

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Bison  
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DECEMBER 30, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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## 2022, Updated

*With 2023 fast approaching, our reporters caught up with and updated select stories from the past year*

### JANUARY

**Missing crew member** — On Jan. 3, while walking his dog at Dockside Park in Cold Spring, Seth Dinitz spotted a red backpack resting on rocks at the edge of the Hudson River. “It was clean on the exterior,” he said. “Inside, everything was waterlogged.” Its contents included two days’ worth of neatly folded clothing, a wallet, cellphone, work documents, a mechanical engineering diploma, family photos and a photocopied passport. It also contained \$599 in cash and 8,500 kyats, the currency of Myanmar, worth less than \$5. The documents belonged to Aung Phone San, 26, a Myanmar national and a cadet engineer aboard the M.V. Medi Hakata, a bulk carrier registered in Panama that had passed Cold Spring in mid-December. It was thought San went overboard to avoid returning to Myanmar because he had opposed its military rulers and feared retribution.

*Update: A body was found in the water in mid-July in Tompkins Cove near Bear Mountain Bridge. According to a friend of the family, San’s parents were informed by the shipping company that it was their son, based on its size and the fact that the deceased*

*was wearing a uniform. The New York State Police have yet to confirm the identification.*

**Climate report** — New York released the draft of a document that laid out what the state needs to do to receive 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030, reach zero-emissions electricity by 2040 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

*Update: After taking the plan on the road for public input, the state’s Climate Action Council released the final version in mid-December. One key difference in the 433-page document is the Inflation Reduction Act, which Congress passed this year. Another difference: Although the draft was approved unanimously by the council, the three panel members representing the fossil fuel, power and utility industries voted against the final version. They said it was unrealistic and unnecessarily favors renewable electric energy over natural gas sources. The plan isn’t legally binding: It’s essentially a series of recommendations for Gov. Kathy Hochul and the state Legislature.*

(Continued on Page 7)

## State Bans ‘Puppy Mill’ Sales

*Advocates say breeders harm pets, consumers*

By Leonard Sparks

Caretakers at the Dutchess County chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been eyewitnesses to the dangers of so-called “puppy mills,” or large-scale commercial breeders.

Six puppies infected with canine parvovirus, which causes abdominal pain, lethargy and loss of appetite, were brought to the shelter in Hyde Park last year, said Lynn Meloccaro, its executive director. They could barely move and five died, she said.

Such experiences top the reasons why Meloccaro and other animal-rights advocates are celebrating Gov. Kathy Hochul’s signature this month on legislation that prohibits retail pet stores from selling cats,

dogs and rabbits, beginning in 2024.

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, voted for the bill, as did the area’s two Assembly members: Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, who represents Beacon. It passed 57-5 in the Senate and 134-15 in the Assembly.

The law does not affect “backyard breeders” who are allowed under state law to raise up to 25 animals at their private residences, said Ken Ross, chief for the Putnam County SPCA in Carmel. With those operations, “at least you have the option of going to the breeder and looking at the conditions before you purchase,” he said.

Although opposed by the pet store industry, the bill is intended to protect animals from being raised in the unhealthy, unsanitary and inhumane conditions that characterize many commercial breeders and

(Continued on Page 5)



**THE RIVER RISES** — In a scene reminiscent of those recorded after Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the western end of Main Street in Cold Spring flooded overnight last week following sustained rains. The precipitation was a remnant of a snowstorm that pummeled much of the country, including western New York.

Photo by Craig Barry

### Out There

## This Deer World

By Brian PJ Cronin

It’s hard to believe that there was ever a time in the Northeast when deer were not common. But deforestation and the hunting of deer and the predators that eat them nearly wiped out the population in New York by the late 19th century. The only place that had healthy numbers were the



remote Adirondacks — some states short on deer even imported animals from the Adirondacks to replenish their stocks.

However, those states did not import the few remaining wolves and mountain lions at the same time. Those predators soon vanished from the Northeast, while the surviving deer pushed into tapped-out land left behind by farmers who moved west. By the mid-1950s, New York State conservationists were noting that, in spite of being heavily hunted, deer were so abundant that they were interfering with agriculture and forestry.

That has continued. Add hunting and car accidents to the toll of Lyme disease and the docile deer is the deadliest animal

(Continued on Page 18)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: STEPHEN LEWIS

By Michael Turtons

**S**tephen Lewis, who lives in Beacon, is a computer scientist and inventor. He holds two patents for GlassMouse, a device that enables users to interact with a storefront window display by moving their hand.

## Were you the type of kid who built your own radio and launched home-made rockets?

I took a lot of things apart. Once, I decided it would be a good idea to shoot a stream of hose water onto a lump of raw sodium. It exploded in a ball of fire, showering lye in all directions.

## What careers led you to become an inventor?

I've had too many careers to remember! I have a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a master's degree in architecture from Columbia. I've produced *Sesame Street* short films, been a professional photographer, architect, teacher. I've designed software and hardware and toys. My favorite invention was AniMagic — the user doodles a figure, which comes to life as an animation. It's licensed to Mattel; in the contract,



they reserved the right to use the software "throughout the universe." The big one that got away was my invention of the touchpad in the 1980s. I filed a patent, but it never got through at the patent office. Getting the patents for GlassMouse took me three years. I have others from previous inventions, but it's a battle. There are about 10 million patents.

## What inspired the GlassMouse?

Interactivity has invaded our lives, for better or worse. Our TVs, computers, phones, watches, even our heating systems and air conditioners, all want to talk to us, entertain us, engage with us. So, I thought, why are store windows still mute and unresponsive? GlassMouse creates a display that beckons you. You wave your hand to interact. In the age of COVID, it's a safe way to control interactive experiences in a window or at a mall or kiosk.

## Have you done field tests?

I'm using Beacon and Cold Spring to get feedback. In Beacon it's installed at Darryl's, the Welcome Center, Bannerman Island Gallery and Daniel Aubry Realty. In Cold Spring it's installed at *The Current*. People can also experience it with a webcam at glassmouse.com. My company, Architectonics, is a startup.

## What's the larger goal?

I want to engage a number of storefronts in a strip, to see what the collective effect would be. The vision is to create a "ribbon of information" on both Main Streets, as part of a larger experiment in the future of digital towns and cities.

## PHILIPSTOWN CONSERVATION

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting January 2023.

## PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 9th 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting January 2023.

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## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Do you pause and reflect at the New Year?

“Yes, we talk about the year ahead, and all the parties we used to attend!”



Sheila Donnelly, Garrison

“I usually go to the yoga studio for a contemplation and reflection workshop.”



Pete Salmansohn, Garrison

“I make quiet resolutions to myself, in case I don't keep them!”



Bree Slamon, Beacon

Three Grads, Three Paths

Schools Unmask

Weatherman  
Could Not Have  
Predicted This

Electricity, Gas Rates Spike

New Dutchess Districts Would Flip Beacon Wards

The Cold Spring Post

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The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

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**HELP US REACH 1,000 MEMBERS BY THE END OF DECEMBER!**



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## Tell us what you think

**T**he Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Tax breaks

I don't approve of the veiled or suggested threat by Ed Kellogg, one of the owners of the firm developing the Craig House site, that, unless a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement is approved, the project might go "on the back burner for a while" ("Beacon Schools Unsure About Craig House Tax Break," Dec. 23).

Dangling something like that above the heads of our community is immature, unprofessional and obviously self-serving. Yes, it is nice to know that the place will provide employment for 125 people, but will they be local or outsiders brought in who might have more operational experience? I think Kellogg needs to be a bit more cautious in his statements regarding this project.

Tim Sanker, Beacon

my rates being lower than many I have seen, and I am not in-network with insurance because of the many problems with reimbursement. Many insurance companies do not recognize my license (licensed creative arts therapist) and others may have low rates or a slow response to claims.

Perhaps some of the difficulty is also in knowing where to look, or being willing or able to pay out of pocket. I try to keep my rates affordable, with a sliding scale for that reason, and have less overhead than some, so if anyone out there is in need, I have several openings for adults with mild to moderate anxiety and depression, life transitions and support.

Alexandria Devin, Beacon

### Radioactive fuel

"Consent-based siting," which is referenced in your story about moving the spent radioactive fuel away from Indian Point ("Rental Needed. Term: 300,000 Years," Dec. 23), is a concept introduced by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's hand-picked blue-ribbon panel to ensure that no site (such as Nye County in Nevada) is ever going to make it through as a "volunteer" willing to take it.

With consent-based siting, any government entity — city, county, state, tribal — can veto any other volunteering entity. That built-in, "success-proof" mentality has destroyed any possibility of a solution to the end-of-fuel-cycle aspect, destroyed the nuclear energy industry business model and doomed the utilities and ratepayers to eternal custodianship.

You can shell-game it up and down the Hudson River, but that fuel isn't going away without the political resolve to make a permanent, deep-geologic repository succeed. In the meantime, remember that above-ground casks make terrific targets for 9/11-style attacks.

Dan Graser, *Burke, Virginia*  
Before he retired in 2012, Graser worked for the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

Beyond the distasteful ethics of dumping Indian Point's nuclear waste on a low-income minority community elsewhere in the U.S. that is already overloaded with pollution, there is the folly of moving tens of thousands of canisters containing massive quantities of highly radioactive material over thousands of miles. What could go wrong?

Michel Lee, Scarsdale

### Mental health

Thank you for your article ("Therapy Prescribed for Mental Health System," Dec. 23). I was, until the end of the summer, one of those therapists having to turn away prospective patients. However, a number of my patients were doing much better and terminated treatment, while there have been next to no new inquiries.

I suspect the economy is a factor, despite



## PRAISE OR PROTEST

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## Puppy Mill *(from Page 1)*

stop the resale of animals with congenital defects and diseases to pet owners unaware of those conditions.

Some breeders force female dogs to have “litter after litter,” sometimes mating them with their brothers and without veterinary care, said Meloccaro. Females who repeatedly give birth eventually contract pyometra, a uterine infection, and “are killed or thrown out into a ditch somewhere,” she said.

Buyers often are unaware of illnesses until after they “fall in love” and take pets home, said Ross. “Now they’re stuck with a dog that has some long-term medical problem that results in higher medical bills, and the dog doesn’t live that long.”

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimated in July that 43 percent of puppies shipped to New York were bred in Missouri, which, according to the organization, hosts more commercial breeders than any other state.

Advocates hope the legislation will also spur more adoptions from shelters. Pet shops will be allowed to provide space to animal-rescue organizations and shelters to offer pets for adoption.

“The main thing is to cut off the market for sick puppies and, hopefully, shut the puppy mills down,” said Meloccaro. “It’s not just that the consumer is buying a sick animal — that’s bad enough. But the conditions in which these animals are being bred are atrocious, just atrocious.”

In December 2021, the attorney general

## Where to Adopt or Donate

### Animal Rescue Foundation

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon  
845-831-5161; arfbeacon.org

### Beans Cat Cafe

325 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-8243; beanscatcafe.com

### Dutchess SPCA

636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park  
845-452-7722, x420; dcspca.org

### Mid Hudson Animal Aid (cats)

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon  
845-831-4321; midhudsonanimalaid.org

### Putnam Humane Society

68 Old Route 6, Carmel  
845-225-7777; puthumane.org

sued a Long Island pet store called Shake-A-Paw, accusing it of selling dogs with congenital defects, parvovirus pneumonia, respiratory illnesses and other health problems, while falsifying health certificates. The company, according to court documents, resold puppies raised by commercial breeders in Missouri and other states.

The AG’s office said it had received 99 complaints about the retailer, which is also accused of misrepresenting the breeds of puppies it sold and refusing to reimburse consumers for veterinarian bills as required



The state attorney general accused a Long Island pet store of selling this sick puppy.

*Photo provided*

## Need Help with Your Pet?

Officials at the Dutchess and Putnam SPCAs say they have seen an uptick in abandoned pets as inflation squeezes people’s budgets.

The Putnam SPCA has “made a lot of arrests” for abandonment, which is a misdemeanor, said Ross. In some cases, animals are left tied to trees.

The Putnam Humane Society and Dutchess SPCA maintain pet food

pantries for owners struggling financially and Dutchess offers veterinary care at-cost. The organization also boards animals free-of-charge for 30 days if pet owners temporarily lose housing or are hospitalized, said Lynn Meloccaro, the Dutchess director.

“We’ve managed to divert hundreds of animals from coming into the shelter — people that came in with a thought that they were going to surrender the animal and then they ended up keeping the animal,” she said.

under the state’s Pet Lemon Law, which protects consumers for 14 days. Shake-A-

Paw denies the allegations.

# How They Voted

## Governor signs round of bills passed by state legislators

By Chip Rowe

Through this week, Govs. Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul had signed 1,540 bills passed during the 2021-22 legislative session, which ended in June. Another 194 await Hochul’s signature. One hundred fifty-eight have been vetoed.

Below are summaries of select laws and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

The 2023-24 session begins Wednesday (Jan. 4). On Dec. 31, Galef will retire after 30 years in the Assembly, to be succeeded by Dana Levenberg, a fellow Democrat who won the seat in November. Serino’s district was redrawn so it does not include Beacon or Philipstown; instead, Rob Rolison, a Republican who is the mayor of Poughkeepsie, will represent the Highlands in the Senate. Jacobson ran unopposed for a third term.

### Pay raise

On Dec. 22, legislators voted to raise their annual salaries by \$13,000, to \$142,000 annu-

ally as of Jan. 1. Their most recent pay raise was in December 2018, when they voted to increase their salaries from \$79,500 annually to \$110,000, followed by \$10,000 increases in 2020 and 2021. The bill was delivered to the governor on Dec. 22 but she has not acted on it as of Thursday (Dec. 29).

**Passed by Senate, 33-23**

Serino ☒ ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 81-52**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Marriage officiants

On Dec. 28, Hochul signed a law sponsored in the Assembly by Galef that allows any adult to be designated as the officiant for a wedding. The designation is good for one day on a specific date.

**Passed by Senate, 52-11**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 129-15**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Tax exemption

On Dec. 9, Hochul signed a law that allows municipalities, school districts and fire districts to offer a property tax exemption of up to 10 percent on the primary home of volunteer first responders who have been members of a fire department or ambulance service for at least two to five years. An earlier law allowed counties to offer the exemption, but only about half had done so (including

Dutchess and Putnam, in 2002). That earlier law will be repealed on Dec. 9, 2025.

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 148-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Domestic violence

On Oct. 18, Hochul enacted a series of laws designed to protect victims of domestic violence, including those that:

Require judges to order the seizure of firearms, including rifles and shotguns, when an abusive partner refuses to surrender them as required by an order of protection.

**Passed by Senate, 46-15**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 110-34**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Require criminal and family court judges to ask whether an individual named in an order of protection possesses a firearm. While state law requires these individuals to have their firearm licenses revoked or suspended, it did not require judges to ask this question.

**Passed by Senate, 48-14**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 113-31**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

*(Continued on Page 6)*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



# ALLEN'S DUMPSTER SERVICE



## Votes *(from Page 5)*

Allows victims of sexual violence to apply to the state Board of Elections to have their voter registration information sealed. The previous law only applied to victims of domestic violence.

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 138-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Catalytic converters

On Oct. 17, Hochul signed legislation that requires new-car dealers to sell etching kits at cost to add serial numbers to catalytic converters so they can be traced if stolen. The converters are a target because of their high resale value. The law also requires dealers in secondhand parts to keep a record of who sells them converters.

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 145-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Student debt

On Oct. 13, Hochul repealed a state law that required the Civil Recoveries Bureau of the Attorney General's Office to add a 22 percent fee to student loan debt that it collected. The fee was designed to allow the agency to recover its costs.

**Passed by Senate, 56-7**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 107-37**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Opioid overdose prevention

On Oct. 28, Hochul enacted a law that requires public colleges to keep a supply of opioid antidotes such as naloxone in student housing facilities. In addition, resident assistants at SUNY campuses will be trained to administer the medication, which reverses overdoses.

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 143-1**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### EV charging

On Nov. 22, Hochul signed legislation that prevents homeowner associations from creating universal bans on electric-vehicle charging stations. The law requires that any denial of an application to install a charger must be issued in writing within 60 days and include a detailed explanation.

**Passed by Senate, 60-1**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 143-1**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### College athletes

On Nov. 21, Hochul enacted a law that allows college athletes to be paid for the use of their name, image or likeness without forfeiting their scholarships or eligibility.

**Passed by Senate, 52-11**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 140-4**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Medical debt

On Nov. 23, Hochul signed legislation



Serino, Jacobson, Galef

that bans medical providers from placing a lien on a person's residence or garnishing wages to collect debts.

**Passed by Senate, 47-15**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 106-41**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Breastfeeding

On Dec. 9, Hochul enacted a law that requires employers to provide private breast-milk pumping spaces that include seating, running water, electricity and working space.

**Passed by Senate, 62-1**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 147-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Space heaters

On Dec. 8, Hochul signed legislation that bans the sale of electric space heaters that do not have thermostats and automatic shut-offs. The bill followed a fire in January in the Bronx that killed 19 people.

**Passed by Senate, 62-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 149-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Propane emergencies

On Dec. 8, Hochul enacted a law that allows homeowners who lease propane storage tanks to purchase fuel in emergencies such as severe weather from any supplier if their contract supplier cannot reach them within 24 hours. The measure takes effect April 8.

**Passed by Senate, 48-15**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 112-33**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Affidavit ballots

On Dec. 6, Hochul signed legislation that requires election officials to count affidavit ballots cast by voters who show up at the wrong polling place, as long as they are in the correct county and Assembly district. Under the previous law, these votes were not counted.

**Passed by Senate, 41-20**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 99-45**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Telemarketers

On Dec. 6, Hochul signed a bill into law

that requires telemarketers to give customers the option to be added to the do-not-call list before the pitch. What often happens, according to the bill's sponsors, is that a customer hangs up early in the call, allowing telemarketers to contact them repeatedly.

**Passed by Senate, 61-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 149-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Warehouse speeds

On Dec. 21, Hochul signed the Warehouse Worker Protection Act. The law requires distribution centers to disclose to its employees its required work speeds and protects workers from being disciplined or fired because of a failure to meet quotas they weren't told about or that do not account for breaks. According to the bill's sponsors, "quotas may not interfere with a worker meeting basic human needs, like meal or rest periods, use of bathroom and preventing workplace injury." The act takes effect on Feb. 19.

**Passed by Senate, 45-18**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 119-30**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Pay transparency

On Dec. 21, Hochul enacted legislation requiring employers to list salary ranges for any advertised job, including promotions.

**Passed by Senate, 46-17**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 96-48**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Land preservation

On Dec. 23, Hochul signed a law requiring state agencies to contribute to efforts to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. land and water by 2030.

**Passed by Senate, 58-3**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 137-8**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### More time

On Dec. 23, Hochul enacted legislation that reduces the time that a person must register to vote before an election from 25 to 10 days.

**Passed by Senate, 44-19**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 102-42**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Opioid copays

On Dec. 23, Hochul signed a law that prohibits insurers from charging a copay for each visit during opioid addiction treatment.

**Passed by Senate, 57-4**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 143-1**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Rape kit tracking

On Dec. 22, Hochul enacted a law that creates an electronic tracking system for sexual-offense evidence collection kits, or rape kits. State law requires the Office of Victim Services to store kits for at least 20 years.

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 144-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Sexual conduct

On Dec. 22, Hochul expanded the definition of sexual conduct against a child to include insertion of a finger. A member of the state Assembly who sponsored the bill said he was contacted by a Hudson Valley resident whose 8-year-old daughter had been assaulted but learned during the prosecution that the penal code did not include fingers in the definition of "foreign object."

**Passed by Senate, 63-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 150-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Putnam generators

On Dec. 2, Hochul signed a bill introduced in the Assembly by Galef that adds Putnam County to the "lower Mid-Hudson region" in a law that provides financial assistance to gas stations to buy backup generators to keep their pumps operational if major storms knock out power.

**Passed by Senate, 61-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 146-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Digital repairs

On Dec. 29, Hochul enacted the Digital Fair Repair Act, which requires "original equipment manufacturers" (e.g., Apple) to make diagnostic and repair information available to consumers and independent shops if the same information and parts are available to authorized partners.

**Passed by Senate, 59-4**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 147-2**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Organ donors

On Dec. 29, Hochul signed legislation to create a program to cover costs associated with organ donation, such as lost wages (up to \$125,000 annually), child care and medical expenses, for New York residents who donate to a fellow New Yorker. There are 8,253 people on wait lists in New York, including 7,192 people waiting for a kidney. The bill's sponsors noted that New York ranks 49th among states in organ-donor registration.

**Passed by Senate, 61-0**

Serino ☒

**Passed by Assembly, 150-0**

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒





APRIL — Allie Debberman gets a nuzzle from Duke, one of the therapy horses at the Topfield Equestrian Center in Philipstown, which reopened after being closed for two years because of the pandemic.

Photo by Leonard Sparks

## Year in Review *(from Page 1)*

**Nelsonville limits rentals** — With a 3-2 vote on Jan. 18, the Nelsonville Village Board approved a law that limits operation of short-term rentals to 100 days annually — or, alternatively, to two rentals of one week each — and requires owners to make the property their main residence. The vote ended several years of intermittent but intense debate over STRs booked through services such as Airbnb and VRBO. The law exempts units rented for periods of 30 days or longer. It also excludes traditional bed-and-breakfasts.

*Update: The law takes effect on Sunday (Jan. 1).*

**Doing hard things** — *The Current* profiled journalist Gwendolyn Bounds, a Garrison resident who recently competed in the Spartan World Championships, an endurance race through obstacles held in 2021 in the United Arab Emirates.

*Update: Bounds is still racing and bleeding at the highest level of Spartan. Barbed wire tore into her shoulder during a race in South Carolina, but she managed to finish on the podium in half of the eight races she competed in (three silver medals and a bronze). Bounds is writing a book for Penguin Random House, due in 2024, that “tracks my transformation from an unathletic, middle-aged office executive into a world championship competitor, while tapping the latest science and research to help readers change the story of what they can expect from midlife, both mentally and physically.”*

## FEBRUARY

**Liquor exception** — Sen. Sue Serino and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose

districts include Beacon, introduced legislation that would exempt the Beacon Falls Cafe from a state ban on granting liquor licenses to establishments within 200 feet of a place of worship. The cafe is across Main Street from the Tabernacle of Christ Church. Owner Bob Nevelus said his application to the State Liquor Authority three years earlier was rejected because of the law.

*Update: The measure passed the Assembly, 147-0, on May 9 and the Senate, 61-0, on May 18 and was signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul on June 30. Nevelus’ application to serve liquor on-site, filed Oct. 28, is pending.*

**Armed robbery** — Putnam County Sheriff investigators used surveillance footage to identify and charge David Peres of the City of Newburgh with the armed robbery on Feb. 13 of \$228 from the Gulf gas station on Route 9D in Garrison. Deputies turned Peres over to the custody of the U.S. Marshalls, who charged him with two federal crimes: Hobbs Act robbery and brandishing a firearm.

*Update: Prosecutors are negotiating a plea deal with Peres but the process has been delayed because he is hospitalized for unspecified medical problems.*

**Fond farewells** — On Feb. 26, Cold Spring showed its appreciation for two retiring mainstays of Main Street. Friends holding a party for Jeff Consaga, the owner of the Foundry Cafe for 26 years known for his French toast and generous portions, and a parade for Leonora Burton, the proprietor of The Country Goose for 37 years, who returned to her native U.K.

*Updates: Consaga says he misses many*

*things but not the 4:30 a.m. wakeup calls. “No stress. No pressure,” he said. After fishing five times in the 26 years he ran the café, he has matched that in one summer. “I’m a happy camper,” he said. This year, he will gather with friends for another of his series of New Year’s bashes but will not be cooking.*

*On Tuesday (Dec. 27), Burton wrote from Putney, South London, where she lives with her sister: “I’m settling in and working on writing a book about Waffles, one of my favorite Cold Spring dogs. I’m also planning on visiting Cold Spring in February, as long as there is no airline strike. I miss the village, the store and the community spirit.” She helps her sister with a pet-walking business, which allows her to see her son, Robert, each morning when he drops off his dog.*

**Right-of-way** — A New York state court judge on Feb. 23 stopped Homeland Towers from transforming a right of way it needs to reach a Nelsonville cell tower site and predicted opponents of the plans would prevail. The injunction against Homeland came less than 24 hours after then-Mayor Mike Bowman said the firm expected to start construction in June of a 95-foot tower disguised as a fir tree. Located off Rockledge Road, the 9.6-acre site overlooks Cold Spring Cemetery. It can only be accessed through a neighbor’s property.

*Update: Homeland is fighting the order and, in September, a judge ordered the homeowner to post a \$50,000 bond to keep it in place. A status conference is scheduled for Jan. 12.*

## MARCH

**Good-cause eviction** — On March 7, Beacon became the fifth municipality in

New York state to enact “good-cause” eviction legislation. Among other provisions, it requires landlords to demonstrate “good cause” before a judge can begin eviction proceedings. Those causes could include nonpayment of rent; violation of the terms of tenancy; interference with other tenants’ comfort or safety; health-and-safety violations; use of the apartment for an illegal purpose; refusal to grant a landlord access for repairs; or a landlord’s need to use the property for a family member or personal residence. The law exempts landlords who own fewer than four apartments and live on-site. Landlords sued to invalidate similar laws in Newburgh and Albany.

*Update: The law may be in danger if a decision earlier this month by a state judge is seen by another court as precedent. The judge struck down Newburgh’s good-cause eviction regulation, saying it conflicted with state law. The Beacon City Council took other action to address evictions. In January, it used \$25,000 to provide free assistance to renters through Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. This year, the nonprofit has helped 6,034 clients facing eviction in the lower Hudson Valley, including 71 in Beacon.*

**Prison closes** — The Downstate Correctional Facility near Beacon was one of six state prisons that closed as New York State evaluated the cost of keeping its facilities open while the number of inmates shrinks. Downstate, a maximum-security facility in Fishkill with 690 prisoners — just over half of its capacity — was the largest of the prisons. Gov. Kathy Hochul earlier said the moves would save \$142 million annually.

*Update: On Dec. 22, the New York Prison Redevelopment Commission, a 15-member panel convened by Hochul earlier this year, released a 140-page report called Unlocking Opportunities with recommendations on what to do with Downstate and 11 other former prisons. Among its suggestions was that requests for proposals to solicit development bids for Downstate be prioritized in 2023 so that its buildings don’t deteriorate. Its general recommendations included a marketing campaign, website and Prison Redevelopment Fund; prioritizing housing plans; and dividing larger sites into smaller parcels (Downstate, with 80 acres, is the fourth-smallest of the 12).*

## APRIL

**Capitol defendants** — Robert Ballesteros, 28, of Mahopac, pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2020, and was sentenced on April 28 to 36 months of probation. The next day, Anthony Vuksanaj, also of Mahopac, pleaded guilty to the same charge and was sentenced to three years of probation that included three imprisonments of 14 days each and three months of home confinement. In May, Robert Chapman of Carmel pleaded guilty and received 18 months of probation. They are among nine men from the area arrested following the attack.

*Update: The trial of Roberto Minuta, who owns a Newburgh tattoo parlor, resumes on Jan. 3; Will Pepe of Beacon, Gregory (Continued on Page 8)*



## Year in Review *(from Page 7)*

and Matthew Purdy of Kent, Jake Lange of Newburgh and William Vogel of Pawling have court or trial dates in early 2023.

**World records** — On April 30, Garrison resident Emily Quant broke two world records. First, she balanced 28 prop swords on her body within a minute, more than doubling the minimum of 12 set by Guinness. It took her a year of training to reach the 21-sword mark. (The swords, though dulled, are still sharp enough to cut skin.) Next, Quant balanced 56 swords on her body within three minutes, or 26 more than Guinness required.

*Update: While Quant received certificates from Guinness, her records were not among the select marks highlighted in the annual Guinness World Records book. Now, she says, she is curious about getting into Ripley's Believe it or Not. And she may attempt to break a whip-cracking record. In the meantime, fans can enjoy her occasional gigs as a harpist at the Cold Spring Coffee House.*

**Murder case** — A state judge ruled that the Putnam County district attorney could continue to prosecute the case against Andrew Krivak, whose conviction for killing a 12-year-old Carmel girl was overturned in 2019 after he spent 24 years in prison. Krivak was convicted with Anthony DiPippo in 1997 for the rape and murder of Josette Wright in 1994. He filed a motion in December to replace D.A. Robert Tendy with a special prosecutor. His motion alleged that the district attorney's office withheld evidence; is pursuing him despite the recantations of three eyewitnesses and the admission by a fourth that she lied about "significant details"; and questioned Tendy's comments criticizing the county's \$12 million settlement with DiPippo, who sued after being acquitted at a retrial.

*Update: During a hearing in November, Krivak's lawyers asked a judge to throw out a statement Krivak signed in 1996, saying it was coerced by investigators. The retrial is scheduled to begin Jan. 17.*

### MAY

**A second killing** — On May 14, Lionell B. Pittman Jr., 32, was shot in a parking lot at the Forrestal Heights apartment complex on West Center Street. Beacon police said officers responded at 6:50 p.m. to a report of shots fired. Nearly five months earlier, Rene Vivo, 65, a veteran known as "Scout," had been stabbed near the intersection of South Brett and Main streets on Christmas Day. He died at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

*Update: Beacon police did not respond to requests for updates on either investigation.*

### JUNE

**Dutchess Mall** — A developer wants to revive the south end of the long-abandoned Dutchess Mall by building an industrial warehouse. Crow Holdings Industrial, a Dallas-based firm, has applied to raze the abandoned structures and redevelop the



**NOVEMBER** — Haldane players celebrate after the Blue Devils scored with less than 90 seconds remaining to win the Class C state boys' soccer title. Photo by Amy Kubik

mall, which is located on Route 9 just north of the Putnam County line. If approved by the Fishkill Planning Board, CHI said it would construct a 350,000-square-foot warehouse with 215 parking spaces, 78 loading docks, four drive-in ramps and 30 trailer parking spaces.

*Update: In addition to other approvals, the Planning Board must grant floodplain and wetlands permits. After appearing before the board this month, project officials asked the town to consider completing its environmental review in January. The project will include what developers called a "contemporary design" and will feature six charging stations for electric vehicles. During a public hearing, there was a question about drilling for underground stormwater tanks and whether the digging would disturb historic artifacts but development officials said their plans only call for drilling in already-disturbed areas. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has said the site could include timber rattlesnake habitat. A freshwater wetlands permit from the DEC will also be required. Town Supervisor Ozzy Albra said this week that he expects the project to receive preliminary approval from the town in February. He called the redevelopment of the site "a great addition to our tax base" that will not add any children to local schools.*

**Watchtower project** — The Jehovah's Witnesses applied to construct a complex just north of Beacon. The church would like to build a 47,000-square-foot office building, 15,000-square-foot maintenance building and renovate a 14,500-square-foot warehouse for storage and exercise use and add an accessory park with athletic fields and meditation areas.

*Update: Although the project has not been approved, the Fishkill Planning Board gave the Watchtower Society the OK earlier this month to clear 150 trees by Dec. 31 after the state Department of Environmental Conservation noted that bald eagles could build nests if the developer waits until next year.*

**STR enforcement** — The Beacon City Council on June 6 approved spending

\$1,500 to hire Granicus, a digital communications and records management firm, to monitor compliance with the city's law regulating short-term rentals. A Dutchess County grant covered the other \$5,000 of the cost. Under a 2020 law, homeowners and tenants are permitted to rent or sublet homes or apartments for up to 100 days per year and 30 days at a time. The rental spaces must be owner-occupied, which means that they must be the owner or renter's primary residence, not an investment property. An inspection and \$150 permit is required. The city had issued 11 permits in the past two years, but Granicus told the council it had identified 170 Beacon properties listed on Airbnb or other platforms.

*Update: City Administrator Chris White said during the council's Dec. 19 meeting that the city mailed a first set of letters this month to unlicensed property owners who are advertising rentals in Beacon. White said there are about 85 unlicensed STRs in the city, which is down from the summer.*

### JULY

**Barber shop fire** — Not much was left following an afternoon fire on July 6 that destroyed the interior of the barber shop at 209 Main St. in Beacon that Alvin Bell had occupied for more than 30 years. Bell said he worked until 3 p.m. and the woman who braids hair in the space locked up around 4 p.m. A half-hour later, he said, someone told him that a fire had broken out. Chief Gary Van Voorhis said that Beacon firefighters were on the scene within 60 seconds of the 4:04 p.m. alarm. Fighting heavy smoke, they found the blaze in the rear portion of the barbershop and were able to confine it to the first floor of the building.

*Update: Bell, 88, said this week that he has decided to retire rather than rebuild his business, which he called "a museum and a barbershop." Bell said he returned \$10,200 raised through GoFundMe, although the outpouring of community support was heartwarming. "I've never seen so much love in one town in my life," he said.*

**Monkeypox** — The Dutchess health department on July 21 confirmed the first

case in the county of monkeypox, part of a national outbreak. The virus is similar to smallpox, but milder and rarely fatal. There were 670 cases in New York state, mostly in New York City. Putnam County would report its first case on Aug. 11.

*Update: As of Dec. 21, the state Department of Health said there have been 10 probable or confirmed cases in Dutchess, five in Putnam and 373 statewide outside of New York City, which separately reported 3,808 cases as of Dec. 19.*

### AUGUST

**Pot farmers** — As Alex Keenan and Ryan McGrath oversaw the harvesting of Hudson River Hemp's first-ever marijuana crop for the state's recreational market, the Hopewell Junction farmers worried that a slow rollout of retail dispensaries would also delay a return on their investment in plants, equipment and labor.

*Update: They have reason to worry. The state's first dispensary opened on Thursday (Dec. 29) in Manhattan, but a federal judge on Nov. 10 ordered a temporary ban on retail licenses in the Mid-Hudson and four other regions. The judge is hearing a lawsuit in which an applicant accuses New York of discriminating against out-of-state companies. The state filed an appeal Dec. 12. Four days later, Keenan and Grath told NBC New York that they are storing 2,000 pounds of marijuana ready for sale. "By the time we put our next plants in, by May — if we're still sitting on what we have here, we've got a massive problem," said Keenan. "And it's not just us, it's all the farms."*

**Lee at West Point** — A commission appointed by Congress recommended on Aug. 29 that the U.S. Military Academy at West Point remove nearly all references to Confederate military leaders, as well as a panel that commemorates the Ku Klux Klan. The Naming Commission was created in 2020 to review monuments and building and street names at U.S. military bases. In its report, the commission dismissed charges that it was "erasing history," noting that "the facts of the past remain" and that cadets would continue to be taught the details and complexities of the Civil War.

*Update: Based on the recommendations, West Point said it planned over the Christmas break to move three items into storage: a 20-foot-high portrait of Gen. Robert E. Lee in his Confederate uniform that hangs in the library; a stone bust of Lee at Reconciliation Plaza; and a bronze triptych at the entrance of Bartlett Hall that includes an image celebrating the Ku Klux Klan. A committee will also select a quote to replace one from Lee at Honor Plaza and modify stone markers at Reconciliation Plaza that commemorate the Confederacy. In addition, the academy will rename streets, buildings and areas that honor Lee, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard and Gen. William Hardee. "We will conduct these actions with dignity and respect," Superintendent Steven Gilland said in a statement.*

*(Continued on Page 9)*



Year in Review (from Page 8)

SEPTEMBER

**Pedestrian death** — A Beacon woman who struck and killed a pedestrian was found guilty by a city judge, who ruled that she had not exercised “due care” when she turned off Main Street onto Teller Avenue. Jacqueline Milohnic was driving a 2019 Jeep Wrangler on Dec. 1, 2021, when she struck Carla Giuffrida, 75, of Beacon. Milohnic’s lawyer on Sept. 22 called Judge Greg Johnston’s decision “a legal injustice” and said that her client planned to appeal after sentencing.

*Update: Milohnic’s driver’s license was revoked for six months on Oct. 28 in Beacon City Court. She was also ordered to pay a \$750 fine and complete a driver’s safety course. The prosecution did not seek jail time.*

**Stream protections** — On Sept. 6, the Putnam County Legislature voted 6-1 to pass a resolution urging Gov. Kathy Hochul to veto a bill that would provide additional protections for waterways suitable for fishing but that do not provide drinking water. The bill would require state permits for projects that disturb the banks and beds of “Class C” streams. The county legislators who opposed the bill said it would unduly slow projects as a result of the Department of Environmental Conservation being understaffed from cuts enacted during the 2008 financial crisis.

*Update: Hochul vetoed the bill on Dec. 9, citing “significant regulatory impacts on related projects” and “substantial costs to the state, as well as to local governments and to the communities.” She added that “the legislation would be more appropriate to address in the state’s budget process.”*

OCTOBER

**Gun lawsuit** — New York officials believe shootings that have killed religious worshippers in recent years justify the banning of weapons in churches, synagogues, mosques and temples. The Rev. Scott Harris, pastor of Grace Bible Church in Wappingers Falls, believes the prohibition makes his church unsafe for the same

reason. It is a conviction he shares with Christian ministers in 19 other New York counties who, along with an evangelical advocacy organization called New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms, filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the designation of houses of worship as a “sensitive location” under the state’s Concealed Carry Improvement Act.

*Update: The lawsuit is one of several in which lower court judges issued injunctions against enforcement of different parts of the law, including the ban on weapons in houses of worship. This month, a federal appeals court sided with the state and stayed those injunctions, leaving the law intact.*

NOVEMBER

**Fare increases** — The CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority warned on Nov. 30 that the agency faced an “existential” financial crisis and needed to raise fares and tolls for the first time since 2019 to offset lower ridership.

*Update: Those hikes went into effect Dec. 21. The MTA’s \$19.2 billion budget and financial plan approved by its board restored biannual fare and toll hikes that had been suspended during the pandemic, starting with an initial 5.5 percent increase sometime next year. The increase will yield an estimated \$1.3 billion over four years from Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road riders, and travelers using the MTA’s buses, subways, bridges and tunnels. It is one of several strategies aimed at narrowing deficits projected to reach \$3 billion by 2026, a period when ridership is projected to trail pre-pandemic levels.*

DECEMBER

**COVID deaths** — By Dec. 28, more than 60,000 people in New York state had died of complications of COVID-19 since early 2020, including 140 in Putnam County and 727 in Dutchess. Three people died each month in 2022 in Putnam, on average, and 16 each month in Dutchess.

**Reporting by**  
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong, Brian PJ Cronin, Chip Rowe, Jeff Simms, Leonard Sparks and Michael Turton

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS		
	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.2% Philipstown/CS: 87.7% Garrison: 82.4%	71.6% Beacon: 68.0%
Boosted:	18.4% Philipstown/CS: 27.1% Garrison: 21.8%	20.3% Beacon: 16.5%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↑ 9.5%	↑ 11.6%
Number of deaths:	140(+2)	727(+6)
Source: Weekly update per state health department, as of Dec. 28. Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date.		



Calling All Singers

Carmel, NY–The Putnam Chorale is inviting new singers to join its 45-person community chorus. Directed by Dr. Douglas Anderson, the Chorale draws performers from Putnam, Westchester, Dutchess counties in NY and Fairfield County in CT. The spring 2023 program will present a concert of two Masses, including:

- Missa Sancti Bernardi von Offida (Heilige Mass), composed by Joseph Haydn and
- Missa Solemnis B-Minor, written by Anton Bruckner

The Chorale will begin rehearsals on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:45p.m. Tuition is \$125 for the fall semester, with music provided for an additional fee. A rehearsal location will be announced shortly.

Singers in the Chorale come from different backgrounds and levels of experience. One of our singers relates how he came to join the group. ‘In 2014 I was carpooling to the train station with a soprano with the Chorale. I told her that in college I had sung with the Glee Club and performed in the musical “Carousel”. I could read music and play the piano a bit and I owned a tuxedo that still fit. Her immediate response was, “You’re in!” I went to the first rehearsal and sang for the first time in 50 years! Although I was looking for the exit at first, with encouragement, I stayed with it and the Chorale has brought so much more to my life.”

There is a special need for singers for the tenor and bass sections, but all singers are welcome. While there is no audition requirement, it is expected that the participants have some music background, or prior experience in singing in a choral/choir group. Questions are welcome and can be directed to: [contactus@putnamchorale.org](mailto:contactus@putnamchorale.org). If you are interested, you may also call 845.279.5099 for more information.

The Putnam Chorale is the sole community chorus in Putnam County, NY. It has been audiences since 1984 by providing high quality choral and orchestral music and academic commentary. The two-fold mission of the Chorale is to provide amateur and aspiring professional singers an opportunity for choral singing and to provide the community with compelling performance experiences unrivaled outside the major city venues.



The Putnam Chorale in concert, performing a suite of Bach cantatas at the First United Methodist Church.



The Winter Ensemble of the Putnam Chorale performed this December at Lyndhurst Mansion.



## AROUND TOWN



▲► **STILL GIVING** — Two older Beacon residents volunteer weekly at the food pantry run by St. Andrew & St. Luke's Church. Kitty Stager, who turned 90 this month and is always coiffed and nicely dressed, packs groceries on Fridays. Tom "Skip" Skipworth, a lifelong resident who turns 91 in February and was known in his younger days for his baseball prowess, comes by on Saturdays to assist with distribution. To join them, call 845-831-1369. The pantry is open from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays at 15 South Ave.

*Photos by Allen Alter*



▲ **SNOW PATROL** — Eight highway crew members from the Dutchess County Department of Public Works left Poughkeepsie for Buffalo on Tuesday (Dec. 27) with front-end loaders and dump trucks to help dig out from a series of blizzards that have buried Erie County. Four county public safety dispatchers also headed to Buffalo on Thursday to assist.

*Photo provided*

## Hudson Beach Glass

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Sign-ups at 7:30, donation requested  
And follow us into the next chapter of our Open Mic Night series in 2023

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Showcasing Music by Tim Brown performed by Friends  
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## The Calendar

# WHY TRAVEL?

*Inspired by the shutdown, Beacon author explores why we explore*

By Alison Rooney

As a well-known travel maven, Patricia Schultz, the author of the best-selling *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, has been asked every logistical question you can think of about the “where and there.” But there is one she says no one ever asked.

“Why do you travel?”

As it did for many people, the pandemic shutdown prompted the Beacon native to consider her response to that question. She found herself outlining an idea for a book quite different from her previous ones in which “people hopefully will be reminded of how they feel about travel, how it enriches our lives, makes us better people, opens up horizons,” she says. “Your head, your heart, your eyes open up.”

Her longtime publisher, Workman, suggested she create a book that she describes as “for people to give as a gift to travelers deprived of travel for so long. We think we’re too busy: taking care of parents, jobs, worried about the cost of travel. Many of these reasons are solid and valid, but some are justification. Really, do you need a new car every year? Do you need to keep going to Disney World?”

Schultz cites Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., the late Supreme Court justice: “A mind that is stretched by new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”

“My publisher asked, ‘What gets you off the sofa?’” recalls Schultz, who has sofas in New York City and Beacon. She started considering how best to communicate her inveterate love of travel.

“Visually the book is a total departure,” she says. “My other books have postage stamp-sized photos.” *Why We Travel: 100 Reasons to See the World*, on the other hand, is a coffee-table book with sumptuous images by a variety of photographers meshed with essays and anecdotes focused on what makes travel such a rewarding experience for Schultz. It also includes quotes from luminaries from all walks of life, from Willie Nelson to Pico Iyer, about lessons gleaned from travel.

“The book is about places that deserve to be seen and about discovering things you didn’t know,” Schultz says. “It’s not about that trip to Istanbul, but instead it’s about lessons in tolerance, patience.”

It’s not all about exotic journeys. “It doesn’t need to be,” Schultz says, noting that she went to the Adirondacks during a pandemic autumn, and found it “so stunningly beautiful. I saw an autumn I had never seen before: magnificent. People think I’m talking about things they can’t do financially or timewise, but that’s not true. See something not familiar to you. It impacts you in ways that are subtle and



A photo by Jon Arnold of a carpet shop in Essaouira, Morocco, is accompanied in *Why We Travel* by a quote from Joyce Meyer: “Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.”

Photo by Jon Arnold

seemingly insignificant, or that turn your life around, or everything in between.”

Schultz was first exposed to travel as a student at Mount Saint Mary High School for Girls in Newburgh, which no longer exists. “There were a notable number of girls from Spanish-speaking countries there, and they were everything exotic and ‘un-Beacon’ to me,” she recalls.

“When I was 15, one of the girls invited me to visit her in the Dominican Republic,” Schultz says. “I trace a lot of my wanderlust to that eye-opening experience. I remember it all vividly. I understood right away that Beacon would always be special to me as a home base, but it would not be my only base.”

Attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., proved another eye-opener for Schultz. “It was like a League of Nations, with so many embassies,” she says.

Schultz spent her junior year in Madrid, “which helped me understand what my future would be,” she says. Later, she spent five years in Florence. All the while, she acknowledged the role her parents played in facilitating this, while leading far different lives in Beacon.

“My parents never had passports,” she says. “They had a modest but comfortable house. I always felt attached to Beacon, although I was one of many who wanted to kick open the gates. My family still lives there



Patricia Schultz

Photo provided

— my sister, cousins — so it’s not a dream sentiment for me of what home used to be. I was solidly planted and value the familiar, sentimental and emotional ways of enjoying my hometown, along with the world.”

“Travel is a win-win,” says Schultz, who also writes for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel Weekly*. “An incredible experience opens up your head and your horizons, and you go home, and home is even better. Beacon was even more important to me after traveling. I came home with a newfound appreciation for it and respect for the lifestyle. Many travel friends now have no home base, living out of a suitcase for years. They have no home and are fine with it. But everything I’m privileged to be able to experience abroad has led to an enduring appreciation of all things home.”

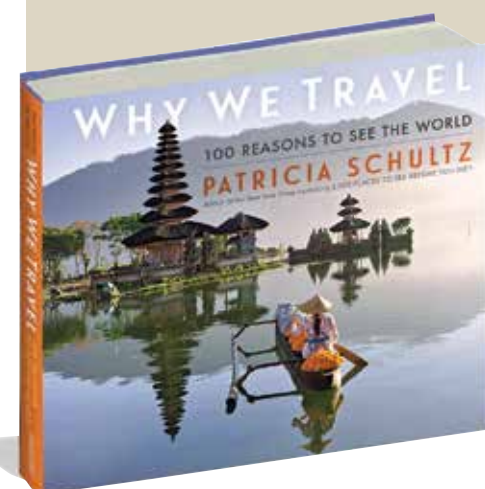
## Travel Plans

### Where haven’t you been?

“The universe is going to conspire to get me to New Zealand. I have no reason not to have been there.”

### Where are you going next?

“West Africa. There’s a big voodoo festival in Benin in January.”





THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Almost Queen, Dec. 31

COMMUNITY

- SUN 1

**First-Day Hike**

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D  
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Take a 1- or 3-mile naturalist-led hike and enjoy live music and refreshments. Hikes begin at 11:30 a.m.
- SUN 1

**First-Day Hike**

WAPPINGERS FALLS

1 – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Meet at the Woodland trailhead for a 2-mile moderate hike that will include views of Mount Beacon.
- SUN 1

**First-Day Hike**

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 3 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org

Enjoy the views from 1,200 feet over the river on the 1.3-mile pedestrian bridge.

- MON 2

**Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

PUTNAM

Midnight to Noon  
facebook.com/putnamhighland-saudubon

Email Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com to volunteer to inventory sightings during this annual event.


- KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 5

**Poetry Club**

COLD SPRING

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 and up are

- invited to practice writing poetry, with the goal of developing original pieces and ideas.
- MUSIC

SAT 31

**Almost Queen**

PEEKSKILL

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

The four-piece band will deliver a tribute to Queen. The opening act is Steve Leonard. *Cost: \$37.50 to \$89.50*
- SAT 31

**TimePiece / Low Fiction/ Cold Heaven**

BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447  
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon

Between sets, DJ Felonious Monk will spin at this New Year's Eve party.



Sharkey & The Sparks, Jan. 7

- SAT 31

**Chris O'Leary Band**

BEACON

9:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The band will perform music from its latest release, 7 Minutes Late. The Dan Brother Band opens. *Cost: \$50 (\$135 with dinner)*
- FRI 6

**Black Magic**

BEACON

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

Led by guitarist Dan Garcia, the band will pay tribute to the music of Santana. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*
- SAT 7

**Sharkey & The Sparks**

BEACON

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

Sharkey McEwen and his band will play music from the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*
- SUN 8

**Open Mic Finals**

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This is the invitational round of the long-running open mic series hosted by Chihoe Hahn.
- TALKS & TOURS

SAT 7

**Eagle Walk**

OSSINING

9 a.m. Croton boat ramp  
1600 Spring Valley Road  
teatown.org

Charlie Roberto will lead this walk to watch eagles along the Hudson River.
- 

SAT 7

**Kakizome**

POUGHKEEPSIE

1:30 & 2:45 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson

- 9 Vassar St. | 845-454-3222  
artsmidhudson.org
- This annual calligraphy workshop will teach Japanese “First Writing of the Year” for resolutions and hopes in a ritualized way using kanji. There will two sessions for groups of 20 participants. Registration required.
- SAT 7

**Organizing as Anti-Colonialism**

NEWBURGH

2 – 5 p.m. Safe Harbors of the Hudson  
111 Broadway | forgeproject.com

Panelists will discuss solutions for activists connecting gentrification and colonialism. The series is organized by Forge Project, a Native-led education initiative focused on arts and de-colonial education.
- CIVIC

TUES 3

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Auditorium  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org
- TUES 3

**Putnam Legislature**

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
putnamcountyny.com
- WED 4

**Village Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall  
85 Main St. | 845-265-3611  
coldspringny.gov
- WED 4

**School Board**

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689  
guys.org
- THURS 5

**Town Board**

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Town Hall  
238 Main St. | 845-265-5200  
philipstown.com



# Riverview

R E S T A U R A N T



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1pm - 10pm

*New Year's Day*

12 pm - 8pm

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Please support the Hub with your gift before December 31st, 2022 and help us meet this match!



Your annual support for Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub funds free programs, events, support, and mental health and addictions education, available to all Philipstown residents.

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Venmo or Paypal @PhilipstownHub



*Donate here!*





Small, Good Things

This-Is-Not-That Chili

By Joe Dizney

“Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo.”



That is a grammatically and linguistically correct — if strained — sentence.

Structurally, it employs three definitions of buffalo, two nouns — Buffalo, the city, and buffalo, the animal — and one verb — to buffalo, meaning “to alarm or overawe” (possibly from the animals’ reputation for mass panic).

Complicating matters further, buffalo as a noun is singular and plural. Thus, the line conceptually parses like this: [Those] buffalo(es) from Buffalo [that are intimidated by] buffalo(es) from Buffalo intimidate buffalo(es) from Buffalo.

Who cares, you ask? The free-range linguist or a wayward philosopher, perhaps, but what’s that got to do with the recipe offered here?

Absolutely nothing!

The sentence just came across the transom — it has its own Wikipedia page! — while I researched alternatives to beef for a classic cowboy chili, because chili seemed the perfect comfort food for this bleak mid-winter and the recent arctic temperatures.

I considered buffalo an agreeable substitute for a home-on-the-range, manly American bowl-of-red, only to discover that there are not now — and never were — buffalo in the land where the deer and the antelope roam.

The ruminants we call “buffalo” are actually bison. Buffalo live in Africa (cape buffalo) and Eurasia (water buffalo), while

the bison is our native American bovine. That’s actually a bison on the Buffalo nickel. No bull! Bison are larger, heavier, with smaller horns, distinctive humped shoulders and pelted bodies, less laconic and possessive of an unpredictable nature (i.e., they can be buffaloed).

Bison roamed the plains in vast numbers: They were a primary food source for Indigenous Americans and treated as sacred to ensure their abundance — until herds of European settlers drove them to near extinction in the 19th century. Their numbers fell from 60 million to about 400,000 today.

Bison is easy to source locally — Foodtown in Cold Spring stocks D’Artagnan ground — but better yet, for chili, Marbled Meats regularly stocks bison stew meat from Fossil Farms, a New Jersey supplier of sustainably sourced varietal game and alternative meats, in one-pound, frozen packs.

We start there with our basic Texas cowboy chili — nothing to it but garlic, onions, meat, cumin and chili powder (not chile, but that’s a whole other story...). I add a bit of Mexican oregano and a couple of ounces of diced bacon, because, well ... pork. Organic beef stock (or even bone broth) provides the liquid base, and — risking the ire of alleged Texan traditionalists — I included beans, because, well ... beans.

As it happens, I had a bag of primo frijol negro de Vara Chiapas black beans from Rancho Gordo, which would be the gold standard, but any good-quality fresh-dried variety will do, and can provide an alternative and/or adjunct to the beef stock.

A tablespoon or so of cornmeal thickens the broth before serving (masa harina, made from nixtamalized corn, is best) provides a nice finish and a hint of corn flavor.

Garnish with the usual suspects — lime wedges, diced red onion, avocado, fresh cilantro — and on the side, plenty of La Milpa de Rosa tortilla chips (also available at Marbled Meats). I guarantee no one will be asking, “Where’s the beef?!”



Bison Chili with Black Beans

4 TO 6 SERVINGS:

3 to 4 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup dried black beans, cooked (to make 2 to 3 cups) and drained (bean cooking liquid reserved)

1 pound bison stew meat (substitute beef, if you must); cut to 1-inch cubes

Olive oil

3 to 4 ounces thick-cut bacon, cut to ¼ inch dice

1 large onion (white preferred; yellow by default), diced

1 tablespoon dried Mexican oregano

¼ to ⅓ cup quality chili powder

1 tablespoon ground cumin

Optional: 1 to 2 cups organic beef stock or beef bone broth

Optional (but highly recommended): 1 tablespoon masa harina

Garnishes: diced red onion, diced avocado

1. Warm 2 tablespoons olive oil in a deep skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add half of the diced bacon and render for 2 minutes. Add onions and cook, stirring, for 5 to 7 minutes, until colored. Add garlic and Mexican oregano; cook for another minute or two. Remove to a bowl and reserve.

2. In the same skillet over medium heat, warm 1 tablespoon olive oil and render the remaining bacon for a couple of minutes. Raise heat to medium-high and add the bison cubes in one layer and cook, stirring regularly, to brown. When just barely colored (having lost any trace of red or pink), add chili powder and ground cumin. Stir for a minute or two to incorporate. Add reserved onions and enough beef stock/bone broth and reserved bean liquid to just cover. Adjust heat to a low simmer and cook for 1½ hours, adding more reserved bean liquid as necessary to keep simmering.

3. Add beans and more bean liquid to achieve a just-barely soupy consistency and continue simmering for ½ hour. Just before serving, sprinkle masa harina over the pot and stir to incorporate. Simmer for another 5 minutes.

4. Serve hot in individual bowls with the garni of your choice.

ART BRIEFS

State Distributes Arts Grants

Local groups receive \$300K

The New York State Council on the Arts recently announced more than \$300,000 in grants for arts organizations in the Highlands.

The money is part of \$45 million being given to 1,200 organizations and 426 artists, the state said.

Local recipients include the Garrison Art Center (\$30,000), Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (\$40,000), Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill (\$25,000), Manitoga (\$30,000), Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill (\$59,500), Philipstown Depot Theatre (\$40,000), Putnam Arts Council (\$37,750) and Storm King Art Center in New Windsor (\$49,500).

Shakespeare Announces 2023 Season

Three plays include Love’s Labor’s Lost, Henry V

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has announced its lineup for the 2023 season. Tickets go on sale in March.

The two plays from June to September will be *Love’s Labor’s Lost*, directed by Amanda Dehnert with an original pop score by herself and Andre Pleuss; and *Henry V*, starring Emily Ota and directed by Davis McCallum.

In addition, Eva Steinmetz will direct the world premiere in September of *Penelope*, a reimaging of *The Odyssey* with music and lyrics by Alex Bechtel and the book by Bechtel, Steinmetz and Grace McLean.

Nominations Open for Poet

Dutchess to name laureate for 2023

Nominations are open for Dutchess County’s 2023 poet laureate.

The volunteer poet laureate will “shape the position in their own way,” according to the county, but “duties typically include

public activities with schools, community groups and the press during the year and contact with writers and readers by mail, email and/or through a website.” The poet laureate will also share poetry at the State of the County address.

The poet will succeed Lucia Cherciu, who served in 2021 and 2022. The deadline is Jan. 20. See [tinyurl.com/2023dcpoetlaureate](https://tinyurl.com/2023dcpoetlaureate).





"Hippo Aggression," by Chris Sanders

## The Artist Next Door

# CHRIS SANDERS

By Alison Rooney

Asked to define her career, which includes artistic zombie creation and forensic sculpting, Chris Sanders hones it down to this succinct description: "I make a living with paint, in one way or another."

A look at the Beacon resident's website at [agoutistudios.com](https://agoutistudios.com) (named for a gene that controls mammal pigmentation) reveals a complexity of avocations, but first among them is costume work. Sanders is one of the few people in the New York film industry who is both a textile artist and tailor.

"I do a lot of fabric and garment dyeing, matching colors for the camera," Sanders says. "It involves a knowledge of color theory, natural and manmade fibers, pigments, binders and solvents."



Sanders

As a tailor, she will find herself in the fitting room with the performers and designers as they develop the characters. As a textile artist, Sanders spends her time on tasks such as creating bullet holes and making garments for actors portraying homeless people.

"It's a grim comment on the state of popular entertainment," she says. "Both are techniques with which I have a lot of experience. Clothes that are brand new at 8 a.m.

can be made to look so foul by 6 p.m. that my colleagues are reluctant touch them. But it's only paint."

Generally, Sanders "takes things that are new and, within the parameters of the story line, working with the costume designer, we make a story. We ask ourselves, 'Who is this person? What are they wearing?' We try things out: 'This is interesting; shadows and unexpected things are happening.' That can trigger dramatic foreshadowing, i.e., the character has something not quite right. I fill in the frame around what they're saying. Those cobwebs got there somehow."

Raised and educated in California, Sanders made her way east, first finding work at a regional theater in New Jersey, then crossing the river to Parsons-Meares, a Broadway costume shop. Working as a costumer for the original Broadway production of *Les Misérables*, Sanders was sent around the country for three years to help set up tours. "I would sit in the house and watch the tech rehearsals and would look at how the lighting [at each theater] went with the costumes."

In 2007, she moved from New York City to Long Island but felt with climate change, "sea level was not a place to live." In the Hudson Valley, she found "much more community involvement, which is what I wanted." Much more production work was also moving to the region. "At golden hour, just before sunset, I look out and am floored that the Hudson Valley School of Art wasn't making it up," she says. "It's wall-to-wall inspiration."

Sanders has cultivated other fields, most rooted in anatomy and anthropology. These

include forensic sculpture, which until DNA matching made it somewhat obsolete, was a method of identifying remains from accidents or crimes by reconstructing a face on a skull. "In creating a sculpture you're holding somebody in your hands," she says. "It must be approached with a great deal of respect."

Other pastimes include a serial graphic novel, *Treasures of the Hudson Highlands*. She has published the first chapter and promises a yarn with "physics jokes, a sea monster in the river and petroglyphs. It writes itself. There's no grand denouement, as it just keeps going on its own. I look up 10 days later and I have pages taped all over. To turn this into an animated series would be ridiculous fun."

Then there's Sanders's Sunday night Instagram story, "My Cat Bob, Special Agent" (@specialagentbobcat), in which her pet gets a star vehicle. "He's my chill, philosophical muse," she says.

Sanders is also a natural science illustrator. Introduced to the field by a friend who gave her a catalog, Sanders quickly was hooked. The work is usually done in collaboration with research scientists, with introductions made through the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, she says. "I can put in a question, and in under an hour I have the answer, provided by the world expert. I can be working with people who spend 30 years looking at ferns!"

Her illustrations have been included in shows at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History, the Greenwich Audubon Center and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. "That was a big deal," she says.



An illustration from the first chapter of *Treasures of the Hudson Highlands*



A painting by Chris Sanders of an Ecuadorian fern habitat in the collection of the New York Botanical Garden



A "zombie dress" costume designed and created by Chris Sanders



A forensic facial reconstruction by Chris Sanders



# Haldane Honor Roll

*Students recognized for first-quarter grades*

**Grade 12**

*Principal’s List*

Julian Ambrose, Sam Bates, Edward Bauer, Kate Bolte, Zach Cannova, Elizabeth Cates, Matteo Cervone, Chase Coulson, Celia Drury, Ryan Eng-Wong, Megan Ferreira, Sara Ferreira, Olivia Flanagan, Elliott Goldberg, Amanda Johanson, Matthew Junjulas, Raunaq Kapoor, Rowen Kuzminski, Albina McFadden, Nate McPherson, Mary Mikalsen, Caroline Nelson, Mairead O’Hara, Nino Perricone, John Peters, Gabe Petty, Daniel Phillips, Kaelyn Powlis, Rhys Robbins, Thomas Rockett, Aidan Sabatini, Sophie Sabin, Fiona Shanahan, Roy Smith, Will Sniffen, Aidan Sullivan-Hoch, Jackson Twoguns, Liv Villella, Jillian Weinpahl, Conrad White

*High Honor Roll*

Ben Bozsik, Will Bradley, Carmela Cofini, Quentin Conrey, Aleksander Danilov, Gael Frezza, Maya Gelber, Jesse Hagen, Dylan Horan, Kate Jordan, Charlie Keegan, John Kisslinger, Madeleine Knox, Andrew Kubik, August Lee, Helen Nicholls, Josephine Russell Jarmusch, Brennan Spruck, Lucas Vladimiroff, Sofia Wallis

*Honor Roll*

Jude Columb, Paula Herrera, Kate Meisner, Lola Ritell, Chloe Rowe, Andreia Vasconcelos-Meneses

**Grade 11**

*Principal’s List*

Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Alissa Buslovich, Liliana Cappello, Quinlynn Carmicino, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Madeleine Hutz, Mary Junjulas, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Elaine Llewellyn, Gabe Lunin-Pack, Lola Mahoney, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O’Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Emily Tomann, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Mackenzie Warren, Max Westphal

*High Honor Roll*

Jon Bastys, Grace Bradley, Alexandra Busselle, Delaney Corless, James D’Abruzzo, William Denehy, Frankie DiGiglio, Luca DiLello, Oscar Donahue, Emily Gilleo, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Colin Hopkins, Sarah Jones, Isadora Kaye, Mac Lake, Michael Murray, Jacqueline Muth, Henry O’Neil, Simon Pieza, Keira Russell, Dashiell Santelmann, Olivia Scanga, Nicholas Stathos, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon, Claudio Zizzi

*Honor Roll*

William Busselle, Liam Flanagan, Zachary Harris, Connery Hart, Jack Hartman, Olivia Knox, John Mangan, Peter Ruggiero, Emil Schweizer, Marlena Slokenbergs, Harley Sporbert, Iain Starr, Jesse Tippet

**Grade 10**

*Principal’s List*

Amelia Alayon, Domenica Awananch, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Alexandra Cairns, Judine Cox, Violeta Edwards Salas, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchison, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Oliver Petkus, Brandt Robbins, Julian Schwarz, Brendan Shanahan, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Caroline Sniffen, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nate Stickle

*High Honor Roll*

Emilia (Gray) Cardoso, Brody Corless, Christopher Coronel, Hunter Erickson, Catherine Horton, Zohra Kapoor, Sophie Koch, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Jake Powers, Charles Rowe, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons, Jayden Treloar

*Honor Roll*

Claire Bolte, Kira Drury, Edwin Dubroff, Christian Ferreira, Louis Ferreira, Sienna Fredricks, Jack Illian, Frank Lanza, Rain Lee, Wilson Robohm, Laurel Sassano, Amelia Scarpino, Isabella Tavares, Shania Vasconcelos

**Grade 9**

*Principal’s List*

Dylan Ambrose, Eleanor Chew, Alexander Del Pozo, Louise Denehy, Diego DiGiglio, Leo DiGiovanni, Aine Dugan, Ryder Griffin, Leo Grocott, Amelia Kaye, Sofia Kelly, Carl Kester, Nicolas Lagerman, Elliott Mahoney, Ember Mahoney, Giovannina Manfredi, Nicolo Masella, Anna-Catherine Nelson, William O’Hara, Marisa Peters, Owen Powers, Kayla Ruggiero, Maxwell Sanders, Louisa Schimming, Tomas Simko, George Stubbs, Owen Sullivan-Hoch, Ty Villella

*High Honor Roll*

Theo Baranszky-Job, Lucius Bell, Luke Bozsik, Ada Caccamise, Daniel Campanile, Philip Cappello, Lyla (Lenny) Chandler, Savannah Duggan, James Frommer, Ryder Henricksen, Seth Lunin-Pack, Lincoln McCarthy, Kristen (Kris) Mejia, Tyler Schacht, Henry Schimming, Jasmine Wallis, Merrick Williams

*Honor Roll*

Anthony Bailey, Molly Bernstein, Samuel Cardona Vargas, Emmett Horner, Kai Ietaka, Genevieve Knox, Arthur Owens, Megan Powell, Giovanni Siciliano, Samantha Thomas, Luke Tippet, Roth Westphal

**Grade 8**

*Principal’s List*

Frances Donahue, Tess Hereford, Nicolas LeMon, Plum Severs

*High Honor Roll*

Hazel Berkley, Marco DiLello, Rita Edwards-Salas, Lela R. Gurvich-Andrews, Antoinette Guy, Lugh Hartford, Talia Hird, Benjamin M. Hutz, Christine Junjulas, Una

Lentz, Griffin Lucca, Maisie Matthews, Jacqueline L. McCormick, Corinna Mueller, Lily Parker, Gemma Sabin, Oliver Sanders, Lincoln Wayland

*Honor Roll*

Nadine Alayon, Alexa Faith Arcigal, Polina Buslovich, Ryan Cavallaro, Cooper Corless, Ryan Duncan, Henry Foley-Hedlund, Stella Gretina, Jaiden Gunther, Margaret Hall, Eva Hohenberger, Elaina Johnson, Connor Keegan, George Shep MacInnes, Gavin Mahoney, Sydney Merriman, Amelia Yaret Nova-Martinez, Caden Philippi, Taya Robinson, Patrick Shields, Delia Starr

**Grade 7**

*Principal’s List*

Jordan Nicole Armond, Emma Cavanaugh, Samuel Chew, Araliss Coronel, Gelio A Duarte, Frederica Geppner, Leina Grahm, Owen Guillorn, Silvia Hardman, Chloe Hasler, Sierra Hasler, Jupiter Hutchison, Clark B. Illian, Max H. Kupper, Diem Lee, Kirra McCoy, Eamonn McGrory, Harry McGrory, Anya Mercurio, Leo O’Neil, Luciano Ruggiero, Audrey Silverstein, Sachi Starbuck, Aisling Stathos, Tanya Syan, Sophia Taylor, Scout L. Thakur deBeer, Eamon Wall

*High Honor Roll*

Caitlin Alves, Nicholas Arcigal, Henry Bailey, Oscar Cheah, Lainey Donaghy, Lukas Ellison, Vannia Poletth Gonzalez, Sam Poses, Charlie Robohm, Maxwell Robohm, Thomas Sexton, Ella Sizemore

*Honor Roll*

Petra Brooks Saladyga, Aurelias Drinnon, Gavin D. Drury, Eleanor Dubroff, Cassidy Dwyer, Enid Hernandez, Martina Kulan, Maria McFadden, Vivian Azevedo McKenney, Joshua Phillips, August Skip-tunis, Reagan Mae Stickle

**Grade 6**

*Principal’s List*

Teo Bon Tempo, Allegra Clementson, Carla Coleman, Edie Crockett Coleman, Edward McRae Hendrix, Oliver Dean Herman, Opal Herman, Aya Hull, Aidan Kane, Nomie Karetny, Elias Elli Kelly, Gavin Lyons-King, Everett MacIntyre, Caelan McDermott, Lughan McIlwaine, Dean Moyer, William Muller, Allegra Parella, Brian Rommel, Celia Anne Schneck, Theo Swan, Brooke Taylor, Natalie Taylor, Maura Tomann

*High Honor Roll*

Xaver Bazos, Elliot Bennett, Wyatt Rose Chadwick, Aidan Chandler, Dylan Drew, Andrew Orion Frieburghaus, David J.Garcia, Nicholas Gaugler, Marco Lagerman, Aisling Loughman, Sadie MacInnes, Evelyn Maddsion, Michael Vincent Perilli II, Tyler Powers, Kayla Ritell, Ellie Shields, Matthew Sousa, William Valentine

*Honor Roll*

Gavin Byrne, Mary Denehy, Sarah Emig, Bruno Lopez, Aiden Noormae

NEWS BRIEFS

## Putnam Executive Announces Team

*Byrne succeeds Odell next month*

Kevin Byrne, the state Assembly member who ran unopposed for Putnam County executive, on Dec. 23 announced appointments for his incoming administration.

He will succeed MaryEllen Odell, a fellow Republican, who could not run because of term limits.

The appointments include:

- Compton Spain as county attorney. He will resign, as of Jan. 1, as a partner in Spain & Spain, his family law firm, and step down as secretary of the Putnam County Conservative Party.
- Thomas Feighery, the deputy county executive, as acting commissioner of the Department of Highway and Facilities. He has supervised commercial, residential, and tunnel construction for 30 years in Manhattan with the Local 147 Sandhogs.
- John Tully, the deputy commissioner for Highway and Facilities, will become director of purchasing.
- Robert Lipton, the deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services since 2013, will become its interim commissioner.

In addition, Byrne has asked a number of commissioners and directors to continue in their roles, including Bill Carlin (finance), Dr. Michael Neisheiwat (health), Alex Roehner (emergency medical services), John O’Conner (emergency management), Michael Cunningham (senior resources), John Osterhout (probation), Tracey Walsh (tourism) and Karl Rohde (veterans’ services).

Byrne said the evaluation process began in October and included “hundreds of hours” spent “interviewing candidates, reviewing department operations and evaluating existing programs.”

## Cold Spring to Redirect Dam Spending

*Funds will be used to replace filters at water plant*

Cold Spring will use \$203,342 in federal American Rescue Plan aid and surplus sales tax funding to replace the filters at its water treatment plant instead of repairing its upper reservoir dam.

The Putnam Legislature, which in July agreed to let municipalities share \$5 million of the county’s \$19 million in ARP funds and the same amount in sales tax revenue, on Dec. 20 approved the village’s request to change projects. In a Dec. 8 letter, Mayor Kathleen Foley said the filter replacement better fits the county’s emphasis on “shovel-ready projects that could be fully or nearly fully funded” with the allocation.

Repairing the dam is a multimillion-dollar project that requires additional engineering work and will likely need multiple sources of funding, said Foley.



## NEWS BRIEFS

## First Cannabis Retail Outlet Opens

*No stores yet in Hudson Valley*

The first legal cannabis store in the state opened Thursday (Dec. 29) in Manhattan, although retail in the Hudson Valley has been delayed by a lawsuit.

The dispensary is operated by Housing Works, a nonprofit that provides support for people with HIV and the homeless and formerly incarcerated. The cannabis is supplied to the store and others by 280 licensed farmers.

The storefront, located at 750 Broadway, is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Housing Works.

The New York State Cannabis Control Board has approved 36 conditional licenses for retail sales, including eight for nonprofits. Earlier this month, the Office of Cannabis Management released guidance for businesses that want to offer delivery.

## Courtroom Named for Putnam Judge

*James Reitz died suddenly in 2019*

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Dec. 19 enacted a law naming a Putnam County courtroom for Judge James Reitz, who died in 2019 after suffering a heart attack while handling a family court case.

Room 301 will be known as the Judge James F. Reitz Memorial Courtroom.

The bill was co-sponsored in the Senate by Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and Pete Harkham, and in the Assembly by Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Kevin Byrne. It passed unanimously in both chambers.

## Foundation Awards \$130K

*Group serves Dutchess, Putnam*

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced it has awarded more than \$130,000 to nonprofits in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties.

In the Beacon area, the grantees were Common Ground Farm, Fareground Community Kitchen and the Howland Chamber Music Circle. In Philipstown, they were the Ecological Citizen's Project, Garrison Art Center, Manitoga, Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub and Putnam History Museum.

## Library Seeks Input

*Desmond-Fish conducting survey*

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison is asking Philipstown residents and visitors to share ideas for how the library can help make Philipstown better.

To gather input, the library has posted a survey at [bit.ly/DesmondFishSurvey](http://bit.ly/DesmondFishSurvey), or paper copies can be completed at the library. Its questions cover the collections, building and property, and programming and events. The deadline is Jan. 15.

# Putnam School District Sues over Pollution

*Chemicals found in well that supplies elementary*

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam Valley Central School District is suing nearly two dozen companies over the contamination of the well that supplies drinking water to students, faculty and staff at its elementary school.

The lawsuit, filed on Dec. 21 in Putnam County Supreme Court, names 3M, DuPont and other firms that manufactured products containing polyfluoroalkyl substances. This class of chemicals is used in nonstick and stain- and water-resistant coatings, and in foams used by firefighters to suppress blazes caused by liquids like jet fuel.

Their use has been associated with illnesses such as kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol. The manufacturers have been accused of hiding the health risks.

School officials discovered the contamination in December 2020, when quarterly tests of the well revealed elevated levels of the two most widely used chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS).

The results, as high as 23.3 parts per trillion for PFOA and 38.3 ppt for PFOS, were well above the state's drinking-water standard of 10 ppt for both chemicals. Fortunately, at the time of the results, students and staff were using bottled water instead of fountains because of the pandemic.

The lawsuit, filed by Napoli Shkolnik, a New York City firm, traces the source of the contamination to the use of firefighting foams at the Putnam Valley Fire Department's firehouses — one 4,600 feet from the school's property on Oscawana Lake Road and the other 4.6 miles away.

The school district, which in October approved an agreement to become a third high school option for Garrison School graduates, is seeking punitive damages and compensation for the costs of remediating the contamination and monitoring its drinking water supply.

“In order to ensure that it can continue to provide clean and safe water to its students, faculty and staff, Plaintiff will have to take action ...

~ Putnam Valley school district

(Putnam Valley's high school and middle school are on municipal water systems and unaffected by the contamination.)

“In order to ensure that it can continue to provide clean and safe water to its students, faculty and staff, Plaintiff will have to take action to address the above contamination,” said the district.

The lawsuit comes two months after Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation that gives the owners of contaminated water supplies until April 5, 2024, to bring lawsuits that had been barred by a statute of limitations.

Both New York State and the federal Environmental Protection Agency have in recent years lowered the maximum amounts allowed in drinking water. The EPA is also moving to designate PFAS as hazardous chemicals and a number of municipalities, including Dutchess County and the City of Newburgh, have sued the same companies over drinking-water contamination.

Dutchess filed a lawsuit in 2018 after high levels of the chemicals were found in a well at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport in Wappingers Falls. In March the state Department of Environmental Conservation announced the start of an investigation into pollution from the chemicals at the county's fire training facility in Hyde Park.

In March 2021, the state Department of Health issued “do-not-drink” warnings for the middle and high schools in Dover in Dutchess County after high levels of the chemicals were discovered in their water system. The advisory is still in effect, and last month the district said that testing in September still showed levels well above the state standard.



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## PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Public Hearing – January 9th, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 9th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Villetto, 24 Hickory Ridge, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#60.-2-50  
Applicant is seeking a variance to build 2,520 square foot (42'x60") garage.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated November 14th, 2022

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals





Deer, like people, enjoy a good run now and then.

Photo by B. Cronin

## Out There (from Page 1)

in the U.S. by a wide margin. (Bees, wasps and other stinging insects are second, followed by dogs, then horses and cows. Bears, mountain lions, sharks, wolves and snakes are much further down the list.) New York's deer population is estimated to be 1.2 million, and I'm sure there have been times when you thought they were all in your garden.

Not this year. For the past three summers, the Mid-Hudson Valley has had outbreaks of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), a virus that is fatal to white-tailed deer. The virus is spread by midges, biting insects commonly referred to as "no-see-ums." The virus, which does not affect humans, is usually only found in the South, where deer have built up a resistance.

Scientists believe the midges may have hitched rides north on the winds of hurricanes and tropical storms. Nearly all of the Hudson Valley outbreaks have occurred a few weeks after a storm hit the Highlands, although an outbreak early in the summer of 2022 appears to be an exception. Testing showed that the virus had not changed from 2021, suggesting it can survive our increasingly mild winters, says Brendan Quirion of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

But the 2022 outbreak was smaller and more isolated, he noted, suggesting our deer may be building resistance.

In deer, EHD acts like a superhot fever, which is why dead deer are often found near sources of water or observed with their tongues out as they try to cool down. They also suffer from cracked and deformed hooves, Quirion says, which may be caused by swelling.

Conducting a deer census isn't practical (it's hard to get them all to stand still), so the DEC uses hunter harvests and extrapolates. Those numbers are much lower than usual in the Mid-Hudson Valley, although farther north, where Quirion hunts, the numbers were stable. That's probably not news to any local hunters, and it helps explain the lush understory in Fahnestock

State Park late in the fall when I went foraging for mushrooms for an earlier column.

Deer are selective browsers: They munch the most nutritious vegetation first (trilliums, orchards, whatever's in your garden), which tend to also be species of plants that can't tolerate a lot of browsing. They then browse woody vegetation, which can be harmful when a forest is regenerating.

New York would like to reduce the deer population in some parts of the state to allow forests to regenerate. But it prefers to do that in the long term through hunting, not a virus. (Densely populated areas such as Staten Island, where hunting isn't practical, have been experimenting with sterilization.)

There are, of course, still deer here. I saw two this morning, staring silently from the woods as I ran past. But for a few years, pre-EHD, I used to see herds at Long Dock, Madam Brett Park and on Tioronda Avenue. Sometimes they'd stare. Sometimes they'd approach close enough that I could have stroked their chins, stare and walk away. It was a bit unnerving. I started keeping a folder on my phone called "Photos of deer that let me get strangely close to them."

Once, while running down Tioronda Avenue, a herd of deer that I had been seeing every day came out into the road and ran with me — they surrounded me and kept pace. It made me think of a remark by the writer Sy Montgomery, who said the tendency to play is a mark of intelligence. When the interviewer remarked that turtles don't play, Montgomery responded that turtles do play, but that hardly anyone is patient enough to watch turtles that long.

The deer running with and around me on isolated roads is a reflection of the fact that humans, animals and plants are irreversibly entangled with one another. Some of the ways are clear — we warm the atmosphere, deer get sick, deer spread more ticks to us — but many more remain mysterious. As we head into the New Year, it's helpful to practice a bit of humility. Sometimes it's best to head into the woods, stop and observe. Although I've been there more times than I can count, I always find something going on that I was not aware of.

## StartREADING

January book club selections

### Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 5, 7 P.M.

*Every Drop of Blood*, by Edward Achorn  
Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill  
Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

### Butterfield Book Club

MON 9, 7 P.M.

*Christine Falls*, by Benjamin Black  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Café con Libros

TUES 10, 10:30 A.M.

*En Busca de Emma*, by Armando Lucas Correa  
Discussion conducted in Spanish.  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 10, 1:30 P.M.

*Fool*, by Christopher Moore  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 5+)

TUES 10, 3:15 P.M.

*The Son of Neptune*, by Rick Riordan  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Trophy Life Book Club

THURS 19, 6 P.M.

*The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich  
Winner of 2021 Pulitzer for Fiction  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

TUES 24, 3:15 P.M.

*Dragons and Marshmallows*, by Asia Citro  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Tween Book Club (Grades 6-8)

WED 25, 3:30 P.M.

*The Parker Inheritance*, by Varian Johnson  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Scream Teens Book Club (Grades 9-12)

THURS 26, 6 P.M.

*The Mary Shelley Club*, by Goldy Moldavsky  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Beacon Book Club

THURS 26, 7:30 P.M.

*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, by Milan Kundera  
Sukhothai, 516 Main St.  
Register at [meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub](http://meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub).

### Harry Potter Book Club (Grades 4+)

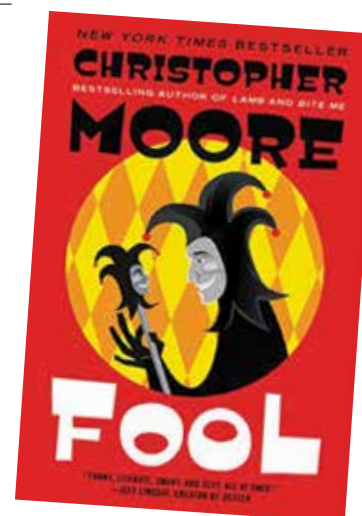
FRI 27, 3:15 P.M.

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, by J.K. Rowling  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Book Buds Book Club (Grades 3-5)

TUES 31, 6 P.M.

*Fart Quest*, by Aaron Reynolds  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).



## Current Classifieds

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

ACROSS

- 1 Dallas cager, for short
- 4 Reindeer herder
- 8 Persian leader
- 12 Hit CBS series
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Roof overhang
- 15 Like some salad dressings
- 17 Frat letters
- 18 Duo
- 19 Sikhs' headwear
- 21 Enjoy, as fine food
- 24 Luau bowlful
- 25 Guitar's kin
- 26 Yule quaff
- 28 Desert flora
- 32 Simple
- 34 Drench
- 36 Lunch hour
- 37 Pesto herb
- 39 Super Bowl VIP
- 41 P followers
- 42 Joke
- 44 Learned one
- 46 Sans
- 50 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 51 Coup d' —
- 52 "Deathtrap" playwright
- 56 Impetuous
- 57 Toy block name

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18				19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 58 Here, to Henri
- 59 BPOE members
- 60 Beloved
- 61 Fanatic
- 9 "Funny!"
- 10 Bard's river
- 11 Big name in oil
- 16 Farm female
- 20 Sinbad's bird
- 21 — luck (accidental success)
- 22 Furniture brand
- 23 At once
- 27 Jewel
- 29 French chicken dish
- 30 Undecided
- 31 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 33 Pizza slices, often
- 35 Sports bar sets
- 38 Asian language
- 40 Wan quality
- 43 Screen Actors —
- 45 Compete
- 46 Existed
- 47 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 48 Chore
- 49 Sloth's home
- 53 Khan title
- 54 Post-op area
- 55 Little louse

DOWN

- 1 Roman 1105
- 2 "— was saying ..."
- 3 Wine producers
- 4 Snorkeling site
- 5 Altar constellation
- 6 Impudent
- 7 Settle a debt
- 8 Belgrade native

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

- CLUES
- 1 come near (8)
- 2 ones getting their first job (9)
- 3 inspiring awe (8)
- 4 microphone holders, often (7)
- 5 like a sloth or a slug (9)
- 6 largest city in Bosnia (8)
- 7 "touchy" (7)
- SOLUTIONS

APPR	LE	RS	TE	NDRO
AGE	SA	LE	THA	TA
RGIC	VO	SIN	WO	EN
US	CTI	OACH	RAJE	GER

SUDOCURRENT

9								
		6			3	1		5
					1	2	3	
		7	8			3	2	
				2				7
				7	4	5		
4				1	5			
	3		6			4		1
					8	6	5	

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Answers for Dec. 23 Puzzles

O	A	T		I	C	E	D		S	T	U	B
U	S	H		N	I	L	E		T	A	R	O
C	H	A		S	A	F	E	T	Y	P	I	N
H	E	I	D	I				N	O	R		
				E	G	G	S		W	O	R	M
P	I	N	W	H	E	E	L		N	E	A	T
I	D	O		T	O	D	O	S		A	X	E
T	E	R	R		L	A	P	E	L	P	I	N
S	A	M	O	A		N	E	R	O			
				O	R	B			P	O	L	K
P	I	N	S	T	R	I	P	E		O	I	L
H	I	N	T		I	M	A	N		B	R	O
D	I	E	S		T	A	R	T		E	K	E

7	4	2	9	3	8	1	5	6
1	8	5	2	6	7	3	9	4
9	3	6	4	5	1	8	2	7
2	5	9	6	4	3	7	8	1
3	1	4	7	8	5	2	6	9
6	7	8	1	2	9	5	4	3
5	9	7	8	1	4	6	3	2
8	6	1	3	9	2	4	7	5
4	2	3	5	7	6	9	1	8

1.CONTAINED, 2.COERCED, 3.ABSTAINS, 4.QUAIL, 5.BINGLEY, 6.TOILING, 7.HARKEN



## SPORTS



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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Haldane's offense had a hard time finding points on Wednesday (Dec. 28) in the first half of a Carmel tournament matinee against a solid Brewster squad, and the Blue Devils ended up falling to the Bears, 61-31. But the girls came back the next day to defeat Carmel, 50-38, in the consolation round.

"That was a tough matchup," Coach Ed Crowe said of Brewster. "We had played them earlier in the season [a 56-27 loss], so we knew what they could do. We broke their press well, but we just couldn't convert."

Haldane trailed 27-10 at halftime, and 44-17 after three quarters.

Ninth-grader Kayla Ruggiero scored 11 points to lead Haldane, juniors Camilla McDaniel and Ruby Poses each had seven, senior Mairead O'Hara had four, and seniors Chloe Rowe and Amanda Johanson each had two.

"Kayla played very well," Crowe said. "Mairead gave us a great effort, as well — she started to find something in the second half. Marisa Peters and Ruby have both been showing improvement and giving us great effort on the court. We try to play for 32



Chloe Rowe eyes the basket during Haldane's loss to Brewster.

Photo by S. Pearlman

minutes with a lot of intensity and effort."

The Blue Devils (2-4) are scheduled to host North Salem on Wednesday (Jan. 4) at 6:15 p.m. and visit Yorktown on Jan. 6.

Beacon (3-3) did not play this week but will travel to Port Jervis on Wednesday and host Minisink Valley at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon picked up a 54-49 victory over

Franklin Roosevelt on Tuesday (Dec. 27) in the first round of the eight-team Duane Davis Christmas Tournament at Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie.

The Bulldogs got 14 points from Jack Philipbar and 11 from Dylan Howard.

Beacon went on to drop a 56-50 decision to Arlington on Wednesday despite Joe Battle's 21 points and eight from Darien Gillins. The Bulldogs lost to Ketcham,

61-54, on Thursday (Dec. 29) in the game for third place.

The Bulldogs (4-3) will visit O'Neill High School on Tuesday (Jan. 3) and Minisink Valley on Thursday.

Haldane won at Chester, 67-56, on Thursday to improve to 4-3. The Blue Devils travel to North Salem on Wednesday (Jan. 4) before hosting Pearl River at 6:15 p.m. on Friday.

### WINTER TRACK

Damani Deloatch topped 20 feet (20-2) for Beacon to win the long jump at the Pearl River Invitational at Rockland Community College in Suffern on Tuesday (Dec. 27), while Jonah Mensch was fourth in the 55-meter hurdles and sixth in the 300.

"Jonah has continued to improve each year, and he's now our top hurdler," said Coach Jim Henry. "He'll be important in our relays as we head toward championship season."

Beacon is scheduled to participate in a meet on Staten Island on Jan. 7.

Haldane also competed at the Pearl River meet, with Jake Thomas finishing second in the 55-meter dash for freshmen and sophomores in 7.32 seconds, and the boys' 200-meter freshmen/sophomore relay team of Alex Noormae, Milo Pearsall, Merrick Williams and Jake Thomas taking third in 4:17.79.

"They're the best relay team we've had in years," said Coach Eric Richter. "And being ninth- and 10th-graders, they have real potential. In fact, this is one of the best winter track teams we've had in some time."

Haldane will return to Rockland Community College on Wednesday (Jan. 4) for a 17-team meet.

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