

# The HIGHLANDS Current

Full-Time  
Guitar  
Page 11



JANUARY 20, 2023

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## Central Hudson Woes Continue

*Lawsuit alleges 'deceptive and improper practices'*

By Jeff Simms

Less than a month after the state Public Service Commission issued a damning report on Central Hudson's botched, \$88 million upgrade of its billing system, a group of customers has filed a class-action lawsuit, alleging "unlawful deceptive acts and practices" related to the rollout.

The suit, filed Jan. 6 in Dutchess County Supreme Court, seeks a jury trial that would determine monetary damages for the plaintiffs and other customers.

The suit was filed by Lowey Dannenberg, a law firm with offices in New York City, on behalf of six customers in Dutchess, Orange, Greene and Ulster counties and a class of "similarly situated consumers who have been incorrectly billed" from August 2021 to the present.

According to the suit, that class of consumers is "so numerous and geographically dispersed" that its exact number is unknown but likely in the thousands. (In its report, the Public Service Commission said that overcharges affected more than 8,000 customers.) Other Central Hudson customers who were affected will be notified if a settlement is reached and be given an opportunity to file a claim, a Lowey Dannenberg representative said on Wednesday (Jan. 18).

A Central Hudson representative said



**MAGIC IN THE AIR** — Students from the Beacon Performing Arts Center presented *Aladdin Kids* at Beacon High School on Jan. 14. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).  
Photo by Ross Corsair

the company was reviewing the lawsuit but had no further comment.

Since its rollout on Sept. 1, 2021, the utility's billing system has been riddled with errors. One plaintiff in the lawsuit who lives in Wappingers Falls said that he didn't receive a bill for four months but, without warning, in November was charged nearly \$4,500. He has yet to be provided with justi-

(Continued on Page 7)

## The Rise of 'Tranq Dope'

*Animal sedative mixed with opioids causes gruesome wounds*

By Leonard Sparks

Four months after a Hopewell Junction man crashed a tractor-trailer into a tavern on Salt Point Turnpike in northeastern Dutchess County, the Hyde Point Police Department released the results of his autopsy.

The Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office determined that the driver, Craig Dickson, was high on morphine and fentanyl, the powerful scourge behind record increases in accidental overdoses from illicit drug use.

The coroners also found a third drug: xylazine.

Approved for use by veterinarians as a tranquilizer, the addictive sedative is increasingly being mixed with opioids like heroin and fentanyl to create a concoction called "tranq dope."

(Continued on Page 8)



**REMEMBERING DR. KING** — The 11th annual parade in Beacon to celebrate the life and work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. took place on Monday (Jan. 16), followed by festivities at Springfield Baptist Church sponsored by the Southern Dutchess Coalition. The civil rights leader, who grew up in Atlanta, was assassinated in 1968.

Photo by Russ Cusick

## Veterans Court Opens in Beacon

*Program aims to help vets charged with crimes*

By Leonard Sparks

Judge Greg Johnston had just one name to call on Wednesday (Jan. 18) for Beacon's infant veterans treatment court.

The pioneer participant, accompanied into the courtroom by Alyssa Carrion and Victor Zamaloff of Mental Health America

of Dutchess County, stood before Johnston and answered questions about his counseling and general progress.

Did the counselor talk about triggers to alcohol use, Johnston asked, before scheduling the next appearance for February. Then Zamaloff rose to add something: The man was enrolled in emergency medical technician school and on the road to becoming a volunteer firefighter.

"Feel free to not be so modest," Johnston

(Continued on Page 8)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: WALTER ROTH

By Michael Turton

Last month, Walter Roth of Cold Spring completed his second 10-day silent retreat at the Vipassana Meditation Center in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts.

## What are the rules at a silent retreat?

It's a strict, hard path of meditation. Not only is there no talking, you can't gesture or look at others. You almost pretend no one else is there. There is no note-taking, reading, use of electronic devices or exercise, other than walking on the grounds. Everyone has their own room. Men and women are separated, except in the main meditation hall. No sexual contact is allowed. There is no alcohol.

## Why do you go?

I try to practice meditation daily, but life gets in the way. So part of it is just having 10 days focused on the skill and habit of meditation. I do it to reduce stress and for better health, but also to increase focus and clarity, whether in relationships or at work. Also, spiritual oneness, feeling connected to myself and to the world. It has increased my devotion to meditation and my confidence in completing something even though it's grueling.



## Describe the daily routine.

There is simple instruction each day and an evening video on meditation techniques. There are two 1-hour vegetarian meals a day; first-time students get an afternoon tea snack. It's all about sitting for 11 hours of meditation in 1-hour chunks, with short breaks. There is about an hour for walking. I slept a bit during the day because it starts at 4 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m. I try to sleep

at least eight hours a day at home; there was seven hours of bed time at the retreat. During my second retreat I was able to sleep, but the first time I was wide awake.

## What did you experience as the retreat progressed?

When you stay in the same position, meditating for an hour, 11 times a day, the body gets uncomfortable. They say your mind tries to distract you, and pain starts coming up. You don't move and you don't react to the pain. That's the hardest thing. It wasn't a relaxing retreat. I counted almost every second. You're not supposed to do that; that's the challenge. The first day was the most pain ever. On the second and third days, it started to get more bearable, then it started getting hard again. At both retreats, by Days 5 and 6, I had reached a state where I felt no pain; it was almost blissful. You are taught not to cling to that. But it was nice. I had nice, nice thoughts. It was like my heart almost exploded. Then it got way more painful again. Then it was counting the days. After both retreats, I concluded I'd never do it again. I'm glad I got through it, but I'm also glad it's done. At the end, I needed a massage. You could talk again. It was a soft landing. The people who came all wanted to take care of themselves. It was beautiful.

## What did you miss, or not miss?

My wife told me to go on the retreat. She's pregnant. I missed her the most because I knew she was struggling. I could hardly wait to see her. And I missed her and her mom's Indian cooking. I also missed writing things down, to be able to review my notes, because my memory isn't that good. I wrote something toward the end, and my mind went nuts. It became a distraction. So, the rule to not write anything is good. I did not miss my phone. At the retreat, I'd be leaving the restroom and my hand would go to pick up my phone, but it wasn't there. They lock up the phones. I saw how much control it has over me. I felt clearer, healthier, more at peace.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Do you like to gamble a bit?

“Yes, the New York Lottery. The odds are about 3 million-to-1.”



John Connolly, Beacon

“I'm opposed to gambling because it's stupid. The odds are better you'll be hit by lightning.”



Maddy DeVito, Beacon

“I've never gambled in my life. The house always wins.”



John Plummer, Cold Spring

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# Beacon Schools Undecided on Columbus Day

*Board forms committee for further discussion*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board will create a committee comprised of board members, district administrators, students and members of the public to decide whether to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day on school calendars.

President Meredith Heuer said during its Jan. 9 meeting that the board had received 70 emails after announcing in the fall that it would consider renaming the holiday, which takes place on the second Monday in October. Other districts in the region have made the change to honor Native American tribes who predated Christopher Colum-

bus, but there has also been pushback.

In the Highlands, the Haldane, Garrison and Newburgh districts recognize a combined Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day. The New Paltz district uses Indigenous Peoples' Day, while New York City schools last year announced a change but eventually went with Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

On Jan. 9, six Beacon district residents asked the board to change the name; three others felt it should remain Columbus Day.

Amy Farid, a member of the Osage nation of Oklahoma and a Rombout Middle School parent, said that her people had suffered "injustice and hatred for merely existing," and that Columbus had committed "nothing short of murder, torture and slavery" in colonizing the "New World." The district must teach students the "true and painful history of colo-

nization" without celebrating Columbus, much like it does not celebrate Adolf Hitler, she said.

**"I respect the diversity of Beacon and I want it to be a conversation of diverse opinions."**

~ Meredith Heuer  
Beacon school board president

But Joe Baffuto, a Beacon High School graduate and school district parent and volunteer, said he is proud of his Italian descent, which inspired him to become a member and now president of the Beacon chapter of the Sons & Daughters of Italy. Each year, the group sponsors a scholarship for at least one graduating senior of Italian American descent.

Baffuto asked whether the district is prepared to remove St. Patrick's Day from the calendar because of the struggle between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. "Do we abolish the Thanksgiving holiday because the pilgrims invaded Indian territory?" he asked, noting that Aug. 9 is celebrated as International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

After hearing from the public, Heuer suggested forming the committee to continue the conversation. That format might be more effective than leaving the decision to the nine board members, she said.

"It would be much more meaningful in the end, whatever solution we come to," Heuer said. "I respect the diversity of Beacon and I want it to be a conversation of diverse opinions."

The board's Public Relations, Advocacy and Legislative Committee will discuss next steps at its meeting at Beacon High School at 6 p.m. on Monday (Jan. 23). The meeting is open to the public.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Dutchess Extends Sales Tax Hike

*Democratic proposal for cut defeated*

The Dutchess Legislature on Tuesday (Jan. 17) voted to extend a longtime, three quarters of a percentage increase in the sales tax.

Dutchess residents pay 8.125 percent sales tax on most purchases; 3.75 percent goes to the county, 4 percent to the state and 0.375 percent to public transit. The county portion was 3 percent until 2003, when the Legislature raised it. The increase must be reauthorized every few years.

The 17-6 vote on Tuesday, with all Republicans in favor and all Democrats opposed (and two members absent), extended the increase through November 2025. But before the vote, Democrats introduced a measure to make the increase 3.625 percent, putting the total tax at 8 percent. They argued that the decrease would give Dutchess businesses an advantage over Putnam (8.375 percent) and Orange (8.125). But the proposal was defeated along party lines.

### Beacon Man Arrested on Weapon Charges

*Suspect allegedly had homemade 'ghost gun'*

Beacon police announced on Jan. 13 the arrest of a city man accused of possessing a 9mm semi-automatic "ghost gun."

The weapons are assembled from parts or kits that include an unfinished piece such as



The handgun and ammo that Beacon police say they seized

BPD

a frame or receiver with no serial number.

In a statement, the department said officers responded at 12:45 p.m. on Jan. 12 to 206 Main St., where a caller reported seeing the suspect drop a firearm and pick it up.

Upon arrival, officers said they found that Charles Plowden, 35, a resident of Forrestal Heights, had a gun with a 31-round, high-capacity magazine loaded with 24 rounds of ammunition.

Police said Plowden was charged with two felony counts of criminal possession of a weapon. He was also charged with one count of unlawful possession of certain ammunition-feeding devices, a misdemeanor.

They said Plowden refused to be fingerprinted or photographed during processing, which led an additional charge of obstructing governmental administration, a misdemeanor. He was arraigned and transported to the Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie on a \$15,000 cash/\$30,000 bond/\$60,000 partially secured bond. A court date was scheduled for Wednesday (Jan. 18)

### Dutchess Executive Names Deputy

*Will also serve as chief of staff*

William F.X. O'Neil, the newly appointed Dutchess County executive, this week named Rachel Kashimer to serve as deputy executive and chief of staff — the roles he had held before Marc Molinaro left for the U.S. House.

The county Legislature approved the appointment on Tuesday (Jan. 17).

Kashimer, 31, who holds a bachelor's degree in public affairs from Indiana University and an MBA from Marist College, joined the county in 2012 as an assistant in the Budget Office. She was most recently the assistant county executive. In that position, she supervised operations related to the county's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She lives in Wappinger.



Kashimer

### Beacon Man Accused of Dealing Crack

*Arrested by Dutchess task force*

A Beacon man arrested last month on charges of dealing crack cocaine is scheduled to return to City Court on Wednesday (Jan. 25).

Members of the Dutchess County Drug Task Force detained Raequan Keemer,

27, on charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the third degree, with intent to sell, a felony.

The county officers said that, as part of an ongoing investigation into drug sales in Beacon, they executed a search warrant on South Chestnut Street on Dec. 16 and seized crack cocaine and U.S. currency. Keemer pleaded not guilty and was released pending the January court date.



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The HIGHLANDS  
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**PUBLISHER**  
Highlands Current Inc.  
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819  
291 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508-2899

**FOUNDER**  
Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

**EDITOR**  
Chip Rowe  
editor@highlandscurrent.org

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
Leonard Sparks

**BEACON EDITOR**  
Jeff Simms

**ARTS EDITOR**  
Alison Rooney  
arts@highlandscurrent.org

**REPORTERS**  
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong  
Celia Barbour • Brian PJ Cronin  
Joe Dizney • Pamela Doan  
Deb Lucke • Skip Pearlman  
Michael Turton

**STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS**  
Jason Derasmo (Beacon)  
Violeta Edwards Salas (Haldane)  
Clara Tripp (Fieldston)  
Eamon Wall (Haldane)  
Lily Zuckerman (Masters)

**LAYOUT DESIGNER**  
Pierce Strudler

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
Michele Gedney  
For information on advertising:  
845-809-5584  
ads@highlandscurrent.org  
highlandscurrent.org/ads

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Emily Hare  
membership@highlandscurrent.org

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Teresa Lagerman  
events@highlandscurrent.org



THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785  
January 20, 2023  
Volume 11, Issue 3  
is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.  
Mail delivery \$30 per year.  
highlandscurrent.org/delivery  
delivery@highlandscurrent.org  
Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council  
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Rock wall

Mayor Kathleen Foley and the Cold Spring Village Board of Trustees: Thank you for removing the dangerous stone wall on Rock Street ("Breathing Room," Jan. 13). Job well done!

Bill Pugh, Cold Spring

Electric Beacon

If the city wants to step up its green initiative, it can start by enforcing engine-idling laws ("Electric Beacon," Jan. 13). Each day, hundreds of cars and trucks park on Beacon streets with their engines idling. The city also can embrace more bike racks and lanes, and alternate bike routes, which would encourage using bikes for short trips rather than a car. That would reduce greenhouse gases, as well. Enforcement and green education can make environmental changes accepted and happen.

Ron Donofrio, Beacon

According to a July 2020 report by the National Fire Protection Association, households with electric stoves reported fires at a rate 2.6 times higher than those with gas stoves. [The report states that one cause for this is that "it is sometimes less obvious that an electric burner is turned

on or is still hot than it is with gas burners. In addition, once turned off, it takes time for an electric burner to cool."] Equally staggering, the death rate of electric-run households was 3.4 times higher than those with gas appliances, and the injury rate was nearly five times greater.

Bob Kacur, Beacon

Doesn't everyone love individuals who presume to know what's best for people? If you start taking choices away, the result is a dictatorship. I believe that most people are intelligent and environmentally responsible and are capable of making the best choices for themselves, their families and the environment.

I know electric cars and eliminating fossil fuels at every turn is the current rage, but there are consequences. A large portion of electrical energy is generated by fossil-fuel facilities. How do these self-described experts intend to generate all the electricity required under their plan? I suppose with noisy, visually polluting windmills that are extremely expensive to maintain, and solar panels, which are a blight on nature and must be kept free of snow and debris.

Ask any chef or homemaker which cooking medium they prefer; the overwhelming answer would be natural gas. I would

venture to say that the preference for heating one's home is also natural gas and oil. Electrical costs are prohibitive, but that doesn't seem to be a concern.

Don Gallo, Beacon

Beacon businesses

This is heartbreaking ("Beacon Businesses in Jeopardy," Jan. 6). Beacon is the city that it is because of people like Miguel and Ana Tapia of Roma Nova. I wonder what the leadership of our city is doing about this.

Gracie McElduff, via Instagram

The condition of the "market" is no excuse to hit tenants with terms that make renting unsustainable (*Letters and Comments*, Jan. 13). No one is forced to own a multimillion-dollar property. Ownership contingent on expelling some of the few storefronts geared toward Beacon residents of all classes (not just visitors) is the furthest thing from neighborly. In the future, I hope regulation can prevent speculators from depleting Beacon's stock of affordable, accessible businesses.

Seth Rosenthal, Beacon

This is why I buy, not rent. Own the building and no one can ever move you from your property.

Kevin Pinzon, via Instagram

The part the developer is missing is when you want to partner with "local businesses," you can't kick out all the local businesses. What locals does he plan to partner with? The ones who moved in a year ago, like him? His friends? I'm fine with new businesses and people, but keep my old ones, too.

Billy Zopf, via Instagram

Aren't landlords only supposed to be able to raise the rent 3 percent to 5 percent, with two months' notice? How is a 50 percent hike possible?

Kaycee Calderon, via Instagram

*Editor's note: Laws that regulate rents in Beacon apply only to residential properties.*

Turkey terror

Why would anyone, at any time, use a stun gun on an animal in a situation such as this or any other scenario ("Turkey Trashes Garrison Home," Jan. 13)? In the 10 minutes that the homeowner sat looking at the turkey, she could have contacted law enforcement who, at the very least, might have involved animal control.

I can't predict how I would have reacted had I come home and encountered a similar situation. But I would like to think that it would not involve the use of a stun

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*(Continued from Page 4)*

gun, which in humans elevates aggressive behavior. So why would you expose any animal to that torture?

Joni Johnson, *Cold Spring*

I read this story aloud to family and friends twice this weekend. Well written!

Rebecca Reese, *via Facebook*

### Fjord Trail

Phases should be for construction, not for approvals ("Phase 1 of Fjord Trail Gets OK," Jan. 6). The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail project should not be allowed to start until it is reviewed in its entirety — all three phases.

But I guess that's the purpose. The reality is, if a developer attempted these tactics, true environmentalists would be in an outrage. Yet, here we are in 2023 and the same groups that "saved" Storm King and the Hudson River in the 1960s (specifically Scenic Hudson) are plowing ahead with this project despite citizens voicing the same concerns those organizations had a generation ago.

I'm at a loss as to the purpose and cloak-and-dagger, but I guess we will follow the money and see who is to gain in the end. It sure isn't the taxpayers of Philipstown.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

The trail project is a huge smoke-and-mirrors operation, beginning with its name.

This is no trail: It's a linear theme park destined for national news coverage, costing hundreds of millions of dollars that would irrevocably change and destroy the Village of Cold Spring and the area we cherish.

Scenic Hudson would like us to think this project would somehow magically control the hordes of tourists who already overwhelm Cold Spring during most of the warmer months. In reality, it would turn a small village and the surrounding area into a side-show. We need to stop this destructive plan.

Pete Salmansohn, *Garrison*

### Fence

The recent removal of the wood picket fence by Cold Spring at the riverfront to eschew future maintenance (paint) costs will have certain drawbacks.

The most obvious is that in absence of the fence, tourists may disembark from the passenger side of their vehicles directly onto the grounds, or jaywalk there and, if they fancy, sprawl out their camping kits from their cars directly onto the green.

In general, sans fencing, tourists will further run riot over the riverfront greens from any direction. The green area is thus compromised from the curb westward some 6 feet into the park to allow for a car door to swing open and discharge its bounty.

The fence enabled visitors to enjoy the green without being assailed by curb trash, traffic and tourists from behind, in

effect degrading the best use of that area. It beggars the imagination that our riverfront lies next to the proposed \$52 million "world-class linear park" — our rich but minging uncle — whereas our village can't afford to paint a bit of fence every few years. I hope that perhaps the village will realize the mistake and put the fence back.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

### Good citizen

I hate to give away my good tips, but in the interest of community spirit, here goes: Gas-station convenience stores are a go-to in a pinch for over-the-counter meds ("Cold, Flu Medicines Vanish," Jan. 13).

Christopher Daly, *via Facebook*

### Mutual aid

Regarding the discussion of mutual aid during the Jan. 11 meeting ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," Jan. 13), and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery's comments: Property owners in Cold Spring pay taxes that fund the village police and the Putnam County sheriff.

Taxpayers in Putnam County who are not property owners in Cold Spring do not pay for the village police. When sheriff's deputies respond to a call in the village, they are doing what they are paid to do. When Cold Spring officers respond to a call in Putnam County that is outside the village, it is a gift from Cold Spring taxpayers. Suggesting

that when the Cold Spring police respond to a call outside the village is "mutual aid" is inaccurate and misleading.

An agreement that outlines roles and responsibilities would be useful. In addition, the village police should track the monthly calls they respond to inside and outside the village. That would aid in future budget discussions.

Bill Pugh, *Cold Spring*

### Dockside

The state took a beautiful natural parkland and turned it into an ugly manicured nightmare ("Dockside Project Weathers First Storm of 2023," Jan. 6).

Debris plagued the "new" Dockside Park long before the latest storm. Any recent visitor knows that the new boat ramp is unusable because of the debris that washes up; that walking around the park has become dangerous because of the driftwood that people scatter across the lawn; and that the Fjord Trail ramp built at the end of the park is an eyesore, with ugly boulders marking it off.

There is nothing "natural" about the shoreline that the state parks department built, and it's insulting for them to use that language to justify this blunder. The state's poor design ruined what was once the village's jewel.

Gaston Alonso, *Cold Spring*

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# Haldane Sees Surge in College Applications

*SAT change, SUNY fee waiver fuel growth*

By Leonard Sparks

Haldane High School’s graduating class will be the largest since Julia Sniffen became principal in 2017. But that does not account by itself for another five-year peak: a surge in college applications by the school’s 90 seniors. Those students had, through Dec. 12, submitted nearly twice as many college applications, 962, as the 566 sent by last year’s seniors, Sniffen told the school board on Dec. 20. Two weeks later, she said that applications had more than doubled. Although students usually apply to as many as 10 schools, some are sending applications to 20 or more, she said. Others are taking chances on Ivy League schools and the academically elite, small institutions that comprise the New England Small College Athletic Conference, said Sniffen,

Amanda Cotchen, chair of the guidance department; and Kristen Amato, a guidance counselor for the high school. In addition, students planning to learn a trade are not just concentrating on technical schools but also applying to colleges where they can earn a degree in their fields of interest. More students are also applying to international schools, primarily in Canada and the United Kingdom. The growth partly reflects the retreat by nearly all schools from requiring SAT and ACT scores in admissions decisions in response to the pandemic, which prevented students from taking the tests. It is also fueled by the State University of New York’s decision to temporarily waive application fees. More options translate into more choices, said Haldane officials. (The number of applications at Beacon High School are “relatively similar” to last year, according to Corey Dwyer, the principal.) “We have a ton more kids applying to a ton more schools,” said Sniffen. “There are kids

who might have not thought about it that are like, ‘You know, what the heck. Why not?’” Some of Haldane’s applications are part of a record-high submitted for fall 2023 to SUNY after it announced, in October, a two-week period during which prospective in-state and out-of-state students could apply to as many as five of its 64 campuses without paying the \$50-per-application fee, thereby saving \$250. Applications more than doubled from last year, to 204,437 from 97,257, SUNY said in December. Haldane did its part by pushing students to take advantage of the waiver period before it ended on Nov. 6, said Sniffen. “We had a lot of kids who, if they were [initially] only applying to one, they ended up doing five,” she said. Although SUNY’s no-fee period ended, the system says ongoing waivers are available to students who meet certain criteria, including being in foster care, low-income or children of military veterans. Those eligible can apply for free, at any time, to as

many as seven schools, according to SUNY. Students are also trying more colleges because many schools have either instituted a “test blind” policy, meaning they no longer consider SAT scores in their admissions decisions, or have become “test optional,” meaning applicants can choose whether to send their scores. Without the SATs, “it’s more like a holistic approach, where they’re looking at everything and weighing it all,” said Cotchen. Haldane gives juniors a “jump-start” on the college application season by offering workshops on writing essays for the common application, said Sniffen. On Thursday (Jan. 19), the school hosted a college-preparatory workshop for the parents of its high school juniors, who learned about the common-application process, building resumes and choosing the right courses for the senior year. A separate workshop will focus exclusively on financial aid, said Sniffen. “It’s not the path for everybody,” Sniffen said of college. “But if it’s the path that students are choosing, and they want, we’re going to do everything we can to support them.”

# Tompkins Terrace to Get Facelift

*Beacon housing complex will request PILOT agreement*


By Jeff Simms

The owners of a Beacon affordable housing complex plan to ask the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency for a property tax break as part of a \$14.5 million rehabilitation project. Related Companies hopes to begin the 12-month renovation at Tompkins Terrace by mid-year. It purchased the complex in 2018 as part of a \$590 million deal that included 51 other below-market-rate developments in 16 states. Upgrades will include new flooring, doors, painting and free Wi-Fi in all 193 apartments, which range from studios to four-bedroom units. Kitchens and bathrooms will be rebuilt, while HVAC equipment will be replaced and other energy-efficient upgrades added. A computer lab will be added to a common area; laundry rooms will be upgraded; water heaters replaced; two new playgrounds built; and new siding and a facade will be installed. In addition, 10 apartments will be made compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act standards. The company said it will spend more than \$75,000 on each apartment, according to materials presented to the Beacon City Council on Tuesday (Jan. 17). In order to make the project work, Related representatives told the council that the company will apply to the IDA for a 40-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement. It would replace an existing PILOT for Tompkins Terrace approved in the 1970s by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal. The agreement would be the key to maintaining affordability at the complex, said


Justin Glanda, a Related representative. “The lender and our partners — they need stability around what the taxes are going to be,” Glanda said. “What do market-rate housing facilities do if their taxes all of the sudden go up? They charge their renters more money, and that contributes to inflation and all the other problems that we see on a macro basis today. “If you are a homeowner and you get a surprise 10 percent increase to your tax bill, that could definitely mess up some families’ budgets; the same thing happens at an apartment facility such as Tompkins Terrace, just on a much more impactful level,” Glanda said. The development has several agreements in place that ensure affordability. Thirty-eight units are restricted to households earning 50 percent or less of the area median income (AMI), which, in Beacon, is equal to a four-person household earning a maximum of \$56,200. The remaining 155 apartments may be rented to households earning 60 percent or less of the AMI (\$67,440 for a household of four). In addition, a contract with the Beacon Housing Authority covers 61 units and ensures those tenants pay no more than 30 percent of their household income on rent. Approximately 95 other families benefit from using mobile housing choice vouchers. If the PILOT is approved, Related, which owns and manages more than 50,000 units of affordable housing nationwide, would commit to the same 40-year term for keeping the apartments below market-rate rent, Glanda said. The proposed agreement would begin with a Year 1 payment of \$310,000 to be split between the city, the Beacon school district, Dutchess County and the public library. The payment would increase each year; over the life of the deal, Related

would pay \$19.75 million in place of annual property taxes. Under the current PILOT, the annual payment is 10 percent of the rent collected in the prior year, or about \$284,000 for 2022. Like Mirbeau Inn & Spa Beacon, the luxury hospitality company that plans to redevelop the 64-acre estate that includes

the former Craig House psychiatric hospital, Related is asking the IDA for an “enhanced,” or longer-term, PILOT. The IDA has asked Related, like Mirbeau, to secure letters of support from the city and school district. The IDA will hold a public hearing on the project before its board votes on the PILOT application.




## Real Estate Market Report



December	BEACON		PHILIPSTOWN	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	4	1	2	4
Closed Sales	9	4	9	5
Days on Market	36	56	52	51
Median Price	\$445,000	\$397,000	\$532,500	\$690,000
% List Received	98.7	93.8	102.6	95.7
Inventory	22	15	26	21

Full Year	BEACON		PHILIPSTOWN	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	128	106	141	124
Closed Sales	98	93	134	96
Days on Market	40	44	93	62
Median Price	\$427,450	\$525,000	\$591,000	\$682,500
% List Received	101.5	100.3	96.4	98.0
Inventory	21	20	40	30

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



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## Central Hudson (from Page 1)

fication for the “onslaught of bills” or an accurate reading of his meter, the suit alleges.

Another plaintiff, a Kingston man, said he received a bill for \$1,113 for mid-January to mid-February 2022, more than double what the man had averaged for previous 30-day periods. Further, the man shut off the power in his residence in March but was still billed \$525, according to the lawsuit.

“The lawsuit attributes the widespread billing issues to Central Hudson’s “hasty” release of a billing system that the utility “knew was riddled with bugs and defects.”

The suit also takes the utility to task for statements made since the billing system rollout, including comments that attributed high energy prices to cold weather, increased global demand and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Instead, citing the report by the Public Service Commission (PSC), the lawsuit attributes the widespread billing issues to Central Hudson’s “hasty” release of a billing system that the utility “knew was riddled with bugs and defects.” The company “did not bother to adequately train and educate its own staff,” leaving employees unpre-

pared to face angry customers, it said. In addition, the suit alleges “a slew of other deceptive and improper practices,” including failure to read consumers’ meters, unlawfully withdrawing funds from consumers’ bank accounts and billing consumers “exorbitant amounts” for electricity and gas they did not receive.

Following its six-month investigation, the PSC, which regulates the electric, gas, water and telecommunication industries in New York state, is considering a civil penalty. It also plans to investigate Central Hudson’s expenditures for the billing system.

Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district in the state Assembly includes Beacon, this month introduced a bill that would regulate when utilities can render estimated bills, a practice that Central Hudson employed when its new system erroneously stopped creating bills for prolonged periods.

The legislation would permit estimated bills under certain circumstances. But it would require utility companies and municipalities to submit to the PSC a model procedure for the calculation of estimated bills that incorporates best practices and technology and accounts for any barriers to the use of actual meter readings.

If adopted, the law would protect consumers from excessive fluctuations in their month-to-month bills, Jacobson wrote in a memo in support of his legislation. He also suggested that the growing availability of remote meter-reading technology should cut down on the need for estimated bills.



### Hudson Valley Community Power Electricity Supply Program

**Municipalities considering participating include:**

City of Poughkeepsie	Town of Clinton	Town of Gardiner
Town of Marbletown	Town of New Paltz	Town of Philipstown
Town of Red Hook	Town of Rhinebeck	Town of Saugerties
Village of Cold Spring	Village of Nelsonville	Village of New Paltz
Village of Saugerties		

*If your municipality selects a supplier, eligible residents and businesses will receive a letter in spring/summer 2023 with their choices and info about how to opt-out.*

The Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) electricity supply program, through Hudson Valley Community Power, enables municipalities to leverage the collective buying power of their residents and small businesses to secure more favorable terms on their electricity supply, protect consumers, and choose renewable generation sources.

**With CCA, eligible residents and small businesses will have:**

- Access to renewable electricity at competitive rates
- No individual contract and no additional bill

If you have an electric utility account in one of the listed municipalities, we invite you to attend an upcoming public info session:  
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## Veterans (from Page 1)

said to the veteran.

Monthly updates like the one taking place at Beacon City Court on Wednesday are one feature of veterans treatment courts, a program created to offer ex-military members charged with misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies a chance to avoid jail and prison.

Veterans referred to the court and accepted win a deferral of their prosecution but must commit to at least a year of monitoring by judges and address underlying problems such as alcohol and drug addiction, homelessness and joblessness.

Buffalo created the first court in 2008 and Dutchess in 2022 became the 34th municipality approved for one by the state. Former county judge Peter Forman, who lost his seat to Jessica Segal in 2020, led the effort to get a court for Dutchess.

Participants charged with felonies who agree to the program are monitored by Segal at Dutchess County Court in Poughkeepsie, while Johnston supervises veterans charged with misdemeanors.

Both judges can refuse to accept defendants referred by public defenders and private attorneys, but that rarely happens, said Tammy Bender, the resource coordinator for Dutchess' veterans court program. (A bill introduced by former Assembly Member Sandy Galef and enacted in 2021 allows ex-service members to have their cases transferred to a county with a veterans court. For example, a veteran being prosecuted in Putnam County, which does not have a court, could ask that his or her case be moved to Dutchess or Westchester.)

In addition to Mental Health America, the federal Veterans Affairs medical centers at Castle Point in Fishkill and at Montrose, just south of Peekskill, are partners.

"I am gratified to see Beacon Recovery Court expanded to focus on those who have served our country," said Johnston. "It is particularly valuable that the veteran participants are paired with a peer mentor who is well-suited to understand their unique background."

Carrion understands the difficulty veterans face when they leave the military. The West Point graduate, 40, served five years in active duty and three in the reserves. Carrion said she felt "lost" after ending her military career in 2012.

Veterans are "built a certain way in the military" that is different from civilian life, and others carry trauma from combat duty, said Carrion. She was working in banking, and feeling purposeless, when a job opened up with Vet2Vet, a peer-mentoring program that MHA runs, about three years ago.

Now she manages MHA's Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Program, named for a U.S. Army veteran who killed himself in 2020 at age 25. The program arranges treatment for suicidal veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system and offers therapies in art, horseback riding, music and yoga.

"It's my people, and being able to help even one veteran get through, survive, make their life better, is just worth it," said Carrion. "Even on my worst day, it's better



Judge Greg Johnston presides over Beacon's new veterans court.  
*Photo by L. Sparks*

than my best day in banking."

Zamaloff, 73, joined MHA two years ago after retiring as an emergency medical technician and firefighter for the Arlington Fire Department. As a medic in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1980, he did not deploy to Vietnam but saw the war's toll while treating wounded soldiers at Fort Sam Houston in Texas and other military hospitals.

He spends half his time helping veterans find jobs and the rest assisting Carrion as an outreach coordinator for the Staff Sergeant Gordon program.

"We're here to help them if they need advice, or they need a kick or whatever, just to make sure they're on the straight and narrow," said Zamaloff. "You have to do this, this and this, and the end result is not going to jail for a bad decision."

After the court session ended, Zamaloff and the veteran busied themselves hanging a banner imprinted with the logos of the U.S. military's six branches. Bender dismantled decorations put up for a drug court graduation.

During the planning for Dutchess County's veterans courts, there was a debate about whether enough veterans would participate. On Wednesday, Bender spoke with two attorneys about referrals to Segal's veterans court.

"It's kind of like, if we build it they will come," she said. "We did, and we're starting to get referrals."



This undated photo shows discarded boxes and bottles of xylazine seized in a police raid.  
*Drug Enforcement Administration*

## New Drug (from Page 1)

Like opioids, xylazine depresses breathing and heart rate. When combined with those other drugs, it raises the risk of overdose deaths, which grew last year in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

An autopsy found fentanyl and xylazine in the blood of a 14-year-old Dutchess County boy who was discovered unconscious in his home in January 2022, according to a report from the state Office of Children and Family Services.

And because xylazine is not an opioid, it doesn't respond to naloxone, or Narcan, a medication used to revive people who have overdosed. "It leaves responders with very little that they can do to help," said Lauren Johnson, a community engagement facilitator with the Prevention Council of Putnam.

First developed by Bayer and never approved for use by humans, xylazine was detected in 15 of the 103 people who died of opioid overdoses in Dutchess in 2022 through September, according to the county health department.

In 2021, the tranquilizer was present in five of 86 people who died of overdoses, and in two of 103 opioid overdoses in 2020, according to the agency.

Last week, the Putnam County Coro-

ner's Office said it recorded one overdose death involving xylazine in 2020 but none in 2021 or 2022, although opioid fatalities rose overall from two to 19.

Because routine drug screens do not detect xylazine, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), official totals could undercount the number of fatalities involving the drug. Dutchess used a federal grant to begin expanded toxicology testing in 2019.

The FDA first approved xylazine in 1972. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, veterinarians use the drug to sedate cats, cattle, dogs, sheep and other animals before treatments, and as a pain reliever and local analgesic.

Studies involving humans were stopped "due to its severe hypotension [low-blood pressure] and central nervous system depressant effects," said the DEA. Blurred vision, disorientation, drowsiness, staggering and respiratory depression are some of the other effects, said the agency.

The tranquilizer was first detected in heroin about 20 years ago in Puerto Rico.

In November, the FDA issued an alert about xylazine being mixed into street drugs, and its effects, including the developing of open wounds. Wounds can develop in areas of the body not used for injecting, it noted.

"The tranq dope literally eats your flesh," Brooke Peder, a Philadelphia resident battling addiction who lost a leg to an infection from a wound and also may lose an arm, told *The New York Times*. "It's self-destruction at its finest."

As its prevalence grows, so do the warnings from health officials.

On Dec. 27, New York City issued a public health advisory about the high prevalence of fentanyl in heroin and discovery of xylazine in the bloodstreams of a growing number of people who died from overdoses. The state Department of Health mentioned xylazine in an advisory on Dec. 9.

The Putnam County Prevention Council has been distributing — at special events, naloxone trainings and its office in Carmel — test strips that people who are addicted to opioids can use to determine if their drugs contain fentanyl, which is still the main driver of fatal overdoses. Johnson is hoping there will soon be a test strip for xylazine.

"That's how pervasive it's been in recent months," she said.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS		
	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.1% Philipstown/CS: 88.0% Garrison: 82.5%	71.7% Beacon: 68.2%
Boosted:	19.6% Philipstown/CS: 28.5% Garrison: 22.8%	21.6% Beacon: 17.9%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↓ 9.3%	↓ 12.0%
Number of deaths:	145 (+2)	734 (+3)
Source: Weekly update per state health department, as of Jan. 17 (vaccine data as of Jan. 13). Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date.		



AROUND TOWN



**DANCE PERFORMANCE** — Students from the Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon performed at the Veterans Memorial Building last month before a packed house. Spectators donated canned foods that were delivered to the food pantry at Castle Point by veterans from American Legion Post 203, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666 and Marine Corps League Detachment 861.

Photo provided



**ICE RINK COMING** — Members of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department filled up the Philipstown Recreation Center rink in Garrison on Jan. 15, although it will take a few weeks for the ice to freeze.

Photo by John Maasik



**MLK JR. DAY** — The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison hosted a community service day on Monday (Jan. 16) to honor Martin Luther King, with activities such as “random acts of kindness bingo,” letter-writing, stories, a scavenger hunt, historic video and a crowdsourced drawing of the civil rights leader.

Photo by Ross Corsair



**NEW OWNER** — Jaymark Jewelers on Route 9 in Philipstown announced this week that James Matero, 34, a great-grandson of its founder, will become its new owner. His father, Jim, who has run Jaymark since 1998, retired on Jan. 1. The shop was founded in the late 1960s by Simon Karagozian, who, at age 15, left school to make charms in Manhattan’s Diamond District.

Photo provided



**CHURCH CLOSES** — On Sunday (Jan. 15), First Presbyterian in Wappingers Falls held its final service. It was founded 175 years ago.

Facebook



**GREEN MEETS BLUE** — Members of the middle-school Green Teen program in Beacon paid a visit to the Beacon Police Department on Jan. 6 as part of their weekly civic engagement field trips. They are shown with Chief Sands Frost.

Photo provided



**SHARP SHOOTERS** — The Knights of Columbus held their annual free-throw competition on Jan. 14 at the Philipstown Recreation Center. The participants competed by age and gender, each attempting 15 shots. The winners were, clockwise from top left: Connor Feegan, William Valentine, Drew Kelly, Natalie Corless and Diarmuid Cotter. They advance to the regional contest on Feb. 26 in Poughkeepsie.

Photo by Ross Corsair



Mouths to Feed

An Un-hasty Pudding

By Celia Barbour

By some twist of fate, no chocolate dessert graced the menu at the restaurant where my husband, Peter, and I dined with a friend last week in Maine. Otherwise, there is zero chance that Peter would have sampled my dessert, a superb Indian pudding. Peter’s like that: If he’s happy with his order, he isn’t motivated to try anyone else’s.

Not me. I like to taste everything, good or bad. For me, half the pleasure in dining out comes from sampling the full range of the kitchen’s talents (or lack thereof). Luckily for my friends, I have trained myself to ask first, before poking my fork into their dishes. Perhaps that’s how I first encountered Indian pudding as a child, pilfered off someone else’s plate. My family had gone out to eat at a historic inn in Lebanon, Ohio — the kind of place that prided itself on deep-roots traditional American cooking.

This dessert fit the bill. It is one of the first native dishes adopted, then adapted, by the Europeans who swarmed this continent (the

spices in it referenced British cooking; the molasses came from the then-Portuguese-controlled West Indies). They are also the ones responsible for giving it its patronizing name, which has stuck despite occasional efforts to rechristen it: “Hasty Pudding” confused cooks as it referred to a whole host of similar dishes, as well as a Harvard social club; “Puritan Pudding,” big surprise, never caught on.

Not so the pudding itself, which quickly gained a passionate following. In 1776, Benjamin Thompson wrote, in his *Essay on Food*, “however people who have not been accustomed to the American cookery may be prejudiced against it, they will find upon trial that it makes a most excellent dish.”

Some two decades later, poet, diplomat, entrepreneur and public intellectual Joel Barlow wrote an entire 157-line mock-heroic poem in its honor, ending with the line, “To that beloved bowl my spoon by instinct flies.”

Nonetheless, Indian pudding does not sound particularly appealing on a menu, especially a dessert menu, especially to a kid. It is, after all, baked, spiced cornmeal-and-molasses mush. I wonder if that is why I have hidden away my love for this dish for so long. On the rare occasions when it has turned up on a menu, I’ve always ordered it. But I never sang its praises louder than a peep, and I’ve never tried to make it myself. To me, Indian pudding remained a humble, secret affection.

I was not even planning to make it the star of this column. But as I began casting about for a recipe idea, I found myself looking out the window for inspiration. And there it was, undeniable: the big, gray heart of winter, right upon us, eliciting a craving for tea and friends and the kind of small-scale, quiet socializing suitable to chilly days. As I pondered what would go nicely with tea (figuring you already know how to make tea), the Indian pudding from last Friday’s dinner situated itself plunk in the middle of my thoughts, like a barn cat intent on being adopted.

Served with plain whipped cream or crème fraîche, it is a lovely afternoon snack, like a super-moist tea cake. Topped with ice cream, it’s a perfect dessert — just right for sharing.



Indian Pudding

Serves 8

Active time: 20 minutes  
Total time: 2½ hours

Note: I made this with Wild Hive Finely Ground Cornmeal, which is grown and milled locally. Using commercial cornmeal may result in a different texture.

For the Pudding

4 cups whole milk	¼ teaspoon nutmeg
1 cup fine-ground corn meal (see note)	½ teaspoon cinnamon
3 tablespoons cold butter, cut into pieces	½ teaspoon sea salt
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon molasses	1 teaspoon vanilla
⅓ cup brown sugar	3 large eggs
1 teaspoon ginger	

Heat the oven to 300 degrees. Butter eight ramekins or a 2-quart covered casserole dish. (You can also use any 2-quart baking pan; simply cover it with foil while baking.) Prepare a water bath: Find a roasting pan large enough to fit your ramekins or baking dish; start a pot of water to boil.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, warm the milk. Add the cornmeal in a slow stream, whisking constantly, so it doesn’t clump. Bring to a simmer and cook, stirring, for about 10 minutes, or until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and whisk in the cold butter. Add the molasses, brown sugar, spices, salt and vanilla, and mix well.

Beat the eggs well in a small bowl, then add to the cornmeal mixture, mixing quickly to incorporate. Scoop the batter into the prepared baking dish(es), cover with buttered foil or lid, place in the roasting pan and transfer to the oven. Add boiling water to the roasting pan to come about halfway up the sides of the ramekins or casserole. Bake 1½ hours (you may need to replenish the water during baking). Meanwhile, make the topping (optional; recipe below). After 1½ hours, remove pan from oven, carefully lift the foil or lid from the pudding(s) and return to the oven for another 30 to 40 minutes, or until fully set and brown on top.

Remove from oven, lift pudding(s) from water bath and set aside to cool about 20 minutes. Serve warm, topped with ice cream or topping (see recipe below). Puddings can also be refrigerated, covered, for up to five days. Reheat in a 325-degree oven for 20 minutes before serving.

For the topping (optional)

1 cup heavy cream	2 tablespoons sour cream
1 to 2 tablespoons maple syrup or agave, or to taste	½ teaspoon vanilla

Whisk together the cream and sour cream in a small bowl. Cover with a dish towel and set aside to sit at room temperature for 1 to 2 hours. Stir and transfer to refrigerator until ready to serve. Just before serving, whip until the mixture holds soft peaks. Add the syrup and vanilla, whip briefly and serve.

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## The Calendar



Colm O'Shea with his children at Dennings Point

Photo provided

# A Bit of Joyce, a Bit of Sci-Fi, and a Loose Tooth

*Beacon writer has two new books, and one on the way*

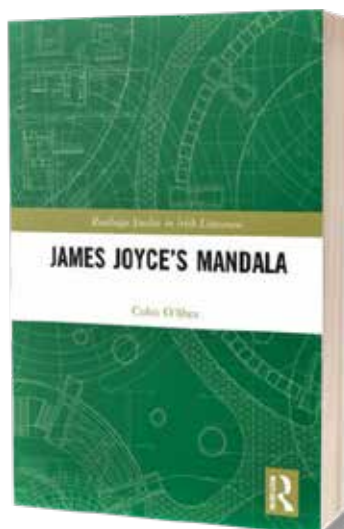
By Alison Rooney

Colm O'Shea detested school. By age 7 he found it an amalgam of "onerous tasks," he says.

Rather than rebel in more traditional ways, at recess he started writing what he later realized were poems. "They got longer, turned into short stories, then novellas," he recalls. "No one read them, though I imagined there were readers out there. Maybe if I knew there'd be readers, I'd have written what I should have, instead of only writing it for me. Who knows?"

O'Shea, a native of Cork, Ireland, who lives with his family in Beacon, has been a professor and writing consultant at New York University since 2009. Within the past few months, he has published two books, with another on the way.

*James Joyce's Mandala* is an academic monograph on what he describes as "a sustained investigation on sacred geometry" found in the works of his compatriot. More specifically, it investigates in Joyce's work the use of mandalas, which are geometric structures produced spontaneously, "sometimes as a meditation device, which alters your relationship with reality, your state of consciousness," O'Shea explains.



In the book, O'Shea argues that Joyce's literature can be understood as mandalic constructs. "Spiritual paralysis is fundamental to Joyce's fiction," he says. "Reading *Finnegan's Wake*, in which he made up parts of words, it was so hard to not think of people as much as patterns that occurred in different ways. I wanted to read it as a mandala."

O'Shea, who has a doctorate from Trinity College in Dublin and a master of fine arts and doctorate from Oxford, assumed no one outside of Joyce scholars would read his monograph. But the pandemic shifted things, with people having more time to devote to reading and mulling things over.

"I sent it off to Routledge, an academic publisher, and they took it up immediately, which was a surprise," O'Shea says. "It's funny how everything works out sometime."

His other book, *Claiming de Wayke*, had a much longer gestation period, sitting in a dusty digital drawer for a decade until

it was unearthed when O'Shea realized how prescient it had become.

It's a science-fiction novel set in Ireland in the wake of a pandemic. It predicted the social discord between those who take the threat seriously and those prematurely eager to get back to business as usual. "It's about people trying to figure out how to behave after a pandemic," he says.

(Continued on Page 17)



Dan Garcia

Photo by Jon Slackman

# A Career in Guitar

*Variety is key, says Beacon pro*

By Alison Rooney

Dan Garcia thrives on mixing things up. As a professional musician, he is able to fine-tune a balance with work and play.

"Too much of one, I get a little cranky," says the guitarist, who has lived in Beacon full time since March 2020, when the pandemic compelled his family to make the move from Brooklyn.

Garcia specializes in classical and flamenco playing but also plays everything from Latin jazz to rock. He finds himself booked in New York City several times a week while juggling guitar and music production instruction at Manhattan College and lessons for younger students at his Maple Street Studio in Beacon.

Throw in the occasional wedding and gigs with Black Magic, a Santana cover band, and the pot is full.

Garcia grew up in Madrid. At age 20, he enrolled at Indiana University to study music and continued at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a master's degree in guitar.

The instrument has long been a part of his life. When he was growing up, "there were always a couple of guitars lying around the house, including one I still have," he says. "My godfather was an amateur classical guitarist. I asked him: 'How do you do what I can do on recorder, with a guitar?' He showed me. I was 10 and had a vision: 'I want to learn, whatever it takes.'"

"He gave me lessons once a week, using nothing written down; it was all from memory. I did this from age 10 to 13. Then, being a typical teen, I turned to electric

and rock. I got back into classical guitar when I was in high school."

Once settled into New York City, Garcia spent 22 years living and teaching in Brooklyn. "The beginning [in 1998] was tough" because he lacked connections, and it was much more difficult to make them without technology such as cellphones and social media, he says. "I never left guitar, though."

**“A lot of musicians tend to think too much about the guitar and not enough about music as a whole. Guitar should be the conduit to express music.”**

At Indiana University, which has a music conservatory — something Spain didn't have at that time, according to Garcia — he honed more than just the ability to play the instrument. "A lot of musicians tend to think too much about the guitar and not enough about music as a whole," he says. "Guitar should be the conduit to express music. I understand harmony, which I can use in many forms, including jazz and classical."

"I have heard that around 30 percent of trained musicians never pursue their craft. It took me three years to have a career in music. Many others were better connected, and could dive right in. But I never had to get a full-time job [in another field], for which I am grateful."

Once Garcia broke through, there was plenty of work, including in the studio. "I got busy for many years, particularly playing

(Continued on Page 17)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## KIDS & FAMILY

WED 25

### Arctic Animal Homes

GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 4 to 11 are invited to learn about animals that live in extremely cold environments. Registration required.

THURS 26

### Kindergarten Orientation

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Elementary  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

Parents of children who will turn 5 by Dec. 1 can learn about the school and registration process.

SAT 28

### Read, Walk & Create

COLD SPRING

Noon. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D | butterflyfieldlibrary.org

Butterfield librarians will lead a walk to find natural items to

make crafts and then enjoy a book. Suitable for ages 5 to 10. Registration required.

SAT 28

### Film Fest Kick-Off Party

BEACON

1 - 3 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St.  
foundationforbeaconschools.org

The Foundation for Beacon Schools will screen films submitted for the 2022 student film festival and discuss what's coming in 2023.

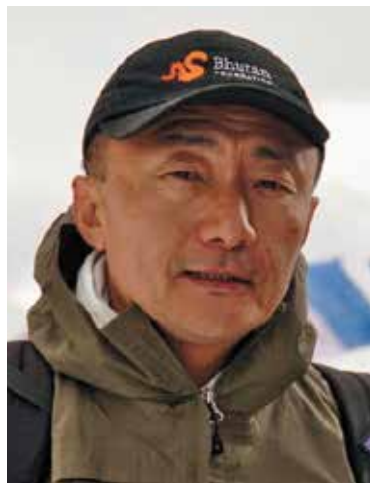
## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 21

### Community Power Info Session

1 p.m. Via Zoom  
tinyurl.com/CCAinfoJan21

Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown are exploring whether to rejoin a Community Choice Aggregation program with Hudson Valley Community Power to collectively purchase electricity from renewable sources.



WED 25

### Tshewang Wangchuk

GARRISON

1 p.m. Via Zoom  
garrisoninstitute.org

As part of the Garrison Institute's Pathways to Planetary Health series, the director of the Bhutan Foundation will discuss the core of "gross national happiness" as a social initiative and the creation of a sustainable economy. Register online.

THURS 26

### Public Health and Radioactive Wastewater

4 p.m. Via Zoom  
bit.ly/3k9qYlh

A panel of experts including Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Eric Epstein from Three Mile Island Alert, and Diane Turco, director of Cape Downwinders, will discuss the potential impacts of a proposal to release radioactive wastewater from the Indian Point nuclear energy plant into the Hudson River. Hosted by United for Clean Energy, Grassroots Environmental Education, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and others. Register online.

THURS 26

### A Fight to Rule Indigenous Land

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

In this presentation hosted by the Putnam History Museum, Heather Bruegl, a historian and citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, will share her research on the experiences of Indigenous people during the 18th-century conflict between France and Great Britain for control. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*



## COMMUNITY

SAT 21

### Vision Board Workshop

GARRISON

1 - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Think about your future and what you want to manifest, then create a personal visual map of goals and dreams. Registration required.

THURS 26

### Adult Craft: Beaded Mittens

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Bring a pair of mittens and all the supplies needed to make them unique and sparkly will be provided. Registration required.

SAT 28

### Winter Birding in the Lower Hudson

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Anne Swaim, the director of Saw Mill River Audubon, will share what birds to look for in the winter, their habits and sounds, and changes that will come as spring approaches.



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MUSIC

SAT 21

Barbacoa Trio

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)

Chris Davison (bass), Colin Hare (keyboards) and Pat Finnegan (drums) will perform jazz, funk, Latin and hip-hop music.

SAT 21

Eugene Tyler Band

BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St. | [dogwoodbeacon.com](http://dogwoodbeacon.com)

SAT 21

Max Creek

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The band, with five decades of songwriting and recording experience, will play everything from rock to calypso. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

MON 23

Jeff Davis

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.  
[quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)

The drummer and his ensemble, which includes Kirk Knuffke (cornet), Jonathan Goldberger (guitar) and Drew Gress (bass), will play as part of Quinn's weekly jazz session.

FRI 27

Open Mic

BEACON

7 – 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Jay Strauss and Christopher Tirone take over the monthly series of music, spoken word and poetry from Thom Joyce, who retired after hosting for 25 years. The doors open at 6:15 p.m. for sign-up and a lottery will be held at 6:45 p.m. for spots.

SAT 28

American Influences

WEST POINT

2 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre  
655 Pitcher Road | 845-938-4159  
[ikehall.com](http://ikehall.com)

This West Point Band concert will include works by composers who influenced, defined and interpreted the nation through song. *Free*

SAT 28

Gratefully Yours

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The Grateful Dead tribute band will take dream-set lists from the audience. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 29

Zhu Wang

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

The pianist, appearing as part of

the Howland Chamber Music Circle series, will perform works by Bach, Beethoven, Marc-André Hamelin, Chou Wen Chung and Brahms. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students ages 25 and younger)*



David Gaines, Andrew McGill, Carly Ciarrocchi and Kevin Allison will be the featured storytellers in this monthly series. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 22

Sally Mayes

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

The Tony-nominated actor and singer will perform a cabaret show. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors, students)*

FRI 27

All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)Depot Docs will screen this 2022 documentary by Laura Poitras that explores artist Nan Goldin's attempts to hold the Sackler family accountable for its role in the opioid abuse epidemic. *Cost: \$25*

Visual Arts

SAT 28

Member Show

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Works by artist members will be on view in this 59th annual exhibit. Through Feb. 12.

CIVIC

MON 23

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

MON 23

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org)

WED 25

Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

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57 E Willow St.	Beacon	4	2/0	1,524	\$450,000
249 Main St., 404	Beacon	1	1/0	1,555	\$600,000
36 Tilden Ave.	Beacon	4	2/0	2,000	\$715,000
211 Old Castle Point Rd.	Fishkill	3	2/1	3,001	\$869,000


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# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

*Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.*

## 150 Years Ago (JANUARY 1873)

A herd of 17 cattle belonging to a Chenango County drover broke through the ice while crossing to Newburgh but were finally got out by the exertion of men from shore with ropes and planks.

On a Saturday night at Fishkill Landing, a crowd was alighting from a northbound train when a southbound lightning express that was running late shot past at full speed and caused several narrow escapes from death.

A son of William Mosier of Matteawan nearly lost an eye in a bizarre accident. He was lying on the floor in front of a sofa where his brother was reading the newspaper in his lap with an open knife lying on it. The knife slid off the paper and missed William's pupil by a half inch. He was expected to recover.

While visiting his stable on a Sunday morning, Maj. Albert Wescott of Glenham discovered a horse with a broken hind leg. It had apparently been kicked by its mate in the stall.

A convict who escaped from Sing Sing prison in Ossining managed to reach Fishkill Landing just before daylight. Cold and weak with hunger, he spotted a white cow and fed himself from one of her teats. At nightfall, he continued to his former wife's home in Poughkeepsie. He knocked on the door at 1 a.m. and, when the new owner, Mrs. Sylvester Warren, cautiously answered, the man immediately dropped into a chair. Mrs. Warren lit a lamp and gave him food. As it happened, a neighbor named Martin Lougherman recognized the visitor as James Brady, a convicted horse thief. He knew this because Brady had stolen his horse, and he had testified against him. He alerted the police, who detained Brady.

Conductors on the New York Central and Hudson Railroad complained about a new system that required them to make five punches to each ticket. As an example, if a man traveled from Dutchess Junction to Fishkill Landing, the conductor needed to punch "Jan" and the day, "Dutchess Junction" and "Fishkill" and finally "10" for the 10-cent fare. He then returned half the ticket to the passenger.

## 125 Years Ago (JANUARY 1898)

The local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals demanded the Matteawan school board discipline a physiology teacher who allegedly killed

a cat with chloroform and dissected it in class. The principal said the teacher was being unfairly maligned; he said she had only shown organs taken from a cat to her students, some of whom grew nauseous and later complained to their parents. When the board declined to pass a resolution offering its support for the teacher, and instead banned all dissections, she and the principal each resigned in protest.

James Hancock, a Matteawan farmer, said one of his cows gave birth to a two-headed calf that lived a short time.

Five women took part in a wood-sawing contest for charity at the Dibble Opera House in Matteawan. Spectators paid to watch the women saw pine sticks, about 2 inches in diameter, for two minutes, rest for two minutes, repeat the process and finish with one minute of sawing. Belle Moshier easily won first prize, a gold watch, sawing through 47 sticks, followed by Ada Trainor with 20.

The Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane hosted a minstrel show for 500 village residents performed by patients and guards.

Lt. Eugene Antonio, a member of the Salvation Army in Matteawan, was nearly gored by a bull on Samuel Mahurter's farm. The Salvationists were taking a tour when Antonio wandered into the enclosure. When the bull charged, Antonio grabbed its horns and was taken for a ride until his cries brought rescuers.

New York City police officers raided four Wall Street firms accused of swindling customers, including Everett Patterson, a telegraph operator at Matteawan. He testified at a hearing that after he invested \$200 and received \$87 in profits, he was offered a 65 percent return on \$1,000, which disappeared.

A 16-year-old Wappingers Falls girl who went missing for three days said she had been at Fishkill Landing with her married supervisor from the overalls factory. The girl told her mother she was going to the post office but instead met with John Seaman, 25, at the Methodist Church and traveled in his wagon to a hotel. Seaman, charged with abduction and rape, was released on bail to his home in Poughkeepsie, which was soon surrounded by 200 girls from the factory who had brought tar and feathers. The girls also passed a resolution to blacklist Seaman from the United Garment Makers union. [In May, Seaman pleaded guilty to the abduction but said he was so drunk that nothing more criminal had taken place.]

Charles Barton, who ran express delivery between Wappingers Falls and Fishkill, stopped his wagon in Hughsonville when flagged down by a cousin, John Moshier, who needed a ride. After they had gone a short distance, Barton asked Moshier to take the reins and apparently went to sleep. Three miles later, when the wagon reached the stables, Moshier discovered Barton was dead.

## 100 Years Ago (JANUARY 1923)

A judge ordered that voter registrations be mailed to 152 residents in Beacon who could not vote in the November primary because the election board ran out of forms. The voters were instructed to take the completed forms to City Hall if they wanted to vote in the Jan. 30 primary.

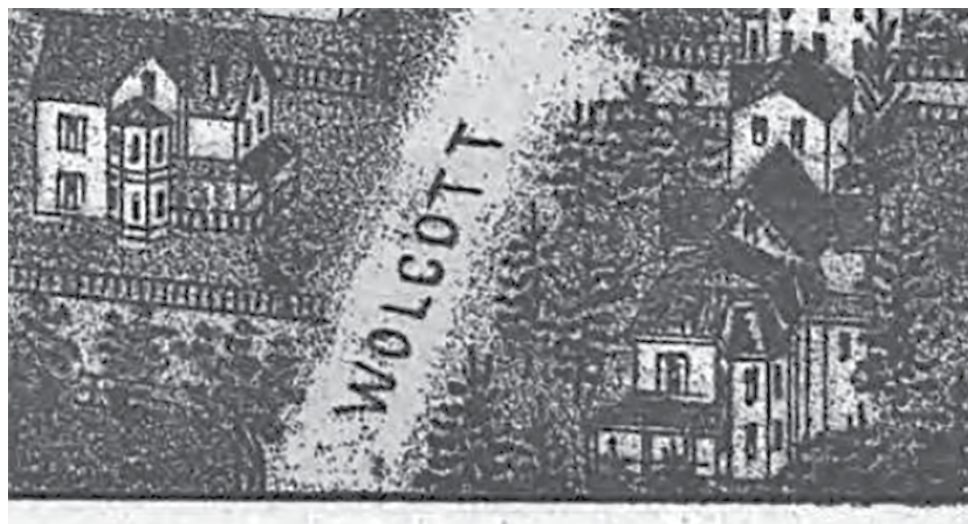


### ▲ FOUND HAT —

This hat traveled from the Debway Hat factory at 1 East Main St. in Beacon to the head of Pvt. Peter Roger Silva of California, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. The Beacon Historical Society purchased the hat on eBay. The factory opened in 1935 and was one of the largest hat manufacturers in the city, according to Diane Lapis of the historical society. Debway also made caps for female tour guides and attendants at the New York's World Fair in 1939.



▲ LOST HISTORY — Diane Lapis of the Beacon Historical Society says it doesn't have any records of the home that burned at Wolcott and Teller on Jan. 3, although it was considered a Second Empire style popular from about 1855 to 1885. "The mansard roof gives a sense of stateliness and grandeur and the home was built for a wealthy family," she says. "The shape was a simple box form with symmetrical windows and doors." The original owner may have been C. Eugene Jaynes, who worked for the railroad in Yonkers and came to Beacon in 1880, she said. He died in 1915 and his widow lived until her death at age 95 in 1953. Later in the decade, the local paper advertised rooms to let in the house.



The home, at lower right, appeared in an 1886 map of Fishkill Landing.

Beacon Historical Society (3)

Eugene Daly, formerly manager of the Paragon Theatre, left Beacon for a better job as manager of the Century Theatre in Baltimore.

A 45-year-old Beacon man who worked for the ferry company drowned when he fell into the river. He and a co-worker were tying up the last boat of the night when he slipped on the deck and fell into the water. His co-worker managed to grab his hand but, after a few minutes, could not hold on because of the cold.

John Palisi of Beacon High School donated a pint of blood to a classmate, Ogden Seaman, for a transfusion operation at Vassar Hospital. Many other students had volunteered but Palisi was chosen after blood tests.

A Friday morning fire destroyed a two-

story building at Beekman and Main streets, displacing seven families. One firefighter, Augustus Bopp, was overcome by illuminating gas [used for lamps] while rescuing occupants.

A branch of the Kiwanis Club was founded with 50 charter members.

A jury awarded Josephine Smith and her son, George, \$1,350 in damages following an auto crash. George was driving his mother's new touring car, purchased the previous day, through Beacon when he said he pulled to the right to let a Tidewater Oil Co. truck pass. Instead, the two vehicles locked hub caps. The truck driver said that, in fact, he had moved to the right and the Smiths struck him.

(Continued on Page 15)



(Continued from Page 14)

**75 Years Ago** (JANUARY 1948)

William Hamm, the longtime director of physical education at Beacon High School, was told by the school board that his job had been eliminated but he could apply for the new position as physical education instructor for \$750 less per year. Hamm said he would think about it. "This is the best job I ever had in Beacon because I am through at 2:30 p.m. and can go out in the country with the chickens and humans," he said. Hamm had irritated the board by submitting an overtime bill, for coaching the cross-country team, which it declined.

The New York Central Railroad Co. paid a \$38,000 settlement [about \$470,000 today] to the widow of a signal-maintenance worker who was electrocuted while cutting wires on a Beacon bridge.

**50 Years Ago** (JANUARY 1973)

Anthony Degelormo, who lived on Dutchess Terrace, asked the City Council to issue ID cards for door-to-door salespeople because many "won't identify themselves and are difficult to get rid of." The mayor said that because the city couldn't screen out bad actors, it would effectively be licensing people to commit criminal mischief.

A proposal to build a 12-story apartment building on Fishkill Avenue between Main Street and Verplanck returned to the Planning Board for the sixth time in six months.

Although a consultant suggested restricting the height of any building to 100 feet, the board recommended a zoning change to allow up to 13 stories and 135 feet.

During his annual State of the City address, Mayor Robert Cahill said: "1972 will be looked upon as the year of turnaround for Beacon. For the first year in a very long time, the thinking of the residents of the city has turned positive."

The commissioner of public works chastised Main Street residents who were putting their trash on the curb four or five days before collection.

Because of student violence during the lunch period, the Beacon High School principal suggested to the school board that it be eliminated by reducing classes by three minutes each and ending the day at 1 p.m. Over the previous three weeks, a student had choked a teacher, another slammed a door into a teacher's face and three others struck a custodian with a shovel. The board blamed the overcrowded, poorly lit school building, while the Rev. David Houston of the United Methodist Church said the bigger problem was that most residents "want someone else to solve the problems at the lowest cost possible."

Notre Dame's men's basketball team, coached by Beacon native Digger Phelps, defeated Marquette, 71-69, to end its 81-game home winning streak.

Funeral home director Dick Phelps (the father of Digger Phelps) sifted through

the Chrystie family vault at the Reformed Church to collect the bones of Col. William Few, one of the signers of the Constitution, so they could be reburied in his native Georgia. A New York banker, Few died in Fishkill Landing in 1828 while visiting his daughter. His burial site was in question until 1939, when a resident entered the vandalized vault and found a silver casket plate with his name amid the debris.



Col. William Few

Douglas Clarke, a Beacon native who was jailed in 1948 for refusing to give information to an Orange County grand jury while he was news editor at *The Newburgh News*, died of a heart attack at age 57 at the *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown, where he was the Sunday editor. Clarke was sentenced to 10 days for refusing to reveal how he obtained two illegal lottery tickets as part of a story about gambling in Newburgh.

In a four-part series in *The Poughkeepsie Journal*, a reporter examined hous-

ing, race relations and economic change in Beacon. In Part 3, Jim McKenna, who had moved from New York City 10 months earlier, said: "A lot of our friends have come up to visit and have fallen in love with the place. In fact, one of my friends has decided to move here." Another resident observed: "Do you realize that the prices for comparable homes in Westchester are nearly double what they are in Beacon? Sooner or later, Beacon is going to reach that point."

A developer revealed plans to construct a shopping center called the Dutchess Mall on Route 9 south of I-84 with 70 stores, including Macy's, and the potential for 1 million square feet of retail space.

**25 Years Ago** (JANUARY 1998)

Metro-North committed \$300,000 to study whether it could create a commuter service from Beacon to Brewster to connect the Hudson and Harlem lines. A major challenge would be crossing Routes 9 and 52.

The state installed E-Z Pass tolls on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

After its boiler died, the Howland Public Library closed for a week, then reopened with space heaters.

A judge delayed the sentencing of a 19-year-old honors student who pleaded guilty to vehicular assault following a high-speed police chase through Beacon at 3:30 a.m. The judge said he would suspend the case until late May, after the defendant finished his term at Marist.

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Bloodroot is one of the earliest flowers to bloom in the forest and the flowers emerge before it is fully leaved out.

### Roots and Shoots

## Digging Up Plants Online

By Pamela Doan

Online searches for information about plants can lead to a diverse array of bloggers, garden writers, research papers, magazines, cooperative extensions and nonprofits, such as arboreta and botanical gardens.



Here are a few that have been enormously interesting and useful to me.

#### • Cornell Botanic Gardens

[cornellbotanicgardens.org/learn/explore-our-plants](https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/learn/explore-our-plants)

This database has information gleaned from the study of 10,000 plants maintained on the grounds of the university in Ithaca, making it particularly relevant for New York gardeners. In addition to the details about a plant's characteristics, its citations include differences noted because of climate change. For example, the bloodroot on campus bloomed an average of 11.3 days earlier between 1986 and 2015.

The listings also include details about the value of the plant to wildlife. Using bloodroot again, I learned it is a larval host for the southern armyworm and tufted apple bud moth, as well as a pollen source for mining bees and sweat bees when few other flowers are blooming early in the spring.

#### • Native American Ethnobotany

[naeb.brit.org](https://naeb.brit.org)

Indigenous peoples discovered the medicinal and practical uses for native plants and trees; this searchable database began in 1977 on index cards and included nearly 5,000 items as part of an effort to preserve their collective knowledge. After being published as a book of the same name in 1989, the database continued to

be updated and has nearly 45,000 listings.

There are several ways to search. A tribal search lists nearly 300 U.S. tribes with the flora they used and their purposes. There are sources listed for further study and links to the U.S. Department of Agriculture database that has specific plant information. Although I found some non-working links, it's a huge cache that gives a more nuanced view of the natural world and the possibility of our connections to it.

For instance, an entry for bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) brought up 133 uses by 20 tribes that included medicinal, ceremonial and clothing dye uses. It seems to have been useful for treatments of everything, from stomach to heart and respiratory issues.

#### • Bplant.org

This is a volunteer-run site that focuses on ecology and plants by eco-region. A search using my home address in Philipstown brought up these results:

##### NORTH AMERICA

Northern Forests

↳ Atlantic Highlands

↳ Northeastern Highlands

↳ Glaciated Reading Prong/  
Hudson Highlands

From there, I could read detailed information about any of those headings down



Bloodroot leaves are distinctive and will usually disappear in mid-summer as the plant goes dormant.

*Bplant.org* (2)

to the specific glacial history that shaped the area and the geological foundation.

Key species listed are forests of sugar maple, northern red oak, American beech, white oak, chestnut oak, sweet birch and shagbark hickory, among others. The terrain and bordering areas are also described.

The plant lists for the "Glaciated Reading Prong/Hudson Highlands" haven't been finished but a broader list for the Northeastern Highlands lists more than 1,517 plants and trees. The listing for bloodroot has 20 paragraphs of content about its habitat, life cycle and wildlife value, and maps with distribution, links to other content and photos of its foliage and flowers.

For anyone who wants to dig deep into eco-region planting, this site is a great place to start for native plants.

#### • The Native Plant Center

[sunywcc.edu/about/npc/plants](https://sunywcc.edu/about/npc/plants)

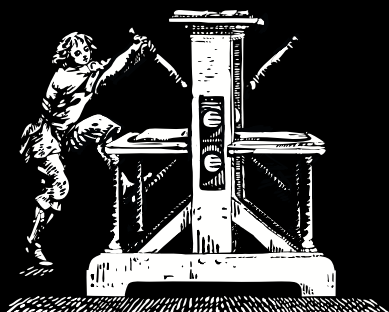
Located on the campus of SUNY Westchester Community College, this affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas was founded in 1998 and hosts classes, a plant sale, gardens and plant lists for native plants to grow in our area, organized by such conditions as sun and shade, as well as information about deer-resistant plants and invasive species.

It links to the LBJ Center (wildflower.

org), another online database with more than 7,000 species listed. I appreciate that in this database I can search for plants via queries by state, habit, light needs, height, bloom time, color and many more criteria.

For example, a search for New York perennials that grow in dry shade conditions, bloom in the fall and grow to be 3 to 6 feet tall revealed ... nothing. But when I dropped the height requirement and bloom time, I got four plants and I was familiar with only one of them, common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). Now I have a new plant list to use during forest walks.

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



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## KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Kindergarten registration process for the 2023-2024 school year. Children turning five on or before December 1, 2023 who live in the Haldane Central School District are eligible for Kindergarten.

Parents are invited to attend a:

• **Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Thurs., Jan. 26th, 2023 at 7:00PM. (2/2 Snow date)**

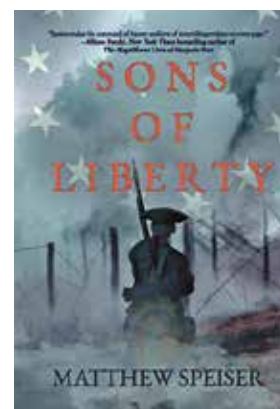
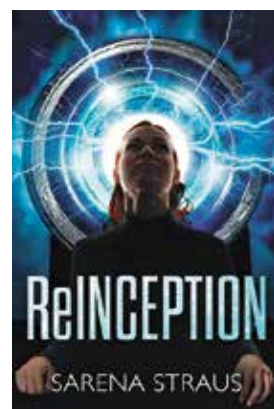
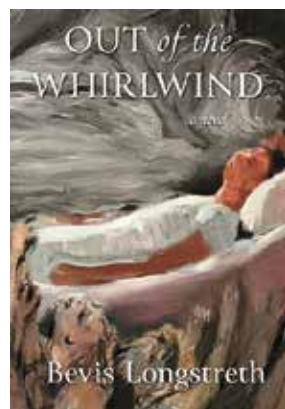
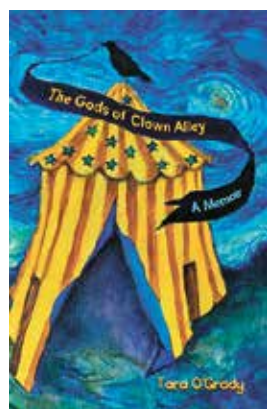
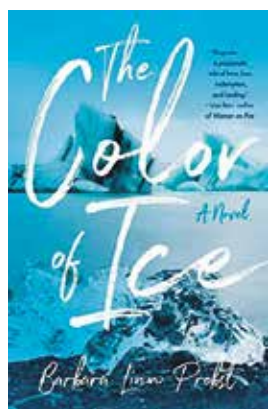
Please see the website for details.

To register, please complete the registration packet on our website: [www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org). Click on **Quick Parent Links**, **Registration** then **Kindergarten Registration**. Fill out and submit the required forms along with supporting documentation then kindly schedule an appointment with **Sue Hylka @ 845-265-9254 ext. 122 on Feb. 6th-10th, 2023 (8:15am-2:00pm)** to complete the registration process.

Parents registering children in person should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance and will be directed to the registration location. Registrants must have all forms completed and must bring or upload a copy of the child's **birth certificate**, his/her **immunization record** signed by a physician, and all **Proof of Residency forms** indicating that the family resides in the Haldane School District.

Please call Mrs. Hylka directly if you have any questions.





## More Notable Books by Local Authors

### **The Color of Ice**

By Barbara Linn Probst

This novel by the author of *Queen of the Owls* and *The Sound Between the Notes* follows Cathryn McAllister, a freelance photographer who travels to Iceland for a photo shoot with an enigmatic artist who wants to capture the blue icebergs in glass. When the job is done, she begins a solo trip but slowly abandons her plan so she can remain with Mack, a glassblower. Then comes a shocking discovery, and a devastating choice.



### **The Gods of Clown Alley: A Memoir**

by Tara O'Grady

O'Grady shares her story of healing after a debilitating episode of depression when she realizes that George Lucas was right: The Force is real. She recounts traveling the world with her mother, an Irish immigrant and home caregiver, inspired by their favorite books and films, searching for love, meaning



and happiness. Influenced by artists such as John Lennon, Ernest Hemingway and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as a cast of her mother's aging patients, O'Grady reveals the secrets of surviving the circus using the universal wisdom of *Star Wars*.

### **Out of the Whirlwind**

by Bevis Longstreth

In his most recent novel, the author of *Chains Across the River: A Novel of the American Revolution* tells the story of Adam Hudson, a young man coming of age in the 1950s in the New York metropolitan area. He struggles with ambiguities about sexual identity and the expectations of a dominant father. While he thrives as a lawyer and family man, he is deeply tormented by his homosexuality.



### **ReInception**

by Sarena Straus

In the first of a sci-fi trilogy, Straus imagines a time when technology can eliminate unwanted behaviors. It is 2126 in New York

City, and parents are allowed to modify their children's brains until they turn 20 with a technology invented to cure addicts. Leandrea, an "unmodified" college student, empathizes with the working-class Proles but doesn't have the motivation to take action until her boyfriend is modified by his family in reaction to her "bad influence." In desperation, Leandrea turns to a Prole involved in a plot to undermine modification.



### **Sons of Liberty**

by Matthew Speiser

This debut novel charts the life of Ulysses Brooke, a rising political star in Old Virginia. When he is arrested in 1845 for theft and treason, the world learns the truth: Brooke is an abolitionist and revolutionary, with a trove of buried treasure. In the interwoven narrative, Brooke causes ripples across centuries, from the rise of Gilded Age icon Sam Billings to the work of FBI agent Alvin Starkman.



## Writer (from Page 11)

Living through the pandemic and experiencing its social tensions "blew my mind how aligned they were" with his earlier writing, O'Shea says. "It was weird watching people slowly realize this was a big problem; it was almost like we were spectators."

The book wasn't snapped up by a publisher when written, something O'Shea ascribes, at least in part, to the fact it was written in a strong Cork dialect. "That may have given some publishers pause," he admits. "I also recall them telling me dystopian sci-fi had run its course."

After retrieving his manuscript, O'Shea made small edits and additions but didn't do any serious pruning or expanding. "It's almost like it had to wait for 10 years to be ready, in the eyes of other people, and then it was," he says. "Of course, the argument against it now has altered to 'people have just been through a pandemic and may not want to read about it; too close to the bone.'"

In light of these concerns, O'Shea hired Alma Alexander, a sci-fi editor. She had a few suggestions but also made a connection to Crossroads Press, which bought it.

Despite the ease in finding a publisher,

there are the challenges of promotion, which is not in O'Shea's comfort zone. "It's a strange time," he says. "We're in a neo-Victorian, anarchic, rabble-rousing Andrew Jackson period, hard-pressed to figure out what century we're in."

"I'm realizing now that I spent my entire education learning how to write, but zero time learning how to market. Most of the writers I know are introverted and don't want to be center stage. With all my dreaming of being a writer, I would never have thought of having to peddle."

O'Shea is working on a book "about the rise of AI [artificial intelligence] and its taking over a lot of intellectual work," he says. As a result, "universities regress to their medieval function, where places to reflect turn into sectarian places of conflict as city-states."

Other projects include a monograph on filmmaker Charlie Kaufman, poems and more writing on the intersection of film and philosophy.

There's also *Wiggliest Tooth in Toothberg*, a forthcoming collaboration with his wife, Marie, and Zadie, the eldest of their four children. "It's about a wiggly tooth, forever holding on by a thread."

## Guitar (from Page 11)

classical or Latin jazz, Brazilian jazz, Cuban, a lot of Spanish music, too, which I still do."

"I love playing classical guitar, then a few days later in a guitar duo, with a singer," he says. "This keeps my musicality alive and interesting. Not long ago I played a classical guitar concert at the Howland Cultural Center. It was a fantastic experience... In my circle, we do different things."

After his family sold their home in Beacon and bought another, Garcia created Maple Street Studio ([dangarciaguitar.com](http://dangarciaguitar.com)), where he teaches both children and adults. Many adults interested in lessons begin in confusion over the differences between classical guitar and flamenco, he says. According to Garcia, classical guitar doesn't have to be Spanish, whereas flamenco is folkloric traditional music from Spain.

"People get confused by listening to music like the Gypsy Kings," he says. "When people say they want to do flamenco, I interview them to see how much they know before they dive into it." He adds: "A big part of my teaching is about staying motivated when you're learning; most people give up because there are no goals."

## Current Classifieds

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Rick Gedney (1948-2023)

Richard H. Gedney Jr., 74, of Philipstown, passed away Jan. 14 after a long battle with pneumonia.

Rick was born Dec. 19, 1948, in Port Chester, New York, the son of Richard H. and Sarah (Abrams) Gedney. He grew up in Rye and graduated from Rye High School, where he played football and baseball and was a member of a band, The Lonely Souls. He went on to graduate from Franklin College in Indiana with a degree in art. There he met his first wife, Barbara Myers (deceased). They raised their two daughters in White Plains. Rick went into the banking industry and throughout, he maintained his love and desire to paint and play music, teach guitar and play at family holiday gatherings. He was president of the White Plains Historical Society for a number of years.

Rick took an opportunity for early retirement to focus on art and music. He met his second wife, Michele, through his pursuit of music and they began collaborating on original material as a duo called Open Book, recording four albums over more than two decades as touring musicians.

In 2009, Rick and Michele moved to Philipstown, an area that he was drawn to by the beauty of the landscape that he had begun painting. In his home studio, he painted daily, producing a body of work that is reflective of his spiritual connection with nature. His work has appeared in galleries across the Hudson Valley, with a successful solo exhibition in his hometown of Cold Spring in 2022. Rick was a board member of The Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. He and Michele are co-founders and teachers at an annual songwriting retreat, led by Dar Williams, called “Writing a Song That Matters.” Rick also taught guitar to many kids in his community.

Rick is survived by his wife, Michele; their daughters, Kristin (Mark), Sarah (Tim) and Lindsay; his grandsons, Andrew, James, Charlie and Theo; his siblings Devon, Rex (Laura Lee) and Allyson (Lloyd); his mother-in-law, Regina; his sisters-in-law, Alison (Ric) and Liza (Jordan); and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will be dearly missed by his family, his wide circle of friends in the art and music worlds and everyone who has been touched by his brilliant talent, kindness, generosity and humor.

Memorial donations may be made to The Chapel Restoration, 45 Market St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 ([chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)), where a service will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 28.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the Libby Funeral Home, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, NY; to offer a message of condolence or share fond memories please visit [LibbyFuneralHome.com](http://LibbyFuneralHome.com).

Photo by Ross Corsair

PAID NOTICE



Myra Endler (1934-2023)

Myra Endler passed away quietly on the evening of January 10, 2023.

Myra Lynette Thayer Endler, the oldest of 5 siblings, was born in 1934 and raised in North Carolina.

After graduating from St. Mary’s College in Louisburg, North Carolina, where she was crowned their May Queen, Myra was intent on becoming a Capitol Hill staffer. Toward that end she went on to study at the prestigious Washington School for Secretaries. It was at the National Gallery of Art early in 1954 that she met her husband, newly minted Lieutenant James Endler. Together, they began married life in Cleveland, Ohio, soon to move back east where they would raise two children in South Orange, New Jersey and, beginning in 1971, Garrison, New York.

An ardent admirer of fine things and beauty, during much of the 70’s and 80’s Myra served as a docent at Boscobel under the tutelage of Fred Stanyer. She enjoyed years of gardening and flower arranging with the Philipstown Garden Club, which served to be the source of innumerable deep and treasured friendships. She also never grew tired of the decorative arts which she practiced on the canvas of her own home, skillfully blending the shifting tides of current trends with elegant, traditional style. Myra enthusiastically enjoyed this pursuit along with the valued counsel of her daughter-in-law, Anne.

Myra is survived by her children, Peter Endler and Julie (Paul Heckert), of Garrison, New York; grandchildren Hudson Heckert of Saratoga, New York, and Henry Heckert of Garrison; her sister and brother-in-law Nina and Barnett Reynolds of Raleigh, North Carolina; niece Jamie Thayer, nephew Theodore Thayer, niece Teresa Gore, and nephew John Thayer; brother-in-law Jack Kiviat, nieces Susan Kiviat and Karen Hancock, and nephew Alan Kiviat. She was predeceased by her husband James R. Endler, her daughter-in-law Anne Endler, and her siblings Marilyn Edwards, Wyatt Thayer, Jr., and Lindsey Mendenhall Thayer.

Following a graveside service attended by family, interment will be at West Point where she will rejoin James to cheer on the ranks of that ghostly assemblage.

In lieu of flowers, Myra would be most grateful for any contributions made to organizations such as Mid-Hudson Animal Aid ([midhudsonanimalaid.org](http://midhudsonanimalaid.org)), or caring for our neighbors by supporting an important local organization like Philipstown Aging At Home ([www.paah.net](http://www.paah.net)).

Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home.

PAID NOTICE

OBITUARIES

Anne Impellizzeri (1933-2023)

Anne E. Impellizzeri, 89, a former longtime Cold Spring resident, died Jan. 5 in New Rochelle of complications of advanced dementia.

She was born on Jan. 26, 1933, in Chicago, the daughter of Armin and Laura (Gundlach) Elmendorf. She spent her first years in Brussels, where French became her first language, then attended kindergarten through high school in Winnetka, Illinois.

In 1961, she married Julius Impellizzeri, a former Manhattan assistant district attorney who later served as CEO of Exercycle Corp. and as an investigator for the Knapp Commission on police corruption in New York City. He died in 1987. Her longtime partner, Daniel Wright, died in 2015.

In the late 1970s, Anne established MetLife’s corporate social responsibility department, among the first in the nation. In this position, she persuaded the company to buy supplies and services from minority- and women-owned businesses for the first time.

After earning a master of arts in teaching in 1957 as a member of the first Yale University graduate class ever to include women, Anne began her career teaching history and German language at a high school in New Haven, Connecticut. She then joined MetLife’s education department and retired as vice president of group life in 1988.

Anne went on to lead Blanton-Peale Institute and Counseling Center in New York and



Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center in Garrison and serve as treasurer of Scenic Hudson. Earlier, she was president and then chair of the National Association for Gifted Children and a leader of the New York City Partnership. She supported arts education and art and music institutions, and in later years pursued her passion for global travel, touring China, India and Europe and marveling at a stampede in North Dakota and volcanology in California.

As president of Lakeland Central School District, she led negotiations to end a protracted teachers strike in 1970. She served two terms as alumna trustee of Smith College, where she had graduated magna cum laude in the Class of 1955, and she was alumni trustee of Yale University. And she served on the boards of Nuveen Mutual Funds; the Bard Music Festival; the Women’s City Club of New York; the Howland Chamber Music Circle; and Network 20/20.

In the 2000s, as a member of the Village of Cold Spring Code Update Committee and the Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan, she devoted many hours of passionate research and conversation to community planning and earned the vocal enmity of Fox News chief Roger Ailes, a Garrison resident at the time.

Along with her daughter, Laura Wakeling, Anne is survived by her brother, A. Edward Elmendorf; her stepsons, Julius Impellizzeri and Robert Walker; and by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her son, Theodore, died in 1986.

A memorial service in Garrison is planned for later this year. Memorial donations may be made to Manitoga ([visitmanitoga.org](http://visitmanitoga.org)).

The Cold Spring  
Chamber of Commerce  
extends a heartfelt  
**THANK YOU!**  
to the dedicated volunteers  
who staffed the Visitor's Center in 2022:

Jennifer Carlquist  
Alex Wilcox Cheek  
Bruce Croushore  
Rich Franco  
Priscilla Goldfarb  
Jack Goldstein

Antonia Koedijk  
Kirsti Lattu  
Nat Prentice  
JC Prinzo  
Sue Rutkowski  
Hannah Salit

Thank you for the many hours devoted  
to welcoming and guiding our visitors.

COLD  
SPRING  
CHAMBER



Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Energy

4. Amtrak express

9. Sushi fish

12. Praise in verse

13. VIP on Air Force One

14. Tennis feat

15. Museum piece

17. Train lines (Abbr.)

18. Sprite

19. Holler

21. Word game with dice

24. Horseshoe site

25. Brit. record label

26. Not 'neath

28. Bolivian city

31. Wilson's predecessor

33. Observe

35. Castle

36. Caper

38. Music booster

40. GPS suggestion

41. Skip

43. Telethon array

45. Soft and weak

47. Kanga's kid

48. Use a shovel

49. Land in the Irish Sea

54. Oklahoma city

55. Beethoven's Für —

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

56. Kimono sash

57. Unruly group

58. Impudent

59. Tex- — cuisine

**DOWN**

1. Pledge

2. Wedding words

3. Mal de —

4. Moon mission

5. Brewed beverages

6. JFK info

7. *The Addams Family* butler

8. Houston team

9. Picnic veggie

10. Beige

11. For fear that

16. Small barrel

20. Thy

21. Alpha follower

22. Muscat's land

23. Eloquent

27. Actor Stephen

29. Memory method

30. Stretches (out)

32. Marathoner's stat

34. Catherine, notably

37. Municipalities

39. "Nuts!"

42. Inventor Nikola

44. Gut-punch reaction

45. Wax-coated cheese

46. Rover's pal

50. Fleur-de- —

51. Oft-tattooed word

52. Jurist Fortas

53. Kibosh

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Answers for Jan. 13 Puzzles

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

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

1. SLIPCASE, 2. POISED, 3. FONTS, 4. COLLECTIVE, 5. HOIST, 6. ROWBOATS, 7. STOLIDLY

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see [highlandscurrent.org/puzzles](http://highlandscurrent.org/puzzles).

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

**CLUES**

1 single-piece baby outfit (6)

2 used a straw (6)

3 place for lecture notes (6)

4 4th-largest Hawaiian island (5)

5 TV personality Philbin (5)

6 Jet d'Eau or Trevi (8)

7 lessening (7)

**SOLUTIONS**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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© 2022 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### WRESTLING

Coach Ron Tompkins and the Beacon wrestling team knew they were in for a tough match on Wednesday (Jan. 18) hosting Goshen, and the Gladiators won in four of the five lightest weight classes before Beacon responded at 160, 189 and 215 pounds.

Unfortunately, that wasn't enough to complete the comeback, and the Bulldogs fell, 48-27.

Sophomore Brody Timm picked up the most dramatic victory, a 2-0 win at 160 pounds, in a bout that was scoreless entering the third period. Timm improved his season mark to 15-2.

"Brody looked excellent," Tompkins said. "He's just coming off winning a Scarsdale tournament title, and he stayed focused."

Alex Khalil, a senior wrestling at 189 pounds, pinned his opponent, improving to 13-4. "He wrestled a tight match, and he could have gotten pinned" himself, Tompkins said. "But he came back" to win.

Junior Jayden Calloway earned a win by pin at 215 pounds, improving to 24-2. "Jayden didn't force anything," the coach said. "He settled in and took control."

Sophomore Jude Betancourt came up with a big win at 138 pounds, improving to 11-4. "Jude got himself in some tough situations, and still came out with the win," Tompkins said.

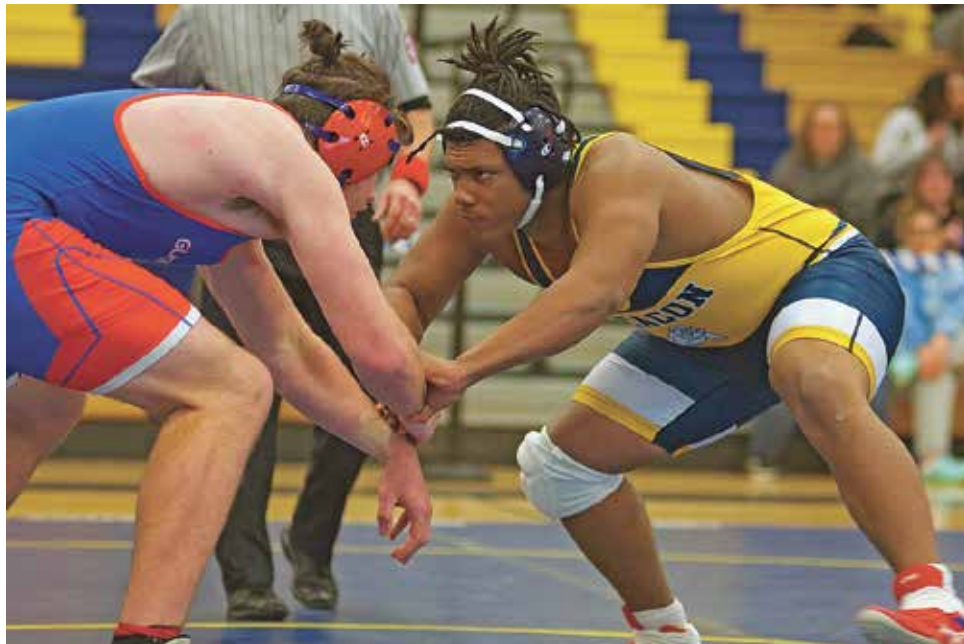
Ninth-grader Jaiere Newton did well at 145 pounds, but fell to 9-5 for the season. "He wrestled one of the best guys on their team," Tompkins said. "He gave it all he had, and he's been improving for us every day."

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host their own 10-team tournament on Saturday (Jan. 21), starting at 9 a.m. The finals will be held at about 3 p.m.

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon took an early hit in a Wednesday game at Cornwall, with the Dragons taking a 25-19 halftime lead. But the Bulldogs responded in the second half, coming back to record a 61-53 win. It was their fifth consecutive victory.

"We got punched in the mouth early," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "But we showed some mental toughness, which was great to see."



Beacon junior Jayden Calloway (right) dominated at 215 pounds, winning by pin.



Beacon's Jude Betancourt (left) won his match at 138 pounds. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photos by S. Pearlman

Darien Gillins led Beacon with 21 points, followed by Joe Battle (14, including 12 in the second half) and Adrian Beato (10).

"Our guards — Beato, Jack Philipbar, Javan Verdile, Wilson Ciccone and Gillins — all played phenomenal defense and kept us in it early," Schetter said.

On Jan. 12 at home, the Bulldogs defeated Monticello, 61-42, behind 20 points from Dylan Howard. Beacon led by nine at halftime, then scored 19 points in the third quarter to pull away.

Beacon (9-3) is scheduled to visit Port Jervis on Monday (Jan. 23), Cornwall on Wednesday and Haldane on Friday for the annual Battle of the Tunnel game.

Meanwhile, Haldane pulled out what Coach Joe Virgadamo called its best win of the season on Jan. 14, coming from behind to beat Washingtonville, 69-62.

Haldane also won twice more in the past

week, defeating Putnam Valley, 51-44, on Jan. 12 after being down by 10 points at halftime, and beating Pawling on Wednesday, 75-34.

Against Pawling, the Blue Devils overwhelmed the Tigers with a 19-2 run to open the game. Matteo Cervone scored 28 points, followed by Matt Nachamkin (12) and Michael Murray (10).

Against Washingtonville, Cervone delivered another 28-point game, and Nachamkin added 13.

Haldane led by 11 at halftime, but Washingtonville went on a 27-14 run in the third, and had a two-point lead to start the fourth quarter. "They were focusing on Matteo, so he found the open guys," Virgadamo said.

Against Putnam Valley, Ben Bozsik had 15 points, followed by Cervone (14) and Ryan Eng-Wong (13).

Haldane (9-4) will host North Salem

today (Jan. 20) at 6:15 p.m., followed by the Battle of the Tunnel against Beacon at 6:15 p.m. on Jan. 27.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon picked up a 44-37 home victory on Tuesday (Jan. 17) over Cornwall behind 22 points from Reilly Landisi. Devyn Kelly added nine and Lila Burke had seven.

"Playing Cornwall is never easy — they're aggressive on both ends," said Coach Christina Dahl. "Reilly sparked our offense, Devyn hit some big shots and Lila had a big six points in the fourth."

On Jan. 13 at home, the Bulldogs rolled past Monticello, 44-19, behind Landisi's 15 points. Daveya Rodriguez added eight. "Daveya was our catalyst on both ends of the court," the coach said.

Beacon (8-4) is scheduled to visit Goshen on Tuesday (Jan. 24) and host Haldane at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Haldane lost three games this week, to Putnam Valley (78-35), Edgemont (40-33) and Lakeland (64-43), to fall to 3-9. The Blue Devils travel to North Salem today (Jan. 20), Blind Brook on Monday and Beacon on Thursday.

### WINTER TRACK

Beacon finished sixth of 40 teams on Jan. 13 at the Suffern Invitational at Rockland Community College on the strength of two performances: Henry Reinke won the 600 meters in 1:26 and Damani Deloatch won the triple jump on his final leap to finish at 43-10.

"Damani had two of the state's top-ranked triple jumpers ahead of him going into his final jump," said Coach Jim Henry. "To pull out a personal-best leap on your final jump says a lot about his focus."

"Henry's 600 was exciting for a different reason," the coach said. "He's finally getting back to being the dominant track performer that he was last spring, before being sidelined by an injury. He's back to 100 percent just in time for championship season."

Freshman Janaya Fluellen had a personal best in the long jump of 14-0, and Andre Alzate cleared 5-3 in his high-jump debut.

Next up for Beacon is the Section IX divisional on Saturday (Jan. 21) at West Point.

Haldane also competed at the Suffern Invitational. The top performers for the girls were Samantha Thomas, who finished 11th in the 55-meter hurdles in 11.64, and the 4x400 relay team, which was ninth in 4:51.86. For the boys, the 4x200 relay team finished 13th in 1:44.25; Jake Thomas was 14th in the 55 meters in 7.29; and Merrick Williams was 14th in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.56.

The Blue Devils will travel to The Armory in New York City on Saturday for the U.S. Army Officials Hall of Fame meet.