaffolding to explore beyond the issue in the play is that one of the brides-to-be who are attempting to order a cake is the daughter of the female baker’s deceased best friend.

“With the divisiveness in our country, and with how politicized religion and gay rights have become, this is such an important piece, because it addresses all of that very personally,” she says. “The problem with social media is people feel like they can say anything, when if they were actually having a conversation with you face to face, they would most likely not do that.”

The three judges will be actor Sally Mayes, who plays Della in The Cake; chef and cookbook author Rick Rodgers; and Zanne Stewart, a Garrison resident who is a former longtime food editor of Gourmet.

Those in attendance will be able to taste the cakes, post-vote, and come to their own conclusions for a People’s Choice Award. Benefit tickets start at $125 at bit.ly/depot-bake-off.

On May 22, the Philipstown Depot Theatre will host its annual benefit. To coincide with the production of The Cake, the theme will be a bake-off, with entries from seven bakeries and bakers recruited by Lynn Miller. The only stipulation was that the cake be two-tiered, with a 6- to 8-inch cake atop a 10-inch base.

The three judges will be actor Sally Mayes, who plays Della in The Cake; chef and cookbook author Rick Rodgers; and Zanne Stewart, a Garrison resident who is a former longtime food editor of Gourmet.

Those in attendance will be able to taste the cakes, post-vote, and come to their own conclusions for a People’s Choice Award. Benefit tickets start at $125 at bit.ly/depot-bake-off.

(Continued on Page 14)
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SUN 7
Marathon for Mental Health
COLD SPRING
bit.ly/hub-race
Walk, hike, run or bike 26.2 miles throughout the month and share your progress with the community during this fundraiser for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. Cost: $26 ($30 per family)

SUN 7
Riverkeeper Sweep
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point 3011 Route 9D | riverkeeper.org
Bring work gloves, water and a mask to help clean up the park during New York’s I Love My Park Day. Meet at the loop trailhead.

SUN 7
Toy & Comic Book Show
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Veterans Building 413 Main St. facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow
Dozens of vendors will have comics, graphic novels and figures for sale.

SUN 1
Grazing on the Grass
GARRISON
4 p.m. Garrison Institute 14 Mary’s Way csfarmmarket.org/dinner
Enjoy food and drinks from Fresh Company while strolling the grounds during this benefit for the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market. Cost: $300

THURS 5
Blood Drive
BEACON
1 – 6 p.m. Veterans Building 413 Main St. | 800-733-2767 redcrossblood.org
Register in advance to donate.

FRI 6
Donations for Ukrainian Refugees
CARMEL
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Paladin Center 39 Seminary Hill Road putnamcountycares.ukrainead. The local Polish community and Putnam County will partner to send aid to refugees sheltering in Poland. See the website for a list of needed supplies. Also SAT 7, SUN 8.

SUN 1
Handy Gardener Plant Sale
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brinckerhoff House 1003 Route 9D | 845-265-3638 boscobel.org
Volunteers who help clean up the Woodland Trail will receive free admission to the grounds for the day.

SAT 30
Civil War Weekend
HOPEWELL JUNCTION
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brinckerhoff House 68 N. Kensington Dr. eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org
Learn about the all-volunteer 150th Infantry Regiment that formed in Poughkeepsie. There will be demonstrations, presentations, building tours and viewings of period artifacts. Also SUN 1. Cost: $5

SUN 1
Into the Woods
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road beaconplayers.com
The Beacon Players will perform the Stephen Sondheim musical that intertwines characters from multiple stories by the Brothers Grimm, including Cinderella, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood. Also SUN 1. Cost: $25 ($20 students, seniors)

FRI 6
The Cake
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900 philipstowndepottheatre.org
This Bekah Brunstetter play, directed by Christine Bokhout, is about a pastry chef’s reaction to a same-sex wedding in her family. With Gregory Porter Miller, Sally Meyers, Kullan Edberg and Evan Simone Frazier. Continues weekends through May 22. See Page 11. Cost: $25 ($22 students, seniors)

TALKS AND TOURS
SAT 30
Golden Bookshelf Project.
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9 putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Learn about spring wildflowers and how to identify them. Registration required.

SUN 1
Wildflower Walk
PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9 putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Learn about spring wildflowers and how to identify them. Registration required.

FRI 6
Quiet Investing in a Noisy World
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Beahive 291 Main St. | beahivebeacon.com
Lena Rixkallah will address issues that impact markets and how to maintain your focus.

SAT 7
History Hike
PUTNAM VALLEY
10 a.m. Fahnstock State Park putnaminhistorgymuseum.org
Cassie Ward, director of the Putnam History Museum, and Dan Ricci, the Putnam Valley historian, will lead an 8.5-mile hike along Sunken Mile Road and discuss historical events that happened along the way. Register online. Cost: $10 ($8 members)

SAT 7
The Art of Flower Arranging
PHILIPSTOWN
4:30 – 7 p.m. Stonecrop Garden 81 Stonerocap Lane | 845-265-2000 stonecrop.org
Frances Palmer will discuss her new book, Life in the Studio: Inspiration and Lessons on Creativity, and lead a workshop. An exhibit of her pottery and photographs are on display through May 30. Cost: $25 ($22 members)

COMMUNITY
SAT 30
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
KENT
9 a.m. – Noon, Fahnstock Park 1498 Route 301 845-808-1390, x43125 putnamcountyyn/recycling
For Putnam residents; registration required. See website for accepted items.

SAT 30
Cherry Blossom Festival & Plant Sale
PEESKILL
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Riverfront Green peeskill rotary.com
This annual event will feature children’s activities, food and drinks for purchase, craft booths and a silent auction. Bring a new or gently used book to donate to the Golden Bookshelf Project. Free

SAT 30
Used Book Sale
PEESKILL
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org
The Friends of the Butterfield Library organized this sale to benefit library programs.

SAT 30
Veterans’ Town Hall
POUGHKEEPSIE
Noon, Elks Lodge 29 Overocker Road facebook.com/DutchessCoGov Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro will host. Attend in person or watch online.

SAT 30
Arbor Day Tree Planting
GARRISON
1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 boscobel.org
Jennifer Lerner, an educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension, will demonstrate how to plant and prune a tree.

SAT 30
Taste of the Valley
PHILIPSTOWN
6:30 p.m. Glywood Farm 362 Glywood Road haldane schoollfoundation.org
This annual Haldane School Foundation fundraiser will include a silent auction and local food and drinks. Cost: $100
KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 30
Fairy House Hunt
POUGHKEEPSIE
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lucast Grove Estate
2083 South Road | lrgny.org/calendar
Search for more than 30 fairy houses and other surprises on the grounds at this annual event open weekends through June 26. Cost: $10 (ages 4 and younger free)

SAT 30
Compass Arts Showcase
BEACON
1 – 6 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | compassarts.org
Watch student performances in improv and theater and hear the Kompetom Choir and the Beacon Rising Choir. There will also be an art show, food trucks and a dance scavenger hunt. Also SUN 1. Cost: $10

SAT 30
Claribel Ortega
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

VISUAL ARTS
SAT 30
Material Matters
PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art
Elizabeth Mangini of the California College of the Arts will discuss Giuseppe Penone’s sculptures in the context of aesthetics and the Italian social and intellectual trends of the 1960s and ‘70s. Free

SAT 30
Art | Beacon
BEACON
3 – 8 p.m. Procario Designs Studio
648 Maple St.
Work by local artists will be on display during this one-day exhibit hosted by John Procario.

FRI 6
Hudson Light
COLD SPRING
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com
Cold Spring artist Rick Gedney’s landscapes of the Hudson River Valley will be on display through May 29.

SAT 7
Pierro Gilardi: Tappeto-Natura
PHILIPSTOWN
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art
The sculptor’s first solo exhibit in the U.S. of his “nature carpets” will continue through the end of the year. Dancers will perform at noon, 12:30 & 1 p.m. on both days of the opening weekend and then monthly. Free

MUSIC
SAT 30
David Wilcox
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The folk singer, known for personal revelations in his music, will perform. Singer and songwriter Jesse Ruben opens. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 30
The Father Who Stayed
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The concert will feature a reading from the book by Rinde Eckert, along with his bandmates, fiddler Corinna Smith, drummer Dave Sewelson, Claire Daly, Dave Hofstra and Michael Sarin will perform as part of the weekly jazz series. Cost: $15

FRI 6
Genessa and the Selena Experience
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Genessa Escobar will portray the singer in this tribute. Cost: $22.50 to $49.50

TUES 3
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gnienda Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountrysny.com

FRI 6
Eugene Tyler Band
BEACON
9 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com
The local bluegrass trio will perform music from its latest album, Thanks, Cats.

SUN 1
6th Annual Seeger Festival
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Scheduled performers include David and Jacob Berns, Betty and the Baby Boomers, Reggie Harris, the Neverlee Brothers, RickNeill, the Trouble Sisters and Sarah Underhill. Donations will benefit organizations that Pete Seeger started: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, the Beacon Sloop Club and River Pool. Free

SAT 7
Sixties Sing-A-Long
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.
Bring the family and sing along to Beatles and Motown songs with a band led by Dar Williams. Free

SAT 7
The Little Things
NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform an assortment of miniatures at Aquinas Hall with a program that includes Bach, Debussy, Copland and Liszt. Cost: $35 to $50 ($25 seniors, students free)

SAT 7
Prognosis
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The American Pink Floyd Show covers iconic songs from The Wall, Dark Side of the Moon and other albums. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 7
The Last of the Mo’Ricans
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The band will perform traditional and contemporary Ki-Di-Rican jibaro music. See Page 15. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

CIVIC
MON 2
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

THURS 5
The Highlands Current
April 29, 2022
13
issues are more heated now than they have been in my memory. The Cake gives voice to both sides with compassion, humor and love. That is a positive. It is a redemptive love story, and funny as hell.”

His wife, Lynn Miller, a baker and pastry chef, assisted with the production; the set is an old-fashioned shop with prop cakes and a couple of real ones. “Cake is just that kind of indulgence that’s OK when it’s really good; revelatory, wonderful,” she says. “Even when it’s not, it’s good. Pie is home, cake is lust. It’s versatile; there are so many different ways you can make one. It’s one of the few indulgences anymore that are OK.”

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison’s Landing. The Cake will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through May 21. Tickets are $25 ($22 for seniors) at philipstowndepottheatre.org.

What Makes a Good Cake?

Because we had the opportunity, we asked Zanne Stewart, who spent 36 years at Gourmet, for her thoughts on cake.

- “A successful cake has a good balance of its components, none overwhelming by it, and the ratio of icing to cake is crucial.”
- “A good pound cake really doesn’t need an icing, in my opinion, but a little drizzle or glaze may not be out of place. Pound cake is a perfect balance of its components, none bullying the others.”
- “Cake is synonymous with ‘occasion,’ whether a birthday, a wedding, or a good report card.”

One Poem a Day Won’t Kill You!

A daily oasis for National Poetry Month

The 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 Davis McCallum, Audrey Keller, Tania Steele, Maxwell Schoenstein, Caroline Eisner, Edie Giunta, and Lafayette Starner. The 2020 and 2021 selections are also archived at the site.

The Cake (from Page 11)

Topfield Center Rides Again

Equestrian center ends pandemic shutdown

By Leonard Sparks

Carter Reeves’ wait finally ended. Ever since a friend told Reeves that the Topfield Center in Philipstown offered horsemanship lessons for children, the Beacon resident kept checking for a re-opening date for the center, which had closed when the pandemic shutdown began in March 2020. That day arrived Saturday (April 23), when her 6-year-old son, Flint, became one of the first children to mount a horse at Topfield in more than two years.

“It’s a beautiful space,” said Reeves, as she and other parents watched children mount and dismount during rides around the indoor arena. “The views are amazing and everyone seems really nice.”

That seemed to be the consensus on Saturday, when adults and children walked Topfield’s grounds, stroked the ears of horses and rode ponies during an open house marking a return to programs for the equestrian center’s core clientele: people with physical, psychological and developmental disabilities.

The center reopens with a new director, Sarah Uzelac, who lives in Beacon, and a newly paved access road that was part of a $5 million upgrade that included a parking lot at the Big Woods trailhead in Fahnestock State Park.

The turnout “exceeded my expectations,” said Uzelac. “I knew people would be excited to be here, but the level of excitement, the level of people who not just want to get their kids involved but also volunteer, that is surprising.”

The center will begin with Tuesday afternoon sessions on ground work: lessons on topics such as grooming, developing a relationship, leading a horse and learning about its behavior. Thursdays will be dedicated to therapeutic riding and the rest of the week to private and group lessons.

In addition to bringing back clients and welcoming new ones, Topfield would like to add programs that use its horses for occupational, physical and speech therapy, and to support people with mental illnesses, said Uzelac.

“How much we can offer is based on how staffed we can be and how many volunteers we have,” she said.

One of those volunteers is Ellen Egerter of Cold Spring, a certified “side walker” who strides alongside horses that have new riders. Because Egerter now uses a cane, she plans to return to help with fundraising or other needs. “I just love animals and horses, and helping charities and the emotionally and physically disabled,” she said.

Saturday’s opening drew many first-time visitors. Rosanne Visco, a retired U.S. Air Force major from Fishkill, volunteers at Hope Rising Farm in Millerton and was curious about the Topfield veterans’ program, which is not yet restarting. Joy Deberman of New Paltz brought her son, Brayden, and daughter, Ailee, who spent time being nuzzled by Duke, a thoroughbred.

Kent Chadwick of Shrub Oak and his daughter, Wendy Suessenbach, and granddaughter, Carly, who live in Cold Spring, took turns stroking Onyx, a Tennessee walking horse. Suessenbach found Topfield when she began looking for therapeutic horse programs after her father watched a TV show about the use of horses to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We’ve been introduced to a couple of horses that are absolutely gorgeous,” said Suessenbach.
A Musical Taste of Puerto Rico

Beacon musician organizes jibaro band
By Alison Rooney

It took John Vergara eight years to feel confident enough on the cuatro, a stringed instrument similar to a Spanish guitar (but smaller), with a bit of viola thrown in, to play for an audience.

The cuatro is the national instrument of Puerto Rico and Vergara is Puerto Rican, so he’d been hearing it for a long time. “I’d seen these guys play, and it’s scary and intimidating, but I decided I was going to learn,” he recalls. “When I got good enough to play seriously, I convinced my friend Tony Velez, a salsa player, to start a band. But it was only after proving myself, because they’re all professionals.”

On Saturday (May 7), The Last of the Mo’ricans, with Vergara on cuatro, Velez on guitar, Sammy Dandrades on guiro (and providing vocals) and Pito Castillo on bongo, will perform an evening of jibaro music at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Jibaro is a word from the Indigenous people of Puerto Rico, the Taino, that translates roughly as “of the mountains.”

Vergara, who owns Lord of the Strings, a Beacon shop where he makes and repairs guitars, ouds, violins, cuatros and ukuleles, says jibaro is “a mixture of all the [musical] elements that came to Puerto Rico mixed with those that existed before, like the Taino, plus African rhythms and Spanish melodic themes.”

He said cuatros are usually made of wood from the island. “Their main job is to play melodies and solos. It’s always accompanied by the Spanish guitar. In Puerto Rico they developed a sophisticated way of playing. The guitar player had to be able to play bass and chords at the same time.

“In a typical group you’ll need two percussionists — one plays a bongo, the other plays a guiro, which is a Taino instrument, a gourd with grooves. Then, of course, there’s a singer.

“The cuatro players — I don’t know what kind of rice and beans they’re feeding them on the island, but they’re very capable musicians,” he says. “The villages where the music developed were agrarian; once the workday was over there was not much to do — there wasn’t even much radio, so they got really good with storytelling, which they combined with music.”

He says the storytelling was related to what the farmers saw in front of them, such as a farmer’s favorite bull, honored with a homage. “There is a lot of humor,” Vergara says. “Sometimes they’ll sing about how the hen is chasing the rooster, or how the dog followed the man to the party and is barking too much. They also sing about food, like, ‘Tomorrow is Sunday and we’re going to have bacalao [fish stew].’”

He says that while the music is performed in concerts, it’s more often heard on a porch, by neighbors. “There’s a huge tradition during Christmastime: If you’re lucky, they show up to your house with a parranda, a Christmas group. You’ll hear a knock on the door and music in front of your house. This is still practiced, even here in America.”

While Vergara grew up in the Bronx, he says he “felt a great deal of pride being Puerto Rican, and for many that’s embedded in jibaro: the lifestyle, the town, the people, love for the flag, the food.”

He says pulling together the band was an accomplishment, because there aren’t many performers in the U.S. who play traditional Puerto Rican music. “I’m fortunate that I have a great friend in Tony Velez — we took half of his band. We’ll have the exact configuration of instruments; it has to be that way or it doesn’t work well, musically.”

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets for the performance, which begins at 8 p.m., are $20 at howlandculturalcenter.tix.com, or $25 at the door. For an introduction to jibaro, Vergara recommends the group Chuto de Bayamón and the singer Ramito.
Plant Shopping

By Pamela Doan

This morning I remembered to check the moisture on the wrapping of my newly acquired red-oak seedlings (10). Then I realized it hasn't rained recently and I should start watering the chokeberries (10), pussy willow (1), sweet pepperbush (2), swamp rose (8), raspberries (4) and, wait — what am I forgetting? All of these are from 2021 plant shopping and are waiting in containers on my patio for their forever homes in the yard.

It's easy to buy plants. There isn't any licensing, education or other credentials. You can even grow your own. Keeping them alive is another project and I hope the list below will help you make good investments with your money, time and energy.

Read the tag

It sounds silly, but it's easy to only focus on a lovely flower. The tag has all the growing conditions and a description. Note the height and width at maturity; visualize the plant in your yard and how that will work. If a woody plant that is 3 feet tall when you bring it home will become 15 feet tall and 8 feet wide, make sure you have the space it needs without interfering with power lines, other trees and buildings.

Note the Latin name. If you’re seeking a specific species, make sure that the Latin names match, since common names vary. Note the sun requirements for the plant. Does your yard offer those conditions? If you’re not sure, check again before you make a purchase. A plant with too much or too little sun for its needs will not thrive.

Not sure about the plant? Ask questions. People who work around plants usually enjoy talking about them.

Root check

If you can remove the plant or tree from its container and view the roots, do it, especially with trees. Notice the tree or woody plant’s root flare. It should be above the soil level, not buried, and the main root should be intact with a loose root system.

When the roots of the tree or plant circle around each other and hold the shape of the container, the condition is called pot-bound or root-bound. If you placed it in the soil without correction, it would stay in that shape and the roots wouldn’t spread out. It won’t grow.

I have a trowel with a serrated edge that works perfectly to cut circular roots. I swipe lightly with downward strokes and free the roots to move out in the hole. Even when plants aren’t obviously root bound, I always massage the roots, shake off soil, and make it as bare-root as possible before placement.

Tree roots take more finessing and knowledge. I’ve learned a lot about preparing tree roots from the blog at gardenprofessors.com. I can’t cover everything here so I recommend that resource.

Green or not so green

Be on the lookout for leaves that are withered, spotted, misshapen or discolored. This could be evidence of too much or too little water, a pathogen or a nutrient imbalance.

Judge the plant by its cycle

It helps to understand the growth cycle of the plant, too. Many native perennials grown in containers won’t show up in May looking chipper. Warm-season grasses, such as little blue stem, have barely begun growing but will look amazing in August. The popular orange milkweed, butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa), will also be insignificant looking.

We’re conditioned as shoppers to expect that “healthy plants” look like annuals, which are only meant to survive a single season. They are frequently in bloom in the garden center and already at maturity.

A first-year butterfly weed plant will be smaller than it will be in the second year of growth and may not bloom. That doesn’t mean it’s a bad purchase, it just has a different cycle. You can’t compare the two. Yet we do, and that’s a reason that native perennials can be less appealing.

Dump the soil?

Commercial nurseries have a strong self-interest in keeping their stock free of invasive species, including jumping worms. Volunteer plant sales may or may not have protocols to prevent the spread of plants like stiltgrass inadvertently. As a strong supporter of volunteer plant sales, I am pretty sure I brought home mugwort: it showed up in the flowerbed.

A good practice is to get as much of the soil off the roots as you can before planting. Put down newspaper to contain it, then throw it away. I’m not a fan of putting planting soil in the trash but I’m less fond of a new battle with an ecological threat.

Buy wisely whether at the garden center or one of the upcoming plant sales. Photo by P. Doan

It’s easy to buy plants. There isn’t any licensing, education or other credentials. You can even grow your own. Keeping them alive is another project.

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Home Made

By Celia Barbour

Last week, I came across the following entry on a coffee shop menu in Richmond, Indiana: “Soups of the Day. Fresh every day! Select from two homemade soups.” This pleased me, as I was very much in the mood for homemade soup just then. Yet I was puzzled by the red Campbell’s logo printed alongside the listing, so I asked the waitress to clarify what they served.

“It’s Campbell’s,” she said. “From a can.” I grew up on Campbell’s soups, and loved them dearly. I credit them for painlessly introducing me to everything from mushrooms to clams. Campbell’s soups topped my favorite meatloaf, baked chicken and casseroles, and established forever my paradigm for the perfect potato cube. Thanks to their cold consommé, I remain a lifelong fan of savory gelatins and aspics. I do not, however, think of them as either “fresh” or “homemade.”

Among the many things I love/hate about Richmond, Indiana, where I grew up, is its complete lack of precision with regard to food, combined with its uninviting gustatory atmosphere. That same coffee shop, for example, offers bottomless pots of coffee. You can park yourself in a booth for half a day, drinking cup after cup from a thermal pot that is continually refilled at no extra charge, and feel as welcome when you jitterbug out the door at midnight as you did when you first crossed the threshold at noon. My friends and I used to pass long evenings there in the old haunts as a series of pushes and pulls — the topography of my character. I experienced intense urges to flee at warp speed. Intense longings interspersed with equally intense pulls. I experienced them dearly. I credit them for painlessly introducing me to everything from mush — something I do not, however, think of them as either “fresh” or “homemade.”

One Midwestern custom that I have not come across in the coffee shop menu in Richmond, Indiana, is the region’s tendency to equate soups with “fancy.” For dinner that night, Dosi and I visited a new restaurant covering in a smoked Gouda cheese sauce. I caught Alaskan sockeye salmon, “stuffed to the gills” with cream cheese and bacon, and covered in a smoked Gouda cheese sauce. I said, “That’s a very Indiana thing to do to a piece of wild-caught salmon.”

“Hmmm,” said Dosi. Dosi ordered spaghetti carbonara, a favorite. I had chicken. We both had asparagus, which we love. Our meals were satisfying, fresh, generous and made from scratch on premises. They also, like so many things from my childhood, compelled me to come up with my own, new version, which I hope might have some small impact on Dosi.

Pasta with Asparagus and Salmon ‘Carbonara’

| 2 tablespoons butter | Salt and pepper |
| 3 tablespoons olive oil | 1 pound pasta |
| 2 to 3 cloves garlic, peeled and cut in half lengthwise | 4 ounces smoked salmon, torn into pieces |
| 3 very fresh, local eggs | ¼ cup chervil, chopped, or substitute |
| One bunch asparagus, tough ends snapped off, cut into 1½ - inch pieces | ¼ cup mixed dill, parsley and tarragon leaves, chopped |

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Prepare an ice bath. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add the olive oil and garlic cloves, reduce the heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, allowing the garlic to infuse the warm oil with flavor. Break the eggs into the same bowl you will serve the pasta in, and beat them with a fork or whisk. Add a few grindings of pepper. Set aside.

Place the asparagus in a steamer basket and submerge in the boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to the ice bath to stop its cooking, then use the same pot of boiling water to cook the pasta according to package directions. A few minutes before the pasta is done, transfer the asparagus to the oil-and-butter mixture and remove the garlic cloves. (You can smash one into the sauce if you like.) When the pasta is done, reserve ½ cup of cooking water, drain in a colander, then transfer immediately to the bowl with the beaten eggs, tossing to combine; the heat of the pasta will cook the eggs.

Stir in the contents of the skillet and mix well, adding reserved pasta water as needed. Toss with the smoked salmon, herbs and lemon juice and zest.

The world already contains enough pithy phrases about going home again, and does not need another from me. But I will say this: Revisiting my hometown after a quarter-century seemed to lay bare some underlying topography of my character. I experienced old haunts as a series of pushes and pulls — intense longings interspersed with equally intense urges to flee at warp speed.

The reason I was in the Midwest was that Dosi, our youngest, was visiting nearby colleges before making his final decision about where to go next year. Richmond was that Dosi, our youngest, was visiting nearby colleges before making his final decision about where to go next year. Richmond was a detour, a distraction, and a chance for me to prattle on to him about random, weird things that had or hadn’t changed: “Oh my God, the Dairy Queen!”

But this side trip also nudged loose the Midwestern custom that I have not come across in the coffee shop menu in Richmond, Indiana, is the region’s tendency to equate soups with “fancy.” For dinner that night, Dosi and I visited a new restaurant that at noon. My friends and I used to pass long evenings there in the old haunts as a series of pushes and pulls — the topography of my character. I experienced intense urges to flee at warp speed. Intense longings interspersed with equally intense pulls. I experienced them dearly. I credit them for painlessly introducing me to everything from mush — something I do not, however, think of them as either “fresh” or “homemade.”

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Redistricting (from Page 1)

The high court ruling only concerned the congressional and senate maps, because the plaintiffs had not challenged the new Assembly districts.

Even under the new maps, Beacon would have remained in Assembly District 104, represented by Democrat Jonathan Jacobson, and Philipstown in Assembly District 95, which has been represented for nearly three decades by Sandy Galef, a Democrat. She is retiring this year and four Democrats and a Republican are campaigning to succeed her.

In the state Senate, Philipstown and Beacon are part of District 41, represented by Sue Serino, a Republican. The maps drawn by the Legislature moved the Highlands to District 43, where James Skoufis, a Democrat, would be the incumbent candidate.

The Court of Appeals decision on Wednesday returned the case to Steuben County Supreme Court, where Judge Patrick McAllister had ruled on March 31 that the maps violated the state constitution. They had been drawn by Democrats in the state Legislature after a bipartisan committee created following a 2014 referendum could not agree on new maps.

McAllister will appoint the special master to revise the maps, and any primaries scheduled for House or state Senate races on June 28 will likely be pushed into August.

Nick Langworthy, chair of the New York State Republican Committee, called the high court decision a “huge victory for free and fair elections in New York. This was an outrageous, brazen attempt to rig the election and violate the constitutional rights of every citizen in this state. Democrats suffered the defeat they deserved.”

The Court of Appeals ruled on two fronts: one procedural and the other substantive.

It concluded that in approving the maps, Democrats in the Legislature violated the voter-approved constitutional process for redistricting, which established the 10-person independent commission as an antidote to partisan gerrymandering.

Comprised of four appointees from each party and two approved by those eight, the commission deadlocked along party lines. The committee’s Democrats and Republicans submitted competing sets of maps that were both rejected by the Legislature.

The redrawn districts introduced in the state Legislature were then approved along party lines — 43-20 in the state Senate and 103-45 in the Assembly. Galef and Jacobson, supported the maps, while Serino dismissed them as “blatantly gerrymandered.”

One of the examples of gerrymandering the Republican plaintiffs cited in their lawsuit was the redrawn 18th Congressional District, which has been represented since 2011 by Maloney.

The boundaries approved by the Legislature moved “strongly Republican areas” such as Putnam Valley, Carmel, Yorktown and Somers into District 16, which has Democratic strongholds such as Mount Vernon and Yonkers, according to the plaintiffs. The change, they argued, was intended to make the 18th a safer district for Maloney. In its ruling, the Court of Appeals said that Democrats failed to adhere to the process for approving maps, which required that lawmakers must first reject two plans by the commission before being able to alter districts. (The commission did not produce any further maps after its first attempt.)

Even then, the court said, state lawmakers could only amend the commission’s second rejected plan, and any amendment could not affect more than 2 percent of the population in any district.

The court also found that the maps for the U.S. House violated another voter-approved election reform to the state constitution — that new districts “shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties.”

A redistricting expert for the plaintiffs testified that the approved congressional map was an “extreme outlier” that would likely reduce Republican-held House seats in New York from eight to four by packing Republican voters into four districts and “cracking” Republican voter blocks in the remaining districts “to dilute the strength of their vote and render such districts noncompetitive.”

Democrats sought to convince the Court of Appeals to keep the maps for the 2022 elections but were rebuffed. “We reject this invitation to subject the people of this state to an election conducted pursuant to an unconstitutional reapportionment,” the court said.
Converters (from Page 1)

many other car owners have awakened to lately — that his catalytic converter, which reduces the toxicity of emissions from gas engines, had been stolen.

Security camera footage showed two men jacking up the car and removing the converter, said Kelly Garcia. “They were in and out of our driveway in not even four minutes,” she said.

The Garcias are among a growing fraternity of residents who have been victimized by a rise in catalytic converter thefts fueled by a spike in prices for the precious metals that can be mined from the small but crucial part. The Beacon Police Department issued a warning on April 6 about a rash of stolen converters in the city. Residents, including the Garcias, have reported four thefts since April 1, all of the vehicles either Honda Accords or Honda Elements, said Det. Sgt. Jason Johnson. Honda Elements are a popular target because they can have high ground clearance and converters with a high concentration of precious metals.

On March 17, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department reported the arrest of a Connecticut man who was charged with grand larceny and vehicle stripping for allegedly using a battery-powered circular saw to steal a converter from two vehicles parked on and near Tilly Foster Road in Southeast.

Insurance claims for catalytic converter thefts rose from about 1,300 nationally in 2018 to about 3,400 in 2019 to nearly 14,500 in 2020, the most recent figures available, according to the nonprofit National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Because not all thefts are covered by insurance, and so may not be reported, the figures are likely an undercount. A bill introduced on Tuesday (April 26) would require that anyone selling a converter have a permit or a title of ownership; another bill, introduced April 19, would mandate that any converter sold in New York after Jan. 1, 2023, be engraved or stamped with a serial number.

Thieves can unload converters at scrap metal recyclers for $50 to $250 each, said the NICB. A standard converter contains between 2 and 7 grams of palladium, 3 to 7 grams of platinum and 1 to 2 grams of rhodium, according to Waste Advantage Magazine.

That doesn’t seem like much — you need 28 grams for an ounce — but as of Wednesday (April 27), palladium was valued at $2,130 an ounce and rhodium at $16,800, according to Kitco, which tracks prices for precious metals. Five years ago, on April 28, 2017, palladium traded for $827 and rhodium for $935.

While thieves can enrich themselves, car owners without insured converters face big bills. The Garcias paid $1,800 to replace their converter. Jose also decided to buy a car alarm for $500.

“The man barely sleeps because he’s so afraid of them coming back to do it again,” his wife said.

In addition to the police, state lawmakers have taken notice. A bill introduced on Tuesday (April 26) would require that anyone selling a converter have a permit or a title to ownership; another bill, introduced April 19, would mandate that any converter sold in New York after Jan. 1, 2023, be engraved or stamped with a serial number.

What You Can Do

Although the odds of losing your converter are relatively low, given the number of cars on the road, park your vehicle in a garage, if possible. Otherwise, consider installing motion sensor security lights and setting the car alarm.

You can purchase anti-theft devices such as protection shield or have your vehicle identification number (VIN) painted or etched on your converter. Some police departments, mostly in and near Los Angeles, have organized “etch and catch” events and last year AAA Colorado gave away 10,000 devices that chemically etch a number onto the devices, although it’s unclear how often that leads to arrests.

Keep Cats Indoors

Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

Cats now function as introduced predators in many different habitats across the world. When outside, cats are invasive species that kill birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Because most cats—whether feral or owned by humans—receive food from people, they also exist in much higher concentrations than wild felines do. But despite being fed, they kill wild birds and other animals by instinct.

There are now over 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States; they kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making them the single greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds.

Free-roaming cats also spread diseases such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Feline Leukemia Virus, and face many more threats like vehicles and predators. Living outdoors shortens a cat’s lifespan to just 2-5 years, whereas indoor cats can live to be 17 and beyond.

The easiest way you can help prevent needless bird deaths and keep you and your pet safe is by keeping your cat indoors.

Lars I. Kulleseid
(1935-2022)

The Kulleseid family will celebrate the life of Lars Kulleseid on Saturday, May 21, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the grounds of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison.

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**NOTICE**

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting May 9, 2022.

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Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older.

Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE.

Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.204 for an appointment. EHO.

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**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 Mattawan 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, shall be on file for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner of Schools, 241 South Street, Beacon, New York, 12508, commencing on Monday, May 2, 2022, and continuing each business day during regular business 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, at the School District Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY 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:

**ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 / POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL**

- Description: First Ward, First and Second Districts
- locating to vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

- Description: Second Ward, First, Second and Third Districts

- Description: Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts

- Description: Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

**ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 / POLLING LOCATION: GLENMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill, and LaGrange in Dutchess County, and the Towns of Cortlandt and Philipstown in Putnam County, south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

- Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill, and LaGrange in Dutchess County, and the Towns of Cortlandt and Philipstown in Putnam County, Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by the City Line of Beacon, and west by the Hudson River.

- Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill, and LaGrange in Dutchess County, and the Towns of Cortlandt and Philipstown in Putnam County, Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by the City Line of Beacon, and west by the Hudson River.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Board of Directors not later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY 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 Education will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of submitting the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year, as prepared by the Board of Education, for presentation to the Board of Education.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY 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 Education will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year. The public hearing will be held at the Board of Education’s main office located at 10 Education Drive, 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 HEREBY 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 Education will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of considering the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year. The public hearing will be held at the Board of Education’s main office located at 10 Education Drive, 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.
### The Rise and Fall of the Incline Railway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Two New Hampshire men, Weldon Weston and Henry George, who hiked Mount Beacon in the 1890s, incorporate the Mount Beacon on Hudson Association to explore its development. One of their investors, Jesse Pattee, founds the Mount Beacon Incline Railway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Construction begins with the clearing of a path through the forest for 2,200 feet of track. Engineered by the Otis Elevator Co., the railway will operate with two carriages pulled by cables, weights, a pulley and electric motors. The average grade of the route is 65 percent. A subcontractor, the Mohawk Construction Co., sends a crew of 73 men to work through the winter. The powerhouse and other structures are built with bricks carried up the mountain by mules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>The railway, which costs $165,000 to complete (about $5.6 million today), opens on Memorial Day. Sixteen hundred people ride to the summit, where they are rewarded with a panoramic view, a casino with a restaurant and dance hall, and a small zoo. The incline also will support a cottage colony of about 20 families by giving them a way to transport lumber and supplies up the mountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>The 60-room Beaconscone Hotel opens adjacent to the casino.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-10</td>
<td>The director D.W. Griffith, who later made his name with <em>The Birth of a Nation</em> (1915), films three silent movies atop Mount Beacon, using the railway and pack animals to get his crew and equipment to the summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>The railway has a banner year, transporting more than 110,000 visitors who arrive by automobile, train and steamship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>The hotel and casino are destroyed by fire. The casino is rebuilt, opening in 1928, but not the hotel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>A fire destroys 480 feet of track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>A brush fire destroys one of the two carriages and 300 feet of track. <em>The New York Times</em> describes several passengers leaping from the car as it advanced into the flames. The carriage is rebuilt without a roof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>A 2-mile ski trail, which includes a 60-foot jump, is set to open once there is a 4-inch snow base. Skiers could return on the incline railway or stop three-quarters of the way down to catch a tow line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>The railway's president, J.M. Lodge, sells it to a group of New York investors called Mountaintop Lands, who plan to redevelop it. This never occurs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Ridership falls to about 25,000 passengers annually.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965-67</td>
<td>The Dutchess Ski Area uses the railway to shuttle skiers until it builds a chairlift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>A railway car and the lower station are destroyed by fire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>The state closes the railway because of unsanitary conditions at the upper station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The railway resumes service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>The owners lose the title in a tax sale. Service ends. The two cars are parked mid-track to prevent vandalism. Over 70 years, the attraction is estimated to have carried 3 million people to the summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>The railway and its upper powerhouse are placed on the National Register of Historic Places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>The railway is destroyed by a fire, from top to bottom, including the casino, lower station, carriages, track and powerhouse. Arson is suspected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Scenic Hudson begins its purchase of 234 acres on Mount Beacon, including the ruins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society is founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>The society establishes a board and appoints a CEO and president.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Scenic Hudson donates Mount Beacon Park to New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>After raising $250,000 in five years, the restoration society announces plans for a $20 million capital campaign. Jeff McHugh, the vice president, says the restoration could be accomplished in four to six years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society (mountbeaconincline.org); *Along the Mount Beacon Incline Railway*, by Gregory Bilotto; Beacon Historical Society; news reports
Roundup (from Page 24)
Scotia Hartford — each scored their first goals. Keeper Lola Mahoney recorded four saves.

The Blue Devils had a tougher road this week, falling on Monday at Rye Neck, 16-6, and Tuesday at home to O’Neill, 13-6.

Carmela Cofini, Nelson and Johanson each had a goal against O’Neill, and O’Hara notched a hat trick.

“Our defense did a great job with sliding, communicating and dropping into the zone,” said Coach Keri Dempsey.

At Rye Neck, Nicholls and Johanson each scored twice, and Ruggiero and O’Hara each had a goal. Mahoney had 17 saves in net.

Haldane was scheduled to face Edgemont on Wednesday.

GOLF
The Beacon girls dropped a 150-176 decision to Cornwall on Tuesday (April 26) in a match played at the Southern Dutchess Country Club. Elizabeth Ruffy and Sophia Campagnoni led the Bulldogs. “Both teams played hard, despite the raw and rainy weather conditions,” Coach Jeanmarie Jacques said.

The Beacon boys picked up a 265-314 victory over O’Neill on Monday at West Point, led by Will Martin (46), Jack Philipbar (46), Dillon Kelly (55), Mike Serino (56), Jake Signorelli (63) and Leo Lopez (69).

TRACK & FIELD
Beacon traveled to Rondout Valley High School on April 23 for the Gander Invitational.

For the boys, Damani DeLoatch won the long jump at 19-4 and the triple jump at 38-8; Rubio Castagna was second in the 400 hurdles in 61.42; Jack Cleary took second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 11:42.61; Henry Reinke was third in the 400 meters at 53.33; Lucas Vermeulen was third in the high jump at 5-8; and the 4x100 relay team was third in 47.60.

For the girls, Rachel Thorne was third in the 3,000 meters in 12:02.79 and the sprint medley relay team took second in 5:02.44.

“That was a huge 3-second personal improvement for Rubio in the 400 hurdles,” noted Coach Jim Henry. “That race ranks him as the ninth-best sophomore in New York in the event. I’m impressed by the work he’s been putting in and the rapid rate of improvement.

“It’s also great to see Lucas make a 4-inch improvement in the high jump [to 5-8].”

Henry said. “His enthusiasm and excitement fire up the rest of the team.”

On Monday, at the Gary V. Classic at Washingtonville, Evan LaBelle won the 1,600 in 4:40.39; DeLoatch won the long jump at 19-0; Eddie Manente was second in the 100 meters in 11.66; and the boys’ sprint medley relay team took second in 3:46.54.

Beacon will travel to Marlboro today (April 29) for the Iron Dukes Invitational.

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL
Eva DeChent, a junior at Putnam Valley High School, was named the Class B Player of the Week by the New York State Sportswriters Association. The guard averaged 23 points and 10.8 rebounds per game for the Tigers, who advanced to the state semifinals. Her teammate, senior Amanda Orlando, was named to the All-State sixth team.
**CrossCurrent**

**ACROSS**
1. Karate level
5. Caprice
9. Perch
12. Writer Wiesel
13. Car
14. Man-mouse link
15. Time between vernal equinoxes
17. Viva — Vegas
18. Wesley of Blade
19. Striped critter
21. Symbol of strength
22. Chip
24. Right on the map?
27. — chi
28. Evening, in an ad
31. Duo
32. Grass shack
33. Feedbag tidbit
34. Big name in scat
36. Boom times
37. Mad Money network
38. Beetle Bailey’s boss
40. Italian river
41. “Untrue”!
43. Jurassic Park bird
47. Paris pal
48. Game for one
51. Pouch
52. Daring Knievel
53. Village People hit

**DOWN**
1. Porgy’s love
2. Carolina college
3. Actress Taylor
4. Oolong brewer
5. Methods
6. Shade
7. Call — day
8. Code name?
9. Puzzle answer
10. Persia, today
11. To-do list item
16. Toy Story dinosaur
20. Understanding
22. Hosiery shade
23. Funny folks
24. Paris summer
25. Piercing tool
26. Start of summer or winter
27. Hoodlum
28. Evening, in an ad
29. Bar bill
30. List-ending abbr.
31. Duo
32. Grass shack
33. Feedbag tidbit
34. Big name in scat
36. Boom times
37. Mad Money network
38. Beetle Bailey’s boss
40. Italian river
41. “Untrue”!
43. Jurassic Park bird
47. Paris pal
48. Game for one
51. Pouch
52. Daring Knievel
53. Village People hit

**SudoCurrent**

**CLUES**
1. bride’s walkway (5)
2. lowly crawlers (10)
3. like Earth’s inhabitants (11)
4. common dog command (4)
5. large Mediterranean island (8)
6. short break (7)
7. golfer’s equipment (5)

**SOLUTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AIDS</th>
<th>EL</th>
<th>RMS</th>
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</table>

**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.

**Answers for April 22 Puzzles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA</th>
<th>SST</th>
<th>ENOS</th>
<th>AMOR</th>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>NANA</th>
<th>YOGO</th>
<th>TITT</th>
<th>DIMS</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIT</td>
<td>OUT</td>
<td>APPLES</td>
<td>TRE</td>
<td>RULE</td>
<td>EVA</td>
<td>SEW</td>
<td>BADER</td>
<td>LOST</td>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>YIPS</td>
<td>FLIRT</td>
<td>GAB</td>
<td>TAT</td>
<td>SUDS</td>
<td>TRU</td>
<td>ODESA</td>
<td>NATIVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. SEAMS, 2. NIKOLA, 3. ARTSY, 4. INADVISABLE, 5. FINISHING, 6. EMMANUEL, 7. ENJOYABLE

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

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BOYS’ LACROSSE

A young Haldane boys’ lacrosse team has been surpassing expectations, last week recording victories over Croton, Eastchester and North Salem to improve to 7-2.

On Wednesday (April 27) in Cold Spring, the Blue Devils dominated North Salem throughout, building a 4-0 halftime lead on the way to a 7-2 victory.

Haldane is scheduled to host Horace Greeley on Saturday (April 30) at 7 p.m. for Senior Night, when it will honor midfielders Soiel Gaines and Giancarlo Carone. The Blue Devils will host Wappingers on Monday at 4:30 p.m. and travel to Pawling on Tuesday.

BASEBALL

Haldane dropped an 8-2 decision at Irvington on Tuesday (April 26), with Julian Ambrose taking the mound for the first time this season in what coach Simon Dudar called “a big positive for the team.”

Ambrose allowed two hits, struck out two, and didn’t allow an earned run. Dan Nakabayshi came on in relief, but he put in three solid innings,” Dudar said.

“On the other end, we have three guys who have been consistently scoring in Giachinta, Robbins and Gaugler,” the coach added. “We’ve gotten balanced scoring, and we hope to be there at the end with the top teams.”

Haldane is scheduled to host Horace Greeley on Saturday (April 30) at 7 p.m. for Senior Night, when it will honor midfielders Soiel Gaines and Giancarlo Carone. The Blue Devils will host Wappingers on Monday at 4:30 p.m. and travel to Pawling on Tuesday.

GLASS’ LACROSSE

Beacon dropped a 9-5 decision on Tuesday (April 26) at home against Wallkill, with freshman Derrick Heaton earning the victory with four innings of relief, scattering two hits while giving up no earned runs. Heaton was also 3-for-4 at the plate and drove in Tyler Haydt with a game-winning RBI in the bottom of the sixth. Chase Green was 3-for-4 with two RBI and a stolen base, and Joey Vollaro and Haydt each had a hit and an RBI.

The Bulldogs (4-3) are at Monroe-Woodbury today (April 29) and travel to Monticello on Monday.

SOFTBALL

Beacon earned an 8-4 victory at Lourdes on Tuesday (April 26) to earn its first win of the season, defeating Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, 9-8. Anaya Camacho had five goals, Kasey Senior had a hat trick and Christina Merola each went 3-for-4 with an RBI, and Mikayla Sheehan went 2-for-3 with a run scored.

“On the other end, we have three guys who have been consistently scoring in Giachinta, Robbins and Gaugler,” the coach added. “We’ve gotten balanced scoring, and we hope to be there at the end with the top teams.”

Haldane is scheduled to host Horace Greeley on Saturday (April 30) at 7 p.m. for Senior Night, when it will honor midfielders Soiel Gaines and Giancarlo Carone. The Blue Devils will host Wappingers on Monday at 4:30 p.m. and travel to Pawling on Tuesday.

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The Bulldogs (4-3) are at Monroe-Woodbury today (April 29) and travel to Monticello on Monday.

GIRLS’ LACROSSE

After a tough 18-4 loss on April 22 to Goshen, Beacon rebounded on Monday (April 25) to earn its first win of the season, defeating Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, 9-8. Anaya Camacho had five goals, Kasey Senior had a hat trick and Bethany Rudolph had a goal. Josalyn Pagan had eight saves in net.

“At the game, the team honored its seniors: Makkaila Caputo, Giancarlo, Briana Jones, Merola, Leanna Rinaldi, Olivia Spiak, Tess Wills and Haleigh Zukowski. Beacon earned an 8-4 victory at Lourdes on Monday (April 25), with Giancarlo picking up the win with three strikeouts and six hits allowed. Merola drove in a pair of runs, and Spiak and Rinaldi each had an RBI.

“The team played well together, and the communication was good on both offense and defense,” said Coach Taylor Modica.

On Wednesday, Beacon dropped a 16-3 decision at Saugerties, with Gabby Kuka scoring twice for the Bulldogs and Camacho adding a goal.

The Bulldogs (2-5) will play today (April 29) at Minisink before hosting Newburgh Free Academy on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

The Haldane team, which began play this season, recorded its first win on April 22 at home with a 17-0 victory over Keio Academy.

Kayla Ruggiero had five goals. Micah Morales and Mairead O’Hara each had two, and Helen Nicholls, Ellen O’Hara, Amanda Johanson and Caroline Nelson scored. In addition, five players — Morales, Martha McBrade, Moreta Puzzulo, Ruby Poses and

(Continued on Page 22)