**Woman’s Remains ID’d After 42 Years**

DNA solves mystery of body found in Fishkill

By Leonard Sparks

Anne Papalardo-Blake left 160 Fifth Ave. in Manhattan, where she worked at a Vidal Sassoon clinic, at 6 p.m. on March 18, 1980, telling co-workers she intended to meet her husband to look at an apartment in Queens.

Four days later, her family received a telegram from “Anne Blake” which, according to her son, said she was “under great pressure and needed to get her head together. See you in a couple of weeks.”

Two weeks turned into 42 years.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Where Will Indian Point’s Water Go?**

No clear solution for radioactive pools

By Brian PJ Cronin

Discharge, dispatch, dissolve or disregard?

None of Holtec’s disposal options available for the radioactive water at Indian Point’s nuclear fuel-rod cooling pools seems likely to make the public happy, even as the company continues to insist that its preferred plan of releasing the water into the Hudson River would be safe and no different from the water the plant released during its decades of operation.

The issue was raised again last week at the most recent meeting of the state’s Indian Point Decommissioning Task Force, in the context of how Holtec has handled the situation at nuclear plants it is decommissioning in Massachusetts and New Jersey. A representative for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told The Current that any release at Indian Point would be “carefully controlled and within...”

(Continued on Page 3)
Cheryl Rogowski, 61, who owns a 10-acre farm in Orange County, is known at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market as “the scone lady.” In 2014 she received a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” for her work “reinventing the family farm in America.”

How did you decide to focus on scones?
People really enjoy them. They’re not your average scones. There’s blueberry and feta. But I also make a sweet-corn scone and a tomatillos scone. I love to play and bring things together. I did a squash-blossom scone when squash blossoms were in season. Later on, when parsnips are in, I’ll put parsnips in there. I’ll do apple and maple syrup and sweet potato bacon.

What makes a great scone?
It has to be tender. It has to have a good crumb and crispy edges. And you can’t skimp on the filling. If you’re making a chocolate chip scone, you want to see those chocolate chips. For my feta scone, my girls that help me will tell me: “It needs more feta!” You need to see the crispy edges of the feta.

Tell me about Tony’s Scone.
Tony [another vendor] said, “I want you to create a memory for me. It has to have raisins and walnuts. And it has to be salty.” I thought light and dark raisins would give it the sweet. We put in the walnuts and we put Maldon Sea Salt on top. I put a little cinnamon on the inside. It’s evocative of his childhood in Spain. It’s one of our more popular scones.

You grow broccoli, squash, onions, potatoes, garlic and many other crops. How has your farm been affected by the weather this summer?
It was challenging. We reached a point where we couldn’t do any more harvesting because of the lack of irrigation. It was a poor year for tomatoes. I’ve had customers for years who would buy bushels of tomatoes and can them for the winter. Not this year. There was a shortage of cucumbers. But with the rain we’ve had lately, our farm stand is starting to explode again. The kale, chard and spinach are gorgeous. The corn was stunning this year.

What lies ahead?
I would like to add an educational component where people can work with me in greenhouses and tunnels. People romanticize farming, but there is the hard reality of hard work. This summer, for instance, we started in March with too much rain and couldn’t get into the fields. Then we had no rain and things were dying. But that’s part of the deal when you’re a farmer.
Indian Point (from Page 1)
both NRC and Environmental Protection Agency safety limits."

The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts, like Indian Point, was owned and operated by Entergy before the license was transferred to Holtec for decommissioning. While the Pilgrim plant was operational, Entergy promised that it would never release radioactive wastewater into Cape Cod Bay.

“I don’t know why they made a commitment like that,” said Rich Burroni, a Holtec executive, at a previous meeting of the Indian Point Task Force. He made it clear that Entergy’s promise did not transfer to Holtec. “We have never made a commitment like that.”

Cape Cod residents have said that such a release, even if it was within allowable limits, would have a negative effect on the Bay’s commercial fishing and tourism industries. The bay is also a state ocean sanctuary and serves as a feeding ground for endangered bird and whale species.

The Environmental Protection Agency has sided with locals, informing Holtec in July that it does not have the authority to release wastewater from the spent fuel pools into the bay, no matter its levels of radioactivity. Holtec has said it still hopes to release the more than 1 million gallons at Pilgrim, and is in negotiations with Massachusetts over the appointment of a third-party inspector to confirm if the wastewater is safe.

As for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Forked River, New Jersey, Holtec quietly released 24,000 gallons of low-level radioactive wastewater into Oyster Creek, which flows into Barnegat Bay, over two days in early September. The NRC said the release was within safety limits.

Unlike New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey do not have decommissioning task forces to provide oversight. At the meeting last week, members of the public said that they were not swayed by the NRC’s assurances because more than 100,000 people upstream of Indian Point get their drinking water from the Hudson.

Jacquelyn Drechsler, who lives in Rockland County, pointed out that the NRC says on its website that no dose of tritium, a radioactive isotope that would be in the wastewater, “should be acceptable if it can be avoided.”

If Holtec is not allowed to release water in the river, there are few other options for disposal. It could be stored at the site, although it’s unlikely that would receive much support from the Village of Buchanan, which contains Indian Point.

Its mayor, Theresa Knickerbocker, has said there should be no permanent storage of nuclear waste on-site, so the land can be returned to the village as quickly as possible and put to another use. That use, she said, would not be another power plant or even a renewable energy source, such as a solar farm or a battery storage facility.

David Lochbaum, a task force member and retired nuclear engineer who has worked with both Entergy at Indian Point and for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that the owners of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, which closed in 2014, shipped their wastewater in hundreds of truckloads to Idaho, where it was buried in casks.

If Holtec took a similar course, he warned that it could lead to an environmental justice issue, depending on where the wastewater was sent. Holtec is facing opposition from activists and New Mexico officials over a plan to build a “semi-permanent” nuclear waste facility in that state.

Three Mile Island may be a model for what can be done, Lochbaum said. The Pennsylvania plant, which was the site of an infamous meltdown in 1979, closed in 2019. It disposed of more than a million gallons of heavily contaminated wastewater by boiling it, releasing the contaminants into the air.

The Hudson may flow both ways, “but the wind goes all ways,” Lochbaum said. “So I’m not sure that’s a better solution” than a release into the river.
Modern crosswalks

With all that’s being said about the growing number of visitors and the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, it surprises me that there doesn’t seem to be any plan to modernize Cold Spring’s crosswalks.

Anything at this point would be an improvement. Between morning commuters bombing down Main Street to catch their trains and the influx of visitors through the weekend, it’s becoming increasingly dangerous to cross the street. In the month of September alone we’ve nearly hit a handful of times walking our son to school. Throughout the rest of the day, we find ourselves waiting to cross while cars rush in and out of the village. The sight of two parents holding their child’s hands, while waiting to cross, isn’t enough for them to stop.

I should mention that there are a number of parents who are experiencing the same thing. There are a number of issues regarding traffic and parking that the village seems slow to resolve. Cars continue to come to a rolling stop at the stop sign on Fair Street, while buses and 18-wheelers are still getting stuck on Depot Square. But the safety of our children should be an immediate priority. Even one raised crosswalk at Kemble and Garden, with in-pavement lights, would give the village at least one safe (safer) place to cross the street.

I welcome the growth of Cold Spring, but the village infrastructure seems underprepared for it.

Patrick Biesemans, Cold Spring

Fjord Trail

I have serious concerns about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail plan, especially the proposal to turn Dockside into an extension of the proposed linear park, with bicycle use. It remains to be seen whether the recently completed $1.85 million taxpayer-funded shoreline stabilization project will protect the site from further erosion. The Fjord Trail has the potential to render the site dangerous and unusable by creating a tourist attraction to which people would seek to drive, with limited street parking.

HHFT has failed to provide specifics on critical issues such as safety, environmental impacts, traffic impacts or costs to the village from a Dockside entrance. It is unacceptable for any developer, much less a tax-exempt one, to promote a massive land use project without providing essential details and for which no approvals have been secured. This is marketing, not planning.

In addition, HHFT has appointed itself to manage the “problem” of visitation to Cold Spring, which it admits will increase with the Fjord Trail. The “problem” of too many cars has been managed to some extent, including with parking meters and ferries. But it defies common sense to conclude that the solution requires a multimillion-dollar “fix” that would change the face of the village and the coastal environment and potentially make things worse. There are alternatives, such as ending the Fjord Trail at Little Stony Point.

HHFT says that the project will be funded by $20 million from New York State, $14 million from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and $36 million in private charitable contributions. Is $70 million too much or too little? How much of that is guaranteed? If any of the funding, public or private, is not available due to a recession or other reasons, what happens?

In “Trails (Too) Well Traveled” (Sept. 16), Amy Kacala, the executive director of the Fjord Trail, implied that critics seek “to ‘shut the door and say, ‘It’s ours.’” Those who have doubts about the trail are asking important questions. I do not want to “shut the door” to visitors. Ironically, it seems that some proponents of the Fjord Trail wish to “shut the door” to further comments and questions.

Ms. Kacala also stated that the development of the trail is “a matter of equity,” suggesting that to disagree with HHFT is to promote inequity. During the almost two decades I’ve lived in Cold Spring, the village has become more open to people of different races, religions, ages, orientations, abilities and backgrounds. Dockside already is a public place where a diverse range of people enjoy access to the Hudson River.

Michael Reisman, Cold Spring

A longer version of this letter is posted at highlandscurrent.org.

Your “Trails (Too) Well Traveled” series alluded to a proposed tourist trail spanning from Dockside to Little Stony Point that raises serious misgivings. Its location will destroy ecosystems of birds, fishes and amphibians that depend on the shore to survive. The recent renewal of Dockside Park required stripping the eroding shoreline, evicting 100 percent of the wildlife. This was a necessary evil. Further shoreline destruction will only exacerbate the blight.

The ill-conceived idea of the path was, and is, dearly espoused by residents of Fair Street, who were bothered by hikers using the street to reach Stony Point. I believe that for this reason, much-needed sidewalks on the northern leg of Fair Street, to provide a safe pedestrian passageway, were fiercely opposed and will likely never appear. In lieu of sidewalks are fortress houses with bold stockade fencing to obscure the view of passersby.

The unsightly upgrades to Dockside Park
Go to highlandscurrent.org/join

The Highlands Current

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

will not facilitate foot traffic there, or to the proposed path and trailhead, and are not handicapped-accessible. A serpentine gravel path begins 100 feet north of the entrance, which will likely disappear by next spring. Part of the reason is the exclusion of the private property to the south of Dockside, which will continue to erode, and perhaps might create an island geography as it rapidly recedes. It is unclear why a proper concrete path was not contemplated.

It is also in the best interests of proprietors and merchants in the village to oppose the trail because it will divert hikers and tourists.

It strikes me as curious that Scenic Hudson, which purports to advocate for the environment, is one of the developer’s partners. Why does an environmental advocacy group suddenly reverse positions and sides with developers?

Derek Graham, Cold Spring

This concept of improving access to difficult trails such as Breakneck is ridiculous. There are so many easy trails and parks and rail trails. This is Wild West. The village has no facilities, the mountain is being destroyed. The parking along Route 9D is horrendous, people are walking in the road, opening car doors into traffic. There needs to be some police presence and state parks people supervising the mountain. There is no municipality taking responsibility. Hikers are swimming in the reservoir and riding motorcycles and Jeeps through damaged trails and having bonfires and beer parties up there. Stop the nonsense and get real about a functioning, preserved wilderness.

Penelope Hedges, Beacon

Boat Club

The Cold Spring Boat Club has not “slipped under the radar,” as Todd Seekircher asserted in his Sept. 23 letter. Those who have lived in the village for a while might remember that the Boat Club was fully considered during the formulation of the comprehensive plan, which was adopted with extensive public input. The village Board, along with constituents, contributed to an active riverfront that is an asset to the village. Many visitors arrive by boat, bringing business to the village without worsening parking problems.”

In addition, the lease renewal was conducted by the Village Board. These are people who, by their election, entrusted to act in the best interest of the village, not just to serve a vocal minority, including those whose living situations brought them in proximity to an establishment that has existed for 67 years – well before their arrival.

The Boat Club is open for membership to any village resident. It is a unique place and an integral part of the waterfront. We do not need another park adjacent to three other parks.

John Reinhardt, Cold Spring

It’s absurd to think, as Mr. Seekircher stated, that 100 feet is a “large portion” of the riverfront. I estimate there is a mile of waterfront to walk from Foundry Cove to Northgate.

The Boat Club is open to all residents who care to join, and boat launching is available at no cost to village and Philipstown residents. It’s absurd to live in a river town without access to the river.

As a lifetime resident of Cold Spring, I treasure this jewel we have. I have been boating on our river for 50 years.

John Jesek, Cold Spring

It’s nice that at least something is being enforced by Mayor Kathleen Foley and the Village Board. Although Boat Club signage mandated by the lease is low-hanging fruit, I’m surprised a committee, including a calligrapher, wasn’t formed.

While they tangle with the “extremely complex” signage issue, more important, recently enacted regulations, such as those in Chapter 126 (Parking) and Chapter 134 (Short-term Rentals), are being ignored and police told to stand down while the board creates absurdly biased committees (five of the seven members of the short-term rental committee operate STRs).

The village has yet to install parking signs based on Chapter 126, which was adopted after public hearings in 2020 and 2021, even though a detailed list was given to them by the previous board. And why isn’t the code update being completed? Only Chapter 134 (Zoning) and two related chapters remain. The completion and approval of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, as well as improved funding opportunities, depend on the completion of the update. Importantly, if the LWRP were completed, the village would have a stronger position while discussing the Fjord Trail.

Regarding the Boat Club: It is clear from Chapter 2 (Riverfront) of the comprehensive plan, which was adopted with input from residents, organizations and businesses, that the majority of the community wanted the Boat Club to continue, with modifications. Stating that there was “community outrage” over the closing of Dockside Park and that the property the Boat Club occupies is a “large” part of our waterfront are exaggerations. If there was community outrage, I must have missed it; the Boat Club has 130 feet of waterfront. It was established in 1955 and is part of the fabric of the village, and I’m glad it will remain for the next 20 years.

The amount paid to the village by the Boat Club for the first three years of the lease is lower because it had three years remaining on its previous lease.

Dave Merandy, Cold Spring

Merandy is the former mayor of Cold Spring, Board are village residents.

By my calculations, the club’s lease with the village is a $1.5 million to $2 million gift from taxpayers. How is it that the village can throw away money like this while pleading poverty every time it considers funding public restrooms and fixing sidewalks? Bill Pugh, Cold Spring

Gas and electric

As The Current reported, the recent energy price hikes are driven by fossil gas, up 154 percent versus 65 percent for electricity (“Electricity, Gas Rates Spike,” Sept. 16). The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which hasn’t yet been implemented and has nothing to do with the hikes, will help lower bills by (1) reducing our reliance on expensive, volatile, out-of-state fossil fuels, and (2) improving energy efficiency to lower costs and pollution—at least for those savvy enough to take advantage of the current and imminent tax incentives to weatherize and/or transition off gas.

Anshul Gupta, Valhalla

And yet the New York Legislature passed a law last year that states every new car and light truck sold in the state by 2035 should be electric. Politicians need to start focusing on building power plants, green or brown, to supply all their pipe dreams.

Charlie Symon, Beacon

Haldane space

In your article, “Haldane Ponders Next Big Project” (Sept. 23), Superintendent Philip Benante says that “the space we have available to our students is significantly less than that available to other kids in other schools.” The district’s consultants compared Haldane’s facilities to those at nearby districts, including Spackenkill. Haldane has 148 square feet per student, versus an average of 205 in the other districts. Perhaps one reason for that disparity is that the student populations in other districts have declined. Spackenkill High School was constructed to accommodate 800 students. At its peak in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the population exceeded that number. My class had more than 220 members. Since that time, the population has fallen to about 530. As the student population declined, the space per student increased.

I suggest that Haldane taxpayers carefully examine the rationale for plans to expand the school buildings. Is it driven by the needs of the students or the consultant’s quest for billable hours?

Richard Trent, Poughkeepsie

Pedestrian safety

In the history of humans living in cities, pedestrians have enjoyed the freedom to traverse city streets safely in any direction they wanted. But 100 years ago, automobile manufacturers staged a campaign to get cars to the top of the road hierarchy. They invented the crime of jaywalking and relegated pedestrians to crosswalks. Since then, they have only been allowed to cross at dedicated places and times. Pedestrians became responsible for avoiding vehicles, and roads were designed to prioritize traffic volume and speed.

This is entirely backward. In your article, “Driver Found Guilty in Pedestrian Death” (Sept. 23), you reported that witnesses to Carla Giuffrida being struck in December at Main Street and Teller Avenue in Beacon said she was looking at her cell phone. This statement casts blame on a person who should have every right and expectation to walk on city sidewalks, crosswalks and streets with her life and safety as the priority.

In the past century, and especially in the past 10 years, cars have become shockingly dangerous to pedestrians. Heavier and taller vehicles designed for passenger safety are more likely to lead to chest and head injuries, whereas smaller cars would be more likely to cause leg injuries.

In the 1920s, we let automobile manufacturers dictate the priorities of who rules the road. In the 2020s, we should design our streets and vehicles to prioritize pedestrian safety before we lose another grandmother, mother or dear friend. This goal is not out of reach. The city of Hoboken, New Jersey, instituted a Vision Zero plan and has not had a pedestrian death in three years. The program puts the onus on cars to yield to the most vulnerable road user and lets pedestrians be free to move around the city without having to be hypervigilant that a motor vehicle might strike them at any moment.

Carolyn Bennett Glauda, Beacon

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**Putnam to Accept Hazardous Waste**

Putnam County has scheduled a hazardous waste drop-off for Oct. 15 at Kahnstock State Park in Kent.

The site will accept oil-based and latex paints; products with mercury; fluorescent light bulbs and tubes; hand sanitizers with methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste methanol; photo chemicals; non-latex drive-way sealers; pool chemicals; creosote; waste

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**Mahopac Man Killed in Crash**

A Mahopac man died on Tuesday (Sept. 27) in a vehicle crash in Putnam Valley. Bryan Tumolo, 23, was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision, which took place just before 9 p.m. on Wood Street near Meadow Crest Drive, according to the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department.

The sheriff said that the driver of the second vehicle, an 18-year-old Lake Peekskill man, and a passenger, a 17-year-old girl from Putnam Valley, were airlifted to Westchester Medical Center. A second passenger, a 15-year-old girl from Putnam Valley, was taken by ambulance.

The agency said a preliminary investigation indicated that Tumolo, traveling north, crossed the center line.

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**Beacon to Host Flu-Shot Clinic**

The Putnam County Department of Health has scheduled a flu-shot clinic for adults for Oct. 12 at the Garrison firehouse. The clinic will take place from 2 to 6:30 p.m. and an appointment is required. See putnamcountyny.com/seasonalfluclinic. The cost is $25, or free for residents ages 65 and older or who have a Medicare card.

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**Beacon Educator Named to Commission**

Sagragio Rudecindo-O’Neill, an assistant superintendent for the Beacon school district, has been selected as a member of a Blue Ribbon Commission that will study alternatives to the Regents exams for high school students in New York.

Rudecindo-O’Neill is the district’s assistant superintendent of curriculum and student support. She joins Kim Fontana, the superintendent of the Pawling district, as one of the Dutchess County representatives.

The state Education Department has asked committee members to “rethink the high school diploma” and consider ways to measure students’ learning other than through standardized tests, which are required for graduation. Many educators have criticized the standardized model, saying the tests put lower-income and minority students at a disadvantage.

The 64-member commission has been asked to make its recommendations to the Board of Regents in 2024.

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Coalition Hopes to Solve Indian Brook Parking

Goals include easier access to Constitution Marsh
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After years of wrestling with threats to nature and residential property, periodic bursts of acrimony, and bumper-to-bumper traffic, Philipstown officials and other stakeholders convened last week to discuss answers to the vexing problem of too many vehicles and too few places to park along Indian Brook Road in Garrison.

One idea: Get visitors to avoid cars entirely.

Angling off Route 9D about a mile south of Cold Spring and dating to colonial days, Indian Brook Road passes near a waterfall that shares the road’s name and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, a haven on the Hudson River for birds and other wildlife.

Once known mostly to Philipstown residents, who relished its serenity and beauty, the state-owned waterfall became staggeringly popular in recent years as word and photos spread on social media of its virtues as a swimming hole (although swimming is forbidden) and spot for picnics and parties.

“It was bedlam, absolutely bedlam at times,” said Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel.

However, after storms last winter destroyed the path to the falls, the state closed the site. “There’s no trail there and we can’t build one” quickly, easily or without huge expense, Evan Thompson, manager of Hudson Highlands and Fahnestock state parks, said at the meeting.

Even before the storm damage, the Philipstown Town Board had blocked off a small parking lot on Indian Brook Road that served Constitution Marsh. Parking is not allowed anywhere along the road, which at some points narrows to a single lane.

“However, ‘we want people to use the marsh,’ Van Tassel said at the Sept. 21 confab, held at Town Hall. “It’s a gem.” Moreover, he said, town officials have been getting complaints about the inability of local residents to easily reach it, because of the lack of parking. (Paid parking is available for $14 at Boscobel but has a time limit and requires a three-quarter-mile hike.)

To accommodate vehicles, the Town Board; Thompson; Rebecca Schultz, the interim director of Constitution Marsh; and several Indian Brook Road residents discussed possible parking sites.

“We’re very much in favor of a managed solution,” said one neighbor, Greg MacGarva.

Notably, there was little or no discussion during the meeting of opening the small town-owned lot near the marsh, which has been blocked for two years by wooden barricades. The town closed the lot following a confrontation in August 2020 between a resident and a busload of Black teenagers and their adult chaperones who were being dropped off to visit Audubon.

Schultz suggested the town investigate opening a small area that may be owned by Central Hudson near the intersection with Route 9D that is now blocked by cement barriers.

Schultz’s draft also proposed alternatives for reaching the marsh, such as bicycling, Audubon-led canoe excursions and the county trolley that circles Philipstown.

She also said Audubon in the long-term may want a small lot on its property, if upgrades were made to its entrance road.

Town Board Member Jason Angell pointed out that the Philipstown Trail Committee is pursuing a network of paths that would allow residents to get around without autos and that a trail from Cold Spring to Constitution Marsh is on its radar.

Cold Spring Raises Concerns with Fjord Trail Officials

Environmental impact study to be released soon
By Michael Turton

In opening the Wednesday (Sept. 28) Cold Spring Village Board workshop, Mayor Kathleen Foley recalled a recent conversation with MJ Martin, director of development and community engagement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Regarding the trail, a linear park that will follow the Hudson River from Dockside Park north to Beacon, Martin had asked: “What is it that Cold Spring needs?”

Foley, for example, pointed out that the HHFT’s revised 2020 Master Plan is not available on its website. “It’s confusing to have only the outdated 2015 Master Plan available for most people to see,” she said.

The mayor also said revisions to a scoping document that shows the trail going through Dockside has not been made available. Preliminary plans featured routes using either Fair Street or Route 9D.

Planning Board Member Yaslyn Daniels echoed that sentiment, commenting that the Planning Board has “concluded we don’t have enough information to provide concrete recommendations to the Village Board.”

She and other Planning Board Members raised concerns about a range of issues and better use of, from the trail’s potential impact on village infrastructure and quality of life to operations, finance and sustainability.

Cold Spring Village Board workshop, Wednesday (Sept. 28)

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Virtually the entire two-hour session was devoted to answering Martin’s seemingly simple question.

But the Village Board, members of the Planning Board and public provided less than simple reactions and requests about the trail and the potential impact of the project, which has raised questions among officials and at least some residents for nearly 10 years.

Those concerns are coming to a head. When HHFT releases its Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected by the end of the year, Cold Spring officials and the public will have 30 days to provide feedback.

One of the chief complaints voiced on Wednesday was a perceived shortage of information.

Foley, for example, pointed out that the HHFT’s revised 2020 Master Plan is not available on its website. “It’s confusing to have only the outdated 2015 Master Plan available for most people to see,” she said.

“The mayor also said revisions to a scoping document that shows the trail going through Dockside has not been made available. Preliminary plans featured routes using either Fair Street or Route 9D.

Planning Board Member Yaslyn Daniels echoed that sentiment, commenting that the Planning Board has “concluded we don’t have enough information to provide concrete recommendations to the Village Board.”

She and other Planning Board Members raised concerns about a range of issues and better use of, from the trail’s potential impact on village infrastructure and quality of life to operations, finance and sustainability.

Planning Board Member Matt Francisco said HHFT visitors will likely result in increased demand for handicapped accessibility on Main Street, “a very expensive proposition,” he said.

He emphasized the need to protect Dockside Park, which he described as a “fragile” environment that plays an important part in village life, including as host to the Cold Spring Film Society’s summer series. He cautioned that no one can guarantee that the film society will be able to use the space.

(Continued on Page 19)
Deputy Sues Putnam Over Loss of Pay
Challenges sheriff’s allegation of illegal strike
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A deputy sheriff has sued Putnam County, alleging it improperly withheld pay during a family crisis and unfairly accused him of colluding with officers who called in sick after the sheriff reduced road patrols.

The deputy, Kevin Osika, filed the lawsuit, which also names Sheriff Kevin McConville, in state court in Carmel on Sept. 16, a day after a disciplinary hearing.

In court documents, Osika — whose wife, Erin Lee Crowley, is the Republican candidate for the District 9 seat in the Putnam Legislature — maintains that he asked for a sick day and two days off in mid-February to assist his brother, who had been stricken with cancer and was arriving imminently for treatment in New York City. The deputy provided records showing his request had been approved by a supervisor.

In a complaint filed with the state Public Employment Relations Board, McConville said that Osika and eight other deputies, as well as the sergeant who approved Osika’s time off, engaged in an illegal strike on Feb. 17 to protest his decision to eliminate three double shifts preceding and following the days he spent helping his brother, and on Feb. 17 failed to appear when two command officers stopped at his house.

The fact that the sergeant who approved his time off had been “a participant in this illegal action” indicated collaboration, the sheriff said, noting that the nine other officers had accepted disciplinary penalties.

In the Sept. 16 court filing, Michael Sussman, Osika’s lawyer, asserted that McConville conceded at Osika’s disciplinary hearing the previous day that he “had no factual basis to conclude [Osika] engaged in any concerted action or strike.” Consequently, the sheriff’s decision represents “incivility and inhumaneness” and Osika’s pay should be restored, Sussman argued.

As of Wednesday (Sept. 28) neither the county nor McConville had responded in court to the lawsuit.

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Beacon Hopes to Move Rail Trail Forward
Could connect Fjord and Empire State systems
By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council is expected to approve a resolution on Monday (Oct. 3) asking Dutchess County to study how to integrate a rail trail along the dormant Beacon railroad line into its long-term planning.

City officials anticipate a trail running for 13 miles from the Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction, where it would connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail and the 750-mile Empire State Trail. In Beacon, it could link to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail that will connect to Cold Spring.

The city’s resolution notes that the county Transportation Council has included a Beacon-to-Hopewell trail as a “transformative project” in its long-range plans. It asks the council to use federal funding to study conceptual plans.

Along with Beacon, East Fishkill and the town and village of Fishkill are expected to adopt resolutions supporting the project.

One major hurdle may soon no longer be an issue. Metro-North, which owns the Beacon railway, last year said it intends to discontinue use of a 41-mile segment from Beacon to the Connecticut border. When Metro-North acquired the Beacon line in 1995, the Inter-state Commerce Commission exempted it from most of the regulations that come into play when a line is abandoned.

Metro-North requested a waiver from the federal Surface Transportation Board for its contractual obligations with the Housatonic Railroad Co., a freight company that opposes the move. It argued that it has a right to use the tracks under a 1995 agreement.

Metro-North and Housatonic said this month they have opened settlement negotiations.

Earlier in September, the federal Office of Environmental Analysis told the Transportation Board that the proposed abandonment of the railway would not significantly impact the environment.

Railroad companies have abandoned thousands of miles of track since the 1930s as Americans and manufacturers became less reliant on train travel.

During the City Council’s Sept. 26 workshop, City Administrator Chris White said he thinks a Beacon-to-Hopewell trail could cost $20 million to $30 million to complete, over multiple stages. He said he hopes the trail would be constructed, operated and maintained by Dutchess County.

“It’s a huge project, so we’re hoping that they work from west to east, so they start in Beacon and go toward Hopewell Junction,” White said.

The dormant Beacon line runs through the city and continues to Hopewell Junction.

Pruning is an art
If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

845.446.7465
Remains (from Page 1)

On Sept. 23, the New York State Police announced that, using DNA technology and genealogical research, they have solved Papalardo-Blake’s disappearance and another mystery: a headless and handless body discovered by maintenance workers, two days after her disappearance, inside a trunk left beside a dumpster at the Hudson View apartment complex just north of Beacon, in the Town of Fishkill.

One woman who had seen the trunk, later to compare to dental records, police passed out leaflets to drivers on Route 9D in the days after the discovery. They also pursued hundreds of leads as their investigation stretched into decades, including calls about the victim’s identity and potential suspects, said Eugene Donnelly, the state police investigator handling the case.

Even after a jury convicted Papalardo-Blake’s husband of killing the next woman he married, the identification had to wait for innovation: the ability to extract DNA from evidence and the ever-growing collection of genetic databases that allow law enforcement to identify victims and perpetrators by matching relatives.

Othram, a Texas company founded to help police identify victims and suspects, used evidence provided by the FBI to develop a DNA profile that led to Papalardo-Blake’s identification. The company specializes in working with degraded or contaminated remains, such as those that have been outdoors for long periods of time or burned, said Kristen Mittelman, its chief development officer.

Scientists for the company also compiled a DNA profile from the skeletal remains of a woman discovered by a hiker in Harrison State Park on Mother’s Day in 1984. The DNA testing this month of a potential suspect, said Mittelman, “We’re able to identify victims that are found in sewage tanks and at the bottom of lakes, and chemically treated evidence with formaldehyde — I mean, anything you can think of.”

When Papalardo-Blake disappeared, her estranged husband, Rick Blake, became an immediate suspect. Six months later, he remarried, to his fourth wife, Kim. In 1982, police charged Rick Blake with strangling Maryann, whose nude and toothless body (she had worn dentures) was found Aug. 5, 1982, wrapped in a sheet in the parking lot at Green Acres Shopping Center in Valley Stream. A Nassau County detective testified at his trial that Blake, when arrested, said: “Thank God, it’s over.”

He was convicted of second-degree murder in 1984 and sentenced to 20 years to life. At the time of the verdict, Anne Papalardo-Blake’s disappearance remained unsolved. According to Robert Walford, the lead detective in Maryann Blake’s killing: “The fact that we knew about the third wife and could do nothing about it [because a body had not been found], added to the need to prosecute this case.”

Rick Blake was imprisoned at the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville when he died in January 2005 at age 71. Despite his death, state police investigators with Troop K are still asking anyone with information to contact them at 845-677-7300 and reference case 3020193.

Papalardo-Blake has entered the genealogical database, as have other victims, including a toothless body found in the woods adjacent to the Garden Street School in Brewster. Her death was ruled a suicide because of wounds to her wrists. He was in his 40s; 5 feet, 9 inches tall; weighed 165 pounds; and had brown eyes. He was well-groomed; clean-shaven; with short black hair and a slightly gray, receding hairline; a mole on the right side of his face near his nose; a medium, brown-skin complexion; and perfect teeth.

He was wearing brown leather Docksiders, penny loafers, dress socks, tan Haggar pants (33 waist, 30 length), two plaid button-down shirts; and a gold-chained crucifix necklace. He was last seen on Oct. 7 buying two expensive blankets at a curtain shop in New Rochelle. It is believed he traveled to Brewster on Metro-North. Anyone with information can contact the state police at 845-677-7300 and reference case 3020193.

On Oct. 13, 2007, a woman’s body was found on Mount Taurus (“Bull Hill”) about 1½ miles from Breakneck. She was white with brown, shoulder-length hair; 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighed 125 to 135 pounds. She was probably born between 1942 and 1962 (45 to 65 years old). She was wearing blue Cavaricci jeans, a blue sweatshirt, a black sweater, black Reebok high-top sneakers and sunglasses. Anyone with information can contact the state police at 845-786-2781 and reference case KSPK00577.
GILARDI STUDY DAY
Saturday, October 8, 2022
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Curated by Elena Re
Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Speakers include:
Christian Rattemeyer
Ekaterina Reksheva
Elizabeth Mangini
Teresa Kittler
Seating is limited, tickets can be purchased on magazzinoart.visit/events/gilardi-study-day

Butterfield Book Club
MON 3, 7:00 P.M.
Black Cake, by Charmaine Wilkerson
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Harry Potter Book Club
(Grades 5+)
FRI 7, 3:15 P.M.
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Helen Savoit Book Club
TUES 11, 1:30 P.M.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot
Howland Public Library, Beacon

Kids’ Book Club
THURS 13, 4:00 P.M.
Frizzy, by Claribel Ortega
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splintricksbooks.com.

Trophy Life Book Club
THURS 20, 6:00 P.M.
Wow, No Thank You, by Samantha Irby
Howland Public Library, Beacon

Beacon Book Club
THURS 20, 7:15 P.M.
We Have Always Lived in the Castle, by Shirley Jackson
Register at meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

Elementary Book Club
(Grades 2–4)
TUES 27, 3:15 P.M.
The Vanderbeekers, by Katrina Yan Glaser
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Tweed Book Club
WED 26, 3:15 P.M.
Spirit Hunters, by Ellen Oh
Howland Public Library, Beacon

Alexander Technique with Miles Bukiet
Work with alignment, breathing, and movement to establish improved physical, emotional, and mental functioning for health, peak performance, and peace of mind.

Nonna’s Sues Landlord, Homestyle
Pizzeria seeks over $800K after closing in August
By Leonard Sparks
When Nonna’s Pizza Express began turning out pies in May at 349 Main St. in Nelsonville, the building’s owner and the pizzeria’s neighbor announced the opening on Facebook. “I was telling customers, ‘It’s going to be great,’” said Laura Timmons, who owns the adjacent Homestyle Creamery. The restaurant was an expansion of Nonna’s, which also has locations in Peekskill and Putnam Valley.

Four months later, Nonna’s in Nelsonville is closed and owner Michael Kabashi is seeking more than $800,000 from Timmons and Renate and Richard Frost, who own 349 Main, escalating a conflict that became public in August when Nonna’s posted a message on its Facebook page filled with accusations against the Frosts and Timmons.

Those allegations form the basis of a lawsuit Kabashi filed Sept. 22 in state court in Carmel. He alleges Timmons “hired” a friend, Gjevat Kastrati, to attack him, and that the Homestyle owner “generated” complaints that led to an unannounced inspection by the Putnam County Health Department.

The lawsuit also claims Kabashi was accused of “being a member of the mafia,” not paying his taxes and “otherwise engaging in criminal conduct.” Further, it said, Homestyle customers used tables and chairs that belonged to Nonna’s.

The Frosts, for their part, “failed, refused and neglected to intervene” and, with Timmons, “engaged in a pattern of conduct designed to damage the plaintiff’s business and reputation,” according to the lawsuit.

Timmons, reached on Wednesday (Sept. 28), denied each of the allegations and said Kabashi initiated the fight, which Nonna’s claimed on Facebook involved “three guys up from the Bronx.”

“Do you really think I’m going to hire three men at 6:30 at night, when I have my busiest time of the day,” Timmons asked. “I wouldn’t do it, period.”

Kabashi is asking the court to void a 10-year lease he signed in May and order the Frosts to return a $3,200 security deposit and $19,200 in rent payments, plus more than $150,000 he says he spent to open the restaurant, including $35,000 used to purchase appliances and equipment that was already in the space.

He is also seeking compensation from Timmons — $250,000 in damages for the alleged assault, $90,000 for the alleged false reports to the Health Department, $200,000 for a harassment charge he says was filed against him — and $120,000 in legal fees.

Dutchess County has finished its 2022 drop-off events but plans to hold three in 2023.

Reading

Butterfield Book Club
MON 3, 7:00 P.M.
Black Cake, by Charmaine Wilkerson
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Harry Potter Book Club
(Grades 5+)
FRI 7, 3:15 P.M.
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Helen Savoit Book Club
TUES 11, 1:30 P.M.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot
Howland Public Library, Beacon

Kids’ Book Club
THURS 13, 4:00 P.M.
Frizzy, by Claribel Ortega
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splintricksbooks.com.

Trophy Life Book Club
THURS 20, 6:00 P.M.
Wow, No Thank You, by Samantha Irby
Howland Public Library, Beacon

Beacon Book Club
THURS 20, 7:15 P.M.
We Have Always Lived in the Castle, by Shirley Jackson
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Register at splintricksbooks.com.
A Novel from Remote Russia

National Book Award finalist to read at Chapel

By Alison Rooney

If Julia Phillips had published her debut novel, Disappearing Earth, today, rather than in 2019, it wouldn’t be the same book.

That’s because it is set in Russia, on a volcanic peninsula called Kamchatka, where she spent a year researching, traveling and studying Russian while on a Fulbright scholarship following her graduation from Barnard.

She will be reading from her novel at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as part of its Sunset Reading Series, at 4 p.m. on Sunday (Oct. 2), in a program postponed for more than two years because of the pandemic shutdown.

“Undoubtedly, it would be different,” she says of her novel, which was one of five finalists for the National Book Award and named by The New York Times as one of its 10 best books of the year. “I’ve changed so much, and my access to Kamchatka has changed so much, first from the pandemic, then the war. My own relationship to Russia has altered; it’s impossible to imagine being able to write this now. It’s very much of its own time and place.”

Because recent legislation in Russia “has made it pretty impossible to speak about the war,” her communication with friends there has been “restrained.”

This is emphatically different to Phillips’ past experiences in Kamchatka, most recently in 2015. The region is remote, a nine-hour flight from Moscow and accessible only by boat and plane.

Located on the Pacific coast, it is surrounded by mountains and volcanos.

“Kamchatka is a magical place for me — I dreamed of going there for years, I was so enamored,” Phillips says. “I had gone to the limits of my imagination and found the place to be beyond those limits.”

For most of the 20th century, the area was blocked off to most visitors because it was the site of a strategic Soviet naval base. It has opened to outsiders in the past 30 years but remains isolated because of the forbidding landscape, she says.

The format of Disappearing Earth is circular, to some extent, which a reader might not pick up right away. Divided into 13 chapters, each covers a month in the year following the abduction of two young sisters. It focuses on lives that are each connected to another or others.

“The characters were built from the situation up — how they viewed themselves and then, more kaleidoscopic, through someone else’s eyes,” she explains.

Each chapter unites a protagonist and a premise. “It’s about finding a situation, then figuring out which character would be most interesting with that situation,” she says.

“For instance, in one chapter, a dog is lost, and it felt fuller if the owner was divorced and struggling with her divorce. The goal was to build the characters from the situation up and think about what qualities would make a particular action interesting.”

The descriptions are neither spare nor flowery and often include smells and tastes. “I like physically in reading and writing; what people look like, how it feels in our bodies,” she says.

Phillips has said in interviews that, for her, the book is not about Russia but about women, and how sometimes it is sensationalized and gets attention but more often is not remarked upon.

Connected to this theme is an examination of the divides, dynamics and relationships between ethnic Russians and the Indigenous people of the region, echoing those of many other parts of the world.

From the first story to the last, it’s the backdoor to all, though not always overtly. Disappearing Earth has been translated into many languages, including Russian.

Return Visit for Jazz Man

Rob Scheps and Core-tet will play at Chapel

By Alison Rooney

If you were scanning calendar listings around these parts in 2010, you’d have frequently seen the name Rob Scheps, or, in fuller form, The Rob Scheps Core-tet, a jazz group under his leadership.

Scheps, a saxophonist (and sometime flutist) and his band were mainstays in the Hudson Valley. Then, suddenly, the group wasn’t on the schedule; it turns out Scheps or, in fuller form, The Rob Scheps Core-tet, a jazz group under his leadership.

Scheps performs at The Cutting Room in New York City. Photos provided

Scheps and Core-tet will play at Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as part of its Sunset Reading Series, at 4 p.m. on Sunday (Oct. 2), in a program postponed for more than two years because of the pandemic shutdown.

“I’m thrilled to be back in Cold Spring, especially at the chapel,” Scheps says. “When I was living there I performed there and also saw lots of other concerts. Jazz and classical, mainly, which is primarily attributable to [Sunday Music Series producer] Barbara De Silva, who is a great champion of music, with great taste.

“It was incredible for me to walk down the street and see the signs of the chapel on them. It’s a beautiful place to be beyond those limits.”
Arts Awards
Cost: $130
in education.
Music
Bridge
winner. The other 10 honorees
recognized as the individual artist
of Beacon (below), who is being
its 36th annual awards, which this
33-35 Academy St. | artsmidhudson.org
5:30 p.m. Keepsake at The Academy
POUGHKEEPSIE
Dutchess Executive
for ages 5 and younger)
Enjoy music, hayrides, pumpkin
painting, food and craft vendors, as
well as visits with the animals. Free

I Am Beacon Gala
BEACON
6 p.m. The Roundhouse
2 E. Main St. | iambeacon.org
The nonprofit will celebrate its
10th year with awards, food and
drink and a performance by The
Costello. Cost: $85

Rascal’s Craft &
Flea Market
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 90 | 845-638-0094
Find artisan wares and treasures. Parking is $7. Free

Market Day Crafts Fair
FISHKILL
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Van Wyck Homestead
504 Route 9
fishkhistoricalsociety.org
Take a tour of the museum, enjoy
seasonal refreshments and find a
showcase of local craft-makers. The
rain date is SUN 9. Free

Open House
CARMEL
11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Putnam Humane Society
68 Old Route 6 | 845-225-7777
puthumane.org
Bring a can of dog or cat food to
donate and meet the dogs and cats
looking for homes. The Cadillac
Brothers will perform.

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 Beacon’s diversity.
Through Nov. 12.

Bon Appetit
PUTNAM VALLEY
1 – 3 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-526-7280 | tompkinscorners.org
In this group show, artists Monica
Battles, Dorene Battles, Vivian Berry,
Kate Hoekstra, Michael Garland,
Nora Roberto, Kalyna Hamilton and
Jacqueline N. O’Malley-Satz interpret
the phrase. Through Nov. 19.

Jayoung Yoon
GARRISON
2:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
The artist will discuss her
exhibition, Sowing Seeds of
Emptiness, on view through Nov. 6.

Belief in a
Disenchanted World
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art
This two-person exhibit will
include paintings by Kadar Brock
and abaluster sculptures by Lee

American Impressionists
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Bannewman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannewmancastle.org
Deborah Cotrone, Gary Fifer and
Marguerite Tavakonian will share
their work in this group show on
view through Nov. 27.

Words Unbound
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Work by more than 20 artists
inspired by the printed word was
chosen for this exhibit to celebrate
the 150th anniversary of the library.
Through Nov. 27.

STAGE & SCREEN

The Niceties
BEACON
FRI 7
YOU BETCHA THEATRE
7 p.m. You Betcha Theatre
200 East Main St. | 845-409-5152
youbetchath.com
Read work from any genre for
five minutes or come to listen at this
literary open mic. Registration is full
to read, but there will be a sign-up at
the door. Masks are required. Free

A Trip to Mars
COLD SPRING
FRI 7
Boscobel Historical Site
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
As part of its Silent Film Series,
which returns to in-person viewing,
the library will screen this 1918 silent
film. Registration is free to watch at
the door. Free

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 1
Basketball Clinic
BEACON
11 a.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-522-2991
The players and coaches of the
BBHS boys’ varsity team will run this
90-minute skills clinic for students
in kindergarten through the sixth
grade. Continues weekly through
October. Donations welcome to
benefit the team. Free

SUN 2
Fungus Among Us
CORNWALL
10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Munson Drive | 845-534-5506
hnhm.org
Study mushrooms during this
family nature walk. Cost: $20 ($8
children, discounts for members)

THURS 6
Book Page Pumpkins
GARRISON
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Make and take home a Halloween
craft using pages from books.
Register online.

SAT 8
Kids Craft Connection
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Boscobel 1601 Route 90 | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Children and families are invited to
take a flashlight tour of the mansion
and make early-American-style clay
pots. Cost: $24 ($13 children)

FALL 2022 COMMUNITY CALENDAR
SAT 8
Comedy Variety Show
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Serious Comedy Theatre will perform stand-up and skits. Cost: $30 ($25 door)

SUN 9
The Ivy League of Comedy
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Karen Bergreen, Shawn Eli and Jon Fisch will perform stand-up. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

TALKS & TOURS
SAT 1
Immigration: An American History
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Carl Ron Tempo will discuss his book, which draws on stories from colonial times to the present, to show how immigrants have shaped our nation.

SAT 8
The Stone Chambers of Mead Farm
CARMEL
10 a.m. Mead Farm
1090 Route 52 | 845-265-4030
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Learn about three mysterious areas of the landscape and hypotheses about how they came to be during this hike organized by the Putnam History Museum. Register online. Cost: $15

SAT 1
Stephane Wrembel & Django Experiment
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The group will perform Shades of Django. Cost: $35 ($40 door)

SAT 1
Bad Tide
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnse beacon
The surf and garage rock band will play with Trauma Cat.

SUN 2
Song of the Quarry
GARRISON
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Manitoga
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Manitoga
Shakuhachi players Thomas Ryuraku Hack, Adam Robinson, and Nora Norakku Suggs will perform traditional and experimental compositions inspired by the Quarry Pool and the trails. Cost: $40 ($35 members)

SUN 2
Organ Dedication
GARRISON
3 p.m. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
1101 Route 9D | stphilipshighlands.org
Craig Williams of the West Point Cadet Chapel will perform an international program during the ceremony.

TUES 4
Online Privacy and Your Data
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
The author of Disappearing Earth, a finalist in 2019 for the National Book Award, will read as part of the Sunset Reading Series. See Page 11. Donations welcome. Free

TUES 4
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
Putnam Legislature
WED 5
Writing Workshop
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Stonecrope
81 Stonecrope Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrope.org
Susan Wallass will use the Amherst Writers and Artists method to lead a workshop about taking inspiration from nature. Cost: $50 ($60 members)

WED 5
Come Write In
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-811-1314
beaconlibrary.org
This weekly writer’s workshop is open to anyone working on or starting a project. Register online.

THURS 6
Inner Resources for Collective Action in Climate Chaos
GARRISON
2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
In this webinar, Jamie Brisiot, codirector of the Mindfulness Initiative, and Jonathan P.F. Rose, a founder of the Garrison Institute, will discuss how to be compassionate and present as we move into an era of climate consequences.

THURS 6
String Busters
PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Totkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | howlandmusic.org
Will Demers, Mat Kastner, Dan Bonis and Ed Spallina will play acoustic Americana and bluegrass in a benefit for the cultural center. Cost: $20

THURS 6
Django Experiment
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tenor sax player will perform with his band. See Page 11. Cost: $25

SAT 1
Hudson Valley Gospel Festival
PEEKSKILL
WAPPINERS FALLS
Noon – 5 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | artsmedhudson.org
Performers will include Sisters in Spirit of the Hudson Valley, The New Stars of Harmony, Andreas Humpert, the Mid-Hudson Chinese Christian Church Choir, Tashan Pearse and the Hudson Valley Gospel Festival Praise Dance Team. Cost: $20 ($15 students, seniors, military)

SAT 1
String Busters
PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Totkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | howlandmusic.org
Will Demers, Mat Kastner, Dan Bonis and Ed Spallina will play acoustic Americana and bluegrass in a benefit for the cultural center. Cost: $20

SAT 1
Daniel Kelly Jazz Trio
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
1101 Route 9D | philipstowndepottheatre.org
The pianist and composer will perform with his band as part of the Depot’s cabaret series. Cost: $25

SAT 1
Matt Mitchell, Kim Cass & Kate Gentile
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | paramounthudsonvalley.com
The Steely Dan tribute band will perform the band’s hits and crowd pleasers. Cost: $25 to $39.55

SAT 1
Parker String Quartet
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012
howlandandmusic.org
The program by Daniel Chong (violin), Ken Hamao (violin), Jessica Bodner (viola) and Kee-Hyun Kim (cello) will include works by Caroline Shaw, György Ligeti and Beethoven. Cost: $35 ($10 students)

SAT 1
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 as part of the Depot’s cabaret series. Cost: $25

MON 3
Lee Odom Group
PEEKSKILL
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnse beacon
Odom will perform with Alexis Marcelo, Gervis Myles and Bryce Collinswil as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series.

THURS 6
Rob Scheps Core-tet
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The tenor sax player will perform with his band. See Page 11. Cost: $25

SAT 1
Steve Forbert & The New Renditions
GARRISON
8:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The five-piece band will perform folk music. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

SAT 1
Chris Cochran and John Thayer
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnse beacon
The duo will perform music from its new release, Exaggeration.

SUN 9
WeeFree Strings
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537
chapelrestoration.org

FRI 7
Broadway’s Rock of Ages Band
COLD SPRING
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | paramounthudsonvalley.com
The concert will feature music from ‘80s performers such as Pat Benatar, Styx, Foreigner and Joan Jett. Cost: $40 to $60
Jazz Man (from Page II)
the hill on Main Street and perform music at a venue where someone like [jazz pianist] Toshiko Akiyoshi played a solo concert. I did a few concerts with my own band there, and also one with the late, great [jazz guitarist] John Abercrombie.

“When I was in Cold Spring, Barbara let me wedge my way in to play on their Steinway grand, and it is one of the best pianos I’ll ever play. The chapel is the perfect place to play at in October, when the weather is fine. I love the building, the setting and the excitement of presenting live music in a village that loves it.”

Scheps has been composing — on a piano, seldom on a sax — since his teens, when he attended the Manhattan School of Music's prep division while in high school. He studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, and also one with the late, great [jazz guitarist] John Abercrombie. In the New York City area, Scheps has had the same personnel for 12 years, and the quintet plays regularly at Smalls in a longstanding, sporadic residency. They’ll be playing “exciting, straight-ahead” jazz there Oct. 12, as well as some of his new compositions.

The pandemic shutdown wrecked havoc, he says. For nearly two years, there was almost nowhere to perform, “although I did have one or two steady gigs each month. Ninety percent of my living is performing, I write for money, I compose and arrange for a living. With Zoom and Skype, I didn’t have to change my teaching routines, at least, but so much else was canceled.” When the lockdown hit, Scheps was in Kansas City and wound up staying there with friends for two months. “I did very joyful to make a story up, so much fun.”

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, adjacent to the Metro-North station. Tickets are $25 at chapelrestoration.org. Scheps is also playing at venues in New York City, Stone Ridge and Woodstock between Oct. 9 and 18; see robschepsmusic.com.

Disappearing (from Page II)
She has listened to the first chapter of the audiobook version, but no more. “Now it’s a different part of the process and it’s up to other people,” she explains. “The book has a life of its own there; it’s flown the nest.”

Phillips says she is still surprised by the response her novel has received. “It’s beyond my wildest dreams — and I did have wild dreams!” she says. “The fundamental thing is still amazement that it exists in the world and people read it. I still wonder, ‘How would you read it?’ Because for me, it’s still a Word document on my computer. At some point I might have to accept reality.”

Her second book, which she began writing in 2009, has reached the first draft stage. While she’s keeping the subject under wraps, she says it “feels related yet apart. It’s a Word document on my computer. At some point I might have to accept reality.”

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, with free parking at the adjacent Metro-North lot. The program, which is free, begins at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. Donations are welcome to support the reading series.

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

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Sunday, October 16, 2022
From 10:00 a.m. until the bulbs are gone
Philipstown Recreation Center
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The 2022 Fall Bulb Catalog for our Annual Fundraiser is waiting for you at our website:
www.PhillipstownGardenClubNY.org
Browse the Catalog and Buy your bulbs at the Sale
Some of the People All of the Time

By Celia Barbour

“T eat every-thing,” said my charming new friend X. I had just asked if she or her husband had any dietary restrictions or aversions. They were staying with us for a couple of days, and I see no point in preparing food that will make people unhappy or ill when there are so many other good meals I can cook instead. Her reply was both a relief and an itty-bitsy red flag. I have never met a self-proclaimed voracious food-loving omnivore (myself included) who didn’t have some quirky dislike tucked away among their gustatory enthusiasms.

X (not her real name) was no exception. The next day, we were sitting on the porch talking about books and life, and she mentioned that she hates raw onion. “Me too!” (We were bonding!) I said I hated it when I ordered a vegetable or grain salad and it came filled with chunks of raw onion; when I ordered a vegetable or grain salad and my charm—thing eat.

Whoa, I thought. That’s significant. And it means I better not make the quick-picked beets and onions I’d wanted to include with tomorrow’s goat cheese salad. But what, then, should I do with the beets I’d roasted, the kale I’d washed?

I shelved my worry: One of the wonderful things about cooking is that ingredients are a bit like Legos: They can be put together any number of different ways. Start with a reliable combination — e.g., beets, goat cheese, rosemary and greens — and you can create a sandwich, a casserole, a pasta dish, or a salad. I hoped that a good idea would come to me.

The next day, I walked into the kitchen, spied a forgotten bag of Arborio rice and bang, brain flash: beet risotto with sauteed greens. The resulting dish was fairly amazing, even to me. X took pictures and asked for the recipe; her husband had thirds. They both marveled at my culinary inventiveness. I basked in their praise, and felt an itty-bitsy bit guilty.

I have never met a person who was a perfect replica of the story they convey to the world about themselves, myself included. If our friends wanted to think that I was a culinary wizard, was I required to dissuade them? I chose not to mention that I’m come across beet risottos on menus and food sites in the past.

While I’m at it, here’s another confession. This dish came together in 35 minutes because I had already roasted the beets, caramelized the onions and sautéed the greens. Is it worth making from scratch? Yeah, probably. But here’s a tip for those of you who have read this far: Now that it’s fall, why not spend an evening roasting a bunch of different vegetables? Caramelize some onions, sauté some greens, then stash everything away in your fridge. That way, when life gets busy, you’ll be ready for (just about) everything.

For the roasted beets

1 bunch beets, trimmed and scrubbed, 1 large onion, diced

For the greens

2 tablespoons olive oil ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 cloves garlic, minced 2 to 3 bunches greens, such as kale, chard or beet greens (see note)

For the risotto

5 cups chicken or vegetable broth 1 cup dry white wine or dry vermouth
2 tablespoons olive oil 2 cups roasted beets (see above)
2 tablespoons butter, divided 1 to 2 cups sautéed greens (see above)
1 small onion, finely diced 4 ounces fresh goat cheese, plus more for serving
1 clove garlic, minced Zest of one lemon
1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
½ teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
2 cups Arborio rice

In a small saucepan, heat the broth to a boil, then reduce heat and keep at a low simmer. In a large Dutch oven or saucepan, heat the olive oil and half the butter over medium heat. Add the diced onion and cook, stirring, until translucent, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic, red pepper flakes, rosemary and thyme, and cook 1 minute. Turn the heat up to medium-high, add the rice, stir to coat well and cook, stirring constantly, until the rice turns opaque, 2 to 3 minutes.

Add the wine or vermouth and cook, stirring, until most is absorbed. Reduce the heat to medium, add a ladleful of hot broth to the rice mixture, and stir as it is absorbed. Continue adding broth at about 2-minute intervals, stirring regularly between additions. When about ¾ of the broth has been added, taste a few grains of rice. It should be just chewable but still quite firm.

Add about half the chopped beets. Continue adding the broth until just about a ladleful is left in the saucepan. Stir the remaining beets and the greens into the risotto, along with the remaining butter. Just before serving, stir in the goat cheese, then the final ladle of broth. Top with lemon zest. Serve with additional goat cheese on the side.
As predicted, the rain began at 1 p.m. on Sunday (Sept. 25), just as the parade stepped off for the 45th annual celebration — the first in person since 2019 because of the pandemic shutdown. But the clouds didn’t dampen any of the spirit as friends old and new filled the streets to get reacquainted.

For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair and Michael Turton
AROUND TOWN

NICO VISIT — Mike Cavallaro, the author and illustrator of the Nico Bravo series, was the guest of honor at a Kids’ Book Club meeting on Sept. 22 hosted by Split Rock Books at the Cold Spring Coffeehouse.  

Photo by Ross Corsair

BIRD TALK — Connie Hall reads “The Penguin,” a short play by Nicolas Billon, on Sept. 24 at Long Dock Park in Beacon during the second annual Soon is Now festival. The climate-arts event was part of Sustainable Hudson Valley’s Climate Solutions Week.  

Photo by Valerie Shively

TRAVELING WALL — A 300-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., returned to Memorial Park in Carmel for four days beginning Sept. 22.  

Photo by Ross Corsair

LATE SUMMER SERENADE — Carl Gutowski (flute) and David Temple (guitar) performed works by Poulenc, Villa-Lobos and others on Sept. 24 at the Pugh residence in Cold Spring overlooking the Hudson River.  

Photo by Ross Corsair

NOTICE

Resource Anesthesiology Associates PC, an anesthesia provider (“Provider”) to a local healthcare facility, is providing notice of a July 15, 2022 data security incident impacting its Management Company that may have resulted in the compromise of protected health information for the Provider’s patients. Information stored in the Management Company’s system could include some combination of patient names, addresses, health insurance policy number, Social Security numbers, payment information, and health information such as treatment and diagnosis.

Additional security controls were implemented to secure the system and protect patient information. Patients should monitor credit reports and financial statements for suspicious activity. Call (833) 764-2864 Monday - Friday from 9am – 9pm Eastern Time for questions.

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Fjord Trail (from Page 1)

after the state parks department takes over operation of Dockside as part of the HHFT.

“That would be a real loss to the community; it’s a very Cold Spring thing,” he said.

Francisco said that while HHFT operations can benefit from public-private partnerships, there are limitations to what village infrastructure can accommodate.

“That is only one way in and one way out of lower Main Street and Dockside,” he said.

Planning Board Chair Jack Goldstein outlined three questions submitted to HHFT that he said have not been answered: Who owns property along the entire HHFT route? What steps led to what he described as a “counterintuitive” decision that the Breakneck portion of the trail would have an environmental impact? What is the history of use of federal funds for HHFT in the area adjacent to Cold Spring’s National Historic District?

“It became evident that the HHFT organization is not obliged to provide us with that information, due to the nature of its partnership with the state, he said. “That still remains a concern.”

He focused on “over-tourism” that he said the project could create, an outcome he said results from projects that put “unsustainable pressure on local resources and facilities.” That pressure “can be just as destructive as shoreline flooding,” he said.

Goldstein said that over-tourism can be addressed scientifically. “It’s an opportunity for real innovation,” such as by using computer modeling that responds to evolving factors during HHFT planning. Goldstein said the village can’t afford modeling, but that state parks could compel HHFT to pay for it.

Foley said some issues, such as a shortage of public restrooms, will be resolved as the HHFT plan proceeds. But she also reflected on something that she said Francisco told her years ago: That Cold Spring has something unique that most places have lost.

“It is our job to protect that,” she said. “We’ve all visited soul-less places that are nothing but tourist destinations. We have an opportunity here, a new public park being developed. How do we do it in a way that’s the gold standard for sustainability?”

Foley requested HHFT:

• Post the revised Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, when released, on its website.
• Reconsider Cold Spring’s status as an “interested agency,” giving the village a more significant role in the planning.
• Given the potential impacts within the Historic District, demonstrate why HHFT’s lead agency should be exempt from local zoning and permitting.
• Add the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which oversees the aqueduct, as an interested agency because as HHFT is developed, demands on the village water system will increase.

Amy Kacala, HHFT’s executive director, said she attended the meeting mainly to listen but acknowledged village officials’ frustration at not having the DGEIS and all data, analysis, traffic and environmental impacts contained “under one nice clean cover.”

“I understand the hunger for that,” she said. “It’s open because we keep looking at more things and want to be thorough. For example, we’re redoing the traffic counts” to ensure they are up to date.

“Nobody wants more than MJ and I to have that document finalized for public review,” Kacala said. “It’s been slower than any of us wanted, but all of that is forthcoming.”

During the public comment period, village resident John Martin said the project should “spread out” the large number of people eager to hike area trails.

But village resident Michael Reisman asked: “What is the problem you’re trying to solve with the Dockside connector?” — a proposed HHFT section from Dockside to Little Stony Point. “If the problem is over-visitation, will creating a bridge to Dockside help or harm? I’ve seen no evidence it will solve that problem; I think it will harm Dockside.”

The shoreline at Dockside Park has been fortified. Photo by M. Turton
**Two Players Explain Why They Play**

By Joey Asher

**Jack Hartman, Haldane**

To hear Jack Hartman tell it, there was never much question of whether he was going to play football. The Hartmans, who live in Garrison, are a football family. His father was a linebacker. So was Jack’s older brother. “My mom gets excited when she sees football on TV,” Jack said.

When Jack was in the first grade, his parents signed him up to play tackle football for the Philipstown Hawks. Now Hartman, 16, is a junior defensive lineman and center for the Haldane varsity.

“I just love the sport,” he said. “I love the brotherhood. It’s not all about how good you play. It’s about the bonds you get when you play with other people.”

He added, with a laugh, that he also enjoys tackling people or knocking them down and not getting in trouble.

He is aware that fewer boys play football. He has friends who decided not to play or stopped playing because they feared serious injuries. But he emphasized that they made the decisions; it wasn’t their parents pressuring them to quit. “Some people, as they grow up, realize there are risks,” he said.

He has never suffered a serious injury and said he isn’t too worried because “so many injuries can be prevented by playing smart. You shouldn’t lead with your head.”

Jack works as a busboy at the Hudson House in Cold Spring, his first job. He isn’t sure what he wants to do as a career. His father is an operating engineer, working with heavy equipment. He might follow in his footsteps, just like in football.

**Leib Perez Novas, Beacon**

Leibinson Perez Novas — “Leib” to his friends — grew up playing baseball and was a good third baseman. Baseball is part of the culture of his family, which hails from the Dominican Republic, the home of immortals such as David “Big Papi” Ortiz, Albert Pujols and Pedro Martinez. His three younger brothers all play baseball.

When Leib was in seventh grade, his Uncle Manny suggested he try football. “I love the physicality,” said Leib, 17.

Leib is a middle linebacker, wide receiver and running back for Beacon. He is a team captain and would like to play in college on an athletic scholarship. “I don’t care what college,” he said. “I’ll go wherever they offer the most help financially.”

He knows that many parents won’t let their sons play football. And his parents showed concern, at first. “When I started playing in middle school, they saw me all banged up,” he said. “They asked me if I really wanted to play. I told them that I loved it.”

He allowed that he was disappointed that there are only two other seniors on the team this year. “It’s going to be a long season,” he said. Indeed, as of this week, the team is winless. But he said that “only pushes me to work harder.”

Leib has had a few injuries. He once broke a thumb and last year suffered a concussion when he hit another player while leading with his helmet. “I was dizzy for a week,” he said. But he learned his lesson. “I only hit with my shoulders now.”

He said football has taught him life lessons. “It’s about keeping your head up and facing down adversity,” he said. “It gives you experience working as a team and you learn dedication and responsibility.”

He hopes to leverage those lessons with a career in real estate and construction. “I don’t want to be working for someone else when I’m 30,” he said. “I want to be my own boss.”

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**FOOTBALL (from Page 1)**

The coach hopes to rebuild a pipeline from the recently rejuvenated Beacon Youth Football League as well as the middle school level, which had 57 boys last season in grades 7, 8 and 9.

For Phelan and other area coaches, however, it’s a difficult time to build a tradition. Participation in youth football has been on the decline in the U.S. for years; in New York state, the number of varsity players dropped 31 percent between 2008 and 2021, according to surveys by the National Federation of State High School Associations, and 48 high schools have dropped football, combined with other sports or switched to eight-player squads, rather than the standard 11.

For this story, we spoke with local coaches, parents and medical professionals about the challenges facing high school football in the Highlands. If the number of participants drops too low to field teams, what will happen to programs at smaller schools such as Haldane and Beacon? Will they merge with other schools? Can they play only eight games a year? And who will replace the current players without robust recreational leagues where beginners can learn the game?

Falling student enrollment has played a role, as it has in every sport; participation in boys’ soccer, which is also played during the fall, has dropped 16 percent since 2010. But following well-publicized lawsuits by former NFL players who are experiencing the effects of years of hits to the head, football has added the challenge of addressing parental concerns about concussions and the potential long-term damage from the high-impact sport.

“I have friends whose parents won’t let them play,” said Leib Perez Novas, 17, a captain for the Beacon Bulldogs. “It’s a physical, hard sport.”

Roger Pielke Jr., a professor at the University of Colorado who has followed the national trend in a series of reports called “After Peak Football,” notes that nationally, the number of boys ages 6 to 18 playing tackle football fell by 25 percent between 2008 and 2019, to just under 2 million. He suspects that participation will soon fall below 1 million, or the lowest it’s been in 25 years.

“The problem of concussions and head injuries hasn’t gone away,” he said.

**Finding players**

Fielding a team can be especially challenging at smaller schools such as Haldane, which has about 300 high school students. The varsity this year has 24 players, and Ryan McConville says that a full squad has always been top of mind during his nine years as head coach. “It’s a work in progress every year, for sure,” he said. Haldane is one of the smallest schools in Section 1, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties; it’s so small that it plays the same team every year — Tuckahoe — for the Class D sectional championship.

What is a smaller program to do? Recruit like crazy. “We recruit in the hallways,” McConville said. “If they’re not playing soccer or running cross-country, we’re saying, ‘Why don’t you give football a try?’”

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**We recruit in the hallways. If they’re not playing soccer or running cross-country, we’re saying, ‘Why don’t you give football a try?’**

- Haldane Coach Ryan McConville

McConville, at least, has a consistent base. Enrollment at the high school has remained steady over the past decade, although the K-12 numbers are down 11 percent. Enrollment at Beacon High School, however, has dropped by 16 percent, to about 900 students. Statewide, enrollment has dropped by 12 percent and with it, participation in high school sports has fallen 26 percent.

One option to counter those dwindling numbers is to merge with another program. In Yonkers, for instance, the eight high schools combined their football teams in 2018 into two squads. It’s been done at Haldane.
with other sports — hockey and softball have combined with larger programs at Hendrick Hudson and Putnam Valley, respectively — but “we’ve been able to sustain our [football] program without having to do it,” McConville said. It’s been discussed at Beacon, as well, said John Giametta, the athletic director, but finding a suitable partner of about the same size would be a challenge.

Other schools have converted to eight-man football, said Todd Nelson, assistant director of the New York State High School Athletic Association. With eight players, a school needs 12 academically eligible and healthy to compete, compared to 16 for an 11-man team, he said.

The problem with maintaining an 11-man team with few substitutes is that it increases the time a player is on the field and the risk of injury, said Dr. Mark Herceg, a clinical and sports neuropsychologist based in Irvington. “When you’re playing offense and defense, you’re taking more hits,” he said.

“Gone are the days when you had eight-hour practices and you hit a sled all day,” said Phelan. “Kids today are different. It needs to be more entertaining.” That may mean incorporating audible calls to change plays at the line of scrimmage as professionals do. “They hear the guys in the NFL do things and they want to do those things,” he said. “So you integrate it into your plays.”

McConville said practices are safer than they’ve ever been. “We are not going to smash heads for two hours,” said the coach, who played for Haldane and St. Lawrence University. “No one is going to improve that way.” Instead, the players practice with low-impact drills such as those with “tackling rings” that promote safe hitting practices.

McConville said that, unlike when he played at Haldane from 2000 to 2003, his players rarely practice in full pads. “People weren’t paying attention to concussions like today,” he said. “We wore full pads four days a week.”

Rule changes also have been made to penalize, sometimes with ejection, dangerous hits such as helmet-to-helmet contact. Meghan Crowe, the Haldane trainer, said she doesn’t see many concussions among the injuries she treats for football.

Like McConville, Horacio Reyes, whose son Gabriel plays for Haldane, noted that the equipment is better and the techniques to avoid dangerous contact far more advanced than when he played middle linebacker for Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx.

Herceg, the sports neuropsychologist, agreed the game has become safer but he believes more changes are needed. “We’re good at identifying when there is a big hit,” he said. “But we don’t necessarily diagnose symptoms well.” Too often, he said, high school players who may have suffered a head injury will be allowed to return to the game. “When in doubt, sit them out,” he said. “We don’t do that well.”

**Strong tradition**

Feilke noted that despite health concerns, football has a counterweight: the local community. “A strong football culture will sustain a school’s program,” he said.

Indeed, high school football is thriving in traditional hotbeds, such as in the South, he said. Participation in Alabama grew by 32 percent between 2010 and 2021, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. During the same

**Girls’ Flag Football Looking for Space**

By Joey Asher

Boys’ high school football may be on a slow decline in New York high schools, but girls’ flag football is breaking down the sideline.

The spring sport was introduced in 2021 in New York as a pilot and became official this year, including at Peekskill High School, where 50 girls tried out for 24 roster spots, said Austin Goldberg, the athletic director.

Zinnia Quinlan, 15, showed up after being invited by a friend. “I didn’t know anything about it,” said Zinnia, who also plays volleyball and basketball.

She caught on quickly and ended the year with a touchdown and an interception. “The quarterback threw the ball and I caught it in the end zone,” she said. “I didn’t even know it was a touchdown.”

The surge in interest among the girls in Peekskill stood in contrast to the boys’ football team, Goldberg said. Like many high schools in the state, Peekskill, which has about 1,000 students, had to battle to fill its roster. The varsity had just 20 players in 2021, although that increased to 30 this season.

The statewide flag football program was funded by the Giants and Jets, New York’s professional (men’s tackle) teams. They anticipated 24 schools but heard from 51, with 1,020 players.

Eight of the teams are located in Section I, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties: Peekskill, Somers, Brewster, Mahopac, Scarsdale, Lakeland, Hastings and Greenburgh-North Castle. Section IX, which includes Beacon, did not take part in the pilot, but Kingston launched an intramural league and Middletown hopes to field a team next year. Beacon’s athletic director, John Giametta, said he would survey students to gauge interest.

Todd Nelson, the assistant director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, said that, because of its immediate success, flag football has already been recognized as an “emerging sport.” That means a committee will be formed to create uniform rules and determine whether the NYSPHSAA should host a state championship.

Brewster High School won the Section I tournament this year and played a short exhibition game at halftime of a Giants preseason game on Aug. 21 at MetLife stadium.

“Football is such a part of our culture,” said Dean Berardo, the school’s athletic director. “We all know the benefits of participating on an athletic team. This is just another way to play.”
SAFER TACKLES

A traditional tackling method of putting a “head across the bow” (left) — or in front of the body of the ball carrier — can lead to serious injuries; coaches are advised to tell players to keep their heads up and make contact with their inside shoulder (right). A survey published in 2020 of 68 high school coaches in Texas found that 75 percent preferred to teach head across the bow or “split the number” (head to chest) tackling, although 81 percent said they also advised tacklers to “keep your head up” and 78 percent to “see what you hit.” Only 13 percent said they preferred to teach the (safer) shoulder tackle. Another study estimated there are about 259,000 injuries annually during U.S. high school football games, 26 percent of which are concussions.

Images: Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine

FOOTBALL (from Page 2)

period, it increased 13 percent in Oklahoma and remained steady in Texas.

New York has football powerhouses such as Somers and Arlington, but at the latter, Coach Michael Morano concedes his program is an anomaly. “Most programs are shrinking,” he said. “Ours is exploding.”

Last year Arlington had 159 players on its freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams, up from 115 when he took over as coach in 2016. That’s despite a 19 percent decrease in the high school enrollment over the last 10 years.

Morano said he believes the program has grown because of the momentum of consistent winning, a strong football tradition and an investment to expand the stadium, which can hold as many as 5,000 people. With more than 2,600 students, Arlington High School plays in Class AA, reserved for the state’s largest schools.

Somers High School, which has 1,000 students, has seen success with a program where the players mentor younger athletes, said Coach Anthony DeMatteo. It has 190 students ranging in age from 8 to 13, most of whom play tackle, or “contact,” games, rather than flag football. Enrollment at Somers High School has been steady but K-12 enrollment is down 17 percent over the past decade.

Jake Polito, 17, said that while growing up he was encouraged to play on the line, blocking for the quarterback and running backs because of his size. “I was always the tallest and biggest kid in my class,” he said. He was reluctant, because the position usually elicits few cheers or glory, but that changed when a lineman on the Somers varsity became a mentor. “I fell in love with the idea of being a lineman,” he said. After he graduates next year, he will play for the Naval Academy.

Despite the headwinds, the Haldane Hawks, was rebranded as the Blue Devils, the Haldane mascot. “Everybody is now a Blue Devil,” McConville said.

Unfortunately, the pandemic turned the league into drill sessions rather than competition. Its teams play flag football against each other, McConville said.

In Beacon, Andrea and Terry Davis have fought to revive youth football, which suffered from low participation and was hit hard by COVID. Andrea Davis said her goal is to teach not only the rules of the game but teamwork, leadership and discipline. Her uncle, Vernon Way, a Beacon detective, started the local Pop Warner league in the 1960s. “He used to say, ‘Kids who play sports, stay out of courts,’” Davis said.

Last spring the Davises rebranded the Beacon Bears as Beacon Youth Football and had 70 students in grades 3 to 5 turn out to play flag football. Andrea Davis said they’re expanding the program to grades K-6 and, if interest continues to grow, will move to tackle.
Puzzles

Cross Current

ACROSS
1. Piratic quaffs
5. 605, in old Rome
8. Last write-up
12. Like some vaccines
13. Ecol. watchdog
14. Stratagem
15. Turkey’s most populous city
17. Actress Falco
18. Second of two
19. Church keyboards
21. Six, in Sicily
22. Harvest
23. Fireplace residue
26. Society newbie
28. Golf great Sam
31. Coach Ewbank
33. Passing craze
35. Capital on a fjord
36. Cardiff’s country
38. “Uh-huh”
40. Kids’ game
41. Antitoxins
43. French article
45. Juan’s pals
47. Cease-fires
51. Track assignment
52. Brazil’s most populous city
54. Karaoke prop
55. Brit. record label
56. Bridal cover
57. Writer Kingsley
58. Wee bit
59. Old U.S. gas brand

DOWN
1. Stir up
2. — Major
3. The Martian actor
4. Bed boards
5. Question after a mission
6. PC’s brain
7. Bravery
8. Pizza sauce herb
9. Hungary’s most populous city
10. “The doctor —”
11. Casual tops
12. Like some vaccines
13. Ecol. watchdog
14. Stratagem
15. Turkey’s most populous city
17. Actress Falco
18. Second of two
19. Church keyboards
21. Six, in Sicily
22. Harvest
23. Fireplace residue
26. Society newbie
28. Golf great Sam
31. Coach Ewbank
33. Passing craze
35. Capital on a fjord
36. Cardiff’s country
38. “Uh-huh”
40. Kids’ game
41. Antitoxins
43. French article
45. Juan’s pals
47. Cease-fires
51. Track assignment
52. Brazil’s most populous city
54. Karaoke prop
55. Brit. record label
56. Bridal cover
57. Writer Kingsley
58. Wee bit
59. Old U.S. gas brand

Sudo Current

Answers for Sept. 23 Puzzles

JUDI WAG OGLE UTES RCA IRIS SALADOIL LUMP THE END ABBEY SAG BRA ASHEN MICROBE DIOS GAG ORAL DREAM ON GNATS MAO BUS CAGER DEF PSI OREO OILFIELD RANI AMI CLIQ ABEL FEE YEPS

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

**FIELD NOTES**

**RUNNER HONORED** – For the second time this fall, Ryan Cory of Beacon, who is a senior at SUNY Cortland on Sept. 25 was named the men’s cross-country athlete of the week for the SUNY Athletic Conference. The day before, Cory won the Harry F. Anderson Invitational at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, where he covered the 8,000-meter course in 24:50.9 and Cortland finished second out of 15 schools.

**NEW CAPTAIN** — Noula O’Reilly (13), who lives in Garrison, was named co-captain of the girls’ field hockey team at Kennedy Catholic High School. She is a senior at the school, located in Somers.

**HEADED TO THE SERIES** — Ali Amato, 8, of Cold Spring, on Sept. 24 won her age group at the Pitch, Hit & Run regional competition held at Citizens Bank Field, home of the Philadelphia Phillies, and advanced to the finals to be held at the World Series, which begins Oct. 28. The regional competition included baseball and softball players from 14 states and seven Canadian provinces. Amato plays softball in the Philipstown Little League.

**HALDANE RUNNERS** — The Haldane boys’ and girls’ cross-country teams competed at the Pearl River Invitational on Sept. 24 at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton. The boys were led by seniors John Kisslinger (18:39) and Conrad White (18:45), shown here, and the girls by junior Eloise Pearsall (24:02).

Photos provided

**VARIOUS SCOREBOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Soccer</th>
<th>Football</th>
<th>Cross-Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beacon 3, Minisink Valley 2</td>
<td>Westlake 41, Haldane 7</td>
<td>Beacon at Bowdoin XC Classic 41, Henry Reinke (18:16.10) 55, Jack Twining (18:46.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon 5, Monticello</td>
<td>Monroe-Woodbury 55, Beacon 0</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devyn Kelly (2), Reilly Landisi (2), Noelie Hasse</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haldane 3, Pawling 1</td>
<td>Finola Kiter, Marisa Peters, Gaby Perilli</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finola Kiter, Marisa Peters, Gaby Perilli</td>
<td>North Salem 4, Haldane 0</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volleyball</th>
<th>Boys' Soccer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millbrook 2, Haldane 0</td>
<td>Haldane 4, FDR-Hyde Park 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dobbs Ferry 3, Haldane 1</td>
<td>Ryan Eng-Wong (2), Brendan Robbins, Clem Grossman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haldane 3, Poughkeepsie 0</td>
<td>Haldane 5, North Salem 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall 3, Beacon 0</td>
<td>Eng-Wong (4), Grossman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goshen 3, Beacon 1</td>
<td>Haldane 3, Croton 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Eng-Wong, Grossman, Max Westphal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Beacon 3, Minisink Valley 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Beacon 8, Monticello 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>