

The HIGHLANDS Current



Sharr White's
New Play
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FEBRUARY 10, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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AFRICAN JAM — Sankofa, a drum-and-dance ensemble led by percussionist Maxwell Kofi Donkor, a native of Ghana who lives in Middletown, performed at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Feb. 4. Says Donkor: “Drumming heals.” For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Holtec to Release Radioactive Water

Says it will not wait for state endorsement

By Brian PJ Cronin

Holtec International, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill, announced at the Feb. 2 meeting of a state board overseeing its work that it plans to release radioactive water into the Hudson River before autumn.

Although filtered, the water will contain tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen difficult to remove. The firm says the release will cause minimal problems because the

water will disperse, and an engineer on the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board said it may be the least-worst option to empty the plant’s cooling pools.

At the meeting of the oversight board, Rich Burrone, a Holtec representative, said that the company plans to release the water in late August or early September, although he would not rule out dumping it sooner.

“We may be real efficient and be able to move it up,” he said. In a follow-up statement to *The Current*, Holtec said that the amount of water that would be released has not been determined.

(Continued on Page 7)

Beacon Loop Bus Seeks Riders

In fifth year, free transit underperforms

By Jeff Simms

Three years after the pandemic began, the Beacon Free Loop bus is nearly back to its pre-COVID ridership numbers. However, it remains one of the lower-performing routes in Dutchess County.

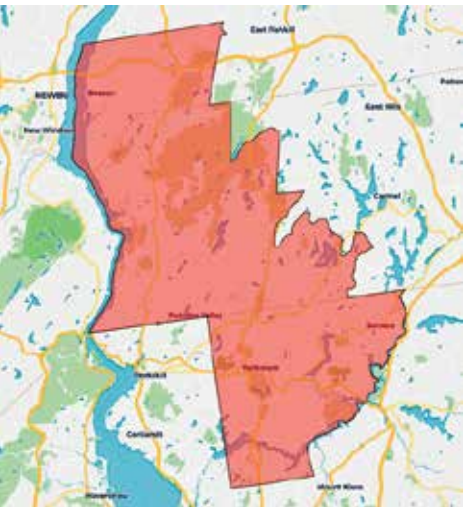
In 2018, the county rebranded the Beacon G Route, a little-used line that began running through the city in 2013, as the Beacon Free Loop. The bus operates from Monday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., making stops at the Metro-North Station, two locations

on Main Street, the Mount Beacon parking lot and the Forrestal Heights apartment complex along a 25-minute route.

Ridership peaked in 2019, its first full year, with more than 38,000 passengers, but, even at that rate, the 30-foot-long bus only averaged just under five riders per trip. Ridership dropped in 2020 and 2021 but rebounded to about 35,000 last year.

Two of the county’s better-performing buses are the A and B routes, which run between Poughkeepsie and Fishkill and Poughkeepsie and Beacon, respectively. Those buses average about twice as many riders as the Beacon Loop, said Michael

(Continued on Page 6)



The proposed Assembly District 94 would include Beacon and Philipstown.

Local Officials Oppose State Assembly Map

Proposal will shift Beacon, Philipstown to new district

By Leonard Sparks

Elect officials in the Highlands are citing their fraternity with other Hudson River municipalities in asking a state Assembly redistricting commission to reconsider combining Beacon and Philipstown with areas to the east and southeast.

Proposed maps released Dec. 1 by the Independent Redistricting Commission for use beginning in 2024 would shift Beacon and Philipstown into a reshaped District 94 that starts north of Beacon and encom-

passes Cold Spring, Garrison, Putnam Valley and Mahopac in Putnam County, and Yorktown Heights and Somers in Westchester.

Philipstown now resides in Assembly District 95. Represented by Dana Levenberg, a Democrat, it runs south along the Hudson River to Briarcliff Manor and includes Peekskill, Croton-on-Hudson and Ossining.

Assembly District 104, which includes Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, straddles the Hudson River. Jonathan Jacobson, also a Democrat, is that district’s representative.

Lee Kyriacou, Beacon’s mayor, said in a submitted comment on the plan that Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie have

been “linked for generations” by geography, demographics and economics.

Beacon and Newburgh are termini on the Interstate 84 bridge that bears their names and Poughkeepsie, like Beacon, is a stop on Metro-North’s Hudson Line. The three cities also share histories as urban communities built on manufacturing that are undergoing an economic renaissance, and they are linked culturally.

“These and multiple other connections between these three cities readily demonstrate a deep and longstanding community of interest,” the mayor wrote.

In addition, Meredith Heuer, president of (Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: BOB MAYER

By Michael Turton

Bob Mayer, who lives in Putnam Valley, is a baseball historian gearing up for the 2023 season: Pitchers and catchers report for spring training on Monday (Feb. 13).

How did you get into baseball history?

I was a collector first, of photographs from amateur, semipro and the minor leagues. They were rarely labeled, so I always wondered who was pictured. Around 2003, I bought an 1899 photograph of a team from Moravia. I drove up there to see what I could learn about the team and the players. That was my first foray into historical research. I've grown more interested in the history of baseball than the current game, although recently the Yankees have been fun to watch, on occasion.

What kinds of artifacts do you own?

As a kid, I collected baseball cards but dumped most of them except for my Yankees and favorite players. I bought my first vintage glove at an antique shop in 1993, a Roy Campanella model in pretty good shape. I wanted a glove and bat used by every Hall of Famer. At one point I had 120 bats and 200 gloves. My oldest glove is from the 1890s.

What do you like most about the game?

It's just the hitter against the pitcher. Can the hitter do something the pitcher doesn't want him to do? One of biggest changes to the game is in the way pitchers work. You're lucky if a starting pitcher goes five innings. Back in the day, even up through Bob Gibson [who played for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1959 to 1975], starters pitched seven to nine innings. It's made it more difficult for the hitters, to have to face four pitchers in a game. I'd like to see it go back to the starter going seven innings or more. Also, I think the amount of money players make today has soured some people.

What research have you found especially interesting?

I got into researching the Fleischmann family because, when I was a kid, my father liked Fleischmann gin. In the 1890s, the Fleischmanns moved to the Catskills, settling in Griffin Corners, which later became the Village of Fleischmann, and building summer mansions there. The sons liked baseball, so they started a team, built a ballfield with dugouts and showers. They signed players — semipro or college guys. Players were put up in fancy hotels and had a private train to take them to games. The team, known as The Mountain Athletic Club, did quite well. When the family moved, they donated the field to the town with the condition that admission never be charged.

In 1900, they established the Fleischmann Yeast Co. in Peekskill. It was the largest such factory in the world until it closed in 1969. Elizabeth Holmes, the Theraanos CEO who was convicted of fraud and sentenced to 11 years in prison,

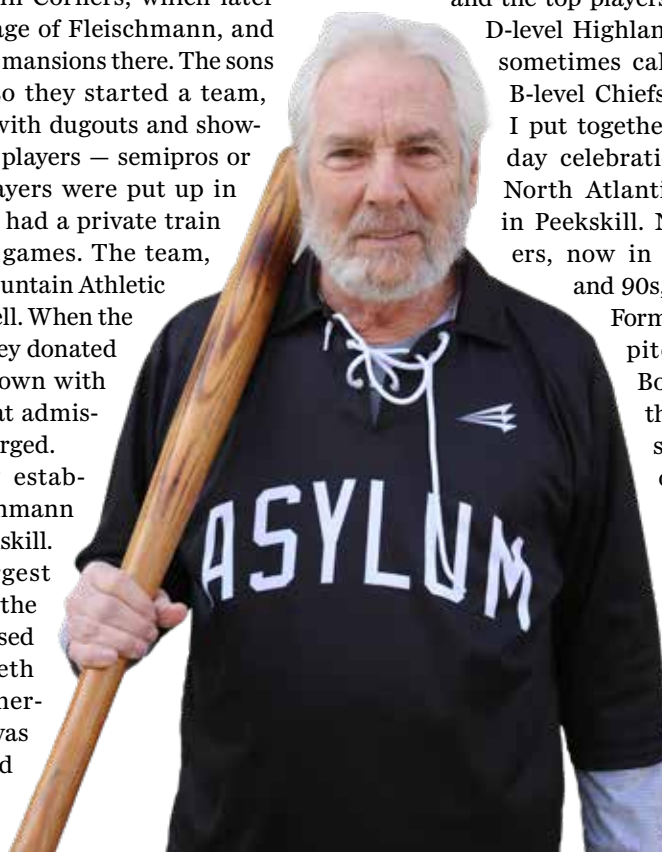
is a great-great-great-granddaughter of Charles Fleischmann, who founded the yeast company. Today, The Mountain Athletic Club exists once again, as a vintage team established in 2007 that plays under 1895 rules.

Does the Hudson Valley play any role in baseball history?

There has never been a major league team here, but there have been minor league and semipro teams. The Hudson River League, which included Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Kingston and other teams, began in 1887. It lasted for part of 1888, then returned from 1903 through 1907. Black barnstorming teams often played in the Hudson Valley from the mid-1880s through the 1920s.

The Peekskill Highlanders, an affiliate of the New York Giants, were part of the North Atlantic League from 1946 to 1949. Their owner, Lou Baselice, also owned the Poughkeepsie Chiefs of the Colonial League,

and the top players from the D-level Highlanders were sometimes called up to B-level Chiefs. In 2012, I put together a three-day celebration of the North Atlantic League in Peekskill. Nine players, now in their 80s and 90s, attended. Former Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton was the keynote speaker at our dinner.



HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. Feb 11 + Sun. Feb 12 – 1-5 PM

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Chris Hutz
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Dave Miller
Drums

Sun. Feb 19 – 4 PM

Drew Petersen - Piano
Howland Chamber Music Circle

Tix: howlandmusic.org

Fri. Feb 24 – 7-10 PM

Open Mic Night

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Lottery begins at 6:45 - Performers start at 7 - Doors open at 6:15

Sat. Feb 25 – 8 PM

The ARTICHOKE Presents
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Tix: ArtichokeShow.com

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Covid protocol - mask recommended

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's best, and worst, about the Super Bowl?

“Best is the halftime show; worst is when the team you're rooting for loses.”



Roseanne Halpin, Cold Spring

“Worst is the halftime show; best is the food, including chips and dip.”



Aydan Tasciotti, Beacon

“Best is the party; worst is when your husband loses a lot gambling.”



Liz Mancari, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam Hospital Resumes Delivering Babies

Renovated birthing center reopens

The Putnam Hospital in Carmel has reopened its birthing center, which suspended services in March 2022 after CareMount said its physicians would no longer deliver babies at the hospital.

Nuvance Health, which runs the hospital, said on Feb. 1 that the newly renovated, 12,000-square-foot center has seven private patient rooms, two on-call suites, operating and scrub rooms and a nursery.

A \$500,000 state grant secured by state Sen. Peter Harckham, \$250,000 from the Kearney Realty and Development Group and \$250,000 from the Putnam Community Foundation underwrote the renovations.

Along with obstetricians and gynecologists from Nuvance Health, the center is staffed with specialists from New York Children's Medical Providers Services and the Ob Hospitalist Group.

Environmental Projects Receive Grants

Programs include sailing trips, outdoor gardening

Ten Hudson Valley organizations will share \$68,000 in grants from the Open Space Institute's Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund, which supports environmental education projects.

The Bannerman Castle Trust (school field trips), Hudson River Sloop Clearwater (three-day sailing excursion for teens) and the Stony Kill Foundation (outdoor programs for people with disabilities) each received \$5,000 grants. OSI also awarded \$8,000 to Land to Learn's paid summer gardening program for teens in Beacon and Newburgh.

The other recipients include environmental education programs run by the Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative (\$11,000); Outdoor Promise (\$10,000); Arm-of-the-Sea, Black Rock Forest and the Ecological Citizen's Project (\$6,500 each); and Wild Earth (\$5,000).

Dutchess County Seeks Volunteer Callers

Program targets isolation among seniors

Dutchess County is seeking volunteers for its Friendly Calls program, whose goal is to reduce social isolation among

older residents through weekly phone calls.

Nearly 40 seniors have registered for the pilot, which is run by the Office for the Aging. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and will be trained in starting conversations, active listening and other topics.

The program runs in eight-week periods, but volunteers and seniors can choose to extend their weekly calls. Call the Office for the Aging at 845-486-2555.

Byrne Restructures Executive Jobs

Legislature approves changes

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (Feb. 7) approved requests by County Executive Kevin Byrne to make personnel changes in his office.

Byrne created two positions in his office, a director of communications who will be paid \$83,000 annually and a director of compliance and intergovernmental relations who will earn \$75,000. He also eliminated two positions, the director of constituent services (\$47,000 annually) and a position in the Purchasing Department (\$67,000). The work of these positions will be reassigned, including to the deputy county executive, who will receive a raise of \$25,000 annually, to \$154,000. Byrne earns \$176,000.

Combined with other cuts, the changes resulted in a savings of \$65,000 annually, according to figures provided to the Legislature.

The changes passed 8-0. Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and is the Legislature's sole Democrat, said in a statement she was "encouraged" by the creation of the two executive positions. "I applaud the county executive's bipartisan approach in including me, the minority leader, on these negotiations," she said.

Pipe Bursts at Haldane

Damages three classrooms and lobby

A pipe that burst over the weekend of Feb. 3 at Haldane High School caused extensive damage to three classrooms and the lobby areas of the first and second floors, the district said.

An environmental cleanup company was able to get the building ready before classes on Monday (Feb. 6). Crews replaced plaster board, rewired outlets and light fixtures, and deep-cleaned the flooded areas, the district said. Additional taping and painting took place outside of school hours.



Former state Sen. Sue Serino and Stephanie Perri recently hosted an orientation session for volunteers in the Friendly Calls program.

Photo provided

The HIGHLANDS Current

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING



"Great local info and happenings!"

Sean Malahy and Taylor Phillips with their daughter, Isi
COLD SPRING

STAY CURRENT
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With *The Current* in your mailbox, inbox or newsbox, you will be sure to know the news of the week for Beacon and Philipstown each Friday! Support our nonprofit paper by becoming a member for as little as \$2 a month.

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The HIGHLANDS Current

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Highlands Current Inc.

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Institute for
Nonprofit News

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

February 10, 2023
Volume 11, Issue 6

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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* New York Press Association, 2013 - 21



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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Battle of the Tunnel

I'm always glad to read *The Current's* roundup of high school sports, but Skip Pearlman outdid himself this week with those great photos of Beacon and Haldane's hard-charging basketball stars. Congrats to those young athletes in their well-played games and to Skip for capturing their gravity-defying excitement ("Battles of the Tunnel," Feb. 3).

Jacqueline Foertsch, *Philipstown*

Tourist attraction

We are a tourist attraction and have been for years ("Not a Tourist Attraction," Jan. 27). We should embrace it. Most of the people who purchase homes in the area first visit as tourists. Tourists support local businesses.

We are surrounded by amazing natural beauty, but Breakneck Ridge, Indian Brook Falls and the Castle Rock Unique Area are state sites. Much of the Appalachian Trail and thousands of other acres are owned by the National Park Service or otherwise by the U.S. government. Just as we travel to state and national parks across this great country, tourists should be welcome here. The key to success is to stop seeing tourists as a problem and embrace them as an opportunity.

Bill Pugh, *Cold Spring*

Philipstown Trails envisions a multi-use path along Route 9D in the state highway right-of-way. Philipstown received funding from the Hudson Valley Greenway Conservancy for a feasibility study for a Connector Trail. The town and Trail Committee have described the purpose of the path variously as connecting the Fjord Trail to Peekskill, connecting the Cold Spring station to the Garrison station, as a way to disperse tour-

ists out of Cold Spring and now as a path, unappealing to tourists, for locals to get exercise and to go from place to place without a car. An 8-mile walk from my house to Foodtown and back would work off calories.

Whatever the purpose of the path, the state's right-of-way along much of the highway is narrow, barely wider than the paved road and occupied by utility poles. Private property would need to be taken from adjoining property owners. It would need to be considerable to meet state and federal standards for bike paths on a two-way road, plus Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pedestrian paths which have their own grade, width and surface requirements, plus buffer zones, plus land for the utility poles.

Taking the land would not solve the hazard of intersections. Unlike other greenway-style multi-use paths, there are many driveways, private roads, other highways, commuters and trucks that use 9D.

Inserting this infrastructure would require urbanizing the land, blasting through rock ledge, filling ravines, removing trees, original architectural elements, old stone walls and other aspects of the scenic byway.

It might be simpler for the state to ban cars on 9D and convert the highway to a greenway, such as they did up in Buffalo — apart from the issue of land-locking homeowners, blocking commuters, school buses, deliveries and such.

Irene Karlen, *Garrison*

Police blotter

I'm not sure if this is the right question for my favorite — and modestly underfunded — local paper, *The Current*, to be asking ("Reporter's Notebook: Is Crime Up

in Beacon?" Feb. 3). Regrettably, *The Current* publishes half-truths by posting the Beacon police blotter on its website. Crimes are not covered in totality for the time periods stated — merely transgressions that usually don't even rise to the misdemeanor level.

I am a lawyer and have represented public-safety professionals for 30-plus years, so I am familiar with public-safety agencies fudging numbers. But after moving here in 2017, I emailed to my friends the police "blotter" to entice them to come and visit. Some visited and many moved up. Based on what I have been told, the Beacon crime blotter is nothing close to truth. It presents Beacon as Mayberry, Disney or the "anti-Newburgh."

The Current takes the selectively redacted blotter sent by the Beacon Police Department, rightly further editing out sensitive information, and posts it online. So, the editor knows this data is not only inaccurate, but incomplete and dishonest. Why waste the space? Why not let me write a column reviewing fantasy fiction? This would cleave closer to the indicators of the Trust Project standards that allegedly guide your journalism.

You should ditch publishing this propaganda for my "safe" city. It is not only inconsistent with *The Current's* standards, but fails a test attributed to Socrates: "If what you want to say is neither true, nor good or kind, nor useful or necessary, please don't say anything at all."

Marc Steier, *Beacon*

The editor replies: We have published a disclaimer on the blotter noting it may not be complete since we learned, in 2021, that serious incidents had not been included.

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Nature of animals

These words by Brian PJ Cronin give me hope for humanity: “But what happens to our view of the world when animals are always *something*?” (“Out There: Thunderstruck,” Jan. 27).

Fern Sartori, *Wappingers Falls*

I always enjoy Brian PJ Cronin’s writing, and I’m glad to see an animal referred to as *someone* rather than *something*. But in keeping with the goal of being precise with language because the way we describe the natural world affects how we treat it, isn’t it less precise to say that Lancelot the cow “made the sacrifice of dying so that we may be sustained” (a comforting, romantic notion), than to say he was unwillingly slaughtered?

Alice Krakauer, *Philipstown*

Putnam Valley

Thank you for your coverage of the soil contamination issue at the Putnam Valley firehouse construction site (“Putnam Valley Fire Department Seeks Cleanup Costs,” Jan. 27). I very much appreciated the article, even more so since Putnam Valley (regrettably) is not a town that is in the described coverage area of *The Current*. The article has stoked much interest among town residents, both in face-to-face discussions and on social media.

Leo Alves, *Putnam Valley*

Fjord Trail

On the evening of Feb. 2, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. (HHFT) presented an interactive open house for Cold Spring community members at the firehouse. We are so grateful to Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities.

Cold Spring leadership requested a session that focused on their residents’ specific concerns, and we were happy to oblige. The purpose of the open house was to take a deeper dive into some of the information from the Parking & Shuttle Study HHFT commissioned from transportation experts Steadman Hill Consulting and Creighton Manning Engineering.

We took the opportunity to also share information on other elements of the Fjord Trail plan that might be of particular interest to the Cold Spring community. More than 80 people attended. We want to thank everyone for taking the time to participate. By reviewing the information, asking questions and, most importantly, sharing your insights and concerns, you are helping to shape the project. I always come away from public meetings with ideas and insights from residents, and this meeting was no exception. This feedback will be vital to us as we move forward.

As with our previous events, we will create a summary of the information presented, and the feedback received from attendees and through a companion online survey. These findings will be emailed to all those who attended and posted on our website (hhft.org) soon after. We look forward to seeing folks at our next event.

Amy Kacala, *Poughkeepsie*

Kacala is the executive director of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc.

How They Voted (Congress)

Today (Feb. 10) at highlandscurrent.org we introduce a weekly online summary of select votes in the U.S. House by Rep. Michael Lawler, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, and Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon. We also will include some U.S. Senate legislation and the votes by Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, both Democrats.

The summaries, written by Richard G. Thomas of the nonprofit VoteFacts.com, are designed to be nonpartisan, presenting arguments for and against. Thomas is a veteran political reporter who has been accredited by the U.S. House and Senate daily press galleries since 1973. His service is designed to “help civic-minded individuals track the most consequential and newsworthy issues debated in the U.S. House and Senate.”

Here are two examples of votes during the week of Jan. 29:

Federal Teleworking

Voting 221-206, the House on Feb. 1 passed a bill (HR 139) that would roll back policies that have allowed as many as 75 percent of civil servants in most agencies and departments to telework from home as a protection against COVID-19. The bill requires federal workplaces to return to 2019 telework levels within 30 days. If an agency or department wishes to continue pandemic-level teleworking, it would have to obtain an Office



Lawler

Ryan

of Personnel Management waiver that would be subject to congressional review. A “yes” vote was to send the bill to the Democratic-led Senate, where it was likely to fail.

Pat Fallon (R-Texas) said: “It is important to stress that this bill is not some radical notion. We are not ending all telework. We are just snapping back to 2019 pre-pandemic levels and ensuring a reasonable pathway for agencies to retain telework employees and, under the right conditions, allow for expansion of telework. The bottom line is the pandemic is over.”

Gerald Connolly (D-Va.) said: “Federal telework participation rates have already decreased substantially.... The most recent telework survey showed that 47 percent of federal employees teleworked in the last fiscal year, but the fact remains that increased availability of telework is here to stay in the private as well as the public sectors.”

| Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐ |

Removing Ilhan Omar

Voting 218-211, the House on Feb. 2 adopted a resolution (H Res 76) that removed Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) from a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee. She joined the panel in 2019. She is the first Somali-Ameri-

can and naturalized citizen of African birth to serve in Congress and one of the first two Muslim women to serve in the House, along with Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich). Citing Omar’s remarks on subjects such as Israel and the 9/11 attacks, and noting that she once equated the U.S. and Israel with Hamas and the Taliban in a discussion of war crimes, the resolution asserted Omar has “disqualified herself from serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, a panel that is viewed by nations around the world as speaking for Congress on matters of international importance and national security.” In response, Omar said: “I didn’t come to Congress to be silent.... So take your vote or not, I am here to stay and I am here to be a voice against the harms around the world and advocate for a better world.” A “yes” vote was to remove Omar from the committee.

Lawler said: “Individuals who hold such hateful views should rightly be barred from that type of committee. Words matter. Rhetoric matters. It leads to harm, and so the congresswoman is being held accountable for her words and her actions.”

Kathleen Clark (D-Mass.) asked: “How can [Republicans] talk about integrity and honor as they empower the most extreme voices in their party? As they claim due process has been added in when there is none [for Omar]? As they promote conspiracy theories, as they stack some of our most critical committees with election deniers? It is too late to inject integrity into this sham process, but we, as members, can inject our own by voting ‘no’ on this resolution.”

| Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐ |

What’s Online at HighlandsCurrent.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under “Resources” and “Reader Guide.”

Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal levels and how to contact them with your praise or protests.

Local Government Video Guide

OK, it’s not Netflix, but here’s a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

How They Voted (Congress)

This summarizes consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly.

Storm Updates and Resources

Storm-watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out can be found here.

Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

Shop Local Online

We created this during the pandemic; it’s a list of local retailers that allow you to order online.

Community Calendar

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

Real-Estate Data

These graphs are created on-the-fly by a firm called Dataherald and include the number of new listings in Putnam and Dutchess counties, the number of home sales and median home sale price.

Back Issues

This is an archive of past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

Job Search

Provided by Indeed, these are continually updated listings for open positions in the Highlands and surrounding areas

Wide Angle

Priced Out, Part II

By Stowe Boyd

In my December column, I discussed the national housing crisis — the country is short as many as 5 million “housing units” — and how it impacts the Highlands. Our local problems are not unusual, so we need an understanding of the big picture to make sense of what is happening in our neighborhoods.



One extremely tangible statistic: The National Low-Income Housing Coalition calculates that New York workers need to earn \$37.72 per hour to afford a two-bedroom rental. That translates to \$78,465 in annual income. And that is averaged across the state, so the numbers are even more steep in highly attractive locations such as Philipstown and Beacon. Most people can't afford that.

Are there any answers to the affordable housing crisis? The pandemic has led many businesses to adopt hybrid work models, where “knowledge workers” spend all or part of their week out of the office. This transition



— despite some company leaders demanding their employees return to a full-time in-the-office regime — has led to major turbulence in the commercial real estate market.

Before the pandemic, 95 percent of offices in large cities such as New York were occupied. That had fallen, by late 2022, to 47 percent.

While there is a great deal of speculation about how all this empty space might be used, the immediate impact is that office building projects are in a steep decline. However, nationally, the number of new residential units has grown from 368,000 in 2019 to nearly 500,000 units projected to be completed in 2023, according to one industry estimate. That is the largest jump since 1986.

Because the economics are good, real-estate firms that own smaller office buildings are converting them to residential, such as a 7-acre site in Tarrytown facing the Hudson that AmTrust is developing with dozens of apartments.

The Highlands does not have many office buildings that could be converted, but now that developers are pivoting to residential, other Hudson River cities and towns are likely to become more attractive. The demand for housing is high in part because so many people have moved out of urban centers since the start of the pandemic in early 2020.

Of course, developers want to build the most expensive housing they can, and as little affordable housing as they can get away with. But communities like Beacon and Cold Spring have a lot more leverage in those negotiations.

Local and state governments seem to have forgotten that they can create their own housing. Rather than depending on developers, municipalities can raise funds to develop public housing, and keep both the land and the revenue stream.

The U.S. has nearly 1 million units of federal public housing, but these have suffered from poor reputations because of

federally imposed policies that limit such housing to only the very poor. We are seeing a resurgence in interest in mixed-income housing, which is being called “social housing” to avoid the stigma attached to the term “public housing.”

Rhode Island recently approved \$10 million to pilot state-funded mixed-income housing. The Colorado Legislature passed a bill in 2022 to develop 3,500 middle-income housing units. Hawaii passed bills to create condos with 99-year leases.

Imagine how communities in the Highlands could develop mixed-income housing that would meet the needs of a broad spectrum of renters, such as older people downsizing, young people and low-income residents, but also have more-expensive units.

Projects could be more extensive than just a cluster of apartment buildings — they could include amenities like supermarkets, restaurants and other elements of fully fleshed-out neighborhoods. The municipality can use bonds or state funding to develop this social housing and will have an ongoing revenue stream to offset costs.

Next month, I will take a hard look at what Gov. Kathy Hochul has laid out in her state budget plans, and how that might support social housing.

Stowe Boyd, who lives in Beacon, specializes in the economics and ecology of work and the “anthropology of the future.” His column focuses on the local impacts of larger trends.

Beacon Loop (from Page 1)

Grattini, Dutchess County's director of public transit.

“You're covering virtually half the county on those routes,” Grattini said, noting that the A route passes by Walmart, the Shoppes at South Hills and the Poughkeepsie Galleria on Route 9 — all busy shopping centers. “Most of our routes have a much bigger market span” than the Beacon Loop, he said.

On the Beacon Loop, “you're limited to the people who want to go to and from the train station, everyday shoppers [at stores such as Key Food] and the afternoon people coming home from Metro-North,” Grattini said.

Along with the rebranding, which included a bright bus “wrap” created by local artists, the Beacon City Council in 2018 approved spending \$5,000, plus \$11,000 in 2019, to subsidize the \$1.75 fare. At the time, the move was publicized as a 16-month trial to attempt to boost ridership, but the city has continued the allocation, including \$14,630 for 2023.

City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday (Feb. 8) that there's been no talk of pulling funding, but “we do want to make it work for more people.”



A rider departs the Beacon Free Loop bus on Main Street.

Photo by Valerie Shively

The City Council's Main Street Access Committee has recommended that Dutchess County re-route the bus, making it less of a “figure 8” and perhaps dropping the Mount Beacon stop, which is not heavily used. White said the bus sees the most riders on Saturdays, from tourists.

He would like the county to test an “up-and-back” route on Main Street, as well as Sunday service, or have the bus turn up East Main and loop around on either Leonard Street or Liberty Street. “I don't think we've optimized the route or gotten the

proper frequency yet,” White said.

Council Member George Mansfield, who owns the Dogwood restaurant and bar on East Main, said that a public-service announcement — “a subtle use-it-or-lose-it” message — may attract riders.

White said he would also like Dutchess to pilot an electric bus on the route, but that could be several years away. The county is applying for a federal grant to fund a feasibility study of electrifying its fleet of 56 buses, Grattini said, but has no immediate plans to buy electric buses.

Electric School Buses

The Beacon school board is expected to decide next month whether to include a ballot proposition for the purchase of an electric school bus when voters consider the district budget and elect board members in May.

State law requires that school buses purchased after 2027 run on electricity; all 50,000 gas-powered school buses in New York must be replaced by 2035.

District officials expect to make a presentation at the school board's March 13 meeting that will include information on upkeep and driver training, storage and battery-charging strategies, and whether the district would qualify for funding from a settlement the state received in a lawsuit against Volkswagen.

Speaking to the school board last year, Superintendent Matt Landahl called the transition from diesel-fueled buses to electric a “huge, huge process” but said the best advice he's gotten about the conversion is “it's important to just start.”

NEWS BRIEF

Ruling Further Delays Cannabis Sales

Dispensaries remain blocked in Hudson Valley

A federal judge on Jan. 31 rejected an appeal by New York State asking that

recreational cannabis sales be allowed in the Hudson Valley and four other regions.

A Michigan company sued the state, claiming discrimination because New York is only issuing dispensary licenses to residents. In November, a federal court temporarily blocked the state from issuing licenses in five regions, including the Hudson Valley. Sales have begun

in New York City and other parts of the state.

Practically, the decision put a hold on 63 of the 150 licenses the state planned to grant in 2022. Seventeen licenses were earmarked for the Hudson Valley.

The state's Office of Cannabis Management appealed the November ruling, saying it should only apply to the Finger Lakes

region, but an appeals court found the argument “unpersuasive.”

After New York State legalized the sale and possession of recreational cannabis, Cold Spring voters approved dispensaries in a November 2021 vote, and the Beacon City Council opted to allow dispensaries and smoking lounges.

Indian Point *(from Page 1)*

Burroni was asked by Richard Webster, a member of the oversight board who works for the environmental group Riverkeeper, if Holtec would consider delaying the release until the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) gave its support.

“Full transparency? No,” Burroni replied. “I’m not going to sit here and tell you a different story. We want to meet this 12- to 15-year requirement” to finish the decommissioning and return the land to the Village of Buchanan. “I understand the emotional part about the discharge to the river,” he said.

Burroni later said he would be willing to discuss the matter with community members at a smaller meeting, and that Holtec would provide a month’s notice before the wastewater was released.

“I’m not going to appease everybody,” he said. “But at least we have some basic science and some basic facts behind what we do.”

Holtec may also have the law behind it. The state DEC only regulates the non-radioactive materials that Holtec discharges. The radioactive materials are under the authority of two federal agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Throughout the evening, members of the oversight board repeatedly said that members of the public concerned with Holtec’s plans should contact the EPA or NRC. In Massachusetts, the EPA has put a hold on a Holtec plan to discharge radioactive water from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant into Cape Cod Bay until a third-party can verify that the release would be safe.

No risk-free options

During the meeting, Dave Lochbaum, a nuclear engineer and former director of the Nuclear Safety Project for the Union of Concerned Scientists who serves as the oversight board’s technical expert, outlined his reasoning that releasing the treated water into the Hudson poses the least public risk.

Boiling the water to evaporate it, as was done at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in the early 1990s, would release the radioactive material into the air instead of the Hudson, where it has a greater potential of being ingested or inhaled, he said.

According to Lochbaum, solidifying and burying the water, as was done when the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant shipped out its waste in hundreds of truckloads to be buried in Idaho, could possibly be an environmental justice issue. The projected annual radiation dose to residents in Idaho would be 483 to 770 times higher than what New York residents would experience from the water being released into the Hudson, he explained.

Lochbaum also argued that if burying the wastewater in Idaho is considered safe, it might as well be buried in the Hudson Valley.

The wastewater also could be stored in tanks at Indian Point. Tritium has a half-life of 12.5 years (as opposed to the thousands of years of other radioactive materials), so a release could be delayed until it has decayed.

But Lochbaum cautioned against this. He



Holtec wants to discharge water from the Indian Point plant into the Hudson.

File photo by B. Cronin

explained that the water tanks would have to be vented, meaning that some radioactive material would be constantly evaporating into the air. And the tanks used to store radioactive wastewater are notoriously leaky: At Vermont Yankee, a tank failure led to 83,000 gallons draining into the Connecticut River. At Browns Ferry in Alabama, the gauge that was supposed to detect if the tank was leaking failed, and the leak was only discovered when a building next door began filling up with radioactive water.

Lochbaum said that there have also been numerous cases in which a tank leaks even as it’s being filled, and technicians keep filling the tank anyway. “You’d think it shouldn’t happen more than once,” he said. “But while lightning may only strike once, stupidity strikes like a jackhammer.”

If Holtec releases the water from the pools into the Hudson, it wouldn’t be the first time. In 2009, Entergy, which owned Indian Point at the time, emptied the cooling pool at Indian Point 1, which had closed in 1974, into the river. (The two remaining reactors closed in 2020 and 2021.) And tritium has been released into the Hudson by Indian Point every year, at levels far below the maximum allowed. Lochbaum estimated that even multiplying the estimated levels of radiation that would be released into the Hudson by the pool’s wastewater by 10 would still be less than 5 percent of the allowable limits.

That’s assuming you accept the validity of the federal limits, and a number of speakers did not, noting that the standards have not been updated in 50 years and were calculated by estimating the effects of radiation on healthy white men in their 20s and 30s — essentially, the scientists working on the Manhattan Project. It’s unknown if women, children and the elderly would be more vulnerable. The state DEC, for example, sets limits based on a person’s age and gender for how many fish from the Hudson can be consumed each month as a result of ongoing PCB contamination.

Speakers also suggested that any effects of radioactive water should be considered in conjunction with other environmental contaminants, such as the poor air quality

from Peekskill’s Wheelabrator Incinerator and the fact that the Hudson River has been officially classified as a Superfund site by the EPA for nearly 40 years.

Releasing the water into the Hudson, they argued, is being pushed by Holtec not because it’s safe but because it’s cheap and easy. “All the cost goes on to the public,” said Michel Lee, an attorney who works with United for Clean Energy. “All the benefit would go to Holtec.”

Two other disposal options came up during the meeting. One would involve keeping the pools filled until all of the other radioactive material was moved off-site. This would not only give the tritium time to decay, but serve as a fail-safe if a dry cask that stores the spent fuel failed and needed to be cooled immediately.

“That’s not our business model,” Burroni responded.

The other option would involve having the federal Department of Energy filter the tritium from the water, an expensive proposition. State Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, asked what would happen to the tritium.

“You’re not going to like this,” Lochbaum said. “It’s used to make nuclear weapons have bigger bangs.”

“That’s why they call it ‘H-bomb boiling,’” added Webster, of Riverkeeper.

Near misses

Later in the meeting, Burroni revealed that the NRC recently cited Holtec after a federal inspector discovered that an equipment hatch did not have adequate controls to ensure that radioactive emissions would not escape. The issue has been remedied, Burroni said. “This was a good lesson learned for us,” he said.

“Did those lessons include finding out why your team didn’t find this problem before the NRC inspectors did?” asked Lochbaum.

“We could’ve done a better job there, Dave,” said Burroni.

Burroni also said he was “not proud of” the fact that, in the past few months, the plant has had two “near-miss” events and three work-related injuries. In a follow-

up with *The Current*, Holtec said that the near-miss events were a rigging device that broke while lifting a load, and a lifted load that went too close to workers.

Holtec said the causes of these events included workers using the wrong tools, faulty body posturing and hand/eye coordination, a pre-existing condition (a worker re-injured a shoulder) and the material condition of the facility.

Its corrective actions include designating a “coach of the week” to ensure standards are being met, and better housekeeping procedures. “I was disappointed in some of the housekeeping things I saw,” said Burroni. “I’ve told all the guys, and everybody acknowledges, that just because we’re a decommissioned plant it doesn’t mean we let our standards go.”

Sinking farther

Holtec was not the only company on the hot seat at the meeting. Enbridge, the firm that oversees a 1,129-mile natural gas pipeline that passes under Indian Point, was asked about a sinkhole that opened over the pipeline on Dec. 24 in a park in Yorktown.

John Sheridan of Enbridge said the only damage to the pipeline was an abrasion, “similar to a scratch that you would get on your hand,” and that it remains in good condition. He said that he had no information about the cause of the sinkhole.

Tina Volz Bongar, a community member who had made a presentation at a previous oversight board meeting about the inconsistencies between Enbridge and Entergy’s emergency plans, noted that Enbridge’s monitoring systems failed to detect the sinkhole, and that the company only found out after a Yorktown resident walking a dog called the police.

“That tells you what Enbridge’s integrity-management system really is,” she said.

Webster asked if the sinkhole occurred in an area where Enbridge knew sinkholes were a possibility.

“I don’t have that information this evening,” Sheridan said. “I hate to speculate until we have all the facts in front of us.”

“You should have had the facts before you put the pipeline there,” replied Webster.

The next meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board is scheduled for April 27.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown is seeking candidates interested in a **position on the Planning Board**. If interested please send resume to:

Tara Percacciolo, Town Clerk
P.O. Box 155
34 Kemble Avenue
Cold Spring, New York 10516

or email
townclerk@philipstown.com

Assembly Move *(from Page 1)*

the Beacon school board, said other schools in the proposed district — whose population would be 75 percent white, 14 percent Latino and 4.5 percent Black — would be “wealthier and less diverse.”

In the 104th District, the proportion of Latinos (27 percent) is nearly twice as high as in the proposal for District 94 and for Blacks (20.7 percent), nearly fivefold.

Beacon would “almost certainly” be the district’s only Title I school, said Heuer, referring to the federal program for schools with high percentages of students from lower-income households.

“An elected official in this new district may not be connected to the needs of our students if the majority of the school districts in their boundaries do not share our challenges,” she said in a comment submitted on behalf of the board.

Familiarity was also cited by Sandy Galef, who represented the 95th District for 30 years before retiring in December. Those communities, she wrote to the Independent Redistricting Commission, are connected by Routes 9 and 9A and have common interests, such as protection of the Hudson River and the decommissioning of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

Both mountains and “limited services” from Putnam’s government divide Philipstown from the eastern parts of the county, said Galef. “Philipstown is in Putnam County but I strongly believe that the residents of that town have more in common with the commu-



The boundaries of Assembly districts 104 (including Beacon) and 95 (including Philipstown)

nities along the Hudson River,” she said.

The divide is also political. The only Democrat on the Putnam County Legislature represents Philipstown, and the town and Beacon are Democrat-heavy municipalities in Assembly districts where the party’s voters hold a solid majority.

In 2020, President Joe Biden won 65.8 percent of the vote in the 95th District and

64.7 percent in the 104th. Biden would still win a majority in the proposed new district, but by a much-smaller 52.9 percent. Matthew Slater, a Republican and former supervisor for Yorktown, represents the current 94th.

The commission, which is holding public hearings around the state, must submit its finalized maps to the Legislature by April 28. If the Legislature fails to approve the plan, or the governor vetoes it, the Independent Redistricting Commission will have until June 16 to submit a revision. If that also fails, the state Senate and Assembly can make changes.

“An elected official in this new district may not be connected to the needs of our students if the majority of the school districts in their boundaries do not share our challenges.

~Meredith Heuer,
Beacon School Board President

The revision of the Assembly maps represents a do-over for the Independent Redistricting Commission, whose Democratic and Republican appointees, ahead of last year’s elections, released competing proposals for New York’s 26 congressional seats, the state Senate’s 63 seats and the 150 seats in the Assembly.

Democrats in the Legislature took over the process, creating boundaries signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. But Republicans challenged those maps in court, and

Putnam Approves New Districts

The first legislative district in Putnam County, which combines Philipstown with part of Putnam Valley, is now the county’s largest under a redistricting map approved by the Legislature on Tuesday (Feb. 7) to reflect population shifts in the 2020 census. The changes will take effect in 2024.

The district, which is represented by Nancy Montgomery, the Legislature’s sole Democrat, is smaller by 38 people but its population of 11,020 is now the largest of the county’s nine districts because of reductions in what had been the two largest.

The new boundaries move 642 people out of District 2, represented by William Gouldman, and 587 from District 6, represented by Legislature Chair Paul Jonke.

As part of the rebalancing, three election districts were eliminated: two in Carmel and one in Southeast. The average population for the county’s nine legislative districts is 10,852.

Patrick McAllister, a state judge in Steuben County, ruled in May that the Democratic maps violated the state constitution, which prohibits gerrymandering.

In upholding his decision, the Court of Appeals, New York’s highest court, also concluded that Democrats failed to follow a legal requirement that lawmakers first reject two plans by the commission. Even then, the court said, state lawmakers could only amend the commission’s second rejected plan, and any changes could not affect more than 2 percent of the population in any district.

Under McAllister’s oversight, a special master redrew New York’s congressional and state Senate maps. The Court of Appeals’ decision, however, did not cover the Assembly maps, so the state used the existing boundaries for the primaries in June and the general election in November.

Judge Laurence Love of the New York County Supreme Court issued a decision in September allowing the Independent Redistricting Commission to draft new boundaries for the Assembly, rejecting a request by two Democrats and a Republican who sued to have them redrawn by a special master. His decision was upheld on appeal.

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Beacon Spa Agrees to 'Community Fund'

School board requests payment as part of PILOT

By Jeff Simms

Mirbeau Inn & Spa has agreed to contribute to a "community fund" to offset revenue the Beacon school district could lose if Dutchess County grants the luxury hospitality company a property tax break on its development of the Tioronda Estate on Route 9D.

The terms of the agreement have not been released, but the school board said during its Monday (Feb. 6) meeting that it would write a letter to the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency supporting Mirbeau's application for a 15-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement. If approved by the IDA, the plan would allow Mirbeau to make an annual payment that would be distributed to the school district, the city, the county and the Howland Public Library.

The payment would be based on the tax assessment of the 64-acre parcel, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital, but at a reduced rate.

The IDA asked the city and school board — which would receive the largest cuts of the payment — to submit letters of support. Beacon officials wrote a letter in November after the City Council discussed the matter

in a closed session, but the school board balked, arguing that it stood to lose essential tax revenue.

Under the PILOT agreement, the assessment of the Mirbeau property — which is sure to increase as the company develops the parcel — would not count toward what is known as a "tax-base growth factor." The growth factor is a mechanism through which the state allows school districts to increase their tax levies based on an increase in taxable property assessments.

As high-priced development has boomed in Beacon, the district has benefited from nearly \$2 million in additional tax revenue in the last three years.

"I don't think we would have been able to come to an agreement with Mirbeau if the school board were not so unified on the importance of a community benefit fund being added to the PILOT agreement," Board President Meredith Heuer said on Thursday.

The IDA will hold a public hearing on the Mirbeau project before its board votes on the PILOT application.

Tompkins Terrace

Related Companies, the owners of the Tompkins Terrace low-income housing complex, is asking the Beacon City Council to approve a 40-year PILOT agreement in advance of a \$14.5 million rehabilitation

project. The company said last month that it planned to ask the Dutchess IDA for the PILOT but pivoted a week later to the city.

Under a state agreement, Related, which purchased Tompkins Terrace in 2018, makes an annual payment equal to 10 percent of the rent collected in the previous year. (The payment for 2022 was about \$284,000.) The company has proposed a new agreement that would begin with a Year 1 payment of \$310,000 and increase 2¼ percent each year, for a total of \$19.75 million over four decades.

Related said it plans to spend more than \$75,000 per apartment to upgrade all 193 units. The city says it will add provisions to the PILOT guaranteeing that tenants cannot be forced out and that Tompkins Terrace rents remain below market rate.

Although not required by law, the council held a public hearing on the proposal during its Jan. 30 meeting. Beacon resident Theresa Kraft asked if the city intended to offer financial assistance to other lower-income housing complexes, while Michal Mart cautioned City Council members to make sure the apartments are not allowed to deteriorate again.

In addition, Mart urged the council to be "savvy and discerning" in representing the interests of taxpayers and Tompkins Terrace residents and to "understand fully the financial implications of your decision."

Afterward, City Administrator Chris White noted that the PILOT would ensure affordability at a critical time, because the rent-subsidy programs governing parts of Tompkins Terrace are due to expire soon. "We're not getting a renovation for a 40-year agreement," he said. "We're getting 40 years of this remaining affordable. If this [complex] goes to market, those rents are going to skyrocket."

The next step for the City Council is to review a draft agreement with Related, likely during a workshop this month or in March, White said.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown is seeking candidates interested in a position as **part time Clerk to the Justice Court** beginning as soon as possible. The position is hourly with schedule to be determined. Past court clerk experience and flexible schedule are preferred. Interested parties should please send resume and expression of interest to:

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New York City: Group Sues State Corrections

The New York Civil Liberties Union on Jan. 30 sued the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for denying its requests for records related to officer misconduct.

The group said it submitted a Freedom of Information Law request in October 2020, following the repeal by the state Legislature of a statute, known as 50-a, that had banned the disclosure of disciplinary records.

In June 2020, *The Current* filed a FOIL request for the disciplinary records of officers employed at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon. In February 2022, the state rejected the request, saying it was “unreasonable” because it would take an employee working full time for six months to complete.

Ulster: Buffett Nearly Doubled Gifts

A charitable foundation controlled by Peter Buffett, the youngest son of billionaire Warren Buffet, gave away nearly twice as much money in 2021 in the region

as it did the year before, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

Buffett, who lives in Ulster County, distributed \$46 million in 2021 through his NoVo Foundation to nonprofits in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The largest grants went to the Hudson Valley Farm Hub (\$15 million) and Radio Kingston (\$9 million).

Red Hook: Town Hopes to Buy Farmland

Red Hook hopes to buy and preserve 113 acres of farmland along Route 9, setting 10 acres aside for affordable housing, according to the *Red Hook Daily Catch*.

The land, which is listed at \$2.5 million, has been owned by the Cookingham family for generations. It was used most recently to grow corn and grain.

Buffalo: Earthquake Startles Residents

A 3.8-magnitude earthquake that lasted for several seconds startled residents in the city and suburbs at 6:15 a.m. on Monday (Feb. 6). Mark Poloncarz, the Erie County executive, said on Twitter it felt like a car had hit his house.

The largest earthquake in New York state, on Sept. 5, 1944, was measured at 5.8 magnitude near the Canadian border. In the Hudson Valley, recent quakes have included a “micro” event detected 3 miles below Garrison in 2014 and a 2.2-magnitude

quake that shook Putnam Valley in 2018.

The catastrophic earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey on Monday measured 7.8 magnitude.

Ulster: Breeder on Run

A judge issued an arrest warrant on Monday (Feb. 6) for a Hurley puppy breeder who was indicted on 40 counts of animal abuse but failed to show up for her arraignment.

Nicole Baggatta was detained in July on charges she neglected 30 Yorkshire terriers found in her home, according to the *Daily Freeman*. When officers returned in August, they found 14 more Yorkies in small cages hidden in the closets under piles of clothes.

Yorktown: State Trooper Arrested

A New York State police officer from Troop K, which patrols Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester and Columbia counties, was arrested Jan. 31 and accused of filing 32 fake traffic tickets in 2021 and 2022.

Edward Longo, 34, of Yorktown, was charged with falsifying documents and official misconduct. The trooper who investigated the case said in legal documents that officers are monitored for “performance-related goals,” suggesting Longo felt pressure to meet quotas.

Longo was suspended in November with pay. He is scheduled to be arraigned on Thursday (Feb. 16).

Nyack: Schools Investigating Meal

The Nyack school district is investigating why middle-school students were served chicken and waffles and watermelon for lunch on the first day of Black History Month, according to the *Times Herald-Record*.

The school contracts its cafeteria service to Aramark, which faced criticism in 2018 when it served a meal of ribs, collard greens, watermelon-flavored water and Kool-Aid to New York University students during Black History Month.

The Nyack district and Aramark said they could not determine who set the menu for the Feb. 1 meal but planned to conduct

equity training for food service staff.

In Kingston, meanwhile, the superintendent of the city school district apologized for a form sent to the parents of fourth grade students allowing them to opt their children out of watching films shown as part of Black History Month.

According to the *Daily Freeman*, the superintendent said that, after consulting with the principal, “we both acknowledge that the form was not well thought out.”

Kingston: Charges Dropped Against Officer

A Ulster County judge dropped a murder charge against a New York State trooper who rammed a car during a high-speed chase, killing an 11-year-old passenger, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

Christopher Baldner was charged with second-degree murder after the December 2020 crash. He had been chasing a car driven by Tristin Goods and occupied by four members of the Goods family, including Monica Goods, 11. When Baldner hit the car, it flipped over, killing the girl.

The state is appealing the decision. Baldner still faces a charge of second-degree manslaughter and six counts of reckless endangerment.

Bard College: Course Called Anti-Semitic

The Ulster County Jewish Federation wrote to the president of Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson to protest a new course, “Apartheid in Israel-Palestine,” that it considers anti-Semitic.

“There is no statutory system of apartheid” in Israel, said the UCJF, alleging that the professor, Nathan Thrall, the author of *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine*, lacks “academic integrity.”

According to the *Daily Freeman*, the Bard president dismissed the charges. “There is nothing anti-Semitic about the course,” he said. “It explores questions that have been the subject of debate in Israel for years. Why should the Jewish community in America be afraid of the same debates and arguments taking place in Israel?”

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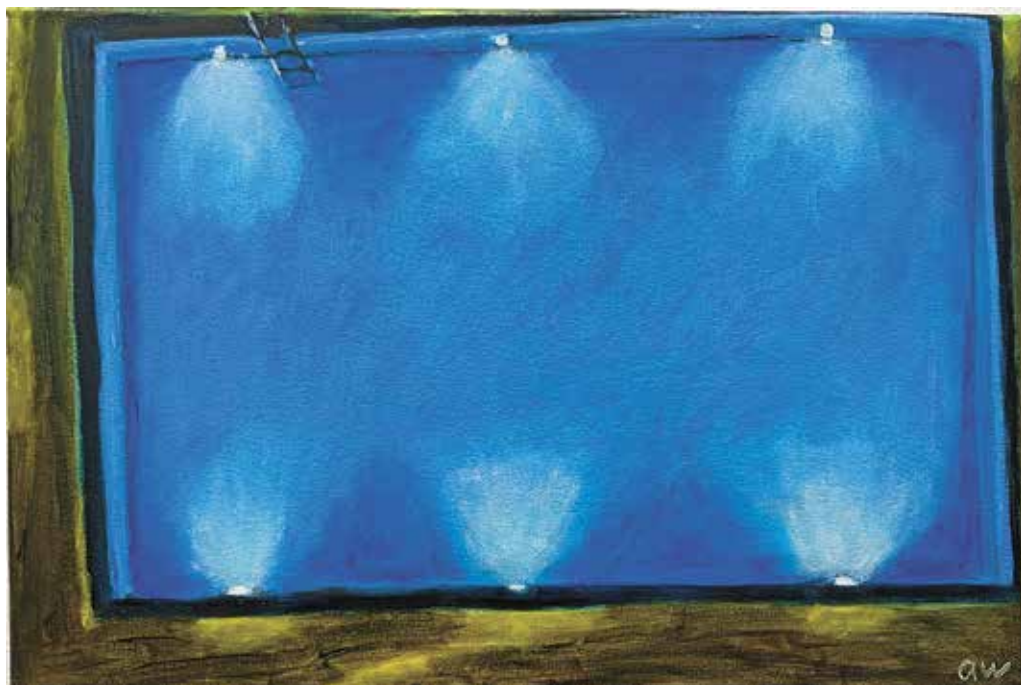
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PAINTING A NEW LIFE

Beacon artist finds solace in the familiar

By Alison Rooney

Anna West paints daily, except for the 10 or so days each year when she's in transit to somewhere with water. She paints the same subject matter, over and over. Her series range from impressions of noir movies to trains, chairs, flowers and Crete. She doesn't consider them an act of repetition.

"You can never answer the question I'm trying to answer," says the Beacon-based artist. "I don't even know what the question is. It's fun to keep painting the same thing, but not exactly the same thing, because it's always new and you can always find new in the old. You could paint the same chair 10 times, and even if you try to do something the same, you can't. It's over, it's a new life."

For her upcoming solo show at the Garrison Art Center, *Blue Edge*, which opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 18, West painted swimming pools, a subject she was drawn to by intently looking at ocean waves, and then at people in the waves.

"I found them mesmerizing," she recalls. "Then I began looking at pools, because many were open during the pandemic. It's the color of the water as much as anything. I shifted to painting swimmers. Swimming pools are ideal for presenting people in motion with a limited but bright palette of multiple shades of blues."

"For a while I was into food coloring on icicles, but I'm too old to keep marching in 2 feet of snow. So, this fall I'll be painting surfers, for sure."

West was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, which she describes as being "between Amish country and the coal regions." Her father worked for the railway, and as a teenager she took trains to Atlantic City and Philadelphia, courtesy of his pass, and "mingled with nearby Pennsylvania Dutch. I lost that Amish innocence."

"Being on the trains, I pretended to take pictures. Even now, I try to keep a little childhood cheerfulness in there."

As a young adult, she became a nurse. "In those days, you'd have to work odd shifts. I liked nursing, but I wanted some weekends to myself. I got into photography at that time, but knew I couldn't instantly go back to school."

In 1980, West left Reading in a big way, moving to San Francisco. She stayed for nearly five years, cobbling together a living as a waitress and playing in and photographing punk bands.

In 1984, she moved again, to New York City, where she worked in photo labs while photographing the East Village and the Williamsburg art and music scenes. Her shots sometimes appeared in Brook-

lyn newspapers and at the galleries that had begun to sprout up. It was around that time West took up painting; she began working with oils on canvas in 1999.

"When digital came along, I could see that everyone was going to have a camera," she says. "I was already painting on photographs, adding dots and lines to achieve a three-dimensional effect, so it wasn't a huge transition. I tried canvas and I was like, 'Whoa, this is fun!'"

"Painter friends [in Williamsburg] gave me free lessons and paint, as well as a solid education," she recalls. "Nobody blinked; they said, 'Do you need help?' That's what happens in a real art community — which sometimes Beacon is and sometimes it isn't."

West speaks from experience, as she made the move to Beacon in 2004. "When I first came, the city was rough around the edges and the art was a bit riskier. Galleries come and go but now most feature 'known' people."



Anna West

Photo by Dean Horning

West tends to have her work shown by Newburgh galleries, and she sells online, largely through Instagram. "It's no pressure; you just post. It's like a store."

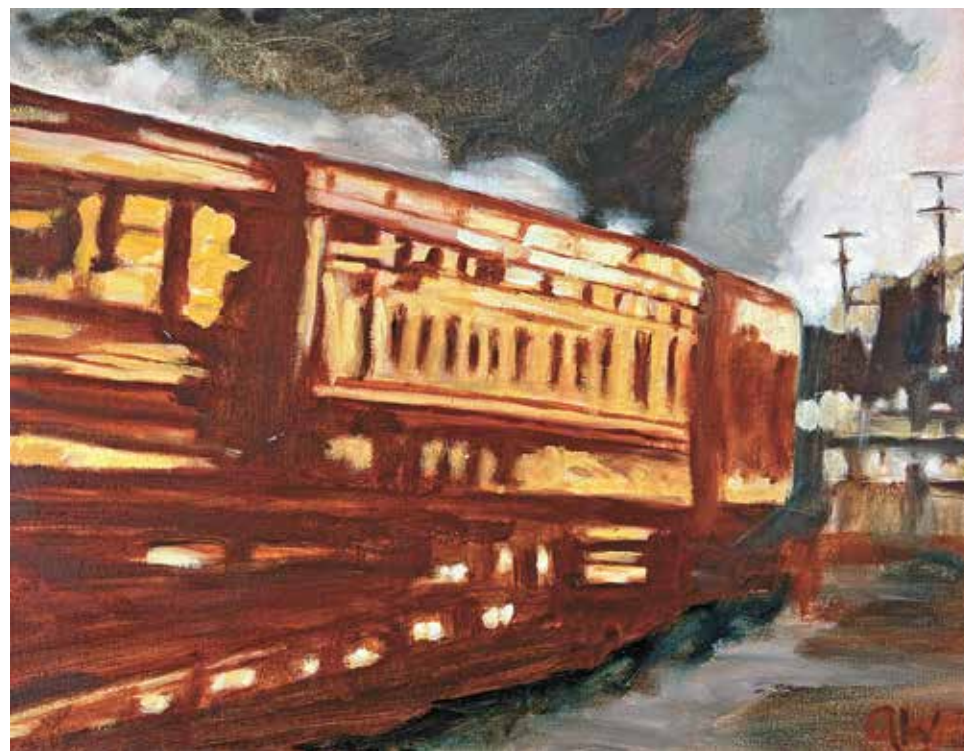
In Beacon, West says she found the time and space to maintain a daily painting practice, which she sticks to even when she travels, sometimes painting on old book covers or scraps of canvas. It is that daily practice that prompted her to submit her work to the Garrison Art Center.

"I had a dream of a room full of just the blue paintings," she says. "The walls were white, but the paintings were hung close together, creating a blue line at eye level. All the paintings together would create a pool-like line around the room while, if you came close, each painting would be its own swimming pool."

She says her outlook has changed since March 2021, when her car was hit by a dump truck on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and rolled three times. "Since the accident, I have destroyed at least 50 old paintings and stop and start over fairly often," she says. "It is no longer 'close enough' but exactly or very, very close to what I am trying to do. Sometimes it is hard to declare something finished because there is a tiny bit of white that is not right. It's about being exact but staying loose."

"I'm thankful every day that I'm alive. When I saw the truck coming, I thought, 'It's OK if I die; I've had a good life.' Then I heard people nearby saying, 'She's alive!' I heard people cheering. I'm very thankful and I'll never lose that."

"For a while after the accident, I couldn't paint 'big' and flowers were the only thing in the yard I could see. Now I'm over it. The paintings are happier now. I like to think they are because I am."



"Murder is My Bear"

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison's Landing, is open daily except Monday. Blue Edge continues through March 19. On Feb. 25, West will teach a workshop at the art center on painting on old book covers. See garrisonartcenter.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Polar Plunge, Feb. 18

COMMUNITY

SAT 11

Card Making Workshop

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Danielle Lafayette will lead this workshop focused on using collage and pen-and-ink techniques to make cards during the art center's February series of one-day workshops. Registration required. *Cost: \$75*

SAT 11

Roses and Bows

BEACON

11 a.m. Beacon Historical Society
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

Shirley Botsford, whose needlework is on exhibit at the society, will lead a class for teens and adults ages 14 and older on creating fabric bows and rose shapes from repurposed neckties. Register online. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 12

Eagle Watch

GARRISON

Noon – 4 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Guides from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Society and the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will help visitors spot bald eagles that nest in this section of the Hudson River. Bring binoculars and scopes. Rescheduled from SAT 4. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$7 for ages 4 to 18, free for ages 3 and younger)*

THURS 16

Chamber of Commerce

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. Hudson House River Inn
2 Main St. | coldspringnychamber.com

The theme at this month's breakfast meeting is wellness and Philipstown Behavioral Hub and the Philipstown Trails Committee will lead presentations. *Cost: \$10 (free for members)*

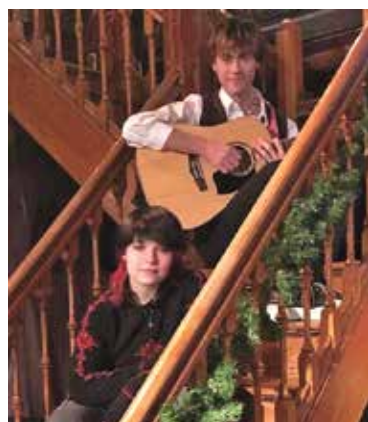
THURS 16

Mid-Winter Celebration

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Private residence
foundationforbeaconschools.org

The Foundation for Beacon Schools will host this fundraiser at the home of a board member with food, beverages and live music from Judith Tulloch and students Rowan Parsaca and Jonah Mensch (below). *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



SAT 18

Polar Plunge

FISHKILL

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sharpe Reservation
436 Van Wyck Lake Road
bit.ly/fishkill-polar-plunge

Gather sponsors for your plunge into ice-cold water to raise money for the Special Olympics.

SUN 19

Vintage & Handmade Fair

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.
facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow

Dealers will be selling vintage clothing, jewelry, toys, accessories and records at this event organized by Beacon Curated. *Cost: \$3*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 11

Dessert Decorating

GARRISON

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

Chef Rebecca Weber will

demonstrate how to make and decorate chocolate treats for Valentine's Day. For ages 5 and older.

SAT 11

Craft and Storytime

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade will listen to the reading of a Valentine's book before making a heart-shaped photo frame.

WED 15

Style It: Clothes Design

BEACON

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

Ann Lowe and other Black fashion designers will serve as inspiration for children from age 4 to the fifth grade. Registration required.

TALKS & TOURS

MON 13

Self-Love Paint and Sip

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Wine and paints will be supplied. Ages 21 and older. Registration required.

THURS 16

Winter Scene Tea Light

BEACON

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

Tea-light holders, stands, paint and glitter will be available for adults to make a decorated candle scene. Registration required.

SAT 18

Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnm.org

Visitors can choose a sugar-bush tour at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. that includes a moderate 1-mile hike, or a maple-lane tour at noon or 3 p.m., which is a short walk. Tours continue weekends through March 19. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 members, free ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 18

Washington's Birthday

NEWBURGH

Noon – 3 p.m.
Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/washingtonshheadquarters

A re-enactor will cut a birthday



Elin Lundman, Feb. 11

cake, and there will be demonstrations of camp life, music and crafts. Also SUN 19, MON 20. *Free*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11

Jack Whitten

BEACON

12:30 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Jacqueline Humphries will discuss Whitten's Greek-alphabet paintings with curators Donna De Salvo and Matilde Guidelli-Guidi. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 disabled people and students, \$5 ages 5 to 11, ages 4 and younger free)*

SAT 11

Entrelacé

GARRISON

3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Anita Jacobson and poet Joan Turner will discuss their collaboration and read from their new book. The exhibit continues through SUN 12.

SAT 11

Chris Dokebi | GID

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
139 Main St. | clutter.co

Dokebi's goblins will be shown as well as Glow in the Dark work. Through March 3.

SAT 11

Elin Lundman

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

The artist will have a solo show, *Beast Mode*, that explores myth and imagination through monsters painted on a variety of materials. Through March 5.

SAT 11

Robert Olsson

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Olsson's macro-landscape photographs will be on view. New member work will be on display in Gallery 2 and Joel Brown's textiles in the Beacon Room.

THURS 16

Stephen Mallon

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org

The photographer and filmmaker will discuss his industrial landscape photography in the series *Sea Train: Subway Reef Photos*.

FRI 17

Senga Nengudi

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

Work by the artist will be on long-term view, including installations with African, Japanese, South Asian and Western cultural references. A series of performances will be part of the program. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 disabled people and students, \$5 ages 5 to 11, ages 4 and younger free)*

SAT 18

Winter Weekend Art Show

BEACON

Noon – 9 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.com

Work by local artists will be on view and available for purchase. Also SUN 19.



Stephen Mallon, Feb. 16

SAT 18
Anna West | Lindsey Guile
GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
 23 Garrison's Landing
 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

West's solo show, *Blue Edge*, is a series of paintings of swimming pools. See Page 11. Guile's *Uncensored* includes drawings of bodies that don't conform to traditional concepts of the "right size." Through March 19.

MUSIC

SAT 11
Winter Music Festival
POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 10 p.m. The Chance
 6 Crannell St. | thechancetheater.com

Beacon School of Rock bands will perform the songs of Green Day, Led Zeppelin and other pop-rock legends.

SAT 11
Yonnick Prene
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
 173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

The Parisian composer and educator is an award-winning jazz harmonica player.

SAT 11
Louie Prima Jr. and The Witnesses
PEEKSKILL

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

The 10-piece, New Orleans-style band will play a range of music from its two albums. *Cost: \$25 to \$35*

top 40 classics of the Beatles. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 12
Beacon Rising Choir
BEACON

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

Formed in 2017, the group will perform a selection of music by women, LGBTQ and Black and Indigenous composers about social justice and community. Proceeds will benefit Compass Arts. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door, free for children 12 and younger)*

FRI 17
Matt Pidel & The Feels
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
 173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

The band will play original rock, blues and jazz.

FRI 17
Los Lobos
PEEKSKILL

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

The band, which has been performing for five decades, will play its hits and songs from its latest release, *Native Sons*. *Cost: \$49 to \$67*

FRI 17
Mary Fahl
BEACON

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

The singer, best known for her work with the October Project, will perform music from her latest release, *Can't Get It Out Of My Head*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 11
Cosmokaze
BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood
 47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com

The improvisational instrument collective will perform.

SAT 11
Solojoi77
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The rhythm-and-blues band includes Chaya (vocals), Matt Blaser (bass), David Hollander (guitar), Chris Hutz (keyboards) and Dave Miller (drums).

SAT 11
The Weeklings
BEACON

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

The tribute band will perform the



Los Lobos, Feb. 17

SAT 18
Concert of Concertos
NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
 330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform at Aquinas Hall with pianists Alan Murray, Janet Wu (right), Stanley Sisskin and Frank Siegel playing concertos by Mozart, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$25*



SAT 18
Special EFX
BEACON

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

Guitarist and composer Chieli Minucci will perform with his jazz-fusion group, including music from his solo project, *Someone's Singing*, and a 40th-anniversary project, *Twenty Twenty 2*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 18
Freeways
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's
 330 Main St. | quinnsinbeacon.com

SUN 19
Drew Petersen
BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
 477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The Howland Chamber Music Circle continues its annual piano festival with Petersen performing a program that includes works by Corigliano, Chopin, Ravel and Robert Schumann. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students ages 25 and younger)*

SUN 19
Damn Tall Buildings
BEACON

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

Avery Ballotta (violin), Max Capistran (guitar, banjo) and Sasha

Dubyk (bass) will play music from their latest release, *Sleeping Dogs*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 11
It's Only a Play
WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater
 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countypayers.org

Kit Colburn directs the staging of the Terrence McNally comedy about a Broadway opening-night party. Also SUN 12, FRI 17, SAT 18. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors/military/children)*

FRI 17
The Super LOL Comedy Show
BEACON

8 p.m. Two Way Brewing
 18 W. Main St. | twowaybrewing.com

Joe Sherman, Dayna Marie, Rebecca Cadiz, Gilbert Hernandez and Anthony Quinn will perform stand-up. *Free*

CIVIC

SAT 11
Town Hall
GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Dana Levenberg, newly elected to the state Assembly to represent the district that includes Philipstown, will discuss legislative priorities and hear feedback. She will also hold office hours at Town Hall, 238 Main St., from 1 to 4 p.m. on MON 13.

MON 13
City Council
BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
 845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

WED 15
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
ALL-DAY WORKSHOPS

NYSATA PROFESSIONAL DAY

WINTER WORKSHOP FOR K-3RD GRADE

Spend your day having fun and creating art while your kids do the same thing! Sign up for both President's Day workshops and use the promo code NYSATA for \$15 off! Both workshops run 10-3. Credit is available for NYSATA members, but NYSATA membership not necessary to enroll.

Enroll today by visiting www.garrisonartcenter.org or via the QR code

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23 Garrison's Landing
 Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org 845-424-3960



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"My Mother Posing for Me," from Larry Sultan's 1984 book, *Pictures From Home*



Danny Burstein, Nathan Lane and Zoë Wanamaker in a scene from Sharr White's *Pictures From Home*

Photo by Julieta Cervantes

CAPTURING MOM AND DAD

Philipstown playwright's new play debuts on Broadway

By Alison Rooney

Did you experiment with structure?

I knew I wanted it to be all presentational, with Larry telling his story. It was also important for Irv and Jean to have competing narratives where they could enlist the audience on their side. I wanted to keep it as free as possible, so that any character could pop through the fourth wall.

What do you think Larry would make of today's carefully edited lives on Instagram?

Larry staged a lot of his photographs. I think the question is, are Instagramers looking to expose a version of a truth that says something about their lives? I would say no — it's about popularity and clicks.

Does writing episodic TV influence your playwriting?

It's the inverse. My playwriting work influences my TV work. Playwriting is almost always about a three-act structure. My bread-and-butter in the TV world has been as a structuralist, and it's because of the similarity to a play's arc.

How did the Broadway production gestate?

There are a couple of models of getting a property to Broadway, and one is trying to have a great production in one of the best off-Broadway houses. The other is an out-of-town tryout with a regional theater production. Honestly, we sent this play to every off-Broadway theater and everyone passed. I don't think people knew what to do with

it; it's a complicated script. Then, we had an offer from the Alley Theater in Houston for what would have been a superb production, but — COVID. Finally, [producer] Jeff Richards read the play on a Friday, called on a Monday and said, "I want to do it."

Did you assume you would need at least one bona fide star?

Look, you need to sell tickets. I wake up with anxiety about filling the seats. These exceptional actors are the reason people are buying tickets. What I want to leave is a script that is a roadmap to allow any future production to work. There are exceptionally talented performers who are famous within their regional circle. Watching these [Broadway] actors bring the play to life affirmed the play worked, which is important to me.

If one of your two teenage sons decided to do a version of Larry's project, examining the family dynamics through an artistic lens, would you embrace it or would you be terrified?

I would embrace it, especially after this. Our family's life is intimate and I would welcome that discourse, for sure.

At what point did it strike you that you were not only writing a play but continuing Larry's work?

It only dawned on me that, on some meta-level, staging this was a continuation of the project. Kelly Sultan pointed that out to me. I feel an enormous responsibility, and at the same time, that has to be tempered. I had to remind myself often that this isn't a biography: It's my interpretation of Larry's process interpreting his parents.

Did you get to keep any of the Halston clothing?

Nope, not a stitch.

Studio 54 is located at 254 W. 54th St., between Broadway and Eighth, in New York City. For tickets, see picturesfromhomebroadway.com.

Invited by a friend in 2015 to see an exhibit of photographs by Larry Sultan at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Sharr White had no idea they would resonate with him so deeply. The Philipstown resident devoted much of the next seven years to planning and writing a three-character play, *Pictures from Home*, based on Sultan's work and life.

The three characters are Sultan and his parents, Irv and Jean. Beginning in the early 1980s, Sultan spent a decade photographing, interviewing and writing about his parents and his relationship with them. (He died in 2009.)

White's play, directed by Bartlett Sher and starring Nathan Lane, Danny Burstein and Zoë Wanamaker, opened this week at Studio 54 and is his third on Broadway, following *The Snow Geese* and *The Other Place*. White also writes for television, including episodes of *The Affair* on Showtime and *Halston* on Netflix.

Do you often visit photography exhibits? Or was this a case of something that was just meant to be?

I am a museum-goer, for sure, but I don't know that things are meant to happen. It's more about keeping my eyes open. I sat on it for two-and-a-half years before clearing my schedule to see if it still resonated. I always tell my wife, Evelyn, what I'm doing, because inevitably it turns into "What's going to drive me crazy for the next couple of years?" Especially because there's a world full of ideas that usually *aren't* meant to be.

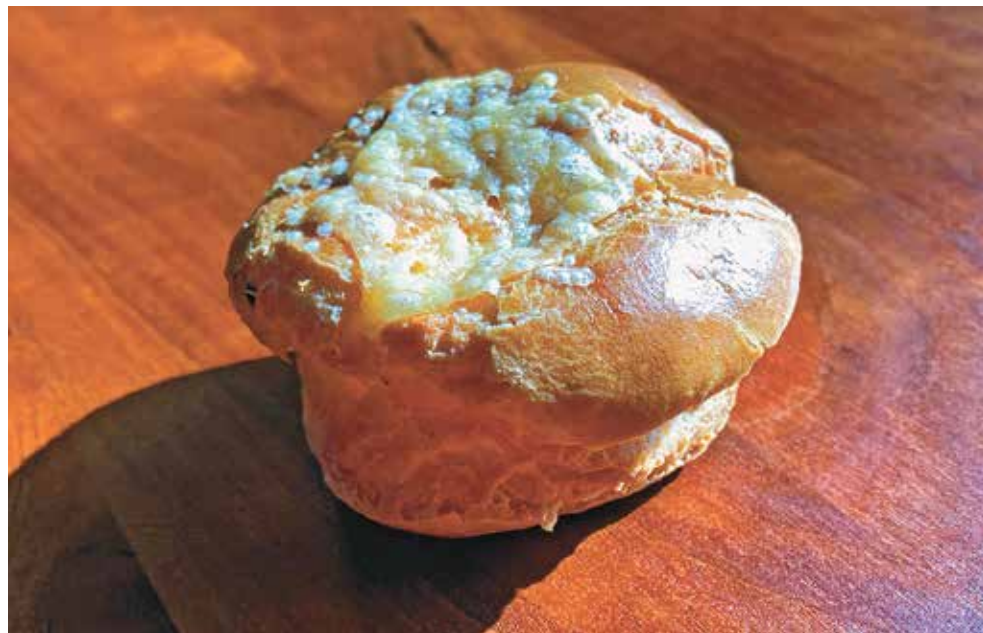
What was your initial reaction to the Sultan exhibit?

I thought immediately that there might be a play in it, but I wasn't sure how to go about making something inspired by Larry's work. It became obvious that I needed the photos. I contacted his widow, Kelly, and we had several long phone conversations. Then I went to Northern California to visit her, and it became clear to all.



Sharr White (left) with Zoë Wanamaker, Danny Burstein, Nathan Lane and director Bartlett Sher

Photo by Michaelah Reynolds



Gougères (“goo-ghare”)

Small, Good Things

The French Inflection

By Joe Dizney

As much as you might love to cook, there are times when even the most curious or imaginative among us must look elsewhere for inspiration. Because, after all, the history of cooking and cuisine is nothing if not a constant arc of revisiting, reimagining and reinterpreting of the foods and foodways that have gone before, and variety is the spice of life.

This process of reinvention applies to professional chefs and restaurants, as well: Witness the rejuvenation of the Beacon stal-



wart Kitchen Sink, which opened in 2015. At the hands of founder, chef Brian Arnoff, and his relatively new co-owner and general manager, Jeff Silverstein, Kitchen Sink has over the last year or so rebranded itself as the Kitchen Sink Supper Club. This readjustment was prompted as much by the mental and spiritual grind of running a table-service restaurant as business privations of the pandemic.

“I did six days a week — seven services, five nights a week, and brunch, plus fried chicken on ‘off’ nights — and even before the pandemic I was kind of burned out on that,” Brian says. “When it hit, we redid Meyer’s [Meyer’s Olde Dutch, their sister restaurant] and lived here while that was going on. I was just starting to work with Jeff and the supper-club concept came together.”

The idea centers around themed and constantly changing tasting menus that range from five to seven courses mounted for roughly two-week periods, reservation-only, on Friday and Saturday nights. (There are exceptions: The most recent New Year’s Eve menu had 12 courses and the club will be open on Valentine’s Day.) Seating is at communal tables, and reservations are required at kitchensinknyc.com.

“The intentions are the same as the original Kitchen Sink — use local foods, present classics in interesting ways, explore the world in flavors — but the particulars of how we do it are different,” Brian says.

The chief supplier of local ingredients is the family-run Truckload Farm & Orchard in Hyde Park, but inspiration can come from anywhere. The current menu, No. 15, which ends this weekend, is a French-themed homage to Julia Child, who was the source for the gougères (pronounced “goo-jare”), a traditional, savory pâte à choux (puff pastry) usually with cheese mixed in or grated on top.

“I love pâte à choux,” says Brian. “It’s so easy to make, so versatile. It’s one of those things that seems so complicated, but once you learn how to make the base, you can do so much with it.”

For Menu No. 15, Arnoff assigned sous chef Albi Bloise select recipes from Child’s *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and told him to “jam on them.” Albi decided to do two gougères — one with French onion soup flavors (caramelized onion and

Gougères

By Brian Arnoff,
Kitchen Sink Supper Club

Makes 24 to 30

4 ounces (½ cup) water

4 ounces (½ cup) whole milk

4 ounces (½ cup) butter

4½ ounces (½ cup plus 1
tablespoon) all-purpose flour

4 eggs

1 teaspoon salt

8 ounces (1 cup) shredded cheese
(Gruyere, comté or emmenthaler are
traditional)

1 large egg beaten with 1 teaspoon
cold water, for an egg wash

Pepper, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bring water, milk and butter to a light boil in a large saucepan. Stir in flour with a wooden spoon and cook for about five minutes, until thick and shiny.

2. Add contents of saucepan into a food processor. With motor running, add one egg at a time until all are fully mixed; add salt and pepper. (For double or larger batches use a stand mixer and bowl.)

3. Using a pastry bag, pipe batter into 1½- to 2-inch mounds on a silpat-covered (or parchment-papered) baking sheet, keeping gougères well separated. (If you don’t have a pastry bag, you may scoop or spoon batter into about 2-inch rounds.)

4. Bake for 12 to 13 minutes at 375 degrees. Remove from oven. Lower heat to 325 degrees, and lightly brush pastries with the egg wash. Sprinkle with grated cheese and return to the oven for 13 to 15 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

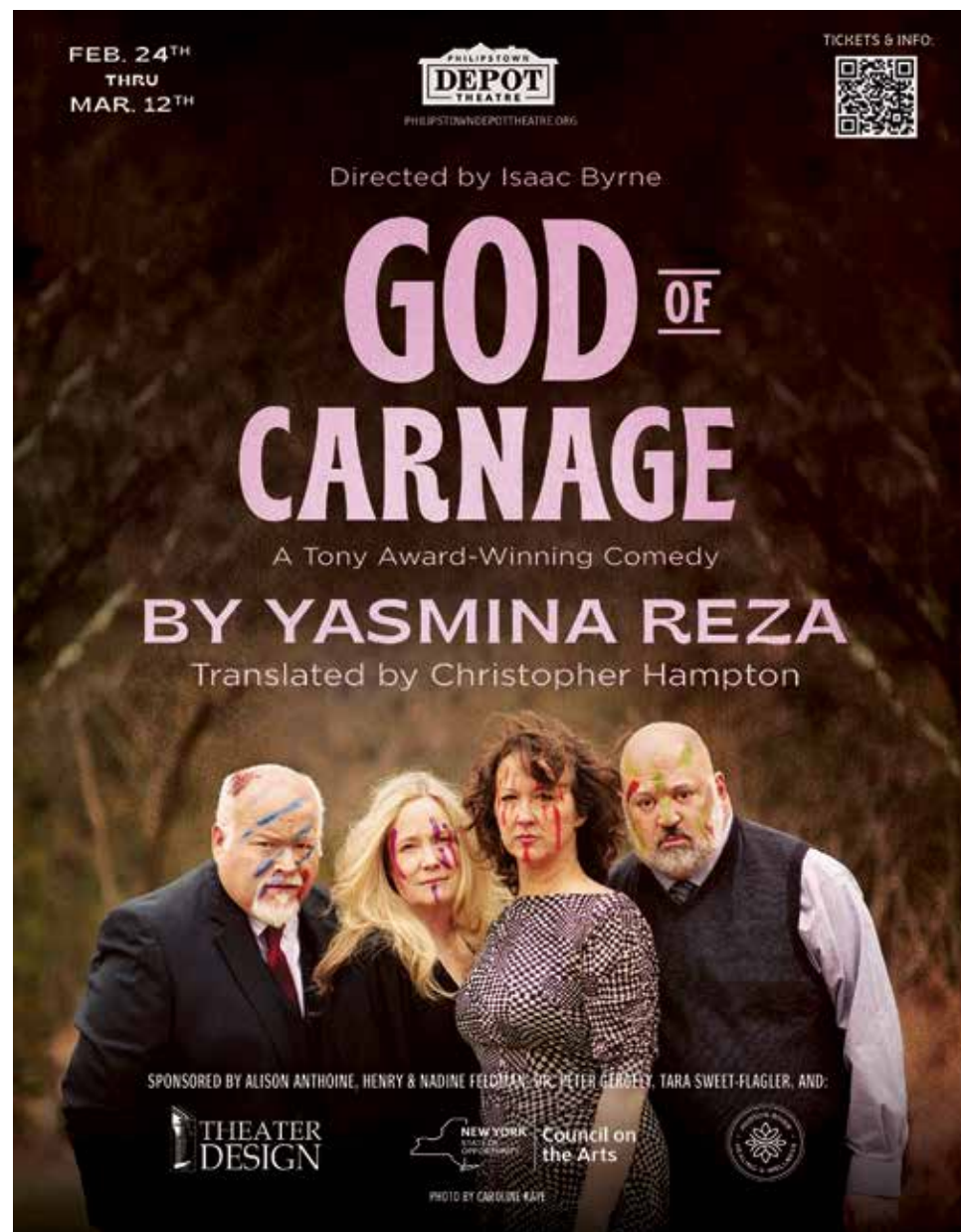
demi-glace cream filling), and one with croque monsieur flavors (minced ham and more cheese in a béchamel) piped into the baked gougères just as you would a creme puff. These serve as the first course of the tasting, and as subtly amusing an amuse-bouche as one could hope for.

The recipe above is Brian’s base for pâte à choux, with a bit more butter, eggs and flour and a lot less elbow grease (by utilizing a

food processor) than Julia’s. For his basic gougères, he opts not to add cheese to the choux pastry, insisting that they don’t puff up as well. Rather the cheese is sprinkled over the top of the pastries after their first pass in the oven, and then they are returned for a quick melt and crisping. Serve them, as is, warm or at room temperature for an appetizer. Or reinvent them as you will with a filling of your choice: Anything goes.



Chef Brian Arnoff of the Kitchen Sink
Supper Club in Beacon



LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (February 1873)

The Hudson River Railroad published its stops at Cold Spring. Northbound trains picked up passengers at 9:18 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 3:58 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:51 p.m. (Montreal Express) and 7:49 p.m. (Pacific Express). Southbound trains stopped at 7:46 a.m., 9:58 a.m. (Chicago Express), 1:51 p.m. (Cincinnati Express), 3:57 p.m. and 8:53 p.m. (the “milk” train).

The Cold Spring Recorder reported that Cadet Smith “is the only colored man at the West Point Military Academy now. Gibbs was dismissed last week and went home to Florida.” [James Webster Smith and Thomas V.R. Gibbs were among the first four Black cadets to enroll at West Point; three failed their initial exams and Smith was expelled during his third year after allegedly flunking a philosophy course. The first Black cadet to graduate was Henry Ossian Flipper, in 1877.]

The Recorder noted that farmers appeared nervous about their winter stores, citing the adage: “Half your wood and half your hay will be needed after Candlemas Day [Feb. 2].”

A Poughkeepsie man purchased a 4-year-old, fast-trotting Morgan mare from Vincent Merritt of Cold Spring for \$500 [about \$12,000 today].

Thomas Avery of Cold Spring agreed to purchase 3,000 cords of wood to be cut under contract on government land by John Denton of Highland Falls. However, it was slow work for the 40-man crew because of the deep snow.

In a lengthy letter to the editor, a *Recorder* subscriber in Nelsonville complained that the paper was not delivered until after 7 p.m. on Saturday and often ended up buried in the snow, and that it contained no news from Nelsonville, anyway, as if nobody lived “above the horizon formed by Baptist Hill.”

The Library Association announced it was expanding into offices recently vacated by Mr. Harney and, after renovations, would have a reading room with periodicals and select books, a room for bound volumes and a “place of resort of rational amusements” with a table for parlor croquet, chess and draughts [checkers].

Quick action by a co-worker at the West Point Foundry, and a thick sleeve, likely saved the arm of Stephen Hughson of Nelsonville. After slipping on the oily floor, Hughson tried to catch himself but instead put his arm into the jaws of the feed wheels. The cogs snagged on his thick coat, giving

Joseph McKaig Jr. enough time to throw the belt off the drum.

The Recorder corrected an earlier report that a thief had taken John McCabe’s horse. While McCabe was out searching for the culprit, the horse was discovered in a neighbor’s yard.

The farmer Dalzell drew considerable attention by driving his wagon into town pulled by two horses harnessed front and back, a novelty in Philipstown.

The trains were delayed in both directions at Cold Spring when a car filled with sheep ran off an icy track. It was reset but slipped again and its freight had to be transferred to another car.

The water wheel at the West Point Foundry broke, causing work to shut down in shops that depended on its power.

On Feb. 4, the daytime temperature rose from 8 to 49 degrees.

Robert Potter, alias Danson, who was in the Putnam County Jail on charges he burglarized the McKinley home on Market Street, managed to escape by creating a dummy that made it appear he was fast asleep. It was surmised that Potter hid behind the door and slipped out as the jailer entered the cell on his rounds. The sheriff suspected someone in Carmel was harboring the fugitive, because he wasn’t dressed for the cold.

The pipes connecting the reservoir to the Cold Spring train station were completed, allowing the engines to be filled in about a quarter of the time. After further testing, the unsightly water tubs in front of the depot would be removed.

The Noisy Lads Social Club held a hop at the Cleremont House in Garrison.

Sylvester Allis, the editor of *The Recorder*, noted that, while researching local history on the occasion of Washington’s Birthday, he learned that “in passing from Fishkill to West Point, Gen. Washington was accustomed to ride, with one or two aides, through Nelsonville, across Margaret’s Falls Brook near the site of the stone bridge, thence through Plum Bush to Warren’s Landing, where boats were kept to connect with West Point.”

At the February session of the county court in Carmel, the grand jury (including two men from Philipstown) returned seven indictments: three for assault and battery, two for burglary and two for false pretenses.

The Nelsonville overseer of the poor announced he would not run for re-election, which *The Recorder* attributed to his caring at his home for two barefoot strangers who did not speak English but having his invoice to the village rejected.

Thieves broke into a railcar parked overnight at the Cold Spring station and took a shipment of almonds but left the tea and coffee untouched. Police surmised it was the work of boys since they stole only what they could consume. A watchman hired to guard the car reimbursed merchant Samuel Shultz for the loss.

An engineer at the depot narrowly escaped being blinded when a jet of hot oil was forced into his face by the steam escaping from the cylinder of an engine.

John Haldane Flagler, a former resident of Cold Spring, killed himself with morphine at a hotel in El Paso, Texas. Harden-Hickey, who had been a frequent visitor to the village, was despondent because he could not raise the funds to field an army to defend his 1893 claim to the island of Trinidad. He had declared himself its prince but the British in 1895 made their own claim.



James Harden-Hickey, the self-proclaimed Prince of Trinidad, was a frequent visitor to Cold Spring.

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees met but there was no business so it adjourned.

A field musician at West Point who attempted to hang himself after being spurned by a Cold Spring girl was court martialed and dismissed from the service.

The Recorder noted that mechanics who commuted from Newburgh to work at the Cornell Iron Works in Cold Spring each spent \$8 a month [about \$285 today] on ferry and train tickets. They typically began their morning trip on the 6:33 a.m. ferry and their evening return on the 6:33 p.m. train at Cold Spring.

Despite having to haul the hose cart through snowbanks, Cold Spring firefighters needed only seven minutes to respond to a blaze on the back stairs of the Mosher house at Main and Market streets. The fire was already under control because of the efforts of a bucket brigade. *The Recorder* noted that, had the fire occurred at night, the stairs were the only exit for the families living on the second and third floors.

Robert Paulding of Cold Spring competed in a 1-mile novice skating race at the Ice Palace in New York City. On the last straight, he collided with another competitor and both fell. Paulding managed to get to his feet to place second but, after a protest, he was relegated to third.

The air machinery that powered the gates at the intersection near the depot was malfunctioning, forcing drivers to dismount and raise or lower them by hand.

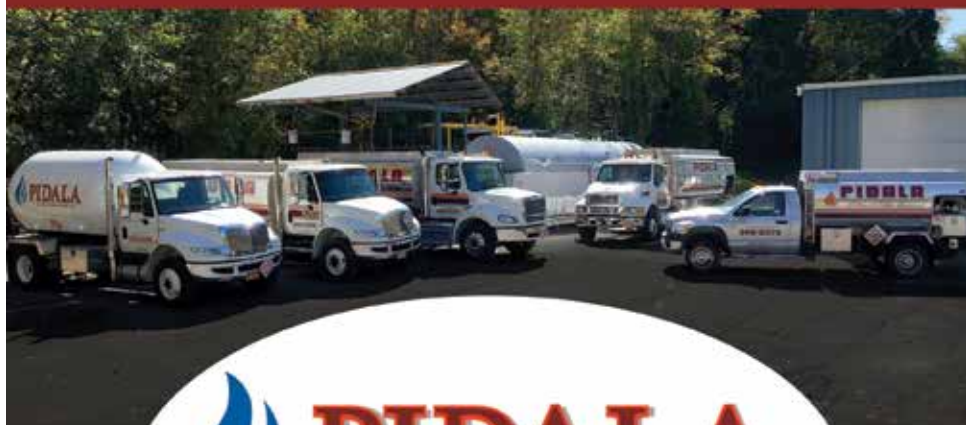
The New York Central Railroad Co. settled for \$3,000 [about \$107,000 today] with the widow of the locomotive fireman who was one of 19 people killed in a wreck in October near Garrison.

The members of Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1 accepted a proposal by Judge Wood, who offered to construct a firehouse on a parcel he owned on Garden Street near Main.

The 16-member Forest Dramatic Co. performed the musical drama *Among the*

(Continued on Page 17)

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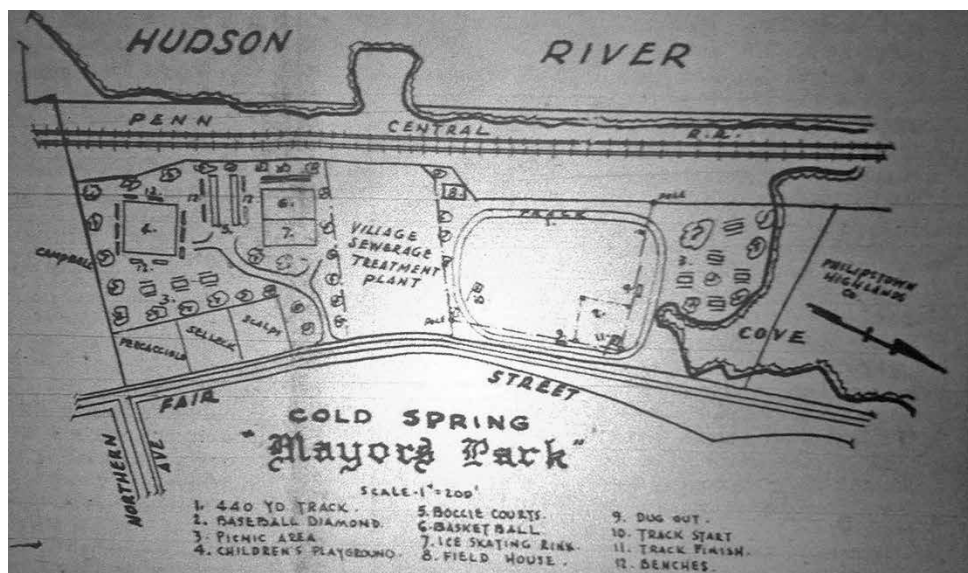
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A 1973 sketch of the plans for Mayors Park in Cold Spring

(Continued from Page 16)

Breakers at Town Hall, with a set that included a full-size lifeboat.

Irving McCoy, the editor of *The Recorder*, questioned the hygiene of many Cold Spring residents, whom he accused of being "shy of water." He also observed that "the woman who will scrimp for a month to wear a stuffed blue bird on her hat cries her eyes out when the cat gets the canary."

75 Years Ago (February 1948)

A wash drawing by Charles Wheeler Locke of Garrison titled "Beer" was chosen for an annual exhibit of contemporary American sculpture, watercolors and drawings at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

The rear roof over an unoccupied section of the century-old D. Yannitelli building at 158-162 Main St. collapsed under the weight of snow. The building formerly housed the Methodist Church.

Four of the five homes in the Whitehill development in Undercliff Park had been sold and two of the owners, Village Clerk Ronald McConville and Joseph Etta, had moved in. The two other owners were Hugh Clark of Beacon and Frederick Cunningham, the music instructor at the Haldane School.

Tom Donnelly was at Butterfield Memorial Hospital with a broken kneecap following an accident on Cat Rock Road in Garrison. Donnelly was driving to work when he met a truck driven by Morris Blaze of Feldman and Blaze's Kosher Meat Market of Peekskill on a bad turn. He pulled over as far as the snow would allow but the truck rammed his car.

Two electives were added to the curriculum at the Haldane High School: personal and social development for girls and driver education and training, sponsored by the American Automobile Association with a dual-control Chevrolet loaned by a Nelsonville dealer. A similar class was offered before World War II but eliminated because of gas rationing.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Livermore of Garrison announced the birth at home of a son at 4:20 a.m. on a Thursday morning. [The son, Keith, later enlisted in the U.S. Army and was killed in 1967, at age 19, by a sniper in Binh Dinh, Vietnam.]

The Teen Agers of Cold Spring held an organizational meeting at Village Hall.

Joseph Stevens, manager of the Hudson Theatre, announced that lenses had been placed on the projectors to increase the size of the picture by 18 inches. In addition, the carpeting in the lobby and men's restroom had been replaced with tile and Stevens hoped to install air conditioning by June.

50 Years Ago (February 1973)

The Elementary Educational Task Force recommended to the Haldane school board that the district construct a \$2.6 million, two-floor structure on 10.6 acres behind the annex with classrooms and a library, gymnasium and cafetorium (cafeteria/auditorium). A consultant also recommended a \$900,000 renovation of the main building for the upper grades. Enrollment at Haldane had doubled over the previous 20 years, to more than 1,000 students.

The Cold Spring Village Board approved plans for Mayor's Park, which would be located on either side of the sewage treatment plant on Fair Street. It would include a picnic area; playground; bocce court; basketball court; ice skating and hockey facilities; a six-lane, 440-yard track; and a baseball field for the newly formed Babe Ruth youth baseball league.

25 Years Ago (February 1998)

A joint subcommittee of the Haldane and Garrison school boards met to explore shared services, including sports, staff development, transportation and special education.

The Capuchin Franciscans Province of St. Mary said it planned to sell its property on Route 9D to a White Plains developer to create a retirement community and hotel. The Capuchins had owned the property since 1917, when they purchased it from Hamilton Fish. In 1973 the seminary became Capuchin Youth and Families Ministry, which would continue after the sale.

Sixty residents rallied at the Tiny Tots Park on High Street on a Sunday afternoon to protest a plan to relocate it to the northeast end of the block. The next morning, after a crew arrived to cut down what the village said were dangerous trees, a group of residents asked a state judge in Carmel to issue an injunction. In response, the village agreed to not remove any trees or move any playground equipment until March 12, its deadline to respond to the legal filing.

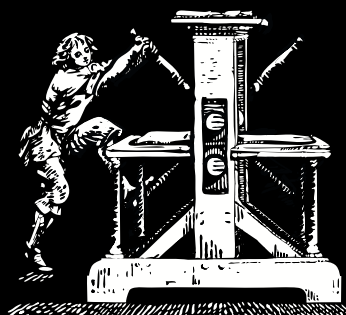
Mayor Anthony Phillips said that the



A self-portrait by Charles Wheeler Locke, a Garrison resident who in 1948 had a drawing in a show at the Whitney

state Transportation Department planned to reconstruct Route 301 from the Cold Spring traffic light to Route 9. The project would take about two years, he said.

Following a public hearing by the Nelsonville Planning Board over a proposal by the Putnam County Housing Corp. to build an 80-unit complex for seniors on a 4-acre parcel on Secor Street, the agency decided not to proceed. The plans would require a zoning change because the parcel was only approved for up to eight units. Residents who voiced opposition said they were not against senior housing but only the density of the project.



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Edward Mancari (1949-2023)

Edward Taylor Mancari of Cold Spring entered into eternal rest on February 3, 2023, at the age of 73 after a brief illness.

Born in Cold Spring to Edward and Eleanor Mancari, he graduated from Haldane High School in 1967. A lifelong educator, he began his teaching career at Peoria Heights High School after obtaining his master of arts degree from Bradley University.

He continued his teaching career at Rombout Middle School in Beacon, where he also coached football. He moved up to school administrator, becoming the principal of Rombout and eventually the principal of Beacon High School until his retirement. His passion was to make sure every student had the chance to excel and reach their full potential.

He was a lifelong member of the Cold Spring Fire Co., fulfilling many roles, including the most recent of treasurer. He was also a member of the Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club, and their annual kids' fishing derby was something he always looked forward to because it provided children with the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate nature.

As well as being a member of the Loretto Council Knights of Columbus, he served as a Village of Cold Spring Trustee for 20 years where he helped spearhead the Cold Spring Dock restoration and the implementation of the water treatment plant.

He loved fishing, golfing, gardening and, most importantly, spending time with his family. He was also known to lay a bet or two on horse races, and now all his picks are winners. Unfortunately, he was a Boston Red Sox fan (we could never make sense of it).

He is survived by his beloved wife of 23 years, Elizabeth, with whom every day was filled with smiles and laughs. He is also survived by his two sons, Anthony (Barbara) of Mentor, Ohio, and Edward of Beacon; his two stepsons, Stephen and Justin (Brittany); his brother, David (Beth), nephews and nieces, and many other extended family and friends.

He was the beloved grandfather of 12 grandchildren: Anna, Sarah, Maria, Shelby, Sofia, Tony, Stephen, Billy, Dominick, Adele, Owen and Nathan. They will miss their Poppy beyond how words can describe.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Paul.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 8 at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Cold Spring Fire Co., 154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Arrangements under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home.

PAID NOTICE

Roundup *(from Page 20)*

"The great thing about coaching Henry is how 'track-knowledgeable' he is," the coach said. "We sketched out a specific race strategy, depending on the anticipated size of the field and his assumed starting position, and Henry executed the plan flawlessly, despite the race not being lined up quite the way I expected."

"He has now fully made the transition from state qualifier in cross-country to top-notch, mid-distance on the track."

Jonah Mensch bounced back from what

Henry called a "messy" hurdle race at the meet to post a 38.06 personal best in the 300 meters and, on the girls' side, Janaya Fluelen ran her best 200 in 29.21. Bella Migliore finished the 600 meters in 1:48.61, creeping closer to the 1:45 school record.

In other events, Damani DeLoatch was fourth in the triple jump in 42-10.5.

Next up for Beacon is the Section IX, Class A championship on Saturday (Feb. 11) at West Point.

BOWLING

The Beacon boys, led by James Bouchard

and Anthony Borromeo, fell to Highland, 3-2, on Tuesday (Feb. 7) to finish 6-8 and fall just short of qualifying for the 10-team Section IX tournament, which begins Monday.

The girls, led by Cadence Heeter and Vanessa Campanelli, defeated Highland, 5-0, but finished the season 4-9 and also did not qualify for postseason play.

BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon finished seventh of 12 teams in Division 1 of the regional championships held Feb. 2 and 3 at Newburgh Free Academy.

The top team finishers for the Bulldogs included the 200-yard medley relay of Imroz Ali, Bryce Manning, Ronnie Anzovino and Carlos Lazo, which placed seventh in 1:56.19; and the 200 freestyle relay with the same swimmers, which finished seventh in 1:43.08.

In individual events, Lazo clinched 10th in the 50-yard freestyle in 25 seconds and 11th in the 100-yard freestyle in 54.56, qualifying in both for the Section IX championships that start Thursday (Feb. 16); and Manning was eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:11.20, also qualifying.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Niger neighbor

5. Existed

8. Close

12. Timber wolf

13. Rocker Rose

14. — Christian Andersen

15. Modern taxi rival

16. Museum-funding org.

17. Verdi opera

18. Anne who married Henry VIII

20. Funhouse feature

22. Extinct bird

23. Documentarian Burns

24. Island near Java

27. Gymnast's move

32. Brit. record label

33. Continent north of Afr.

34. Bar cubes

35. Olympic skating gold medalist Tara

38. Grand tale

39. *Today* rival, briefly

40. *Fresh Air* airtel

42. Honeydews

45. Jerry of the Grateful Dead

49. Golf bag item

50. Frazier foe

52. "Heavens!"

1

12

15

18

24

32

35

42

49

53

56

53. Spanish ayes

54. Charged bit

55. Mature

56. Try out

57. Schlep

58. Get lippy

DOWN

1. Golf bag item

2. Vagrant

3. Genesis shepherd

4. Moolah

5. Hopefuls

6. Chopping tool

7. Bridge coup

8. *Doctor Zhivago* star

9. Tress holder

10. Nullify

11. Despot

19. "Hey!"

21. Annoy

24. — canto

25. Parisian pal

26. Makeup kit item

28. Arctic seabird

29. Shrinking in fear

30. Here, in Dijon

31. Chest muscle

36. "Leave that to me!"

37. Indian bread

38. Goofs

41. Ma's mate

42. Fine spray

43. Canal of song

44. Go yachting

46. — Pet

47. Rascallions

48. Pro votes

51. Singer Rawls

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Answers for Feb. 3 Puzzles

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

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

1. DECLINED, 2. DARKENING, 3. SPOKE, 4. TITIVATE, 5. BERTH, 6. PURL, 7. FLAMENCO

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see 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 removes from a game (7)

2 "Antiques Roadshow" item (8)

3 they're on the seating chart (6)

4 disappointed and humbled (9)

5 casually moves "on down" (4)

6 largest Asian "stan" (10)

7 like Veruca Salt, perhaps (6)

SOLUTIONS

BE	BO	OOM	ES	STS
IRL	ZAK	TY	PS	BR
KA	AN	GRI	GUE	HE
CHA	AT	NCH	HST	NED

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Ben Bozsik looks to pass against Putnam Valley.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Haldane senior Matteo Cervone dropped 30 points on Putnam Valley.



Will Bradley pulls down a rebound against Putnam Valley.

VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Senior Night emotions may have been a bit of a distraction for Haldane Tuesday (Feb. 7) at home against Putnam Valley, but by the end of the fourth quarter the Blue Devils' talent rose to the top in a 65-61 league victory.

The Tigers jumped out to a fast start and led 24-14 at the end of a quarter. But Haldane settled down and cut the deficit to 35-31 at halftime and took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter.

Haldane senior Matteo Cervone was unstoppable, whether he drove or pulled up for jump shots, punishing the Tigers with 30 points. And he came up big in the clutch: In the last three minutes of regulation, he had seven points, two steals, a block and a rebound. Matt Nachamkin added 11 points, and Will Bradley and Ben Bozsik each had 10.

"Putnam Valley is a good team, and they were shooting the ball well," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Senior Night is emotional for the guys, and it was hitting home, so I wasn't surprised to see a slow start."

"I also was not surprised to see our guys come back," he added. "We've played some tough teams this year, and our schedule is paying off. We're battle-tested. We took a lead going into the fourth, and held on down the stretch."

The team honored its seniors — Bozsik, Bradley, Jesse Hagen, Cervone, Thomas Rockett, Ryan Eng-Wong, Julian Ambrose and manager Matt Junjulas — before the game. During the last four years, with Cervone playing every game, Haldane has gone 57-14.

"It's a special group — they have chemistry, great leadership and an eagerness to

learn and win," Virgadamo said.

On Feb. 3 at Croton-Harmon, the Blue Devils picked up a 63-53 victory over the Tigers. Cervone lead the way with 21 points, followed by Nachamkin (18) and Bradley (10).

Haldane (13-4, 7-0 league) is scheduled to close out its regular season with games on Monday (Feb. 13) at Briarcliff and Friday at Franklin Roosevelt in Hyde Park. The Section I, Class C semifinals are set for Feb. 28 at the Westchester County Center with Hamilton, Leffell and Tuckahoe. The winners advance to the title game on March 4. Haldane will likely be the third seed and face No. 2 Tuckahoe (11-6), which defeated the Blue Devils by a point on Dec. 7.

Meanwhile, Beacon held on in the final minutes in a hostile environment on Wednesday (Feb. 8) to pick up a 50-47 victory at Burke Catholic in Goshen.

Joe Battle led the Bulldogs with 19 points, followed by Adrian Beato (9), Darien Gillins (6) and Dylan Howard (6).

"That was a gritty, tough win against a talented team," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "It was a great defensive effort holding them to 47 points. We stayed with our game plan and executed at the end."

Beacon also picked up a 62-43 win on Monday at Port Jervis behind 19 points from Danny Mercado and 10 each from Battle and Howard.

"We played one of our better first halves," said Schetter. "We had a season-high five 3-pointers and Danny had his best game of the season by far."

On Feb. 4, Beacon edged Red Hook, 56-53, in the Officials vs. Cancer Tournament at Dutchess Community College. Battle led the

Bulldogs with 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Howard added 13 points and Gillins had nine. Beacon built a 34-16 lead by halftime but had to hold on in a close finish.

"In the third quarter, it felt like everything we shot missed and everything they shot went in," Schetter said.

Beacon (14-5, 7-2 league) is scheduled to close its regular season today (Feb. 10) at Monticello. The Section IX, Class A playoffs begin Feb. 25.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon earned a 44-25 win on Tuesday (Feb. 7) over visiting Burke Catholic behind 13 points from Reilly Landisi and 12 from Daveya Rodriguez.

"Our defense in the first half was great," holding Burke to seven points, said Coach Christina Dahl. "Daveya and Reilly sparked our offense to start, with Daveya scoring eight in the first and Reilly adding nine in the second. In the second half, we got contributions and valuable minutes from all of our girls."

On Feb. 3, in a 43-33 road win over Minisink Valley, Rodriguez led Beacon with 14 points and Landisi added 11. Shadaya Fryar and Devyn Kelly each scored seven.

Beacon (13-5, 7-1) is scheduled to close its regular season at Cornwall on Tuesday (Feb. 14). The Section IX, Class A playoffs begin Feb. 25.

Haldane didn't fare as well, losing games in the past week to Croton-Harmon (45-30), Blind Brook (50-34) and Putnam Valley (55-27). During the latter contest, Eva DeChent scored her 2,000th career point for the Tigers; she is headed to the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

The Blue Devils (3-15) will honor the seniors tonight (Feb. 10) when they host Clarkstown South to close the regular season. The Section



Beacon's Bella Migliore ran the 600 meters in 1:48.61 at a meet on Feb. 4.

Photo provided

I, Class C tournament semifinals, with Tuckahoe, Hamilton and Leffell, are scheduled to begin Feb. 28 at the Westchester County Center. Haldane will likely be the fourth seed and face No. 1 Tuckahoe (10-8).

WINTER TRACK

Henry Reinke ran a 1:24.22 for Beacon in the 600 meters at the Purple Champions Invitational on Feb. 4 at The Armory in New York City, the best time this season in Section IX and the 14th-best time in the state. It was also a personal best.

The time exceeded the standard (1:24.74) for a third competitor from Section IX to qualify for the state championship next month, said Coach Jim Henry.

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