Groups such as Latino Outdoors work to get more people of color, such as these hikers in Fahnestock State Park, into the outdoors. (Continued on Page 18)

Alma Padilla grew up in West Texas. Her family didn’t go camping or hiking. “The perception was that out there it’s the desert, it’s dangerous, there’s scorpions and black widows,” she said. But she was still drawn to nature and spent as much time as possible outside, even if it was just her backyard. In college, she followed her passions by studying ecology and biology, as well as exploring the outdoor activities she didn’t get to do as a kid.

“It’s very peaceful, and even if you sit still in one place you can see so much,” she said. She prefers to take her hikes slowly. “I don’t mind if we don’t travel far, as long as I can stop and look at everything and see what it is. It stimulates your brain in a healthy way. It’s not overstimulating, the way digital screens can be.”

Today, Padilla is a field biologist at the Trails (Too) Well Traveled

The outdoors is getting crowded. Do we need to ration recreation? By Brian PJ Cronin

What capital improvements does Haldane need to improve the student experience and be competitive with nearby schools? That was the question being asked at the Tuesday (Sept. 20) meeting of the school board.

For example, should the district build a performing arts auditorium? Haldane is one of the few schools in the area without a dedicated space, the board was told by representatives from CSArch, a Newburgh architecture firm it hired to prepare a campus master plan.

Or should it build a center with a cafeteria and space for students to socialize and collaborate?

Or how about faculty bathrooms?

And where can they put these buildings without conflict with residents whose... (Continued on Page 3)

Shopping for Health Care

Hospital prices can be hard to access and decipher By Leonard Sparks

Need a colonoscopy? Whether someone is insured or uninsured, Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall in Newburgh will cost the least and Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel the most. NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor is a relative bargain, although the price negotiated for patients covered by United Health is more than twice the standard charge.

Local hospitals are generally complying with a federal mandate to publicize prices for procedures and services, although patients will sometimes be confronted with incomple the Hospital Price Transparency Rule, which went into effect in January 2021, requires hospitals to post a “machine-readable” file of standard charges, as well (Continued on Page 8)
**FIVE QUESTIONS: SURANGA GUNASEKERA**

By Michael Turton

Father Suranga Gunasekera, 43, is serving as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring while on sabbatical from his native Sri Lanka.

**What was it like growing up in Sri Lanka?**

I grew up in an urban area near Colombo. I played sports — cricket at first, which isn’t very famous here in the U.S. In college, and as a seminarian, I played basketball. Sri Lanka is known as “the pearl of the Indian Ocean.” If you travel about an hour from the coast, the tropical weather changes, and it becomes cool. And thank God we don’t have earthquakes, volcanoes or hurricanes. There is diversity in its nature and geography: mountains, flatlands, coastal areas, greenery everywhere, but no desert sands. And lots of wildlife. People go there to see the biggest mammal on land and the biggest in the sea — the elephant and the whale. In that way we are rich.

**What is the religious makeup?**

Buddhists are the majority, about 70 percent of the population, and Hindus make up 14 percent. Buddhism promotes humility, acceptance and tolerance, the basic teachings of Buddha. Catholics make up about 80 percent of the Christian population and 6 percent of the total population. There are also Muslims. People are sometimes surprised when they arrive. They ask, “Why are the Muslims so peaceful in this country?” But even in Christianity you can have people with extremist ideas.

**Are the challenges for the church different from those in the U.S.?**

Every country has different problems to solve. We cater to the needs of the people, through our education ministry, social justice and our work with poor people. The children’s apostolate is important. We also have institutions of higher learning. We have not had the problem of shrinking congregations. God has blessed us with priests and religious nuns. Many influential figures have come from Catholic schools. So, though we are the minority, we have had a big impact on the country.

**Is the Catholic Church more liberal or conservative than here?**

Your understanding of a liberal church is quite different from ours. We have the freedom to express our views and theological insights. We don’t have strict boundaries when dealing with other religions. But we are not liberal in the way you understand here. We are conservative in the good sense of the word. You have to be in certain matters, to have a way to hold things together, like the string on a kite. You don’t simply cut the kite string; you need control over it. Liberal and conservative are extremes. Extremes never take you to the end. You should have a balanced view on everything. That’s something we get from Buddhism. They speak about the importance of the middle, a balanced attitude and perspective.

**Will we see the day when Catholic priests can marry?**

A priest who is a member of a religious order cannot marry. As a religious priest (Oblate) I’ve taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It’s a way of life. Even if the pope allows priests to marry, I can’t. But diocesan priests, those who belong to the diocese, can have that option. I have friends in the U.S. who married in the Anglican Church, became Catholic and then became priests. It is not something alarming. Maybe, at my age, I will see this happen. But the whole structure would have to change. For example, Anglican priests are married, have a family and children. Eventually, somebody might demand that kind of married priesthood, for many practical reasons.
Haldane plans (from Page 1)

homes border the Cold Spring campus?
The master plan will not be complete until December or January and no spending estimates have been prepared, according to CSArch. The district is a long way from committing to anything, said Superintendent Philip Benante, but the process, which began in June, has highlighted campus needs.

“The space that we have available to our kids is significantly less than that available to other kids in other schools,” Benante said. “It’s important that we examine that.”

Indeed, the presentation, delivered by Tom Ritzenthaler and Melissa Renkawitz of CSArch, drew a contrast between Haldane’s facilities and those at 11 nearby districts, including Millbrook, Spackenkill, Rhinebeck and Putnam Valley.

As an example, they said, Haldane ranked last in square feet per student with 148, compared to an average of 205 at the other campuses. And Haldane was the only campus without an auditorium. (The district uses a gymnasium stage for performances, setting up folding chairs for spectators.)

“This constrained space asks a lot of our staff,” said Peggy Clements, the board vice president.

As part of the presentation, Ritzenthaler and Renkawitz identified sites on campus for buildings as well as design ideas for an auditorium, gym and student center.

When asked whether the board would likely move forward with major capital improvements, Sean McNall, its president, was cautious. “Do we need to do a major capital improvement?” he said. “It’s a possibility to be considered. But I don’t know the time frame.”

“Wish List”

Here are the capital-improvement priorities identified so far by consultants preparing a master campus plan for the Haldane school district:

- Auditorium for performing arts
- Space for student intervention services
- Student innovation / collaboration space
- Student cafeteria / social gathering space
- Staff support space
- Faculty bathrooms
- Communication-related concerns
- Accessibility
- Outdoor education integration
- Site circulation
- Additional gym space
- Improved athletic facilities / wellness center
- Dedicated high school facilities
- Deficiencies with existing cafeteria
- Improvements to support visual arts
- Improvements to support science/math
- Safety and security improvements

“The space that we have available to our kids is significantly less than that available to other kids in other schools. It’s important that we examine that.”

~ Superintendent Philip Benante
LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Tell us what you think

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Shakespeare project
I was delighted to read about the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s revised plans (“HVSF Releases Concept Drawings,” Sept. 8). What a difference a year makes! The bridge over the wetlands is gone, and the open-air theater is a vast improvement. Of course, I’d be happier with the theater off the ridge and located sensibly near the parking lots, but hats off to HVSF for listening and adjusting on these two important issues.

The noise is now a real problem for the nearby residents on Philipse Brook Road, but as soon as the new theater goes up, wherever that is, that will reduce the problem significantly, for those residents anyway. Water will always be a problem. The water levels where I live on Coleman Road, across Route 9 from the former golf course, are dangerously low, and they are elsewhere throughout Philipstown. HVSF must come up with creative and effective ways to run their site using much less water. That is indisputable. This summer tells us why. If we have another summer like this one — and why won’t? The climate has changed — it will be difficult for any large, heavily visited site in the Highlands to stay open and operate as they have in the past. (Breakneck Ridge: take note.)

One thing I wish HVSF would do now: Bring back the winter theater, at modest size. Noise wouldn’t be a problem because it would be a closed building. I was sorry several months ago to see that it had been dropped from their plans. It would provide two things of great value: three extra seasons of first-rate theater for all of us lucky citizens of Philipstown and beyond and, more important, three extra seasons of jobs for the hardworking and courageous theater professionals who, at their risk, choose the stage as their vocation, for our benefit.

Bottom line: Thank you, HVSF. You’re moving in the right direction.

Robert Cutler, Garrison

Village issues
I was glad to see that Cold Spring is enforcing the signage required by the Boat Club lease (“Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board,” Sept. 16). However, I still think it’s absurd that the Boat Club has been granted lease renewals for decades, privatizing such a large part of our public waterfront. With all of the community outrage about Dockside Park being closed for renovations (the renewed park is looking incredible, by the way) and the speculation that the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is going to destroy the character of the village, how has the Boat Club continuously slipped under the radar?

As a lifelong resident of Philipstown, and a five-year resident of the village, I’d much rather have a riverfront walking trail continue on that property, or even better: Lease the property to a restaurateur so we can have waterfront dining again, last seen when Dockside Restaurant closed in the 1990s.

Re: The Fjord Trail: I agree with Eric Syszka and Lynn Miller, who wrote letters in support of the project in the Sept. 2 issue. Everyone I know in the village cannot wait for the Fjord Trail to arrive, and the fact that the finish line is so many years out is a consistent point of frustration for those of us who eagerly await the day when we’ll have a beautiful riverfront trail to walk, run or bike. Seeing how beautiful Dockside Park will be adds to the excitement and the frustration. The sentiment that the Fjord Trail is going to ruin Cold Spring is preposterous. The visitors are here and have been for decades. Let’s face it, most people who live here were once people who loved visiting Cold Spring. And this idea, from relative newcomers to town, that all change should stop the moment they arrive is insulting to those of us who have been here our whole lives and to the local business owners whose blood, sweat and tears help make this village what it is.

I welcome Scenic Hudson’s management and funding, as well as SCAPE Studio’s deep well of landscape architecture experience, to bring our community a world-class linear park connecting Cold Spring and Beacon.

Todd Seekircher, Cold Spring

Booming Beacon
If you have the time, the Beacon Planning Board meeting of Sept. 13 mentioned in your Sept. 16 issue (“Booming Beacon”) is interesting to watch, particularly the part where the chair repeatedly calls members of the public “irresponsible” for asking that the board not allow developers to continue destroying our city.

Jodi McCredo, via Facebook

Looking back
The item in “Looking Back in Philipstown” (Sept. 16) about the founding 125 years ago of Hustis Dairy brought back memories of milk deliveries to 419 North Road in Beacon. My sister and I would bring in the bottles. Glass bottles of milk. Seven kids. My mother couldn’t keep enough milk in the house.

Jane Riley, via Instagram

Film society
I’m glad to see the Beacon Film Society is still happening and has a proper venue (“Beacon Film Society Returns,” Sept. 16). It was co-founded (very grassroots) by myself and two other Beacon residents, David Majzlin and David Ross, several years ago, with the first few screenings in people’s homes and at Beavie.

Sommer Hixson, via Instagram
Dia Workers Unionize

Near-unanimous vote to join UAW affiliate

By Leonard Sparks

More than 90 percent of workers at Dia:Beacon and the other exhibition spaces run by the Dia Art Foundation voted on Sept. 13 to join Local 2110 of the United Auto Workers’ Technical, Office and Professional Union as part of a wave of organizing at arts organizations.

Just six of the 107 employees who cast ballots voted against joining Local 2110, two months after organizers filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board to hold a union election. Those eligible to vote included curators, gallery attendants and managers working at the foundation’s locations in Beacon, New York City, Long Island and New Mexico.

The organizing effort began earlier this year, fueled by a desire for higher pay, benefits for more employees and more opportunities for gallery attendants, security guards and other public-facing employees to ascend into administrative jobs, said Vernon Byron, who has been employed at Dia:Beacon for nearly 10 years as a guard and attendant.

“It’s time,” he said. “It’s essential in terms of opening up opportunities, keeping the things that we do enjoy about the job and trying to expand other things that we want the job to transform into.”

Dia, which recently raised its minimum wage by $1, to $16 an hour, did not oppose the effort. A representative said Tuesday (Sept. 20) that the organization “respects our staff’s decision to unionize and we look forward to working constructively and openly with Local 2110.”

The next step for employees is to choose members for a negotiating committee and craft proposals to present to the foundation, said Maida Rosenstein, the president of Local 2110, who described the election’s outcome as “extremely gratifying.”

“We look forward to developing a productive collective bargaining relationship with Dia,” said Rosenstein.

Local 2110 UAW also represents employees at the Guggenheim, the Jewish Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Brooklyn Museum.

At the Guggenheim, art handlers, maintenance workers and other staff voted in 2019 to join Local 2110. In October, they were joined by conservators and curators. Staff at the Brooklyn Museum voted in August 2021 to join.

More recently, in May, educators, teachers and other employees at the American Museum of Natural History voted to have District Council 37 of the AFL-CIO represent them in labor negotiations.

But the relations between some museum administrations and their staff have deteriorated once negotiations over pay and benefits commenced.

In August, unionized employees with the Philadelphia Museum of Art filed a grievance with the National Labor Relations Board that accused management of “bad-faith bargaining” and replacing full-time staff with temporary employees to dilute the union’s size. The union, which has been negotiating for a new contract since forming in 2020, held a one-day strike on Sept. 17.

~ Vernon Byron
Accessory Dwelling Changes OK’d in Beacon

In close vote, City Council streamlines process
By Jeff Simms

After more than a year of deliberation, the Beacon City Council narrowly approved amendments to the zoning code on Monday (Sept. 19) that will simplify the process for creating “accessory dwelling unit” apartments.

The vote was 4-3, with Dan Aymar-Blair, Justice McCray and Paloma Wake in the negative.

The changes will make it easier for city residents to create apartments that are either add-ons or new structures on single-family lots. The apartments may range between 200 and 1,000 square feet, although the Planning Board could approve larger apartments in some existing accessory buildings.

Only one accessory apartment will be permitted per lot. The owner of the property has to live on-site, and the units cannot be used for short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb.

The discussion began last year after Mayor Lee Kyriacou suggested streamlining the lengthy Planning Board review to encourage homeowners to create small, affordable apartments on their properties. With the change, the Planning Board will only review proposals for accessory dwelling units that are separate from an existing single-family home or change the footprint of the home. Otherwise, the building inspector can approve proposals.

The amendments also require applicants to provide an off-street parking space, although the Planning Board can waive the requirement.

Accessory dwelling units are the only affordable housing option that can be built in single-family zones, which comprise the vast majority of land in the city. However, only 29 have been created since the city began allowing them in 1989.

The council debated whether a simplified review process would significantly increase affordable housing in Beacon, as has happened in other municipalities. Some council members wanted rent regulations to ensure affordability, while others worried about the effect of bringing more dwellings and cars into residential neighborhoods.

The vote on Monday came after a public hearing in which feedback from residents was mixed. During a previous hearing, in August, two speakers were skeptical that accessory dwelling units would make a dent in the city’s shortage of affordable housing.

Before voting, Council Member George Mansfield said he supports the intent of the changes but was concerned that the city lacks the resources to enforce the requirements of owner occupancy and no short-term rentals.

Council Member Wren Longno acknowledged that the amendments would reduce the burden on the Planning Board, and said accessory dwelling units “make density possible without disposing of the single-family home look and feel that we like of our neighborhoods.”

Kyriacou reasoned that because household sizes are declining, the single-family zoning district is losing density. “If your house is exactly the same size and the size of the family keeps going down,” adding accessory dwelling units “doesn’t change the density of a neighborhood,” he said. “It restores it to what it was a generation ago.”

Aymar-Blair said he could only support the amendments if “we knew for sure that we were creating affordable housing, and we do not.”

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• Composing unique, balanced arrangements that suit your style
• Color theory options so your design looks intentional
• Vases and supplies to make even more designs at home!

176 MAIN STREET, BEACON, NY
Driver Found Guilty in Pedestrian Death

Hit Beacon woman in crosswalk last year

By Jeff Simms

A Beacon woman will be sentenced next month after a City Court judge ruled that she had not exercised “due care” when she turned off Main Street last year and hit a pedestrian, who later died.

Jacqueline Milohnic, 60, was driving a 2019 Jeep Wrangler on Dec. 1 when she struck Carla Giuffrida, 75, of Beacon, in a crosswalk at Main and Teller Avenue. After stopping at a red light while heading west, Milohnic turned left onto Teller, hitting Giuffrida in the center of the crosswalk.

Milohnic’s lawyer, Natasha Turner, on Thursday (Sept. 22) called Judge Greg John-son’s decision “a legal injustice” and said he ruled that she had not exercised “due care” when she turned off Main Street last year and hit a pedestrian, who later died.

Milohnic, who told police that Giuffrida had not been visible because of a blind spot caused by the front left pillar of the Jeep’s frame and sun glare, was ticketed for failing to yield to a pedestrian. Officer Michael Connor, who responded to a 911 call, conducted a field sobriety test and determined she was not intoxicated.

Milohnic contested the ticket in City Court in July. Johnston dismissed the failure-to-yield charge, saying it would have only applied if traffic control signals were not in place at the intersection or not working correctly. But he found her guilty of a lesser offense, failing to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian. Prosecutors asked the judge to consider the lesser offense, which carries with it a fine of up to $500 and/or up to 15 days in jail.

Milohnic is due back in City Court on Oct. 17 for sentencing, although her attorney said that date may be rescheduled for later in the month.

During the trial, according to court documents, Detective Brian Lawrence testified that the “Don’t Walk” sign was illuminated when Giuffrida entered the crosswalk. However, under state law, pedestrians in New York have the right of way in any crosswalk and at intersections, even if a driver has a green light.

Two witnesses testified that Giuffrida was looking at her cellphone while walk- ing. One of them, according to Johnston’s decision, said “it appeared to him that [Giuffrida] was not paying attention as she crossed the street.”

In a police interview the day after the accident, a third witness told investiga- tors that Milohnic had both hands on the steering wheel and appeared to be “paying attention to traffic” as she turned.

The court found her guilty of an entirely different ticket that was never presented at trial.

“The court found her guilty of an entirely different ticket that was never presented at trial.”

- Attorney Natasha Turner

Connor acknowledged in his testimony that glare could have been a contribut- ing factor, because the sun was setting in front of the Jeep, Johnston wrote in notes attached to his decision. Turner called the conviction “entirely inconsistent with the evidence at trial,” because “the court found her guilty of an entirely different ticket that was never presented at trial.”

Richard Bonfiglio, an attorney repre- senting Giuffrida’s two adult children, said Tuesday that the family will decide in the next 30 days whether to proceed with a lawsuit against the city.

The family filed a notice of claim in Dutchess County Supreme Court in March alleging that Giuffrida was killed “due to the defective design and maintenance” of the pedestrian signal at Main and Teller, “which rendered the intersection danger- ous and unsafe.” The notice did not indicate how the control signal was defective, but said that Giuffrida had a “Walk” signal and the right of way when she was hit.

Bonfiglio said he had not examined the evidence presented during Milohnic’s trial but noted that the family “believes there was potentially a defect in the traffic signal, either in terms of maintenance or design.” During Milohnic’s trial, two police officers and a witness testified that the traffic lights and pedestrian signals at the intersection were working properly.

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

In a statement in May, after the notice of claim was filed, City Administrator Chris White said: “The city denies any liability for this unfortunate tragedy and expects any claim will be defended by its insurance carrier. Should there be a payment to the plaintiff by way of settlement or a judg- ment, the need for City Council approval is governed by the insurance contract.”
Hospitals (from Page 1)

as a “consumer-friendly” menu of costs for 300 services that can be scheduled. Hospitals failing to post prices can be fined up to $5,500 per day. (A similar rule took effect July 1 for insurance companies.)

The prices to be posted include standard charges, discounted cash prices and fees negotiated with private and public insurers for services and procedures ranging from daily room rates and routine X-rays to hip and knee replacements, pacemaker implants and spinal fusions.

Supporters of the disclosures, which took effect after an unsuccessful legal challenge by the American Hospital Association, say it will result in lower costs by giving patients and employers the ability to shop around.

Locally, Hudson Valley Hospital, St. Luke’s Cornwall, Putnam Hospital and Vassar Brothers Medical Center all provide searchable online databases that show standard charges and the costs billed to insurers. St. Luke’s online tool is an outlier, however. It requires users to submit their name, birthdate and insurance information, although the law specifies that people should be able to search without having to input personal information.

Each hospital also posts links to a file with a more expansive list of prices, but the files have to be downloaded, opened, deciphered and searched.

Those with the time, know-how and patience will discover clear price disparities between hospitals, private insurers and Medicaid and Medicare, the two main public insurance programs.

A woman who is pregnant will learn, for example, that the standard charge for delivering a baby at Hudson Valley Hospital is $28,893. The price is roughly the same if she is insured by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield but less than half if she is covered by Aetna. With either insurer, she would be billed $7,313 at St. Luke’s Cornwall, compared to the standard rate, $23,758, for the uninsured.

People without insurance will find a standard charge of $15,517 at St. Luke’s Cornwall, which says that those rates are discounted and reflect the self-pay rates from Medicare. Hudson Valley Hospital lists a standard charge that is more than six times higher for births, and Putnam Hospital’s is nearly three times higher.

Hudson Valley Hospital, on its website, warns that prices do not include “fees from your private physician and other providers” and that patients might receive bills from its emergency and radiology departments, anesthesiologists and surgeons.

In addition, according to the hospital, the out-of-pocket costs for insured patients depend on the scope of their coverage, including copayments, co-insurance and deductibles. In a statement, NewYork-Presbyterian said it has been “committed to complying with the Hospital Price Transparency Rule since its inception.”

“We have worked to be as helpful as possible with the pricing information that we provide to our patients,” it said. “As the rule is clarified, we remain committed to continuously improving and updating the information we make publicly available for the benefit of our patients.”

But according to an annual survey released in August by PatientRightsAdvocate.org, only 16 percent of 2,000 hospitals, and 9 percent of 47 hospitals examined in New York state, were fully compliant with the law. Hudson Valley Hospital was among 43 hospitals in New York designated as noncompliant for failing to either post any information or having incomplete or missing data.

Cynthia Fisher, the organization’s founder and chair, said that compliance with the requirement has “ground nearly to a stop.”

With enforcement, fines and transparent hospital accountability, we will see the power shift to health care consumers and employers to lower costs,” she said.

A similar survey published in June in the Journal of the American Medical Association of 5,000 hospitals found only 300, or fewer than 6 percent, fully compliant. Many hospitals were partly compliant, it found, but 50 percent had no information posted.

The researchers found that hospitals with less revenue, in urban areas or in places with few health care clinics or competition from other hospitals were more likely to fail to post prices.

### Cesarean delivery

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### Total hip replacement

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### Total knee replacement

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### Do you know what your home is worth?

Contact me for a Complimentary, In-Depth Home Analysis today.

CARLIN FELDER
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
973G Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524
Cell: 845-554-7845
carlin@carlinfelder.com

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH?

Sundays 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
233 Main St. (DMV Lot)

UPCOMING MUSIC

SEPT. 20: No market
 XIII. 2: Callie Mackenzie / Jan Moore
 IX. 9: Duet

SPOKES:
Arts Mid-Hudson / SunCommon
United Healthcare
The Highlands Current

The Highlands Current

Support our nonprofit. Become a member!
Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

- At the Wednesday (Sept. 21) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Kathleen Foley previewed a joint meeting with the Planning Board scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sept. 28. The session will consider how input will be gathered from residents and boards about the potential impact of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. When the trail’s Generic Environmental Impact Statement is released this fall, village officials will have 30 days to comment, she said. The plans call for Dockside Park in Cold Spring to serve as the southern entrance.

- Barring a last-minute change, the public restrooms next to the Cold Spring Visitor Center on Main Street will be closed for the season on weekends. “I wish we had the money to keep them open every day all year,” Foley said, adding that having Highway Department staff maintain the facilities on Saturdays and Sundays is pricy because of overtime. “We’re way over budget for bathroom labor for the fiscal year, and we’re in quarter one,” she said. A worker who was being paid a lower rate for the weekend work recently quit. Volunteers from the visitor center have helped maintain the restrooms in the past and Trustee Eliza Starbuck is exploring the possibility of renewing that arrangement.

- Shoreline protection measures at Dockside Park are all but complete. The contractor, Coyle Industries of Hopewell Junction, plans to wrap up its work by month’s end. The $1.86 million project, initiated by the state, added terraced boulders to protect the riverbank and vegetation to enhance shore protection and wildlife habitat. A walking path was added and a deteriorated boat ramp replaced. The park is owned by the state and managed by the village.

- Working with the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, the village will apply for a $5,000 grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to help the Hub and the Cold Spring Police Department improve mental-health programs and resources available to the community.

Mike Musgrave
Touch and Tone: Piano music from Scarlatti to Brahms
Friday Sept 23 at 7:00pm

Empire Trio:
The Broadway Show
Sunday, Sept 25 at 7pm

Depot Docs:
Unfinished Business
Sept 30 at 7:30pm

Daniel Kelly
Jazz Trio
Oct 1 at 7pm

An Evening with Liz Callaway
Oct 2 at 7pm

All tickets at www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Shoreline protection is nearly complete at Dockside Park. Photo by M. Turton

JAYOUNG YOON | VISITING ARTIST

Sowing Seeds of Emptiness

September 24 – November 6

Opening Reception:
Saturday, September 24, 5-7 pm

Garrison Art Center
garrisonartcenter.org

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Kelly Maloney and Richard Schunk of Philipstown sent this shot of their grandson, Ian, with Bear. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Margherita Raso: Vizio di Forma
Curated by Chiara Mannarino
September 21-October 22, 2022
Italian Cultural Institute in New York
686 Park Avenue, New York

Organized by Magazzino Italian Art in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in New York and NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marini

Margherita Raso: Vizio di Forma is part of Magazzino Italian Art’s Italian Art Week programming.
Prison Guards Arrested
Allegedly smuggled, sold drugs

After separate investigations, the Dutchess County Drug Task Force arrested two state corrections officers, one who allegedly attempted to smuggle drugs into prison and the other who was charged with selling cocaine.

Charlinea Ganzaroli, 23, was charged on Sept. 16 with three felonies after investigators said she attempted to smuggle narcotics into a state prison. It was not named but she was charged in Fishkill, which is home to a medium-security prison that straddles Fishkill and Beacon.

Ganzaroli, who worked at the Greene Correctional Facility, was a trainee hired in February, according to investigators. She returns to court on Oct. 4.

On Sept. 14, the task force arrested Alex Toro of New York City, a corrections officer at Fishkill Correctional Center who resigned on the same day. He is accused of selling cocaine to an undercover officer. Investigators said Toro used his phone while at work to take orders that his sister filled at an apartment in East Harlem. Toro will return to court Nov. 1.

Beacon Reopens Pocket Dam
Had been leaking 80K gallons daily

City officials gathered on Monday (Sept. 19) to mark the completion of rehabilitation of the Pocket Dam at the end of Pocket Road off East Main Street.

The work completes the first phase of a $2.76 million project that started in June and will include the rehabilitation of the Mount Beacon Reservoir dam by the end of this year or early in 2023 to increase its spillway capacity to better manage storms. The dam at the Melzingah Reservoir will be rehabbed next year and the city also may drill another well.

The Pocket Dam, which can hold up to 200,000 gallons, creates a reservoir for water leaving the Mount Beacon Reservoir, as well as from a catchment area along Dry Brook. It is then piped to the water filtration plant on Liberty Street.

Pocket Dam was leaking 80,000 gallons per day, the city said, despite attempts several decades ago to patch it. The rehabilitation was the first comprehensive reconstruction since its construction in the 1920s, it said.

Dutchess in the Money
Audit finds fund balance doubled

The Dutchess County comptroller said on Tuesday (Sept. 20) that a review of the county’s audited financial statements showed that its unassigned fund balance doubled in 2021, from $60 million to $120 million.

Robin Lois noted that the county policy says it should only keep enough money in reserve to cover one to two months of general operating costs, and anything in excess should be used to pay off debt or refunded to taxpayers. The $120 million is the equivalent of about three months of spending, she said.

Lois noted that the increase in savings was primarily due to a jump of nearly $50 million in sales tax revenue. She cautioned that the excess funds could encourage “apathy toward cautious spending.”

Widow Sues Driver Who Struck Husband

A Philipstown woman who said she witnessed a car that struck and killed her husband on Route 9 near Glassbury Court.

Cathryn Sapeta sued Kayleigh Matos last month in the death of her husband, Kenn Sapeta, 67, who was riding a bike along the state highway on March 15 when he was struck. He died at the scene.

The lawsuit, filed Aug. 15 in state court after separate investigations, the Dutchess County Drug Task Force arrested two state corrections officers, one who allegedly attempted to smuggle drugs into prison and the other who was charged with selling cocaine.

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A Philipstown woman has sued the driver of a car that struck and killed her husband on Route 9 near Glassbury Court.

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The lawsuit, filed Aug. 15 in state court in Carmel, did not specify the amount of damages being sought.

Matos, who lives in Wappingers Falls, told the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department she had turned northbound from a private driveway when Sapeta crossed in front of her.

A Beacon woman who said she witnessed the collision disputed that account in a statement to The Current that was forwarded to the Sheriff’s Department. The agency has not responded to inquiries about its investigation or to a Freedom of Information Law request.
I t’s not “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” time yet, but after two years of outdoors-only productions, the staff at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison is excited to be filling the indoor seats again.

To welcome audiences back, and to remind them the versatility of the intimate space, the theater is showcasing four facets of musical performance, gathered under the banner of cabaret.

Jim Semmelman, a Garrison resident and stage manager with a long list of television and theater credits, pulled the series together, despite at the same time producing 30 Years of Stephen — The Music of Stephen Flaherty, a benefit with a 70-piece orchestra and 50 performers. It takes place today (Sept. 23) at his alma mater, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

“For me, cabaret is synonymous with many different forms of entertainment, a kind of vaudeville, really, which can include anything from classical music to magicians, solo singers to a jazz trio,” he says. “It’s about keeping it casual and welcoming. We hope to do lots more of these one-nighters, because there’s so much talent, so many interesting people, living here.”

This is certainly the case with Michael Musgrave, a pianist, author, Brahms scholar and Juilliard professor who spends a lot of his time in Garrison. In a show tonight (Sept. 23), Musgrave will present a “words-illustrated-with-music” program called Touch and Tone: Piano Music from Scarlatti to Brahms. He’ll intersperse music and words, talking with the audience in between piano pieces. A Steinway baby grand was rented for the occasion.

Two days later, on Sunday, the Empire Trio will make its first visit to the Depot, with soprano Erin Shields, baritone Adam Cannedy and pianist and violinist David Shenton, whose “fingers are like 10 instruments,” says Semmelman. For their Garrison performance, the group will highlight a classic musical theater repertoire with songs from Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, Kiss Me Kate, Fiddler on the Roof, All That Jazz and The Phantom of the Opera — and that’s just in the opening number.

On Oct. 1, the Daniel Kelly Jazz Trio will perform. The composer and pianist, who has lived in the area for several years, has never performed in the Hudson Valley with his trio, which features longtime collaborators Rob Garcia on drums and Matt Pavolka on bass.

The trio will perform two sets of Kelly’s original compositions and pieces by other classical and jazz composers. Kelly will also perform improvised solo piano pieces and his daughter, Sofia, will sing on a few selections.

“This concert will be special for me on many levels: as a musician, a parent and a member of this community that I love,” Kelly says.

The final night, Oct. 2, belongs to Broadway, concert and cabaret singer Liz Callaway, who will next perform in London and San Francisco in To Steve With Love, a tribute to Stephen Sondheim. She sang the Academy Award-nominated song “Journey to the Past” in the animated feature Anastasia and is the singing voice of Princess Jasmine in Disney’s Aladdin sequels.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison’s Landing. For tickets, which are $25, see philipstowndepottheatre.org.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 24
Traveling Wall
CARMEL
Memorial Park | 20 Gipsy Trail Road pcjc.org/the-traveling-wall
This replica of the Vietnam War Memorial will be open 24 hours a day through SUN 25, with a continuous reading of names.

SAT 24
Hudson Valley Irish Festival
PEEKSKILL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Riverfront Green facebook.com/irishfestivalcenter
Live music, spoken word, readings, dancers, vendors and food trucks will showcase Irish heritage. Cost: $10 (free for 12 and younger) Free

VISUAL ART
SAT 24
Slaterpalooza
GLENHAM
2:30 – 9:30 p.m. Slater Chemical Fire Co. slatepalooza.com
Cost: $10 (free for 12 and younger) Coolers are permitted. Registration required.

SAT 24
Nourish Our Neighbors Shindig
BEACON
7 – 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | fareground.org
Enjoy food and drinks and a silent auction, followed by dancing, performers, actors, musicians, and group shows at the Dutch Reformed Church, Glenclyffe Grounds and Holden Arts. See the website or pick up a map at Howland Art Supply, 5 Grand St. Also SUN 25.

SAT 24
Jayoung Yoon
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960 garrisonartcenter.org
In her exhibition, Sowing Seeds of Empinness, the South Korean artist uses lengths of hair to create two-dimensional sculptures and weavings. Through Nov. 6.

SAT 24
Christopher Maschinet
COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. Studio Tashtego 49 Main St. | studiotashtego.com
In his first solo exhibit at the gallery, Walk Don’t Run, Maschinet will share ceramic works that celebrate Highlands trails. Through Nov. 27.

WEB 28
Celebrate Mexican Art
BEACON
1:30 p.m. Via Zoom | beaconlibrary.org
In this Zoom presentation sponsored by the Howland Public Library, Joyce Raimondo of the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center will discuss how Mexican artists influenced Jackson Pollock. Register online.

SAT 1
Faces of Beacon
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org
This group show of portraits will celebrate the diversity of Beacon. Through Nov. 12.

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 24
Kites Over the Hudson
GARRISON
2 – 4 p.m. Washington’s Headquarters facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters
Performers, actors, musicians, dancers and artists will encourage climate action at this festival that is part of Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week.

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 24
Soon is Now
BEACON
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 hodm.org
This replica of the Vietnam War Memorial will be open 24 hours a day through SUN 25, with a continuous reading of names. Cost: $10 ($8 for children, discounts for members)

SUN 2
Fungus Among Us
CORNWALL
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Drive
Performers, actors, musicians, dancers and artists will encourage climate action at this festival that is part of Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week.

TALKS & TOURS
SAT 24
Playwriting Workshop
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Butterfield Library facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters
Christine Scarborough will lead this workshop in preparation for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s Community Bake-Off. Also SUN 25 at The Garrison. Register online.

WEB 28
3D Doodlers Workshop
BEACON
3:15 p.m. Howland Public Library facebook.com/howlandlibrary
Students in grades 6 to 12 will create a design using a 3D pen. Registration required.

WED 28
Pony Bead Pumpkins
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary
Children ages 5 and older will make a sculptured bead pumpkin. Registration required.

THURS 29
The Interview
BEACON
7 p.m. Story Screen 445 Main St. facebook.com/storyscreenbeacon
The company will perform Dances for Isadora and new work by emerging choreographers. Also FRI 30. Cost: $15 ($10 with age)

FRIDAY/DANCE
FRI 30
Hunchback of Notre Dame
BEACON
5 & 6 p.m. Boats leave dock 845-831-6346 | hennermancastle.org

WED 28
A-Y/dancers
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center facebook.com/howlandculturalcenter
The company will perform Dances for Isadora and new work by emerging choreographers. Also FRI 30. Cost: $15 ($10 with age)
Climate Justice and Public Health
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Laura Bozzi, director at the Yale University Climate Change and Health Initiative, and David Gelber, co-creator of the Years of Living Dangerously, will discuss the impacts of climate change through a public health and equity lens.

SUN 25
Plein Air Painting
GARRISON
2 – 5 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane
garrisonartcenter.org
Book a spot online to paint in the gardens. Instruction isn’t offered.

TUES 27
Bridging Indigenous Systems and Modern Science
GARRISON
Noon, Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
Nicole Redvers, author of The Science of the Sacred, will discuss her book with Jonathan Rose of the Gelber, co-creator of the Eluysium Furnace Works series, the contemporary musicians will play compositions and perform improvisational works.

MON 26
Luca Soul Rosenfeld Quartet
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon
Rosenfeld, Kelly Green, Steven Frieder and Bob Meyer will perform as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series.

FRI 30
Martin Pizzarelli Quartet + One
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The bass player, known for his swing style, will be joined by Hyuna Park (piano), Limus Wyrich (clarinet/tenor saxophone) and Walt Bibinger (guitar).

SAT 1
Effie & the Mist
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
9 Vassar St. | effieandthemist.com
This cover band will play hits by acts as diverse as John Denver and the Rolling Stones. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

SAT 1
Stephane Wrembel & Django Experiment
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The group will perform Shades of Django. Cost: $35 ($40 door)

SAT 1
Duke Sidrani’s Sufi Fusion
COLD SPRING
5:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park
Visit manitoga.org
The surf and garage rock band will play with Trauma Cat.

SAT 1
Sara Mikulsky Wellness Physical Therapy
18 W. Main St., Beacon NY
inside beacon pilates
www.saramikulsky.com
sara@saramikulsky.com
845-219-5210

SAT 1
Matthew D. Miller Pianist & Composer
BEACON
8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
9 Vassar St. | matthewmillerpiano.com
As part of the Eluysium Furnace Works series, the contemporary musicians will play compositions and perform improvisational works.

SAT 2
Bedbugs
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The surf and garage rock band will play with Trauma Cat.

SAT 2
The Fabulous Thunderbirds
PEEKS TOWN
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The band behind the hits “Tuff Enuff” and “Wrap It Up” will play songs from their decades-long career as well as new music.

SAT 2
Best of the ’70s
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
This cover band will play hits by acts as diverse as John Denver and the Rolling Stones. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

SUN 25
Dried Flower Arranging
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Witch Hazel
176 Main St. | witchhazellny.com
Participants will create an arrangement to take home. Cost: $60

TUES 27
Bridging Indigenous Systems and Modern Science
GARRISON
Noon, Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
Nicole Redvers, author of The Science of the Sacred, will discuss her book with Jonathan Rose of the Gelber, co-creator of the Eluysium Furnace Works series, the contemporary musicians will play compositions and perform improvisational works.

MON 26
String Busters
PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tomkinscorners.org
Will Demers, Will Kastner, Dan Cunliffe and Ed Spallina will play with his band. See Page 11.

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729 Peekskill Hollow Road
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MON 26
Liz Callaway
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The Broadway singer and actress will perform her hits from popular movies and shows. See Page 11.

CIVIC
MON 26
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 27
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beacon12.org

WED 28
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

SAT 1
Daniel Kelly Jazz Trio
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The pianist and composer will perform with his band. See Page 11.
Cost: $25

SAT 1
Matt Mitchell, Kim Cass & Kate Gentile
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
9 Vassar St. | kimmckatekateaptme.com
As part of the Eluysium Furnace Works series, the contemporary musicians will play compositions and perform improvisational works.
Cost: $20 ($30 door)

SUN 2
Ogden String Quartet
BEACON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The pianist and composer will perform with his band. See Page 11.
Cost: $25

SUN 2
Song of the Quarry
GARRISON
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Manitoga
584 Route 90 | 845-424-3812
visitmanitoga.org
Shakuchachi players Thomas Ryuraku Hack, Adam Robinson, and Nora Noraku Sugis will perform traditional and experimental compositions inspired by the Quarry Pool and the trails.
Cost: $40 ($35 members)

FRI 30
Martin Pizzarelli Quartet + One
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The bass player, known for his swing style, will be joined by Hyuna Park (piano), Limus Wyrich (clarinet/tenor saxophone) and Walt Bibinger (guitar).
Cost: $25 ($30 door)
Muhammar (Sumac) Chicken

Serves 4

1. Make spice mix: Combine all ingredients and mix well. Rinse and pat dry the chicken. In a bowl, oil chicken with a tablespoon of olive oil and toss with 3 to 4 tablespoons of the spice mix to coat; cover and refrigerate for at least an hour (up to 8). If using, make the yogurt sauce by whisking together all the ingredients; cover and refrigerate until serving. Toast the pine nuts and reserve.

2. When ready to cook, remove chicken from refrigerator and bring to room temperature. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove chicken pieces from the spice mix, shaking off excess, and reserve to a plate. In a separate bowl toss the onion rings with a tablespoon of olive oil to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix.

3. Line and oil a half-sheet pan. Pile the onions on first in a tight layer to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix. 4. Line and oil a half-sheet pan. Pile the onions on first in a tight layer to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix. 4. Line and oil a half-sheet pan. Pile the onions on first in a tight layer to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix. 4. Line and oil a half-sheet pan. Pile the onions on first in a tight layer to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix.

5. Oil and toss with 3 to 4 tablespoons of the spice mix to coat; cover and refrigerate for at least an hour (up to 8). If using, make the yogurt sauce by whisking together all the ingredients; cover and refrigerate until serving. Toast the pine nuts and reserve.

6. When ready to cook, remove chicken from refrigerator and bring to room temperature. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove chicken pieces from the spice mix, shaking off excess, and reserve to a plate. In a separate bowl toss the onion rings with a tablespoon of olive oil to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix.

7. Line and oil a half-sheet pan. Pile the onions on first in a tight layer to moisten and toss in the bowl with the remaining spice mix.

8. Serve on a bed of spinach or greens, layering first the onions, then the chicken pieces and some of the pan juices. Top with a dollop of the yogurt sauce and garnish with plenty of mint and pine nuts. An extra drizzle of olive oil would not be out of place.

* Bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs are my preferred cut of meat for this recipe; you can certainly use boneless, skinless thighs or other cuts, although chicken breasts may be a bit drier. Cooking times will vary so check more often.

** Ground sumac is more available than it used to be but you can find it at Nature’s Pantry in Fishkill or at Spice Revolution in Cold Spring.

*** Labneh is a culinary cousin of yogurt and is notably thicker and creamier. It is available at Nature’s Pantry and other health food stores and select supermarkets.

INGREDIENTS

For the spice mix:
3 tablespoons ground sumac**
1 tablespoon ground cumin
teen teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground allspice
tea spoon garlic powder
tea spoon Aleppo pepper (optional)
½ teaspoon ground black pepper

For the yogurt sauce (optional):
½ cup labneh*** or plain, whole-milk Greek-style yogurt
1 clove garlic, grated fine
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ tablespoon juice and finely grated zest of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon pomegranate molasses or honey

Garnish:
4 tablespoons roughly chopped mint leaves
¼ cup pine nuts, toasted

Saffron in favor of cinnamon and optional spice blend, I've scotched the traditional flavor for the chicken, adjusting the roasting time accordingly (30 to 35 minutes). Add the vegetables to the basic chicken recipe if you like. Consider a seafood variation featuring shrimp, or carnivorous alternatives featuring lamb or pork medallions.

Regardless of the setting, sumac takes the lead and deserves the accolades on its own.
Dancing for Mature Audiences

New Beacon studio caters to adults

By Alison Rooney

“It’s amazing to me how many people want to dance,” says Calli Rothberg. The owner of Passion Adult Dance Studio, which opened six months ago on Main Street in Beacon, isn’t talking about the traditional model.

“The studio isn’t designed for dance professionals — it’s not made for prima ballerinas,” she says. “It’s a different form of working out — and so far no one has said it’s not what they were expecting.”

At Passion, she says, “the emphasis is on feeling comfortable in your own skin.” There are few rules and requirements. According to the studio website: “The music is loud, the lights are low, and the space is a sanctuary of acceptance.”

Its classes include Dance Party Fitness; Not Your Everyday Ballet; Samba Movement; Jazz Funk; Heels; Creative Hoop Dance; Hip Hop 101; and, by popular demand, Rothberg says: Twerk It Out. “You do need to be willing to look at yourself in the mirror and smile until you laugh,” says Rothberg, 29, who grew up in Beacon. “I wanted Passion to be a welcoming place where adults could come and play and feel safe, feel zero judgment and dance for themselves, not looking over their shoulder thinking they don’t belong here.”

“It’s all about how it feels,” she says. “We all deserve to feel sexy and hot and beautiful in our own skins.”

That suits Inge Haensch-McKie. “I’ve never attended a traditional dance studio,” she explains. “It has never felt like something I would feel comfortable doing. But Calli has put me at ease. She has created an environment that is all about loving the body you are living in. During the classes I feel strong, confident and sexy. At the end of class, I put on feeling beautiful. The best part is I get to carry this confidence into every area of my life.”

Rothberg admits to being a little nervous about how the studio would be received. “I’m teaching the ‘Shake your booty, love your body’ classes, because they don’t exist around here. And those classes are thriving; people are surprised how much they love them. Part of me knew, but there’s always that what if?”

She says men have been turning up at quite a few classes, including Heels. The only restriction is age, which is 18 or older. “It’s a space for adults, including moms who don’t want to be in a dance class with a 15-year-old who has been dancing for years,” Rothberg says, noting that there are also no concerns about playing music with explicit lyrics.

Rothberg didn’t open the studio on a whim. As a graduate of Binghamton University, where she studied finance and economics, she says her background and experience working with startups in tech sales gave her the confidence to take the plunge. She now works for another startup, and each professional move has been instructive. “You learn why and how decisions are made, and other aspects, like training, psychology and how much to charge,” she says.

She moved to South Carolina after college and returned to Beacon in 2020. Stranded at home during the pandemic, she says she craved seeing people and missed movement and dancing. When she opened in March of this year, she guessed many people felt the same way.

“I had danced all throughout my childhood, in college and post-college, and I didn’t want the classes in Manhattan geared to dance professionals,” she says. “I was that person, coming to it a bit older, wanting to express my sexuality, my sensuality, doing these sexy dances. I wanted to do that in person, with the community. There are great online platforms, but they can’t feed off the energy you experience having another dancer next to you.”

Passion Adult Dance is located at 473 Main St., Suite 4, in Beacon. All classes are drop-in and cost $25, or memberships are available, for $113 per month. See passionadultdance.com or call 845-206-5006.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that sealed Bids, in duplicate, are sought and requested by the Board of Education, Beacon City School District (hereinafter called “Owner”), for the Reconstruction to: Rombout Middle School and Beacon City High School.

Separate Bids are requested for a single Prime Contract for Roof Work RC-A1 and Roof Work RC-A2 in accordance with the Drawings, Project Manual (including Conditions of the Contract and Specifications), and other Bidding and Contract Documents prepared by:

Tetra Tech Engineers, Architects & Landscape Architects, P.C. d/b/a Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers

A pre-bid conference for potential Bidders and other interested parties will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., starting at Rombout Middle School and then moving on to Beacon High School.

Sealed Bids will be received by the Owner until 2:00 p.m. at the District Offices Conference Room as follows:

Bid Opening - Roof Work RC-A1: Thursday, October 6, 2022
Bid Opening - Roof Work RC-A2: Thursday, October 13, 2022

at which time and place Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

For the convenience of potential Bidders and other interested parties, the Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Beacon City School District, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508
Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers, 155 Plainview Drive, Plainview, New York 11803.

Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online as a download at www.tetratechaeplanroom.com ‘public projects’ for a non-refundable fee of $49.00 (Forty Nine Dollars).

Complete hard copy sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online at www.tetratechaeplanroom.com ‘public projects’.

Checks shall be made payable to Beacon City School District in the sum of $100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) for each set of documents. A scanned copy of the deposit check can be emailed to projects@revplans.com. On the scanned copy of the executed deposit check is received, Bidding Documents will be shipped. Mail checks to Lohrrius Blueprint, 226 Newtown Road, Plainview, New York 11803. Plan deposit is refundable in accordance with the terms in the Instructions to Bidders to all submitting bids. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs (either by providing FedEx/UPS account number or being charged a flat rate by the printer).

Please note REV www.tetratechaeplanroom.com is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information, electronic or hard copy. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as a registered plan holder. The Provider takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources. Contract Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued.

All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders, regardless of receiving electronic or hard copy Bid Documents, via email and will be available at www.tetratechaeplanroom.com. Registered plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

As bid security, each Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond made payable to the Owner, in accordance with the amounts and terms described in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner requires Bids comply with bidding requirements indicated in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner may, at its discretion, waive informalities in Bids, but is not obligated to do so, nor does it represent that it will do so.

The Owner also reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The Owner will not waive informalities which would give one Bidder substantial advantage or benefit not enjoyed by all affected Bidders. Bids may not be withdrawn before 45 days following the Bid opening thereof, unless an error is claimed by the Bidder in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Calli Rothberg (front center) leads a class at Passion Adult Dance Studio. Photo by Alyssa Malliae
16 SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

The Highlands Current
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UPFRONT

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

EDITOR'S NOTE: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 YEARS AGO [SEPTEMBER 1872]

William King, a former resident of Fishkill Landing, married a young woman from Matteawan but proved himself a “rascal,” according to the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News. When J.E. Member heard that King would be in town for the wedding, he notified the police. It seems King had once worked at Members’ grocery and stolen $20. When confronted by Officer Hanson at his fiancée’s home, King handed over $20 and the matter was resolved.

When Fred VanVoorhis heard that Member had recovered his money, he too alerted the police, saying that King had pocketed $12 while an employee of his sewing machine agency. When confronted again, King promised to visit VanVoorhis to settle up, but instead fled with his new wife up the Poughkeepsie road. Two officers took the next train in pursuit while Hanson and VanVoorhis traveled by buggy. King was arrested and brought back to Matteawan by steeple; his new mother-in-law bailed him out. Once released, King hired a horse and buggy “for a few dollars” and returned them only four days later. When he refused to pay, the livery owner seized trunks of personal items King had left at a local hotel.

125 YEARS AGO [SEPTEMBER 1897]

S.W. Atkinson, known as “Oklahoma Bill,” visited Matteawan to share details of his 1,430-mile trip to win a $100 bet. He was resting in town before making paid appearances in New York City. B.E. Salmon had wagered that Atkinson could not travel from Eagleville, Missouri, to Cold Spring driving a single horse within 50 days. He finished in 48 days and 5 hours, trading horses only once.

A 5-year-old girl who lived in Walcottsville, a suburb of Matteawan, was critically injured after being accidentally shot in the chest by her 8-year-old sister with a revolver found on a shelf. She was rushed to Highland Hospital so doctors could locate the bullet, but the X-ray machine was broken. The Fishkill Standard issued a supplement with half-tone engravings of the officers of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co.


Henry Trostler, who had been released from the Matteawan asylum for the criminally insane but ordered to return to his native Austria, angered the district attorney by instead searching for his daughter, who had been an infant when he was committed. At a hearing, a judge gave him 30 days to find her.

According to New York World, a stranger came into a store in Matteawan saying he had just been offered $35 for an 1804 silver dollar he had carried around for years. With the man’s permission, the merchant took the coin to the Matteawan National Bank, where a teller told them it was one of only four in existence and that one had recently sold for $1,800 (about $64,000 today). Upon his return, the merchant offered the stranger $50 for the coin, which he accepted. However, after the stranger had gone on his way, it was found that the year on the coin had been altered; it was actually a far more common 1801 dollar.

Charles Ott, the tender at the Newburgh, Dutchess and Connecticut rail crossing, saved the life of an elderly woman who went under the gate onto the tracks at Fountains as a train approached. After Ott pushed her out of the way, the cowcatcher on the engine grazed him. “The daring act was witnessed by a larger number of people,” reported The Brooklyn Citizen, “who at the time expected to see both parties ground to death.”

The Fishkill-Matteawan Street Railroad Co. reported gross earnings during the previous fiscal year of $35,500 [$1.27 million] and net income of $2,800 [$100,000].

The body of Charles Hazard, the former editor of the Elmira Telegram, was found in the Hudson River with his trousers filled with stones. He left a note on shore: “I can stand it no longer. Over there is rest.”

The Academy of Music in Fishkill Landing opened its season with a performance of The White Slave, a popular melodrama about a young woman in the South before the Civil War who is mistaken for Black and enslaved.

William Jameson, while attempting to win a $100 bet by riding his bicycle from New York City to Albany in a set number of hours, “met his Waterloo,” according to the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News, when his wheel broke while he was cruising downhill near Tioronda, a mile south of Fishkill. He took the train the rest of the way.

A stranger came into a Matteawan shop owned by Walter Jackson, who repaired bicycles and shod horses, to have a tire fixed. He gave his name as John Jackson and, when he heard Walter’s name, said: “I ought to have a younger brother named Walter Jackson somewhere around here. It has been 20 years since I have seen him, and it is likely he moved away.”

Walter responded: “Well, you have stumbled over him, for my brother John left home 20 years ago.” John, who was 15 years older than Walter, said he had lost track of the family after he moved to Canada and then Illinois.

Salvador Alvareta, a refugee attending Miss Dewee’s private Cuban school in Matteawan, drowned in Fishkill Creek.

The New York Tribune notified long-distance bicycle riders that while the roads at Fishkill Landing were in fine condition, “the bell ordinance is strictly enforced.”

100 YEARS AGO [SEPTEMBER 1922]

Striking plumbers agreed to return to work with the promise that wages would be increased in January to $8 a day [$140]. Plumbers in Newburgh remained on strike, demanding $10 per day. A benefit fund established for the family of Officer Charles Lucy, who was shot and killed when responding to a call, reached $1,313 [$23,000].

Michael Spino of Beacon was awarded the contract to repair the dam on Mount Beacon with a low bid of $34,995.50 [$617,000], or 50 cents less than the city had budgeted.

The Beacon Taxpayers’ Association sued the city, saying officials had purchased a vehicle for $5,900 despite a requirement in the city charter that any purchase of more than $2,000 not included in the budget had to be approved by voters.

The City Council voted unanimously to support the construction of a state highway along the river from Beacon to Cold Spring.

(Continued on Page 17)
A 13-year-old girl died when she jumped from a moving vehicle near Beacon because she thought it was about to be in a crash. Although volunteers formed a bucket brigade, a cottage on Mount Beacon owned by a Newburgh woman was destroyed in a fire.

A 27-year-old Beacon man was charged with starting a fire at a Lagrangeville farm that caused $18,000 in damage. Police identified him because he left behind his truck from Dutchess Light, Heat & Power. The man said he was cheered back roads when he got lost after dark and ran out of gas. He was attempting to drain gas from a pickup truck in a barn when he struck a match so he could see. He fled and walked home by following the railroad tracks.

75 YEARS AGO (SEPTEMBER 1947)
Two Beacon banks processed 148 bonds worth $35,000 issued to veterans for unused leave after Congress allowed the bonds to be redeemed before the five-year maturity date. The average payment was about $200. Nationally, by September 1948, about 75 percent of $2 trillion in “terminal leave” bonds had been cashed.

A 28-year-old patient at the Craig House — the daughter of Sir Alvary Gascoigne, the former British ambassador to Japan — disappeared from the facility. Hospital officials said the woman had been depressed since her brother was killed in a tank battle in World War II; she had served in The Flying Wrens, an all-female squad of motorcycle dispatchers. After a witness placed her near Fishkill Creek, a dam was opened for the first time in 26 years so divers could more easily search the water. Three weeks later, she walked into a house at Dennings Point and asked for a cup of tea. She told police she had slept in the woods and survived on berries.

Paulie “Kid” Hawks, a Beacon boxer, had his streak of 128 bouts without being knocked out ended by Johnny Richards of Wrens, an all-female squad of motorcycle dispatchers. After a witness placed her near Fishkill Creek, a dam was opened for the first time in 26 years so divers could more easily search the water. Three weeks later, she walked into a house at Dennings Point and asked for a cup of tea. She told police she had slept in the woods and survived on berries.

The Verplanck tenant farm at Stony Kill Photo by Daniel Case

Louise Corrando won her second consecutive women's golf championship at the Southern Dutchess Country Club after catching the leader on the 18th hole with a hole-in-one. The tie was broken on the third extra hole.

The tie was broken on the third extra hole. A burglar broke into Leo's Tavern at 182 Main St. and rifled the coin-operated pool table, jukebox and cash register.

The Beacon Teachers Association voted to report for work on the first day of school despite not having a contract. At the end of that first day, however, with negotiations stalled, they voted to strike. Because a state law did not allow public employees to strike, a state judge twice ordered them back to work. They refused, and the district closed the schools. Three weeks later, the union and district agreed on a three-year contract that raised starting salaries by 13 percent to $9,450 (about $67,000). Despite the settlement, the state judge found the union guilty of contempt of court, sentencing the president and his chief negotiator to 30 days in jail each and three other officers to 10 days each.

New York said it planned to convert the 750-acre Stony Kill farm in Fishkill into an environmental education center with the approval of the Verplanck family, which had deeded the property to the state in 1942 with restrictions.

25 YEARS AGO (SEPTEMBER 1997)
Christopher Eve set a 3.1-mile course record at Memorial Field in 16:23 as the Beacon High School cross-country team clinched the league title.

City Judge Anthony Pagones, 66, resigned, saying the part-time, elected job had become too time-consuming because of a growing criminal and civil calendar. He said that when he was first elected nearly 20 years earlier, the job took about two weeks a year but that he was now in the courtroom daily.

City Council Member Chris White was charged with trespassing and resisting arrest after a Beacon police officer encountered him and White's girlfriend, Laurie Siegel, walking through the private Fairview Cemetery at night. At a City Council meeting the next day, Siegel said the officer had been aggressive and disrespectful. In response to the criticism, the police union said White should resign; Judge Pagones sentenced him to 10 hours of community service. "White, who left the council that year, went on to manage a district office for Rep. Maurice Hinchey and worked in planning for Ulster County. He was hired in January 2021 as Beacon's city administrator.[Continued from Page 16]"
The predominant feature of the Breakneck Connector project, which is scheduled to break ground soon as part of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, is a bridge that will lead people from the parking lots to Breakneck and the trail.

While the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has a pedestrian bridge over the tracks, it isn’t compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Amy Kacala, the executive director of the Fjord Trail, said that the new bridge will reflect the ethos of opening the outdoors to everyone, including the elderly and the disabled.

The trail’s original design was much less inclusive, she said. “It was aimed at a young, fit hiker, who you were funneling safely from point A to point B,” she said. “This is about looking at the larger landscape, including aging in place. Age, or ability, shouldn’t be a limitation to people’s ability to be outside.”

The proposed bridge has drawn criticism from some residents, who wonder how many physically disabled people will need access to Breakneck.

Ari Golden, who leads a group called NYC Outdoors Disability with nearly 2,000 members, says they may be surprised.

Golden was working as a paramedic and attending medical school when he had a stroke while undergoing surgery. It left him with aphasia, a disorder that makes it difficult to communicate, and hemiparesis, which made it hard to move the right side of his body. It took months of physical therapy until he could walk with a cane, and many more months until he could move his right arm.

Aphasia has its variations. But for Golden, it means that while he can understand what others are saying, and knows what he would like to say in return, getting the right words out is difficult. For example, his speech therapist might ask him to say “dog,” but when Golden responds it comes out as “cat.”

Today, Golden gives talks to medical professionals about aphasia and how to best help people suffering from strokes, while volunteering as an EMT. As a leader of NYC Outdoors Disability, he helps people with disabilities ranging from amputation to sensory disorders get outside and accomplish things that they never thought possible, including skydiving, skiing, scuba diving, surfing and rock climbing.

While the group still gets a few quizzical stares from onlookers who don’t understand why, for example, someone in a wheelchair would be attempting to golf, Golden said that 95 percent of the people they encounter are helpful. “They say ‘I’m sorry. I did not know that you are disabled.’ And then we’ll walk together.”

A speech disorder such as aphasia may not seem like a barrier to getting outdoors, but Golden remembers how hard that first year was for him, and how getting back outside helped. Speaking may still be tough, but when he meets someone with a disability such as his, he knows what to say.

“People who have aphasia, a lot of people are scared or crying a lot,” he said. “I say, ‘Look, I know it’s sad and lonely. But don’t worry. No. 1, work with a speech therapist every day. No. 2, how about we go do disability sports and have a good time?’”

But they also have started to look at who is in the crowds, which tend to be largely white. How can they overcome barriers that keep Black and Hispanic people, as well as the elderly and disabled, out of the outdoors? If access has to be limited to protect an environment, is everyone’s access equally limited?

The National Parks have been called “America’s best idea,” a hallmark of an egalitarian society in which access to the outdoors was available for all, not just wealthy landowners. Figures such as John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt are hailed as heroes of conservation for helping to create the park system.

But Muir and Roosevelt also expressed disdain for the people who were already living on what became America’s parks. The first white people to see the Yosemite Valley were members of an armed militia that drove out the Miwok peoples. The area of Central Park in Manhattan near the West 80s was once Seneca Village, a community of predominantly Black landowners. The city took their land via eminent domain, dispersing the former owners.

U.S. history is rife with similar examples of times when, under the pretense of conservation, people of color have been removed. In recent years, the environmental movement has begun to grapple with this legacy. In 2020, The Sierra Club, which was founded by Muir, distanced itself from some of his beliefs, including that the American West was an untouched, pristine wilderness, ignoring the Indigenous civilizations that had lived there for thousands of years. (Muir urged Roosevelt to move them along.)

“There is a dark underside here that will not be erased by just saying Muir was a racist,” Richard White, a historian at Stanford University, has observed. “It is not just Muir who was racist. The way we created the wilderness areas we now rightly prize was racist.”

The resistance to “outsiders” can be subtle, Breakneck Ridge, the busiest trail on the East Coast, owes part of its popularity to the Metro-North stop across the road. Chris Morris of the state parks department, who has been working on a visitor management plan for Breakneck, noted that is unusual. “It’s a diverse place because of that,” said Morris. “It draws a lot of people from different backgrounds and different ethnicities to come there and recreate. I love it for that reason.”

The Village of Cold Spring and the Town of Philipstown have been less enthusiastic. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority closed the station when ridership plunged during the pandemic shutdown, and elected officials in both locales urged the agency to keep it closed indefinitely.

But outdoor managers point out that mass transit, in addition to being a more climate-friendly option than driving, disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic people.
The SHRED Foundation, founded in Beacon, takes teenagers snowboarding who may not otherwise have access to outdoor recreation. (Photos provided)

when it’s closed, since they are statistically more likely to be poor and less likely to have access to vehicles.

With the station open, visitors to Breakneck are “more reflective of the makeup of our region and the area where we live,” said Hank Osborn, a Philipstown native who is director of programs for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. “We’re reaching out to groups that may have traditionally been underrepresented in the outdoor experience and then providing information for how to get them into the woods, into nature and onto the trail.”

Many outdoor recreation groups hope that if they can provide new hikers with the information they need to enjoy themselves in a safe and sustainable way, they will fall in love with the places they visit and want to care for them.

“I’m a strong believer that if you get people outdoors, and you get them to enjoy nature, and you can educate them, that they then develop a recreational ethic,” said Morris. “They’re more passionate and they’re more respectful of nature.”

“It leads to stewardship, which is what we want, right?” said Padilla. “We want as many people taking care of these public lands as we can, like ‘This is my park, I’m going to help keep it clean, I’m going to help fight invasive species.'”

She pointed to a 2019 study by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication that found that Latinos and Blacks are more likely to be alarmed or concerned about global warming than whites. That same survey found Latinos ranking global warming as important an issue as immigration, and ranking environmental protection more important than both.

As the climate crisis intensifies, public lands and the environment both need all the help they can get, which is why Alma Padilla knew she had to make sure she was no longer the only Latino person she saw when she went outdoors.

“I knew that my community was out there,” she said. “I just didn’t know where.”

**CHANGING THE NARRATIVE**

Danny Harriston was working for a youth development nonprofit in Brooklyn when a co-worker asked him to chaperone some teenagers on a snowboarding trip.

“I said, ‘I’m a Black guy from Ohio, I don’t know anything about snowboarding,’” he recalled.

He decided to go, he said, because he was dating a woman who grew up in Vermont and if he learned how to snowboard they could do it as a couple.

The trip changed the trajectory of his life. First, Harriston married the Vermont snowboarder. (The couple lives in Beacon.) Second, watching the transformation that the teens underwent on the mountain that day changed how he thought about youth development.

“When you’re dealing with kids from inner-city communities, a lot of them don’t get a chance to just be kids,” he said. “A lot of them live in single-parent households where their mother is working one or two jobs. They have to grow up quick.”

Snowboarding, he said, gave them a chance to have fun with something new. But snowboarding is hard, especially at first. You fall down a lot. But with instruction and practice, it can be mastered, just as other challenges can be overcome. “I told the kids, ‘We took you outside of your comfort zone. You’ve never seen anything outside of your community. But you were able to do this. So let’s think about some of the other things that you don’t think you can do and help you put the same sort of effort into that.’”

In 2015, while working at a Poughkeepsie middle school, Harriston took eight teens to Vermont and maxed out his credit card to give them a day on the slopes. The SHRED Foundation was born.

An acronym for Snowboarders & Skaters Helping Reimagine Education, SHRED has become Harriston’s full-time job. Every year he takes dozens of students from the Hudson Valley and Albany to the slopes. The SHRED Foundation was born.

In Part 1 (Sept. 2), we looked at the problem of Indian Brook Falls in Garrison, and the collateral damage that occurs when a once-secluded spot becomes internet-famous.

In Part 2 (Sept. 9), we looked at how and why trails in the Highlands were created — and what might have been instead — as well as what happens when unmanaged wilderness suddenly needs to be managed.

In Part 3 (Sept. 16), we looked at how recent changes at Breakneck Ridge have led to fewer visitors and rescues, and what the Fjord Trail could mean for the future of the Highlands.

All three stories are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

(Continued on Page 20)
TRAILS (from Page 19)
snowboarding,” he said. “Snowboarding is a homogenous industry. Mostly white, mostly male. When you don’t see representation in that space, the community seems like something that isn’t for us.

“Even when I go and I promote the program, there’s been several individuals within agencies who say: ‘Well, we’re Black folks, we don’t snowboard, that’s not something that we do.’ ”

Harriston pointed out that tennis and golf were seen the same way until Arthur Ashe, Tiger Woods and the Williams sisters came along.

He said that while few if any of the teens he mentors will become professional snowboarders, their time on the slopes may inspire them to pursue a career where they can be outside.

“The kids realize, ‘I might be interested in being a park ranger or an outdoor educator,’” he said. “Or, ‘Maybe I could work for a company like Patagonia or Potter Brothers.’ As you start seeing some diversity in the workforce, what happens is that those individuals are able to articulate what the outdoors can mean and look like for individuals of color. That’s what changes the narrative in those communities that ‘this type of activity isn’t for us.’”

Harriston suggested that the next time someone white hits the slopes or the trails, that person invite a friend who isn’t white.

Without more Black and Hispanic faces on the trails or in the woods, he said, people “look around at who’s out there and who’s not and think, ‘Well, maybe they just don’t like doing it.’ ”

REDEFINING NATURE
Alma Padilla found her community the same way many people do: She went online.

In 2013, José González started a blog called Latino Outdoors. At first, it was a way to connect Latinos in California interested in outdoor recreation. Today, Latino Outdoors has chapters all over the country.

Padilla leads the chapter in the Hudson Valley. It’s the second one she’s helped create after she reached out to González in 2017 when she was living in the Bronx and launched a chapter there. The group ran into familiar challenges in New York City: lack of access to parks and transportation. So she started with birdwatching, community gardening and writing workshops.

“We tried to show people that there’s nature in the city, too,” she said. “People think, ‘Oh I have to go to a grandiose place to have a great nature experience.’” Eventually they added camping and hiking, activities she continued with the Hudson Valley chapter.

Among the barriers the group has encountered: Signage at trailheads is often only in English. During the pandemic, the parking at ‘Teatown Reservation overflowed and the police were often called. The reservation responded by doubling its parking rates. That led to a further lack in the diversity among visitors to the site.

Harriston suggested that the next time someone white hits the slopes or the trails, that person invite a friend who isn’t white. Without more Black and Hispanic faces on the trails or in the woods, he said, people “look around at who’s out there and who’s not and think, ‘Well, maybe they just don’t like doing it.’”

The reservation responded by doubling its parking rates. That led to a further lack in the diversity among visitors to the site which, she says, was already far less diverse than the population in the surrounding community of Ossining.

On the other hand, Padilla understands the need to address overcrowding. “Land managers are already stressed,” she said. “They don’t have enough staff or resources. So how do you balance it? People are going to keep coming, and illegal use of the lands is even more damaging.”

To help with overcrowding, her chapter has been following “Trails Less Traveled” recommendations issued by the state Department of Environmental Conservation that encourage hikers to visit spots that aren’t as popular as Breakneck Ridge or Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Westchester County.

The chapter has also partnered with organizations such as The Nature Conservancy to provide free bus and van transportation and identify trails that hikers can reach without a car. She said she is excited about what the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, which will connect Beacon and Cold Spring, will bring to members of under-served communities who otherwise don’t have access to the outdoors.

By bringing more people outdoors, teaching them how to recreate responsibly, and getting them involved with conservation, she’s hoping that Latino Outdoors can demonstrate that a more diverse outdoor community creates a stronger outdoor community for everyone.

“We can’t afford to say, ‘No, we’re not going to engage this community, it’s too much effort,’” she said. “We need everybody on board. There’s no time to waste in addressing all these environmental problems.”

This series was funded by readers who contribute to our Special Projects Fund (highlandscurrent.org/donate).

AMAZING IS MORE HEART CARE CLOSER TO HOME.

The new cardiac cath lab at our Hudson Valley Hospital brings a whole new level of minimally invasive care to heart patients throughout Upper Westchester. And it saves crucial time for emergency patients.

MORE AMAZING
MORE WESTCHESTER

NYP.ORG/MOREWESTCHESTER
Paul Smart collapsed, along with the country, in early 2020. Shortly after returning from a trip to Milan with his wife and a teenage son who had coughed throughout the trip, the Hudson Valley journalist’s body began to break down — aching, headache, sore throat, “complete exhaustion.”

His doctor’s advice was blunt: “Go to the emergency room.”

In a hospital in Albany, where Smart’s family lived, medical personnel fitted him with a mask before rolling him on a gurney to quarantine. His nurse, Smart said, “wore mismatched cloth gowns and paper pantaloons” and a “shower cap, mask and face shield.” She jokingly called herself the “Corona Angel.”

“I take a photo,” said Smart. “My wife and kid post it.”

That is how Smart, a former writer for the Woodstock Times who now lives in Mexico, opens With Different Eyes: A Covid Waltz in Words and Images, a book released on Tuesday (Sept. 20) that combines his experience with the pandemic with more than two dozen paintings by Richard Kroehling, a Cold Spring artist, filmmaker and longtime friend.

Their book is a pared-down version of a blog the Woodstock Times asked him to write, and its form and rhythm are more akin to a poem than a prose memoir. While Smart blogged in Albany, Kroehling was also busy. When he was not editing film for two projects that had been shot before the shutdown, Kroehling said he had two activities: painting and then, late in the afternoon, mixing a drink and calling Smart and other friends “who would take my phone calls.”

The idea for the book emerged last year as Smart and his family prepared to relocate to Mexico. Smart started compiling projects to work on and realized that the blog captured a unique period. Because he felt Richard’s paintings “shared the same emotional terrain,” they began matching words with images.

The first draft, 70,000 words, was cut to 11,000 on a friend’s advice, resulting in a book that Smart considers “more lyrical.” It is published by Mountains and Rivers, a new entity based in Barrytown that focuses on Hudson Valley and Catskills writers.

“We all have stories that reflect the world around us,” Kroehling says. “If we pay attention to them, we can start to heal — or at least recognize where the world stands and where it can go.”

With Different Eyes rekindles images familiar to most people from the pandemic’s early months — empty streets; closed workplaces and schools; signs posted on the doors of shuttered businesses; yellow police tape draped across the entrances to closed playgrounds; and a painter friend who dies alone because pandemic restrictions prevent his wife from being there.

Smart and Kroehling resurrect a period defined also by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis and the protests and rioting that followed; parallel protests against pandemic restrictions, partly inspired by a president who “is always angry”; and a surge in gun violence, including near Smart’s former neighborhood in Albany.

He writes about witnessing protests by President Trump’s supporters outside the governor’s mansion — complete with “MAGA hats. Anti-vaccination signs. Threats against Asians” — and being tear-gassed at a protest outside the main police station in Albany in response to the Floyd murder.

The dislocation and turmoil, mixed with boredom and uncertainty, follow the recent deaths of his parents. Still, says Smart, there was a sense of optimism amid the turmoil that he wanted to capture.

“There is a sense that we can change things — this is not bad working from home, this is not bad finally having a reckoning around the race in this country,” he says. “And moreover, that it’s forcing us all to look at our relationship with mortality in a fresh way.”
Roundup (from Page 24)

had seven aces, seven kills and 14 digs. Haldane (1-6) is scheduled to play in a tournament on Saturday (Sept. 24) at John Jay Cross River.

Beacon fell to Chester, 3-2, and Minisink Valley, 3-0, but defeated Seward, 3-0, to improve to 4-3. The Bulldogs travel to Cornwall Central today (Sept. 23) and Goshen on Wednesday.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Beacon ran against Goshen Tuesday (Sept. 20) at home for Section IX’s equivalent of a league championship. The Bulldogs lost by six points (29-23), placing them second in the four-team division ahead of Monticello and Port Jervis. Henry Reinke finished third overall in 15:20; Jack Twining was fourth; and August Wright was sixth. Rachel Thorne was second in the girls’ race.

“Section IX is considerably deeper in talent this year,” said Coach Jim Henry. “We’ll have our work cut out for us over the next six weeks as we attempt to get athletes in position to qualify for states.”

Beacon will compete at the Bowdoin XC Classic on Saturday (Sept. 24) in Wappinger Falls among a field of runners from about 50 schools.

HALL OF FAME

Haldane has announced the 2022 inductees for its Athletic Hall of Fame: Phil Cotenec (1974), Collin LeMon (2007), Lauren Etta (2013), Coach Nelson “Fessor” Delaney, Coach John Merante and the girls’ volleyball and basketball teams of 2007-08, which each won state championships.

A reception is scheduled for Oct. 16 at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison. RSVP at haldaneschool.org/athletics.

BOYS’ SOCCER

Haldane improved to 6-1 this week, picking up a 5-0 win over Tuckahoe at home on Tuesday (Sept. 20) after blanking Pawling, 4-0, on the road on Sept. 16.

Against Tuckahoe, Luca van Dommele scored a pair of goals and Trajan McCarthy. Clem Grossman and Sam Vargas each added one. Grossman had three assists and Matt Silhavy and Max Westphal each had one. Ronan Kiter had two saves in net.

Grossman led the Blue Devils with two goals against Pawling, and Ryan Eng-Wong and van Dommele also found the back of the net. Grossman, Silhavy and Aidan Sullivan-Hoch each had an assist, and Kiter had three saves.

Haldane, which last week was ranked No. 6 in the state among Class C schools by the New York State Sportswriters Association, travels to Franklin Roosevelt in Hyde Park today (Sept. 23) and to Croton-Harmon on Wednesday.

Beacon (2-2-1) defeated Kingston at home, 5-1, on Sept. 19 and two days later played Goshen to a scoreless tie. The team will travel to Minisink Valley today, host Monticello at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday and visit Cornwall Central on Thursday.

BASKETBALL

The Beacon boys’ team will host a weekly clinic for boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade beginning Oct. 1.

It will take place in the high school gymnasium on five consecutive Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The clinic is free but donations to the boys’ team are welcome. Call 845-522-2991 for more information.
Puzzles

CROSS Current

ACROSS
1. Dame Dench
2. Equitable
3. Beehive State
4. Flowering area
5. Witty one
6. Incorrect
7. Lass
8. Leer at
9. Western tribe
10. Western tribe
11. Dame Dench
12. Witty one
13. Beehive State
14. Flowering area
15. Witty one
16. Incorrect
17. Lass
18. Leer at
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91. Western tribe
92. Witty one
93. Incorrect
94. Lass
95. Leer at
96. Western tribe
97. Witty one
98. Incorrect
99. Lass
100. Leer at

SUDO Current

Answers for Sept. 16 Puzzles

1. YEARBOOK, 2. MOONSTONE, 3. DISMALLY, 4. TRIMMER, 5. ABETTING, 6. KOURTNEY, 7. BASQUE

7 Little Words

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

CLUES
1. the space between (8)
2. grumpy quality (10)
3. Shakespearean poem (6)
4. creeps (7)
5. untamed (5)
6. where to “cool your heels” (9)
7. one who refines a manuscript (6)

SOLUTIONS

Answers for Sept. 16 Puzzles

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
Chloe Rowe (11) held off a defender Wednesday in a win over Putnam Valley.

Evan Giachinta ran for 101 yards on 15 carries against Magnus.

FOOTBALL
There were good moments but also others that Haldane would rather soon forget during its home opener on Sept. 17 against Albertus Magnus. But at the bottom of the scoreboard, the Blue Devils managed to scratch out a come-from-behind, 12-9 win over the Falcons that helped them start their season at 2-0 for the first time since 2017.

Late in the game, Haldane had the ball and a 12-7 lead when the offense started moving the wrong way. The Blue Devils eventually were pushed back to their own 5-yard-line, where they faced a fourth and 27 with under two minutes to play.

Haldane took a strategic safety, giving the Tigers two points but giving the Blue Devils a free kick from the 20-yard line that took a home bounce.

“I thought as a team the guys found a way to make plays,” said Coach Ryan McConville. “Our assistant coaches came up with the idea for the safety, and that was our best option.”

The Blue Devils opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 20-yard pass from quarterback Ryan Van Tassel to Thomas Tucker. Albertus Magnus returned a punt for a TD in the second quarter and kicked the point-after to take a 7-6 lead, but Haldane got another Van Tassel-to-Tucker score, this time for 26 yards. The two-point conversion failed, and the Blue Devils led 12-7 at halftime.

Haldane had another chance to score in the third quarter but the Magnus defense held for a goal-line stand.

Van Tassel completed 9 of 18 attempts in the air for 103 yards and ran for 44 yards. Evan Giachinta had 15 carries for 101 yards and two receptions for 35 yards. Tucker finished with four receptions for 59 yards and on defense had an interception.

“ar defensive line, led by Dylan Rucker and Jack Hartman, played well,” McConville said. “Our secondary also played well, led by Jake Thomas, Brody Corliss, Michael Murray and Dylan Horan.

“Our offense got on track with the passing game,” he added. “Ryan had two big touchdown passes — that was a big area of improvement. Our offensive line did a great job — our guys up front gave us time to throw the football.”

The Blue Devils travel to Westlake (1-1) on Saturday (Sept. 24).

Beacon suffered a 6-0 overtime loss at Valley Central on Sept. 16 to fall to 0-2.

On defense, the Bulldogs were led by Leibinson Perez-Novas (10 tackles), Danny Urbanak (5 tackles, an interception and fumble recovery), Aaron Pegues (3 tackles and a quarterback sack), Cash Jackson (2 tackles), Owen Lynch (7 tackles), Jayden Quintana (a sack and a forced fumble) and Alex Khalil (5 tackles and a sack).

“I’m proud of how our guys fought to the end and forced overtime,” said Coach Jim Phelan. “Unfortunately, at the end of the game, our mistakes caught up with us, and we were beaten by a team that wanted it more.”

Beacon travels to Monroe-Woodbury (1-1) on Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL
Haldane dropped a 3-0 decision to Putnam Valley on Tuesday (Sept. 20), but the team topped North Salem in what Coach Kelsey DeFrancesco called “a grueling five-set match” on Wednesday at North Salem (25-10, 14-25, 25-20, 19-25, 15-12) to earn its first win of the season.

Sophomore Scotia Hartford had 22 assists, senior Mikayla Santos had 11 kills and three aces, and junior Emily Tomann earned its first win of the season.

SPORTS