

The HIGHLANDS Current



Perfect Pairing
Page 15

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

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Cold Spring residents clear snow on March 14, 2017.

File photo by Ross Corsair

Partial Breakneck Ridge Trail Closure to Begin March 1

Trailhead to be moved in first phase of Fjord Trail

By Brian PJ Cronin

The first section of the Breakneck Ridge trail — from the tunnel to the flagpole — will be closed beginning March 1 so that initial work can begin on what will eventually become the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, a 7.5-mile linear park connecting Cold Spring and Beacon.

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., a Scenic Hudson organization that is overseeing the Fjord Trail construction, said the project is being designed to manage crowds along Route 9D and among the

trails of Hudson Highlands State Park, particularly Breakneck Ridge.

The first phase of the Fjord Trail, which is scheduled to be finished by July 1, will move the Breakneck trailhead off Route 9D and farther toward the Hudson River, where parking lots are planned.

The work requires the construction of a new structure for trail stewards and trail repair, the closing of unauthorized “social trails” created by hikers who go off-route and the creation of a set of stone steps that will lead up to the first major ascent.

Although the first section of the Breakneck Trail will be closed, the upper portions of the climb will remain acces-

(Continued on Page 3)

Where's All the Snow?

Blankets of white missing during warm winter

By Leonard Sparks

Rain pelted the liquid surface of the shuttered ice rink at Philipstown Recreation Department on Tuesday (Feb. 21) afternoon.

Out of February's 21 days, it was the 21st in which the high temperature stayed above freezing. A day earlier, the temperature had topped out at 61 degrees, the third time in a week it had reached the 60s.

There are other images from this weird winter: seemingly untouched displays of ice scrapers and plastic toboggans outside Drug World; lost revenue for ski areas and plow businesses; and unused snow-removal budgets and stockpiles of road salt.

In addition, on Feb. 10, a teenager died after the ice broke while he and another

teen walked on a body of water in Taconic State Park in the Town of North East — on a day when the temperature reached the 50s.

A summer characterized by below-normal rainfall and water-conservation alerts in Beacon and Cold Spring has been followed by another drought: above-normal temperatures that have spawned a nearly snowless winter in the Highlands.

Luke Junjulas of LJ Lawn and Property Maintenance in Cold Spring, who normally plows snow during the winter, is using the extra time to get organized ahead of the spring season.

“It's weird because this is winter but it's not winter, [and] it's not quite spring,” he said. “So, it's this weird season that I've never really experienced before.”

High temperatures in January averaged 45 degrees and in February, 48 degrees

(Continued on Page 8)



CELEBRATING GEORGE WASHINGTON — Alan Whitney, portraying an adjutant from the 4th Connecticut Regiment, and his wife, Laurie, dressed as a junior officer's spouse, were part of the general's birthday celebration this past weekend at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Beacon Council Seeks Feedback

Will address electrification, Tompkins Terrace tax breaks at hearings

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a pair of public hearings on Monday (Feb. 27) — one on a proposal to ban the use of fossil fuels in new residential and commercial buildings and the other on a proposed 40-year PILOT agreement with the owner of

the Tompkins Terrace apartment complex.

The council began discussing the fossil fuel ban in earnest last month and has fast-tracked the proposal in hopes of adopting a law that would take effect Jan. 1, 2024. That would be two years earlier than similar statewide legislation, proposed this month by Gov. Kathy Hochul, to prohibit the use of fossil fuels in new construction of single-family homes or apartment buildings of three stories or less by the beginning of 2026.

Initially, it appeared the city's first

move would be to require new residential construction to go all-electric, but during the council's workshop on Tuesday (Feb. 21), the proposal was expanded to include new commercial buildings.

That's because City Administrator Chris White, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and city attorneys spoke recently with New York State energy officials who assured them that, aside from a handful of exceptions, the technology for electric heating and hot water equipment is reliable for all new construction.

If Beacon's law allows the same exemptions that are anticipated to be in the state's legislation, the New York State Energy

Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) “said the technical feasibility is there” to require electrification of all other new construction, White remarked during the council's workshop. “It gave me confidence that we're not going off the rails here.”

Following that guidance, the exemptions in Beacon's draft law are for backup generators, manufactured homes, manufacturing facilities, commercial food establishments, laundromats, laboratories, hospitals and other medical facilities, crematoriums and backup power for critical infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment facilities.

(Continued on Page 3)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: KEVIN DEVANEY JR.

By Michael Turton

Kevin Devaney Jr. has covered high school sports in the Hudson Valley since 1998 and is currently vice president of digital content at LocalLive Networks.

How does LocalLive.tv cover high school sports?

We help schools livestream and record boys' and girls' sports at all levels, not just varsity football and basketball. We serve over 200 schools in 17 states, especially in the Northeast. Schools pay us a fee and lease the cameras. We install them and handle all elements of video broadcasts: shooting the games, program scheduling, video storage, etc. Our operators control the cameras remotely. Most schools have two cameras, but larger ones can have up to 12 installed at their pool, hockey rink, gym, auditorium and fields. A base of 150 to 200 operators shoots the majority of our games.

How did COVID affect business?

We started about a year and a half before the pandemic. The perception of LocalLive.tv then was that we served prep and large, rich schools. When COVID hit, nobody was allowed at games. It amplified the need



for our service. We're here to stay. I don't know of too many schools now that don't livestream football.

How have high school sports changed in your 25 years of reporting?

I used to go to games and report about it in a print newspaper that would be published 12 hours later. Then it was on a website, then video and then smaller, shorter videos or social media. Now, games can be viewed live on a phone. I don't think kids have changed, but parents are more demanding of coaches. Sports culture has also changed. Kids have much more information about the surrounding schools'

athletes. And there are more sports being played outside of school. Kids play on travel teams, have private coaches.

Are the upcoming high school basketball playoffs a high-pressure time?

It's actually less stressful. The games are more important, but there are fewer of them. Early in the season we cover way more games. But in the playoffs, we can really hone in and give better-quality service, better promotion. If I had to choose between attending the NBA final or the state high school final I wouldn't think twice. I'd sell the NBA tickets.

You also cover local government, churches and the arts. How do those audiences differ?

It depends on how interesting it is. We have plenty of board of education meetings with 30 to 40 viewers and high school football games with 50 or 60. But once in a while, you get a championship game or a very contentious school board meeting that has 1,000 or more viewers. We cover about 30 churches, mostly Catholic and Episcopal, plus a couple of synagogues. Church audiences aren't huge, but we'll get over 100. We've learned that people want to watch their local Mass, hear their local priest.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What landscape would you put on U.S. paper currency?

“The Finger Lakes, especially Bluff Point on Y-shaped Keuka Lake.”



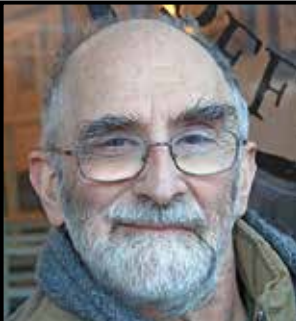
Steve McCorkle, Cold Spring

“If we had colorful money, a sunset over the central midwestern plains.”



Machada McGovern, Beacon

“The Hudson Highlands, beautiful and so important in American history.”



Michael Musgrave, Garrison

PENSIERO PLURALE
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ON THE POLITICS OF
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Beacon Council (from Page 1)

While the law would allow limited fossil fuel use in those types of buildings, they represent “a small piece of the pie” in terms of greenhouse-gas emissions, White said.

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair, who, along with Council Member Paloma Wake and Beacon Climate Action Now, introduced the idea of banning fossil fuels during a rally last fall, pushed back on the exemptions, saying instead that as the electric technology evolves for those more-intense uses, “that invites more businesses to move to Beacon.”

But “if we want to be a model to hundreds of other communities, we should hew pretty closely” to what is expected to be in the state legislation, Kyriacou responded.

The council ultimately compromised, allowing the exemptions, but, according to the draft, it will require the heating and hot water systems in the exempted uses to be electric. (For example, a newly constructed restaurant would be required to install electric-powered heating and hot water equipment, but would be permitted to use fossil fuels to power its kitchen.)

The exempted buildings would also have to be outfitted to transition to all-electric as technology evolves.

In the case of major renovation projects, the city’s proposal requires a shift to all-electric if the project exceeds 75 percent of the heated floor area and involves the replacement or new installation of a heating or hot water system. If a renovation meets the 75 percent threshold but does not include the replacement or installation of a heating or hot water system, electric systems would have to be installed if they are replaced within five years.

Tompkins Terrace

The second public hearing on Monday will be a continuation of the Jan. 30 hearing on a proposed payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement.

Related Companies, the owner of the Tompkins Terrace low-income housing complex, has asked the City Council to approve a 40-year PILOT agreement before Related begins a \$14.5 million rehabilitation project at the development. The company initially planned to ask the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency for the PILOT but pivoted later to the city, which already administers similar agreements with three other low-income complexes and the Beacon Housing Authority.

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 money is distributed to the Beacon school district, the city, Dutchess County and the Howland Public Library. (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 the four decades.

However, the city has heard from a handful of residents who say that a 40-year agreement would be lopsided in Related’s favor. A year-by-year review of the last 10 years of Tompkins Terrace payments show them increasing far more than 2¼ percent several years during that period (but also decreasing some years).

Related said it needs to have the PILOT in place before beginning the rehab, which will see the 193 units outfitted with new doors, painting and kitchen and bathroom improvements. HVAC equipment will be replaced and community upgrades, such as a computer lab, free Wi-Fi in all units, new playgrounds and new water heaters, will also be installed.

The city says it will include provisions in the PILOT guaranteeing that tenants cannot be forced out and that Tompkins Terrace rents remain below market rate.

Both hearings will be part of the City Council’s meeting on Monday, which begins at 7 p.m.



A rendering of the new Fjord Trail steward station Gray Organschi Architecture

Breakneck (from Page 1)

sible via the recently built Nimham Trail, which connects Breakneck’s first summit to the Wilkinson Memorial Trail.

The first major construction phase of the Fjord Trail, known as the Breakneck Bridge & Connector, is scheduled to begin next winter and projected to be completed

by the end of 2025.

This phase will include the construction of a shared-use trail parallel to Route 9D from the Metro-North train station at Breakneck Ridge to the newly positioned trailhead, new parking areas, ADA-compliant restrooms, an ADA-compliant bridge over the train tracks and the replanting of native species. The full project is scheduled for completion by 2030.



The Philipstown Food Pantry would like to thank all of you listed below for your generous donations. Your donations have helped us serve many members of our community. We truly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you!

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon project

In your Feb. 17 story about the Beacon Planning Board hearing for the Prophecy Theater proposal at 1113 Wolcott Ave., a neighbor is quoted as asking: "What would you do if this damn thing was in front of your house?"

He hit the nail on the head. As noted by the city's planning consultant and members of the public, the complexity of the operating schedule makes adherence impossible to track or enforce. Many of us who live no more than a few feet away from this site have valid and serious concerns around the impact on our families' quality of life if it is approved.

And we are not a "small group," as we have been represented to be. To date, more than 350 people have signed a petition and hundreds of letters of concern have been submitted to the Planning Board focused on noise, traffic, parking, trespassing and safety. This project belongs in a business district, away from residential complexes and streets. It is potentially a nice idea but in the wrong location.

Shelley Simmons-Bloom, *Beacon*

Prophecy Theater reduced the maximum capacity and the days on which events may be held but it has not reduced the many serious concerns which will impact the more than 400 families who live nearby, such as:

1. There is no mechanism for preventing event-goers from trespassing on neighboring properties before, during and after events.

2. There is no on-site parking for the event venue, which means event-goers will park on the narrow streets near the venue or in private parking lots. If there were enough room for on-site event-parking, it would reduce the disturbance to neighbors.

3. The Planning Board's noise consultant has indicated that there are many issues that have not been addressed, such as the noise event-goers will inevitably make on arrival and departure.

4. The city code allows for a conference center as an accessory to a hotel. Prophecy Theater is hardly an accessory to the proposed 30-room hotel, and it is more a concert hall than a conference center.

During the most recent Planning Board meeting, some Planning Board members and residents noted that, if the developer is sincere in saying that the venue is going to be a conference center and not a concert venue, the proposed hours of operation should reflect that. Rather than late-night hours and weekends, a conference center would be more focused on daytime hours on weekdays.

The nearby community is happy to see that the Planning Board is referring the park-

ing and traffic issues to the Traffic Safety Committee, and I urge the board to follow the spirit of the city code and not allow Prophecy Theater to build this entertainment venue on the Dutch Reformed Church site.

Steve Jaffe, *Beacon*

Indian Point

Richard Burrone of Holtec may not want us to use the term "dumping" about the company's planned release of Indian Point's radioactive water into the Hudson River this summer (*Letters and Comments*, Feb. 17). Whatever you call it, it's a bad choice for the seven communities that draw drinking water from the Hudson; people who swim, boat and fish in the river; and the children who play along its banks, not to mention the fish and river life.

Several experts, including Ed Lyman, director of nuclear power safety at the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Arnie Gundersen, chief engineer of Fairewinds Energy Education, have said that the best solution would be to leave the water where it is, in the fuel pools emptied of the fuel rods. That would allow the tritium (which can't be separated from the water) to decay over time into non-harmful helium. Lyman said: "Keep storing indefinitely and eventually the problem will solve itself."

Federal regulations allow 60 years for decommissioning. Spent fuel could remain at the site even after the decommissioning is completed, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The mayor of Buchanan, Theresa Knickerbocker, wants Holtec to complete the decommissioning in the shortest possible time so the site can be repurposed. Holtec wants to oblige her by cutting costs and corners, and keeping as much of the \$2.4 billion in decommissioning funds it has received — collected from ratepayers when the plant was operating — to line executives' and shareholders' pockets.

But the soil and groundwater on the property are contaminated, and it's highly unlikely that Indian Point can be transformed for use as a park, shopping center or housing. The site should be remediated to the degree required, but residual radioactive elements to which people should not be exposed are likely to remain.

The wisest adaptive reuse would be for a large, utility-scale solar array with battery storage, and possibly wind energy, since the Hudson is somewhat of a wind tunnel. The new owner could generate renewable energy at a site already ideal for grid interconnection, and provide revenue to Cortlandt, Buchanan and the Hendrick Hudson school district.

So Holtec, leave the water where it is. It's cheaper than moving it anywhere

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

and better for everyone up and down the Hudson River.

Judy Allen, *Putnam Valley*

ChatGPT

Student essays generated by AI engines are relatively easy to discern with the trained eye ("Local Teachers See Opportunity in Artificial Intelligence," Feb. 17), and there are several applications that detect AI-generated content as quickly as it is generated. ChatGPT essay engines are still in the development and not ready for prime time.

It's depressing to learn that a teacher whined in *The Atlantic* that ChatGPT will mean "the end of high school English ... or maybe the end of writing." That cynical statement has little merit and is inconsistent with contemporary learning structures and teaching qualifications.

I also disagree with the idea of integrating ChatGPT into Haldane's English program as a research tool or otherwise. There are far too many other areas of lagging studies that take precedence. Parents and the PTA should not stand for that curriculum.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

These school officials have it exactly right: ChatGPT is here to stay, and there's much more disruptive tech to come. Our educational, governmental and social institutions are so far behind the curve with respect to tech literacy and utilization. Governments, schools and public libraries should all have software engineers on staff. Software has become a primary means through which economic and social value is created and controlled, and we'd be well-served to educate ourselves and our children in the necessary skills to ensure continued agency and economic relevance.

Derek Enos, *via Instagram*

Putnam Valley

Thanks to *The Current* for your coverage of Putnam Valley and the contamination issues ("Putnam Valley Fire Department Seeks Cleanup Costs," Jan. 27).

As you reported, the fire department has filed a lawsuit against a contractor whom it claims is responsible for dumping thousands of yards of contaminated fill on its property.

What nobody seems to be doing, including the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) or the Putnam County Health Department, is investigating whether the toxins and chemicals found at the fire department site on Oscawana Lake Road have also been found in the elementary school water ("Putnam School Sues Over Pollution," Dec. 30).

The Putnam Valley fire department has two locations: one on Canopus Hollow Road, where it has its current firehouse, and the other on Oscawana Lake Road, closer to the school, where it is building its new fire station.

During the years that the fire department conducted the remediation on the Oscawana Lake Road site, the water, air and soil were monitored and analyzed to make sure that the toxic chemicals were

Corrections

In the certified results chart in the Feb. 17 issue, the turnout percentages for the November election were listed incorrectly. Turnout was 56.3 in Putnam County and 70 percent in Philipstown. In Dutchess, turnout was 58.4 percent and, in Beacon, 60.3 percent.

In "On the Spot" (Feb. 17), we misidentified a resident of Garrison as Colton Young. He is, in fact, Coulter Young.

removed to the satisfaction of the DEC. The latest and final certification report for the DEC was submitted in November.

As it stands now, and due to the reporting in local media, residents who live in the area have become concerned about whether their wells are tainted.

The DEC and Putnam Health Department are well-funded by taxpayers and are supposed to be watching out for the health of the citizens and the environment of our town. Where are our Town Board members, county legislators or the county executive, Kevin Byrne? Why aren't they demanding some accountability from these agencies? It's long past time for the residential wells in the area to be tested, and it should not be the responsibility of the homeowners to do so. We pay enough for the "privilege" of living in one of the most expensive places in New York.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

Thank you for service

In 1968, my favorite cousin, David, and I went on the same bus to take the U.S. Army physical. David passed. I did not because they diagnosed me with a serious heart condition that I have had treated for over the past 60 years. I went to law school. David went to Vietnam. It seems so insufficient to say, but thank you David for your service and for all you have done throughout your life for those less fortunate ("Something You Don't Know About Me: Dave McTamane," Feb. 17).

Robert McTamane, *Nashville*

Cold Spring police

Cold Spring spends \$500,000 each year on its police force ("Should Cold Spring Police Stay?" Feb. 17). This is money Putnam County does not need to spend on additional policing through the Sheriff's Department. We already subsidize the county with our sales tax revenue. Should Cold Spring continue subsidizing county policing, too?

Aaron Freimark, *Cold Spring*

Any town that has tourism needs a police force, plain and simple.

Len Getler, *Cold Spring*

Vacant lot

I live in Beacon in the building next to the vacant lot at 536 Main St. and the tenants here are upset by the prospect of a retail building and office space going in ("One of the Last to Go?" Feb. 17). Thursday through Mondays we can barely park because of the weekend crowds. I can't go grocery shopping because when I come back, there are no spaces, even in the small section marked for "tenants," which everyone ignores.

The residents living over Melzingah Tap House also use the lot because they don't have their own. Our tenants have 16 cars and there at least another 10 from residents above the Tap House. It's horrible.

This building would make us not only lose any sort of view but all sunlight. Plus, construction dust will be coming into our

windows while it is being built.

The Planning Board members don't seem to care; they had their heads in their phones during the Feb. 15 meeting. Why do we let the same three builders destroy the city? I have written the Planning Board twice; neither letter has been acknowledged.

Melissa Nastassi, *via Instagram*

Just what the residents of Beacon need — designer rugs.

Melissa Buerkett, *via Instagram*

Fjord Trail

Breakneck Ridge is one of the great draws of the Hudson Highlands. Unfortunately, it stresses the resources of the park and emergency services, and impacts Cold Spring's quality of life. The future Fjord Trail along the river will make a bad situation worse.

But this story can have a happy ending. With electronic ticket reservations, we could control visitation to a level that preserves our natural environment and allows even the locals to enjoy our premier trails. This system is used in parks across the country.

Next time you see a village, town or park official, ask them why we haven't tried electronic ticketing for Breakneck Ridge. It's a 21st-century solution to an increasingly damaging problem.

Rich Franco, *Cold Spring*

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NEWS BRIEFS

Winter Coat Drive Underway

Donations benefit Walter Hoving Home

A winter coat drive that continues through March 10 will benefit the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison, a faith-based residential program that assists women struggling with addiction. Donations can be dropped off at the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps at 14 Cedar St. in Cold Spring or the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps at 1 Buena Vista St.

Record Attendance at State Parks

More than 79 million visitors in 2022

Visits to New York's state parks, historic sites, campgrounds and trails hit a record 79.5 million in 2022, according to state data. That was 1 million more than in 2021 and a 43 percent increase since 2008. Bear Mountain was the seventh-most-popular park, with 2.4 million visitors, behind Niagara Falls (9.4 million), Saratoga Spa in Saratoga Springs (3.5 million), Denny Farrell Riverbank in New York City (3 million) and three parks on Long Island: Jones Beach (8.5 million), Robert Moses (3.8 million) and Sunken Meadow (3.1 million).

toga Spa in Saratoga Springs (3.5 million), Denny Farrell Riverbank in New York City (3 million) and three parks on Long Island: Jones Beach (8.5 million), Robert Moses (3.8 million) and Sunken Meadow (3.1 million).

Burning Leaves Set Fire to Neighbor's Gazebo

Garrison resident issued two violations for damage

Embers from burning leaves on one property ignited a fire in Garrison that damaged a gazebo on a neighboring property earlier this month, said the Department of Environmental Conservation on Wednesday (Feb. 22). The incident took place on Feb. 13 off Schuyler Road, where a 79-year-old homeowner was burning leaves. The 82-year-old owner of the gazebo had a seizure but the rangers who responded provided medical care until an ambulance arrived, said the DEC. Rangers issued the person who burnt the leaves two violations for setting a fire which endangered the property of another.

Tree and Shrub Sale Opens

CCE also offering beekeeping course

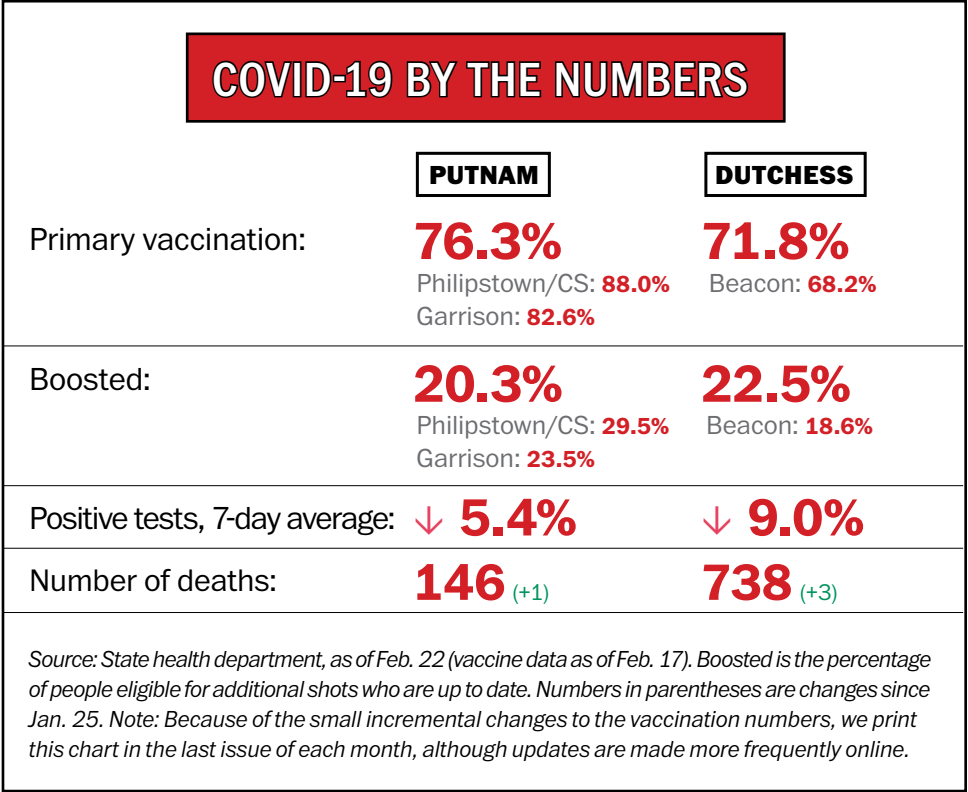
The Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County is hosting its annual tree and shrub seedling sale through March 24. Order at putnam.cce.cornell.edu/2023TreeShrub. Pickup will be April 21 and 22 at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster.

Native plant plugs are also available. The extension is also offering a 12-session beekeeping course for students ages 12 to 15 led by Rodney Dow, a Garrison resident. The Saturday morning program will begin in Putnam Valley on March 11 and move to the Tilly Foster Farm when the weather gets warmer. Register at putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

State Park Attendance

	2007	2012	2019	2020	2021	2022	% inc
Bear Mountain	1.11M	1.89M	2.23M	2.20M	2.03M	2.37M	114
Fahnestock	211K	268K	313K	325K	297K	330K	56
Hudson Highlands*	175K	212K	478K	481K	476K	471K	169

*Includes Breakneck





SOUP & SALAD TAKE-OUT

February 25th 2023

12:00 - 4:00p.m. (or until sold out)

DINNER FOR 2 INCLUDES:

1 Quart of Soup: Lemon Chicken Orzo or Beef Tomato; Salad; Bread & Homemade Cookies

Dinner for 2 = \$15.00 Extra quart of soup = \$10.00

Call ahead to place your order or stop by to see us.

Delivery available.

(845) 831-0365 or (845) 629-5657

CHRIST CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST

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Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

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162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068

www.hudsonbeachglass.com



Dutchess: Race Begins for DA Job

William Grady, the Dutchess County district attorney, told a prosecutor who is seeking the Democratic line to succeed him that if he got the party endorsement he would have to resign.

The comment by Grady, who is not running for an 11th term, was caught on an audio recording. He made the remark to Anthony Parisi, an assistant district attorney in his office, according to the *Daily Freeman*. Larry Glasser, a senior assistant district attorney in Putnam County, also wants the Democratic endorsement.

Matthew Weishaupt, the chief assistant district attorney, is the only candidate seeking the Republican line. He has been endorsed by Grady.

Grady told the *Daily Freeman* that he immediately had second thoughts about his comment to Parisi and told him so. "He asked if that meant I was doing a 180-degree reversal and I said, 'Yes.'"

The DA said he distributed a memo in January outlining the rules that the staff will need to follow if the race comes down to Weishaupt and Parisi. Both parties were slated to make their endorsements on Thursday (Feb. 23).

Saugerties: Trustees Adopt Parking Regulations

Trustees in Saugerties earlier this month adopted regulations that will require new residential buildings in the business district to have three parking spaces for every two housing units — although there isn't anywhere left for new construction.

According to the *Daily Freeman*, the change came after residents protested an application last year to allow a nine-unit apartment building to have three parking spaces instead of four.

The Ulster County Planning Board recommended that the village consider

waivers, "potentially in combination with a payment-in-lieu-of-parking," to fund additional municipal parking.

The code enforcement officer noted that the change only affected residential projects. "On the commercial side, we don't have requirements for parking in the business district," he said.

Westchester: County Gets \$344K for Bioscience

Westchester County will receive \$344,000 in federal funding to counter economic losses from the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

According to *The Journal News*, the money will be used to attract workers to the county's biosciences industry. The county has identified 17,600 open positions.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reported, Theresa Knickerbocker, the mayor of Buchanan, which lost half its tax revenue when Indian Point closed, is lobbying federal lawmakers to support the STRANDED (Sensible, Timely Relief for America's Nuclear Districts' Economic Development) Act, which would help

communities stuck with spent nuclear fuel.

Albany: Hochul Outlines Mid-Hudson Proposals

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Tuesday (Feb. 21) highlighted proposals in her 2024 budget that will send funds to the Mid-Hudson Region, including \$3.6 billion in school aid, \$337 million to reduce gun violence, \$250 million in housing infrastructure and \$240 million in transportation capital projects, including \$51 million for bridge repairs.

The governor's proposed budget also includes \$60 million for Bear Mountain State Park, \$57 million for addiction services and \$45 million for the expansion of upstate semiconductor manufacturing.

The same day, Hochul announced that the Village of Sleepy Hollow and the Town of Cornwall will each receive \$4.5 million in funding as the Mid-Hudson Region winners of NY Forward, which provides funds for smaller communities to revitalize their downtowns. In her 2024 budget, Hochul proposes spending another \$100 million on the NY Forward program.

Dutchess Man Fights To Clear Pot Conviction

DA opposes effort to vacate plea under legalization law

By Leonard Sparks

Michael Graubard has just one arrest and one conviction in his life, according to his attorney, Wei Hu.

But Graubard's guilty plea in 2014 to possessing 114 pounds of marijuana is now one of the first tests of a state law enacted in March 2021 that not only legalized the possession of up to 3 ounces but also gave people with pot convictions a chance to clear their records.

Graubard and Hu are appealing an October 2021 decision by Judge Jessica Segal of Dutchess County Court to deny his request to have his conviction for first-degree criminal possession of marijuana, a Class C felony, fully vacated under provisions of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA).

“A person in the defendant's shoes today ... if they were arrested with 114 pounds of marijuana, is getting arrested and facing incarceration.

~ Anna K. Diehn

Senior Assistant District Attorney

He pleaded guilty to the charge in June 2014, three months after Dutchess County sheriff's deputies found the marijuana and nearly \$9,000 in cash after stopping a car he was driving in the Town of Amenia. He served nearly two years in prison and underwent two years post-release supervision.

Now, Graubard wants to take advantage of MRTA, which eliminated some marijuana crimes and mandated that the court system automatically expunge the records of people

serving sentences for those offenses. The law has led to 107,633 convictions being expunged, according to the state Division of Criminal Justice Services.

The state also retained some marijuana-possession offenses, but reduced their severity and gave people who would still be guilty of the lesser crime the right to petition the courts for a vacated conviction.

Judges should presume, according to MRTA, that any sentence under the old criminal laws constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment" under the New York Constitution if the person convicted experiences "severe or ongoing consequences."

Instead of vacating Graubard's conviction, Segal reduced it to the current version of first-degree criminal possession of marijuana, which was downgraded under MRTA from a Class C to a Class D felony and carries less prison time.

She also noted a "clerical error" in a section of the law that seems to give judges discretion to substitute the current lesser crime for the old one, but mistakenly references a part of the law pertaining to people whose previous offenses are no longer illegal.

Implementing the statute "would create unjust and illogical results," said Segal. (A bill that would correct the error, S7266, is before the state Senate's Codes Committee.)

Hu, while arguing the appeal of Segal's decision on Jan. 30, before a panel of judges for the Appellate Division, Second Department, said Graubard has been unable to pursue a teaching career because of the conviction, and that Segal's decision will continue to restrict his opportunities.

"The Legislature never intended for you to substitute one felony conviction for another felony conviction ... that imposes the exact same severe and ongoing consequences on my client's life," said Hu.

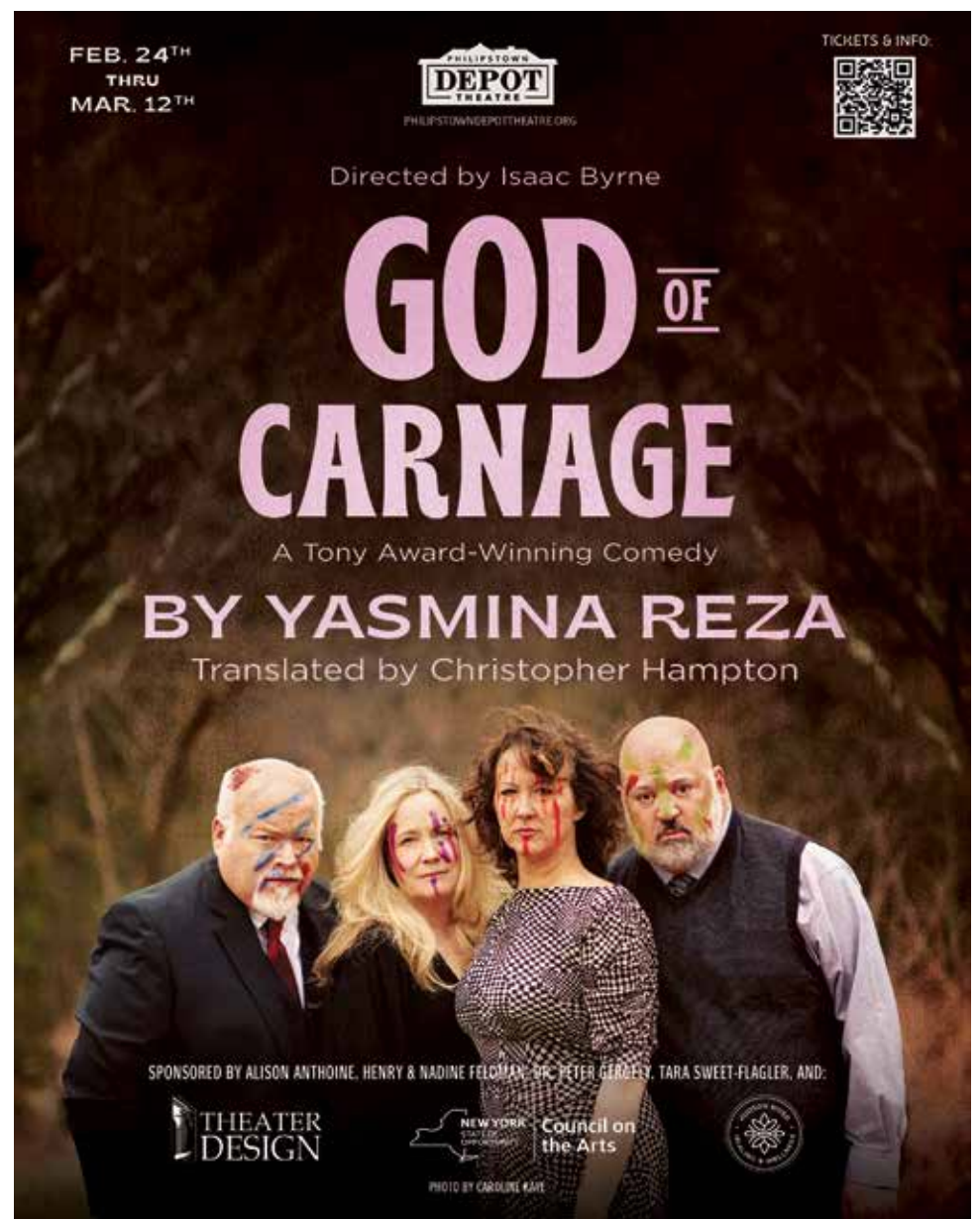
The Dutchess District Attorney's Office does not deny that Graubard is harmed by

the conviction, said Anna K. Diehn, senior assistant district attorney, while outlining the county's opposition.

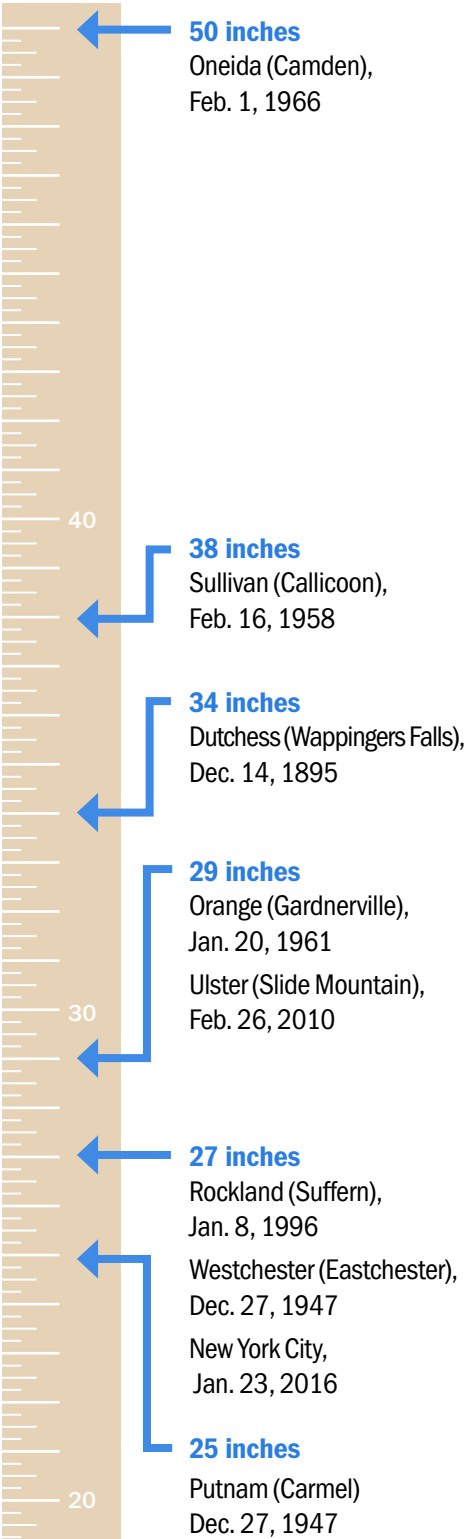
But the DA's office, in a court filing, maintains that because the Legislature retained

in the new law a charge of first-degree criminal possession of marijuana, it intended that "individuals who commit certain offenses should be held accountable."

"A person in the defendant's shoes today ... if they were arrested with 114 pounds of marijuana, is getting arrested and facing incarceration," said Diehn.



Biggest Snowstorms



Source: National Centers for Environmental Information



There is no shortage of ice scrapers and sleds at Drug World in Cold Spring.



Although Philipstown set up its ice rink on Jan. 15, skaters are still waiting. Photos by L. Sparks

The End of Snow Days?

Climate change, remote learning threaten tradition

By Lily Zuckerman

Generations of local high school students have fallen asleep with the hope that, come sunrise, a forecasted snowstorm will close the schools, freeing up the day for sledding at Winter Hill in Garrison or Memorial Park in Beacon.

Unfortunately, snow days are under threat because of the pandemic-tested ability of school districts to switch to virtual learning and a lack of snow as Highlands winters grow warmer.

Districts traditionally account for weather-related closures in their calendars to meet a state mandate that students receive at least 180 instructional days during an academic year. In September, the New York State Board of Education amended its policies to allow

districts to switch to online learning instead of closing for bad weather.

Administrators at the Beacon and Garrison districts say they are keeping traditional snow days, for now. Beacon closed on Jan. 25 ahead of a forecasted snowstorm that did not materialize.

In contrast, Haldane has instituted a hybrid model: Its calendar sets aside a maximum three days for inclement weather, said Philip Benante, the superintendent. If there is bad weather beyond that, the district will shift to remote instruction.

None of that matters, however, if there is no snow, which is becoming less predictable as climate change creates warmer winters in the Northeast. On Jan. 30, New York City marked its 327th consecutive day without measurable snow, five days short of the record of 332 days set on Dec. 15, 2020. (That record remained intact when several inches fell in Central Park on Feb. 1.)

The Highlands is also barren. Just 3.6 inches of snow were recorded in Beacon in December and January, according to the National Weather Service.

Vicky Kelly, who collects long-term data about air and water pollution and precipitation as manager of environmental monitoring at the Cary Institute, said global warming is bringing more rain and less snow in the winter months. “Rain in the winter is bad, because it can flood,” she said. “In the future, I think there will be a shift in what constitutes a snow day — instead there will be more ‘weather days’ because of flooding.”

Bianca Beriguete, a Beacon resident who attends the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, said “snow days have always been such an exciting and spontaneous thing to look forward to.” But because there are so many planned but unused snow days this year, the school on Feb. 13 simply gave students a day off.

Lily Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison, is a junior at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry and a member of The Current’s Student Journalists Program.

Where’s the Snow? (from Page 1)

(through Sunday, Feb. 19), according to data from a weather station on Route 9, just north of the border between Dutchess and Putnam counties.

Both figures are the warmest for those months since at least 2009, and followed a December that averaged 43 degrees, a six-year high.

The relative balminess is preventing precipitation from becoming snow. In Beacon, snowfall totaled 0.6 inches in January, 3 inches in December and none in November, according to data from a weather station that measures precipitation in the city.

Dutchess and Putnam counties are in an area of the state where total snowfall through January was 10 inches to 20 inches below normal, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

The impact on municipal budgets is palpable. Philipstown has used some of its salt and spent on overtime, but “nothing like in years past,” said Adam Hotaling, the town’s highway superintendent.

Beacon has so far used a “very small fraction” of the \$269,000 budgeted for snow-removal this year and still has leftover salt

to use from last year, said City Administrator Chris White. “We are still using 2022 salt and haven’t had to dip into 2023’s funding yet,” he said.

Samantha Borisoff, a climatologist with the Northeast Regional Climate Center, said the jet stream, a band of wind that blows west to east along the boundary between cold and hot air, has kept warm temperatures over New York and other Northeast states. It has also blocked storms from the Midwest and Ohio Valley from reaching the Mid-Hudson region, she said.

Because of that, precipitation in the form of rain, melted snow and ice has been near or above normal, and snowfall below normal, in the southeastern part of New York, including Dutchess and Putnam

counties, said Borisoff.

Warmer, rainier winters in the Northeast are rooted in climate change, she said. “Each month and season can have natural variability, but climate change increases the likelihood of experiencing these unusually warm temperatures,” she said.

Major snowstorms are still possible in our area with enough cold air. Cooler temperatures, but still above freezing, are forecast for the rest of February. For March, the federal Climate Prediction Center is forecasting temperatures that lean above-normal, and equal chances of below-, near- or above-normal precipitation.

“You get winters like this and it just feels like you’re constantly waiting for that one big storm,” said Hotaling.



THANK YOU FOODTOWN OF COLD SPRING

Mike, Jessica B, Mackenzie, Shane, Dan, Jasmine and Jessica thank you for all of your assistance throughout the year!

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

~ The Philipstown Food Pantry



Remembering Snows Past



GARRISON Jan. 8, 2022 *Photo by Ross Corsair*



COLD SPRING Feb. 2, 2021 *Photo by Teresa Lagerman*



BEACON March 14, 1888 *Beacon Historical Society*



COLD SPRING Dec. 17, 2020 *Photo by Michael Turton*



COLD SPRING Dec. 17, 2020 *Photo by Michael Turton*



BEACON Feb. 2, 2015 *Photo by Ethan Harrison*



GARRISON March 8, 2018 *Photo by Karen Thompson*

AROUND TOWN



◀ **WASHINGTON'S BIG DAY** — Re-enactors at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh last weekend celebrated the general's 291st birthday. The historic site dates to 1782, the final year of the Revolutionary War, when Washington lived there while commanding the Continental Army. John Koopman, who shares Washington's height and build, portrayed him.

Photo by Ross Corsair



◀ **PUPPY STAR** — Bea, who is deaf and came to the Animal Rescue Foundation shelter in Beacon with her sister, was one of the featured players in Puppy Bowl XIX that took place on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 12) and was broadcast on Animal Planet. The event this year included 122 puppies from 67 shelters, including 11 such as Bea with special needs.

Photo by Elias Weiss Friedman



▲ **SENATOR VISIT** — Rob Rolison, the former Poughkeepsie mayor who was elected to the state Senate in November, visited Beacon High School on Feb. 17 to speak with students about civic participation.

Photo by Una Hoppe



◀ **ICY JUMP** — The 25th annual "polar bear plunge" took place on Feb. 18 at Camp Mariah in Fishkill to raise money for the Special Olympics. The 58 teams and 708 participants, such as the nine above who locked arms to steel themselves, leaped into the lake in groups over seven hours. The event raised \$250,000, including \$6,000 from members of the Cold Spring Fire Co. The air temperature was a balmy 35 degrees.

Photo by Ross Corsair



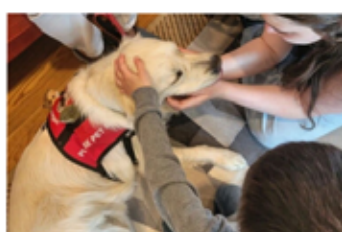
PHILIPSTOWN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HUB

5 STONE ST., COLD SPRING, NY 10516
WWW.PHILIPSTOWNHUB.ORG
845-809-5050

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the donations we have received throughout the last year. This has had a significant impact on our capacity to help provide support to local families in need.

Your generosity has been essential in helping us create a confidential and safe place for our community members to go for free mental health and addiction support.

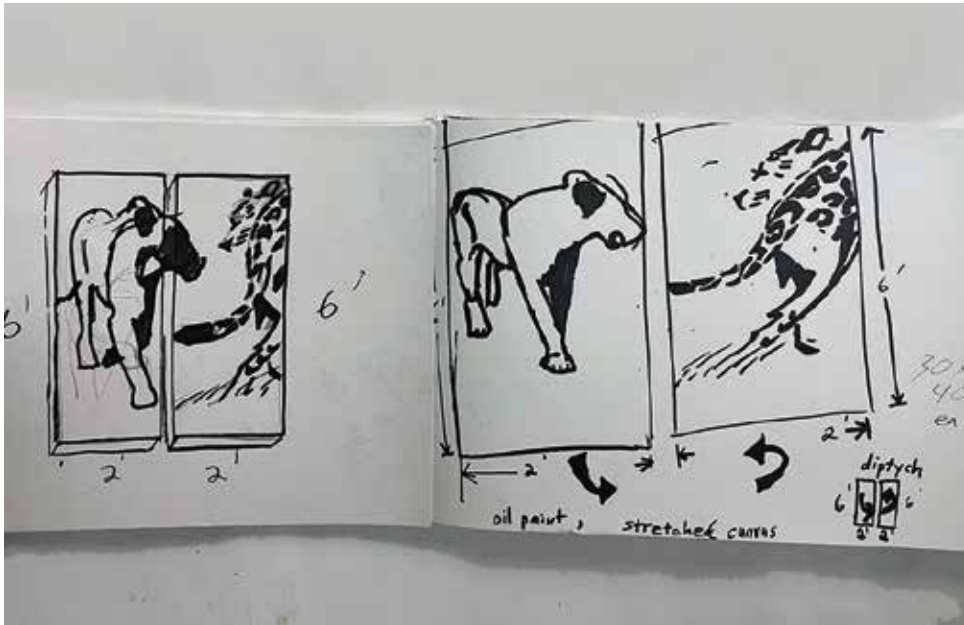


IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE!

Scan to donate or find @PhilipstownHub on PayPal or Venmo



CONNECT WITH US
@PhilipstownHub



Kinney's workbook is a place for him to plot and measure new work.



The graphite outline of a Kinney drawing of a tiger, and the progression after he applied oil paint



Matt Kinney's oil painting of a tiger, in the making

The Calendar

BACK TO BEACON

Artist's sculpture and drawings in new group show



"HMShirt" was created during the pandemic with bark taken from a birch tree in his parents' yard that had been struck by lightning.

By Alison Rooney

All roads lead back to Beacon. Or at least they appear to for Matt Kinney, a painter, sculptor, woodworker and stoneworker who moved to Beacon in 2003. He has left several times since, most recently returning a few months ago following a pandemic sojourn in Massachusetts, where he grew up.

A sampling of Kinney's work, in a variety of media, will be part of "The Beginning of Spring," a group show curated by Zeng Han at the Wappinger Town Hall. It opens on Saturday (Feb. 25) with a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Kinney's first encounter with the Highlands occurred just after 9/11. He had been working at a Brooklyn foundry in the "sand department," where they made pull-apart molds. He became enamored of the process, learning on the job, and began casting his own sculptures.

"There's this alchemy of glowing, liquid

bronze metal — breaking the mold open is like having a gift," he says.

After 9/11, Kinney landed a job in the sand department at Polich Tallix, a foundry then located in Beacon, but eventually found it too hazardous. He began working at University Settlement Camp, and when that closed, joined with Pat Freeman, the camp's then-director, in a carpentry business.

His passion for art was evident in childhood. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. "When pre-computer graphic design — which I saw as 'very clean hands pressing little squares' — was required to continue with illustration, I switched to drawing." He eventually left Pratt and earned a fine arts degree from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

While Kinney was living in New York City, he created thousands of ink paintings, primarily working in plein air. "You'd show up, pay the model, have no instruction and work for a few hours," he recalls. "Ink and water was an easy choice; it would dry quickly."

In Beacon, he renovated and sold a home, using the proceeds to maintain a studio in Newburgh. In 2018, he traveled to China for a two-year residency at the Boxes Art Museum in Foshan, where he made 25 pieces that were also later shown at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts and other locations.

In 2020, amid the pandemic, he put everything in storage and moved back to his

hometown of Boxford, Massachusetts, to live with his family. It was there and then that he decided to dive into ink painting again, this time with animals as subjects, particularly endangered species.

"I love cave drawings and am interested in animism and how animals have been portrayed throughout civilization," he explains. "Now that I've been creating them, I've been learning more about them. Recently, zebras died in the Horn of Africa, mini-extinctions because of climate change. It's a desperate situation, so maybe creating this can bring awareness."

When he returned last year to Beacon, he took up residence in a friend's camper and studio. It was there he painted his first large-scale animal in oil for clients in Manhattan.

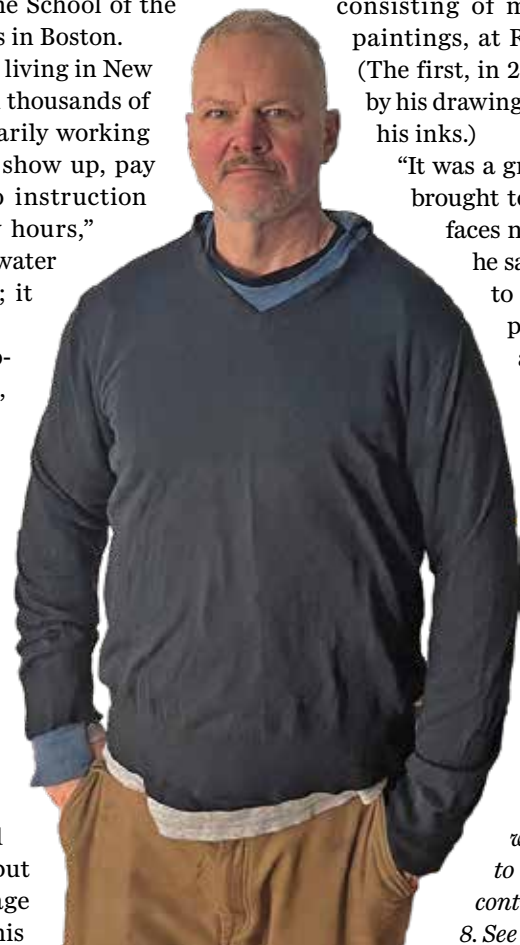
In December and January, Kinney had his second New York City solo show, consisting of monochromatic oil paintings, at Robin Rice Gallery. (The first, in 2002, was organized by his drawing studio and featured his inks.)

"It was a great opening, which brought together old friends, faces not seen in 15 years," he says. "It was awesome to bring these animal paintings to concrete and glass. I framed them myself, painted the gallery walls and felt willing to do whatever it took."

The Wappinger Town Hall gallery, at 20 Middlebush Road in Wappingers Falls, is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The show continues through March 8. See mattkinney.net.



"Interface" (cherry)



Matt Kinney

Photos provided

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 25

Soup & Salad Take-Out

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Christ Church
60 Union St. | 845-831-0365

Order dinner for two (lemon chicken orzo or beef tomato soup, salad, bread and cookies) for \$15. Walk-ins welcome.

SAT 25

Wine for Whiskers

GARDINER

1 – 4 p.m. Whitecliff Winery
331 McKinstry Road
tinyurl.com/27jn9vey

Sample a \$15 flight with proceeds benefiting Mid Hudson Animal Aid. There will also be a raffle.

SAT 25

Celebration of Light

BEACON

6 p.m. Polhill Park
facebook.com/beaconspring

Gather at Polhill Park for a parade up Main Street led by the Street Beat Brass Band to The Yard at 4 Hanna Lane for activities, music and refreshments. Bring a lantern.



Maple Sugar Tours, Feb. 25



The Eastern Coyote, Feb. 25

FRI 3

Lit Lit

BEACON

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

Email litlitseries@gmail.com if you would like to read at this monthly open mic. The featured writer is Maria Teresa Hart, the author of *Doll*.

KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 2

Lucky SPHERO

COLD SPRING

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

Children can learn about coding and guide the robot through an obstacle course.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 25

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. Also SUN 26, SAT 4, SUN 5. Through March 19. Cost: \$12 (\$10 members, free ages 4 and younger)

SAT 25

A History of Strollers

GARRISON

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

Amanda Parrish Morgan will

discuss her new book, *Stroller*, a history of baby-movers and what they reveal about parents and children.

SAT 25

The Eastern Coyote

GARRISON

2 p.m. St. Philip's Church (Parish House)
1101 Route 9D
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Ed McGowan, a naturalist, will talk about the highly intelligent animal and its origins. Registration required. Cost: \$5

SAT 4

Building Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

GARRISON

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

Janis Butler, a Master Gardener, will explain how your yard can be a supportive environment for wildlife and insects in this program sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 25

Gelli Plate Printing

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Ada Pilar Cruz will lead this workshop on using gelatin plates to press-print nature images. Cost: \$75

SAT 25

On the Politics of Image-Making

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

As part of the museum's *Present Memories* series, artist Dawit Petros, scholar Teresa Fiore and curator Mistura Allison will lead sessions exploring historical memory and identity in connections to Italy. Cost: \$10 (\$5 local residents, seniors, students)

SAT 25

Inventing Stories in Paint

GARRISON

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

Anna West, whose paintings are on exhibit at the art center, will lead this workshop on painting book covers to tell a story. Cost: \$75

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 25

God of Carnage

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Isaac Byrne directs the Yasmina Reza play with Christine Bokhour, Maia Guest, Raymond Bokhour and Gregory Porter Miller. Also SUN 26, FRI 3, SAT 4, SUN 5. Continues through March 12. Cost: \$28

SAT 25

The Sugar

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com

In this comedic storytelling show, Gastor Almonte will talk about his recent diabetes diagnosis. Cost: \$20

SAT 25

Broadway Perspectives

PEEKSKILL

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

In this concert to celebrate diversity, Asher Denburg will direct Broadway performers Major Attaway (*Aladdin*), LaVon Fisher-Wilson (*Chicago*), Medda Larkin



Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections, Mar. 4

Gergely Pediatrics

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on March 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against **Hudson Highlands Reserve's Application for Alternate Road Standards which requests Town Board approval of certain alternate road standards pursuant to the Town Code §150-16 to authorize construction of a road at 12% grade where the maximum grade permitted is 10%.**

A complete copy of the application is available for inspection upon request sent to townclerk@philipstown.com and is also available on the Town's Website, Philipstown.com.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

Dated: February 22, 2023

(*Newsies*), Brennyn Lark (*Sia*), Jelani Remy (*Ain't Too Proud*) and Kissy Simmons (*The Lion King*) as they perform scenes and songs from shows that celebrate Black artists. *Cost: \$32 to \$50*

SAT 25
Paula Poundstone
POUGHKEEPSIE

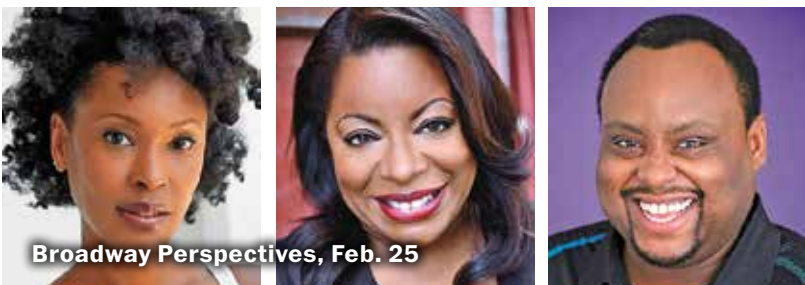
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St. 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The humorist and podcast host will perform her one-woman show. *Cost: \$43*

FRI 3
CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3
WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491 countypayers.org
The County Players will present dramatic readings of two plays, *Constellations*, by Nick Payne, and *Ada the Engine*, by Lauren Gunderson. Also SAT 4, SUN 5. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 4
Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections
BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org
Jeffrey Lewis and others will present an evening of music, comedy and dance to open an exhibit of Robert Lundberg's photographic



Broadway Perspectives, Feb. 25

series of contemporary performers. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 door)*

MUSIC

SAT 25
The Dark Horses
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will perform music by George Harrison. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 26
Cherish the Ladies
BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Celtic group will play traditional Irish music and step dance. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

FRI 3
Girl Party
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Deni Bonet will host this music circle featuring female musicians,

including Sloan Wainwright, KJ Denhart and Emily Cavanaugh. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 4
Best of the '70s
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band's set will include hits from dozens of artists. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



Gabriela Martinez, Mar .5

SUN 5
Gabriela Martinez
BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
In a program titled "Resonances," the pianist will perform works by Missy Mazzoli, Reinaldo Hahn, Caroline Shaw, Adam Schoenberg, Viet Cuong, Sarah Kirkland Snider and Heitor Villa-Lobos. The concert is part of the *Howland Chamber Music Circle* series. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students ages 25 and younger)*

CIVIC

MON 27
Assembly Office Hours
COLD SPRING

1 – 4 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg
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MON 27
City Council
BEACON

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

TUES 28
School Board
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Auditorium 15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254 haldaneschool.org

WED 1
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

WED 1
School Board
GARRISON

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

THURS 2
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The Age of Debate

Haldane team strives to see both sides

By Alison Rooney

In this age of vitriolic arguments, are school debate teams a polite anomaly? The students on the Haldane High School debate team would argue that question. In fact, they'd argue both sides, backed by copious research.

The team, which has seven members (Colin Hopkins, captain Helena Kottman, Gabe Lunin-Pack, Simon Pieza, Keira Shanahan, Owen Sullivan-Hoch and Marc Firpo), is guided by Helena's father, Paul Kottman. It was created as a club in 2017 by his older daughter, Sophia, who graduated in 2021 and is now a student at the University of Chicago.

When Sophia decided to create a team, she was unable to find a faculty sponsor. That's when her father, who teaches philosophy and comparative literature at The New School in New York City, stepped in as a volunteer.

"I know what an argument is, but I had never heard a debate," he recalls.

The team meets for an hour on Friday afternoons at the Butterfield Library. They try to meet outdoors whenever possible, in part, Paul Kottman says, so "they can



From left: Owen Sullivan-Hoch, Helena Kottman, coach Paul Kottman, Gabe Lunin-Pack and Keira Shanahan. Not pictured: Colin Hopkins, Simon Pieza, Marc Firpo

Photo by A. Rooney

tumble down the hill and then stand and orate." The club met during the pandemic over Zoom, which was "not so bad for debate, but they missed the entire social, personal side of things," he says.

For the uninitiated, there are multiple debate formats. The one used by Haldane is called "world schools," which Kottman feels is the most flexible.

After brainstorming and calculating and prioritizing arguments from both sides, the debaters are split into two teams of three.

In a timed response, a student provides the strongest, most detailed advocacy, followed by another student addressing the opposite viewpoint.

These are followed by two other students who lobby for and against in a less comprehensive way. Another student provides a rebuttal and one designated the "whip" sums up the debate. The students can't pick which side they represent; that's done with a coin toss.

"What's unique about world-school

format is each speaker has their own moment in the spotlight," says Helena Kottman. "That is valuable for practicing skills in a friendly setting, especially for kids in the younger grades."

At a recent Friday meeting, the topic under debate was whether Puerto Rico should be granted U.S. statehood. Shanahan, the first speaker, provided an overview of the arguments for Puerto Rico to remain a territory, citing the advantages of self-governing and invoking everything from racist ideology to "if it was going to happen, it would have happened already."

Sullivan-Hoch advocated statehood, naming the benefits of cultural diversity in the U.S., better security and political stability. Lunin-Pack and Helena Kottman then presented "second speeches" advocating one view, then the other.

At the conclusion, Paul Kottman offered a critique, saying the rebuttals had been fine but that the students needed to anticipate what arguments might arise.

Helena, who is a junior, says the experience has been invaluable. "Debate is misinterpreted as passionate conflict between two sides," she says. "But it's not about how much you believe what you're saying, it's how you argue it. There's value in knowing what both sides believe."

"There are no practical applications, just a lens to view and critique what's going on in the real world, but to be able to develop that critical thinking skill is valuable in any setting," she adds. "There are effective ways to rebut. You learn that it's too easy to take a not-very-generous interpretation of their argument, but as an effective debater you take the most general approach you can and go beyond that."

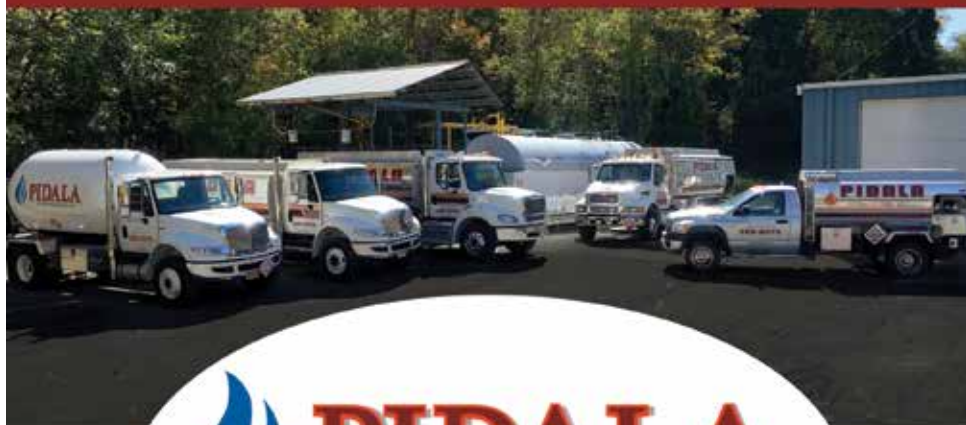
Her father agrees. "Students at this age seem more ready to handle issues that have two sides to them, have opposing ideas, not just win an argument," he says. However, he adds, "we discovered that not every topic lends itself to debate. For example, topics that have incompatible viewpoints, such as gun rights or abortion, may be too in conflict with one another."

"We want to get them hearing themselves and each other, not just talking but listening," he says. "They're better listeners than six months ago. They're learning to have dialogue, not just two monologues. They're taking into account what the other person says."

"They also learn to think through a problem they may not know much about, doing research to gain evidence. There's plenty of collective brainstorming, coming up with arguments using influential reason and persuasion, as well as logic. It would be a good activity for any age to practice, but especially at this age. I've enjoyed it more than I thought I would, considering it's an age group I'm not used to teaching."

During this school year, the team has hosted teams from Arlington, Poughkeepsie and Dover for scrimmages. On March 3, it will participate at an annual middle- and high-school tournament at Bard College, tackling three topics chosen by the school. The team hopes in 2023-24 to attend more tournaments, courtesy of a PTA grant, and it also would like to encourage the creation of a middle school team.

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Tanner Townsend and Pedro Sousa at Reserva

Photo by K. Merry

Perfect Pairing

Wine bar brings flavor and flair to Beacon

By Kat Merry

Pedro Sousa and Tanner Townsend felt they knew exactly what Beacon was missing when they opened Reserva, their bustling wine bar at 173 Main St.

Sousa, from Brazil, and Townsend, from Texas, both attended the Culinary Institute of America and planned to pursue a career in the field before they met. Recently married, they have combined their skills and passion to bring to life their vision of a neighborhood wine bar.

"We wanted to create an atmosphere that felt like you were stepping into a wine bar in the middle of Manhattan," says Sousa. The 1920s aesthetic — including the building's original brick walls and a vintage piano atop a custom-built stage — enhances that feel, while the tapas menu is a nod to Sousa's Brazilian culture.

"We liked the idea of doing a tapas-style menu because it allows people to share and interact with each other," says Sousa, who tests dishes with chef Michael Houston and styles each plate before it's served. The menu ranges from classic tomato soup and grilled cheese to a Brazilian dish called pao de queijo, a tapas treat of bread and cheese with homemade guava confit for dipping. Most dishes are gluten-free.

Reserva's wine list complements the South American tastes by reflecting some of the places the pair has visited, including Curacao, where they honeymooned.

Townsend, who also owns a string of coffee shops in Poughkeepsie, was familiar with Chill, a wine bar that previously occupied the space but closed during the pandemic. "It was a great spot as-is, but it

needed a little love," he says.

So the couple rolled up their sleeves and did the work themselves, such as building the raised stage. "We wanted it to showcase the artists while keeping the intimate feel of the space," Townsend says. But nothing was more difficult than hand-laying tile in the restrooms. "We chose massive tiles that looked just like marble," says Townsend, who had years of renovation experience but had never worked with tiles that large and fragile.

"It was definitely a labor of love," he says. "But we had a vision and we didn't stop until it was captured."

Along with Reserva, which opened in December 2021, the couple operates a "food styling" business. They are sought after by Hudson Valley restaurants and cafes who commission them to take drool-worthy photos of their cuisine for marketing and social media. Sousa is the stylist and Townsend the photographer. (His prints are hung on the walls throughout Reserva and available for purchase.)

Reserva has an open kitchen, so diners can see the chef preparing dishes, and features live music on weekends. Last year, Sousa and Townsend hosted a drag show — it was a great success, they say — and they're planning similar events. Initially only open in the evening, the bar recently extended its hours on Saturday and added Sunday brunch.

Reserva is open from 5 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday, 2 to 11 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Reservations are accepted only for parties of eight or more. Call 845-202-7107 or see reservabeacon.com. Live music begins every Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Clara Cavalcante Ferreira will perform tonight (Feb. 24) and Alex and Bobby Yaps on Saturday (Feb. 25). The first Friday of each month is flamenco night.



Living Green

Big Savings Ahead

By Krystal Ford

Whenever my friend from Canada and

I get together, after we catch each other up on the family news we often segue into grocery prices.

"Philadelphia cream cheese, \$6!" I say. She volleys back: "\$10 for a cantaloupe!"

It doesn't matter where you live, inflation is showing few signs of letting up. I'm hopeful that the Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Congress last year, will at least help provide energy relief while reducing carbon pollution.

The Inflation Reduction Act is a huge deal and everyone should be aware of the funding available for energy efficiency and clean-energy upgrades. You can estimate your benefits at rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator. For example, a family of four living in Philipstown with a household income of \$90,000 could be eligible for \$14,000 in upfront discounts, \$7,050 in tax credits and an estimated annual energy bill savings of \$1,150.

To get the word out, Joe Montuori, executive director of Sustainable Putnam, is making the rounds of local libraries. He gave his first presentation in Carmel and jokes it was a full house with 15 people — that was the capacity of the room. He will speak at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison on March 11.

Montuori says the audience in Carmel was strictly residents interested in reducing energy use and saving money. Although one woman was happy to learn she was entitled to a \$500 tax credit for insulating her attic, he says most of the questions were about heat pumps and reflected confusion about ground source (geothermal) and air-sourced (ducted and ductless units also known as mini-splits).

There was also the false claim that heat pumps don't work in winter, especially in the northeastern climate. Homeowners, let alone architects and contractors, have not kept up with the technology.

Montuori says that, unlike past incentives offered for solar, the Inflation Reduction Act funding is established for the next 10 years. That means "you can plan out how to decarbonize to maximize the tax credits," he notes. "For instance, you could

get a hot water heater one year, and the following year get a heat pump."

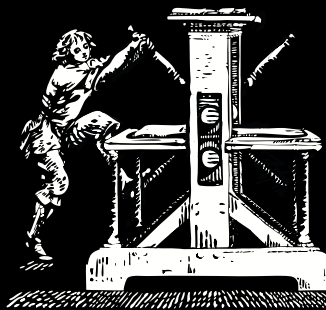
More importantly, money will be available upfront for people with low and moderate incomes. "This will be much more accessible to everyone," he says.

The list of home improvements that will be eligible for funding is long. It includes weatherization (insulating and sealing homes); electrical panel upgrades; Energy Star appliances (e.g., replacing a gas stove with induction); electric vehicles and home-charging stations; heat pumps for heating, cooling and hot water; and solar panels and battery backup systems.

Recognizing that it can be daunting to figure out where to start, Sustainable Putnam created a step-by-step guide at sustainableputnam.org. It also offers free consultations.

"I want everyone to know how they can reduce their costs, be more comfortable at home, have healthier homes with clean air and know that we are doing something good for the climate, our children and our grandchildren," Montuori says.

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Classic Wheels

1951 Ford F-1 Pickup

By Michael Turton

You never know what can happen at a Christmas party. Steve Etta attended one in Connecticut in 2018 and ended up taking home a 1951 Ford F-1 pickup.



The Cold Spring resident said that while everyone was guessing the age of a vintage vehicle, another partygoer mentioned he had an older pickup for sale. Was Etta interested? “I’ve always been interested in old cars, but I was looking for a Mustang,” he says.

Nevertheless, a short time later, “we went up to his place in Hudson,” Etta recalls. “He had three garages full of old cars and a couple of old tractors.”

The bright red Ford caught his eye. He doesn’t know a lot about its history other than it had been restored in 2009 and spent time with owners in New Jersey and Baltimore. It has 116,130 original miles on the odometer.



Steve Etta's 1951 Ford F-1 pickup

Photo provided

The Ford was appealing enough to bring home a plaque from the first car show that Etta entered, at Bear Mountain. He has since shown the truck in upstate New York and Connecticut.

Etta loves taking it for a spin — it gets about 12 miles per gallon — but keeps it off the road in the winter. Even without a radio, he says it’s more fun to drive than the engine he drives for the Cold Spring Fire Co.

“It rides pretty well,” he says. “Everyone looks at it; I like it when they add a wave.”

The Ford Motor Co. spent about \$15 million in today’s dollars redesigning its trucks after World War II before introducing the F Series, or Ford Bonus-Built. The first of 14 generations of F Series trucks was manufactured from late 1947 through 1952. Models ranged from the lightest F-1 pickup to the heaviest “Big Job” F-8.

THE SPECS

MODEL: 1951 Ford F-1 pickup (½ ton)
MANUFACTURED: 10 plants in nine states
NUMBER BUILT: 148,956 (1950-51)
YEARS BUILT: 1948-1952
ENGINE: 239 cubic inch flathead V8
HORSEPOWER: 100
TRANSMISSION: 3-speed manual (floor)
ORIGINAL PRICE: \$1,363

With the F Series, Ford became the first automaker to offer a frame specifically designed for its trucks, a departure from the practice of using car chassis.

Ford boasted that the F-1 was “wider, longer and taller.” Known for its style and comfort, it featured wider doors, increased leg room, adjustable bench seats and a curved, one-piece windshield. It also had a V8 engine. For \$10, buyers could have a V8 ornament added to the front grill.

Owners didn’t have to worry about jumper cables. In the event of a dead battery, the truck could be restarted using a crank.

F Series trucks underwent a number of changes in 1951, including a larger rear window and updated door panels. The pickups got a redesigned tailgate and a hardwood bed.

Reporter’s Notebook

The Book With Everyone’s Number

By Michael Turton

For a split second, when the radio DJ said he’d be playing oldies from the ’90s, I thought he meant the 1890s. For many of us, the 1990s don’t seem long enough ago for the music to qualify as “old.”



More than music can change over just a few decades, which hit home for me when

John Jesek, a collector of cool vintage stuff, dropped a copy of the 1990-91 Cold Spring-Garrison telephone directory on my desk. Its 100 pages illustrate how, like it or

not, time marches on.

Start with the fact that, 33 years ago, there was a phone book. When was the last time you used one to find a number? Or talked to a live operator?

This directory wasn’t courtesy of Ma Bell or AT&T. It was published by the vestry of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church as a fundraiser. Local businesses purchased advertising and residents gave donations. Three thousand copies were distributed, mostly by mail.

Longtime Philipstown residents might issue a nostalgic sigh even before opening the “old” directory. The emergency listings on the front cover include Butterfield Memorial Hospital and the Carolyn Lahey Medical Arts Pavilion.

Some of the advertising might also prompt inhabitants of a certain age to reach for a tissue. Icons that have gone the way of the telephone booth include Dockside Harbor Restaurant, Butterfield Pharmacy, the Old Foundry Gun Shop, the Plumbush Inn, Salmagundi Books and Ron Bowman’s M&R Sunoco station.

Three travel agencies advertised in 1990, including Four Seasons Travel at 97 Main St., which boasted of being “fully computerized.” Harry E. Hustis and Son was among the last milkman-era businesses. And ponder Dynamic TV Repair. What? In 1990 people didn’t just discard their televisions and buy new ones?

Lifelong residents and newcomers continue to lament the absence of a hardware store in town since C&E Paints closed, but in 1990 Cold Spring had two. Ed’s Variety, Paint and



St. Mary’s Episcopal Church published this 1990 phone book as a fundraising tool.

Hardware at 103 Main was the other.

While the ads document former businesses that no longer exist, they also highlight enterprises that remain community stalwarts. Familiar names include Badey & Watson Surveyors, Clinton Funeral Home, Cold Spring Depot Restaurant, Downey Oil, Erickson Bros Well Drilling, Harold Lyons & Sons, Philipstown Tree Service, Pidala Oil, Pidala Electric, Polhemus Construction, Riverview Restaurant and Thrift King Auto Service.

No fewer than 18 real-estate agencies advertised in the 1990 directory, but only three operate today: Limited Editions, McCaffrey and Nora Preusser, although the latter is now AD Preusser.

I’ve lived in the area since the late 1990s but some ads provided information that

surprised me. The Countryside Motel on Route 9 operated a fish market and served fresh lunches and dinners.

The Helpful Elf at 6 Chestnut St. provided catering and “hundreds of volumes of pleasantly priced” cookbooks through a catalog service.

I apparently missed out on the Sunday Burgermeister Brunch at Breakneck Lodge.

Ruth Eisenhower, who would later entertain and serve customers at Grey Printing for years, operated Creative Types typing service at 38 Garden St.

Not all the directory’s advertising conjured up pleasant memories. John Marciniak rescued me more than once with his towing service and I quickly grew to like the man. Seeing the ad for Garrison Garage was a reminder of his murder outside his shop on New Year’s Eve in 2008.

Thankfully, a few things struck me as funny.

The Hudson Peddler country store didn’t bother including its address. The ad simply stated: “Located on the other side of the tracks.”

The Cold Spring Fire Co. listed two numbers, one for fires, the other for “social calls.”

And Hudson Valley Security Systems asked, “Are you alarmed?” and provided the answer: “You should be.”

The phone number for Cold Spring Pizza was 265-9512 — same as today — but the area code was 914 rather than 845.

What old but then new music was playing in the background at the time? The top song on the *Billboard* charts in 1990 was “Hold On,” by Wilson Phillips. But a re-release of “Unchained Melody,” which had been a hit for the Righteous Brothers in 1965, also reached No. 1. That’s a great oldie, no matter the year.

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OBITUARIES

Julius Boccia (1930-2023)

Julius Boccia, 92, a former Beacon city judge, died Feb. 2.

He was born in Beacon on March 3, 1930, the son of Gaetano and Brigida (Ammorati) Boccia. After attending St. John's School and Beacon High School, he earned his law degree from St. John's University. He also earned a master's degree at New York University and was admitted to the bar in 1954.

Julius practiced law from 1956 until his retirement and was principal of Phillips, Heaney & Schofield from 1963. Julius was a member of the Beacon Republican Committee, the Dutchess County and New York State bar associations and the Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce (including as past president). He also was a life member of the Elks Club, St. Rocco's Society and the Knights of Columbus.

Julius served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1955 and was stationed in Germany with the 2nd Armored Infantry Division (Hell on Wheels). He was a lifelong registered Republican, ran for the county Legislature in 1967 (losing by two votes!) and served as assistant district attorney in Dutchess County from 1959 to 1963 and Beacon city judge from 1992 to 2000.

He is survived by his wife, the former Marian Parisi; his stepchildren, Michael Fisher and Rene Coughlin; his siblings, Mary Thomas and Michael Boccia; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Feb. 7 at St. Francis Church in Newburgh, followed by interment at Cedar Hill Mausoleum.



6, 1935, the son of Patrick and Lillian Meehan.

Following his graduation from Haldane High School in 1953, Kerry served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1958. In 1963, he earned a bachelor's degree in electronic technology from the New York Institute of Technology. He completed further studies in industrial management at Union College. He was employed for 38 years at IBM, where he held many engineering positions. He also served for 15 years on the Philipstown Planning Board.

Along with his wife of 62 years, the former Sylvia Gray, he is survived by his daughter, Vanessa, and son, Kerry Hamilton, both of Garrison; and a granddaughter, Siena Meehan, of New York City. He is also survived by a sister, Sharon Nevins, of Beacon, and his cousins, Arthur Johnson, Dr. Halethorpe and Judi Dempsey.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. Memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children (shrinerschildrens.org) or a charity of choice.



Polhemus Construction before joining the armed services in 1956 and serving 18 months in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division. On Oct. 7, 1961, he married Rose Marie Dillon.

That same year, Charlie began a 34-year career with the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Green Haven and Downstate correctional facilities, attaining the rank of lieutenant. At Downstate he spent several years in charge of the transportation unit.

Following his retirement in 1995, Charlie enjoyed target shooting, golf, telling a good story and spending time with his family. Above all, Charlie was a family man who loved his children and grandchildren and would do anything for them, his family said. One of his favorite expressions was "tutta la famiglia," which means "all the family," or "family is everything."

Rose Marie, his wife of 49 years, died before him. He is survived by his sons, Michael Nobile (Stephanie) of Beacon, Peter Nobile (Kym Tiffany) of Gardiner and John Nobile (Amy) of Hyde Park, along with five grandchildren: Matt, Tori, Michael, Sam and Charlie. Charlie is also survived by his siblings, Robert Nobile and Louise Allen.

A funeral service was held on Jan. 23 at Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring, followed by interment with military honors at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Warren, who died in 1994.

Jane worked as a floor clerk at Crescent Lingerie Shop in Beacon until her retirement. During retirement she enjoyed going on senior trips and watching sports. She especially loved baseball, football and wrestling.

Jane also enjoyed spending hours on her sister-in-law Lena Prestianni's front porch, people-watching and laughing with the many cast of characters who would stop by to visit, her family said. Jane loved the holidays and the company of her extended family and friends. She was a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon.

Along with her husband and parents, Jane's 11 siblings died before her. She is survived by her great-nephew, Angelo Cervone (Stephanie Cawein); her great-niece, Toni Ann Cervone (Eddie Juchnewicz); and her great-great-niece, Kayhla Bird (Colby).

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 14 at St. John the Evangelist Church, followed by interment to the Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation (arfbeacon.org).

Charles Nobile Jr. (1934-2023)

Charles Nobile Jr., 88, a former longtime Philipstown resident, died Jan. 17 at his home in New Paltz.

Born June 27, 1934, at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, he was the son of Charles and Mary (Cella) Nobile. He attended Our Lady of Pompei Parochial School until age 12, when he moved with his family to Garrison.

After attending the Garrison Union Free School, he graduated in 1953 from Haldane High School, where he played four years of football and basketball. His senior yearbook described him as "handsome and muscular," "always a hello" and "amiable Charlie."

After graduation, Charlie worked for



Jane Warren (1934-2023)

Jane Mary Warren, 88, a lifelong Beacon resident, died Feb. 6 at the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.

She was born April 9, 1934, in Cold Spring, the daughter of Francisco and Alfina (Fazzo) Prestianni. On Sept. 5, 1981, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, she married Raymond



Other Recent Deaths

Philipstown

John Levine, 59
Ruth Ritter, 73

Beacon

Arsenio Baez, 83	Donna O'Neill, 86
Vincent Basso, 79	Karen Pellicane, 72
Donna Christian, 74	William Stephens, 73
Reiko Lemon, 70	Ginny Traviglia, 73
Mildred Garnot, 94	Mary Way, 73
Walter Miranda, 58	

For obituaries,
[see highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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Out There

Snow Job (Less)

Winter in black and white

By Brian PJ Cronin

I don't think I really understood winter until I fell in love with a farmer.



Our courtship began in spring, when Earth was exploding with new life by the hour. As a result, I didn't see her much, even though she had essentially already moved in. She would wake before the sun and come home after it had gone down, tanned and exhausted.

"Just wait until winter," she'd say at some point during the five-minute window between when she came home and when she'd pass out asleep.

Winter came and we cocooned. We read books, drank hot beverages, watched the snow pile up outside and, well, didn't leave the house much. We didn't feel guilty about this because what else is a farmer supposed to do in the winter? And even though I wasn't a farmer, I started to see the wisdom in structuring your life this way.

Many cultures have a season in which the world tells you to slow down, stay in and do less. The American South has its broiling summers, Southeast Asia has its monsoon season and West Africa has the Harmattan, the dusty, windy season in which the air gets so dry it can cause nosebleeds.

This winter is very different. We're now married, she's no longer a farmer, we are definitely not cocooning and you probably aren't either. Neither, it would seem, are crocuses and bats, who have already made an early appearance here in the Highlands due to the unusually warm, snow-less weather.

Although I can't see them, the same is probably also true for black-legged ticks and emerald ash borers, snug in their underground dens and tree trunks instead of being killed off by sustained cold temperatures, biding their time until they emerge and begin wreaking havoc once again.

The snowshoes I bought for Christmas 2021 for my wife, and the snowshoe poles I bought for my son this past Christmas, are still sitting in their original packaging by the garage door. About the closest we've come to winter is playing the newly released Nintendo game *Blanc*, a gorgeously hand-drawn cooperative adventure in black and white.



The Nintendo game *Blanc* is about the closest we've gotten to winter this year.

Photos courtesy of Gearbox Publishing



One player controls a tiny black wolf cub who awakes after a blizzard to find himself separated from the pack, while the other plays a white fawn in a similar predicament. The two players guide these unlikely allies as they make their way together through deep snow in order to find their families.

What I've found most striking about the game isn't so much the heartwarming storyline, or the clever puzzles the two characters must solve together in order to progress, but the long stretches of the game where not much happens and the two of you quietly walk through white forests and blanketed, empty towns.

A snow-covered street now seems like a more fantastical, escapist setting for a video game than any distant planet or medieval kingdom. "Where are all the people?" my son asked as we navigated the cub and fawn down an unplowed street.

"They're snowed in," I replied. "You remember what that's like."

"Oh yeah," he said, dimly recalling a distant memory from his childhood of what winter was like in the old days (i.e., five years ago.)

My heart soared earlier this week when a flurry of fat flakes came down as I was running down the northeast face of Mount Beacon, but they melted as soon as they hit the 40-degree ground.

That's been one upside to a warm winter with little ice or snow: better conditions for long runs in light layers among the mountains, and clear streets for packing in as many errands and activities as the day allows. But three months of this instead of hibernating at home has left me feeling overextended. "Like butter scraped across too much bread," is how Bilbo Baggins describes it to Gandalf in the early chapters of *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

Of course, what both Gandalf and the reader suspect at that point is that Bilbo's troubles don't come from a busy schedule but from the perverse effects of long-time exposure to the cursed One Ring, which he has, until then, been unable to give up.

"Silly hobbit," I think to myself as I recall the passage. "Why can't he just give up the thing that's causing all of his problems?" And then we get in my car to run more errands, the emissions from my tailpipe seeping up into the atmosphere, warming and weirding the winter even further.

As we drive into town, the sky glows in the ever-increasing afternoon as the sun slowly makes its way back to Earth, lengthening the days. Sometimes, the light looks like a glorious spring evening, inviting us to keep going, keep pushing, just cross one more thing off of the to-do list, just take on one more project. And sometimes the brilliant golden light looks like a candle burning at both ends.

Roundup (from Page 20)

At Franklin Roosevelt, Haldane was down by a point, 24-23, at halftime but led 38-34 at the end of three quarters and closed strong.

Cervone scored 13 points, followed by Matt Nachamkin (11), Bozsik (11) and Evan Giachinta (6).

"We rebounded extremely well in the second half," Virgadamo said. "That will be a key piece for us in sectionals. Our half-court offense looked good, we handled the press well and we shared the ball."

Beacon (14-6) will likely be the No. 4 seed

in the Section IX, Class A playoffs, which begin on Saturday (Feb. 25), but the game time and opponent had not been determined as of press time.

BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon finished 18th of 21 teams at the Section IX championships held Feb. 16-18. Monroe-Woodbury won the title.

The Bulldogs scored points in seven events: The 200-yard medley relay team finished 14th in 1:58.59; the 200-yard freestyle relay team finished 13th in 1:41; and the 400-yard freestyle team was 13th

in 4:04.93. In individual events, Carlos Lazo was 16th in the 100-yard freestyle in 53.79 and Bryce Manning was 16th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:11.15.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon (13-5) will open the Section IX, Class A tournament on Saturday (Feb. 25), although the game time and opponent had not been determined as of press time.

Haldane (3-17) will play Tuesday (Feb. 28) at the Westchester County Center at 6:30 p.m. The Blue Devils, seeded No. 4, will face No. 1 Tuckahoe (12-8).

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Shade of blue

6. Wanderer

11. Physician, slangily

12. Lessened

14. Veep before Biden

15. — del Fuego

16. Some fridges

17. Egypt's Anwar

19. Have a bug

20. Sunrise direction

22. — Alamos

23. Faction

24. Cybercommerce

26. Pungent relish

28. Scratch

30. Pub pint

31. Passageway for Santa

35. *Three Sisters* sister

39. — Godiva

40. Dict. info

42. *Star Trek II* villain

43. "Hail, Caesar!"

44. Carvey and Delany

46. "— had it!"

47. Winter, for one

49. Lon of horror films

51. Inventor's insurance

52. Oregon city

53. Modern messages

DOWN

1. Prepare leftovers

2. Black Sea port

3. Feminine principle

4. High cards

5. Faithful

6. Boris' cartoon partner

7. Final notice

8. West of Hollywood

9. Subway line in an Ellington song

10. Mock

11. "Me and Bobby —"

13. Longtime Chicago mayor

18. Elmer, to Bugs

21. *Lassie* lad

23. Porterhouse, e.g.

25. PC linking system

27. Einstein's birthplace

29. Stinging insects

31. Purse fastener

32. Attack

33. Think up

34. Hankering

36. Polished

37. Sanctuaries

38. In the blink of —

41. Confronted

44. Word of warning

45. Actress Elisabeth

48. Gender

50. Bio stat

54. Actions

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 hardy plantlike organisms (6)

2 E.B. White's mouse Stuart (6)

3 Alanis' little pill quality (10)

4 007, for one (5)

5 soared (6)

6 moves in great numbers (6)

7 audible wave (5)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Feb. 17 Puzzles

S	L	O	O	P		M	O	P		M	E	W
H	A	R	P	O		O	N	E		E	L	O
O	W	L	E	T		J	U	P	I	T	E	R
		A	D	O	N	I	S		N	U	N	S
P	I	N		K	I	T		S	T	P	A	T
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			D	O	Y	E	N		S	I	L	K
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K	E	Y	W	E	S	T		A	M	E	N	D
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D	E	N		B	R	A		E	T	H	E	R

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

1. JETTISONS, 2. STADIUMS, 3. SPACY, 4. GRAHAM, 5. EXPOSED, 6. SAMOYED, 7. COLEMAN

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

SPORTS



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HALDANE GRAD RISES TO DIVISION I

*Garrison resident
plans for soccer beyond
Binghamton*



Devin Heanue will play his final season for the Binghamton Bearcats this fall. Photo provided

By Michael Turton

Devin Heanue has admired some of soccer's biggest names, including England's David Beckham and Brazil's Denio.

But the 21-year-old Garrison resident said the biggest influence on his own game has been closer to home: his older brother, Macdara.

"He's the one who got me into the game, and we still train a lot," said Heanue, who is preparing for his final season playing Division I soccer at Binghamton University (State University of New York at Binghamton).

The game, he says, "is almost therapeutic. When I step on a field to play a 90-minute game or even for practice, everything else goes silent. It can be a love-hate relationship at times, but always something I love."

"When I was younger, I played a bit of everything, some basketball and a little hockey," he said. "But I never committed as much time as I did for soccer."

Heanue began team play at age 7 at the Joe Palumbo Soccer Academy in Putnam Valley. At 10 he joined the Mahopac Tomahawks in the Westchester Youth Soccer League, then played for FC Westchester in the U.S. Development Academy League until 2019. He also played for the Garrison Middle School team and for one season, as a junior, at Haldane High School. In 2019 he enrolled at Binghamton to study environmental science.

Whenever he's home from college, he plays for the Hudson Valley Hammers, in a developmental league sponsored by United Soccer Leagues in the United States and Canada, or USL. It has 18 divisions in four conferences.

The NCAA suspended play during

Heanue's sophomore year of college because of the pandemic shutdown, so he gained an extra year of athletic eligibility. Now a senior at Binghamton, he'll play again in the fall while pursuing a master's degree.

Binghamton competes in the nine-member America East Conference, which also includes the University at Albany, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, UMass Lowell, Bryant and UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County).

"There are never guaranteed, winnable games," Heanue said. "Every team in the conference is talented and competitive."

Last season, the Binghamton men's team reached the conference semifinal after posting a 3-2-2 record in regular season league play.

The fall schedule is grueling. Along with academics, Heanue spends 20 hours per week on soccer, including two or three games, up to five practices and two or three weight-training sessions.

Heanue primarily plays left fullback. "The No. 1 priority of that position is keeping a clean sheet, making sure that opponents don't score," he explained. "For me, it's a balance between times I go forward on offense or stay back and help the defense."

Like most players in most sports, Heanue likes going on offense, an inclination that goes back to his early days at the Palumbo Academy. "I'd play a bit higher in the midfield," he recalled. "I love getting forward. I love shooting." He scored twice for the Bears in 2022.

"I'd like to play at the next level, whether in the U.S. or overseas," he said. Stateside that could mean the USL; in Europe, Heanue has his eye on Ireland's Premier Division.



VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Haldane defeated Franklin Roosevelt, 53-46, in Hyde Park on Feb. 17 to finish its regular season at 16-4. It will now prepare for the Section I, Class C tournament and a return to the Westchester County Center in White Plains for the first time since 2020.

Haldane is the No. 2 seed in the four-team field and will face No. 3 Alexander Hamilton at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday (Feb. 28).

Haldane has five sectional titles but has not won one since 2016 — the Blue Devils lost in the semifinals two of the last three years. Last year the team reached the Class C final, played at Yorktown High School, but lost to Hamilton by two points in a last-second heartbreaker.

The last time Haldane played at the Westchester County Center, senior Matteo Cervone was a freshman who scored seven points in a semifinal loss to Tuckahoe. This is the last chance for a senior class that includes Cervone (who this month scored his 1,000th career point for the Blue Devils) and fellow seniors Ryan Eng-Wong, Will Bradley, Ben Bozsik, Jesse Hagen, Julian Ambrose and Thomas Rockett.

"We've had a great regular season, and we're battle-tested," said Coach Joe Virgadamo, in his 17th year. Against Hamilton, "we have to rebound, and we have to have a balanced attack."

(Continued on Page 18)



Haldane's Ben Bozsik rises for a jumper last week at FDR. Photo by S. Pearlman